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SELECTION IN BANKING  
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A REAL WARRIOR AS YOU  
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THE COUNTRY IN VERY  
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AFFAIRS FROM 1 FEBRUARY  
2021. HE GAVE 1000+  
SELECTION IN BANKING  
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Hey there,

Your Aparchit sir is here.

I have been providing Aparchit Super Current Affairs on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Additionally, I run GA-paid groups and channels on Telegram for three years. Over the past three years, you have consistently shown me a great deal of love, support, and respect. Your numerous messages urging me to join YouTube have been instrumental in boosting my confidence and inspiring me to take the plunge. "Your support and love mean the world to me. They provide me the strength and courage to overcome any challenge that comes my way. Knowing that you're always there for me is everything. Please continue to be my rock and support me through thick and thin."

Ultimately, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for giving me an abundance of love, support, and respect. Thank you so much, India.

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**Top 12 Students Selected in RRB PO With Highest Marks in GA Section**





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The Top 12 students of Aparchit's Warrior who were selected in IBPS PO and IBPS Clerk 2023 with the highest marks in GA.



Name - Rohit Thakur  
State - Himachal Pradesh  
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Samridhi  
State - Bihar  
Selected as - PO



Name - Jyothy Jagadeesan  
State - Kerala  
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Neelam  
State - Jharkhand  
Selected as - IBPS P



Name - Anju  
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Christina Dsouza  
State - Maharashtra  
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Himanshu Gupta  
State - Uttar Pradesh  
Selected as - IBPS PO & Clerk



Name - Anil  
State - West Bengal  
Selected as - RRB PO / RRB Clerk/  
IBPS Clerk



Name - Shivkumar Sharma  
State - Rajasthan  
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Relsha Dongre  
State - Maharashtra  
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Maya Mohan  
State - Kerala  
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Mehalar  
State - Tamilnadu  
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



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- 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. Consider the following statements with reference to the Candidates Chess Tournament:**

**1. The winner of the tournament is declared the World Chess Champion.**

**2. It is organised by the International Chess Federation (FIDE).**

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

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : B**

- ✓ India's 17-year-old Grandmaster D Gukesh recently made history by winning the Candidates Chess Tournament in Toronto to become the youngest ever challenger to the world title.
- ✓ About Candidates Chess Tournament:
- ✓ It is the final event in the World Championship cycle before the World Championship match itself.
- ✓ The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has organized the World Championship cycle since 1948 and the Candidates Tournament since 1950.
- ✓ Since 2013, the Candidates Tournament has occurred every two years.
- ✓ The number of players in the tournament varied over the years, between eight and fifteen players. Currently, it is an eight-player, double round-robin event (that is all-play-all with both colours).

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi Scheme:**

**1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme to provide healthcare benefits to all rural households.**

**2. It provides one-time financial assistance to patients suffering from life threatening diseases.**

**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 Delhi High Court instituted a case with respect to the grant of financial assistance under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme and said threshold income to claim benefit was prima facie "extremely low".
- ✓ It was set up in 1997 and it is a central sector scheme.



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- ✓ It provides one-time financial assistance to poor patients living below State/UT wise threshold poverty line and suffering from life threatening diseases relating to heart, kidney, liver, cancer, etc. for treatment at any of Super Specialty Government hospitals/institutes.
- ✓ The Umbrella Scheme of RAN has three components as under:
- ✓ Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) - Financial assistance for treatment of life-threatening diseases relating to heart, kidney, liver, etc. at Government hospitals/institutes having Super Specialty facilities; (Maximum financial assistance is Rs. 15 lakhs)
- ✓ Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) - Financial assistance for treatment of cancer at Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs)/ Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCCs) and State Cancer Institutes (SCIs); (Maximum financial assistance is Rs. 15 lakhs)
- ✓ Financial assistance for poor patients suffering from rare diseases - for specified rare diseases for treatment at Government hospitals/institutes having Super Specialty facilities; (Maximum financial assistance is Rs. 20 lakhs)
- ✓ Hence only statement 2 is correct

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Schengen Area:**

- 1. It is a group of European nations that have abolished their internal borders for free and unrestricted movement of people.**
- 2. All European Union countries are members of this Schengen Area.**

**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 European Union has announced that Indian nationals can now be issued long-term multi-entry Schengen visas valid for two years after having obtained and lawfully used two visas within the previous three years.
- ✓ It is an official document mandatory for some non-Europeans to travel to all the 27 countries which are part of the Schengen area.
- ✓ Once granted, this visa allows the traveller to cross the borders of the other member-states without going through identity checks at the border.





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- ✓ The Schengen visas allow visitors to travel freely in the Schengen area for short stays of a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period.
- ✓ The visas do not give the right to work.
- ✓ What is the Schengen area?
- ✓ It is a group of 27 European nations that have abolished their internal borders, for the free and unrestricted movement of people.
- ✓ Members of this area include: 23 of the 27 EU member states (except for Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania) and all members of the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).
- ✓ Switzerland, Iceland and Norway are not in the EU but are inside of the Schengen Area.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Service Scheme:**

**1. It was launched during the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi.**

**2. It provides for the participation of school students in various Government led community service activities.**

**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**

- ✓ Trained National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers from 153 NSS units will offer their services to differently abled people and senior citizens in Kozhikode district on the day of polls.
- ✓ It was launched during 1969, the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India.
- ✓ It provides an opportunity to the student youth of the 11th & 12th Class of schools at +2 Board level and student youth of Technical Institution, Graduate & Post Graduate at colleges and University level of India to take part in various Government led community service activities & programmes.
- ✓ The NSS symbol
- ✓ It is based on the "Rath" wheel of the Konark Sun Temple situated in Odisha.
- ✓ The navy blue colour indicates the cosmos of which the NSS is a tiny part, ready to contribute its share for the welfare of the mankind.



- ✓ The Red colour in the badge indicates that the NSS volunteers are full of blood i.e. lively, active, energetic and full of high spirit.
- ✓ The giant wheels of the Sun Temple portray the cycle of creation, preservation and release, and signify the movement in life across time and space.
- ✓ Activities undertaken by NSS: National Integration Camp, Shramdaan. Blood donation, Immunisation, Plantation, Disaster Management and Adventure programs etc.
- ✓ Motto: The motto of National Service Scheme is NOT ME BUT YOU
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO):**

**1. It was set up under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

**2. NOTTO-ID is mandatory for considering the allocation of organs in the case of a deceased donor transplant.**

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

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ All cases of organ transplants will be allocated a unique National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)-ID for both the donor and the recipient, according to a recent directive by the Union Health Ministry.
- ✓ Why in News?
- ✓ The Union Health Ministry has issued the directive to eliminate commercial dealings in organs, especially those involving foreign citizens.
- ✓ NOTTO-ID is mandatory for considering the allocation of organs in the case of a deceased donor transplant; this ID in the case of a living donor transplants shall also be generated at the earliest, maximum within 48 hours after the transplant surgery is done.
- ✓ NOTTO-ID must be generated by the hospital from the NOTTO website.
- ✓ It has also called for stricter monitoring of such transplants by the local authorities.
- ✓ About National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO):







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- ✓ Co-led by NASA and the U.S. Department of State, the Artemis Accords was established in 2020, together with seven other founding member nations (Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom).
- ✓ As of April 2024, there were 38 signatories, including India.
- ✓ Principles:
- ✓ Peaceful uses: cooperative activities are exclusively for peaceful purposes and in accordance with international law.

**Q. Rampage Missile, recently seen in the news, is developed by which one of the following countries?**

- A) Russia                                      B) Israel  
C) USA                                         D) North Korea

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Israel recently used the Rampage, an efficient air-to-surface missile, in an attack on an Iranian military base.
- ✓ About Rampage Missile:
- ✓ It is a long-range, supersonic, air-to-ground, seeker less, precision strike missile.
- ✓ It was developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and Israeli Military Industries Systems.
- ✓ It has been developed for use in missions aimed at destroying high-quality, well-protected targets, such as communication and command centers, air force bases, maintenance centers, and infrastructure.
- ✓ It has a range of over 190 miles.
- ✓ It can carry 150 kg of explosives

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Exercise Poorvi Lehar (XPOL):**

**1. It is a bilateral maritime exercise conducted between the navies of India and Vietnam.**

**2. It is aimed at the validation of procedures towards assessment of Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges.**

**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 Indian Navy recently conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast.



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- ✓ About Exercise Poorvi Lehar (XPOL):
- ✓ It is a maritime exercise conducted by the Indian Navy along the East Coast, under the operational direction of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.
- ✓ The exercise aimed at validation of procedures towards assessment of Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region.
- ✓ The exercise witnessed participation of Ships, Submarines, Aircrafts and Special Forces.
- ✓ XPOL was conducted in multiple phases including combat training in a realistic scenario during the Tactical Phase and successful conduct of various firings during the Weapon Phase towards reaffirming Indian Navy's capability to deliver ordnance on target.

**Q. The National Defense University has joined hands with Starburst Aerospace of which country for defense innovation?**

- A) Germany
- B) France
- C) USA
- D) Japan

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Gandhinagar-based National Defence University (RRU) and France's Starburst Aerospace signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote innovation in the aerospace defence sector.
- ✓ RRU and Starburst will work together to enhance security and build a strong defence eco-system in India. RRU was established in the year 2009.

**Q. Which Indian won two gold medals in the ACC Paracanoe Asian Championship 2024?**

- A) Anamika Singh
- B) Ragini Biswas
- C) Prachi Yadav
- D) Pooja Sharma

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh's top para canoer Prachi Yadav has won two gold medals at the ACC Paracanoe Asian Championship 2024 held in Tokyo, Japan.
- ✓ Prachi, a resident of Gwalior, won medals in the Women's KL2 and Women's VL2 categories.
- ✓ Prachi has also been awarded the Arjuna Award in the year 2023



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**Q. Who has become the first bowler to take 200 wickets in the history of IPL?**

- A) Jasprit Bumrah                      B) Pat Cummins  
C) Yuzvendra Chahal                  D) Mitchell Starc

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Rajasthan Royals leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has become the first bowler to take 200 wickets in the history of IPL.
- ✓ As his 200th wicket, he dismissed Mohammad Nabi of Mumbai Indians.
- ✓ Chahal played for Royal Challengers Bangalore between 2014 and 2021.
- ✓ Chahal joined Rajasthan Royals in 2022

**Q. India has signed MoU with which country to enhance collaboration and the exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two nations?**

- A) Kenya                                  B) Nigeria  
C) Bulgaria                                  D) Ethiopia

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India signs MoU with Bulgaria to enhance collaboration, exchange auditing expertise
- ✓ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SAI (Supreme Audit Institutions) Bulgaria, the Bulgarian National Audit Office, in Sofia.
- ✓ The agreement, inked by the two Supreme audit institutions, aims to enhance collaboration and the exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two nations.
- ✓ Through this MoU, a platform will be established for the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst auditing professionals and technical teams through collaboration in training programs, and mutual assistance in conducting audits

### SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023-24

- India signs MoU with Bulgaria to enhance collaboration, exchange auditing expertise.
- India and Mauritius recently amended their Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to combat tax evasion and avoidance.
- India and Nepal agree to promote Sanskrit research and education.
- India and Bhutan signed MoU in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.





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





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**Q. French carmaker Citroen has appointed whom as its brand ambassador in India?**

- A) Suryakumar Yadav                      B) Mahendra Singh Dhoni  
C) Rohit Sharma                          D) Virat Kohli

**Answer : B**

- ✓ French carmaker Citroen has engaged cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador in India.
- ✓ Dhoni is likely to endorse the brand for two years, charging Rs 7 crore for a year.
- ✓ While Dhoni has endorsed other automobile brands in the past, including Ashok Leyland and TVS Motor, it's the first time that he will be associating with a car brand.

## LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Citroen
- Sanjana Sanghi : SPACE India
- Narendra Kumar Yadav : "Fit India" Movement as Brand Ambassador
- Katrina Kaif : Chennai Super Kings as Brand Ambassador for IPL 2024
- Ranveer Singh : boAt
- Deepika Padukone : TECNO
- R Madhavan : Acko
- Sourav Ganguly : brand ambassador of Tripura state to promote tourism
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand Ambassador of Bengal
- Pankaj Tripathi : 'UPI Safety Ambassador
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : State Bank of India (SBI)
- Katrina Kaif : Luxury Swiss watch brand 'Rado'
- Chetan bhagat : Henry Harvin Education
- Mohammed Shami : Puma
- Sachin Tendulkar : ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : JioMart
- Katrina Kaif : Uniqlo
- Hrithik Roshan : lubricants brand Mobilil
- Anushka Sharma : W





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- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Swaraj Tractors
- Iga Świątek : Infosys
- Rafael Nadal : Infosys
- Rahul Dravid : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Shah Rukh Khan : ICC World Cup 2023
- Shraddha Kapoor: Asics India Private Limited
- Rashmika Mandanna : Printer company Epson India
- Smriti Mandhana : Wrangler
- Hrithik Roshan : Zebronics TV
- Sachin Tendulkar : Smile Ambassador
- Sania Mirza : Sony Sports Network
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism
- Virat Kohli : Duroflex
- Alia Bhatt : Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy
- Ayushman Khurana : Wakefit
- Rishabh Pant : Star Sports
- Rohit Sharma : JioCinema
- Virat Kohli : HSBC India
- Ranveer Singh : Star Sports Network
- Shreya Ghodawat : India's ambassador for She Changes Climate
- MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar : Brand ambassadors of IBA Women's World Championships 2023
- Sachin Tendulkar : World's first 'Hand Ambassador' for Savlon India
- Ranveer Singh : Pepsi
- Ayushmann Khurrana : UNICEF India child rights
- Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh Thakur : Hyundai Motor India Ltd
- Vir Das : Plant-based meat brand UnCrave
- Harmanpreet Kaur : Puma
- Nikhat Zareen : National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)
- Saurav Ganguly : Bandhan Bank 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign
- Anushka Sharma : Puma





- ✓ April 23 is chosen because it marks the birth and death of several prominent authors. For instance, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Josep Pla died on April 23 and Manuel Mejia Vallejo and Maurice Druon were born on April 23.

