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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 - Himachal Pradesh
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Samridhi
State - Bihar
Selected as - PO



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



Name - Neelam
State - Jharkhand
Selected as - IBPS P



Name - Anju
Selected as - IBPS PO



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



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



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



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



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



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



Name - Mehalar
State - Tamilnadu
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



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

Q. Which bank has rolled out a new facility allowing its non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India using their international mobile numbers?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ ICICI Bank introduces UPI for NRIs through international mobile numbers
- ✓ ICICI Bank has rolled out a new facility allowing its non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India using their international mobile numbers.
- ✓ Previously, NRIs had to register an Indian mobile number with their Non-Resident External (NRE) or Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) bank accounts to use UPI, limiting their ability to make payments conveniently.
- ✓ The new facility allows ICICI Bank's NRI customers to use their international mobile numbers registered with their NRE/NRO accounts for UPI payments.
- ✓ This change applies to customers residing in ten countries, including the USA, UK, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ This service is available through its mobile banking app, iMobile Pay, providing an easy way for NRIs to make utility payments, merchant and e-commerce transactions, and other financial activities without switching to an Indian mobile number.
- ✓ Customers can make payments by scanning any Indian QR code, sending money to a UPI ID, or sending to an Indian bank account.

ICICI BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- ICICI Bank introduces UPI for NRIs through international mobile numbers.
- Pradeep Kumar Sinha to take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- ICICI Bank Canada Launches 'Money2India (Canada)' Mobile Banking App.
- iVIS, a subsidiary of Magellanic Cloud, has announced its empanelment with ICICI Bank for the delivery of e-surveillance services across branches.
- ICICI Bank receives RBI's nod to make Securities a wholly-owned subsidiary.



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- ICICI Bank Introduces 'iFinance,' A One-Stop Solution for Multi-Bank Account Access.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict measures against two prominent banking institutions, Kotak Mahindra Bank penalty of Rs 3.95 crore and ICICI Bank penalty of Rs 12.19 crore, by imposing significant penalties.
- RBI approves reappointment of Sandeep Bakshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO for three more years till October 2026.
- ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to make I-Process Services as wholly-owned subsidiary.
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) BANK
- Founded : 1994
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline : Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka.

Q. Shinkun La Tunnel, is an upcoming motorable tunnel, that connects which one of the following regions?

- A) Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- B) Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab
- C) Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh
- D) Ladakh and Uttarakhand

Answer : C

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is preparing to commence the construction of the Shinkun La Tunnel.
- ✓ About Shinkun La Tunnel:
- ✓ It is an upcoming motorable tunnel under the 16,580 feet high Shinku-La pass between Himachal's Lahaul valley and Ladakh's Zaskar valley.
- ✓ It is located on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha Road link.
- ✓ The length of the tunnel will be 4.1 km.
- ✓ After completion, the Shinku-la tunnel will be the longest high altitude highway tunnel in the world.

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- ✓ The Border Roads Organization (BRO) will construct the tunnel at a cost of Rs. 1,681.5 crores.
- ✓ It will provide all-weather road connectivity to Ladakh, and this will be the shortest route to the border areas of Ladakh.
- ✓ It is expected to streamline the transportation of heavy machinery to strategic locations such as Kargil, Siachen and the Line of Control (LOC), reducing travel distances by approximately 100 km.
- ✓ The traffic movement in the tunnel will not be vulnerable to long-range artillery shelling or missile firings, either by China or Pakistan.

Q. What is the rank of India in the World Press Freedom Index 2024?

- A) 139 B) 142
C) 127 D) 159

Answer : D

- ✓ India has improved its ranking on the World Press Freedom Index 2024 by two positions. India, which was ranked 161 out of 180 countries in the world in 2023, improved its position to 159 in 2024, a jump of two ranks.
- ✓ The World Press Freedom Index was released by a French non-governmental organisation, Reporters sans Frontieres (RSF) which is also known as Reporters Without Border.
- ✓ In its report, the RSF said that the maximum threat to the freedom of the press was from the government
- ✓ The World Press Freedom Index uses five indicators to compile the Index.
- ✓ These five indicators are political, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and safety of the Journalist
- ✓ India has been ranked behind countries like Pakistan, which has been ranked 152, Sri Lanka, which is ranked 150; and Turkey, which is ranked 158.

Q. The World Press Freedom Index is published annually by which organisation?

- A) Transparency International
B) World Economic Forum
C) Economist Intelligence Unit
D) Reporters Without Borders

Answer : D



Q. Which country has been ranked as the worst in terms of freedom of the press in the world by the 2024 World Press Freedom Index?

- A) Syria
B) Eritrea
C) Afghanistan
D) North Korea

Answer : B

- ✓ In 2023, North Korea was ranked as the country with the worst press freedom. This year, Eritrea, an African country, was ranked at the bottom of the index.

Q. José Raúl Mulino has been elected as the president of which country?

- A) Oman
B) Sudan
C) Ghana
D) Panama

Answer : D

- ✓ José Raúl Mulino has won Panama's presidential election after three of his nearest rivals conceded defeat.
✓ The 64-year-old former security minister has secured nearly 35% of the counted votes, with more than 92% of the votes counted.
✓ He has an unassailable 9 per cent lead over his nearest rival.
✓ Jose Raul Mulino was initially chosen as a Vice-Presidential candidate by former president Ricardo Martinelli, who was himself the Presidential candidate.
✓ About Panama
✓ Capital : Panama City
✓ Currency : Balboa
✓ President : José Raúl Mulino

NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- José Raúl Mulino : Panama
- Peter Pellegrini : Slovakia
- Abdel Fatah al-Sisi : Egypt
- Prabowo Subianto : Indonesia
- Tamás Sulyok : Hungary
- Alexander Stubb : Finland



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- 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)
- Vo Van Thuong : Vietnam

Q. Under which initiative Thomas Cook India has launched video KYC for its retail foreign exchange customers for a safe digital transactions?

- A) No Jhanjhat Forex Fatafat B) KYC Aapke Dwar
C) Ab Forex Dur Nhi D) Ab Forex Ghar Baithe

Answer : D

- ✓ Thomas Cook India has launched video KYC for its retail foreign exchange customers for a safe digital transaction.
- ✓ The company said that the new initiative, 'Ab Forex Ghar Baithe', offers customers a paperless means to buy forex without stepping out of home.
- ✓ The Aadhaar-based video KYC verification ensures doorstep delivery within two hours. Customers can complete the transaction online, including loading/topping up of prepaid forex cards, fund transfers, and foreign exchange transactions.



Q. Researchers have discovered the world's deepest blue hole named Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH) in which country?

- A) China B) USA
C) Russia D) Mexico

Answer : D

- ✓ Researchers have discovered the world's deepest blue hole located in Mexico's Chetumal Bay, named Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH).
- ✓ Initially thought to be the second deepest, recent measurements have now recorded it at depths exceeding 420 meters below sea level (mbsl), surpassing all known blue holes to date
- ✓ A blue hole is a large marine cavern or sinkhole, which is open to the surface and has developed in a bank or island composed of a carbonate bedrock.
- ✓ What are blue holes and how are they formed?
- ✓ Blue holes are large marine caverns or sinkholes, typically formed in limestone or other carbonate rock beds.
- ✓ They stand out dramatically as dark blue water-filled pits, contrasting sharply with the lighter blue of surrounding shallow waters.

Q. Where are the rocks that provided the oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field collected?

- A) Andes B) Antarctica
C) Greenland D) Atlas Mountains

Answer : C

- ✓ Oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field found in Greenland rocks
- ✓ Geologists from MIT and Oxford University discovered the oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field in 3.7-billion-year-old rocks from Greenland's Isua Supracrustal Belt.
- ✓ Researchers determined them to be approximately 3.7 billion years old, showing remnants of a magnetic field with a strength of at least 15 microtesla, comparable to today's magnetic field.
- ✓ This finding suggests Earth's conditions may have been habitable earlier than thought, with a stable magnetic shield playing a crucial role
- ✓ The magnetic field protects the planet from harmful solar radiation and cosmic rays, sustains the atmosphere, and allows liquid water essential for life.



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Q. Frank Shrontz passed away recently at the age of 92. He was former CEO of which company?

- A) Boeing
B) Qatar Airways
C) Blue Origin
D) Lockheed Martin

Answer : A

- ✓ Former Boeing CEO Frank Shrontz passed away at the age of 92.
- ✓ Shrontz, an attorney by training, was Boeing's chief executive officer from 1986 to 1996.
- ✓ It was an era of innovation, from designing ground-breaking new jets such as the Boeing 777 to elevating quality standards after he studied processes pioneered by Japanese automakers such as Toyota Motor Corp.

Q. Border Road Organization (BRO), recently celebrated its 65th raising day, comes under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Civil Aviation
B) Ministry of Earth Sciences
C) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
D) Ministry of Defence

Answer : D

- ✓ The Border Road Organisation (BRO) marked its 65th raising day on May 7, 2024, with a ceremony in New Delhi, led by Union Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane.
- ✓ Established in 1960 by the Nehru government, BRO undertakes critical road projects for the Army.
- ✓ Notably, Project Tuskar, now Project Vartak, connects Bhalukpong to Tenga in Arunachal Pradesh, while Project Beacon focuses on Kashmir.
- ✓ Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan currently heads BRO, operating under the Ministry of Defence with the motto: "In the Silence of Our Great Mountains – Work Speaks."

Q. Pakistan recently launched its first-ever lunar mission, iCube-Qamar, in collaboration with which country?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Pakistan and China jointly launched iCube-Qamar, Pakistan's inaugural lunar mission.



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- ✓ The 7kg satellite, developed by Pakistan's Institute of Space Technology (IST), SUPARCO, and China's SJTU, is part of China's Chang'e-6 mission.
Equipped with two optical cameras, it orbits the moon, enabling Pakistan to conduct satellite-based research on lunar surface imagery independently

Q. Which country has recently introduced an AI generated spokesperson, named Victoria Shi?

A) Russia

B) Iran

C) Iraq

D) Ukraine

Answer : D

- ✓ Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has introduced an AI-generated avatar, Victoria Shi, as its digital spokesperson.
- ✓ Shi, clad in professional attire, presents updates on consular affairs via social media.
- ✓ While her appearance is AI-generated, the content she delivers is human-written and verified. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba lauds Shi's introduction as a groundbreaking move, highlighting time and resource savings.
- ✓ Ukraine showcases its embrace of innovative tech in diplomatic operations

Q. 2024 World Press Freedom Day Global Conference being held in Which of the following Country?

A) China

B) Chile

C) Japan

D) USA

Answer : B

- ✓ Environment journalists worldwide are facing increasing violence, with as many as 44 journalists killed in 15 years, according to a new report released by UNESCO on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2024.
- ✓ Over 70 per cent of the total 905 journalists and agencies surveyed from 129 countries informed that they had been attacked, threatened or pressured, according to the report Press and Planet in Danger.
- ✓ The report was launched at the 2024 World Press Freedom Day Global Conference being held in Santiago, Chile from May 2-4, 2024.



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Q. ___ is a bank account held in another country by a domestic bank, but in the currency of the foreign country.

A) Loro Account

B) Non-Residential Ordinary (NRO) Account

C) Vostro Account

D) Nostro Account

Answer : D

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that standalone primary dealers (SPDs) may borrow in foreign currency from their parent companies and other authorised entities.
- ✓ Standalone primary dealers will also be allowed to access overdraft facilities in nostro accounts solely for operational use.
- ✓ Nostro is a bank account held in another country by a domestic bank, but in the currency of the foreign country.
- ✓ The circular titled 'Master Direction – Risk Management and Inter-Bank Dealings: Amendments' further noted that “such borrowings shall be within the limit for foreign currency borrowings” prescribed in the RBI.

Q. Which of the following Organisation teamed up with Microsoft to launch a suite of cognitive assistants for financial services powered by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI)?

A) Reliance

B) HCL

C) TCS

D) Wipro

Answer : D

- ✓ IT major Wipro announced that it has teamed up with Microsoft to launch a suite of cognitive assistants for financial services powered by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI).
- ✓ These assistants, named Wipro GenAI Investor Intelligence, Wipro GenAI Investor Onboarding, and Wipro GenAI Loan Origination, aim to revolutionise how financial professionals operate.

Q. According to a UBS report, India is set to become the third largest consumer market in

A) 2029

B) 2028

C) 2026

D) 2030

Answer : C

- ✓ India is set to become the third largest consumer market in 2026, surpassing Germany and Japan, according to a UBS report.



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- ✓ The report predicts that the affluent category will double in the next five years, with 88 million people with over \$10,000 annual income by 2028.
- ✓ Consumption growth is expected to remain muted at 4-5% in the current and next fiscal, below the 6.5-7% average annual growth seen during FY11 and FY20.

TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023-24

- India is set to become the third largest consumer market in 2026, surpassing Germany and Japan, according to a UBS report.
- India has made a declaration to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030.
- 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.
- 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.



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- 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. Which of the following actor has been appointed as ambassador of Sports brand Puma India?

A) Shah Rukh Khan

B) Aamir Khan

C) Ibrahim Ali Khan

D) Salman Khan

Answer : C

- ✓ Sports brand Puma India has announced actor, Ibrahim Ali Khan Pataudi, as its newest ambassador and said with a legendary legacy in both the realms of sports and cinema, he is the perfect addition to the brand's family

Q. Who has been appointed by global digital payments platform Visa as the new Country Manager in India?

A) Abhay Kumar

B) Sujai Raina

C) Vikram Saxena

D) Deepak Anand



Answer : B

- ✓ Global digital payments platform Visa announced that it has appointed Sujai Raina as its new country manager for India.
- ✓ Sandeep Ghosh will continue in his role as Group Country Manager for India and South Asia

Q. The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed annually on which day?

- A) 08 May
- B) 06 May
- C) 07 May
- D) 05 May

Answer : A

- ✓ The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year on 8 May.
- ✓ The day aims to celebrate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality.
- ✓ The theme of the 2024 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is Everything we do comes # from the heart
- ✓ The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828), who was the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- ✓ He was the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

Q. When is the World Thalassemia Day observed?

- A) May 07
- B) May 08
- C) May 06
- D) May 05

Answer : B

- ✓ World Thalassemia Day is celebrated on May 8 every year to commemorate Thalassemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.
- ✓ Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder which is characterised by less haemoglobin and lesser than normal blood cells.
- ✓ A person suffering from thalassemia has at least one of the parents as carrier of the disease



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Q. Which institution released the 'Aging well in Asia: Asian Development Policy Report'?

- A) World Bank B) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
C) European Investment Bank (EIB) D) African Development Bank (AfDB)

Answer : B

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank's report on Aging well in Asia highlights four vital aspects of older persons' well-being: health, productive work, economic security, and social engagement.
- ✓ It reveals that developing Asia faces rapid aging, with the older population set to almost double to 25.2% by 2050.
- ✓ India's challenges include low health insurance coverage (21%) for older individuals and heavy reliance (80%–90%) on private income and assets for retirement.

