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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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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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INDIA'S NEW VERSION CURRENT AFFAIRS

Dear Aspirants,

Current affairs are important for all the candidates preparing for one or the other government exams. Day by day the weightage of Current Affairs is increasing in the General Awareness section for all exams especially UPSC CSE, State PCS, All Banking exams, SSC CGL, CHSL, MTS, CPO, GD, All Defence exams & RRB NTPC, Group D

To save your time and help you in the current affairs preparation, Aparchit Super Current Affairs Provided the Daily, weekly & Monthly Current Affairs for you.

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SET - 01	PAGE NO 9 TO 101
SET - 02	PAGE NO 102 TO 170
SET - 03	PAGE NO 171 TO 244
SET - 04	PAGE NO 245 TO 369



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

Q. Which 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?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Axis Bank launches Digital US Dollar Fixed Deposits for NRIs at GIFT City
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The US Dollar fixed deposit scheme offers a diverse array of investment tenures ranging from seven days to an extensive ten years.
- ✓ Additionally, customers retain the flexibility to request partial or full premature closure of their FD through the Axis Bank mobile application, enhancing their control and convenience over their investments.
- ✓ With this introduction, Axis Bank becomes the first bank to offer a digital journey for GIFT City Deposits.
- ✓ The bank's NRI clientele can now initiate US dollar fixed deposits at GIFT City through 'Open by Axis Bank,' the mobile banking application offered by the lender.

AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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.



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- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts.
- Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman.
- Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals.
- Axis Bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd announce strategic partnership under the co-lending model.
- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- AXIS BANK
- Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

Q. Where is the world's largest single-location copper manufacturing plant owned by Adani located?

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Telangana

C) Gujarat

D) Karnataka

Answer : C

- ✓ The Adani-led conglomerate has announced the launch of the first phase of the world's largest copper manufacturing plant in Mundra, Gujarat.
- ✓ The plant will help to reduce India's dependence on copper imports and support the transition to clean energy.
- ✓ Kutch Copper, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited, has commissioned the first phase of its greenfield copper refinery.
- ✓ At present, India's per capita copper consumption is only 0.6 kg, which is less than the global average of 3.2 kg.



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- ✓ However, as India aims to adopt clean energy systems and increase electric vehicle use, demand for copper is expected to double by 2030. The copper industry will play a key role in India's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2070.
- ✓ Hindalco Industries Limited currently operates the country's largest copper smelter with a capacity of 0.5 million tonnes.
- ✓ Copper production is more concentrated globally than oil. Chile and Peru are the top two producers, accounting for 38% of worldwide production.

GUJARAT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Adani-led conglomerate has announced the launch of the first phase of the world's largest copper manufacturing plant in Mundra, Gujarat.
- Gujarat government is going to start the country's first submarine tourism.
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad.
- Dhordo, a village located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, known for its annual Rann Utsav has been bestowed with the title 'Best Tourism Village' by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation Stone for the Akashvani Dahod FM Relay Station Project in Gujarat.
- Gujarat Assembly has passed the Gujarat Local Authorities Law (Amendment) Bill 2023 by a majority vote to raise reservation for Other Backward Class (OBC) communities in local self-government bodies to 27 percent from the current 10 percent.
- 'Gujarat Declaration' outlining the outcome of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 released.
- In a significant development for India's energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the 700 MW nuclear power plant located in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity.
- Gujarat to host 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024.
- London-based company OneWeb and the Gujarat Government's Science and Technology Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today for the establishment of a 'Satellite Network Portal Site' in Gujarat.



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- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah organized a virtual ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the country's first cooperative-run Sainik School.
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the best tourism facilities in the historical lighthouses of Gujarat.
- Under the Sagarmala programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex, a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat.
- Gujarat government signs MoU with US chip maker firm Micron Technology for semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Ahmedabad.
- Indian cabinet has given its approval to Micron Technology's plan to invest \$2.7 billion in setting up a semiconductor testing and packaging unit in Gujarat.
- Urban-20 City Sherpas' meet begins at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- BJP leader Bhupendra Patel took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term.
- Madhvendra Singh has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat Maritime Cluster by Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited.
- First G20 Tourism Working Group meeting at Dhordo in Kutch region of Gujarat.
- Former Gujarat governor and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Prakash Kohli passed away.
- Gujarat Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. The state was established on May 1, 1960.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has declared the last week of April as "Swagat Saptah" in commemoration of the completion of 20 years of the "State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology" (SWAGAT) initiative.
- Deakin University of Australia to set up campus in GIFT city.
- Two Australian Universities Wollongong and Deakin to set up Campuses in Gujarat's GIFT City.
- The Youth 20 India Summit will be held at the Maharaja Sayajirao University Vadodara in Gujarat.
- International Kite Festival 2023 begins in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.



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Q. With reference to Non-Performing Asset (NPA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.
2. An asset is classified as a doubtful asset if it remains as an NPA for a period less than or equal to 12 months.
3. Provisions are amounts that banks set aside from their profits to cover losses on NPAs.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) of the Indian banks are projected to see further improvement, potentially reaching up to 2.1 per cent by the end of the fiscal year 2025, as per a recent report.
- ✓ About Non-Performing Asset (NPA):
- ✓ It is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.
- ✓ They can include various types of loans, such as personal loans, business loans, mortgages and credit card debt.
- ✓ When the ratio of NPAs in a bank's loan portfolio rises, its income and profitability fall, its capacity to lend falls and the possibility of loan defaults and write-offs rises.
- ✓ Types of NPAs: Different types of NPAs depend on how long they remain in the NPA category
- ✓ Sub-Standard Assets: An asset is classified as a sub-standard asset if it remains as an NPA for a period less than or equal to 12 months.
- ✓ Doubtful Assets: An asset is classified as a doubtful asset if it remains as an NPA for more than 12 months.
- ✓ Loss Assets: An asset is considered a loss asset when it is “uncollectible” or has such little value that its continuance as a bankable asset is not suggested. However, some recovery value may be left in it as the asset has not been written off wholly or in parts.
- ✓ NPA Provisioning:
- ✓ Provisioning means an amount that the banks set aside from their profits or income in a particular quarter for non-performing assets, such as assets that may turn into losses in the future.
- ✓ Provisions are amounts that banks set aside to cover losses on NPAs.
- ✓ It is a method by which banks provide for bad assets and maintain a healthy book of accounts.



✓ Provisioning is done according to which category the asset belongs.

Q. The Eco-Niwas Samhita, which is a residential energy conservation building code, was developed by:

A) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency

B) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

C) NITI Aayog

D) Bureau of Energy Efficiency

Answer : D

- ✓ The Eco-Niwas Samhita (ENS) introduced the Residential Envelope Transmittance Value (RETV), a metric measuring heat transfer through a building's envelope.
- ✓ It is a Residential Energy Conservation Building code developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- ✓ The code sets standards to limit heat gain and loss and ensure adequate natural ventilation and day lighting potential.
- ✓ It was launched in two parts:
- ✓ ENS 2018 (Part 1) sets minimum standards for building envelope designs for energy-efficient residential buildings.
- ✓ ENS Part 2 launched by the Bureau as ENS 2021 focuses on the building's code compliance and electromechanical systems. It also addresses other aspects such as Energy Efficiency in Electro-Mechanical Equipment for Building Operation, Renewable Energy Generation, Embodied Energy of Walling Materials and Structural Systems.
- ✓ What is the Residential Envelope Transmittance Value?
- ✓ It is a metric measuring heat transfer through a building's envelope.
- ✓ Lower RETV values lead to cooler indoor environments and decreased energy usage. For optimal efficiency, improved occupant comfort, and lower utility expenses, it's recommended to maintain an RETV of 15W/m² or less.

Q. With reference to C-Vigil app, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the Election Commission of India.

2. It allows citizens to report cases of violations of the Model Code of Conduct anonymously.

3. It allows users to capture the live incidents only.

How many of the above statements are correct?



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A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

- ✓ Since the announcement of General Elections 2024, over 79,000 complaints have been received on C-Vigil app.
- ✓ It is a mobile application developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to enable citizens to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections.
- ✓ Features of the app
- ✓ It is user-friendly and easy to operate application, which connects vigilant citizens with the District Control Room, Returning Officer and Flying Squads Teams.
- ✓ By using this app, the citizens can immediately report on incidents of political misconduct within minutes and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer.
- ✓ As soon as the complaint is sent on the cVigil app, the complainant will receive a unique ID through which the person will be able to track the complaint on their mobile.
- ✓ Users capture audios, photos or videos in real-time, and a “100-minute” countdown for time-bound response to complaints is ensured.
- ✓ It uses GPS to track the location of the violation.
- ✓ It allows users to capture the live incidents only.
- ✓ It has a feature to report the case of MCC violation anonymously.
- ✓ One can track the progress of the complaint in this app.
- ✓ Hence all statements are correct

Q. Which countries joined the EU's Schengen area partially?

A) Bulgaria and Romania

B) Cyprus and Ireland

C) Indonesia and Croatia

D) Germany and France

Answer : A

- ✓ Bulgaria and Romania partially joins Europe's Schengen Area.
- ✓ Romania and Bulgaria have partially joined the Schengen Area, the ID-check-free travel zone in Europe.



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- ✓ This is an important step in the integration of both countries with the European Union. After years of negotiations, passengers arriving by air or sea from both countries now have free access to the Schengen area.
- ✓ However, land border checks will continue mainly due to opposition from Austria which has long blocked his bid over illegal migration concerns.
- ✓ The Schengen Area, established in 1985, comprises 23 of the 27 EU member states, together with Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.
- ✓ Prior to the inclusion of Bulgaria and Romania, around 3.5 million individuals would cross the internal border every day.
- ✓ Austria vetoed Romania and Bulgaria entry into the Schengen area at the end of 2022 but allowed Croatia full entry. Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU in 2007, and Croatia in 2013.
- ✓ About Schengen Area
- ✓ The Schengen Area is a region consisting of certain European countries that have abolished passport and other types of border control at their mutual borders.

Q. Which players hold the world record for being the oldest player to win an ATP 1000 Master Tennis title?

- A) Rohan Bopanna B) Danielle Collins
C) Jannik Sinner D) Matthew Ebden

Answer : A

- ✓ Rohan Bopanna wins Miami Open 2024 Doubles Title.
- ✓ 44 years old star Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna along with his Australian partner Matthew Ebden won the 2024 Miami Open Tennis men's doubles title at the Hard Rock Stadium in Florida ,United States of America on 31 March 2024.
- ✓ In the women's singles American Danielle Collins won her first major title while in the men's singles Italian tennis player Jannik Sinner was crowned the champion.
- ✓ Rohan Bopanna reclaims World No.1 Rank
- ✓ The duo of Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden defeated the pair of Croatia's Ivan Dodig and American Austin Krajicek despite losing the first set. With this victory, the duo of Bopanna and Eden reclaimed their world No.1 rank in the ATP men's double ranking.



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- ✓ At the age of 44 , Bopanna also broke his own record to become the oldest player to win an ATP 1000 Masters Championship. Rohan Bopanna along with Ebden had won the Indian Wells tournament last year and at the age of 43 years,Bopanna set the world record of being the oldest player to win an ATP 1000 Master title.
- ✓ After Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupati and Sania Mirza, Bopanna became the fourth Indian to win the Miami Open title.
- ✓ American Danielle Collins wins Miami Open Women's Single Title.
- ✓ American tennis player Danielle Collins defeated Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in the final to win one of her biggest titles in her career as a professional tennis player.

Q. Name the player who has won the 2024 Miami Open Tennis tournament in men's single event?

- A) Daniil Medvedev
- B) Santiago Gonzalez
- C) Edouard Roger
- D) Jannik Sinner

Answer : D

- ✓ Jannik Sinner winner of Miami Open Title .
- ✓ Italian Jannik Sinner defeated Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov in the final to win the Miami Open Master 1000 title.
- ✓ It was the third title of the season for Jannik Sinner. Jannik Sinner won the 2024 Australian Open singles title and the Rotterdam Indoors

Q. Where is India's largest agri waste-based bio CNG plant being set up ?

- A) Aligarh
- B) Prayagraj
- C) Agra
- D) Mathura

Answer : D

- ✓ Adani Total Energies Biomass Limited (ATBL), has commissioned the first phase of its Barsana BioGas plant in Shre Mataji Gaushala, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ ATBL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Total Gas Limited (ATGL).
- ✓ Adani Total Gas Limited is a joint venture between Adani Group and Total Energies of France.
- ✓ Barsana Biogas Project.



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- ✓ The Barsana Biogas Project, which is being developed in three phases, will have a total capacity of 600 tonnes per day of feedstock after its completion, The project is expected to generate 42 tonnes per day of Compressed Biogas (CBG) and 217 tonnes per day of organic fertiliser
- ✓ Adani Total Energies Biomass Limited Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Q. Who has won the 2023 Annual Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year?

A) Hardik Singh

B) PR Sreejesh

C) Harmanpreet Singh

D) Araijeet Singh Hundal

Answer : B

- ✓ Hockey India announced the sixth Hockey India Awards 2023 on 31 March 2024 at a function in New Delhi.
- ✓ Salima Tete and Hardik Singh were named the women's and men's player of the year, respectively.
- ✓ Hockey India started the annual Hockey India Awards in 2014 to honour India's best hockey players, former players and officials
- ✓ Hardik Singh and Salima Tete
- ✓ Hardik Singh of Punjab, currently the Indian Hockey men's team vice-captain, was part of the bronze-medal-winning Indian team at the Tokyo Olympics 2023 and the gold-medal-winning 2023 Hangzhou Asian team.
- ✓ Hardik Singh, winner of the FIH Player of the Year at the Star Awards 2023, was also awarded the Hockey India's Best Midfielder of the Year award.
- ✓ Salima Tete of Jharkhand was part of the Indian women's Hockey team that won the bronze medal at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games. She was also honoured with the Asian Hockey Federation's Emerging Player of the Year Award in 2023.
- ✓ Winner of the Hockey India Annual Awards 2023
- ✓ Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award
- ✓ Ashok Kumar, the son of Indian Hockey legend Dhyan Chand, was honoured with the Hockey India Lifetime Achievement Award. Ashok Kumar was a member of the Indian Hockey team, which won the bronze medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics. He scored the goal in the final of the 1975 World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, which secured India's gold medal.
- ✓ The winner got a cash prize of Rs 30 lakhs and a trophy.



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- ✓ Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year - PR Sreejesh. He got a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a Trophy.
- ✓ Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year - Harmanpreet Singh. He got a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a Trophy.
- ✓ Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year - Hardik Singh. He received a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a Trophy.
- ✓ Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year - Abhishek. He got a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a Trophy.
- ✓ Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year (Women) - Salima Tete. She got a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh and a Trophy.
- ✓ Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year (Men) - Hardik Singh. He got a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh and a Trophy.

Q. Who has won the 2023 Annual Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for the Men Player of The Year?

- A) Ashok Kumar B) S.Sreejesh
C) Harmanpreet Singh D) Hardik Singh

Answer : D

Q. What is the rank of India's 'Government e-Market' (GeM) portal as an e-commerce platform in the world?

- A) First B) Third
C) Second D) Fourth

Answer : B

- ✓ India's GeM: World's 3rd largest e-commerce platform.
- ✓ India's 'Government e-Market' (GeM) portal is the world's third largest e-commerce platform for public procurement after Korea's On-Line e-Procurement System (KONEPS) and Singapore's GeBIZ.
- ✓ GeM's total sales value crosses Rs 4 lakh crore:
- ✓ According to GeM CEO PK Singh, GeM ended this financial year with a gross merchandise value (GMV) of over Rs 4 lakh crore.
- ✓ This is almost 100% more than the GMV at the end of the last financial year.
- ✓ This demonstrates its unique potential to promote digital inclusion.



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- ✓ About Government e-Market (GeM) Portal:
- ✓ GeM was launched in the year 2016 to facilitate procurement of goods and services by many government departments and organizations. It is an online platform launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- ✓ GeM is open to all government departments, public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies and other organizations.
- ✓ Currently South Korea's KONEPS is the world's largest online platform. GeM is at third place after Singapore's GeBIZ.
- ✓ Presently CEO of GeM: PK Singh

Q. Which is currently the world's largest online platform?

- A) KONEPS
- B) GeM
- C) GeBIZ
- D) IndiaMART

Answer : A

- ✓ Currently South Korea's KONEPS is the world's largest online platform.
- ✓ GeM is at third place after Singapore's GeBIZ

Q. Which company has decided to close its agricultural tractor business and related activities?

- A) Sonalika
- B) Force Motors
- C) Swaraj
- D) Tafe Motors

Answer : B

- ✓ India's Force Motors has informed on March 29, 2024 that it has decided to close its agricultural tractor business and related activities from March 31.
- ✓ According to Force Motors, sales of agricultural tractors accounted for 3.66% of the company's total revenue in fiscal year 2023.
- ✓ Force Motors company, known for its multi-seater passenger vehicles. Force Motors also manufactures engines for BMW and Mercedes cars in India. It earns about 48% of its revenue from vehicle sales, while about 36% of the revenue comes from contract engine manufacturing.
- ✓ About Force Motors:
- ✓ Force Motors is an Indian automobile company. It was founded in 1958 by NK Firodia.



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- ✓ Known for making agricultural tractors.
- ✓ Force Motors was known as Bajaj Tempo before May 2005.
- ✓ The Chennai-based manufacturing unit of Force Motors was established in the year 2015. Engines for SUVs and BMW cars are manufactured at the Force Motors Chennai plant.

Q. Which country endorsed the idea of considering the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023)?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) held the closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 on March 29th, 2024, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- ✓ In March 2021, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets after a proposal by India, which was supported by over 70 countries.
- ✓ International Year of Millets (IYM 2023)
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets at its 75th session in March 2021.
- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will lead the celebration of this Year in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- ✓ Millets are a type of grain that can grow in arid lands with minimal inputs and are resilient to changes in climate..
- ✓ About Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):
- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that focuses on global food and agricultural matters.
- ✓ Its primary mission is to lead international efforts to prevent hunger.
- ✓ World Food Day is celebrated annually on 16th October to commemorate the establishment of FAO in 1945.
- ✓ FAO has its headquarters in Rome, Italy, and is currently headed by Director-General Qu Dongyu.
- ✓ India is one of the founding members of FAO



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Q. India has agreed to help which country in promoting research and education in the Sanskrit language?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ India and Nepal agree to promote Sanskrit research and education.
- ✓ The Indian and Nepalese Sanskrit scholars have agreed to work jointly to promote research and education of the Sanskrit language.
- ✓ This was decided at the end of the three-day Nepal-India International Sanskrit Conclave organised in the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu.
- ✓ The Niti Anusandhan Pratisthan, Nepal, organised the three-day conclave in collaboration with the Central Sanskrit University, Delhi, and India Foundation, Delhi. Over 120 Sanskrit scholars, professors, and government officials from both neighbouring countries participated in the conference.
- ✓ Maharshi Sandipani Veda Vidya Pratisthan, Ujjain, will help the Niti Anusandhan Pratisthan of Nepal to provide support for the development of gurukuls in Nepal.
- ✓ Sanskrit Language
- ✓ Sanskrit is an ancient language of India . It was given the status of classical language by the government of India in 2005. It is one of the 22 languages mentioned in the eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- ✓ Sanskrit is considered a divine language in Indian tradition which was first used in vedas.
- ✓ Panini concised the grammar of Sanskrit and wrote the master book of grammar named Ashtadhyayi. The modern Sanskrit language is based on Panini's Ashtadhyayi.
- ✓ Sanskrit has been the source of the development of later languages and literature in India. Pali and Prakrit languages were the first to develop from Sanskrit.
- ✓ Ramayana, Mahabharata, and all the great epics of India were composed in Sanskrit.

SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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.
- 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



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- 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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- ✓ Recently, the International Energy Agency (IEA) launched the Clean Energy Transitions Programme annual report 2023.
- ✓ It is the IEA's flagship initiative launched in 2017 for accelerating progress toward a global net zero energy system.
- ✓ It leverages the insights and influence of the world's leading energy authority to accelerate clean energy transitions, particularly in emerging and developing economies
- ✓ Its goals are in line with the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations.
- ✓ Key facts about IEA
- ✓ It is an autonomous inter-governmental organisation within the OECD framework.
- ✓ It works with governments and industry to shape a secure and sustainable energy future for all.
- ✓ It was founded in 1974 to ensure the security of oil supplies.
- ✓ It consists of 31 member countries and eleven association countries.
- ✓ A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(OECD).

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Lalit Kala Akademi:

1. It is a national academy of fine arts established to promote Indian visual art in and outside India.

2. It is funded by the Union Ministry of Education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Culture has curtailed the powers of the Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) Chairman, barring him from taking any “administrative actions”.
- ✓ It was inaugurated in 1954 by the then Minister for Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and is registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- ✓ It has preserved and documented a permanent collection of the highest order that reflects the vitality, complexity and unfolding patterns of contemporary, modern, folk and tribal art in India.



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- ✓ It is India's national academy of fine arts established by Government of India to promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, in and outside the country.
- ✓ It promotes Visual Art of India in various countries of the world through Cultural Agreements and Cultural Exchange Programmes.
- ✓ The National Exhibition of Art is the most prestigious annual event of the Lalit Kala Akademi.
- ✓ Funding: It is funded by the Ministry of Culture.
- ✓ It has regional centres situated at Chennai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Garhi.
- ✓ Headquarter: New Delhi

Q. Hume AI, recently seen in the news, is:

- A) platform launched by Microsoft to train developers in AI technologies
- B) humanoid robot
- C) India's first indigenous AI chatbot
- D) world's first emotionally intelligent voice AI

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, a New York-based research lab and technology company Hume, has introduced what can be called the 'first conversational AI with emotional intelligence'.
- ✓ It is the world's first emotionally intelligent voice AI. It accepts live audio input and returns both generated audio and transcripts augmented with measures of vocal expression.
- ✓ It is essentially an API that is powered by its proprietary empathic large language model (eLLM). This eLLM reportedly understands and emulates tones of voices, and word emphasis to optimise human-AI conversations.
- ✓ What is large language model?
- ✓ It is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) program that can recognize and generate text, among other tasks.
- ✓ LLMs are trained on huge sets of data—hence the name "large."
LLMs are built on machine learning: specifically, a type of neural network called a transformer model.

Q. Which state observes the Utkala Dibasa every year on April 01 to commemorate the foundation day of the state?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Odisha
- C) Bihar
- D) Assam



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Answer : B

- ✓ Every year, Odisha Day is celebrated on 1st April, to commemorate the foundation day of the state.
- ✓ The day is also known as Utkala Dibasa.
- ✓ It was on 1st April 1936, that the state of Odisha came into existence.
- ✓ Odisha was separated from the Bengal province.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to honour the struggle of the people of Odisha for a separate state and to promote unity among the citizens

Q. Who has been appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of Congo?

- A) Bintou Keita
- B) Judith Suminwa Tuluka
- C) Sama Lukonde
- D) Laura Spagnolo

Answer : B

- ✓ The African country Congo has appointed Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the country's first woman Prime Minister.
- ✓ Tuluka's appointment has come at a time when there is an atmosphere of tension in the area bordering Rwanda.
- ✓ Congo is a Central African country, its capital is Kinshasa.

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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.



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



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

Q. With reference to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Guidelines on Penal Charges on Loan Accounts, consider the following statements:

- 1. It prohibits commercial banks and finance companies from charging borrowers' penal rates on loan defaults.**
- 2. Penalties charged for non-compliance of the material terms and conditions of the loan contract by the borrower should be treated as penal charges.**
- 3. There is no upper limit cap on penal charges.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : C



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- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest guidelines on penal charges on loan accounts have come into effect recently.
- ✓ About RBI Guidelines on Penal Charges on Loan Accounts:
- ✓ The norms prohibit commercial banks and finance companies from charging borrowers' penal rates on loan defaults or any other non-compliance event.
- ✓ Under the new rules, penalty, if charged, for non-compliance of the material terms and conditions of the loan contract by the borrower should be treated as 'penal charges'.
- ✓ It cannot be levied in the form of 'penal interest' that is added to the rate of interest charged on the advances.
- ✓ There should be no capitalisation of penal charges; that is no further interest computed on such charges.
- ✓ The material terms and conditions will be defined as per the credit policy of the bank, and they may vary from one category of loan to another, and from bank to bank based on their own assessment.
- ✓ There is no upper limit or cap for penal charges. However, the guidelines stipulated that the quantum of penal charges would be reasonable and commensurate with the non-compliance without being discriminatory within a particular loan category.
- ✓ The guidelines also mentioned that the penal charges in the case of loans sanctioned to individual borrowers for purposes other than business will not be higher than the penal charges applicable to non-individual borrowers for similar non-compliance.
- ✓ These guidelines will not apply to credit cards, which are covered under product specific directions.

Q. With reference to the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an independent system attached to the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.**
- 2. VVPAT can be accessed by the polling officials, but not by the voters.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently sought responses from the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Centre on a plea seeking a comprehensive count of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips in elections.
- ✓ About Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):



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- ✓ It was first introduced in India in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.
- ✓ It is an independent system that consists of two parts, namely, a VVPAT Printer and VVPAT Status Display Unit (VSDU) attached to the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), that allow the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.
- ✓ When a vote is cast, a slip is printed containing the serial number, name, and symbol of the candidate and remains exposed through a transparent window for 7 seconds.
- ✓ Thereafter, this printed slip automatically gets cut and falls into the sealed drop box of the VVPAT.
- ✓ How is VVPAT used for verification?
- ✓ The results of EVMs can be verified using the slips kept in the drop boxes of VVPAT machines.
- ✓ VVPAT can be accessed by the polling officials, but not by the voters.
- ✓ The paper slips are deemed to be more authoritative than EVM tallies in cases where VVPAT slips are utilised to verify votes.
- ✓ Voter verification, however, is only done in extreme circumstances, such as when there are accusations of fraud or miscalculation.
- ✓ The ECI has the authority to request that votes be verified using VVPAT slips in response to such complaints.
- ✓ The ECI has clarified that EVMs and VVPATs are separate entities and are not connected to any network.
- ✓ These machines are developed by the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL).

Q. The Digital India Trust Agency was recently seen in the news in the context of:

- A) curbing illegal lending apps**
- B) regulating cryptocurrencies**
- C) registration of Virtual Digital Assets**
- D) allocation of Government-dated securities**

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India is considering establishing a Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) to combat cyber fraud and illegal lending apps.
- ✓ It will be responsible for stopping illegal lending apps from popping up.
- ✓ It will enable the verification of these digital lending apps and will maintain a public register of these verified applications.



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- ✓ Any app which will not carry the “verified” tag of DIGITA, will be considered unauthorised.
- ✓ Significance: This will create an important and much-needed checkpoint in the fight against online financial fraud.
- ✓ What is digital lending?
- ✓ It is a remote and automated lending process, largely by use of seamless digital technologies.
- ✓ It involves lending through web platforms or mobile apps, utilising technology in customer acquisition, credit assessment, loan approval, disbursement, recovery and associated customer service.
- ✓ It generally involves three parties – a lender, a lending service provider (including a digital lending platform) and a borrower.
- ✓ It includes products like Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL), which is a financing option (or simply a short-term loan product).
- ✓ It allows one to buy a product or avail a service without having to worry about paying for it immediately.