**Q. Which among these language day is observed by the United Nations on April 23?**

- A) UN Hindi Language Day                      B) UN Chinese Language Day  
C) UN French Language Day                      D) UN English Language Day

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The UN English Language Day and UN Spanish Language Day is observed annually on 23 April.
- ✓ For English, 23 April has been chosen to mark both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare.
- ✓ For Spanish Language, the Day was chosen because the day is also observed as Hispanic Day in Spain, meaning the Spanish speaking world.

**Q. Which of the following has been chosen as the World Book Capital for the year 2024 by UNESCO?**

- A) Strasbourg                                      B) Abuja  
C) Dakar                                              D) Cairo

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Following the evaluation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee, Strasbourg, France has been named as World Book Capital for 2024

**Q. Which company has introduced a new VASA 1 AI model to generate lifelike talking faces for virtual characters, boasting appealing Visual Affective Skills (VAS) in April 2024?**

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

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Microsoft announces VASA-1 AI model to turn images into videos
- ✓ Microsoft has introduced a new VASA 1 AI model, a framework designed to generate lifelike talking faces for virtual characters, boasting appealing Visual Affective Skills (VAS).
- ✓ With just a single static image and a speech audio clip, the company says its VASA-1 can create life-like short videos.
- ✓ The model also gives several options to make changes to the video. Here is everything you need to know.





- ✓ The VASA 1 can deliver high video-quality content with realistic facial and head dynamics. The model supports the online generation of 512 x 512 videos at up to 40fps with negligible starting latency

### MICROSOFT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Microsoft announces VASA-1 AI model to turn images into videos.
- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella pledges to skill 2 million Indians by 2025
- Microsoft Hits The \$3 Trillion Valuation Mark But Apple Still Remains Most Valuable Company.
- Microsoft India has unveiled the 'AI Odyssey' initiative, aiming to train 100,000 Indian developers in the latest AI technologies.
- Microsoft Completes \$69 Billion Acquisition of Activision Blizzard
- Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia.
- Infosys And Microsoft Collaborate For Adoption Of Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- Microsoft has recently announced the appointment of Aparna Gupta as the new Global Delivery Center (GDC) leader
- Meta and Microsoft have jointly announced the expansion of their artificial intelligence partnership by introducing their new large language model (LLM) called "Llama 2".
- MICROSOFT
- Founded : 1975
- Founders : Bill Gates and Paul Allen
- Headquarters : Washington DC
- Chairman : Satya Nadella
- CEO : Satya Nadella
- President : Brad Smith

**Q. Who has won the prestigious 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award?**

- A) Mohammed Salem
- B) Christiane Amanpour
- C) Fredricka Whitfield
- D) Lester Holt

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Mohammed Salem wins 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award



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- ✓ Reuters photographer Mohammed Salem has won the prestigious 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award for his image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.
- ✓ The picture was taken on October 17, 2023, at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, where families were searching for relatives killed during Israeli bombing of the Palestinian enclave.
- ✓ Mr. Salem's winning image portrays Inas Abu Maamar, 36, sobbing while holding Saly's sheet-clad body in the hospital morgue.
- ✓ 99 journalists and media employees had been killed covering the war between Israel and Hamas since the Palestinian militant group attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel responded by launching a military offensive in Gaza.



**Q. Seng Khihlang Festival is celebrated in which of the following state?**

- A) Manipur
- B) Nagaland
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Tripura

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The 34th Seng Khihlang festival concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya.
- ✓ The Seng Khihlang festival holds immense significance for believers who follow the Khasi Indigenous Faith. It is a time of unity and celebration, and is under the stewardship of the Seng Khasi Sein Raij.
- ✓ The Khasi people are an indigenous ethnic group residing in the eastern part of Meghalaya, in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills of north-eastern India.
- ✓ They also have a significant population in the bordering state of Assam and in certain parts of Bangladesh.



### FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24

- Seng Khihlang Festival : Meghalaya
- 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
- Bonalu Festival : Telangana
- Kharchi Puja : Tripura





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- Palkhi festival : Maharashtra
- Raja festival : Odisha

**Q. State of the Climate in Asia Report, recently seen in news, is published by:**

- A) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- B) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- D) World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Recently, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) published the State of the Climate in Asia, 2023, report.
- ✓ It was launched by the World Meteorological Organisation.
- ✓ Highlights of the report:
- ✓ More than nine million people across Asia were affected by 79 extreme climate disasters reported on the continent in 2023.
- ✓ Asia and the Pacific was the most disaster-impacted region last year.
- ✓ Atmospheric concentration of the three major greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide – reached record highs in 2022, the latest year for which global data is available.
- ✓ Oceans have absorbed around 25% of annual man-made carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere between 1960 and 2021. The trend continues, and ocean heat content in 2023 was the highest on record.
- ✓ The tropical cyclone activity over the North Indian Ocean was slightly above average.
- ✓ Asia recorded its second-highest mean temperature on record in 2023. Japan and Kazakhstan observed record warm years.
- ✓ Key facts about the WMO
- ✓ It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- ✓ It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans and the resulting distribution of water resources.
- ✓ It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873.



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- ✓ Established in 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the UN for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ Member countries: Currently it has a membership of 187 countries.

**Q. Which among the following best describes 'Crystal Maze 2', recently seen in the news?**

- A) A crystal-based energy storage technology.
- B) An earth observation satellite.
- C) An Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot
- D) An air-launched ballistic missile.

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully carried out a test firing of the Crystal Maze 2 missile.
- ✓ About Crystal Maze 2:
- ✓ Crystal Maze 2, also referred to as ROCKS, is an air-launched medium-range ballistic missile.
- ✓ It is of Israeli origin.
- ✓ It is designed to target high-value stationary and relocatable assets, such as long-range radars and air defense systems, of potential adversaries.
- ✓ Distinguished from its predecessor, Crystal Maze 1, which has been inducted into the IAF from Israel previously, the Crystal Maze 2 boasts extended stand-off range capabilities as an air-to-surface missile.
- ✓ It is capable of hitting targets over 250 kilometers away.
- ✓ With options for either a penetration or blast fragmentation warhead, the missile is capable of destroying above-ground or well-protected underground targets.
- ✓ It is specifically effective in GPS-denied environments.

**Q. With reference to the Voyager 1 Spacecraft, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a space probe launched by NASA to study the outer Solar System and beyond.
2. It is the only human-made object to enter interstellar space.
3. It is currently the most distant human-made object from Earth.

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

- A) Only one
- B) Only two



C) All three

D) None

**Answer : B**

- ✓ NASA's Voyager 1 probe is returning usable information to ground control following months of spouting gibberish, the US space agency announced recently.
- ✓ About Voyager 1 Spacecraft:
  - ✓ It is a space probe launched by NASA in 1977, about two weeks after its twin Voyager 2.
  - ✓ Objective: To study the outer Solar System and beyond.
  - ✓ Voyager 1's mission has included flybys of Jupiter and Saturn, with the goal of studying their moons, rings, and magnetic fields.
  - ✓ It is currently the most distant human-made object from Earth.
  - ✓ It was the first spacecraft to cross the heliosphere, the boundary where the influences outside our solar system are stronger than those from our Sun
  - ✓ It crossed into interstellar space in 2012, making it the first human-made object to venture out of the solar system.
  - ✓ It discovered a thin ring around Jupiter and two new Jovian moons: Thebe and Metis.
  - ✓ At Saturn, Voyager 1 found five new moons and a new ring called the G-ring.
  - ✓ According to NASA, Voyager 1 has enough fuel to keep its instruments running until at least 2025. By then, the spacecraft will be approximately 13.8 billion miles (22.1 billion kilometers) away from the sun.
- ✓ Key Facts about Voyager 2 Spacecraft:
  - ✓ It is a space probe launched by NASA on August 20, 1977.
  - ✓ It is part of the Voyager program, which also includes Voyager 1.
  - ✓ Primary mission: To study the outer planets of our solar system and their moons, and then continue on an interstellar mission.
  - ✓ It is the second spacecraft to enter interstellar space.
  - ✓ It also carries a golden record similar to Voyager 1.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Career Service:**

- 1. It is one of the mission-mode projects under the umbrella of the E-Governance Plan.**
- 2. It aims to bridge the gap between job-seekers and employers.**

**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**

- ✓ The Centre plans to upgrade the nine-year-old National Career Service (NCS) portal to link millions of youths with prospective employers in a bid to prepare a future-ready workforce.
- ✓ The Portal provides online career counselling and vocational guidance services to its registered users.
- ✓ This service aims to equip the jobseeker with necessary information that is required to make right career choices based on his/her qualification, skill set and interest.
- ✓ It provides a nation-wide online platform for the job seekers and employers for job-matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner and has a repository of career content to job seekers.
- ✓ What is National Career Service?
- ✓ It is one of the mission-mode projects under the umbrella of the E-Governance Plan.
- ✓ It was launched in the year 2015.
- ✓ Objectives: It works towards bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers, candidates seeking training and career guidance and agencies providing training and career counselling by transforming the National Employment Service.
- ✓ It provides a host of career-related services such as dynamic job matching, career counselling, job notifications, vocational guidance, and information on skill development courses, internships and alike.
- ✓ Focus areas:
  - ✓ Enhancing Career and employment opportunities
  - ✓ Counselling and guidance for career development
  - ✓ Focusing on decent employment
  - ✓ Enhancing female labour force participation
  - ✓ Encouraging entrepreneurial endeavours
- ✓ Nodal Agency: The project is being implemented by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Pink Hydrogen:**

**1. It is generated through electrolysis by using nuclear energy.**

**2. It can be used as replacement for fossil fuels in cement industry and heavy transportation.**





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**Q. Who has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Pine Labs' Setu?**

- A) Rakesh Mohan  
B) Anand Raisinghani  
C) Mahesh Bhatt  
D) Rajesh Sharma

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Pine Labs-owned API infrastructure company Setu has appointed Anand Raisinghani as the company's new chief executive officer (CEO).
- ✓ Raisinghani, who succeeds Sahil Kini at the company, will work in the space of open banking, account aggregation, API platforms, embedded finance, and data gateway.
- ✓ He is a former executive at SAP India where he was the vice-president (VP).
- ✓ The company has also received a Certificate of Registration from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Account Aggregator.
- ✓ Founded in 2018, Setu is an application programming interface (API) company offering services across account aggregation, data gateway, identity verification, embedded finance, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), WhatsApp Business, and BBPS.

**Q. What was the net direct tax collection of the government of India in 2023-24?**

- A) ₹19.58 lakh crore  
B) ₹29.58 lakh crore  
C) ₹39.58 lakh crore  
D) ₹49.58 lakh crore

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India's net direct tax collections surged 17.7% year-on-year to ₹19.58 lakh crore in the fiscal year ended March 2024, surpassing the revised estimates.
- ✓ Net direct taxes in 2023-24 exceeded the budget estimates by ₹ 1.35 lakh crore (7.40%) and the revised estimates by ₹13,000 crore.
- ✓ Higher direct tax collections will give the Centre headroom to meet its fiscal deficit target for FY24.
- ✓ The Centre had budgeted ₹18.23 lakh crore as net direct tax revenue for 2023-24, which was later revised upwards to ₹19.45 lakh crore.

**Q. Who has been honoured with the prestigious KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) Humanitarian Award 2021?**

- A) Mukesh Ambani  
B) Narendra Modi  
C) Gautam Adani  
D) Ratan Tata









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- ✓ With that, AMU has also become the third central university to have a woman Vice-Chancellor. While Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit is the current VC of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Najma Akhtar completed her tenure as the Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia in 2023.
- ✓ Ms Khatoon is the first woman to be appointed to the post in the varsity's 123-year history. Begum Sultan Jahan became the Chancellor of AMU in 1920, making her the first and only woman to hold the position.
- ✓ About Aligarh Muslim University
- ✓ The Aligarh Muslim University was established in 1920 under the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920.
- ✓ The origin of the Aligarh Muslim University is traced to the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College set up on 7 January 1877 by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.
- ✓ The University has three study centers at Murshidabad in West Bengal, at Mallapuram in Kerala and at Kishanganj in Bihar.

## FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24.

- Professor Naima Khatoon has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- Democratic Republic Of Congo Appoints Judith Suminwa Tuluka As African Nation's First Woman Prime Minister.
- 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 Prerna Deosthalee has been appointed as the first woman officer to command a warship in the Indian Navy (INW).
- Sue Redfern became the first woman to stand as an umpire in a men's first-class cricket match in England and Wales.





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- 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.
- 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.



