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SET – 01	PAGE NO 12 TO 111
SET – 02	PAGE NO 112 TO 235
SET – 03	PAGE NO 236 TO 347
SET – 04	PAGE NO 348 TO 412



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

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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

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

DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

- DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.



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

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

A) Varanasi

B) Ahmedabad

C) Ujjain

D) Chennai

Answer : C

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



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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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

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

A) 100 crores

B) 150 crores

C) 250 crores

D) 350 crores

Answer : B

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



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

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

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

Answer : C

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

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

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

Answer : D

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

GUJARAT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Gujarat government is going to start the country's first submarine tourism.
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad.
- Dhordo, a village located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, known for its annual Rann Utsav has been bestowed with the title 'Best Tourism Village' by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation Stone for the Akashvani Dahod FM Relay Station Project in Gujarat.



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- Gujarat Assembly has passed the Gujarat Local Authorities Law (Amendment) Bill 2023 by a majority vote to raise reservation for Other Backward Class (OBC) communities in local self-government bodies to 27 percent from the current 10 percent.
- 'Gujarat Declaration' outlining the outcome of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 released.
- In a significant development for India's energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the 700 MW nuclear power plant located in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity.
- Gujarat to host 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024.
- London-based company OneWeb and the Gujarat Government's Science and Technology Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today for the establishment of a 'Satellite Network Portal Site' in Gujarat.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah organized a virtual ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the country's first cooperative-run Sainik School.
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the best tourism facilities in the historical lighthouses of Gujarat.
- Under the Sagarmala programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex, a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat.
- Gujarat government signs MoU with US chip maker firm Micron Technology for semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Ahmedabad.
- Indian cabinet has given its approval to Micron Technology's plan to invest \$2.7 billion in setting up a semiconductor testing and packaging unit in Gujarat.
- Urban-20 City Sherpas' meet begins at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- BJP leader Bhupendra Patel took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term.
- Madhvendra Singh has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat Maritime Cluster by Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited.
- First G20 Tourism Working Group meeting at Dhordo in Kutch region of Gujarat.
- Former Gujarat governor and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Prakash Kohli passed away.



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

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

A) 2030

B) 2035

C) 2040

D) 2047

Answer : B

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

TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India’s plan to establish its own space station by 2035.
- National Strategic Plan & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027.
- India self-reliant in pulses by December 2027
- Indian Consumer Tech To Touch \$300 Bn By 2027.
- India is expected to overtake Japan and Germany to emerge as the third largest economy in the world by 2027.



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- Members of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) collectively have set an “aspirational target” of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030.
- India to push developed nations to become carbon-negative before 2050.
- This ‘Bharat Drone Shakti 2023’ event will help the country to achieve its commitment of becoming a global drone hub by 2030.
- Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) expects to commercially launch its dengue fever vaccine by early 2026.
- Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.
- According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.
- UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India’s goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.
- India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- India sets target to become ‘Global Hub for Green Ship’ building by 2030
- Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.
- India to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- India has set a target to replace the use of diesel by renewable energy in the agriculture sector by 2024.
- Indian Government has set a target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
- India targets ₹25,000-cr worth defence exports by 2024.
- Reserve Bank of India’s 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.



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

A) Pixar

B) Star Sport

C) Disney

D) Espn

Answer : C

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

RIL IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Reliance Industries Limited and Walt Disney Company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of ₹20-lakh crore.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India’s First ISCC-Plus Certification.
- Reliance Industries and DBS Bank India have collaborated to introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to hire RS Sodhi, the former MD of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which is responsible for the popular Indian milk brand, Amul.



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

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

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

Answer : D

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

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

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

Answer : A

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



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



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

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

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

Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : C

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



NEW UPDATED LIST OF CHIEF AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Daljit Singh Chaudhary : National Security Guard (NSG)
- Anish Dayal Singh : Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Rahul Rasgotra : Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan : Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
- Daljit Singh Chawdhary : Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- Nitin Agarwal : Border Security Force (BSF)
- Pradeep Chandran Nair : Assam Rifles
- Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari : Air Force Chief
- General Manoj Pande : Army Chief
- Admiral R Hari Kumar : Navy Chief
- Nina Singh : Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) [Nina Singh becomes 1st woman to head CISF]
- Rakesh Pal : Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh : National Cadet Corps (NCC)

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

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

Answer : C

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



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ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- INDIA ON TRACK TO HAVE OWN SPACE STATION BY 2035, ASTRONAUT ON MOON BY 2040: ISRO
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- ISRO has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.
- Vyommitra(Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO's "Gaganyaan" Mission
- ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) .
- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai



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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 India's efforts towards energy transition.
- ✓ NTPC Group has ambitious plans of attaining 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2032. Currently, it has 3.4 GW of installed RE capacity and more than 22 GW under pipeline.
- ✓ NTPC is committed to supporting Maharashtra's and India's decarbonisation goals.

NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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

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

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

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

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) Only three

D) All four



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Answer : D

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



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Answer : C

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

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

A) Kerala

B) Jammu and Kashmir

C) Delhi

D) Goa



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Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : C

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

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

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

Answer : C

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



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

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

Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : C

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

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

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

Answer : B

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



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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?

A) Rajasthan

B) Bihar

C) Assam

D) Odisha

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

B) Bhutan

C) Nepal

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.



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- Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India approved the continuation of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) for another three years up to 2025-26.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) recently introduced a scheme named 'Support to Students for Participating in Competitions Abroad' (SSPCA).
- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship recently launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme
- Union Minister for Culture, Tourism And Development of North Eastern Region informed the Lok Sabha about the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar programme.
- Karnataka government recently suspended five officers for dereliction of duty in the implementation of the Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme.

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

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

Answer : D

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



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

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

A) Shaliza Dhama

B) Shiva Chauhan

C) Deepika Mishra

D) Suman Kumari

Answer : D

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



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

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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- Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.
- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency.
- Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is the first woman Rafale pilot to take part in Orion Exercise 2023.
- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive the Gallantry Medal.
- New Zealand-born Kim Cotton has become the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.
- Sheenu Jhavar 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.



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A) Only two

B) Only three

C) Only four

D) All five

Answer : C

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



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

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

Answer : D

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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the INS Jatayu:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : B

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



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

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

- A) Rajnath Singh B) Amit Shah
C) Anurag Thakur D) Sarbananda Sonowal

Answer : D

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

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

- A) China B) Iran
C) North Korea D) Russia

Answer : D

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



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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

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



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

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

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

Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : A

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



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

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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : B

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



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

FSSAI IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

A) Kerala

B) Tamil Nadu

C) Telangana

D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : C

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

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

A) Ireland

B) Nicaragua

C) New Zealand

D) Australia

Answer : B

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



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

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

A) Arunachal Pradesh

B) Assam

C) Tripura

D) Meghalaya

Answer : C

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

GI TAG IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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- West Bengal achieves Geographical Indication tags for distinctive products, including 'Mouban' honey from Sunderbans, 'Prince of Rice' Black Nunia rice, and traditional Tangail, Gorod, etc.
- 1. Recognition of Sunderbans Honey – 'Mouban'
- 2. Black Nunia Rice – 'Prince of Rice'
- 3. Distinctive Sarees – Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal.
- As a part of the National GI Drive Mission, 'Kadiyal Sarees' of West Bengal have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Ladakh secures 4th GI tag for Sea Buckthorn.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Goan cashew (Fruit and Nut) was recently granted the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir.
- GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-
- GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.
- The second GI tag in India was given to Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft) which is a mirror and made in Kerala.
- A GI is registered for an initial period of ten years, which must be renewed after 10 years.



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Answer : C

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

INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- Ola Founder's Krutrim Becomes First \$1 Billion Indian AI Startup.
- For the first time in India, a boat running on solar energy will be operated in the Saryu river in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification .
- Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'.
- Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence.
- India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad city.
- Uttarakhand launches India's first polythene waste bank for sustainable waste management.
- Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) in Hyderabad.
- India's first-ever sports university to be set up in Manipur.
- India Launches Its 1st Indigenous e-Tractor Developed By the CMERI.
- Dr Jitendra Singh, had launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, a public engineering R&D institution in Durgapur, West Bengal, and a constituent laboratory of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Kerala Launches India's First AI School, Pioneering Future-Focused Education.
- Sanchi, a world heritage site located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, is all set to become India's first solar city.



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

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

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

Answer : A

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



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

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

A) Flipkart

B) Tata neu

C) Kia Fashion

D) Myntra

Answer : A



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

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

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

Answer : D

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



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PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- Paytm's trouble escalated further with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India slapping a ₹5.49 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for violating Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) obligations
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.
- RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.
- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for "non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016'."
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

Q. Where will be Project Seabird, India's largest naval infrastructure project, located?

A) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

B) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

C) Mumbai, Maharashtra

D) Karwar, Karnataka

Answer : D



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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

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



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

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

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

Answer : C

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



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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.
- ✓ The deal with the US government was signed in February 2020.
- ✓ The Seahawk will enhance the Navy's maritime power with roles like anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuation, and vertical replenishment.
- ✓ It underwent rigorous testing in Indian conditions and boasts advanced weapons and avionics, catering to conventional and asymmetric threats.



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

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

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

Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : C

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



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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : D

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

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

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

Answer : B



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

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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- A) Only one
- B) Only two



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C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

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



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APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

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

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

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

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



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2



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Answer : C

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

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

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

2. It is developed by the European Space Agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

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



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

A) Tripura

B) Nagaland

C) Mizoram

D) Manipur

Answer : C

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

FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

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

Answer : D

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



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

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

A) IndusInd Bank

B) Federal Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : D

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

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' for customers.
- CCI approves Zurich Insurance's acquisition of 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.



