

IACE

Indian Academy of Competitive Exams

(An ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Institute)

English Medium

Digest February - 2024

Coverage from 26th December 2023 to 25th January -2024

Current Affairs



VINAY SIR
MIND CALCULATION GURU
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, IACE



Bharat Ratna - 2024

BJP Co-Founder Lal Krishna Advani and Former Bihar CM Karpooori Thakur (posthumously) were Awarded Bharat Ratna for the Year 2024.



Padma Awards 2024

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Actor Konidela Chiranjeevi were Among The Five Eminent Persons Awarded Padma Vibhushan.



Exercise Desert Knight 2024

Exercise 'Desert Knight'

A Bilateral Air Force Exercise was Conducted between India, France, and the UAE at the Al Dhafra Air Base in the UAE.



Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir

PM Modi Unveiled The Ramlalla Idol at Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya, UP. The Idol was Sculpted by Arun Yogiraj.



GLOBAL FIREPOWER MILITARY STRENGTH 2024

US Tops, India Fourth Place

Global Firepower's 2024 Military Strength Ranking

India Ranked 4th; USA Tops



Himalayan Wolf

Himalayan Wolf Classified as 'Vulnerable' on IUCN Red List



Atal Setu

PM Modi inaugurated India's Longest Sea Bridge, The Mumbai Trans Harbor Link (MTHL), also Known as Atal Setu, in Navi Mumbai.



Australian Open 2024

Jannik Sinner (Italy) Wins Men's Singles Title, Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) Wins Women's Singles Title and Rohan Bopanna (India), at 43, Became the Oldest Man to Win Men's Doubles



Sheikh Hasina

Sheikh Hasina has Secured her Fifth Term as Bangladesh Prime Minister

Best Coaching for

BANK | SSC | RRB

S.I / కానిస్టేబుల్

FOR ANY QUERIES : 97000 77411 / 422 97000 77411

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రైల్వే



క్రిత్త బ్యాచ్లు ప్రారంభమైనవి

NON TECHNICAL

**NTPC
GROUP-D
ALP
RPF - S.I &
CONSTABLE**

@ DILSUKHNAGAR - 9533 200 400

తెలుగు కుడియం | English Medium

@ VIZAG - 91000 61896/897

తెలుగు కుడియం | English Medium

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English Medium

@ VIJAYAWADA - 88866 11377

తెలుగు కుడియం | English Medium

TECHNICAL

◆ JE & SSE ◆ ALP/TECHNICIAN

@ DILSUKHNAGAR | 9533 200 400

FREE AWARENESS PROGRAM ON

BANK

Pos / CLERKS

SSC

CGL / CHSL

**EVERY
SUNDAY**

**10AM
to
1PM**

**@ AMEERPET,
DILSULHNAGAR
& VIZAG**

NEW BATCHES START ON

EVERY MONDAY

IACE లో CLASS ROOM COACHING తీసుకొని IBPS RRB-2023 లో ఉద్యోగాలు సాధించిన కొంత మంది మా విద్యార్థులు (ONLINE COURSE & TEST SERIES విద్యార్థుల వివరాలను ఇందులో పాండు పరచలేదు)



M. ANJANEYULU
Reg No: 2250145525
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKAS BANK
D.O.E: ITP-JAN-2020



B. MANIK REDDY
Reg No: 2250342151
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKAS BANK
D.O.E: JUL-25-2022



N. MANASA
Reg No: 2250410960
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKAS BANK
D.O.E: APR-18-2022



U. MANIKANTA
Reg No: 2250243147
Post: RRB PO
CHAITANYA CHOUHANI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: NOV-22-2021



UDAY CHEPOORI
Reg No: 2250367035
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKAS BANK
D.O.E: FEB-22-2021



KALLEM RAVI KIRAN
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Post: RRB PO
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: G-I OFFLINE



BANDARI ANVESH KUMAR
Reg No: 22541001064
Post: RRB PO
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JULY-3RD 2023



SADULA NIKITHA
Reg No: 22541000011
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKASA BANK
D.O.E: 2018-MAY ITP



CH. BALAJI
Reg No: 2250560006
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: MARCH-1-2021



KONDAVARDHAN TILAK
Reg No: 2250171635
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2018-MAY ITP



S. SAI KRISHNA
Reg No: 2250582030
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JULY - 25 - 2022



O. PRAKASH
Reg No: 2250236063
Post: RRB PO
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-18-ITP



ALLU SUMALATHA
Reg No: 2250339270
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: NOV-31-2021



P. SHASHANK REDDY
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
Post: RRB PO
D.O.E: 2021-MARCH-1-ITP



J. SACHIN
Reg No: 2250308873
Post: RRB PO
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2019-ITB



VADAVALASA GOUTAM
Reg No: 2250093341
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JUNE-6-2018



GUJJALA SRINIVAS
Reg No: 2250308822
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: SEP-15-2022



M. KARTHIC
Reg No: 2250207802
ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKAS BANK
Post: RRB PO
D.O.E: 2018-ITP



AMIT KUMAR
Reg No: 2250440044
Post: RRB PO
KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK
D.O.E: JAN-4-2021



AGATAMUDI BHAGYASREE
Reg No: 2250365768
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-8-2021



G. SATHVIK
Reg No: 2250404328
Post: RRB PO
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: MAR-18-2022



K BHARU SANKER
Reg No: 2250437494
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JUNE-19-2022



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Reg No: 2250623265
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKAS BANK
D.O.E: JUNE-19TH 2018



MATRA DYUTHI PRIYA
Reg No: 2250432016
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: APR-18-2022



