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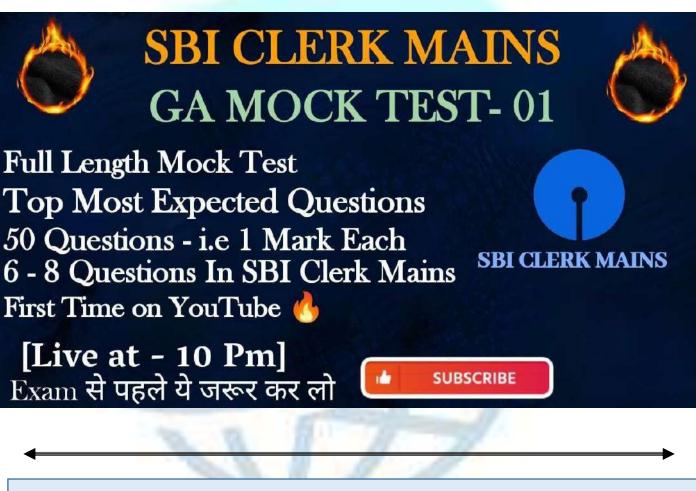
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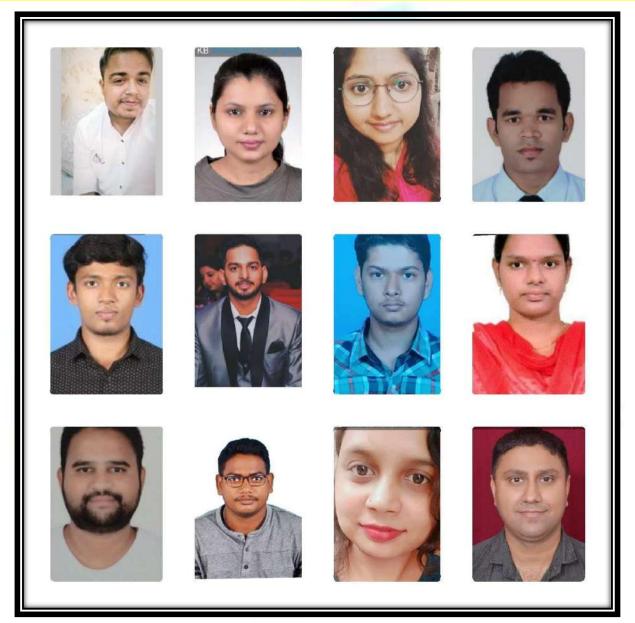


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Aparchit March 1st Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

- 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.
- ✓ <u>How to prevent such attacks?</u>
- ✓ 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

C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 only

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).
- \checkmark 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.
- \checkmark 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.



- 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.

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

C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Cabinet formally announced the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with onetime 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?



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A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 onlyD) 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

C) 250 crores

B) 150 croresD) 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 \checkmark conservation of the seven big cats like tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma

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What percent growth did the Indian economy register during the October-December quarter of the **Q**. 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

- \checkmark 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 Vaishnay 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.



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 percen.

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- '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?
<i>.</i>	

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.



Members of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) collectively have set an "aspirational target" of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030.

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- > 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.



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

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A) Pixar	B) Star Sport
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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 \triangleright 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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- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- Founded : 8 May 1973
- Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani
- > Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- CMD : Mukesh Ambani
- Owner : Mukesh Ambani (50.49%)
- Director : Nita Dalal Ambani
- Subsidiaries
- Jio Platforms (67.03%)
- ➢ Jio Payments Bank (70%).
- At Rs 19 lakh crore or \$250 billion, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries's market capitalisation.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding Melanochlamys Droupadi, recently seen in the news:
 - 1. It is a new marine species of sea slugs.
 - 2. It primarily inhabits the Western Coast of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- Researchers of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) recently discovered a new species of head-shield sea slug from Odisha and the West Bengal coast named 'Melanochlamys Droupadi'.
- ✓ About Melanochlamys Droupadi:
- \checkmark It is a new marine species of head-shield sea slug with ruby red spot.
- This species belonging to Melanochlamys genus was discovered from Digha of West Bengal coast and Udaipur of Odisha coast.

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- ✓ Features:
- \checkmark It is a small invertebrate with a maximum length of up to 7 mm.
- ✓ Habitat: It inhabits wet and soft sandy beaches.
- \checkmark It is brownish black in colour with a ruby red spot in the hind end
- Q. With reference to United Nations Human Rights Council, consider the following statements:
 - 1. All United Nations (UN) member countries are members of this Council.
 - 2. Its members are not eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms.

3. Its members are elected by the majority of the members of UN General Assembly through direct and secret ballot.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ At the 55th Human Rights Council of the United Nations, India exercised its 'Right to Reply' for a staunch response to Turkey and Pakistan for the mention of Jammu and Kashmir on the platform.
- ✓ It is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
- ✓ It was created by the General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by replacing the Commission on Human Rights.
- ✓ It has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis.
- Tenure of the council: The members of the Council serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
- ✓ Hence only statements 2 and 3 are correct.
- Q. National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024 was launched by whom?
 - A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - **B) NITI Aayog**
 - **C)** Ministry of Education
 - D) RBI

Answer : B



NITI Aayog member Dr. V.K. Paul launched the National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024.

The theme of this campaign is "Breaking Barriers: inclusive support for children with birth defects".

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When is World Civil Defense Day celebrated every year? Q.

A) 2 March	B) 1 March
C) 28 February	D) 27 February

Answer : B

- ✓ World Civil Defense Day is celebrated every year on 1 March all over the world.
- This day is celebrated with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of civil defense and emergency preparedness at both national and international levels.
- \checkmark This day was first officially designated by the United Nations (UN) on 6 December 1990.
- Which state government has launched the Chief Minister's Universal Life Insurance Scheme to **Q**. mitigate financial hardship caused by untimely demise?

A) Nagaland	B) Manipur	
C) Tripura	D) Assam	

Answer : A

- ✓ Nagaland government has launched a fully-funded universal life insurance scheme to mitigate financial hardship caused by untimely demise.
- ✓ The scheme ensures financial security and protection, providing coverage for breadwinners and family members, complementing the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme.
- ✓ The Chief Minister's Universal Life Insurance Scheme will be fully funded by the state government.
- Under this, a life insurance coverage of Rs 2 lakh will be given and additionally, accidental insurance \checkmark coverage of Rs 2 lakh each will also be provided for the breadwinner and three other family members.

Q. Which country will scrap world's first law banning tobacco sale?

A) South Africa	B) India
C) New Zealand	D) United States

Answer : C

✓ New Zealand will repeal a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations.



Set to take effect from July, the toughest anti-tobacco rules in the world would have banned sales to those born after January 1, 2009, cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products and reduced the number of tobacco retailers by more than 90 per cent.

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- ✓ Repeal flies in the face of robust research evidence, ignores measures strongly supported by Maori leaders and will preserve health inequities.
- ✓ New Zealand
- ✓ Capital : Wellington
- ✓ Currency : Dollar
- ✓ Prime Minister : Christopher Luxon
- Which fintech company has launched a new feature on its platform, 'Pocket UPI' to facilitate Q. payments without linking bank account?

A) Mobikwik	B) Amazon Pay
C) PhonePe	D) Instamojo

Answer : A

- ✓ MobiKwik has launched a new feature on its platform, 'Pocket UPI'.
- ✓ Pocket UPI allows users to make UPI payments through MobiKwik Wallet without linking their bank account, thus giving more power in the hands of the users with an additional choice while they make UPI payments.
- ✓ Pocket UPI safeguards users from compromised transactions and financial fraud by transferring funds from the MobiKwik Wallet rather than their bank account, thus limiting exposure when making financial transactions.

Mahanagar Gas has acquired how much per cent shareholding in 3EV Industries Private Limited? Q.

- A) 20.97%
- C) 30.97%

B) 23.97% D) 33.97%

Answer : C

- ✓ Mahanagar Gas acquires 30.97% share in 3EV Industries
- Mahanagar Gas has entered into a shareholders' agreement with 3EV Industries Private Limited to acquire 30.97 per cent shareholding in the company that manufactures and operates three-wheeler electric vehicles (EVs).

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The shareholding will give MGL the right to appoint one Director on the board of 3ev and one board observer.

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- ✓ Mahanagar Gas is in the business of City Gas Distribution (CGD), presently supplying Natural Gas.
- Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with Dvara Money for digital banking services? **Q**.
 - 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 \checkmark 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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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Foreign Exchange Reserves:

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the custodian of the foreign exchange reserves in India.

2. India's Foreign Exchange Reserves include foreign currency assets and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

3. The biggest contributor to India's foreign exchange reserves is Gold.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one B) Only two

C) All three D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ India's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$2.98 billion to \$619.07 billion recently.
- ✓ About Foreign Exchange Reserve:
- ✓ Foreign Exchange Reserves (also called Forex Reserves) are reserve assets held by a central bank in foreign currencies.
- ✓ Foreign assets comprise assets that are not denominated in the domestic currency of the country.
- ✓ These may include foreign currencies, bonds, treasury bills, and other government securities.
- ✓ Reserves are denominated and expressed in the US dollar, which is the international numeraire for the purpose.
- ✓ RBI is the custodian of the foreign exchange reserves in India.
- ✓ India's foreign exchange reserves comprise of;
- ✓ Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs): These are maintained in currencies like the US dollar, euro, pound sterling, Australian dollar, and Japanese yen.
- ✓ Gold
- ✓ SDR (Special Drawing Rights): This is the reserve currency with the IMF.
- ✓ RTP (Reserve Tranche Position): This is the reserve capital with the IMF.
- ✓ The biggest contributor to India's Forex reserves is foreign currency assets, followed by gold.
- ✓ Purpose:
- They are used to back liabilities on their own issued currency, support the exchange rate, and set monetary policy.
- ✓ To ensure that RBI has backup funds if their national currency rapidly devalues or becomes altogether insolvent.



✓ 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.

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- ✓ 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
---------------	-----------

D) Malaysia C) Sri Lanka

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.
- \checkmark 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.



The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan

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- > India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- > Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- > 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- > The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- > The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- > Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- > This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- > Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint
- Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercis.
- > The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- > Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- ▶ It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.



- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- ▶ 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.
- Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (PMP), sometimes seen in the news, is a bi-national hydropower **Q**. project between which two countries?
 - A) India and Bhutan
- B) India and Nepal
- C) India and Bangladesh
- D) India and Afghanistan

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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.

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

- 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



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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 : Bengalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai

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- 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 Indias 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



NTPC Green Energy has entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation to set up India's largest green hydrogen production plant.

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- > 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?



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A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 only

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).
- \checkmark 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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- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the semiconductor fabrication:
 - 1. It is a process in which raw silicon wafers are turned into Integrated Circuits (ICs).
 - 2. It uses photolithography technology which enables the creation of intricate circuitry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only	B) 2 only
-----------	-----------

C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Cabinet approved the country's first semiconductor fab to be made by the Tata Group in collaboration with Powerchip Taiwan.
- A semiconductor fab -- short for fabrication in which raw silicon wafers are turned into Integrated Circuits (ICs).
- ✓ The process includes creating intricate patterns on the wafer using light and chemicals, depositing different materials to form components, and etching away unwanted materials.
- ✓ The process includes creating intricate patterns on the wafer using light and chemicals, depositing different materials to form components, and etching away unwanted materials.
- This results in the formation of transistors, interconnects, and other elements that make up a semiconductor device.
- ✓ What kind of technology is used in fabs?
- ✓ Photolithography:
- ✓ It is a crucial step in semiconductor fabrication where patterns are transferred onto silicon wafers.
- ✓ A photosensitive material, called photoresist, is applied to the wafer and exposed to light through a mask.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Network Planning Group:

1. It includes heads of the Network Planning Division of all connectivity infrastructure Ministries & Departments.

2. It guides Ministries responsible for creation of economic zones.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only	B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2



Answer : C

The 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).

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- ✓ 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.
- \checkmark 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



Answer: B

✓ The four-day 'Tawi Festival' in Jammu and Kashmir, starting on March 1, 2024, highlights the region's art, culture, and heritage.

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- 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.

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Jal Shakti Ministry has signed an agreement with 12 technical education institutions for basin Q. 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.
- Global Waste Management Outlook 2024, recently seen in the news, is published by which one of Q. 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.



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

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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.

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

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

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support garnered at Davos. Launched at Davos 2024, the alliance aligns with PM Narendra Modi's vision for women-led development. Focused on SDGs, it seeks to consolidate practices, exchange knowledge, and attract investments in women's health, education, and entrepreneurship.

Q. Coal India Limited (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) have signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) for setting up India's first commercial-scale ammonium nitrate plant in which state through surface coal gasification (SCG) technology route?

D) Odisha

A) Rajasthan B) Bihar

C) Assam

Answer : D

- ✓ CIL and BHEL sign a JVA for setting up Ammonium Nitrate Plant
- ✓ State-run Coal India Limited (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) have signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) for setting up India's first commercial-scale ammonium nitrate plant through surface coal gasification (SCG) technology route.
- ✓ The plant will not only be India's first commercial coal gasification project, it will also be the first to deploy an indigenously-developed coal gasification technology devised by BHEL on a commercial scale.
- ✓ The plant will come up in Lakhanpur area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Odisha. It is planned to produce 2,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate per day initially.
- The annual production is slated at 6.60 lakh tonnes which requires 1.3 million tonnes (MT) of coal. The coal will be supplied by Coal India.
- Q. Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL) has partnered with Elephant House to manufacture, market, distribute, and retail beverages under the Elephant House brand in India. Elephant House is the brand of which country?
 - A) Sri Lanka
 - C) Nepal

- B) Bhutan
- D) Thailand

Answer : A

✓ Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL), the FMCG subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, inked the partnership with Sri Lanka-based Elephant House to manufacture, market, distribute, and retail beverages under the Elephant House brand in India.



This association will not only help RCPL bolster its growing beverage portfolio that boasts iconic brands such as Campa, Sosyo and Raskik but will also bring exceptional new products and value propositions to Indian consumers.

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Elephant House, owned by Ceylon Cold Stores PLC, is Sri Lanka's largest listed conglomerate. It is known for its a range of beverages including Necto, Cream Soda, EGB (Ginger Beer), Orange Barley, and Lemonade, among others, all marketed under the Elephant House brand.

B) Karur Vyasya Bank

- Maruti Suzuki India has partnered with which bank for dealer financing solutions? Q.
 - A) Karnataka Bank
 - C) Indian Overseas Bank D) Union Bank of India

Answer : D

- ✓ Maruti Suzuki India has inked an initial pact with Union Bank of India for dealer financing solutions.
- ✓ The tie-up enhances the comprehensive inventory funding options for over 4,000 Maruti Suzuki sales outlets across the country.
- ✓ The company's partnership with Union Bank of India since 2008, has steadily evolved and reached a significant milestone of facilitating over 3,00,000 car finance cases till date.
- Q. Ajay Kanwal has been reappointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO) of which small finance bank for 3 years?
 - A) Equitas Small Finance Bank **B) Jana Small Finance Bank**
 - C) Capital Small Finance Bank

- **D)** AU Small Finance Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Ajay Kanwal as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD and CEO) of Jana Small Finance Bank.
- \checkmark The reappointment is for a period of three years from March 21, 2024 up to March 20, 2027.
- ✓ Kanwal has more than 33 years of experience in financial services. Before Jana SFB, Kanwal was the regional CEO of ASEAN and South Asia at Standard Chartered Bank and also had a short stint as Senior Advisor at TPG and Mastercard.
- Jana Small Finance Bank Limited
- Founded : 2018 \checkmark
- Headquarters : Bengaluru \checkmark



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- ✓ 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 iscrimination 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.



This international event serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of being prepared for emergencies and disasters.

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✓ World Civil Defence Day was first established in 1990 by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) to commemorate the anniversary of the adoption of the ICDO's Constitution.

Q. ADITI Scheme is related to which of the following areas?

A) Health sector	B) Space Technology
C) Defense sector	D) Education sector

Answer : C

- ✓ Defense Minister Rajnath Singh launched Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme' to promote innovations in critical and strategic defense technologies during DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ Under the scheme, start-ups will be eligible to receive grant assistance of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development and innovation efforts in defense technology.
- ✓ Rs 750 crore has been allocated under this scheme for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.

SCHEME IN NEWS 2024

- > Ministry of Defence (MoD) has announced the creation of a corpus of ₹750 crore under the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme.
- > The scheme, launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi, aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.
- > According to a Crisil assessment called Prabhaav, the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) scheme has enabled investments to the tune of around 4x of the amount drawn with Rs 17,534 crore invested in 938 startups.
- > Union Cabinet has approved Rs 4,797 crore research scheme to boost and maintain research momentum in the fields of ocean, atmospheric and polar sciences.
- Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for the export of Apparel/Garments and made up to 31st March 2026.



Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India approved the continuation of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) for another three years up to 2025-26.

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- > 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.
- ✓ <u>Highlights of the report</u>
- ✓ 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.



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.

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- The extraction and processing of agricultural crops and forestry products accounts for 90 per cent of land- \checkmark 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).
- Who has become the first woman sniper of Border Security Force (BSF)? Q.
 - A) Shaliza Dhami

- **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 \checkmark
- ✓ Motto : Duty Unto Death



✓ 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

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FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force (BSF). \geq
- 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 Prerna 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.
- \triangleright 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.



> Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.

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- > 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 Bareli'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.



PT Usha Become First Women President of Indian Olympic Association.

- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Innovations for Defence Excellence (Idex):
 - 1. It aims to cultivate an innovation ecosystem in the aerospace sector in collaboration with startups.

D) Neither 1 nor 2

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- 2. It is funded and managed by the Defence Innovation Organization.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO), under the aegis of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, is organising DefConnect 2024 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi on March 04, 2024.
- ✓ It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India launched in 2018.
- Objective: The objective of the scheme is to cultivate an innovation ecosystem in the Defence and Aerospace sector by collaborating with startups, innovators, MSMEs, incubators, and academia.
- ✓ Funding: It will be funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)' which has been formed as a 'not for profit' company as per the Companies Act 2013 for this purpose, by the two founder memberse. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) - HAL & BEL.
- ✓ It functions as the executive arm of DIO, carrying out all the required activities while DIO will provide high level policy guidance to iDEX.
- ✓ It is currently engaged with around 400+ Startups and MSMEs.

Q. Consider the following:

- 1. Mexico
- 2. China
- 3. Sudan
- 4. Iraq
- 5. Nigeria

How many of the above countries are members of OPEC+?



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A) Only twoC) Only four

B) Only threeD) 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.
- Consider the following statements regarding the INS Jatayu: Q.
 - 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.



✓ 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.

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- ✓ 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).

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

A) Rajnat	h 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).
- The Yars Missile, recently seen in the news, is an intercontinental ballistic missile developed by Q. 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 \checkmark multiple independently targetable warheads, each capable of targeting different objectives.
- Features: \checkmark



✓ It is a three-stage, solid propellant, MIRV-capable (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicles) ICBM.

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- ✓ The Yars is a modified version of the Topol-M missile system.
- ✓ The missile is 23 meters long and can be launched from a silo or mobile launcher.
- ✓ It has a range of 10,500 km.
- ✓ Launch Weight: 49600 kg
- ✓ The missile can be armed with up to 10 MIRVs, each containing a thermonuclear warhead weighing 300 kilotons.
- ✓ It has the capability to manoeuvre during flight and deploy both active and passive decoys, which gives Yars an advantage against modern missile defence systems
- Consider the following statements regarding the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act (PRP Act), Q. 2023:
 - 1. It provides for an online system for facilitating the registration of newspapers.
 - 2. It also includes academic books and journals under the purview of mandatory registration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The registration of newspapers and other periodicals will be governed by the provisions of the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023, and its Rules, which came into effect recently.
- ✓ About Press and Registration of Periodicals Act (PRP Act), 2023:
- ✓ It has replaced the colonial era Press and Registration of Books Act dating back to 1867.
- ✓ The office of Press Registrar General of India PRGI (erstwhile Registrar of Newspapers for India RNI) shall be carrying out the purposes of the new Act.
- ✓ It provides for an online system for facilitating the registration of newspapers and other periodicals in the country.
- \checkmark The new system replaces the existing manual, cumbersome processes involving multiple steps and approvals at various stages, which were causing unnecessary hardships to the publishers.



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✓ 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.



Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Urban Co-operative Finance and **Development Corporation:**

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- 1. It is set up as an umbrella organisation for the Urban Cooperative Banks.
- 2. It operates as a Non-Banking Finance Company.

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 Cooperation Minister launched the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC).
- ✓ It is the umbrella organisation for the Urban Cooperative Banks.
- ✓ Aim: It aims to ensure specialized functions and services to cooperative banks, facilitate communication between banks and regulators, and address challenges faced by Urban Cooperative Banks.
- ✓ Also to modernize and strengthen the Urban Cooperative Banking Sector, which will benefit both the banks and their customers.
- ✓ It has received a Certificate of Registration from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Non-Banking Finance Company.
- ✓ It will also operate as a Self-Regulatory Organisation for the sector.
- 0. The Nainativu Island, recently seen in news, is located in:
 - A) Gulf of Martaban **B)** Gulf of Mannar
 - C) Gulf of Agaba **D)** Palk Strait

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority and Indian company signed the contract for building "Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems" in Delft or Neduntheevu, Nainativu and Analaitivu islands off Jaffna peninsula.
- ✓ Nainativu Island:
- ✓ It is located in the Palk Strait, the stretch of sea that separates Sri Lanka from southern India.
- It's close to the famous island of Delft (also known as Neduntheevu).
- \checkmark This tiny island is fairly close to the northern Sri Lankan city of Jaffna.



✓ 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

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- ✓ 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'.

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

- A) New Delhi
- C) Kolkata

- **B)** Ahmedabad
- 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.



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

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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?

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).
- \checkmark While Uttarakhand reported a 22% decline in the big cat numbers reportedly due to poaching and mananimal 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
- FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to how many railway stations to ensure safe, Q. 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



Some of the prominent stations that have been certified as Eat Right stations are in New Delhi, Varanasi, \checkmark Kolkata, Ujjain, Ayodhya Cantt, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Kozhikode, Guwahati, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Vadodara, Mysuru City, Bhopal, Igatpuri, and Chennai, among others from various states.

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- That apart, six pioneering metro stations have also been accredited as 'Eat Right Stations', including stations \checkmark 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 stateof-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 statue 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
awar I D	

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.



\checkmark 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.

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- ✓ 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
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple Q. 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.



Q. Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba has been banned for four years for doping. He is from which country?

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A) Canada

C) Portugal

B) CroatiaD) France

Answer : D

- ✓ France and Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba has been banned for four years for a doping.
- ✓ Pogba was provisionally suspended by Italy's national anti-doping (NADO Italia) tribunal in September after testing positive for testosterone a banned substance.
- ✓ The test, performed after Juve's 3-0 Serie A season-opening victory at Udinese on Aug. 20, detected testosterone, a hormone that increases athletes' endurance. The 30-year-old was an unused substitute in that game
- Q. Which day is marked as World Obesity Day every year?
 - A) March 01
 - B) March 02
 - C) March 03
 - D) March 04

Answer : D

- ✓ World Obesity Day is observed every year on March 04. It is observed to spread awareness about obesity and encourage action towards its elimination.
- ✓ Theme for World Obesity Day 2024 : Let's Talk About Obesity And
- ✓ The incidence of obesity continues to surge, bringing the alarming problem to a routine norm. This sad situation must be reversed as with this trend, 270 crore adults worldwide will be overweight or obese by 2025.
- The National Family Health Survey India-3 (NFHS-3) and (NFHS-4) reported the obesity epidemic in India. It showed that:
- ✓ In 2005-06, 13% of women and nine percent of men of the age group of 15-49 years were overweight or obese, according to NFHS-3
- ✓ In 2015-16, 21% of women and 19% were overweight or obese (BMI 25.0 kg/m2), according to NFHS-4 data.



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Q. Which day is marked annually as the National Security Day?

A) March 01 B) March 03

C) March 04 D) March 02

Answer : C

- ✓ In India, March 4 is celebrated as National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas) every year, in the honor of the Indian Security Forces.
- ✓ The first National Security Day (NSD) was held in 1972.
- ✓ The theme for this year's celebration is "Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence,"
- ✓ The National Security Day aims to show gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, paramilitary forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security, who sacrifice their life in maintaining the peace and security of the people of the country.
- ✓ It was on this day in 1966 that the National Security Council (NSC) of India was established by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India.

Q. The National Safety Council (NSC) of India observes which day as National Safety Day to commemorate its foundation day?

A) 04 March	B) 03 March
C) 02 March	D) 01 March

Answer : A

- The National Safety Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on 4th of March to commemorate the foundation of National Safety Council (NSC) of India.
- ✓ The first National Safety Day was observed in 1972.
- ✓ The year 2024 marks 53rd NSD.
- ✓ Theme 2024 is 'Focus on Safety Leadership for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Excellence.'
- ✓ The day aims to raise public awareness of all safety principles, including road safety, workplace safety, human health safety, and environmental safety.
- ✓ The National Safety Council was set up on 4th March, 1966 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, to develop and implement a voluntary routine in the areas of safety, health, and the environment.



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Q. The World Wildlife Day is observed on which day of the year annually?

A) March 01	B) March 04
-------------	-------------

C) March 03 D) March 02

Answer : C

- ✓ The World Wildlife Day is observed every year on March 3 to celebrate and raise awareness about the world's wild fauna and flora.
- ✓ Theme 2024 : "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation,"
- ✓ The day was proposed by Thailand and recognised in 2013 by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). March 3 has been chosen as it is the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.
- Q. The Civil Accounts Day is marked every year on March 01. Which edition of the Civil Accounts Day was observed in 2024?

A) 44th	B) 49th
C) 45th	D) 48th

Answer : D

- The Civil Accounts Day 2024 was celebrated on 1st March to mark the 48th foundation day of Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) in new Delhi.
- ✓ The Civil Accounts Day has been organised every year by the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS), since its inception in 1976.
- ✓ ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India. It comes under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance
- 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

- ✓ 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, \checkmark Karnataka, on the west coast of India.

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- ✓ 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. \checkmark
- ✓ 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. \checkmark
- ✓ It will be able to accommodate around 32 warships, 23 submarines, and hangers for several aircraft
- Consider the following statements with reference to the Risa Textile: Q.
 - 1. It is a hand-woven cloth used as headgear in Tripura.
 - 2. It is presented as a mark of honour to distinguished recipients.
 - 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

- ✓ Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' gets received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- ✓ It is a handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment, and also as headgear, a stole, or a present to express respect.
- ✓ It is woven in colourful designs and has a crucial social and religious significance.
- ✓ Adolescent Tripuri girls are first given a risa to wear in an event called Risa Sormani, at age 12 to 14.



✓ 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.

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



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.

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- > 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.
- \checkmark 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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- ✓ Border- Radcliffe Line
- ✓ Highest mountain- K2
- ✓ Longest River- Indus River
- Q. Which company has partnered with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED) to support the education of around 75,500 children of Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh?
 - A) NTPC Limited

B) ReNew Power

C) Adani Enterprises

D) REC Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ REC Limited joins hands with UNISED to support Education of Children
- REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading Non-Banking Finance Company, has partnered with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED) to support the education of around 75,500 children of Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ REC has entered into this partnership through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm REC Foundation.
- ✓ REC has committed a financial assistance of Rs. 9.91 crores towards this noble cause.
- ✓ UNISED, with its nationwide presence, has stated that it is dedicated to revolutionizing education through innovative learning systems. As part of this collaboration, UNISED will implement solar energy-operated smart classes and establish joyful learning resource labs in government schools across Siddharthnagar district.
- Recently, REC Foundation, has demonstrated unwavering support for the education of 12,500 children of ex-servicemen, making a contribution of Rs. 15 Crores to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

REC LTD IN NEWS 2023-24

- > REC Limited joins hands with UNISED to support Education of Children.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047:Technology for Better Tomorrow', an IIT Madras CSR Summit.
- REC Limited has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- REC will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana.



REC Limited issues inaugural Yen Denominated Green Bonds aggregating to 61.1 Billion Japanese Yen.

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- > 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



✓ 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.

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- ✓ 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 \checkmark the Flipkart app.
- Financial Intelligence Unit India (FIU-IND) has imposed 5.49 crore fine on which payments bank 0. 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 or ₹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



✓ 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.

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- ✓ 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.
- \checkmark 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.
- \checkmark 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. \checkmark
- ✓ It will be able to accommodate around 32 warships, 23 submarines, and hangers for several aircraft
- Consider the following statements with reference to the Women, Business and Law Index: Q.
 - 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:



✓ It is a World Bank index measuring the enabling environment for women's economic opportunity in 190 economies.

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- ✓ 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:
- \checkmark 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%.
- Which of the following best describes the 'Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)'? Q.
 - 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.



✓ It's a three-step process, involving: capturing the carbon dioxide produced by power generation or industrial activity, such as steel or cement making; transporting it; and then storing it deep underground.

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- ✓ CCS involves three different techniques of capturing carbon, including post-combustion, pre-combustion, and oxyfuel combustion.
- ✓ In post-combustion, CO2 is removed after the fossil fuel has been burnt. By using a chemical solvent, CO2 is separated from the exhaust or 'flue' gases and then captured.
- ✓ Pre-combustion involves removing CO2 before burning the fossil fuel. First, the fossil fuel is partially burned in a 'gasifier' to form synthetic gas. CO2 can be captured from this relatively pure exhaust stream. The method also generates hydrogen, which is separated and can be used as fuel.
- ✓ According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), there were 40 operational CCS projects in 2023, which captured more than 45 metric tonnes (Mt) of CO2 annually.
- Consider the following statements with reference the Digital Intelligence Platform: Q.
 - 1. It contains information regarding the cases detected as misuse of telecom resources.
 - 2. It is developed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Minister of Communications, Railway, and Electronics & Information Technology Chauhan launched the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s 'Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)' and 'Chakshu facility on Sanchar Saathi portal.
- It is developed by the Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communication). It is a secure and integrated platform for real time intelligence sharing, information exchange and coordination among the stakeholders, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), banks and Financial Institutions (FIs), social media platforms, identity document issuing authorities etc.
- \checkmark The portal also contains information regarding the cases detected as misuse of telecom resources.
- The shared information could be useful to the stakeholders in their respective domains.
- ✓ It also works as backend repository for the citizen-initiated requests on the Sanchar Saathi portal for action by the stakeholders.



The DIP is accessible to the stakeholders over secure connectivity and the relevant information is shared \checkmark based on their respective roles. The said platform is not accessible to citizens.

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Q. With reference to Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor, consider the following statements:

- 1. It produces more nuclear fuel than it consumes.
- 2. It uses the Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel.
- 3. It is designed and constructed indigenously by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister of India witnessed the start of the process of core-loading the indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at the Madras Atomic Power Station in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- \checkmark It is a machine that produces more nuclear fuel than it consumes.
- ✓ Fuel: The Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) will initially use the Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel.
- ✓ The Uranium-238 "blanket" surrounding the fuel core will undergo nuclear transmutation to produce more fuel, thus earning the name 'Breeder'.
- ✓ The use of Throium-232, which in itself is not a fissile material, as a blanket is also envisaged in this stage.
- ✓ By transmutation, Thorium will create fissile Uranium-233 which will be used as fuel in the third stage.
- ✓ In terms of safety, the PFBR is an advanced third generation reactor with inherent passive safety features ensuring a prompt and safe shut down of the plant in the event of an emergency.
- ✓ It has been fully designed and constructed indigenously by Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI) with significant contribution from more than 200 Indian industries including MSMEs.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- Q. Who has Sunrisers Hyderabad appointed as its new captain before IPL 2024?
 - A) Pat Cummins

B) Shikhar Dhawan

C) David Warner D) Aiden Markram

Answer : A

✓ Before IPL 2024, Sunrisers Hyderabad has appointed Pat Cummins as the new captain of its team.



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- ✓ 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.
- \checkmark 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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Q. Amrabad Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

A) Telangana B) Kerala

C) Karnataka

Answer : A

✓ The leopard population in Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Telangana, has significantly increased, as per the recent 'Status of Leopards in India' report. Spanning 2611.4 sq km, it is one of India's largest tiger reserves and the second-largest in core area.

D) Odisha

- ✓ Originally part of Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve, Amrabad Tiger Reserve emerged post-state bifurcation.
- Situated in Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts, it encompasses Nallamala Forest and vital water sources like Srishailam Dam and Nagarjunsagar Dam, fed by Krishna River.
- Q. Sindri Fertiliser Plant, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
 - A) Jharkhand B) Uttar Pradesh
 - C) Rajasthan

Answer : A

PM Modi dedicated the HURL Sindri Fertilizer Plant in Jharkhand on March 1, 2024, addressing India's urea demand.

D) Gujarat

- ✓ The nation requires 360 lakh metric tons yearly, but in 2014, produced only 225 lakh metric tons.
- ✓ Thanks to government efforts, production increased to 310 lakh metric tons in the last decade.
- ✓ Modi revealed plans to revive more plants by 2025, ensuring affordable fertilizers for farmers and generating employment opportunities for local youth, including the Talcher Fertilizer Plant.
- Q. Which ministry hosted the first "Blue Talks" meeting on the ocean in New Delhi?
 - A) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- **B)** Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Agriculture
- D) Ministry of Defence

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) hosted the first "Blue Talks" meeting on February 29, 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The meeting was co-partnered by the Embassy of France and Embassy of Costa Rica in India.



The Ambassador of France to India and the Ambassador of Costa Rica were co-convenors of the General \checkmark Assembly.

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- ✓ The meeting focused on Ocean Health and Governance.
- The MoES took a significant step towards fostering international collaboration on ocean-related issues \checkmark
- What is the name of the mobile app recently launched by Minority Affairs Minister Smriti Irani for Q. Haj pilgrims?
 - A) Haj Pilgrims App
- B) Haj Suvidha App

D) Haj Yatra App

C) Haj Sewa 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



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

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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.
- Which state government will launch the Indiramma housing scheme in the state to provide financial **Q**. 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



✓ The Reserve Bank has appointed Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd (TMB) independent director S. Ravindran as part-time chairman of the bank.

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- ✓ 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.
- With reference to UDGAM Portal, consider the following: Q.
 - 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 socalled "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
- Dhillo 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
 - C) HDFC Bank

B) Federal 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 or ₹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.
- \checkmark 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.



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

A) Madhya PradeshB) 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.
- \checkmark 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 Namo 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 Multimodal 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 learnercentric evaluation.



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- 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

C) Tennis

B) HockeyD) 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.
- \checkmark 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.



The Pars 1 remote sensing and imaging satellite was launched by a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Vostochny \checkmark Cosmodrome and will scan Iran's topography from an orbit of 310 miles (500km).

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- ✓ 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
- Which team won the Pro Kabaddi League trophy for the first time as they defeated the Haryana Q. 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) \checkmark
- Best Emerging Player: Yogesh Dahiya (Dabang Delhi KC) \checkmark
- ✓ Most Valuable Player: Aslam Inamdar (Puneri Paltan)

Padma Shri Awardee Dr Arun Kumar Sharma passed away recently. Who was he? 0.

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 \checkmark 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. \checkmark



Born in Chandkhuri in Raipur district on November 12 in 1933, Sharma completed his MSC (Anthropology) \checkmark from Sagar university in 1958 and a year later joined the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

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Since 1994 he has been Archaeological advisor to the Chhattisgarh government. \checkmark

Which country became the first country to include the right to abortion in its constitution? Q.

A) Germany	B) France
C) Poland	D) Malaysia

Answer : B

- ✓ France has made history by becoming the first nation to embed the right to abortion in its constitution.
- ✓ In a landmark joint parliamentary session, a resounding majority of 780 votes supported the constitutional amendment, while only 72 opposed it.
- This historic decision adds explicit language to Article 34 of the French Constitution, guaranteeing women's freedom to choose abortion within the legal framework, marking a significant milestone in reproductive rights

Q. Which state government has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called 'MYUVA scheme'?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has introduced "Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)" to back young entrepreneurs.
- ✓ The initiative offers interest-free loans, up to Rs 5 lakh, supporting digital transactions and providing grants to encourage the adoption of digital payment methods.
- ✓ The government aims to nurture one lakh young entrepreneurs annually through this program, fostering economic growth and innovation in the state.
- Which institute hosted the 'All India Research Scholars' Summit (AIRSS) 2024'? Q.
 - A) IIT Madras **B) IIM Ahmedabad**

C) IIT Kanpur D) IIT Bombay

Answer : A



- ✓ IIT Madras is hosting the All India Research Scholars' Summit (AIRSS) 2024 from March 4th to 7th.
- ✓ Organized by the Research Affairs Council, the event brings together minds from diverse disciplines across India to showcase and explore the latest research advancements.

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✓ With a focus on fostering collaboration between academia and industry, the summit aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat's vision, promoting self-reliance through innovation.

Indian scientists have developed an eco wound dressing from which one of the following? 0.

A) Banana fibers **B)** cotton fibres

C) Bast fibres D) Jute fibres

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian scientists at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) have developed a new wound dressing material from banana fibers.
- ✓ The material is a multifunctional patch that combines banana fibers with biopolymers like chitosan and guar gum.
- The patch has excellent mechanical strength and antioxidant properties. \checkmark
- With whom has NPCI joined hands for cooperation in the field of Blockchain and Artificial **Q**. **Intelligence?**

A) IIT Mumbai	B) IIT Delhi
C) IISc, Bangalore	D) IIT Varanasi

Answer : C

- ✓ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Wednesday entered into an agreement with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore to conduct joint research on blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI) technology.
- ✓ Under this, focus will be on scalable blockchain platform and multi-modal analytics

IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

- > Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- > Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.



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

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- > 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 dronebased synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- > IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- > IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- > IIT Guwahati researchers develop Al-based model for knee X-ray.
- Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- > IIT-Madras generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.
- India, Israel to jointly develop Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras.
- IIT Madras researchers partner for development of materials and micro-device processing techniques.



▶ IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme .

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- > 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.

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

A) Bengaluru

B) Hyderabad

C) Ahmedabad

D) Chennai

Answer : C

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- ✓ India's IN-SPACe Inaugurates Satellite & Payload Technical Centre in Ahmedabad
- ✓ Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the IN-SPACe Technical Centre at the headquarters of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) in Bopal area of Ahmedabad.
- ✓ Our target is to take the space economy from 2 per cent to 10 per cent by 2030, which will be a five-fold increase. We have mentioned 15 per cent by 2047 as per our vision document.
- ✓ The IN-SPACe Technical Centre will help develop rockets and not just satellites.
- \checkmark The IN-SPACe offers a range of facilities including the Climate Simulation Test Facility (CSTF), Thermal and Vacuum Environment Simulation Facility (TVAC), Vibration Test Facility (VTF), the Space Systems Assembly Integration Testing and Checkout Laboratory, the RF and Opto-Electronics Laboratory and Clean Rooms for AIT activities.
- 0. Who is the author of the book titled "The Gems of Indian Art"?
 - A) Chetan Bhagat

B) Harish Khullar

D) Vikram Seth C) Salman Rushdie

Answer : B

- ✓ The launch of "The Gems of Indian Art", a comprehensive documentation of Harish Khullar's extensive collection of 20th-century Indian modern and contemporary art.
- ✓ This near-300-page book was unveiled by Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Arjun Ram Meghwal, and S.P.S. Baghel, marking a pivotal moment in India's art scene.
- ✓ Edited by the veteran art critic Vinod Bhardwaj, the publication is a distinguished addition to the discourse on Indian contemporary art history, appreciated for its archival quality by the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in New Delhi.

FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- The Gems of Indian Art : Harish Khullar
- UNEQUAL: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours : Swati Narayan
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns : M.J. Akbar and K. Natwar Singh
- > Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan : Arup Kumar Dutta
- An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy : Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- ➢ Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns : M.J. Akbar & co-author K. Natwar Singh



Modi: Energising A Green Future : Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation

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- Sanskriti ke Ayaam : Manorama Mishra
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- The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma : Madhav Godbole \triangleright
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- Thread by Thread, on the life of Shambhu Kumar or 'the' S Kumar : Sathya Saran \geq
- 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).
- Swalior 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.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana'.

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- > 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

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

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Karnataka

C) Kerala

D) Maharashtra

Answer : C

- ✓ Kerala launched its first government-backed OTT platform, CSpace at Kairali Theatre.
- \checkmark 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. \checkmark

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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.

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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 \checkmark buildings, and homes.
- ✓ It also includes an implementation strategy to achieve net-zero buildings city-wide by 2050

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

C) Italy

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.

D) Estonia

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 \geq
- 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

D) Anurag Thakur

- C) Ashwini Vaishnav
- 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
- C) Egypt

- B) Pakistan
- 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%.

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- ✓ Egypt is a country connecting North-East Africa with the Middle East.
- \checkmark 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
A	nswer : B	
✓	In the National Youth Parlian	nent Mahotsav, 2024, Yatin Bhaskar Duggal of Haryana won the first prize,
		il Nadu won the second prize and Kanishka Sharma of Rajasthan won the
	third prize.	
✓	87 state-level winners gathered	l 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
A	nswer : A	
✓	Indian Navy has established its new base "INS Jatayu" in Minicoy Island of Lakshadweep with an aim	
	enhance its operational capabi	lities in the Indian Ocean region.
✓	Earlier, the Navy had established INS 'Dweeprakshak' at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.	
✓	Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar inaugurated the second naval base in Lakshadweep.	
Q.	2. With whose collaboration has NITI Aayog launched 'Frontier Technology Labs'?	
	A) Meta	B) Google
	C) Microsoft	D) Infosys
A	nswer : A	
✓	Atal Innovation Mission (A	IM), 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.

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- ✓ 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.
- Narasapur crochet lace, which has recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, belongs to Q. 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. \checkmark
- Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna, recently seen in the news, is launched by **Q**. 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 \checkmark 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?

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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

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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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Answer : D

- ✓ Online food ordering and delivery platform, Swiggy has signed an MoU with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) whereby it will deliver pre-ordered food on trains.
- The service will start with four stations Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada from March 12 and will be expanded to 59 additional city stations in the coming weeks.
- One of the challenges encountered by travellers during extended journeys is lower availability of options. Through this integration, passengers aboard designated trains can place orders with food being delivered to their seats.

Q. Which bank has partnered with online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip to launch a co-branded travel credit card "EMT Credit Card"?

A) Bandhan Bank

B) IndusInd Bank

C) State Bank of India

D) Punjab National Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Public sector bank Punjab National Bank (PNB) has partnered with online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip to launch a co-branded travel credit card "PNB EMT Credit Card".
- ✓ This co-branded travel credit card is aimed at mass to premium segments.
- ✓ Users can earn rewards in a variety of categories, including flights, hotels, and holiday packages. Furthermore, this new credit card includes a wallet for contactless payments.
- ✓ PNB EMT credit card comes with an annual membership fee of Rs 2000 and can be used across 100 countries.
- Recently, AU Bank also introduced the ixigo AU Bank Credit Card, which also rewards users for travel bookings.



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Aparchit March 2nd Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Who has recently become a new member of the International Solar Alliance? Q.

- B) Kenya A) Panama
- C) Chile

D) Argentina

Answer : A

- ✓ Central American country Panama has officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ✓ Panama has become the 97th member country of ISA.
- ✓ ISA was established as a joint effort of India and France.
- Currently, 116 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement

ISA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Panama has become the 97th member country of ISA. \geq
- Malta as the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance.
- Chile has become the 95th member of the International Solar Alliance.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) has announced a capital infusion of \$35 million for its Global Solar \geq Facility (GSF), aimed at stimulating solar investments in underserved regions, particularly in Africa
- What is the International Solar Alliance? \succ
- The International Solar Alliance is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for \geq increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.
- > Initially conceived as a joint effort by India and France, ISA was conceptualized during the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in 2015.
- > With its framework Agreement amended in 2020, all UN member states are eligible to join ISA.
- > Currently, 116 countries are signatories, with 95 having completed the necessary ratification to become full members.
- The ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000' strategy which aims to mobilize USD 1,000 billion of \geq investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity.
- This would help mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1,000 million tonnes of CO2 every year.



> The Assembly is the apex decision-making body of ISA, in which each Member Country is

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- represented.
- > International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ➢ Founded 2015
- HQ Gurugram Haryana
- Director General Ajay Mathur
- Membership : 121
- > ISA : Joint Initiative by India and France
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Former France Prime Minister Francois Hollande on 30 November 2015 during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change COP-21 in Paris, France to promote solar energy.
- India and France have been re-elected as the President and co-President of the International Solar Alliance..

Q. Which country has become the new member of the military alliance NATO?

A) Brazil	B) UAE
C) Albania	D) Sweden
A more an D	

- Answer : D
- ✓ European country Sweden has formally become a new member of the transatlantic military alliance 'NATO'.
- ✓ Concerns about Russian aggression in Europe have increased following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Christerson has announced this.
- The North Atlantic Alliance is an intergovernmental military alliance of 32 member states. It was established in the year 1949.

NATO IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has recently announced the formal suspension of the Cold War-era security treaty.



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- Finland becomes 31st member of Nato.
- > North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Formation : 4 April 1949
- > Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary General : Jens Stoltenberg (Norway)
- Total Member : 32 (Sweden)
- > Established by the Washington treaty.
- > At present, NATO has 32 members.
- In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- The other member countries are: Greece and Türkiye (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017) and North Macedonia (2020), Finland (2023) and Sweden (2024).

Q. India's First Under-River Metro Tunnel passes through which one of the following rivers?

- A) Yamuna B) Hooghly
- C) Narmada

D) Godavari

Answer: B

- ✓ Prime Minister recently inaugurated a metro train service between Howrah Maidan and Esplanade in Kolkata, marking the opening of India's first under-river metro tunnel.
- ✓ About India's First Under-River Metro Tunnel:
- ✓ It is a part of Kolkata Metro's East-West Corridor.
- It passes under the Hooghly River in the city's northeast, with the tunnel 13 meters below the riverbed and 37 meters below ground level.
- \checkmark It forms part of the 4.8 km underground section from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade.
- \checkmark It is the second section of the East-West Metro corridor and has been built at a cost of Rs 4,965 crore.
- ✓ The stretch also has the deepest metro station in the country, the Howrah Maidan station, at 32 metres below ground level.

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- \checkmark The metro is expected to cover the 520-meter stretch under the Hooghly River in 45 seconds.
- ✓ Key Facts about River Hooghly:
- ✓ The Hooghly River, also known as the Bhagirathi-Hooghly and Kati-Ganga Rivers, is one of the significant rivers in West Bengal.

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- ✓ It is a distributary or arm of the Ganges River, about 260 km long.
- \checkmark Course:
- \checkmark It is formed in Murshidabad, where the Ganga splits into two parts, while the part flowing through Bangladesh is called the Padma.
- ✓ The other part is the Hooghly, which flows through a heavily industrialized area of West Bengal.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the NITI For States platform:
 - 1. It is a cross-sectoral knowledge platform designed to become a Digital Public Infrastructure.
 - 2. It is accessible through multiple devices including mobile phones.
 - 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

- ✓ Minister of Communications, Railways, and Electronics & Information Technology will launch NITI Aayog's NITI For States platform and Viksit Bharat Strategy Room' at Rang Bhawan auditorium, New Delhi.
- ✓ It is a cross-sectoral knowledge platform designed to become a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Policy and Good Governance.
- ✓ The significant features of the platform include
- ✓ A multi-sectoral live repository of 7,500 Best Practices, 5,000 Policy documents, 900+ datasets, 1,400 data profiles, and 350 NITI publications.
- ✓ The knowledge products on the platform span 10 sectors including Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health, Livelihoods and Skilling, Manufacturing, MSME, Tourism, Urban, Water resources & WASH across two cross-cutting themes - Gender and Climate Change.
- ✓ The platform is an intuitive and user-friendly interface that allows users to easily navigate; and it is accessible through multiple devices including mobile phones.



This platform will facilitate the digital transformation of governance by equipping government officials with robust, contextually relevant, and actionable knowledge and insights, thereby enhancing the quality of their decision-making.

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It will also support cutting-edge level functionaries like district collectors and block-level functionaries by giving them access to innovative best practices across various States and UTs.

NITI AAYOG IN NEWS 2023-24

- Minister of Communications, Railways, and Electronics & Information Technology will launch NITI Aayog's NITI For States platform and Viksit Bharat Strategy Room' at Rang Bhawan auditorium, New Delhi.
- Recently, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Meta have announced the launch of Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs)
- > India is estimated to be a \$30 trillion developed economy by 2047, preliminary results from the Centre's vision document - The Vision India@2047, which is being prepared by Niti Aayog.
- > NITI Aayog convened a two-day G20 conference on the Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy in New Delhi.
- > The NITI Aayog has published the second edition of the Multidimensional Poverty Index titled 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A progress of Review 2023'.
- About 135.5 million (13.5 crore) persons have exited poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- > Nearly 3.43 crore people escaped poverty in Uttar Pradesh, registering the largest decline among the 36 States and Union Territories.
- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)
- Founded : 1st January 2015
- Preceding : Planning Commission (15th March 1950)
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson : Suman K Bery
- ► CEO : BVR Subrahmanyam
- NITI Aayog comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Frontier Technology Labs:

- 1. They are an advanced version of Atal Tinkering Labs established to promote digital inclusion.
- 2. They are funded by the World Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance.

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, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Meta have announced the launch of Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs).
- \checkmark It is an advanced version of Atal Tinkering Lab.
- ✓ The initiative aims to advance the government's agenda of digital inclusion, skilling and growth.
- ✓ Collaboration: Atal Innovation Mission and Meta will partner to set up FTLs in schools of strategic importance to ensure that students from diverse backgrounds across India will have equal opportunities to learn and engage with frontier technologies.
- ✓ Funding: The FTLs will be funded by Meta and Atal Innovation Mission will be the knowledge partner.
- ✓ It is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, including all components of the Tinkering Lab to empower students to innovate using technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Augmented & Virtual Reality, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Robotics, 3D Printing, and Internet of Things.
- ✓ The FTLs are a part of Meta's Education to Entrepreneurship initiative, launched in September 2023, to seamlessly connect students, youth, workforce, and micro-entrepreneurs with futuristic technologies, taking digital skilling to the grassroots.
- ✓ These labs will be managed by Meta's partner 1M1B (One Million for One Billion).
- Significance: The labs support the Government's focus on equipping youth with digital skills to succeed in the evolving landscape of technology and the global economy
- Q. Where is Rupa Tarakasi, a renowned silver craft, predominantly practised?

A) Kolkata

B) Jaipur

C) Varanasi

D) Cuttack

Answer : D



✓ The famous silver filigree (Rupa Tarakasi) of the millennium Cuttack city in Odisha recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

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- ✓ About Rupa Tarakasi:
- \checkmark It is one of the most exquisite silver crafts.
- This centuries-old, sophisticated craft is practised in the silver city of Cuttack, Odisha. \checkmark
- \checkmark Origin:
- ✓ While the exact origin of the filigree art in Cuttack is not clear, it is known to have existed as far back as the 12th century.
- ✓ The art form received considerable patronage under the Mughals.
- ✓ Over the years, as Cuttack transitioned through the hands of different rulers, the silver filigree took on a new form with each.
- ✓ Process:
- ✓ In this work of craft, silver bricks are transformed into thin, fine wires (tara) or foils, from which silver filigree is made with all designs (kasi).
- \checkmark While different grades of silver are used in the main metal alloy, the craftsmen also use other metals like copper, zinc, cadmium, and tin.
- ✓ The artists involved with this filigree work are called "Rupa Banias" or "Roupyakaras" (in Odia).
- Consider the following statements regarding the National Cooperative Database (NCD), recently Q. seen in the news:

1. It is a digital dashboard wherein data of cooperative societies, including both National and State Federations have been captured.

2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The Cooperation Minister will launch the National Cooperative Database (NCD) to foster a cooperativecentric economic model.
- About National Cooperative Database (NCD):
- ✓ It is an initiative of the Ministry of Cooperation.

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✓ Under this initiative, the Ministry of Cooperation has recognized the imperative need for a robust database to capture vital information about India's vast cooperative sector.

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- ✓ NCD has been developed in collaboration with State Governments, National Federations and stakeholders, and aims to foster a cooperative-centric economic model.
- ✓ It is a web-based digital dashboard wherein data of cooperative societies, including National/State Federations have been captured.
- ✓ The data of cooperative societies has been entered and validated by States/ UTs nodal officials at RCS/ DRCS offices, and the data of federations has been provided by various national/state federations.
- ✓ NCD has collected/mapped information about 8 lakh cooperatives with collective membership of more than 29 crores spread across various sectors in the country.
- \checkmark The information collected from cooperative societies are on various parameters, such as their registered name, date, location, number of members, sectoral information, area of operation, economic activities, financial statements, status of audit etc.
- NCD serves as a crucial tool for efficient communication between the Central Ministry, States/UTs, and Cooperative Societies, benefiting all stakeholders in the cooperative sector.
- Q. Which among the following best describes 'Dolutegravir', recently seen in the news?
 - A) A newly discovered species of marine life.
 - B) A novel approach to detect gravitational waves.
 - C) A cryptocurrency gaining popularity in the financial market.
 - D) An antiviral drug used in the treatment of HIV infection

Answer : D

- ✓ Resistance to the antiretroviral drug dolutegravir (DTG) is increasing among HIV patients, a new report by the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighted.
- ✓ About Dolutegravir (DTG):
- ✓ It is an antiviral drug used with other medications to treat human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, the virus that can cause the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).
- ✓ Dolutegravir is in a class of medications called HIV integrase inhibitors.
- ✓ It works by decreasing the amount of HIV in your blood and increasing the number of immune cells that help fight infections in your body.