Q. Which port in India emerged as the highest cargo handling port in 2023-24?

A) Deendayal Port

B) Mormugao Port

C) Paradip Port

D) Kamarajar Port

Answer : C

- ✓ Paradip Port , the top cargo-handling port in India in 2023-24.
- ✓ Paradip Port Authority, Odisha, has displaced the Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, as the top cargo-handling major port of India in 2023-24.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the Paradip Port handled 145.38 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of cargo.
- ✓ Paradip Port handled 10.02 million metric tons more cargo than last year, registering a growth of 7.4%.
- ✓ The Paradip port has the capacity to handle 289 million metric tonnes.
- ✓ The Paradip Port achieved the highest productivity among all major ports in India. Its berth productivity has improved from 31050 MT to 33014 MT.
- ✓ Paradip Port is the cheapest in terms of tariff among all the ports in the country.
- ✓ About Paradip Port
- ✓ Paradip Port was initially set up by the government of Odisha in 1962. However, in 1965, the government of India took over the ownership and management of the port from the Odisha government.
- ✓ There were initially 13 major ports in India. The Chennai Port acquired the Kamarajar Port(earlier known as Ennore Port) in 2020, and now there are only 12 major ports in India



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- ✓ It will feature reduced and uniform timelines for redressal of investor complaints, which is 21 calendar days from the date of receipt of the complaint.
- ✓ An auto-routing of complaints to the concerned regulated entity will be facilitated to eliminate time lapses, if any, in the flow of complaints.
- ✓ Designated bodies will have to monitor the timely redressal of investors' complaints.
- ✓ SCORES 2.0 will be integrated with the KYC Registration Agency database for easy registration of the investor on SCORES.

SEBI IN NEWS 2023-24

- SEBI recently launched a new version of the SEBI Complaint Redress System (SCORES 2.0).
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently approved the launch of the beta version of the T+0 settlement on an optional basis.
- SEBI Extends Nomination Filing Deadline for Mutual Funds and Demat Accounts Until June 2024.
- SEBI Plans To Introduce Same Day Trade Settlement By March 2024.
- According to her, market participants have conveyed the necessity to initiate the process at T+0 and subsequently progress towards instantaneous settlement.
- The regulatory body aims to achieve same-day settlement by the end of March 2024, marking a significant leap from the existing T+0 settlement cycle.
- SEBI has granted approval for Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) to enhance their fundraising capabilities through the social stock exchange.
- SEBI has decided to decrease the minimum issue size for public issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP) from Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh.
- Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has officially launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):
 - It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India established in 1988.
 - It is the regulator of the Capital market and Commodities market in India.
 - The first SEBI chairman was Dr S A Dave (1988-90)
 - Madhabi Puri Buch is the current and 10th Chairperson of the SEBI.



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➤ Headquarters : Mumbai

Q. Sarthebari Metal Craft famous in which state?

A) Gujarat

B) Bihar

C) Odisha

D) Assam

Answer : D

- ✓ 19 Traditional Products of Assam Received Geographical Indication tag.
- ✓ Nineteen traditional products and crafts from Assam have been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, out of which thirteen are credited to the Bodo community.
- ✓ These iconic items include Assam Bihu Dhol, Jaapi, Sarthebari Metal Craft, and more
- ✓ Assam's Products.
- ✓ Assamese Bihu Dhol.
- ✓ Assamese Jaapi.
- ✓ Sarthebari Metal Craft.
- ✓ Panimeteka Craft (Water Hyacinth).
- ✓ Mising Taat (Handloom).
- ✓ Asharikandi's Exquisite Terracotta Works.
- ✓ Thirteen of the products that have been awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tags are associated with the Bodo community, which is the largest tribal group in the Indian state of Assam. These products represent the cultural heritage of the Bodos and include a variety of items, such as Jotha, Gongona, Gamsa, Sifung, Serja, Khardwi, Kham, Gongar Dunjia, Thoraka, Keradapini, Jwmgra, Dokhona, and Eri Silk. These GI tags cover both agricultural products and musical instruments

GI TAG IN NEWS 2023-24

- The famous silver filigree (Rupa Tarakasi) of the millennium Cuttack city in Odisha recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' gets received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag.



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- On December 4, 2023, Uttarakhand became the 1st state in the country to get GI certificates for a maximum of 18 products in a single day.
- Till now, a total of 27 products of Uttarakhand have received GI tag.
- West Bengal achieves Geographical Indication tags for distinctive products, including 'Mouban' honey from Sunderbans, 'Prince of Rice' Black Nunia rice, and traditional Tangail, Gorod, etc.
 - 1. Recognition of Sunderbans Honey – 'Mouban'
 - 2. Black Nunia Rice – 'Prince of Rice'
 - 3. Distinctive Sarees – Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal.
- As a part of the National GI Drive Mission, 'Kadiyal Sarees' of West Bengal have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Ladakh secures 4th GI tag for Sea Buckthorn.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Goan cashew (Fruit and Nut) was recently granted the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir.
- GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-
- GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.



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Q. The Digital India Trust Agency was recently seen in the news in the context of:

- A) curbing illegal lending apps
- B) regulating cryptocurrencies
- C) registration of Virtual Digital Assets
- D) allocation of Government-dated securities

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India is considering establishing a Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) to combat cyber fraud and illegal lending apps.
- ✓ It will be responsible for stopping illegal lending apps from popping up.
- ✓ It will enable the verification of these digital lending apps and will maintain a public register of these verified applications.
- ✓ Any app which will not carry the “verified” tag of DIGITA, will be considered unauthorised.
- ✓ Significance: This will create an important and much-needed checkpoint in the fight against online financial fraud.
- ✓ What is digital lending?
- ✓ It is a remote and automated lending process, largely by use of seamless digital technologies.
- ✓ It involves lending through web platforms or mobile apps, utilising technology in customer acquisition, credit assessment, loan approval, disbursement, recovery and associated customer service.
- ✓ It generally involves three parties – a lender, a lending service provider (including a digital lending platform) and a borrower.
- ✓ It includes products like Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL), which is a financing option (or simply a short-term loan product).
- ✓ It allows one to buy a product or avail a service without having to worry about paying for it immediately.

Q. Where was the ceremony held to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Reserve Bank of India ?

- A) Delhi
- B) Kolkata
- C) Mumbai
- D) Hyderabad

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the opening ceremony of RBI@90 in Mumbai, Maharashtra on 1 April 2024.



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- ✓ The ceremony was organised to mark the 90 years of the establishment of India's central bank, Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ The Prime Minister Modi released a commemorative coin to mark 90 years of RBI on the occasion.
- ✓ The Prime Minister said that the next 10 years were crucial for reversing the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047 and RBI will play a central role in it with its priority of fast-paced growth and focus on trust and stability.
- ✓ He said that during his government the Indian banking sector has emerged more strong with a strong balance sheet. He pointed out that Gross NPA (Non Performing Assets) of banks that stood at 11.25 percent in 2018 came down to below 3 percent by September 2023.
- ✓ Government of India infused Rs 3.5 lakh crore in the public sector banks to make it more strong.
- ✓ About Reserve Bank of India
- ✓ India's central bank. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was set up on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance also known as the Hilton-Young Commission.
- ✓ Accepting the recommendation of the Hilton-Young Commission the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 was passed.
- ✓ On 1 April 1935 ,the Reserve Bank of India started its operation.
- ✓ The RBI was initially owned by a private person . It was nationalised in 1949 and is now owned by the Government of India.
- ✓ Main functions of the RBI
- ✓ It is the apex monetary body which formulates,implements and monitors the monetary policy.
- ✓ It regulates and supervises the Indian financial system. It is the regulator and supervisor of the financial system.It regulates banks, NBFC,NABARD,SIDBI,EXIM Bank.
- ✓ It manages the foreign exchange reserves of India.
- ✓ It issues currency notes in India except Re 1 notes and coins. Re 1 notes and coins are issued by the government of India.
- ✓ It is the regulator and supervisor of the payment and settlement system in india.
- ✓ It is the banker to the governments and all the scheduled banks.
- ✓ Offices of RBI
- ✓ The headquarters of RBI was shifted from Kolkata to Mumbai in 1937 .The RBI has 33 offices
- ✓ Governor of RBI
- ✓ Sir Osborne Smith was the first governor of RBI.



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- ✓ The first Indian governor of RBI was C.D.Deshmukh.He was appointed in 1943.
- ✓ Current and 25th Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

Q. Katchatheevu island is a disputed area between which countries?

- A) India and Sri Lanka
- B) India and Singapore
- C) India and Maldives
- D) India and Norway

Answer : A

- ✓ Documents obtained through an RTI application by Tamil Nadu's BJP chief K. Annamalai have revealed India's inconsistent approach to the Katchatheevu island dispute with Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Island of Katchatheevu
- ✓ Katchatheevu is a tiny island located in the Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka, with an area of 285 acres.
- ✓ It is situated around 33 km northeast of Rameswaram, India and approximately 62 km southwest of Jaffna, the northernmost point of Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Agreement between India and Sri Lanka
- ✓ In June 1974, the then-Prime Ministers of India and Sri Lanka, Indira Gandhi and Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike, signed an agreement.
- ✓ Agreement defined the boundary between India and Sri Lanka in the waters from the Palk Strait to Adam's Bridge.
- ✓ Katchatheevu controversy
- ✓ There is a dispute between India and Sri Lanka over the jurisdiction of Katchatheevu island. Sri Lanka claims sovereignty over the island, citing the Portuguese occupation from 1505 to 1658 CE as evidence of their jurisdiction. India, however, argues that the former Raja of Ramnad held possession of the island as part of his estate.

Q. According to SIPRI, which country is India's primary supplier of arms?

- A) US
- B) France
- C) Russia
- D) Germany

Answer : C



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- ✓ According to Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh India's arms exports have surpassed Rs 21,000 crore for the first time.
- ✓ India has been expanding its exports of a wide variety of weapons, from BrahMos cruise missiles to artillery guns, in an effort to become self-reliant in the sector.
- ✓ The country has taken a significant step forward in becoming 'Aatmanirbhar' or self-reliant in defence exports.
- ✓ The defence minister stated on April 1st that the arms exports reached Rs 21,083 crore in the financial year 2023-24, an impressive growth of 32.5% compared to the previous fiscal year. In the financial year 2022-23, India's defence exports were nearly Rs 16,000 crore.
- ✓ This development comes as part of New Delhi's push to boost defence exports under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ India has set an ambitious target of taking annual defence exports to Rs 35,000 crore by 2024-25.
- ✓ India's supplies to Arms
- ✓ India supplies arms to more than 85 countries, including Italy, the Maldives, Russia, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Egypt, Israel, Spain, Chile, and others.
- ✓ India's defense exports have seen significant growth in recent years, from Rs 686 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 21,083 crore in 2023-24.
- ✓ Around 100 firms are exporting defence products in India and the Centre allocated Rs 6.21 lakh crore to the defence budget for 2024-25
- ✓ Still India is largest arms exporter
- ✓ Despite India's "aatmanirbharta" push, it remains the world's largest arms importer, accounting for 9.8% of all arms imports, according to the Swedish think-tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- ✓ While Russia remains India's primary supplier of arms, its share of Indian arms imports has decreased from 76% in 2009-13 to 36% in 2019-23

Q. Who won the men's Kho-Kho title at the 56th National Kho-Kho Championship 2023-24?

A) Chennai Quick Guns

B) Odisha Juggernauts

C) Airport Authority of India

D) Maharashtra

Answer : D



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- ✓ Maharashtra Men's and Women National Kho Kho Champion.
- ✓ The Maharashtra team made a clean sweep at the 56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24.
- ✓ It won both the men's and women's titles, held at Delhi's Karnail Singh Stadium and the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.
- ✓ The winning team collected a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh and a trophy.
- ✓ The runner-up got a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh and a Trophy.
- ✓ 56th National Kho Kho Men's Champion Maharashtra.
- ✓ In the final match played at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, the Maharashtra men's team defeated the Indian Railway team.
- ✓ 56th National Kho Kho Women's Champion Maharashtra.
- ✓ In the women's category, the Maharashtra team, led by Sampada Maurya, defeated the Airport Authority of India team by 18-16 points.
- ✓ Kho Kho Game
- ✓ It is a traditional sport in India that is considered very ancient. It is considered the second most popular traditional sport in India after Kabbadi. It can be played both indoors and outdoors.
- ✓ Kho Kho was included as a demonstration sport in the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics and the 3rd South Asian Federation Games held in Kolkata(Calcutta) in 1987.
- ✓ Kho Kho Federation of India
- ✓ It was set up in 1955. It is a body recognised by the government of India .
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ President: Sudhanshu Mitta

Q. Maharashtra defeated which team in the final to win the women's 56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24?

A) Haryana

B) Gujarat

C) Madhya Pradesh

D) Airport Authority of India

Answer : D

- ✓ The 56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24 was organised by the Kho Kho Federation of India at Delhi's Karnail Singh Stadium and the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from 28 March to 1 April 2024.
- ✓ In the women's category, the Maharashtra team, led by Sampada Maurya, defeated the Airport Authority of India team by 18-16 points.



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Q. Who has taken charge as the Principal Director General of PIB?

A) Ambika Soni

B) Smriti Irani

C) Sheyphali B. Sharan

D) Abhay Singh

Answer : C

- ✓ Sheyphali B. Sharan as Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- ✓ Sharan has assumed charge.
- ✓ Sharan is a 1990 batch officer of the Indian Information Service.
- ✓ PIB is the nodal agency of the Government of India for disseminating information in the print and electronic media, including government policies.

Q. Who has taken charge as the National President of FICCI Ladies Organization?

A) Aarti Singh

B) Dhanashree Sharma

C) Joyshree Das Verma

D) Anjali Kapoor

Answer : C

- ✓ Joyshree Das Verma has taken charge as the 41st National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO).
- ✓ At the same time, Israel has appointed him as its honorary consul for North-East India.
- ✓ Verma is also the director of HR firm Kapro Management Solutions Private Limited.

Q. When is the World Autism Awareness Day observed globally?

A) 02 April

B) 01 April

C) 31 March

D) 30 March

Answer : A

- ✓ The World Autism Awareness Day is observed on 02 April every year, to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) throughout the world.
- ✓ Theme 2024 : "Moving from Surviving to Thriving: Autistic Individuals share regional perspectives".
- ✓ It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2007.
- ✓ World Autism Day is one of only seven official health-specific UN Days.



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Q. Every year the International Children’s Book Day is marked on April 02. Which country is the sponsor for the day in 2024?

A) Australia

B) Netherlands

C) Canada

D) Japan

Answer : D

- ✓ The International Children’s Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually on 2nd April since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).
- ✓ IBBY is an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children’s books.
- ✓ The Japan Board on Books for Young People (JBBY) is proud to be the official sponsor of ICBD 2024.
- ✓ The theme for this year is "Cross the Seas on the Wing of your Imagination"

Q. REC Limited, recently won the SKOCH ESG Award 2024, comes under which ministry?

A) Ministry of Power

B) Ministry of Defence

C) Ministry of Agriculture

D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer : A

- ✓ REC Limited, a Ministry of Power entity, clinched the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in ‘Renewable Energy Financing’.
- ✓ This accolade acknowledges REC’s dedication to sustainable financing, driving the shift towards renewable energy.
- ✓ As a pivotal player in India’s clean energy transition, REC spearheads numerous sustainable projects and engages in discussions with developers across various green sectors.
- ✓ The SKOCH ESG Awards highlight organizations’ commitment to environmental, social, and governance factors, crucial for India’s sustainable future.

REC LTD IN NEWS 2023-24

- REC Limited, a Ministry of Power entity, clinched the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in ‘Renewable Energy Financing’.
- REC Limited joins hands with UNISED to support Education of Children.



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- REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow', an IIT Madras CSR Summit.
- REC Limited has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond – Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- REC will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana.
- REC Limited issues inaugural Yen Denominated Green Bonds aggregating to 61.1 Billion Japanese Yen.
- REC sets ₹1 lakh crore sanction target for infrastructure space including roads and highways in FY24.
- REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years.
- REC Honoured with 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by Assocham.
- RailTel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd extending up to Rs 30,000 crore as financial assistance for telecom, IT and railway signaling infrastructure projects.
- REC Ltd gets Golden Peacock Award for Disaster Management.
- REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise launched a SUGAM REC mobile application.
- REC Limited and Punjab National Bank have signed an MoU to explore funding possibilities in the Power Infrastructure and logistics sectors.
- The consortium arrangement will co-finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crores over the next three years.
- REC Ltd has become the 12th company to attain the Maharatna status
- REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- Founded : 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- CMD : Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- REC was formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- REC Limited is an NBFC focused on financing and development of the power sector across India.
- REC Limited has also recently started services in the financing infrastructure and logistics sector.
- REC funding lights every fourth bulb in India. REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the Ministry of Power.



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Q. Who has taken over as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India in April 2024?

A) S.S Mallikarjuna Rao

B) Rajneesh Karnatak

C) M. V. Rao

D) Sanjay Nayar

Answer : D

- ✓ Sanjay Nayar, chairman of Sorin Investment Fund, has taken over as president of industry body ASSOCHAM for 2024-25.
- ✓ Sanjay Nair replaces Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD of SpiceJet.
- ✓ Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)
- ✓ Founded : 1920
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ President : Sanjay Nayar

Q. Who is the only Indian to be included in the list of the world's top 10 billionaires as per the Annual Forbes Billionaire List of 2024?

A) Mukesh Ambani

B) Gautam Adani

C) Shiv Nadar

D) Dilip Shanghvi

Answer : A

- ✓ Mukesh Ambani only Indian in top 10 world billionaires list : Forbes.
 - ✓ According to the recently released “Forbes 38th Annual World’s Billionaires List 2024”, Mukesh Ambani, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD), is the only Indian who has made it to the list of the top 10 billionaires of the world.
 - ✓ Mukesh Ambani was ranked 9th on the list, which was topped by Bernard Arnault & family, owner of the French luxury giant LVMH.
 - ✓ According to the Forbes report there are 2781 billionaires in the world from 77 countries .The combined wealth of the billionaires were \$14.2 trillion an increase of \$2 trillion from 2023.
 - ✓ Top Ten Billionaires in the World
 - ✓ Except for Bernard Arnault, who is French, and Mukesh Ambani, who is Indian, all the other eight people are Americans.
1. Bernard Arnault & family, with a total net worth of \$233 billion.



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2. Elon Musk (\$195 billion),
 3. Jeff Bezos (\$194 billion)
 4. Mark Zuckerberg (\$177 billion),
 5. Larry Ellison (\$114 billion),
 6. Warren Buffett (\$133 billion)
 7. Bill Gates (\$128 billion),
 8. Steve Ballmer (\$121 billion)
 9. Mukesh Ambani (\$116 billion)
 10. Larry Page (\$114 billion).
- ✓ Top 5 Indians in the Forbes Billionaire List 2024
1. Mukesh Ambani, with a net worth of \$116 billion, ranked 9th in the world.
 2. Gautam Adani (\$84 billion), ranked 17th in the world.
 3. Shiv Nadar (\$36.9 billion) ranked 39th in the world.
 4. Savitri Jindal & Family (\$33.5 billion), ranked 46th globally.
 5. Dilip Shanghvi (\$26.7 billion) ranked 69th in the world.
- Q. Which country has the highest number of billionaires in the world according to the Forbes 38th Annual World's Billionaires List 2024??**
- A) USA
B) China
C) India
D) Japan

Answer : A

- ✓ **Countries with the highest number of Billionaires**
- ✓ First -The United States of America- The highest number of billionaires were from the United States of America. In 2024, there were 813 American billionaires with a combined wealth of \$ 5.7 trillion
- ✓ Second- China -The second highest number of billionaires were from China. This year's list includes 406 Chinese people with a combined wealth of \$1.3 trillion
- ✓ Third - India - The third highest number of billionaires were Indian citizens. There were 200 Indian billionaires in the 2024 list
- ✓ Fourth - Germany, with 132 billionaires
- ✓ Fifth - Russia with 120 billionaires



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Q. Who celebrated serving food to four billion people at the UN Headquarters in April 2024?

- A) Annamrita Foundation B) Akshaya Patra Foundation
C) Cuddles Foundation D) Rise Against Hunger

Answer : B

- ✓ Celebration of serving food to four billion people at UN Headquarters.
- ✓ Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF) achieved the historic feat of serving four billion thalis.
- ✓ This achievement of Akshaya Patra Foundation was also celebrated in the United Nations.
- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj organized a special event at the UN Headquarters on 2 April 2024. The theme of this event organized at the United Nations was 'Achievements in Food Security: India's Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals'.
- ✓ The event showcased India's innovative strategies, policies and achievements towards achieving food security and nutrition.
- ✓ About Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF):
- ✓ Akshaya Patra Foundation was established in the year 2000. It started with feeding 1,500 children from five schools in Bengaluru.
- ✓ Akshaya Patra Foundation is an India-based NGO.
- ✓ The headquarters of this foundation is in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The Foundation implements the Midday Meal Scheme under the PM Poshan Abhiyaan.
- ✓ Akshaya Patra is currently the world's largest non-profit operation. The Midday Meal Program provides nutritious meals to government school children in more than 22,367 schools spread across 14 states and 2 union territories across India.

Q. HDFC Bank has decided to sell its how much per cent stake in HDFC Education and Development Services Private Ltd?

- A) 90% B) 100%
C) 49% D) 74%

Answer : B

- ✓ HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education
- ✓ HDFC Bank has decided to sell its 100 per cent stake in HDFC Education and Development Services Private Ltd.
- ✓ The transaction will be undertaken through the Swiss challenge method.



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- ✓ HDFC Bank would finalise the purchaser on the basis of the completion of the Swiss challenge process, subsequent to which such purchaser and HDFC Bank will enter into definitive documentation for the purposes of the proposed transaction.

HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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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Q. Who has recently become India's top ranked chess player?

A) Vishwanathan Anand

B) Arjun Erigaisi

C) D. Gukesh

D) R. Praggnanandhaa

Answer : B

- ✓ India's young chess player Arjun Erigaisi has become India's top ranked chess player. With a benchmark rating of 2756, Erigassey is ranked ninth in the world. In this matter, he has left behind five-time world champion Vishwanathan Anand.
- ✓ After 21-year-old Arjun, the second Indian ranked in the FIDE rankings is Vishwanathan Anand.

Q. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has handed over two Dornier 228 aircraft to which country?

A) Kenya

B) Egypt

C) Sri Lanka

D) Guyana

Answer : D

- ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has recently delivered two Dornier 228 aircraft to the Guyana Defence Force.
- ✓ Guyana President Mohamed Irfan Ali has given this information, he had earlier visited the HAL facility in India.
- ✓ Guyana is a country located on the North Atlantic coast of South America.

Q. 'Operation Sankalp', which was in news recently, is related to which of the following?

A) Maritime security

B) child education

C) Cyber security

D) Tribal development

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with the aim of ensuring the security of Indian ships.
- ✓ Operation Sankalp of the Indian Navy, launched in response to the increasing tension in the maritime domain, is a successful effort.



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IMPORTANT OPERATION & CODE NAME IN NEWS 2023-24

- OPERATION INDRAVATI
- India has started Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- OPERATION SANKALP
- Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with the aim of ensuring the security of Indian ships.
- OPERATION RISING SUN
- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a big syndicate involved in smuggling of foreign-origin gold worth around Rs. 40 crore in its operation code named 'Rising Sun' on 12th and 13th March, 2024
- OPERATION KAMDHENU
- Jammu and Kashmir police launched Operation Kamdhenu to curb cattle smuggling.
- OPERATION PROSPERITY GUARDIAN
- Operation Prosperity Guardian is a United States-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed in December 2023 to respond to Houthi-led attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.
- OPERATION AJAY.
- India has launched 'Operation Ajay' to facilitate the return from Israel of those Indians who wish to come back home.
- OPERATION IRON SWORD
- Israel has named the ongoing fight against Hamas as Operation Iron Sword. Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls some areas of the Gaza Strip.
- OPERATION SAJAG
- Indian Coast Guard conducted 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill along the west coast, aimed at enhancing coastal security.
- OPERATION BROADER SWORD.
- India and the USA, jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.
- OPERATION KARUNA
- India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.



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- OPERATION KAVERI
- India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan
- OPERATION DOST
- Due to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, India has launched a campaign named 'Operation Dost' to help the affected people.
- OPERATION GARUDA
- Central Bureau of Investigation has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking network.
- OPERATION YATRI SURAKSHA
- To give assurance of the safety to the passengers, the Indian railways with the coordination of Railway Protection Force has launched a pan India drive under the code name Operation Yatri Suraksha.
- OPERATION "NARCOS"
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently recovered narcotic products worth Rs 7.40 crore under "Operation Narcos".
- OPERATION SANKALP
- Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for Op-Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf.
- OPERATION SATARK
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently started "Operation Satark" taking action against illicit liquor, fake currency circulation, etc.
- OPERATION GANGA
- India launches mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine

Q. Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi has been sworn in as the President of which country?

A) Qatar

B) Egypt

C) Bahrain

D) Malaysia

Answer : B

- ✓ Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was sworn in for his third term as President of Egypt.
- ✓ President Sisi won the presidential election held in December 2023 with 88.6% of the votes.



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- ✓ With this, Al-Sisi will remain the President of the third most populous country in the Arab region till the year 2030.
- ✓ In 2019, the Egyptian constitution was amended, extending the term of the president from four to six years. It also raised the limit for a person to be the president of Egypt from two to three.
- ✓ In the 2014 presidential election, Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi was elected president of Egypt for the first time. He was reelected in 2018
- ✓ Islamic Republic of Egypt
- ✓ Egypt is an Arab country which lies in Africa. It is an ancient civilisation that prospered around the Nile River. Ancient Greek historian Herodotus called Egypt the gift of the Nile.
- ✓ The famous Suez Canal lies in Egypt, joining the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea.
- ✓ Currency: Egyptian pound
- ✓ President: Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi

NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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
- Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey
- Bola Tinubu : Nigeria
- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu : Bangladesh
- Ram Chandra Paudel : Nepal
- Xi Jinping : China (third term)



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➤ Vo Van Thuong : Vietnam

Q. Shigmo festival, recently seen in news, is celebrated in which state?

A) Karnataka

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Odisha

D) Goa

Answer : D

- ✓ Spring has sprung in Goa, igniting the vibrant Shigmo Festival, celebrating Konkan tradition.
- ✓ Lasting from March 26 to April 8, 2024, it bids farewell to winter, welcoming spring's warmth.
- ✓ A fusion of Holi's energy and carnival's flamboyance, Shigmo showcases grand parades with folk performances and mythological floats.
- ✓ Held annually in Panaji, it embodies the essence of springtime bliss for Goans, echoing through the streets with two weeks of arts and culture.

Q. Sanjhi Craft, recently got a GI tag, belongs to which state?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Maharashtra

C) Karnataka

D) Kerala

Answer : A

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh leads India with the most Geographical Indication (GI) certified products, now totaling 69 after the addition of 15 new items, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58.
- ✓ Sanjhi art, originating in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh in the 16th century, is renowned for intricate designs and spiritual significance.
- ✓ Associated with the mother goddess Sanjhi, the craft involves mud images crafted into cosmic forms.
- ✓ It originated around Krishna temples and is now practiced nationwide

Q. Which state emerged as the largest exporter of electronic goods, contributing 30% to the country's total electronic goods exports in FY 24?

A) Telangana

B) Karnataka

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Maharashtra

Answer : C



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- ✓ Tamil Nadu is India's largest exporter of electronic goods, contributing 30% to the country's total electronic goods exports in FY24.
- ✓ From April 2023 to January 2024, Tamil Nadu's electronics exports were valued at \$7.37 billion, which is 32.52% of India's total export of electronic system design and manufacturing (ESDM) goods of \$22.65 billion for the same period. Historically, Tamil Nadu lagged behind Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka in this sector until FY22.
- ✓ However, in recent years, Tamil Nadu has experienced consistent growth.