B. PAVAN KUMAR
Post: RRB PO
CHAITANYA CHOUHANI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-22-2021



S.V. THARUN KUMAR
Reg No: 2250406360
Post: RRB PO
TELEPURI GRAMEENA VIKAS BANK
D.O.E: NOV-4-2019



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Reg No: 2250009940
Post: RRB PO
SAPTHAGHRI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2019-ITP



GUNDEPOGU RAJU
Reg No: 2250460803
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKAS BANK
2019-BANK



YASARAVENI SRIKANTH
Reg No: 2250123294
Post: RRB PO
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: SEP-6-2021



RAVIKIRAN G TARAPUR
Reg No: 2250027145
Post: RRB PO
KARNATAKA GRAMINA VIKASA BANK
D.O.E: MAR-1-2021



ARCHANA
Reg No: 2250392465
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKASA BANK
D.O.E: NOV-15-2021



P. GEETHIKA
Reg No: 2250004829
Post: RRB PO
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: AUG-12-2019



Y. MALLIKARJUN
Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: 2019 AUG-12-ITP



K. LAKSHMI VIJAY GANESH
Reg No: 2250042488
Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST



T. HEMANTH
Reg No: 2250409050
Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: JAN-2018



NEELAPURAM KASI SAISUDHEER
Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: JUNE-6TH 2022



T. DINESH
Reg No: 2250301076
Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST



S. RAHATH PARVEEN
Reg No: 2250338651
Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: OCT-11-2021



KUKATLA RAMYA
Reg No: 2250263999
Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: AUG-23-2021



CHUDAMANI SATHYA PRAMOD
Reg No: 2250204582
Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: MAR-8-2021



VISHNU DHANAVATH
Reg No: 2250306598
Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: FEB-14TH 2022



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Post: RRB PO
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: FEB-18 BANK



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D.O.E: SEP-6TH 2021



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Reg No: 2250008573
Post: RRB CLERK
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D.O.E: FEB-06TH 2021



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Post: RRB CLERK
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-15TH 2021



K. VIJAYKUMAR
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Post: RRB CLERK
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D.O.E: JAN-25-2021 ITP



T. GEETHA
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D.O.E: MAR-6-2019



SESETTI VIJAYASARADI
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Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JAN-26-2023

“మీ విజయంలో భాగస్వాములమైనందుకు గర్వపడుతున్నాము”



మీ VINAY SIR
MIND CALCULATION GURU
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, IACE

IACE లో CLASS ROOM COACHING తీసుకొని IBPS RRB-2023 లో ఉద్యోగాలు సాధించిన కొంత మంది మా విద్యార్థులు (ONLINE COURSE & TEST SERIES విద్యార్థుల వివరాలను ఇందులో పాండు పరచలేదు)



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SAPTAGIRI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: APR-1-2022



DURGA PRASAD RAO
Reg No: 2240495944
Post: RRB CLERK
CHAITANYA GRAMINI BHARATIYA BANK
D.O.E: AUG-29-2022



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ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2019-BANKING



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ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2019-ITP



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ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
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D.O.E: FEB-6-2023



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ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
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D.O.E: OCT-31-2021



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TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JUL-26-2021



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Post: RRB CLERK
KARNATAKA GRAMINI BANK
D.O.E: JAN-2-2023



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SAPTAGIRI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-22-2021



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CISER UP-SAPTAAGIRI GRAMINI BANK
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D.O.E: APR-16-2023



P VENKATESWARA
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Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JUN-8-2023



RAMASWAMI
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Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-27-2023



JUTTIGA RAMYA
Reg No: 2240222243
Post: RRB CLERK
AP-ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2023-BANK



A. MAHESH
Reg No: 2240482170
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: OCT-25-2021



UPENDRA NAIDU
Reg No: 2240525654
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2022



J. SACHIN
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ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: ITP-2019



P MURALI KRISHNA
Reg No: 2240195412
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2021-BANK



J.LAXMI SRAVANI
Reg No: 2240578220
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JUL-3-2023



N. SRINIVAS RAO
Reg No: RRB CLERK
D.O.E: FEB-22-2021



V SIVA GANESH
Reg No: 2240222118
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: NOV-27-2022



SOMESWARARAO
Reg No: 2240489079
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JAN-3-2022



BALAKRISHNA
Reg No: 2240503029
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JAN-03-2022



SRINIVAS
Reg No: 2240484921
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-22-2021



VADAVALASA GOUTAM
Reg No: 2240167329
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2019-JUNE-6 BANK



CH.BALAJI
Reg No: 224046304
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2021 MARCH-1



KONDAVARDHAN TILAK
Reg No: 2240290871
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK



N NAVEENA
Reg No: 2240157238
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JUNE-03RD-2019



VISHNU DHANAVATH
Reg No: 2240482213
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-14TH 2022



L. SAI MANOJ MASABATTULA
Reg No: 2240669920
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JAN-27-2022



S RAHATH PARVEEN
Reg No: 2240323413
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2021-OCT-11-ITP



KURRE SANTHOSHI
Reg No: 224009341
Post: RRB CLERK
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: SEP-9 2019



K. LAKSHMI VIJAY GANESH
Reg No: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK



ISLAVATHU THIRUPATHAMMA
Reg No: 2240300239
Post: RRB CLERK
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-22-2021



NELLAPURAM KASI GANESUREN
Reg No: 2240671653
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JUN-4-2022



GUGULOTHU LALU
Reg No: 2240300781
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: FEB-22-2021



KUSHALI GULJARU
Reg No: 2240636013
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: APRIL-4-2022



DANNANA DHRUVA TEJA
Reg No: 2240124879
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: 2022-DEC