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 \checkmark Although dolutegravir does not cure HIV, using it along with other medications may decrease your chance of developing AIDS and HIV-related illnesses such as serious infections or cancer.

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- ✓ Since 2018, WHO has recommended the use of dolutegravir as the preferred first- and second-line HIV treatment for all population groups.
- ✓ It is more effective, easier to take, and has fewer side effects than other drugs currently in use.
- ✓ Common side effects of dolutegravir may include:
- \checkmark headache;
- tiredness; or \checkmark
- sleep problems (insomnia). \checkmark
- ✓ Some side effects can be serious. These include severe skin rashes and allergic reactions, liver problems, and drug interactions.
- Sea Defenders-2024, recently seen in the news, is a joint Coast Guard exercise involving India and **Q**. which one of the following countries?

A) United States	B) Sri Lanka
C) Vietnam	D) France

Answer : A

- ✓ The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- ✓ About Sea Defenders-2024:
- ✓ It is a joint exercise between the Indian Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard.
- ✓ Location: Off the coast of Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The two-day exercise will focus on maritime piracy and asymmetric threats, including simulated drone \checkmark attacks on commercial merchant traffic, joint maritime search and rescue operations, major firefighting, marine pollution response, and counter-drug interdiction exercises.
- The event will also witness a simulated medical evacuation to enhance readiness in emergency situations.
- It will highlight the importance of international cooperation in addressing maritime challenges as well as the partnership between the Indian and US Coast Guards.

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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the School Soil Health Programme:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

2. It provides for the establishment of soil labs in Eklavya Model Schools only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Union Minister for Rural Development inaugurated School Soil Health Programme, New Delhi.
- ✓ Department of Agriculture and Farmers welfare (Ministry of Education) in collaboration with Department of School Education and Literacy (Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare) has undertaken a pilot project on school soil health programme.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ Under the project, 20 soil labs were set up in 20 schools of Kendriya and Navodaya Vidylaya of rural areas.
- ✓ Study modules were developed and training was given to students and teachers.
- Mobile application was customized for the school programme and portal is having a separate segment for the programme where in all the activities of students has been documented.
- ✓ Now, this programme has been scaled up in 1000 schools.
- ✓ Kendriya Vidyalya, Navodaya Vidyalya and Eklavya Model Schools have been taken under this programme. Schools are being onboarded on the portal and online batches are being created.
- ✓ Department of Agriculture and Farmers welfare (DA&FW) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will setup soil labs in these schools.
- ✓ School students will collect soil samples, test in the labs set up in schools and generate Soil health Card.
- ✓ After generating Soil Health Card, they will go to the farmers and educate them about recommendation of Soil health Card.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the IndiaAI mission:

1. Under this mission, indigenous Large Multimodal Models will be developed.

2. It aims to provide deep-tech AI startups streamlined access to funding to enable futuristic AI Projects.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved the comprehensive national-level IndiaAI mission with a budget outlay of Rs.10,371.92 crore.
- ✓ The IndiaAI mission will establish a comprehensive ecosystem catalyzing AI innovation through strategic programs and partnerships across the public and private sectors.
- ✓ The Mission will be implemented by 'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation (DIC).
- ✓ It has the following components:
- ✓ IndiaAI Compute Capacity: The IndiaAI compute pillar will build a high-end scalable AI computing ecosystem to cater to the increasing demands from India's rapidly expanding AI start-ups and research ecosystem.
- ✓ The ecosystem will comprise AI compute infrastructure of 10,000 or more Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), built through public-private partnership. It will act as a one-stop solution for resources critical for AI innovation.
- ✓ IndiaAI Innovation Centre: The IndiaAI Innovation Centre will undertake the development and deployment of indigenous Large Multimodal Models (LMMs) and domain-specific foundational models in critical sectors.
- IndiaAI Datasets Platform: It will streamline access to quality non-personal datasets for AI Innovation. A unified data platform will be developed to provide a one-stop solution for seamless access to non-personal datasets to Indian Startups and Researchers.
- ✓ IndiaAI Application Development Initiative: It will promote the AI applications in critical sectors for the problem statements sourced from Central Ministries, State Departments, and other institutions. The initiative will focus on developing/scaling/promoting adoption of impactful AI solutions with potential for catalyzing large scale socio-economic transformation.
- ✓ IndiaAI FutureSkills: It is conceptualized to mitigate barriers to entry into AI programs and will increase AI courses in undergraduate, masters-level, and Ph.D. programs. Further, Data and AI Labs will be set-up in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across India to impart foundational level courses.

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✓ IndiaAI Startup Financing: This pillar is conceptualized to support and accelerate deep-tech AI startups and provide them streamlined access to funding to enable futuristic AI Projects.

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✓ The approved IndiaAI Mission will propel innovation and build domestic capacities to ensure the tech sovereignty of India

Haiper, recently in news, refers to a/an: **Q**.

- A) Artificial Intelligence-powered video generation tool
- B) Light combat aircraft
- C) Invasive plant species
- D) Newly discovered asteroid

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, former members of Google's DeepMind team, have introduced Haiper, a cutting-edge AI-powered video generation tool.
- \checkmark It is an all-in-one visual foundation model that allows everyone, with or without technical training, to generate high-quality video content with ease.
- ✓ The founders claim that Haiper brings forward cutting-edge machine learning with the belief that creativity should be "fun, surprising, and shareable".
- ✓ According to Haiper, its model is a powerful perceptual foundation model-driven AI that has been designed for a "new path towards AGI" (artificial general intelligence, an AI software with human-like intelligence and the ability to self-learn).
- ✓ It offers tools such as text-to-video, animated static images, video repainting tools, etc.
- ✓ Users can go on to the website, log in with their email addresses, and start generating videos for free by typing in text prompts.
- ✓ At present, users can only generate HD video spanning 2 seconds, and a slightly lower-quality video could go up to four seconds.
- With reference to Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, consider the following: Q.
 - 1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by NITI Aayog.
 - 2. It is aimed at developing industries and generating employment in the North East Region.

3. It requires all eligible industrial units to commence their production or operation within 4 years from the grant of registration.

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How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one	B) Only two
-------------	-------------

C) All three

Answer : B

✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister of India approved the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade for Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024).

D) None

- ✓ The scheme, aimed at developing industries and generating employment in the North East Region, seeks to create productive economic activity in manufacturing and services.
- ✓ The main objective of the UNNATI scheme is to generate gainful employment, leading to the overall socioeconomic development of the region.
- ✓ It is set to be effective from the date of notification and will run until March 31, 2034, inclusive of eight years of committed liabilities.
- ✓ Expenditure involved:
- ✓ The financial outlay of the proposed scheme is Rs.10,037 crore for the scheme period from the date of notification for 10 years. (Additional 8 years for committed liabilities).
- ✓ This will be a Central Sector Scheme.
- The scheme is proposed to be divided into two parts. Part, A caters to the incentives to the eligible units (Rs. 9737 crores), and Part B, is for implementation and institutional arrangements for the scheme. (Rs. 300 Crore).
- ✓ Salient features of the scheme
- Scheme period: The scheme will be effective from the date of Notification and up to 31.03.2034 along with 8 years of committed liabilities.
- ✓ Application period for registration: Industrial unit will be allowed to apply for registration from the date of notification up to 31.03.2026
- Commencement of Production or operation: All eligible Industrial Units to commence their production or operation within 4 years from the grant of registration.
- ✓ Districts are categorized in two zones: Zone A (Industrially Advanced Districts) & Zone B (Industrially Backward Districts)



✓ Earmarking of funds: 60% of the outlay of Part A has been earmarked to 8 NE states and 40% on First-In-First-Out (FIFO) basis.

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- ✓ All new Industrial units and Expanding units would be eligible for the respective incentives.
- ✓ Implementation of the scheme will be overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in cooperation with the States.
- ✓ Committees at the national and state levels, including the Steering Committee and State Level Committee, will monitor implementation, ensure transparency, and recommend registration and incentives claims.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Majuli mask:
 - 1. It is a handmade masks traditionally used to depict characters in bhaonas.
 - 2. It is made of bamboo, clay and dung.
 - 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 traditional Majuli masks and Majuli manuscript painting in Assam were given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- These are handmade masks traditionally used to depict characters in bhaonas, or theatrical performances with devotional messages under the neo-Vaishnavite tradition, introduced by the 15th-16th century reformer saint Srimanta Sankardeva.
- ✓ Srimanta Sankardeva established this art of masks through a play called Chinha Jatra.
- ✓ The word means explaining through images. At that time, to attract ordinary people to Krishna bhakti.
- ✓ The masks can depict gods, goddesses, demons, animals and birds Ravana, Garuda, Narasimha, Hanuman, Varaha Surpanakha all feature among the masks.
- ✓ They can range in size from those covering just the face (mukh mukha), to those covering the whole head and body of the performer (cho mukha).
- Material used: The masks are made of bamboo, clay, dung, cloth, cotton, wood and other materials available in the riverine surroundings of their makers.



Majuli has 22 sattras, and the patent application states that the mask-making tradition is by and large concentrated in four of them — Samaguri Sattra, Natun Samaguri Sattra, Bihimpur Sattra and Alengi Narasimha Sattra.

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With whom has the Reserve Bank of India signed an agreement to promote the use of local currencies? Q.

B) World Bank

- A) Asian Development Bank
- C) Bank Indonesia D) New Development Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India and Bank Indonesia (BI) have signed an MoU in Mumbai to promote the use of local currencies.
- ✓ The MoU was signed by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das and Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjio.
- Where will 'Bharat-Shakti', the joint exercise of the three armies of India, be organized? Q.

A) Srinagar	B) Udhampur
C) Jaisalmer	D) Almora

Answer : C

- ✓ The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ✓ Top officers of the three armies, including Chief of Defense Staff General Anil Chauhan, will participate in the Bharat-Shakti exercise to be held on March 12.
- Q. Whom did President Draupadi Murmu recently nominate to Rajya Sabha?
 - A) Uday Kotak

B) Ajay Sinha

C) Sudha Murthy

- D) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

Answer : C

- ✓ President Draupadi Murmu has nominated writer Sudha Murthy to Rajya Sabha.
- \checkmark 73-year-old Murthy was also awarded the Padma Shri in 2006 and the Padma Bhushan in 2023.
- In January, the President had nominated Satnam Singh Sandhu as a Rajya Sabha member.
- The President can nominate 12 members to the Upper House. \checkmark

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 \checkmark Sudha Murty is an Indian educator, author, philanthropist and former chairperson of the Infosys Foundation.

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- ✓ She is married to the co-founder of Infosys, N. R. Narayana Murty.
- Which state government has signed an MoU with the World Economic Forum to establish the state's **Q**. first Centre for Al?

A) Haryana

B) Bihar

C) Gujarat

D) Karnataka

Answer : D

- ✓ Karnataka government has signed an MoU with the World Economic Forum to establish the state's first Centre for Al.
- ✓ Objective To make Karnataka a global Al hub by linking with WEF's C4IR Network.
- ✓ The Centre for Al in Karnataka will foster global dialogue on Al ethics and support Al startups for global visibility and collaboration opportunities.
- ✓ It will attract investments, and create job opportunities in the region.
- Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 'Chola' building at Naval War College in which state? Q.

A) Goa	B) Kerala
C) Tamil Nadu	D) Maharashtra

Answer : A

- ✓ Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the new Administrative & Training building at the Naval War College (NWC) in Goa.
- ✓ The modern edifice, named the 'Chola', pays homage to the mighty maritime empire of the Chola dynasty of ancient India.
- ✓ The event marked a significant milestone in the history of the NWC, reinforcing its commitment to excellence in military education and nurturing maritime thought
- Q. Infibeam Avenues has received the final authorisation from RBI to operate as a payment aggregator for its payment gateway brand, CCAvenue. It is a which type of company?

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A) Payment Fintech platform	B) Food Delivery platform
C) AI-powered Platform	D) Shopping Based Platform



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Answer : C

- India's first listed AI-powered fintech company, Infibeam Avenues has received the final authorisation from RBI to operate as a payment aggregator for its payment gateway brand, CCAvenue.
- ✓ The RBI had in March 2020 introduced the PA framework, which necessitates payment gateways to secure an aggregator licence for acquiring merchants and delivering digital payment solutions.
- ✓ More than 10 million merchants are on Infibeam's platform, and this year, the company has already crossed half a million merchants onboarding in 1H FY24.
- \checkmark The company attributed this growth to the growing relationship with the bank partners and merchants.
- Q. Slice has announced the appointment of actress _____ as its latest brand ambassador.
 - A) Nayanthara

B) Deepika Padukone

C) Kareena Kapoor

D) Katrina Kaif

Answer : A

- ✓ Slice has announced the appointment of actress Nayanthara as its latest brand ambassador.
- ✓ Slice aims to strengthen its connection with audiences, reaffirming its status as a beverage for mango enthusiasts.
- ✓ Slice has become popular in households across the country for its mango flavor.
- Nayanthara, known as 'Lady Superstar', is a critically acclaimed actress in Indian cinema. With this new association, Slice looks to add more excitement to the summer season and will unveil a new campaign later this summer.
- Q. European aerospace firm Airbus has signed a contract with which institute to provide aviation education to professionals and empower?
 - A) IIM Ahmedabad
 - C) IIM Indore

- **B) IIM Bangalore**
- D) IIM Mumbai

Answer : D

✓ European aerospace firm Airbus has signed a contract with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai to provide aviation education to professionals and empower them with industry-ready skills through Airbus Beyond programmes.

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 \checkmark Under this contract, IIM Mumbai will offer short-term aviation courses to aspiring and working professionals who will be able to harness the power of Airbus Beyond programmes in the areas of aviation logistics, supply chain management, operations excellence, cargo handling, strategic procurement, business analytics and digitisation.

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- ✓ Under the agreement, IIM Mumbai will organise courses, onboard students and provide infrastructure and logistical support.
- Who has been honoured with the United States Golf Association (USGA)'s prestigious Bob Jones Q. Award?
 - A) Joe LaCava
 - **C)** Tiger Woods

B) Rory McIlroy D) Justin Thomas

Answer : C

- ✓ Renowned golfer Tiger Woods has been selected for the Bob Jones Award, the US Golf Association's (USGA) highest honour.
- ✓ This award is the highest honour given to Tiger Woods by the United States Golf Association (USGA).
- ✓ Woods is a 15-time major champion who has won 82 PGA Tour events. He is known for his perseverance and mental power.
- ✓ This prestigious award recognizes Woods' dedication to sportsmanship, his respect for the traditions of the game, and his significant charitable endeavors.
- ✓ Tiger Woods is an American professional golfer.
- **Q**. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted air operator's certificate to _____based Just Udo Aviation Pvt Ltd to operate its airline Fly91.
 - A) Kerala

B) Maharashtra

C) Goa

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : C

- ✓ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted air operator's certificate to Goa-based Just Udo Aviation Pvt Ltd to operate its airline Fly91.
- The grant of the air operator certificate marks the completion of all regulatory and compliance requirements for the airline to begin its commercial operations.

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- \checkmark The airline has been allocated its first set of routes under the government's regional connectivity scheme UDAN, or Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik.
- ✓ This includes routes to Sindhudurg, Jalgaon, Nanded and Agatti from Bangalore, Goa, Hyderabad and Pune under the UDAN 5.0 of the civil aviation ministry.
- Which company will start manufacturing fuel used in adrenaline-pumping Formula One or F1 motor Q. racing?
 - A) Reliance Petroleum
- **B)** Hindustan Petroleum

D) Indian Oil Corporation

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C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

Answer : D

- ✓ India's largest oil company, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) will start manufacturing fuel used in adrenaline-pumping Formula One or F1, motor racing as it looks to expand its basket of niche fuels.
- \checkmark F1 fuel is essentially high-octane petrol and the standards are heavily regulated by global motor sport governing body Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) on various counts, including permissible additives and blending agents.
- ✓ IOC will supply fuel for all the motorcyclists from 15 countries that will participate in the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship.
- ✓ Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- ✓ Founded : 1959
- Headquarters : New Delhi \checkmark
- Chairman : Shrikant Madhav Vaidya \checkmark
- ✓ Owner : Government of India (52.1%)

When is International Women's Day celebrated every year? Q.

A) 07 March

B) 08 March

C) 09 March

D) 10 March

Answer : B

- ✓ International Women's Day is celebrated all over the world on 8 March.
- This day started in America about 115 years ago when in 1908, women in America launched a big movement \checkmark for their rights.

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- The International Women's Day campaign for the year 2024 is based on "Inspire Inclusion" and this year's \checkmark theme is "Invest in women: Accelerate progress".
- Q. **Consider the following statements regarding the Pritzker Architecture Prize:**

1. It was instituted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO in 1945.

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2. It is granted every year to a living architect for significant contributions to the field.

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

- ✓ Japanese architect Riken Yamamoto was declared winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize.
- ✓ It is the highest international award in the field, which is sometimes referred to as the "Architecture Nobel" and "the profession's highest honor."
- \checkmark The prize has been awarded every year since its founding in 1979.
- ✓ It is awarded to a living architect/s for significant achievement.
- ✓ It was established by the Pritzker family of Chicago through their Hyatt Foundation.
- Objective: To honour a living architect whose built work demonstrates talent, vision and commitment, who has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture".
- ✓ The laureate receives \$100,000 and also a bronze medallion.
- ✓ Works of Riken Yamamoto
- ✓ Yamamoto is the ninth laureate from Japan.
- ✓ His famous works are the Hiroshima Nishi Fire Station (2000) has a transparent façade and glass walls and floors that allow passersby to look inside.
- The Koyasu Elementary School (2018), spacious, open terraces not only make learning the arts dance, \checkmark music, painting but also encourage students to interact.



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- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the IRIS AI Robot:
 - 1. It is powered by Robotics and Generative AI technologies.
 - 2. It can speak only English and Hindi language.
 - 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

- ✓ A groundbreaking development in education has emerged from Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram, where a school has introduced India's first AI teacher robot, Iris.
- ✓ It is powered by Robotics and Generative AI technologies. Iris boasts a dedicated Intel processor and coprocessor for seamless performance.
- ✓ Its Android App interface allows users to control and interact with the robot, ensuring a personalized learning experience.
- ✓ It is not just a passive presence in the classroom but a dynamic voice assistant and interactive learning tool.
- It acts as an AI voice-controlled assistant, responding to user queries, providing explanations, and delivering educational content.
- Its hands, featuring 5 DoF each, enable Iris to manipulate objects, perform demonstrations, and engage in hands-on learning activities.
- ✓ The robot can teach subjects from nursery to Class 12.
- ✓ The robot currently speaks three languages English, Hindi and Malayalam.
- ✓ It is created by the Maker Labs.
- Q. Sela Tunnel, recently seen in the news, is located in which one of the following States?
 - A) Sikkim

B) Himachal Pradesh

- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Punjab

Answer : C

- ✓ On the eve of the fourth anniversary of the border conflict with China in eastern Ladakh, Prime Minister is all set to inaugurate the long-awaited Sela Tunnel.
- ✓ About Sela Tunnel:
- ✓ It is the longest bi-lane road tunnel in the world, at an altitude above 13,000 feet.



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- ✓ Location: It is located in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ It will connect Tezpur, in Assam, with Tawang, in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ It was built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under Project Vartak, and the tunnel's construction commenced on April 1, 2019.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ The project comprises two tunnels: Tunnel 1 is 1,003 meters long, and Tunnel 2 is a 1,595-meter twin-tube tunnel.
- ✓ The project also includes two roads measuring 8.6 km.
- ✓ The tunnel has been designed for a traffic density of 3,000 cars and 2,000 trucks per day, with a maximum speed of 80 kmph.
- ✓ Need:
- ✓ Located near the Sela Pass, this all-weather tunnel was needed because the Balipara-Charidwar-Tawang Road remains closed for a long time every year, courtesy of snowfall and landslides caused by heavy rainfall.
- ✓ The tunnel is significant as it will provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang, bordering China.
- \checkmark The tunnel will cut down the travel time between Tezpur and Tawang by over an hour.
- ✓ It will also provide for faster deployment of weapons, soldiers, and equipment to forward areas near the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Q. Which country hosted the 17th Annual International Biocuration Conference?

- A) Myanmar
- B) Nepal
- C) India
- D) Bangladesh

Answer : C

- ✓ The 17th Annual International Biocuration Conference (AIBC-2024) is set to take place at the National Capital Region (NCR) Biotech Science Cluster in Faridabad, India.
- ✓ The venue, comprising the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) and the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), offers a comprehensive platform for scientific discussions and collaboration during the conference.

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SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2024) in Delhi.
- ▶ WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.
- WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme 'Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice
- 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is being held in Davos, Switzerland from 15 January 2024.
- > Theme of 54th meeting of WEF: 'Rebuilding Trust'.
- India launched Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality, at the World Economic Forum Summit at Davos, Switzerland, held from 15-19 January 2024.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, on 10 January 2024.
- > Theme of 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024: 'Gateway to the Future'.
- India has been selected for the first time to chair and host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will be held in New Delhi between 21 and 31 July 2024.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members.
 This group has now become an organization of 10 countries.
- > Russia's tenure as Chairman of BRICS begins from January 1, 2024.
- > 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference (WIC) started on 11 December 2023 in New Delhi
- India Internet Governance Forum 2023 (IIGF-2023) will be organized on 5 December 2023 in New Delhi.
- India is going to organize a three-day (4 to 6 December) Global Technology Summit (GTS) from 4 December 2023

Q. Which state government collaborated with World Economic Forum to establish AI centre?

aharashtra
I

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Kerala

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Answer : A

✓ Karnataka state government has partnered with the World Economic Forum to establish a state-of-the-art AI center, formalized through a Letter of Intent signed on February 29.

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 This strategic alliance aims to position Karnataka as a global hub for artificial intelligence, marking a crucial move towards integrating the state into the global digital and technological landscape

KARNATAKA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Karnataka govt, Foxconn sign Letter of Intent with Rs 5000 cr investment.
- Siddaramaiah was sworn in as the 24th Chief Minister of Karnataka for his second term .
- The National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22 Karnataka, overall, is the most "innovative" State, followed by Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.
- According to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022, which assesses the performance of states in terms of justice delivery, the state of Karnataka has achieved the top rank.
- World Bank has granted a loan of USD 363 million to the state of Karnataka in India, which will help to provide clean drinking water.
- Karnataka ended their 54-year wait to win the Santosh Trophy national football championship, beating Meghalaya.
- The Karnataka Government will build the country's first Marina or a boat basin offering dockage, at Byndoor in Udupi district to promote coastal tourism in Karnataka.
- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying announced that the fourth phase of the Sagar Parikrama program began in Karnataka.
- Karnataka bags National Award For Fasal Bima Yojana, implementing the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme.
- Karnataka Bank awarded 'Prathista Puraskar for achieving highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions.
- Mysuru and Hampi are the two popular destinations in Karnataka to be promoted as a part of the new Tourism policy 'The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme, which focuses on revving up destination tourism.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli in Karnataka.
- About Karnataka State



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- Formation 1 November 1956
- Capital-Bengaluru
- > Chief minister : Siddaramaiah
- Governor- Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Legislative Assembly seats- 224
- Lok Sabha seats- 28
- Jog Falls (Garsoppa) located in Karnataka is the highest waterfall in India which is on Sharavathi River.
- > Yakshagana is the main folk dance of Karnataka.

Q. Which state became the first state in India to declare man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster?

A) Gujarat	B) Kerala
C) Madhya Pradesh	D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: B

- ✓ Kerala has declared the man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, the first in India to do so.
- ✓ This decision follows a series of fatal encounters, particularly involving elephants.
- ✓ The conflict arises when wildlife poses a direct threat to human interests, causing disputes and negative impacts.
- ✓ The Forest Department manages such conflicts unless declared a state-specific disaster. The chief wildlife warden holds authority in addressing animal threats.
- The State Government, through the State Disaster Response Fund, allocates funds with the State Disaster Management Authority overseeing relief efforts.

INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➢ Kerala has declared the man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, the first in India to do so.
- 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.



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- > Ola Founder's Krutrim Becomes First \$1 Billion Indian AI Startup.
- For the first time in India, a boat running on solar energy will be operated in the Saryu river in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- > Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification .
- > Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'.
- > Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence.
- > India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad city.
- > Uttarakhand launches India's first polythene waste bank for sustainable waste management.
- Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) in Hyderabad.
- > India's first-ever sports university to be set up in Manipur.
- > India Launches Its 1st Indigenous e-Tractor Developed By the CMERI.
- Dr Jitendra Singh, had launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, a public engineering R&D institution in Durgapur, West Bengal, and a constituent laboratory of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- > Kerala Launches India's First AI School, Pioneering Future-Focused Education.
- Sanchi, a world heritage site located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, is all set to become India's first solar city.
- Hitachi Payment Services launched India's first UPI-ATM.
- > India's first Vedic-themed park unveiled in Noida.
- Q. With reference to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), consider the following statements:

1. It supports immunization programs for childhood diseases and programs to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

2. It has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.

3. It is financed entirely by the government contributions of United Nations member countries.

How many of the statements given above are correct?



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A) Only one

C) All three

B) Only two

D) None

Answer : B

- Over 230 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), according to a newly released UNICEF report.
- ✓ About UNICEF:
- ✓ The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), originally known as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, was created by the United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 1946, to provide emergency food and healthcare to children and mothers in countries that had been devastated by World War II.
- ✓ In 1950, UNICEF's mandate was extended to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries everywhere.
- ✓ In 1953, it became a permanent part of the UN System, and the words "international" and "emergency" were dropped from the organization's name, though it retained the original acronym, "UNICEF".
- ✓ UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories and in the world's toughest places to reach the children and young people in greatest need.
- ✓ UNICEF works with partners around the world to promote policies and expand access to services that protect all children.
- ✓ UNICEF supports immunization programs for childhood diseases and programs to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS; it also provides funding for health services, educational facilities, and other welfare services.
- ✓ Since 1996, UNICEF programs have been guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which affirms the right of all children to "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.
- ✓ Funding: UNICEF's activities are financed by both government and private contributions.
- ✓ Headquarters: New York, United States.
- ✓ It was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Blue Leaders:
 - 1. It is a group of countries working to save the global ocean.
 - 2. India is not a member of this group.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Blue Leaders High-Level Event on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction was held in Belgium.
- ✓ The Blue Leaders are an ambitious group of countries calling for urgent action to save the global ocean in the face of the climate crisis, overfishing, pollution, and other threats.
- ✓ The Blue Leaders are committed to two major goals:
- ✓ Securing a new international target to protect at least 30% of the global ocean through a network of highly and fully protected marine areas by 2030.
- ✓ The rapid and successful conclusion of a new High Seas Treaty that provides for the establishment of fully and highly protected marine areas in the high seas and strengthens management of human activities outside protected areas.
- ✓ The first Blue Leaders event took place in New York on the margins of the 2019 United Nations General Assembly and the second in Madrid, Spain during the 2019 UN Climate Change Conference, 'The Blue COP.'
- ✓ At each of these events, the Blue Leaders have championed the call to realize the protection of 30% of the ocean by 2030 (30x30) in that they are focused on calling for 30% to be fully and highly protected.
- ✓ Member countries: The group of Blue Leaders has 24 countries as its members.
- ✓ India is not a member of this group.

Q. Which company has acquired edtech platform Udacity?

A) Accenture

C) Apple

B) Infosys

D) Microsoft

Answer : A

- ✓ Accenture has launched Accenture LearnVantage, a technology learning and training services for its clients.
- ✓ The company will invest \$1 billion in Accenture LearnVantage over three years and has agreed to acquire educational platform Udacity.

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✓ Accenture LearnVantage will help client's re-skill and upskill in the areas of technology, data and AI to fill gaps created by advances in technologies.

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Q. The Union Cabinet has decided to extend the subsidy of ____ per LPG cylinder for up to 12 refills per year till the end of next financial year.

A) ₹250	B) ₹280
C) ₹300	D) ₹350

Answer : C

- ✓ Govt extends subsidy for Ujjwala beneficiaries by another one year
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has decided to extend the subsidy of ₹300 per LPG cylinder for up to 12 refills per year till the end of next financial year.
- ✓ About 10.27 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will get the benefit of the scheme with its continuation set to incur ₹12,000 crore.
- ✓ The Centre had started a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum to the PMUY consumers in May 2022. In October 2023, the Centre increased the subsidy to ₹300 per cylinder for up to 12 refills per year.
- ✓ As on February 1, 2024, the effective price of domestic LPG for PMUY consumers is ₹603 per LPG cylinder of 14.2 kg.
- ✓ Average LPG consumption of PMUY consumers has increased by 29% from 3.01 refills in 2019-20 to 3.87 refills (till January 2024) pro-rated for 2023-24. All PMUY beneficiaries are eligible for this targeted subsidy.
- World's largest literary festival 'Sahityotsav' will be held from the 11th to 16th of March. It will Q. organize by which of the following?
 - **A) Infosys Foundation**

- **B)** Reliance Foundation
- C) KK Birla Foundation
- D) Sahitya Akademi

Answer : D

- ✓ World's largest literary festival-'Sahityotsay' by Sahitya Akademi will be held from the 11th to 16th of March.
- ✓ The festival commemorating 70 years of Sahitya Akademi will witness the participation of more than a hundred renowned writers and scholars.
- ✓ Over 190 sessions and more than 175 languages of the country will also be represented during the festival.
- ✓ The Chief Guest of the Awards Presentation Ceremony will be Pratibha Rai, the distinguished Odia writer.

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The Samvatsar lecture will be delivered by renowned Urdu writer and lyricist Gulzar on the 13th of March at the Meghdoot open theatre.

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- Who has been appointed as the President and MD for SAP Indian Subcontinent? Q.
 - A) Vivek Srivastava **B)** Abhishek Sharma
 - C) Manish Prasad **D)** Arvind Kumar

Answer : C

- ✓ German technology major SAP has appointed Manish Prasad as president and managing director for SAP Indian Subcontinent.
- ✓ He succeeds Kulmeet Bawa, who takes on a global role to drive the growth and adoption of the SAP Business Technology Platform (SAP BTP) for global customers.
- ✓ Prasad will help advance SAP's move to the cloud, enabling customers across all industries to digitally transform with SAP
- Which insurance company has launched a non-linked participating product "G.A.I.N" that offers Q. long-term saving or income?
 - A) Universal Sompo General Insurance B) Kotak Life Insurance
 - C) Bharti AXA General Insurance D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Answer : B

- ✓ Private sector life insurer Kotak Life Insurance has launched a non-linked participating product Kotak G.A.I.N which offers long-term saving or income.
- \checkmark The minimum annual premium payable to avail the product is Rs 50,000.
- ✓ While taking the policy, the minimum age of the policyholder should be 90 days while the policy maturing age should be minimum 40 years and maximum 85 years.
- \checkmark The product provides three options to the policyholder to choose from.
- ✓ Under the first option, policyholders can receive regular income from the 1st month of policy issuance for monthly payout mode and 1st year onwards for annual payout mode.
- ✓ Under the second option, income benefits will be used to purchase additional sum assured throughout the policy term and receive it as lump sum or withdraw as per convenience.



- The third option is where the policyholder receives cash bonus from the end of the premium payment term, and there is also guaranteed loyalty additions (GLASs) payable in the policy that can also be used to pay the last 2 years premiums.
- Which insurance company has launched a new women's health insurance plan "HEALTH Q. **POWHER**"?
 - A) Future Generali India Insurance **B)** Life Insurance Corporation of India

C) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance

D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

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Answer : A

- ✓ Future Generali India Insurance Company (FGII), a private general insurer, has launched the most comprehensive women's health insurance plan.
- \checkmark The plan is designed to meet women's unique needs.
- ✓ FGII "HEALTH POWHER" aims to address the various needs of women across the different stages of their lives.
- ✓ For a country like India, where women comprise roughly half of the nation's population, at around 49 per cent, less than one-third or only about 30 per cent of them aged 15-49, were covered under health insurance between 2019-2021, as per data fetched from the National Family Health Survey India report.
- Which bank has launched a new loan scheme called 'Vikas Spoorty' to strengthen the rural credit Q. delivery system?
 - A) Karur Vyasya Bank
 - **B) Karnataka Bank**
 - C) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank
- D) Dhanalakshmi Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched a new loan scheme called 'Vikas Spoorty' to strengthen the rural credit delivery system and also to motivate the common man to take up incomegenerating activities on a smaller scale.
- ✓ Under this scheme, people may avail a minimum loan of ₹50,000 and a maximum of ₹2,00,000.
- \checkmark But the customer shall open a 'Daily Deposit' (pigmy) account and contribute regularly to it to service the repayment of instalment and interest for the loan.



Q. The Union Cabinet has approved hike in dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees and dearness relief (DR) for pensioners by how much percent with effect from January 1?

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A) 7%	B) 4%
		_ / _ / v

C) 5% D) 3%

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved hike in dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees and dearness relief (DR) for pensioners by 4 per cent with effect from January 1.
- ✓ With this revision, the DA will reach 50 per cent. This means various other allowances such as Housing Rent Allowances (HRA), Children's Education and Transport Allowances, and gratuities, will also go up based on the formula suggested by the 7th Pay Commission.
- ✓ All of them will get arrears for January and February and the revised rate for the current month, along with salary and pension for March.
- ✓ The combined impact on the exchequer, on account of both DA and DR and increase in other allowances, would be around ₹15,000 crore for January and February of FY24.
- ✓ This will benefit about 49.18 lakh central government employees and 67.95 lakh pensioners. Similar hikes are now expected for state government employees too.

Q. Who is the author of the book titled "The Conspiracy to oust me from the Presidency"?

A) Giorgia Meloni	B) Gotabaya Rajapaksa

C) Emmanuel Macron

Answer: B

- "The Conspiracy" authored by Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- ✓ Two years after his dramatic ouster from office by a popular people's movement, Sri Lanka's former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has sought to defend his tainted regime, by launching a book that attributes his political downfall to a "conspiracy" involving foreign and local parties.

D) Vladimir Putin

✓ Announcing his book 'The Conspiracy to oust me from the Presidency' on March 6, Mr. Gotabaya said in a statement: "From the time I was elected President in November 2019, certain foreign and local parties were intent on removing me from power."



✓ During Mr. Gotabaya's Presidency from November 2019 to July 2022, Sri Lanka experienced its worst economic crisis since Independence in 1948, as the country ran out of dollars for essential imports, following a host of fiscal decisions taken by his government.

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Gevra mine, recently seen in the news, is located in which state? Q.

- A) Chhattisgarh
- C) Odisha

- **B)** Jharkhand
- **D)** Karnataka

Answer : A

- ✓ Gevra mine in Chhattisgarh, India, is set to become the largest coal mine in Asia.
- ✓ The mine is a subsidiary of Coal India, which is part of the South Eastern Coalfield Limited (SECL).
- ✓ In March 2024, the mine received environmental clearance to increase its production capacity from 52.5 million tons per year to 70 million tons per year.
- \checkmark The mine also has first-mile connectivity, including a conveyer belt, silos, and a rapid loading system for eco-friendly coal evacuation.
- Q. Which institute hosted the webinar on 'Viksit Bharat: Corporate governance for 2047'?
 - A) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)
 - B) Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)
 - C) Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
 - D) Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs)

Answer : B

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) hosted a webinar on "Viksit Bharat: Corporate Governance for 2047" on March 7, 2024.
- ✓ Viksit Bharat is the Government of India's vision to make India a developed nation by 2047.
- ✓ The vision includes many aspects of development, such as economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance.
- Q. Neengalum Nalama Scheme, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?
 - A) Karnataka

B) Tamil Nadu

C) Kerala

D) Andhra Pradesh



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Answer : B

- ✓ Tamil Nadu's leader announced the launch of "Neengal Nalama" (Are you doing well) on March 6, 2024, as part of the government's ongoing efforts to support families.
- Also referred to as the 'Are you alright plan' Neengal Nalama Scheme 2024, it signifies a significant initiative by the Tamil Nadu government to aid all families in the state, reflecting their commitment to comprehensive welfare measures.

Q. Krystyna Pyszkova, who won the 71st Miss World title, belongs to which country?

A) SwitzerlandB) PanamaC) FinlandD) Czech Republic

Answer : D

- Krystyna Pyszkova of the Czech Republic was crowned Miss World 2024 on March 9, 2024 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, India.
- ✓ The 23-year-old model and law student is the second Miss World from the Czech Republic, following Tatana Kucharova in 2006.
- The top four contestants before the winner were Yasmin Azaytoun of Lebanon, Aché Abrahams of Trinidad & Tobago, and Lesego Chombo of Botswana.
- ✓ Participants from 120 countries took part in this pageant.
- ✓ In this, Femina Miss India-2022 winner Sini Shetty represented India.
- ✓ It was organized at Jio World Convention Center in Mumbai.
- ✓ India last hosted the international pageant in 1996.

MISS WORLD / UNIVERSE IN NEWS 2023 -24

- Krystyna Pyszkova of the Czech Republic was crowned Miss World 2024.
- > Rijul Maini won the title of Miss India USA 2023 in the annual competition held in New Jersey.
- Sheynnis Palacios from Nicaragua crowned Miss Universe 2023 during the 72nd Miss Universe pageant in San Salvador.
- Praveena Aanjna crowned as Miss International India 2023.
- Priyan Sen, who hails from Rajasthan, won the Miss Earth India 2023 title during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 National Finals held in New Delhi.



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- > Rikkie Kollé is the first transgender woman to win Miss Universe Netherlands.
- > Rajasthan's Nandini Gupta crowned 2023 Femina Miss India.
- America's R'Bonnie Gabriel won the Miss Universe 2022 title at the 71st Miss Universe pageant.
- > South Korea's Mina Sue Choi Crowned Miss Earth 2022.
- > Divita Rai from Karnataka won the prestigious title of Miss Diva Universe 2022.
- > Indian-American Aarya Walvekar crowned Miss India USA 2022.
- > Pallavi Singh wins the Mrs Universe Divine Crown in South Korea.
- > Khushi Patel from UK is crowned Miss India Worldwide 2022.
- Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the title of Miss World 2021.
- List of Miss World winners from India
 - 1. Reita Faria : 1966
 - 2. Aishwarya Rai : 1994
 - 3. Diana Hayden : 1997
 - 4. Yukta Mookhey : 1999
 - 5. Priyanka Chopra : 2000
 - 6. Manushi Chhillar : 2017.
- List of Miss Universe winners from India
 - 1. Sushmita Sen : 1994
 - 2. Lara Dutta : 2000
 - 3. Harnaaz Sandhu : 2021.
- Reita Faria is the first Indian to win the Miss World in 1966.
- Sushmita Sen first Indian to win the Miss Universe title in 1994.
- > Nicole Faria became the first Indian to win the 'Miss Earth' in 2010
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Academy Awards:
 - 1. These are given annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
 - 2. They were first presented in the year 1929.

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 highly anticipated 96th Academy Awards ceremony concluded with flair at the Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles.

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- ✓ These awards are popularly known as the Oscars given for artistic and technical merit in the film industry.
- ✓ These are given annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).
- ✓ The awards are an international recognition of excellence in cinematic achievements.
- ✓ The awards were first presented in 1929, and winners receive a gold-plated statuette commonly called Oscar.
- ✓ The various category winners are awarded a copy of a golden statuette, officially called the "Academy Award of Merit".
- ✓ Winners are chosen from the 24 categories: best picture, actor, actress, supporting actor, supporting actress, directing, original screenplay and adapted screenplay etc.
- Nomination: Only members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences may nominate and vote for candidates for the Oscars.
- Q. Exercise Cutlass Express, recently in news, is a:
 - A) rescue operation conducted by India to bring back all the Indian nationals who were stranded in Ukraine
 - B) joint military exercise of India, France and United Arab Emirates (UAE)
 - C) bilateral military exercise of India and Australia
 - D) multinational maritime exercise sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM)

Answer : D

- ✓ INS Tir, the lead ship of First Training Squadron (1TS) participated in Exercise Cutlass Express 24 (CE 24) held at Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 Feb 08 Mar 24.
- ✓ It is an exercise conducted in East African coastal regions and the West Indian Ocean to counter malign influence, aggression and activity along overlapping command seams and maritime regions.
- ✓ It is a premier multinational maritime exercise sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet.
- This exercise is a cornerstone of maritime security and cooperation in the strategic waters of the East African coast and the Western Indian Ocean.



✓ It brings together maritime forces from East Africa, West Indian Ocean nations, Europe, North America, and several international organizations to enhance maritime law enforcement capacity, promote national and regional security, and increase interoperability among participating nations.

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- ✓ As part of Cutlass Express 2024, the Indian Navy actively engaged with participants from 16 friendly foreign countries.
- ✓ Training was conducted on theoretical and practical aspects of Maritime Interdiction Operations, Visit Board Search and Seizure procedures and Diving operations. During the sea phase, the ship's VBSS team boarded Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG) ship LE Vigilant and demonstrated procedures of boarding operations.
- The Indian Navy has been participating in the exercise since 2019.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- > The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- > The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- > 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.
- > 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.

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- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- > This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint
- Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- > It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- > This year is the ninth edition of the exercis.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- > Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- > It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- > 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.



Which one of the following is the primary reason for excluding food and energy prices from core Q. inflation calculation?

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- A) They are too stable to be considered.
- B) They represent the long-term trend in the price level.
- C) Their prices can be too volatile or fluctuate wildly.
- D) They have no impact on the inflation level in the economy.

Answer : C

- ✓ Core inflation is likely to remain low, around 3% in the near term, owing to weak rural demand, softness in housing inflation, and lower input cost pressures, according to economists.
- ✓ About Core Inflation:
- ✓ It is the change in the costs of goods and services excluding the price variations in seasonal elements, such as those related to food and energy.
- ✓ Food and energy prices are exempt from this calculation because their prices can be too volatile or fluctuate wildly.
- ✓ Core inflation represents the long-term trend in the price level.
- Q. Yaounde Declaration, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following issues?
 - A) Climate change mitigation
- **B)** Gender equality
- C) Nuclear disarmament D) Malaria eradication

Answer : D

- ✓ Ministers of Health from African countries with the highest burden of malaria recently signed the Yaounde Declaration with the objective of ending malaria deaths.
- ✓ About Yaounde Declaration:
- ✓ It was signed by the health ministers of 11 African countries with the highest burden of malaria, committing to accelerated action to end deaths from the malaria disease.
- ✓ It was signed at the Yaoundé conference, co-hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Cameroon.
- ✓ The conference gathered Ministers of Health, global malaria partners, funding agencies, scientists, civil society organizations, and other principal malaria stakeholders.



The 11 countries that signed the declaration are: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. These countries carry roughly 70% of the global malaria burden.

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- They pledged to sustainably and equitably address the threat of malaria in the African region, which \checkmark accounts for 95% of malaria deaths globally.
- With reference to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), consider the following statements: 0.
 - 1. They were established on the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee.
 - 2. RBI has set a Priority Sector Lending (PSL) target of 40% of total outstanding advances for RRBs.
 - 3. The Chairman of these banks are nominated by the Central Government.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The most critical issue of the 2019 amalgamation of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) was that of technology, systems and procedures, as different banks followed different systems and procedures despite the same core banking platform, says a new book.
- ✓ About Regional Rural Banks (RRBs):
- ✓ RRBs are banks formed in collaboration by the Central Government, State Governments, and Sponsoring Commercial Banks to give loans to rural areas.
- ✓ Their mission is to fulfill the credit needs of the relatively unserved sections in rural areas: small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, and socio-economically weaker sections.
- ✓ The RRBs mobilize financial resources from rural / semi-urban areas and grant loans and advances mostly to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, and rural artisans.
- \checkmark Origin:
- ✓ The Narasimham Committee on Rural Credit (1975) recommended the establishment of RRBs.
- ✓ The establishment of RRBs finds its route in the ordinance passed on 26th September 1975, and the RRB Act of 1976.
- ✓ Prathama Grameen Bank was the first RRB bank and was established on 2nd October 1975.

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✓ RRBs were configured as hybrid micro banking institutions, combining the local orientation and small-scale lending culture of the cooperatives with the business culture of commercial banks.

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- ✓ RRBs perform various functions in the following heads:
- ✓ Providing banking facilities to rural and semi-urban areas.
- ✓ Carrying out government operations like the disbursement of wages of MGNREGA workers, distribution of pension, etc.
- ✓ Providing Para-Banking facilities like locker facilities, debit and credit cards, mobile banking, internet banking, UPI etc.
- ✓ The RBI has set a Priority Sector Lending (PSL) target of 75% of total outstanding advances for RRBs as against 40% for Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- \checkmark Ownership: The shareholding pattern of RRBs among the three sponsoring entities is 50:35:15 among the central government, sponsoring bank, and state government, respectively.
- ✓ The area of operation of RRBs is limited to the area as notified by the Government of India, covering one or more districts in the State.
- ✓ Regulation: Regional Rural Banks are regulated by the RBI and supervised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- ✓ Sources of Funds: It comprise of owned funds, deposits, borrowings from NABARD, Sponsor Banks and other sources, including SIDBI and the National Housing Bank.
- ✓ Management: The Board of Directors manages these banks, overall affairs, which consists of one Chairman, three Directors as nominated by the Central Government, a maximum of two Directors as nominated by the concerned State Government, and a maximum of three Directors as nominated by the sponsor bank.
- ✓ At present, there are 43 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in India with 21,856 branches across 26 States and 3 UTs. They are sponsored by 12 Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)
- Consider the following statements regarding Samudrayaan Mission: Q.
 - 1. It is India's first manned mission to explore the deep ocean.
 - 2. The Ministry of Science and Technology is the nodal ministry to implement this mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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Answer : A

- ✓ The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has completed a key test for India's first manned submersible mission called Samudrayaan, the earth sciences ministry said recently.
- ✓ About Samudrayaan Mission:
- \checkmark It is India's first manned mission to explore the deep ocean.
- ✓ It is aimed to develop a self-propelled manned submersible to carry three human beings to a water depth of 6,000 meters in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors and tools for deep ocean exploration.
- ✓ It is designed to study the deep ocean resources and conduct biodiversity assessments as well.
- ✓ The mission will not disturb the ecosystem as the submersible is used solely for exploration purposes.
- ✓ The project is part of the larger Deep Ocean Mission, which supports the Central Government's Blue Economy policy.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- ✓ What is MATSYA 6000?
- ✓ It is a manned submersible vehicle developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- ✓ It was developed under the Samudrayaan mission to facilitate humans in the deep ocean in exploring mineral resources.
- \checkmark It has an endurance of 12 hours of operational period and 96 hours in case of emergency.
- ✓ It will allow scientific personnel to observe and understand unexplored deep-sea areas by direct interventions. Further, it will enhance the capability for deep-sea man-rated vehicle development.
- Expected to be launched in 2024-25, it would make India only one among six countries (US, Russia, Japan, France, and China) to have piloted a crewed under-sea expedition beyond 5,000 metres.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Self Help Group Bank Linkage Programme:
 - 1. It was launched by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
 - 2. It aims to provide financial services to unreached and underserved poor households.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C



✓ The Prime Minister of India on 11th March will disburse around Rs 8,000 crore Bank loans to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at subsidised interest rate through Bank Linkage Camps set up by Banks in each district.

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- ✓ It was launched by NABARD in 1992 which has blossomed into the world's largest microfinance project.
- ✓ It has evolved as a cost-effective mechanism for providing financial services to unreached and underserved poor households.
- ✓ The components of Self Help Group (SHG) Bank linkage (BL) are as follows:
- ✓ Training and sensitization of Bank Branch Managers
- ✓ Training and positioning of Bank Sakhis at Rural Bank Branches
- ✓ Initiate Community Based Repayment Mechanism (CBRM) at Rural Bank Branches
- ✓ Credit Linkage of SHGs.
- ✓ What are Self-Help Groups?
- ✓ These are small, informal, and voluntary associations of individuals, usually from similar socio-economic backgrounds, who come together to address common social and economic needs.
- ✓ SHGs are primarily focused on empowering their members, particularly women, through mutual support, collective decision-making, and skill development.
- ✓ The SHGs which follow 'Panchsutras' viz. conduct of regular group meetings, regular savings within the group, internal lending based on the demand of members, timely repayment of loan and maintenance of proper books of accounts are considered to be of good quality and over years have proved themselves to be good customers of Banks.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Green Hydrogen:
 - 1. It is produced using electrolysis of water.
 - 2. It is stored in cylinders at a much lower pressure.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 only
 - C) Both 1 and 2

- B) 2 only
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) plans to convene a meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss the development of specialised cylinders for green hydrogen storage.
- It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.



 \checkmark The carbon intensity ultimately depends on the carbon neutrality of the source of electricity (i.e., the more renewable energy there is in the electricity fuel mix, the "greener" the hydrogen produced).

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- \checkmark Green Hydrogen has enormous potential to decarbonize several sectors, reduce carbon emissions and achieve energy independence.
- ✓ Green hydrogen can replace traditional fossil fuels in transportation and industry, providing a constant and reliable source of energy.
- ✓ The government launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission (Jan, 2023) with an aim to produce 5 million metric tonne (MMT) green hydrogen per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity of about 125 giga watt (GW) by 2030.
- \checkmark The mission has an outlay of Rs 19,744 crore up to 2029-30.
- The Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme is a major financial \checkmark measure under the mission with an outlay of Rs 17,490 crore
- Right to Repair Portal, recently seen in the news, is an initiative of which one of the following Q. ministries?
 - A) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - **B)** Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - **C)** Ministry of Consumer Affairs
 - D) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answer : C

- The stakeholders meeting on Right to Repair Portal India was held recently. \checkmark
- ✓ About Right to Repair Portal:
- ✓ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MCA) has launched the Right to Repair Portal India (https://righttorepairindia.gov.in/) to provide consumers with access to repair information for their products and reduce e-waste.
- ✓ The launch was made on the occasion of National Consumer Rights Day 2022.
- ✓ Features:
- It provides information about the circular economy, which is the new economic model that focuses on \checkmark repairing and reusing products, as opposed to throwing them away.

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The portal brings together information from different sectors, including automobiles, consumer durables, \checkmark mobile and electronics, and farming equipment.

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- ✓ All public information related to products, services, warranties, terms, and conditions, etc. will also be easily accessible through this portal.
- Consider the following statements regarding the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft: Q.
 - 1. It is India's fifth-generation fighter multirole fighter jet.
 - 2. It will have low electro-magnetic signature, which make it difficult for enemy radar to detect it.

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 Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) cleared a Rs 15,000 crore project to design and develop the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
- ✓ It is India's fifth-generation fighter multirole fighter jet.
- Features
- ✓ It will have advanced stealth features to avoid detection by enemy radar.
- ✓ Fuel and Weapon: The aircraft will have a large, concealed internal fuel tank of 6.5-tonne capacity, and an internal weapons bay for a range of weapons, including indigenous weapons.
- ✓ Engine: The AMCA Mk1 variant will have the US-built GE414 engine of the 90 kilonewton (kN) class, while the more advanced AMCA Mk2 will fly on the more powerful 110kN engine, which will be developed indigenously by DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) in collaboration with a foreign defence major.
- ✓ The aircraft will have a low electro-magnetic signature, which will make it difficult for enemy radar to detected it.
- ✓ At the same time, it will have powerful sensors and new weapons, so it is able to register the signature of enemy aircraft and take them out.
- ✓ The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will be the nodal agency for executing the programme and designing the aircraft.
- ✓ It will be manufactured by state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

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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.
- > DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- > Chairman : Sameer V Kamat
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the District Institutes of Education and Training:
 - 1. These are designed to provide quality training and support to teachers and teacher educators.
 - 2. These are established as a result of the National Policy on Education 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Answer : A

✓ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship launched various initiatives namely, DIETS of Excellence and National Mission for Mentoring (NMM) in School and Teacher Education, developed by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL).

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- ✓ To strengthen teacher training, the District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) will be developed into centres of excellence.
- ✓ Funding: Financial assistance, totalling to Rs 9000 crores, will be provided to States/UTs for the physical upgradation of all 613 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) to develop them as DIET of Excellence in the country in a phased manner in the next five years.
- ✓ Upto Rs. 15 Crore per DIET will be provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha for improving various infrastructural facilities
- ✓ What are DIETS?
- ✓ It is an integral part of India's education system.
- ✓ It was established in every district of India as a result of the National Policy on Education 1986.
- ✓ DIETs were designed to provide quality training and support to teachers, teacher educators, and other educational personnel.
- ✓ The National Policy on Education 1986 was the first step towards achieving this goal.
- ✓ They were intended to serve as a hub of academic excellence and professional development.
- ✓ The initial focus of DIETs was on providing pre-service and in-service training to teachers and teacher educators.
- Q. Inflection 2.5, recently in news, is a:
 - A) Large Language Model

B) Newly discovered Galaxy

C) Submarine

D) Viral disease

Answer : A

- Recently, Inflection AI company launched its latest LLM, Inflection 2.5, an upgrade to its model that powers its friendly chatbot Pi personal assistant.
- \checkmark It is an "upgraded in-house model that is competitive with all the world's leading LLMs.
- The newly upgraded Large Language Model comes with its signature personality and uniquely empathetic fine-tuning.