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- Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Founded 1985
- Founders : Uday Kotak
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Ashok Vaswani
- Tagline : Let's Make Money Simple Ab Kona Kona Kotak.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.
- It is India's third largest private sector bank by market capitalisation after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.
- As of 31 March 2023, the bank has a national footprint of 1,780 branches and 2,963 ATMs.
- Kotak Mahindra Finance was then renamed Kotak Mahindra Bank. At the time, Uday Kotak had a 56% stake in the company while Anand Mahindra held a 5% stake .

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

A) Maharashtra

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Karnataka

D) West Bengal

Answer : D

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



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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : C

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

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

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

Answer : C

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



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

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

Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : D

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

STATE GOVERNMENT IN NEWS 2023 - 24

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has launched the State Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme
- Chhattisgarh has decided to start the Shri Ramlala Darshan (Ayodhya Dham) Scheme in the state.
- Tamil Nadu has introduced guidelines for the “Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril” (Come Look For You, In Your Village) outreach program.
- Uttar Pradesh government is transforming Ayodhya under its ‘Navya Ayodhya’ project.
- Jharkhand Launches ‘Abua Awas Yojna’ (AAY) Housing Scheme.
- Gujarat introduced the Gyan Sahayak Scheme.
- Assam has introduced an upgraded version of its poverty alleviation scheme called Orunodoi 2.0.
- Maharashtra government has launched Lek Ladki Yojana and Namu Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana.



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- Chhattisgarh has launched “Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas NYAY Yojana.”
- Assam government is set to launch a new scheme called “Mukhyamantrir Atmanirbharshil Asom Abhiyan.”
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched Mukhya Mantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has granted approval for the ‘Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI)’ scheme.
- Jharkhand government has launched Mukhyamantri Gram Gadi Yojana.

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

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



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

Answer : D

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

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

Answer : C

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



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

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

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

Answer : D

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

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

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

Answer : C

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



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

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

- 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.

Q. With whom has NPCI joined hands for cooperation in the field of Blockchain and Artificial 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 .



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- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India materials and engineering resources being deployed to construct Asia's first Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.
- IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumna towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model for knee X-ray.
- Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- IIT-Madras generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.
- India, Israel to jointly develop Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras.
- IIT Madras researchers partner for development of materials and micro-device processing techniques.



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

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

A) Bengaluru

B) Hyderabad

C) Ahmedabad

D) Chennai

Answer : C



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- Modi: Energising A Green Future : Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation
- Sanskriti ke Ayaam : Manorama Mishra
- Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography : General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma : Madhav Godbole
- Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future : Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- Zeba: An Accidental Superhero : Huma Qureshi
- Welcome to Paradise : Twinkle Khanna
- India's Moment : Changing Power Equations around the World : Mohan Kumar
- Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers : Sharmishtha Mukherjee
- Thread by Thread, on the life of Shambhu Kumar or 'the' S Kumar : Sathya Saran
- Do Palkon Ki Chhavn Main : Hema Joshi
- Nilavu Kudicha Simhangal ('Lions that drank the Moonlight') : Autobiography of S Somanath
- Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire: Nandini Das

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

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

Answer : A

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



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MADHYA PRADESH IN NEWS 2023-24

- World's First Vedic Clock Unveiled in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has submitted three nominations from India for Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) of Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) & Udaipur (Rajasthan) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Madhya Pradesh government will set up PM College of Excellence in all districts of the state.
- Mohan Yadav has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- The city of Kozhikode in Kerala was added in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- Gwalior from Madhya Pradesh was also among the 55 new cities to join the network.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has organized the 'India Smart Cities Conclave 2023' in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The 'Sanchi' city of Madhya Pradesh has been established as the country's first solar city.
- International Aerospace Conference jointly organized by MoCA and CII in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- President of India, Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- India's first online gaming academy launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.
- Tiger State Madhya Pradesh is poised to get its 7th tiger reserve with the state government going forward with the notification of Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- Madhya Pradesh received the first prize in the best State category, while the best district award went to Ganjam District in Odisha.
- Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC Ltd.) will construct a 525 MW pumped storage project near the Indira Sagar Dam in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.