ADB IN NEWS 2023-24

- ADB operations reach USD23.6 billion in 2023, achieve record climate finance of USD9.8 billion.
- Government of India and ADB have signed a \$23 million loan agreement to strengthen the fintech ecosystem in India.
- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have collaboratively signed a \$181 million loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding Ahmedabad city in Gujarat.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently appointed Mio Oka as the new director of the bank in India, replacing Takeo Konishi.
- Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- India, ADB sign \$200 million loan agreement for Uttarakhand power system project.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- India & ADB sign \$400 million loan to support urban reform agenda.
- ADB to Support Improvement of Urban Infrastructure and Services in Peri-urban Areas of Ahmedabad, India.
- ADB Capital Management Reforms Bring \$100 Billion Benefits Over Next Decade to Asia-Pacific.



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

Q. Which operation has been started by the Indian Air Force to extinguish the forest fire near Nainital in Uttarakhand?

A) Vishu Bucket Operation

B) Water Bucket Operation

C) Swift Operation

D) Bambi Bucket Operation

Answer : D



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- ✓ The Indian Air Force had deployed its Mi17 V5 helicopters to undertake Bambi Bucket operations to douse the forest fires near Nainital, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ These helicopters efficiently transported and released over 4,500 liters of water over the affected areas, a crucial effort made in close coordination with the Uttarakhand government.
- ✓ The swift and coordinated action by the Indian Air Force played a pivotal role in supporting the ground-based firefighting crews.

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**



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- Indian Coast Guard conducted 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill along the west coast, aimed at enhancing coastal security.
- **OPERATION BROADER SWORD.**
- India and the USA, jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.
- **OPERATION KARUNA**
- India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.
- **OPERATION KAVERI**
- India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan
- **OPERATION DOST**
- Due to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, India has launched a campaign named 'Operation Dost' to help the affected people.
- **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. Which is the wealthiest city in the world as per the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024?

- A) New York City B) Tokyo
C) London D) Los Angeles

Answer : A

- ✓ Mumbai & Delhi Among 50 Wealthiest Cities of World: Henley & Partners
- ✓ In a reflection of the continued economic growth in India, two Indian cities, Mumbai and Delhi, have been included for the first time in the top 50 world's wealthiest cities of the world. Mumbai was ranked 24th, and Delhi was 37th in the world in the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 which was released recently.
- ✓ Wealthiest Cities Report 2024
- ✓ The Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 has been compiled by Henley & Partners in collaboration with New World Wealth, a global data intelligence firm.
- ✓ The wealthiest person has been defined as HNWIs (High worth individuals) who have a liquid investable wealth of USD 1 million or more. Centi millionaires are those individuals with a wealth of more than USD 100 million to invest, and billionaires have more than USD 1000 million to invest.
- ✓ According to the Henly report, the Indian financial capital city Mumbai has 58,800 millionaires, 236 centi-millionaires and 29 billionaires. Mumbai was ranked as the 24th wealthiest city in the world.
- ✓ The other city in the top 50 was Delhi, with 30,700 millionaires, 123 centi-millionaires, and 16 billionaires. Delhi was ranked 37th in the wealthiest cities list.
- ✓ Top 10 Wealthiest Cities



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Rank	City/Area	Country	Millionaires
1	New York City	USA	349,500
2	The Bay Area	USA	305,700
3	Tokyo City	Japan	298,300
4	Singapore	Singapore	244,800
5	London	United Kingdom	227,000
6.	Los Angeles	USA	212,100
7.	Paris	France	165,000
8	Sydney	Australia	147,000
9	Hong Kong	China	143,400
10.	Beijing	China	125,600

Q. Which Indian city/cities have been included in the top 50 wealthiest cities of the world by the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024?

- A) Mumbai & Delhi
B) Chennai & Hyderabad
C) Bengaluru & Kolkata
D) Pune & Bengaluru

Answer : A

Q. According to the Global Electricity Review report, what was the rank of India in the world in Solar power production in 2023?

- A) 1st
B) 2nd
C) 3rd
D) 4th

Answer : C

✓ India, 3rd-highest solar power generator in the world, overtakes Japan



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- ✓ Due to rapid growth in installed solar power capacity, India became the third-largest solar power generator in 2023. The 5th “Global Electricity Review” report published by the United Kingdom-based global think tank Ember said that India, which was ranked ninth in 2015, jumped to third position in 2023, overtaking Japan.
- ✓ Main Points of the Global Electricity Review
- ✓ The Global Electricity Review report covers 80 countries, representing 92 per cent of the global electricity demand. The main points of the report are as follows:
- ✓ Solar is the fastest-growing electricity source in the world for the 19th year in a row.
- ✓ Solar added twice as much new electricity in 2023 as coal
- ✓ The contribution of solar power to the world's electricity was 5.5 per cent in 2023.
- ✓ Out of the total electricity produced in India in 2023 the contribution of solar was 5.8 per cent.
- ✓ The contribution of solar power to total national electricity production in India increased from 0.5 per cent in 2015 to 5.8 per cent in 2023.
- ✓ The largest increase in solar generation in 2023 was in China (an increase of 156 Terawatt hours (TWh)). After China, the largest solar generation was in the United States (+33 TWh), followed by Brazil (+22 TWh) and India (+18 TWh).
- ✓ At the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference, a target of limiting the average global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius was set. This is expected to prevent further worsening of global warming and climate change.
- ✓ According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), if the world is to achieve a "Net Zero Emissions" scenario, solar power's contribution to total global electricity production must increase to 22 per cent by 2030.
- ✓ At the United Nations COP28 climate change conference held in Dubai, UAE, in December 2023, an agreement was reached to triple the global renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- ✓ India has committed to achieving 50 per cent of its cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

Q. Which country is the largest producer of solar power in the world in 2023?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Top 10 Solar Power-Generating Countries in the World



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✓ Following are the top 10 solar power-producing countries in the world in 2023 as per the Ember ‘Global Electricity Review’.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1- China | 2- United States of America |
| 3- India | 4- Japan |
| 5- Germany | 6- Brazil |
| 7- Australia | 8- Spain |
| 9- Italy | 10- South Korea |

Q. Which startup of IIT Madras has launched first India-made high-performance SoC (system on chip)?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A) CysterCare Pvt Ltd. | B) Sociodent Private Limited. |
| C) Clinfo Trialmate Pvt Ltd. | D) Mindgrove Technologies |

Answer : D

- ✓ IIT Madras startup Mindgrove launches first India-made microcontroller chip
- ✓ India is finally set to have a made-in-India microcontroller chip powering electronic device.
- ✓ Mindgrove Technologies, incubated by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation and IIT Madras Incubation Cell, and supported by Peak XV Partners, has launched Secure IoT, India’s debut high-performance SoC (system on chip).
- ✓ A system-on-chip (SoC) combines many electronic parts into one chip, like a mini-computer. It goes into the printed circuit board (PCB) and is used in various devices, making them smaller and more efficient

IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and IIT Guwahati incubation center sign MoU to boost startup ecosystem
- 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.



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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. With reference to World Migration Report 2024, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).**
- 2. China is the origin of the largest number of international migrants.**
- 3. India is the top remittance recipient country in the world.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ India received over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022, becoming the first country to reach and even surpass the USD 100 billion mark, according to the World Migration Report 2024.
- ✓ About World Migration Report:
 - ✓ It is a bi-annual report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
 - ✓ It presents key data and information on migration, as well as thematic chapters on highly topical migration issues.
- ✓ Highlights of the 2024 Report:
 - ✓ Overall, the estimated number of international migrants has increased over the past five decades.
 - ✓ The current global estimate is that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 percent of the global population.
 - ✓ India is the origin of the largest number of international migrants-nearly 18 million-with a large diaspora in UAE, US and Saudi Arabia.
 - ✓ There were 3.47 million Indians in UAE, followed by 2.7 million in US and 2.5 million in Saudi Arabia.



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- ✓ There is an overall increase in remittances in recent decades, from \$128 billion in 2000 to \$831 billion in 2022.
- ✓ In 2022, India, Mexico, China, the Philippines and Egypt were (in descending order) the top five remittance recipient countries, followed by the Philippines, France, and Pakistan.
- ✓ India received over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022, the first country to surpass USD 100 billion threshold.
- ✓ The United States is the top remittance-sending country, with a total outflow of \$79 billion in 2022, followed by Saudi Arabia (\$39 billion), Switzerland (\$31.9 billion), and Germany (\$25.6 billion).

Q. Agenda 2063 is related to which one of the following organisations?

- A) European Union (EU)
- B) African Union (AU)
- C) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- D) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Answer : B

- ✓ The African Union recently condemned the Israeli military's moves into southern Gaza's Rafah, calling for the international community to stop "this deadly escalation" of the war.
- ✓ About African Union (AU):
- ✓ It is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- ✓ It was officially launched in 2002 and replaced its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was founded in 1963.
- ✓ Primary Objective: To promote unity, cooperation, and development among African nations while advancing the continent's interests on the global stage.
- ✓ The AU is guided by its vision of "An Integrated, Prosperous, and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."
- ✓ To ensure the realisation of its objectives and the attainment of the Pan African Vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, Agenda 2063 was developed as a strategic framework for Africa's long term socio-economic and integrative transformation.



- ✓ Agenda 2063 calls for greater collaboration and support for African led initiatives to ensure the achievement of the aspirations of African people.
- ✓ Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Q. Widal Test, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

- A) Monitoring glucose levels B) Soil analysis
C) Diagnosis of typhoid fever D) Financial risk assessment

Answer : C

- ✓ The Widal Test's propensity for erroneous results is obfuscating India's typhoid burden, increasing expenses and risking more antimicrobial resistance.
- ✓ About Widal Test:
 - ✓ It is a test done for diagnosing typhoid fever.
 - ✓ Typhoid fever, also known as enteric fever, is a bacterial infection caused by the bacterium *Salmonella Typhi*, and it is commonly spread through contaminated food or water.
 - ✓ A person with typhoid fever will experience symptoms like fatigue, high fever, headache, diarrhoea or constipation, abdominal pain, weight loss, and red spots.

Q. AlphaFold, an AI model that can predict the interactions of all life's molecules, is developed by:

- A) Microsoft B) Intel
C) Meta D) Google Deepmind

Answer : D

- ✓ Google Deepmind has unveiled the third major version of its "AlphaFold" artificial intelligence model, designed to help scientists design drugs and target disease more effectively.
- ✓ It is a new AI model developed by Google DeepMind and Isomorphic Labs.
- ✓ It is a revolutionary model that can predict the structure and interactions of all life's molecules with unprecedented accuracy and even it mapped the behaviour for all of life's molecules, including human DNA.
- ✓ It can generate molecules joint 3D structure, revealing how they all fit together.
- ✓ It models large biomolecules such as proteins, DNA and RNA, as well as small molecules, also known as ligands — a category encompassing many drugs.
- ✓ Furthermore, AlphaFold 3 can model chemical modifications to these molecules which control the healthy functioning of cells, that when disrupted can lead to disease.



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Q. Which of the following has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Go Digit General Insurance for non-disclosure of a change in the conversion ratio of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS)?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ IRDAI imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance
- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Go Digit General Insurance for non-disclosure of a change in the conversion ratio of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS).
- ✓ The company had not furnished the full particulars of the revision to the regulator, violating Section 26 of the Insurance Act.
- ✓ The insurance regulator had earlier issued a show cause notice after noticing that Go Digit had changed its conversion ratio of 63,00,000 CCPS issued by Go Digit Infoworks Services Pvt Ltd (GDISPL), the parent company of the general insurer, to FAL Corporation, owned by Fairfax Group
- ✓ It was changed from “1 CCPS for 2.324 equity shares” to “2.324 CCPS for each equity share”

PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- IRDAI imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance
- RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on ‘Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions’.
- RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms.
- Paytm’s trouble escalated further with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India slapping a ₹5.49 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for violating Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) obligations
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.
- RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.



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

Q. Which bank has been recognized as a ‘Best Employer’ 2023 by Kincentric for the fourth consecutive year?

A) Axis Bank

B) DBS Bank India

C) HDFC Bank

D) ICICI Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ DBS Bank India has been recognized as a ‘Best Employer’ 2023 by Kincentric for the fourth consecutive year.
- ✓ The award acknowledges organizations with exceptional employee experiences and a strong culture of engagement.
- ✓ The Kincentric Best Employers study is one of the most respected annual studies with a robust evaluation methodology designed to understand alignment across business objectives, people process, and employee experience.



- ✓ The jury evaluates shortlisted organizations and selects the Best Employers, who are recognized by Kincentric.

Q. The payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, CCAvenue has partnered with which Small Finance Bank to provide merchants access?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ CCAvenue, the payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, will partner with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to provide merchants registered with it to access to SFB's customer base.
- ✓ The partnership would integrate Shivalik SFB's internet banking service with its payment platform.
- ✓ Account holders with the bank will be able to make payments on websites "powered" by CCAvenue, the payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, will partner with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to provide merchants registered with it to access to SFB's customer base.

Q. Which Insurance company has launched Unit Linked Investment Plan (ULIP) having fund value-based distributor payouts?

- A) Universal Sompo General Insurance B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
C) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Answer : C

- ✓ ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Platinum, a Unit Linked Investment Plan (ULIP) that ties the distributor's commission to their customers' Assets Under Management (AUM).
- ✓ According to the product specifications, customers have unlimited free switches between asset classes without any cost or tax implications.
- ✓ Customers can choose from an array of 21 funds under this product, which includes 13 equity funds, four debt funds, and four balanced funds. Additionally, they can choose from four portfolio strategies
- ✓ According to the insurer, this product, which provides a cost- and tax-efficient way to build long-term wealth, will also incentivise distribution partners to encourage their customers to stay invested throughout the policy term



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Q. Which trading platform has secured the prestigious title of Best Trading Platform in India for the second consecutive year?

- A) UnoCoin
B) AngelOne
C) Groww
D) QuantPower

Answer : D

- ✓ QuantPower Emerges as Best Trading Platform in India
- ✓ QuantPower, the most innovative AI-enabled trading platform, has secured the prestigious title of Best Trading Platform in India for the second consecutive year.
- ✓ This milestone reaffirms QuantPower's position as the preferred software for Indian investors, offering an unparalleled suite of features that consolidate various trading tools into one comprehensive solution.
- ✓ Under the umbrella of Wisdom Tree Ventures Pvt Ltd., QuantPower.tech has revolutionized the trading landscape by providing a unified platform that caters to diverse trading styles.
- ✓ By seamlessly integrating advanced features such as Strategy Builder, Algo Bots, and Backtesting for algorithmic traders, alongside Advanced Charting, Trading from Charts, and Chart Alerts for manual traders, QuantPower empowers investors to make informed decisions with confidence.
- ✓ Deb Mukherjee, the Group CEO of Wisdom Group, also celebrated the recognition of Wisdom Tree Ventures as the Top Fintech Company of the Year 2024 by Entrepreneur India.

Q. Which state government has launched the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Uttarakhand Government Launches Pirul Lao Paise Pao Campaign
- ✓ Uttarakhand government has launched the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign to contain the raging forest fire in the state. The Supreme Court recently expressed concern about the raging forest fire in the state, which has already killed five people. The forest fires have already destroyed trees, medicinal plants and wildlife in the area, besides creating air pollution due to thick smoke and soot.
- ✓ Under the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign, the local youth and villagers will collect dry Pirul (Pine tree leaves) in the forest and take them to the designated Pirul collection centre. The Tehsildar in their respective areas will manage the pirul collection centre under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.