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- \checkmark It has made some stellar strides in areas of IQ such as coding and mathematics.
- ✓ With the new upgrade, Pi has now been endowed with world-class real-time web search capabilities to ensure that users get access to high-quality and up-to-date information in real time.
- The new LLM, users are talking to the Pi chatbot about a wider range of topics including discussing current events, getting local restaurant recommendations, studying for a biology exam, drafting business plans, coding, and even fun discussions on hobbies.
- ✓ What is PI chatbot?
- \checkmark Pi is an AI chatbot with which one can have deep and meaningful conversations.

Q. Who inaugurated India's first elevated 8-lane expressway?

A) Draupadi MurmuB) Narendra ModiC) Amit ShahD) Rajnath Singh

Answer: B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Haryana section of Dwarka Expressway.
- ✓ The total length of Dwarka Expressway is 29 km, of which 18.9 km falls in Haryana, while the remaining 10.1 km is in Delhi.
- ✓ Its construction will provide relief from traffic on National Highway-48 between Delhi and Gurugram.
- ✓ Dwarka Expressway is India's first elevated 8-lane access control urban expressway.

Q. Who took oath as the 14th President of Pakistan?

- A) Faiz Isa B) Asif Ali Zardari
- C) Nawaz Sharif D) Imran Khan

Answer : B

- ✓ Asif Ali Zardari has been sworn in as the 14th President of Pakistan, this is his second term.
- ✓ Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faiz Isa administered him the oath at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✓ Asif Ali is the husband of Pakistan's former and first woman Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.
- ✓ 68-year-old Zardari got 255 votes in the National Assembly and Senate.
- ✓ Shahbaz Sharif recently became the Prime Minister of Pakistan.



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- Q. Union Minister Narayan Rane recently laid the foundation stone of MSME-Technology Center in which state?
 - A) Bihar B) Uttar Pradesh
 - C) Madhya Pradesh D) Maharashtra

Answer : D

- Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Narayan Rane laid the foundation stone of MSME-Technology Center in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.
- ✓ On this occasion, he also inaugurated Sindhudurg Industrial Festival and Self-Employment Conclave.
- ✓ The estimated project cost of MSME-Technology Centre, Sindhudurg is Rs 182 crore.
- Q. In which state of India was the world's longest twin-lane tunnel inaugurated?
 - A) AssamB) Himachal PradeshC) TripuraD) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Sela Tunnel as part of his one-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ Which is the world's longest twin-lane tunnel.
- ✓ This tunnel connects Tezpur to Tawang near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.
- ✓ Sela Tunnel has been constructed at an altitude of 13,000 feet.
- ✓ It has been constructed by the Border Roads Organization (BRO).

ARUNACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS 2023-24

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Sela Tunnel as part of his one-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh.
- > Which is the world's longest twin-lane tunnel.
- Arunachal Pradesh presented its Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve during the Republic Day parade.
- 9th edition of the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF), a state festival of Arunachal Pradesh, will take place at Seijosa in the Pakke Kessang district from January 18-20, 2024.
- > 'Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival is an annual festival celebrated in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari in a post said in Arunachal Pradesh under the Setu Bandhan Scheme approval has been granted for 7 bridge projects with a cumulative cost of ₹118.50 Crores, in the fiscal year 2023-24.

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- > Yak Churpi' of Arunachal Pradesh, a naturally fermented dairy product crafted from the milk of yaks, has earned the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) status.
- > FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Chachin Grazing Festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- > The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh launched an app named 'Arunpol App' of Arunachal Pradesh Police.

Who was recently honored with the 'Miss World Humanitarian Award'? Q.

A) Nita Ambani	B) Jaya Bachchan
C) Madhuri Dixit Nene	D) Smriti Irani

Answer : A

- ✓ Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani was honored with the Humanitarian Award at the 71st Miss World Finale.
- ✓ Neeta was given 'Beauty with Purpose Humanitarian Award'.
- ✓ This time the Miss World Finale was organized in India
- Who has launched 52 tourism sector projects worth over Rs 1400 crore under the Swadesh Darshan Q. and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) schemes?
 - A) Draupadi Murmu

- **B)** Narendra Modi
- **C)** Nirmala Sitharaman
- **D)** Amit Shah

Answer : B

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 52 tourism sector projects worth over Rs 1400 crore under the Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) schemes.

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 \checkmark Nine tourism infrastructure projects, spread across the country, developed under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes worth Rs 469 crore were launched, besides 43 other projects worth Rs 963 crore were also launched under the two schemes of tourism ministry.

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- The project launch events were also carried out at all the 52 destinations, simultaneously by the ministry, \checkmark state government, UT administrations and local authorities.
- ✓ The projects launched included three projects under PRASHAD Scheme (Hazratbal- Srinagar, Jogulamba-Telangana, Amarkantak-Madhya Pradesh) worth Rs 129.35 crore.
- ✓ About PRASAD Project:
- \checkmark The scheme was launched in the year 2014-2015.
- ✓ It comes under the Ministry of Tourism.
- ✓ This scheme focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience.
- ✓ It aims to integrate pilgrimage destinations in a prioritised, planned and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience.
- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to state governments under the Prasad scheme to promote tourism at pilgrim sites.
- The Central Government will cover 100% of the costs under this program. \checkmark
- ✓ For improved sustainability, it also includes a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- ✓ Cities Identified Under PRASAD Scheme:
- ✓ Amritsar (Punjab).
- ✓ Kedarnath (Uttarakhand).
- ✓ Mathura (Uttar Pradesh).
- ✓ Ajmer (Rajasthan).
- ✓ Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).
- ✓ Gaya (Bihar).
- ✓ Kamakhya (Assam).
- ✓ Dwaraka (Gujarat).
- ✓ Puri (Odisha).
- ✓ Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh).



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- ✓ Kanchipuram(Tamil Nadu).
- ✓ Velankanni (Tamil Nadu)
- Q. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute for the 2024-25 season by _____ to ₹5,335 per quintal.

A) ₹485	B) ₹512
C) ₹865	D) ₹285

Answer : D

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute for the 2024-25 season by ₹285 to ₹5,335 per quintal.
- ✓ The decision would ensure a return of 64.8% over the all-India weighted average cost of production.
- ✓ In the last 10 years, the government has increased MSP for raw jute from ₹2,400 per quintal in 2014-15 to ₹5,335 a quintal in 2024-25, registering a growth of 122%".
- ✓ The decision is expected to help jute farmers in West Bengal, Bihar and Assam

Q. Bichom has become the 27th district of which state?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh B) Madhya Pradesh
 - C) Rajasthan

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng, became the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ In February this year, the state assembly passed the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organisation of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 for the creation of Bichom and Keyi Panyor districts.
- ✓ A total of 27 villages from West Kameng and 28 from East Kameng were made part of Bichom district.
- Q. Which of the following interest rate on small savings scheme is not correct under the April to June quarter of financial year 2024-2025?
 - A) Senior Citizen Savings Scheme 8.2%
 - B) National Savings Certificate 7.7%
 - C) Public Provident Fund Scheme 7.4%%
 - D) Sukanya Samriddhi Account 8.2%

Answer : C



✓ The government has kept the interest rates unchanged on various small savings schemes for the first quarter of the next fiscal, beginning April 1, 2024.

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- ✓ With this, the interest rates will remain unchanged till June 30, 2024.
- These schemes offer guaranteed returns at regular intervals compounded monthly, quarterly or annually as \checkmark the case may be. These instruments cater to conservative investors and offer guaranteed but low returns and range between 6-8 per cent
- Interest rates for Jan-March 2024 and April July 2024 √
- Savings Deposit- 4 per cent \checkmark
- ✓ Senior Citizens Savings Scheme- 8.2 per cent
- ✓ Sukanya Samriddhi Account- 8.2 per cent
- ✓ Monthly Income Account- 7.4 percent
- ✓ National Saving Certificates (NSC)- 7.7 percent
- ✓ Kisan Vikas Patra- 7.5 percent (will mature in 115 months)
- ✓ Public Provident Fund- 7.1 per cent
- The interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra for April to June guarter of financial year 2024-2025 is set at Q. 7.5 percent. What is the maturity period of this scheme?
 - A) 125 months B) 120 months
 - C) 115 months D) 100 months

Answer : C

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and start-up ecosystem enabler T-Hub will set up 0. a Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH) in which city?

- A) Bengaluru **B)** Hyderabad
- C) Chennai

D) Mumbai

- Answer : B
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), which works under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, and start-up ecosystem enabler T-Hub have joined hands to set up a Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH) in Hyderabad.
- The hub will work to foster AI innovation, create job opportunities, and provide a conducive ecosystem for AI and ML start-ups.

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The Centre of Excellence aims to generate over 500 AI-related jobs by 2025 and nurture more than 150 startups annually.

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- Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited?
 - A) Rajendra Prasad Goyal B) P.K. Mishra
 - C) Rajiv Gauba D) Ravi Sinha

Answer : A

- Rajendra Prasad Goyal assumes additional charge of NHPC Limited
- ✓ Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance), NHPC has taken over the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company and a Schedule 'A' Enterprise of Government of India.
- ✓ Goyal joined NHPC on 18th November 1988 as Finance Professional and he has risen the professional ladder by virtue of utmost sense of responsibility, ethics and dedication to the Company.
- 0. Consider the following statements with reference to Lachit Borphukan:
 - 1. He was an army commander of the Ahom kingdom.
 - 2. He defeated the Mughal forces, led by Raja Ramsingh-I, in the Battle of Saraighat.
 - 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 Prime Minister of India unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of Ahom general Lachit Borphukan at his burial site in eastern Assam's Jorhat district.
- ✓ He was a legendary army commander of the Ahom kingdom (1228-1826),
- ✓ He was known for his leadership in the 1671 'Battle of Saraighat'.
- ✓ He defeated the Mughal forces, led by Raja Ramsingh-I, in this battle, and thwarted a drawn-out attempt by them to take back Assam.
- ✓ He was chosen as one of the five Borphukans of the Ahom kingdom by king Charadhwaj Singha and given administrative, judicial, and military responsibilities.



 \checkmark Borphukan preferred guerrilla tactics which provided an edge to his smaller, but fast moving and capable forces.

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✓ He was buried at the 'maidam' — burial grounds for Ahom royals and nobles — at Hollongapar, after passing away a year after the battle at the age of 49 due to illness.

STATUE IN NEWS 2023-24

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



> Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a 54 feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Sarangpur temple in Botad district of Gujarat.

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- > Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statues of Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Samatha Kumbh is being held on the premises of the Statue of Equality at Muchintal, Telangana.
- > Union Home Minister Amit Shah has unveiled a 120-feet-tall statue of a polo player riding a pony at Marjing Polo Complex in Manipur's Imphal East district.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019: Q.

1. It provides a path to Indian citizenship to persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who migrated to India before December 31, 2014.

2. It does not apply to the tribal areas included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently notified the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024 that would enable the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) passed by the Parliament in 2019.
- ✓ About Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019:
- The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) amends the Citizenship Act of 1955 to provide a path to Indian \checkmark citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, and Parsis who migrated from neighbouring Muslim-majority countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, before December 31, 2014.
- Under the CAA, migrants who entered India till December 31, 2014, and had suffered "religious persecution or fear or religious persecution" in their country of their origin would be made eligible for accelerated citizenship.
- ✓ It relaxed the residence requirement for naturalisation of these migrants from twelve years to just six.
- The cut-off date for citizenship is December 31, 2014, which means the applicant should have entered India \checkmark on or before that date.

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The law exempts the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura as included in the Sixth \checkmark Schedule of the Constitution, including the tribal areas of Karbi Anglong in Assam, Garo Hills in Meghalaya, Chakma district in Mizoram, and Tribal areas district in Tripura.

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- ✓ It also includes a provision for the cancellation of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration if the OCI cardholder violates any provision of the Citizenship Act or any other applicable law.
- ✓ Citizenship Law
- ✓ According to Article 11 of the Indian constitution, Parliament can make law on Citizenship. Using this power, the Parliament passed the Citizenship Act 1955. This law makes provisions regarding the acquisition and termination of Indian citizenship
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology **Upgradation Assistance (RPTUAS) Scheme:**

1. It aims to support the upgradation of pharmaceutical industries to the WHO-Good Manufacturing Practice standards.

2. Under this scheme, subsidies are provided based on the annual profit of the company.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has announced the Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance (RPTUAS) Scheme.
- ✓ The objective is to offer "subsidies based on quality" reimbursement, aiding pharmaceutical companies in achieving revised Schedule M and WHO-GMP certifications.
- ✓ The revised guideline aims to support the pharmaceutical industry's up-gradation to the Revised Schedule-M & WHO-GMP standards, enhancing the quality and safety of pharmaceutical products manufactured in our country.
- ✓ Key Features of the Revised Scheme:
- Broadened Eligibility Criteria: Reflecting a more inclusive approach, eligibility for the PTUAS has been expanded beyond Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to include any pharmaceutical manufacturing unit with a turnover of less than 500 crores that requires technology and quality upgradation. Preference remains for MSMEs, supporting smaller players in achieving high-quality manufacturing standards.



✓ Flexible Financing Options: The scheme introduces more flexible financing options, emphasizing subsidies on reimbursement basis, over traditional credit-linked approach.

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- Comprehensive Support for Compliance with New Standards: In alignment with revised Schedule-M and WHO-Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards, the scheme now supports a broader range of technological upgrades. Eligible activities include improvements such as HVAC systems, water and steam utilities, testing laboratories etc.
- ✓ State Government Scheme Integration: The revised scheme allows integration with state government schemes, enabling units to benefit from additional top-up assistance. This collaborative approach aims to maximize support for the pharmaceutical industry in their technology upgradation efforts.
- ✓ The new benefit limit is based on turnover of the company. Units with less than Rs 5 crore turnover will get an incentive of 20 percent of investment under eligible activities.
- ✓ The units with turnover ranging from Rs 50 crore to less than Rs 250 crore will get an incentive of 15 percent of investment, while for those with turnover ranging from Rs 250 crore to less than Rs 500 crore, it will be 10 percent of investment under eligible expenses.
- Q. With reference to Agni-5 missile, consider the following statements:
 - 1. It uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine.
 - 2. It has a range of 10000 km.
 - 3. It is equipped with Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.
 - How many of the above statements are correct?
 - A) Only one B) Only two
 - C) All three D) None

Answer : B

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced successful maiden flight test of Agni-5 missile with MIRV technology, code-named Mission Divyastra, boosting India's defence capability.
- ✓ The maiden flight test of the locally developed Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) technology and code named as Mission Divyastra.

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- ✓ Key features of Agni-5 missile
- \checkmark It uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine and has a range of 5,000km.
- ✓ Agni-5 has been successfully tested multiple times since 2012.



✓ Agni series has medium to Intercontinental versions of Agni missile systems 1 to 5 with a varying ranges starting from 700 km for Agni-1 to 5000 km and above for Agni-5.

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- ✓ In June 2021, DRDO successfully tested Agni P, a canisterised missile with a range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km.
- ✓ This means that the missile can be launched from road and rail platforms, making it easier for it to be deployed and launched at a quicker pace.
- ✓ What is MIRV technology?
- ✓ It can target multiple targets that can be hundreds of kilometers apart with a single missile.
- ✓ This Agni, capable of carrying nuclear warheads, has a range of more than 5,000 km, making it a long-range missile.
- \checkmark These missiles can be launched from land or from sea from a submarine.
- ✓ In contrast to a traditional missile, which carries one warhead, MIRVs can carry multiple warheads.
- ✓ Warheads on MIRVed missiles can be released from the missile at different speeds and in different directions."
- ✓ This has propelled India into an exclusive league of countries that have the capability to deploy MIRV missile systems, including the US, the UK, France.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q.	Who has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Haryana?		
	A) Nayab Saini	B) Bandaru Dattatreya	
	C) Bhupendra Yadav	D) Atul Pradhan	

Answer : A

- ✓ Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Nayab Saini was sworn in as the 11th chief minister of Haryana on 12 March 2024.
- ✓ In a simple ceremony, the governor of Haryana Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office to Nayab Saini.
- ✓ He will replace Manohar Lal Khattar, the first chief minister of Haryana to be from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- ✓ Earlier in the day, Manohar Lal Khattar, who has been the chief minister of Haryana since 26 October 2014, submitted his resignation letter along with his council of ministers to the state Governor.
- Manohar Lal Khattar headed a BJP -JJP coalition government in the state.

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 \checkmark On 12 March 2024, the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) led by Dusyant Chautala broke its alliance with the BJP in the state and after that, Manohar Lal Khattar resigned from his post.

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- ✓ Nayab Saini
- ✓ Nayab Saini is a BJP leader who belongs to the Other Backward Caste (OBC).
- ✓ In 2014, he became an MLA from Narayangarh Vidhan Sabha. In 2016, he was appointed a minister in the Manohar Lal Khattar government.
- ✓ In 2019, he was elected as a Member of Parliament from Kurukshetra constituency. In 2023, he was appointed the head of the Haryana unit of the BJP.
- ✓ The Haryana Legislative Assembly has a strength of 90 members. The BJP has 41 MLAs, supported by 5 independent MLAs and the Haryana Lokhit Party MLA Gopal Kanda.
- ✓ The state of Haryana was formed on 1 November 1996 after the enactment of the Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966.
- ✓ The tenth chief minister was Manohar Lal Khattar.
- The first chief minister of Haryana was Bhagwat Dayal Sharma of the Congress party. \checkmark

NEWLY CHIEF MINISTER IN NEWS 2023-24

- Nayab Saini was sworn in as the 11th chief minister of Haryana. [(BJP)] \succ
- > Champai Soren is serving as the 7th and current Chief Minister of Jharkhand [Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)].
- Nitish Kumar is has served as the 22nd chief minister of Bihar.
- Bihar's longest serving chief minister, and also holding the post for 9th term. [Janata Dal United (JDU) Mahagathbandhan BJP)].
- Bhajan Lal Sharma is serving as the 14th and current Chief Minister of Rajasthan [(BJP)]
- > Dr. Mohan Yadav is serving as the 19th and Current Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh [(BJP), he represents Ujjain South]
- Lalduhoma is Indian Police Service officer who is serving as the 6th Chief Minister of Mizoram [Zoram People's Movement (ZPM)].
- Vishnu Deo Sai serving as the 4th Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.[(BJP)].
- Anumula Revanth Reddy is serving as the second and current Chief Minister of Telangana . [Indian] National Congress (INC)]

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Q. The pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has clinched its second French Open men's doubles badminton title. The pair has defeated whom?

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- A) Lee Jhe-Huei and Lee Jhe-huei B) Lee Yang and Yang Po-Hsuan
- C) Wang Chi-lina and Lee Jhe-Huei D) Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan

Answer : D

- ✓ Top Indian badminton men's pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won their first title of 2024 by beating the Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan pair in the final of the French Open 2024.
- ✓ In the final played at the Porte de la Chapelle Arena, Paris, the world's no.1 men's pair took 37 minutes to demolish the world no.16 ranked Chinese Taipei's player by 21-11, 21-17 in straight sets.
- ✓ This was the second French Open title for the Indian pair. They had won the men's double title in 2021 and finished runners-up in 2019.
- ✓ The French Open win was Satwik and Chirag's seventh title on the BWF World Tour. The Indian pair won the Swiss Open, the Indonesia Open and the Korea Open in 2023.
- ✓ The results at the French Open will count toward players' qualification rankings for the Paris 2024 Olympics, which will be held from 27 July to 5 August 2024. Players have to secure the necessary points to qualify for the Paris Olympics until April 2024.
- ✓ The Super 750 BWF French Open 2024 was held at Arena Porte de la Chapelle, Paris, France, from 5-10 March 2024.
- ✓ The star badminton duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty received the coveted Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2024.
- ✓ Super 750 BWF French Open 2024
- ✓ Men's (Single)
- ✓ Winner: Y.Q. Shi (China)
- ✓ Runner-up : Kunlavut Vitidasarn (Thailand)
- ✓ Women's (Single)
- ✓ Winner : An Se Young (South Korea)
- ✓ Runner-up : Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
- ✓ Women's Double
- ✓ Winner : Chen Qing Chen and Jia Ye Fan(Both from China)
- ✓ Runner-up : Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Sida(Both from Japan)



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- ✓ Men's Doubles
- ✓ Winner : Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty(Both from India)
- ✓ Runner-up : Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan (Both from Chinese Taipei)
- Q. Which Indian writer has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize 2024' for highlighting the climate change crisis?
 - A) Chetan Bhagat

B) Salman Rushdie

C) Amitav Ghosh

D) Arundhati Roy

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian writer Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis.
- ✓ 67-year-old Ghosh has been honoured with the award by the Premium Erasmianum Foundation of the Netherlands.
- ✓ Amitav Ghosh will receive the award in person in the Netherlands in November.
- ✓ Ghosh has received this award for his passionate contribution to highlighting the global crisis of climate change through writing and on the theme of 'imagining the unimaginable'.
- ✓ In 2023, this award was received by South African comedian 'Trevor Noah'.
- ✓ About Amitav Ghosh
- ✓ He is a renowned writer who was born in Kolkata and brought up in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ He has written many acclaimed works of fiction, including "The Shadow Lines," "The Glass Palace," "The Hungry Tide," "Gun Island," "The Nutmeg's Curse," "Jungle Nama," and "The Living Mountain.".,
- ✓ His works have been translated into more than 30 languages, making him a globally recognized author.
- ✓ In 2019, Ghosh received the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, becoming the first Englishlanguage writer to receive this recognition.
- ✓ About the Erasmus Prize
- ✓ Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands founded the Premium Erasmianum in 1958.
- ✓ It is a distinguished award for individuals or institutions who have made an extraordinary contribution to culture or scholarship in Europe and beyond.
- ✓ The prize carries an incentive amount of 150,000 Euros.
- ✓ It is also accompanied by decorations designed by Bruno Nienaber van Eyben.



AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023-24

Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis

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- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III
- Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur'.
- PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan are set to receive India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- Karpoori Thakur, a renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, is set to be posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- Another recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award for the year 2024 is Lal Krishna Advani.
- Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award.
- ➢ REC Secures Best Green Bond − Corporate Award At The Asset Triple A Awards 2024.
- > PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- > Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored with the Shankar Smriti Award
- > The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Best Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- Australia skipper Pat Cummins was announced as the winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- > Veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli was crowned the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- Skyways Air Services wins Best Cargo Services Award at Wings India Awards.
- > REC Limited Wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY 2022-23.
- > US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner Of Miss America 2024
- Savita Kanswal Posthumously Honored With Tenzing Norgay Award
- Singapore's Changi Airport Earns The Title Of World's Best Airport For 2023
- Hero MotoCorp's facility wins CII National Award for water management



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- > Prof B R Kamboj Honoured With M S Swaminathan Award
- > Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar Wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for 'Salt & Pepper'
- Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 Recognized Among UNESCO's 'Most Beautiful Airports'
- > IREDA's Pradip Kumar Das Wins 'CMD Of The Year' For The Second Straight Year.
- > Poonam Khetrapal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit.
- > Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad"
- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati to Receive 33rd Vyas Samman for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- > Federal Bank Titled "Bank of the Year 2023" in India : The Banker
- Argentina's football icon, Lionel Messi, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023
- > Abdullahi Mire, a Somali refugee, has been named the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award
- > Paul Lynch who is an Irish author won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel 'Prophet Song'
- > Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's 'Fire Bird' Wins 2023 JCB Prize for Literature

Q. India has signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with EFTA countries with a target of reaching \$100 billion investment and one million jobs in India. Which of the following countries is NOT the part of EFTA bloc?

A) Norway

B) Switzerland

C) Sweden

D) Iceland

Answer : C

- Recently, India signed a landmark free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), a bloc consisting of Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein, and Iceland.
- ✓ India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- ✓ EFTA was established in 1960, is an intergovernmental organization. Its purpose is to promote free trade and economic integration to benefit its four member states.
- ✓ India has been working on a TEPA with the EFTA countries, which include Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein.



✓ TEPA

✓ The Trade Agreement between India and four developed nations, known as TEPA, is a significant step forward for the country's economic growth.

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- This ambitious agreement marks the first time India has signed an FTA with such a prominent economic bloc in Europe.
- ✓ In a historic move, the agreement includes a binding commitment of \$100 billion investment and 1 million direct jobs within the next 15 years.
- ✓ The agreement is expected to provide a much-needed boost to the Make in India initiative and enable the talented young workforce to explore new opportunities.
- ✓ With this FTA, Indian exporters will have a window of access to large European and global markets, generating promising prospects for growth
- ✓ About the agreement
- ✓ The agreement consists of 14 chapters, primarily emphasizing market access pertaining to goods, rules of origin, trade facilitation, trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, investment promotion, market access for services, intellectual property rights, trade and sustainable development, and other legal and horizontal provisions.
- ✓ Highlights of the agreement
- ✓ The EFTA has made a commitment to promote investments in India. The aim is to increase the stock of foreign direct investments by USD 100 billion in the next 15 years. The investments will create one million direct jobs in India.
- This commitment is the first-ever legal commitment made about promoting target-oriented investment and job creation in the history of FTAs.
- ✓ EFTA is offering 92.2% of its tariff lines, covering 99.6% of India's exports. The market access offer covers 100% of non-agri products and tariff concession on Processed Agricultural Products (PAP). India is offering 82.7% of its tariff lines, covering 95.3% of EFTA exports.
- Sensitivity related to PLI in sectors such as pharma, medical devices & processed food etc. have been taken while extending offers. India has excluded dairy, soya, coal, and sensitive agricultural products.
- ✓ TEPA offers Indian companies an opportunity to expand their market reach to the EU through Switzerland, which exports over 40% of its global services to the EU.
- ✓ About EFTA



The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is a significant regional organization that offers numerous prospects for improving the global exchange of goods and services. EFTA is a major economic entity within Europe, alongside the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK). Notably, Switzerland is India's top trading partner among EFTA member nations, with Norway following closely behind

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Which country has been bestowed with the prestigious measles and rubella champion award for its Q. exemplary efforts in combating these diseases?

A) Afghanistan	B) Bhutan
C) Bangladesh	D) India

Answer : D

- ✓ India has been bestowed with the prestigious measles and rubella champion award for its exemplary efforts in combating these diseases.
- ✓ The award was received by the ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington.
- \checkmark This accolade celebrates the country's unwavering c ommitment to public health and its outstanding leadership in curbing the spread of these infectious diseases among children.
- The award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of country's frontline health workers, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and communities across the nation.
- \checkmark It said, these efforts have resulted in 50 districts consistently not witnessing any measles case while 226 districts have not reported rubella cases over the past 12 months.

Q. Which among the following best describes INS Tushil, recently seen in the news?

- A) It is a torpedo launch and recovery vessel.
- B) It is a Talwar-class stealth frigate.
- C) It is a diesel-electric submarine.
- D) It is a Kiev-class aircraft carrier

Answer : B

- ✓ INS Tushil, India's latest naval asset, initiated its sea trials from Russia's Baltiysk naval base recently.
- About INS Tushil:
- ✓ It is the first Krivak-III frigate to be acquired under Project 11356M.



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- ✓ Project 11356M:
- ✓ India in 2016 signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Russia to purchase/construct four additional Admiral Grigorovich-class (Project 11356M) frigates through a partnership between Russian and Indian shipyards.
- Russia will supply two of the frigates (INS Tushil and INS Tamala), while the other two will be constructed in India.
- ✓ The Talwar-class frigates, or Project 11356, are a class of stealth-guided missile frigates.
- ✓ The displacement is 3620 tons, the length is 124.8 meters. The full speed is 30 knots, and the cruising range is 4850 miles
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Software Technology Parks of India:

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

2. It aims to promote micro, small and medium entrepreneurs in the field of IT/IT Enabled Services. 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 Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) launched its 24th Center of Entrepreneurship (CoE) - "FinGlobe," dedicated to fostering innovation and growth in the financial technology sector, at STPI-Gandhinagar, GIFT City.
- ✓ It is a premier autonomous Science and Technology organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ✓ It is engaged in promoting IT/ITES Industry, innovation, R&D, start-ups, product/IP creation in the field of emerging technologies like IoT, Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Computer Vision, Robotics and Robotics Process Automation (RPA) etc.
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ To promote the development and export of software and software services including Information Technology (I.T.) Enabled Services / Bio-IT.



To provide statutory and other promotional services to the exporters by implementing Software Technology Park/ Electronics and Hardware Technology Park Schemes and other such schemes this may be formulated and entrusted by the Government from time to time.

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- To provide data communication services including value added services to IT / IT Enabled Services related industries.
- \checkmark To promote micro, small and medium entrepreneurs by creating conducive environment for entrepreneurship in the field of IT / IT Enabled Services.
- ✓ It has expanded its presence pan-India since its inception in 1991 with 3 centres to disperse tech-driven entrepreneurship to Tier-II/III cities.
- ✓ Today, STPI has 64 centres of which 56 centres are in Tier-II/III cities.
- \checkmark Significance: These centres have been playing a pivotal role in boosting IT/ITeS/ESDM exports from the respective region, generating employment, and fostering startups to develop software products.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS): Q.
 - 1. It is the National Standard Body of India, which operates various product certification schemes.
 - 2. It functions under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only		B) 2 only	

C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The Government of India recently initiated a scheme through the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for the upgradation and strengthening of the laboratory network in the country.
- ✓ About Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):
- BIS is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016 for the harmonious \checkmark development of the activities of standardization, marking, and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- The BIS is the successor of the Indian Standards Institution (ISI), which was created in 1947 to ensure quality control and competitive efficiency in the rapid industrialization expected in the early decades of India's independence.



✓ BIS is functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

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- ✓ BIS has been providing traceability and tangibility benefits to the national economy in a number of ways: providing safe, reliable quality goods; minimizing health hazards to consumers; promoting exports and imports substitute; control over proliferation of varieties etc
- \checkmark Certification by the BIS is mandatory for certain classes of products—such as milk powder, X-ray equipment, and gas cylinders—that directly affect public health and safety.
- ✓ The BIS employs a large staff of engineers, scientists, and statisticians; testing is carried out in its own laboratories as well as in independent facilities that demonstrate compliance with laboratory guidelines established by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
- \checkmark The agency is headquartered in New Delhi and maintains regional and branch offices throughout the country.
- With reference to the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT), consider the following statements: Q.

1. It is designed to curb tax avoidance by companies that manipulate their financial statements to reduce their taxable income artificially.

2. It is applicable to only Indian companies registered under the Companies Act, 2013.

3. It is calculated on the taxable profits of a company.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A) Only one **B)** Only two
- C) All three

D) None

Answer : A

- The Mumbai bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) recently observed that the assessee was entitled to claim credit for Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) under the Vivad se Vishwas (VSV) Scheme for the year under consideration.
- ✓ About Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT):
- ✓ It is a provision in the Income Tax Act of India.
- \checkmark It primarily applies to companies and is designed to ensure that companies that report substantial book profits but pay little to no income tax due to various exemptions and deductions are subject to a minimum level of taxation.

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 \checkmark The primary objective behind the MAT tax in India is to curb tax avoidance by companies that manipulate their financial statements to reduce their taxable income artificially.

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- ✓ With the introduction of MAT, companies have to pay a fixed percentage of their profits as MAT.
- ✓ MAT is applicable to all companies, including foreign companies.
- ✓ However, it does not apply to companies that have been granted exemption under Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act, which pertains to Special Economic Zones (SEZs).
- ✓ MAT is calculated under Section 115JB of the Income-tax Act.
- ✓ Normal Tax Liability: Tax computed as per the normal provisions of the Income-tax Law, i.e., by applying the relevant tax rate to the taxable income of the company.
- ✓ Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT): Tax computed at 15% (previously 18.5%) on book profit plus cess and surcharge.
- ✓ MAT is calculated on the "book profits" of a company, which is different from the taxable profits computed under the regular provisions of the Income Tax Act.
- ✓ What is MAT credit? When the amount of MAT for a company is greater than its normal tax liability, the difference between MAT and normal tax liability is called MAT Credit.
- Q. Who has been appointed as the new Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission?
 - A) A.S. Rajeev **B)** Rajeev Kumar C) Anup Awasthi D) Ajay Sinha

Answer : A

- ✓ President Draupadi Murmu A.S. Rajiv has been appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.
- ✓ A.S. Rajeev is a senior banker with over 38 years of experience in four major banks Syndicate Bank, Indian Bank, Vijaya Bank and Bank of Maharashtra.
- Central Vigilance Commission is an apex Indian government body. \checkmark
- \checkmark It was established in the year 1964.
- Who launched "Subhash Abhinandan", a digital exhibition based on the life of Subhash Chandra **Q**. **Bose?**

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A) Amit Shah	B) Rajnath Singh
C) Arjun Ram Meghwal	D) Anurag Thakur



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Answer : C

- ✓ Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launched "Subhash Abhinandan", a digital exhibition based on the life of Subhash Chandra Bose.
- ✓ This exhibition is based on documents available in the National Archives.
- ✓ It is noteworthy that the National Archives of India is celebrating its 134th Foundation Day.

Q. In which state did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the Kochrab Ashram?

- A) Madhya Pradesh **B)** Himachal Pradesh
- C) Gujarat **D)** Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Kochrab Ashram in Sabarmati, Gujarat.
- ✓ He also launched the master plan of Gandhi Ashram Memorial.
- ✓ PM Modi said that March 12 is also important because on this day Bapu started the Dandi March.
- ✓ Kochrab Ashram was the first ashram established by Mahatma Gandhi after coming to India from South Africa in 1915.

India will construct how many GPU Supercomputer for self-sufficient AI advancement? Q.

A) 10,000	B) 20,000
C) 40,000	D) 30,000

C) 40,000

Answer : A

- ✓ India to construct a 10,000-GPU Supercomputer for self-sufficient AI advancement
- ✓ The Indian government, led by PM Narendra Modi, has approved a new \$1.24 billion investment for the IndiaAI mission, a "national-level" plan designed to create an all-Indian AI ecosystem from scratch.
- ✓ This initiative aims to create an all-Indian AI ecosystem from scratch, bolstering India's technological prowess and fostering innovation in AI.
- ✓ The HPC system, expected to include 10,000 "or more" GPUs as AI accelerators, will be developed through a public-private partnership to support startups and research organizations.
- ✓ Most of the proposed funds will likely be allocated to build a new, powerful high-performance computing (HPC) system, which will serve as India's central AI infrastructure for both the public and private sectors.



Who has laid foundation stone of "Experience of Spirituality at Chitrakoot Ghat" project in Q. Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh?

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A) Draupadi Murmu B) Narendra Modi

C) Amit Shah **D)** Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed Bhoomi Pujan and inaugurated projects worth 118 crore 72 lakh rupees in Madhya Pradesh through video conferencing.
- ✓ These include various projects in Gwalior and Chitrakoot under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme and development work of Amarkantak and Pitambara Peeth Temple Datia under Prasad scheme.
- ✓ PM also laid the foundation stone of the "Experience of Spirituality at Chitrakoot Ghat" project in Chitrakoot.
- ✓ The Prime Minister performed the Bhoomi Pujan of the upgradation and development works of Ganga Ghats at a cost of about 26 crore 55 lakh rupees.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated various development works worth 50 crore rupees under the Prasad \checkmark Scheme in Amarkantak. Which includes development around Narmada Temple, and expansion of tourist and public facilities in Amarkantak.
- Q. Which ministry will organize Poshan Pakhwada nationwide from 9 March to 23 March 2024 to spread awareness about nutrition, dietary practices?
 - A) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
 - **B)** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - C) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
 - D) Ministry of Women and Child Development

Answer : D

- ✓ Ministry of Women and Child Development will organize Poshan Pakhwada nationwide from 9 March to 23 March 2024.
- ✓ This 15-day celebration aims to spread awareness about nutrition, dietary practices, and women's health.
- ✓ During the Pakhwada, mass sensitization and community activities will be held around the themes including Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi, dietary practices focused on sensitisation around nutrition and health of pregnant women.

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During the last Poshan Pakhwada in March-April 2023, over 4 crore sensitization activities were conducted. These focused on promoting Shree Anna (fortified rice), millets for nutrition, celebrating Swasth Balak Spardha, and popularizing Saksham Anganwadis.

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Since the launch of POSHAN Abhiyaan in 2018, over 90 crore sensitization activities have been reported through 5 Poshan Pakhwadas and 6 Poshan Maahs

England great James Anderson has become the first fast bowler to take 700 Test wickets. In how Q. many matches has he achieved this feat?

A) 145	B) 176
C) 165	D) 187

Answer : D

- ✓ England great James Anderson has become first-ever fast bowler to pick up 700 Test wickets in 187 matches.
- ✓ The 41-year-old got to the major landmark when he dismissed Kuldeep Yadav on Day 3 of the fifth and final Test against hosts India at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala.
- ✓ The legendary fast bowler became only the third man after Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (800) in 133 matches and leg-spinner Shane Warne (708) in 145 matches to achieve the feat.
- Anderson's longevity is a thing of marvel in international cricket as the fast bowler made his debut in 2003 and continues to be one of the leading bowlers in the Test format of the game.

Q. Which missile was successfully tested with MIRV technology recently?

A) Agni-4	B) Agni-5
C) Trishul	D) snake

Answer: B

- ✓ Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) recently conducted the first successful flight test of the indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV).
- Agni-5 missile is an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range of 5,500 to 5,800 kilometers.

With whom has SBI partnered for its transaction banking platform? Q.

A) Google	B) Rogerpay
C) Aurionpro	D) Meta



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Answer : C

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has entered into an agreement with Aurionpro Solutions for the license and operation of cash management and transaction banking platform iCashpro+.
- ✓ This deal, worth approximately Rs 100 crore, includes license and maintenance for 6 years.
- ✓ Aurionpro's iCashpro+ is based on advanced cloud technology and micro services.

SBI IN NEWS 2023-24

- Aurionpro secures a significant deal with SBI for iCashpro+, a cash management platform. Valued at Rs 100 crore, it involves phased delivery over 12 months, followed by 6-year maintenance.
- > LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a Line of Credit (LOC) of Euro 70 million (about Rs 630 crore) with German development bank KfW to promote solar projects in the country.
- > SBI Mutual Fund got permission from the RBI to buy up to a 9.99% share in Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
- > Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Sri Lanka.
- > State Bank of India ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador.
- SBI has launched a 'Mobile Handheld Device' as part of its financial inclusion drive in a bid to improve accessibility and convenience.
- > The tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara has been extended till August 2024.
- State Bank of India has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians to effortlessly open Non-Residential External and Non-Resident Ordinary accounts through its mobile app YONO.
- State Bank of India has launched its 'Nation First Transit Card', a RuPay prepaid instrument under the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) that can be used nationwide.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- > The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.



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- Tagline of State Bank of India
- (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
- \succ (2) With you all the way
- ➤ (3) A bank of the common man
- ➤ (4) The banker to every Indian
- ➤ (5) The Nation banks on us.
- It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

According to SIPRI report, which country is the world's top arms importer between 2019-2023? Q.

A) China	B) Pakistan
C) India	D) Iran

D) Iran

Answer : C

- ✓ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) according to its report on March 11, 2024, India is the world's top arms importer.
- ✓ India's arms imports have registered a growth of 4.7 percent between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.
- ✓ <u>Highlights of SIPRI Report:</u>
- ✓ According to the SIPRI report, Russia still remains India's main arms supplier.
- ✓ However, this is the first time since 1960-64 that Russia's share in India's arms imports was less than 50 percent.
- ✓ India has received 36 percent of its total arms imports from Russia.
- ✓ According to the SIPRI report, the US supplied about 55% of the total weapons imported by European countries in 2019-23.
- ✓ Japan's arms imports have increased by 155 percent.
- ✓ Whereas South Korea's arms imports have increased by 6.5 percent.
- ✓ However, China's own arms imports have decreased by 44 percent.
- ✓ According to the report, Pakistan's arms imports have increased by 43 percent.
- ✓ Pakistan has been the fifth largest arms importer in 2019-23.
- ✓ Pakistan has received a maximum 82 percent of weapons from China.



✓ The high level of arms imports by US allies in Asia and Oceania is due to these countries' concerns about China's ambitions.

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- ✓ The US is a major supplier of arms to the Asia and Oceania region.
- ✓ According to the report, Qatar increased its arms imports almost four times (396 percent) between 2014-18 and 2019-23. Due to which it became the world's third largest arms importer in 2019-23.
- ✓ About Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI):
- ✓ SIPRI is an international institute. It conducts research in the fields of wars, munitions, arms control and disarmament.
- ✓ SIPRI was established in 1966.
- ✓ SIPRI is headquartered in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden.
- Q. India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project was inaugurated in which state?
 - A) Himachal Pradesh
 - C) Gujarat **D)** Tamil Nadu

Answer : C

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project at Maruti Suzuki India's plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat.

B) Haryana

✓ This railway siding project is a collaborative initiative between Maruti and Gujarat Rail Infrastructure Development (G-RIDE).

INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project at Maruti Suzuki India's plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat.
- > Kerala has declared the man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, the first in India to do so.
- > 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.



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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme:

1. It is an athlete-centric programme under the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

2. It is aimed at school children between 9 and 18 years of age.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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✓ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports inaugurated the unique Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme amidst much enthusiasm at the Sector 7 sports complex, in Chandigarh.

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- \checkmark It is aimed at school children between nine and 18 years.
- ✓ The nation-wide scheme will have two main objectives:
- ✓ To hunt talent from every nook and corner of the country and
- \checkmark To use sports as a tool to curb addiction towards drugs and other gadgetry distractions.
- ✓ KIRTI made a solid launch across 50 centres in India. Fifty thousand applicants are being assessed in the first phase across 10 sports, including athletics, boxing, wrestling, hockey, football and wrestling.
- ✓ KIRTI aims to conduct 20 lakh assessments across the country throughout the year to identify talent through notified Talent Assessment Centres.
- ✓ It wants to reach out to every block in the country and connect with those kids who want to play a sport but don't know how.
- ✓ KIRTI's athlete-centric programme is conspicuous by its transparent selection methodology based on Information Technology.
- ✓ Data analytics based on Artificial Intelligence is being used to predict the sporting acumen in an aspiring athlete.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Q.	Gorsam Kora festival, recently in news, is celebrated in:	
	A) Ladakh	B) Arunachal Pradesh

C) Manipur

D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ The Gorsam Kora festival, symbolised the enduring friendship between India and Bhutan commenced on 7th March and concluded on 10th March this year.
- ✓ It is held in Arunachal Pradesh's Zeminthang Valley along the Nyanmjang Chu River.
- History \checkmark
- ✓ This annual festival is held at Gorsam Chorten, a 93 feet tall Stupa, built during 13th century AD by a local monk- Lama Pradhar.
- ✓ This is also the place where the 14th Dalai Lama had his first rest after fleeing from Tibet in 1959.
- ✓ It features cultural performances and Buddhist rituals at the Gorsam Chorten, which is older than the Tawang Monastery.

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The festival featured a diverse array of events, including enthralling performances by local cultural troupes and by the Indian army bands, martial performances like Mallakhamb and Zanjh Pathaka.

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FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24

- Gorsam Kora festival : Arunachal Pradesh \geq
- 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
- Dhillo festival : Goa
- India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 : Faridabad, Haryana
- Arattu festival : Kerala
- Banni festival : Andhra Pradesh \triangleright
- Zanskar Festival : Ladakh
- Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival : New Delhi
- Nuakhai festival : Odisha
- ➢ Nadi Utsav : Delhi
- Karnataka Cultural Festival : Sri Lanka .
- Unmesha' International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- ➢ Festival of Libraries 2023 : New Delhi .
- > Chachin Grazing Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Harela Festival : Uttarakhand



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- Bonalu Festival : Telangana
- Kharchi Puja : Tripura
- Palkhi festival : Maharashtra
- Raja festival : Odisha
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Exercise 'Bharat Shakti', recently seen in the news:
 - 1. It is an integrated tri-service firepower and manoeuvre exercise.
 - 2. It was conducted in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 onlyB) 2 only
 - C) Both 1 and 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The Prime Minister recently witnessed the tri-service exercise 'Bharat Shakti' in Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- ✓ About Exercise 'Bharat Shakti':
- ✓ It is an integrated tri-service firepower and manoeuvre exercise, showcasing the prowess of indigenously manufactured defence equipment across the three services.

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ Location: Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- ✓ The exercise involves the showcasing of the calibrated tactical employment of niche technology in a triservices environment against perceived threats.
- ✓ The exercise displays an array of indigenous weapon systems and platforms as a demonstration of the prowess of the country, premised on the nation's Aatmanirbharata initiative.
- ✓ It features indigenous weapon systems: T-90 (IM) Tanks, Dhanush and Sarang Gun Systems, Akash Weapons System, Logistics Drones, Robotic Mules, ALH, and various unmanned aerial vehicles from the Indian Army showcasing the advanced ground warfare and aerial surveillance capabilities.
- ✓ The Indian Navy displays Naval Anti-Ship Missiles, Autonomous Cargo Carrying Aerial Vehicles, and Expendable Aerial Targets.
- The Indian Air Force showcases indigenous aircraft: Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Light Utility Helicopters, and Advanced Light Helicopters.



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Q. Kochrab Ashram, recently seen in the news, is located in which one of the following States?

A) Maharashtra B) Bihar

C) Odisha

Answer : D

✓ The Prime Minister inaugurated the redeveloped Kochrab Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, recently to mark the 94th anniversary of the Dandi March.

D) Gujarat

- ✓ About Kochrab Ashram:
- ✓ It was the first ashram founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1915, following his return to India from South Africa.
- ✓ Location: It is located in Kochrab village, situated on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ✓ It was called Satyagraha Ashram based on his ideas of achieving India's independence from British rule through peaceful methods.
- ✓ Establishment:
- ✓ Gopal Krishna Gokhale requested Mahatma Gandhi to return to India, which needed his skills as a community organizer.
- ✓ Mahatma Gandhi began his association with Ahmedabad after returning to India from South Africa.
- ✓ About his decision to settle in Ahmedabad in 1915, Gandhi wrote that, as a Gujarati, he should be able to serve the country best through the Gujarati language.
- ✓ On 20th of May, 1915, Gandhi began living in a bungalow in Kochrab village.
- ✓ The bungalow, which he soon rechristened as the Satyagraha Ashram, was given to him by his fellow lawyer and colleague, Jeevanlal Desai.
- Mahatma Gandhi based himself here for about one-and-a-half years before moving to the new campus of Sabarmati Ashram.
- ✓ It is a colonial-style building with a white-washed façade.
- Q. With reference to the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) 2024, consider the following statements:

1. It prohibits pharma companies from offering gifts and travel facilities to healthcare professionals or their family members.

2. It also holds companies responsible for the actions of the medical representatives.



3. The pharma companies should not make claims and comparisons of their drug's usefulness, and the word "safe" must not be used without qualification.

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How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one	B) Only two
A) Only one	b) Only t

C) All three D) None

Answer : C

- ✓ The Central Government recently rolled out a Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) for pharmaceutical companies.
- ✓ About UCPMP 2024:
- ✓ It has been implemented to control unethical practices in the pharma industry.
- ✓ The updated guidelines include drug endorsement, promotion, ethical conduct for medical representatives, and maintaining relationships with healthcare professionals.
- ✓ Important Provisions:
- ✓ It prohibits pharma companies from offering gifts and travel facilities to healthcare professionals or their family members.
- ✓ The UCPMP mandates that medical representatives must not employ any inducement or subterfuge to gain an interview, and they must not pay, under any guise, for access to a healthcare professional.
- \checkmark It also holds companies responsible for the actions of the medical representatives.
- \checkmark It also bans the supply of free samples to those who are not qualified to prescribe such a product.
- ✓ Each pharma company also needs to maintain details such as product name, doctor name, the number of samples given, date of supply of free samples to healthcare practitioners, etc., and the monetary value of samples so distributed should not exceed two percent of the company's domestic sales per year.
- ✓ All pharmaceutical associations must constitute an Ethics Committee for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (ECPMP), set up a dedicated UCPMP portal on their website, and take further necessary steps towards the implementation of this Code.
- ✓ It also lists in detail how the drug should be promoted, both in texts and in the audio-visual market.
- \checkmark The information about drugs must be balanced, up-to-date, and verifiable, and must not mislead either directly or by implication.
- ✓ The word "new" must not be used to describe any drug which has been generally available or any therapeutic intervention which has been generally promoted in India for more than a year.

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- The responsibility for adherence to the code rests with the Chief Executive Officer of pharmaceutical \checkmark companies.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

1. It indicates the relative change in physical production in the field of industries during a specified year as compared to the previous year.

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2. It is computed and published by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation recently released the Quick Estimates of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for January 2024, revealing a growth of 3.8 percent.
- ✓ About Index of Industrial Production (IIP):
- ✓ It is one of the prime indicators of economic development for the measurement of trends in the behavior of industrial production over a period of time with reference to a chosen base year.
- ✓ IIP is a short-term indicator measuring industrial growth until the actual result of detailed industrial surveys become available.
- ✓ It indicates the relative change in physical production in the field of industries during a specified year as compared to the previous year.
- ✓ It is computed and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, on a monthly basis.
- ✓ Calculation:
- ✓ The IIP is a quantum index, the production of items is expressed in physical terms. However, the unit of reporting in respect of certain items like machinery, machine tools, shipbuilding, etc. is in value terms.
- The IIP is compiled as a simple weighted arithmetic mean of production relatives by using Laspeyre's formula.

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 \checkmark In order to remove the effect of price rises from the index, the production figures of such items are deflated on the basis of Wholesale Price Indices (Base 2011-12), compiled by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, before the compilation of the index.

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- ✓ Base Year:
- The base year is always given a value of 100. \checkmark
- The current base year for the IIP series in India is 2011-12. \checkmark
- So, if the current IIP reads as 116, it means that there has been 16% growth compared to the base year. \checkmark
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Graphics Processing Unit:

1. It is a computer chip which provides graphics and images by performing rapid mathematical calculations.

2. It does not have its own Random Access Memory (RAM).

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

- ✓ As the world rushes to make use of the latest wave of AI technologies, one piece of high-tech hardware has become a surprisingly hot commodity: the Graphics Processing Unit, or GPU.
- ✓ It is a computer chip that renders graphics and images by performing rapid mathematical calculations.
- ✓ GPUs are used for both professional and personal computing. Originally, GPUs were responsible for the rendering of 2D and 3D images, animations and video.
- ✓ Like a Central Processing Unit (CPU), a GPU is also a chip component in computing devices.
- One important difference, though, is that the GPU is specifically designed to handle and accelerate graphics \checkmark workloads and display graphics content on a device such as a PC or smartphone.
- Consider the following statements regarding the Directorate General of Foreign Trade: Q.

1. It is responsible for granting the Exporter Importer Code Number to Indian exporters and importers.

2. It works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has granted an exemption to the import of certain goods, including viscose staple fibre and numerous steel items, from quality control orders (QCOs) under the advance authorisation scheme.
- ✓ It is a government organization in India responsible for the formulation of exim guidelines and principles for indian importers and indian exporters of the country.
- ✓ Before 1991, DGFT was known as the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (CCI&E).
- ✓ It is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade.
- ✓ It has been assigned the role of "facilitator".
- ✓ It is responsible for implementing the Foreign Trade Policy or Exim Policy with the main objective of promoting Indian exports.
- ✓ The DGFT also issues scrips/authorization to exporters and monitors their corresponding obligations through a network of 24 regional offices.
- ✓ Functions
- ✓ To implement the Exim Policy or Foreign Trade Policy of India by introducing various schemes and guidelines through its network of dgft regional offices thought-out the country.
- ✓ To Grant Exporter Importer Code Number to Indian Exporter and Importers. IEC Number is a unique 10 digit code required by the traders or manufacturers for the purpose of import and export in India.
- ✓ To grant the permission of free export in Export Policy Schedule 2.
- ✓ Setting standard input-output norms is also controlled by the DGFT.
- ✓ Headquarter: New Delhi
- Q. With reference to Hyodol Robot, consider the following statements:
 - 1. It is an AI care robot which offers customized care for seniors.
 - 2. It uses the large language model for conversation.
 - 3. It cannot be linked to smart home devices.



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How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ South Korean company Hyodol has come up with a way to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to beat loneliness among elders with dementia.
- ✓ These look like cuddly soft toys, their advanced language processing and ability to recognise emotions, talk, and play music can offer some form of engagement to seniors.
- ✓ It is an AI care robot that offers customised care for seniors.
- ✓ The robot does this by relying on data collected by living and having conversations with them.
- ✓ The doll can hold full conversations and it comes with a companion app and web monitoring platform for caretakers to monitor remotely.
- ✓ Besides, it comes with safety features that can raise an alert when no movement has been detected for a certain period of time.
- ✓ This robot collects verbal/nonverbal data for 24 hours from the users through AI.
- ✓ Technology used
- ✓ The AI robot can hold conversations owing to the large language model that has been integrated into it.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- Q. According to the India Cellular and Electronics Association, India now stands as the world's secondlargest producer of mobile phones at the end of the decade 2014-2024 with __ percent self-sufficiency.