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- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana'.
- Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves 'Mukhya Mantri Sikho Kamao Yojana' for unemployed youth.
- Gond paintings from Madhya Pradesh have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition that protects and acknowledges the work of tribal artists.
- Madhya Pradesh government launched Chief Minister's Residential Land Rights Scheme.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village located in Bhopal district has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- Madhya Pradesh Government on 5 March launched Ladli Bahna scheme under which each woman will be given one thousand rupees per month..
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on March 4 to make Tehsil Mauganj of Rewa district the 53rd district of the state.
- About Madhya Pradesh
- Capital – Bhopal
- Chief Minister – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)
- Deputy CM – Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla
- Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly – Narendra Singh Tomar
- Governor – Mangubhai C. Patel
- Lok Shaba Seats – 29
- Rajya Sabha Seats – 11
- Legislative Assembly Seats – 230

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

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Karnataka

C) Kerala

D) Maharashtra

Answer : C

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

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105



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

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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : A

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



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

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.
- ✓ It forms part of the 4.8 km underground section from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade.
- ✓ 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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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ It is a distributary or arm of the Ganges River, about 260 km long.
- ✓ Course:
- ✓ 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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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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- ✓ The famous silver filigree (Rupa Tarakasi) of the millennium Cuttack city in Odisha recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ About Rupa Tarakasi:
- ✓ It is one of the most exquisite silver crafts.
- ✓ This centuries-old, sophisticated craft is practised in the silver city of Cuttack, Odisha.
- ✓ 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).
- ✓ 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).

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Cooperative Database (NCD), recently 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 cooperative-centric 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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:
 - ✓ headache;
 - ✓ tiredness; or
 - ✓ sleep problems (insomnia).
- ✓ Some side effects can be serious. These include severe skin rashes and allergic reactions, liver problems, and drug interactions.

Q. Sea Defenders-2024, recently seen in the news, is a joint Coast Guard exercise involving India and 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 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.



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

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

- 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.
- ✓ 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.

Q. With reference to Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, consider the following:

- 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

D) None

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).
- ✓ 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 socio-economic 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)



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

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

- A) Asian Development Bank B) World 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.

Q. Where will 'Bharat-Shakti', the joint exercise of the three armies of India, be organized?

- 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.
- ✓ 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.



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- ✓ 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.

Q. Which company will start manufacturing fuel used in adrenaline-pumping Formula One or F1 motor racing?

- A) Reliance Petroleum B) Hindustan Petroleum
C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation D) Indian Oil 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.
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Chairman : Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- ✓ Owner : Government of India (52.1%)

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

- 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 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 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).
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.”
- ✓ 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, 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.
- ✓ 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?

A) Karnataka

B) Maharashtra

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.
- ✓ 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

B) Only two

C) All three

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

B) Infosys

C) Apple

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

Q. Who has been appointed as the President and MD for SAP Indian Subcontinent?

- 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

Q. Which insurance company has launched a non-linked participating product "G.A.I.N" that offers long-term saving or income?

- A) Universal Sampo 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

Q. Which insurance company has launched a new women's health insurance plan "HEALTH POWHER"?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Future Generali India Insurance Company (FGII), a private general insurer, has launched the most comprehensive women's health insurance plan.
- ✓ 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.

Q. Which bank has launched a new loan scheme called 'Vikas Spoority' to strengthen the rural credit 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 Spoority' to strengthen the rural credit delivery system and also to motivate the common man to take up income-generating activities on a smaller scale.
- ✓ Under this scheme, people may avail a minimum loan of ₹50,000 and a maximum of ₹2,00,000.
- ✓ 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.



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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



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Answer : C

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



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.



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- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise - 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercise.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.



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

- 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.



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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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Samudrayaan Mission:

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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- ✓ 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).
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 measure under the mission with an outlay of Rs 17,490 crore

Q. Right to Repair Portal, recently seen in the news, is an initiative of which one of the following 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.
- ✓ 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 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, mobile and electronics, and farming equipment.
- ✓ All public information related to products, services, warranties, terms, and conditions, etc. will also be easily accessible through this portal.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft:

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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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).
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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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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) Assam

B) Himachal Pradesh

C) Tripura

D) 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 Sejiosa 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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The project launch events were also carried out at all the 52 destinations, simultaneously by the ministry, 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:
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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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- ✓ The Centre of Excellence aims to generate over 500 AI-related jobs by 2025 and nurture more than 150 start-ups annually.

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.

Q. 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.



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- ✓ Borphukan preferred guerrilla tactics which provided an edge to his smaller, but fast moving and capable forces.
- ✓ 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 19-foot statue of Ambedkar has been named 'Statue of Equality' and will be inaugurated in Maryland, USA.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the 108-foot-tall 'Statue of Oneness' of Adi Shankaracharya at Omkareshwar.
- President Droupadi Murmu has unveiled a 12 feet high statue of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi and a 'Gandhi Vatika' at Gandhi Darshan near Rajghat in New Delhi.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on laid the foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.



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

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019:

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 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 on or before that date.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 1966 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.

NEWLY CHIEF MINISTER IN NEWS 2023-24

- Nayab Saini was sworn in as the 11th chief minister of Haryana. [(BJP)]
- 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?

- 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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AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023- 24

- 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.
- 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 Khetrupal 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.



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



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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.



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- ✓ BIS is functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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).
- ✓ The agency is headquartered in New Delhi and maintains regional and branch offices throughout the country.

Q. With reference to the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT), consider the following statements:

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.
- ✓ 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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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ It was established in the year 1964.