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- The first woman officer to be posted on foreign assignment in the Border Roads Organization (BRO) - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola.
- Rae Bareilly's hockey stadium is named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman player from India to achieve this feat.
- Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly.
- Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM.
- Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA.
- Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- Saudi Arabia's Rayna Barnawi first female astronaut is set to go into space this year .
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president.
- FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match.
- PT Usha Become First Women President of Indian Olympic Association.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Khanij Bidesh India Limited:**

**1. It is a Joint Venture Company formed by National Aluminium Company Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd.**

**2. It carries out identification, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas.**

**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**

- ✓ Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute to foster a long-term collaboration in the field of geophysical investigations to bolster its ongoing projects and activities in critical and strategic minerals.
- ✓ It is a Joint Venture Company formed with the participation of National Aluminium Company Ltd.(NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd.(HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL) in 2019.



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- ✓ Mandate: Target of this company is to identify, acquire, develop, process and make commercial use of strategic minerals in overseas locations for supply in India.
- ✓ It is focusing on identifying and sourcing battery minerals like Lithium and Cobalt.
- ✓ The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in the ratio of 40:30:30.
- ✓ Functions
- ✓ It helps in building partnerships with other mineral rich countries like Australia and those in Africa and South America, where Indian expertise in exploration and mineral processing will be mutually beneficial bringing about new economic opportunities.
- ✓ The KABIL would carry out identification, acquisition, exploration, development, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas for commercial use and meeting country's requirement of these minerals.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Mines

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:**

**1. It is a multi-stakeholder global partnership launched during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.**

**2. The World Bank Group is a member of this organization.**

**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 Prime Minister of India addressed the 6th edition of International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) which is the annual conference of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- ✓ It is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions.
- ✓ It addresses the challenges of building resilience into infrastructure systems and development associated with it.
- ✓ It was launched during the United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019, at New York.
- ✓ Objective







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- Reliance Industries and DBS Bank India have collaborated to introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to hire RS Sodhi, the former MD of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which is responsible for the popular Indian milk brand, Amul.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- Founded : 8 May 1973
- Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- CMD : Mukesh Ambani
- Owner : Mukesh Ambani (50.49%)
- Director : Nita Dalal Ambani
- Subsidiaries
- Jio Platforms (67.03%)
- Jio Payments Bank (70%).
- At Rs 19 lakh crore or \$250 billion, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries's market capitalisation.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2024:**

**1. It identifies conflicts, extreme weather events and economic shocks as the main factors behind the worsening of food crises in the world.**

**2. Sub-Saharan Africa was the area with the most severe food crisis in the last eight years of GRFC reporting.**

**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**

- ✓ Nearly 282 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 59 countries in 2023, according to the 2024 Global Report on Food Crisis (GRFC), released recently.



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- ✓ About Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2024:
- ✓ GRFC is produced annually by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) and launched by the Global Network Against Food Crises, a multistakeholder initiative that includes United Nations agencies, the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development, and non-governmental agencies working to tackle food crises.
- ✓ Highlights of GRFC 2024:
- ✓ The report analyzed a population of 1.3 billion in 2023 across 59 countries.
- ✓ 2023 was the fifth consecutive year of rises in the number of people suffering acute food insecurity, defined as when populations face food deprivation that threatens lives or livelihoods, regardless of the causes or length of time.
- ✓ Nearly 282 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 59 countries in 2023.
- ✓ The report identifies conflicts, extreme weather events, and economic shocks as the three main drivers behind the exacerbation of food crises in the world.
- ✓ With food crisis escalating alarmingly in conflict hotspots in 2023, notably Palestine (Gaza Strip) and Sudan, conflict / insecurity became the primary driver in 20 countries, directly affecting 135 million people.
- ✓ The Gaza Strip became the area with the most severe food crisis in the last eight years of GRFC reporting.
- ✓ Sudan is facing one of the worst food crises in the world, with almost a third of the population in need of emergency food aid.
- ✓ The 10 countries with the world's largest food crisis in 2023 were the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Myanmar.
- ✓ On a positive note, the situation improved in 17 countries in 2023, including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine

**Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution?**

- A) To develop a global framework for regulation of only plastic production.
- B) To develop an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution.
- C) To establish import/export restrictions on plastic materials.
- D) To promote plastic recycling initiatives worldwide





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## Answer : B

- ✓ The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4), opened in Canada's capital, Ottawa.
- ✓ About Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution:
- ✓ In 2022, at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, a historic resolution was adopted to develop an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
- ✓ The resolution requested the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop "the instrument," which is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, including its production, design, and disposal.
- ✓ The objective of the global plastics treaty is to set a global framework of standards around accountability, responsibilities, financing, material/chemical standards, import/export restrictions, targets.
- ✓ An INC has been established, which will meet five times to develop the specific content of the new ILBI by the end of 2024.
- ✓ The INC began its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024.
- ✓ The first session of the INC (INC-1) took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 2022, followed by a second session (INC-2) in May-June 2023 in Paris, France, and a third session (INC-3) November 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ✓ INC-5, scheduled for November-December 2024 in Busan, Republic of Korea, is intended as the end of the INC process.
- ✓ It will be followed by a Diplomatic Conference where Heads of State will sign the agreement.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Spices Board of India:**

- 1. It is responsible for the improvement in production and quality of cardamom.**
- 2. It works under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**

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

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**



C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : A**

- ✓ With certain spices of Indian brands facing ban in Singapore and Hong Kong due to quality concerns, the Spices Board said it will start mandatory testing of such consignments destined to these two countries.
- ✓ It is the statutory organization constituted in 1987 under the Spices Board Act 1986.
- ✓ It was formed with the merger of the erstwhile Cardamom Board and Spices Export Promotion Council.
- ✓ The Board functions an international link between the Indian exporters and the importers abroad and it has been involved in various activities which touch upon every segment of the spices sector.
- ✓ Main functions
- ✓ The Spices Board is responsible for the overall development of cardamom (small and large) in terms of improving production, productivity and quality.
- ✓ The Board is also implementing post-harvest improvement programmes for improving quality of the 52 scheduled spices for export.
- ✓ Promotion of organic production, processing and certification of spices
- ✓ Development of spices in the North East
- ✓ Provision of quality evaluation services
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

**Q. Consider the following:**

**1. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

**2. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**

**3. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

**4. TRAFFIC**

**How many of the above are part of Tiger Conservation Coalition?**

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) Only three

D) All four

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Recently, at the Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference, Bhutan and the Tiger Conservation Coalition Commit to Catalysing US\$1 billion for tigers.



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- ✓ It is a group of NGOs that has worked for many years with partners to conserve tigers.
- ✓ Its vision is for a long-term presence of viable and ecologically functional populations of wild tigers secure in protected habitats, with representation and links across their indigenous range.
- ✓ It brings together leading tiger biologists and experts in wildlife crime, human-wildlife coexistence, policy, finance, development, and communications with unprecedented alignment on achieving tiger conservation at scale.
- ✓ The eight Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) includes the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Fauna & Flora, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Panthera, TRAFFIC, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- ✓ The members co-developed Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0, an integrated habitat modelling system to measure and monitor changes in tiger habitat at range-wide, national, biome, and landscape scales in near real-time.

**Q. Who has won the Best Director Award in 21st Irish Film & Television Awards 2024?**

A) Lisa Mulcahy

B) Roman Polansk

C) Bong Joon-ho

D) Akira Kurosawa

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Cillian Murphy won 21st Irish Film & Television Awards 2024
- ✓ The Oscar-nabbing success of Christopher Nolan's Best Picture winner, Cillian Murphy emerged victorious once again at the 21st annual Irish Film & Television Awards (IFTAs), held in Dublin.
- ✓ The actor secured the coveted Best Actor award for his portrayal of the titular American physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, which swept up a majority of the award season last year.
- ✓ The awards ceremony, held at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre and hosted by Baz Ashmawy, celebrated excellence in Irish cinema and television honouring established talents and emerging stars alike.
- ✓ An adaptation of John McGahern's novel about passion, war and migration – That They May Face the Rising Sun took home the top prize for Best Film at the ceremony.
- ✓ Director Lisa Mulcahy received the Best Director award for Lies We Tell, while Elisabeth Gooch won Best Script for the same film.





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## AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Renowned economist Utsa Patnaik receives the 2023 Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, an honor granted annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.
- 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)
- 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.



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- 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. Which Japanese airline has signed a codeshare agreement with Air India in April 2024?**

A) Jetstar Japan

B) Peach Aviation

C) Star Flyer

D) All Nippon Airways

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Air India has entered into a codeshare partnership with Japan's All Nippon Airways.
- ✓ With the codeshare, effective for travel from May 23, Air India and All Nippon Airways passengers can fly to their desired destination by combining those flights between India and Japan with a single ticket.







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- ✓ The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is a central government scheme that PM Narendra Modi launched on 13 February 2024.
- ✓ The Scheme aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India.
- ✓ Households can get 300 units of free electricity per month by installing a rooftop solar electricity generating unit.
- ✓ The government of India has allocated Rs 75,021 crore for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
- ✓ Eligibility for the Scheme
- ✓ The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is for Indian citizens who own a house with a roof suitable for installing solar panels.
- ✓ The household must have an electricity connection. Also, the beneficiary household must not have been provided with any other subsidy for solar panels.
- ✓ Features of the Scheme
- ✓ Under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the government provides a subsidy for households to install rooftop solar units.
- ✓ For solar units up to 2KW capacity, a subsidy of 60% of the solar unit cost is provided and 40% of additional system cost for systems between 2 to 3 KW capacity.
- ✓ No subsidy is provided for rooftop solar units above 3 KW capacity.

**Q. Which Indian fintech platform has launched an all-in-one payment product that integrates POS (point of sale), QR code, and speaker into one device?**

A) GooglePay

B) Paytm

C) BHIM

D) BharatPe

**Answer : D**

- ✓ BharatPe has launched a payments device that combines point of sale (POS), QR code, and speaker functionalities.
- ✓ The payments startup will introduce BharatPe One in some 100 cities and expand to another 450 in six months.
- ✓ BharatPe One will streamline transactions for merchants, offering versatile payment acceptance options including dynamic and static QR codes, POS, and speaker capabilities, said the company.
- ✓ The device is part of BharatPe's suite of simple, easy-to-use, and secure fintech products, which includes payments and business loans for its merchant partners



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- ✓ The device provides a comprehensive payment solution for businesses, helping them manage transactions efficiently. The device's versatility allows merchants to cater to various customer preferences, enhancing the overall payment experience

**Q. Who has been appointed as Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI)?**

- A) Sheyphali Sharan                      B) Nidhi S Jain  
C) Maushami Chakraborty              D) Vasudha Gupta

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The Central Government has approved the appointment of Nidhi S Jain (IA&AS) as Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI).
- ✓ She has been appointed to the post for an initial period of three years.
- ✓ Nidhi is an Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) service officer of 2009-batch. Presently, she is posted as Director of Audit (Environment & Scientific Departments), Branch office, Mumbai.

**Q. Which hospital has been named as the best private hospital in India by the prestigious 'Newsweek – World's Best Hospitals 2024' rankings?**

- A) Medanta Gurugram  
B) AIIMS Delhi  
C) Apollo Hospital  
D) Holy Family Hospital Delhi

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Medanta Gurugram ranks on Newsweek's 2024 list of the 'World's Best Hospitals'
- ✓ Medanta – The Medicity, Gurugram operated by Global Health Limited has once again been named as the best private hospital in India by the prestigious 'Newsweek – World's Best Hospitals 2024' rankings.
- ✓ This is the fifth consecutive year that Medanta has achieved the status as the best private hospital in India.
- ✓ Medanta also remains the only private hospital from India to feature in the top 250 hospitals of the world.
- ✓ Newsweek, in collaboration with Statista Inc., examined data from 2,400 hospitals across 30 countries. The final rankings are based on feedback from over 85,000 medical experts as well as patient survey results and public data from post hospitalization satisfaction.







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**Q. In which one of the following States is the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary located?**

- A) Bihar  
B) Karnataka  
C) Haryana  
D) Kerala

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently stayed the construction of four proposed dams inside Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ About Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary:
- ✓ Location:
- ✓ It is located in the eastern part of Yamunanagar district in Haryana.
- ✓ It is situated in the Shivalik foothills of the Himalayas.
- ✓ The Yamuna River runs to the east.
- ✓ The sanctuary derives its name from the Kalesar Forest, which is a part of the reserve.
- ✓ Topography:
- ✓ It varies from plains to hills up to an elevation of 700 m, interspersed with narrow valleys locally called 'khols' between the hills.

**Q. World Immunization Week 2024 celebrated from \_ to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.**

- A) 22-29 April  
B) 24-30 April  
C) 22-30 April  
D) 25-30 April

**Answer : B**

- ✓ 24-30 April – World Immunization Week
- ✓ Every year for World Immunization Week, the last week of April, the global immunization community celebrates the lifesaving power of vaccines.
- ✓ The day also aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – Humanly Possible
- ✓ In May 2012, the World Health Assembly, the body that makes decisions for the World Health Organization (WHO), approved World Immunisation Week. More than 180 nations took part in the inaugural World Immunisation Week, which was held in 2012.



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**Q. The World Malaria Day (WMD) is observed globally on which day?**

A) 24th April

B) 26th April

C) 23rd April

D) 25th April

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The World Malaria Day (WMD) is observed globally on 25 April each year to recognize the efforts of the people worldwide to control malaria.
- ✓ The Day was established in May 2007 at the 60th session of the World Health Assembly, WHO's decision-making body.
- ✓ Theme of World Malaria Day 2024 is "Accelerate the fight against malaria for a more equitable world."
- ✓ WMD is one of eight official global public health campaigns currently marked by the World Health Organization (WHO), along with World Health Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Immunization Week, World Tuberculosis Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Hepatitis Day and World AIDS Day.