SANDRALA NAGENDAR
Reg No: 2240235058
Post: RRB CLERK
ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JULY-2021



Y NARESH
Reg No: 22403002946
Post: RRB CLERK
TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
D.O.E: JULY-26-2021



B MANIK REDDY
Reg No: 2240500140
Post: RRB CLERK
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: JUL-25-2022



K KALPANA
Reg No: 22403002658
Post: RRB CLERK
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: AUG-25-2017



LAKKOU YOGA VISWANTH
Reg No: 2240506610
Post: RRB CLERK
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: FEB-22-2021



RAMBATTULA SANJAY KUMAR
Reg No: 22403002142
Post: RRB CLERK
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: NOV-25-2021



G SATHVIK
Reg No: 2240614476
Post: RRB CLERK
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: MAY-16-2022



D.MALAYA SRI SAI
Reg No: 2240066561
Post: RRB CLERK
RESERVE LIST
D.O.E: FEB-22-2021



K NIKHIL
Reg No: 2240700112
Post: RRB CLERK
RESERVE LIST

AS ON DATE
ఇప్పటివరకు నాకు
అందిన వివరాలు మాత్రమే...

“మీ విజయంలో
భాగస్వాములమైనందుకు గర్వపడుతున్నాము”



మీ VINAY SIR
MIND CALCULATION GURU
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, IACE

SSC CGL-2022లో కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వ ఉద్యోగాలు సాధించిన కొంతమంది మా విద్యార్థులు



NAGARJU
ASST. AUDIT OFFICER
8008010584



S SANDEEP
SR ADMINISTRATIVE ASST
8096003987



D LOKESH
EXAMINER
8008003117



T PRANEETH REDDY
TAX INSPECTOR
8603010993



K RAMESH
SR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
8601018625



S HARISH
EXAMINER
8601008754



K RAKESH
EXAMINER
8601010416



SV RAJESH
GST INSPECTOR
8601051234



T MANJUNADHA
GST INSPECTOR OFFICER
9001015146



G SAIKUMAR
NIA-SI
8601065488



BHARATH
CAG ACCOUNTANT
8601060040



SK DASTA GIRI
CAG AUDITOR
8601023940



R RAJESH
CAG AUDITOR
8601075686



N GOPAL
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
8601010347



SUBHAN
CAG AUDITOR
8601033999



B PAVAN
TAX ASSISTANT
8601025295



U RAGHUVVEER
TAX ASSISTANT
8007024430



R SHIVA KUMAR
TAX ASSISTANT
8601071879



BANOTH RAVI
TAX ASSISTANT
8100761340



CHITRA BALAJI
TAX ASSISTANT
8601049532



GENJI MADHU
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601007209



P. MANOHAR
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601062022



T. UMESH
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601053509



T JAGJEEVAN
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601017803



R ANILKUMAR
TAX ASSISTANT
8601002128



B BRAVALI
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601042193



P NARESH
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601077347



CH MOUNIKA
JR STATISTICAL OFFICER
8603008992



S YASWANTH
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601006799



A MOHAN
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601046343



R TARUN
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8008024751



S VAMSHI
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601013393



R RADHAKRISHNA
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601006639



T SURESH
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601065208



S PREM KUMAR
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601007373



SAIKUMAR
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601070896



P DINESH
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601075622



G THIRUPATHI
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601015483



S YASWANTH
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8006008364



K A KOTESHWAR
POSTAL ASSISTANT
8601054291



G HEMANTH
SR ADMINISTRATIVE ASST
8601055561



S PRUDHVI
SR ADMINISTRATIVE ASST
8001011796



PAVAN KUMAR
EXAMINER
8601077699



CH SRI TEJA
PREVENTIVE OFFICER
8601067173



B HEMANTH
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**Current
Affairs
February
2024**



★ The Government of India, under the New Education Policy, has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages of India.

★ This announcement was made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a two-day visit to Iran.

★ Currently there are **six languages** that enjoy the 'Classical' status in India: **Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).**

★ In addition to these classical languages **Pali, Persian, and Prakrit** and their works of literature are to be preserved according to India's National Education Policy-2020.

Criteria for Classical Language Status

- **High Antiquity:** The language must have a recorded history spanning 1500-2000 years.

- **Valuable Heritage:** It should possess a body of ancient literature and texts cherished by generations.

- **Originality:** The literary tradition must be unique and not borrowed from another linguistic community.

- **Distinctness:** The classical language and its literature should be distinct from modern forms or offshoots.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs announced the Padma Awards for the year 2024, the President of India Droupadi Murmu has approved conferment of 132 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one) as per the list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Awards. 30 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 8 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 9 Posthumous awardees. The government flagged 34 of the Padma Shri winners separately as “unsung heroes”. Former vice-president Venkaiah Naidu, Telugu star actor Chiranjeevi, yesteryear stalwart Vyjayanthimala, Sulabh founder Bindheshwar Pathak, and Bharatnatyam exponent Padma Subrahmanyam are the five people awarded the Padma Vibhushan.

About Padma Awards

✓ Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma

Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. ‘Padma Vibhushan’ is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; ‘Padma Bhushan’ for distinguished service of high order and ‘Padma Shri’ for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

- ✓ These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.
- ✓ The Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members. The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.
- ✓ Present cabinet secretary **Rajiv Gauba**.