Q. Who launched "Subhash Abhinandan", a digital exhibition based on the life of Subhash Chandra Bose?

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.

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

A) 10,000

B) 20,000

C) 40,000

D) 30,000

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.



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
- (2) With you all the way
- (3) A bank of the common man
- (4) The banker to every Indian
- (5) The Nation banks on us.
- It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

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

A) China

B) Pakistan

C) India

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.
- ✓ Highlights of SIPRI Report:
- ✓ 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.



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

FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24

- Gorsam Kora festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Chapchar Kut Festival : Mizoram
- Orange Festival : Nagaland
- Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Ethnic Mamani Festival : Ladakh
- International Camel Festival : Bikaner, Rajasthan
- Chandubi Festival : Assam
- International Purple Fest 2024 - Goa
- National Street Food Festival : New Delhi
- Kuno Forest Festival : Madhya Pradesh
- 'Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- 24th Hornbill Festival : Nagaland
- Dhillio festival : Goa
- India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 : Faridabad, Haryana
- Arattu festival : Kerala
- Banni festival : Andhra Pradesh
- Zanskar Festival : Ladakh
- 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 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 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.
- ✓ Location: Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- ✓ The exercise involves the showcasing of the calibrated tactical employment of niche technology in a tri-services 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 D) Gujarat

Answer : D

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



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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.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

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



- ✓ The responsibility for adherence to the code rests with the Chief Executive Officer of pharmaceutical 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.
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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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Base Year:
- ✓ The base year is always given a value of 100.
- ✓ The current base year for the IIP series in India is 2011-12.
- ✓ So, if the current IIP reads as 116, it means that there has been 16% growth compared to the base year.

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 workloads and display graphics content on a device such as a PC or smartphone.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Directorate General of Foreign Trade:

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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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?

- 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.

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

- A) Andaman & Nicobar B) Tamil Nadu
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.

Q. 'Gulf of Tonkin Incident', recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

- A) Russia-Ukraine War B) Vietnam War
C) World War II D) Iran-Iraq War



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

Q. Ministry of Rural Development signed an MoU with which institute to formalize their partnership in applications of geospatial technology & AI?

A) IIT Kanpur

B) IIT Delhi

C) IIM Ahmedabad

D) IIT Roorkee

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).



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

- A) Kenya
B) South Africa
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

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

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.



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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024:

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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Vocal for Local' Initiative:

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

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

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 self-reliance 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.



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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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- ✓ IndusInd Bank has introduced 'Indus PayWear,' a new wearable payment solution, available on Mastercard.
- ✓ These wearables enable users to tokenize 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

Q. Which organization has received \$24.5 million from Green Climate Fund (GCF) for anchored project '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



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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.
- ✓ 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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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;

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

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Rachin Ravindra and Melli 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.



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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 D) Divya Gandotra Tandon

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 Golden Compass Award at the 45th IAA World Congress held in Penang, Malaysia.
- ✓ 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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BOI IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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.
- Former LIC Chairman M.R. Kumar has been appointed as part-time non-official director and non-executive 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.
-
- 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 non-compliance 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.
- RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.
- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for “non-compliance with certain provisions of the ‘Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016’.”
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

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

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

Answer : B



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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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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).
- ✓ Key Highlights of the HDR 2023/24 – India specific
- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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 0.644 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.
- ✓ India has also shown progress in reducing gender inequality and ranks 108 out of 166 countries in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022



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

- 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.



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- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million) .
- ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian)
- Director of ADB for India : Mio Oka (Japan)
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members – of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.

Q. Which team won the Ranji Trophy 2024 title?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Mumbai

C) Vidarbha

D) Bihar

Answer : B



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

Answer : D



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

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the World Gold Council (WGC):

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.
- ✓ The WGC was established to promote the use of and demand for gold through marketing, research, and lobbying.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ WGC was the creator of the first gold exchange-traded fund

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Mission for Edible Oils-Oil Palm (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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

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

- A) Reporters Without Borders B) NITI Aayog
C) UNDP D) V-DEM Institute

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.

Q. With whom has the Ministry of Rural Development signed an agreement with the aim of making 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.
- ✓ J-PAL is a global research center that works on poverty issues.



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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



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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.
- ✓ 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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

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

A) Guwahati

B) Ahmedabad

C) Bengaluru

D) Hyderabad

Answer : B



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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.
- ✓ Last November, LTFH had sourced \$125-million loan from Asian Development Bank, & as part of the co-financing agreement, additional \$125-million loan is now raised from JICA.
- ✓ 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, Bhubaneswar, 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.
- ✓ 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

Q. Who has been appointed as the new prime minister of Palestine?

- 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.
- ✓ 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
- 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. 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



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- Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise - 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercise.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.



A) Only one

B) Only two

C) Only three

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 Kazhuvveli 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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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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

Q. The State Bank of India (SBI) has told the Supreme Court that a total ___ of electoral bonds were purchased by political parties between April 1, 2019 and February 15 this year, out of which ___ were redeemed.