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- ✓ The Pirul will be weighed and stored at the collection centre, and the villagers or youth will be paid Rs 50 per kg, which will be directly transferred to the bank accounts.
- ✓ The collected Pirul will be packed and processed, and sold to the industries for further use.

Q. Indian Coast Guard has signed an MoU with which company for the supply of indigenous marine-grade steel?

A) Tata Steel

B) JSW Energy

C) Jindal Steel and Power

D) ReNew Power

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power sign MoU to enhance indigenous shipbuilding
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power Ltd signed an MoU for the supply of indigenous marine-grade steel.
- ✓ The MoU highlights the critical role of public-private partnerships in tackling intricate security challenges, emphasising the necessity of cooperation between governmental bodies and the private sector.

SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power sign MoU to enhance indigenous shipbuilding
- 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.
- 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.



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

Q. Pulitzer Prize is awarded for which of the following fields?

A. Journalism

B. Story-Poetry

C. Drama

D. Music

E. Science and Technology

A) Only A

B) A, C, D, E

C) B, D, E

D) A, B, C, D

Answer : D



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- ✓ Columbia University of the United States of America announced the 2024 Pulitzer Prize winners
- ✓ Columbia University announced the winners on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- ✓ The award will be conferred by the president of Columbia University in a ceremony later.
- ✓ The Pulitzer Award is considered the most prestigious prize in the field of Journalism.
- ✓ It recognises work in 15 journalism categories and eight arts categories. It also gives special citations and awards.
- ✓ Some of the important winners of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize are as follows.
- ✓ Journalism Category
- ✓ Some of the important award winners in the journalism categories are as follows.
- ✓ Public Service - Pro Publica. Pro Publica is a non-profit investigative journalist body in California. It was given the award for the investigative work of its reporters Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Alex Mierjeski and Kirsten Berg.
- ✓ Investigative Reporting - Hannah Dreier of The New York Times
- ✓ International Reporting - Staff of The New York Times. The award was given for its
- ✓ wide-ranging and revelatory coverage of Hamas' lethal attack in southern Israel on October 7, Israel's intelligence failures and the Israeli military's response in Gaza.
- ✓ Editorial Writing - David E. Hoffman of The Washington Post Newspaper.
- ✓ Breaking News Photography - Photography Staff of Reuters news agency.
- ✓ Feature Photography - Photography Staff of Associated Press news agency.
- ✓ Audio Reporting - Staff of the Invisible Institute and USG Audio.
- ✓ Book Drama and Music Category
- ✓ Fiction - Night Watch. The novel has been written by American novelist Jayne Anne Phillips.
- ✓ Drama - Primary Trust. The Primary Trust has been written by American playwright Eboni Booth,
- ✓ History - No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era. The book was written by American historian Jacqueline Jones.
- ✓ Biography - two books have been chosen this time.
- ✓ King: A Life, by Jonathan Eig, is a biography of American Black civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.
- ✓ Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom, by Ilyon Woo
- ✓ Memoir and Autobiography - Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice, by Cristina Rivera Garza.



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- ✓ Poetry - Tripas: Poems, by Brandon Som. Brandon Som is an American poet.
- ✓ Music - Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith), by Tyshawn Sorey.
- ✓ Special Awards and Citation
- ✓ Greg Tate - A special citation has been issued to the late writer and critic Gregory Stephen Tate, also popularly known as Greg Tate. Greg Tate was an American writer, musician, and producer.
- ✓ Journalists and Media Workers Covering the War in Gaza
- ✓ Pulitzer Prize
- ✓ The Pulitzer Prize was instituted by Joseph Pulitzer.
- ✓ He was a newspaper owner who, in 1904, provided for the foundation of the Pulitzer Prize as an incentive for excellence in Journalism, art, and culture.
- ✓ He donated money to the Faculty of Journalism to administer the prizes.
- ✓ The Prize winners are selected by the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- ✓ The first Prize was provided in 1917

Q. Which bank has supported social sector startups in India with grants worth Rs 19.6 crore in FY24, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (under NITI Aayog)?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants
- ✓ HDFC Bank has supported social sector startups in India with grants worth Rs 19.6 crore in FY24, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (under NITI Aayog).
- ✓ In FY 2023-24, 170 social start-ups received funding via 41 incubators, with a total of Rs 19.6 crore in the 'Parivartan Start-up Grants programme.'
- ✓ The focus areas for the 2024 grants included climate innovation, financial inclusion, agriculture and sustainable rural economy, accessible and affordable healthcare, education and livelihood enhancement, gender diversity and inclusion.
- ✓ Over a half of the 170 startups hail from over 60 tier 2 and 3 cities.



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HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- 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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Q. Which Indian wrestler has been banned by the global governing body of wrestling?

A) Deepak Kumar

B) Vijay Dahiya

C) Bajrang Punia

D) Jitendra Kumar

Answer : C

- ✓ Bajrang Punia suspended till 2024 by Global Wrestling Body UWW.
- ✓ The world wrestling governing body United World Wrestling (UWW) has provisionally suspended Tokyo bronze medallist Bajrang Punia till 31st December 2024. The UWW has cited the suspension of Bajrang Punia by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India as the reason for the provisional suspension. It puts into jeopardy his participation in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics
- ✓ What is the Issue behind Bajrang Suspension?
- ✓ NADA provisionally suspended Bajrang Punia on 23 April 2024 after Bajrang Punia refused to give his sample for an anti-dope test.
- ✓ Dope refers to the use of prohibited performance-enhancing drugs taken by athletes. Under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) a sportsman has to give his location to the national anti-doping agencies and sample when demanded.
- ✓ Bajrang Punia refused to give his sample to NADA during the selection trials held in Sonapat, Haryana, on 10 March 2024. A notice was served on Punia to reply by 7th May 2024 which he failed to reply..
- ✓ If NADA clears Bajrang Punia of all charges, then there is hope that he may still participate in the Paris Olympics, which starts on 26 July 2024.
- ✓ About Bajrang Punia and His Achievement
- ✓ Bajrang Punia was born into a wrestler family in Jhajjar, Haryana. He was mentored by Olympic medalist Yogeshwar Dutt, who is also from the same state. He has brought many laurels to the country in wrestling.
- ✓ Some of his prominent achievements are as follows.
- ✓ He is the first Indian wrestler to be ranked world no.1 and first to win four world championship medals.
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ His first significant international success was winning a bronze medal at the 2013 Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi.
- ✓ Medal at the Commonwealth Games
- ✓ Bajrang has won a silver medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow, Scotland.
- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2016 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.



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- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ Medals at the World Championship
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the 2013 World Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2018 World Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the world wrestling championship at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ He won his fourth medal at the 2022 world wrestling championship held in Belgrade, Serbia by winning a bronze medal
- ✓ Medals at the Asian Championship
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the 2013 Asian Championship held in New Delhi in 2013.
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2014 Asian Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2017 Asian Championship held in New Delhi.
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2021 Asian Championship held at Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Medals at the Asian Games
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games.
- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.
- ✓ **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**
- ✓ **Bajrang Punia was awarded India's highest sports award Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 2019.**
- ✓ United World Wrestling (UWW)
- ✓ The United World Wrestling (UWW) is an international body that governs amateur wrestling in the world.
- ✓ Headquarters : Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland
- ✓ President: Nenad Lalović

Q. Vladimir Putin was sworn in as president of the Russian Federation for the fifth time. What is the term of the President of Russia?

A) 5 years

B) 6 years

C) 7 years

D) 4 years

Answer : B

- ✓ Vladimir Putin was sworn in as president of the Russian Federation for the fifth time for a six-year term.
- ✓ He took the oath of office at a ceremony held at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow.
- ✓ The ceremony was attended by Russia's top military and political leadership, but the United States and many European nations boycotted the ceremony, saying that the presidential election was a fraud.



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- ✓ Putin, in power as president or prime minister since 1999. In 1999, after President Boris Yeltsin's resignation, Putin was appointed interim president of Russia
- ✓ About Russia
- ✓ Capital : Moscow
- ✓ Currency : Rubel
- ✓ President : Vladimir Putin
- ✓ Prime Minister : Mikhail Mishustin

Q. In which one of the following States is Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- A) Meghalaya
- B) Odisha
- C) Gujarat
- D) Assam

Answer : D

- ✓ National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently asked Assam's Chief Secretary to provide details of officers who let polling stations, schools, and other construction activities in Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ About Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary:
- ✓ It is a protected area located in the north-western area of Sonitpur district of Assam.
- ✓ It is located along the foothills of the Great Himalayan Range

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA):

1. It is a multi-stakeholder alliance of Governments, International Organizations and Industries.
2. It is an initiative by the United Nations to position biofuels as a key to the energy transition.

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 Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) has adopted a work plan focused on assessing country landscapes, drafting policy frameworks, and conducting biofuel workshops, petroleum and natural gas ministry officials said recently.
- ✓ About Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA):
- ✓ GBA is a multi-stakeholder alliance of Governments, International Organizations, and Industries.



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- ✓ It is an initiative by India, bringing together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels to drive the development and deployment of biofuels.
- ✓ It was launched on the sidelines of the 2023 G20 summit in New Delhi.
- ✓ The initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to the energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI):

1. It is administered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

2. It has been granted the status of 'Deemed University'.

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 Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386.
- ✓ About Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI):
- ✓ It is India's largest and foremost institute in the field of research and higher education and training in agricultural sciences.
- ✓ The Institute is situated in Delhi and is administered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ✓ History:
- ✓ IARI, popularly known as Pusa Institute, began in 1905 at Pusa (Bihar) with a generous grant of 30,000 pounds from an American philanthropist, Henry Phipps.
- ✓ The institute was then known as the Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), which functioned with five departments, namely Agriculture, Cattle Breeding, Chemistry, Economic Botany and Mycology. Bacteriology unit was added in 1907.
- ✓ The name of ARI was changed to Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research in 1911 and in 1919 it was renamed Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.
- ✓ It attained the status of a Deemed University in the year 1958.
- ✓ The IARI was responsible for the research leading to the "Green Revolution in India" of the 1970s



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SEED VARIETY IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386.
- An international team of scientists has discovered a new drought-resilient semi-dwarf wheat gene named 'Rht13.'
- Scientists of Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune in collaboration with Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed a new high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean named MACS 1407

Q. Which country has signed 20-Year Power Deal with Adani Green Energy for Wind Stations?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Sri Lanka has sealed a 20-year power deal with Adani Green Energy Ltd of India.
- ✓ Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers have approved the project under which two wind power stations will be developed by Adani, marking a crucial step towards sustainable energy solutions.
- ✓ The approval granted last year for Adani's \$442 million investment in 484 megawatts wind power plants underscores the growing partnership between the two nations in the renewable energy sector.
- ✓ As part of the deal, Adani will receive 8.26 cents per kilowatt-hour that is approximately 7 rupees. This collaboration comes amidst Sri Lanka's efforts to address energy challenges, including power blackouts and fuel shortages experienced during its economic crisis in 2022

Q. Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of additional shares in Sikkim Urja Limited by Greenko Energies Private Limited. Greenko Energies is a limited liability company incorporated in which country?

- A) Bhutan B) Bangladesh
C) Nepal D) Mauritius

Answer : D

- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of additional shares in Sikkim Urja Limited (formerly Teesta Urja Limited) by Greenko Energies Private Limited.



- ✓ Sikkim Urja Ltd is a special purpose vehicle incorporated for the purpose of the implementation of the 1,200 MW hydropower project in North Sikkim.
- ✓ According to the CCI, Greenko Energies, an indirect company wholly owned by Greenko Mauritius, will acquire the additional shares in the capacity of 6 units of 200 MW each in the hydro power project.
- ✓ The project will be executed by Greenko Mauritius, a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenko Energy Holdings (GEH).

Q. Which bank has formed an association with Northern Arc Capital aiming to explore and maximize commercial prospects by combining efforts in loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection, and reconciliation procedures?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ South Indian Bank and Northern Arc Capital join hands to set new benchmarks in the financial sector
- ✓ South Indian Bank has formed an association with Northern Arc Capital aiming to explore and maximise commercial prospects by combining efforts in loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection, and reconciliation procedures.
- ✓ The collaboration between South Indian Bank and Northern Arc Capital is aimed to create an ecosystem that promotes innovation and allows the seamless flow of credit across many sectors.
- ✓ The cooperation will allow South Indian Bank to use nPOS, Northern Arc's unique technology platform for co-origination, co-lending, and pool buyouts, as well as interact with numerous originators for loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, and reconciliation.

Q. Which of the following company has launched 'The Complete Home Loan' facility?

- A) L&T Finance Ltd B) LIC Housing Finance
C) Muthoot Finance D) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services

Answer : A

- ✓ L&T Finance Ltd (LTF) has launched 'The Complete Home Loan', offered through a digitised process, along with a dedicated relationship manager and optional home décor finance.
- ✓ Home décor finance aims to provide flexibility and convenience in acquiring essential furnishings for a comfortable living space.



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- ✓ The loan will be given against an architect’s certificate or contract certification when the house is ready for interior decoration. It will be about 15 per cent of the entire home loan, not exceeding ₹75 lakh, and can go up to 10 years.

Q. The renowned Urdu litterateur and academican, Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq passed away recently. Razzaq won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature for his acclaimed short stories collection, ‘Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan’ in which year?

- A) 2003 B) 2004
C) 2005 D) 2006

Answer : B

- ✓ The renowned Urdu litterateur and academican, Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq passed away at the age of 83.
- ✓ He was popularly known by his pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq.
- ✓ Razzaq won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature for his acclaimed short stories collection, ‘Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan’, in 2004.
- ✓ Born in 1941 at Panvel in Raigad district, Razzaq had a very humble beginning in life. He was deeply inspired by the trials and travails of the common masses which reflected in his writings, both prose and poetry.

Q. Where will the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting be held?

- A) Mumbai B) Kochi
C) Chennai D) Ahmedabad

Answer : B

- ✓ India to host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
- ✓ India will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from May 20 to 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Union Ministry of Earth Science, will host the meeting.
- ✓ Over 350 delegates from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the 46th ATCM and 26th CEP meetings.
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting is a forum where the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties and other stakeholders meet to discuss the environmental, scientific, and governance issues affecting Antarctica.



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- ✓ Antarctic Treaty
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 in Washington, D.C., by 12 countries and came into force in 1961. At present, 56 countries have signed the Antarctic Treaty,
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty made Antarctica a non-military Zone. It was declared a zone of peace dedicated to peaceful purposes, scientific cooperation, and environmental protection.
- ✓ The Committee for Environmental Protection was established under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol) in 1991.
- ✓ The permanent secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty is in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ✓ India And Antarctica
- ✓ India signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1983. India enacted the Antarctic Act in 2022.
- ✓ India started its scientific expedition to Antarctica in 1981 to carry out research in the area.
- ✓ The government of India established the first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, in 1983 to facilitate research expeditions in the area.
- ✓ At present, India operates two research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012).