D) 99%

A) 96%	B) 97%

C) 98%

Answer : B

- ✓ India now stands as the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones at the end of the decade 2014-2024.
- ✓ India Cellular and Electronics Association said in a statement that the sector has transitioned from being 78 percent import-dependent in 2014 to 97 percent self-sufficiency.
- \checkmark Only three percent of the total mobile phones sold in India are now imported.
- ✓ India's mobile phone production is nearing 20 lakh crore rupees in a decade of unprecedented growth.



India produced 2.45 billion units of mobile phones during these ten years, against a goal of 2.5 billion units. \checkmark

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- China is the largest producer of mobile phones; Indonesia stands at 3rd.
- Union Minister of State, Dr Jitendra Singh has announced the establishment of North India's first **Q**. Government Homeopathic College in which place?

A) Kishtwar	B) Srinagar
C) Kathua	D) Badgam

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced the establishment of North India's first Government Homeopathic College in the Jasrota area of Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The project, funded centrally at Rs 80 crore, reflects a significant stride in healthcare and education infrastructure development in the region.
- ✓ The proposed structure will include a hospital complex, a college, an administrative block and one hostel each for male and female students.
- The open space will be utilized later on for construction of an auditorium, playground, etc. \checkmark
- PM Narendra Modi has launched the Mahtari Vandan Yojana in Chhattisgarh. What is the purpose Q. of this scheme?
 - A) To provide financial assistance for married women
 - B) To provide free LPG connection for poor women
 - C) To provide free sanitary pad for girls
 - D) To provide 50,000 loans for skilled women

Answer : A

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi has launched the Mahtari Vandan Yojana in Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ The scheme has been launched in Chhattisgarh to provide financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month to eligible married women of the state as monthly DBT.
- \checkmark It has been envisioned to ensure economic empowerment of women, provide them financial security, promote gender equality and strengthen the decisive role of women in the family.
- The scheme will provide benefits to all eligible married women of the state who are above 21 years of age as of January 1, 2024.

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✓ Widows, divorced, and deserted women will also be eligible for this scheme. Around 70 lakh women will benefit from the scheme.

- Q. What is the theme of 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2024' campaign?
 - A) Valuing Water B) Jal Shakti se Vikas

C) Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti D) Source Sustainability for Drinking Water

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Answer : C

- ✓ The Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign 2024.
- ✓ It is the fifth edition of the campaign. The launch of Catch the Rain Campaign was scheduled to be held at the NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi.
- ✓ The theme of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan:Catch the Rain Campaign 2024 is Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti.
- ✓ This theme revolves around the role of Women in water Conservation as well as water management.
- The conducting body of the Catch the Rain Campaign is the National Water Mission, Department of Water \checkmark Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in collaboration with the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation.
- Which company has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development to train members of Q. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)'s Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the Lakhpati Didi Yojana?

A) Easy Trip Planner	B) IndiGo
C) IRCTC	D) Red Bus

Answer : A

- ✓ Easy Trip Planners partners with Ministry of Rural Development to empower self-help groups
- ✓ Easy Trip Planner Ltd.'s EaseMyTrip.com, signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development to train members of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)'s Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the Lakhpati Didi Yojana.
- ✓ The initiative aims to focus on women-led skill development, fostering entrepreneurial skills and financial independence among rural women.
- Through the MoU, EaseMyTrip will train members of SHGs in 800 districts across India.

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The eligibility criteria for selection includes basic knowledge of reading & writing English/Hindi and \checkmark familiarity with using a computer & browsing the internet.

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- ✓ The training will cover making travel reservations across all essential segments, including trains, buses, hotels and flights
- Who has been appointed as the chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)? Q.
 - A) Vijay Sampla **B)** Kishor Makwana
 - C) Subhash Ramnath Pardhi D) Anju Bala

Answer : B

- ✓ Kishor Makwana has assumed the charge of Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).
- ✓ While, Luv Kush Kumar also assumed the charge of Member of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).
- ✓ Kishor Makwana was appointed by the President of India as the Chairman of the NCSC, Government of India.
- ✓ Makwana has previously served as the joint spokesperson of the Gujarat unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- ✓ About National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)
- ✓ NCSC is a constitutional body. It was established to provide safeguards against exploitation of the Scheduled Castes (SC). Also, it has been done with the aim of promoting the social, educational, economic and cultural interests of SC.
- ✓ Established 19 February 2004
- ✓ Headquarters New Delhi
- ✓ Under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- ✓ Initially there was a provision in the Constitution for the appointment of a special officer under Article 338. The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was appointed as the special officer.
- ✓ Article 338 was amended by the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003. Also, the then National Commission for SC and ST was replaced by two commissions from the year 2004. Which were:
- ✓ The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) operates under the authority of Article 338.
- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) functions under the jurisdiction of Article 338A.

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Q. The Ministry of Defence has signed a ₹200 crore contract for anti-drone systems for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) with which company?

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A) Bharat Electronics Limited B) Big Bang Boom Solutions Private Limited

C) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Answer : B

- ✓ The Ministry of Defence has signed a ₹200 crore contract for anti-drone systems for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) with Big Bang Boom Solutions Private Limited (BBBS).
- ✓ This is the largest contract signed by the MoD under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative.
- ✓ The focus of the iDEX programme is to foster an ecosystem of innovation and technology development in defence.
- ✓ This order contracted to Big Bang Boom Solutions is a step in that direction and we are happy to have young companies support the nation's growth.

Which state/UT conducted All-Women Maritime Surveillance Mission? Q.

A) Andaman & Nicobar	B) Tamil Nadu
0.7.1.1.1	

C) Lakshadweep **D)** Karnataka

Answer : A

- ✓ The Andaman & Nicobar Command marked the 40th anniversary of INAS 318 and International Women's Day with a historic all-women maritime surveillance mission.
- ✓ The crew, consisting of Lt Cdr Shubhangi Swaroop, Lt Cdr Divya Sharma, and Lt Vaishali Mishra, showcased women's pivotal role in the Naval Air Arm.
- ✓ The event emphasized gender equality, as women officers handled pre-flight briefing, meteorological briefing, medical check-up, and Air Traffic Control.
- ✓ The mission's success reaffirms women's capability in executing independent operational tasks, reinforcing their crucial contributions to national defense.

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- 'Gulf of Tonkin Incident', recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following? Q.
 - A) Russia-Ukraine War **B)** Vietnam War
 - C) World War II D) Iran-Iraq War



Answer : B

- \checkmark China has officially revealed new territorial claims in the northern Gulf of Tonkin, a shared area with Vietnam.
- ✓ The crescent-shaped Gulf, located in the South China Sea, borders Vietnam's northwestern coast, China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and the Leizhou Peninsula and Hainan Island.
- ✓ Known as "Beibu Gulf" in Chinese and "Bac Bo Gulf" in Vietnamese, it connects with the South China Sea and Hainan Strait.
- ✓ Notably, the Gulf of Tonkin gained historical significance due to the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Incident during the Vietnam War.
- Q. Union Minister of Science & Technology inaugurated the first-of-its-kind "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" at which place?
 - A) Mohali, Punjab **B)** Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
 - C) Bikaner, Rajasthan
- D) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

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Answer : A

- ✓ The Union Minister of Science & Technology inaugurated India's first National Speed Breeding Crop Facility at the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali, Punjab.
- ✓ The facility will revolutionize crop improvement programs by rapidly developing advanced crop varieties through speed breeding methods.
- ✓ Established in 2010, NABI is India's first Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, dedicated to catalyzing transformations in the agri-food sector.
- ✓ NABI has actively contributed to initiatives like 'Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech (UNaTI) Mission' and Biotech Kisan Hubs for various regions.
- Sea6 Energy launched the world's first large-scale mechanized tropical seaweed farm in which Q. country?
 - A) Maldives

C) Malaysia

B) Singapore

D) Indonesia

Answer : D

- ✓ Sea6 Energy launched the world's first large-scale mechanized tropical seaweed farm in Lombok, Indonesia.
- The farm is located off Ekas, on the island of Lombok. \checkmark

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✓ Sea6 Energy is a Bangalore-based company that specializes in cultivating and processing tropical seaweed species.

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- \checkmark The company has developed a cultivation mechanism called the Sea Combine, which can harvest and replant seaweed in deep ocean waters.
- They also have technologies to convert seaweed into environmentally friendly products. \checkmark
- Ministry of Rural Development signed an MoU with which institute to formalize their partnership 0. in applications of geospatial technology & AI?

B) IIT Delhi

D) IIT Roorkee

- A) IIT Kanpur
- C) IIM Ahmedabad

Answer : B

- ✓ The Ministry of Rural Development and IIT Delhi signed an MoU for rural advancement through geospatial technology and AI.
- ✓ Led by Shri Amit Kataria and Prof. Manabendra Saharia, the collaboration focuses on "BhuPRAHARI" project under MGNREGA.
- ✓ Officials, including Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh and Prof. Rangan Banerjee, highlighted the partnership's significance in enhancing MGNREGA's efficiency and transparency.
- ✓ The integration of advanced tech aims to modernize rural development processes, ensuring accountability and optimal resource allocation.
- Q. Which Union Minister launched the credit assistance program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras?
 - A) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya **B) Smriti Irani**
 - **C)** Anurag Thakur D) Giriraj Singh

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated a loan assistance program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- ✓ Under this, an agreement was also signed between Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI).

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Q. India recently signed an agreement with which country to establish a Joint Economic and Trade **Committee?**

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- **B)** South Africa A) Kenya
- C) Argentina **D)** Dominican Republic

Answer : D

- ✓ India has recently signed the protocol for the establishment of Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) with the Dominican Republic.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet had approved the proposal to sign the said protocol for the establishment of JETCO on January 24 this year.
- ✓ The Dominican Republic is a Caribbean nation.
- Q. Where did PM Modi lay the foundation stone of India's first commercial semiconductor fabrication service?

A) Punjab	B) Rajasthan
C) Uttar Pradesh	D) Gujarat

Answer : B

- ✓ PM Modi laid the foundation stone of Tata-Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp's chip fabrication unit in Dholera Rajasthan.
- ✓ This will be India's first commercial semiconductor fabrication service.
- ✓ This includes three projects worth more than Rs 1.25 lakh crore.
- The capacity of the Dholera unit will be 50,000 wafer starts per month \checkmark
- Q. Who recently inaugurated the regional airline service Fly91?
 - A) Amit Shah

B) S Jaishankar

C) Rajnath Singh

- D) Jyotiraditya Scindia

Answer : D

✓ Union Civil Aviation and Steel Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated Fly91, a regional airline service and flagged off the first flight between Manohar International Airport in Goa and the Agatti Islands of Lakshadweep.



- ✓ Airline Fly91 will start commercial services on March 18. Fly91 is a Goa-based airline, its MD and CEO is Manoj Chacko
- Q. Who has inaugurated 15 airport projects, including the revamped Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, worth over Rs.9,800 crore?
 - A) Draupadi Murmu **B)** Narendra Modi
 - C) Amit Shah

D) Nirmala Sitharaman

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Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 15 airport projects, including the revamped Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, worth over Rs.9,800 crore.
- ✓ The project virtually launched by the PM during an event at Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh included 12 new terminal buildings of Pune, Kolhapur, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Delhi, Lucknow, Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Moradabad, Shravasti and Adampur Airports.
- ✓ Additionally, foundation stones were laid for new terminal buildings at Kadapa, Hubballi, and Belagavi airports, signaling a significant boost to India's aviation infrastructure.
- ✓ In the fiscal year 2023-24, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already operationalized state-of-the-art new integrated terminal buildings at Chennai, Port Blair, Surat, and Tiruchirappalli Airports

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 15 airport projects, including the revamped Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, worth over Rs.9,800 crore
- Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) for the Green Hydrogen Project.
- Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.

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Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.

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- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- ▶ 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.
- > Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.
- > Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction have secured a large order to construct the greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport project in Andhra Pradesh.
- > The largest airport in the world is the king Fahd International Airport, located in Dammam, Saudi Arabia which covers an area of about 300 sq.
- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first greenfield airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.
- Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up 21 new greenfield airports.
- Consider the following statements regarding the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024: **Q**.
 - 1. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries.
 - 2. It is a fund-limited scheme to accelerate the adoption of Electric Vehicles in India.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries announces Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024.
- ✓ It aims to further accelerate the adoption of Electric Vehicles in the country.



✓ This is a fund-limited scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 500 crore for the period of 4 months, w.e.f. 1st April 2024 till 31st July 2024.

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- ✓ It is for faster adoption of electric two-wheeler (e-2W) and three-wheeler (e-3W) to provide further impetus to the green mobility and development of electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing eco-system in the country.
- ✓ Eligible EV categories:
- ✓ Two Wheelers (electric) (e-2W)
- ✓ Three-wheeler (electric) including registered e-rickshaws & e-carts and L5 (e-3W)
- ✓ With greater emphasis on providing affordable and environment friendly public transportation options for the masses, scheme will be applicable mainly to those e-2W and e-3Ws registered for commercial purposes.
- ✓ Further, in addition to commercial use, privately or corporate owned registered e-2W will also be eligible under the scheme.
- ✓ To encourage advance technologies, the benefits of incentives, will be extended to only those vehicles which are fitted with advanced battery.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Heavy Industries
- Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Vocal for Local' Initiative: 0.
 - 1. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
 - 2. As a part of this initiative, local products from 500 aspirational blocks have been mapped and consolidated under Aakanksha brand.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

- B) 2 only
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ NITI Aayog recently launched the 'Vocal for Local' initiative under its Aspirational Blocks Programme.
- ✓ About 'Vocal for Local' Initiative:
- ✓ It is an initiative of NITI Aayog under its Aspirational Blocks Programme to encourage a spirit of selfreliance among the people and propel them towards sustainable growth and prosperity.
- ✓ As a part of this initiative, local products from 500 aspirational blocks have been mapped and consolidated under the Aakanksha brand.
- ✓ Aakanksha is an umbrella brand, which could be supplemented into multiple sub-brands that have the potential to create an international market.



✓ In order to encourage these products, a dedicated window for the Aspirational Blocks Programme under the brand name Aakanksha has been established on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.

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- ✓ The partners will also provide technical and operational supportfor the facilitation of e-commerce onboarding, establishing linkages, financial/digital literacy, documentation/certification, and skill enhancement, among others.
- With reference to the Global Methane Tracker 2024, consider the following statements: 0.
 - 1. It is released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
 - 2. The United States leads in methane emissions from oil and gas operations.
 - 3. China leads in methane emissions from coal operations.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

 \checkmark Methane emissions from fuel use in 2023 were close to being the highest ever at 120 million tonnes (Mt), according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Global Methane Tracker 2024.

D) None

- ✓ About Global Methane Tracker:
- ✓ It is an annual report released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ✓ It is based on the most recently available data on methane emissions from the energy sector and incorporates new scientific studies, measurement campaigns, and information collected from satellites.
- ✓ Highlights of Global Methane Tracker 2024:
- ✓ Methane emissions from fuel use in 2023 were close to being the highest ever at 120 million tonnes (Mt). This is a small rise compared to 2022.
- ✓ Bioenergy, a form of renewable energy generated by plant and animal waste, caused another 10 million tons of emissions.
- ✓ Of the 120 Mt of methane that escaped into the atmosphere, around 80 million tons of methane emissions came from just 10 countries. The United States leads in methane emissions from oil and gas operations and is "closely followed" by Russia. China, on the other hand, leads in emissions from coal operations.
- The world needs to slash methane emissions from fossil fuels by 75 percent by 2030 to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C.

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The IEA estimated that this goal would require about \$170 billion in spending. This is less than 5 percent of \checkmark the income generated by the fossil fuel industry in 2023.

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- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the PB-SHABD Platform:
 - 1. It has been designed to provide daily news feeds in video formats to the subscribers.
 - 2. Its service is being offered free of cost for the first year.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting launched PB-SHABD, a news sharing service from Prasar Bharati and websites of DD News and Akashvani News as well as updated News on Air mobile app at an event in National Media Centre, New Delhi.
- Prasar Bharti Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD) platform has been designed to provide daily news feeds in video, audio, text, photo and other formats to the subscribers from media landscape.
- ✓ It is powered by the vast network of Prasar Bharati reporters, correspondents and stringers, the service would bring you the latest news from different parts of the country.
- ✓ It will be a single point source of news content for all organizations.
- ✓ SHABD service is being offered free of cost for the first year as an introductory offer and will provide news stories in all major Indian languages across fifty categories.
- ✓ What is Prasar Bharti?
- ✓ It is the Public Service Broadcaster of the country.
- ✓ It is a statutory autonomous body established in 1997 under the Prasar Bharati Act.
- ✓ Objective: To conduct public broadcasting services intended to inform and entertain the public.
- ✓ It comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio, which were earlier media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

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✓ Headquarter: New Delhi



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- Q. With reference to Small and Medium Real-Estate Investment Trusts, consider the following statements:
 - 1. It aims to regulate the fractional ownership industry and safeguard investor interests.
 - 2. The minimum subscription size of this scheme unit will be 50 lakh rupees.

3. It requires a minimum of 200-unit holders, excluding the investment manager, its related parties and associates.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently introduced amendments to the REIT Regulations of 2014, outlining provisions for the establishment of small and medium real-estate investment trusts, known as SM REITs or micro REITs.
- ✓ These are specialised real estate investment trusts that differ from conventional REITs in their scale and focus.
- ✓ Aim: To regulate the fractional ownership industry and safeguard investor interests, incorporating both commercial and residential properties within the new framework.
- ✓ The minimum subscription size of this scheme unit will be 10 lakh and treated as one unit.
- ✓ The SM REIT scheme requires a minimum of 200 unit holders, excluding the investment manager, its related parties and associates.
- ✓ An investment manager responsible for setting up an SM REIT is required to have a net worth of at least
 ₹20 crore, and a separate trustee will be appointed for oversight.
- ✓ The micro REITs will be able to list with an asset value of at least Rs 50 crore and a maximum of Rs 500 crore.
- ✓ These funds are to be used for acquiring and managing real estate assets, generating income for the investors.
- The ownership of these assets will be structured through one or more schemes, each operating under Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs).
- ✓ While traditional REITs primarily invest in large-scale commercial properties, such as office buildings and shopping malls, SM REITs concentrate on smaller and medium-sized properties with lower value.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

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Q. The committee formed on 'One Nation One Election' submitted its report, who is the chairman of this committee?

- A) Raghuram Rajan B) Ramnath Kovind
- **C)** Soumya Swaminathan

D) Urjit Patel

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Answer : B

- ✓ The committee formed for 'One Nation One Election' submitted its report to President Draupadi Murmu.
- ✓ This committee was formed under the chairmanship of former President Ramnath Kovind.
- ✓ This panel was constituted on 2 September 2023.
- ✓ This report has been prepared by an 8-member committee under the leadership of former President Kovind.
- ✓ Apart from the former President, the committee also includes Home Minister Amit Shah and former MP Ghulam Nabi Azad
- Q. Which bank has launched the Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme, aimed at raising deposits for financing eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors?
 - A) Karur Vyasya Bank
 - **B) Bank of Baroda**
 - C) Union Bank of India
 - **D)** Indian Overseas Bank

Answer : B

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the BoB Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme, aimed at raising deposits for financing eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors.
- ✓ The scheme offers customers the dual benefits of stable financial returns and contribution to a greener planet.
- ✓ It offers annual interest rates, ranging from 6.75 per cent for a tenure of 12 to 18 months to 7.15 per cent for 777 days.
- ✓ Additionally, for longer tenures of 1,111 days, 1,717 days, and 2,201 days, the interest rates are set at 6.40 per cent per annum.
- ✓ Funds collected through this scheme will be directed towards financing green initiatives such as renewable energy.



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BOB IN NEWS 2023-24

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the BoB Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme, aimed at raising deposits for financing eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors.
- Bank of Baroda (BOB) said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on it due to a shortfall in soiled note remittances.
- > Bank of Baroda (BoB) has raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of long-term infrastructure bonds.
- Bank of Baroda's wholly-owned subsidiary for cards, 'BOB Financial Solutions Limited', has been rebranded as 'BOBCARD Limited' with the tagline "Credit Reimagined".
- Bank of Baroda has launched the Bob LITE Savings Account, a lifetime zero-balance savings bank account, as part of its festive campaign.
- > Bank of Baroda launched its new 'bob-360 deposit scheme'.
- RBI has taken a significant step to address supervisory concerns by ordering Bank of Baroda (BoB) to immediately halt the onboarding of new customers onto their mobile app, 'bob World.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has enabled the UPI ATM facility at over 6,000 ATMs across the country.
- Debadatta Chand has assumed charge as the managing director and chief executive officer of Bank of Baroda (BoB).
- BoB introduces the BoB LITE Savings Account, offering customers the flexibility of a lifetime no minimum balance requirement.
- Bank of Baroda (BOB)
- Founded : 1908
- Founder : Sayajirao Gaekwad III
- Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat
- MD & CEO : Debadatta Chand
- > Tagline : India's International Bank

Q. Which bank has introduced 'PayWear,' a new wearable payment solution, available on Mastercard?

A) Bandhan Bank

B) ICICI Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) IndusInd Bank

Answer : D

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 \checkmark IndusInd Bank has introduced 'Indus PayWear,' a new wearable payment solution, available on Mastercard.

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- ✓ These wearables enable users to tokenise their IndusInd Bank cards for tap-and-pay transactions at contactless Point-of-Sale (PoS) terminals worldwide.
- ✓ Indus Paywear aims to deliver unparalleled flexibility, convenience, and security to users. It is a fine example of how Mastercard leverages its expertise to allow consumers the power to choose between and make payments using their favorite wearable device.

INDUSIND BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- > IndusInd Bank has introduced 'Indus PayWear,' a new wearable payment solution, available on Mastercard.
- > IndusInd Bank Introduces 'Samman RuPay Credit Card' for Government Employees.
- > IndusInd Bank Introduces 'Indus Solitaire Program' for the Diamond Industry.
- IndusInd Bank Launches 'IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card' on UPI.
- > IndusInd Bank has agreed to a multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC). The deal is set to be valued at \$20-24 million (approximately Rs 160-200 crore).
- > Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for Poonawalla Fincorp's collaboration with IndusInd Bank to issue a co-branded credit card.
- > IndusInd Bank has launched the 'IndusInd Bank eSvarna', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.
- IndusInd Bank
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : S.P. Hinduja
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia
- Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer
- Which organization has received \$24.5 million from Green Climate Fund (GCF) for anchored project Q. 'Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF)'?

A) SEBI **B) SIDBI**

C) NABARD **D) IRDAI**

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Answer: B

- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has received \$24.5 million from Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its maiden anchored project 'Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF)' valued at \$120 million.
- ✓ GCF, a pivotal component of the historic Paris Agreement, is the world's largest climate fund.
- ✓ The primary aim of the ASF project is to invest in early-stage companies harnessing technology-led innovation to spur climate solutions and sustainability in India
- ✓ Anticipated outcomes include significant contributions to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and the enhancement of resilience in vulnerable sectors of the Indian economy.
- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- ✓ Founded : 2 April 1990
- ✓ Headquarteres : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Chairman & MD : Siva S Ramann
- Q. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of a financial technology company, Garagepreneurs Internet Pvt Ltd with which Small Finance Bank?
 - A) North East Small Finance Bank Limited
 - B) Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited
 - C) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited
 - D) AU Small Finance Bank Limited

Answer : A

✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of a financial technology company, Garagepreneurs Internet Pvt Ltd with the North East Small Finance Bank.

✓ The proposed transaction comprises the merger of a financial technology company, GIPL (including Quadrillion Finance Pvt Ltd (QFPL) (an NBFC-SI-ICC) and Intergalactory Foundry Pvt Ltd (IFPL) with North-East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) (including RGVN (North-East) Microfinance Ltd (RGVN)), pursuant to the composite scheme of amalgamation to be filed before the jurisdictional National Company Law Tribunal and certain related transactions.

Q. Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL) has completed India's largest Solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project in which state?

A) Bihar	B) Jharkhand
C) Chhattisgarh	D) Andhra Pradesh



Answer : C

✓ Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL), a subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), has completed India's largest Solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project at Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh.

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- ✓ It comprises a 100 MW Solar PV Project and a 120 MWh Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- TPSSL secured the Rs 945 crore project from SECI in December 20 21, handling engineering, construction, and commissioning of the project.
- The project anticipates generating 243.53 million energy units annually, cutting carbon emissions by 4.87 million tonnes over 25 years, aligning with India's renewable energy targets.
- ✓ Tata AutoComp Systems Limited supplied the BESS, reflecting a commitment to excellence and collaboration
- Q. Who has been selected as the new Election Commissioner?

A) Sukhbir Sandhu	B) Gyanesh Kumar
C) Rajeev Sinha	D) Both (A) and (B)

Answer : D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's led three-member selection panel appointed Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as the new Election Commissioners in the Election Commission of India. However, the Opposition member of the panel, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, expressed his dissent, questioning the process adopted for the appointment of the Election Commission members.
- ✓ The new members have been appointed under the newly enacted Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act 2023; The act has been challenged in the Supreme Court.
- Election Commission of India
- The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body constituted on 25 January 1950 under Article 324 of the constitution. It consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and other members as the President may appoint.



✓ At present, the Election Commission of India consists of three members. The Chief Election Commissioner is Rajiv Kumar. The other Election Commissioner, Arun Goel, recently resigned from his post, while Anup Pandey retired on 15 February 2024.

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- ✓ Term of the Election Commission members
- ✓ The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners hold office for six years from the date they assume their office or until they attain sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ About the new Election Commissioner
- ✓ Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu are both retired IAS officers. Gyanesh Kumar retired as the Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperation.Sukhbir Singh Sandhu retired as the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ Appointment of the Election Commissioner
- ✓ According to the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act 2023, the members of the Election Commissions are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a search committee.
- \checkmark The search committee consists of
- ✓ Prime Minister as the Chairperson of the committee
- ✓ A Union Cabinet minister appointed by the Prime Minister as a member.
- ✓ Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha as a member;

Who has been honored with the award of Outstanding Male Cricketer of the Year for New Zealand? **Q**.

- A) Tim Southee
- **B)** Rachin Ravindra
- C) Daryl Mitchell
- D) Will Young

Answer : B

- ✓ Rachin Ravindra and Mellie Kerr were honored as New Zealand's outstanding male and female cricketers respectively at the ANZ New Zealand Cricket Awards ceremony held in Christchurch.
- ✓ Rachin was awarded the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal after being selected as the outstanding male cricketer. He has become the youngest player to receive this award.



Q. With the recent operationalization of 10 new Vande Bharat trains, how many Vande Bharat trains are now running across India?

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- A) 80 B) 90
- C) 99 D) 102

Answer : D

- ✓ After the recent induction of 10 new Vande Bharat trains in Ahmedabad, a total of 102 Vande Bharat trains are now running across India, covering more than 250 districts of the country.
- ✓ Vande Bharat is an indigenously designed and manufactured semi high speed, self-propelled train.
- ✓ The country's first 'Vande Bharat Express' train was flagged off by PM Narendra Modi on the New Delhi -Kanpur - Allahabad - Varanasi route in February 2019.
- Q. Why is March 14 celebrated as the International Day of Mathematics?
 - A) It commemorates the birth of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
 - B) It commemorates the establishment of the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
 - C) To recognize the mathematical constant, Pi.
 - D) To commemorate the invention of zero

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is celebrated every year on 14 March.
- ✓ About International Day of Mathematics:
- ✓ International Day of Mathematics, or Pi Day, is celebrated on March 14 every year to recognize the mathematical constant, Pi.
- ✓ The day is celebrated by mathematics enthusiasts and educators worldwide to recognize and appreciate the significance of mathematics in our lives.
- ✓ The theme of International Day of Mathematics 2024 is 'Playing with Math'.
- ✓ Why March 14?
- \checkmark The approximate value of Pi is 3.14.
- ✓ The date, when written in the format of month/day (3/14), matches the first three digits of the mathematical constant.
- ✓ UNESCO marked Pi Day as the 'International Day of Mathematics' during its general conference in 2019.



✓ Mathematician and physicist Albert Einstein, known for the "General Theory Of Relativity," was born on Pi Day in 1879.

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- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Atmospheric Research Testbed:
 - 1. It is established by the Indian Space Research Organisation.
 - 2. It will have in-situ instruments to provide observations of convection, clouds and precipitation. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 only B) 2 only
 - C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, Minister of Earth Sciences virtually inaugurated the first phase of the Atmospheric Research Testbed in Central India (ART-CI) in Schore district in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ It is established by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), MoES at Silkheda for better understanding on processes governing monsoon convection.
- ART-CI will have an extensive set of remote-sensing and in-situ instruments that will provide continuous observations of convection, clouds, precipitation, soil moisture, radiation, microphysics to capture major modes of variability.
- A Ka-band cloud radar and a C-band doppler weather radar will also help track the movement of rainbearing systems over this zone.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the Devin AI: Q.
 - 1. It is the world's first AI software engineer.
 - 2. It has been developed by Google for software development.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

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

Answer : A

✓ A US-based company called Cognition has announced the launch of a new artificial intelligence chatbot called Devin which it claims to be world's first fully autonomous AI software engineer.

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- ✓ It is the world's first AI software engineer.
- ✓ What can Devin do?
- ✓ The AI agent comes with some advanced capabilities in software development, including coding, debugging, problem-solving, etc.
- It uses machine learning algorithms to constantly learn and improve its performance and adapt according to new challenges.
- Q. Who has been honored with the 'IAA Golden Compass Award 2024?
 - A) Sreelakshmi Suresh B) Srinivasan Swamy
 - C) Peyush Bansal

Answer : B

- ✓ Srinivasan Swamy receives 2024 IAA Golden Compass Award
- Srinivasan K. Swamy, CMD of integrated marketing services company RK Swami Ltd. has been presented with IAA Goden Compass Award at the 45th IAA World Congress held in Penang, Malaysia.

D) Divya Gandotra Tandon

- ✓ Penang Governor Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak presented the award to Mr. Swamy.
- ✓ The award honours those who have significantly contributed to the world stage in the field of marketing, advertising and media
- ✓ This is the first time this award is being bestowed upon an Indian industry leader.
- ✓ About the International Advertising Association (IAA)
- ✓ Established- 1938
- ✓ Headquarters- New York, USA
- Q. India's Vishnu Saravanan won the gold medal at the Europa Cup 2024 in the ILCA 7 category in Mallorca, Spain. He is related to which sport?
 - A) Tennis

B) Sailing

C) Badminton

D) Hockey

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian sailor Vishnu Saravanan won the gold medal at the Europa Cup 2024 in the ILCA 7 category in Mallorca, Spain.
- The event was organised by Reial Club Nautic Port de Pollenca. Saravanan topped the 91-boat race with 17 net points.

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- ✓ Australia's Lawson McAullay won the bronze with 22 net points at the event.
- The ILCA7 is a category within the ILCA -International Laser Class Association sailing class. \checkmark
- ✓ Saravanan became the first Indian sailor to qualify for successive Olympics
- Who has been appointed as thenew Director General of Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Q. **Association (ISMA)?**

A) Sanjay Kumaran

B) Deepak Ballani

C) Trishneet Arora

D) Utkarsh Kawatra

Answer : B

- ✓ Industry body Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has announced the appointment of Deepak Ballani as its new Director General.
- \checkmark With over 25 years of extensive experience in public policy, government affairs, and organizational management, Ballani assumes this pivotal role with a wealth of expertise.
- ✓ Prior to joining ISMA, Ballani served as the Director General at the All-India Plastics Manufacturers Association, where he spearheaded policy advocacy, government affairs management, and international partner management
- Q. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on which bank for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms in March 2024?
 - A) Bank of India **B)** Karur Vyasya Bank
 - C) Bank of Baroda

D) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms.
- ✓ It has also imposed a penalty of Rs 29.55 lakh on private sector lender Bandhan Bank for non-compliance with certain directions.
- ✓ The penalty on Bank of India has been imposed for non-compliance with the RBI's directions related to 'interest rate on deposits', 'customer service in banks', 'interest rate on advances', and contravention of provisions of Credit Information Companies Rules 2006.
- ✓ The RBI said statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of the bank was conducted by it with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

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BOI IN NEWS 2023-24

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for noncompliance with certain regulatory norms.
- Former LIC Chairman M.R. Kumar has been appointed as part-time non-official director and nonexecutive chairman of Bank of India (BOI).
- Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.
- > Bank of India has inaugurated its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT SEZ area in Gandhinagar
- Rajneesh Karnatak has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the Bank of India (BOI) with effect from April 29, 2023.
- ➢ He replaces Atanu Kumar Das.
- \triangleright
- Bank of India has launched a 'Centralized Pool Buy-Out and Co-Lending Cell' to boost priority sector lending in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Bank of India, one of the largest public sector banks (PSBs) in the country, has become the first bank to officially roll out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme..
- Bank of India (BOI)
- Founded : 7 September 1906
- Founder : Ramnarain Ruia
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- MD & CEO : Rajneesh Karnatak
- > Tagline : Relationship beyond Banking

PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for noncompliance with certain regulatory norms.
- 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

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Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.

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- > 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 or ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

Consider the following statements with reference to the Human Development Index: Q.

1. It is released by the World Economic Forum.

2. It measures country's average achievements in three basic aspects namely health, knowledge and standard of living.

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

222

Answer : B



✓ India has moved up a rank on the global Human Development Index (HDI), according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report 'Breaking the gridlock: Reimagining cooperation in a polarised world' released on March 13.

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- ✓ It is a summary composite measure of a country's average achievements in three basic aspects of human development: health, knowledge and standard of living.
- ✓ It is a measure of a country's average achievements in three dimensions of human development:
- a long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth; \checkmark
- knowledge, as measured by mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling; and \checkmark
- a decent standard of living, as measured by GNI per capita in PPP terms in US\$. \checkmark
- ✓ The HDI sets a minimum and a maximum for each dimension, called "goalposts", then shows where each country stands in relation to these goalposts.
- ✓ This is expressed as a value between 0 and 1. The higher a country's human development, the higher its HDI value.
- ✓ The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions.
- The HDI also embodies Amartya Sen's "capabilities" approach to understand human well-being, which emphasizes the importance of ends (like a decent standard of living) over means (like income per capita).
- Since 1990, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been publishing the Human \checkmark Development Report every year and HDI is part of this report.
- What is the rank of India in the recently released Global Human Development Index? Q.

A) 110	B) 144
C) 125	D) 134

Answer : D

- ✓ India's ranking on the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) improved by one position in 2022 to 134 out of 193 countries ranked compared to 135 out of 191 countries in 2021.Switzerland has been ranked number one.
- ✓ The Human Development Index (HDI)
- ✓ About
- \checkmark It is a statistical composite (first published in 1990 by the UNDP) index, which measures average achievement of a country in 3 basic dimensions
- Background \checkmark

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✓ It was developed by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and is now used to assess a country's development as part of the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report.

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- ✓ Along with HDI, HDR also presents:
- ✓ Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI),
- ✓ Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI),
- ✓ Gender Inequality Index(GII) since 2010 and
- ✓ Gender Development Index (GDI) since 2014.
- ✓ Th HDI also embodies Amartya Sen's "capabilities" approach to understand human well-being, which emphasizes the importance of ends (like a decent standard of living) over means (like income per capita).
- ✓ Key Highlights of the HDR 2023/24 India specific
- \checkmark Theme of the report
- ✓ Recently released 2023/24 Human Development Report (HDR) was titled as "Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World."
- ✓ India's ranking
- \checkmark India ranked 135 in 2021. It had moved up to 134 in 2022.
- ✓ India in the medium human development category
- ✓ Between 1990 and 2022, the country saw its HDI value increase by 48.4 percent, from 0.434 in 1990 to 644 in 2022.
- ✓ India's performance on various indicators
- ✓ India's life expectancy at birth has slightly improved from 67.2 years in 2021 to 67.7 years in 2022.
- ✓ There is an overall increase (5.88%) in expected years of schooling (EYS) from 11.9 years to 12.6 years, leading to an improvement of 18 places.
- ✓ Gross National Income (GNI) per capita also improved from \$6,542 to \$6,951.
- ✓ Performance of India's neighbourhood
- ✓ Sri Lanka has been ranked much ahead at 78, while China is ranked 75, both categorised under the High Human Development category.
- ✓ Bhutan stands at 125 and Bangladesh at 129th position.
- Nepal (146) and Pakistan (164) have been ranked lower than India. \checkmark
- ✓ India has also shown progress in reducing gender inequality and ranks 108 out of 166 countries in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022

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With whom has the Government of India signed a loan agreement to strengthen the Fintech eco Q. system in India?

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

Answer: B

- ✓ Government of India and ADB have signed a \$23 million loan agreement to strengthen the fintech ecosystem in India.
- ✓ Under this, an International Fintech Institute (IFI) will be established to strengthen fintech education, boost start-up success rate and promote fintech research and innovation.

ADB IN NEWS 2023-24

- ▶ Government of India and ADB have signed a \$23 million loan agreement to strengthen the fintech ecosystem in India.
- > India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have collaboratively signed a \$181 million loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding Ahmedabad city in Gujarat.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently appointed Mio Oka as the new director of the bank in India, replacing Takeo Konishi.
- Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- > India, ADB sign \$200 million loan agreement for Uttarakhand power system project.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- ▶ India & ADB sign \$400 million loan to support urban reform agenda.
- > ADB to Support Improvement of Urban Infrastructure and Services in Peri-urban Areas of Ahmedabad, India.
- > ADB Capital Management Reforms Bring \$100 Billion Benefits Over Next Decade to Asia-Pacific.



Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.

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- > The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million).
- ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- > ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) \geq
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- > HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian)
- Director of ADB for India : Mio Oka (Japan)
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- > ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- > It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside. \triangleright

Q.	Which team won the Ranji Tro	ophy 2024 title?
	A) Uttar Pradesh	B) Mumbai

C) Vidarbha

D) Bihar

Answer : B



✓ Mumbai won the Ranji Trophy 2024 by defeating Vidarbha by 169 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

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- ✓ Mumbai has won the Ranji title after 8 years.
- ✓ With this, Mumbai also won its 42nd title in the first class tournament.
- Ajinkya Rahane has also become the 26th captain of Mumbai to win the Ranji Trophy.
- Which state's cabinet has approved to rename Ahmednagar district as Ahilya Nagar after the 18th-Q. century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar?

A) Assam

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Maharashtra

D) Chhattisgarh

Answer : C

- ✓ The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved to rename Ahmednagar district as Ahilya Nagar after the 18thcentury Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- ✓ The proposal to rename the city was first announced by Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde in May last year on the 298th birth anniversary of the 18th-century queenAhilyabai Holkar.
- ✓ Following the approval, Curry Road will be renamed Lalbaug, Sandhurst Road will now be known as Dongri, and Marine Lines will be renamed Mumbadevi.
- ✓ Others including Cotton Green station will be renamed Kalachowki, Charni Road will be renamed Girgaon, Dockyard Road to Mazgaon, and King Circle will be renamed Tirthakar Parshivnath.

RECENTLY RENAMED IN NEWS 2023 -24

- Maharashtra Cabinet has approved to rename Ahmednagar district as Ahilya Nagar after the 18thcentury Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- > Ayodhya Junction renamed as Ayodhya Dham Junction before historic Ram Mandir Consecration.
- > The old parliament building will be called "Samvidhan Sadan (Constitution House),".
- > Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir formally renamed Udhampur railway station after local hero martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan.
- > Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society renamed as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society, New Delhi.
- Central government renamed the Mughal Gardens in New Delhi's Rashtrapati Bhavan as 'Amrit Udyan'.



Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village located in Bhopal district has been renamed as Jagdishpur.

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- Ahmednagar renamed Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar, Maharashtra.
- Coastal Road in Mumbai renamed after Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, Maharashtra.
- > Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) renamed as Promotion of Prime Minister's Heritage (PM Vikas) Scheme.
- IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (AMC) to be renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund as SEBI approves change in ownership.
- > Maharashtra's Bandra-Versova sea route in Mumbai will be renamed as 'Veer Savarkar Bandra-Versova Sagari Setu'.
- > Churchgate Railway Station in Mumbai will now be known as First Indian RBI Governor CD Deshmukh.
- Union Government Approved Renaming of Aurangabad & Osmanabad in Maharashtra.
- > Philips Domestic Appliances has announced the change of its company name to Versuni.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village, situated in the Bhopal district, has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- > On Parakram Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participate in a ceremony to name 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Edelweiss General Insurance rebranded itself as Zuno General Insurance.

Q.	Consider the following:	
	1. India	2. Australia
	3. United States of America	4. New Zealand
	5. Japan	
	How many of the above are members of	The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)?
	A) Only two	B) Only three
	C) Only four	D) All five
Ans	wer : D	



 Recently, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry joined the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Virtual Ministerial Meeting.

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- ✓ It is a regional arrangement to build cooperation and economic integration in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ It was launched in May 2022.
- This framework is intended to advance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness for member economies.
- ✓ IPEF will seek to complement and build on existing regional architecture and support the global rules-based trading system.
- Member countries: It has 14 regional partners Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam.
- ✓ The economic framework broadly rests on four pillars: Trade, Supply chain resilience, Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Infrastructure Taxes and anti-corruption measures
- ✓ The IPEF is not a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), but it allows members to negotiate the parts they want to.
- ✓ India and IPEF:
- ✓ India has been actively participating in the IPEF, but not in all pillars.
- India has decided to opt out of the trade pillar of the IPEF as most issues promoted by the IPEF do not align with India's trade policies.
- Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of Sagar Parikrama?
 - A) To encourage tourism along the coastal belt
 - B) To conduct scientific research on marine life
 - C) To create awareness of various schemes of the Government available to fishermen in coastal areas

D) To carry out deep ocean exploration of non-living resources such as polymetallic manganese nodules

Answer : C

- ✓ The Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying will release a book and video on "Sagar Parikrama".
- ✓ About Sagar Parikrama:
- ✓ It is an outreach program intended to reach out fishermen community across the entire coastal belt of the country through a predetermined sea route.

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The initiative has been launched to understand the issues, experiences, and aspirations of fishermen and also to create awareness of various schemes and programs of the Government available to fishermen in coastal areas.

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- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
- The Sagar Parikrama Yatra spanned over 12 captivating phases in just 44 days. The Yatra meticulously navigated the diverse coastal tapestry of India, covering an impressive coastal length of 7,986 Kilometres out of 8,118 Kilometres, touching 3,071 fishing villages in 80 coastal districts of all the Coastal States/UTs.
- During the Sagar Parikrama events, certificates and sanctions related to the Pradhan Mantri Matsya \checkmark Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) were awarded to progressive fishermen, fish farmers, and young fishery entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Literature on various schemes, including PMMSY, KCC, and others, was disseminated through print media, electronic media, videos, and digital campaigns to raise awareness among fishers.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the World Gold Council (WGC): Q.

1. It is an intergovernmental organization whose members comprise the world's largest gold producers.

2. It was established to promote the use of and demand for gold through marketing, research, and lobbying.

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

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bought 8.7 tonne of gold in January, making it the largest purchase by the central bank since July 2022, according to World Gold Council data.
- ✓ About World Gold Council (WGC):
- ✓ It is the market development organisation for the gold industry.
- ✓ WGC is a nonprofit association formed in 1987 whose members comprise the world's leading and most forward-thinking gold mining companies.
- \checkmark The WGC was established to promote the use of and demand for gold through marketing, research, and lobbying.



✓ Headquartered in London, with operations in India, China, Singapore, and the USA, the WGC covers the markets which comprise about three-quarters of the world's annual gold consumption.

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- ✓ The WGC is also the global authority on gold, and they offer comprehensive analyses of the industry.
- It also co-sponsors research in the development of new uses for gold, or of new products containing gold. \checkmark
- WGC was the creator of the first gold exchange-traded fund \checkmark
- Consider the following statements with reference to the National Mission for Edible Oils-Oil Palm Q. (NMEO-OP):

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which targets a substantial increase in oil palm cultivation and crude palm oil production.

2. It aims to increase the area of oil palm to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister recently inaugurated the first Oil Palm Processing Mill under Mission Palm Oil in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ About National Mission for Edible Oils Oil Palm (NMEO-OP):
- ✓ Launched by the Government of India in 2021, NMEO-OP targets a substantial increase in oil palm cultivation and crude palm oil production.
- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with a focus on increasing the area and productivity of oilseeds and Oil Palm.
- ✓ Scheme Outlay: A financial outlay of Rs. 11,040 crores have been made for the scheme, out of which Rs. 8,844 crore is the Government of India share and Rs. 2,196 crore is the State share, and this includes the viability gap funding also.
- ✓ Targets:
- ✓ To increase the area of oil palm to 10 lakh hectares from 3.5 lakh ha during 2019-20 by 2025-26 (an additional 6.50 lakh ha).
- To increase the Crude Palm Oil production from 0.27 lakh tonnes during 2019-20 to 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26.



- Increase consumer awareness to maintain a consumption level of 19.00 kg/person/annum till 2025-26.
- The State Department of Agriculture, State Department of Horticulture, Central University, ICAR-Institutions, CDDs, SAUs, KVKs, Central Agencies/Cooperatives, Oil palm processors/ Associations, DD Kisan, AIR, DD, TV channels will be the implementing stake holders of the NMEO-Oil palm.

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Features: The salient features of NMEO-OP include assistance for planting material, inputs for intercropping upto gestation period of 4 years and for maintenance, establishment of seed gardens, nurseries, micro irrigation, bore well/pumpset/water harvesting structure, vermi compost units, solar pumps, harvesting tools, custom hiring centre cum harvester Groups, farmers and officers training, and for replanting of old oil palm gardens etc.

B) NITI Aayog

D) V-DEM Institute

Q. The recently discussed 'Democracy Report 2024' has been released by which of the following?

- A) Reporters Without Borders
 - C) UNDP

Answer : D

- ✓ In the 'Democracy Report 2024' report released by V-Dem Institute, India has been downgraded on several metrics related to democratic freedom.
- ✓ The Dame Institute tracks democratic freedoms around the world.
- ✓ The V-Dem Institute (Varieties of Democracy) was founded in 2014 by Staffan Lindberg. Staffan Lindberg is a Swedish political expert.
- With whom has the Ministry of Rural Development signed an agreement with the aim of making Q. women self-reliant?
 - A) J-Pal
 - **B) NITI Aayog**
 - C) World Bank D) Asian Development Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has signed an MoU with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), South Asia.
- ✓ J-PAL will act as a knowledge partner on inclusive development to bring rural poor women on the path to self-reliance.

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✓ J-PAL is a global research center that works on poverty issues.



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Q. Who has become the new Chairman and Managing Director of Northern Coalfields Limited?

A) Ajay Kala

C) B Sairam

D) VK Sinha

B) Ramesh Chandra Sharma

Answer : C

- ✓ B Sairam has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), the Singrauli-based major subsidiary of Coal India Limited.
- ✓ Sairam has 33 years of service experience in the coal sector

Q. When is World Consumer Rights Day celebrated every year?

- A) 13 March B) 14 March
- C) 15 March

Answer : C

✓ World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on 15 March to create more awareness about consumer rights.

D) 16 March

- \checkmark On this day, people discuss measures to create awareness about consumer rights.
- ✓ This is different from National Consumer Rights Day.
- Q. PM Modi has recently launched the PM-SURAJ portal national portal to uplift and empower the most marginalized or backward segments of society. What is the full form of PM-SURAJ Portal?
 - A) Pradhan Mantri Samakisha Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan
 - B) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Samajik Adharit Jankalyan
 - C) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Urban and Rural Adharit Jankalyan
 - D) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan

Answer : D

- ✓ The Prime Ministe has launched the PM-SURAJ portal 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' national portal and also sanctioned credit support to one lakh entrepreneurs of disadvantaged sections.
- ✓ About PM-SURAJ portal
- ✓ PM-SURAJ is a nationwide initiative aimed at uplifting and empowering the most marginalised or backward segments of society.

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Through the PM-SURAJ national portal, credit support will be provided to eligible individuals across the \checkmark country. This support will be facilitated through banks, NBFC-MFIs and other organisations.

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- ✓ Under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) the Prime Minister also distributed Ayushman health cards and PPE kits to sewer and septic tank workers.
- ✓ This initiative shows another step towards safeguarding and assuring the health and safety of frontline workers who work in challenging conditions.
- \checkmark It should be noted that the programme had the participation of about 300,000 beneficiaries from disadvantaged groups in over 500 districts across the country, who were part of various government schemes.

Q. "Dragonfire" which was seen in the news recently. What is this?

A) Nuclear weapon	B) Anti-Submarine
C) Laser weapon	D) Cyclone

Answer : C

- ✓ The UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) has conducted successful tests of its first-ever laser weapon, named "DragonFire".
- ✓ The high-powered laser is designed to target and neutralize drones, offering a potentially low-cost alternative to traditional missiles.
- ✓ The DragonFire laser weapon is expected to significantly reduce the reliance on expensive ammunition, offering a cost-effective solution for air defense.
- ✓ According to the UK government, firing the laser for just 10 seconds costs the equivalent of using a heater for an hour, typically less than £10 per shot. This cost efficiency makes it a promising option for military operations.
- Max India Ltd has signed an MoU with which IIT for senior citizen care? Q.
 - A) IIT Delhi

B) IIT Madras

C) IIT Kanpur

D) IIT Bombay

Answer : A

✓ Max India Ltd, an integrated service provider for senior care needs, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi).

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- ✓ This partnership aims to develop offerings tailored specifically for the senior demographic.
- ✓ Max India Ltd is the wholly owned subsidiary of Antara Assisted Care Services Limited.
- Q. Reserve Bank of India has issued notices to _____ to stop issuing new co-branded cards.
 A) Yes Bank, HDFC Bank B) HDFC Bank, South Indian Bank
 C) IDFC First Bank, South Indian Bank D) Federal Bank, South Indian Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI bars Federal Bank, South Indian Bank from issuing co-branded credit cards
- ✓ Following the directions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday, private sector lenders Federal Bank and South Indian Bank stopped issuing co-branded credit cards to new customers on account of regulatory deficiencies.
- ✓ South Indian Bank said that it will not onboard new customers on their co-branded credit cards until it is fully compliant with directions under RBI Master Direction on Credit Card and Debit Card issuance.
- ✓ However, the lender added that it will continue to service the existing customers who hold co-branded credit cards.
- ✓ South Indian Bank has one co-branded credit card in partnership with State Bank of India (SBI), which is available in two variants SimplySAVE and Platinum





Aparchit March 3rd Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold how much percent stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore?

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A) 3%	B) 2%
C) 5%	D) 9%

Answer : B

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold a 2% stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore.
- ✓ The private sector lender sold 3,470,000 shares of KFin Technologies at Rs 600.28 a share, bulk deals data on the BSE showed.
- ✓ As of December end, Kotak Mahindra Bank held a 9.80% stake in KFin Technologies.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank invested Rs 310 crore in KFin Technologies in September 2021.

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold a 2% stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore.
- > 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.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Partners with IITK to Launch Kotak School of Sustainability. The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- > Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.
- ➤ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty or ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

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- 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.	SIMA, an AI gaming agent, is developed by:	
	A) Google	B) Facebook
	C) Microsoft	D) OpenAI

Answer : A

- ✓ Google DeepMind revealed its latest AI gaming agent called SIMA which can follow natural language instructions to perform tasks across video game environments.
- Scalable Instructable Multiworld Agent (SIMA) as an AI Agent which can process data and take action themselves.
- ✓ It can be called a generalist AI Agent that is capable of doing different kinds of tasks.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is like a virtual buddy who can understand and follow instructions in all sorts of virtual environments from exploring mysterious dungeons to building lavish castles.
- \checkmark It can accomplish tasks or solve challenges assigned to it.
- ✓ It "understands" your commands as it has been trained to process human language
- ✓ One distinct feature of this AI Agent is that it is capable of learning and adapting.



 \checkmark However, SIMA goes beyond that and can follow instructions in a variety of game settings. This could potentially introduce more helpful AI agents for other environments.

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- ✓ Google has partnered with game developers to train SIMA on a variety of video games.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ETHANOL 100 fuel:
 - 1. It has a very low octane rating.
 - 2. It can be used in Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) designed to run on gasoline.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs, launched 'ETHANOL 100, a revolutionary automotive fuel at Indian Oil Retail Outlet.
- \checkmark It has a high-octane rating, typically between 100-105.
- ✓ It proves ideal for high-performance engines, ensuring improved efficiency and power output all while minimizing environmental impact.
- ✓ Moreover, ETHANOL 100's versatility shines through, as it can be used in a wide array of vehicles, including Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) designed to run on gasoline, ethanol, or any blend of the two.
- ✓ It includes 93-93.5 percent ethanol blended with 5 percent petrol and 1.5 percent co-solvent, which is a binder.
- ✓ What are flex-fuel vehicles?
- ✓ These are designed to run on a variety of fuels.
- ✓ These are equipped with an internal combustion engine (ICE) which can run on petrol or ethanol or methanol, giving consumers choice at the point of sale of the fuel.
- ✓ Apart from a few modifications, flex fuel vehicles are similar to petrol-only cars.
- India has signed a 181 million dollars loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve **Q**. urban livability and mobility in which city?