A) 22,217; 22,020

B) 22,207; 22,030

C) 22,217; 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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
 - 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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- ✓ It will serve as a digital gateway for learners to engage in diverse learning resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.
- ✓ The ULLAS app can be used for registration of learners and volunteers either through self-registration or by surveyors.

Q. Which company will buy 13% of Paramount's stake in Viacom18 for Rs 4,286 crore?

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 preferential 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.



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- 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-foot 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-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Q. 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

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 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.



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- ✓ They are “integrated” because they combine different strands of knowledge to model human society alongside parts of the Earth system.
- ✓ 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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Lake Baikal:

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).
- ✓ It is also the world’s largest freshwater lake by volume, containing about one-fifth of the fresh water on Earth’s surface.
- ✓ 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.
 - ✓ 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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- ✓ India's Shipping Ministry has approved waterways projects worth ₹645 crore on Brahmaputra in Assam.
- ✓ 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.

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?

A) NHPC Limited

B) NTPC 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 operation. Further, the project will provide indirect employment of 5,000 people during construction phase and 500 during operation phase.

Q. Who has released the Book and Video on "Sagar Parikrama" at Rajkot, Gujarat?

A) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

B) Parshottam Rupala

C) Piyush Goyal

D) Anurag Thakur



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Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry Dairying Parshottam Rupala has release Book and Video on “Sagar Parikrama” at Rajkot, Gujarat.
- ✓ 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 B) Telangana
C) Kerala D) Karnataka

Answer : B

- ✓ Telangana Governor and Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Sundararajan have resigned from both their posts.
- ✓ He has sent his resignation to President Draupadi Murmu.



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- 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.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise - 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercise.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.



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

Q. 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.
- ✓ It also provides India the ability to withdraw its tariff concessions if such expected investment is not achieved.
- ✓ 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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Group President of 'One Kotak' by Kotak Mahindra Bank?

A) Abhay Singh

B) Rajeev Anand

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.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Founded 1985
- Founders : Uday Kotak
- 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. With reference to the World Air Quality Report 2023, consider the following statements:

- 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

B) Only two

C) All three

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

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



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- ✓ UP DGP Prashant Kumar along with ADG Law and Order Amitabh Yash launched the app at the DGP headquarters

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



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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

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 silver 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 Rajkumar 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



Q. 'Kovind Committee' which was in discussion recently is related to which of the following?

- A) Appointment of judges B) simultaneous elections
C) Electoral bond 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

Q. Which state government has agreed to implement the PM SHRI Schools scheme by signing an MoU with the Ministry of Education?

- A) Maharashtra B) Tamil Nadu
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Gujarat

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.
- ✓ The scheme aims to improve the quality of education in Tamil Nadu and upgrade existing government 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.
- 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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279



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- ✓ About Prabha Varma
- ✓ 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, Arkkapoomnima, Shyama Madhavam, Chandana Nazhi, Aardram, and Kanal Chilambu.
- ✓ Prabha Varma is the media advisor to the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- ✓ Saraswati Samman
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ K K Birla Foundation Prize
- ✓ K.K. Birla 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 :
- ✓ Bihari Puraskar
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.”



- ✓ 2. Denmark
- ✓ 3. Iceland
- ✓ 4. Sweden
- ✓ 5. Israel
- ✓ 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?

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

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 co-lending model.
- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- **AXIS BANK**
- Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi



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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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

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.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a new provision called 'Special Category' in the FOSCOS portal.
- FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Defence ministry, FSSAI to promote use of millets, healthy eating habits among armed forces.
- Guwahati Railway Station of the Northeast Frontier Railway has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI, for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the state-of-the-art National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station of the Indian Railways has been awarded the 5-Star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high quality nutritious food to the passengers.
- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded the food provided by the Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh a five-star rating and the tag 'Eat Right Campus'. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after Farrukhabad jail to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh..
- G Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Rajesh Bhusan
- CEO : G Kamala Vardhana Rao

Q. Which app has ISRO launched to assist the Gaganyaan crew?

A) SAKHI

B) MADAD

C) AKASH

D) SAMARTH

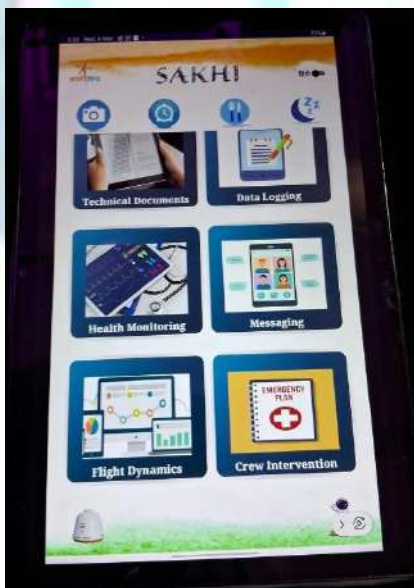


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Answer : A

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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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Q. Who has recently been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Food and Processing Industries?