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.
- WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme 'Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice



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

Q. Which country has recently extended the deadline for visa-free entry for Indians?

A) Vietnam

B) Malaysia

C) Sri Lanka

D) France

Answer : C

- ✓ Sri Lanka has recently extended the deadline for visa-free entry for Indians once again.
- ✓ Under this initiative of Sri Lanka, citizens of India, China, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia can travel to Sri Lanka for 30 days without visa.
- ✓ This scheme was launched in October with the aim of attracting more tourists.



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Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of HDFC Life?

- A) Ashok Sinha B) Rahul Shetty
C) Vijay Kamath D) Keki Mistry

Answer : D

- ✓ The appointment of Keki Mistry as the Chairman of HDFC Life has been approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI).
- ✓ He has replaced Deepak Parekh.
- ✓ He was the Vice Chairman and CEO of Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Limited

Q. India has recently withdrawn its military personnel from which country?

- A) Maldives B) Nepal
C) Bangladesh D) Iran

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Foreign Ministry has recently announced the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from Maldives.
- ✓ Indian military personnel were operating two helicopters and a Dornier aircraft to provide humanitarian and medical evacuation services in the Maldives.
- ✓ The Maldives government led by Mohammed Muizzu had formally requested India to withdraw its troops.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to PS4 engine:

1. It is used in uppermost stage of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
2. It uses a bipropellant combination of nitrogen oxide as the oxidizer and monomethyl hydrazine as the fuel.

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 Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) achieved yet another milestone in design and manufacturing by successfully conducting a long duration test of the PS4 engine of the PSLV stage.



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- ✓ It is the uppermost stage of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), comprising of two Earth storable liquid engines.
- ✓ It uses a bipropellant combination of nitrogen tetroxide as the oxidizer and monomethyl hydrazine as the fuel. It was developed by Isro's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
- ✓ The same engine is also used in the Reaction Control System (RCS) of the first stage (PS1) of PSLV.
- ✓ ISRO redesigned the conventionally manufactured PS4 engine to make it compatible with additive manufacturing techniques and this innovative approach, known as Design for Additive Manufacturing, has yielded remarkable advantages.

ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- ISRO achieved yet another milestone in design and manufacturing by successfully conducting a long duration test of the PS4 engine of the PSLV stage.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath announced on 16 April 2024 that India aims to achieve debris-free space by 2030.
- Proba-3 Mission of ESA to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- 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.



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



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the FLiRT Variants:

1. They are dominant strains related to the Hepatitis b disease.
2. These can spread via respiratory droplets of the person to others.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have found that there is an unfamiliar set of COVID-19 variants spreading across the US and they are collectively called FLiRT.
- ✓ KP.2 and KP1.1, dubbed 'FLiRT' variants, are descendants of the Omicron JN.1 which spread globally over the winter last year.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ The variants appear to outstrip their ancestor and other Omicron variants. KP.2 is the more dominant strain of the two and it is believed to leap past immunity built up from vaccines and previous infections.
- ✓ The FLiRT' variants are descendants of the JN.1 variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with two new added spike mutations.
- ✓ How it spreads? This variant spreads via respiratory droplets of the person to others, or touching infected surfaces such as faucets, furniture, elevator buttons etc.
- ✓ Symptoms of FLiRT
- ✓ The symptoms of the new variant are similar to those of other Omicron subvariants: sore throat, cough, nausea, congestion, fatigue, headache, muscle or body ache, loss of taste or smell.
- ✓ Prevention: Vaccination and preventive measures are advised to curb the spread.

Q. Joint military exercise Shakti is conducted by the Indian Army with which country's Army?

- A) France B) Russia
C) Singapore D) Malaysia

Answer : A

- ✓ Joint military Exercise Shakti between the Indian and the French forces will be held at the Joint Training Node of the Indian Army in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024



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- ✓ The opening ceremony of the 7th edition of Exercise Shakti will be attended by the French Ambassador to India, Thierry Mathou. Brigadier Mayur Shekatkar, Commander of the 24 Mountain Brigade, and other civilian and military dignitaries.
- ✓ The 7th edition will be hosted by India at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Joint military Exercise Shakti between the Indian and the French forces will be held at the Joint Training Node of the Indian Army in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024
- 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.
- 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.



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- Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16
- Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise - 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the 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.



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- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of “EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS” will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.

Q. Which country was the largest export destination for Indian merchandise goods in 2023-24?

A) UAE

B) Saudi Arabia

C) United States

D) United Kingdom

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian export to 115 countries shows positive growth in 2023-24.
- ✓ According to the latest data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce, India's exports have recorded positive growth in 115 countries out of the total 238 countries/territories it exported in 2023-24.
- ✓ A positive growth rate in exports was recorded in the major export markets of the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, China, The United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Germany and Italy.
- ✓ Out of the 229 countries/territories from which India imports goods and services, import has declined from 124 countries during 2023-24.
- ✓ Highlights of the 2023-24 Indian Export Data
- ✓ In 2023-24, Indian exports to 10 major export destinations increased by 13 percent compared to 2022-23.
- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was India's largest export market in 2023-24, registering a growth rate of 12.71 per cent.
- ✓ India's merchandise export to UAE was \$ 35.6 billion.
- ✓ Exports to Singapore increased by 20.19 per cent to \$14.4 billion and to China to \$16.7 billion, a growth of 8.70%.
- ✓ A sharp increase in export growth was registered to Albania (234.97 per cent), Romania (138.84 per cent) and Russia (35.41 per cent).



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Q. Which company will sponsor Sri Lanka Men's Team in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024?

A) Mother Dairy

B) Rummy

C) Deream11

D) Amul

Answer : D

- ✓ Amul to Sponsor Sri Lanka Men's T20 World Cup Team
- ✓ Sri Lanka has announced Amul, one of India's iconic dairy brands with a global footprint, as their sponsor for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, starting June 2 in the USA and the West Indies.
- ✓ Sri Lanka, former champions of the T20 World Cup, will become the third team after South Africa and USA to be sponsored by Amul at the showpiece T20 tournament.
- ✓ Amul has a history of sponsoring cricket teams during ICC tournaments, having previously collaborated with the New Zealand and the Netherlands national sides for the 2017 Champions Trophy and 2011 Cricket World Cup, respectively
- ✓ Additionally, Amul was one of the sponsors of the Women's Premier League in its inaugural edition.

SPONSOR IN NEWS 2024

- Sri Lanka has announced Amul, one of India's iconic dairy brands with a global footprint, as their sponsor for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024
- Amul will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team that will participate in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 which commences on June 1
- 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.



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Q. With reference to DigiLocker, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.**
- 2. The issued documents in the DigiLocker system are not deemed to be at par with the original physical documents.**
- 3. It has the feature of 2048 Bit encryption and multi-factor authentication.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ DigiLocker has become a digital placeholder for administrative and government-related documents and now students have the option of viewing their scores and even obtaining their verified marksheets.
- ✓ It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) under the Digital India Programme in 2015.
- ✓ It is a government approved application and is ideally maintained with strict security protocols framed by officials.
- ✓ It operates as an app to store users' digital records. The app can be used when applying for a passport, reviewing marksheets, or proving one's identity during travel.
- ✓ The app is part of the Indian Government's paper-free initiative aimed at letting users access, verify, and store essential documents in a digital wallet so that they are easy to retrieve and present to officials when required.
- ✓ The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the Information Technology (Preservation and Retention of Information by Intermediaries providing Digital Locker facilities) Rules, 2016.
- ✓ It has standard security measures in place including 2048 Bit RSA SSL encryption, multi-factor authentication (OTP verification), consent systems, timed log outs, and security audits.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Hanooman AI platform:

1. It is a largest Generative Artificial Intelligence platform.

2. It can perform complex technical tasks like coding and tutoring.

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, 3AI Holding Limited and SML India, announced the launch of ‘Hanooman’, India’s homegrown multilingual GenAI platform.
- ✓ It is the largest multilingual and most affordable Gen AI platform.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is available in 98 global languages, of which, 12 are Indian languages.
- ✓ The 12 Indian languages that the web version and app are currently available in include Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Kannada, Odia, Punjabi, Assamese, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Sindhi.
- ✓ It can handle everything from a casual chat to offering professional advice as well as performing complex technical tasks like coding and tutoring.
- ✓ The Gen AI platform will offer its multimodal and multilingual capabilities, including text, voice, image, and code to users.
- ✓ It aims to cater to four sectors: healthcare, governance, financial services, and education. It offers an open-source alternative to commercially accessible Large Language Models (LLMs).
- ✓ What is Generative Artificial Intelligence?
- ✓ It refers to deep-learning models that can take raw data and “learn” to generate statistically probable outputs when prompted.
- ✓ It is powered by foundation models (large AI models) that can multi-task and perform out-of-the-box tasks, including summarization, Q&A, classification, and more.

Q. Where will the 22 Asian Team Squash Championship be held?

A) China

B) Russia

C) Japan

D) Kazakhstan



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Answer : A

- ✓ The Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has announced the Indian team, which will participate in the 22nd Asian Team Squash Championships, which will be held in Dalian, China, from 12 to 16 June 2024.
- ✓ The Indian men's team is the current Asian Team Champion, having won the 2022 event in Cheongju, South Korea.
- ✓ Velavan Senthilkumar will lead the Indian men's team, and Rathika Seelan will lead the women's team. The Indian team is highly optimistic after its spectacular performance in the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games. India won five medals—two gold, one silver, and two bronze at the Hangzhou Asian games.

Q. Which bank has announced that it will close inoperative accounts of customers on 1 June 2024?

- A) State Bank of India B) Punjab National Bank
C) Kotak Mahindra Bank D) Bank of Baroda

Answer : B

- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced that it will close all its customers' inactive bank accounts on 1 June 2024.
- ✓ Customers whose accounts have become inactive can activate their accounts by completing their KYC (Know Your Customer) by 31 May 2024.
- ✓ The bank has taken this step to reduce expenses and prevent fraud in such accounts.
- ✓ Which Inactive accounts will be closed and which will not
- ✓ According to the PNB, those customers' accounts will be closed where there has been no transaction (deposit or withdrawal) by the customer for the past three years, and the account balance has been zero.
- ✓ The bank said that if these account holders do not complete their KYC by 31 May 2024, then they will not be given further notice, and their account will be closed permanently on 1 June 2024.
- ✓ Accounts not be closed.
- ✓ However, the bank said that it will not close certain inactive accounts. The exempted accounts are student accounts for customers under the age of 25, Minor accounts, accounts opened for specific schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), Atal Pension Yojana, and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and those frozen by statutory authorities like court orders, income tax department orders, etc.



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- ✓ The bank will also not close bank accounts linked with Demat accounts, lockers, or active standing instructions accounts.
- ✓ How to activate the inactive account
- ✓ According to the RBI, an inactive customer account can be activated by performing a fresh KYC of the customer. Under the KYC the customer has to submit his/her fresh photograph. One approved Identity proof and one address proof. These could be Voters ID cards, Aadhaar cards, passports, etc.
- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- ✓ Punjab National Bank is the third largest public sector bank after the State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.
- ✓ The Punjab National Bank was established as a private bank in 1894 and commenced operation in 1895.
- ✓ It is the first bank to set up with Indian capital.
- ✓ Lala Lajpat Rai was the first person to open an account in the bank.
- ✓ It was nationalised in 1969, and presently, the government of India has a majority stake.
- ✓ Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Atul Kumar Goel
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ Tagline of the Bank: A name you can bank upon.

Q. Mahamat Idris Deby Itno has been recently elected as the president of which country?

A) Chad

B) Ethiopia

C) Nigeria

D) Kenya

Answer : A

- ✓ Chad military dictator Idriss Deby win's Presidential election.
- ✓ The Military dictator and interim president of the Central African Country of Chad, Mahamat Idris Deby Itno has won the presidential election held on 6 May 2024.
- ✓ The provisional result was declared by the country's National Election Management Agency on 10 May 2024
- ✓ The election will legitimise the rule of Mahamat Idris Deby Itno for another six years.
- ✓ Republic of Chad
- ✓ Chad is a landlocked country situated in north-central Africa. It is the fifth largest country in Africa in area.
- ✓ President is the head of the state and the head of the government in Chad.
- ✓ The president has a six-year term, and a person can be president for only two terms.
- ✓ Capital: N'Djamena



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- ✓ Currency: CFA franc
- ✓ President: Mahamat Idris Deby Itno

Q. Who is Moosa Zameer, who visited India recently?

- A) Foreign Minister of Maldives B) Foreign Minister of Malaysia
C) Foreign Minister of Singapore D) Foreign Minister of UAE

Answer : A

- ✓ The foreign minister of Maldives Moosa Zameer visited India on 9 May 2024 .
- ✓ It was the first high ranking official visit from Maldives to India after coming into power of Maldives' pro-China president Mohamed Muizzu six months ago.
- ✓ The Maldivian foreign minister met the Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during his visit.
- ✓ The visit comes in the background of strained India-Maldives ties due to President Muizzu's pro-China policies and being associated with the India Out campaign in Maldives.
- ✓ Purpose of Moosa Zameer's Visit to India
- ✓ The main purpose of Moosa Zameer's visit to India was to seek debt relief from India.
- ✓ India has provided over \$ 2 billion in loans to Maldives, which involves loans given for the development of various infrastructure and connectivity projects in the island nation.
- ✓ Maldives has to repay \$ 500 million of the loan amount to India in the near future. Maldives wants the Indian government to convert a part of loans into grants as it is in no position to repay the loans.
- ✓ President Muizzu has accused the previous Solih government of taking massive loans from India which has pushed Maldives into debt trap
- ✓ Maldives
- ✓ Maldives is a group of islands located in the north-central Indian Ocean. It is 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.
- ✓ Due to rising sea levels, Maldives faces a danger of being submerged in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Capital: Male
- ✓ Currency: Rufiyaa
- ✓ President: Mohamed Muizzu



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Q. Which organization adopted the first law to tackle violence against women?

- A) European Union (EU) B) United Nations (UN)
C) African Union (AU) D) ASEAN

Answer : A

- ✓ The European Union (EU) adopted its first law to combat violence against women.
- ✓ The law requires EU countries to criminalize female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and online harassment.
- ✓ However, the law does not include a common definition of rape.
- ✓ The EU Commission proposed the law in 2022.

Q. Which organization recently released a report titled 'Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation'?

- A) International Monetary Fund B) World Bank
C) World Economic Forum D) World Meteorological Organization

Answer : C

- ✓ The World Economic Forum's report titled 'Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation' highlights Earth Observation (EO) technologies' economic potential, estimating a \$3.8 trillion contribution to global GDP from 2023-2030.
- ✓ EO encompasses remotely-sensed and in-situ data collection, offering insights across sectors.
- ✓ Agriculture benefits from precision techniques, while energy sectors utilize EO for forecasting and operations management. Mining gains insights for mineral exploration.
- ✓ EO also aids climate efforts, with applications like early wildfire detection and greenhouse gas monitoring, potentially reducing over 2 billion tonnes of CO2 annually by 2030.

Q. Which company has launched India's first crowd-supported weather network with over 650 weather stations, the largest private setup in India, for real-time local weather data?

- A) Domino's B) Food Panda
C) Swiggy D) Zomato

Answer : D



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- ✓ Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal has launched India's first crowd-supported weather network with over 650 weather stations, the largest private setup in India, for real-time local weather data.
- ✓ These weather stations, developed by Zomato, provide localised, real-time information on key weather parameters such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, rainfall, among others can be seen at <http://weatherunion.com>.
- ✓ Initially available in 45 major cities, plans are underway for expansion.