Q. 'INTERACT project', recently seen in news, is funded by which organization?

- A) European Union
- B) International Labour Organization
- C) United Nations Development Programme
- D) World Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ The International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic (INTERACT) is a EU-funded project granting researchers access to Arctic research stations across Europe, Russia, and North America.
- ✓ It facilitates work in remote areas, fostering cross-fertilization and enabling comparative measurements. Researchers contribute to new research directions while accessing otherwise inaccessible regions

Q. How much rupee's total transactions were done through UPI?

- A) ₹130 lakh crore
- B) ₹210 lakh crore
- C) ₹180 lakh crore
- D) ₹199 lakh crore

Answer : D

- ✓ UPI ends FY24 on a high note, transactions worth ₹199 lakh crore processed
- ✓ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is going from strength to strength.
- ✓ The transactions on UPI ended FY24 on a strong high both, in terms of value and volume.
- ✓ In FY24, the UPI platform processed 13,115 crore transactions, aggregating to ₹199.29 lakh crore, compared to 8,376 crore transactions worth ₹139 lakh crore in FY23, a rise of almost 57% in volume and 43% in value, respectively.



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- ✓ According to figures from NPCI, transactions worth ₹19.78 lakh crore were processed during March 2024, higher than the previous peak of ₹18.41 lakh crore in January 2024.

Q. Which bank has raised around Rs 600 crore through qualified institutional placement by issuing shares to institutional investors in March 2024?

- A) Karnataka Bank B) Bank of India
C) Central Bank of India D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ Karnataka Bank has raised around Rs 600 crore through qualified institutional placement by issuing shares to institutional investors.
- ✓ The qualified institutional placement opened on March 21 and closed on March 27.
- ✓ The institutions that bought shares in the QIP include HSBC Mutual Fund, Morgan Stanley Asia Singapore PTE, HSBC Global Investment Funds, SBI Life etc
- ✓ KARNATAKA BANK
- ✓ Founded : 1924
- ✓ Headquarters : Mangaluru, Karnataka
- ✓ Chairmam : Pradeep Kumar Panja
- ✓ MD & CEO : Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma
- ✓ Tagline : Your Family Bank Across India

Q. Which bank is the leader in credit card issuances, with the lender's cards in circulation standing at 20.40 million?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ In February 2024, the total number of credit cards issued by banks in India surpassed the 100 million mark, with an addition of 1.1 million cards from the previous month.
- ✓ According to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India, the outstanding number of credit cards in the system stood at 100.60 million. In February 2023, the total cards in circulation stood at 99.5 million.



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- ✓ HDFC Bank is the leader in credit card issuances, with the lender's cards in circulation standing at 20.40 million. Other major players include SBI Card with 18.75 million cards, ICICI Bank with 16.84 million, and Axis Bank with 13.90 million.
- ✓ On the other hand, the overall credit card spending among Indians has moderated to Rs 1.49 trillion from Rs 1.66 trillion in January 2024 owing to considerable decline in point of sale (PoS) and e-commerce payments.
- ✓ While PoS transactions dropped to Rs 54,431.48 crore from Rs 58531.77 crore in January 2024. Meanwhile, e-commerce payments declined to Rs 0.95 trillion from Rs 1.08 trillion as the festive season came to an end.

Q. State-owned power giant NTPC has permanently closed its Barauni Thermal Power Station Stage-I of 220 MW. It is located in which state?

- A) Bihar
B) Chhattisgarh
C) Jharkhand
D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ State-owned power giant NTPC has permanently closed its Barauni Thermal Power Station Stage-I of 220 MW.
- ✓ The company acquired Barauni Thermal Power Station (720 MW) in Begusarai district, Bihar, from Bihar State Power Generation Company on December 15, 2018.
- ✓ Established in 1975, NTPC aims to become a 130 GW firm by 2032.
- ✓ Operation of NTPC Barauni Thermal Power Station Stage-I (2×110 MW) comprising of two Units (Unit 6 & 7) of 110 MW each (along with all Auxiliary systems except CHP, Switchyard, Ash Dyke and Township) shall be permanently discontinued w.e.f. 31st March 2024.

Q. Which company has signed an MoU with Panasonic Group company Panasonic Energy Co. to manufacture cylindrical lithium-ion cells in India?

- A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
B) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

Answer : C



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- ✓ State-owned refiner Indian Oil Corporation and Panasonic Group company Panasonic Energy Co. have signed a binding term sheet to draw framework of their proposed joint venture (JV) to manufacture cylindrical lithium-ion cells in India.
- ✓ This initiative is driven by the anticipated expansion of demand for batteries for two- and three-wheel vehicles and energy storage systems in the Indian market.
- ✓ The two companies are engaged in a feasibility study on utilisation of battery technology for facilitating the transition to clean energy in India. They aim to finalise details of their collaboration by the summer of this year.
- ✓ Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- ✓ Founded : 1959
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman : Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- ✓ Owner : Government of India (52.1%)

Q. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Union Asset Management Company?

A) Madhu Nair

B) Tilak Mehta

C) Kavita Shukla

D) Akhilendra Sahu

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Asset Management Company has appointed Madhu Nair as the Chief Executive Officer.
- ✓ He will replace G Pradeepkumar who tendered his resignation after 14 years of service.
- ✓ Nair comes with over 25 years of diverse experience across various market segments. He was instrumental in building up asset management companies such as HSBC, Invesco and Kotak, during his career span of two and a half decades.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Group Head of Mortgage Business in HDFC Bank?

A) Sumant Rampal

B) Kunal Shah

C) Arjun Rai

D) Deepak Ravindran

Answer : A

- ✓ HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.



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- ✓ Sumant Rampal has been with the bank for over 24 years. He has worked in various business domains, such as corporate banking, emerging corporate groups and business banking verticals.
- ✓ Prior to the new role, he was the Group Head of Business Banking Working Capital, Rural Banking Group and Sustainability Livelihood Initiative.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Executive Director of Union Bank of India (UBI)?

- A) Pankaj Dwivedi B) Nithin Kamath
C) Deepanjali Dalmia D) Peyush Bansal

Answer : A

- ✓ Pankaj Dwivedi has been appointed as the Executive Director of Union Bank of India (UBI).
- ✓ Following his appointment, the bank now has four Executive Directors (EDs). Besides Dwivedi, the other EDs are – Nitesh Ranjan, Ramasubramanian S and Sanjay Rudra.
- ✓ A Manimekhalai is helming the bank as MD & CEO.
- ✓ Prior to joining UBI, Dwivedi was General Manager in Punjab & Sind Bank (P&SB).
- ✓ He has more than 31 years banking experience, having worked at P&SB branches, zonal office and various departments at head office.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Schaeffler India Ltd?

- A) Harsha Kadam B) Suumit Shah
C) Rohit Kashyap D) Trishneet Arora

Answer : B

- ✓ Schaeffler India Ltd has re-appointed Harsha Kadam as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company.
- ✓ According to stock exchange disclosure, Kadam's new term will commence on October 1, 2024, and extend through September 30, 2027.
- ✓ Kadam has over three decades of expertise, spanning across domains including sales, manufacturing, product design and development, and business excellence.
- ✓ He joined Schaeffler India in 2018 as president of Industrial Business. He later took up the role of MD and CEO in 2019 for an initial five-year tenure.



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Q. Who was honored with the 'International Culture Award' in March 2024?

- A) Sanjay Kumaran B) Meena Charanda
C) Ritesh Agarwal D) Advait Thakur

Answer : B

- ✓ Principal of Kalindi College (Delhi University), Professor Meena Charanda has been given the 'International Culture Award' for the year 2024.
- ✓ Prof. Meena Charanda has been given this honor for her remarkable work in the field of education and social service.
- ✓ Charanda was given a memento, plaque, shield and citation from the university in the award.

Q. Which institution releases the "South Asia Development Update" report?

- A) World Bank B) World Economic Forum
C) International Monetary Fund (IMF) D) World Trade Organization (WTO)

Answer : A

- ✓ World Bank, in its bi-annual report "South Asia Development Update" released on 2 April 2024, has increased its growth rate forecast for the Indian economy for 2024-25 to 6.6 per cent. In the last report, it estimated a growth rate of 6.4% for the Indian economy in FY 25. The World Bank cited increased public investment in the economy as a reason for upgrading the Indian economic growth rate.
- ✓ However, the World Bank forecasted a growth rate of 7.5% for 2023-24, which is lower than that of the National Statistical Office (NSO) 7.6 per cent.

Q. Bindyarani, who was in the news recently, belongs to which field?

- A) Shooting B) Boxing
C) Weightlifter D) Tennis

Answer : C

- ✓ Bindyarani Devi wins Bronze in the IWF World Cup.
- ✓ Bindyarani Devi, the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 silver medallist, won a bronze medal at the IWF World Cup 2024, held in Phuket, Thailand, on 2 April 2024.
- ✓ Mirabai Chanu became the only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024. Bindyarani Devi and Mirabai Chanu were the only two Indians who were competing in the IWF World Cup 2024.



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- ✓ The IWF World Cup 2024 is being organised by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) from 31st March to 11 April 2024 in Phuket, Thailand
- ✓ North Korea's Kang Hyon Gyong won the gold medal with a lift of 234 Kg and silver was won by Romania's Mihaela Cambei.
- ✓ The 32nd Summer Olympics will be held in the French capital, Paris, from 26 July to 11 August 2024.
- ✓ International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)
- ✓ The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) was established in 1905
- ✓ Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- ✓ President: Mohamad Hassan Jaloud

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to PRATUSH telescope:

1. It is a radio telescope developed by the Raman Research Institute and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

2. It aims to study the impact of radio waves on the outer environment of the Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ Astronomers are looking forward to opening a new window on the universe by posting high-resolution telescopes on the moon, and in orbit around it including one from India called PRATUSH.
- ✓ Probing Reionization of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen (PRATUSH) is a radio telescope to be sited on the moon's far side.
- ✓ It is being built by the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bengaluru with active collaboration from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ Initially, ISRO will place PRATUSH into orbit around the earth. After some fine-tuning, the space agency will launch it moonwards.
- ✓ Main roles: It will be to detect signals from the first stars and galaxies, reveal the cosmic dawn of the universe, answering the question when the first stars formed, the nature of the first stars and what was the light from the first stars.



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- ✓ It will carry a wideband frequency-independent antenna, a self-calibrating analog receiver and a digital correlator to catch radio noise in the all-important signal from the Dark Ages.
- ✓ The target instrument sensitivity is at the level of few millikelvin without being limited by any systematic features.

ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) located at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram has launched a multi-purpose app 'SAKHI' (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction-SAKHI) to assist the Gaganyaan crew.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ISRO Chairman have already said that by 2040 we should have an Indian astronaut on the moon and also to have our space station by 2035.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- ISRO has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.
- Vyommitra (Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO's "Gaganyaan" Mission
- ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.



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- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) .
- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to myCGHS App:

1. It has a 2-factor authentication and mPIN features.

2. It is developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT).

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 secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the myCGHS app for iOS ecosystem of devices.
- ✓ It is designed to enhance access to Electronic Health Records, information, and resources for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.



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- ✓ It is developed by the technical teams of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and NIC Health Team.
- ✓ It is a convenient mobile application offering features aimed at enhancing information and accessibility for CGHS beneficiaries.

Q. Where was India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer launched?

A) IIT Bombay

B) IIT Delhi

C) IIT Kharagpur

D) IIT Varanasi

Answer : A

- ✓ President of India Draupadi Murmu launched India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- ✓ India's first CAR-T cell therapy has been developed in collaboration with IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital.
- ✓ Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the launch of India's first gene therapy is a major breakthrough in our fight against cancer

IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

- President of India Draupadi Murmu launched India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support.
- IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users
- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd.
- Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.



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

Q. Which ballistic missile was successfully tested by DRDO recently?

A) Agni-Prime

B) Nag

C) Trishul

D) Prahar



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Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, Strategic Forces Command and DRDO successfully tested the new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, SFC and the armed forces for this testing. Agni-Prime is a two-stage surface-to-surface missile.

DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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Q. Which company has signed a \$100-million multi-year contract with an Airbus group entity to provide 2,300 varieties of metallic components to Airbus Atlantic in France from its manufacturing base in India?

- A) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) B) Reliance Industries Limited
C) Mahindra Aerostructures D) Hindustan Unilever Limited

Answer : C

- ✓ The Bengaluru-based Mahindra Aerostructures has signed a \$100-million multi-year contract with an Airbus group entity.
- ✓ Under the contract, Mahindra Aerostructures will supply close to 2,300 varieties of metallic components to Airbus Atlantic in France from its manufacturing base in India.
- ✓ This new contract from Airbus Atlantic opens a new frontier in our existing relationship with the Airbus Group.

Q. Which insurance company has launched a premium payment service on its WhatsApp platform marking the first-ever launch of its kind in the life insurance sector?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, has launched a premium payment service on its WhatsApp platform marking the first-ever launch of its kind in the life insurance sector.
- ✓ Previously limited to UPI-based transactions, Tata AIA consumers can now use a wide range of payment methods within WhatsApp.
- ✓ Using WhatsApp, policyholders can now easily make renewal payments through credit card, debit card, and net banking options. Policyholders can now pay premium up to INR 1 crore, instead of the earlier limit of INR 2 lakh.

Q. AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) amalgamated with which of the following small finance bank, marking the first such consolidation in the sector?

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



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Answer : C

- ✓ AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) amalgamated Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB), marking the first such consolidation in the sector.
- ✓ In an all-stock merger deal first announced on October 29, 2023, where the shareholders of Fincare SFB received 579 equity shares in AU SFB for every 2,000 equity shares held in Fincare SFB, the merger received final approval from RBI on March 4, 2024, with the effective date of April 1, 2024.
- ✓ The merger is also expected to provide AU SFB with enhanced access to South India, significantly expanding its distribution network.

Q. Which of the following has joined Meta's Third-Party Fact-Checking Partnership (3PFC) programme to identify, review and rate content as misinformation across Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp?

A) Press Trust of India

B) News on Air

C) Prasar Bharati

D) Doordarshan

Answer : A

- ✓ Press Trust of India (PTI) has joined Meta's Third-Party Fact-Checking Partnership (3PFC) programme to identify, review and rate content as misinformation across Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.
- ✓ Meta announced the onboarding of India's leading news agency as it seeks to expand its third-party fact-checking network just as electioneering for the Lok Sabha polls has picked up.
- ✓ This collaboration will strengthen the fight against misinformation in India's digital landscape and empower users to navigate the online world with greater confidence

Q. Barbara Rush passed away recently at the age of 97. Who was she?

A) Film Director

B) Politician

C) Social Worker

D) Actress

Answer : D

- ✓ Veteran Hollywood actor Barbara Rush died in Los Angeles. She was 97.
- ✓ Rush was known for her roles in 'It Came from Outer Space' and 'Peyton Place'.
- ✓ Rush won a Golden Globe Award in 1954 for the most promising newcomer in 'It Came from Outer Space'.



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- ✓ Her career spanned across seven decades and has appeared in numerous films and television shows. She featured alongside actors such as Paul Newman, Rock Hudson, Dean Martin, Marlon Brando, Frank Sinatra and Richard Burton.

Q. Who has become the sole Indian weightlifter who qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024?

- A) Mirabai Chanu B) Kunjarani Devi
C) Gurdeep Singh D) Karnam Malleswari

Answer : A

- ✓ Mirabai Chanu, Tokyo Olympics medallist, secures her spot at the Paris Olympics, making history as the sole Indian weightlifter to qualify.
- ✓ At the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand, the 29-year-old Olympic silver medalist finished third in Group B of women's 49kg, earning 11th place overall.
- ✓ After a six-month injury lay-off, Chanu lifted a total of 184kg at the event, solidifying her berth for the 2024 Paris Games.

Q. 'NICES Programme', recently seen in news, is operated by which organization?

- A) ISRO B) DRDO
C) IEA D) SEBI

Answer : A

- ✓ NICES programme, operated by ISRO and the Department of Space, called upon Indian researchers to combat climate change.
- ✓ Launched in 2012 under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, NICES monitors climate variability using Earth Observation satellites.
- ✓ Its objectives include disseminating Essential Climate Variables crucial for understanding Earth's climate.
- ✓ With over 70 accessible geophysical variables, NICES focuses on space-based indicators, weather extremes, and climate services.

Q. 'Jobs for Resilience report', recently seen in news, is released by which organization?

- A) World Bank B) IMF
C) ILO D) WTO

Answer : A



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- ✓ The World Bank's 'South Asia Regional Update: Jobs for Resilience report' highlights that the region, including India, isn't leveraging its demographic dividend due to insufficient job creation.
- ✓ While projecting a robust 6.0-6.1% growth for 2024-25, South Asia's output surpasses other emerging markets, largely driven by India.
- ✓ However, private investment remains weak, posing downside risks to growth.
- ✓ The report emphasizes the need for addressing underlying vulnerabilities to sustain growth in the region.

Q. Who has recently been appointed as the new Managing Director of Tata International?

- A) Ravichandran Anand B) Mahesh Kumar Sinha
C) Rajiv Singhal D) Anand Sen

Answer : C

- ✓ Tata International, the global trading and distribution arm of the Tata Group, has recently appointed Rajeev Singhal as its Managing Director (MD).
- ✓ He replaced Anand Sen, who retired on March 31, 2024.
- ✓ Prior to this, Singhal was the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Tata International

Q. Kathia wheat, which has recently been given GI tag, belongs to which state?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ 'Kathiya Gehu', an agricultural produce of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, has recently been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ The application for GI tag for this crop was made in the year 2022. The GI tag was granted after a two-year long process.

Q. The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed by the United Nations on which day?

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

Answer : A



- ✓ The United Nations' International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is celebrated every year on 4th of April 4.
- ✓ The day was declared by the UNGA on 8 December 2005, to raise awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.
- ✓ The celebrations is led by United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)- Headquarter- New York, United States.

Q. How many billion euros is NATO preparing to fund to support Ukraine in its war with Russia?

- A) 50 billion Euros B) 100 billion Euros
C) 150 billion Euros D) 200 billion Euros

Answer : B

- ✓ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is changing its existing policy under a proposal and creating a 100 billion euro fund for five years to support Ukraine in its war with Russia.
- ✓ This proposal has been made by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.
- ✓ This would put NATO, the military alliance of 32 Western nations, at the forefront of aiding Ukraine.
- ✓ NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance of 32 member states (30 European and 2 North American).

NATO IN NEWS 2023- 24

- NATO is changing its existing policy under a proposal and creating a 100 billion euro fund for five years to support Ukraine in its war with Russia.
- Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has recently announced the formal suspension of the Cold War-era security treaty.
- Finland becomes 31st member of Nato.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Formation : 4 April 1949
- Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary General : Jens Stoltenberg (Norway)



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

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Agni-Prime missile:

1. It is a nuclear-capable new-generation missile.

2. It has a maximum range of 1,000 to 2,000 km.

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 new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime was successfully flight-tested by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) along with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ It is a nuclear-capable new-generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles.
- ✓ It is a two-stage canisterised missile with a maximum range of 1,000 to 2,000 km.
- ✓ It is lighter than all the earlier Agni series of missiles. It weighs at least 50 per cent less than the Agni 3 missile and has new guidance and propulsion systems.
- ✓ The first test of the 'Agni Prime' was conducted in 2021, while the second test was conducted six months later in December. Last year in June, the DRDO carried out the first night launch of the 'Agni Prime' missile.



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Q. With reference to Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health (S.A.R.A.H.), consider the following statements:

1. It is a digital health promoter prototype powered by generative artificial intelligence.
2. It is an initiative of the World Health Organisation (WHO).
3. It can provide information about diseases in all major languages of the world.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) announced the launch of S.A.R.A.H., a digital health promoter prototype.
- ✓ Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health (S.A.R.A.H.) is a digital health promoter prototype with enhanced empathetic response powered by generative artificial intelligence (AI).
- ✓ It is launched by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ✓ It aims to provide an additional tool for people to realize their rights to health, wherever they are.
- ✓ Features
 - ✓ It is trained to provide information across major health topics, including healthy habits and mental health, to help people optimize their health and well-being journey.
 - ✓ It can engage users 24 hours a day in 8 languages on multiple health topics, on any device.
 - ✓ It is now powered by generative AI rather than a pre-set algorithm or script helping her to provide more accurate responses in real-time.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q. Who has been recently appointed as a member of the Economic Advisory Panel by the World Bank Group?

- A) Amitabh Kant B) Rajiv Sinha
C) Rakesh Mohan D) Ajay Mohan Singh

Answer : C

- ✓ The World Bank Group has recently appointed former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Rakesh Mohan, as a member of the Economic Advisory Panel.



- ✓ New Delhi-based think tank Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) has given this information.
- ✓ Currently, Mohan is also a part-time member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

Q. Which airport became the 14th airport in India to launch the Digi Yatra system?

- A) Jay Prakash Narayan Airport, Bihar
- B) Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Chandigarh
- C) Manohar International Airport, Goa
- D) Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport, Madhya Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ The Manohar International Airport, Mopa, joins 13 others in India adopting the Digi Yatra system, enhancing travel convenience.
- ✓ Launched by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, it utilizes facial recognition to streamline passenger verification, reducing wait times and simplifying procedures.
- ✓ Passengers download the DigiYatra app, link it to their Aadhaar number, and create a Digi Yatra ID for ticket purchase.
- ✓ At the airport, scanning the boarding pass initiates facial recognition for seamless entry.

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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).



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

Q. What target has the India set for the export of marine products in 2023-24?

A) \$9.1 billion

B) \$7.7 billion

C) \$8.6 billion

D) \$11.1billion

Answer : A

- ✓ India aims to boost marine product exports to \$12 billion in two years through increased processing capacity and higher-value products.
- ✓ In 2022-23, exports totaled \$8.09 billion.



- ✓ However, from April to February 2023-24, exports dipped 7.5% to \$6.8 billion, largely due to decreased exports to the US and Europe.
- ✓ The government targets \$9.1 billion in exports for 2023-24.
- ✓ India ranks third in fish production globally and second in aquaculture.

Q. India will build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by which year?

- A) 2027-28**
- B) 2029-30**
- C) 2030-31**
- D) 2031-32**

Answer : B

- ✓ India plans to build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30, granting the operator the freedom to trade all of the stored oil.
- ✓ Allowing a fully commercial SPR mirrors the model adopted by countries such as Japan and South Korea, which allow private lessees, mostly oil majors, to trade the crude.
- ✓ So far, India has allowed only partial commercialization for its three existing SPRs in southern India, which have a combined capacity of 36.7 million barrels.
- ✓ India plans to build two new SPRs – the first a 18.3 million barrels cavern at Padur in southern Karnataka state, and then a 29.3 million barrels SPR in eastern Odisha state – with private partners allowed to trade all of the oil locally.
- ✓ PRL estimates the Padur SPR and linked pipeline and oil import facility would cost about 55 billion rupees (\$659 million), with the federal government providing up to 60 per cent of the total.

TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023-24

- India plans to build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India's plan to establish its own space station by 2035.
- National Strategic Plan & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027.
- India self-reliant in pulses by December 2027
- Indian Consumer Tech To Touch \$300 Bn By 2027.
- India is expected to overtake Japan and Germany to emerge as the third largest economy in the world by 2027.



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



Q. Government has raised how much rupees via public sector enterprises disinvestment in FY 24 ?

- A) Rs 16,507 crore B) Rs 31,120 crore
C) Rs 27,123 crore D) Rs 20,103 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ Govt raised Rs 16,507 crore via public sector enterprises disinvestment in FY'24
- ✓ The government has garnered Rs 16,507 crore by selling minority stake in state-owned companies in 2023-24 fiscal, lower than what was projected in its revised estimates.
- ✓ During the 2023-24 fiscal, which ended March 31, the government sold stakes in 10 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) through offer for sale (OFS).
- ✓ Share sale in Coal India fetched Rs 4,186 crore, while in NHPC and NLC India it garnered Rs 2,488 crore and Rs 2,129 crore, respectively. The government raised Rs 858 crore through initial public offering of IREDA.
- ✓ The government also sold shares in RVNL, SJVN, IRCON International, HUDCO and earned remittances from SUUTI.
- ✓ The budget had pegged disinvestment proceeds for 2023-24 fiscal at Rs 51,000 crore. However, the revised estimates (RE) on February 1, 2024, did away with separate head for disinvestment receipts

Q. Who was honoured with the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024?

- A) Reliance Industries B) SJVN Limited
C) Adani Green D) Tata Telecom

Answer : B

- ✓ SJVN Limited has won two prestigious awards at the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024 instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council.
- ✓ SJVN was awarded the 'Achievement Award for Creating Social Development and Impact' and the 'CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy'.

Q. Who won the title of CCI Snooker Classic?

- A) Pankaj Advani B) Kamal Chawla
C) Abhay Kapoor D) Shreyansh Sinha

Answer : A



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- ✓ World champion Pankaj Advani continued his dominance during the CCI Snooker Classic in Mumbai to win the title.
- ✓ In the final, Pankaj defeated Kamal Chawla 8-3.
- ✓ Pankaj Advani has won the CCI Snooker Classic title in the last two years and has now retained the billiards title

Q. Who has becomes first company in India to surpass 10,000 MW renewable energy capacity?

- A) NTPC Ltd
- B) Adani Green Energy
- C) JSW Energy
- D) Power Grid Corporation

Answer : B

- ✓ Adani Green Energy becomes first company in India to surpass 10,000 MW renewable energy capacity
- ✓ Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), India's largest and one of the world's leading renewable energy (RE) companies, has surpassed 10,000 megawatts (MW) of operational portfolio, delivering reliable, affordable, and clean power to the national grid.
- ✓ AGEL's operational portfolio consists of 7,393 MW solar, 1,401 MW wind and 2,140 MW wind-solar hybrid capacity.
- ✓ The milestone is a testament to AGEL and its development partners firmly moving towards the goal of 45,000 MW renewable energy by 2030.
- ✓ AGEL's 10,934 MW operational portfolio will power more than 5.8 million homes and avoid about 21 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.
- ✓ AGEL is developing the world's largest renewable energy project of 30,000 MW on barren land at Khavda in Kutch, Gujarat. Built across 538 sq km, it is five times the size of Paris and almost as large as Mumbai city.
- ✓ Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL)
- ✓ Founded : 2015
- ✓ Headquarters : Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- ✓ MD & CEO : Vneet Jain



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Answer : C

- ✓ Bank of Maharashtra has appointed Subhasish Roy as chief risk officer for a period of 3 years on contractual basis with effect from 1 April 2024.
- ✓ Subhasish Roy has pursued Financial Risk Manager (FRM), MBA, M.Phil, M.Sc, CAIIB.

Q. Who has been roped by the Election Commission of India to urge the youngsters to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections?

- A) Rajkummar Rao B) Pankaj Tripathi
C) Ayushmann Khurrana D) Yami Gautam

Answer : C

- ✓ Actor Ayushmann Khurrana has been roped by the Election Commission of India to urge the youngsters to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
- ✓ The 39-year-old actor features in the ECI's campaign video that encourages the youth to exercise their franchise in the upcoming elections.
- ✓ Everyone must vote and be conscious citizens by participating in the process of nation-building. The power to choose the leaders who will represent the country, represent our needs in the Parliament rests with us, the actor added.