A) Guwahati

B) Ahmedabad

C) Bengaluru

D) Hyderabad

Answer : B

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✓ India has signed a 181 million dollars loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve urban livability and mobility in Ahmedabad.

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- ✓ The loan will fund development in areas transitioning from rural to urban, called Peri-urban areas.
- ✓ Under the Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project, 166 km of water distribution network, 126 km of climate-resilient stormwater drainage, 300 km of sewerage systems, and four sewage treatment plants will be constructed.
- The Project will also support 10 junction improvements along the existing Sardar Patel Ring Road to \checkmark improve connectivity of peri-urban areas to Ahmedabad.
- Q. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and which country on extending co-operation in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures?

A) Mauritius	B) Maldives
C) Sri Lanka	D) Bhutan

Answer : D

- ✓ India and Bhutan signed MoU in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures
- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of MoU between India and Bhutan on extending co-operation in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.
- ✓ The MoU was signed between Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India and Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan.

SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023-24

- India and Bhutan signed MoU in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.
- > India, Colombia sign MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions.
- India Signs Agreement for Lithium Exploration & Mining Project in Argentina. \triangleright
- Cabinet approves the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy \triangleright
- India and Italy sign Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to facilitate movement of workers.
- India-Japan pact on semiconductor supply chain gets Cabinet green light.
- India, Italy sign defence agreement.
- > India and Tanzania elevate ties to Strategic Partnership; Agree on 5 year roadmap for defence cooperation.
- India, Tanzania to sign 15 agreements with eye on USD 10 billion trade.

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- > India And Saudi Arabia Tie Up For Green Hydrogen.
- > India And Saudi Arabia Sign Agreement On Cooperation In Energy Sector.
- > India, New Zealand Sign MoU To Enhance Cooperation In Civil Aviation.
- India and Trinidad and Tobago have entered a partnership by signing an MoU to share INDIA STACK.
- India, Moldova agree to sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture
- India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.
- > India, Panama sign MoU on electoral cooperation.
- India and Singapore extend MoU on cooperation for 5 years.
- Israel signed an agreement with India to enhance technological advancements and sustainable practices cooperation in the fields of water and agriculture.
- > India and US To Establish Monitoring Group to Boost High-Tech Trade and Tech Partnership.
- > India and Australia Sign Agreements on Migration and Green Hydrogen Task Force.
- > India, Israel sign MoU for industrial research and development cooperation.
- > NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre to be jointly created by India-UK.
- > India, UK sign agreement to collaborate on science and innovation.
- > Nepal and India to Sign Agreement for Cross-Border Digital Payments.
- > India and Romania sign first Defence Cooperation Agreement to strengthen bilateral relations.
- > India, US to sign memorandum of understanding on semiconductors.
- > Australia, India agree on strengthening economic, defence ties.

Q. Which of the following has signed a financing pact with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for \$125 million to support financing in rural and peri-urban areas in India, particularly women borrowers?

- A) LIC Housing Finance
- **B) L&T Finance Holdings**
- C) HDFC Housing Finance
- D) Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Answer : B

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✓ L&T Finance Holdings Ltd (LTFH) has signed a financing pact with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for \$125 million to support financing in rural and peri-urban areas in India, particularly women borrowers.

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- ✓ Last November, LTFH had sourced \$125-million loan from Asian Development Bank, & as part of the cofinancing agreement, additional \$125-million loan is now raised from JICA.
- \checkmark At least 40% of the proceeds would be allocated to women borrowers, while the rest would be to support farmers and MSMEs, besides loans to purchase new two-wheeler vehicles, including electric two-wheelers.
- ✓ The project is strategically aligned with the goals of the Ministry of Rural Development as it focuses on lending in rural and peri-urban areas of lagging Indian states.

Q. Where was the India's first indoor athletics and aquatic centre inaugurated?

A) Bhubaneswar	B) Chennai
C) New Delhi	D) Jaipur

Answer : A

- ✓ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated India's first indoor athletics and aquatic centres at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneshwar, and laid the foundation stone for an indoor diving center.
- ✓ Costing Rs 120 crore, the stadium accommodates 120 athletes with coaching facilities, medical care, and a pantry.
- ✓ It features a 10,000 sq. meter track by Mondo SpA and hosts national and international events.
- ✓ It's a training hub for the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Centre, aimed at developing athletics nationwide.
- Q. Which ministry collaborated with IIT Roorkee in automotive and EV sector?
 - A) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
 - **B)** Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - C) Ministry of Heavy Industries
 - D) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Answer : C

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The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.

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- ✓ The two ministries signed an MoU to promote innovation and advance the automotive and EV sector.
- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, witnessed the historic event
- Who has been appointed as the new prime minister of Palestine? 0.
 - A) Mohammad Mustafa **B)** Salam Fayyad
 - C) Mohammad Abu Jayyab D) Mohammed Shtayyeh

Answer : A

- ✓ Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appointed Mohammad Mustafa as the new prime minister of Palestine.
- ✓ Mustafa is a political independent and economist who has been educated in the United States.
- \checkmark He is the economic advisor to Abbas.
- Mustafa will lead a technocratic government in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which could potentially administer Gaza before the state becomes independent.

NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS

- Mohammad Mustafa : Palestine
- Olzhas Bektenov : Kazakhstan
- ➢ Gabriel Attal : France.
- Donald Tusk : Poland
- Luke Frieden : Luxembourg
- Robert Fico : Slovakia
- Christopher Luxon : 42nd PM of New Zealand
- > Srettha Thavisin : Thailand
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani : Qatar \triangleright
- Li Qiang : China
- Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM : Equatorial Guinea
- Anwar Ibrahim : Malaysia



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- Benjamin Netanyahu : Israel
- ➢ Rishi Sunak : 57th PM of United Kingdom (UK)
- Q. The naval forces of which three countries launched a joint exercise near the Gulf of Oman?
 - A) China, Iran, and Russia B) India, USA and China
 - C) Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan D) Australia, Maldives and Russia

Answer : A

- ✓ The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman.
- ✓ The exercise, which began on March 11 and lasted until 15, is the fifth common military exercise between the three countries in recent years.
- ✓ The exercise aims to safeguard regional maritime security and strengthen maritime cooperation.
- ✓ The exercise is organized in three phases: harbor, sea, and summarize.
- The exercise focuses on anti-piracy and search and rescue training courses, and includes the participation of Russian warships and aviation.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman.
- The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- 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 exercis.
- > The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.

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- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- > It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- > 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Agreement on Pre-notification of the 'Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles':

1. It was signed between India and Pakistan immediately following the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.

2. It applies only to tests conducted with surface-to-surface ballistic missiles launched from land or sea.

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

- Pakistan recently urged India to comply with the timeline stipulated in the Agreement on pre-notification of flight testing of ballistic missiles as it took note of the first flight test of India's indigenously developed Agni-5 missile.
- ✓ About Agreement on Pre-notification of the 'Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles':
- ✓ It was signed between India and Pakistan on October 3, 2005.
- ✓ According to the pact, both countries are supposed to send each other an 'advance notification' of the flight test that they intend to undertake of any land or sea- launched, surface-to-surface ballistic missiles.
- ✓ Each country also has to ensure that the test launch sites don't fall within 40 km and the impact area isn't within 75 km of the International Boundary or the Line of Control along the side of the country undertaking the test.
- Q. With reference to the African Development Bank (AfDB), consider the following statements:
 - 1. It does not have members from outside the African continent.
 - 2. It is a financial provider to private companies investing in the Bank's regional member countries.
 - 3. Nigeria is the largest shareholder in the bank.

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How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one	B) Only two
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C) All three

Answer : B

✓ The head of the African Development Bank is calling for an end to loans given in exchange for the continent's rich supplies of oil or critical minerals used in smartphones and electric car batteries.

D) None

- ✓ About African Development Bank (AfDB):
- ✓ It is a regional multilateral development finance institution established to contribute to the economic development and social progress of African countries-the institution's regional member countries.
- ✓ The bank is also known as the Banque Africaine de Développement.
- ✓ It was founded following an agreement signed by member states in 1963 in Khartoum, Sudan, which became effective in 1964.
- Mission: To help reduce poverty, improve living conditions for Africans, and mobilize resources for the continent's economic and social development.
- ✓ AfDB seeks to stimulate and mobilize internal and external resources to promote investments as well as provide its regional member countries with technical and financial assistance.
- ✓ Headquarters: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- ✓ The AfDB Bank Group comprises three entities: the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund (ADF), and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF).
- ✓ Membership: It has 81 member countries: 54 from the African continent and the other 27 from other regions around the world.

✓ Shareholding:

- ✓ The shareholding of the Bank is 60%-40% between regional member countries and non-regional member countries respectively.
- ✓ Nigeria is the largest shareholder of AfDB.
- Q. Consider the following:
 - 1. Paper currency2. Promissory Note
 - 3. Bills of Exchange

How many of the above come under the ambit of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881?

4. Cheque



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A) Only one

C) Only three

B) Only two

D) All four

Answer : C

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently observed that mere filing of the cheque dishonor complaint under the Negotiable Instruments Act would not grant a right to a complainant to seek interim compensation.
- ✓ About Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881:
- ✓ It came into force on 1st March 1881, and it extends to the whole of India.
- ✓ It was enacted to provide a uniform legal framework for the use of negotiable instruments in India.
- ✓ A negotiable instrument is a piece of paper that guarantees the payment of a certain sum of money, either immediately upon demand or at any predetermined period, and whose payer is typically identified.
- ✓ Section 13 of the Act states that, "A negotiable instrument means a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque payable either to order or to bearer".
- ✓ However, no section of this act affects the usage of paper currency, which is governed by the Indian Paper Currency Act of 1871.
- ✓ The Act has been amended several times to ensure that it is in line with changing business practices and legal requirements.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the World Monuments Fund:
 - 1. It is an independent organization devoted to safeguarding the world's cultural heritage sites.
 - 2. It is headquartered in New York.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Eri (tank) network in the Kazhuveli watershed region in Villupuram district that comprises of an incredible network of tanks created thousands of years ago is to be proposed for nomination to the World Monuments Fund Watch 2025 programme.
- ✓ It is the leading independent organization devoted to safeguarding the world's most treasured places to enrich people's lives and build mutual understanding across cultures and communities.

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 \checkmark Since 1965, its global team of experts has preserved the world's diverse cultural heritage using the highest international standards at more than 700 sites in 112 countries.

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- ✓ Partnering with local communities, funders, and governments, WMF draws on heritage to address some of today's most pressing challenges: climate change, underrepresentation, imbalanced tourism, and post-crisis recovery.
- ✓ Headquarter: New York City
- ✓ In 2015, WMF India became the most recent entry to the World Monuments Fund family of affiliates, established under India's Companies Act, following the country's policy to include heritage conservation in corporate social responsibility programs.
- ✓ What is the World Monuments Watch?
- ✓ It is a nomination-based program that connects local heritage preservation to global awareness and action.
- ✓ Every two years, the Watch rallies support to places in need and the people who care for them, spotlighting new challenges.
- ✓ At its core, the Watch's call to action seeks to empower timely preservation efforts that improve the lives of communities.
- ✓ The 2025 Watch will include 25 places, each telling an urgent local story with global relevance
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has told the Supreme Court that a total____ of electoral bonds were Q. purchased by political parties between April 1, 2019 and February 15 this year, out of which _____were redeemed.

A) 22,217; 22,020 C) 22,217; 22,030

B) 22,207; 22,030 D) 22,117; 22,030

Answer : C

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) has told the Supreme Court that a total of 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased by political parties between April 1, 2019 and February 15 this year, out of which 22,030 were redeemed.
- ✓ In a compliance affidavit filed in the apex court, the SBI said as per the court's direction, it has made available the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India before the close of business hours on March 12.
- ✓ A total number of 22,217 bonds were purchased during the period April 1, 2019 till February 15, 2024.



✓ The affidavit said between April 1, 2019 to April 11, 2019, a total of 3,346 electoral bonds were purchased and 1,609 redeemed.

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- ✓ It further said from April 12, 2019 to February 15 this year, a total of 18,871 electoral bonds were purchased and 20,421 were redeemed.
- ✓ A Supreme Court judgment on February 15, 2024 had struck down the anonymous system of political funding called the 'electoral bonds scheme' while directing the SBI, which was the authorised one under the system, to disclose information about who bought the bonds for which political part

Q. According to RBI data, The share of private sector banks in total deposits has risen how much percent as of December 2023?

A) 34%	B) 36%
C) 38%	D) 40%

Answer : A

- ✓ The share of private sector banks in total deposits has risen significantly, reaching 34% as of December 2023, up from 25% at the end of the financial year 2017-18.
- ✓ This growth has been driven by aggressive interest rate offerings and improved customer relationship management strategies adopted by private banks.
- ✓ The share of public sector banks in the space has declined to 59% from 66% at the end of the financial year 2017-18, according to the Reserve Bank of India data.
- ✓ The ability of private banks to swiftly raise interest rates on fixed deposits has helped them increase their share in total deposits.
- ✓ Deposits of private banks grew by 135% to Rs 68.4 trillion as of December 2023, from Rs 29 trillion as of March 2018. Public sector banks increased their deposits by 40% to Rs 116.5 trillion as of December-end, from Rs 76.5 trillion as of March 2018.
- What are 'Agray' and 'Akshay', recently seen in the news? Q.
 - A) Anti-submarine warships
 - B) Climate monitoring satellite
 - C) Medicinal plant found mainly in South India
 - D) Newly discovered Exoplanets

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Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Navy launched ships 'Agray' and 'Akshay' to bolster anti-submarine capabilities.
- ✓ The Ministry of Defence contracted Kolkata-based PSU GRSE for eight ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC).
- ✓ GRSE built these ships, launched nearly five years post-contract signing.
- ✓ Named after former Abhay class corvettes, Neeta Chaudhary named them INS Agray and INS Akshay.
- \checkmark These are the fifth and sixth in the series.
- ✓ India's shipbuilding prowess enhances maritime security with modern capabilities

Q. Which day of the year is marked as the International Day of Action for Rivers?

A) 14 March	B) 15 March
C) 16 March	D) 13 March

Answer : A

- ✓ The International Day of Action for Rivers is celebrated every year on 14th of March.
- ✓ It was first marked in March 1997.
- ✓ The year 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Action for Rivers.
- ✓ Theme in 2024 is "Water for All".
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about the value and importance of rivers as well as bring together people from across the world to discuss and spread awareness about conserving rivers, river management, pollution, and equitable access to clean and flowing water.

Q. The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is event held on_

- A) 15 March B) 16 March
- C) 14 March

D) 13 March

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is observed every year on 14th of March.
- ✓ The theme for 2024 IDM is "Playing With Math".
- ✓ The day was initiated by the International Mathematical Union (IMU) to celebrate the beauty and importance of mathematics and its essential role in everyone's life.
- The 40th General Conference of UNESCO approved the Proclamation of March 14 as the International Day of Mathematics, on November 26, 2019.

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Q. In India, the National Vaccination Day is observed annually on which day?

A) 13 March B) 14 March

C) 15 March

D) 16 March

Answer : D

- In India, the National Vaccination Day (also known as National Immunisation Day (IMD)) is observed on 16 March ever year, to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation.
- ✓ The day was first observed in the year 1995. It was on March 16, 1995 that India started Pulse Polio Programme and the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.
- Q. With reference to T+0 Settlement, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It means that the funds and securities for a transaction will be settled on the day the trade was entered.

- 2. At present, all the transactions in the Indian securities markets operate on T+0 Settlement cycle.
- 3. Shorter settlement cycles are expected to mitigate counterparty risk and enhance market liquidity.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

 The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently approved the launch of the beta version of the T+0 settlement on an optional basis.

✓ About T+0 Settlement:

- ✓ T+0 settlement means that the funds and securities for a transaction will be settled on the day the trade was entered.
- ✓ At present, the Indian securities markets operate on a T+1 settlement cycle, where the settlement happens on the next day of trade.
- ✓ In 2002, the regulator cut down the settlement period from T+5 to T+3, and in 2003, SEBI further reduced it to T+2. In 2021, the T+1 settlement started and was gradually implemented, with the final phase completed in January 2023.
- ✓ The T+0 settlement cycle will now be offered as an alternative alongside T+1.
- ✓ Advantages:



✓ Instant receipt of funds and securities to the investor.

✓ It will eliminate the risk of any kind of settlement shortage and give greater control over funds and securities to the investor.

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- ✓ There is expected to be lower counterparty risk and increased liquidity in the market.
- ✓ Although the T+0 settlement system is not as common as T+1 or T+2 settlement cycles, there are a few countries and markets that have adopted T+0 settlement.
- ✓ The Moscow Exchange (MOEX), Korea Exchange (KRX), Taiwan Stock Exchange (TWSE), and Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX) offer T+0 settlements for certain types of trades and transactions.

SEBI IN NEWS 2023-24

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently approved the launch of the beta version of the T+0 settlement on an optional basis.
- > SEBI Extends Nomination Filing Deadline for Mutual Funds and Demat Accounts Until June 2024.
- SEBI Plans To Introduce Same Day Trade Settlement By March 2024.
- According to her, market participants have conveyed the necessity to initiate the process at T+0 and subsequently progress towards instantaneous settlement.
- > The regulatory body aims to achieve same-day settlement by the end of March 2024, marking a significant leap from the existing T+0 settlement cycle.
- > SEBI has granted approval for Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) to enhance their fundraising capabilities through the social stock exchange.
- > SEBI has decided to decrease the minimum issue size for public issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP) from Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh.
- Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has officially launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):
- > It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India established in 1988.
- > It is the regulator of the Capital market and Commodities market in India.
- \geq The first SEBI chairman was Dr S A Dave (1988-90)
- Madhabi Puri Buch is the current and 10th Chairperson of the SEBI.



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the ULLAS initiative:

- 1. It aims to provide basic education, digital and financial literacy to citizens aged 15 and above.
- 2. It is an initiative of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, is set to conduct the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) as part of the ULLAS
 Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram on 17th March 2024, across 23 states.
- ✓ The Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) initiative is poised to revolutionise education and literacy across the nation.
- ✓ It is done by fostering a learning ecosystem that reaches every individual, bridging the gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills.
- ✓ It imparts basic education, digital and financial literacy and critical life skills to citizens aged 15 and above who lost on the opportunity to go to school. It is being implemented through volunteerism.
- ✓ The objectives of the scheme is to impart not only Foundational Literacy and Numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21 st century such as
- Critical Life Skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare);
- ✓ Vocational Skills Development (with a view towards obtaining local employment);
- ✓ Basic Education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency)
- ✓ Continuing Education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).
- ✓ ULLAS app which is user-friendly and interactive app available both on android and ios.



✓ It will serve as a digital gateway for learners to engage in diverse learning resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.

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- ✓ The ULLAS app can be used for registration of learners and volunteers either through self-registration or by surveyors.
- Which company will buy 13% of Paramount's stake in Viacom18 for Rs 4,286 crore? Q.
 - A) Reliance industries
- **B)** Wipro Group
- C) Tata Group D) Adani Group

Answer : A

- ✓ Reliance to buy 13% of Paramount's stake in Viacom18 for Rs 4,286 crore
- ✓ India's largest private company Reliance Industries has entered in a binding agreement to buy Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).
- ✓ The stake in Viacom18 was held by Paramount Global through its two subsidiaries.
- ✓ Viacom18 is a subsidiary of TV18 Broadcast, which holds preferencial shares worth 57.48% in the company.
- ✓ Post the transaction, TV18 Broadcast's stake in Viacom18 will increase to 70.49%. Viacom18 has 40 television channels, including Comedy Central, Nickelodeon and MTV.
- ✓ This transaction is subject to completion of Reliance's previously announced merger with Walt Disney for their India TV and streaming media assets

RIL IN NEWS 2023-24

- > India's largest private company Reliance Industries has entered in a binding agreement to buy Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).
- > 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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- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- Founded : 8 May 1973
- Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani
- > Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- CMD : Mukesh Ambani
- Owner : Mukesh Ambani (50.49%)
- Director : Nita Dalal Ambani
- Subsidiaries
- Jio Platforms (67.03%)
- ➢ Jio Payments Bank (70%).
- At Rs 19 lakh crore or \$250 billion, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries's market capitalisation.

Q. Union Minister Arjun Munda laid the foundation stone of 'Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Culture and Heritage' in which state?

A) Bihar	B) Jharkhand
C) Assam	D) Tripura

Answer : B

✓ Union Minister of Tribal Affairs; Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Arjun Munda recently laid the foundation stone of 'Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Culture and Heritage' in Kharsawan district of Jharkhand through virtual medium.

- ✓ A budget of Rs 10 crore has been allocated for the establishment of this centre.
- Q. Pandavula Gutta, a Geo Heritage site recently seen in news, is located in:
 - A) Telangana B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Maharashtra

D) Karnataka

Answer : A

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- ✓ Recently, Pandavula Gutta has been officially recognised as the sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana.
- \checkmark It is a geological marvel older than the Himalayan hills.
- ✓ It is located in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district in Telangana is home to many prehistoric habitation sites.

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- \checkmark This site was first discovered in the year 1990.
- ✓ It is rich in terms of number of paintings, rock shelters and its habitation, right from the mesolithic to medieval times.
- ✓ The paintings also feature geometrical designs and impressions in green, red, yellow and white pigment colours.
- ✓ These cave paintings offer a rare glimpse into the prehistoric man's rock art identified on walls and ceilings of caves, rock shelters and isolated boulders.
- ✓ The rock art paintings depict wild life like Bison, Antelope, Tiger, Leopard etc. Other shapes like swastika symbol, circles and squares, weapons such as bows, arrows, sword and lancer etc are present in these paintings

TELANGANA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Pandavula Gutta has been officially recognised as the sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana.
- ▷ Global Spirituality Conference ever organised in India came to an end on 17 March 2024 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- > Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced to provide accident insurance of Rs 5 lakh to gig workers from the government.
- > Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) center in Hyderabad, at Begumpet Airport. This is a major development for the aviation sector in Telangana.
- Sammakka Sarakka Medaram Jathara, Asia's largest tribal fair, started in Telangana's Mulugu district witnessed thousands of devotees who paid obeisance to tribal deities.
- > Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a tribal university in Telangana, named The Sarakka Central Tribal University. This university, with a budget of Rs 889 crore, will be located in Mulugu district.
- ▶ US-based multinational technology company "Corning" has announced plans to set up a \$113m Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in the Indian state of Telangana.



Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).

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- ▶ Telangana achieves 100% coverage of PMJDY.
- > Telangana govt launches first of its kind State Robotics Framework.
- > Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad. The 400 feet tall structure will be constructed on six acres of land in Narsingi at a cost of Rs 200 crore.
- > The two-day 'Food Conclave-2023' will be organized on April 28 and 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- > Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently unveiled a 125-feet tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad.
- > World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- ▶ Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023.
- > IAS 'Shanti Kumari' becomes first woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- > National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- 0. Consider the following statements regarding the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index:
 - 1. It is designed and published by NITI Aayog on an annual basis.
 - 2. It uses data from the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

C) Both 1 and 2

Answer : B

- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs has consistently ranked amongst the top 10 ministries in 2023-24 in the Grievance Redressal Assessment Index (GRAI), performing well in all 15 specified indicators.
- ✓ It was conceptualised and designed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India.



 \checkmark Objective: To present an organisation-wise comparative picture and provide valuable insights about strengths and areas of improvement regarding the grievance redressal mechanism.

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- ✓ It is based on a comprehensive index in the dimensions of Efficiency, Feedback, Domain and Organisational Commitment
- ✓ It uses data from the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System (CPGRAMS).
- Q. Exercise "LAMITIYE, is conducted between India and:

A) Seychelles	B) Bhutan	
C) Nepal	D) France	

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Army contingent departed for Seychelles to participate in the Tenth edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024".
- ✓ It is a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF).
- ✓ 'LAMITIYE' meaning 'Friendship' in the Creole language is a biennial training event and has been conducted in Seychelles since 2001.
- ✓ 45 personnel each from the GORKHA RIFLES of the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) will participate in the 2024 exercise.
- ✓ The aim of the Exercise is to enhance interoperability in Sub-conventional Operations in Semi-Urban environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter on Peace Keeping Operations.
- The exercise will contribute immensely in developing mutual understanding and magnify jointness between \checkmark the troops of both the Armies
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Co-branded Credit card:
 - 1. It can only be used for purchases made at the co-branding retailer.
 - 2. It bears the logo of the credit card company only.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 only

- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : D



The tightening of compliance regulations by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may prompt banks to lean \checkmark towards collaborating with larger fintech companies for co-branded credit card partnerships.

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- ✓ It is a card that is issued jointly by a card-issuer and a co-branding entity bearing the names of both the partnering entities.
- \checkmark These cards typically bear the logos of both the credit card company and the retailer.
- ✓ Usage: They can be used in any location where the card network is accepted, not just with the co-branding retailer.
- ✓ Features: They typically come with rewards or other benefits that are tied specifically to purchases made at the co-branding retailer, and usually offer rewards or benefits for general purchases as well.
- \checkmark Recognition: The retailer's logo and the card network's logo usually appear on the card.
- ✓ How Co-Branded Cards Work?
- ✓ Co-branded cards work like any normal credit card. They can be used for any purchase wherever cards in that network (such as Mastercard, Visa, American Express, or Discover) are accepted.
- Co-branded card relationships can be structured in a variety of ways. But basically, in order to issue a cobranded credit card, a merchant (such as a department store, gas station, or airline) or another organization (like a university or nonprofit) must partner with a financial institution, which provides the actual credit.
- ✓ Hence both statements are not correct
- With reference to revenue-based financing, consider the following statements: Q.
 - 1. It is a collateralised debt against a percentage of gross revenue.
 - 2. It is an alternative financing product for digitally enabled businesses.
 - 3. It does not involve any transfer of an ownership stake to investors.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ Revenue-based financing (RBF) is gaining traction amongst statups and digital SMEs, as venture capital flow continues to be dry and traditional credit remains out of reach for many.
- It is a non-collateralised debt against a percentage of gross revenue.



 \checkmark It is an alternative financing product for digitally-enabled businesses, where they can raise capital in exchange for a percentage of their gross revenue as a monthly repayment, in addition to a fixed fee between 8-10% of the principal amount.

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- \checkmark It is usually opted by companies with steady revenue flow that have a high requirement for short-term working capital, such as cloud kitchens, e-commerce merchants, financial services companies or softwareas-a-service firms.
- ✓ In this type of investment investors receive a regular share of the businesses income until a predetermined amount has been paid.
- ✓ Typically, this predetermined amount is a multiple of the principal investment and usually ranges between three to five times the original amount invested.
- ✓ Revenue-based Financing vs. Debt and Equity-based Financing
- ✓ Revenue-based financing seems similar to debt financing because investors are entitled to regular repayments of their initially invested capital.
- ✓ However, revenue-based funding does not involve interest payments. Instead, the repayments are calculated using a particular multiple that results in returns that are higher than the initial investment.
- ✓ Also, in revenue-based financing, a company is not required to provide collateral to investors.
- Unlike equity-based investment models, there is no transfer of an ownership stake in a company to investors. \checkmark
- Hence only statements 2 and 3 are correct. √
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Integrated Assessment Models:
 - 1. It examines possible futures of the energy, climate system and economies.
 - 2. It combines different strands of knowledge to model human society.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) uses 'modelled pathways' to estimate what it will take to limit the warming of the earth's surface and these pathways are drawn using Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs).
- These are complex models that examine possible futures of the energy and climate system and economies.



 \checkmark They are "integrated" because they combine different strands of knowledge to model human society alongside parts of the Earth system.

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- ✓ Its macroeconomic models can point to future growth levels in terms of GDP; its energy models can project future consumption; vegetation models can examine land-use changes; and earth-system models use the laws of physics to understand how climate evolves.
- ✓ With such integration across disciplines, IAMs are meant to provide policy-relevant guidelines on climate action.
- ✓ They prioritise least-cost assessments for example, the absolute cost of setting up a solar plant or undertaking afforestation in India is lower than in the U.S.
- ✓ The most common use of IAMs is in the field of climate mitigation.
- ✓ A key purpose of IAMs is to provide orientation knowledge for the deliberation of future climate action strategies by policymakers, civil society and the private sector
- Consider the following statements regarding Lake Baikal: Q.
 - 1. It is located in Russia and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - 2. It is the oldest existing freshwater lake on Earth.
 - 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

- ✓ Recent study showed that ancient ecosystem of Lake Baikal is at risk of global warming.
- ✓ It is located in the southern part of eastern Siberia within the republic of Russia.
- ✓ It is the oldest existing freshwater lake on Earth (20 million–25 million years old), as well as the deepest continental body of water.
- ✓ It had its start in the time of the dinosaurs and began to take its modern form well before the appearance of the Homininae.
- ✓ It is having a maximum depth of 5,315 feet (1,620 metres).
- \checkmark It is also the world's largest freshwater lake by volume, containing about one-fifth of the fresh water on Earth's surface.

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Into Lake Baikal more than 330 rivers and streams flow.



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- ✓ The largest of which include the Selenga, Barguzin, Upper (Verkhnyaya) Angara, Chikoy, and Uda.
- ✓ It is known as the 'Galapagos of Russia', its age and isolation have produced one of the world's richest and most unusual freshwater faunas, which is of exceptional value to evolutionary science.
- ✓ In 1996 Lake Baikal was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Q. Which one of the following cities is located on the banks of Shipra River?
 - A) Mathura

B) Bhopal

C) Ujjain

D) Nashik

Answer : C

- ✓ A performance audit conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on the degradation of the Shipra River, threw up a host of significant findings.
- ✓ About Shipra River:
- ✓ The Shipra, also known as the Kshipra, is a river in Madhya Pradesh.
- \checkmark It is a perennial river and is considered as sacred as the Ganga River by the Hindus.
- ✓ Course:
- Origin: It originates in the Vindhya Range from a hill called Kakri-Tekdi, which is in the north of Dhar and situated at a distance of 11km from Ujjain.
- ✓ This river is 195km long, out of which 93km flow through Ujjain.
- ✓ It flows across the Malwa Plateau to join the Chambal River.
- ✓ Religious Significance:
- The Puranas, or ancient Hindu texts, put forward that the Shipra originated from the heart of Varaha, Lord Vishnu's incarnation as a boar.
- ✓ Also on the banks of the Shipra is Sage Sandipani's ashram or hermitage, where Krishna, Lord Vishnu's eighth incarnation, had studied.
- ✓ It finds mention not only in ancient Hindu texts but also in Buddhist and Jain scriptures.
- ✓ The holy city of Ujjain is located on the right bank of the Shipra River. The famous Kumbha Mela takes place in the ghats of this city, once every 12 years, a yearly celebration of the river goddess Kshipra.
- ✓ Major Tributaries: Khan and Gambhir



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC):

1. It is a proposed sea route between the Indian port of Chennai and the Russian port of St. Petersburg.

2. It is significantly shorter than the current route between the Indian and Russian ports via the Suez Canal.

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 Red Sea crisis has shifted attention to the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) the proposed trade route for coking coal, crude oil, LNG, fertilizers and containers.
- ✓ About Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC):
- ✓ It is a proposed sea route between the Indian port of Chennai and the Russian port of Vladivostok.
- ✓ The corridor is estimated to bring down transportation time between Indian and Russian ports in the Far East Region by up to 16 days.
- ✓ Once complete, it will take 24 days, down from presently over 40 days, to transport goods from India to Far East Russia.
- ✓ The present trade route between Mumbai and St. Petersburg covers a distance of 8,675 nautical miles.
- ✓ The EMC will cover a distance of about 5,600 nautical miles, which is significantly shorter than the current route via the Suez Canal.
- ✓ For India, it will provide a shorter and more efficient route to access the markets of the Far East, such as China and Japan
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rice Bran:
 - 1. It is one of the main byproducts in the process of rice milling.
 - 2. It is currently mostly used as animal feed.

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

- ✓ The Central Government has extended the ban on exports of de-oiled rice bran by another four months, according to an official notification put out by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) recently.
- ✓ About Rice Bran:
- \checkmark It is one of the main byproducts in the process of rice milling.
- ✓ It is the outer brown layer of brown rice and is separated during the milling process.
- ✓ One hundred kilogram (100 kg) of paddy rice will generate approximately 5–10 kg of bran.
- ✓ The bran fraction contains 14-18% oil.
- ✓ Rice bran oil is popular as a "healthy oil" in Japan, Asia, and particularly India.
- ✓ It is a pale yellow, odourless, nutty-flavoured oil with a sweet taste.
- ✓ It is a good source of unsaturated fats, vitamin E, and other important nutrients.
- ✓ It is currently mostly used as animal feed. The oily nature makes bran an excellent binder for animal feeds.

Q. Hemoglobin A1C Test is primarily used to test which one of the following diseases?

A) Tuberculosis	B) Malaria
C) Sickle cell anemia	D) Diabetes

Answer : D

- ✓ India is estimated to have 10.13 crore people with diabetes, and another 13.6 crore people who are prediabetic, according to a nationwide study published in 2023.
- ✓ It is one of the most commonly-used tests to diagnose pre-diabetes and diabetes (both type 1 and type 2) and to help manage diabetes.
- ✓ It is also known as the glycated haemoglobin or glycosylated haemoglobin test.
- ✓ Hemoglobin is the part of your red blood cells that carries oxygen from your lungs to the rest of your body.
- ✓ It is an important blood test that gives a good indication of how well your diabetes is being controlled.
- Q. India's Shipping Ministry has approved waterways projects on Brahmaputra in Assam to boost tourism. What is the total outlay approved by ministry for this project?

A) ₹415	crore
---------	-------

B) ₹725 crore

C) ₹645 crore

D) ₹550 crore

Answer : C

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India's Shipping Ministry has approved waterways projects worth ₹645 crore on Brahmaputra in Assam.

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- Projects, aimed at boosting river tourism, will be implemented with financial assistance from the Centre.
- ✓ Projects will involve the creation of slipways at strategic locations in Dhubri and Majuli, new passenger terminals at Ghagor in North Lakhimpur and Bahari in Barpeta district of Assam. There will be additional passenger terminals in Goalpara, Guijan, Kurua, Dhubri, Disangmukh & Matmora.
- Projects, which will be developed under the Sagarmala programme. \checkmark
- Q. Which company has bagged a 200-megawatt (MW) capacity solar power project to be set up at the Gujarat State Electricity Corporation's (GSECL) 1,125 MW RE Park in Khavda?
 - **B) NTPC Limited** A) NHPC Limited

C) JSW Energy

D) Adani Enterprises

Answer : A

- ✓ State-run hydro power major NHPC has bagged a 200-megawatt (MW) capacity solar power project to be set up at the Gujarat State Electricity Corporation's (GSECL) 1,125 MW RE Park in Khavda.
- ✓ NHPC will develop the project on a build-own-and-operate basis at a tentative development cost of about ₹847 crore.
- ✓ The project was secured at a tariff of ₹2.66 per unit and will be completed in a period of 18 months.
- ✓ The project will generate about 473 million units (MU) in the first year of commissioning and the cumulative generation from the project over a period of 25 years would be about 10,850 million units.
- ✓ The project will annually generate 11,223 MU of hydropower, which is clean and green energy and will be fed into the Northern Grid. The project has a construction period of 108 months and is scheduled to be commissioned in February 2032.
- It has the potential of direct employment of 500 people during the construction phase and 300 during \checkmark operation. Further, the project will provide indirect employment of 5,000 people during construction phase and 500 during operation phase.

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- Who has released the Book and Video on "Sagar Parikrama" at Rajkot, Gujarat? Q.
 - A) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
 - **B)** Parshottam Rupala
 - C) Piyush Goyal
 - **D)** Anurag Thakur



Answer : B

✓ Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry Dairying Parshottam Rupala has release Book and Video on "Sagar Parikrama" at Rajkot, Gujarat.

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- The object of the book is to chronicle the Sagar Parikrama Yatra, encompassing content on diverse elements, such as the Maritime route, cultural and geographical explorations, and notable impacts from all 12 phases of Sagar Parikrama.
- ✓ The Book on Sagar Parikrama contains 7 chapters covering genesis of Sagar Parikrama, Overview and detailed coverage of the journey of West coast, East coast and the key take away.
- ✓ This document will provide an insight into the challenges of coastal fishermen, their culture, religious and traditional fisheries heritage of India.
- Q. Laxminarayan Ramdas passed away recently at the age of 91. He was former chief of which defence force?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Former chief of the Indian Navy, Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas passed away at the age of 91.
- Known for his heroic role during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War, he later emerged as a leading peace activist, advocating for nuclear disarmament after his retirement.
- ✓ Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas was born on September 5, 1933. He attended the Cambridge School in Srinivaspuri in Delhi and joined the Indian Navy's 1st course of the Joint Services Wing (JSW) in Dehradun in 1949 when he was 15.
- Q. Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned from her post, she was the Governor of which state?
 - A) Tamil Nadu
 - C) Kerala

- B) Telangana
- D) Karnataka

Answer : B

✓ Telangana Governor and Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Sundararajan have resigned from both their posts.

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✓ He has sent his resignation to President Draupadi Murmu.



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- ✓ Soundararajan served as the second Governor of Telangana state.
- ✓ He assumed charge on September 8, 2019
- Q. Who was awarded the PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award recently?
 - A) Ratan TataB) Ramnath Kovind
 - C) S Jaishankar D) Nitish Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ Former Tata Sons Chairman Ratan Tata was honored with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions.
- ✓ The PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award is named after the former Prime Minister of India.
- \checkmark This award is given to people dedicated to social and humanitarian welfare.
- Q. Who was recently appointed the Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education?

A) Ajay Sinha	B) Rahul Singh	
C) Raghuyar Das	D) Vinay Saxena	

Answer : B

- Senior bureaucrat Rahul Singh has recently been appointed Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) by the Central Government.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Singh, a 1996 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Bihar cadre, as the Chairman of CBSE.
- ✓ He will replace Nidhi Chhibber, who has been named advisor in NITI Aayog.
- Q. Who has recently been appointed as the new Chairman of Prasar Bharati?
 - A) Ashok Khemka

- **B) Sonal Goyal**
- C) Navneet Kumar Sehgal
- D) Manoj Kumar Sharma

Answer : C

- Retired IAS officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal has been appointed as the new Chairman of Prasar Bharati, the post was vacant for four years.
- ✓ Sehgal replaced A Surya Prakash, whose tenure ended in February 2020.
- ✓ Prasar Bharati is India's largest public broadcasting agency. It was established in the year 1997

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Q. Exercise Tiger Triumph is conducted between India and:

A) Japan	B) South Africa
C) Nepal	D) USA

Answer : D

- ✓ Exercise Tiger Triumph is scheduled on the Eastern Seaboard from 18 to 31 March 2024.
- ✓ It is a bilateral tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise between India and the USA.
- ✓ The exercise is aimed at developing interoperability for conducting HADR operations and refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable rapid and smooth coordination between forces of both countries.
- ✓ The Harbour Phase is scheduled from 18 to 25 Mar 24.
- ✓ The US would be represented by US Navy Ships with embarked troops of the US Marine Corps and US Army.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- A bilateral tri-service exercise Tiger Triump-24 between India and the US will be held on the Eastern Seaboard in the US from March 18 to 31.
- An Indian Army contingent on Monday departed for Seychelles to participate in the 10th edition of joint military exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" with Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The joint exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from March 18-27, 2024.
- The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman.
- The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- 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.

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



Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.

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- > Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- > It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- > The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.
- **Q**. Consider the following statements regarding the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement:

1. It sets out a target of a \$100 billion investment into India from the European Free Trade Association countries.

2. Under this partnership, India is not mandated to eliminate tariffs on various products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is the latest in India's recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) which ventures into some uncharted territory.
- ✓ It is the latest in India's Free Trade Agreements.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ Investment: TEPA sets out a target of a \$100 billion investment into India from EFTA countries and consequent one million jobs over a 15-year period.
- \checkmark It also provides India the ability to withdraw its tariff concessions if such expected investment is not achieved.

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- ✓ If India is not satisfied, it can pull back its tariff concessions in a proportionate manner after 18 years.
- ✓ Trade in goods: India is mandated to eliminate tariff on most products within seven to 10 years.



✓ With regard to India's exports to EFTA, there will be no material impact since most products face very low or zero tariff for nations which have the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status in EFTA countries.

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- ✓ Trade in services: On services, both India and the EFTA members have committed to liberalisation across a wide range of sectors.
- ✓ Sustainable development: The TEPA's chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD), comprising commitments on environment and labour aspects, represents a first for India in any FTA.
- ✓ The TSD chapter refers to a range of multilateral environmental agreements and labour conventions, whose implementation is based on a balance of rights and obligations.
- ✓ Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): The EFTA countries are home to several pharmaceutical and high technology MNCs, whose ask has been commitments on protection of IPRs that exceed the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.
- Who has been appointed as the Group President of 'One Kotak' by Kotak Mahindra Bank? **Q**.
 - **B)** Rajeev Anand A) Abhay Singh
 - C) Jaideep Hansraj **D)** Ashwini Kumar

Answer : C

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Jaideep Hansraj, current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as Group President of 'One Kotak' with effect from April 1, 2024.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Jaideep Hansraj, current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as Group President of 'One Kotak' with effect from April 1, 2024.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold a 2% stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore.
- > 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.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Partners with IITK to Launch Kotak School of Sustainability. The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability.

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Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

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- Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty or ₹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.

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- With reference to the World Air Quality Report 2023, consider the following statements: 0.
 - 1. It is published by the World Health Organization (WHO).
 - 2. India has the worst air quality among all the countries in the report.
 - 3. Delhi is the most polluted capital city in the world.

How many of the above statements are correct?



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A) Only one

C) All three

B) Only two

D) None

Answer : A

- ✓ Delhi was identified as the capital city with the poorest air quality, according to a new report by World Air Quality Report 2023.
- ✓ About World Air Quality Report 2023:
- ✓ It is published by the Swiss organisation IQAir.
- ✓ It included data from 7,812 locations in 134 countries, regions, and territories.
- ✓ Highlights:
- ✓ With an average air annual particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) concentration of 54.4 micrograms per cubic metre, India had the third worst air quality.
- ✓ India was better than only two of its neighbouring countries, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- ✓ While Bangladesh remained the most polluted country in the world, with an average PM2.5 concentration of 79.9 micrograms per cubic metre, Pakistan was second, with a level of 73.7.
- ✓ It also identified Delhi as the most polluted capital city in the world for the fourth consecutive time.
- ✓ Bihar's Begusarai was termed the world's most polluted metropolitan area.
- ✓ Ten out of the top 11 most polluted cities in the world are from India, the other being Lahore in Pakistan.
- ✓ 96 percent of the Indian population experiences PM2.5 levels more than seven times the WHO annual PM2.5 guideline

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Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern
0 to 50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151-200	Unhealthy
201-300	Very Unhealthy
301 to 500	Hazardous



Q. Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following countries?

- A) United States
- C) China

B) United Kingdom

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D) France

Answer : B

- ✓ Exporters seeking to avail duty concessions on shipments to the UK will have to adhere to the new British rules under the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS).
- ✓ About Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS):
- ✓ It is a scheme introduced by the United Kingdom (UK) Government to facilitate developing countries to integrate into the global economy, create stronger trade and investment partnerships and strengthen supply chains.
- ✓ It is a simpler and more generous preferential trading scheme which has been designed to boost trade with developing countries in order to support their development.
- ✓ It reduces or removes rates of duty, or tariffs, on imports from eligible developing countries into the UK.
- ✓ It also enables UK businesses to access thousands of products from around the globe at lower prices, reducing costs for UK consumers.
- ✓ The DCTS applies to 65 countries, that are:
- ✓ least developed countries (LDCs) as defined by the United Nations.
- ✓ low-income countries (LIC) and lower middle-income countries (LMIC) as defined by the World Bank.
- ✓ DCTS will provide duty-free, quota-free trade to LDCs on everything but arms and duty-free, quota-free trade on 85% of eligible goods to most low LIC and LMIC countries.
- The DCTS does not extend to countries and territories deemed by the World Bank as 'upper-middle income' for three consecutive years, or to LICs and LMICs who have a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK.
- Q. Which state police recently launched the digital platform 'Trinetra' App 2.0?
 - A) Madhya Pradesh
 - C) Uttar Pradesh

B) Assam

D) Bihar

Answer : C

✓ Uttar Pradesh Police will now use the state-of-the-art digital platform Trinetra App 2.0, which has been designed to help in crime prevention and investigation.

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✓ UP DGP Prashant Kumar along with ADG Law and Order Amitabh Yash launched the app at the DGP headquarters

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APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

- > Uttar Pradesh Police will now use the state-of-the-art digital platform Trinetra App 2.0, which has been designed to help in crime prevention and investigation.
- > 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. Who has been chosen by the Election Commission of India as the National Disability Icon?

A) Sheetal Devi B) Arunima Sinha

C) Dev Rathi

D) Jai Kumar

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Answer : A

- ✓ Para archer and Arjuna Award winner Sheetal Devi has been appointed as the National Disability Icon by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- ✓ In view of the Lok Sabha elections, ECI and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organized an exhibition cricket match to promote voter education.
- ✓ India's para-athlete Sheetal Devi has been honoured with the Arjuna Award from the president of India. Sheetal Devi received her award from the President of India Droupadi Murmu.
- ✓ Sheetal won 2 golds and 1 siver in the Asian Para Games 2022.
- ✓ Sheetal was born with a rare congenital disorder named phocomelia in Loidhar village in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir in 2007.

ICON BY ELECTION COMMISSION IN NEWS 2023-24

- Ms. Sheetal Devi was declared the National Disability Icon of the Election Commission of India. Para archer and Arjuna Awardee Sheetal Devi has been declared National Icon in the Disability category (PWD).
- Former cricketer Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar has been recognized as a 'National Icon' by the Election Commission in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner, Rajeev Kumar.
- Election Commission (EC) of India has appointed actor Rajkummar Rao as its National Icons on 26 October 2023
- Election Commission of India (ECI) in creating awareness amongst voters, Actor Pankaj Tripathi has been declared as the 'National Icon' of ECI.
- Election Commission (EC) in the Indian state of Karnataka has selected Manjamma Jogati, a transgender folk dancer, as a poll icon for transgender community.
- > Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission



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Q. 'Kovind Committee' which was in discussion recently is related to which of the following?

A) Appointment of judges

C) Electoral bond

- B) simultaneous elections
- D) Uniform Civil Code

Answer : B

- ✓ A committee was formed under the leadership of former President Ram Nath Kovind to evaluate the feasibility of 'One Nation, One Election'.
- ✓ Recently the committee has submitted its report to President Draupadi Murmu
- Which state government has agreed to implement the PM SHRI Schools scheme by signing an MoU **Q**. with the Ministry of Education?

B) Tamil Nadu

- A) Maharashtra
- C) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : B

✓ Tamil Nadu government agreed to implement the PM SHRI (Prime Minister Schools for Rising India) scheme by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education.

D) Gujarat

The scheme aims to improve the quality of education in Tamil Nadu and upgrade existing government \checkmark schools to become model schools for the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Q. Ethanol 100 fuel, recently launched by petroleum ministry, is currently accessible in how many states?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched 'ETHANOL 100', a groundbreaking automotive fuel at IndianOil's retail outlet in Delhi.
- ✓ This ethanol-based fuel will be available in 183 outlets across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, and Tamil Nadu. Secretary Shri Pankaj Jain and IndianOil Chairman Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya also attended.
- ✓ Minister Puri emphasized ETHANOL 100's role in reducing fossil fuel dependence, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of energy transformation.



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- Q. Which airport was given the title of 'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific region?
 - A) Chennai International Airport
 - B) Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport
 - C) Indira Gandhi International Airport
 - D) Kempegowda International Airport

Answer : C

- ✓ Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in Delhi, India has been named the "Best Airport" in the Asia-Pacific region for six years in a row.
- ✓ The award is given by the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards, which measure passenger satisfaction using real-time surveys.

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in Delhi, India has been named the "Best Airport" in the Asia-Pacific region for six years in a row.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 15 airport projects, including the revamped Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, worth over Rs.9,800 crore
- Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) for the Green Hydrogen Project.
- Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- > Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.
- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.

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Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.

- 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.
- > Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.

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

Q. Which country is the largest producer, consumer and importer of pulses globally?

A) Brazil

B) China

C) India

D) United States

Answer : C

- ✓ Central government to buy Masur and Tur dal directly from the farmers
- ✓ According to a report published in the Mint newspaper, the government of India is planning to buy 400,000 tonnes of toor/tur dal and 200,000 tonnes of Masur/Masoor dal directly from farmers at the minimum assured procurement price (MAPP) or at the dynamic buffer procurement price (DBPP), whichever is higher.
- ✓ The MAPP is the weighted average price of a district's previous three trading days. The DBPP is the weighted average price of (a) the day of procurement(b) three previous days, and(c) three subsequent trading days.
- ✓ Nodal agency for procurement of Masur & Tur Dal
- In January 2024, the Union Ministry of Cooperation, headed by Amit Shah, launched a multilingual portal where registered farmers can directly sell their tur and masur dal to the government. The National

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Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) are the procurement agencies for this purpose.

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- ✓ According to the report, both agencies have procured around 8,000 tonnes of tur, and the procurement of masur is scheduled to start in March.
- ✓ India is a large importer of masur dal. In 2022-23, India imported 11 lakh tonnes of masur dal.
- ✓ India is the world's largest producer, consumer and importer of pulses. In 2022-23, it imported 24.96 lakh tonnes of pulses.
- ✓ National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED)
- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED) was established on 2nd October 1958.
- ✓ It comes under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ✓ NAFED has been registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002.
- ✓ NAFED was set up to benefit the farmers by promoting cooperative marketing of agricultural produce. The farmers are the main members of NAFED, forming the members of the General Body of NAFED.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman: Dr. Bijender Singh
- Q. Who has been selected for the 33rd Saraswati Samman by the K K Birla Foundation?
 - A) Kamala Suraiyya B) Malayattoor Ramakrishnan
 - C) Balachandran Chullikkad D) Prabha Varma

Answer : D

- The K K Birla Foundation has selected noted poet and litterateur Prabha Varma for the 33rd Saraswati Samman for 2023 for his novel Roudra Sathwikam
- According to the Birla Foundation, the novel "Roudra Sathwikam, written in poetic verse in the Malayalam language, probes the conflict between power and politics, individual and state and art and power in a unique way."
- ✓ The novel Roudra Sathwikam, published in 2022" transcends the concept of time and space as it addresses the predicament of dharma and adharma in a creatively philosophical way." said the Birla Foundation.
- ✓ The Saraswati Samman awardee was chosen by a selection committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri.

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- ✓ <u>About Prabha Varma</u>
- ✓ Prabha Verma was born in Thiruvalla, Kerala, in 1959. He writes in both English and Malayalam.
- ✓ Some of the notable works of Prabha Verma are "Souparnika, Arkkapoornima, Shyama Madhavam, Chandana Nazhi, Aardram, and Kanal Chilambu.
- ✓ Prabha Varma is the media advisor to the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- ✓ <u>Saraswati Samman</u>
- ✓ The Saraswati Samman is an annual prize. It is given to an outstanding literary work published in the last 10 years. It is given to a work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen.
- ✓ The winner is given a cash prize of Rs 15 lakhs, a citation and a plaque.
- ✓ Harivansh Rai Bachchan received the first Saraswati Samman in 1991 for his four-volume autobiography, Kya Bhooloon Kya Yaad Karoon, Need Ka Nirman Phir, Basere Se Door, and Dashdwar se Sopan Tak.
- ✓ The 32nd awardee was Sivasankari for her work Surya Vamsam. It was written in Tamil language.
- ✓ <u>K K Birla Foundation Prize</u>
- ✓ K.K. Birlarla Foundation was set up by noted industrialist Krishna Kumar Birla in 1991. It aims to promote Indian literature. An outstanding literary work of an Indian, published in the last 10 years, has been selected for the awards given by the Foundation. Important awards given by K.K.Birla Foundations are as follows :
- ✓ <u>Bihari Puraskar</u>
- ✓ The Bihari Puraskar was also started in 1991 by the K Birla Foundation. The annual award is given for an outstanding work published by a Rajasthani author in Hindi or Rajasthani language.
- \checkmark It carries a cash prize of Rs2.5 lakh, a plaque and a citation.
- ✓ Famous poet Jaisingh Neeraj was awarded the first Bihari Puraskar in 1991 for his poetry compilation 'Dhani Ka Aadmi'.
- The 32nd Bihari Puraskar 2022 was awarded to Dr Madhav Hada for his book 'Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri'.
- ✓ Vyas Samman
- It is given for outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen and published in the previous 10 years..
- ✓ It carries a cash prize of ₹ 4 lakh.
- Ram Vilas Sharma was the first person to get the award for his work "Bharat ke Pracheen bhasha parivar aur Hindi."