Q. Indian Coast Guard has signed MoU with which company for manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for construction of ships?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Indian Coast Guard has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindalco Industries for manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for construction of ships.
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard fleet is presently operating 67 ships with aluminium hull with capability of operating in shallow waters.
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard has planned to induct more such vessels where the indigenously manufactured marine-grade aluminium will be utilized.

Q. Who has been appointed as the President of Larsen and Toubro (L&T) ?

- A) R Shankar Raman B) Rakesh Sharma
C) Rajesh Singh D) Umesh Nath Singh

Answer : A

- ✓ R Shankar Raman elevated as President of L&T
- ✓ Larsen and Toubro was elevated R Shankar Raman as the Preaident of the engineering and construction conglomerate.
- ✓ Post the promotion, Raman will continue to hold the position of the whole-time Director and CFO of the company as well.
- ✓ Raman joined the L&T Group in November 1994 to set up L&T Finance Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary. He later assumed the role of CFO at L&T and was appointed to the board in October 2011.



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Q. Who has been bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 for Outstanding Social Work?

A) Pawan Sindhi

B) Tilak Mehta

C) Advait Thakur

D) Kunal Shah

Answer : A

- ✓ Pawan Sindhi honored with Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024
- ✓ Social worker Pawan Sindhi was bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 for Outstanding Social Work.
- ✓ The award night witnessed a gathering of like-minded individuals who came together to promote the values of humanity, peace, and prosperity.

Q. Which platform has secured Gold in the 'Best Product Iteration' category at the INMA Awards 2024?

A) Netflix

B) OTTplay

C) Amazon Prime

D) Disney

Answer : B

- ✓ OTTplay has bagged the Gold for Best Product Iteration and Silver in Best Use of an Event at INMA 2024.
- ✓ OTTplay has won Gold (first place) in the Best Product Iteration category and Silver (second place) in the category for Best Use of an Event to Build a News Brand.
- ✓ The platform's transition to an OTT aggregator, addressing the challenge of multiple subscriptions, was celebrated for its innovation.
- ✓ About OTTplay
- ✓ OTTplay is India's pioneering OTT aggregator that uses AI-based recommendations to revolutionise content discovery and consumption.
- ✓ With the introduction of OTTplay Premium, the platform now offers a curated selection of content from 37 premier OTT platforms which are personalized based on each user's unique preferences.

Q. Which company has been recognized and honored by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for its outstanding commitment to quality and branding excellence?

A) Juplay

B) Genius Box

C) Giggles

D) CreativeKidz



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- ✓ DRDO hands over nine defence tech projects to IIT-Bhubaneswar
- ✓ Nine projects sanctioned from the electronics and communication systems (ECS) cluster of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) were handed over to IIT-Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ Seven more projects are in the process of being sanctioned from ECS with a funding of Rs 18 crore.
- ✓ The IIT-Bhubaneswar will work on these sanctioned projects, which would be beneficial in electronics warfare, AI-driven surveillance, power systems and radar systems.
- ✓ This form of collaboration will enhance the sustainability of defence research programmes and will be part of the ecosystem for nation building

DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

- DRDO hands over nine defence tech projects to IIT-Bhubaneswar
- DRDO successfully tested the next-generation Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on 1 May 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- 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 Shivar' to encourage Defence R&D.



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- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa .
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

Q. Which day is celebrated as 'National Technology Day' every year?

A) 10 May

B) 11 May

C) 12 May

D) 13 May

Answer : B

- ✓ Every year, India observes 11th May as the National Technological Day to celebrate its technological and scientific prowess. The day aims to inspire youngsters and to create awareness about the country's scientific and technological achievements.
- ✓ It commemorates India's success in using science and technology to address the challenges facing the country.
- ✓ On this day, the government of India announces the names of the winners of the Rashtriya Vigyan Purashkar, or the National Science Awards
- ✓ The first National Technological Day was observed on 11 May 1999, commemorating the anniversary of the Pokhran nuclear test conducted on 11 May 1998.



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- ✓ The decision to observe 11 May as National Technological Day was announced by the National Council for Technology Development during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's prime ministership.
- ✓ Significance of the 1998 Pokhran Nuclear Test
- ✓ India conducted five nuclear tests in Pokhran, Rajasthan, on 11 and 13 May 1998. The test was code-named Operation Shakti.
- ✓ It was conducted jointly by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Defence and Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the leadership of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- ✓ Four nuclear weapons and one thermonuclear (Hydrogen) weapon were successfully tested by India.
- ✓ India became the sixth country after the United States of America, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France and China to possess nuclear weapons.
- ✓ Pakistan tested its nuclear weapon in 1998, and North Korea in 2006. Israel has not tested any nuclear weapon but it is believed to have a nuclear weapon. Thus, at present, nine countries are believed to have nuclear weapons.
- ✓ India had earlier conducted a Nuclear test code-named Smiling Budha on 18 May 1974 at Pokhran. India claimed that the test was a Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE), a scientific experiment for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and was not meant for making nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The theme for National Technology Day 2024 is “From Schools to Startups: Igniting Young Minds to Innovate.”

Q. Who has won the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy 2024?

A) Japan

B) Pakistan

C) Malaysia

D) India

Answer : A

- ✓ Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy.
- ✓ Japan won its maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey trophy by defeating Pakistan 4-1 in the penalty shoot-out in the final. The final was played at the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia, on 11 May 2024.
- ✓ First Sultan Azlan Shah Title for Japan
- ✓ The Japanese men's hockey team defeated Pakistan to claim its first Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy. In the final, the match ended at 2-2 after the end of the normal. In the penalty shoot-out, Japan defeated Pakistan by 4-1.



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- ✓ The Pakistani team, also popularly called the Green Shirts, was appearing in the final of the Azlan Shah for the 10th time. It last played the final in 2011, which it lost to Australia. Pakistan has won the Sultan Azlan Shah trophy three times
- ✓ Six teams, Japan, Pakistan, Canada, South Korea, New Zealand, and the host team, Malaysia, participated in the 2024 event.
- ✓ India and Azlan Shah Trophy
- ✓ Sultan Azlan Shah is considered a prestigious Hockey tournament in Asia that has attracted the world's top men's national hockey teams.
- ✓ India has been a regular participant in the Sultan Azlan Shah Tournament.
- ✓ India has won the Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy 5 times in 1985, 1991, 1995, 2009, 2010.
- ✓ This time, the Indian team skipped the tournament as they were more focused on preparing for the 2024 Paris Olympics, which start on 26 July 2024
- ✓ Australia is the most successful team, having won it 10 times. India is the second most successful team, with 5 titles, and Pakistan has 3 titles

SPORTS IN NEWS 2024

- Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy.
- Spanish football club Real Madrid has been crowned the La Liga 2023-24 season title after beating Cadiz 3-0.
- World no.1 women's tennis players Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev won the women's and men's singles titles at the 2024 Madrid Open, respectively
- Mumbai City FC defeat Mohun Bagan Super Giant to win the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24
- China wins both Thomas and Uber Cup Badminton 2024 titles
- Japan defeated Uzbekistan in the final to win the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time.
- Paris Saint-Germain football club was confirmed as the champion of the 2023-24 Ligue-1 Season
- National men's Squash champion Velavan Senthilkumar defeated Melvil Scianimanico of France to win the Batch Open Challenger Squash
- Yuvraj Singh becomes ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador



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Q. Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy is related to which sport?

- A) Cricket
B) Badminton
C) Tennis
D) Hockey

Answer : D

- ✓ The Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy is organised by the Malaysia Hockey Confederation and invites six countries to play in it. It started as a biennial tournament in 1983 and, after its popularity, was converted into an annual event in 1999.
- ✓ The trophy is named after the former Sultan of the state of Perak Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah. Sultan Azlan Shah was a pioneer of Hockey in Asia. He was the president of the Asian Hockey Federation from 1990 till his death in 2014.
- ✓ The Trophy named after him is played annually at Ipoh the capital of Perak state of Malaysia

Q. Who is the first person in the world to climb Mount Everest 29 times?

- A) Sangeetha Sindhi Bahi
B) Sherpa Tenzing Norgay
C) Pasang Dawa
D) Kami Rita

Answer : D

- ✓ Kami Rita of Nepal climbs Mount Everest for record 29th times.
- ✓ Kami Rita of Nepal has broken his own world record by climbing Mount Everest 29 times. This is the 29th time in the last 30 years that he has climbed the world's highest mountain.
- ✓ According to the Mingma Sherpa of the Seven Summits Treks, Kami Rita reached the peak on 12 May 2004.
- ✓ Mount Everest is the world's highest peak, with a height of 8,848.86 metres or 29,031.69 feet.
- ✓ Legendary Mountaineer Kami Rita
- ✓ Kami Rita is a citizen of Nepal and was born on 17, 1970. He is currently a senior mountain sherpa (guide) with Seven Summit Treks.
- ✓ Kami Rita started his mountaineering career in 1992 as a supporting crew member.
- ✓ Kami Rita first conquered the Everest peak in 1994 and has been climbing the mountain peak almost every year. In 2023, he climbed the mountain peak twice.
- ✓ He is popularly known as the Everest Man.
- ✓ Another Nepalese Mountaineer, Pasang Dawa, is Kami Rita's closest competitor, who has climbed Mount Everest 27 times.



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- ✓ About Mount Everest
- ✓ Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain peak, situated in the Great Himalayas region of the Himalayas. It lies on the boundary of Nepal and Tibet.
- ✓ In Tibet, Mount Everest is known as Chomolungma which means "Goddess Mother of the World" or "Goddess of the Valley". It is known as Sagarmatha in Nepal.
- ✓ The present height of Mount Everest is estimated to be 8,848.86 metres or 29,031.69 feet
- ✓ Indian Climbers on Mount Everest
- ✓ On 29 May 1953, New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary became the first person in the world to climb Mount Everest. He was accompanied by Nepali-Indian Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.
- ✓ The Government of India established the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in his memory in 1994.
- ✓ The first woman to climb Mount Everest was Junko Tabei of Japan. She climbed the peak on 16 May 1975.
- ✓ The first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest was Bachendri Pal on 23 May 1984.
- ✓ The first woman to climb Mount Everest twice - Santosh Yadav in 1992 and 1993.
- ✓ The first amputee in the world to climb Mount Everest - Arunima Sinha in 2013
- ✓ The youngest girl in the world to climb Mount Everest - Malvanath Poorna in 2014. She was 13 years and 11 months old.
- ✓ The oldest woman in the world to climb Mount Everest - Sangeetha Sindhi Bahi, in 2018 at the age of 53 years.

Q. In which prestigious athletic event did Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finish in second place to commence his 2024 season?

- A) Tokyo Olympics B) Doha Diamond League
C) World Athletics Championships D) Commonwealth Games

Answer : B

- ✓ Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Doha Diamond League
- ✓ Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic and world champion, started his 2024 season with a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League 2024.
- ✓ The 26-year-old Chopra trailed Czech Republic veteran Vadlejch, who won the title with his third round throw of 88.38m all through the competition.



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- ✓ Chopra made a last ditch effort but his final round throw fell 2cm short of Vadlejš's mark as the Indian superstar failed to defend the title he had won last year . Two-time world champion Anderson Peters took the third spot with a best throw of 86.62m

NEERAJ CHOPRA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic and world champion, started his 2024 season with a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League 2024.
- Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland.
- Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was shortlisted for men's 'World Athlete of the Year' award.
- Neeraj Chopra, India's star javelin thrower, won a gold medal in the Asian Games with a massive throw of 88.88m.
- Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Eugene Diamond League with a throw of 83.80m, failing to defend his title. Jakub Vadlejš becomes champion.
- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won the first gold medal for India at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary with a throw of 88.17 meters.
- Neeraj Chopra, will lead the country's challenge at the World Athletics Championships from August 19 to 27, 2023 in Budapest.
- India observes 3rd 'Javelin Throw Day' on August 07, 2023.
- Neeraj Chopra wins second straight Diamond League title in Lausanne, Switzerland with 87.66m throw.
- Olympic gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra has secured victory with 88.67 m throw at Doha Diamond League 2023.
- Neeraj Chopra makes history, becomes World No 1 in men's javelin throw.
- Neeraj Chopra is on top with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Anderson Peters of Granada.
- The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) accepted Neeraj Chopra's proposal to train in Kuortane, Finland.
- The men's javelin must weigh at least 800g and be 2.6m-2.7m long while the women's javelin must weigh 600g and be 2.2m-2.3m long.
- Neeraj Chopra presently holds the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army.
- Neeraj Chopra is from Khandra village, Panipat district, Haryana



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Q. The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched a pilot project for the Namu Drone Didi project with which company?

- A) Ashok Leyland B) Mahindra & Mahindra Limited
C) Larsent & Toubro Limited D) Dabur India Limited

Answer : B

- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Sign MoU with MSDE for 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project
- ✓ To boost rural women's empowerment, the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. to conduct two Pilot Projects under the Drone Didi Yojana at Noida And Hyderabad.
- ✓ The MoU was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Mahindra Group CEO and MD Dr Anish Shah and Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ✓ The pilot projects to train women to operate drones for agricultural purposes will be held at the National Skill Training Institute in Noida and Hyderabad.
- ✓ Drone Didi programme
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Namu Drone Didi scheme under the Sashakt Nari-Viksit Bharat programme on 11 March 2024 at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi.
- ✓ Under the Drone Didi scheme, the government aims to train and equip 15000 women-led Self Help Groups with agricultural drones to assist in tasks such as crop monitoring, spraying fertilisers and sowing seeds.

Q. Which of the following is not an objective of the Vibrant Village Programme?

- A) Enhancing the quality of life in border villages
B) Reversing the outmigration from border areas
C) Improving security of the border areas
D) Comprehensive development of villages along coastal states

Answer : D

- ✓ The Home Ministry recently sanctioned 113 roads under the Vibrant Village Programme in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim to improve connectivity in areas along the border.
- ✓ About Vibrant Village Programme:
- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented over the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- ✓ Objective:



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- ✓ Comprehensive development of villages and blocks on the northern border, thus improving the quality of life of people living in identified border villages.
- ✓ This will help in encouraging people to stay in their native locations in border areas and reversing the outmigration from these villages, adding to improved security of the border
- ✓ The programme will provide funds for the development of essential infrastructure and the creation of livelihood opportunities in 2967 villages in 19 Districts and 46 Border blocks of 4 States and 1 UT along the northern land border of the country: Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and the UT of Ladakh.
- ✓ The programme envisages focused areas of intervention in the select villages for the creation of opportunities for livelihood generation through promotion of tourism and cultural heritage, skill development and entrepreneurship, and development of cooperative societies, including agriculture/horticulture, cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs etc.
- ✓ Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats, and 100 % saturation of Central and state schemes will be ensured.
- ✓ There will be no overlap with the Border Area Development Programme.

Q. With reference to Credit Information Companies (CICs), consider the following statements:

1. They are licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

2. Both banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) can refer to the CIC report to assess the creditworthiness of borrowers.