Q. President of India launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer at which place?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India's President, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched the nation's inaugural home-grown gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- ✓ The groundbreaking "CAR-T cell therapy" offers affordable hope in the cancer fight.
- ✓ This medical milestone, a part of 'Make in India,' embodies 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.'
- ✓ Developed collaboratively by IIT Bombay, Tata Memorial Hospital, and ImmunoACT, it marks a significant achievement in research and development.
- ✓ Gene therapy holds promise in treating various diseases, heralding a new era in healthcare.



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Q. Where was the 19th annual meeting of the secretaries of the security councils of the SCO held?

- A) Dushanbe, Tajikistan B) Astana, Kazakhstan
C) Tashkent, Uzbekistan D) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian NSA Ajit Doval led the delegation at the SCO Secretaries of Security Councils meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ He met Kazakhstan's President Tokayev, advocating for a Cooperation Programme against terrorism, separatism, and extremism for 2025-2027.
- ✓ President Tokayev emphasized the need for a unified approach to counter "three evil forces" and transnational crimes like drug trafficking and cyber threats.
- ✓ The meeting aimed to enhance security cooperation among SCO member states

Q. When is International Mine Awareness Day observed every year?

- A) 03 April B) 04 April
C) 05 April D) 06 April

Answer : C

- ✓ National Maritime Day is celebrated every year on 5th April.
- ✓ This reflects the importance of the maritime sector in the country's international trade and economic development.
- ✓ This day was first celebrated on April 5, 1964.
- ✓ Theme of National Maritime Day 2024 is "Navigating the Future: Safety First!" (Navigating the future: safety first!) Is.

Q. Which one of the following statements best describes 'Project Akashteer'?

- A) An initiative of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to address the issues of malnutrition in rural India.
B) An initiative by the Indian Army to automate air defense control.
C) An initiative of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to detect celestial objects.
D) An initiative of the Ministry of Finance to facilitate low-cost funding to space start-ups

Answer : B



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- ✓ The Indian Army has initiated the induction of control and reporting systems under 'Project Akashteer' to bolster its air defense capabilities.
- ✓ It is a cutting-edge initiative designed to automate air defense control and reporting processes by digitizing them.
- ✓ It aims to deliver an unprecedented level of situational awareness and control for the force to ensure the safety of friendly aircraft and engage hostile aircraft in contested airspace.
- ✓ It will enable monitoring of low-level airspace over the battle areas of the Indian Army and effectively control the Ground Based Air Defence Weapon Systems.
- ✓ Key facts about Akashteer Command and Control Systems
- ✓ It is developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.
- ✓ The system's control centers, designed to be vehicle-based and mobile, can maintain operational capabilities even in challenging communication environments.

Q. Kumittipathi rock paintings, recently seen in news, are found in:

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Miscreants have caused damage to the rock art paintings at the cave at Kumittipathi, a village near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ These paintings believed to be around 3,000 years old and are among the important rock arts in the Kongu region.
- ✓ Theme: The paintings depict an elephant, ther (chariot, some say it is a peacock), and the lives of early dwellers of the region.
- ✓ There are small pits and holes in the cave, which are believed to have been used to store water and other belongings.
- ✓ Material used: They used an inorganic white pigment, along with natural gum to paint the figures.
- ✓ While most of the rock painting sites in Tamil Nadu are found on rock shelters, those at Kumittipathi are drawn inside a cave



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TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023-24

- Conservationists plan to nominate Kazhuveli watershed region of Tamil Nadu for inclusion in World Monuments Fund Watch 2025, linking local preservation efforts with global attention and action.
- The Khelo India Youth Games 2024 will be held in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- 'Guidance', the nodal agency for investment promotion of Tamil Nadu, has received the United Nations Promotion Award 2023.
- Project Nilgiri Tahr' launched in Tamil Nadu.
- The second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will come up in about two years at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- The U.K. and Tamil Nadu collaborate on a smart technology project for sustainable water, waste, and resource management.
- Recently, Udangudi 'Panangkarupatti' (palm jaggery/ gur) from Tamil Nadu has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tamil Nadu government has unveiled its new tourism policy to develop the State into the most attractive experiential destination in Asia.
- Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- Bhadrawah 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.



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- ✓ Eligibility: Retail investors can register under the scheme and maintain an RDG account, if they have the following: Rupee savings bank account maintained in India, PAN, any officially valid document for KYC purpose, valid email-ID and registered mobile number.
- ✓ Payments for transactions can be done conveniently using a saving bank account through internet-banking or Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ✓ Investor services include provisions for transaction and balance statements, nomination facility, pledge or lien of securities and gift transactions. No fees will be charged for facilities provided under the scheme.
- ✓ To further improve ease of access, a mobile application of the Retail Direct portal is being developed. The app will enable investors to buy and sell instruments on the go, at their convenience.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA):

1. It is an intergovernmental organization established to lead a collaborative worldwide movement for doping-free sport.

2. It monitors the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), the document harmonizing anti-doping policies in all sports and all countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ India has emerged as the country with the highest percentage of doping offenders, according to the 2022 testing figures released by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- ✓ About World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA):
- ✓ WADA was established in 1999 as an international independent agency to lead a collaborative worldwide movement for doping-free sport.
- ✓ WADA's governance and funding are based on an equal partnership between the sport movement and governments of the world.
- ✓ WADA's primary role is to develop, harmonize, and coordinate anti-doping rules and policies across all sports and countries.



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- ✓ Its key activities include scientific research, education, the development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), the document harmonizing anti-doping policies in all sports and all countries.
- ✓ Formation:
- ✓ After the events that shook the world of cycling in the summer of 1998, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided to convene a World Conference on Doping.
- ✓ The First World Conference on Doping in Sport held, in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1999, produced the Lausanne Declaration on Doping in Sport.
- ✓ It provided for the creation of an independent international anti-doping agency to be operational for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000.
- ✓ WADA is a Swiss private law, not-for-profit foundation. Its seat is in Lausanne, Switzerland, and its headquarters are in Montreal, Canada.

Q. The Washington Treaty (1949) laid the foundation for which one of the following international organizations?

A) United Nations

B) European Union

C) World Trade Organization (WTO)

D) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Answer : D

- ✓ NATO Foreign Ministers recently gathered at NATO Headquarters to mark 75 years since the signing of the Washington Treaty.
- ✓ About Washington Treaty:
- ✓ The Washington Treaty, or North Atlantic Treaty, forms the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- ✓ The Treaty was signed in Washington D.C. on 4 April, 1949, by 12 founding members.
- ✓ The Treaty derives its authority from Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the inherent right of independent states to individual or collective defence.
- ✓ Key Facts about NATO:
- ✓ NATO is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty.
- ✓ It currently has 32 alliance members from North America and Europe.
- ✓ NATO's fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security through political and military means.



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- ✓ It is a system of collective defence where independent member states agree for mutual defence in case of any attack by an external party.
- ✓ Article 5 of the Washington Treaty states that an attack against one ally is an attack against all.
- ✓ Military: NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations.
- ✓ Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Q. How many Indians have been included in the World Economic Forum Young Global Leaders Community: The Class of 2024?

A) 5

B) 6

C) 3

D) 4

Answer : A

- ✓ World Economic Forum (WEF) announced its 20th edition of Young Global Leaders Community: The Class of 2024 on 4 April 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ The list includes nearly 90 young people under 40 years of age from diverse fields of politics, business, civil society, the arts, and academia.
- ✓ This year, five Indians, including the famous film actress Bhumi Pednekar, have been included in the list.
- ✓ Bhumi Pednekar is known for her roles in films like "Dum Laga Ke Haisha", "Toilet: Ek Prem Katha", "Bala", "Shubh Mangal Saavdhan" and "Badhaai Do",
- ✓ Indians included in the WEF Forum of Young Global Leaders 2024
- ✓ Five Indians, mainly from the fields of Art and culture, Business, and Social entrepreneurship, have been included in this year's list.
 1. Bhumi Pednekar : Art and Culture
 2. Adwaita Nayar : Business
 3. Arjun Bhartia : Business
 4. Priya Aggarwal Hebbur : Business
 5. Sharad Vivek Sagar : Social Entrepreneurs.
- ✓ World Economic Forum
- ✓ The World Economic Forum was established by German Klaus Schwab in 1971 as a non-profit international organisation that promotes Public-Private Cooperation.
- ✓ Headquarters of WEF: Cologny, Switzerland



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- ✓ Record GI registration in March 2024
- ✓ According to the patent office, this year, a record 63 GI tag was issued on a single day on 30 March 2024. The maximum number of products to be granted GI tags was from
 - ✓ Assam - 19 products
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh- 16
 - ✓ Maharashtra- 16
 - ✓ Gujarat -5
 - ✓ Meghalaya -4
 - ✓ Tripura -2

GI TAG IN NEWS 2023-24

- The famous silver filigree (Rupa Tarakasi) of the millennium Cuttack city in Odisha recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' gets received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag.
- On December 4, 2023, Uttarakhand became the 1st state in the country to get GI certificates for a maximum of 18 products in a single day.
- Till now, a total of 27 products of Uttarakhand have received GI tag.
- West Bengal achieves Geographical Indication tags for distinctive products, including 'Mouban' honey from Sunderbans, 'Prince of Rice' Black Nunia rice, and traditional Tangail, Gorod, etc.
 - 1. Recognition of Sunderbans Honey – 'Mouban'
 - 2. Black Nunia Rice – 'Prince of Rice'
 - 3. Distinctive Sarees – Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal.
- As a part of the National GI Drive Mission, 'Kadiyal Sarees' of West Bengal have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Ladakh secures 4th GI tag for Sea Buckthorn.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Goan cashew (Fruit and Nut) was recently granted the geographical indication (GI) tag.



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- Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir.
- GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-
- GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.
- The second GI tag in India was given to Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft) which is a mirror and made in Kerala.
- A GI is registered for an initial period of ten years, which must be renewed after 10 years.

Q. Which countries have signed an agreement to work together on testing for advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models in April 2024?

A) UK & USA

B) Japan and Russia

C) USA & Japan

D) China & India

Answer : A

- ✓ United States and the United Kingdom have signed an agreement to work together on testing advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models on April 1, 2024.
- ✓ The agreement follows commitments made at the Bletchley Park AI Security Summit last year.
- ✓ Officials from both countries signed off, following commitments announced at the AI Security Summit at Bletchley Park in November.
- ✓ About Artificial Intelligence (AI):



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- ✓ AI began in the 1950s. Artificial intelligence means intellectual ability developed artificially.
- ✓ Computer system or robotic systems are created through AI. An attempt is made to run it on the basis of the same logic on the basis of which the human brain works.
- ✓ According to John McCarthy, the father of AI, it is the science and engineering of creating intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs. That is, it is the intelligence displayed by machines.

Q. Who is the first Indian woman to be appointed as a Jury in the Paris Olympics?

- A) Bilquis Mir**
- B) Karnam Malleswari**
- C) Mary Kom**
- D) Saina Nehwal**

Answer : A

- ✓ Bilquis Mir of Jammu Kashmir has become the first Indian to be appointed a jury member at the 33rd Summer Olympics to be held in Paris, France, from 26 July -11 August 2024.
- ✓ She is also the first woman from India to be made a jury member in the Olympics games.
- ✓ Bilquis Mir, who is a qualified jury member, was a jury member at the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China, last year.
- ✓ According to the Indian Olympic Association, former canoeist Bilquis Mir was nominated by the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association to officiate at the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Bilquis Mir to be a Jury member at three International events
- ✓ Apart from performing jury duty at the Paris Olympics, Bilquis Mir will also be a part of the jury at two other international events.
- ✓ She will serve as a jury member for the Olympic qualifying rounds of Kayaking & Canoeing (Asia) to be held in Tokyo (Japan) from April 18 to 20,2024.
- ✓ She will also be a jury member at the 2024 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from August 23 to 25, 2024.
- ✓ Both Kayaking and Canoeing are water sports. Canoeing/Kayaking was introduced as a demonstration sport in the 1924 Paris Olympics



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FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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.
- 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.



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



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Q. What is the name of World's largest digital camera?

- A) Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) camera
- B) Sony ILCE-6100Y Mirrorless Camera
- C) Canon EOS 3000D Digital Camera
- D) Panasonic DMC-G7KGW-K Mirrorless Camera

Answer : A

- ✓ Scientists are on the verge of exploring the greatest mysteries of the universe using a powerful new tool, the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) camera.
- ✓ Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) camera
- ✓ This camera, funded by the US Department of Energy's Office of Science, boasts a record-breaking 3,200 megapixels, designed to capture unprecedented detail of the cosmos and shed light on elusive dark matter and dark energy.
- ✓ This astronomical heavyweight weighs a whopping 3 tonnes and boasts the highest resolution ever achieved for a space camera. It features three colossal lenses, the largest of which exceeds 5 feet in diameter, and can capture razor-sharp images
- ✓ LSST camera will be placed at Vera C Rubin Observatory
- ✓ The Vera C Rubin Observatory, located in a remote area of Chile, will soon be equipped with the LSST camera, which provides an unobstructed view of the southern sky

Q. India has allowed the export of essential commodities to which country in 2024-25 without any restrictions ?

- A) China
- B) Pakistan
- C) Maldives
- D) Bangladesh

Answer : C

- ✓ India to continue supply of essential commodities to Maldives.
- ✓ Indian government has allowed the export of essential commodities like potatoes, eggs, rice, wheat flour, sugar and dal to Maldives despite many of these items being in prohibited or restricted list.
- ✓ India has allowed the export of these commodities despite a dip in the bilateral relationship between India and the Maldives after President Mohamed Muizzu, who is pro-China, came to power
- ✓ Maldives



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- ✓ Maldives is an archipelago in north-central Indian Ocean .It is a part of the South Asian region.
- ✓ Maldives is an archipelago of coral atolls built up from the crowns of a submerged ancient volcanic mountain range.
- ✓ Eight degree channels separate Maldives from Minicoy island of Lakshadweep.
- ✓ All the islands are low-lying, none rising to more than 6 feet (1.8 metres) above sea level. Due to rising sea level,Maldives faces a danger of being submerged in the Indian ocean.
- ✓ Capital: Male
- ✓ Currency: Rufiyaa

Q. According to the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya, India will stop importing urea by which year?

A) 2030

B) 2025

C) 2040

D) 2035

Answer : B

- ✓ Mansukh Mandaviya: India to stop importing urea by end of 2025.
- ✓ According to the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya, India will stop importing urea by the end of 2025 due to an increase in local production capacity with the commissioning of new fertilizer plants.
- ✓ India is a big importer of Urea and meets around 30% of its 35 million tonnes of annual urea requirement from imports.
- ✓ Urea Production and Import
- ✓ The urea production in the country increased from 225.08 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 284.95 lakh tonnes in 2022-23.
- ✓ In 2022-23, the total import of Urea was 75.8 lakh tonnes, which is around 30% of the domestic demand. The main sources of urea imports are Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.
- ✓ The government of India introduced the New Urea Policy 2015 with the aim of boosting indigenous urea production.
- ✓ Under the New Urea Policy, the government plans to revive closed fertilizer plants at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Ramagundam in Telangana, Talcher in Odisha, Barauni in Bihar, and Sindri in Jharkhand. Four plants have already been revived, and the fifth will soon be revived



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- ✓ The government also launched the 'PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth' (PM-PRANAM) scheme in 2023 to provide an incentive to states and Union Territories (UTs) to promote the use of alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
- ✓ Fertilizers sold to farmers are heavily subsidised by the government of India. The government has allocated Rs 1.64 lakh crore as fertilizer subsidy for 2024-25. The total subsidy in 2023-24 on fertilizer was Rs 1.89 lakh crore, as per the revised estimates

Q. Which of the following has launched the health-tech app 'NutriPlus' to democratize health monitoring in the country?

A) Amul

B) Parle Products

C) Britannia NutriChoice

D) Cadbury

Answer : C

- ✓ Britannia NutriChoice launches health monitoring app NutriPlus in India
- ✓ In a bid to deepen engagement with consumers, biscuit brand Britannia NutriChoice has launched the health-tech app 'NutriPlus'.
- ✓ The app has been designed in partnership with Aktivo Labs, and enables monitoring of health and wellness metrics.
- ✓ The NutriPlus app harnesses evidence-based technology and has been built with an aim to democratise health monitoring in the country.
- ✓ Quantified health empowers people across cultures, languages, and geographies to live long and healthy lives.

Q. Which country developed the world's most powerful laser?

A) USA

B) France

C) Romania

D) Russia

Answer : C

- ✓ Romania unveils World's most Powerful Laser
- ✓ A research centre in Romania has recently unveiled "the world's most powerful laser", which is based on the inventions of 2018 Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland.
- ✓ The laser, as per the Romanian research centre, is expected to revolutionise everything from the health sector to space exploration.



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- ✓ The laser at the research centre, situated near the Romanian capital Bucharest, is operated by the French company Thales, using Nobel prize-winning inventions.
- ✓ France's Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland of Canada won the 2018 Nobel Physics Prize for harnessing the power of lasers for advanced precision instruments in corrective eye surgery and industry.

Q. Which country has officially launched its e-Visa program for several countries, including India?

- A) Australia
- B) Japan
- C) South Korea
- D) Russia

Answer : B

- ✓ Japan has officially launched its e-Visa program for several countries, including India.
- ✓ This single-entry visa grants a validity of up to 90 days and is specifically designed for travellers planning to enter Japan by air and holding an ordinary passport.
- ✓ For individuals seeking short-term tourism in Japan, the process of obtaining a visa has been streamlined through the introduction of electronic visas (e-Visas) via the Japan e-Visa system.
- ✓ Who is Eligible ?
- ✓ The following countries and regions are eligible: Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA.
- ✓ The eligibility also extends to Indian citizens and foreign nationals residing in India.
- ✓ Residents of these countries or regions, excluding those exempt from short-term visas, can apply for an e-Visa via the Japan e-Visa website.

Q. Which bank has unveiled a series of new products and services aimed at enhancing customer experience and streamlining banking operations?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- C) Canara Bank
- D) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Canara Bank has unveiled a series of new products and services aimed at enhancing customer experience and streamlining banking operations.
- ✓ The bank launched a healthcare focused loan product 'Canara Heal', to meet the shortfall of hospitalization expenditure while settling through Third Party Administrator (TPA) healthcare insurance claims of self and/or dependents.



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- ✓ A customized savings account for women — ‘Canara Angel’ — with features like Cancer Care policy, pre-approved personal loan Canara ReadyCash and online loan against term deposit product Canara MyMoney.
- ✓ The bank has also unveiled ‘Canara UPI 123PAY ASI’, a user-friendly payment interface, and ‘Canara HRMS Mobile App for Staff’, an HR management solution for the bank’s employees

Q. Star Health Insurance has collaborated with which of the following to provide ‘Star Comprehensive Insurance Policy’?

A) PhonePe

B) GooglePay

C) Paytm

D) MasterCard

Answer : A

- ✓ Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd. (Star Health Insurance), India’s leading retail health insurance provider, joins hand with PhonePe.
- ✓ Under the agreement, Star Health’s Comprehensive Health Insurance Policy will be available on the PhonePe app with a monthly and annual payment option, with coverage up to Rs.1 crore. This is an industry-first initiative.
- ✓ The move allows customers to choose quality health insurance coverage with flexible payment choices, providing access to quality healthcare throughout the country.
- ✓ Users can also pay their premiums using the UPI AutoPay mandate with a monthly EMI option for increased convenience.

Q. Arnab Goswamy has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer of which bank?

A) Central Bank of India

B) Indian Overseas Bank

C) Kotak Mahindra Bank

D) Punjab & Sind Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Punjab & Sind Bank has appointed Arnab Goswamy as its Chief Financial Officer, replacing Mahima Agarwal for a three-year term.
- ✓ Arnab Goswamy is a seasoned finance professional with esteemed credentials as a Chartered accountant.
- ✓ Arnab Goswamy is a qualified Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant. He has worked at Indusind Bank, and ICICI Bank



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Q. On which date every year 'International Sports Day for Development and Peace' is celebrated?

A) 5 April

B) 6 April

C) 4 April

D) 7 April

Answer : B

- ✓ 'International Day of Sports for Development and Peace' (IDSDP) is celebrated every year on 6 April.
- ✓ It provides an opportunity to recognize the positive role of sport and physical activity in the lives of communities and people around the world.
- ✓ The theme of the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace this year 2024 is the global theme 'Sport for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies'.



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

Q. Who launched India's first private sub-meter resolution surveillance satellite?

- A) Agnikul Cosmos B) Dhruv space
C) Tata Advanced Systems Limited D) Skyroot Aerospace

Answer : C

- ✓ Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) launched India's first privately built sub-meter resolution surveillance satellite TSAT-1A.
- ✓ TASL, in collaboration with Satellogic, launched the spacecraft on April 7 using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida

INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film 'TRAH' trailer launched
- India's 1st Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory will be Launched in J&K
- India's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Arunachal Pradesh started operation by one of India's largest oil palm development companies, 3F Oil Palm.
- India's first Indoor athletic centre inaugurated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- India's First Research IIT Satellite Campus will be in Ujjain.
- India's first spy satellite built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will be launched in a SpaceX rocket by April and will be used by the armed forces to obtain secret information.
- Commencement of Core Loading at India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- The PFBR has been fully designed and constructed by BHAVINI.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project at Maruti Suzuki India's plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat.
- Kerala has declared the man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, the first in India to do so.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.



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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding TSAT-1A, recently seen in the news:

1. It is an Earth observation satellite of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

2. It has the ability to capture military grade imagery of Earth's surface with sub-meter resolution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B



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- ✓ Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) recently announced the successful deployment in space of its sub-metre resolution optical satellite, TSAT-1A, by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.
- ✓ About TSAT-1A:
- ✓ It is an optical sub-metre-resolution Earth observation satellite.
- ✓ It was built by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) in collaboration with Latin American company Satellogic Inc, following a collaboration agreement between the two companies in late November 2023.
- ✓ TSAT-1A was assembled in TASL's Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT) plant at its Vemagal facility in Karnataka.
- ✓ It was launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, in the US.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ TSAT-1A's core strength lies in its ability to capture military grade imagery of Earth's surface with sub-meter resolution.
- ✓ It is equipped with both multispectral and hyperspectral imaging capabilities.
- ✓ TSAT-1A boasts greater collection capacity, a wider dynamic range (the ability to capture detail in both very bright and very dark areas), and low-latency delivery of data.
- ✓ While India has a few military spy satellites built by ISRO, this is the first such initiative in the private sector.

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

1. It conducts anti-dumping investigations in India.

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has now recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on sodium cyanide (NaCN) imported from China, the European Union, Japan and Korea.
- ✓ It was earlier known as Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) was formed on 17th May 2018.
- ✓ It works as a single national entity dealing with all kinds of Trade Remedial measures (anti-dumping, countervailing, safeguard).



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- ✓ In India no entity shall operate an ETP without obtaining prior authorisation of RBI under The Electronic Trading Platforms (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2018.
- ✓ Resident persons operating ETPs without authorisation from RBI, collecting and effecting/remitting payments directly/indirectly outside India shall render themselves liable for penal action, including the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
- ✓ ETPs authorised by the Reserve Bank shall host transactions only in instruments approved by the Reserve Bank.
- ✓ Criteria for authorization of ETPs
- ✓ The entity shall be a company incorporated in India.
- ✓ An entity seeking authorisation as an ETP operator shall maintain a minimum net-worth of Rs.5 crore (Rupees five crore only) and shall continue to maintain the minimum net-worth prescribed herein at all times.
- ✓ The existing entities operating ETPs with a net-worth lower than the prescribed net-worth requirement shall achieve the minimum net-worth of Rs.5 crores within one year from the date of authorisation by the Reserve Bank.
- ✓ Banks seeking authorisation to operate ETP shall earmark a minimum capital of Rs.5 crore for the purpose.

Q. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched an extensive awareness and sensitization program targeting major markets in which city?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Chennai

Answer : A

- ✓ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched an extensive awareness and sensitization program targeting major markets in the New Delhi.
- ✓ The awareness campaign will focus particularly on the detection and mitigation of pesticide residue and contaminants in food products.
- ✓ During the programme, the food business operators were sensitized about the importance of organic farming, raw material testing, ill effects of pesticide residues, artificial ripening and wax coating using unapproved chemicals.



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FSSAI IN NEWS 2023-24

- FSSAI is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens.
- FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations so far for ensuring safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a new provision called 'Special Category' in the FOSCOS portal.
- FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Defence ministry, FSSAI to promote use of millets, healthy eating habits among armed forces.
- Guwahati Railway Station of the Northeast Frontier Railway has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI, for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the state-of-the-art National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station of the Indian Railways has been awarded the 5-Star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high quality nutritious food to the passengers.
- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded the food provided by the Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh a five-star rating and the tag 'Eat Right Campus'. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after Farrukhabad jail to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh..
- G Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Rajesh Bhusan
- CEO : G Kamala Vardhana Rao



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Q. Which Indian shipyard company has signed the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) with the United States Navy to facilitate the repair of US Naval vessels under Military Sealift Command?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), a government enterprise, has signed the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) with the United States Navy.
- ✓ This will facilitate repair of US Naval vessels under Military Sealift Command in Cochin Shipyard.
- ✓ CSL (Cochin Shipyard) has been qualified for entering into the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) after a detailed evaluation process and capability assessment by the US Navy – Military Sealift Command.

Q. Which airlines has signed a pact with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) to develop the Bengaluru airport as an aviation hub?

- A) IndiGo B) Akasha
C) Vistra D) Air India

Answer : D

- ✓ Air India and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) have signed a pact to develop the Bengaluru airport as an aviation hub, encompassing the construction of a dedicated domestic lounge, expansion of international services, and establishment of a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility.
- ✓ Air India (along with other Tata Group airlines – AIX and Vistara) and BIAL will collaborate to enhance international connectivity, operational efficiency, and passenger experience over the next five years.
- ✓ Air India is wholly owned by the Tata Group, while AIX Connect and Air India Express are its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Vistara, a 51:49 joint venture between the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, is currently undergoing a merger into Air India. The Bengaluru airport is operated by Fairfax-run BIAL.

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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.



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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 15 airport projects, including the revamped Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, worth over Rs.9,800 crore
- Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) for the Green Hydrogen Project.
- Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.
- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.
- Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction have secured a large order to construct the greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport project in Andhra Pradesh.
- The largest airport in the world is the king Fahd International Airport, located in Dammam, Saudi Arabia which covers an area of about 300 sq.
- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first greenfield airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.
- Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up 21 new greenfield airports.



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Q. In which country will the Clean Energy Investor Forum be organized by IPEF?

- A) India
B) China
C) Singapore
D) Malaysia

Answer : C

- ✓ The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) will organize the Clean Energy Investor Forum in Singapore.
- ✓ IPEF was launched in May 2022 and currently has 14 partners.
- ✓ IPEF Clean Energy Investor Forum is an initiative under IPEF. India is also included in IPEF.

Q. Who will organize 'Shakti - Festival of Music and Dance'?

- A) Sangeet Natak Academy
B) Global Music Institute
C) Swarnabhoomi Music Academy
D) IIFA

Answer : A

- ✓ Sangeet Natak Akademi will organise 'Shakti - Festival of Music and Dance' from 9 to 17 April at seven different Shaktipeeths across the country.
- ✓ 'Shakti Utsav' is starting from Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati. Sangeet Natak Akademi is the National Academy of Performing Arts and an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Q. Who has been recently appointed as the CEO and MD of the company by Wipro?

- A) Srinivas Palliya
B) Ajay Kala
C) Vinay Sinha
D) Dinesh Khurana

Answer : A

- ✓ Wipro has recently appointed Srinivas Pallia as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of the company.
- ✓ He replaces Thierry Delaporte.
- ✓ Srinivasa Pillai is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and joined Wipro in 1992

Q. In which city will the National Women's Hockey League be inaugurated?

- A) Ranchi
B) Lucknow
C) Varanasi
D) Bhopal



- ✓ Highlighted cycle of elite regimes falling to public dissent, suggesting the current political-business elite facing rejection.

FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHOR IN NEWS 2023-24

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

Q. Who has been elected as the next Prime Minister of Iceland?

- A) Bjarni Benediktsson
- B) Stuart Mark
- C) Katrin Jakobsdottir
- D) None of these



Answer : A

- ✓ Iceland's Foreign Minister Bjarni Benediktsson has been chosen as the country's next Prime Minister.
- ✓ Earlier, Katrin Jakobsdottir had resigned from her post to contest the presidential election.
- ✓ Iceland is a Nordic island country located between the North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean

NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS

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

Q. Who has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Ireland?

- A) Michael Martin
- B) Simon Harris
- C) Michael McGrath
- D) Leo Varadkar

Answer : B

- ✓ The Irish Parliament has elected Simon Harris as the country's new and youngest Prime Minister.
- ✓ Earlier, Indian-origin Leo Varadkar had resigned from the post of Prime Minister. He was appointed Minister of Health in 2016 at the age of 29 and Minister of Higher Education in 2020.



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- Emmerson Mnangagwa : Zimbabwe
- Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian
- Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey
- Bola Tinubu : Nigeria
- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu : Bangladesh
- Ram Chandra Paudel : Nepal
- Xi Jinping : China (third term)
- Vo Van Thuong : Vietnam

Q. C-Dome, an air defence system, is developed by which one of the following countries?

A) USA

B) Israel

C) Russia

D) Iran

Answer : B

- ✓ Israel for the first time deployed its ship-mounted defence system, called the C-Dome.
- ✓ About C-Dome:
- ✓ It is a naval version of Israel's Iron Dome air defence system, used to shield against rocket and missile attacks.
- ✓ The Iron Dome, which was activated in 2011 and has an effectiveness of about 90%, works by using radars to detect short-range rockets before destroying them with its own missiles.
- ✓ The C-Dome, which was first unveiled in 2014, declared operational in November 2022, works similarly to the Iron Dome, using some of the same technology, except that it's mounted on ships.
- ✓ Key Facts about Iron Dome:
- ✓ It is Israel's air missile defense system that can defend against short-range rockets, intercepting them in the air above the state.
- ✓ It is capable of successfully handling multiple rockets at a time.
- ✓ Developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries, the system became operational in March 2011.



Q. With reference to the Higgs Boson, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the fundamental force-carrying particle of the Higgs field, responsible for granting fundamental particles their mass.**
- 2. It is one of the elementary particles that make up the Standard Model of particle physics.**
- 3. It has a positive charge with zero spin.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Nobel prize-winning British physicist Peter Higgs, who proposed the existence of a mass-giving particle, which became known as the Higgs boson or the "God particle", has died aged 94.
- ✓ About Higgs Boson:
- ✓ The Higgs boson is the fundamental force-carrying particle of the Higgs field, which is responsible for granting fundamental particles their mass.
- ✓ This field was first proposed in the mid-sixties by Peter Higgs, for whom the particle is named.
- ✓ The particle was finally discovered on July 4, 2012, by researchers at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the most powerful particle accelerator in the world, located at the European particle physics laboratory CERN, Switzerland.
- ✓ The LHC confirmed the existence of the Higgs field and the mechanism that gives rise to mass and thus completed the standard model of particle physics.
- ✓ It is one of the 17 elementary particles that make up the Standard Model of particle Physics, which is scientists' best theory about the behaviors of the universe's most basic building blocks.
- ✓ Higgs boson plays such a fundamental role in subatomic physics that it is sometimes referred to as the "God particle."

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to International Narcotics Control Board:

- 1. It was established by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.**
- 2. All its members are nominated by the World Health Organisation.**



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ India's Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected for a third term for five years from March 2025-2030 to the International Narcotics Control Board.
- ✓ It was established in 1968 and is the independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations International Drug Control Conventions.
- ✓ History:
- ✓ It was established by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 by merging two bodies: the Permanent Central Narcotics Board, created by the 1925 International Opium Convention and the Drug Supervisory Body, created by the 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs.
- ✓ Members:
- ✓ It consists of 13 members who are elected by the Economic and Social Council and who serve in their personal capacity, not as government representatives.
- ✓ Three members with medical, pharmacological or pharmaceutical experience are elected from a list of persons nominated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and 10 members are elected from a list of persons nominated by Governments.

Q. Adani Green Energy Ltd plans to invest about ₹1.5 trillion through 2030 to develop the world's largest renewable energy plant with 30-gigawatt capacity in which state?

A) Maharashtra

B) Gujarat

C) Haryana

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : B

- ✓ Adani Green Energy Ltd plans to invest about ₹1.5 trillion through 2030 to develop the world's largest renewable energy plant with 30-gigawatt capacity at the Khavda renewable energy park in Gujarat.
- ✓ The project, part of the Adani Groups renewable energy flagship's plan to achieve 45 gigawatt (GW) installed renewable energy capacity in the country by 2030, will see 26 GW of solar and 4 GW of wind generation capacity coming up.



- ✓ Currently, AGEL has an operating renewable portfolio of 10.93 GW—7.39 GW solar, 1.4 GW wind, and 2.14 GW of hybrid—across 12 states.

Q. Which state has launched the ‘Booth Raabta’ website for election-related information?

- A) Punjab
- B) Haryana
- C) Gujarat
- D) Bihar

Answer : A

- ✓ Website ‘Booth Raabta’ launched by Punjab for election-related information
- ✓ In Punjab, under the unique initiative of the District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner of Malerkotla, Dr. Pallavi, a special website named ‘Booth Raabta’ has been launched to provide election-related information to the people of the district.
- ✓ The website boothraabta.com will be helpful not only to the voters but also to the polling personnel in any circumstances.
- ✓ Deputy Election Commissioner of India Hirdesh Kumar and Punjab Chief Electoral Officer Sibin C appreciated this initiative

Q. Which bank has partnered with a fintech Union Life Private Limited to use the latter’s technology platform KarmaLife for a pilot to provide micro loans to gig workers?

- A) RBI
- B) SEBI
- C) SIDBI
- D) NABARD

Answer : C

- ✓ SIDBI partners fintech platform KarmaLife for micro loans to gig workers
- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has partnered with a fintech Union Life Private Limited to use the latter’s technology platform KarmaLife for a pilot to provide micro loans to gig workers.
- ✓ This is expected to support the gig workers’ financial inclusion to formal institutional credit.
- ✓ KarmaLife will help gig workers access micro loans through a mobile app and eliminates the hassle of extensive paperwork or physical documentation.
- ✓ This streamlined process will make it easier for gig workers to manage the liquidity needs of their enterprise activities



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Q. Who has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the American Surgical Association (ASA) in April 2024?

A) Dr. Ravi Kant Sharma

B) Dr Raghu Ram

C) Dr. S. Eswara Reddy

D) Dr. RG Patel

Answer : B

- ✓ The American Surgical Association (ASA) has honoured Dr Raghu Ram with an Honorary Fellowship in Washington DC.
- ✓ This is the highest recognition that the ASA can bestow upon a surgical colleague from a foreign country.
- ✓ Dr Raghu Ram is the third surgeon from South Asia to receive this honour in the 144 years' history of the United State's oldest surgical organisation.

Q. Which bank has partnered with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to introduce a Virtual ATM (VATM) facility?

A) HDFC Bank

B) J& K Bank

C) Axis Bank

D) Federal Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ J& K Bank has partnered with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to introduce a Virtual ATM (VATM) facility.
- ✓ The partnership aims to introduce cardless cash withdrawal for the Bank's customers through their neighbourhood merchants.
- ✓ The goal of the collaboration is to enhance banking convenience for its customers across its areas of operations especially in J&K and Ladakh.
- ✓ The move is to leverage technology to enhance banking accessibility and convenience for the bank customers. The bank's customers would be able to avail this facility through its mobile banking app
- ✓ The merchants would also need to have the bank's app to initiate a cash withdrawal request. After that, the customer will receive an OTP for validation and sharing that with the merchant would complete the transaction.
- ✓ It is to be noted that the Virtual ATM facility has a limit to the transaction amounts. For now, it enables consumers for a withdrawal of up to Rs 2,000 cash per transaction and a total of Rs 10,000 per month.



Q. Which bank has raised \$500 million (about Rs 4,200 crore) from foreign markets to fund overseas business growth?

- A) Karnataka Bank
B) Indian Overseas Bank
C) Union Bank of India
D) Punjab National Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Bank of India has raised \$500 million (about Rs 4,200 crore) from foreign markets to fund overseas business growth.
- ✓ The fund was arranged by Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), Dubai Branch, Union Bank of India said in a regulatory filing.
- ✓ A syndicated term loan of \$ 500 million (\$400 million and Green Shoe of \$100 million) would be drawn in two tranches with tenure of 3 and 5 years.
- ✓ This is the maiden syndicated term loan raised by Union Bank of India at an overseas centre.

Q. Indian Coast Guard's DG Rakesh Pal has inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre in which state?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Coast Guard's DG Rakesh Pal has inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre at ICGS Mandapam, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ This is as part of his four-day visit to the maritime force's bases in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry.
- ✓ The visit aimed to review operational preparedness and infrastructure development in the region, with a focus on ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas.

Q. Which Indian Naval Ship was awarded the 'On-the-spot Unit Citation' by Chief of Navy Staff for successful conduct of anti-piracy operations?

- A) INS Talwar
B) INS Sharda
C) INS Suvarna
D) INS Satpura

Answer : B



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- ✓ Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar has awarded an 'On-the-spot Unit Citation' to INS Sharda for successful conduct of anti-piracy operations at sea.
- ✓ The ship was involved in the safe release of all 19 crew members (11 Iranian and 8 Pakistani) of Iranian fishing vessel "Omari" which was held hostage by pirates off the east coast of Somalia.
- ✓ The ship was tasked to investigate the Iranian fishing vessel "Omari" that was likely hijacked by pirates.

Q. Which country has won the men's Hong Kong Sevens 2024 Titles?

- A) Ireland
B) South Africa
C) Australia
D) New Zealand

Answer : D

- ✓ New Zealand won the men's and women's titles at the Hong Kong Sevens to cap off a tournament that sets a scene for rugby at the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ The All-Blacks Sevens scored the first two tries in a 10-7 win over France in the men's final to successfully defend their title.
- ✓ New Zealand's 36-7 win over the United States lifted the women's title.
- ✓ For the New Zealand men, it was the 68th tournament title in the world series.
- ✓ The Australian women won bronze with a late 24-21 win over France.

Q. Which team has won its maiden I-League title by defeating Shillong Lajong FC 2-1?

- A) Chennai FC
B) Mohun Bagan
C) East Sporting
D) Mohammedan Sporting

Answer : D

- ✓ Mohammedan Sporting won its first I-League title by defeating Shillong Lajong FC 2-1 at the SSA Stadium.
- ✓ They have garnered 52 points from 23 matches.
- ✓ Mohammedan Sporting Club is an Indian football club based in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ✓ Currently, the club competes in I-League and Calcutta Football League

Q. Gangu Ramsay passed away recently at the age of 83. Who was he?

- A) Horologigrapher
B) Ultrasonographer
C) Psychobiographer
D) Cinematographer



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- ✓ The Space Foundation lauded India's leadership in space, emphasizing its recent milestone of landing a spacecraft on the Moon's South Pole.

Q. Who has been appointed as the full-time member of the Sixteenth Finance Commission?

- A) Rajeev Kumar
B) Amitabh Kant
C) Manoj Panda
D) Rajmohan Sinha

Answer : C

- ✓ The Central Government has appointed Manoj Panda, former Director of the Institute of Economic Growth, as a full-time member of the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
- ✓ Till now there were only three full-time members in the Commission.
- ✓ The Center constituted the 16th Finance Commission on December 31, 2023.
- ✓ The Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission is Arvind Panagariya.

Q. Who has Air India recently appointed as the head of its global airport operations?

- A) Nandkishore Kalra
B) Jayaraj Shanmugam
C) Ravichandran Nagarajan
D) Abhinav Gupta

Answer : D

- ✓ Air India has recently appointed Jayaraj Shanmugam as the new head of its global airport operations.
- ✓ Shanmugam will begin his new role on April 15, 2024 and will report to Chief Operating Officer Klaus Goersch.
- ✓ He has also worked with airlines like Singapore Airlines, Qatar Airways and Jet Airways.

Q. How many US dollars will World Athletics award to the gold medal winners in athletics at the Paris Olympics?

- A) US \$ 10,000
B) US\$30,000
C) US\$ 40,000
D) US \$ 50,000

Answer : D

- ✓ World Athletics will award US\$50,000 to gold medal winners in athletics at the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ This is the first time that World Athletics has announced prize money for an Olympic sports event.
- ✓ It will be extended to all three medal winners in Los Angeles 2028.



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Q. Which day is observed every year on April 10?

- A) World Malaria Day B) World Liver Day
C) World Hemophilia Day D) World Homeopathy Day

Answer : D

- ✓ The World Homeopathy Day is celebrated every year on April 10 to spread awareness about homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine.
- ✓ The theme for 2024 World Homoeopathy Day is "Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family"
- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of German physician Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, who is considered as the founder of system of alternative medicine called Homeopathy.

Q. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is celebrated every year on April 09. In 2024 which edition of CRPF Valour Day was celebrated?

- A) 55th B) 61st
C) 59th D) 68th

Answer : C

- ✓ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is observed on 9th April every year, as a tribute to the brave men of the Force.
- ✓ 2024 marks 59th CRPF Valour Day.
- ✓ It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading Pakistani army, several time larger, at the Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.
- ✓ The CRPF men eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive.
- ✓ In the conflict, CRPF lost six personnel who had attained martyrdom.

Q. Which organization has been conferred with the 2024 John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr Award for Space Exploration Award?

- A) ISRO B) DRDO
C) SpaceX D) NASA

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.



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- ✓ This award is given by the US-based non-profit organisation Space Foundation to honour a space agency, company, or consortium of organisations in the realm of space exploration and discovery.
- ✓ The Indian Consul General of India in Houston, D C Manjunath, received the 2024 John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award on behalf of the ISRO’s Chandrayaan -3 team.
- ✓ About John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr Award
- ✓ The John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award was instituted by the Space Foundation in 2004 in memory of John L “Jack” Swigert, Junior.
- ✓ John L “Jack” Swigert, Junior, was part of NASA’s (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Apollo 13 Mission to the moon which had been aborted due to a leakage in its Oxygen tank.
- ✓ The Jack Swigert Award is presented annually at the Space Symposium organised by the Space Foundation.
- ✓ In 2023 NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope Team was honoured with the Jack Swigert award.

ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) located at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram has launched a multi-purpose app 'SAKHI' (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction-SAKHI) to assist the Gaganyaan crew.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ISRO Chairman have already said that by 2040 we should have an Indian astronaut on the moon and also to have our space station by 2035.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- ISRO has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.
- Vyommitra(Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO’s “Gaganyaan” Mission
- ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.



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- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) .
- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India

Q. AS per the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024, what is the rank of India in the number of startup unicorns?

A) third

B) sixth

C) fourth

D) fifth

Answer : A



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- ✓ India ranked third on the global list of unicorns but was far behind the US and China who had 703 and 340 high growth start-ups respectively.
- ✓ UK and EU ranked No 4 and No 5 in the list, respectively.
- ✓ India has a total of 67 unicorns in the list, as per a report by The Hurun Research Institute, according to which drop-outs from the chart in 2023 were Byju's and PharmEasy.
- ✓ In total, there are a total of 1,453 unicorns in the world as one unicorn is made every two days over the last year.
- ✓ TikTok owner ByteDance was the world's most valuable unicorn worth \$220 billion. The total value of the world's unicorns reached \$5 trillion which is equivalent to the GDP of Japan.
- ✓ The fastest valuation rise of a unicorn was credited to OpenAI which saw an addition of \$80 billion in value, followed by SpaceX that added \$43 billion.
- ✓ The most active city for unicorns outside of the US and China was London, followed by Bengaluru, Paris and Berlin.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Adjudicating Authority under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA):

1. It determines whether the properties attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are involved in money laundering or not.

2. The accused has the right to challenge its confirmation order only in the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The Adjudicating Authority under the PMLA recently confirmed the attachment of assets worth Rs 751.9 crore belonging to the National Herald newspaper.
- ✓ About Adjudicating Authority under the PMLA:
- ✓ Under PMLA, an adjudicating authority determines within 180 days whether the properties attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are involved in money laundering or not.
- ✓ Functioning:
- ✓ Section 5 of the PMLA provides for the attachment of any property that is suspected to have been acquired with the proceeds of crime in a case of any offence that is listed in the schedule of the law.



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- ✓ 97 countries were named by at least one expert as being a hub for a particular category.
- ✓ India captured the number 10 spot in the rankings.
- ✓ The researchers also found that certain kinds of cybercrime were associated with particular countries. For example, the United States was associated with data and identity theft, while those related to technical products or services seemed to often originate from China.
- ✓ It is estimated that cybercrime costs the world around \$9.22 trillion in 2024, and this is expected to grow to \$13.82 trillion in 2028.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the GPT-4 Vision:

1. It can interpret handwritten and printed text contained within images.

2. It can be used by developers to write code for a website from a visual image of the design.

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

- ✓ Following its launch, OpenAI's ChatGPT has evolved by leaps and bounds and also recently announced API access to GPT-4 with Vision.
- ✓ It is also referred to as GPT-4V which allows users to instruct GPT-4 to analyse image inputs.
- ✓ It has been considered OpenAI's step forward towards making its chatbot multimodal — an AI model with a combination of image, text, and audio as inputs.
- ✓ It allows users to upload an image as input and ask a question about it. This task is known as Visual Question Answering (VQA).
- ✓ It is a Large Multimodal Model or LMM, which is essentially a model that is capable of taking information in multiple modalities like text and images or text and audio and generating responses based on it.

Q. Which organization launched a new edition of the Girl Empowerment Mission?

A) DRDO

B) ISRO

C) NTPC

D) BHEL

Answer : C

- ✓ 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.



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- ✓ GEM offers a 1-month workshop nurturing girls' imaginations and fostering opportunities.
- ✓ From April 2024, 3,000 underprivileged children join at 42 locations, totaling 10,000 beneficiaries. Started in 2018 with 392 participants, GEM expanded nationwide, benefitting 7,424 girls till date, despite COVID-19 challenges. 2,707 girls participated in 2023 alone.

NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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. Peter Higgs, who recently passed away, received a Nobel Prize for which research?

- A) Quantum mechanics
- B) Discovery of radioactivity
- C) Discovery of the elements radium and polonium
- D) Discovery of God Particle

Answer : D

- ✓ British physicist Peter Higgs, renowned for discovering the 'Higgs-Boson Particle' or 'God Particle', passed away at 94.
- ✓ Awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2013, his work elucidated the universe's post-Big Bang creation.
- ✓ Higgs, a long-time professor at Edinburgh University, contributed significantly to understanding bosons' role in universal cohesion.
- ✓ His death on April 8, 2024, marked the end of an era in physics.
- ✓ The confirmation of the God particle came in 2012, revolutionizing scientific understanding.

Q. Global Hepatitis Report 2024, recently released by which organization?

- A) WHO
- B) UNICEF
- C) UNDP
- D) WTO

Answer : A



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Q. Who has been selected to be part of Britain's research team on dementia?

- A) Chaand Nagpaul B) Kailash Chand
C) Ashvini Keshavan D) Kamlesh Khunti

Answer : C

- ✓ Dr. Ashvini Keshavan, an Indian-origin neurologist and Senior Clinical Research and Honorary Consultant Neurologist Fellow at University College London (UCL), has been selected to be part of Britain's research team on dementia.
- ✓ The team, called ADAPT (Alzheimer's disease Diagnosis And Plasma pTau217), will focus on the biomarker p-tau217, which reflects the levels of two proteins found in the brain that are associated with Alzheimer's disease: amyloid and tau.
- ✓ The team will conduct a clinical trial to see if measuring p-tau217 in the blood can increase the rate of diagnosis for Alzheimer's disease in people with early dementia, as well as in those with mild, progressive memory problems.

Q. Which hospital becomes the first in country to procure and conduct successful piezoelectric bone conduction hearing implants?

- A) AIIMS, Delhi B) KGMU, Lucknow
C) Command hospital, Pune D) Hinduja, Bombay

Answer : C

- ✓ Command Hospital, Pune, achieved a milestone by being the first government hospital in India to procure and perform piezoelectric bone conduction hearing implants.
- ✓ The ENT department conducted successful implants in a child with congenital ear anomalies and an adult with Single Sided Deafness (SSD).
- ✓ As a Neurotology center of the Armed Forces Medical College, they addressed the limited outreach of the costly implant, offering a vital solution for patients with conductive/mixed hearing loss or SSD who don't benefit from traditional interventions.

Q. According to Global Hepatitis Report 2024, what percentage of the global Hepatitis B & C disease burden did India account for in 2022?

- A) 10.5% B) 11.6%
C) 12.1% D) 19.5%



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- ✓ Building on the success of the first volume, “I Can Coach, Stories of Transformation,” volumes 2 and 3 showcase inspiring stories of commitment and aspiration within the digital coaching revolution.
- ✓ “Stories of Commitment” highlights the journeys of coaches who achieved millionaire status and those who transformed their lives, starting from scratch.
- ✓ “Stories of Aspiration” features digital coaches beginning their paths to success as Freedom Finishers through Hackathons

Q. With whom has KABIL signed an agreement for technical cooperation for minerals?

- A) CSIR-IMMT
- B) Reliance Industries
- C) Tata Group
- D) Tech Mahindra

Answer : A

- ✓ Khanij Videsh India Limited (KABIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research- Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) for technical and knowledge collaboration for Critical Minerals. KABIL is a joint venture of three Indian public sector undertakings, NALCO, HCL and MECL, under the aegis of the Ministry of Mines, Government of India

Q. Where was the first steel cutting ceremony of Fleet Support Ships for the Indian Navy held?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Ahmedabad
- C) Cuttack
- D) Visakhapatnam

Answer : D

- ✓ Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane recently presided over the first steel cutting of Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy at Hindustan Shipyard Limited in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ He also laid the foundation stone for modernization of slipways and key infrastructure to enhance the capacity and efficiency of the yard

Q. In which country is the Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 being organized?

- A) Iran
- B) China
- C) Kyrgyzstan
- D) India

Answer : C



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HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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

Q. With reference to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a Central Sector scheme.**
- 2. A specified portion of this fund must benefit SC/ST community.**



3. The funds are directly transferred into the accounts of Members of Parliament to undertake social projects.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the data of Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, nearly 75% of the allocated funds to the 39 Members of Parliament (MPs) in Tamil Nadu under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) from 2019 to 2024 have not been utilised so far.
- ✓ It is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme which was launched in 1993-94.
- ✓ Objective: The Scheme enables the Members of Parliament to recommend works for creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs to be taken up in their constituencies in the area of national priorities namely drinking water, education, public health, sanitation, roads etc.
- ✓ Under the scheme, annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.
- ✓ Lok Sabha Members can recommend works within their Constituencies.
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament can recommend works in one or more districts in the State from where he/she has been elected.
- ✓ The Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select any one or more districts from any one State in the Country for implementation of their choice of work under the scheme.
- ✓ MPs are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 per cent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribe population.
- ✓ In case an elected MP wishes to contribute MPLADS funds outside the constituency or the State/UT, they can recommend work up to Rs 25 lakh in a financial year.
- ✓ MPs do not directly receive funds under MPLADS. The Centre directly transfers the sanctioned amount in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore to the district authorities of the concerned MP's nodal district after a recommended project gets approval.
- ✓ Implementation
- ✓ The role of an MP is, however, limited to the recommendation of a project.



- ✓ The onus is on the district authority to sanction, execute and complete the recommended project within a particular timeframe.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme.

Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi)?

- A) Supporting wildlife conservation and biodiversity preservation efforts.**
- B) Promoting climate resilient agriculture practices.**
- C) Limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.**
- D) Promoting sustainable exploration of marine and ocean resources**

Answer : C

- ✓ A contentious recent decision by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), permitting carbon offsetting for Scope 3 emissions of businesses with SBTi-based climate targets, has stirred controversy and skepticism.
- ✓ About Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi):
- ✓ SBTi is a global initiative established in 2015 that aims to encourage and support companies to set Science-Based Targets (SBTs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
- ✓ The SBTi is a partnership between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- ✓ The SBTi provides a framework and guidelines for companies to set targets that are in line with the latest climate science, including the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ Near-term targets show how organizations intend to reduce emissions over the next 5-10 years, crucial for significant progress by 2030 and a prerequisite for net zero targets.
- ✓ Long-term targets indicate how organizations need to reduce their emissions to achieve net zero, according to the criteria of the SBTi Corporate Net-Zero Standard, by 2050 at the latest (2040 for the energy sector).

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Queqiao-2:

- 1. It is a relay satellite launched by China.**
- 2. It will serve as a communications bridge between ground operations on Earth and upcoming lunar probe missions.**

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

- ✓ China National Space Administration (CNSA) recently said its launch of Queqiao-2 satellite was a "complete success".
- ✓ About Queqiao-2:
- ✓ Queqiao-2 (Magpie Bridge 2) is a relay satellite launched by China to serve as a communications bridge between ground operations on Earth and upcoming lunar probe missions on the far side of the moon until at least 2030.
- ✓ It has a mass of 1,200 kilograms and carries a large, 4.2-meter-diameter (13.8-foot) parabolic antenna that will be deployed once in space and is one of the largest sent beyond Earth orbit
- ✓ Queqiao-2's first task will be supporting China's Chang'e-6 lunar far-side sample return mission. It will further support the future Chang'e-7 and -8 lunar missions.
- ✓ Queqiao 2 carries three science payloads: an Extreme Ultraviolet Camera (EUC), a Grid-based Energetic Neutral Atom Imager (GENA), and a very long baseline interferometer, the Lunar Orbit VLBI EXperiment (LOVEX).
- ✓ It has a planned lifetime of over 8 years.
- ✓ The mission will also be deploying two experimental CubeSats, Tiandu-1 and Tiandu-2, which will orbit the Moon to test navigation and communication technologies.
- ✓ Tiandu-1 has a Ka-band communications system and a laser retroreflector. It has a mass of 61 kg.
- ✓ Tiandu-2, the smaller of the two cube sats with a mass of 15 kg, also has a communications system.
- ✓ The two satellites will be in formation in an elliptical lunar orbit. Navigation tests include laser ranging to the Moon, and microwave ranging between satellites.

Q. Carmaker Citroën became the first multinational car manufacturer in India to export domestically made electric vehicles to the international market. Citroën is the company of which country?