- A) Anurag Thakur B) Arjun Ram Meghwal
C) Smriti Irani 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) 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:



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 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-resources-related 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.



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- ✓ 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

Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Non-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. 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 D) Good health adds life to years

Answer : B

- ✓ 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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- Yes Bank Launches SmartFin With Veefin Solutions, An Advanced Digital Platform To Boost MSMEs.
- 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 (₹) 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'.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI):

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



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- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.
- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for “non-compliance with certain provisions of the ‘Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016’.”
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

Q. Where was the 4th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Startup Forum organized?

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.
- ✓ 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:
- ✓ 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 foreign-origin gold worth around Rs. 40 crore in its operation code named 'Rising Sun' on 12th and 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**



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- Due to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, India has launched a campaign named 'Operation Dost' to help the affected people.
- **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

Q. Project SOORYA, recently seen in the news, is launched by which organization?

- A) ISRO
- B) DRDO
- C) WHO
- D) UNEP

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.
- ✓ 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 pad at Sriharikota.



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- ✓ The project demonstrates ISRO's commitment to technological innovation and solidifying India's position as a global space power.

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.
- ✓ 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.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Earth Hour:

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.



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Q. Which company has partners with Election Commission of India to identify unlawful content from its platforms?

- 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
B) South Korea
C) India
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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 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

Q. Who has been elected as the chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24?

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
- ✓ 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
- ✓ It is an association of Banks and Financial Institutions operating in India.



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- ✓ On 26 September 1946, at a meeting of bankers in Bombay(now Mumbai), the Indian Bank Association was formed with 22 members.
- ✓ 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

C) Gujarat

D) Uttarakhand

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.
- ✓ 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



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

Q. Which of the following countries are part of the IMT Tri-Lateral Exercise, recently in the news?

- 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)

Q. Which IIT has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand'?

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

Answer : B



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 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 drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model for knee X-ray.
- Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- IIT-Madras generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.
- India, Israel to jointly develop Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras.
- IIT Madras researchers partner for development of materials and micro-device processing techniques.
- IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme .
- IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras will be provided a grant of Rs 242 crore over a period of five years to carry out research on Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD).
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has been ranked 1st in India and 47th globally in engineering and technology by the QS World University Rankings for 2023.
- IIT Indore, in partnership with NASA-Caltech and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has designed an inexpensive camera setup.



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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.



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- ✓ One of the most successful Indian Premier League (IPL) teams, Chennai Super Kings(CSK), appointed Ruturaj Gaikwad as its captain on 21 March 2024.
- ✓ The 17th IPL starts on 22 March 2024, with the defending champion CSK taking on Royal Challengers Bangalore at Chepauk, Chennai.
- ✓ Mahendra Singh Dhoni as CSK Captain
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Indian Premier League
- ✓ 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.



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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

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

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 Thanks App. The Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch allows customers to make daily payments ranging from INR 1 to INR 25,000.

Q. Who has been appointed as the CEO of Leading FMCG maker P&G India?

- 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



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- ✓ Steel Sector In India
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Status of Steel production
- ✓ 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.



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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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Bhutan
- ✓ 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: Ngultrum
- ✓ 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. Ebaki 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.
- ✓ Uses of Trishul Drone:
- ✓ 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



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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).
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Milk Production In India
- ✓ 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) 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.



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- Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- 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' .

Q. Who was awarded the prestigious Devi Shankar Awasthi Award 2023?

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.
- ✓ 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 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)



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

Q. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited signed an agreement with whom to increase the peaceful use of nuclear energy?

A) Air Force

B) Indian Army

C) Indian Navy

D) National Cadet Corps

Answer : D

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343



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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.
- ✓ About National Cadet Corps (NCC):
- ✓ 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.

Q. Who is the first Indian table tennis player to win a singles title at the WTT Feeder Series event?

- A) Sharath Kamal B) G.Sathiyam
C) Sutirtha Mukherjee D) Anthony Amalraj

Answer : B

- ✓ G.Sathiyam wins WTT Feeder Beirut Table Tennis 2024 Title
- ✓ Indian table tennis player G.Sathiyam 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.Sathiyam became the first Indian to win a singles title at the WTT Feeder Series event.



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- 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)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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

Q. Election Commission of India launched which app to facilitate easier voting for persons above 85 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

Q. 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.



Q. Who among the following is authorized to permit or reject the transfer of captive elephants according to the Captive Elephant (Transfer of Transport) Rules, 2024?

- 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.
- ✓ 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).



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Q. Digital Markets Act (DMA), recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following organizations?

- 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.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the World Tuberculosis (TB) Day:

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.
- ✓ 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".