3. Every Credit Institution (like banks) should be a member of at least one CIC.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently issued notice in a plea alleging right to privacy violations by four foreign credit information companies operating in India.
- ✓ About Credit Information Companies (CICs):
- ✓ CICs collect public data, credit transactions, and payment histories of individuals and companies regarding loans and credit cards, among others.



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- ✓ Their primary function is to gather data from various sources, such as banks, financial institutions, lenders, and other credit-granting entities, and based on the collected data, CICs form a credit report and generate a score.
- ✓ Banks and non-banking financial institutions refer to the CIC's report and score to decide borrowers' creditworthiness before granting a loan or issuing a credit card.
- ✓ The credit score ranges from 350 to 850, and anything above 750 is considered a good score.
- ✓ CICs in India are licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and governed by the Credit Information Companies Regulation Act, 2005 (CICRA) and various other rules and regulations issued by the RBI.
- ✓ As per Section 15 of the CICRA, every Credit Institution (like banks) should be a member of at least one CIC.
- ✓ As per the RBI's notification, each customer/individual should be provided with one base-level Credit line Information Report (CIR) free of cost per year by a Credit Information Company (CIC).
- ✓ The CIC's have their own procedure through which individuals can apply for a credit report at a specified fee.
- ✓ At present, there are four well known CICs in India. These companies are Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL), Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited, Experian Credit Information Company of India Private Limited, and CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited.

Q. Rat-Hole Mining is a method of manual drilling most common in which one of the following States in India?

A) Odisha

B) Meghalaya

C) Jharkhand

D) Bihar

Answer : B

- ✓ A one-member panel appointed by the High Court of Meghalaya to handle coal-related issues has flagged the lack of progress in restoring the environment damaged by rat-hole coal mining in the State.
- ✓ About Rat-Hole Mining:
- ✓ It is a method of manual drilling most common in Meghalaya, especially in the West Jaintia Hills, East Jaintia Hills, and West Khasi Hills.
- ✓ The term "rat hole" refers to the narrow pits dug into the ground, typically just large enough for one person to descend and extract coal.
- ✓ The coal is manually extracted using primitive tools such as pickaxes, shovels, and baskets.



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- ✓ Rat-hole mining is broadly classified into two categories: Side-cutting procedure and box-cutting.
- ✓ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining in 2014 for being unscientific, although the practice remains widespread

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement:

1. It was signed at the 7th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations in Bangkok in 2009.

2. It only applies to trade in physical goods and does not apply to trade in services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The 4th Joint Committee meeting for the review of AITIGA (ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement) was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 7-9 May 2024.
- ✓ It is a trade deal between the ten member states of ASEAN and India.
- ✓ It was signed at the 7th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations in Bangkok, Thailand in 2009.
- ✓ The agreement, which came into effect in 2010, is sometimes referred to as the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.
- ✓ The Agreement covers trade in physical goods and products; it does not apply to trade in services.
- ✓ ASEAN and India signed a separate ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement in 2014.
- ✓ What is ASEAN?
- ✓ It is a group of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which was established in 1967 with the signing of the Bangkok declaration.
- ✓ Founding members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- ✓ Presently ASEAN comprises 10 member states namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- ✓ It promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration between its members and other countries in Asia.



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Indian Ocean Basin-Wide (IOBW) index:

- 1. It indicates the average sea-surface temperature variations across the tropical Indian Ocean.**
- 2. It has a stronger association with the Northern Hemisphere than the Southern Hemisphere of 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

- ✓ According to the study Indian Ocean basin-wide (IOBW) index exhibits a close association with dengue outbreaks in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres.
- ✓ It represents the average sea-surface temperature variations across the tropical Indian Ocean.
- ✓ It has emerged as a key indicator for predicting the magnitude and timing of dengue epidemics in each country.
- ✓ IOBW index's association with the Southern Hemisphere is stronger than that with the Northern Hemisphere.
- ✓ The index has a more pronounced impact on temperatures in tropical regions. Brazil, for example, bears a higher burden of dengue in the Southern Hemisphere.
- ✓ The Northern Hemisphere witnesses a peak dengue epidemic period between July and October and the Southern Hemisphere in February and April, both in the summers.

Q. Which of the following fintech platforms has launched its 'Digital Credit' as a service for banks in India?

- A) PhonePe B) GooglePay
C) Zeta D) Instamojo

Answer : C

- ✓ Fintech platform Zeta has launched its 'Digital Credit' as a service for bank in India.
- ✓ Zeta's offering is underpinned by the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) credit line on UPI scheme – which harnesses the power of the UPI network to turbo-charge credit issuance in India.



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- ✓ Zeta estimates that the transaction volume on this scheme will exceed \$1 trillion by 2030 and aims to capture 50% of this market opportunity with its end-to-end solution that can help banks conceive and rapidly launch multi-form credit products

Q. RBI has appointed R Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director (ED). As executive director, Rao will handle which of the following department?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R Lakshmi Kanth Rao as executive director (ED).
- ✓ As executive director, Rao will handle the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), the Right to Information Act (FAA), and the Department of Communication.
- ✓ Rao was previously serving as chief general manager in charge in the Department of Regulation.
- ✓ He also served as a banking ombudsman at RBI Chennai and as regional director of Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow.

Q. Omnichannel forex services company Thomas Cook India launched a new digital service for International Money Transfers. What is the name of this digital service?

- A) BCPay
B) TCPay
C) UPay
D) CPay

Answer : B

- ✓ Omnichannel forex services company Thomas Cook India has launched TCPay, a new digital service that brings ease and efficiency to international money transfers.
- ✓ Traditionally, sending money abroad was considered an arduous process, that involved visits to branches, cumbersome paperwork and limited operating hours.
- ✓ Recognising the challenges, Thomas Cook has introduced TCPay that offers multiple benefits to transform the way individuals transfer funds.
- ✓ The simple digital platform coupled with Thomas Cook's recently launched Video KYC process, empowers customers with paperless transfers from the comfort and convenience of their home.



Q. Who among the following individuals will be honored with an honorary doctorate by McGill University as part of the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies?

- A) Dr. Anthony Fauci
- B) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
- C) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- D) Dr. Deborah Birx

Answer : B

- ✓ Dr Soumya Swaminathan to be awarded honorary doctorate by Canada's McGill University
- ✓ Dr Soumya Swaminathan, most recently WHO's Chief Scientist, has been named among the 10 exceptional individuals who will receive honorary degrees from Canada's prestigious McGill University as part of the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.
- ✓ In 2017, Swaminathan joined the World Health Organisation (WHO) as Deputy Director General (Programmes), and, in March 2019, was named its first Chief Scientist, a role she filled through the Covid-19 pandemic until late 2022.

AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Alok Shukla has been selected for the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize
- 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
- Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata was honoured with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021.
- Amitabh Bachchan will receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award
- Kannada poet, Mamta Ji Sagar was honored with the World Literary Prize for her contribution to literature by the World Organization of Writers (WOW)
- India's premier national space agency, the 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.
- SJVN Limited was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution



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- 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.
- REC Limited Wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY 2022-23.



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- 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 Khetrpal 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 space-tech start-up recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) to utilize co-working and testing facilities in Ahmedabad?

A) GalaxEye

B) AstroTech Solutions

C) Stellar Horizon

D) CosmoLaunch Technologies

Answer : A

- ✓ GalaxEye signs MoU with IN-SPACE for co-working and testing facilities
- ✓ Space-tech start-up GalaxEye has gained access to the co-working and testing facilities of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) in Ahmedabad.



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- ✓ The start-up signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IN-SPACe, an autonomous agency under the Department of Space, on May 01, 2024 to formalise the collaboration. The partnership facilitates the utilisation of ISRO's laboratories and testing facilities
- ✓ GalaxEye is planning to build multi-sensor earth observation (EO) satellites and is set to launch their first satellite, Drishti Mission, within a year from now. In 2023, GalaxEye developed a UAV SAR system for defence markets and completed over 200 successful flights with UAV SAR Payload.
- ✓ Further, GalaxEye has introduced the "Drishti Sensor", a sensor technology which helps with cloud cover and provides high quality images with detailed and timely data that is required for mission preparation, border patrols, and disaster management.

Q. Who were named the Player of the Year for 2023 in men's and women's categories, respectively, at the sixth annual Hockey India awards?

- A) Manpreet Singh and Rani Rampal B) Hardik Singh and Salima Tete
C) Harmanpreet Singh and Savita Punia D) Akashdeep Singh and Vandana Katariya

Answer : B

- ✓ Hardik Singh and Salima Tete named the Player of the Year for 2023.
- ✓ Hardik Singh and Salima Tete were named the Player of the Year for 2023 among men and women respectively at the sixth annual Hockey India awards even as the federation announced the revival of Hockey India League (HIL) in January 2025.
- ✓ With a total prize pool of ₹7.56 crores, the awards saw teams and individuals felicitated for their achievements in the past year. Interestingly, even the 2016 Junior World Cup winning men's team was honoured at the event, eight years since the triumph.
- ✓ Hockey India Awards 2023 winners
- ✓ Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Ashok Kumar
- ✓ Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Ashok Kumar
- ✓ Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of The Year (Men): Hardik Singh
- ✓ Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of The Year (Women): Salima Tete
- ✓ Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year: PR Sreejesh
- ✓ Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year: Harmanpreet Singh
- ✓ Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year: Hardik Singh
- ✓ Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year: Abhishek



- ✓ Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women – Under 21): Deepika Soreng
- ✓ Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men – Under 21): Arajjeet Singh Hundal

Q. What significant approval did Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) recently receive from the IRDAI?

- A) Approval to launch a new insurance product
- B) Approval to expand its insurance operations internationally
- C) Approval to merge with a leading insurance company
- D) Approval for the acquisition of Reliance Capital

Answer : D

- ✓ Hinduja Group gets IRDAI approval for Reliance Capital acquisition.
- ✓ Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) received the long-awaited Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) approval for the acquisition of Reliance Capital.
- ✓ The acquisition will include the takeover of Reliance Capital's insurance arms — wholly-owned subsidiary Reliance General Insurance and 51:49 JV with Nippon Life, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.
- ✓ The insurance regulator has cleared the transfer of Reliance Capital's 26 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life to Aasia Enterprises. Post the transaction, Reliance Capital, Nippon Life Insurance and Aasia Enterprises LLP will be the promoters of the company.

Q. Colin Munro, who recently retired from international cricket after representing his national team in 123 matches, played for which country?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ New Zealander Colin Munro retires from international Cricket
- ✓ Veteran New Zealand cricket player Colin Munro has announced his retirement from international cricket, ending his 123-match career with the Black Caps. The New Zealand cricket team is also called the Black Caps.



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- ✓ Munro announced his retirement after he was not chosen in the New Zealand squad for the 9th ICC Men's T 20 World Cup, which will be held in the West Indies and the United States of America from June 1 to 29, 2024.

Q. Which innovative initiative was unveiled by Zomato co-founder Deepinder Goyal to offer localized, real-time weather information in India?

- A) Weather Nexus
- B) Weather Union
- C) WeatherConnect
- D) WeatherSphere

Answer : B

- ✓ Zomato unveils 'India's first' crowd-supported weather infrastructure
- ✓ Zomato co-founder Deepinder Goyal unveiled India's first crowd-supported weather infrastructure 'Weather Union' to provide localised, real-time information on key weather parameters.
- ✓ He also informed that the online food-delivery giant is opening up access to the data of this weather infrastructure to everyone for the public good as a part of 'Zomato Giveback'.
- ✓ These weather stations, developed by Zomato, provide localised, real-time information on key weather parameters such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, rainfall etc.

Q. Which prestigious awards did OTTplay win in 2024, solidifying its standing in the digital media industry?

- A) Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity
- B) INMA Global Media Awards
- C) Webby Awards
- D) Golden Globe Awards

Answer : B

- ✓ OTTplay shines on the global stage, wins big at INMA Global Media Awards 2024
- ✓ HT Labs-backed OTTplay has scored big at the esteemed INMA Global Media Awards 2024, reaffirming its position in the digital media landscape. OTTplay has won Gold (first place) in the Best Product Iteration category and Silver (second place) in the category for Best Use of an Event to Build a News Brand.
- ✓ OTTplay's pioneering effort in product iteration was duly recognised as it managed to beat Germany's WeltN24 ("Revitalizing the Welt Community") and Chile's La Tercera ("The Match Project") for the top spot.



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Q. India signed an MoU with which country for the conservation of sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea?

- A) Oman
B) Kuwait
C) Qatar
D) Saudi Arabia

Answer : A

- ✓ India and Oman to jointly undertake research on sharks and rays in Arabian Sea
- ✓ A joint initiative between India and Oman to boost research and conservation of sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea will be launched at an upcoming workshop at ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

Q. India signed an agreement with which country for Visa Waiver on Diplomatic and Official Passports?

- A) Moldova
B) Maldives
C) Mauritius
D) Singapore

Answer : A

- ✓ India, and Moldova sign agreement for Visa Waiver on Diplomatic Passports
- ✓ India and Moldova signed an agreement allowing holders of diplomatic and official passports from either country to travel to the other without requiring a visa.
- ✓ This Agreement will add further momentum to the friendly and cordial relations between the two countries.
- ✓ Diplomatic relations between India and Moldova were established on March 20, 1992.

Q. India has contributed __ to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its unwavering commitment to support multilateral efforts in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism.

- A) \$1,00,000
B) \$50,000
C) \$5,00,000
D) \$5000

Answer : C

- ✓ India contributes \$5,00,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund
- ✓ India has contributed \$500,000 to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its unwavering commitment to support multilateral efforts in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism.
- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj handed over to Under Secretary General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov the country's voluntary financial contribution of half a million dollars towards the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF).



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- ✓ UNITED NATIONS (UN)
- ✓ Founded : 24 October 1945
- ✓ Headquarteres : New York, US
- ✓ Official languages : Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish
- ✓ Membership : 193 member states & 2 observer states
- ✓ 1st Secretary General : Trygve Halvdan Lie (Norway)
- ✓ 7th Secretary General : Kofi Annan (Ghana)
- ✓ 8th Secretary General : Ban Ki-moon (South Korea)
- ✓ 9th Secretary-General : António Guterres (Portugal)
- ✓ Deputy Secretary-General : Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria)
- ✓ United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24 every year.

Q. World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on the second Saturday of May. This year was celebrated on 11 May. What is the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2024?

- A) Insects
- B) Fishes
- C) Dolphin
- D) Animals

Answer : A

- ✓ World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on second Saturday of May. This year was celebrated on 11 May.
- ✓ Objective – To raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – Insects
- ✓ World Migratory Bird Day was first established in 1993 by visionaries from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.
- ✓ The initial celebrations were organized by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation along with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2007, the responsibility for the day was transferred to the non-profit organization 'Environment for the Americas'.
- ✓ WMBD is celebrated annually on the second Saturday in May and October to accommodate the varying migration patterns in different regions.



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Q. When is the International Nurses Day celebrated?

- A) May 10 B) May 11
C) May 12 D) May 09

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Nurses Day is celebrated on May 12, every year to mark the contributions and hard work of nursing staff around the world.
- ✓ The theme for International Nurses Day 2024 is Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care
- ✓ The day was created by the International Council of Nurses, and is celebrated globally since January 1974.
- ✓ This day also marks the birth anniversary of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale, who was born on May 12, 1820.