A) South Korea

B) Israel

C) France

D) Russia

Answer : C

- ✓ Citroën becomes the first multinational carmaker to export EVs from India



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- ✓ French carmaker Citroën became the first multinational car manufacturer in India to export domestically made electric vehicles to the international market.
- ✓ Initial shipment of 500 units of the Made-in-India Citroën ë-C3 to Indonesia was ceremonially flagged from Kamarajar Port.
- ✓ The move aligned with Citroën's global ambitions of democratising electric mobility to increase the adoption of sustainable and clean modes of transportation.
- ✓ The ë-C3, crafted with modern design and innovation, offers a 320 km range certified by ARAI MIDC, along with 100 per cent DC Fast Charge and 15 AMP Home Charging options for convenience. It is available in 13 exterior colour combinations and 47 customisation options.
- ✓ Citroën's export of the ë-C3 from India not only showcases the company's manufacturing and engineering prowess but also contributes significantly to India's goal of a sustainable and globally competitive EV manufacturing ecosystem

Q. Which bank has appointed Murali Ramakrishnan as Non-Executive Independent Director for four years in April 2024?

A) IDFC First Bank

B) Yes Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) RBL Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Private sector lender RBL Bank has appointed Murali Ramakrishnan as Non-Executive Independent Director with immediate effect for four years.
- ✓ Earlier, Ramakrishnan served as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of South Indian Bank.
- ✓ He has 37 years of experience in the Banking and Financial Service Industry (BFSI) sector.
- ✓ He joined South Indian Bank as an Advisor on July 1, 2020, and was appointed as Managing Director & CEO of the Bank on October 1, 2020, until September 2023.

NEWLY BANK MD & CEO IN NEWS 2023-24

- RBL Bank has appointed Murali Ramakrishnan as Non-Executive Independent Director with immediate effect for four years.
- M.V. Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the public sector bank, Central Bank of India, has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24.



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- SBM Bank India has appointed Ashish Vijayakar as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank for a period of 3 years.
- Praveen Achuthan Kutty appointed as MD & CEO of DCB Bank.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) for a period of three years.
- South Indian Bank has appointed P R Seshadri as its MD & CEO .
- Ashwani Kumar is new MD & CEO of UCO Bank.
- Karnataka Bank Appoints Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as MD & CEO.
- Rajneesh Karnatak Named As New MD and Chairman Of Bank Of India.
- Debadatta Chand named as new Managing Director of Bank of Baroda.
- Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.
- K Satyanarayana Raju named as new MD and CEO of Canara Bank.

Q. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- A) Kerala
- B) Telangana
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

Answer : A

- ✓ Close to 100 hectares of forest were recently destroyed by fire in the Sulthan Bathery forest range within the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS), located in Wayanad, Kerala. Established in 1973, the sanctuary spans approximately 344.44 sq. km and is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. It shares borders with protected areas in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Q. Who has become the first Indian monk to be honoured with the American President's Gold Volunteer Service award?

- A) Acharya Lokesh Muni
- B) Raghaveshwara Bharathi
- C) Vijayendra Saraswati
- D) Bharathi Tirtha

Answer : A



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- ✓ Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni is the first Indian monk to receive the American President's Gold Volunteer Service award in 2024.
- ✓ He is the founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati and World Peace Centre, and is recognized for his contributions to humanity and the public good.
- ✓ He has said that receiving the award is a matter of pride, and that it honors Indian culture, spiritual values, and Jain principles of Lord Mahavir.

AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Nishant, a young poet and critic, is awarded the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award in 2023 for his book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'.
- Narendra Modi receives Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award.
- Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis
- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III
- Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur'.
- PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan are set to receive India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- Karpoori Thakur, a renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, is set to be posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- Another recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award for the year 2024 is Lal Krishna Advani.
- Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award.
- REC Secures Best Green Bond – Corporate Award At The Asset Triple A Awards 2024.
- PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored with the Shankar Smriti Award
- The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Best Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)



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



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Q. Which of the following has been designated as the Nodal Centre for the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) programme by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)?

- A) Manav Rachna International University
- B) University of Delhi
- C) IISc Bengaluru
- D) Gujarat Council on Science and Technology

Answer : D

- ✓ The Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) has been designated as the Nodal Centre for the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)' programme by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ The START programme, a brainchild of ISRO, offers an introductory-level online training platform.
- ✓ Encompassing a vast spectrum of space science research areas, including planetary exploration, astronomy, heliophysics, atmospheric science, and microgravity research.
- ✓ Under the START programme, GUJCOST will host live classes, serving as the central hub for knowledge dissemination. Additionally, four Regional Science Centres located in Rajkot, Patan, Bhavnagar, and Bhuj will play a pivotal role in coordinating and facilitating the programme, thereby amplifying its reach across the region.

Q. Larsen & Toubro Ltd has completed the sale of its entire equity stake in L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Ltd (L&T IDPL) to which company in April 2024?

- A) Torrent Power
- B) ReNew Power
- C) Epic Concesiones Pvt Ltd
- D) Adani Enterprises

Answer : C

- ✓ Larsen & Toubro Ltd has completed the sale of its entire equity stake in L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Ltd (L&T IDPL) to Epic Concesiones Pvt Ltd.
- ✓ It is a joint venture between L&T and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments) holding 51 per cent and 49 per cent shares, respectively.



- ✓ However, it doesn't address the status of past investments.

SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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On 13 April 1984, the Indian Army launched 'Operation MEGHDOOT' to secure Bilafond La and other passes on the Salto Ridge, from Pakistani aggression

Q. April 13 is observed as the International Turban Day to mark the birth anniversary of which Sikh Guru?

A) Guru Hargobind Singh

B) Guru Ram Das

C) Guru Nanak Dev

D) Guru Gobind Singh

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Turban Day is celebrated every year on April 13 since 2004 to bring awareness of the strict requirement on Sikhs to put the turban as a mandatory part of their religion.
- ✓ The 2024 Turban Day marks the 555th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev and the festival of Baisakhi.
- ✓ The turban, also known as "dastar" or "pagri" or "pag" refer to the garment worn by both men and some women to cover their heads.

Q. 'Dustlik' joint military exercise, recently seen in news, conducted between which two countries?

A) India and Uzbekistan

B) India and Russia

C) India and Tajikistan

D) Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

Answer : A

- ✓ The 5th edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan begins in Uzbekistan.
- ✓ The 14-day exercise will be conducted in Termez District of Uzbekistan from 15 to 28 April 2024.
- ✓ During the 14-day exercise, soldiers from the Indian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan will undergo comprehensive joint training sessions.
- ✓ The fourth edition of the joint military exercise between the two countries was held on February 20 last year at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. The training exercise focused on sharing best practices in subconventional operations under UN mandates.
- ✓ The inaugural edition of this exercise was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- The 5th edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan begins in Uzbekistan
- Recently, a two-day 'Sagar Kavach' exercise was organised in the Lakshadweep Islands.



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- A bilateral tri-service exercise Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the US will be held on the Eastern Seaboard in the US from March 18 to 31.
- An Indian Army contingent on Monday departed for Seychelles to participate in the 10th edition of joint military exercise “LAMITIYE-2024” with Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The joint exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from March 18-27, 2024.
- The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the “Maritime Security Belt-2024” near the Gulf of Oman.
- The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- Exercise Samudra Laksamana kicked off on February 28 and will continue until March 2, taking place at or off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16
- Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh



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

Q. An entrepreneur and a pilot, Gopi Thotakura is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. Who is the founder of Blue Origin?

A) Richard Branson

B) Jeff Bezos

C) Steve Jobs

D) Elon Musk



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- ✓ The acquisition will be executed at a valuation of around five times the book value of HDB Financial Services. HDB Financial Services is expected to fetch a valuation in the range of USD 9 billion to USD 12 billion (₹75,000 crore to ₹1 lakh crore) during its upcoming initial public offering (IPO).

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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- NASA has been tasked with establishing Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC) as a unified standard for timekeeping on the Moon and other celestial bodies
- American space agency NASA has discovered a “super-Earth” planet, dubbed TOI-715 b, that could potentially support life. It is located 137 light-years away and was found by NASA’s planet-hunting Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- NASA Re-Establishes Contact With Ingenuity Helicopter On Mars After Outage
- NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency’s first robotic lunar rover VIPER – short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth’s atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- About OSIRIS-APEX:
 - It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter
 - with Earth in April 2029.
 - A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.
 - 16 Psyche:
 - It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
 - NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study ‘airglow’ to understand space
 - weather.
 - NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named ‘Wasp-107b’, which is the size
 - of Jupiter.
 - NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
 - About Lucy Mission:
 - It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter’s elusive Trojan asteroids.
 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.



- NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

Q. Khavda Renewable Energy Park, recently seen in the news, is located in which of the following States?

A) Rajasthan

B) Odisha

C) Gujarat

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : C

- ✓ Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) recently established the world's largest renewable energy park in Gujarat's Khavda region.
- ✓ About Khavda Renewable Energy Park:
- ✓ It is the world's largest renewable energy park.
- ✓ It is located at Khavda in Gujarat's Kutch region, boasting an impressive 45 GW capacity predominantly fueled by solar energy.
- ✓ The region has the second-best solar radiation in the country after Ladakh and wind speeds five times that of the plains.
- ✓ Situated just one kilometer from the international border with Pakistan, the energy park maintains a buffer zone manned by the Border Security Force (BSF).
- ✓ It is being built by Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), India's largest renewable energy company.
- ✓ Investment: AGEL will invest about Rs 1.5 lakh crore to generate 30 megawatts of clean electricity. It would comprise 26 GW of solar and 4GW of wind capacity.
- ✓ The Khavda Park, at its peak, is projected to generate 81 billion units of electricity, a quantity capable of powering entire nations such as Belgium, Chile, and Switzerland.



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Q. Defense Ministry has issued a tender worth over Rs 65,000 crore to which company for the purchase of 97 LCA Mark 1A fighter aircraft manufactured in India?

- A) Bharat Electronics Limited B) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited D) Tata Advanced Systems

Answer : C

- ✓ Defence Ministry issues 65,000cr tender to HAL for buying 97 LCA Mark 1A Fighter Jets
- ✓ The Defence Ministry has issued a tender to the public sector firm Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for purchasing made-in-India 97 LCA Mark 1A fighter jets expected to be worth over Rs 65,000 crore.
- ✓ This is set to be the largest order for indigenous military hardware to be placed by the Indian government ever.
- ✓ The programme will help the IAF to replace its fleet of MiG- 21s, MiG-23s and MiG-27s which have been either phased out or are set to be phased out or are set to be phased out in near future.
- ✓ The LCA Mark 1A plane has more advanced avionics and radars than the initial 40 LCAs being supplied to the Air Force.
- ✓ The HAL is also set to bag deals for buying over 200 LCA Mark 2s and similar number of fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft.

Q. Shrinkflation occurs in an economy when there is a/an:

- A) increase in aggregate demand B) rise in cost of production
C) increase in aggregate supply D) decrease in cost of production

Answer : B

- ✓ As input prices, which were benign for a few quarters, turn inflationary, the spectre of shrinkflation looms large within the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) segment.
- ✓ It occurs when goods shrink in size but consumers pay the same price. It occurs when manufacturers downsize products to offset higher production costs but keep retail prices same.
- ✓ It is basically a form of hidden inflation.
- ✓ Instead of increasing the price of a product, producers reduce the size of the product while maintaining the same price.
- ✓ The absolute price of the product doesn't go up, but the price per unit of weight or volume has increased.
- ✓ Reasons: The reasons for shrinkflation are rising production costs and market competition.



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- ✓ Impacts:
- ✓ Shrinkflation runs the risk of turning customers away from a product or brand if they notice they are getting less for the same price.
- ✓ Another downside of shrinkflation is that it makes it harder to accurately measure price changes or inflation.
- ✓ The price point becomes misleading since the product size cannot always be considered in terms of measuring the basket of goods.
- ✓ What are Fast-Moving Consumer Goods?
- ✓ These are products sold quickly and at a relatively low cost. The FMCG industry is characterized by high-volume sales, quick inventory turnover, and various products catering to consumer needs.
- ✓ These goods include essential everyday items such as food and beverages, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and other low-cost household items.
- ✓ They have a short shelf life because of high consumer demand (e.g., soft drinks and confections) or because they are perishable (e.g., meat, dairy products, and baked goods).

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Paharia Tribe:

1. They mainly reside in Jharkhand and West Bengal.

2. They speak the language called Malto.

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

- ✓ Jharkhand's Pahariya tribe aims to achieve seed independence by depositing native varieties in community-led banks.
- ✓ The community name Paharia is "believed to have been derived from the word pahar meaning hills.
- ✓ They live mainly in the states of Jharkhand and West Bengal. There are also scattered groups of them in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.
- ✓ They practise jhum or shifting cultivation which involves clearing land by burning vegetation for farming for a few years.
- ✓ In Jharkhand, there are two types of Pahariyas.



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- ✓ India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, according to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch monitoring project.
- ✓ About Global Forest Watch (GFW):
- ✓ It is an open-source web application to monitor global forests in near real-time using satellite data and other sources.
- ✓ It is a project of the Washington-based nonprofit research organization, the World Resources Institute (WRI). Most of the data is compiled by the University of Maryland researchers.
- ✓ It is free and simple to use, enabling anyone to create custom maps, analyze forest trends, subscribe to alerts, or download data for their local area or the entire world.
- ✓ It refers to tree cover when talking about forest extent, loss, and gain.
- ✓ Highlights of the GFW's annual forest loss data.:
- ✓ The loss of primary forests—those untouched by people and sometimes known as old-growth forests – in the tropics declined 9% last year compared to 2022.
- ✓ The world last year lost about 37,000 square kilometers (14,000 square miles) of tropical primary forest, an area nearly as big as Switzerland.
- ✓ Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Bolivia topped the ranking of tropical countries with the most primary forest losses.
- ✓ Deforestation globally rose by 3.2% in 2023.
- ✓ India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, equivalent to a six percent decrease in tree cover during this period.
- ✓ The country lost 4,14,000 hectares of humid primary forest (4.1 percent) from 2002 to 2023, making up 18 per cent of its total tree cover loss in the same period.
- ✓ The data showed that 95 percent of the tree cover loss in India from 2013 to 2023 occurred within natural forests.
- ✓ The GFW data showed that five states accounted for 60 percent of all tree cover losses between 2001 and 2023.
- ✓ Assam had the maximum tree cover loss at 324,000 hectares, compared to an average of 66,600 hectares. Mizoram lost 312,000 hectares of tree cover, Arunachal Pradesh 262,000 hectares, Nagaland 259,000 hectares, and Manipur 240,000 hectares.



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB):

1. It recommends persons for appointment to senior positions at financial institutions owned by the government.

2. The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister.

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

- ✓ FSIB recently recommended the name of IFCI Managing Director Manoj Mittal as SIDBI Chairman and Managing Director.
- ✓ About Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB):
- ✓ It's a government body set up under the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ The primary role of FSIB is to identify manpower capabilities and ensure proper selection of talent for senior positions at financial institutions owned by the government.
- ✓ It replaced the Bank Board's Bureau (BBB), which was declared an incompetent authority.
- ✓ Structure:
- ✓ FSIB would be headed by a chairman, a central government nominee.
- ✓ The board would comprise the Secretaries of the DFS, the chairman of IRDAI, and a deputy governor of the RBI.
- ✓ Additionally, it will have three part-time members who are experts in banking and three more from the insurance sector.
- ✓ Functions:
- ✓ To recommend persons for appointment as Whole-Time Directors (WTDs) and Non-Executive Chairpersons (NECs) on the Boards of Directors in Public Sector Banks (PSBs), financial institutions (FIs) and Public Sector Insurers (PSIs).
- ✓ It would also issue guidelines for selecting general managers and directors of public sector general insurance companies.



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- ✓ The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister.

Q. BharatPe co-founder and former Managing Director Ashneer Grover will launch a new app called 'ZeroPe'. What is the purpose of this app?

- A) Provide education loans B) Provide startups loans
C) Provide agriculture loans D) Provide medical loans

Answer : D

- ✓ BharatPe co-founder and former Managing Director Ashneer Grover will launch a new app called 'ZeroPe', an app designed for medical loans.
- ✓ ZeroPe, currently in its testing phase, has been developed by Third Unicorn, according to its Google Playstore listing.
- ✓ The ZeroPe app is set to provide instant pre-approved medical loans of up to Rs 500,000 in collaboration with Delhi-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Mukut Finvest. The service is exclusively available at partnered hospitals.
- ✓ Grover's entry into this arena adds to a growing trend, with businesses like SaveIn, Qube Health, Arogya Finance, Neodocs, Fibe, Kenko, and Mykare Health already offering instant financing solutions for medical bills and elective treatments

Q. Which Indian has been re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board for a third time?

- A) Jagjit Pavadia B) Arindam Bagchi
C) Smita Sarangi D) Jagadesh Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ A former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Jagjit Pavadia has been re-elected to the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).
- ✓ India scored the highest number of votes among all the elected members of the anti-narcotics body.
- ✓ Pavadia (70), who has already served as President of the Board from 2021 to 2022, has been re-elected for the term 2025-2030.
- ✓ Pavadia held several senior positions in the Indian Revenue Service for 35 years



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- ✓ She has been a member of the INCB since 2015, and also held the posts of Second Vice-President and Chair (2015, 2017 and 2020), Vice-Chair (2018) and member (2019 and 2023) of the Standing Committee on Estimates.
- ✓ In 2016, she served as the First Vice-President of the Board, and then President from 2021-2022.
- ✓ About International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
- ✓ INCB was set up in 1968 by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.
- ✓ Headquarters – Vienna, Austria
- ✓ INCB has 13 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of five years.
- ✓ 10 members are elected from a list of government nominees.
- ✓ The other 3 members are experts in medical, pharmacological, or pharmaceutical experience from a list nominated by WHO.
- ✓ INCB basically cooperates with the world governments to ensure that adequate supplies of drugs are available for medical and scientific uses.

Q. Who has stepped down as the Chef-de-Mission for the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics citing “personal reasons”?

- A) Karnam Malleswari B) Saina Nehwal
C) P. T. Usha D) Mary Kom

Answer : D

- ✓ Olympic bronze medalist and six times World champion boxer M.C. Mary Kom stepped down as the Chef-de-Mission for the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics citing “personal reasons”.
- ✓ Mary, who is also the chairperson of the IOA’s Athletes Commission, was named as the Chef-de-Mission in March 2024.
- ✓ In March 2024, Mary was chosen as the chef de mission, winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan was named her deputy.

Q. According to Plastic Overshoot Day Report, which country has one of the lowest per capita plastic waste production rates globally?

- A) Myanmar B) India
C) China D) Russia

Answer : B



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- ✓ A recent report by Switzerland's EA Earth Action reveals India as one of the top twelve contributors to 60% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste.
- ✓ Released on April 12, 2024, the Plastic Overshoot Day report highlights Eritrea as the worst in the Mismanaged Waste Index, with Bermuda at the bottom.
- ✓ India's per capita plastic waste production is the world's lowest at 8 kg per year, yet its expected mismanaged waste in 2024 is "very high" at 7.4 million tons.

Q. Who has been selected for the prestigious John Dirks Prize in global health?

- A) Dr. SK Bose
- B) Dr. Gagandeep Kang
- C) Dr. Randeep Singh
- D) Dr. Sushovan Banerjee

Answer : B

- ✓ Dr. Gagandeep Kang, an Indian researcher, earns the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for her pioneering work in enteric diseases.
- ✓ Her cohort-based research has influenced vaccine development and health policy globally.
- ✓ The Gairdner Foundation celebrates her significant contributions to biomedical and global health research, highlighting her impact on understanding childhood diseases' effects on life course.

Q. Mount Etna, recently seen in news, is located in which region of Italy?

- A) Sardinia
- B) Aosta Valley
- C) Sicily
- D) Tuscany

Answer : C

- ✓ Mount Etna, Europe's largest and most active volcano, recently produced rare volcanic vortex rings, where gas, mainly water vapor, forms perfect circles when released from its crater.
- ✓ This phenomenon, first noted in 1724, can last up to 10 minutes.
- ✓ Etna's circular vent is a key characteristic.
- ✓ Similar events have been observed at various volcanoes worldwide. Situated on Sicily's east coast, Etna boasts Italy's highest peak south of the Alps.



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Q. Who was recently named South Asian Person of the Year by Harvard University?

- A) Preeti Shah
B) Sunita Williams
C) Gracy Singh
D) Avantika Vandanpu

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, Indian-American actor and 'Mean Girls' star Avantika Vandanapu was named South Asian Person of the Year by Harvard University.
- ✓ 19-year-old Avantika has been given this honour in recognition of her outstanding achievements and her impact in the international and Indian entertainment world.

Q. When is World Art Day celebrated every year?

- A) 12th April
B) 13 April
C) 14 April
D) 15 April

Answer : D

- ✓ World Art Day is celebrated every year on 15 April all over the world.
- ✓ The day is celebrated with the aim of raising awareness about the diversity of artistic expressions and strengthening the relationship between artistic works and society.
- ✓ World Art Day was officially established on April 15, 2012 during a meeting of the International Association of Art (IAA) in Mexico.



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- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- 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. Who has been ranked at the top position in the list of world's busiest airports released by ACI in April 2024?

- A) Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- B) London Heathrow Airport
- C) Dubai International Airport
- D) Denver International Airport

Answer : A



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Q. Swiggy has launched a new initiative 'Swiggy Pawlice'. What is the main purpose of Swiggy Pawlice'?

- A) For finding missing children B) For finding missing pets
C) For finding missing senior citizens D) For finding missing cell phone

Answer : B

- ✓ Swiggy has launched a new initiative 'Swiggy Pawlice' for finding missing pet.
- ✓ This feature empowers pet parents to report a missing pet directly on the Swiggy app, harnessing the network of Swiggy's delivery partners as compassionate allies in the search efforts.
- ✓ Pet parents can report their missing pets directly through the Swiggy app, providing all necessary details and pictures.
- ✓ Swiggy's vast network of over 3.5 lakh delivery partners plays a crucial role in this initiative. If a delivery partner spots a missing pet, they simply need to inform a dedicated team at Swiggy, providing details and location.

Q. Iran has launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Israel under which operation?

- A) Operation True Promise B) Operation False Friend
C) Operation Fake Promise D) Operation Tit for Tat

Answer : A

- ✓ Iran launches operation 'True Promise' against Israel
- ✓ Iran has launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Israel.
- ✓ Iran's Revolutionary Guards have stated that Operation 'True Promise' is a response to Israeli actions and is part of their strategy to punish Israel for its perceived crimes.
- ✓ The attack was in response to the April 1 Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus that killed seven IRGC members, including two generals in charge of leading operations in Syria and Lebanon, along with six other people.

IMPORTANT OPERATION & CODE NAME IN NEWS 2023-24

- OPERATION INDRAVATI
- India has started Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- OPERATION SANKALP



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- Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with the aim of ensuring the security of Indian ships.
- OPERATION RISING SUN
- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a big syndicate involved in smuggling of foreign-origin gold worth around Rs. 40 crore in its operation code named 'Rising Sun' on 12th and 13th March, 2024
- OPERATION KAMDHENU
- Jammu and Kashmir police launched Operation Kamdhenu to curb cattle smuggling.
- OPERATION PROSPERITY GUARDIAN
- Operation Prosperity Guardian is a United States-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed in December 2023 to respond to Houthi-led attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.
- OPERATION AJAY.
- India has launched 'Operation Ajay' to facilitate the return from Israel of those Indians who wish to come back home.
- OPERATION IRON SWORD
- Israel has named the ongoing fight against Hamas as Operation Iron Sword. Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls some areas of the Gaza Strip.
- OPERATION SAJAG
- Indian Coast Guard conducted 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill along the west coast, aimed at enhancing coastal security.
- OPERATION BROADER SWORD.
- India and the USA, jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.
- OPERATION KARUNA
- India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.
- OPERATION KAVERI
- India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan
- OPERATION DOST



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- Due to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, India has launched a campaign named 'Operation Dost' to help the affected people.
- OPERATION GARUDA
- Central Bureau of Investigation has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking network.
- OPERATION YATRI SURAKSHA
- To give assurance of the safety to the passengers, the Indian railways with the coordination of Railway Protection Force has launched a pan India drive under the code name Operation Yatri Suraksha.
- OPERATION "NARCOS"
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently recovered narcotic products worth Rs 7.40 crore under "Operation Narcos".
- OPERATION SANKALP
- Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for Op-Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf.
- OPERATION SATARK
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently started "Operation Satark" taking action against illicit liquor, fake currency circulation, etc.
- OPERATION GANGA
- India launches mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine

Q. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced Home Voting for the elderly and Persons with Disabilities for the first time in a Lok Sabha Election. Under this voters above ___ years of age can choose to vote from home.

A) 75 years

B) 80 years

C) 85 years

D) 88 years

Answer : C

- ✓ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced home voting for the first time in a Lok Sabha Election.
- ✓ This initiative aims to make voting easier for elderly citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.



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- ✓ Now, voters above 85 years of age and PwDs with 40% benchmark disability can choose to vote from home.
- ✓ Over 81 lakh voters are aged 85 or above, and there are more than 90 lakh registered PwD voters across the country.
- ✓ The process to avail this facility is simple. Eligible voters must complete Form 12D within five days of the election notification and submit it to the returning officer. PwD voters need to include a baseline disability certificate with their applications

Q. What target has been set up by the government of India for the production of coal by the captive and commercial coal blocks for 2024-25 years?

- A) 120 million tonnes B) 140 million tonnes
C) 150 million tonnes D) 170 million tonnes

Answer : D

- ✓ Coal production target set at 170 million tonnes for 2024-25
- ✓ The government has set the target of producing 170 million tonnes of coal from captive and commercial coal blocks in the country during the 2024-25 financial year.
- ✓ In FY24, captive and commercial coal blocks produced 147.12 million tonnes (MT) of dry fuel, 26 per cent higher from 116 MT produced in FY23.
- ✓ Out of the total output of 147.2 MT in FY24, power sector captive mines produced around 121.3 MT, captive mines of the non-power sector produced 8.4 MT while commercial mines generated 17.5 MT of fuel.
- ✓ The country's coal import rose to 244.27 MT in the April-February period of FY24 from 227.93 MT in the year-ago period, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce company mjunction

Q. Who is the author of the book titled “The Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond”?

- A) Aravind Adiga B) Raman Mittal
C) Amitav Ghosh D) Vikram Seth

Answer : B

- ✓ Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar has released the book titled “The Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond”.
- ✓ The book was written by Prof. Raman Mittal and Dr. Seema Singh.
- ✓ Attorney General R. Venkataramani and Vice Chancellor of Delhi University Prof. Yogesh Singh have also launched this book.



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FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHOR IN NEWS 2023-24

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

Q. Who is the MD of International Monetary Fund, who has been elected for the second five-year term?

A) Soumya Swaminathan

B) Kristalina Georgieva

C) Geeta Gopinath

D) Anshula Kant

Answer : B



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- ✓ International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reappointed Kristalina Georgieva as Managing Director for a second five-year term starting October 1, 2024.
- ✓ Kristalina Georgieva of Bulgaria has served as the MD of the IMF since 2019.
- ✓ International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- ✓ Founded : 1945
- ✓ Headquarters: Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)
- ✓ First Deputy MD : Gita Gopinath
- ✓ Chief Economist : Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas (France)
- ✓ Executive Director for India at IMF : Krishnamurthy Subramaniam
- ✓ Member countries : 190 (Andorra)
- ✓ IMF Released Report
- ✓ Global Financial Stability Report
- ✓ World Economic Outlook.
- ✓ The value of Special Drawing Right (SDR) is determined by the basket of 5 currencies.
- ✓ The currencies are, US Dollar, Japanese Yen, British Pound, Chinese Yuan and Euro.
- ✓ Special Drawing Right is known as the Paper Gold. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of key international currencies reviewed by IMF every five years. SDR was introduced in the 1969
- ✓ by the IMF to solve the problem of International liquidity

Q. Who has been appointed by Fintech firm BharatPe as its whole-time Chief Executive Officer?

A) Suhail Sameer

B) Nalin Negi

C) Rajiv Sinha

D) Ravi Singh

Answer : B

- ✓ Fintech firm BharatPe has promoted its interim CEO and chief financial officer Nalin Negi as full-time chief executive officer.
- ✓ Negi was given the charge of interim CEO after the then CEO Suhail Sameer stepped down in January 2023.
- ✓ Negi joined BharatPe in 2022 with over 28 years of experience.