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- ✓ The 32nd Vyas Samman 2022 was awarded to Gyan Chaturvedi for his novel Pagalkhana
- Q. Who has been appointed Director General (News) of All India Radio (AIR)?
 - A) Vivek Kishore

B) Deepak Kumar Kdia

C) Saurabh Tripathi

D) Maushami Chakraborty

Answer : D

- ✓ Maushami Chakraborty becomes the Director General of All India Radio.
- ✓ According to the information given by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Maushami Chakraborty will replace Vasudha Gupta. The ministry released the notification of their appointments on 16 March 2024.
- ✓ Maushami Chakraborty is a 1991 batch Indian Information Service officer.
- ✓ About Akashvani:
- ✓ Broadcasting in India actually began about 13 years before All India Radio came into existence. In June 1923, the Radio Club of Bombay made the first broadcast in the country.
- ✓ Five months later, the Calcutta Radio Club was established. Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) came into existence on July 23, 1927. But IBC had to close it down in less than three years.
- Q. The Global Recycling Day is observed every year on which day?
 - A) 18 March
 - B) 19 March
 - C) 17 March
 - D) 16 March

Answer : A

- ✓ The Global Recycling Day is observed every year on 18th of March to recognise the importance of recycling as a resource, not waste.
- ✓ The theme of Global Recycling Day 2024 is "RecyclingHeroes".
- ✓ The theme recognise the people who put themselves on the frontline to collect waste and recycling during the multiple lockdowns.
- ✓ The Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 by the London-based Global Recycling Foundation to promote the concept and practice of recycling



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Q. What is India's rank in the United Nations' World Happiness Report for the year 2024?

A) 139	B) 126

C) 144 D) 130

Answer: B

- ✓ Finland tops UN's World Happiness Report as happiest country
- ✓ In the United Nations sponsored annual 'World Happiness Report' released on 20 March 2024, 'Finland' has been considered the happiest country in the world.
- ✓ Finland has become the happiest country in the world for the seventh consecutive year in this United Nations report.
- ✓ Nordic countries included in the World Happiness Report:
- In this report, Nordic countries maintained their position among the 10 happiest countries. It also includes Denmark, Iceland and Sweden
- India ranks 126th among 143 countries in the World Happiness Report. India was at the same rank last year also
- ✓ Afghanistan at the bottom:
- ✓ In the World Happiness Report, Afghanistan has been placed at the lowest position in the list of 143 countries.
- Afghanistan has been plagued by humanitarian disaster since it came under Taliban control in 2020. This is also being seen in the World Happiness Report of the United Nations
- ✓ Basis of World Happiness Ranking:
- ✓ Many core values have been included in the preparation of this report of the United Nations. These mainly include the following:
- ✓ GDP per capita along with self-assessment of life satisfaction of individuals
- ✓ Social Support
- ✓ Healthy Life Expectancy
- ✓ Freedom
- ✓ Kindness
- ✓ Corruption.
- ✓ Top 10 countries ranked in World Happiness Report:
- ✓ 1. Finland



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- ✓ 2. Denmark
- ✓ 3. Iceland
- ✓ 4. Sweden
- ✓ 5. Israel
- \checkmark 6. Netherlands
- ✓ 7. Norway
- ✓ 8. Luxembourg
- ✓ 9. Switzerland
- ✓ 10. Australia

Q. According to the World Happiness Report 2024, which is the happiest country in the world?

A) Denmark	B) Germany	
C) Finland	D) Iceland	

Answer : C

- According to the World Happiness Report 2024, the European country Finland is the happiest country in the world.
- ✓ Finland remains the happiest country in the world for the seventh consecutive year.
- ✓ Like last year, India remains at 126th position in the World Happiness Index.
- ✓ Whereas India's neighboring country Pakistan is at 108th place and Sri Lanka is at 128th place. America is at 23rd place
- Q. Which bank will support Tata Memorial -support National Cancer Grid with Rs 100 crore contribution?

B) Axis BankD) ICICI Bank

- A) Yes Bank
- C) HDFC Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Axis Bank to support Tata Memorial-supported National Cancer Grid
- ✓ A national tumour biobank and cancer teleconsultation network are among the projects that will be supported by a ₹100 crore contribution towards the National Cancer Grid (NCG), from Axis Bank.
- ✓ As part of the five-year partnership, Axis Bank will support NCG, a network of 300-plus cancer centres across the country, coordinated by the Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), under the Tata Memorial Centre.

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The aim is to improve cancer care and research, in terms of access and digital adoption on formalising a Memorandum of Understanding with Tata Memorial.

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AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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Q. Consider the following:

- 1. United States
- 2. China
- 3. India
- 4. United Kingdom

How many of the above countries are members of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE)?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) Only three

D) All four

Answer : D

- ✓ The 41st Steering Committee Meeting of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE) kicked off in New Delhi recently.
- ✓ About the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE):
- ✓ IPHE, established in 2003, is an international inter-governmental partnership currently consisting of 23 member countries and the European Commission.
- Objective: To facilitate and accelerate the transition to clean and efficient energy and mobility systems using fuel cells and hydrogen technologies.
- ✓ IPHE serves as a mechanism to organize and implement effective, efficient, and focused international research, development, demonstration, and commercial utilization activities related to hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.
- Members: Australia, Canada, European Commission, India, Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Chile, France, Italy, Norway, UAE, Belgium, China, Germany, Japan, South Africa, United Kingdom, Brazil, Costa Rica, Iceland, South Korea, Singapore, and the United States.
- Q. 'State of Global Climate Report' is an annual report released by which one of the following organisations?
 - A) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - B) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 - C) World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
 - D) World Bank



Answer : C

✓ The new annual State of the Global Climate report, published recently by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), found that 2023 was the hottest year on record.

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- ✓ About State of Global Climate Report 2023:
- ✓ It is an annual report published by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- ✓ Dozens of experts and partners contribute to the report, including UN organizations, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), and Global Data and Analysis Centers, as well as Regional Climate Centres, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW), the Global Cryosphere Watch, and the Copernicus Climate Change Service operated by ECMWF
- ✓ Highlights of the 2023 Report:
- ✓ 2023 was the hottest year on record, with the global average near-surface temperature at 1.45 °Celsius (with a margin of uncertainty of ± 0.12 °C) above the pre-industrial baseline.
- \checkmark It was the warmest ten-year period on record.
- ✓ Numerous records for indicators of the climate system, including greenhouse gas levels (GHGs), surface temperatures, ocean heat, sea level rise, Antarctic Sea ice cover, glacier retreat, etc., were broken.
- On an average day in 2023, nearly one third of the global ocean was gripped by a marine heatwave, harming vital ecosystems and food systems.
- Towards the end of 2023, over 90% of the ocean had experienced heatwave conditions at some point during the year.
- ✓ The global set of reference glaciers suffered the largest loss of ice on record (since 1950), driven by extreme melt in both western North America and Europe, according to preliminary data.
- ✓ In 2023, renewable capacity additions increased by almost 50% from 2022, for a total of 510 gigawatts (GW), the highest rate observed in the past two decades.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

1. It is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

2. It provides for licensing, registration and accreditation for food business operators.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ With food poisoning and diarrhoea becoming a common occurrence, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens.
- ✓ About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):
- ✓ It is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- ✓ The 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.
- Vision: Build a new India by enabling citizens to have safe and nutritious food, prevent diseases, and lead a healthy and happy life.
- Mission: Set globally benchmarked standards for food, encourage and ensure that food businesses adhere to these standards, adopt good manufacturing and hygiene practices, and ultimately enable citizens to access safe and right food.
- ✓ Functions:
- FSSAI is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.
- ✓ It lays down standards and guidelines in relation to articles of food, and provides for licensing, registration, and accreditation for food business operators.
- ✓ Anyone selling or importing food in India needs a food licence issued by FSSAI.
- ✓ FSSAI also directly monitors compliance of food regulations, especially in the area of food imports to India.
- ✓ The FSSAI is also responsible for the accreditation of food testing laboratories throughout India.
- ✓ The FSSAI is responsible for the Food Certification in India

FSSAI IN NEWS 2023-24

FSSAI is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens.

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> FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations so far for ensuring safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers.

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- ▶ 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 stateof-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 statue 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

Which app has ISRO launched to assist the Gaganyaan crew? Q.

A) SAKHI	B) MADAD
C) AKASH	D) SAMARTH



Answer : A

✓ Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) located at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram has launched a multipurpose app 'SAKHI' (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction-SAKHI) to assist the Gaganyaan crew.

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- This app will help in monitoring the health of astronauts and maintaining communication with ISRO on Earth.
- ✓ ISRO can launch Gaganyaan human mission in the year 2025.
- ✓ Developed by: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), an ISRO Facility at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram Kerala.
- ✓ Purpose: During the Mission;
- ✓ It will perform a range of tasks such as looking up vital technical information or communicating with one another for Gaganyaan Crew.
- ✓ Utility:
- ✓ Health Monitoring:
- ✓ It will provide information on key parameters like blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation & invaluable insights into the crew's physical condition throughout the mission.
- ✓ It will also remind them about their hydration and dietary schedules and sleep patterns.





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ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) located at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram has launched a multi-purpose app 'SAKHI' (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction-SAKHI) to assist the Gaganyaan crew.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ISRO Chairman have already said that by 2040 we should have an Indian astronaut on the moon and also to have our space station by 2035.
- 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)

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- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bengalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- > 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- > Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- ➢ GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- > SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- > Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India

Q. Where is 'Start-up Mahakumbh' being organised?

A) Bengaluru	B) Mumbai
C) New Delhi	D) Kolkata

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Start-up Mahakumbh at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- \checkmark On this occasion, he also visited the exhibition displayed.
- ✓ On this occasion, PM Modi said that India has the third largest startup ecosystem with 1.25 lakh startups, which includes 12 lakh youth
- Q. Who has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to Russia?
 - A) Vinay Kumar B) Parsottam Rupala
 - C) Ajay Nagar D) R K Aggarwal

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs has appointed the country's senior diplomat Vinay Kumar as the next Ambassador of India to Russia.
- ✓ Vinay Kumar is currently serving as the Ambassador of India to Myanmar. Vinay Kumar is a 1992 batch IFS officer.
- ✓ India has long-term and extensive cooperation with Russia in the field of defence.
- ✓ India imports most of the weapons from Russia

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Q. Who has recently been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Food and Processing Industries?

- A) Anurag Thakur
- C) Smriti Irani

- B) Arjun Ram Meghwal
- D) Kiran Rijiju

Answer : D

- ✓ After the resignation of Pashupati Kumar Paras from the Union Council of Ministers, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Food and Processing Industries.
- President Draupadi Murmu has given Rijiju the charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, in addition to his existing portfolio of Ministry of Earth and Science
- Q. Who has recently been given additional responsibility as the Governor in-charge of Telangana?
 - A) Anandiben Patel B) Kalraj Mishra
 - C) CP Radhakrishnan

- D) Runuj misinu
- D) Mahendra Nath Yadav

Answer : C

- ✓ Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan has been given additional responsibility as the in-charge Governor of Telangana in place of Tamilisai Soundararajan.
- ✓ Earlier, Soundararajan had resigned from his post.
- ✓ He will also hold the additional responsibilities of Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI):
 - 1. It is an agricultural research institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
 - 2. It undertakes research on coconut, arecanut, cocoa and palmyra palm.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently inaugurated the Krishi Sammelan (Farmer's Meet), organised by the ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute.
- ✓ About Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI):
- ✓ It was established by the Government of Madras in 1916 for coconut research.

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- ✓ Later, it was acquired by the Indian Central Coconut Committee in 1947.
- ✓ The CPCRI was established in 1970 as one of the agricultural research institutes in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ✓ Headquarters: Kasaragod, Kerala.
- ✓ The institute had the mandate to undertake research on coconut, arecanut, cocoa, cashew, oil palm, and spices at the time of establishment.
- ✓ In 2023, a new mandate crop, Palmyra Palm, was added to its institute.
- ✓ The Institute also holds the International Coconut Gene Bank for South Asia at Kidu in Karnataka.
- ✓ The Institute also serves as the headquarters of the All-India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Palms.
- Q. In the context of Indian economy, the term 'reverse flipping' refers to:
 - A) Shifting of the focus from online to offline sales
 - B) Movement of the investments from India to foreign capital markets
 - C) Changing the business model from subscription-based to one-time purchases
 - D) Moving the domicile of overseas start-ups to India

Answer : D

- Startups such as Pine Labs, Zepto, Meesho are the latest new-age companies looking to move headquarters to India.
- ✓ About Reverse Flipping:
- ✓ It is a term used to describe the trend of overseas start-ups shifting their domicile to India and listing on Indian stock exchanges.
- ✓ The general motivation for a reverse flip is the increased certainty of an exit at a higher valuation in India.
- ✓ This trend has been gaining traction in recent years, as start-ups look to capitalise on India's large and growing economy, access to deeper pools of venture capital, favourable tax regimes, better intellectual property protection, a young and educated population, and favourable government policies.
- ✓ The Economic Survey 2022-23 recognised the concept of reverse flipping and proposed ways to accelerate the process, such as simplifying the processes for tax vacations, taxation of ESOPs, capital movements, decreasing tax layers, and the like.
- ✓ What is flipping:



✓ Flipping is when an Indian company transforms into a 100% subsidiary of a foreign entity after it has moved its headquarters overseas, including a transfer of its Intellectual Property (IP) and others.

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- ✓ It effectively transforms an Indian startup (company) into a 100% subsidiary of a foreign entity, with the founders and investors retaining the same ownership via the foreign entity, having swapped all shares.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the International Seabed Authority (ISA):

1. It is an autonomous international organization to regulate mining and related activities within the territorial waters of member countries.

2. It came into existence upon the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

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 Council of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) commenced the first part of its 29th session recently.
- ✓ About International Seabed Authority (ISA):
- ✓ It is an autonomous international organization established in 1994 to regulate mining and related activities in the international seabed beyond national jurisdiction, an area that includes most of the world's oceans.
- The ISA came into existence upon the entry into force of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law \checkmark of the Sea (UNCLOS), which codified international law regarding territorial waters, sea lanes, and ocean resources.
- ✓ ISA is the organization through which states parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resourcesrelated activities in the Area (the seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction) for the benefit of humankind as a whole.
- ✓ Headquarters: Kingston, Jamaica
- ✓ Members: As of May 2023, ISA has 169 Members, including 168 Member States and the European Union.
- The secretary-general of the ISA is nominated by the council and is elected by the assembly to a four-year term



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Q. Srinagar hosted the first-ever Formula 4 car racing demonstration event on the banks of which lake?

A) Kausar Nag Lake B) Nigeen Lake

C) Wular Lake

D) Dal Lake

Answer : D

- ✓ Srinagar hosted the first-ever Formula 4 car racing demonstration event on Sunday on the banks of the world-famous Dal Lake.
- The event enthralled locals and motorsport fans as they witnessed stunts performed by professional Formula 4 drivers.
- ✓ Sleek racing cars roared along a 1.7 km track from Lalit Ghat on the banks of Dal Lake to Nehru Park in the city.
- ✓ The event, the first of its kind in the Kashmir Valley, was organized by the Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India, which is affiliated with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)
- Q. The Election Commission of India has launched a new mobile application called KYC. This app allows voters to check if any candidate standing for elections in their constituency has a criminal record. What is the meaning of "C" in "KYC"?

A) Candidate	B) Customer
C) Criteria	D) Candidature

Answer : A

- ✓ Election Commission launches 'Know Your Candidate' app
- ✓ The Election Commission of India, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, has launched a new mobile application called Know Your Candidate (KYC).
- ✓ This app allows voters to check if any candidate standing for elections in their constituency has a criminal record.
- ✓ The app is available for download on both Android and iOS platforms.
- ✓ The KYC app provides voters with the ability to access information about candidates with criminal antecedents.
- ✓ Candidates are required to disclose their criminal records in newspapers and on television three times. The parties nominating such candidates must explain their selection over other deserving candidates.
- ✓ ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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- ✓ Founded : 25 January 1950
- ✓ 25 January : Voter's Day
- ✓ HQ : New Delhi
- ✓ First Election Commissioner : Sukumar Sen
- ✓ First Woman Chief Election Commissioner : V.S. Ramadevi
- ✓ 25th Chief Election Commission : Rajiv Kumar
- ✓ Election Commissioner : Anup Chandra Pandey & Arun Goel
- ✓ Tenure : 6/65yrs
- ✓ Article : 324
- The Commission consists of one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. They are appointed by the President of India.
- Q. Where is India's First Oil Palm Processing Unit started operation?

A) Haryana	B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Uttar Pradesh	D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ India's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Arunachal Pradesh started operation by one of India's largest oil palm development companies, 3F Oil Palm.
- ✓ A new factory has been established in the Lower Dibang Valley district of India's northeast state. This factory is part of Mission Palm Oil and is India's first oil palm factory under NMEO-OP.
- ✓ This integrated Oil Palm project will include a cutting-edge oil palm factory (Palm Oil Processing and Refinery), a zero-discharge effluent plant, a palm waste-based power plant, and additional structures and go-downs for support purposes.
- This factory marks the first Oil Palm factory in Arunachal Pradesh and India's first Oil Palm Factory under NMEO-OP.
- ✓ 3F Oil Palm's state-of-the-art Integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit has been designed to process fresh fruit bunches (FFBs) into high-quality palm oil with an impressive capacity of 10 metric tons per hour.
- ✓ With 2,500 hectares of oil palm currently being planted across a farmer base of 500 farmers, 3F Oil Palm Pvt Ltd is a leader and pioneer in Arunachal Pradesh's oil palm development programme.



Q. The Election Commission has launched a special campaign in which state to boost voter turnout in 414 polling stations with less than 60% voting during the last Lok Sabha polls?

- A) Uttar Pradesh **B)** Bihar
- C) Chhattisgarh

D) Himachal Pradesh

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Answer : D

- ✓ The Election Commission has launched a special campaign in Himachal Pradesh to boost voter turnout in 414 polling stations with less than 60% voting during the last Lok Sabha polls.
- ✓ The main focus of the campaign "Mission 414" is increasing the vote percentage in 414 identified polling stations which registered less than 60% voting in the last Lok Sabha polls.
- ✓ Awareness campaigns and cultural events would be held besides making these 414 stations model polling stations.
- ✓ Booth youth icons from first time voters would be roped in and special invitation cards made by children would be given to prospective voters.
- ✓ A similar initiative is under way for 22 Assembly segments and is aimed at increasing the voter turnout to 72% in polling stations where the turnout was less than 70% in the last Lok Sabha elections. The average voter turnout in Himachal Pradesh in 2019 was 72.42%.
- Q. Guyana Defence Force will acquire two Dornier 228 aircraft from India. Dornier 228 aircraft is manufactured by which Indian company?
 - A) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) **B)** BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL)
 - C) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

Answer : D

- ✓ The Indian defence industry is making forays in the Caribbean with the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) planning to soon acquire two new aircraft from New Delhi with a \$23.27 million loan from Export-Import Bank of India.
- ✓ An agreement in this regard was signed between Guyanese Finance Minister and Deputy GM of EXIM Bank.
- Guyana, which has a substantial Indian diaspora, plans to purchase two HAL (Dornier) 228 planes from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.



These aircraft will be used for maritime patrols and troop movement. India has already given these aircraft to its neighbours like Maldives and Sri Lanka

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- ✓ About Guyana
- Capital : Georgetown \checkmark
- ✓ Currency : Dollar
- ✓ Prime Minister : Mark Phillips
- ✓ President : Mohamed Irfaan Ali

Tata Sons will sale how much percent stake in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for ₹9,362.3 crore? Q.

A) 0.6%	B) 0.9%

C) 0.7%

D) 0.5%

Answer : A

- ✓ Tata Sons announces sale of 0.6% Stake in TCS for over ₹9,300 crore
- ✓ Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group, will be selling 2.34 crore shares or 0.65 per cent equity of Tata Consultancy Services through a block deal for ₹9,362.3 crore (\$1.13 billion).
- \checkmark According to the December-end filing, Tata Sons holds a 72.38 per cent stake in TCS.
- ✓ Holding companies and promoter entities usually sell stakes in group firms to generate cash to pay down debt and stabilise balance sheets.
- ✓ Recently, British tobacco company BAT Plc sold a 3.5 per cent stake in its Indian associate ITC Ltd for ₹16,690 crore. This monetisation was done chiefly to buy back its shares and continue its deleveraging exercise.
- President Vladimir Putin, 71, won Russia's presidential election with 87.8% of the vote, a record 0. post-Soviet landslide. How many years is the tenure of the President of Russia?
 - A) 5 years
 - C) 8 years

B) 6 years D) 10 years

- Answer : B
- ✓ President Vladimir Putin, 71, won in a record post-Soviet landslide, winning 87.8% of the vote in Russia's election.
- Putin is set to embark on a new six-year term, which, if completed, would make him Russia's longest-serving leader in over 200 years, surpassing Josef Stalin.

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 \checkmark For Putin, a former KGB lieutenant colonel who first rose to power in 1999, the result is intended to underscore to the West that its leaders will have to reckon with an emboldened Russia, whether in war or in peace, for many more years to come

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- Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Non-Q. Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Poonawalla Fincorp?
 - A) Bhavish Aggarwal **B)** Arvind Kapil **C)** Shravan Kumaran D) Abhay Hanjura

Answer : B

- ✓ Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Poonawalla Fincorp has appointed Arvind Kapil as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company.
- ✓ The current MD & CEO of the company, Abhay Bhutada, has been elevated to a group-level role and will be taking up a strategic position at the Cyrus Poonawalla Group, managing its strategy, investment, and finance.
- ✓ Currently, Kapil is serving as the group head of mortgage banking business at HDFC Bank and manages a book of over Rs 7 trillion. He also handled the merger of HDFC and HDFC Bank.
- Q. Who will be conferred the 2024 Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Madras Music Academy?
 - A) Sudha Ragunathan
 - **B)** Thodur Madabusi Krishna
 - C) V. Dakshinamoorthy
 - D) M. S. Subbulakshmi

Answer : B

- ✓ Renowned Carnatic vocalist Thodur Madabusi Krishna will be conferred the 2024 Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Madras Music Academy.
- ✓ The Sangita Kalanidhi award is considered one of the highest honours in Carnatic music.
- ✓ The musician will preside over the academic sessions of the 98th Annual Conference and Concerts of The Music Academy, the Deccan Herald reporting quoting Murali. The session will be held from December 15, 2024 to January 1, 2025, when he will receive the award.
- ✓ In 2016, Krishna was awarded the coveted Ramon Magsaysay Award.

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Q. Who has won the Men's Indian Wells ATP 2024 Title?

A) Rafael Nadal B) Carlos Alcaraz

C) Novak Djokovic D) Alexander Zverev

Answer : B

- ✓ Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) defeated Daniil Medvedev (Russia) in straight sets, with a score of 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in the final of the Indian Wells ATP tournament.
- ✓ With this win, the 20-year-old Alcaraz became the first player to win back-to-back Indian Wells titles since Novak Djokovic did it from 2014 to 2016.
- Q. World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is marked annually on_____

A) March 15	B) March 18
C) March 20	D) March 17

Answer : C

- ✓ The World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is celebrated all over the world on March 20.
- ✓ The day is celebrated every year since 2001 by the international community of theatre practitioners to attract the attention of a wider public to the art of theatre for children and young people.
- ✓ The event is basically organised by the ASSITEJ International, an international alliance of professionals involved in theatre for children and young people.

Q.	which day is observed as the international Day of Happiness every yea	
	A) March 19	B) March 20
	C) March 18	D) March 21

Which day is charged as the International Day of Hannin

Answer : B

- ✓ Every year the International Day of Happiness is celebrated on March 20.
- ✓ The day aims to promote happiness as a fundamental human right for all human beings across the world.
- ✓ The theme for 2023 International Day of Happiness campaign is "Be Mindful. Be Grateful. Be Kind.".
- ✓ The first International Day of Happiness was officially held on 20 March 2013.
- ✓ It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 28 June 2012.



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- Q. The World Oral Health Day is marked every year on March 20. What is the theme for the day in 2023?
 - A) Be Proud Of Your Mouth B) Unite for Mouth Health
 - C) Brush your way to Health

B) Unite for Mouth Health

D) Good health adds life to years

Answer : B

- \checkmark The World Oral Health Day is marked every year on March 20.
- ✓ The theme for Oral Health Day 2024 is 'A happy mouth is a happy body.'
- ✓ The day aims to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives
- ✓ The day is an initiative of FDI World Dental Federation; an organization that brings together the world of dentistry with the aim of achieving optimal oral health for everyone
- Q. March 20 is dedicated to celebrating which of the following days?

A) World Sparrow Day	B) World Frog Day
----------------------	-------------------

C) UN French Language Day D) All of the above

Answer : D

- ✓ World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on March 20. The UN French Language Day is observed annually on 20 March. The World Frog Day is observed annually on March 20.
- ✓ World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on March 20.
- ✓ Theme of 2024 World Sparrow Day "I Love Sparrows"
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of House Sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations.
- ✓ The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010.
- ✓ The day was initiated by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world.
- ✓ The World Frog Day is observed annually on March 20.
- ✓ The purpose of the day is to raise awareness about the tailless amphibian frogs: found on land and water both.
- ✓ The day was created in 2009 with the intention to save many different species of frogs from going extinct.



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- ✓ The UN French Language Day is observed annually on 20 March.
- ✓ The day was established by UN's Department of Public Information in 2010.
- ✓ It is one of the six official languages used throughout the Organization, and aims to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as promote equal use of all.

Q. The World Head Injury Awareness Day is celebrated on which day annually?

A) March 18	B) March 20
C) March 19	D) March 21

Answer : B

- ✓ The World Head Injury Awareness Day is observed annually on March 20, to educate and foster awareness among the general public about traumatic head injuries and strategies to prevent accidents and brain injuries.
- Q. Which bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024?

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

Answer : A

- YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- As part of the collaboration, the bank launched the campaign 'Milkar Jitayengey' and introduced the 'YES Glory Debit Card,' specially designed for India's Olympic athletes.
- The bank also unveiled the 'YES Glory' savings account proposition, extending benefits to athletes and their immediate family members.
- ✓ The YES Glory account offers a range of benefits tailored to the needs of champion athletes. These perks include a complimentary Welcome on-board Taj voucher, free orthopedic consultations, and zero cross-currency mark-up on international spends

YES BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- > Yes Bank becomes first Indian bank to conduct export finance transactions on RXIL's ITFS.

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> Yes Bank Launches SmartFin With Veefin Solutions, An Advanced Digital Platform To Boost MSMEs.

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- > Yes Bank becomes first lender to offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'.
- > Yes bank partnered with fintech Zaggle for next-gen corporate credit card.
- YES Bank goes live with UPI interoperability on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App.
- Reliance General Insurance becomes first insurer to accept Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (e₹) in tie-up with YES Bank
- > YES Bank announced the unveiling of its new logo, which forms part of its "refreshed brand identity." YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.
- > Yes Bank is an Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai, India and was founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor in 2004.
- YES BANK
- ▶ Founded : 2004
- Founder : Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Sunil Mehta
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- > YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.

Consider the following statements regarding the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI): Q.

1. It was set up to extend the use of Internet Service Protocols (ISPs) to route domestic traffic within the country.

2. It functions as the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C



The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is set to unveil the BhashaNet portal at the upcoming Universal Acceptance (UA) Day in a move towards advancing digital inclusion and promoting linguistic diversity in India.

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- ✓ About National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI):
- ✓ It was established in 2003 as a not-for-profit organization under the Companies Act 2013.
- ✓ NIXI was set up to extend the use of Internet Service Protocols (ISPs) for the purpose of routing domestic traffic within the country instead of taking it all the way abroad, thereby resulting in a better quality of service (reduced latency) and reduced bandwidth charges for ISPs by saving on international bandwidth.
- ✓ It is tasked to increase internet penetration and adoption in India by facilitating the various infrastructure aspects to enable the Internet ecosystem to be managed and used by the masses.
- ✓ .IN is India's Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD). The Government of India delegated the operations of INRegistry to NIXI in 2004. The INRegistry operates and manages India's .IN ccTLD.
- ✓ Another activity being carried out by NIXI is that of the National Internet Registry (NIR). The NIR is known as the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN).
- ✓ It offers IXPs towards building Internet Exchange Points.
- Project GR00T, a multimodal AI system, belongs to: 0.
 - A) Facebook
 - C) Google

D) Nvidia

B) Microsoft

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, AI chip leader Nvidia announced Project GR00T which promises to revolutionise the evolution of humanoid robots.
- The project GR00T stands for Generalist Robot 00 Technology.
- ✓ It is a multimodal AI system that acts as the mind for humanoid robots, allowing them to learn new skills and interact with the real world.
- ✓ Robots built on this platform are designed to understand natural language and emulate movements by observing human actions, such as instantly learning coordination, dexterity, and other skills.
- \checkmark This can help the robots navigate and engage with the real world around them.
- ✓ The project aims to empower humanoid robots with human-like understanding and movement using Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ✓ It is essentially a general-purpose foundation model for humanoid robots.



✓ It is at the vanguard of Nvidia's efforts to drive breakthroughs in robotics and embodied AI (robots, virtual assistants, or other intelligent systems that can interact with and learn from a physical environment).

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✓ The model has been trained on NVIDIA GPU-accelerated simulation, and enables the humanoids to learn from human demonstrations with imitation learning, and from the robotics platform NVIDIA Isaac Lab for reinforcement learning.

Reserve Bank of India has imposed how much rupee's penalties on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for Q. non-compliance with certain directions related to 'interest rate on advances'?

A) ₹1.31 cr	B) ₹3.21 cr
C) ₹1.76 cr	D) ₹2.55 cr

Answer : A

- ✓ RBI imposes ₹1.31 cr. penalty on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has imposed penalties on DCB Bank and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for noncompliance with certain directions related to 'interest rate on advances'.
- ✓ A monetary penalty of Rs 63.6 lakh has been imposed on DCB Bank.
- A penalty of Rs 1.31 crore has been imposed on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain \checkmark directions issued by it on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) – Revision in Reporting.

PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- > RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for noncompliance with certain regulatory norms.
- > 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.

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- 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 or ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

Where was the 4th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Startup Forum organized? Q.

A) Shanghai	B) Moscow
C) New Delhi	D) Tashkent

Answer : C

- ✓ The fourth edition of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Startup Forum was held in New Delhi on 19 March 2024.
- ✓ Representatives of all the member countries of SCO participated in this meeting.
- ✓ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a Eurasian political, economic, international security and defense organization established in 2001.
- ✓ India became a member of this organization in the year 2017
- ✓ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- Founded : 2001 √
- HQ : Beijing, China

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- ✓ Secretary General : Zhang Ming (China)
- ✓ Member Countries = 9 (Iran ,China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,Pakistan,Russia, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan)
- ✓ SCO Summit 2022 : Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- \checkmark SCO Summit to be hosted by the Indian side in 2023.
- ✓ The founding members (5) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) were China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan. India and Pakistan officially joined this organisation in 2017
- ✓ Trick to remember SCO Countries.
- ✓ TRICK :- PICK IN KURTA
- ✓ P Pakistan
- 🗸 I India
- ✓ C- China
- ✓ K Kazakhstan
- 🗸 IN Iran
- ✓ K Kyrgyzstan
- ✓ U Uzbekistan
- 🗸 R Russia
- ✓ TA Tajikistan
- ✓ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- ✓ It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation. It was created in 2001.
- ✓ The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.
- ✓ It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- ✓ It is seen as a counterweight to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), It is a nine-member economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.
- ✓ Permanent Bodies:
- ✓ SCO Secretariat in Beijing.
- ✓ Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.
- ✓ Chairmanship:
- \checkmark It is by rotation for a year by Member States.



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IMPORTANT OPERATION & CODE NAME IN NEWS 2023-24

> OPERATION RISING SUN

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a big syndicate involved in smuggling of foreignorigin gold worth around Rs. 40 crorein its operation code named 'Rising Sun' on 12th nd 13th March, 2024

> OPERATION KAMDHENU

> Jammu and Kashmir police launched Operation Kamdhenu to curb cattle smuggling.

> OPERATION PROSPERITY GUARDIAN

Operation Prosperity Guardian is a United States-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed in December 2023 to respond to Houthi-led attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.

> OPERATION AJAY.

India has launched 'Operation Ajay' to facilitate the return from Israel of those Indians who wish to come back home.

> OPERATION IRON SWORD

Israel has named the ongoing fight against Hamas as Operation Iron Sword. Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls some areas of the Gaza Strip.

> OPERATION SAJAG

- Indian Coast Guard conducted 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill along the west coast, aimed at enhancing coastal security.
- > OPERATION BROADER SWORD.
- India and the USA, jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.

> OPERATION KARUNA

- India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.
- > OPERATION KAVERI
- India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan
- > OPERATION DOST



> Due to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, India has launched a campaign named 'Operation Dost' to help the affected people.

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- > OPERATION GARUDA
- > Central Bureau of Investigation has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking network.
- > OPERATION YATRI SURAKSHA
- > To give assurance of the safety to the passengers, the Indian railways with the coordination of Railway Protection Force has launched a pan India drive under the code name Operation Yatri Suraksha.
- > OPERATION "NARCOS"
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently recovered narcotic products worth Rs 7.40 crore under "Operation Narcos".
- > OPERATION SANKALP
- > Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for Op-Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf.
- > OPERATION SATARK
- > Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently started "Operation Satark" taking action against illicit liquor, fake currency circulation, etc.
- > OPERATION GANGA
- > India launches mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine

Project SOORYA, recently seen in the news, is launched by which organization? **Q**.

A) ISRO

B) DRDO D) UNEP

C) WHO

Answer : A

- ✓ ISRO's Project SOORYA is the name of its Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) project, which aims to build the country's own space station and send Indians to the moon.
- \checkmark The project is led by S. Sivakumar, with the initial phase being his responsibility.
- The first launch of the NGLV, codenamed SOORYA, is expected by 2034-35, and will require a third launch \checkmark pad at Sriharikota.

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The project demonstrates ISRO's commitment to technological innovation and solidifying India's position \checkmark as a global space power.

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- Q. 'Brucethoa isro', recently seen in the news, is a:
 - A) new species of marine jellyfish
 - B) scientific research vessel of Ministry of Earth Science
 - C) new species of deep-sea isopod
 - D) satellite launched by ISRO to explore polarimetry

Answer : C

- ✓ Researchers recently named a new species of deep-sea isopod discovered off the Kerala coast after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ About Brucethoa isro:
- ✓ It is a new species of deep-sea isopod discovered off the Kollam coast, Kerala.
- ✓ The tiny fish-parasitic crustacean, belonging to the genus Brucethoa, was recovered from the base of the gill cavity of the Spinyjaw greeneye, a marine fish.
- \checkmark It is the second species within this genus to be documented in India.
- It has been named Brucethoa isro in honour of the Indian space agency's successful space missions.
- ✓ Females of the species tend to be larger than males. Females grow to about 19 mm in length and 6 mm in width, while males are smaller at around half the size.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the Earth Hour: Q.

1. It is a symbolic lights-out event to promote awareness of climate change challenges and energy conservation.

2. It is organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

✓ The power discoms in the national capital are gearing up to make the 'Earth Hour' a success by encouraging their consumers to switch off non-essential lights and electric appliances for one hour on March 23 night.



✓ About Earth Hour:

✓ It is a global grassroots movement uniting people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet.

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- ✓ It is organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- ✓ It started in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 as a symbolic lights-out event and has since grown into a global movement involving millions of people in over 190 countries and territories.
- \checkmark It takes place towards the end of March every year.
- ✓ "Earth Hour" encourages people to switch off all lights for an hour, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. local time, to promote awareness of climate change challenges and energy conservation.

Q. Indian-origin Leo Varadkar was the Prime Minister of which country, who recently resigned?

A) Ireland	B) Finland
C) Portugal	D) Spain

C) Portugal

Answer : A

- ✓ Leo Varadkar of Indian origin has resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Ireland.
- ✓ He has also stepped down as leader of the ruling Fine Gael party.
- ✓ In 2017, Varadkar became the country's first openly gay Prime Minister and the youngest person to hold the post.
- ✓ Ireland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean, in north-western Europe.
- Q. Indian Navy has signed an MoU with which IIT to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&D?

A) IIT Kharagpur	B) IIT Guwahati

C) IIT Patna

D) IIT Madras

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Navy has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&D.
- ✓ The strategic collaboration focuses on joint research and development initiatives involving teams from Indian Navy and IIT Kharagpur. The MoU will be coordinated by INS Shivaji, Lonavala.
- ✓ This alignment signifies a move towards a symbolic relationship between the Academia and the Military, fostering an environment conducive to innovation and knowledge exchange.

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Q. Which company has partners with Election Commission of India to identify unlawful content from its platforms?

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A) X	B) Tinder

C) Meta D) Google

Answer : C

- ✓ Meta partners with ECI to identify unlawful content from its platforms
- ✓ As the world's largest democracy prepares for the 18th General Elections, Meta (erstwhile Facebook) will continue efforts to limit misinformation, remove voter interference, and enhance transparency and accountability on its platforms to support free and fair elections.
- ✓ The company said it is also "closely engaged with the Election Commission of India via the Voluntary Code of Ethics" that it joined in 2019, which gives the Commission a high priority channel to flag unlawful content to Meta.
- ✓ Tech-giant Google had also last week announced that it has partnered with the ECI to provide authoritative information on voting processes for the upcoming general elections via Google Search and YouTube videos.
- ✓ Both Google and Shakti (a pan-India network) will work together to aid in the detection of online misinformation, including deepfakes, and to create a common repository that news publishers can use to tackle the challenges of misinformation at scale
- Q. The Finance Ministry has notified the issuance of a special commemorative coin of Rs 90 denomination to mark the completion of _____ of the RBI.

A) 75 years	B) 50 years
C) 100 years	D) 90 years

Answer : D

- ✓ The Finance Ministry has notified the issuance of a special commemorative coin of Rs 90 denomination to mark the completion of 90 years of the RBI.
- ✓ One side of the coin shall bear the RBI's logo in the centre, with RBI@90 inscribed below.
- ✓ This will be a silver coin with 99.99% silver purity, weighing about 40 grams
- ✓ The face of the coin shall bear the Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar in the centre with "Satyamev Jayate" inscribed in the Devnagari script below it.



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Q. In which city is India's first Ayurvedic cafe opened?

A) Delhi	B) Hyderabad
C) Bengaluru	D) Chennai

Answer : A

- ✓ India's First Ayurvedic Cafe Opens in Delhi
- ✓ Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi treats its patients with the utmost care by providing them with panchakarma therapy, a meditation room, yoga training, deluxe room facilities and in-house doctors.
- ✓ The hospital is making the headlines due to its in-house restaurant, Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen. Here, the food is given according to the health of the visitor.
- ✓ From Dumplings to Pav Bhaji, several dishes are served here without onion and garlic.
- Q. SANY India recently signed an MoU with which bank to provide finance solutions for infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh?
 - A) Bank of Baroda B) Jammu and Kashmir Bank

C) Bank of India

D) Punjab National Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ SANY India, a construction equipment manufacturer, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with J&K Bank to provide financial solutions for infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ✓ The partnership aims to use the strengths of both organizations to offer comprehensive financial services with competitive rates.
- ✓ The partnership also aims to fuel growth and development opportunities in the region.
- Q. Which country hosted the third summit for Democracy?
 - A) Vietnam

C) India

- **B) South Korea**
- D) Germany

- Answer : B
- South Korea hosted the 3rd Summit for Democracy in Seoul from 18-20 March 2024, initiated by President Joe Biden in 2021 to combat authoritarianism and uphold human rights.



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken opened the summit. Previously, the 1st was held virtually in 2021, with over 100 countries attending, and the 2nd in 2023, cohosted with multiple nations in virtual mode, with 121 world leaders invited.

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Which day of the year is marked as the International Day of Forests? Q.

A) March 19	B) March 20
C) March 21	D) March 22

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Day of Forests (also known as World Forestry Day) is celebrated every year on March 21.
- ✓ International Day of Forests 2024 theme is 'Forests and innovation: new solutions for a better world.'
- The day aims to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests, and trees outside forests, for the benefit of current and future generations as well as to increase the public awareness among communities about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to balance the life cycle on the earth.
- \checkmark This day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Forum on \checkmark Forests are the coordinators of the International Day of Forests.

Q. UNESCO has declared which day to be observed as World Poetry Day?

A) 21 March	B) 22 March
C) 20 March	D) 23 March

Answer : A

- ✓ The World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March every year to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.
- ✓ The theme for World Poetry Day 2024 is "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants."
- ✓ The day was declared by the UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1999.



The objective of the day is to "give fresh recognition and impetus to national, regional and international poetry movements", with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.

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The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is marked annually on which Q. day?

A) 21 March	B) 18 March
C) 20 March	D) 19 March

Answer : A

- ✓ The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March to remind people about the negative consequences of racial discrimination.
- \checkmark The United Nations General Assembly called for the day in 1966 to encourage people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination
- The World Down Syndrome Day 2024 was celebrated on which day? Q.

A) 20 March	B) 21 March
C) 19 March	D) 22 March

Answer : B

- ✓ The World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is observed every year on 21 March to raise public awareness for the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome.
- ✓ The Theme of 2024 World Down Syndrome Day 'End The Stereotypes'.
- ✓ The day was officially recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.
- It must be noted that the 21st day of March (the 3rd month of the year) has been selected to signify the \checkmark uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.
- Q. What is the code name of the operation launched by the Indian government to rescue stranded Indians from Haiti?
 - A) Operation Raahat **B)** Operation Sankat Mochan
 - **C)** Operation Indravati
- **D)** Operation Kaveri

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Answer : C

✓ Operation Indravati to rescue Indians from Haiti.



✓ On 21 March 2024, Indian External Affairs Minister, S.Jaishankar, on the microblogging site X, wrote that the government of India has launched 'Operation Indravati' to relocate stranded Indians in violence-wrecked Haiti to the neighbouring country Dominican Republic.

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- ✓ S.Jaishankar also shared the picture of the evacuated 12 Indian citizens on the X site.
- ✓ According to the External Affairs Ministry, there are about 75 to 90 Indians in Haiti, and about 60 of them have registered with Indian authorities to return to India.
- ✓ India in Haiti
- India does not have a diplomatic mission in the former French colony Haiti. The situation in the country is \checkmark being handled by the Indian diplomatic mission in Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic.
- The Dominican Republic is a neighbouring country of Haiti \checkmark
- Who has been elected as the chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24? Q.

A) Dinesh Kumar Khara	B) Shanti Lal Jain
C) Dr.N.Kamakodi	D) M.V. Rao

Answer : D

- ✓ M.V. Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the public sector bank, Central Bank of India, has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24.
- ✓ M.V Rao will succeed Atul Kumar Goel, who is also the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Punjab National Bank. Atul Kumar Goel was elected chairman of IBA in 2021-22 and again in 2022-23.
- ✓ According to the IBA, the Managing Committee of the IBA, in a meeting on 21 March 2024, also elected various office bearers of the IBA for 2023-24.
- ✓ Three newly elected Deputy Chairman of IBA
- ✓ Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman of State Bank of India,
- Shanti Lal Jain, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank and \checkmark
- ✓ Dr.N.Kamakodi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of City Union Bank.
- ✓ Honorary Secretary of IBA
- ✓ Madhav Nair, Country Head and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait.
- Indian Bank Association \checkmark
- ✓ It is an association of Banks and Financial Institutions operating in India.



✓ On 26 September 1946, at a meeting of bankers in Bombay(now Mumbai), the Indian Bank Association was formed with 22 members.

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- ✓ According to the IBA, it has 247 members as of April 2018.
- ✓ The IBA includes Public sector Bank., Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Co-operatives, Regional Rural Banks, and All India Financial Institutions.
- ✓ Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

NEWLY BANK MD & CEO IN NEWS 2023-24

- M.V. Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the public sector bank, Central Bank of India, has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24.
- SBM Bank India has appointed Ashish Vijayakar as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank for a period of 3 years.
- > Praveen Achuthan Kutty appointed as MD & CEO of DCB Bank.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) for a period of three years.
- South Indian Bank has appointed P R Seshadri as its MD & CEO.
- Ashwani Kumar is new MD & CEO of UCO Bank.
- Karnataka Bank Appoints Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as MD & CEO.
- Rajneesh Karnatak Named As New MD and Chairman Of Bank Of India.
- > Debadatta Chand named as new Managing Director of Bank of Baroda.
- > Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.
- ▶ K Satyanarayana Raju named as new MD and CEO of Canara Bank.

Q. Where will be India's 1st Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory?

A) Ladakh

B) Jammu and Kashmir **D)** Uttarakhand

C) Gujarat

Answer: B

- ✓ India's 1st Battery Energy storage GigaFactory to be launched in J&K
- ✓ GoodEnough Energy will start operations at India's first battery energy storage gigafactory in the northern region of Jammu and Kashmir by October.
- The facility will help industry in cutting more than 5 million tons of carbon emissions in a year.

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✓ GoodEnough has already spent 1.5 billion rupees (\$18.07 million) on the 7 gigawatts per hour (GWH) facility and will spend 3 billion rupees by 2027 to raise capacity to 20 GWH.

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- ✓ Battery energy storage projects are critical to India's ambitious plan to expand its renewable energy capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, from 178 GW at present.
- India has set a 2070 goal for becoming net zero.

INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- ▶ India's 1st Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory will be Launched in J&K
- > India's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Arunachal Pradesh started operation by one of India's largest oil palm development companies, 3F Oil Palm.
- > India's first Indoor athletic centre inaugurated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- India's First Research IIT Satellite Campus will be in Ujjain.
- > India's first spy satellite built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will be launched in a SpaceX rocket by April and will be used by the armed forces to obtain secret information.
- Commencement of Core Loading at India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- > The PFBR has been fully designed and constructed by BHAVINI.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project at Maruti Suzuki India's plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat.
- Kerala has declared the man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, the first in India to do so.
- > 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.



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

Q. ISRO successfully tested the landing mission of the reusable launch vehicle, what is it called?

A) Pushpak	B) Sarthak
C) AKASH YAAN	D) Vikram

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully tested the landing mission of its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) named 'Pushpak' from the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Challakere, Karnataka.
- ✓ This was the third landing mission of RLV.
- The mission was accomplished by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) along with the Liquid Propulsion √ System Centre (LPSC) and the ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU).
- Q. Who has been selected as the flag bearer for India at Paris Olympics 2024?
 - A) Manika Batra

- **B)** Sharat Kamal
- **C)** Saurabh Chaudhary

- D) Neeraj Chopra

Answer : B



✓ Khel Ratna Award winner and two-time Commonwealth Games champion table tennis player Sharath Kamal will be India's flag bearer in the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024.

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- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has recently announced this.
- ✓ Sharath Kamal will be India's 19th flag bearer in the Olympics.
- ✓ Former Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh and Mary Kom led India as flag bearers in the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- ✓ Achanta Sharath Kamal known as Sharath Kamal, is an Indian professional table tennis player.
- ✓ He is the first Indian table tennis player ever to become ten times Senior National Champion hence breaking the record of eight-time National Champion Kamlesh Mehta.
- ✓ In 2019 he was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award and in 2022, he was awarded the Khel Ratna Award, India's highest sporting honour.
- Which of the following countries are part of the IMT Tri-Lateral Exercise, recently in the news? Q.
 - A) India, USA and Australia B) USA, UK and Australia
 - C) India, Japan and USA D) India, Mozambique and Tanzania

Answer : D

- ✓ INS Tir and INS Sujata will participate in the forthcoming edition of India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise.
- ✓ It is a joint maritime exercise scheduled from 21-29 Mar 24.
- ✓ The first edition of IMT TRILAT exercise conducted in Oct 22, saw participation of INS Tarkash with the Tanzanian and Mozambique Navies.
- ✓ The current edition of the exercise is planned in two phases. As part of the harbour phase scheduled from 21-24 Mar 24, Naval ships Tir and Sujata will engage with the respective Navies at the ports of Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Maputo (Mozambique).
- The exercise will conclude with a joint debrief scheduled at Nacala (Mozambique) \checkmark
- Which IIT has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand'? **Q**.
 - A) IIT Bombay

C) IIT Kanpur

D) IIT Delhi

B) IIT Madras

Answer : B



✓ IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users.

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- ✓ The wheelchair was launched at the campus in the presence of Professor V Kamakoti, Director of IIT Madras, faculty, researchers, dignitaries, supporters of this project, and users of these rehabilitative devices.
- ✓ The NeoStand is a compact standing wheelchair equipped with navigation for its motorized standing mechanism. Users can easily switch from sitting to standing at the touch of a button.
- Tata Elxsi sponsored the journey of NeoStand under its corporate social responsibility initiative. The \checkmark development and design were spearheaded by the TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) at IIT Madras and NeoMotion, which took the lead in bringing this product to the marketplace

IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

- > IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users
- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- > Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- > Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- > IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- > ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India materials and engineering resources being deployed to construct Asia's first Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- ▶ IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.



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- > 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 dronebased synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- > IIT Guwahati researchers develop Al-based model for knee X-ray.
- > Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- > IIT-Madras generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.
- > India, Israel to jointly develop Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras.
- > IIT Madras researchers partner for development of materials and micro-device processing techniques.
- IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme.
- > IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras will be provided a grant of Rs 242 crore over a period of five years to carry out research on Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD).
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has been ranked 1st in India and 47th globally in engineering and technology by the QS World University Rankings for 2023.
- IIT Indore, in partnership with NASA-Caltech and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has designed an inexpensive camera setup.



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- 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. Consider the following statements regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum:
 - 1. It facilitates cross-border incubation and acceleration programs.
 - 2. India has never organized the Startup Forum of the SCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- The fourth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was organized on 19th March 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ It is a platform for the stakeholders from the startup ecosystems from all SCO Member States to interact and collaborate.



✓ It aims to create multilateral cooperation and engagement for startups among the SCO Member States. This engagement will empower the local startup ecosystems in the SCO Member States.

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- ✓ India will host the second meeting of the Special Working Group for Startups and Innovation (SWG) in November 2024 and SCO Startup Forum 5.0 in January 2025.
- ✓ Previously, Startup India had organized various initiatives for SCO Member states including:
- ✓ SCO Startup Forum 1.0: The SCO Startup Forum in 2020 laid the foundation for multilateral cooperation and engagement for startups among the SCO Member States.
- ✓ SCO Startup Forum 2.0: The two-day Forum was held virtually in 2021 through a customized platform representing the Indian culture in augmented reality. SCO Startup Hub, a single point of contact for the SCO startup ecosystem, was launched in this forum.
- ✓ SCO Startup Forum 3.0: DPIIT organised the first ever physical SCO Startup Forum in 2023 for the SCO Member States.
- ✓ 1st Meeting of the SWG: The first Meeting of the SCO Special Working Group on Startups and Innovation (SWG), permanently chaired by India, was organised on the theme 'Growing from Roots' in 2023.

Who has been appointed as the new President of Federation of Indian Export Organization? Q.

A) Rajeev Sinha	B) Jai Agnihotri
C) Ashwini Kumar	D) Vinay Kumar

Answer : C

- ✓ Ashwini Kumar has been appointed as the new President of Federation of Indian Export Organization (FIEO).
- ✓ Ashwini Kumar is a renowned business entrepreneur and exporter from Jalandhar, Punjab, who is associated with the engineering sector.
- Who has recently been appointed as the new captain by Chennai Super Kings? Q.
 - A) Ravindra Jadeja

B) Ruturaj Gaikwad

C) Ajinkya Rahane

D) Shivam Dubey

Answer : B

✓ Ruturaj Gaikwad to replace Dhoni as CSK Captain in IPL 2024



✓ One of the most successful Indian Premier League (IPL) teams, Chennai Super Kings(CSK), appointed Ruturaj Gaikwad as its captain on 21 March 2024.

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- ✓ The 17th IPL starts on 22 March 2024, with the defending champion CSK taking on Royal Challengers Bangalore at Chepauk, Chennai.
- ✓ <u>Mahendra Singh Dhoni as CSK Captain</u>
- ✓ Mahendra Singh Dhoni was the longest-serving captain of CSK. M.S. Dhoni has the distinction of captaining CSK in 235 of their 249 games in all competitions.
- ✓ He was appointed captain of CSK in the inaugural IPL in 2008. In the 2022 season, Ravindra Jadeja was appointed captain of CSK, but Dhoni replaced Jadeja after 8 tournament matches. Dhoni was the captain of CSK in the 2023 season and under his captaincy, it won the IPL title for the 5th time, equalling the record with Mumbai Indians.
- ✓ Under Dhoni's captaincy, CSK won IPL titles in 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021, and 2023.
- ✓ M S Dhoni retired from international cricket in 2019 following the One Day World Cup held in England and Wales.
- ✓ Chennai Super Kings
- ✓ It is one of the most successful IPL franchise teams. CSK is owned by N. Srinivasan and his family, who hold 28.14 per cent shares of CSK.
- ✓ N.Srinivasan is the former president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. He was the president of BCCI from 2011-2013.
- ✓ N.Srinivasan was made the first chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 2014
- ✓ <u>Indian Premier League</u>
- ✓ The Indian Premier League is a 20-over cricket league that was started in 2008 by the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India).
- ✓ 8 franchise teams used to participate in the IPL, but in 2022, the number of franchises was raised by 10 teams. Currently, ten franchises are participating in the IPL.
- ✓ They are the Chennai Super Kings, Gujarat Titans, Lucknow Super Giants, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals, Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals, and Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- ✓ Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings have won the title 5 times each.