Q. The International Nurses Day marks the birth anniversary of which social reformer?

- A) Clara Barton B) Florence Nightingale
C) Marie Curie D) Mother Teresa

Answer : B

Q. Which literary works have been included in UNESCO’s Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, confirming India’s rich literary heritage and cultural legacy?

- A) Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavad Gita
B) Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana
C) Rigveda, Atharvaveda, and Upanishads
D) Arthashastra, Manusmriti, and Meghaduta

Answer : B

- ✓ Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana of India is among 20 items of the Asia Pacific region which has been included in the 2024 cycle of the ‘UNESCO’s Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register
- ✓ The Memory of the World Asia Pacific Committee recognises and honours the Asia-Pacific achievements in genealogy, literature, and science, among other categories.



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- ✓ The decision to include Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana was taken at the 10th General Meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP), held from 7 and 8 May, in Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia.
- ✓ The 10th General Meeting of MOWCAP was hosted by the Mongolian government's Ministry of Culture, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, and the Bangkok Regional Office of UNESCO.
- ✓ The meeting was attended by 38 representatives from member states convened alongside 40 observers and nominees.
- ✓ Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayaloka-Locana
- ✓ Ramcharitmanas was written by Tulsidas in the 16th century A.D in the Awadhi dialect. It is different from Ramanaya which was written by Sage Valmiki in Sanskrit language. The Ramcharitmanas is written in Chaupai form.
- ✓ Panchatantra is one of the oldest collections of fables in the world, composed in Sanskrit. Vishnusharma, the court scholar of King Amar Shakti of Mahilaropya, is credited with compiling it.
- ✓ It was probably composed around 300 BCE. It was translated into Pahlavi (Iranian language) in 550 BCE.
- ✓ 'Sahṛdayaloka-Locana' has been composed by Acharya Anandvardhan in Sanskrit. He lived in Kashmir during the second half of the 10th century and the first half of the 11th century AD.

UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana of India is among 20 items of the Asia Pacific region which has been included in the 2024 cycle of the 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register
- Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize
- A multibillion-dollar dam project underway across the Mekong River in Laos has prompted concerns that it could result in Luang Prabang City losing its UNESCO World Heritage Site status.
- India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.
- 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, India.



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- Gujarat's Garba Dance Enters UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' List.
- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.
- 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.
- Garba dance is the 15th intangible cultural heritage of India to be included in this list.
- Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO 'City of Literature' and Gwalior as the 'City of Music' in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site .
- Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- Member countries : 193

Q. Where was the World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024 held?

A) Netherlands

B) Belgium

C) Norway

D) Sweden

Answer : A

- ✓ India has set up its maiden pavilion at the World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024.
- ✓ The Pavilion was set up by the Union Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, and it was inaugurated by the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, on May 12, 2024.

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- ✓ The World Hydrogen Summit 2024 is being held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, from 13-15 May 2024. The Summit is being attended by 15,000 delegates from around the world..
- ✓ World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024
- ✓ The World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition has been organised by the Sustainable Energy Council in partnership with the Netherlands government, the province of Zuid-Holland, the City of Rotterdam and the Port of Rotterdam.
- ✓ National Hydrogen Mission
- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the National Hydrogen Mission on 4 January 2022. The government of India has approved an outlay of Rs 19,744 crore for the Mission.
- ✓ Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum,
- ✓ 125 GW of renewable energy capacity addition,
- ✓ Investment of over Rs. Eight lakh crore,
- ✓ Creation of over six lakh jobs,
- ✓ Reduction in fossil fuel imports over Rs. One lakh crore,
- ✓ Reduction in nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions

Q. Who is the 85th Chess Grandmaster of India?

A) Vidit Gujrathi

B) Pentala Harikrishna

C) P Shyaamnikhil

D) Arjun Erigaisi

Answer : C

- ✓ Tamil Nadu's P Shyaamnikhil became India's 85th chess Grandmaster(GM).
- ✓ The 31-year-old chess prodigy, who started his career at the age of eight, finally secured his third and final GM norms at the 2024 Dubai Police Masters Chess Tournament.
- ✓ R Vaishali was the 84th Indian GM.
- ✓ P Shyaamnikhil was born in Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu in 1992 and he later shifted to Chennai to pursue his passion in chess.
- ✓ Grandmaster
- ✓ Grandmaster is the highest title in chess, just below the world champion title.
- ✓ A male chess player must earn at least a FIDE 2500 Elo rating point in established classical or standard chess and three Grandmaster's norms in international competition.



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- ✓ For the women chess player the player has to earn a minimum FIDE 2300 ELO rating points and three women Grandmaster's norm.
- ✓ Chess Grandmaster of India
- ✓ Manuel Aaron was the first Indian chess player to get the International Master title in 1961.
- ✓ Vishwanathan Anand was the first Indian to become the Grandmaster in 1988.
- ✓ Jayshree Khadikar was the first Indian woman to get the Women International Master in 1979.
- ✓ Koneru Humpy was the first women Grandmaster of India. She is also the world's youngest female player ever to become women GM, at the age of 15 years..
- ✓ There are three female Indian Grandmasters Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika and R. Vaishali.

CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2023-24

- P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster.
- International Chess Federation Awards Grandmaster Title To Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu.
- Indian young chess player Rameshbabu Praggnanand has defeated world chess champion Ding Liren in the 'Tata Steel Masters' held in Netherlands.
- Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the 84th Grandmaster of India.
- Raunak Sadhwani (Maharashtra) won FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship.
- India's Karthikeyan Murali became the third Indian chess player to defeat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess after he prevailed over the Norwegian at the Qatar Masters tournament.
- Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra) Emerges Winner Of 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament defeated Koneru Humpy.
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) wins the Chess World Cup Final 2023.
- Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster.
- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has won the title of V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament 2023.

Q. With reference to Chabahar Port, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian Ocean.**
- 2. It is situated on the Persian Gulf.**



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3. It is a key transit center on the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ India recently signed a 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and manage the Chabahar port, marking a pivotal development in bilateral ties between the two nations.
- ✓ About Chabahar Port:
 - ✓ It is a deep-water port located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province.
 - ✓ It is on the Gulf of Oman at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.
 - ✓ It is the only Iranian port having direct access to the Indian Ocean.
 - ✓ It consists of two separate ports called Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari.
 - ✓ It's geographic proximity to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, as well as its status as a key transit center on the burgeoning International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), gives it the potential to develop into one of the most important commercial hubs in the region.

Q. In India, which one of the following organizations regulates the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)?

A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

C) Ministry of Finance

D) International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA)

Answer : D

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) recently announced it has become the first trading-cum-clearing member at the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX).
- ✓ About India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX):
 - ✓ It is India's first International Bullion Exchange.
 - ✓ It is based at GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tech City) IFSC (International Finance Services Center), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



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- ✓ IIBX has been conceptualized to provide a gateway to import bullion into India and provide a world class bullion exchange ecosystem to promote bullion trading, investment in bullion financial products and vaulting facilities in IFSCs.
- ✓ It will facilitate Transparent Price Discovery, Responsible sourcing and supply chain integrity, Quality Assurance and Standardization.
- ✓ The IIBX is regulated by the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA), a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services, and financial institutions at IFSCs.
- ✓ Products and technology offered at IIBX are diversified, and available at a cost that is far more competitive than those at Indian exchanges, as well as global exchanges in Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, London, and New York.

Q. Senior IPS Officer Idashisha Nongrang has been appointed as first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of which state?

A) Nagaland

B) Tripura

C) Arunachal Pradesh

D) Meghalaya

Answer : D

- ✓ Senior IPS Officer Idashisha Nongrang has been named first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya state.
- ✓ A 1992 batch Indian Police Service officer, she will replace Lajja Ram Bishnoi who will retire on May 19.
- ✓ She will serve as the State's police chief till May 19, 2026.
- ✓ Nongrang is also the first tribal woman to ascend to this prestigious rank.

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Idashisha Nongrang has been named first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya state.
- 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).



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- 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.
- 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.



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

Q. Chabahar Port, which was in the news recently, is located in which country?

A) Pakistan

B) Qatar

C) UAE

D) Iran

Answer : D

✓ India and Iran have signed a 10-year bilateral contract aimed at enhancing the operations of Chabahar Port.



✓ Meanwhile, exports to the US dipped by 1.32 per cent to \$77.5 billion in 2023-24 as against \$78.54 billion in 2022-23, while imports dipped by about 20 per cent to \$40.8 billion, the report showed.

Q. Where did the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully test the new liquid rocket engine manufactured through Additive Manufacturing technology?

- A) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Kerala
- B) Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- C) ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu
- D) U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Answer : C

- ✓ ISRO Successfully Tests New Liquid Rocket Engine In Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO successfully tested the new liquid rocket engine manufactured through Additive Manufacturing technology. The test was successfully carried out at ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri in Tamilnadu.
- ✓ This new redesigned PS4 engine has brought down the number of parts from 14 to a single piece and eliminated 19 weld joints. This will significantly save on the raw material usage per engine, reduce metal powder from 565 kgs to 13.7 kgs and reduce the production time by 60 percent.
- ✓ This new redesigned engine will be used for the fourth stage of PSLV launch vehicle and also in the Reaction Control System of the First Stage in PSLV.
- ✓ ISRO is planning to induct this PS4 engine into the regular PSLV program. Additive Manufacturing technology means 3D printing of PS4 engines. The Private partner Wipro 3D joined hands with ISRO to successfully carry out the hot testing of the 3D printed PS4 engine.

Q. Who has been elected as a director of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-op Ltd.)?

- A) Umesh Nath
- B) Vivek Bipindada Kolhe
- C) Rajesh Sharma
- D) Dinesh Singh

Answer : B

- ✓ Vivek Bipindada Kolhe has been elected as a director of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-op Ltd.) New Delhi.
- ✓ He is currently working as the Chairman of Sahkar Maharshi Shankarao Kolhe Co-operative Sugar Factor.



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- ✓ Kolhe's extensive experience in the cooperative sector, coupled with his past role as RGB of IFFCO, positions him as a formidable advocate for farmers' rights and interests.
- ✓ With Kolhe assuming his new responsibilities, the future of cooperative farming in Maharashtra looks bright.
- ✓ IFFCO, the cornerstone of India's agricultural landscape, stands as a beacon of support for farmers nationwide
- ✓ IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Corporation)
- ✓ Founded : 1967
- ✓ Founder : Udaybhansinhji Natwarsinhji Jethwa
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ CEO : Udai Shanker Awasthi
- ✓ Director : Vivek Bipindada Kolhe

Q. Hemant Khatri has been honoured with 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect in May 2024. Khatri is currently CMD of which company?

- A) Cochin Shipyard Limited B) ABG Shipyard
C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders D) Hindustan Shipyard

Answer : D

- ✓ Hindustan Shipyard Limited's (HSL) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Hemant Khatri has been honoured with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect at the award ceremony held in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 'PSU Samarpan Award' acknowledges the significant contributions of Public Sector Undertakings to the country's progress.
- ✓ 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect, an initiative by ilouge Media, recognised the exemplary leadership of HSL's CMD for driving the transformation of the shipyard and inspiring countless individual within the industry.

Q. Which day has been declared as the World Football Day by the United Nations ?

- A) 14 May B) 25 May
C) 20 May D) 21 May

Answer : B



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- ✓ 25th May declared as World Football Day by the UN
- ✓ The 193 member United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution on 7 May 2024 to observe 25 May, every year as World Football Day . The resolution was adopted by consensus by the members of the United Nations General Assembly.
- ✓ Libyan Resolution on World Football Day
- ✓ The resolution to mark 25th May of every year as World Football Day was introduced by Libya's ambassador to the United Nations Taher El-Sonni. It was co-sponsored by more than 160 members of the United Nations.
- ✓ Introducing the resolution the Libyan ambassador said football or soccer is played across the globe in towns,cities and villages. It is the most popular sport on earth.

Q. Who has become the first Indian male wrestler to secure quota for Paris Olympics 2024?

- A) Aman Sehrawat
- B) Vivek Chopra
- C) Deepak Dahiya
- D) Bajrang Punia

Answer : A

- ✓ Aman Sehrawat has become the first Indian male wrestler to secure a quota for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Asian champion Sehrawat secured the Paris quota in the men's 57kg freestyle category at the World Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers in Istanbul, Turkey.

Q. Where is the Senior Nationals Sailing Championship 2024 being organized?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Senior Nationals Sailing Championship 2024 is being organized at Mumbai Port.
- ✓ It is being organised by the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai from 12 to 18 May 2024.
- ✓ Indian Navy Sailing Association (INSA) is also cooperating in this.
- ✓ 82 participants from 10 major sailing clubs across the country have registered for the event



Q. Which England cricketer recently announced his retirement from international cricket?

A) Jos Buttler

B) Adil Rashid

C) Moeen Ali

D) James Anderson

Answer : D

- ✓ England's legendary fast bowler James Anderson has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- ✓ He will say goodbye to cricket after the test match against West Indies to be played at Lord's.
- ✓ Anderson, who turns 42 in July, made his Test debut against Zimbabwe at Lord's in 2003.
- ✓ He has taken 700 wickets, the most by any fast bowler in Test history.
- ✓ Jimmy has 269 wickets to his name in ODIs.

Q. Who recently became the first Indian to win a medal at the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships?

A) Srishti Khandagale

B) Dipa Karmakar

C) Pranati Nayak

D) Aruna Reddy

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Gymnast Srishti Khandagale Wins Silver At Asian Championships.
- ✓ In Trampoline, India's Srishti Khandagale scripted history by becoming the first ever Indian to win a medal at the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships.
- ✓ She clinched the silver medal in Women's Individual Age group category at the 6th Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championship held in Hong Kong, China.
- ✓ However, she did not qualify for the upcoming Paris Olympics, as she was competing in an age group event. Kazakhstan's Dolgoplova secured the gold medal, while Hong Kong's S Hung won the bronze

Q. Which country emerged victorious in the Eurovision Song Contest 2024, beating Croatia as the runner-up, after being among the top three favorites according to bookmakers?

A) Sweden

B) Germany

C) Norway

D) Switzerland

Answer : D

- ✓ Switzerland Wins Eurovision Song Contest Amid Gaza Protests.



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- ✓ Switzerland won the Eurovision Song Contest 2024 in Swedish host city Malmö, beating runner-up Croatia, after having been among bookmakers' top-three to win the competition.
- ✓ Billed as a feel-good celebration of European diversity, this year's contest has been thrust into the political spotlight with calls for Israel to be excluded over its military campaign in Gaza, triggered by Hamas' deadly attack on Oct. 7 in Israel.
- ✓ Swiss rapper and singer Nemo, 24, won the contest with "The Code", a drum-and-bass, opera, rap and rock song, about Nemo's journey of self-discovery as a non-binary person.

Q. Who recently passed away at the age of 72 due to cancer, and served as the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar for approximately 11 years under Janata Dal (United) chief and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar?