Q. Where was the 148th Inter Parliamentary Union meeting held?

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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355



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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
- 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.**



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- ✓ It is a tech-based solution involving multiple IT applications and platforms, which is designed to help in making informed decisions.
- ✓ 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 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, 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 north-east 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 areas of the north and north-east States of the country.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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?
- ✓ A smart meter is used for recording the consumption of electricity, but it also measures voltage levels.
- ✓ 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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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 Delhi B) Nouadhibou
C) Nouakchott D) Chennai



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.
- ✓ 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 B) Beijing
C) Manila D) 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
- ✓ Billionaires in India
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Richest man in the world
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Rank of countries
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Rank of Cities
 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.



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- ✓ 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

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
- 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
- Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography : General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma : Madhav Godbole
- Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future : Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- Zeba: An Accidental Superhero : Huma Qureshi
- Welcome to Paradise : Twinkle Khanna

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According To World Index, **The Top 10** Strongest Insurance Brands In 2024 Are:

1.  LIC
2.  Cathay Life Insurance
3.  NRMA Insurance
4.  PZU
5.  China Life Insurance
6.  SBI Life Insurance
7.  Samsung Life Insurance
8.  Gjensidige
9.  UNIQA
10.  ASR

(Source: BrandFinance)

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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- 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).
- 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-foot 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-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Q. Which team made the biggest team score in IPL history?

A) Mumbai Indians

B) Sunrisers Hyderabad

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.

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371



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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?

A) Axis Bank

B) Yes Bank

C) Federal Bank

D) HDFC 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 make payments at millions of merchants, with built-in security features such as tokenisation and encryption to ensure that transactions are safe and secure.

Q. The union government has allocated how much rupees to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under the 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



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 least-developed 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.



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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

Q. Which Gulf country will participate in the Miss Universe pageant for the first time?

- 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 Romy Alqahtani 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.

Q. Bharat Biotech International Limited has started clinical trials of vaccine MTBVAC on adults in 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.



- ✓ 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.

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.

Q. Soumendu Bagchi has been appointed as India's next envoy to which country?

- 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.



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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.

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



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.

Q. Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with Veefin Solutions Ltd to enhance supply chain finance offerings for MSMEs?

- A) Capital Small Finance Bank B) Shivalik Small Finance Bank
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.

Q. French aerospace and defence firm, Starburst Accelerator SARL has partnered with which IIT to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL has 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 SARL has 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.
- IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.
- IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumna towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to CoViNet:

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.



- ✓ 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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Q. In which country is the Baltimore Bridge, which was in the news recently?

- A) France
B) China
C) Brazil
D) USA

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

Q. Adani Ports has acquired 95% stake of Gopalpur Port from SP Group for Rs 3,080 crore. Gopalpur 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.

Q. The government will borrow how much rupees between April 1 and September 30, 2024?

- A) 5.5-lakh crore
B) 6.5-lakh crore
C) 7.5-lakh crore
D) 8.5-lakh crore

Answer : C

- ✓ The government will borrow ₹7.5-lakh crore between April 1 and September 30.



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- 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.
- 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

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to P-800 Onyx Missile:

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

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 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:
- ✓ The P-800 Onyx missile, also known as Oniks, is a supersonic medium-range cruise missile developed by Russia.



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- ✓ It is designed to combat surface ship groups, as well as to destroy ground targets in conditions of strong fire and electronic countermeasures.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Also known as Russian Brahmos, it can reach speeds of over 3,000 km/h, making it extremely difficult to intercept.
- ✓ 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 low-altitude trajectory.
- ✓ It can be launched from surface ships, submarines, and land-based equipment.

Q. 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.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the INDRA app:

1. It disseminates weather-related information and forecasts.
2. It is developed by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics.

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.
- ✓ 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.
- 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. 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.

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INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film 'TRAH' 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.



- 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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- ✓ India is the largest cumulative contributor of peacekeepers to the UN, having deployed more than 2,60,000 peacekeepers over the last seven decades.
- ✓ India has lost 177 of its peacekeepers in the line of duty, the largest by far from any troop-contributing country.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban 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 non-motorized 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.



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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.
- ✓ 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.

Q. Who has been elected as the new Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (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.

Q. Income Tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 564.44 crore on which bank for various disallowances?

- A) Canara Bank B) Bank of Maharashtra
C) Bank of India D) Axis Bank

Answer : C



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Q. Which has tested the first aircraft named 'Mark 1A', the advanced version of fighter jet Tejas in March 2024?

- 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

Q. Nobel winner Daniel Kahneman passed away recently at the age of 90. In which field did Daniel 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.



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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.
- ✓ Originally, the World Backup Day began as World Backup Month, by a hard drive company named Maxtor which was later acquired by Seagate Technology.

Q. The International Day of Drug Checking is marked every year since 2017 to ensure awareness on 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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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD (🔥)

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



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

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



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STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

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



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STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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



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

👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

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



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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