**Q. When is the International Delegate's Day marked?**

A) April 25

B) April 23

C) April 24

D) April 26

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The International Delegate's Day is observed on April 25, to raise awareness of the role of representatives and delegates of the Member States to the United Nations, in preventing war and conflict and paving the way for peaceful and prosperous societies through dialogue and collaboration, particularly during the most difficult of times.
- ✓ United Nations (UN) organized the first official International Delegate's Day on April 25, 2020.
- ✓ The day acknowledge the 850 delegates who participated in the San Francisco Conference seventy-six years ago in 1945, followed by signing of the Charter of the United Nations.
- ✓ The agreement resulted in the creation of the United Nations, an organization that now comprises 193 Member States.

**Q. Amitabh Chaudhry has been reappointed as the MD and CEO of which bank?**

A) Axis Bank

B) SBI

C) PNB

D) Yes Bank



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## Answer : A

- ✓ Axis Bank has recently reappointed Amitabh Chaudhry as the MD and CEO of the bank.
- ✓ The Axis Bank board has appointed Chaudhry for a term of three years with effect from January 1, 2025.
- ✓ This will be his second extension of three years.
- ✓ Chaudhary joined the bank as MD and CEO in 2019. Prior to this, he was the MD and CEO of HDFC Life

## AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Axis Bank has recently reappointed Amitabh Chaudhry as the MD and CEO of the bank.
- Axis Bank has launched the digital US dollar Fixed Deposits (FD) tailored for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) situated in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- 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





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

## NEWLY RE-APPOINTMENT IN NEWS 2024

- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a one-year term.
- ICICI Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval for the re-appointment of Sandeep Batra as the Executive Director (ED).
- Kristalina Georgieva has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new 5-year term starting on 1 October 2024.
- Government Approves 1-Year Extension For RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra

**Q. India's first multipurpose (heat and power) green hydrogen pilot project was launched in which state?**

A) Uttarakhand

B) Arunachal Pradesh

C) Sikkim

D) Himachal Pradesh

**Answer : D**

- ✓ SJVN Limited has commissioned India's first multipurpose (heat and power) green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station at Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The project will also generate electricity using green hydrogen and a 25 kW fuel cell

## INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- SJVN Limited has commissioned India's first multipurpose (heat and power) green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station at Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels.
- India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film 'IRAH' trailer launched
- India's 1st Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory will be Launched in J&K



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- 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. In which country is the World Energy Congress 2024 being organized?**

A) Switzerland

B) Netherlands

C) France

D) Canada

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) participated in the 26th edition of the World Energy Congress held in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- ✓ He also said that India ranks fourth globally in renewable energy installed capacity.

### SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023- 24

- A Ministerial round table conference was held on April 24th, 2024, during the 26th World Energy Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's 6th edition has begun in New Delhi.
- The conference's theme is "Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow".
- The 16th World Future Energy Summit has recently commenced in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- 3rd Summit for Democracy being hosted by South Korea
- 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.
- WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.





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- 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. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?**

A) MS Dhoni

B) Lionel Messi

C) Usain Bolt

D) Sachin Tendulkar

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Usain Bolt to be the brand ambassador of the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup.



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- ✓ Legendary Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt has been named by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as the ambassador for the 9th ICC Men's T-20 World Cup, which will be hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America jointly from 1 to 29 June 2024.
- ✓ As a brand ambassador, Usain Bolt will promote the World Cup event, attend T20 World Cup matches in the West Indies, and participate in fan engagement events to promote the cricket sport within the United States.
- ✓ World Record Holder Legendary Sprinter Usain Bolt
- ✓ Usain Bolt, a keen cricket fan, is a legend in track and field athletics. In 2017, he set the world record in the 100-metre race. He also holds the record for winning three gold medals in three consecutive summer Olympics.
- ✓ In the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Bolt won gold in the men's 100-metre, 200 metres and 4x100 metres. He created a new world record in all three events.
- ✓ At the 2012 London Olympics, he again won gold medals in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres.
- ✓ Finally, in the 2016 Rio Olympics, he won gold in 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres.
- ✓ Bolt currently holds world records in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres with times of 9.58 seconds, 19.19 seconds and 36.84 seconds, respectively.
- ✓ 'Faster than Lightning - My Story' is the autobiography of Usain Bolt
- ✓ 9th ICC Men's T- 20 World Cup 2024 Teams and Fixtures
- ✓ The 9th ICC Men's T-20 World Cup will be the biggest men's T-20 World Cup in terms of participation.
- ✓ For the first time, 20 teams will participate in the T-20 World Cup. The West Indies and the United States of America will co-host the World Cup from 1 to 29 June 2024.
- ✓ Of the 20 teams participating in the World Cup, the West Indies and the United States qualified as the host countries.
- ✓ Canada, Uganda and the United States team are playing for the first time in the ICC Men's T-20 World Cup.
- ✓ ICC Men's T-20 World Cup
- ✓ First T-20 men's World Cup was organised in South Africa, which was won by India
- ✓ West Indies and England have twice won the ICC Men's T-20 trophy, while India, Australia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan have only won it once.



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**Q. Prabowo Subianto has been appointed as the new President of which country?**

A) Japan

B) China

C) Indonesia

D) Vietnam

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Prabowo Subianto has been appointed as the new President of Indonesia. Before this he was the Defense Minister of the country.
- ✓ Subianto will replace Joko Widodo in October.
- ✓ In Indonesia, the term of the President is five years and the President can be re-elected.
- ✓ Republic of Indonesia
- ✓ Indonesia, earlier called the Dutch East Indies, is located off the coast of mainland Southeast Asia.
- ✓ It is an archipelago that lies in the Indian and the Pacific Oceans.
- ✓ It is the world's most populous Muslim country and the fourth-largest country after India, China, and the United States of America.
- ✓ Capital: Jakarta
- ✓ Currency: Rupiah

## NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Peter Pellegrini : Slovakia
- Abdel Fatah al-Sisi : Egypt
- Prabowo Subianto : Indonesia
- Tamás Sulyok : Hungary
- Alexander Stubb : Finland
- Azali Assoumani : Comoros
- Bernardo Arevalo : Guatemala
- William Lai : Taiwan
- Daniel Noboa : Ecuador
- Mohammed Muizzu : Maldives
- Bharatvanshi Tharman Shanmugaratnam : Singapore
- Emmerson Mnangagwa : Zimbabwe
- Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian







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4. India-India was the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023. India spent \$83.6 billion on its military in 2023 an increase of 4.2 per cent as compared to 2022.
5. Saudi Arabia - estimated expenditure of \$75.8 billion
6. United Kingdom -\$ 74.9 billion
7. Germany -\$66.8 billion
8. Ukraine -\$64.8 billion
9. France -\$61.3 billion
10. Japan- \$50.32 billion

**Q. Which organization has developed the Bullet Proof Jacket of the country for protection against the highest threat Level 6?**

A) DRDO

B) BEL

C) HAL

D) BDL

**Answer : A**

- ✓ DRDO develops lightest Bullet Proof Jacket of country for protection against highest threat Level
- ✓ A unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully developed the lightest bulletproof jacket in the country for protection against the highest threat level 6.
- ✓ This jacket is based on a new design approach where novel material along with new processes has been used.
- ✓ DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has successfully developed the lightest bulletproof jacket in the country for protection against 7.62 x 54 R API (level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition.
- ✓ Recently, this bulletproof jacket was successfully tested at TBRL, Chandigarh as per BIS 17051-2018.
- ✓ The front hard armour panel (HAP) of this jacket "defeats multiple hits (six shots) of 7.62×54 R API (sniper rounds) in both ICW (in-conjunction with) and standalone design.

**Q. C-DOT and which IIT have signed an agreement for "Automated Service Management in 5G and Beyond Networks Using AI"?**

A) IIT Jodhpur

B) IIT Madras

C) IIT Bombay

D) IIT Kanpur

**Answer : A**

- ✓ C-DOT and IIT Jodhpur sign agreement for "Automated Service Management in Network of 5G



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- ✓ C-DOT, the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur have signed an agreement for “Automated Service Management in 5G and Beyond Networks Using AI”.
- ✓ The agreement is signed under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) of the DoT, which is designed for providing funding support to domestic companies and institutions involved in technology design, development, commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.
- ✓ The primary objective is to develop AI frameworks for automated network management, fault detection, and diagnostic techniques by utilizing continuous information generated within the network like 5G

**Q. Which company has signed an MoU with Indus Towers Limited (ITL) to support green energy goals and India’s carbon-neutral aspirations?**

A) SJVN Limited

B) ReNew Power

C) JSW Energy

D) NTPC Green Energy Limited

**Answer : D**

- ✓ NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Indus Towers Limited (ITL) have signed an MoU to support green energy goals and India’s carbon-neutral aspirations.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to jointly develop grid-connected renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, and energy storage solutions.
- ✓ NGEL operates as a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited, formerly known as the National Thermal Power Corporation.

**Q. Digital payments platform Razorpay has launched its own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure, or UPI switch, in partnership with which Payments Bank?**

A) Jio Payments Bank

B) Paytm Payments Bank

C) Airtel Payments Bank

D) India Post Payments Bank

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Razorpay launches UPI Switch with Airtel Payments Bank
- ✓ Digital payments platform Razorpay has launched its own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure, or UPI switch, in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank.





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- ✓ The company will now provide its UPI Switch service to Airtel Payments Bank, enabling it to manage UPI transactions on the payments bank's platform. The solution can handle up to 10,000 transactions per second (TPS).
- ✓ Razorpay received a final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December last year to operate as a payment aggregator, enabling it to onboard new merchants after a nearly one-year-old regulatory ban.
- ✓ This UPI switch will serve as a platform driving UPI innovations while supporting existing solutions like Turbo UPI and third-party payment solutions, it said.
- ✓ In May 2023, Razorpay introduced 'Turbo UPI,' enabling customers of online merchants to make UPI payments directly without redirection to a third-party UPI app during checkout.
- ✓ In September, it launched 'UPI Autopay on QR' in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India, simplifying challenges associated with maintaining and expanding subscription-based businesses.

**Q. Which company has introduced its inaugural travel-centric core credit card, 'MILES' in April 2024?**

A) SBI Card

B) VISA

C) Mastercard

D) Rupay

**Answer : A**

- ✓ SBI Card introduced its inaugural travel-centric core credit card, 'SBI Card MILES'.
- ✓ The card promises comprehensive travel benefits, including the conversion of Travel Credits to Air Miles and Hotel Points, enhanced rewards on all travel bookings, and access to airport lounges.
- ✓ The bank has partnered with more than 20 leading airline and hotel brands such as Air Vistara, Air India, SpiceJet, and IHG Hotels & Resorts.
- ✓ There are three variants, SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES, which have been designed to elevate these experiences through curated travel benefits.

**Q. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar for how many year(s) from May 3, 2024?**

A) 1 year

B) 2 years

C) 3 years

D) 4 years

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar for one year from May 3 this year.





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**Q. Where is the Archery World Cup 2024 being organized?**

- A) Malaysia  
B) China  
C) South Korea  
D) India

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Archery World Cup 2024 is being organized in Shanghai, China.
- ✓ The Indian trio of Tarundeep Rai, Dheeraj Bommadevaara and Praveen Jadhav have confirmed medals by reaching the men's recurve final.
- ✓ Jyothi Surekha Vennam finished second in the women's compound qualification round in Stage I.

**Q. Indian Historical Records Commission', which was in the news recently, is functioning under which Ministry?**

- A) Home Ministry  
B) Ministry of Science and Technology  
C) Ministry of Culture  
D) Ministry of Mines

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC), operating under the Union Ministry of Culture, has adopted a new logo and motto.
- ✓ It is an apex advisory body on archival matters. It was established in the year 1919.

**Q. Subrahmanya Dhareshwar passed away, he was a famous singer of which folk dance?**

- A) Garba  
B) Kathakali  
C) Kathak  
D) Yakshagana

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Famous Yakshagana singer Subrahmanya Dhareshwar passed away at the age of 67.
- ✓ He was famous as 'Bhagavad Shrestha' for his wonderful voice. Subrahmanya Dhareshwar had served in the field of Yakshagana for 46 years.
- ✓ Yakshagana is a traditional folk dance form famous in the coastal districts of Karnataka.
- ✓ This folk dance is similar to the Theyyam art form of the neighbouring state of Kerala.