Complete List Of Padma Awards -2024 Recipients

Padma Vibhushan (5)

S.No	Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Ms.Vyjayantimala Bali	Art	Tamil Nadu
2.	Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi	Art	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Shri M Venkaiah Naidu (Former vice-president)	Public Affairs	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Shri Bindeshwar Pathak (Posthumous)	Social Work	Bihar
5.	Ms.Padma Subrahmanyam	Art	Tamil Nadu

Padma Bhushan (17)

S.No	Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Ms. M Fathima Beevi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala
2.	Shri Hormusji N Cama	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
3.	Shri Mithun Chakraborty	Art	West Bengal
4.	Shri Sitaram Jindal	Trade & Industry	Karnataka
5.	Shri Young Liu	Trade & Industry	Taiwan
6.	Shri Ashwin Balachand Mehta	Medicine	Maharashtra
7.	Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	West Bengal
8.	Shri Ram Naik	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
9.	Shri Tejas Madhusudan Patel	Medicine	Gujarat
10.	Shri Olanchery Rajagopal	Public Affairs	Kerala
11.	Shri Dattatray Ambadas Mayaloo alias Rajdutt	Art	Maharashtra
12.	Shri Togdan Rinpoche (Posthumous)	Others – Spiritualism	Ladakh
13.	Shri Pyarelal Sharma	Art	Maharashtra
14.	Shri Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur	Medicine	Bihar
15.	Ms. Usha Uthup	Art	West Bengal
16.	Shri Vijaykanth (Posthumous)	Art	Tamil Nadu
17.	Shri Kundan Vyas	Literature & Education – Journalism	Maharashtra

Padma Shri (110)

S.No	Name	Field	State /Country
1	Shri Khalil Ahamad	Art	Uttar Pradesh
2	Shri Badrappan M	Art	Tamil Nadu
3	Shri Kaluram Bamaniya	Art	Madhya Pradesh
4	Ms. Rezwana Choudhury Bannya	Art	Bangladesh
5	Ms. Naseem Bano	Art	Uttar Pradesh
6	Shri Ramlal Bareth	Art	Chhattisgarh
7	Ms. Gita Roy Barman	Art	West Bengal
8	Ms. Parbati Baruah	Social Work	Assam
9	Shri Sarbeswar Basumatary	Others – Agriculture	Assam
10	Shri Som Datt Battu	Art	Himachal Pradesh
11	Ms. Takdira Begum	Art	West Bengal
12	Shri Sathyanarayana Beleri	Others – Agriculture	Kerala
13	Shri Drona Bhuyan	Art	Assam

14	Shri Ashok Kumar Biswas	Art	Bihar
15	Shri Rohan Machanda Bopanna	Sports	Karnataka
16	Ms. Smriti Rekha Chakma	Art	Tripura
17	Shri Narayan Chakraborty	Science & Engineering	West Bengal
18	Shri A Velu Ananda Chari	Art	Telangana
19	Shri Ram Chet Chaudhary	Science & Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
20	Ms. K Chellammal	Others – Agriculture	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
21	Ms. Joshna Chinappa	Sports	Tamil Nadu
22	Ms. Charlotte Chopin	Others – Yoga	France
23	Shri Raghuv eer Choudhary	Literature & Education	Gujarat
24	Shri Joe D Cruz	Literature & Education	Tamil Nadu
25	Shri Ghulam Nabi Dar	Art	Jammu & Kashmir
26	Shri Chitta Ranjan Debbarma	Others – Spiritualism	Tripura
27	Shri Uday Vishwanath Deshpande	Sports	Maharashtra
28	Ms. Prema Dhanraj	Medicine	Karnataka
29	Shri Radha Krishan Dhiman	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
30	Shri Manohar Krishana Dole	Medicine	Maharashtra
31	Shri Pierre Sylvain Filliozat	Literature & Education	France
32	Shri Mahabir Singh Guddu	Art	Haryana
33	Ms. Anupama Hoskere	Art	Karnataka
34	Shri Yazdi Maneksha Italia	Medicine	Gujarat
35	Shri Rajaram Jain	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
36	Shri Jankilal	Art	Rajasthan
37	Shri Ratan Kahar	Art	West Bengal
38	Shri Yashwant Singh Kathoch	Literature & Education	Uttarakhand
39	Shri Zahir I Kazi	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
40	Shri Gaurav Khanna	Sports	Uttar Pradesh
41	Shri Surendra Kishore	Literature & Education – Journalism	Bihar
42	Shri Dasari Kondappa	Art	Telangana
43	Shri Sridhar Makam Krishnamurthy	Literature & Education	Karnataka
44	Ms. Yanung Jamoh Lego	Others – Agriculture	Arunachal Pradesh
45	Shri Jordan Lepcha	Art	Sikkim
46	Shri Satendra Singh Lohia	Sports	Madhya Pradesh