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Q. With whom has Bharat Electronics Limited signed an agreement for cooperation in quantum technology?

A) IIT Varanasi

B) IIT Mumbai

C) IIT Delhi

D) IIT Mandi

Answer : D

- ✓ Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a MoU with IIT Mandi Himachal Pradesh for collaboration in research in the areas of semiconductors, quantum technologies and drones.
- ✓ BEL is an Indian Government-owned aerospace and defence electronics company.

Q. Which team broke its own record of the highest team score in IPL history?

A) Sunrisers Hyderabad

B) Delhi Capitals

C) Royal Challengers Bangalore

D) Chennai Super Kings

Answer : A

- ✓ Sunrisers Hyderabad broke their own record for the highest team score in IPL history.
- ✓ M from Bangalore Scored 287/3 against Royal Challengers Bangalore at Chinnaswamy Stadium which is a new record total.
- ✓ In the same season, Hyderabad had made a record of 277/3 against Mumbai Indians

Q. Which is the first stadium in India to use hybrid pitch technology?

A) Narendra Modi Stadium

B) Wankhede

C) Dharamshala

D) Sawai Mansingh

Answer : C

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) has always been at the forefront in using technology in cricket.
- ✓ In this connection, HPCA has started using hybrid pitch technology in its practice facilities.
- ✓ The first ever hybrid pitch installation in Dharamsala will take Indian cricket to new heights.

Q. What target has been set up by the government of India for the production of coal by the captive and commercial coal blocks for 2024-25 years?

A) 120 million tonnes

B) 140 million tonnes

C) 150 million tonnes

D) 170 million tonnes



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- ✓ According to mission control that launched the rocket, it reached an altitude of more than 25,000 kilometers (15,500 mi) per hour within minutes as it blasted off into space.
- ✓ The Angara rocket is a 54.5 meter (178.81 ft) three-stage rocket. Its weight is about 773 tons, about 24.5 tons of which can be carried into space.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII):

1. It is an advisory body to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

2. It is the only international body that is mandated to deal specifically with Indigenous Peoples' issues.

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 23rd session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recently commenced in New York, United States.
- ✓ About UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII):
- ✓ It was created in 2000 as an advisory body to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health, and human rights.
- ✓ According to its mandate, the Permanent Forum will:
- ✓ Provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds, and agencies of the United Nations, through the Council.
- ✓ Raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the UN system.
- ✓ Prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.
- ✓ The first meeting of the Permanent Forum was held in 2002, and yearly sessions take place in New York.
- ✓ It is one of three UN bodies that is mandated to deal specifically with Indigenous Peoples' issues.
- ✓ Eight of the members are nominated by governments, and eight are nominated directly by indigenous organisations in their regions



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Lake Kariba:

1. It is the world's largest man-made lake and reservoir by volume.

2. It lies along the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe.

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

- ✓ Water levels at Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe have dropped dramatically because of the latest El Nino drought.
- ✓ About Lake Kariba:
 - ✓ It is the world's largest man-made lake and reservoir by volume.
 - ✓ It lies approximately 1300 kilometers upstream from the Indian Ocean, along the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.
 - ✓ It is 200 kilometers downstream of Victoria Falls.
 - ✓ The lake was filled following the completion of the Kariba Dam wall at its northeastern end, flooding the Kariba Gorge on the Zambezi River.
 - ✓ The Kariba Dam consists of a double-arch wall.
 - ✓ The wall extends across the Kariba gorge, creating a border crossing between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:

1. It is located at the tri-junction of three States, viz., Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

2. It is part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ A pack of wild dogs, or Dhols, in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) have suffered severe exfoliating mixed skin infections.
- ✓ About Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:
 - ✓ Location:



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- ✓ An adequate number of missile firing trials have been successfully conducted towards achieving compliance with the complete operational envelope as stipulated in the GSQR (Infantry, Indian Army).
- ✓ Penetration trials of the Tandem Warhead System of MPATGM have been completed and the Tandem Warhead is found capable of defeating modern armour-protected Main Battle Tank (MBT).
- ✓ The ATGM system is well equipped with day/night and top attack capability. Dual mode seeker functionality is a great value addition to the missile capability for Tank Warfare.

DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- Recently, Strategic Forces Command and DRDO successfully tested the new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa .
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958



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- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs):

- 1. They are debt securities issued by governments to raise capital to support climate-related projects.**
- 2. Only resident Indian entities are allowed to invest in these bonds.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently green-lighted investments in the country's Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIS).
- ✓ About Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs):
- ✓ A green bond is a debt security that is issued to raise capital to support climate-related or environmental projects, according to the World Bank.
- ✓ SGBs are issued by governments to raise resources for such projects.
- ✓ The Union Budget 2022-23 announced the issue of SGrBs.
- ✓ The framework for the SGrBs was issued by the government on November 9, 2022.
- ✓ What does the framework entail?
- ✓ The government's framework is based on the International Capital Market Association's (ICMA) listed principles for issuing green bonds, which has four components:
- ✓ Use of proceeds, project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, and reporting.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Vostro Account:

- 1. It is an account that foreign banks hold for domestic banks in the latter's domestic currency.**
- 2. It helps domestic banks gain wider access to foreign financial markets without having to be physically present abroad.**



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ India has simplified the payment mechanism for traders importing pulses from Myanmar, requiring them to use the Rupee/Kyat direct payment system through the Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA) through the Punjab National Bank.
- ✓ What is a Vostro Account?
- ✓ A vostro account is an account that domestic banks hold for foreign banks in the former's domestic currency, in this case, the rupee.
- ✓ Domestic banks use it to provide international banking services to their clients who have global banking needs.
- ✓ It is an integral offshoot of correspondent banking that entails a bank (or an intermediary) to facilitate wire transfers, conduct business transactions, accept deposits and gather documents on behalf of the other bank.
- ✓ It helps domestic banks gain wider access to foreign financial markets and serve international clients without having to be physically present abroad.
- ✓ About SRVA:
- ✓ The settlement of international trade through Indian Rupees (INR) is an additional arrangement to the existing system of settlement that uses freely convertible currencies and works as a complimentary system.
- ✓ Freely convertible currency is a currency which is permitted by the rules and regulations of the country concerned to be converted into major reserve currencies like the U.S. Dollar, Pound Sterling.
- ✓ This will reduce dependence on hard (freely convertible) currency.
- ✓ SRVA requires prior approval of RBI before opening, unlike Rupee Vostro account.
- ✓ How does SRVA arrangement function?
- ✓ The framework entails three important components, namely, invoicing, exchange rate, and settlement.
- ✓ Invoicing entails that all exports and imports must be denominated and invoiced in INR.
- ✓ The exchange rate between the currencies of the trading partner countries would be market-determined.
- ✓ The final settlement also takes place in Indian National Rupee (INR).
- ✓ All reporting of cross-border transactions is to be done in accordance with the extant guidelines under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.



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Q. Veeranam Lake, recently seen in news, is located in:

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The water storage in Veeranam Lake was recorded at zero million cubic feet (mcft) on April 15, 2024 according to data by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB). Last year, on the same date the lake held 687.40 mcft of water, while its total capacity is 1,465 mcft.
- ✓ About Veeranam Lake:
- ✓ Veeranam Lake serves as a crucial drinking water source for Chennai.
- ✓ It is located in Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It was considered to be one of the longest man-made lakes in the world with a length of 14 km
- ✓ History-
- ✓ It was built during the period of Greater Cholas between 907- 955 A.D, by the Chola Prince- Rajaditya Chola who was the son of Parantaka the 1st. He'd named this waterbody after his father's title- Veeranarayanan.
- ✓ The source of Veeranam is the river of Kollidam; which is the Northern distributary of the Cauvery River, where the Vadavaru River links both the Veeranam and Kollidam.
- ✓ This lake was used as a reference, in the famous Historical novel Ponniyin Selvan, written by Kalki.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of SPACE India?

- A) Ayushmann Khurrana B) Vicky Kaushal
C) Aamir Khan D) Sanjana Sanghi

Answer : D

- ✓ Sanjana Sanghi has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of SPACE India.
- ✓ Sanjana zanghi is a rising young Bollywood star and UNDP Youth Champion. Her commitment to social activism and advocacy for education make her the ideal fit for this role at SPACE India and SPACE Arcade.
- ✓ SPACE India is the registered Space Tutor of ISRO, creating impact through its education and outreach programs for schools that involve students' participation in national and international competitions for citizen science projects with ISRO and NASA.



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- ✓ Founded in 2001, SPACE India has inspired over 1.5 Million students and facilitated the integration of Astronomy and Space Science into the curriculum of 1,000 schools pan India, nurturing a new generation of space enthusiasts and scholars.

LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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- ✓ It is a rare disorder in which your blood doesn't clot normally because it lacks sufficient blood-clotting proteins /factors. If you have hemophilia, you may bleed for a longer time after an injury than you would if your blood clotted normally.

Q. When is the Save the Elephant Day observed every year?

A) April 16

B) April 15

C) April 17

D) April 18

Answer : A

- ✓ Every year, Save the Elephant Day is celebrated on April 16 to raise awareness about the dangers elephants face and various difficulties they have to overcome to live.
- ✓ The Day is established by Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, to spread awareness among the general people about the significance and consequences of their actions, or inactions on the future of elephants.
- ✓ According to WWF data, at present the population of Pachyderms in India is around 20,000 to 25,000.

Q. DRDO conducted a successful flight test of the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) at which place?

A) Chandipur, Odisha

B) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

C) Pokhran, Rajasthan

D) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha. All subsystems performed well, monitored by range sensors and a Su-30-Mk-I aircraft.
- ✓ The missile showcased precise navigation, flying close to the sea surface.
- ✓ The test affirmed the reliability of the indigenous propulsion system by GTRE, Bengaluru.
- ✓ Developed by ADE, equipped with advanced avionics, the ITCM is a technology demonstrator with an upgraded seeker and small turbofan engine.



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DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.
- DRDO successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- Recently, Strategic Forces Command and DRDO successfully tested the new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa .
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array (DURGA) system:

1. It destroys its target using focused energy by means of microwaves or particle beams.

2. It has been indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.
- ✓ It damages or destroys its target using focused energy by means of lasers, microwaves or particle beams.
- ✓ Advantages: These weapons have several advantages over conventional munitions.
- ✓ They transmit lethal force at the speed of light (about 300,000 kilometers per second).
- ✓ Their beams are not affected by the constraining effects of gravity or atmospheric drag.
- ✓ They are extremely precise. Fourth, their effects can be tailored by varying the type and intensity of energy delivered against targets.
- ✓ Significance
- ✓ The aerospace industry can transform the way wars will be fought.
- ✓ This will enable us to produce cutting edge platforms, weapons, sensors, and networks essential to fight and win a future war.
- ✓ Other countries which have this system: Russia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Israel, and China.

Q. Recently, a state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated in which state?

A) Kerala

B) Tamil Nadu

C) Maharashtra

D) Odisha

Answer : A

- ✓ In Kerala, the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO unveiled the Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE). It's a testing hub for sonar systems on Indian Navy ships, subs, and helicopters.



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- 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.



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Q. Which IIT has signed an MoU with digital infrastructure provider Lightstorm for employment enablement and skill development programme in the country?

A) IIT Madras

B) IIT Bombay

C) IIT Kanpur

D) IIT Guwahati

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with digital infrastructure provider Lightstorm for employment enablement and skill development programme in the country
- ✓ The collaboration aims to address the skill gap among underprivileged students and support underserved youth, women, and job seekers from tier II and III cities.
- ✓ It will provide extensive placement assistance, including job readiness facilities, for students pursuing degrees in arts, science, and commerce.
- ✓ The 'Employment Enablement Programme through Skill Development' is a meticulously designed curriculum that aims to upskill students with essential topics that are highly practical and relevant in the current job market

IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Experimental Licence Module for 100 5G Labs' launched at IIT Madras
- President of India Draupadi Murmu launched India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support.
- IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users
- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd.



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- Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility .
- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India materials and engineering resources being deployed to construct Asia's first Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.
- IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.



Q. Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) is associated with:

- A) testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems
- B) a new submarine testing
- C) wastewater treatment
- D) water quality testing

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, a state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman DRDO in Kerala.
- ✓ It is set up by the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO.
- ✓ It has been designed as a premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems destined for Indian Navy onboard various platforms including ships, submarines and helicopters.
- ✓ Features: It will consist of two distinct assemblages - a platform which floats on the water surface, and a submersible platform which can be lowered to any depth upto 100 m using winch systems.
- ✓ Uses: It will mainly be utilised for evaluation of complete sonar system, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers. It will be suitable for survey, sampling, and data collection of air, surface, mid-water, and reservoir floor parameters using modern scientific instrumentation.
- ✓ It will cater to the needs of data processing and sample analyses in modern, well equipped scientific laboratories heralding a new era of Anti-Submarine Warfare research capabilities.
- ✓ What is Sonar?
- ✓ Sound Navigation and Ranging (SONAR) is a tool that uses sound waves to explore the ocean.
- ✓ Scientists primarily use sonar to develop nautical charts, locate underwater hazards to navigation, search for and identify objects in the water column and on the seafloor such as shipwrecks, and map the seafloor itself.
- ✓ Sonar is used for oceanography because sound waves travel farther in the water than radar and light waves can.

Q. Men5CV Vaccine is related to:

- A) COVID-19
- B) Malaria
- C) HIV
- D) Meningitis

Answer : D



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- ✓ Nigeria has taken a historic step in the fight against meningitis, becoming the first country in the world to introduce a new, highly effective vaccine called Men5CV.
- ✓ It protects against strains A, C, W, Y and X of the meningococcus bacteria, all of which can cause meningitis and blood poisoning.
- ✓ It is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ✓ Funding: The vaccine and emergency vaccination activities are funded by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.
- ✓ Key facts about Meningitis
- ✓ It is a serious infection that leads to the inflammation of the membranes (meninges) that surround and protect the brain and spinal cord.
- ✓ There are multiple causes of meningitis, including viral, bacterial, fungal and parasitic pathogens.
- ✓ Symptoms: It often includes headache, fever and stiff neck

Q. Where is the World Future Energy Summit 2024 being organized?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Dhaka
- C) Dubai
- D) Abu Dhabi

Answer : D

- ✓ The World Future Energy Summit 2024 is being organized in the Gulf city of Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ It is being organised to discuss measures to facilitate global energy transition and promote investment in clean and renewable energy

Q. Which Indian institution played an important role in the Shri Ram 'Surya Tilak' program in Ayodhya?

- A) IIT Varanasi
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) Indian Institute of Astrophysics
- D) IIT Madras

Answer : C

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology, played a key role in the Shri Ram 'Surya Tilak' programme in Ayodhya.
- ✓ The opto-mechanical system used in the 'Surya Tilak' programme at Ayodhya was designed by CBRI and the device was manufactured by Optics, Bangalore



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Q. Adwaita Nayar has been named Young Global Leader in World Economic Forum's Class of 2024. She is CEO of which company?

- A) LimeRoad
B) Myntra
C) Kia Fashion
D) Nykaa Fashion

Answer : D

- ✓ Adwaita Nayar, the co-founder of Nykaa and CEO of Nykaa Fashion, has been inducted into the esteemed World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders Community as part of the Class of 2024.
- ✓ Comprising 90 remarkable individuals, this group of changemakers is at the forefront of shaping the future and fostering positive change through their innovative endeavors.
- ✓ As the forum of young leaders completes 20 glorious years, this recognition reflects their commitment to fostering the next generation of changemakers.
- ✓ Some of the world's most powerful political and business leaders including several current and former Prime Ministers and Presidents, Nobel laureates, Fortune 500 CEOs and billionaires are a part of this league.

Q. State of World Population 2024 report, recently released by which organization?

- A) World Bank
B) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
C) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
D) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Answer : B

- ✓ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released the 2024 State of the World's Population report in April 2024.
- ✓ India leads with a population of 144.17 crore, expected to double in 77 years. 68% aged 15-64, with a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0. Life expectancy at birth is 71 and 74 years for men and women respectively.
- ✓ Child marriage rates were 23%, and women with disabilities face up to 10 times more gender-based violence.
- ✓ Marginalized communities are largely ignored despite 30 years of SRH progress

Q. Mount Ruang, recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following countries?

- A) Chile
B) Japan
C) Indonesia
D) Papua New Guinea



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- ✓ GFCF in the Indian economy increased significantly from INR 32.78 lakh crore in 2014-15 to INR 54.35 lakh crore in 2022-2023.
- ✓ This surge in capital formation reflects substantial investments in infrastructure, industry, and public goods.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA):

- 1. It is an alliance of European Union (EU) countries which envisions a just, zero-waste world.**
- 2. It aims to power a transition away from the current linear economy towards a circular system.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific, in collaboration with other environmental organisations, has called on the ASEAN to take decisive action in response to plastic pollution.
- ✓ About Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA):
- ✓ GAIA is a worldwide alliance of more than 1,000 grassroots groups, non-governmental organizations and individuals in over 90 countries.
- ✓ GAIA aims to power a transition away from our current linear and extractive economy and towards a circular system that supports people's right to a safe and healthy environment.
- ✓ GAIA envisions a just, zero-waste world built on respect for ecological limits and community rights, where people are free from the burden of toxic pollution and resources are sustainably conserved, not burned or dumped.
- ✓ This entails fighting pollution and building regenerative solutions in cities through local campaigns, shifts in policy and finance, research and communication initiatives, and movement building.
- ✓ They work on four primary points of intervention: incineration, zero waste, plastic, and climate



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Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission?

- A) To study the critical earth minerals
- B) To observe the surface temperature of the Moon
- C) To monitor the near-Earth objects in space for any potential risks
- D) To look for the prebiotic chemical processes common on both Saturn's moon Titan and Earth

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, NASA confirmed Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's organic compound-rich moon Titan with a budget of \$3.35 billion and a launch date set for July 2028.
- ✓ It is a "dual quadcopter" designed to fly across the surface of Titan, Saturn's largest moon.
- ✓ It will explore a variety of locations on Saturn's moon Titan.
- ✓ It will spend most of its time on the moon's surface making science measurements.
- ✓ It will use a radioisotope power system like the Curiosity rover on Mars.
- ✓ Its flights, data transmission and most science operations will happen during the day, and it will have a lot of time to recharge during night on Titan.
- ✓ It is a rotorcraft, targeted to arrive at Titan in 2034, will fly to dozens of promising locations on the moon, looking for prebiotic chemical processes common on both Titan and the early Earth before life developed.
- ✓ It marks the first time NASA will fly a vehicle for science on another planetary body. The rotorcraft has eight rotors and flies like a large drone.
- ✓ Key facts about Titan
- ✓ Titan is Saturn's largest moon, Titan has an earthlike cycle of liquids flowing across its surface. It is the only moon with a thick atmosphere.

Q. With reference to GPS spoofing, consider the following statements:

1. It is the practice of manipulating GPS receiver by broadcasting false GPS signals.
2. It is done by exploiting the weak signal strength of GPS satellites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C



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- ✓ Israel reportedly used GPS spoofing against Iran's missile targeting teams by jamming Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation signals.
- ✓ It is also known as GPS simulation, refers to the practice of manipulating or tricking a GPS receiver by broadcasting false GPS signals.
- ✓ It misleads the GPS receiver into believing it is located somewhere it is not, resulting in the device providing inaccurate location data.
- ✓ This form of cyberattack undermines the reliability of GPS data, which is vital for a variety of applications.
- ✓ It has evolved significantly over the years. Initially a theoretical threat, it has now become a practical concern due to the availability of inexpensive software and hardware capable of transmitting fake GPS signals.
- ✓ Spoofing is not the same as jamming. While jamming, as the name suggests, is when the GPS signals are jammed, spoofing is very different and way more threatening.

Q. “Keep your liver healthy and disease-free” is the theme for the World Liver Day in 2024. When is this day marked every year on which day?

A) 20 April

B) 19 April

C) 18 April

D) 17 April

Answer : B

- ✓ The World Liver Day is observed on 19 April annually to spread awareness about the importance of the liver as a vital organ and liver-related diseases, and provide tips for its prevention so as to take holistic care of liver.
- ✓ The World Liver Day theme for 2024 is “Keep your liver healthy and disease-free”
- ✓ The liver is the second largest and the second most complex organ in the body, after the brain.

Q. When is the International Day for Monuments and Sites observed?

A) April 20

B) April 18

C) April 19

D) April 17

Answer : B

- ✓ The International Day for Monuments and Sites is observed on 18th of April each year. The day is also known as the World Heritage Day.
- ✓ The basic objective of this day is to promote awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage of humanity, their vulnerability and the efforts required for their protection and conservation.



- ✓ The International Day for Monuments and Sites was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18 April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – “Discover and Experience Diversity”

Q. Dragonfly rotorcraft mission, recently seen in news, is associated with which space organization?

- A) NASA
B) ISRO
C) CNSA
D) JAXA

Answer : A

- ✓ NASA confirmed the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn’s moon Titan with a \$3.35 billion budget, launching in July 2028.
- ✓ It’s a “dual quadcopter” exploring various locations, mainly on the moon’s surface, with a radioisotope power system.
- ✓ Scheduled to arrive in 2034, it will search for prebiotic chemical processes, resembling early Earth conditions.
- ✓ This marks NASA’s first scientific vehicle on another planetary body.
- ✓ Titan, Saturn’s largest moon, boasts an Earth-like liquid cycle and a thick atmosphere

NASA IN NEWS 2023-24

- NASA confirmed the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn’s moon Titan with a \$3.35 billion budget, launching in July 2028.
- NASA is now publicly distributing science-quality data from its newest Earth-observing PACE satellite.
- NASA has been tasked with establishing Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC) as a unified standard for timekeeping on the Moon and other celestial bodies
- American space agency NASA has discovered a “super-Earth” planet, dubbed TOI-715 b, that could potentially support life. It is located 137 light-years away and was found by NASA’s planet-hunting Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- NASA Re-Establishes Contact With Ingenuity Helicopter On Mars After Outage
- NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency’s first robotic lunar rover VIPER – short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.



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- NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth's atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- About OSIRIS-APEX:
 - It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter
 - with Earth in April 2029.
 - A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.
- 16 Psyche:
 - It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'airglow' to understand space weather.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named 'Wasp-107b', which is the size of Jupiter.
- NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- About Lucy Mission:
 - It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter's elusive Trojan asteroids.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
- NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
 - Founded : 1958
 - Headquarters : Washington, D.C
 - Administrator : Bill Nelson



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



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- 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 organization in association with Women's World Banking (WWB) has signed an MoU with Jeevika, Bihar State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) and UMED, Maharashtra-SRLM to extend Prayaas scheme to SHG individual women through cluster level federations (CLFs)?

A) SEBI

B) SIDBI

C) RBI

D) NABARD

Answer : B

- ✓ SIDBI inks MOU with Jeevika Bihar, UMED Maharashtra to extend Prayaas to rural livelihood mission
- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with Women's World Banking (WWB) has signed an MoU with Jeevika, Bihar State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) and UMED, Maharashtra-SRLM to extend Prayaas scheme to SHG individual women through cluster level federations (CLFs).
- ✓ This partnership will help in unlocking the potential of CLFs and will establish a new and scalable credit distribution ecosystem.
- ✓ SIDBI in the pilot phase will partner 35-40 CLFs across Bihar and Maharashtra with a target of serving affordable credit of up to `Rs 2 lakh to 5,000 women entrepreneurs



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Q. Where did IRDEA has opened an office to focus on providing debt options in foreign currencies for Green Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Manufacturing Projects?

- A) Gandhinagar
B) Hyderabad
C) Chennai
D) Bengaluru

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has opened an office in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, which will specialize in providing debt options denominated in foreign currencies.
- ✓ This will facilitate natural hedging and significantly reduce the financing costs for Green Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Manufacturing projects.
- ✓ The strategic initiative which would contribute to the country's journey towards a greener future was highlighted by Chairperson & Managing Director of IREDA Shri Pradip Kumar Das, during a panel discussion on "Future Growth Opportunities for Long Duration Energy Storage", held at the World Future Energy Summit 2024 in Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ The IREDA CMD also emphasized the critical role that energy storage will play in achieving the National Green Hydrogen Mission's ambitious target of over 5 million metric tons per annum (MTPA) Hydrogen production by 2030

IREDA IN NEWS 2023-24

- IREDA has opened an office in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, which will specialize in providing debt options denominated in foreign currencies.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, Punjab National Bank to co-finance green energy projects.
- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Launches 'Pahal' Vigilance Journal
- IREDA Declared 2024 as 'Year of HR Development and Discipline'
- IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das bagged 'CMD of the Year' award
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal to improve transparency in CSR initiatives.



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

Q. Which company has infused an additional Rs 8,339 crore in Ambuja Cements, raising its stake in the company to 70.3 per cent, to help the cement maker's manufacturing capacity?

A) Ultra Tech

B) Tata Group

C) Dalmia

D) Adani Group

Answer : D

- ✓ Billionaire Gautam Adani's family infused an additional Rs 8,339 crore in Ambuja Cements, raising its stake in the company to 70.3 per cent, to help the cement maker's manufacturing capacity.
- ✓ The Adani family previously invested Rs 5,000 crore in the company on October 18, 2022, and Rs 6,661 crore on March 28, 2024.
- ✓ The promoters of the company – Adani family – has fully subscribed to the warrants program in the company by further infusing Rs 8,339 crore, thereby infusing a total amount of Rs 20,000 crore



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Q. CleanMax has partnered with which company to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy solutions across India?

A) Meta

B) Google

C) Adobe

D) Apple

Answer : D

- ✓ 'CleanMax teams up with Apple to drive renewable energy adoption in India
- ✓ CleanMax, a leading renewable energy company, has partnered with tech giant Apple to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy solutions across India.
- ✓ Under this partnership, CleanMax has successfully installed 14.4 megawatts of rooftop solar installations spanning six industrial sites across the nation.
- ✓ These installations are forecasted to curtail approximately 207,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions throughout their operational lifespan.

Q. Which Indian actress has been included among the 100 most influential people in the world by Time magazine in April 2024?

A) Aishwarya Rai

B) Priyanka Chopra

C) Alia Bhatt

D) Katrina Kaif

Answer : C

- ✓ 8 individuals of Indian descent, including Alia Bhatt, Ajay Banga, and Sakshi Malik, have been honoured in Time magazine's prestigious list of the 100 most influential people of 2024.
- ✓ The list features a diverse array of leaders from various sectors, including finance, entertainment, technology, activism, and academia.
- ✓ The list includes politicians, business leaders, artists, icons, movie stars, athletes, and scientists who have made significant impact in their fields. The overall list contains four categories: Leaders, heroes, artists, and thinkers.
- ✓ Ajay Banga- President of the World Bank
- ✓ Alia Bhatt- Actor
- ✓ Sakshi Malik- Wrestler
- ✓ Dev Patel- Actor
- ✓ Priyamvada Natarajan- Professor in Astrophysics



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Q. Who has been conferred with an honorary doctorate from the prestigious Vels University in Chennai?

- A) Chiranjeevi Sushmitha B) Ram Charan
C) Allu Arjun D) Mahesh Babu

Answer : B

- ✓ Ram Charan has been conferred with an honorary doctorate from the prestigious Vels University in Chennai.
- ✓ He was also a chief guest at the graduation ceremony.
- ✓ Previous recipients of this recognition have been Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, director Shankar and others.
- ✓ Ram Charan debuted in 2007 with Chirutha. Since then, he has given several successful films over the course of his career, including Magadheera, Yevadu and Dhruva.
- ✓ His film RRR, which was directed by SS Rajamouli, received global acclaim and went on to win the Oscar for Best Original Song for Naatu Naatu.