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- ✓ Saudi Sponsorship of International Events
- ✓ Under the FIFA deal, the Aramco company would sponsor multiple FIFA events, including the 2026 Men's World Cup and the 2027 Women's World Cup. The 2026 Men's World Cup will be co-hosted by Canada, the United States and Mexico. The host country for the Women's World Cup 2027 is yet to be decided.
- ✓ Saudi Aramco Company
- ✓ The Saudi Arabian oil Company is also known as Saudi Aramco.
- ✓ The Saudi Aramco company is owned by the government of Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ It is in the field of exploration and transportation of oil and gas. It is also in the business of refining petroleum oil and other petrochemical business.
- ✓ It is the world's largest oil-producing company.
- ✓ It is the most profitable company in the world.
- ✓ Headquarters: Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
- ✓ FIFA Men's World Cup
- ✓ The FIFA Men's Football World Cup is a senior men's football championship organised every four years.
- ✓ Uruguay hosted the first World Cup in 1930. Due to the World Wars, no World Cup was held in 1942 and 1946.
- ✓ The 21st World Cup was hosted by Qatar in 2022 and won by Argentina.
- ✓ The 22nd World Cup would be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada in 2026.
- ✓ The 23rd World Cup would be co-hosted by Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay in 2030. It would be hosted by six countries in three continents.
- ✓ The 24th World Cup 2034 would be hosted by Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ Brazil is the most successful team in the world, having won it five times, while Italy and Germany have won it four times each.
- ✓ FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association)
- ✓ It is the world governing body of men's and women's football.
- ✓ Headquarters of FIFA: Zurich, Switzerland.
- ✓ President: Gianni Infantino

**Q. Which country will host the FIFA Men's World Cup 2034?**

A) UAE

B) India

C) Qatar

D) Saudi Arabia







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- ✓ India's services imports, however, dipped marginally by 0.4 per cent to \$248 billion last year.
- ✓ **Highlights of the UNCTAD report .**
- ✓ According to the UNCTAD, the service sector export in the world grew by 8.9% in 2023 and reached US\$ 7.9 trillion in 2023.
- ✓ The main reason for the growth in the service sector export was the growth in the International travel sector. The travel service sector export grew by 40%.
- ✓ The transport sector recorded a negative growth of 12 per cent.
- ✓ According to the report, Services, many of which can be traded digitally, recorded a growth of over 7% in each quarter of 2023.
- ✓ Top Service Exporting/Importing Countries in 2023(UNCTAD)
- ✓ India is the 7th largest exporter of services in the world. The United States is the largest service exporter in the world, followed by the United Kingdom.
- ✓ **Top 5 service exporting developed country in the world 2023**
  1. The United States of America (\$999 billion),
  2. United Kingdom (\$584 billion),
  3. Germany (\$440 billion)
  4. Ireland (\$398 billion)
  5. France (\$356 billion)
- ✓ Top Service Importing Countries in the World 2023
- ✓ According to UNCTAD, India was the 9th largest service-importing country in the world. The United States was the leading service importer country in the world, followed by China.
- ✓ **Top 5 leading service-importing developed countries in 2023**
  1. United States of America (\$719 billion)
  2. Germany (\$ 508 billion)
  3. United Kingdom (\$ 394 billion)
  4. Ireland (\$ 389 billion)
  5. France (\$323 billion)
- ✓ United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- ✓ The United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1964.









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## AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) won the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany
- The government of Sri Lanka has decided to hand over the management of a Chinese-built Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota to an Indian and Russian company
- Delhi airport included among the 10th busiest airports in the world
- Manohar International Airport, Mopa, joins 13 others in India adopting the Digi Yatra system, enhancing travel convenience.
- 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.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.
- Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.



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

**Q. Credit card spends surged 27 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 18.26 trillion in financial year 2023-24 (FY24) from nearly Rs 14 trillion in the year-ago period, according to RBI data. Which of the following banks is the leader in credit card issuance in the country?**

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Axis Bank

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Credit card spends surged 27 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 18.26 trillion in financial year 2023-24 (FY24) from nearly Rs 14 trillion in the year-ago period, according to RBI data.
- ✓ In March 2024, credit card spends rose nearly 10.07 per cent to Rs 1.64 trillion from Rs 1.49 trillion in February. This is on account of the financial year close and festival sales during March.
- ✓ Among the top card players, use of HDFC Bank's credit card was at Rs 43,471.29 crore in March, 8.57 per cent higher than Rs 40,288.51 crore in February.
- ✓ The total number of credit cards issued by banks in India has increased to 101 million in March 2024. It was 100.60 million at the end of February 2024.
- ✓ HDFC Bank is the leader in credit card issuances with the lender's cards in circulation standing at 20.59 million. Other major players include SBI Card with 18.89 million cards, ICICI Bank (16.95 million) and Axis Bank with 14.21 million cards.



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## HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.
- HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world









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- ✓ PAs enable their clients to accept various payment methods such as debit cards, credit cards, cardless EMIs, UPI, bank transfers, e-wallets and e-mandates.
- ✓ PA provides a stack of multiple payment methods to merchants so that their customers can pay using their preferred mode of payment.
- ✓ Also, a payment aggregator does fund settlement, i.e., it moves the money from banks and other issuing entities to the merchants.
- ✓ Similarly, they also enable disbursing payments to various stakeholders, such as partners, employees, suppliers and authorities.
- ✓ It allows merchants to accept bank transfers without setting up a bank-based merchant account. It means a merchant need not have a merchant account directly with the bank.
- ✓ A PA in India is incorporated under the Companies Act 2013.
- ✓ A PA can be a bank or a non-bank entity.
- ✓ Since a PA handles funds, it requires a license from the RBI.
- ✓ Only non-bank PAs require unique authorization from RBI as 'handling funds' is considered a part of the normal banking relationships for bank PAs.
- ✓ Examples: Amazon (Pay) India, Google India, Razorpay, Pine Labs, etc.
- ✓ **What is a Payment Gateway?**
- ✓ It is a software service that connects your bank account to the platform where you need to transfer your money.
- ✓ It authorizes you to conduct an online transaction through different payment modes like net banking, credit card, debit card, UPI, or other online wallets.
- ✓ A Payment gateway plays the role of a third party that securely transfers your money from the bank account to the merchant's payment portal.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID):**

**1. It is an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

**2. It is headquartered in New Delhi.**

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

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**





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C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Union government is expected to roll out a new test designed by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) to diagnose specific learning disabilities (SLDs) in adults in India.
- ✓ About National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID):
- ✓ NIEPID (formerly the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped), established in 1984, is an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- ✓ It is dedicated to provide quality services to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (Divyangjan) in the national interest.
- ✓ It is the apex body functioning for training, research, and surveys in the field of intellectual disability in the country.
- ✓ The institute is headquartered in Secunderabad, Telangana and has regional centres in Kolkata, Navi Mumbai, and Noida.
- ✓ It empowers persons with intellectual disabilities (Divyangjan) to access state-of-the-art rehabilitation interventions viz., educational, therapeutic, vocational, employment, leisure and social activities, sports, cultural programmes, and full participation.

**Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3) mission?**

- A) To study the composition of asteroids
- B) To observe the dynamics of the Sun's chromosphere
- C) To search signs of life on Mars
- D) To develop technologies for future small spacecraft

**Answer : D**

- ✓ NASA successfully launched its Advanced Composite Solar Sail System spacecraft from New Zealand recently.
- ✓ About Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3):





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- ✓ Presently ASEAN comprises 10 member states namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- ✓ It promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration between its members and other countries in Asia.

**Q. In which country was the first International Rainbow Tourism Conference held?**

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

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Nepal hosts inaugural Rainbow Tourism Conference
- ✓ Mayako Pahichan Nepal, in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board, orchestrated the groundbreaking first International Rainbow Tourism Conference.
- ✓ This one-day event marks a significant leap forward in fostering diversity and inclusivity within Nepal's tourism industry, positioning the country as a welcoming destination for the sexual minority community in South Asia.
- ✓ The conference's main objective is to position Nepal as an LGBT-friendly tourism destination.
- ✓ The international conference was inaugurated by Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Bhagawati Chaudhary, who underlined the need to forge collaboration among different stakeholders to promote LGBT tourism in Nepal.
- ✓ About Nepal
- ✓ Capital : Kathmandu
- ✓ Currency : Nepalese rupee
- ✓ President : Ram Chandra Paudel
- ✓ Prime minister : Pushpa Kamal Dahal

**Q. Which organization has been conferred the Outstanding Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of the Year award?**

- A) BHEL
- B) ONGC
- C) HAL
- D) IOCL

**Answer : C**





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- ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) received the Outstanding Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of the Year award at the All India Management Association (AIMA) Managing India Awards.
- ✓ Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the award in Delhi on April 23.
- ✓ HAL achieved record revenue of over ₹29,810 crore in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, marking an impressive 11% growth.
- ✓ AIMA, established in 1957, promotes management excellence across India, collaborating with various sectors to advance the profession.

**Q. Who achieved India's first rowing quota for Paris Olympics?**

- A) Balraj Panwar                      B) Sawarn Singh  
C) Arjun Lal                              D) Jaswinder Singh

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Balraj Panwar clinched India's inaugural Paris 2024 rowing quota, securing bronze in men's single sculls at the Asian and Oceanian Olympic Qualification Regatta in Chungju, Korea.
- ✓ After narrowly missing bronze at the Hangzhou Asian Games, the 25-year-old clocked 7:17.87 in heats and 7:16.29 in semis, entering the finals. With top five securing Paris 2024 quotas, Panwar finished third at 7:01.27.
- ✓ Kazakhstan's Vladislav Yakovlev won, with Memo from Indonesia taking bronze.

**Q. Which city's airport has won the prestigious 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax?**

- A) Hyderabad                              B) New Delhi  
C) Bengaluru                                D) Chandigarh

**Answer : A**

- ✓ GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) won the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany, on April 17.
- ✓ This highlights the staff's exceptional service quality across various fronts, recognized for attitude, friendliness, and efficiency.
- ✓ The accolade underscores their dedication in enhancing the overall passenger experience, covering roles from customer help to security and food services



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**Q. At which place was the meeting of Defense Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in April 2024?**

- A) Astana, Kazakhstan                      B) Mumbai, India  
C) Beijing, China                              D) Shanghai, China

**Answer : A**

- ✓ SCO defence ministers meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Defense Secretary Giridhar Armane attended the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defence Ministers in Astana, Kazakhstan on April 26, 2024.
- ✓ A protocol was signed by the defence ministers of all SCO member states during the meeting
- ✓ Agreeing on the idea of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future':
- ✓ The meeting was followed by a joint communique in which SCO defense ministers agreed on other initiatives. In this joint communique, it has been agreed to develop the idea of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. This is a reflection of the ancient Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.
- ✓ In the meeting, the Defence Secretary reiterated India's unwavering commitment towards maintaining peace, stability and security in the SCO region.
- ✓ He highlighted India's 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' concept for the Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):
- ✓ SCO functions as a regional organization focusing on politics, economics, and security in Eurasia. The objective of SCO is to maintain peace, security and stability in the concerned region.
- ✓ SCO was founded on June 15, 2001, in Shanghai.
- ✓ Shanghai-5: 'Shanghai-5' was formed in the year 1996.
- ✓ Before the establishment of SCO, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of an organization called 'Shanghai-5'.
- ✓ After Uzbekistan's entry into this organization in 2001, 'Shanghai-5' was named SCO.
- ✓ The SCO Charter was signed in 2002 and became effective in 2003.
- ✓ The SCO recognizes Russian and Chinese as its official languages.
- ✓ Secretariat of the SCO: There is a permanent secretariat in Beijing, China.
- ✓ India and Pakistan were given the status of SCO members in the year 2017.
- ✓ Currently there are 9 member countries in SCO. The countries included in SCO are:
- ✓ China



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- ✓ India
- ✓ Iran
- ✓ Kazakhstan
- ✓ Kyrgyzstan
- ✓ Pakistan
- ✓ Russia
- ✓ Uzbekistan
- ✓ Tajikistan.
- ✓ Iran was granted SCO membership in 2023.

**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**

- ✓ Saksham App For Elders, Differently abled voters flooded with requests.
- ✓ During the second phase of Lok Sabha Elections in Bengaluru, the Saksham app received 558 requests for assistance. Out of these, 328 were for wheelchairs, 206 for free pick-up and drop, and 24 for volunteers.
- ✓ About Saksham App
- ✓ The Saksham App offers various features to assist Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in registering to vote, locating their polling station, and casting their vote.
- ✓ Other Application of ECI
- ✓ Some of other application for voters of Election Commission are:
- ✓ Voter Helpline App
- ✓ The Voter Helpline App lets citizens apply for voter ID cards, make corrections, view polling booth details, and get contact info for officers.
- ✓ Know your Candidate (KYC) App
- ✓ To enable citizens to make informed choices, the ECI has developed the Know Your Candidate (KYC) app. This app allows citizens to view the criminal record history of candidates.
- ✓ Voter Turnout App





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- ✓ The Voter Turnout App displays estimated provisional voter turnout for each Assembly Constituency, recorded by Returning Officers.
- ✓ cVIGIL App
- ✓ cVIGIL is a user-friendly mobile app developed by the Election Commission of India that allows citizens to report election code violations directly via their smartphones. It generates legally tenable information that can be used by administrators such as Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers, and Police to dispose of Model Code and Expenditure violation cases promptly.
- ✓ ERONET App
- ✓ ERONET is an online platform used for conducting various electoral activities, including improving the health of electoral rolls, registering new voters, and updating records..
- ✓ ECI has several apps related to the electoral process, including Candidate, Booth, BLO, and Observer apps, as well as apps focused on elections.