- A) Sushil Kumar Modi B) Lalu Prasad Yadav
C) Rabri Devi D) Nitish Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ Sushil Modi, former Bihar deputy CM, passes away at 72.
- ✓ Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister, Sushil Kumar Modi, passed away at the age of 72 due to cancer.
- ✓ Modi served as deputy to Janata Dal (United) chief and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for approximately 11 years. He emerged victorious in the Bihar assembly elections three times between 1990 and 2004.
- ✓ From 1996 to 2004, he served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar assembly. In 2003, he was appointed as BJP's national vice president, a position he held until 2005.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope:

- 1. It monitors millions of stars that haunt the outskirts of our solar system.**
- 2. It is developed by the European Space Agency.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ NASA's upcoming Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, which is poised to embark on a groundbreaking mission of hunting for primordial black holes dating back billions of years to the Big Bang.
- ✓ It will provide one of the deepest-ever views into the heart of our Milky Way galaxy.



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- ✓ Objectives: The mission will monitor hundreds of millions of stars in search of tell-tale flickers that betray the presence of planets, distant stars, small icy objects that haunt the outskirts of our solar system, and isolated black holes.

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.
- 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



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- 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. 'Exercise Tarkash, a joint counter terrorism exercise is held between India and:

- A) Japan
- B) United States of America
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Nepal

Answer : B

- ✓ The India-U.S joint exercise in conducting coordinated operations in urban counter terrorism contingencies will conclude in Kolkata.
- ✓ It is the seventh edition of the India-United States of America's joint counter terrorism exercise.
- ✓ It is held between the elite National Security Guard (NSG) and the U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) commenced on April 22, 2024.
- ✓ The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Chennai in January 2023.
- ✓ This exercise encompassed intense training and mock drills in urban counter terrorism scenarios.



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Q. The Great Pyramid of Giza, recently seen in the news, is located in which one of the following countries?

- A) Peru
B) Mexico
C) Egypt
D) Iraq

Answer : C

- ✓ A recent discovery of a mysterious structure buried beneath the sands near the iconic Great Pyramid of Giza might likely change the way we perceive these ancient structures.
- ✓ About Great Pyramid of Giza:
- ✓ The Great Pyramid of Giza, also called Great Pyramid and Great Pyramid of Khufu, is an ancient Egyptian pyramid that is the largest of the three Pyramids of Giza.
- ✓ Location: It is located on the Giza plateau, five miles to the west of the Nile River, near the city of Cairo, Egypt.
- ✓ It was built by Khufu (Cheops), the second king of Egypt's 4th dynasty (c. 2575–c. 2465 BCE).
- ✓ Until the Eiffel Tower was completed in Paris, France, in 1889, the Great Pyramid was the tallest structure made by human hands in the world; a record it held for over 3,000 years.

Q. Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in which one of the following States?

- A) Odisha
B) Gujarat
C) Assam
D) Rajasthan

Answer : D

- ✓ Even 46 years after it was notified as a Tiger Reserve, Sariska, among the first 12 in the country, awaits rightful ownership of its land in the state's revenue records.
- ✓ About Sariska Tiger Reserve:
- ✓ Location: It is located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- ✓ It is well nestled in the Aravali Hills, covering an area of 800 sq km.
- ✓ It was once a hunting ground of the Maharaja of Alwar before being proclaimed a natural reserve in 1955 and a national park in 1979.
- ✓ It is the first reserve in the world to successfully relocate tigers.



- ✓ Sariska is also famous for old temples, palaces, and lakes such as Pandu Pol, Bhangarh Fort, Ajabgarh, Pratapgarh, Siliserh Lake, and Jai Samand Lake

TIGER RESERVE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Pench Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra has become India's first and Asia's fifth tiger reserve with 'Dark Sky Park'.
- Arunachal Pradesh approves constitution of Special Tiger Protection Force for three Tiger Reserves.
- Bihar's second tiger reserve to come up in Kaimur sanctuary
- After the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.
- India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal.
- India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population.
- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched on April 1, 1973.

Q. With reference to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), consider the following statements:

- 1. It measures the changes in the prices of goods and services sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.**
- 2. It is calculated and published by the Office of Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- 3. It is published quarterly and is used to measure the level of wholesale inflation in both goods and services.**

How many of the above given statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Inflation in India's wholesale prices rose to a 13-month high of 1.26% in April, owing to an uptick in food inflation and a 1.4% year-on-year rise in fuel and power prices after several months of deflation.



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- ✓ About Wholesale Price Index (WPI):
- ✓ WPI measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
- ✓ It is calculated and published by the Office of Economic Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ CPI data is published monthly, with the index value representing an estimate of the price level for the month as a whole, rather than a specific date.
- ✓ Difference between WPI and CPI inflation:
- ✓ While the WPI keeps track of the wholesale price of goods, the CPI measures the average price that households pay for a basket of different goods and services.
- ✓ WPI is restricted to only goods, while CPI is for both goods and services.
- ✓ Even as the WPI is used as a key measure of inflation in some economies, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) no longer uses it for policy purposes, including setting repo rates. The RBI currently uses CPI, or retail inflation, as a key measure of inflation to set monetary and credit policy.
- ✓ New series of WPI: With an aim to align the index with the base year of other important economic indicators such as GDP and IIP, the base year was updated to 2011-12 from 2004-05 for the new series of WPI, effective from April 2017.
- ✓ How do you calculate WPI?
- ✓ It is calculated by taking a weighted average of the prices of a basket of goods, with each item's weight determined by its share of total wholesale sales.
- ✓ The basket of goods comprises three major groups:
- ✓ Primary Articles (Weight 22.62%)
- ✓ Fuel and Power (Weight 13.15%)
- ✓ Manufactured Products (Weight 64.23%)
- ✓ The prices of a total of 697 items are tracked under the 2011-12 series of the WPI, which includes 117 primary items, 16 items of fuel and power, and 564 manufactured products.

Q. With reference to Memory of the World programme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an initiative launched by UNESCO.**
- 2. It aims to facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage.**
- 3. Ramcharitmanas written by Tulasidas has been included under this programme.**



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How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayāloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'.
- ✓ It is part of an international initiative launched by UNESCO in 1992 to safeguard the documentary heritage of humanity.
- ✓ This programme aims to recognise significant documentary heritage in a similar fashion to the way UNESCO's World Heritage Convention and World Heritage List recognises significant natural and cultural sites.
- ✓ The Memory of the World Programme (MoW) aims to:
- ✓ Facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage, particularly in areas affected by conflict and/or natural disaster.
- ✓ Enable universal access to documentary heritage worldwide.
- ✓ Enhance public awareness about the significant of documentary heritage among the wider public.
- ✓ Governance: The International Advisory Committee (IAC) is the main body responsible for advising UNESCO on the planning and implementation of this MoW Programme as a whole.
- ✓ It comprises 14 members serving in a personal capacity, appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, and chosen for their authority in the field of documentary heritage.
- ✓ Governance: The International Advisory Committee (IAC) is the main body responsible for advising UNESCO on the planning and implementation of this MoW Programme as a whole.
- ✓ It comprises 14 members serving in a personal capacity, appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, and chosen for their authority in the field of documentary heritage.
- ✓ Nomination for MoW: The call for nominations and inscriptions on the Asia Pacific Register is made every two years unless unexpected circumstances make this impractical. Nominations will normally be called for in the even-number years (to alternate with the International Register).
- ✓ India's 3 items included in Mow are
- ✓ Ramcharitmanas: It was written by Tulasidas in the 16th century in the Awadhi dialect, which is primarily spoken in the districts of Lucknow, Prayagraj, and Ayodhya.



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- ✓ Panchatantra: The Panchatantra of ancient India is a collection of fables originally written in Sanskrit. It has five distinct sections, each of which is focused on a specific principle and is believed to have been written by Vishnu Sharma.
- ✓ Sahrdayaloka-Locana: It is a Sanskrit commentary on the Dhvanyaloka.

Q. Defence Secretary Giridhar Armane released a Rs 250 commemorative coin to celebrate the 250th foundation of which institution?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Defence Secretary Giridhar Armane released a commemorative Rs 250 coin on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the foundation of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL).
- ✓ The defence secretary was the chief guest of the function, which was organised by the MDL in New Delhi on 14 May 2024 to mark the 250th anniversary of the MDL.
- ✓ About MDL
- ✓ The Mazagon Dock Limited started its journey as a dry dock in 1774, constructed in Mazagon, Mumbai. In 1934, the company was incorporated as a private limited company. It was nationalised and taken over by the government of India in 1960.
- ✓ It is a premier naval shipyard under the Union Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ It was accorded Mini-Ratna 1 status by the government of India in 2006.
- ✓ The MDL has become the premier yard for building warships, submarines for the Indian Navy, and other vessels for the Coast Guard

Q. To which country the government of India has announced humanitarian assistance worth one million dollars to deal with floods?

- A) Nigeria
- B) Zimbabwe
- C) Kenya
- D) Maldives

Answer : C

- ✓ India grants \$ 1 million humanitarian assistance to flood hit Kenya



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- ✓ The government of India has announced humanitarian assistance worth \$ one million to the government of Kenya to deal with the devastation caused by the floods in the country. More than 267 people in the country have been killed by the devastating flood, which has displaced more than 3,80,00 people in the country
- ✓ Republic of Kenya
- ✓ The Republic of Kenya is a country in East Africa. It is famous for its scenic landscape and its wildlife.
- ✓ It gained independence from England in 1963.
- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme headquarters is situated in Nairobi.
- ✓ President : William Ruto
- ✓ Capital: Nairobi
- ✓ Currency: Kenyan Shilling

Q. Which space organization announced plans to build the first railway station on the moon for efficient payload transportation?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ NASA announced FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track), the first lunar railway system, aiming to transform cargo transfer on the Moon.
- ✓ FLOAT, part of NASA's Moon to Mars initiative, utilizes unpowered magnetic robots on a three-layer flexible film track.
- ✓ These robots levitate above the track, reducing wear from moon dust and offering dependable transportation for sustainable lunar colonies.
- ✓ The system integrates diamagnetic levitation, electromagnetic propulsion, and optional solar panels for power generation.

Q. Where did the Indian Air Force airdrop-test indigenous mobile hospital 'Bhishma' Cube?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Agra
- C) Jaipur
- D) Patna

Answer : B

- ✓ The Indian Air Force has tested the state-of-the-art indigenous mobile hospital 'BHISHM Cube' for airdrop in Agra.



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- ✓ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, this innovative technology is capable of providing quick and comprehensive medical assistance during emergencies anywhere.
- ✓ It has been prepared to treat 200 injured people.

Q. Who has appointed Davide Salvagnini as its first Chief AI Officer?

- A) Tesla
- B) UN
- C) NASA
- D) Google

Answer : C

- ✓ US space agency NASA has appointed David Salvagnini as its first Chief AI Officer.
- ✓ Earlier, David Salvagnini was NASA's chief data officer.

Q. In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to which country's government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year?

- A) Maldives
- B) Thailand
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Argentina

Answer : A

- ✓ India extends budgetary support of \$50m to Maldives
- ✓ In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year on the Maldivian government's special request.
- ✓ The State Bank of India has subscribed for one more year to the USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill, issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, upon maturity of the previous subscription.
- ✓ These Government Treasury Bills are subscribed by SBI under government-to-government, a unique arrangement at zero cost (interest-free) to the Government of Maldives.

Q. Who has been appointed as Chairman of Tata Electronics?

- A) Subramanian Ramadorai
- B) T. V. Narendran
- C) Pranav Chandrasekaran
- D) N. Chandrasekaran

Answer : D

- ✓ The current chairman of Tata Sons, N. Chandrasekaran will also serve as the chairman of Tata Electronics.
- ✓ Chandrasekaran will replace Banmali Agarwal in this role, pending regulatory approval.



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Q. Wipro has appointed whom as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU)?

A) Kunal Shah

B) Nithin Kamath

C) Vinay Firake

D) Deepak Ravindran

Answer : C

- ✓ Wipro appoints Vinay Firake as CEO for APMEA region
- ✓ Wipro, a leading IT major, has appointed Vinay Firake as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU)
- ✓ Mr. Firake will report to Srini Pallia and will also join Wipro's executive board.
- ✓ He succeeds Anis Chenchah, who is stepping down to pursue opportunities outside the organisation, the company said in a statement.

Q. Which Indian company has announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit?

A) Accenture

B) Wipro

C) Infosys

D) Tata Consultancy Services

Answer : D

- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit.
- ✓ The TCS AI Centre of Excellence in Paris will leverage TCS' global ecosystem of startups, academia, and research organisations to bring the best of global capabilities to French companies.
- ✓ The new AI centre will be based in the upcoming TCS PacePort in the La Défense area of Paris, which will be inaugurated in June 2024, becoming the seventh such facility in TCS' global Pace network, following Amsterdam, London, New York, Pittsburgh, Toronto, and Tokyo

TCS IN NEWS 2023-24

- Tata Consultancy Services announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit.
- BSNL has placed an order worth ₹15,000 crore to tech firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to further expand the 4G network in India. .



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- No TCS on LRS transactions upto Rs 7 lakh via international debit, credit cards from July 1, 2023.
- When the scheme was introduced in the year 2004, that time this limit was of USD 25,000.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading global IT services company, has expanded its partnership with Google Cloud and unveiled a new offering called TCS Generative AI.
- K Krithivasan Appointed CEO Designate of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
- Telefónica Germany Selects TCS as Transformation Partner to Build Future-Ready Operations Support.
- Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys grew their brand value to retain their positions as the second and third most valuable IT services brands, according to the 'IT Services 25' list prepared by UK-based consultancy Brand Finance for the year 2023.
- Accenture retained the top slot for the fifth year straight, with a brand valued at \$39.8 billion.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been named to FORTUNE® magazine's list of the World's Most Admired Companies.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) received a nod from Central Government to go ahead with Rs 26,821 crore deal with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) paving its way to launch 4G services in India.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with a subsidiary of Financial Institutions, Inc. 'Five Star Bank' on its digital transformation journey..
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- Founded : 1968
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- MD & CEO : Kriti Krithivasan

Q. Which cooperative society has recently signed an agreement with Marut Dronetech Private Ltd to launch Drone-as-a-Service operations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

- A) Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)
- B) Amul
- C) Anyonya Co-operative Bank Limited
- D) Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF)



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Answer : A

- ✓ IFFCO partners with Marut Dronetech for Drone-as-a-Service (DAAS) in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, aiming to boost rural entrepreneurship and youth engagement.
- ✓ The collaboration targets to cover five lakh acres for agri input spraying.
- ✓ Marut Dronetech will deploy drones to dispense IFFCO agri-products. DAAS facilitates affordable drone tech access for farmers through rural entrepreneurs, promoting accessibility.

Q. Recently, the 'ASHVA' range of All-Terrain Vehicles with Military Potential was developed in which city?

A) Jaipur

B) Indore

C) Bengaluru

D) Varanasi

Answer : C

- ✓ The "ASHVA" range of All-Terrain Vehicles, developed by All Terrain Private Limited (A-THON) in Bengaluru, provides effective transportation for troops and supplies in challenging environments.
- ✓ Tailored for military purposes, these vehicles address operational needs of the Indian Army and Air Force, reducing reliance on imports. Additionally, they hold promise for applications in the Indian agricultural sector, marking a strategic development in domestic manufacturing and defense capabilities



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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