47	Shri Binod Maharana	Art	Odisha
48	Ms. Purnima Mahato	Sports	Jharkhand
49	Ms. Uma Maheshwari D	Art	Andhra Pradesh
50	Shri Dukhu Majhi	Social Work	West Bengal
51	Shri Ram Kumar Mallick	Art	Bihar
52	Shri Hemchand Manjhi	Medicine	Chhattisgarh
53	Shri Chandrashekhar Mahadeorao Meshram	Medicine	Maharashtra
54	Shri Surendra Mohan Mishra (Posthumous)	Art	Uttar Pradesh
55	Shri Ali Mohammed & Shri Ghani Mohammed* (Duo)	Art	Rajasthan
56	Ms. Kalpana Morparia	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
57	Ms. Chami Murmu	Social Work	Jharkhand
58	Shri Sasindran Muthuvel	Public Affairs	Papua New Guinea
59	Ms. G Nachiyar	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
60	Ms. Kiran Nadar	Art	Delhi
61	Shri Pakaravur Chithran Namboodiripad (Posthumous)	Literature & Education	Kerala
62	Shri Narayanan E P	Art	Kerala
63	Shri Shailesh Nayak	Science & Engineering	Delhi
64	Shri Harish Nayak (Posthumous)	Literature & Education	Gujarat
65	Shri Fred Negrit	Literature & Education	France
66	Shri Hari Om	Science & Engineering	Haryana
67	Shri Bhagabat Padhan	Art	Odisha
68	Shri Sanatan Rudra Pal	Art	West Bengal
69	Shri Shankar Baba Pundlikrao Papalkar	Social Work	Maharashtra
70	Shri Radhe Shyam Pareek	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
71	Shri Dayal Mavjibhai Parmar	Medicine	Gujarat
72	Shri Binod Kumar Pasayat	Art	Odisha
73	Ms. Silbi Passah	Art	Meghalaya
74	Ms. Shanti Devi Paswan & Shri Shivan Paswan* (Duo)	Art	Bihar
75	Shri Sanjay Anant Patil	Others – Agriculture	Goa
76	Shri Muni Narayana Prasad	Literature & Education	Kerala
77	Shri K S Rajanna	Social Work	Karnataka
78	Shri Chandrashekar Channapatna Rajannachar	Medicine	Karnataka
79	Shri Bhagwatilal Rajpurohit	Literature & Education	Madhya Pradesh

80	Shri Romalo Ram	Art	Jammu & Kashmir
81	Shri Navjivan Rastogi	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
82	Ms. Nirmal Rishi	Art	Punjab
83	Shri Pran Sabharwal	Art	Punjab
84	Shri Gaddam Sammaiah	Art	Telangana
85	Shri Sangthankima	Social Work	Mizoram
86	Shri Machihan Sasa	Art	Manipur
87	Shri Omprakash Sharma	Art	Madhya Pradesh
88	Shri Eklabya Sharma	Science & Engineering	West Bengal
89	Shri Ram Chander Sihag	Science & Engineering	Haryana
90	Shri Harbinder Singh	Sports	Delhi
91	Shri Gurvinder Singh	Social Work	Haryana
92	Shri Godawari Singh	Art	Uttar Pradesh
93	Shri Ravi Prakash Singh	Science & Engineering	Mexico
94	Shri Seshampatti T Sivalingam	Art	Tamil Nadu
95	Shri Somanna	Social Work	Karnataka
96	Shri Kethavath Somlal	Literature & Education	Telangana
97	Ms. Shashi Soni	Trade & Industry	Karnataka
98	Ms. Urmila Srivastava	Art	Uttar Pradesh
99	Shri Nepal Chandra Sutradhar (Posthumous)	Art	West Bengal
100	Shri Gopinath Swain	Art	Odisha
101	Shri Laxman Bhatt Tailang	Art	Rajasthan
102	Ms. Maya Tandon	Social Work	Rajasthan
103	Ms. Aswathi Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi Thampuratty	Literature & Education	Kerala
104	Shri Jagdish Labhshanker Trivedi	Art	Gujarat
105	Ms. Sano Vamuzo	Social Work	Nagaland
106	Shri Balakrishnan Sadanam Puthiya Veetil	Art	Kerala
107	Shri Kurella Vittalacharya	Literature & Education	Telangana
108	Shri Kiran Vyas	Others – Yoga	France
109	Shri Jageshwar Yadav	Social Work	Chhattisgarh
110	Shri Babu Ram Yadav	Art	Uttar Pradesh

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

Uganda Hosts G77 + China Third South Summit

- ✓ V.Muraleedharan, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs represented India and addressed at the Plenary session of the Group of 77 +China (G-77+China) Third South Summit, held in Kampala, Uganda on 21-23 January 2024. He emphasised the pivotal role of the Global South as the world's "future growth engine."
- ✓ The theme of (G-77+China) Third South Summit was, "Leaving No One Behind."
- ✓ 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of G77
- ✓ The third South Summit was hosted by the Republic of Uganda, under the Chairmanship of H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.



About G-77

- ✓ The G-77 is a group made up of 134 countries, including India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc. The Group of 77 is considered the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries under the ambit of the United Nations.
- ✓ It was established on June 1964 by 77 developing countries following the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries" at the 1st UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) session in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ **Chairmanship:** It is the highest political body within the organizational structure of the G-77. It rotates on a regional basis (between Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean) and is held for 1 year in all Chapters.

- ✓ For the year 2024, the Republic of Uganda holds the Chairmanship of the G-77 in New York, United States of America (USA). Cuba held the chairmanship of the G-77 in 2023.
- ✓ The 1st and the 2nd south summits were held in Havana, Cuba in 2000 and in Doha, Qatar in 2005, respectively.
- ✓ **India** held the very first Chairmanship of the Group in 1970-71.

19th NAM Summit held in Kampala, Uganda

- ✓ Union Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) led the Indian delegation at the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Heads of State and Government Summit held in Speke Resort Convention Center, Munyonyo in Kampala, Uganda, on 19-20 January 2024.
- ✓ During the summit, Uganda assumed the NAM chairmanship for 2024-2027. Uganda took over the leadership from Azerbaijan (2019-2023).
- ✓ President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni was elected as the chair of the 19th NAM Summit and took over from H.E Ilham Aliyev, the President of Azerbaijan.
- ✓ **Theme of 19th NAM summit: 'Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence.'**
- ✓ The summit witnessed the participation of more than 120 developing countries like India, Nepal, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Iran, among other.
- ✓ The NAM summit usually takes place once every three years. The 18th NAM summit was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on October 25–26, 2019
- ✓ NAM is the largest grouping of states worldwide after the United Nations (UN).