Q. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has signed an MoU with which company for the dissemination & promotion of ICAR's initiatives for the growth of Indian Agriculture and farmers' welfare?

A) Bayer Crop Science Ltd

B) Agrocorp industries

- C) Krishi Jagran Pvt Ltd
- D) Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Ltd

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Answer : C

- ✓ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Krishi Jagran Pvt Ltd have signed a MoU for the dissemination & promotion of ICAR's initiatives for the growth of Indian Agriculture and farmers' welfare.
- ✓ Dr. U.S. Gautam, Deputy Director General (Agril. Extension) ICAR and Shri M.C Dominic, Founder & Editor-In-Chief, Krishi Jagran Pvt Ltd, signed the MoU for their respective organisations.
- ✓ The MoU will help in the Video production of ICAR Success Stories on social media platforms and promote the success stories of ICAR-developed technologies across India.
- ✓ It will also help generate Video Bytes of senior officials and Writeups in relevant Krishi Jagran magazine editions on ICAR initiatives.
- Q. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of Kesoram Cement Business from Kesoram Industries Limited by which company?
 - A) Dalmia Bharat Ltd B) Ambuja Cement Ltd
 - C) UltraTech Cement Limited D) ACC Ltd

Answer : C

- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Kesoram's Cement Business by UltraTech Cement Limited.
- ✓ The deal is estimated to be valued at ₹7,600 crore, including the debt the company will take on from Kesoram.
- ✓ The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of the grey cement business of Kesoram Industries Ltd by UltraTech Cement Ltd.
- ✓ UltraTech Cement, the flagship company of Aditya Birla group, had in November last year announced that it has acquired the cement business of Kesoram Industries in a share-swap deal.
- ✓ Post-acquisition, UltraTech's annual cement capacity will reach 149.14 mt, including its overseas operations. The proposed transaction will accelerate UltraTech's path to achieve the stated goal of 200 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) in India

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Q. Which payments bank has partnered with Noise and Mastercard to launch "A New Way to Pay" to revolutionize contactless payments by redefining and making them more accessible to a wider user base?

A) Jio Payments Bank

B) Airtel Payments Bank

C) Paytm Payments Bank

D) India Post Payments Bank

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Answer : B

- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Noise, India's premier wristwatch brand, and Mastercard, a worldwide payments technology business, to launch A New Way to Pay.
- The institutions have collaborated to create the Bank's Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch, which aims to revolutionise contactless payments by redefining and making them more accessible to a wider user base.
- ✓ These smartwatches, built by Noise and powered by Airtel Payments Bank, will improve Tap and Pay capabilities and the user experience by introducing the convenience of contactless payments via smart wearables.
- The new smartwatch is now available for purchase for INR 2,999.
- Customers with an Airtel Payments Bank savings account can purchase this smartwatch using the Airtel \checkmark Thanks App. The Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch allows customers to make daily payments ranging from INR 1 to INR 25,000.

Who has been appointed as the CEO of Leading FMCG maker P&G India? 0.

- A) Kumar Venkatasubramanian
- **B)** Dilip Sharma
- C) Rajendra Singh
- D) Alok Sinha

Answer : A

- ✓ Leading FMCG maker P&G India has appointed Kumar Venkatasubramanian as CEO of the company, with effect from 1 May 2024.
- ✓ The current CEO, L V Vaidyanathan will leave the company to pursue personal interests after 28 years of service.
- ✓ Kumar is currently leading the P&G business in Australia and New Zealand as CEO.
- Before the Australia role, Kumar was leading sales team in P&G India until 2020 \checkmark

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Q. Prabowo Subianto has been elected as new President of which country?

- A) Malaysia
- C) Iceland

B) IrelandD) Indonesia

Answer : D

- Prabowo Subianto elected as new President of Indonesia
- ✓ Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto has been elected as president of the world's third-biggest democracy.
- ✓ Defence Minister Prabowo and his vice-presidential running mate Gibran Rakabuming Raka received more than 96 million votes, commission chairman Hasyim Asy'ari said, roughly 58.6 percent of the total count and enough to secure a first-round majority.
- ✓ Indonesia
- ✓ Capital : Jakarta
- ✓ Currency : Rupiah
- ✓ President : Prabowo Subianto

NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

Q .	Which organization of India has received the Aviation Week Laureates Award?	
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A) ISRO	B) DRDO
C) ICAR	D) CSIR

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) received the Aviation Week Laureates Award in 2024 for its achievements with the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- Deputy Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in the US, Sripriya Ranganathan, accepted the award on behalf of ISRO.
- ✓ The award recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in the aerospace industry
- Q. The government has decided to impose an anti-dumping duty on cast aluminum alloy wheels from which country?

A) China	B) Russia
C) Malaysia	D) Iran

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Finance Ministry imposed an anti-dumping duty on cast aluminum alloy wheels (ARWs) from China, ranging from \$0.23 to \$1.71 per kilogram, depending on the producer.
- ✓ The duty is valid for five years.
- ✓ The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has said that applicants have submitted evidence of dumping of the product from China in spite of the existing anti-dumping duties.
- ✓ The DGTR can review the need for the continued imposition of the duty before the end of five years.
- Q. Where was the 3rd edition of the North East Games 2024 started?

A) Nagaland	B) Assam
C) Arunachal Pradesh	D) Mizoram

Answer : A



✓ The 3rd edition of North East Games 2024 commenced in Nagaland at Regional Centre for Sporting Excellence, Sovima.

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- ✓ Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio inaugurated the event.
- ✓ Over 3000 athletes from eight North Eastern states compete in 15 disciplines across three districts.
- ✓ Host Nagaland won the opening football match against Tripura.
- ✓ Manipur also secured victory in Sepaktakraw Men's event against Mizoram.
- The games feature sports like archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, football, lawn tennis, Pencak \checkmark Silat, table tennis, taekwondo, volleyball, and wushu.
- Q. What is the rank of India in the production of crude steel in the world?

A) 2nd	B) 3rd
C) 4th	D) 1st

- Answer : A
- ✓ Naveen Jindal elected the President of Indian Steel Association.
- ✓ Noted industrialist and former member of Parliament Naveen Jindal was unanimously elected as the President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA) on 21 March 2024.
- ✓ He also assumed the charge as the President of the Indian Steel Association on the same day.
- ✓ He replaced Mr Dilip Oommen, CEO, AMNS India and Executive Vice President, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India.
- ✓ <u>About Naveen Jindal</u>
- ✓ Naveen Jindal is currently the chairman of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP), India's leading Industrial conglomerate with interests in steel, mining and infrastructure sector.
- ✓ He has also been elected as the Lok Sabha member from the Kurukshetra constituency of Haryana in 2004 and again in 2009.
- ✓ He is known for successfully fighting a ten year long legal battle, which resulted in every Indian gaining 'Right to display the national flag on all days' as part of their Fundamental Right.
- ✓ Indian Steel Association
- ✓ The Indian Steel Association was set up in 2014 as an apex body of steel producing companies of India. According to the Indian Steel Association it represents 65% of India's crude steel production.
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi



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- ✓ <u>Steel Sector In India</u>
- ✓ The foundation of India's present iron and steel industry was laid in 1875, when a blast-furnace plant was built at Kulti near Calcutta (now Kolkata). The Kulti plant is currently being operated by Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO).
- ✓ The first modern steel plant was set up by Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata. He set up Tata Iron and Steel Company (now Tata Steel) was formed in 1907 and set up its plant at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
- During second five year plan (1956-61) government started the process to first integrated steel plant of the public sector at
- ✓ Rourkela (Odisha) in collaboration with German firms,
- ✓ Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) in collaboration Soviet Union and
- ✓ Durgapur (West Bengal) in collaboration with Britain.
- ✓ <u>Status of Steel production</u>
- ✓ India is the world's second-largest producer of crude steel in the world after China. In 2022-23 India produced 125.32 million tonnes of crude steel and 121.29 million tonnes of finished steel in 2022-23.
- ✓ The steel sector in India has grown significantly over the last decade, with production increasing by 75% since 2008.
- ✓ In 2022-23 the Steel consumption per capita in India was 86.7 kilograms.
- ✓ India is the largest producer of sponge iron in the world.
- ✓ India is the world's third-largest user of finished steel after China and the United States of America.
- Q. Which two star clusters have been discovered in space recently by the Gaia space telescope?
 - A) Chhota and Bheem B) Shiva and Shakti
 - C) Motu and Patlu D) Tom and Jerry

Answer: B

- ✓ Gaia telescope discovers two ancient streams of stars Shiva & Shakti.
- ✓ The European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope has discovered two ancient streams of stars called Shiva and Shakti. These new discoveries have greatly advanced human understanding of the origin of the galaxy.
- ✓ Formed approximately 12 billion years ago, these celestial structures are among the earliest structures that contributed to the formation of our galaxy.



These ancient structures have been discovered under the leadership of Khyati Malhan of the Max Planck \checkmark Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Heidelberg, Germany.

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- ✓ Khyati Malhan has expressed surprise at the ability to unearth these ancient structures.
- ✓ About Gaia Space Telescope:
- \checkmark It was launched in December 2013.
- ✓ The Gaia spacecraft is a mission operated by the European Space Agency.
- ✓ Gaia has been surveying the skies for more than a decade and collecting vast amounts of data.

Q. The theme for 2024 World Water Day is Water for peace'. When is this day celebrated annually?

- A) 21 March B) 22 March
- C) 23 March

Answer : B

- ✓ 'World Water Day' is observed each year on the 22nd of March.
- ✓ On this occasion, people are reminded of the importance of freshwater and the need for sustainable water management techniques. Because currently water shortage remains a global concern.

D) 20 March

- \checkmark The theme of 'World Water Day' for this year 2024 is 'Water for peace'.
- In the year 1992, the Environment and Development Conference program was organized in Brazil. The issue of celebrating 'World Water Day' was raised in this conference. After this, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution in 1992. UNGA announced that 'World Water Day' should be celebrated every year on 22 March.
- In this way, 'World Water Day' was celebrated for the first time in the year 1993. In 2010, the UN recognized the right to safe, clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right. Its aim is to focus people's attention on the global water crisis.
- The primary objective of World Water Day is to promote the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. In which a target has been set to provide water and sanitation to all by 2030.

Which country has conferred its highest civilian award Order of the Druk Gyalpo on Narendra Modi? 0.

A) Vietnam

B) Cambodia

C) Indonesia

D) Bhutan

Answer : D

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- ✓ Narendra Modi receives Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a two-day visit to Bhutan, was conferred' Order of the Druk Gyalpo' by the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck on 22 March 2024.
- \checkmark In a ceremony organised at the Tashichho Dzong Palace in the Bhutanese capital, Thimphu
- ✓ Thus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first foreign leader to receive the highest Bhutanese civilian award, the Order of the Druk Gyalpo'.
- ✓ The Order of the Druk Gyalpo was bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his contribution to furthering India -Bhutan relationships and for his distinguished service to the Bhutanese nation and people".
- The Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award is the highest civilian award instituted by the Government of Bhutan.
 The award is given for lifetime achievement and takes precedence over all orders, decorations and medals given in Bhutan.
- ✓ PM Modi's Visit to Bhutan
- ✓ Initially Prime Minister Modi was to visit Bhutan on 21st March 2024 but due to bad weather conditions over the Paro airport, the visit was rescheduled to 22. Now the visit will be of two days duration 22-23 March..
- ✓ He was received at the Paro airport by the Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay.
- ✓ India to provide Rs 10,000 crore to Bhutan in next five years
- ✓ The Prime Minister announced that India will provide Rs 10,000 crore in the next five years to support Bhutan's 13th five-year plan. India is a major financier of Bhutan's five-year plans. India provided Rs 5,000 crore to Bhutan to finance its 12th five-year Plan.
- ✓ Bhutan is the largest recipient of India's external aid. In 2024-25, India will provide Rs 2,068 crore of financial aid to Bhutan.
- ✓ <u>Bhutan</u>
- ✓ Bhutan, also known as Druk Yul, means "Land of the Thunder Dragon.
- ✓ Bhutan is a landlocked country in South Asia. It shares international boundaries with India and China.
- ✓ Four Indian states, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim, share a land border with Bhutan.
- ✓ The length of India's international border with Bhutan is 699 km.
- ✓ Capital: Thimphu
- ✓ Currency: Nagultram
- ✓ Language spoken in Bhutan-Dzongkha



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- ✓ King: Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- ✓ Prime Minister: Tshering Tobgay
- ✓ STATE HONOURS GIVEN TO NARENDRA MODI
- ✓ 16. Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award : Bhutan's highest civilian award (2024).
- ✓ 15. PM Modi conferred with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour (2023)
- ✓ 14. Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour : France's highest civilian and military honour (2023)
- ✓ 13. Order of the Nile : Egypt's highest honor (2023)
- ✓ 12. Companion of the Order of Logohu: the highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea (2023)
- ✓ 11. Companion of the Order of Fiji: Highest honour of Fiji (2023)
- ✓ 10. Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau (2023)
- ✓ 9. Order of the Dragon King is the highest civilian honour of Bhutan (2021)
- ✓ 8. Legion of Merit is a military award of the USA (2020)
- ✓ 7. Order of Zayed is the highest civilian honour of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (2019)
- ✓ 6. Order of St. Andrew is the highest civilian honour of Russia (2019)
- ✓ 5. Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddin is the highest honour of the Maldives (2019)
- ✓ 4. King Hamad Order of the Renaissance is the highest honour of Bahrain (2019)
- ✓ 3. Grand Collar of the State Of Palestine is the highest civilian order of Palestine (2018)
- ✓ 2. Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud is the Highest honour of Saudi Arabia (2016)
- ✓ 1. Amir Amanullah Khan Award is the highest civilian award of Afghanistan (2016)
- Q. Who is the first person to reach Point Nemo, the oceanic pole of inaccessibility?
 - A) Chris Brown B) James Cook
 - C) David Livingstone D) Abraham Bristow

Answer : A

- ✓ Chris Brown, 1st person who reaches point Nemo-remotest Point on Earth
- ✓ Chris Brown of Britain has become the first person in history to reach Point Nemo, the oceanic pole of inaccessibility in the Pacific Ocean. The Point Nemo is located in the southern Pacific Ocean east of New Zealand.
- ✓ In an Instagram post on 20 March 2024, Chris Brown wrote that he had become the first person to swim to Point Nemo.



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- ✓ Where is Point Nemo?
- ✓ Point Nemo is an imaginary point in the south Pacific Ocean that is very far from land. It is located at coordinates 48°52.6′ South latitude and 123°23.6′ West longitude.
- The nearest landmass in the north is Ducie Island, part of the Pitcairn Islands, which is 2,688 km away from Point Nemo. In the northeast of Point Nemo lies Motu Nui Island, part of Easter Island and in the south is Maher Island, part of Antarctica.

Q. Which company launched border patrol surveillance drone 'Trishul' in March 2024?

A) Boeing

B) Garuda Aerospace Private Limited

C) Lockheed Martin

D) Tata Advanced Systems

Answer : B

- ✓ Garuda Aerospace unveiled Trishul, a border patrol surveillance drone.
- ✓ Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace has launched a Border Patrol Surveillance Drone, 'Trishul'. Garuda Aerospace Company gave information in this regard on 22 March 2024.
- ✓ <u>Uses of Trishul Drone:</u>
- ✓ The Border Patrol surveillance drone Trishul can be used to monitor the movement of people, monitor natural disasters and assess traffic.
- ✓ About Garuda Aerospace:
- ✓ Garuda Aerospace Private Limited is a drone startup company based in Chennai. It was founded in 2015 by Agnishwar Jayaprakash, a young entrepreneur and Asian gold medalist swimmer.
- ✓ Garuda has received approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India.
- ✓ In 2022, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated Garuda Aerospace's drone manufacturing facilities.
- ✓ Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni serves as its brand ambassador and shareholder. Garuda Aerospace was also the official drone partner of IPL team Chennai Super Kings for the year 2023.
- ✓ Garuda Aerospace Founders: Agnishwar Jayaprakash (CEO), Rithika Mohan
- ✓ Brand Ambassador of Garuda Aerospace: Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- Q. Which is the first country in the world where the Amul brand products will be manufactured?
 - A) Russia B) United Kingdom
 - C) United States D) France



Answer : C

- ✓ Amul Launches its first International business in the US.
- ✓ Iconic Indian brand Amul will start its first international operation in the United States of America by manufacturing its product there. The Amul brand is owned by Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF).

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- ✓ The tagline of Amul is "The Taste of India".
- ✓ According to Jayen Mehta ,Managing Director Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF),Amul will launch its fresh milk product in the United States of America in partnership with the Michigan Milk Producers Association . The Michigan Milk Producers Association is one of the oldest dairy cooperatives of the United States.
- ✓ Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation is the largest exporter of dairy products from India.It exports its product through agents in more than 50 countries in West Asia, Europe and the United States of America which has a large Indian diaspora.
- ✓ However it will be the first time that Amul will manufacture its product outside India.
- ✓ Amul is owned by Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF). It is India's largest food product marketing organisation based in Gujarat. It is the apex marketing body of Dairy cooperatives of Gujarat.
- The genesis of Amul lies in the formation of Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited by two village dairy co-operative societies in 1946.
- The headquarters of the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited is at Anand, Gujarat.
 The farmers of the village founded Anand Milk Union Limited popularly known as Amul.
- ✓ <u>Milk Production In India</u>
- In 1998, India surpassed the United States of America to become the largest milk-producing country in the world.
- According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), in 2021-22, India's contribution to world milk production was 24%.
- ✓ Milk production in the country is estimated as 230.58 million tonnes during 2022-23, a growth of 22.81% over the past 5 years.
- ✓ Highest milk producing State during 2022-23 was
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh with a share of 15.72 % of total milk production

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- ✓ Rajasthan (14.44 %),
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (8.73 %),
- ✓ Gujarat (7.49 %), and
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh (6.70 %).
- Q. Which bank has announced a USD 250 million loan commitment for new-age entrepreneurs?
 - A) Karur Vyasya Bank

- B) Karnataka Bank
- C) Indian Overseas Bank
- D) DBS Bank India

Answer : D

- ✓ DBS Bank India has announced a USD 250 million loan commitment for new-age entrepreneurs.
- The project is part of the bank's efforts to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country's vibrant startup environment.
- ✓ The Indian start-up sector, a foundational pillar of the country's development goals, has seen significant expansion over the years with over 90,000 start-ups and more than 100 unicorns as of 2024.
- ✓ Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank
- ✓ Founded : 1968
- ✓ Headquarters : Singapore
- ✓ Chairman : Peter Seah
- ✓ CEO : Piyush Gupta
- Q. Which state becomes the first State to develop a system which would bring the information on the availability of water to the public domain?
 - A) Gujarat B) Rajasthan
 - C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Bihar

Answer : B

- Rajasthan is the first state in India to develop a system that provides real-time information on the availability of water in dams and canals.
- ✓ The state has launched the Rajasthan Water Resources Dashboard.
- ✓ This initiative aims to enhance water management efficiency and predict floods and droughts.
- ✓ Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat hailed Rajasthan's pioneering effort, marking a significant step in water and disaster management.

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Q. Kazhuveli watershed region, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

A) Karnataka B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Kerala

D) / Mullin I Tudesi

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : D

- ✓ Conservationists plan to nominate Kazhuveli watershed region of Tamil Nadu for inclusion in World Monuments Fund Watch 2025, linking local preservation efforts with global attention and action.
- ✓ The World Monuments Fund, founded in 1965, aims to conserve significant architectural and cultural sites worldwide.
- ✓ Headquartered in New York, it operates in 112 countries, partnering with communities, funders, and governments.
- ✓ Its work addresses contemporary issues such as climate change and underrepresentation by leveraging heritage for resilience and inclusivity.

TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023-24

- Conservationists plan to nominate Kazhuveli watershed region of Tamil Nadu for inclusion in World Monuments Fund Watch 2025, linking local preservation efforts with global attention and action.
- > The Khelo India Youth Games 2024 will be held in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- 'Guidance', the nodal agency for investment promotion of Tamil Nadu, has received the United Nations Promotion Award 2023.
- Project Nilgiri Tahr' launched in Tamil Nadu.
- The second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will come up in about two years at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- The U.K. and Tamil Nadu collaborate on a smart technology project for sustainable water, waste, and resource management.
- Recently, Udangudi 'Panangkarupatti' (palm jaggery/ gur) from Tamil Nadu has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tamil Nadu government has unveiled its new tourism policy to develop the State into the most attractive experiential destination in Asia.
- > 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.

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- > The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district Tamil Nadu was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Taiwanese firm Foxconn Technology Group, a key supplier to Apple Inc., signed a letter of Intent with the Tamil Nadu government to invest ₹1,600 crore to establish a manufacturing facility in Kancheepuram district.
- > 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.
- > Tamil Nadu's Authoor betel leaves get Geographical Indication (GI) certificate.
- > Tamil Nadu bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation.
- > Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister "Udhayanidhi Stalin" has unveiled the trophy and the 'Bomman' mascot for the prestigious Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey tournament to be held in Chennai.
- Muthamizh Selvi, first Tamil Nadu woman to scale Mt Everest.
- Tamil Nadu government declared Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state..
- Tamil Nadu becomes first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission.
- > Tamil Nadu govt to launch five-year Tamil Nadu Millet Mission.
- > In a first of its kind initiative in India, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced the 'Nilgiri Tahr Project'.
- Who was awarded the prestigious Devi Shankar Awasthi Award 2023? Q.
 - A) Achyutanand Mishra
- B) Ashutosh Bhardwaj
- C) Ram Shankar Awasthi
- **D)** Nishant

Answer : D

✓ Nishant, a young poet and critic, is awarded the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award in 2023 for his book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'.

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The selection committee, comprising esteemed writers like Mridula Garg and Sudhir Chandra, unanimously chose Nishant. Established in 1995, this honor, named after Hindi literary critic Devi Shankar Awasthi, recognizes young critics for their significant contributions to Hindi criticism.

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Nishant's work exemplifies excellence in both criticism and poetry.

AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023-24

- Nishant, a young poet and critic, is awarded the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award in 2023 for his \geq book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'.
- Narendra Modi receives Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award.
- Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis
- > Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III
- Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur'.
- > PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan are set to receive India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- > Karpoori Thakur, a renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, is set to be posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- Another recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award for the year 2024 is Lal Krishna Advani.
- > Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award.
- REC Secures Best Green Bond Corporate Award At The Asset Triple A Awards 2024.
- PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored with the Shankar Smriti Award
- > The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ➢ Best Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)



> Australia skipper Pat Cummins was announced as the winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023.

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

Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited signed an agreement with whom to increase the peaceful Q. use of nuclear energy?

A) Air Force

B) Indian Army

C) Indian Navy

D) National Cadet Corps

Answer : D

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- ✓ NCC & NPCIL signed MoU for peaceful nuclear power awareness programs
- ✓ National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) signed MoU to enhance peaceful use of nuclear energy. NCC and NPCIL together will organize various awareness programs across the country for this.
- ✓ Signing of MOU:
- ✓ This agreement was signed on March 21, 2024 in New Delhi. It was signed by NCC Director General Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh and NPCIL Executive Director BVS Shekhar.
- ✓ NPCIL will educate NCC cadets in this initiative. Thereafter will provide resource persons for regional engagement with NCC during camps and various activities.
- ✓ This MoU will provide an opportunity to the cadets to visit various NPCIL facilities across the country.
- NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited) is an Indian public sector undertaking headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ <u>About National Cadet Corps (NCC):</u>
- ✓ The National Cadet Corps (NCC) serves as the youth organization affiliated with the Indian Armed Forces.
- ✓ The headquarters of NCC is New Delhi.
- ✓ NCC was formed in 1948.
- ✓ It is open to school and college students on a voluntary basis as a tri-service organization. NCC encompasses the Army, Navy, and Air Force, where cadets undergo fundamental military training in small arms handling and drill exercises.

B) G.Sathiyan

Q. Who is the first Indian table tennis player to win a singles title at the WTT Feeder Series event?

- A) Sharath Kamal
- C) Sutirtha Mukherjee D) Anthony Amalraj

Answer : B

- ✓ G.Sathiyan wins WTT Feeder Beirut Table Tennis 2024 Title
- ✓ Indian table tennis player G.Sathiyan beat fellow Indian Manav Vikash Thakkar in the final to win the men's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon on 21 March 2024.
- ✓ Diya Chitale and Manush Shah won the second title for India by winning the mixed doubles title.
- ✓ World no.103 ranked G.Sathiyan became the first Indian to win a singles title at the WTT Feeder Series event.



✓ In the mixed doubles event, the Indian pair Diya Chitale and Manush Shah defeated the fellow Indian pair Manav Thakkar and Archana Kamath.

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✓ Xia Lian Ni of Luxembourg defeated Suh Hyo Won of South Korea to win the women's single title. It was the second WTT Feeder Series title for Xia Lian Ni.

Who became the 1st Indian to have 12000 runs in a T20 Match? Q.

A) Rohit Sharma

B) KL Rahul

C) Virat Kohli

D) Shikhar Dhawan

Answer : C

- ✓ Virat Kohli Became 1st Indian to have 12000 runs in T20 Match
- ✓ Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli has achieved another milestone in his career by becoming the first Indian cricketer to score 12,000 runs in T20 format.
- ✓ Kohli accomplished this feat during the opening match of the 2024 Indian Premier League (IPL) between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) at MA Chidambaram Stadium.
- ✓ The 12,000 runs include the runs he scored for RCB in the IPL and the now-defunct Champions League, for Delhi in domestic Twenty-over cricket and for India in T20 Internationals.
- ✓ Rohit Sharma is the second highest Indian run-scorer in T20 cricket with a total of 11,156 runs.
- ✓ The leading position in the list is held by former West Indies opener, Chris Gayle, who has scored a massive 14.562 runs in T20 cricket.
- ✓ Following him is former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik with 13,360 runs, and third is West Indian player Kieron Pollard with 12,900 runs.
- Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieved a significant milestone by being conferred **Q**. with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). In which year **GRID-INDIA** was established?
 - A) 2009

C) 2011

B) 2010 D) 2008

Answer : A

- ✓ Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- This recognition, bestowed upon by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, underscores GRID-INDIA's pivotal role in the nation's power landscape.

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Established in 2009, GRID-INDIA holds the crucial mandate of overseeing the seamless and uninterrupted operation of the Indian Power System, ensuring the efficient transfer of electric power within and across regions, facilitating trans-national power exchanges with a focus on reliability, economy, and sustainability

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47th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA) was concluded in which city? Q.

A) Srinagar	B) Chennai
C) New Delhi	D) Bengaluru

Answer : A

- ✓ The two-days' 47th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA) was concluded at the Sher-e Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.
- ✓ Delegates from Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh participated in the meeting.
- ✓ The two-day meeting held with an aim to revitalize the archives administration and records management system across states and Union Territories.
- The next meeting of the NCA is likely to be held in Gujarat later in the year. \checkmark
- **Q**. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) elected which country as co-chair of its Digital **Innovation Board?**

A) China	B) Russia
C) India	D) United States

Answer : C

- ✓ ITU elects India as co-chair of its Digital Innovation Board
- ✓ Dr Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, led a high-level delegation to Geneva for a series of crucial meetings at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Headquarters.
- The visit focused on fostering collaboration and exploring innovative initiatives in the telecommunications \checkmark and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors.
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has selected 17 organizations from around the world to host Network of Acceleration Centres with the Global Innovation Centre at ITU Area Office and Innovation Centre, New Delhi, India to coordinate the efforts of Network Acceleration centres around the globe

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Q. The Martyrs Day to commemorate the death anniversary of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, is marked on which day?

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A) March 21 B) March 23

C) March 22 D) March 20

Answer : B

- ✓ Every year 23 March is celebrated as Shaheed Diwas or 'Martyrs' Day'.
- ✓ On this occasion, the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Indian independence are honored and their sacrifices are remembered.
- ✓ History of Shaheed Diwas:
- ✓ On March 23, 1931, the British hanged India's young freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Shivram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar. This day is celebrated to pay tribute to the immortal martyrs who sacrificed their lives smilingly in the freedom struggle.
- The names of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru are recorded in golden letters in history. Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru are role models and inspirations for the youth. All three were sentenced to death on charges of Lahore conspiracy.
- March 24, 1931 was fixed as the date of hanging of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. But the British government hanged him on March 23, a day before the scheduled time.

Which day is marked as the World Meteorological Day annually? Q.

A) 19 March	B) 23 March
C) 21 March	D) 20 March

Answer : B

- ✓ 'World Meteorological Day' is celebrated every year on 23 March.
- ✓ On this occasion, attention is paid to the Earth's environment and the behavior of the people associated with it.
- ✓ It is a global event celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ✓ The theme of 'WMD' this year in 2024 is "At the frontline of climate action".



Aparchit March 4th Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

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Q. Chandrayaan-3 landing site was recognized by the International Astronomical Union, what was it named?

A) Atal	B) Shiv Shakti
C) Sarthak	D) Abhay

Answer : B

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has recently recognized ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 landing site as 'Shiv Shakti' point.
- ✓ PM Modi named the Chandrayaan-3 landing site as 'Shiv Shakti' on August 26, 2023.
- ✓ It is noteworthy that Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 had landed on the South Pole of the Moon on 23 August 2023.
- ✓ India became the first country to make a soft landing on the South Pole of the Moon.
- ✓ Chandrayaan -3 mission
- ✓ On July 14, 2023, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched Chandrayaan-3 from Sriharikota using a GSLV-Mark III (LVM-3) heavy-lift rocket. The spacecraft includes a lander named Vikram and a rover named Pragyan, with no orbiter this time around.
- ✓ The mission has an estimated budget of Rs 615 crore. Vikram stands at 2 meters tall and weighs just over 1,700 kg, carrying a 26-kg lunar rover named Pragyan. Among its tasks, Pragyan will conduct a spectrometer analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface.
- \checkmark The lander is scheduled to touch down on the moon and deploy the rover on August 23, 2023.
- ✓ The mission objectives include demonstrating a safe and soft landing on the lunar surface, rover roving on the moon, and conducting in-situ scientific experiments. Both Vikram and Pragyan are designed to operate for one lunar day, which lasts 14 Earth days.

ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) located at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram has launched a multi-purpose app 'SAKHI' (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction-SAKHI) to assist the Gaganyaan crew.



Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.

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- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ISRO Chairman have already said that by 2040 we should have an Indian astronaut on the moon and also to have our space station by 2035.
- > 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 : Bengalore, Karnataka
- ▶ Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath

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- > Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- > GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- > SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India

Q. With reference to the vote-from-home facility, consider the following statements:

- 1. First-time voters
- 2. Media persons carrying authorisation letters from the Election Commission of India
- 3. Central Armed Police Forces personnel deployed on poll duty
- 4. People aged 60 and above

How many of the above are eligible for the vote-from-home facility in India?

- A) Only one B) Only two
- C) Only three

Answer : B

✓ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has, for the first time in the history of the Lok Sabha elections, extended its 'vote-from-home' facility to Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and senior citizens aged 85 and above.

D) All four

- ✓ Who is eligible?
- ✓ People aged 85 and above.
- Persons with Disabilities: The disability shall not be less than 40% of the prescribed handicap and certified by the certifying authority.
- ✓ Media persons covering 'polling day activities': Carrying authorisation letters from the Election Commission
- ✓ Workers from essential services: Services such as metros, railways and health care.
- ✓ Service voters: Personnel of the armed forces posted away from their hometowns, Central Armed Police Forces personnel deployed away from home and those on poll duty.
- ✓ How to avail the vote-from-home facility?



✓ Key to the process is Form 12D, which is a letter informing the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) that the person may not be in a position to go to the polling station to vote.

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- ✓ The form can be downloaded online from the ECI website or collected from the office of the representative district officer of a parliamentary constituency.
- ✓ The form has to be filled and submitted within five days of notification of the polling date
- Election Commission of India launched which app to facilitate easier voting for persons above 85 Q. years of age and PWDs with 40%?
 - A) Madad App **B)** Sankalp App C) Saksham App D) Kavach App

Answer : C

- ✓ The Election Commission aims to ensure inclusivity in voting with new measures. Voters over 85 and those with 40% benchmark disability can vote from home. Polling stations will provide volunteers, wheelchairs, and transport.
- ✓ The Saksham App facilitates voting for PWDs.
- ✓ Permanent Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in schools aim to enhance election processes. Polling stations managed by PWDs and women, along with Model Polling Stations, promote accessibility and gender inclusivity

0. Krutrim AI model, recently seen in news, is developed by:

A) Nvidia	B) Google
C) Microsoft	D) Ola

Answer : D

- ✓ Earlier this year, Indian multinational ridesharing company, Ola, introduced Krutrim AI, claiming it as "India's own AI".
- ✓ It is envisioned to be personalised assistant, which can simplify personal and professional life by getting a variety of tasks done for you.
- ✓ This AI model hopes to bridge the gap between conventional AI and the specific needs based on Indian languages and culture.
- ✓ It uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) a component of AI to understand the nuances of human language, including colloquialisms and cultural contexts.

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✓ Machine Learning (ML) algorithms enable it to learn from vast data sets and improve its responses over time. Moreover, Deep Learning, a sophisticated branch of ML, helps it recognise patterns and analyse complex data.

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- ✓ One of the distinguishing features of Krutrim AI is that it has the ability to understand the intent of the user.
- ✓ While most AI models rely on keyword matching and statistical probabilities, Krutrim AI reportedly dives deeper to understand the user's request
- Consider the following statements with reference to Bima Sugam: Q.
 - 1. It is an e-commerce platform that facilitates both buying and claim settlement of insurance policies.
 - 2. It onboards all companies that offer life and non-life insurance products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only	B) 2 only
-----------	-----------

C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved the setting up of Bima Sugam.
- ✓ It is like an e-commerce platform where insurance companies can sell their products.
- ✓ It onboards all the companies that offer life and non-life insurance products under one roof.
- ✓ It aims to provide an 'end-to-end' digital journey to all policyholders like from buying insurance policies to renewals to claim settlement to portability to grievance redressal
- ✓ This marketplace serves as a one-stop solution for all insurance stakeholders, including customers, insurers, intermediaries and agents, thereby, promoting transparency, efficiency, and collaboration across the entire insurance value chain
- \checkmark It will be a unified platform, which will be integrated with various government databases, insurers, intermediaries, insurance repositories, etc., for fetching customer details, providing product information, and buying and servicing Insurance policies.
- ✓ Bima Sugam aims to eliminate the paperwork as you can simply have your policy in an electronic format.
- Bima Sugam aims to eliminate the paperwork as you can simply have your policy in an electronic format. \checkmark
- \checkmark Customers can view all their policies — life, health and non-life insurance — in one single application or window under Bima Sugam

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Who among the following is authorized to permit or reject the transfer of captive elephants according Q. to the Captive Elephant (Transfer of Transport) Rules, 2024?

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- A) District Magistrate
- B) Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW)
- C) Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF)
- D) Gram Sabha

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change recently notified Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024.
- ✓ Captive Elephants under the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972:
- ✓ Elephants are, according to the provisions of the WPA, a Schedule 1 species, and therefore, be it wild or captive, cannot be captured or traded under any circumstances.
- ✓ Section 12 of the Act allows Schedule I animals to be translocated for 'special purposes' such as education and scientific research.
- ✓ They can also be translocated for population management of wildlife without harming any wild animals and the collection of specimens for recognised zoos/museums.
- \checkmark Section 40(2) of the WPA prohibits the acquisition, possession, and transfer of a captive elephant without the written permission of the Chief Wildlife Warden(CWW) of the State.
- ✓ The Environment Ministry in 2021 brought in an amendment that allowed the transfer of elephants for 'religious or any other purposes'.
- ✓ Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024:
- ✓ It lays down the procedure to be followed for the transfer of captive elephants within a State or between two States.
- ✓ The notification authorises the CWW of States and UTs to permit or reject the transfer of captive elephants.
- The CWW shall permit the inter and intra-State transfers if the owner of the elephant is no longer in a position to maintain it or if the animal will have a better upkeep than in the present circumstances.
- The transfer of captive elephants won't be permissible unless the genetic profile of the animal has been entered in the electronic monitoring application of the MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change).



Digital Markets Act (DMA), recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following Q. organizations?

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- A) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- B) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- C) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- **D)** European Union (EU)

Answer : D

- ✓ Apple, Alphabet's Google and Meta Platforms will be investigated for potential breaches of the EU's new Digital Markets Act, European antitrust regulators said recently.
- ✓ About Digital Markets Act (DMA):
- ✓ It is the European Union's (EU's) law to make the markets in the digital sector fairer and more contestable.
- ✓ It aims to create a safer internet, empower citizens, enhance consumer protections, and foster higher-quality digital services.
- ✓ In order to do so, the DMA establishes a set of clearly defined objective criteria to identify "gatekeepers".
- ✓ Gatekeepers are large digital platforms providing so-called core platform services, such as online search engines, app stores, and messenger services.
- ✓ Gatekeepers will have to comply with the do's (i.e., obligations) and don'ts (i.e., prohibitions) listed in the DMA.
- ✓ The DMA is one of the first regulatory tools to comprehensively regulate the gatekeeper power of the largest digital companies.
- Consider the following statements with reference to the World Tuberculosis (TB) Day: Q.
 - 1. It is celebrated every year on March 24.
 - 2. The theme of World Tuberculosis Day 2024 is "Yes! We can end TB".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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✓ World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is celebrated on March 24 annually to spread awareness around the deadly disease.

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- ✓ It is celebrated to raise awareness around the disease, increase efforts to eradicate the disease, and mobilise support for those affected by TB.
- ✓ Background
- ✓ March 24, 1882 is considered a significant date in the battle against tuberculosis as it is on this day that Dr Robert Koch discovered the bacteria that causes TB.
- ✓ It was not before the year 1982, on the centenary of Dr. Koch's discovery that the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) proposed observing March 24 as World TB Day to raise awareness about TB and its global impact.
- ✓ The first World TB Day was officially observed in 1983, and since then, it has become an annual event.
- Theme of World Tuberculosis day 2024: "Yes! We can end TB". \checkmark
- Where was the 148th Inter Parliamentary Union meeting held? Q.
 - A) Paris, France B) Washington DC, United States C) Geneva, Switzerland D) Vienna, Austria

Answer : C

- ✓ The 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland from March 23-27, 2024.
- ✓ The IPU is an international organization founded in 1889, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as offices in New York, United States of America, and Vienna, Austria.
- ✓ A seven-member Indian parliamentary delegation, led by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh attended the event.
- ✓ The IPU boasts 180 member countries

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023-24

- > The 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland from March 23-27, 2024.
- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2024) in Delhi.

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- ▶ WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.
- WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme 'Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice

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

1. It can be applied only after an area has been declared "disturbed" under the provisions of the Act.

2. Under AFSPA, the armed forces can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.



3. Under no circumstances, legal proceedings can be initiated against any person in respect of anything done in the exercise of the powers conferred by this Act.

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How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union Home Minister recently said the Central Government will consider revoking the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ About Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA):
- ✓ It is a law enacted by the Parliament in 1958 which gives the armed forces special powers and immunity to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".
- ✓ When is it applied? It can be applied only after an area has been declared "disturbed" under section 2 of the Act.
- ✓ What is a Disturbed area? An area can be considered to be disturbed due to differences or disputes among different religious, racial, language, or regional groups or castes or communities.
- ✓ Who declares an area as disturbed?
- ✓ The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory, can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- ✓ It can be invoked in places where "the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary".
- ✓ The 'special powers' of armed forces under AFSPA are:
- ✓ They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- ✓ If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant, enter or search a premises without a warrant, and ban the possession of firearms.
- ✓ Where is AFSPA in force now? Apart from Nagaland, the AFSPA is currently in force in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Manipur except Imphal, and Arunachal Pradesh.

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- Q. What is the primary role of ICGS Samudra Paheredar, recently seen in the news?
 - A) Anti-piracy operations B) Search and rescue missions
 - C) Pollution response at sea D) Maritime law enforcement



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Answer : C

- ✓ External Affairs recently visited Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Paheredar, which is in Manila Bay in the Philippines, as part of an overseas deployment to ASEAN countries.
- ✓ About ICGS Samudra Paheredar:
- ✓ It is a specialised Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) of the Indian Coast Guard.
- ✓ It is the second PCV of India (the first being ICGS Samudra Prahari).
- ✓ It was indigenously built by ABG Shipyard, Surat.
- ✓ It was commissioned in2012.
- ✓ It is stationed on the East Coast of India in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ It was commissioned in2012.
- ✓ It is stationed on the East Coast of India in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ The ship is 94.10 metres long, draws 4,300 tons at maximum displacement, and is propelled by 3,000-kilowatt twin diesel engines, producing power that is further enhanced by twin shaft generators for a maximum speed of 21 knots.
- \checkmark At economical speed, the ship has an endurance of 6,500 nautical miles and can stay at sea for 20 days.
- ✓ The ship is capable of unhindered oil-recovery operations, with a storage capacity of 502 kilolitres.
- ✓ It is capable of operating one twin-engine ALH/ Chetak helicopter.
- Q. With reference to Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre, consider the following statements:

1. It provides information on crop yields and drought situation through Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

- 2. It uses artificial intelligence and remote sensing to collect and process data.
- 3. It generates a customised advisory only in English and Hindi language.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

D) None

Answer: B

✓ Recently, the Union Agriculture Minister inaugurated a Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) set up at Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi.



 \checkmark It is a tech-based solution involving multiple IT applications and platforms, which is designed to help in making informed decisions.

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- ✓ It is housed in the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- Objectives: It will enable comprehensive monitoring of the farm sector by making available at one place \checkmark geospatial information received from multiple sources, including remote sensing; plot-level data received through soil survey and weather data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) etc.
- ✓ Working: It uses state of the art technologies such as artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to collect and process large amounts of granular data — on temperatures, rainfall, wind speed, crop yields and production estimations — and presents it in graphical format.
- ✓ It uses platforms including the Krishi Decision Support System (DSS) to collect micro-level data, process it, and present the macro picture.
- ✓ It can create an ecosystem based on which individual farmer-level advisories can be generated through apps like Kisan e-mitra, a chatbot developed for PM-Kisan beneficiaries.
- The AI-/ machine learning-based system will identify a farmer through his/ her mobile number or Aadhaar, \checkmark and match it with the farmer's field information obtain through land records, historical crop sowing information from the crop registry, weather data from IMD, etc.
- Q. **Consider the following statements:**

1. The Border Roads Organisation was formed to develop infrastructure in remote areas of the northeast States of India.

2. The Union Minister of Defence acts as Chairman of the Border Roads Development Board.

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 Border Roads Organisation (BRO) connected strategically important all-weather 298-km long road from Manali to Leh through Darcha and Nimmu on the Kargil-Leh Highway.
- ✓ It is a road construction executive force in India that provides support to Indian Armed Forces.
- Establishment: It was formed on 7 May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote \checkmark areas of the north and north-east States of the country.

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 \checkmark In order to ensure coordination and expeditious execution of projects, the Government of India set up the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB) with the Prime Minister as Chairman of the Board and Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman.

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- ✓ It develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.
- This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka.
- BRO is also included in the Order of Battle of the Armed Forces, ensuring their support at any time. \checkmark
- ✓ Motto of the organization: Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hardwork)
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP):
 - 1. It aims to replace 25 crore conventional meters with smart meters in India.
 - 2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
 - 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

- ✓ Kerala's move towards an alternate model for the rollout of smart electricity meters, effectively jettisoning the Centre's Rs 3 lakh crore smart meters project, comes as a spanner in the works for the Union Government scheme.
- ✓ What is a Smart Meter?
- \checkmark A smart meter is used for recording the consumption of electricity, but it also measures voltage levels.
- \checkmark While traditional meters measure the power consumption of a home or business, smart meters live up to their name and transmit the same information every 15 minutes or hourly to utility providers.
- ✓ Since they are connected to the internet, smart meters can communicate information to the consumer about usage and also to the utility provider for monitoring purposes and accurate billing.
- ✓ About Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP):
- ✓ It is an initiative by the Government of India to promote the use of smart meters across the country.
- ✓ The aim of the SMNP is to improve the billing and collection efficiencies of distribution companies (DISCOMs) operating in the country.

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- ✓ SMNP aims to replace 25 crore conventional meters with smart meters in India.
- ✓ The scheme is being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
- ✓ EESL is a joint venture of four National Public Sector Enterprises: NTPC Limited, PFC, REC, and POWERGRID, and was set up under the Ministry of Power.
- ✓ This roll-out is under the Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model, wherein EESLwillundertake all the capital and operational expenditure with zero upfront investment from states and utilities.
- ✓ The smart meters are installed as per guidelines issued by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- Smart meters are connected through a web-based monitoring system, which will help reduce commercial losses of utilities, enhance revenues, and serve as an important tool in power sector reforms

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Gram-Negative Bacteria:

- 1. It can pass along genetic materials that allow other bacteria to become drug resistant.
- 2. It causes infections including pneumonia and bloodstream infections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The Technology Development Board (TDB) has penned an agreement with two companies and has sanctioned a grant of ₹75 Lakhs towards the project "ANAGRANINF for the development of a Novel Class of Antibiotics Against Gram-Negative Bacterial-Infections.
- ✓ The primary objective of this project is to develop a novel lead compound, particularly an antibiotic, adept at inhibiting the FabI enzyme and combatting critical gram-negative pathogens.
- ✓ What is a Gram-negative bacteria?
- ✓ They have a much thinner peptidoglycan cell wall, but in addition they have an outer membrane containing lipopolysaccharides surrounding the cell and are consequently termed diderms.
- ✓ These bacteria have built-in abilities to find new ways to be resistant and can pass along genetic materials that allow other bacteria to become drug resistant as well.
- ✓ It causes infections including pneumonia, bloodstream infections, wound or surgical site infections, and meningitis in healthcare settings.



Gram-negative bacteria are resistant to multiple drugs and are increasingly resistant to most available antibiotics.

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✓ Examples: Bacteria include enterobacter species, salmonella species and pseudomonas species.

Who has been named as the new Ambassador of India to Myanmar? Q.

- **B)** Abhishek Saxena A) Abhay Thakur
- C) Deepak Sinha D) Syed Akbaruddin

Answer : A

- ✓ Veteran diplomat Abhay Thakur has recently been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to Myanmar.
- ✓ Abhay was a key member of the team guiding the talks during India's G20 presidency last year. Abhay is a 1992 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and is currently working in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Who has acquired Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited which has been approved by CCI? Q.

A) Tata Power	B) Adani Power Limited
C) Reliance Industry	D) NTPC

Answer : B

- ✓ Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved 100 percent acquisition of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited by Adani Power Limited.
- ✓ Adani Power Limited (Acquirer) is a company of Adani Group.
- ✓ Lanco Amarkantak is a company associated with thermal power generation.
- ✓ The Competition Commission of India is the main national competition regulator in India.
- Who led the Indian delegation to the 148th meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva Q. recently?
 - A) Harivansh Narayan Singh
- **B)** Rajnath Singh

C) Venkaiah Naidu

D) RK Sinha

Answer : A

✓ Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh participated in the 148th meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU, in Geneva, Switzerland. He led the Indian parliamentary delegation.



The Inter-Parliamentary Union is an international organization of national parliaments. It was established \checkmark in 1889

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- Q. Who won the gold medal in the 59 kg youth category in the recent Para Powerlifting World Cup?
 - A) Ajay Rathi **B)** Atul Kumar
 - C) Vinay **D)** Rishabh Singh

Answer : C

- ✓ India's Vinay performed brilliantly in the Para Powerlifting World Cup held in Egypt and won the gold medal by lifting 120 kg in the 59 kg youth category.
- ✓ 18 year old athlete Vinay is a resident of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- In the same event, Ahmed Abdelkader of Egypt won the silver medal. \checkmark
- Who has recently been appointed the head of the National Investigation Agency? Q.
 - A) Rajeev Kumar Sharma **B)** Sadanand Vasant Date
 - C) Ajay Anand **D)** Abhinav Sharma

Answer : B

- ✓ Maharashtra cadre officer Sadanand Vasant Date has been appointed as the chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- ✓ Piyush Anand has been appointed Director General of NDRF and Rajeev Kumar Sharma has been appointed Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).
- In which city will the Cinevistar International Film Festival be organized? Q.
 - A) Chandigarh **B) New Delhi**
 - C) Mumbai

D) Jaipur

Answer : A

- ✓ The five-day Cinevistar International Film Festival (CIFF) will be organized in Chandigarh from March 27 to 31.
- ✓ Actor Boman Irani will inaugurate the event and Cannes-winning French film The Taste of Things will be screened as the first film



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Q. Who won two gold medals in the Indian Masters National Badminton Championship 2024?

- A) Ashmita Chaliha B) Nahid Divecha
- C) Malvika Bansod D) Aparna Balan

Answer: B

- ✓ Maharashtra's Nahid Divecha has won two gold medals at the Indian Masters National Badminton Championship 2024 in Panchkula.
- Divecha, a member of Bombay Gymkhana and associated with Shuttle Craze Academy, won the women's 50 singles title by defeating Haryana's Sunita Singh Panwar in straight sets
- Q. Which team won the title of Boxing Sub Junior National Championship?

A) Uttar Pradesh	B) Punjab
C) Haryana	D) Kerala

Answer : C

- ✓ Haryana won the team title in both boys and girls categories in the Boxing Sub Junior National Championship with an impressive combined lead of 19 medals.
- ✓ Delhi and Maharashtra stood second and third with 34 and 31 points respectively
- Q. TRAI has issued recommendations on 'Use of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine Communication', when was TRAI established?

A) 1990	B) 1995
C) 1997	D) 2000

Answer : C

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released its recommendations on 'Use of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine (M-to-M) communications'.
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is a regulatory body established by the Government of India under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

Q. Where were the first Foreign Office Consultations between India and Mauritania organized?

- A) New DelhiB) NouadhibouC) NouakchottD) Chennai
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Answer : C

- ✓ India and Mauritania held their 1st Foreign Office Consultations in Nouakchott, discussing bilateral, regional, and global issues.
- ✓ Talks covered political cooperation, economic partnership, and cultural exchanges.
- ✓ Bilateral trade surged to \$378 million in 2022-23 from \$108 million in 2021-22.
- ✓ India's Resident Mission, opened in June 2021, has bolstered relations.
- \checkmark The meeting highlighted the enduring friendship and collaboration between the two nations
- Q. Which one of the following countries recently signed a new agreement to build Australia's SSN-AUKUS Submarines?
 - A) Ukraine, France and Germany B) US, UK, and Australia
 - C) India, US and China
 - D) Russia, Australia and Malaysia

Answer: B

- ✓ The US, UK, and Australia have formed a new pact to construct Australia's SSN-AUKUS submarines, marking a milestone in defense cooperation.
- ✓ ASC and BAE Systems will build the submarines, equipped for intelligence, surveillance, and undersea warfare.
- SSN-AUKUS will enhance industrial collaboration, bolster collective capacity, and spur economic growth in defense sectors.
- AUKUS aims to fortify a robust submarine industrial base across the three nations, ensuring production and maintenance capabilities
- Q. Who has achieved the title of the billionaire capital of Asia, according to recently released Hurun Research Institute Report?
 - A) Mumbai
 - C) Manila

B) BeijingD) Jakarta

Answer : A

- ✓ Mumbai becomes Asia's billionaire capital: Hurun Report
- According to a recently released 13th Hurun Global Rich List report of Hurun India on 26 March 2024, India's financial capital, Mumbai, has emerged as the Asian billionaire capital, replacing China's capital, Beijing. Mumbai has also emerged as the fastest-growing billionaire capital in the world.

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- ✓ According to the Hurun report, the number of billionaires in Mumbai increased from 66 to 92
- ✓ <u>Billionaires in India</u>
- ✓ According to the report, India added the largest number of new billionaires to the list after the United States of America due to a booming stock market.

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- ✓ This year,132 people were added to the billionaire list in the United States, while 94 people were added to the Indian list of billionaires for the first time.
- ✓ However, last year, 10 people included in the billionaire list were not included this year. Thus, the net addition of billionaires from India this year is 84.
- ✓ The number of billionaires in India increased to 271.
- ✓ <u>Richest man in the world</u>
- ✓ According to the 13th Hurun Global Rich List, the following are the richest people in the world:
- ✓ With \$231 billion in wealth, Tesla CEO Elon Musk is the richest man in the world.
- ✓ Jeff Bezos of Amazon, with a wealth of \$185 billion, was at the second rank.
- ✓ Bernard Arnault, the owner of luxury brand LVMH, has a wealth of \$175 billion and was in third place.
- ✓ Mark Zuckerberg of the Meta, with a wealth of \$158 billion, was at 4th place.
- ✓ The only Indian included in the top 10 billionaires of the world is the chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Limited, Mukesh Ambani. However, he dropped from 9th place to 10th place.
- ✓ Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani group, was ranked 15th.
- ✓ <u>Rank of countries</u>
- ✓ China had the largest number of 814 billionaires. Last year, China had 956 billionaires on the Hurun list.
- ✓ The United States of America comes in second place with 800 billionaires.
- ✓ <u>Rank of Cities</u>
 - 1. New York with 119 billionaires
 - 2. London with 97 billionaires
 - 3. Mumbai, with 92 billionaires
 - 4. Beijing with 91 billionaires
 - 5. Shanghai with 87 billionaires
- ✓ Delhi was ranked 9th with 57 billionaires. It was included for the first time in the top 10 cities with the highest number of billionaires.