**Q. Which Indian aeronautical company has placed orders for A350-900 widebody aircraft in April 2024?**

A) SpiceJet

B) Indigo

C) Air India

D) Vistara

**Answer : B**

- ✓ IndiGo orders 30 Airbus A350-900, entering wide-body market
- ✓ IndiGo has placed an order for 30 A350-900 widebody aircraft with European aircraft manufacturer Airbus on April 25, 2024. Its deal is estimated to be between \$4 billion and \$5 billion.
- ✓ To meet the growing demand in the country's air travel market, the Indian carrier last year ordered four significant aircraft for 2023.
- ✓ Air India Group, operated by Tata Group, orders 470 aircraft:
- ✓ Last year in February 2023, Tata Group-run Air India Group had ordered 470 aircraft. For this, a deal was signed with 250 European aircraft manufacturer Airbus while 220 with American aircraft manufacturer Boeing.
- ✓ In June 2023, IndiGo placed the world's largest aircraft order by signing a deal for 500 A320neo family aircraft from Airbus



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- ✓ The April 25 order is the first time that IndiGo is purchasing widebody aircraft for its fleet. However, India's largest airline has some experience with widebody aircraft. Because it currently operates two B777 aircraft leased from Turkish Airlines.
- ✓ Supply of A350-900 aircraft to IndiGo will start from 2027.
- ✓ Indigo will have 990 aircraft in its fleet by 2035

**Q. Which country has placed India on the monitoring list in the matter of intellectual property (IP) protection in April 2024?**

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

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India on America's monitoring list in IP security issue.
- ✓ United States has decided to place India on the watch list in the intellectual property (IP) protection case on April 25, 2024. In this context, the US informed that India remains one of the most challenging major economies in the world with regard to IP security.
- ✓ **2024 Special 301 Report released by USTR:**
- ✓ Along with India, Argentina, Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela are also included in the watch list in the 2024 Special 301 report released by the US Trade Representatives (USTR).
- ✓ The Dominican Republic is no longer on the monitoring list.
- ✓ This report is an annual review of the global state of IP protection

**Q. Which company has signed an MoU with Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) for the supply of 9 lakh metric tonnes of limestone?**

- A) ReNew Power                      B) SJVN Limited  
C) JSW Energy                         D) NTPC Limited

**Answer : D**

- ✓ NTPC inks pact with RINL for supply of limestone
- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NTPC Limited and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), for the supply of 9 lakh metric tonnes of limestone.



- ✓ Limestone is a raw material for the flue-gas desulphurisation system which is being installed at the coal-based thermal plants of the NTPC for reduction of sulphur dioxide emission.
- ✓ This MoU will cater to the needs of various plants of the NTPC.

### NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24

- NTPC inks pact with RINL for supply of limestone.
- NTPC Limited, India's largest power company, launches the latest edition of Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM), aligned with the Government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative.
- 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.





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

**Q. Which Indian Cricketer has been named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador by the International Cricket Council (ICC)?**

**A) Mahendra Singh Dhoni**

**B) Sachin Tendulkar**

**C) Rahul Dravid**

**D) Yuvraj Singh**

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Yuvraj Singh becomes ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador
- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced India's famous former cricketer Yuvraj Singh as the ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 with 36 days to go for the commencement of the grand event.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh hit six sixes in an over during India's successful Men's T20 World Cup 2007 campaign.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh joins Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt as previously announced ambassadors. Usain Bolt is a Jamaican international sprinter and eight-time Olympic gold medalist. All this will add to the excitement of the biggest T20 World Cup ever.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh was one of the key players in India's 2007 T20 World Cup win. This first T20 World Cup was organized in South Africa. In this, India won the first T20 World Cup title by defeating Pakistan.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh also became the first player to hit six sixes in an over against England in a match of the first T20 World Cup. He did this against Stuart Broad of England.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh has played all the T20 World Cups till 2016. India has yet to win a World Cup since 2007
- ✓ ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024:





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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
- 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.









3. These are required to open at least 25% of their total branches in unbanked rural areas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said small finance banks (SFBs) should have a minimum net worth of Rs 1,000 crore to become universal banks in accordance with the on-tap licensing norms.
- ✓ SFBs are specialized banks that are licensed by RBI to provide financial services and products to low-income individuals and underserved communities, including microfinance and micro-enterprise services, as well as other basic banking services.
- ✓ SFBs are granted the scheduled bank status after being operational and are deemed suitable under section 42 of the RBI Act, 1934.
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ To provide financial inclusion to these segments of the population who are often excluded from the traditional banking system.
- ✓ SFBs help them to have access to financial products such as small loans, savings, insurance, and other basic banking services.
- ✓ Eligibility
- ✓ Resident individuals/professionals (Indian citizens), singly or jointly, each having at least 10 years of experience in banking and finance at a senior level are eligible for SFBs.
- ✓ Companies and Societies in the private sector, that is owned and controlled by residents and having successful track record of running their businesses for at least a period of five years.
- ✓ Existing Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), and Local Area Banks (LABs) in the private sector, that are controlled by residents and having successful track record of running their businesses for at least a period of five years, can also opt for conversion into small finance banks after complying with all legal and regulatory requirements of various authorities.
- ✓ Other norms to be followed by SFBs:
- ✓ Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio: They are required to maintain a minimum CRAR of 15%.
- ✓ Priority Sector Lending: They are required to extend 75% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit to Priority Sector Lending.





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- ✓ SFBs are required to open at least 25% of their total branches in unbanked rural areas.
- ✓ Required paid up capital: The minimum paid-up voting equity capital for small finance banks shall be Rs.200 crore.
- ✓ Regulation: SFBs are registered as public limited companies under the Companies Act, 2013 and governed by Banking Regulations Act, 1949; RBI Act, 1934 and other relevant Statutes and Directives from time to time
- ✓ Small Finance Bank
- ✓ Raghuram Rajan headed the “High-Level Committee on Financial Sector Reforms” in its 2008 report titled “A Hundred Small Steps” and recommended the setting up of a Small Finance Bank to promote financial inclusion.
- ✓ The first Small Finance Bank to be set up in India was the Capital Small Finance Bank (earlier Capital Local Area Bank ). The Capital Small Finance Bank started its banking operation in April 2016.
- ✓ The main objective of setting up small finance banks is to further financial inclusion. They were to provide the following services;
- ✓ (i) provision of savings facilities, and
- ✓ (ii) supply of credit to small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries; and other unorganised sector entities through the use of high technology and low-cost operations.
- ✓ At present, there are 12 Small Finance Banks operating in the country.

**Q. What will India’s e-commerce position be according to Invest India by 2030?**

A) 3rd

B) 2nd

C) 1st

D) 4th

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India’s Ecommerce Market will be World’s Third Largest by 2030.
- ✓ Invest India has forecasted a bright future for India’s e-commerce industry, predicting a massive surge to \$325 billion by 2030. This growth coincides with a digital economy expected to reach a staggering \$800 billion in the same timeframe.
- ✓ According to Invest India, India has the world’s second-largest internet user base, with a whopping 881 million users. India is in a good position to become the third-largest online retail market by 2030.



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- ✓ The report suggests that this will happen due to the growth of the internet user base and the flourishing digital economy. According to the report, India is expected to have around 500 million online shoppers by 2030.
- ✓ Reasons for growth
- ✓ 1. Soaring Internet Access: Invest India highlights the rising internet penetration, with an expected 87% of Indian households having internet access by 2025. Mobile internet usage is particularly strong, with a significant increase in access duration.
- ✓ 2. Growing Online Shopper Base: The number of online shoppers is projected to climb, with a strong growth rate in both rural and urban areas.
- ✓ 3. Affordable Data Prices: India's incredibly affordable data plans are a major driver, bringing more people online and fueling e-commerce adoption.
- ✓ Invest India is the national agency that helps investors find opportunities in India.
- ✓ E-commerce
- ✓ Electronic commerce, also known as e-commerce, is the process of buying and selling goods and services, and exchanging funds and data using the internet.
- ✓ Type of e-commerce transactions exist:
- ✓ Business-to-business (B2B)
- ✓ Business-to-consumer (B2C)
- ✓ Consumer-to-consumer
- ✓ Consumer-to-business

**Q. Who has won the singles title of the 2024 Batch Open Challenger Squash title?**

**A) Velavan Senthilkumar**

**B) Tanvi Khanna**

**C) Mahesh Mangaonkar**

**D) Harinder Pal Sandhu**

**Answer : A**

- ✓ National men's Squash champion Velavan Senthilkumar defeated Melvil Scianimanico of France to win the Batch Open Challenger Squash. This was the eighth PSA (Professional Squash Association) title for the US-based Indian Velavan Senthilkumar.
- ✓ The Batch Open was organised by the world squash governing body Professional Squash Association with the host French Squash Federation at Jeu de Paume, Paris, France, from 24-28 April 2024.



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- ✓ Famous Indian Squash Player
- ✓ Squash is a court game that is not very popular in India. The game of Squash is also not an Olympic sport. However, the International Olympic Committee has decided to introduce Squash in the Los Angeles Summer Olympics 2028 for the first time.
- ✓ Some of the famous Indian Squash players are as follows.
- ✓ Saurav Ghosal , Dipika Pallikal , Joshna Chinappa.
- ✓ The other current and promising Indian squash players are Harinder Pal Sandhu, who has till now won three times Asian Games, V. Senthilkumar, Anahat Singh, Abhay Kumar Kush Kumar, Mahesh Manganekar, Tanvi Khanna and Misha Grewal

**Q. Which state is identified as the primary supplier of onions for export?**

A) Maharashtra

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Punjab

D) Bihar

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Onion Export in Bangladesh, UAE, Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius & Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The government has allowed the export of 99,150 metric tons of onions to six neighboring countries, namely Bangladesh, UAE, Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ This decision was taken to increase demand in the international market and make sure there are enough onions available domestically. The prohibition on onion export was imposed due to lower Kharif and Rabi crops in 2023-24, compared to the previous year.
- ✓ Nodal Agency for export of Onions
- ✓ The National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) is responsible for exporting onions to six countries. They obtain onions from within the country and sell them through an e-platform at L1 prices, then supply them to the agency or agencies nominated by the destination country at the negotiated rate on 100% advance payment basis.
- ✓ The rates offered by NCEL to buyers take into account market and prices present in the international and domestic markets.
- ✓ Maharashtra, being the largest producer of onions in the country, is the primary supplier of onions sourced by NCEL for export





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**Q. With which subsidiary of RBI NABARD has partnered to fasten the digital agri loan?**

- A) ReBIT  
B) RBIH  
C) IFTAS  
D) DICGC

**Answer : B**

- ✓ NABARD & RBI Developed Innovation Hub to fasten digital Agri lending.
- ✓ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced that it has collaborated with the Reserve Bank's subsidiary, RBIH, to establish a system for faster processing of agricultural loans.
- ✓ NABARD stated that it plans to integrate its e-KCC loan origination system portal with the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC) of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- ✓ NABARD has created a digital platform to simplify the process of obtaining Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) for farmers.
- ✓ This platform will be available to cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).
- ✓ By digitizing the process, farmers can receive credit at their doorstep quickly and banks can work more efficiently, fulfilling NABARD's mission of promoting rural prosperity.
- ✓ NABARD
- ✓ NABARD is a bank in India that helps farmers and rural communities.
- ✓ It was created by the government in 1982 to make sure farming and rural development in India is sustainable and fair.
- ✓ It has helped change the lives of people in rural areas in many ways over the last 40 years.
- ✓ Some of these ways include providing financial help for farming, building infrastructure, enabling people to borrow small amounts of money to start their own businesses, and encouraging people to work together in groups.
- ✓ NABARD continues to help rural areas by using new ideas, technology, and developing organizations that support rural communities.
- ✓ Chairman: Mr. Shaji K V

**Q. How many times has the prime minister Narendra Modi participated in the G7 Outreach session?**

- A) three times  
B) four times  
C) five times  
D) six times



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## Answer : B

- ✓ Italian PM Meloni Invites India to G7 Summit meeting in June 2024
- ✓ Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Group of Seven (G7) Outreach session to be held in Borgo Egnazia, Apulia, Italy, from 13 to 15 June 2024. The 2024 G7 presidency is with Italy.
- ✓ PM Meloni called PM Modi and personally extended the invitation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his post on the social media platform X(formerly Twitter), thanked PM Meloni and extended his greetings to Italy on the celebrations of its Liberation Day.
- ✓ Italy observes 25 April as Liberation Day to celebrate the liberation of the country from the Nazi occupation and the end of fascist rule.
- ✓ General election is underway in India, and the election result is to be declared on 4 June 2024. The newly elected prime minister will represent India in the G7 outreach session.
- ✓ G7 Summit and its Outreach Programme
- ✓ The host country of the G7 has the right to invite important non-member countries and international organisations to take part in the annual summit meeting of the group.
- ✓ These meetings in which the member countries of G7 and the invited non-members participate are called the “Outreach Sessions”. Matters of regional and international issues are discussed at these outreach sessions.
- ✓ India’s Participation in the G7 Outreach Session
- ✓ The first Indian prime minister to get an invitation to participate in the G7 Outreach session was Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003. France was, at the time, the host of the G7.
- ✓ Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has attended five such meetings. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attended the G7 outreach session in 2019,2021,2022,2023 (four times). The 2020 G7 summit to be hosted by the US was cancelled due to the Covid.
- ✓ What is the G7 Group ?
- ✓ The G7 is an informal group of seven most industrialised democratic countries which has no permanent secretariat of its own . The G7 was created on the initiative of France to discuss the crisis due to the sudden increase in crude petroleum oils by Arab countries in 1973. The sudden increase in crude petroleum oil is also known as the first global oil shock.
- ✓ Members of G7



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- ✓ Initially, the group started as G6 with six members- France, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Italy.
- ✓ In 1976, it became G7, with Canada becoming its seventh member.
- ✓ In 1997, it became G8 with the inclusion of Russia. However, Russia was later expelled from the group in 2014 after it annexed the Crimea region of Ukraine. After the expulsion of Russia, the group was again renamed G 7.
- ✓ The European Union has participated in the G7 meetings since 1977. The European Union is jointly represented by the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.
- ✓ Summit Meeting
- ✓ The first Summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of G7 was held in 1975 in Rambouillet, France.
- ✓ Every year, a member of the G7 hosts the annual summit.
- ✓ The host country, also known as the G7 presidency, rotates annually among member countries in the following order: France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada.
- ✓ Italy currently holds the G7 presidency and will host the 50th G7 Summit in Apulia from June 13 to 15, 2024.