- ✓ Members: 120 Member States (Africa (53); Americas and Caribbean (26); Asia and Pacific (39); and Europe (2); 18 Observer countries; and 10 Observer Organisations.

Cabo Verde Declared A Malaria-Free Country by WHO

- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Republic of Cabo Verde (also known as Cabo Verde or Cape Verde) as a Malaria-free country.
- ✓ With this Cabo Verde became the third country to be certified in the WHO African region to eradicate malaria, following Mauritius in 1973 and Algeria in 2019.
- ✓ To date, WHO has awarded the ‘malaria-free’ certification to 43 countries and 1 territory.
- ✓ WHO certifies a country as malaria-free when it demonstrates the interruption of nationwide malaria transmission for at least 3 consecutive years.

Denmark in partnership with India launched Green Fuels Alliance India

- ✓ Denmark has launched “Green Fuels Alliance India” (GFAI), an initiative to boost collaborative efforts between India and Denmark in the sustainable energy solutions sector, at the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2024, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ This will also support both nations in advancing the joint global goal towards carbon neutrality.
- ✓ The initiative is led by the Danish Embassy and Consulate General of Denmark in India.

IIT Madras to Establish New Campus in Kandy, Sri Lanka

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras) based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu is set to start a new campus of its Tech university in Kandy, Sri Lanka in 2024.

- ✓ Dr. Susil Premajayantha, Education minister of Sri Lanka, announced that this proposal was part of the Budget 2024 presented by Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremasinghe in his capacity as Finance Minister.
- ✓ In January 2024, officials of the IIT-Madras will visit Sri Lanka to begin the process of setting up a branch of its campus in Sri Lanka.

India to purchase 10K MW Power from Nepal in next 10 years

- ✓ The Union External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar visited Nepal on 4 & 5 January 2024. During the visit of S Jaishankar, India and Nepal signed a long-term pact on electricity trade.
- ✓ According to the pact, Nepal will export 10,000 MW (MegaWatt) of electricity to India over the next 10 years. It also allows private entities in Nepal to participate in the import and export of electricity.
- ✓ EAM S Jaishankar announced that India will provide financial assistance of USD75 million for the reconstruction of infrastructure in western districts of Nepal affected by 2023 earthquake.

India to Chair & Host UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in July 2024

- ✓ India is set to chair and host the 46th session of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Committee from July 21–31, 2024 in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ This marks the first time for India to chair and host the UNESCO heritage committee. During the 19th Extraordinary session, the



World Heritage Committee decided that the 46th session will take place in India.

- ✓ Chairperson– Vishal V Sharma(Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO)
- ✓ The 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was chaired and hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.
- ✓ Chairperson- Dr Abdulelah Al-Tokhais

About UNESCO

UNESCO's Constitution was adopted in London (United Kingdom) in 1945, it entered into force in 1946.

Director-General: Audrey Azoulay

India & Saudi Arabia signed Bilateral Haj Agreement 2024 in Jeddah

- ✓ On 7th January 2024, India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed the Bilateral Haj Agreement 2024 under which a total quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims from India has been finalised for Haj 2024 with 1,40,020 seats reserved for pilgrims to proceed through Haj Committee whereas 35,005 pilgrims would be permitted to proceed through private operators.

Five New Countries Join the BRICS

- ✓ Five countries namely Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has joined  BRICS(Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) bloc as their membership came into force from January 1, 2024.
- ✓ With the induction of new members, BRICS' membership count increased to 10 from 5. The act of inducting new members into the bloc was decided in 15th BRICS summit under the chairmanship of South Africa in August 2023.

- ✓ Argentina which was supposed to join BRICS withdrew from the entry by its President Javier Milei.
- ✓ The expansion of the BRICS also creates new investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
- ✓ Both countries are diversifying their economy across various sectors, including tourism, real estate, construction, transport, manufacturing, and capital expenditure.
- ✓ **2024 BRICS chairmanship:** On 1st January 2024, Russia has taken over the BRICS chairmanship. 16th BRICS summit was scheduled to happen in Kazan, Russia in October 2024.

About BRICS

- ✓ BRICS was formed in September 2006 and it originally comprised Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC).
- ✓ It was renamed as BRICS after South Africa was accepted as a full member in September 2010.
- ✓ At present, the BRICS represents 41% of the global population, 24% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 16% of the global trade.

India and Russia Sign Documents on Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plants

- ✓ External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar was on a 5-day visit to Russia from 25-29 December 2023 as a part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between India and Russia.
- ✓ During his visit, he signed agreements related to the construction of the power-generating units of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Russia is providing technical assistance for the construction of the Kudankulam Nuclear

power plants which began in 2002. Since 2016, The 1st power unit of the plant is operating at its design capacity of 1000 MW. The Nuclear Power plant will start operating at full capacity in 2027.

- ✓ An Inter-governmental agreement on the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant project was signed on 20 November 1988 by then Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi, and Mikhail Gorbachev, then President of the Soviet Union.
- ✓ Apart from this, EAM Jaishankar and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov signed the protocol on consultation for the next 4 years (2024-28) to make progress in economic cooperation, energy trade, connectivity, military-technical cooperation, and people-to-people exchange.
- ✓ Protocols promote relationship building and clarify the roles and responsibilities between governments for future consultation.

8th Edition of IONS Conclave of Chiefs held in Bangkok, Thailand from 19-22 Dec 2023

- ✓ The 8th edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) (2023) hosted by the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 19–22 December 2023.
- ✓ The 8th Conclave marks the transition of IONS Chairmanship from France(2021-23) to Thailand(2023-2025).
- ✓ Chiefs of Navies, and Heads of Maritime Agencies from 27 IONS member/observer countries participated in the conclave. Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy (IN), led the 3-member Indian Naval delegation for the conclave.