Q. Dalip Singh Majithia passed away recently at the age of 103. Who was he?

- A) ISRO's oldest scientist B) India's oldest Army Chief
C) India's oldest Navy Servant D) India's oldest Air Force pilot

Answer : D

- ✓ The oldest living pilot of the Indian Air Force, Squadron Leader Dalip Singh Majithia, died at the age of 103.
- ✓ Sardar Dalip Singh Majithia commanded the Indian Air Force in present-day Myanmar and then Burma during World War II.
- ✓ Born on July 27, 1920 at Shimla, Squadron Leader Majithia joined the Indian Air Force (IAF) volunteer reserve in 1940 during World War-II, following in the footsteps of his uncle Surjeet Singh Majithia (grandfather of Akali politician Bikramjit Singh Majithia).

Q. Who has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshia Award 2023?

- A) Vikas Kumar B) Utsa Patnaik
C) Sushma Sinha D) Prabhat Patnaik

Answer : B



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- ✓ Renowned economist Utsa Patnaik receives the 2023 Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, an honor granted annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.
- ✓ Selected by a national-level jury, the award acknowledges exceptional contributions to Development Studies.
- ✓ It includes a citation and Rs. 2 lakh cash prize.
- ✓ Malcolm Adiseshiah, the award's namesake, was an Indian development economist and educator, recognized with the Padma Bhushan in 1976 for his impactful work.

Q. Government of Uttar Pradesh has constructed state's first-ever glass Skywalk Bridge in which district?

A) Chitrakoot

B) Varanasi

C) Ayodhya

D) Saharanpur

Answer : A

- ✓ Tulsi (Shabari) waterfall in Chitrakoot welcomes the first glass skywalk bridge in Uttar Pradesh, resembling Lord Rama's bow and arrow, costing Rs 3.70 crore.
- ✓ Constructed in the Kodand forest area by the Forest and Tourism Department and Pawan Sut Construction Company, it's part of a plan to develop the site into a premier eco-tourism destination.
- ✓ With a load capacity of 500 kg/sqm, the bridge offers panoramic views of the waterfall.

Q. Which organizations confirmed the occurrence of the fourth global mass coral bleaching event in 2023-2024?

A) UNESCO and WHO

B) NOAA's Coral Reef Watch and ICRI

C) Greenpeace and WWF

D) NASA and ESA

Answer : B

- ✓ NOAA's Coral Reef Watch (CRW) and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) confirmed the fourth global mass coral bleaching event (2023-2024).
- ✓ Coinciding with unprecedented ocean heat, 53 countries experienced bleaching across five ocean basins.
- ✓ The Indian Ocean, including Tanzania and Indonesia, was significantly affected.
- ✓ It's the second such event in a decade, with previous occurrences in 1998, 2010, and 2014-2017.
- ✓ Climate models predict annual bleaching by 2040-2050.
- ✓ CRW declares global bleaching only after confirming bleaching across all ocean basins.



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Q. Which country became the 38th country to join Artemis Accords?

- A) Austria
- B) Egypt
- C) Sweden
- D) Vietnam

Answer : C

- ✓ Sweden, the 38th nation, joins the Artemis Accords initiated by NASA in 2020, along with seven other founding members.
- ✓ The accords, based on the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, aims to govern civil space exploration in the 21st century.
- ✓ It emphasizes peaceful space cooperation and signifies a multilateral approach to space diplomacy.
- ✓ India is also a signatory to the accords, highlighting global participation in the endeavor.

Q. Which ministry organized the conference titled 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System'?

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of External Affairs
- C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- D) Ministry of Law and Justice

Answer : D

- ✓ Three laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, replace archaic colonial laws, effective from July 1, 2024.
- ✓ Ministry of Law and Justice hosts 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System' conference on April 20, 2024, in New Delhi, with Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud as Chief Guest.
- ✓ The event aims to elucidate the new laws and foster dialogue among stakeholders, including judges, lawyers, law enforcement, and students.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education 2024:

1. It is a detailed curriculum meant for learning in the age group of three to six-year-olds in anganwadis.
2. It has been finalized by a committee consisting of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) recently released the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education 2024 titled 'Aadharshila,' on the lines of the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework.
- ✓ About National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education 2024:
- ✓ Aadharshila (translated as foundation stone) is a detailed 48-week curriculum meant for learning in the age group of three to six-year-olds in anganwadis.
- ✓ It has been finalized by an internal committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Department of School Education and Literacy, the Ministry of Education, the NCERT, the Institute of Home Economics, Delhi University, and civil society organisations.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ The curriculum includes a weekly based play calendar with four weeks of initiation that include academic activities which help children transition from home to anganwadi centre by engaging them in fun and free play.
- ✓ The next 36 weeks are spent exploring, free play, conversation, creation and appreciation, reflection that involves various activities, including storytelling, singing rhymes, art and craft, and so on.
- ✓ Storytelling themes revolve around conflict resolution, taking responsibility, and working with and helping others.

Q. Which day has been designated by the United Nations as the UN Chinese Language Day?

A) 17 April

B) 20 April

C) 19 April

D) 18 April

Answer : B

- ✓ The UN Chinese Language Day is observed on April 20 annually.



- ✓ The day was set up in 2010 by the UN Department of Public Information, to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization.
- ✓ April 20 has also been chosen to pay tribute to Cangjie, a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago.

Q. The Global Financial Stability Report is released by:

- A) World Economic Forum**
- B) International Monetary Fund**
- C) United Nations**
- D) World Bank**

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the latest Global Financial Stability Report.
- ✓ It is a semiannual report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that assesses the stability of global financial markets and emerging-market financing.
- ✓ It is released twice per year, in April and October.
- ✓ It focuses on current conditions, especially financial and structural imbalances, that could risk an upset in global financial stability and access to financing by emerging-market countries.
- ✓ Highlights of the report
- ✓ It has warned about the risks to the global financial system from persistent high inflation, rising lending in the unregulated credit market, and increasing cyber-attacks on financial institutions.
- ✓ Geopolitical risks such as the ongoing war in West Asia and Ukraine could affect aggregate supply and lead to higher prices. This, it believes, might stop central banks from lowering rates anytime soon.
- ✓ In calendar year 2023, India was the second-largest recipient of foreign capital after the U.S. But things could change quickly if western central banks signal that they could keep interest rates high for a long time.
- ✓ The borrowers in the private credit market may not be financially sound and noted that many of them do not have current earnings that exceed even their interest costs



IMF IN NEWS 2024

- Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the latest Global Financial Stability Report.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reappointed Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria) as Managing Director for a second five-year term starting October 1, 2024.
- IMF Raises India's GDP Growth Projection to 6.8% for FY 2024-25.
- Recently, in its Fiscal Monitor the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said industrial policy initiatives pursued by the United States, Europe and other countries to steer innovation in certain sectors were no panacea to boost economic growth
- Sri Lanka will get 337 million US dollars assistance from IMF to stabilize the economy.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Founded : 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C.
- Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)
- First Deputy MD : Gita Gopinath
- Chief Economist : Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas (France)
- Executive Director for India at IMF : Krishnamurthy Subramaniam
- Member countries : 190 (Andorra)
- IMF Released Report
- Global Financial Stability Report
- World Economic Outlook.
- The value of Special Drawing Right (SDR) is determined by the basket of 5 currencies.
- The currencies are, US Dollar, Japanese Yen, British Pound, Chinese Yuan and Euro.
- Special Drawing Right is known as the Paper Gold. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of key international currencies reviewed by IMF every five years. SDR was introduced in the 1969 by the IMF to solve the problem of International liquidity



NEWLY BANK MD & CEO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ajith Kumar K.K as the Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank for three years.
- RBL Bank has appointed Murali Ramakrishnan as Non-Executive Independent Director with immediate effect for four years.
- M.V. Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the public sector bank, Central Bank of India, has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24.
- SBM Bank India has appointed Ashish Vijayakar as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank for a period of 3 years.
- Praveen Achuthan Kutty appointed as MD & CEO of DCB Bank.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) for a period of three years.
- South Indian Bank has appointed P R Seshadri as its MD & CEO .
- Ashwani Kumar is new MD & CEO of UCO Bank.
- Karnataka Bank Appoints Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as MD & CEO.
- Rajneesh Karnatak Named As New MD and Chairman Of Bank Of India.
- Debadatta Chand named as new Managing Director of Bank of Baroda.
- Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.
- K Satyanarayana Raju named as new MD and CEO of Canara Bank.

Q. Indian milk brand 'Nandini' has become the sponsor of which two teams in the upcoming T20 Cricket World Cup?

A) Scotland and England

B) Scotland and Ireland

C) Nepal and Sri Lanka

D) USA and Bangladesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian milk brand 'Nandini' has been announced as the sponsor of the national cricket teams of Scotland and Ireland in the upcoming T20 Cricket World Cup.
- ✓ Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is famous for its Nandini brand of dairy products.



- ✓ The T20 Cricket World Cup 2024 will be co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States from June 1-29

Q. Who has been appointed as the chief of 'National Security Guard'?

- A) Vijay Kumar Singh B) Aniruddha Prasad
C) Nalin Prabhat D) Manoj Kumar Sharma

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, IPS Nalin Prabhat has been appointed the new chief of the National Security Guard (NSG).
✓ Prabhat, a 1992 batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, is currently serving as Additional Director General in CRPF.

NEW UPDATED LIST OF CHIEF AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

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

Q. Which Indian Grandmaster has won the title of Candidates Chess Tournament?

- A) R Praggnanandhaa B) D Gukesh
C) Vidit Gujarati D) Harikrishna Pentala

Answer : B



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, Meta introduced its most capable Large Language Model (LLM), the Meta Llama 3.
- ✓ Llama or Large Language Model Meta AI is a family of LLMs introduced by Meta AI in February 2023.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is claimed to be the most sophisticated model with significant progress in terms of performance and AI capabilities.
- ✓ It is based on the Llama 2 architecture which has been released in two sizes, 8B and 70B parameters. Both sizes come with a base model and an instruction-tuned version that has been designed to augment performance in specific tasks.
- ✓ Reportedly, the instruction-tuned version is meant for powering AI chatbots that are meant to hold conversations with users.
- ✓ It can be used on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Messenger, and the web. It is readily available for developers as Meta has integrated the LLM into the Hugging Face ecosystem.
- ✓ At present, Meta AI is available in English across the US on WhatsApp.

Q. Longevity India Initiative, recently in news, was launched by which one of the following?

A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

B) NITI Aayog

C) Ministry of Finance

D) Indian Institute of Science

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) launched the Longevity India Initiative.
- ✓ It is a project focused on efforts to extend human 'healthspan' and tackle ageing-related challenges.
- ✓ The initiative has also started a large-scale clinical study that will involve researchers from multiple IISc departments, clinicians, industry, philanthropists and civil society.



- ✓ This initiative seeks to enhance the understanding of ageing through both fundamental and applied research, and to develop solutions that can improve quality of life.
- ✓ Funding: The initiative has received initial grant funding support from Prashanth Prakash, Founding Partner, Accel India.
- ✓ Significance
- ✓ India's elderly population projected to surge to 347 million by 2050, it is imperative that there is a need to leverage technology to provide accessible geriatric healthcare, nurture the silver economy and invest in digital systems that support ageing populations

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Indelible ink.

1. It is prepared by using silver nitrate.

2. It is used in elections in India and is mentioned in the Representation of People Act, 1951.

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

- ✓ As the Lok Sabha elections is round the corner, the classic symbol of Indian polls is visible everywhere – a left hand with only its index finger extended, marked by a purple-black indelible ink.
- ✓ It contains silver nitrate. It is a colourless compound which becomes visible when exposed to ultraviolet light, including sunlight.
- ✓ The higher silver nitrate's concentration, the higher will be the ink's quality.
- ✓ For up to 72 hours after application it can remain resistant to soap, liquids, home-cleansing, detergents, etc.
- ✓ This water-based ink also contains a solvent like alcohol to allow its faster drying. The precise protocol for making this ink including its chemical composition and the quantity of each constituent is, however, not known to many people.”
- ✓ The indelible ink was first manufactured at the Election Commission of India's request by the Government's Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ✓ Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd. has been licensed to manufacture the ink and has been in the business since 1962.



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Q. Bandhan Financial Holdings has officially taken over Aegon Life Insurance and the latter will now be called Bandhan Life. What is the new tagline of Bandhan Life?

- A) Bharat Ki Udaan, Bandhan Ke Paas
- B) Bharat Ki Udaan, Bandhan Ki Udaan
- C) Bharat Ki Udaan, Bandhan se
- D) Bandhan Ki Udaan Apke Sath

Answer : C

- ✓ Aegon Life Insurance gets new identity, will now be called “Bandhan Life’
- ✓ Bandhan Financial Holdings has officially taken over Aegon Life Insurance and the latter will now be called Bandhan Life.
- ✓ The private life insurer has also created a new brand identity for itself with the tagline ‘Bharat Ki Udaan, Bandhan se’.
- ✓ Satishwar B., MD and CEO of Bandhan Life, said, “This transition sets the stage for an amazing new chapter for us as we become a part of the renowned Bandhan Group.
- ✓ The updated product names, such as Bandhan Life iTerm Prime, reflect this new direction, inviting customers to explore the company’s enhanced offerings on its website.

Q. ITC Infotech has entered into a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of 100 per cent of the share capital of Pune-headquartered Blazeclan Technologies Private Limited for _.

- A) 450 crore
- B) 485 crore
- C) 285 crore
- D) 685 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ ITC Infotech to acquire Pune-based Blazeclan Technologies for Rs 485 crore
- ✓ ITC Infotech has entered into a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of 100 per cent of the share capital of Pune-headquartered Blazeclan Technologies Private Limited.
- ✓ The total consideration for the acquisition by its wholly owned subsidiary, ITC Infotech India Limited, is up to Rs 485 crore, including contingent consideration which is subject to the achievement of prescribed targets.



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Q. Who has been honoured with an International Fellowship by the prestigious Engineering Academy of Japan in April 2024?

A) Kaushik Rajashekara

B) Raghuram Rajan

C) Shashi Tharoor

D) Chetan bhagat

Answer : A

- ✓ Kaushik Rajashekara has been elected as an International Fellow of the prestigious Engineering Academy of Japan.
- ✓ He is a distinguished professor at the University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering.
- ✓ This honour recognizes his outstanding contributions to the field of power conversion and the electrification of transportation.
- ✓ Indian-Origin US Professor Honoured For Outstanding Contribution To Energy
- ✓ In 2022, Mr Rajashekara received the most coveted prize in the field of international energy.

Q. How many total medals did India get in the 13th European Girls Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024?

A) 2

B) 3

C) 4

D) 5

Answer : C

- ✓ India got 2 silver and 2 bronze medals in the 13th EGMO 2024
- ✓ The 13th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) was held in Tskaltubo, Georgia. The Indian team has performed quite commendably in this competition.
- ✓ The 4-member Indian team has won a total of four medals including 2 silver and 2 bronze medals in the 13th EGMO 2024.
- ✓ Gunjan Agarwal (Haryana) – Silver Medal
- ✓ Sanjana Philo Chacko (Kerala) – Silver Medal
- ✓ Larissa (Haryana) – Bronze Medal
- ✓ Sae Vitthal Patil (Maharashtra) – Bronze Medal
- ✓ The team is led by Sahil Mhaskar (Head), Ms Aditi Muthkhode (Deputy Head), and Ms Ananya Ranade (Supervisor) from the Chennai Mathematical Institute. His guidance and support have been instrumental in the success of the team



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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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- ✓ 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.



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- ✓ 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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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.



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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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Q. The United Nations has designated which day to be observed as International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace?

A) April 24

B) April 22

C) April 21

D) April 23

Answer : A

- ✓ The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is marked on 24 April since 2019.
- ✓ The day was declared by the UN General Assembly in December 2018 and was observed for the first time on 24 April 2019.
- ✓ The day aims to spread knowledge about the advantages of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities.

Q. Where was the Ocean Decade Conference 2024 held?

A) Barcelona, Spain

B) Paris, France

C) New Delhi, India

D) Moscow, Russia

Answer : A

- ✓ India, at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, proposed a region-specific ocean observation center for deep-sea ecosystem understanding. Led by Earth Sciences Secretary M. Ravichandran, the delegation emphasized better forecasting.
- ✓ The conference, from April 10 to 12, aimed to assess progress toward UN Decade of Ocean Science goals (2021-2030).
- ✓ Spain, with UNESCO, hosted the event under the theme “Delivering the science we need for the ocean we want.”

Q. Who has been appointed the first women Vice Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University?

A) Naima Khatoon

B) Rokeya Sakhawat

C) Rashid Jahan

D) Ismat Chughtai

Answer : A

- ✓ Professor Naima Khatoon has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- ✓ The Ministry of Education appointed Khatoon after receiving approval from President Droupadi Murmu, who serves as the Visitor of the university.



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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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✓ Air India will add its 'AI' designator code on ANA's flights between Tokyo Haneda and Delhi as well as Tokyo Narita and Mumbai.

✓ ANA will add its 'NH' designator code on Air India's flight between Tokyo Narita and Delhi.

Q. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the United Nations resident coordinator in which country in April 2024?

A) Sri Lanka

B) Mauritius

C) Maldives

D) Indonesia

Answer : D

✓ UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the United Nations resident coordinator in Indonesia.

✓ Sabharwal, brings close to 30 years of experience in development supporting climate transition, sustainable peace, governance and social policy, while leveraging digital technology and data to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

✓ Previously, Sabharwal served as the UN resident coordinator in Thailand and as peacebuilding and development adviser for the United Nations in Sri Lanka.

Q. Which bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (TPSSL) to boost solar energy adoption by providing financial support to residential consumers for installations?

A) Canara Bank

B) Indian Bank

C) UCO Bank

D) State Bank of India

Answer : B

✓ Indian Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (TPSSL) to boost solar energy adoption by providing financial support to residential consumers for installations.

✓ The collaboration aims to provide financial support under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme for installations up to 3 KW, and from 3-10 KW under the regular scheme.

✓ Residential consumers can avail loans up to ₹2 lakh at an annual interest rate of 7%, with a nominal margin money requirement of 10% and collateral-free financing. The repayment tenure is 10 years.

✓ For installations exceeding 3-10 KW, eligible applicants can avail loans up to ₹6 lakh with a margin money requirement of 20%. Interest rate ranges from 8.4% to 10.8% per annum.

✓ About PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana



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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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- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 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.



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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Q. The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on which day?

A) April 26

B) April 25

C) April 24

D) April 23

Answer : A

- ✓ The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on April 26.
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy in general.
- ✓ The United Nations (UN) proclaimed the day on April 26, 2016 that marked 30th anniversary of the 1986 nuclear disaster.
- ✓ On this day in 1986, a reactor exploded at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine with devastating consequences.

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

A) 24 April

B) 25 April

C) 26 April

D) 27 April

Answer : B

- ✓ World Penguin Day is observed every year on 25th April.
- ✓ This day is significant because it coincides with the start of the northern migration of Adelie penguins. Adelie penguins are one of the 17-20 species of penguins recognized worldwide.
- ✓ The southern hemisphere is home to most of the penguins, with a total of about 20 species known to humans.

Q. The Aramco company, which will sponsor FIFA's major football tournament till 2027, belongs to which country?

A) China

B) Qatar

C) Saudi Arabia

D) UAE

Answer : C

- ✓ Saudi company Aramco to sponsor FIFA World Cup
- ✓ The world football governing body FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) announced a major sponsorship deal with the Saudi Arabian oil giant Aramco on 25 April 2024. Under the deal, Aramco company would sponsor major FIFA tournaments until 2027.



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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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Answer : D

- ✓ Saudi Arabia to host forthcoming international events
- ✓ Football events
- ✓ Saudi Arabia is to host the 2034 Men's FIFA World Cup. It was the only country to bid for the event. FIFA will formally announce Saudi Arabia as the host of the 2034 Men's FIFA World Cup after its approval by the FIFA member federations.
- ✓ Asian Games
- ✓ Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 Asian Games in Riyadh, its capital city. The Games will feature more sports events than the Summer Olympics

SPONSOR IN NEWS 2024

- Aramco company would sponsor major FIFA tournaments until 2027.
- IndusInd Bank, a leading financial institution in India, has announced a significant multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Nandini's Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate
- Tata Group Secures IPL Title Sponsorship for Next 5 Years spanning 2024 to 2028.
- Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years.
- Dream11 has reportedly taken over as the main jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team from July 2023 to March 2026, replacing Byju's.

Q. According to a UNCTAD report, what is the rank of India in the world amongst service-exporting countries in 2023?

A) 5th

B) 6th

C) 7th

D) 4th

Answer : C

- ✓ India's service sector export grew by 11.4 % in 2023: UNCTAD.
- ✓ According to a recent report by the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Indian service sector exports grew by 11.4 per cent to \$345 billion in the calendar year 2023(January-December) despite prevailing global uncertainties. However, Chinese service exports declined by 10.1 per cent to \$381 billion in 2023.



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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 Counties 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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- ✓ In 2024 at its 60th anniversary, its name was changed to United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ✓ UNCTAD is a permanent organisation of the United Nations.
- ✓ The main aim of the UNCTAD is to promote trade, investment and development of the developing countries.
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ Reports released by UNCTAD
- ✓ The UNCTAD also releases various reports. The important ones are :
- ✓ World Investment Report,
- ✓ Trade and Development Report,
- ✓ Digital Economy report,
- ✓ Review of Maritime Transport,
- ✓ Technology and Innovation Report.
- ✓ Commodities and Development Report,
- ✓ Least Developed Countries Report

Q. According to a UNCTAD report, what is the rank of India in the world amongst service-importing countries in 2023?

A) 9th

B) 6th

C) 5th

D) 4th

Answer : A

- ✓ 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)



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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 Indian company has been awarded the management of the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, Hambantota, by the Sri Lanka government?

A) Zen Technologies

B) Shaurya Aeronautics (Pvt) Ltd

C) Paras Defence And Space

D) Hindustan Aeronautics

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian & Russian companies to manage China built airport in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ 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. This information was given by the Sri Lankan government on 26 April 2024 after a cabinet meeting
- ✓ The Sri Lankan government will lease the management of the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport or Hambantota Airport to Shaurya Aeronautics (Pvt) Ltd. of India and Airports of Regions Management Company of Russia. The companies will manage the airport for 30 years. The price of the contract has not been disclosed.
- ✓ The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) was built in Hambantota as the second international airport in Sri Lanka



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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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- ✓ 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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- ✓ 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.



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- IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.

Q. Which will become India's first transshipment port?

A) Deendayal

B) Kamarajar

C) Tuticorin

D) Vizhinjam

Answer : D

- ✓ Vizhinjam Port of Adani Group will run India's 1st transshipments
- ✓ Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala has received approval from the shipping ministry to operate as India's first transshipment port. This will be India's first full-fledged deepwater transshipment port.
- ✓ About Transshipment ports
- ✓ Transshipment ports are transit hubs where cargo from one ship is transferred to another on the way to its final destination.
- ✓ World's biggest Transshipment ports are Singapore, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Busan and Hong Kong
- ✓ Importance of Adani's Vizhinjam port
- ✓ Strategic location: The new strategically located port in India will attract large container and cargo vessels, boosting traffic and helping to modernize infrastructure.
- ✓ Part of Maritime India Vision 2030: This development is part of the government's Maritime India Vision 2030, which aims to make India a top destination for manufacturing. Lower shipping costs and increased capacity will benefit domestic manufacturers.
- ✓ Handling Megamax containerships: The port will be one of the world's largest, with the ability to handle Megamax containerships and provide large-scale automation for quick vessel turnaround.
- ✓ Attracting largest container ships: The port is expected to attract the world's largest container ships, which have avoided India until now because its harbors were not deep enough to handle such vessels.



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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- ✓ 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.



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 Kazhuvveli 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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- ✓ He is known for his amazing paintings, which revolve mainly around the Puranas (ancient mythological stories) and the great Indian epics, the Mahabharata and Ramayana.
- ✓ His most famous works include Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta, Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair, and Shantanu and Matsyagandha.
- ✓ His paintings were also sent to the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893, and he was awarded two gold medals.
- ✓ In 1904, Viceroy Lord Curzon, on behalf of the King Emperor, bestowed upon Raja Ravi Varma the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal. At this time, his name was mentioned as "Raja Ravi Varma" for the first time.

Q. Which media company's AI news anchor Sana has won the International News Media Association (INMA)'s 2024 Global Media Award for AI-led newsroom transformation?

- A) India Today**
- B) The Hindu**
- C) Indian Express**
- D) DD news**

Answer : A

- ✓ India Today Group's AI news anchor, Sana has won the International News Media Association (INMA)'s 2024 Global Media Award for AI-led newsroom transformation.
- ✓ India Today Group has been selected as the best in South Asia for 'AI-led newsroom transformation'.
- ✓ The company's human-collaborative AI anchor, Sana, won first place among national brands for the 'best use of AI in customer-facing products'.
- ✓ The India Today Group introduced India's First AI Anchor, Sana, in March 2023.
- ✓ Sana boasts a diverse set of capabilities, excelling in multilingual communication with virtually no learning curve.
- ✓ Notably, it seamlessly transitions across a spectrum of topics and formats without succumbing to fatigue, thus addressing the dynamic demands of our newsroom.
- ✓ The awards ceremony was held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London
- ✓ About Artificial Intelligence (AI):
- ✓ Artificial Intelligence (AI) was developed in the 1950s. It is the technology that enables computer systems or robots to use logic similar to the human brain.
- ✓ In simpler terms, AI is the science of creating intelligent machines that can make decisions and think like humans. John McCarthy, the father of AI, defined it as the intelligence displayed by machines.



- ✓ 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



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- ✓ 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.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The 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. Ishaq Dar has been appointed as Deputy Prime Minister of which country

A) Saudi Arabia

B) Malaysia

C) Singapore

D) Pakistan

Answer : D

- ✓ Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appointed Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar as Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister.
- ✓ Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ishaq Dar is currently serving as Pakistan's Foreign Minister. He has been also included in the Council of Common Interests (CCI).
- ✓ Earlier in March, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved the reconstitution of the Council of Common Interests (CCI), replacing the finance minister with the foreign minister.
- ✓ PAKISTAN STATIC GK
- ✓ Independence day- 14 August
- ✓ National animal-Markhor
- ✓ National bird-Chukar partridge
- ✓ National fruit- Mango(Summer), Guava (Winter)
- ✓ National tree-Deodar
- ✓ Famous festivals-Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, Shab-e-Barat
- ✓ 24th Prime minister-Shehbaz Sharif
- ✓ 14th President-Asif Ali Zardari
- ✓ Name of parliament-National Assembly
- ✓ Member of parliament-342
- ✓ National Language-Urdu, English
- ✓ No of province- 4
- ✓ Currency-Pakistani Rupee
- ✓ National Anthem- Quami Taranah
- ✓ National Game- Field Hockey
- ✓ Boundaries- Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab.
- ✓ Border- Radcliffe Line
- ✓ Highest mountain- K2
- ✓ Longest River- Indus River



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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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KALIYAMCORTHY
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SELECTED IN - RRB PO
SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BANK
STATE - TAMILNADU



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



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ROLL NO - 2283004123
STATE - PUNJAB
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK



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



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



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

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



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



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



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



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