**Q. NABARD unveiled its Climate Strategy 2030 document on the occasion of Earth Day. NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030 is based on four key pillars to meet this demand. Which of the following major pillars is not mentioned in this demand?**

- A) Reducing petroleum market
- B) Strategic Resource Mobilization.
- C) Internal Green Transformation of NABARD
- D) Playing a broader Market-Making Role

**Answer : A**

- ✓ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) unveiled its Climate Strategy 2030 document on the occasion of Earth Day.
- ✓ The comprehensive strategy aims to address India's escalating need for green financing.
- ✓ Despite the pressing demand, where India requires approximately \$170 billion annually to reach a cumulative total of over \$2.5 trillion by 2030, current green finance inflows are critically insufficient.
- ✓ NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030 is structured around four key pillars to address this demand:





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- (i) Accelerating Green Lending across sectors
- (ii) Playing a broader Market-Making Role
- (iii) Internal Green Transformation of NABARD
- (iv) Strategic Resource Mobilization

**Q. AU Small Finance Bank has launched two innovative credit cards AU SPONT Rupay Credit Card and Secured Credit Card NOMO in collaboration with NPCI and VISA, respectively. What is the meaning 'M' in NOMO credit card?**

- A) Money
- B) Multiple
- C) Missing
- D) More

**Answer : C**

- ✓ AU SFB launches multiple products like credit cards with exclusive features
- ✓ Among the latest offerings are two innovative credit cards: the AU SPONT Rupay Credit Card and Secured Credit Card – NOMO (No Missing Out), developed in collaboration with NPCI and VISA, respectively.
- ✓ The NOMO Credit Card marks AU SFB's debut into the realm of secured credit cards, backed by a fixed deposit
- ✓ Additionally, AU SFB has unveiled the AU 0101 Business App, designed to offer customized solutions for proprietorships and MSMEs, alongside AU0101 Version 2.0, engineered to provide customers with an enhanced mobile banking experience, complete with exciting new features.
- ✓ First time in Indian banking industry, AU SFB has also launched ATM Insurance, for the convenience of customers to buy insurance through AU SFB's ATMs with their debit card.
- ✓ AU SFB have also launched WhatsApp Insurance where customer will get policy instantly using WhatsApp platform

**Q. Who has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of Agricultural solutions major Coromandel International?**

- A) Arun Alagappan
- B) Sandeep Sharma
- C) Mohan Singh
- D) Rajendra Kumar

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Arun Alagappan appointed as executive chairman of Coromandel International



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- ✓ Agricultural solutions major Coromandel International, a part of Chennai-based Murugappa Group, has appointed Arun Alagappan as executive chairman of the company.
- ✓ Alagappan has been the executive vice chairman of the company since February 2021.
- ✓ His appointment comes as A. Vellayan retires from the position of chairman and non-executive director.

**Q. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has been named whom as the ambassador for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier?**

- A) Sana Mir
- B) Smriti Mandhana
- C) Mithali Raj
- D) Nida Dar

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Pakistan cricket legend Sana Mir as the ambassador for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier.
- ✓ Mir represented Pakistan in 226 international games, with 137 of them as captain, will bring her invaluable experience to the event.
- ✓ The Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier will witness 10 teams battling it out for two coveted spots at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 in Bangladesh.
- ✓ The teams have been divided into two groups of five, with the top two from each group progressing to the semi-finals. The winners of the semi-finals will secure their place in the T20 World Cup later this year
- ✓ International Cricket Council (ICC)
- ✓ Formation : 15 June 1909
- ✓ Headquarters : Dubai, UAE
- ✓ Chairman : Greg Barclay (New Zealand)
- ✓ New CEO : Geoff Allardice (Australia)
- ✓ Membership : 108 members
- ✓ Deputy Chairman : Imran Khwaja (Singapore).
- ✓ It is the global governing body for cricket.
- ✓ It presides over the ICC Code of Conduct, playing conditions, decision review system and other ICC regulations



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## LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Yuvraj Singh : ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024
- Usain Bolt : 2024 ICC T20 World Cup
- Sana Mir : ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Citroen
- Sanjana Sanghi : SPACE India
- Narendra Kumar Yadav : "Fit India" Movement as Brand Ambassador
- Katrina Kaif : Chennai Super Kings as Brand Ambassador for IPL 2024
- Ranveer Singh : boAt
- Deepika Padukone : TECNO
- R Madhavan : Acko
- Sourav Ganguly : brand ambassador of Tripura state to promote tourism
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand Ambassador of Bengal
- Pankaj Tripathi : 'UPI Safety Ambassador
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : State Bank of India (SBI)
- Katrina Kaif : Luxury Swiss watch brand 'Rado'
- Chetan bhagat : Henry Harvin Education
- Mohammed Shami : Puma
- Sachin Tendulkar : ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : JioMart
- Katrina Kaif : Uniqlo
- Hrithik Roshan : lubricants brand Mobilil
- Anushka Sharma : W
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Swaraj Tractors
- Iga Świątek : Infosys
- Rafael Nadal : Infosys
- Rahul Dravid : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Shah Rukh Khan : ICC World Cup 2023
- Shraddha Kapoor: Asics India Private Limited
- Rashmika Mandanna : Printer company Epson India





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



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**Q. Who is the author of the book titled “The Winner’s Mindset”?**

A) Rahul Dravid

B) Chetan Sharma

C) Ricky Pointing

D) Shane Watson

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Winner’s Mindset authored by Shane Watson
- ✓ Shane Watson witnessed one of cricket’s greatest tragedies unfolding on the field. He was one of the players at the Sydney Cricket Ground when Phillip Hughes was felled by a bouncer during a Sheffield Shield match in late 2014.
- ✓ The talented opener, who played for Australia in 26 Tests and 25 ODIs, died at a hospital two days later.
- ✓ Watson feared it could happen to him, too. All it could take is just one ball. Watson overcame that trauma. He became an even better cricketer than he was before, in fact. In the book, The Winner’s Mindset, he tells us how.
- ✓ This is no autobiography, though. It is, if you want to be precise, a self-help book. But to call it just that would be unfair.

**Q. Which one of the following statements best describes ‘Network as a Service (NaaS)’?**

A) A cloud service model where customers purchase networking hardware from a provider.

B) A model where customers set up their own networking infrastructure.

C) A cloud service model where customers rent networking services from a provider.

D) A model where networking services are provided free of charge

**Answer : C**

- ✓ In a world of hyper-connectivity, network as a service promises to deliver a better day-to-day user experience.
- ✓ About Network as a Service (NaaS):
- ✓ NaaS is a cloud service model in which customers rent networking services from a cloud vendor instead of setting up their own network infrastructure.
- ✓ NaaS allows customers to operate their own networks without maintaining their own networking infrastructure.
- ✓ Like other cloud services, NaaS vendors run networking functions using software, essentially allowing companies to set up their own networks entirely without hardware. All they need is Internet connectivity.



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- ✓ NaaS is a flexible, scalable and affordable option for organizations since it enables them to allocate network resources as needed.
- ✓ NaaS can replace other networking systems that often require more work and provide less agility, such as Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS).

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs):**

**1. They are specialized financial institutions that purchase bad debts of a bank and recover those debts by itself.**

**2. They are registered under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and regulated under the SARFAESI Act, 2002.**

**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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released a master direction for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs).
- ✓ About Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs):
- ✓ An ARC is a specialized financial institution that purchases the bad debts of a bank at a mutually agreed value and attempts to recover those debts or associated securities by itself.
- ✓ ARCs are registered under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and regulated under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).
- ✓ They function under the supervision and control of the RBI.
- ✓ As per the RBI, ARC performs the functions namely Acquisition of financial assets, Change or takeover of Management or Sale or Lease of Business of the Borrower, Rescheduling of Debts, Enforcement of Security Interest and Settlement of dues payable by the borrower.
- ✓ ARCs take over a portion of the bank's debts, which qualify as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Therefore, ARCs are involved in the business of asset reconstruction, securitisation, or both.
- ✓ All the rights previously held by the lender (the bank) in regard to the debt are transferred to the ARC..
- ✓ The required funds to purchase such debts can be raised from Qualified Buyers.









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- ✓ Does NOTA Vote Count?
- ✓ The Election Commission clarified that votes cast as NOTA are counted but are considered 'invalid votes'.
- ✓ Even if NOTA votes get the most number of votes in a constituency, the next candidate with the second-most number of votes is declared the winner.

Therefore, votes made to NOTA will not change the outcome of the election.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Lending Service Providers (LSPs):**

- 1. They offer their service to Regulated Entities (REs) for a fee under an outsourcing arrangement.**
- 2. They entail aggregation of loan offers from multiple lenders which enables the borrowers to choose the best available option.**

**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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently issued the draft regulatory framework for loan products aggregated by lending service providers to ensure transparency for borrowers.
- ✓ About Lending Service Providers (LSPs):
- ✓ LSPs are engaged by the Regulated Entities (REs) (banks or NBFCs) to carry out some functions of RE in connection with lenders' functions on digital platforms.
- ✓ The LSPs generally, under an outsourcing arrangement, offer their services to REs for a fee or commission.
- ✓ RBI defines an LSP as an agent of an RE that carries out one or more functions of the lender, including customer acquisition, underwriting support, pricing support, disbursement, servicing, monitoring, collection, and loan recovery on behalf of the RE.
- ✓ In simple terms, LSPs are loan aggregators which provide loans from their partner REs.
- ✓ In some cases, a RE can also act as an LSP.
- ✓ They are technology-centric entities which have the client reach and are thus capable of offering a marketplace for both lenders and borrowers.
- ✓ LSPs entail aggregation of loan offers from multiple lenders on an electronic platform, which enables the borrowers to compare and choose the best available option to avail a loan from one of the available lenders.





**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Bima Vistaar:**

**1. It aims to provide a basic social safety net cover with combined features of life and health insurance coverage.**

**2. The sum assured under the scheme for property cover is Rs 2 lakh.**

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

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Recently, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) made an announcement regarding the launch of Bima Vistaar and its prices at a summit of insurance CEOs.
- ✓ It is an ambitious all-in-one affordable mass product aimed at the rural areas of the India which is priced at Rs 1,500 per policy.
- ✓ The product is designed to provide a basic social safety net cover with combined features of life, health, personal accident and property insurances.
- ✓ The sum assured for life, personal accident and property covers is Rs 2 lakh each, while the health cover, known as hospi cash, offers a sum assured of Rs 500 for 10 days, with a maximum amount of Rs 5,000 available without producing bills or documents.
- ✓ Agents selling Bima Vistaar policies stand to earn a commission of 10 per cent, incentivising wider distribution and adoption of the product.
- ✓ These products will be distributed by Bima Vahak. Initially, every gram sabha will have at least one Bima Vahak, who will visit every house in their area and convince them about the product.
- ✓ Significance: It is considered as a mass product for increasing insurance penetration in the country, it is expected that unlike micro insurance products, it will generate a large sales volume.

**Q. The Workers' Memorial Day is celebrated on \_\_**

**A) 25 April**

**B) 27 April**

**C) 26 April**

**D) 28 April**

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Workers' Memorial Day, also known as International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers occurs every year on 28 April











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- 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. Which will be the World's Largest Airport?**
- A) China Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport
  - B) Al Maktoum International Airport
  - C) Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
  - D) Tokyo Haneda International Airport

**Answer : B**



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- ✓ Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport will be World's Largest
- ✓ Dubai, known for its futuristic and innovative approach, has recently launched a groundbreaking airport project to create the world's largest capacity airport upon completion.
- ✓ This was announced by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai. The government has approved the designs for the new passenger terminals at the upcoming Al Maktoum International Airport.
- ✓ Sheikh Mohammed has a bold vision of establishing a complete city around the airport in Dubai South. It will not only serve as an airport, but also as the world's airport, its port, its urban hub, and a new global center.
- ✓ With an estimated cost of AED 128 billion (approximately \$34.85 billion or nearly Rs 2.9 lakh crore) the Al Maktoum International Airport project is a strategic initiative of the Dubai Aviation Corporation.

## AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport will be World's Largest
- GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) won the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany
- The government of Sri Lanka has decided to hand over the management of a Chinese-built Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota to an Indian and Russian company
- Delhi airport included among the 10th busiest airports in the world
- Manohar International Airport, Mopa, joins 13 others in India adopting the Digi Yatra system, enhancing travel convenience.
- 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.





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- 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. Which state has started a survey of Nilgiri Tahr?**

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Karnataka

C) Kerala

D) Telangana

**Answer : A**



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- ✓ The government of Tamil Nadu has launched a three-day survey of the Nilgiri Tahr, the state animal. The aim of this survey is to better understand and conserve this endangered species.
- ✓ The survey is being carried out in collaboration with organizations such as the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ✓ The Nilgiri Tahr is an endemic species that is listed as endangered, and it faces numerous challenges such as habitat loss and poaching.
- ✓ Conservation initiatives, such as those in the Eravikulam and Mukurthi National Parks, along with captive breeding programmes, highlight the multi-faceted approach required for the effective conservation of this endangered animal and its habitat.
- ✓ Nilgiri Tahr
- ✓ The Nilgiri Tahr is a stunning mountain ungulate that can only be found in the Western Ghats of India.
- ✓ The Nilgiri Tahr, a mountain-dwelling ungulate native to the Western Ghats of India, is currently listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ✓ Under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 it is also protected. This designation underscores the severe threats faced by the species and emphasizes the urgent need for conservation efforts.
- ✓ IUCN
- ✓ IUCN is the leading global authority on the status of the natural world and the actions necessary to protect it.
- ✓ Established in 1948, IUCN has grown to become the world's largest and most diverse environmental network.
- ✓ Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland

## TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023-24

- Tamil Nadu has launched a three-day survey of the Nilgiri Tahr, the state animal.
- 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.