Angola Quits OPEC After Disagreements Over Production Targets

- ✓ The Republic of Angola announced its decision to withdraw from OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), with effect from January 2024, after disagreements regarding the OPEC's production targets.
- ✓ The decision was taken during the cabinet meeting and was approved by João Lourenço, President of Angola.
- ✓ Indonesia(2016); Qatar(2019) and Ecuador(2020) are the other countries that have left OPEC.
- ✓ OPEC is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization enabling the cooperation of leading oil-producing countries.
- ✓ OPEC+, formed in 2016, is a group consisting of OPEC members(13 members including Angola) and top 10 oil-producing countries.
- ✓ OPEC was created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- ✓ **Secretary General of OPEC** – Haitham Al Ghais(Kuwait)
- ✓ **Headquarters**– Vienna, Austria
- ✓ **Current Member**: Algeria; Angola; Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Iran; Iraq; Kuwait; Libya; Nigeria; Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates(UAE) and Venezuela.

Kyrgyzstan Declares Snow Leopard As National Symbol

- ✓ Kyrgyzstan, a country nestled in the heart of Central Asia, has officially declared the snow leopard as its national symbol, signifying a profound commitment to conservation and ecological balance.

NATIONAL

NITI Aayog, MoA&FW & FAO Jointly Launched Investment Forum for Advancing Climate Resilient Agrifood Systems

- ✓ The NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) jointly launched the 'Investment Forum for Advancing Climate Resilient Agrifood Systems in India'.
- ✓ The forum was launched during the Multi-stakeholder Meeting held on January 18-19, 2024, at the India International Centre, New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The joint initiative aims to foster partnerships and investments among the government, private sectors, farmers' organizations, and financial institutions in India, to advance climate-resilient agrifood systems.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Inaugurates Second State Mining Ministers' Conference in Bhopal

- ✓ Union Minister of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the second State Mining Ministers' Conference held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 23rd January 2024.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh bagged the first rank and received the award from the Union minister for recognizing its efforts in the mining auction for the year 2022-23. Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka also received the award of appreciation at the event.
- ✓ The Coffee table book 'Building Trust-Transforming Lives' showcases the activities of the District Mineral Foundation (DMF)

was also released during the conference by the Minister.

9th India International Science Festival held in Faridabad, Haryana

- ✓ The 9th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF 2023) was held from 17th to 20th January 2024 at Faridabad, Haryana. The festival aims to celebrate the achievements of India in the frontier areas of science and technology.
- ✓ IISF 2023 is held under the central theme – 'Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal'.
- ✓ Around 22 countries participated at IISF 2023. Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh, MoST graced the inaugural ceremony of IISF 2023 on 17th January 2024.
- ✓ Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana, graced the closing ceremony of IISF 2023 as Chief Guest.



5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference of NFSU held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- ✓ On 23rd January 2024, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) inaugurated and addressed the 5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference at National Forensic Science University (NFSU) at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The conference on "Behavioural Forensics: Reintegrating expanding contours of Criminology and Criminalistics" was organised by NFSU and Indian Society of Criminology (ISC).

PM Modi lays foundation stone for 8 AMRUT projects in Solapur, Maharashtra

- ✓ PM Modi to inaugurate 8 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) projects worth around Rs. 2000 crore in Solapur, Maharashtra.
- ✓ He also Dedicated more than 90000 houses completed under PMAY-Urban and dedicated 15000 houses of Raynagar Housing Society in Solapur, which included handloom workers, vendors, power loom workers, rag pickers, bidi workers, and drivers as Beneficiaries.
- ✓ Apart from this, He started the distribution of 1st and 2nd instalments to 10000 beneficiaries of PM- SVANIDHI in Maharashtra

AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation scheme)

- ✓ This scheme is Started in June 2015. The first state to submit the State Annual Action Plan AMRUT was Rajasthan.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- ✓ **Aim:** Everyone has access to tap water and sewerage facilities, greenery like parks and open spaces are well maintained, digital and smart facilities like weather prediction, internet and WiFi facilities, pollution reduction by encouraging the public to use cheaper but secure public transport, etc

PMAY-Urban (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana)

- ✓ This scheme is Started in June 2015.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- ✓ **Aim:** To facilitate access to affordable housing for the low and moderate- income residents of the urban areas

PM-SVANIDHI (PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi)

- ✓ This scheme is Started in June 2020
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- ✓ **Aim:** To Facilitate collateral-free working capital loan up to ₹ 10,000, of 1 year tenure, with enhanced loan of ₹ 20,000 and ₹ 50,000 in the second and third tranches respectively, on repayment of earlier loans.

PM Modi inaugurate Boeing India Engineering & Technology Centre campus in Bengaluru

- ✓ PM inaugurated the new State-of-the-art Boeing India Engineering & Technology Centre (BIETC) campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka with an investment of Rs. 1600 crore on 43-acre of land.
- ✓ It will foster partnerships with vibrant startup, private, and government ecosystems in India and will help in developing next-generation products and services for the global aerospace and defense industry
- ✓ PM also launched the Boeing Sukanya Program which aims to support the entry of more girl children from across India into the country's aviation sector
- ✓ The program will create STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) Labs at 150 planned locations to help spark interest in STEM careers for young girls and will provide scholarships to women who are training to be pilots.