- ✓ Hurun is a research, media and investments group that publishes research reports. It was founded by Rupert Hoogewerf in 1999 in the United Kingdom.
- ✓ The Hurun company is based in Shanghai, China.

Q. Who is the author of the book titled "From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond"?

A) S Raman

B) Raghuram Rajan

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C) Arvind Subramanian

D) Amartya Sen

Answer : A

- ✓ A book titled "From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond " is written by S Raman.
- ✓ S Raman, who retired as CMD of Canara Bank, and as a wholetime Member of the board of SEBI, rose to the top, having started his career as a clerk with SBI.
- ✓ Within two years, he was selected as a direct recruit officer in Bank of India and rose meteorically to be an Executive Director in Union Bank and then as CMD of Canara. He hails from a middle class Tamil family in Hyderabad.

FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond : S Raman \succ
- > The Gems of Indian Art : Harish Khullar
- UNEQUAL: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours : Swati Narayan
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns : M.J. Akbar and K. Natwar Singh
- Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan : Arup Kumar Dutta
- An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy : Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns : M.J. Akbar & co-author K. Natwar Singh
- Modi: Energising A Green Future : Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation
- Sanskriti ke Ayaam : Manorama Mishra \geq
- 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
- \triangleright Zeba: An Accidental Superhero : Huma Qureshi
- Welcome to Paradise : Twinkle Khanna

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- > 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

C) Reliance General Insurance

- > 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. According to the report Brand Finance Insurance 2024, which insurance company has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally?

A) Bajaj Finance

B) Life Insurance Corporation of IndiaD) HDFC Life Insurance

- Answer: B
- ✓ Insurance Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally, according to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024.
- ✓ The report said that LIC's brand value remains steady at USD 9.8 billion, accompanied by a brand strength index score of 88.3 and an associated AAA brand strength rating.
- Following LIC, the rankings highlight Cathay Life Insurance as the second strongest brand, experiencing a
 9 per cent increase in brand value to USD 4.9 billion, closely followed by NRMA Insurance, which saw an
 82 per cent rise in brand value to USD 1.3 billion.
- ✓ Notably, Chinese insurance brands maintain dominance in the global rankings, with Ping An leading with a 4 per cent increase in brand value to USD 33.6 billion, followed by China Life Insurance and CPIC defending their 3rd and 5th positions, respectively
- ✓ Additionally, LIC India achieved the highest first-year premium collection of Rs 39,090 crore in FY23, while SBI Life Insurance and HDFC Life Insurance led the private sector with new business premium collections of Rs 15,197 crore and Rs 10,970 crore, respectively.

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LIC IN NEWS 2023-24

- LIC has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally, according to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- > LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.
- (LIC) is planning to acquire up to 10 percent equity stake in a company promoted by the National Housing Bank (NHB)
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed S Sundar Krishnan as Chief Risk Officer (CRO), replacing Pratap Chandra Paikarai
- > LIC has launched a special scheme, named Jeevan Utsav.
- Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024.
- > LIC Raises Stake in Tech Mahindra to 8.88% Through Open Market Transactions.
- > LIC to divest 60.72% share in IDBI Bank.

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- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- ➢ Founded : 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- > Chairman : Siddhartha Mohanty
- > It is India's largest life insurance company and also the country's largest investment company.
- Authorised Capital of LIC Rs 25,000 Crore

Q. In which state was recently a 900-year-old Kannada inscription of the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty found?

A) Telangana B) Karnataka

C) Kerala D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- A 900-year-old Kannada inscription from the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty was found in Jadcherla mandal of Mahabubnagar district of Telangana.
- Archaeologist and CEO of Plech India Foundation E. Shivanagi Reddy said that this inscription was found during the campaign 'Preserve heritage for future generations'.

TELANGANA IN NEWS 2023-24

- > Pandavula Gutta has been officially recognised as the sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana.
- Global Spirituality Conference ever organised in India came to an end on 17 March 2024 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced to provide accident insurance of Rs 5 lakh to gig workers from the government.
- Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) center in Hyderabad, at Begumpet Airport. This is a major development for the aviation sector in Telangana.
- Sammakka Sarakka Medaram Jathara, Asia's largest tribal fair, started in Telangana's Mulugu district witnessed thousands of devotees who paid obeisance to tribal deities.

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Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a tribal university in Telangana, named The Sarakka Central Tribal University. This university, with a budget of Rs 889 crore, will be located in Mulugu district.

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- ▶ US-based multinational technology company "Corning" has announced plans to set up a \$113m Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in the Indian state of Telangana.
- > Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).
- Telangana achieves 100% coverage of PMJDY.
- > Telangana govt launches first of its kind State Robotics Framework.
- > Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad. The 400 feet tall structure will be constructed on six acres of land in Narsingi at a cost of Rs 200 crore.
- > The two-day 'Food Conclave-2023' will be organized on April 28 and 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- > Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently unveiled a 125-feet tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad.
- > World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- > Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023.
- > IAS 'Shanti Kumari' becomes first woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- > National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Which team made the biggest team score in IPL history? **Q**.
 - A) Mumbai Indians

B) Sunrisers Hyderabad

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- C) Chennai Super Kings
- D) Delhi Capitals

Answer: B

- ✓ Sunrisers Hyderabad has broken the record of the biggest team total in IPL history.
- ✓ Sunrisers Hyderabad scored 277/3 runs in 20 overs against Mumbai Indians, which is the highest team total till date.
- Earlier in the year 2013, RCB had scored 263/5 against Pune Warriors India. √



Q. Which bank has launched a RuPay smart key chain called 'Flash Pay' for contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments at enabled metro stations and PoS terminals?

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A) Axis Bank

C) Federal Bank

D) HDFC Bank

B) Yes Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Federal Bank has launched a RuPay smart key chain called 'Flash Pay' for contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) payments at enabled metro stations and PoS terminals.
- ✓ Customers can make payments up to ₹5,000 without a PIN, whereas those over ₹5,000 will require PIN authentication. The per day limit at any PoS terminal has been capped at ₹1 lakh.
- ✓ 'Flash Pay' allows users to make secure payments with just a tap, eliminating the need for physical cards or cash.
- Through the 'Flash Pay' device, users can can make payments at millions of merchants, with built-in security features such as tokenisation and encryption to ensure that transactions are safe and secure.
- The union government has allocated how much rupees to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under the Q. recapitalization scheme?

A) Rs 6200 crore	B) Rs 4800 crore
C) Rs 7700 crore	D) Rs 5500 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ Government allocated Rs 6200 cr to boost RRB
- ✓ The union government has allocated Rs 6212.03 crore to regional rural banks under the recapitalization scheme.
- ✓ Under the scheme, recapitalization support is provided to RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed capital-to-risk (Weighted) Assets ratio of nine per cent.
- ✓ The performance of RRBs has improved significantly, with a consolidated CRAR (Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio) at an all-time high of 13.83 per cent as of December 31, 2023.
- ✓ Indian RRBs have shown the highest ever consolidated net profit of Rs 4,974 crores in FY22-23 and a net profit of Rs 5,236 crore up to the 3rd quarter of FY 2023-24
- ✓ Similarly, the credit expansion has led to an increase in the consolidated credit-deposit ratio to 72.13 per cent as of 30.09.2023, which is the highest in the last 15 years
- There are 43 RRBs sponsored by 12 scheduled commercial banks in India \checkmark



Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB):

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- 1. It is headed by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
- 2. It acts as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news and misinformation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology notified the Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit under IT Rules of 2021.
- ✓ It was established in 2019.
- ✓ It was started with an objective of acting as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news and misinformation.
- ✓ It also provides people with an easy avenue to report suspicious and questionable information pertaining to the Government of India.
- ✓ It is mandated to counter misinformation on Government policies, initiatives and schemes either suo motu or under a reference via complaints.
- The FCU actively monitors, detects, and counters disinformation campaigns, ensuring that false information about the Government is promptly exposed and corrected.
- ✓ Organisation
- ✓ It is headed by a senior DG/ADG level officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS). The day-to-day operations of the Unit are handled by IIS officers at various levels.
- The Unit reports to the Principal Director General, PIB who functions as the Principal Spokesperson of the Government of India.
- ✓ Fact-Check Mechanism
- ✓ Users send requests over WhatsApp, email or a web portal. Each such request received is considered as a 'Query'. Queries are segregated by the Unit based on their relevance to matters pertaining to Government of India.
- Only queries pertaining to Government of India are considered and taken up as Actionable Queries, while others are deemed not relevant for action.



Q. Recently, the Border Road Organization connected the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in which region?

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A) Ladakh

C) Kashmir

B) Srinagar **D)** Amritsar

Answer : A

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) completed the strategic Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in Ladakh.
- This 298-km road connects Manali to Leh via Darcha and Nimmu on Kargil Leh Highway.
- ✓ It's the third axis linking Ladakh to the hinterland, alongside Manali-Leh and Srinagar-Leh routes. Notably, the road is shorter and crosses only one pass, Shinkun La (16,558 feet), where tunnel work by BRO is set to begin.
- With reference to Treasury Bills, consider the following statements: Q.
 - 1. These are zero coupon securities and pay no interest.
 - 2. These are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India.
 - 3. These are purchased only by the nationalized banks.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India notified the calendar for the issuance of Treasury Bills for the quarter ending June 2024.
- ✓ Treasury bills or T-bills are money market instruments.
- ✓ These are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India.
- ✓ Maturity period: At present, treasury bills are issued in three maturities 91-day, 182-day and 364-day.
- ✓ These are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. Instead, they are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.
- ✓ Who can buy?
- ✓ Individuals, trusts, institutions and banks can purchase T-Bills. But they are usually held by financial institutions.

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They have a very important role in the financial market beyond investment instruments.



✓ Banks give treasury bills to the RBI to get money under repo. Similarly, they can also keep it to fulfil their Statutory Liquid Ratio (SLR) requirements.

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- ✓ How do T-bills work?
- ✓ Treasury bills are issued at a discount to original value and the buyer gets the original value upon maturity.
- ✓ For example, a Rs 100 treasury bill can be availed of at Rs 95, but the buyer is paid Rs 100 on the maturity date.
- \checkmark The return on treasury bill depends on liquidity position in the economy. When there is a liquidity crisis, the returns are higher, and vice versa.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Investment facilitation for Development (IFD):
 - 1. It was launched at the 11th World Trade Organisation's Ministerial Conference.
 - 2. It aims to create legally binding provisions to facilitate investment flows.

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

- ✓ One of the significant developments at the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Abu Dhabi was the non-adoption of the agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD).
- ✓ It is a joint initiative launched at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) in 2017 on a plurilateral basis by 70 countries.
- ✓ This was done through a process known as the Joint Statement Initiative.
- \checkmark Aim: This agreement aims to create legally binding provisions to facilitate investment flows.
- ✓ It also aims to develop predictable, transparent and open investment rules that will contribute to more efficient investment flows and increased business confidence and it is now in a formal negotiation phase.
- ✓ Objective: A core objective of the framework is to facilitate greater participation by developing and leastdeveloped WTO Members in global investment flows.
- ✓ The IFD agreement was finalised in 2023 and at present around 120 of 166 WTO member countries (more than 70% of the membership) back this agreement.



Q. Afanasy Nikitin Seamount, recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following oceans?

A) Pacific Ocean B) Atlantic Ocean

C) Arctic Ocean

D) Indian Ocean

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Answer : D

- ✓ India recently applied to the International Seabed Authority (ISBA) for rights to explore two vast tracts in the Indian Ocean seabed, including a cobalt-rich crust long known as the Afanasy Nikitin Seamount (AN Seamount).
- ✓ About Afanasy Nikitin Seamount:
- ✓ The AN Seamount is a structural feature (400 km-long and 150 km-wide) in the Central Indian Basin, located about 3,000 km away from India's coast.
- ✓ It comprises a main plateau, rising 1200 m above the surrounding ocean floor (4800m), and secondary elevated seamount highs.
- ✓ It is rich in deposits of cobalt, nickel, manganese, and copper
- ✓ What is a Seamount?
- ✓ It is an underwater mountain formed through volcanic activity.
- ✓ These are recognised as hotspots for marine life.
- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO):

1. It is a project of international collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

2. It is the longest-lived Sun-watching satellite to date.

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, a citizen scientist spotted a comet in an image from the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft, which has now been confirmed to be the 5,000th comet discovered using SOHO data.
- ✓ About Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO):
- ✓ It is a project of international collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).



✓ Launched in 1995, SOHO was designed to study the Sun.

✓ In order to provide continuous observations, it was maneuvered to orbit the first Lagrangian Point (L1), a point some 1.5 million km (900,000 miles) from Earth toward the Sun where the gravitational attraction of Earth and the Sun, combine in such a way that a small body remains approximately at rest relative to both.

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- It carries 12 scientific instruments to study the solar atmosphere, helioseismology, and the solar wind.
- ✓ Information from the mission has allowed scientists to learn more about the Sun's internal structure and dynamics, the chromosphere, the corona, and solar particles.
- \checkmark Though its mission was scheduled to run until only 1998, it has continued collecting data, adding to scientists' understanding of our closest star, and making many new discoveries, including thousands of comets.
- SOHO is the longest-lived Sun-watching satellite to date.

Which Gulf country will participate in the Miss Universe pageant for the first time? Q.

A) Saudi Arabia	B) Qatar
C) Bahrain	D) Armenia

Answer : A

- ✓ Saudi Arabia will participate in the historic Miss Universe event for the first time.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia's Rumy Algahtani will officially participate in the Miss Universe competition for the first time as the first representative of the Islamic country.
- Alqahtani has won the titles of Miss Middle East and Miss Arab World Peace 2021.
- Bharat Biotech International Limited has started clinical trials of vaccine MTBVAC on adults in 0. India. MTBVAC is the vaccine of which disease?
 - A) Cervical Cancer

B) Tuberculosis

C) HIV

D) Breast cancer

Answer : B

- ✓ Bharat Biotech International Ltd started clinical trials of the Tuberculosis vaccine MTBVAC on adults in India.
- This is the first vaccine against Tuberculosis derived from a human source by the Spanish biopharmaceutical company, Biofabri.
- The trials are carried out by Bharat Biotech in close collaboration with Biofabri. \checkmark

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✓ After completing a dose escalation trial in HIV uninfected adults, a Phase2 study in HIV-infected adults has started in 2024 to determine whether MTBVAC is safe in this population.

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Q. Star Housing Finance (Star HFL) has partnered with which finance company to leverage the domain of Star HFL in low-ticket affordable housing finance space?

- A) LIC Housing Finance
- **B)** Shriram Transport Finance Corporation Ltd
- C) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
- **D)** Tata Capital Housing Finance

Answer : D

- ✓ Star Housing Finance (Star HFL) has entered into a co-lending partnership with Tata Capital Housing Finance (TCHFL).
- ✓ The partnership aims to leverage domain of Star HFL in low ticket affordable housing finance space and the mutual synergies arising out of operations.
- Star HFL branch network across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, NCR and Tamil Nadu would be utilized in this partnership to provide housing finance assistance predominantly to home buyers in economically weaker section (EWS) and low-income group (LIG) segment.
- Soumendu Bagchi has been appointed as India's next envoy to which country? Q.

A) Syria	B) UAE
C) Iran	D) Iraq

Answer : D

- ✓ Soumendu Bagchi appointed India's next ambassador to Iraq
- Soumendu Bagchi, currently a deputy director general at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), has been appointed as the country's next envoy to Iraq.
- ✓ Bagchi is a 1993-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).
- ✓ While, Abhilasha Joshi, presently additional secretary in the ministry, has been appointed as India's next ambassador to the Republic of Chile.



India's Sreeja Akula won the women's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 tournament at **Q**. the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon. She is related to which sport?

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A) Archery

C) Table Tennis

B) Wushu **D)** Badminton

Answer : C

- ✓ In Table Tennis, India's Sreeja Akula won the women's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 table tennis tournament at the Al Kawthar Secondary School in Lebanon.
- ✓ Akula, the world No. 47, beat Luxembourg's Sarah De Nutte to win what was her second WTT singles career title.
- ✓ The 25-year-old's maiden crown came at the Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 in Texas.
- ✓ For the mixed doubles crown, India's Poymantee Baisya and Akash Pal beat Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra, while in Men's Doubles Final, Manush Shah and Manay Thakkar won the event of the WTT Feeder Beirut- II tournament in Lebanon.

Recently, who became the first Black leader of a government in the UK? Q.

A) James Cleverly	B) Bim Afolami
C) Kemi Badenoch	D) Vaughan Gething

Answer : D

- ✓ Vaughan Gething, son of a Welsh father and Zambian mother, is elected as Wales' first minister, becoming the UK's first Black government leader.
- ✓ Gething prioritizes diversity and unity, aiming to navigate challenges like Tata Steel job cuts. Previously Wales' health minister during COVID-19, he faces economic hurdles, including Tata Steel's blast furnace closures and environmental protests.
- ✓ Gething's leadership underscores Wales' commitment to inclusivity amidst pressing issues.
- Recently, the government has approved inclusion of which crops under its price stabilization fund **Q**. **(PSF)**?
 - A) Cotton and Coffee
- **B)** Wheat and Rice

C) Jute and Tea

D) Pulses and Barley

Answer : B

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- ✓ The government has recently included wheat and rice in the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF).
- ✓ Established in 2014-15 under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Famers Welfare (DAC&FW), it was transferred to DOCA in 2016.
- ✓ Managed centrally by PSFMC, it regulates proposals from State Governments and Central Agencies.
- ✓ SFAC maintains it as a central corpus fund.
- ✓ The fund aims to stabilize prices of selected commodities by distributing or procuring them, primarily used to counter high or low prices.

Q.	Which day is observed as the World Theatre Day every year?
----	--

A) 25 March	B) 28 March
C) 27 March	D) 26 March

C) 27 March

Answer : C

- ✓ The World Theatre Day is celebrated all over the world on the 27 March since 1962 to promote the art form "theatre" across the world.
- ✓ The theme of 2024 World Theatre Day is Theatre and a Culture of Peace
- ✓ The day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI).
- Every year the Executive Council of ITI choses an outstanding theatre personality to write the message for World Theatre Day.
- Q. Which company has inked foreign currency loan agreements worth JPY 30 billion with the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) for Renewable Project?
 - A) NTPC LtdB) ReNew PowerC) JSW EnergyD) Adani Enterprises

Answer : A

- ✓ State-run NTPC group has inked foreign currency loan agreements worth JPY 30 billion, or roughly \$200 million, with the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC).
- ✓ The loan facility of around ₹1,650 crore extended by the Japanese Government's policy-based financial institution, is divided into two equal halves for NTPC and its clean energy solutions arm NTPC Renewables Energy (NREL).
- ✓ JBIC has provided 60 per cent of the facility amount and the balance of the facility amount has been provided by other commercial banks under JBIC guarantee.

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The facility has been extended under JBIC's initiative, Global action for reconciling economic growth and environment preservation (GREEN), for projects that ensure conservation of the global environment.

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NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24

- > NTPC group has inked foreign currency loan agreements worth JPY 30 billion, or roughly \$200 million, with the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC).
- > 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
- > 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

The Food Waste Index Report 2024 is published by: Q.

> A) World Bank **B)** Food and Agriculture Organisation

C) World Health Organisation

D) United Nations Environment Programme

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Answer : D

- ✓ According to the Food Waste Index Report 2024, households across the globe wasted over one billion meals a day in 2022.
- ✓ It a study jointly authored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme), a U.K.-based non-profit.
- ✓ The Food Waste Index tracks the global and national generation of food and inedible parts wasted at the retail and consumer (household and food service) levels.
- ✓ Highlights of the report
- ✓ It noted that in 2022, there were 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste generated (including inedible parts), amounting to 132 kilograms per capita and almost one-fifth of all food available to consumers.
- ✓ It stressed the importance of expanding and strengthening data infrastructure to enable the tracking and monitoring of food waste.
- ✓ Many low- and middle-income countries continue to lack adequate systems for tracking progress to meet Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 of halving food waste by 2030, particularly in retail and food services."
- ✓ At present, only four G-20 countries (Australia, Japan, U.K., U.S.) and the European Union have food waste estimates suitable for tracking progress to 2030.
- ✓ As of 2022, only 21 countries had included food loss and/or waste reduction in their climate plans or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



- The report defines "food waste" as "food and the associated inedible parts removed from the human food supply chain".
- Who won the Abel Prize 2024, sometimes called the Nobel Prize of Mathematics? Q.
 - A) Avi Wigderson

B) Luis A. Caffarelli

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C) Michel Talagrand **D)** Laszlo Lovasz

Answer : C

- ✓ The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has decided to award the Abel Prize for 2024 to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) Paris, France.
- ✓ Talagrand received the prestigious prize "for his groundbreaking contributions to probability theory and functional analysis, with outstanding applications in mathematical physics and statistics."
- ✓ The common theme in Michel Talagrand's groundbreaking discoveries is working with and understanding the random processes we see all around us.
- ✓ It has now become apparent that a thorough understanding of random phenomena is essential in today's world. The Abel Prize is named after Niels Henrik Abel, Norway's greatest mathematician throughout the times.
- The Abel Prize was established by the Norwegian Parliament (The Storting) in 2002, on the occasion the \checkmark 200-year anniversary of his birth. The Prize is 7,5 million Norwegian Kroner.
- Q. Luis Montenegro has been named as Prime Minister of which country?
 - A) Portugal

B) Finland

C) Brazil

D) Indonesia

Answer : A

- ✓ Luis Montenegro named Portugal's Prime Minister
- ✓ Portugal's president has named Luis Montenegro, head of the centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD), as the country's new prime minister and invited him to form a minority government after eight years of Socialist rule.
- ✓ Portugal
- ✓ Capital : Lisbon
- ✓ Currency : Euro
- ✓ Prime minister : Luis Montenegro

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NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS

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

Q. Which of the following has received online payment aggregator licences by RBI in March 2024?

A) Z to Infinity

B) Nitai Infotech

C) Vnetalgo

D) Innoviti Payments

Answer : D

- ✓ Innoviti Payments, Concerto Software get RBI payment aggregator licences
- ✓ Offline point-of-sales deploying company Innoviti Payments and payment gateway Vegaah, which is run by Concerto Software and Systems, have secured the online payment aggregator (PA) licence from the Reserve Bank of India, joining the likes of MSwipe, Razorpay, Cashfree, and Zomato.
- CCAvenue, which is run by listed fintech company Infibeam Avenues, also received its PA licence from the RBI earlier this month.
- ✓ As PAs, these companies are authorised to settle ecommerce transactions. The licence also brings these payment companies directly within the purview of RBI regulations.

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- ✓ Bengaluru-based Innoviti has around 2,500 online merchants who are using its online payment system named 'Innoviti Link'.
- ✓ MSwipe is another point-of-sales (PoS) player that received the PA licence recently. MSwipe offers online payment service to its offline customers who seek an omnichannel experience for their customers.
- Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with Veefin Solutions Ltd to enhance supply chain finance Q. offerings for MSMEs?
 - A) Capital Small Finance Bank
- B) Shivalik Small Finance Bank

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- C) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- D) AU Small Finance Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with Veefin Solutions Ltd to enhance supply chain finance offerings for MSMEs, addressing the sector's working capital needs.
- ✓ it aims to provide end-to-end solutions, bridging the credit gap in the MSME sector and fostering inclusive growth.
- ✓ The collaboration underscores the commitment of both entities to leverage technology and innovative solutions to address the long-standing challenges faced by MSMEs in accessing timely and affordable credit.
- French aerospace and defence firm, Starburst Accelerator SARL has partnered with which IIT to set Q. up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support?

A) IIT Madras	B) IIT Bombay
C) IIT Kannur	D) IIT Hyderabad

Answer : A

- ✓ French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARLhas partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support.
- ✓ Through this collaboration, IIT Madras will enable Starburst to set up accelerator programs to boost the Aviation, Space, and Defence (ASD) ecosystem in India.
- ✓ A key focus of this partnership will be entrepreneurs, research parks, investors (public and private), government, and corporate firms.
- The aim is to create innovative startups and help them grow rapidly to work in tandem with future aerospace and New Space worldwide programs.

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IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

- French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARLhas partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support.
- IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users
- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd.
- Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- > IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India materials and engineering resources being deployed to construct Asia's first Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- > IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- > IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- > IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.



> IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.

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- > 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 dronebased synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- > IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- > IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- Consider the following statements with reference to CoViNet: Q.
 - 1. It is network of global laboratories to identify potential novel coronaviruses.
 - 2. It is an initiative of World Health Organisation.

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

- ✓ World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched a new network for coronaviruses, CoViNet.
- ✓ It is a network of global laboratories with expertise in human, animal and environmental coronavirus surveillance.
- ✓ It will identify and monitor potentially novel coronaviruses that could emerge shortly.
- ✓ The network will now have animal health and environmental surveillance and timely risk assessment to feed WHO policies and protective measures.
- ✓ In low- and middle-income countries, CoViNet will support the building of more laboratories to monitor MERS-CoV and novel coronaviruses of public health importance.
- Data generated through CoViNet's efforts will guide the work of WHO's Technical Advisory Groups on Viral Evolution (TAG-VE) and Vaccine Composition (TAG-CO-VAC) and others, ensuring global health policies and tools are based on the latest scientific information.



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- ✓ It currently comprises 36 laboratories from 21 countries in all six WHO regions.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Kalam-250:
 - 1. It is a stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle.
 - 2. It is developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

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

- ✓ Skyroot Aerospace, the leading space-tech company, has successfully test-fired the Kalam-250 at the propulsion testbed of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), at its Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ It is a stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle.
- ✓ It is a high-strength carbon composite rocket motor, which uses solid fuel and a high-performance Ethylene-Propylene-Diene terpolymers (EPDM) thermal protection system (TPS).
- ✓ The stage includes a carbon ablative flex nozzle along with high-precision electro-mechanical actuators for thrust vector control of the vehicle, aiding in achieving the desired trajectory.
- ✓ The second stage of Vikram-1 will play a crucial role in the ascent of the launch vehicle, propelling it from the atmosphere to the deep vacuum of outer space.
- ✓ It is developed by the Skyroot Aerospace.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:
 - 1. It was established in the aftermath of the Second World War.
 - 2. It awards Nansen Refugee Award for recognition of service to the cause of refugees.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C



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- ✓ As per the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), over 4,500 Rohingya refugees set off on dangerous journeys across the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea IN 2023.
- ✓ It protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their return home or resettlement.
- ✓ History: It was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War to help the millions of people who had lost their homes.
- \checkmark It is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.
- ✓ It was awarded Nobel Peace Prizes in 1954 and 1981.
- ✓ It has started Nansen Refugee Award in 1954 for recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people.

B) Alok Sinha

- ✓ Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- Who recently took oath as judicial member of Lokpal? **Q**.
 - A) A.M. Khanvilkar
 - C) Ritu Raj Awasthi
- D) Ravi Shankar Prasad

Answer : C

- ✓ Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi took oath as judicial member of Lokpal.
- The Lokpal of India is headed by Justice A.M. Khanvilkar administered the oath to him. \checkmark
- Justice Ritu Raj previously served as the Chairperson of the 22nd Law Commission of India. \checkmark
- ✓ He has also been the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.
- ✓ Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey took oath as Lokpal members.
- Q. Who has been appointed by Microsoft as the new head of both Windows and Surface?
 - A) Pawan Davuluri
 - C) Aditya Ganguly

B) T Rajkumaran

D) Shivkumar Sinha

Answer : A

- ✓ Microsoft has appointed Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras) graduate Pawan Davuluri as the new head of both Windows and Surface.
- ✓ Davuluri replaces previous Windows chief Mikhail Parakhin.



Q. Which Indian has been appointed by the UN Secretary General as his Special Representative for **Disaster Risk Reduction?**

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A) Manmohan Jha B) Syed Akbaruddin

C) Kamal Kishore D) Ramaswamy Iyer

Answer : C

- ✓ Kamal Kishore, a top official of India's National Disaster Management Authority, has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as his Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ✓ The 55-year-old Kishor will serve as the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Q. Who is the first umpire from Bangladesh to be included in the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires?
 - A) Habibul Bashar **B)** Sharafuddaulah Ibne Shahid C) Nitin Menon **D)** Moin Khan

Answer : B

- ✓ Bangladesh's Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid has recently become the first umpire from Bangladesh to be included in the ICC elite panel of umpires.
- ✓ India's Nitin Menon has joined this panel for the fifth time.
- ✓ Menon remains the only Indian in the 12-member club

In which country is the Popocatepetl volcano, which was in discussion recently, located? 0.

- A) Japan **B)** Mexico
- C) Italy

Answer : B

✓ According to Mexico's National Disaster Mitigation Center, Popocatepetl volcano erupted several times last month.

D) Kenya

- ✓ The Popocatepetl volcano is located just 50 miles from the country's capital.
- ✓ Mexico is a country located in the southern part of North America.
- ✓ It is the 13th largest country in the world in terms of area

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Q. In which country is the Baltimore Bridge, which was in the news recently?

A) France	B) China
C) Brazil	D) USA

C) Brazil

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, a major accident occurred in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, USA, when a big cargo ship from Singapore collided with the 'Francis Scott Key Bridge' and the bridge broke and fell into the water.
- ✓ This bridge was built in the year 1977 on the Patapsco River in Baltimore city
- Adani Ports has acquired 95% stake of Gopalpur Port from SP Group for Rs 3,080 crore. Gopalpur **Q**. Port located in which state?

A) Assam	B) Odisha
C) Gujarat	D) Kerala

Answer : B

- ✓ Billionaire Gautam Adani-run Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone will buy a 95% stake in Odisha's Gopalpur Port (GPL) for an equity value of Rs 1,349 crore and enterprise value of Rs 3,080 crore to boost its east coast presence.
- ✓ Furthermore, in addition to the enterprise value, the company said there is a contingent consideration of Rs 270 crore which is likely to be payable after 5.5 years, subject to certain conditions.
- ✓ APSEZ, India's largest private port operator, will be acquiring a 56 per cent stake in Gopalpur Port from real-estate conglomerate Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) and a 39 per cent stake from Orissa Stevedores.
- ✓ The port, located on India's east coast, can handle around 20 MMTPA. The Odisha government in 2006 awarded a 30-year concession to GPL, with the provision of two extensions of 10 years each.
- The government will borrow how much rupees between April 1 and September 30, 2024? Q.
 - A) 5.5-lakh crore
 - C) 7.5-lakh crore

B) 6.5-lakh crore D) 8.5-lakh crore

Answer : C

The government will borrow ₹7.5-lakh crore between April 1 and September 30. \checkmark



The interim Budget has set a target of ₹14.13-lakh crore of gross borrowing during FY25 to bridge the deficit between expenditure and Income.

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- ✓ This means 53 per cent of the yearly target is to be borrowed during the first half of the current fiscal, which is lower than the previous years' number of 60 per cent or more.
- Who has been selected for the appointment as Director in the Union Public Service Commission Q. (UPSC)?
 - A) Hansha Mishra

B) Dinesh Meena

D) Radhika Sharma

C) Ramesh Chandra

Answer : A

- ✓ Hansha Mishra (IA&AS) has been selected for the appointment as Director in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- He has been selected for the appointment under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years from the date of taking over charge of the post or until further orders, whichever event takes place earlier
- Which IIT successfully transferred a pioneering swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt, a Q. vaccine manufacturing company?
 - A) IIT Guwahati
 - **B) IIT Madras**
 - **C) IIT Kanpur**
 - **D) IIT Roorkee**

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd.
- ✓ The vaccine targets classical swine fever virus prevalent in states like Bihar, Kerala, and northeastern regions.
- ✓ Developed using a recombinant vector, the vaccine is non-infectious to humans.
- ✓ IIT Guwahati's reverse genetic platform facilitated its creation.
- The collaboration aims to address the significant gap in India's swine fever vaccine technology, safeguarding \checkmark pig populations in affected regions.



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Q. START 2024, a space program, recently launched by which organization?

- A) ISRO B) DRDO
- C) CSIR D) Department of Science & Technology

Answer : A

- ✓ ISRO's START 2024 program is an online training program that teaches space science and technology to undergraduate and postgraduate science and technology students.
- ✓ The program is scheduled to take place in April and May 2024.
- \checkmark The main goal of the program is to attract young students to space science and technology.
- Q. Which bank will raise Rs 10,000 crore through long-term infra bonds to fund infrastructure projects?

D) Yes Bank

- A) Kotak Mahindra Bank B) Bank of India
 - C) Axis Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Bank of India to raise Rs 10,000 cr via infrastructure bonds
- ✓ Bank of India (BoI)'s board has given approval to raise Rs 10,000 crore through long-term infra bonds to fund infrastructure projects.
- ✓ The fund would be raised in 2024-25, BoI said in a regulatory filing.
- Recently, many banks including SBI have issued infrastructure bonds to secure funds that are solely dedicated to advancing various infrastructure development projects.
- ✓ These bonds help in building roads, bridges, airports, power plants, and telecommunications networks etc and addressing the infrastructure deficit of the country.

BOI IN NEWS 2023-24

- Bank of India to raise Rs 10,000 cr via infrastructure bonds.
- Income Tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 564.44 crore on Bank of India, the public sector lender.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for noncompliance with certain regulatory norms.
- Former LIC Chairman M.R. Kumar has been appointed as part-time non-official director and nonexecutive chairman of Bank of India (BOI).



Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.

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- Bank of India has inaugurated its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT SEZ area in Gandhinagar
- Rajneesh Karnatak has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the Bank of India (BOI) with effect from April 29, 2023.
- He replaces Atanu Kumar Das.
- > Bank of India has launched a 'Centralized Pool Buy-Out and Co-Lending Cell' to boost priority sector lending in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Bank of India, one of the largest public sector banks (PSBs) in the country, has become the first bank to officially roll out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme..
- ➢ Bank of India (BOI)
- Founded : 7 September 1906
- Founder : Ramnarain Ruia
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- MD & CEO : Rajneesh Karnatak
- Tagline : Relationship beyond Banking
- Consider the following statements with reference to P-800 Onyx Missile: Q.
 - 1. It is a supersonic medium-range cruise missile developed by the United States of America.
 - 2. It can be launched from surface ships, submarines and land-based equipment.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 only

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

C) Both 1 and 2

Answer : B

- ✓ Russia's Onyx supersonic cruise missile, which has frequently struck Ukrainian targets in Odesa near the Black Sea, is slated to get deadlier with a new target seeker.
- ✓ About Onyx Missile:
- \checkmark The P-800 Onyx missile, also known as Oniks, is a supersonic medium-range cruise missile developed by Russia.

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 \checkmark It is designed to combat surface ship groups, as well as to destroy ground targets in conditions of strong fire and electronic countermeasures.

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- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Also known as Russian Brahmos, it can reach speeds of over 3,000 km/h, making it extremely difficult to intercept.
- \checkmark Additionally, the missile operates at an altitude of 10-15 meters above land or water, further enhancing its stealth capabilities.
- ✓ The missile has a range of up to 300 kilometers in its default trajectory and a range of 120 km in a lowaltitude trajectory.
- ✓ It can be launched from surface ships, submarines, and land-based equipment.
- 0. The Konda Reddi Tribe primarily inhabits which one of the following States in India?
 - A) Andhra Pradesh

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Kerala

D) Karnataka

Answer : A

- ✓ The indigenous knowledge of the Konda Reddi tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group inhabiting the Papikonda hill range in the Godavari region, has proven resourceful.
- ✓ About Konda Reddi Tribe:
- ✓ Konda Reddis is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group inhabiting the banks of the river Godavari and also in the hilly forest tracts of Godavari and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- Their mother tongue is Telugu in its purest and chaste form, with a unique accent. \checkmark
- Consider the following statements with reference to the INDRA app: **Q**.
 - 1. It disseminates weather-related information and forecasts.

2. It is developed by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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✓ Recently, INDRA app was launched in an event conducted by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at Southern Naval Command as part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations.

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- \checkmark INDRA App:
- ✓ The Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis (INDRA) app will help to disseminate weather related information and forecasts empowering optimal & quick decision making.
- ✓ The application has been developed by BISAG (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics) in coordination with Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology, Indian Navy.
- ✓ Key facts about BISAG
- ✓ It is an Autonomous Scientific Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ✓ The organisation has three main domain areas: Satellite Communication, Geo-informatics and Geo-spatial technology.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

- INDRA app was launched in an event conducted by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at Southern Naval Command as part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations.
- > Uttar Pradesh Police will now use the state-of-the-art digital platform Trinetra App 2.0, which has been designed to help in crime prevention and investigation.
- > 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).

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> Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs launched a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) namely C-CARES.

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- 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
- 0. What is the name of India's first AI-based film?
 - A) IRAH
 - **B) WALL**
 - C) M3GAN
 - **D) MATRIX**

Answer : A

- ✓ India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film 'IRAH' trailer launched
- The trailer and song launch of the first Hindi film on this subject, "IRAH," took place in Mumbai.
- The movie features Rohit Bose Roy, Rajesh Sharma, Karishma Kotak, and Rakshith Bhandarry in √ prominent roles.
- ✓ The movie is Produced by Big Films Media and directed by Sam Bhattacharjee. The film is set to release nationwide in theaters on April 4th through Iamplex Digital Theatrical Distribution.
- The trailer of the film "IRAH" showcases the misuse of AI technology, shedding light on its negative aspects. \checkmark

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INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- > India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film 'IRAH' trailer launched
- > India's 1st Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory will be Launched in J&K
- India's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Arunachal Pradesh started operation by one of India's largest oil palm development companies, 3F Oil Palm.
- > India's first Indoor athletic centre inaugurated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- > India's First Research IIT Satellite Campus will be in Ujjain.
- India's first spy satellite built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will be launched in a SpaceX rocket by April and will be used by the armed forces to obtain secret information.
- Commencement of Core Loading at India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- > The PFBR has been fully designed and constructed by BHAVINI.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project at Maruti Suzuki India's plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat.
- > Kerala has declared the man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, the first in India to do so.
- 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.

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- ▶ India Launches Its 1st Indigenous e-Tractor Developed By the CMERI.
- Dr Jitendra Singh, had launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, a public engineering R&D institution in Durgapur, West Bengal, and a constituent laboratory of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Kerala Launches India's First AI School, Pioneering Future-Focused Education.
- Sanchi, a world heritage site located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, is all set to become India's first solar city.
- > Hitachi Payment Services launched India's first UPI-ATM.
- > India's first Vedic-themed park unveiled in Noida.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Madagascar is located off the coast of East Africa in the Indian Ocean.

- 2. Madagascar is a semi-presidential republic.
- 3. Eighty percent of Madagascar's economy is fueled by agricultural industries.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A) 1 and 2 only B) 2 only
- C) 1 and 3 only D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer : D

- ✓ A tropical cyclone named Gamane that swept across the island of Madagascar killed at least 18 people and displaced thousands more, the country's disaster management office said recently.
- ✓ About Madagascar:
- Located off the coast of East Africa in the Indian Ocean, Madagascar is the second-largest island country in the world.
- ✓ It covers an area of 592,800 sq. kilometers.
- ✓ Geography: The country can be divided into three parallel longitudinal physiographic regions.
- ✓ The coastal strip in the east, the central plateau, and the western regions of low plateaus and plains.



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- Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Vaikom Satyagraha:
 - 1. It was aimed at establishing the rights of the oppressed classes.
 - 2. It was supported by Sree Narayana Guru.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 only B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ India's one of the most supported and widely accepted protests, 'Vaikom Satyagraha', is celebrated its 100 years recently.
- ✓ It is the first anti-caste movement, as the pupil of the depressed class and untouchables were restricted from entering the temple.
- ✓ This Satyagraha was to establish the rights of the oppressed classes to walk on the roads to the Shree Mahadeva Temple in Vaikom in Kottayam district
- Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the India-led Group of Friends (GOF) grouping, recently seen in news?
 - A) Providing humanitarian aid to conflict zones
 - B) Promoting cultural exchange programs among member states of G20
 - C) Facilitating accountability for acts of violence against UN peacekeepers
 - D) Advocating for UN Security Council (UNSC) reforms

Answer : C

- ✓ At the second meeting of the India-led Group of Friends (GOF), India launched a new database designed to record crimes against peacekeepers and monitor progress in holding perpetrators accountable.
- ✓ About 'Group of Friends' to Promote Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers:
- ✓ It will seek to facilitate the promotion of accountability for all acts of violence against United Nations (UN) peacekeepers and seek facilitation of capacity building and technical assistance to the host state authorities.
- ✓ It was launched in 2022.
- ✓ It comprises of 40 member states. India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal are co-chairs.
- ✓ India and UN Peacekeeping:



✓ India is the largest cumulative contributor of peacekeepers to the UN, having deployed more than 2,60,000 peacekeepers over the last seven decades.

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- ✓ India has lost 177 of its peacekeepers in the line of duty, the largest by far from any troop-contributing country.
- Consider the following statements regarding the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban **Q**. **Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0:**

1. It is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households in all the statutory towns in the country.

2. It will promote a circular economy of water through the development of the City Water Balance Plan (CWBP) for each city covered under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has sanctioned 39 more sewage treatment plants (STPs) under the AMRUT scheme, and these plants will be used in the Musi Riverfront Development project.
- ✓ About AMRUT Scheme:
- ✓ It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in 2015, in 500 selected cities and towns across the country.
- ✓ It focuses on the development of basic infrastructure in the selected cities and towns in the sectors of water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage, green spaces and parks, and nonmotorized urban transport.
- ✓ A set of Urban Reforms and Capacity Building have been included in the mission.
- ✓ AMRUT Mission has been subsumed under AMRUT 2.0, which was launched in 2021.
- ✓ AMRUT 2.0, which was launched for a period of five years, from the financial year 2021-22 to the financial year 2025-26, is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households in all the statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 cities covered in the first phase of the AMRUT scheme.



✓ AMRUT 2.0 will promote a circular economy of water through the development of the City Water Balance Plan (CWBP) for each city focusing on recycle/reuse of treated sewage, the rejuvenation of water bodies, and water conservation.

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- Other components of AMRUT 2.0 are: \checkmark
- ✓ Pey Jal Survekshan to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater, mapping of water bodies, and promote healthy competition among the cities /towns.
- Technology Sub-Mission for water to leverage latest global technologies in the field of water. √
- Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign to spread awareness among the masses about \checkmark conservation of water.
- The total indicative outlay for AMRUT 2.0 is ₹2,99,000 crore including Central share of ₹76,760 crore for five years
- With reference to Panneer thiratchai, consider the following statements: Q.
 - 1. It is a grape variety cultivated in the Cumbum valley of Tamil Nadu.
 - 2. It is harvested only during the months of January and April.
 - 3. It has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 - How many of the above statements are correct?
 - A) Only one B) Only two
 - C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ Cumbum valley—grapes city of south India contributes up to 85% of panneer thiratchai production in the country.
- ✓ It is a grape variety mainly cultivated in the Cumbum valley of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ These grapes were first introduced in Tamil Nadu by a French priest in 1832.
- ✓ A unique factor about 'panneer' grapes is that, these are harvested all through the year as against only during January and April in the rest of India.
- ✓ It is extremely popular among farmers because of quick growth and early maturity.
- The grapes grown are suitable for making wine, spirit, jams, canned grape juice and raisins. √
- It has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2023. \checkmark
- Key facts about the Cumbum valley \checkmark

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✓ It is located at the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu is known as the 'Grapes city of South India' and cultivates the Panneer Thratchai.

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- ✓ This variety which is also known as Muscat Hamburg constitutes almost 85% of the grape-growing areas in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.
- Q. World's First Om-Shaped Temple inaugurated in which state?
 - A) Telangana
- **B)** Rajasthan

C) Madhya Pradesh

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ The World's first-ever Om-shaped temple has inaugurated in the village of Jadan in Pali district of Rajasthan.
- This temple became the world's first temple designed in this iconic form. This architectural masterpiece will not only attract tourists, but will also boast of an impressive visual presence that will be visible from space too.
- The 'Om Aakar' temple spans across a vast expanse of 250 acres in Jadan Village. \checkmark
- ✓ Features of Om Aakar Temple
- ✓ This temple is shaped like the Om symbol and follows the Nagara style commonly seen in North India. This intricate design pays tribute to the region's rich cultural and architectural heritage.
- ✓ Nagara style got its fame from the Gupta dynasty and continued to flourish through various regional kingdoms and empires that ruled over the northern parts of India.
- \checkmark The temple stands at a towering height of 135 ft and is supported by 2,000 pillars. It also has 108 rooms on its premises, with the tomb of Guru Madhavanand ji as the central feature of the temple complex
- Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TEPM) has signed an MoU with which company to set up 5,000 Q. electric vehicle charging stations across India?
 - A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
 - **B)** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
 - C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
 - D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

Answer : D



✓ Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TEPM) has signed an MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) to set up 5,000 electric vehicle charging stations across India.

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- ✓ The collaboration will leverage HPCLs widespread fuel station network and TPEMs insights from over 1.2 lakh Tata EVs on Indian roads, to set up chargers at locations frequently visited by Tata EV owners.
- ✓ The collaboration will leverage HPCL's extensive network of over 21,500 fuel stations across the country.
- ✓ HPCL aims to install 5,000 electric vehicle charging stations by December 2024, leveraging its extensive fuel station network.
- Which institute has partnered with Europe's Starburst Aerospace to boost the aerospace, new space, Q. and defence (ASD) industry in India?

A) IIM Mumbai	B) IIM Ahmedabad	
C) IIM Bangalore	D) IIM Calcutta	

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai has partnered with Europe's Starburst, in a bid to boost the aerospace, new space, and defence (ASD) industry in India.
- The partnership aims to strengthen India's position as a hub for ASD innovation on the global stage, as well as offer a conducive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.
- ✓ This strategic collaboration between IIM Mumbai and Starburst signifies a crucial step towards nurturing and empowering the burgeoning ASD startup ecosystem in India.
- Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the New India Assurance Q. **Company?**
 - A) Girija Subramanian
- **B)** Trishneet Arora

C) Farrhad Acidwalla

D) Kavita Shukla

Answer : A

- ✓ Girija Subramanian appoints as CMD of New India Assurance Company
- ✓ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has selected Girija Subramanian as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the New India Assurance Company and Bhupesh Sushil Rahul as CMD of United India Insurance Company.
- ✓ The post of CMD at United India has been vacant since February 2024 following the retirement of Satyajit Tripathy, and Neerja Kapur's tenure at New India Assurance is set to end in April 2024.

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✓ Girija Subramanian is currently the CMD of the Agriculture Insurance Company of India, and B S Rahul serves as the general manager at the same company.

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- ✓ About New India Assurance Company
- ✓ New India Assurance Company is India's premier general insurance company.
- ✓ Established in 1919. It is one of the Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (DSIIs) identified by the IRDAI.
- ✓ The New India Assurance Company is headquartered in Mumbai.
- Who has been elected as the new Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association Q. (ATMA)?

A) Divya Gandotra Tandon	B) Advait Thakur

C) Sreelakshmi Suresh	D) Arnab Banerjee
-----------------------	-------------------

Answer : D

- ✓ MD & CEO of CEAT Ltd, Arnab Banerjee has been elected as the new Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA).
- ✓ Arnab Banerjee joined CEAT in 2005 as the Vice President-Sales and Marketing.
- ✓ About ATMA
- ✓ ATMA is the national industry body for the automotive tyre sector in India.
- ✓ Established -1975
- ✓ ATMA is amongst the most active national industry bodies in the country representing ₹90,000 crore (\$11 bn) automotive tyre industry.
- ✓ Eight large tyre companies comprising a mix of Indian and International tyre majors and representing over 90 per cent of production of tyres in India are members of the Association.
- ✓ ATMA members include Apollo Tyres, Bridgestone India, Ceat, Continental India, Goodyear India, JK Tyre & Industries, MRF and TVS Tyres.
- Income Tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 564.44 crore on which bank for various Q. disallowances?

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A) Canara Bank **B)** Bank of Maharashtra C) Bank of India D) Axis Bank

Answer : C



Income Tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 564.44 crore on Bank of India, the public sector lender.

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The bank has received the order under Section 270A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 from the Income Tax Department, Assessment Unit pertaining to AY2018-19, wherein the penalty of Rs 564.44 crore has been imposed on various disallowances made.

Who has been awarded the prestigious Times Power Icon 2024 Award by the Times Group? Q.

D) Vijay Jain C) Deepanjali Dalmia

Answer : D

- ✓ Managing Director of Star Estate, Vijay Jain has been awarded the prestigious Times Power Icon 2024 Award.
- ✓ The award ceremony, held recently in Noida, was organized by The Times Group.
- ✓ About Star Estate
- ✓ Founded in 2012 as the fastest-growing Real Estate enterprise, Star Estate offers a wide range of consulting services in residential, commercial and retail verticals and more.
- \checkmark Star Estate aims to inspire the world by demonstrating that it is possible to provide long-term and sustainable benefits to consumers, entrepreneurs, suppliers, shareholders, and the community all at the same time.

Which IIT will host the 6th Shaastra Rapid FIDE Rated Chess Tournament? 0.

A) IIT Madras	B) IIT Bombay
C) IIT Kanpur	D) IIT Guwahati

Answer : A

- ✓ An International Chess Federation (FIDE)-rated Rapid Chess Tournament will be hosted by IIT Madras.
- ✓ More than 35 players from the institute will take part in the event.
- ✓ The '6th Shaastra Rapid FIDE Rated Chess Tournament' will witness the participation of six Grandmasters, sixteen International Masters, three Women Grandmasters and a Women International Master.
- The total prize fund of the tournament is ₹5,00,000 with the first prize being ₹65,000. The tournament not only offers substantial prize funds but also attracts a diverse range of player.



Q. Which has tested the first aircraft named 'Mark 1A', the advanced version of fighter jet Tejas in March 2024?

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- A) Bharat Electronics Limited
- **B)** Tata Advanced Systems
- C) BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited
- D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully completed the first flight of indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark 1A fighter jet in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The aircraft was airborne for 15 minutes during its first flight.
- ✓ The fighter aircraft is likely to be deployed at Nal airbase in Rajasthan's Bikaner near the Pakistan border where it can take care of the western adversary.
- ✓ LCA Mk-1A is an advanced variant of the LCA Mk-1, and it has advanced electronic radar, superior warfare capabilities, and improved maintenance features
- Nobel winner Daniel Kahneman passed away recently at the age of 90. In which field did Daniel Q. Kahneman receive the Nobel Prize in 2002?
 - A) Economic
 - **B)** Physics
 - C) Peace
 - **D)** Chemistry

Answer : A

- ✓ Daniel Kahneman, a psychologist who pioneered theories in behavioural economics that heavily influenced the discipline, and won him a Nobel prize, has died at age 90.
- ✓ Kahneman, who wrote bestselling book Thinking, Fast and Slow, argued against the notion that people's behaviour is rooted in a rational decision-making process – rather that it is often based on instinct.
- ✓ In 2002, Kahneman was awarded the Nobel memorial prize in economic sciences in recognition for his research in the fields of psychology and economics.



Q. Which day of the year has been designated by the United Nations to be observed as the International Day of Zero Waste?

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A) March 29 B) March 31

C) March 30 D) March 28

Answer : C

- ✓ The first International Day of Zero Waste is being observed on March 30. The celebration will be held on an annual basis from now on.
- ✓ On 14 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste. The resolution was put forward by Turkiye, along with 105 other countries.
- The day is jointly facilitated by UNEP and UN-Habitat.
- The main objective of International Day of Zero Waste is to raise awareness about how zero-waste initiatives contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is observed every year on which day? **Q**.

A) March 27	B) March 30
C) March 29	D) March 31

Answer : D

- ✓ The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) occurs annually on March 31.
- \checkmark TDOV aims to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society.
- ✓ The day was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009
- Q. Which of the following days is observed on March 31 annually?
 - A) World Computer Day
- **B) World Backup Day**
- C) World Algorithm Day
- D) World Cyber Security Day

Answer : B

- ✓ World Backup Day is marked every year on March 31.
- The day reminds us to protect our precious digital documents as we've become more reliant on technology.

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✓ It is a day for people to learn about the increasing role of data in our lives and the importance of regular backups.

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- ✓ Originally, the World Backup Day began as World Backup Month, by a hard drive company named Maxtor which was later acquired by Seagate Technology.
- The International Day of Drug Checking is marked every year since 2017 to ensure awareness on Q. drugs. When is this day observed?
 - A) March 28
 - B) March 29
 - C) March 30
 - D) March 31
- Answer : D
- ✓ The International Day of Drug Checking takes place on March 31 every year since 2017 to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects.
- The day aims to promote harm reduction initiatives of drugs and reduce drug-related risk





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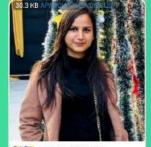
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