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- Project Nilgiri Tahr' launched in Tamil Nadu.
- The second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will come up in about two years at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- The U.K. and Tamil Nadu collaborate on a smart technology project for sustainable water, waste, and resource management.
- Recently, Udangudi 'Panangkarupatti' (palm jaggery/ gur) from Tamil Nadu has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tamil Nadu government has unveiled its new tourism policy to develop the State into the most attractive experiential destination in Asia.
- Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- 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.









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- ✓ AI is used to create computer-controlled robots or software that can think like humans. The study of AI involves exploring how the human brain thinks, learns, and works when solving problems.

**Q. Which was the first Small Finance Bank to get a license from RBI?**

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

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed the Small Finance Banks (SFB) to apply for Universal Bank licenses as per the on tap licensing norms of the RBI.
- ✓ The SFBs can apply for a universal bank license after fulfilling the norms laid by the RBI.
- ✓ RBI Criteria for SFB to become a Universal Bank –
- ✓ A minimum five-year satisfactory performance track record
- ✓ Eligible SFBs need to have a minimum net worth of Rs 1,000 crore as at the end of the previous quarter and should meet the prescribed CRAR requirements for SFBs
- ✓ The SFBs aspiring to become a universal bank needs to have scheduled status with a satisfactory track record of performance for a minimum period of five years.
- ✓ Also, the shares of the bank should have been listed on a recognised stock exchange.
- ✓ Further, these SFBs also need to have a net profit in the last two financial years besides having gross non-performing assets (GNPA) and net non-performing assets (NNPA) of less than or equal to three percent and one percent respectively in the last two financial years.
- ✓ About Small Finance Bank
- ✓ Raghuram Rajan headed the “High-Level Committee on Financial Sector Reforms” in its 2008 report titled “A Hundred Small Steps” and recommended the setting up of a Small Finance Bank to promote financial inclusion.
- ✓ The first Small Finance Bank to be set up in India was the Capital Small Finance Bank (earlier Capital Local Area Bank).
- ✓ The Capital Small Finance Bank started its banking operation in April 2016.







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- ✓ The Securities Appellate Tribunal is a statutory body established in 1992 under the provisions of the Securities Exchange Board of India Act 1992.
- ✓ Functions of SAT
- ✓ The Securities Appellate Tribunal was set up to replace the High Court. It hears appeals against the following financial regulators.
- ✓ Orders and rulings of the capital market regulator, Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ✓ Orders and rulings of the pension sector regulator Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ✓ Orders and rulings of the Insurance sector regulator Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- ✓ Composition of SAT
- ✓ The SAT consist of a Presiding Officer and other judicial and technical members
- ✓ Appointment of the SAT member
- ✓ The Presiding Officer and Judicial Members are appointed by the government of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India or its nominee.
- ✓ Tenure
- ✓ The tenure for the Presiding Officer and other members will be five years from the date of appointment, and they shall be eligible for re-appointment for a maximum of five more years.
- ✓ The maximum age of the Presiding officer or the member shall not be more than 70 years.
- ✓ However, the government has the power to specify the tenure while appointing the Presiding Officer and other members
- ✓ The rulings of the SAT can be challenged only in the Supreme Court
- ✓ Jurisdiction
- ✓ The SAT has jurisdiction all over India. Its bench is in Mumbai.

**Q. Ligue-1 is the men's professional football league of which country?**

- A) Croatia
- B) Germany
- C) France
- D) Argentina

**Answer : C**



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- ✓ Paris Saint-Germain football club was confirmed as the champion of the 2023-24 Ligue-1 Season. It was the club's record 12th title. Paris Saint-Germain has won the last three consecutive titles and eight in the last ten years.
- ✓ The current French men's national football team captain, Kylian Mbappé, played a major role in Paris Saint-Germain's win. He, with 26 goals, is the leading goal scorer in the 2023-24 Ligue-1 season. This is also Kylian Mbappé's last season with Paris Saint-Germain, as he has been transferred to the Spanish club Real Madrid.
- ✓ Ligue-1
- ✓ Ligue-1 is the top domestic professional football championship in France. It was founded as a National or Division 1 in 1932.
- ✓ 20 professional French football clubs participate in the Ligue-1.
- ✓ The team plays against each other twice and plays a total of 38 matches.

**Q. Who has been chosen for the 2018 Lacchu Maharaj Award?**

A) Uma Sharma

B) Rama Vaidyanathan

C) Hema Malini

D) Saira Banu

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Hema Malini, Saira Banu & 8 others to get Pt. Lacchu Maharaj Award
- ✓ Noted Hindi film superstars Hema Malini and Saira Banu as well as other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award.
- ✓ The award will be given on 31 August 2024 at a ceremony in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The decision was taken at a meeting held at Bhatkhande Sanskriti University, Lucknow, presided over by the university vice-chancellor, Prof. Mandavi Singh. The meeting was also attended by the secretary of Pt. Lachhu Maharaj Bellet Foundation and senior disciple of Pandit Lachhu Maharaj, Kumkum Adarsh.
- ✓ 10 eminent personalities to be awarded the Lacchu Maharaj award
- ✓ The Lacchu Maharaj Award, Instituted in memory of the famous kathak exponent Lacchu Maharaj, was not given after 2014. Thus, the Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Ballet Foundation has decided to honour 10 personalities this year. No award has been announced for the year 2020 due to COVID-19. The awardees are:





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| Serial Number | Awardee                                            | Award for Year | Belongs to Place | Exponent of Dance form |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1             | Uma Sharma                                         | 2015           | New Delhi        | Kathak                 |
| 2             | Rama Vaidyanathan                                  | 2016           | New Delhi        | Kathak                 |
| 3             | Uma Dogra                                          | 2017           | Jaipur           | Kathak                 |
| 4             | Hema Malini                                        | 2018           | Mumbai           | Kathak, Film actress   |
| 5             | Saira Banu                                         | 2019           | Mumbai           | Kathak, Film actress   |
| 6             | Sandhya Puricha, Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi | 2018           | Mumbai           | Bharatanatyam Exponent |
| 7             | Dr. Malabika Mitra                                 | 2021           | Kolkata          | Kathak                 |
| 8             | Prachi Shah                                        | 2022           | Mumbai           | Kathak, Film actress   |
| 9             | Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya                          | 2023           | Mumbai           | Kathak                 |
| 10            | Pandit Rajendra Gangani                            | 2024           | Jaipur           | Kathak                 |

- ✓ About Lacchu Maharaj
- ✓ In the field of art and culture, there are two famous artists who go by the name of Lacchu Maharaj. One was a famous Kathak dancer, and another was a famous tabla player. The Lacchu Maharaj Award has been instituted in honour of the famous Kathak exponent.



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- ✓ Lacchu Maharaj, who was born Baij Nath Prasad in Lucknow in 1907, was a noted classical Kathak dancer and choreographer. He died in 1978
- ✓ Lacchu Maharaj was the founder and director of the Uttar Pradesh government's Kathak Kendra in Lucknow.
- ✓ He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1957.
- ✓ About Kathak Dance
- ✓ The government of India recognises Kathak as one of eight classical dance forms. The other classical dance forms are Bharatnatyam(Tamil Nadu), Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh), Odissi (Odisha), Manipuri (Manipur), Sattriya (Assam), Kuchipudi, and Mohiniyattam from Kerala.
- ✓ Kathak originated in North India and was later enriched by the Mughals. It is the only classical dance form which has been enriched by Muslim culture. Wajid Ali Shah, the last Nawab of Oudh (Awadh), founded the Lucknow gharana of Kathak. The other gharanas of Kathak are Jaipur and Benaras.
- ✓ The most famous exponent of Katha is Birju Maharaj.

**Q. How many medals were won by the Indian archers at the 2024 World Cup Stage -1 Shanghai event?**

A) 8

B) 9

C) 6

D) 4

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Historic gold for the Indian Archery team at the Archery World Cup Stage-1.
- ✓ The Indian men's recurve team won a historic gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage-1 by defeating the world-champion South Korean team for the first time ever. The gold medal ended a 14-year gold medal drought at the men's recurve team event at the Archery World Cup.
- ✓ India finished the Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai with eight medals - five gold, two silvers and one bronze. This is India's highest medal tally at any single edition of an archery World Cup.
- ✓ India sent a 16-member archery team for the Shanghai event. It consisted of eight men and eight women players.
- ✓ Indian men's recurve team historic gold
- ✓ The Indian men's recurve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav defeated the World no.1 ranked South Korean team in the final. The Indian team defeated South Korea's team consisting



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of World and Asian Games champions Lee Wooseok and Olympic champions Kim Je Deok and Kim Woojin 5-1 (57-57, 57-55, 55-53) to win a gold medal after 14 years.

- ✓ Jyothi Surekha Vennam wins hat trick of Gold Medal
- ✓ Asian Games champion and World number 3 Jyothi Surekha Vennam of Andhra Pradesh won a hat-trick of gold medals in the compound event. She won gold in the individual, women's team and mixed team events.
- ✓ At the Shanghai event, the Indian team won a total of eight medals: five gold medals, two silver medals, and one bronze medal

| Serial Number | Event                       | Players                                                                 | Medal  |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1             | Men's Recurve Team          | Tarundeep Rai, Mrinal Chauhan, Pravin Jadhav, Dhiraj Bommadevara        | Gold   |
| 2             | Mixed Compound              | Jyothi and Abhishek Verma                                               | Gold   |
| 3             | Women's Individual compound | Jyothi Vennam                                                           | Gold   |
| 4             | Men's Compound Team         | Riyansh, Prathamesh Fuge, Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan                 | Gold   |
| 5             | Women's Compound Team       | Avneet Kaur, Parneet Kaur, Aditi Gopichand Swami, Jyothi Surekha Vennam | Gold   |
| 6             | Men's Compound Individual   | Priyansh                                                                | Silver |
| 7             | Women's Individual Recurve  | Deepika Kumari                                                          | Silver |
| 8             | Mixed Recurve Team          | Ankita Bhakat, Dhiraj Bommadevara                                       | Bronze |





- ✓ The Archery World Cup Stage -1 was organised by the World Archery in Shanghai, China, from 23 -28 April 2024.
- ✓ World Archery is the global governing body of men's and women's archery.
- ✓ World Archery is based in the Olympic capital of Lausanne, Switzerland.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to critical minerals:**

**1. It is a metallic or non-metallic element that is essential for the functioning of modern technologies.**

**2. Cobalt, Copper and Gallium are examples of critical minerals.**

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

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Ministry of Mines will hold a two day “Critical Minerals Summit: Enhancing Beneficiation and Processing Capabilities”, at the India Habitat Centre in Lodhi Estate, New Delhi.
- ✓ About Critical Minerals Summit:
- ✓ It is organised by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, in collaboration with the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (Shakti), the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and the Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD).
- ✓ It is designed to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and drive innovation in the field of critical mineral beneficiation and processing.
- ✓ The summit will bring together a diverse array of Indian and international stakeholders, including industry leaders, startups, government officials, scientists, academics, and policy experts.
- ✓ The Ministry of Mines has identified eight key minerals for focus at the summit, including Glaucosite (Potash), Lithium – Rare Earth Elements (Laterite), Chromium, Platinum Group, Graphite, Tungsten associated with Graphite, Rare Earths (RE), and Vanadium associated with Graphite.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Green Taxonomy:**

**1. It is a framework that defines which economic activities and assets are environmentally sustainable.**

**2. It includes the goals of climate mitigation and adaptation and helps prevent greenwashing.**



**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 RBI and the Finance Ministry could take inspiration from the developing world, especially the ASEAN region, where a layered green taxonomy as a living document keeps getting updated with sectoral views of possible sustainable trajectories.
- ✓ About Green Taxonomy:
- ✓ A green taxonomy is a framework for defining what can be called environmentally sustainable investments.
- ✓ It is a classification system that defines which economic activities and assets are “green” or environmentally sustainable.
- ✓ It is a useful instrument and has several complementary purposes:
- ✓ help prevent greenwashing;
- ✓ help investors make informed investment decisions; and
- ✓ channel investment toward sustainable or green economic activities and assets.
- ✓ Structurally, all taxonomies are similar. So far, they all include the goals of climate mitigation and adaptation and some also include other environmental objectives such as biodiversity conservation, for example.

**Q. Which country has recently introduced a new drone “Kamikaze” resembling Russia’s Lancet drone?**

A) China

B) Iran

C) Israel

D) Japan

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has introduced a new “Kamikaze drone” resembling Russia’s Lancet drone.
- ✓ According to the state Tasnim news agency, the new Iranian drone — which has not yet been publicly named — is similar to the Russian Zala Lancet drone, which was first produced in 2020.
- ✓ The Iranian drone, akin to the Lancet, boasts flight durations of 30 to 60 minutes and can carry payloads ranging from 3 to 6 kg, covering distances of up to 40 km.
- ✓ Equipped with electro-optical systems and a built-in warhead, it’s optimized for combating ambushes.







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**Q. The International Jazz Day is celebrated every year on which day?**

A) 29 April

B) 28 April

C) 30 April

D) 27 April

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The International Jazz Day is celebrated on 30 April every year to highlight the importance of jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe.
- ✓ This Day was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2011.
- ✓ The day was created on the idea of jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock.



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Name: Bathina Maneesha  
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