PM Modi inaugurate National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics Campus in AP

- ✓ PM inaugurated the new State-of-Art campus of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) at Palasamudram, Sri Sathya Sai District,

Andhra Pradesh to improve governance through Civil Service Capacity Building.

- ✓ It is spread across 500 acres. This is a National-level world-class training institute to impart training to the officials of the Indian Revenue Service (Custom & Indirect Taxes) as well as to the central allied services, state governments & partner nations
- ✓ The campus will use technologies such as Augmented & Virtual Reality, Blockchain as well as Artificial Intelligence, and other emerging Technologies for training and capacity-building.

MoE issues New Rules for Coaching Centres; No enrolment of students below 16years

- ✓ On January 19, 2024, the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education (MoE) has released the 'Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Center 2024' which prohibits Coaching centres from enrolling students below the age of 16.
- ✓ This decision has been taken amid rising student suicides, exorbitant high fees at the study centres and mental pressure.

PM Modi unveiled Ramlalla idol at Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya, UP

- ✓ On 22nd January 2024, The Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participated in the Pran Pratishtha (consecration /Establishing the Life Force) ceremony of Shri Ramlalla idol in the newly built Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir (temple) in Ayodhya, Uttar



Pradesh (UP). The rituals of ceremony were led by the PM along with Mohan Bhagwat, head of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

- ✓ The consecration ceremony officiated by a team of priests led by Varanasi, UP Priest Lakshmikant Dixit.

About Ramlalla Idol

- ✓ The 51-inch (4.25-ft) Ramlalla Idol placed in the sanctum sanctorum of temple was sculpted by Musuru (Karnataka) based **Arun Yogiraj**.
- ✓ The statue portraying Lord Ram as a five-year-old i.e. Ram Lalla because this age is considered as the age of innocence.
- ✓ The idol carved out of black stone showcases innocence, divinity, and royalty. The black stone ensures the idol's longevity.
- ✓ The idol showcases all ten avatars of Lord Vishnu: Matsya (fish), Kurma (tortoise), Varaha (boar), Narasimha (man-lion), Vamana (dwarf), Parashurama (warrior), Rama (prince), Krishna (cowherd), Buddha (enlightened one), and Kalki (future avatar).

About Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir

- ✓ The Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir was designed by celebrated architect Chandrakant B Sompura, 81, and his son Ashish, 51 in the Māru-Gurjara architecture of Nagara style, a type of Hindu temple architecture found primarily in northern India.
- ✓ It is constructed by **Larsen and Toubro (L&T)**.
- ✓ While, **Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra** look after the construction and management of Ram Temple.
- ✓ The temple was built at an estimated cost of Rs 1800 crore.
- ✓ The three-storey temple, premises spreads across 70 acres, of which the temple and the

complex occupy 5.5 acres. The temple has a length (east-west) of 380 feet, width of 250 feet and height of 161 feet. The main temple area spans 2.67 acre.

- ✓ It is made with pink sandstone and anchored by black granite.

Background

- ✓ The construction of Ram Temple followed the Supreme Court (SC) of India judgment in 2019 on the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit.
- ✓ The Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust was formed on 5th February 2020. PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the Ram Mandir on 5th August 2020.

PM Modi Launches 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana', a new Rooftop Solar Power Scheme

- ✓ On 22 January 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched "Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana", a government scheme to provide Rooftop Solar (RTS) power systems to 1 crore households. The scheme will support India to achieve the target of 40 Gigawatt (GW) rooftop solar capacity.

Background

- ✓ In 2014, the government introduced the Rooftop Solar Programme, which aims to expand India's RTS capacity in residential sectors by providing Central Financial Assistance. It will be provided to the eligible projects as per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Guidelines, and incentives to DISCOMs
- ✓ The programme targeted to achieve a cumulative installed capacity of 40,000 megawatts (MW) or 40 GW by 2022. The deadline to achieve the target was extended from 2022 to 2026.

Air India launches India's first Airbus A350-900 flight from Bengaluru to Mumbai

- ✓ Air India Limited has launched India's and Air India's first Airbus A350-900 model aircraft 'AI589'.
- ✓ The flight made its inaugural fly from Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (Karnataka) to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai (Maharashtra).

Airbus A350-900

- ✓ The Airbus A350 was inaugurated by Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, in Wings India 2024 Summit which was held in Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad (Telangana) from 18th to 21st January 2024.
- ✓ The flight at present will be operating between cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai(Tamil Nadu), New Delhi (Delhi), Hyderabad, and Mumbai.
- ✓ It is a part of the agreement made by Air India with Airbus and Boeing in June 2023 for the supply of 470 aircraft.

India Becomes 1st Vice Chair of FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

- ✓ India has been elected as the 1st Vice-Chair of Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management(SCFM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI).
- ✓ The Indian delegation was led by J. Balaji, former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Dr. Balaji was elected as the first vice chairperson of the incoming bureau of the SCFM.

- ✓ India will serve as a member of the FAO Fisheries Bureau on Capture Fisheries for the first time in 57 years.

GoI Plans to Make Educational Study Materials in 22 Languages by Utilizing 'Anuvadini' App

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) aims to make study materials available for all courses under school and higher education digitally in all 22 languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution through Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based 'Anuvadini' mobile application.
- ✓ Anuvadini is a Voice & Document AI Translation Tool. It supports 22 regional Indian & foreign languages thereby reducing the language barriers.
- ✓ For this purpose, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has instructed the educational regulators and the heads of institutions of national importance to prepare such study materials within the next three years (by 2027).
- ✓ The initiative is in line with National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 for promoting multilingualism in education at every level.

MoPNG Hardeep Singh Puri launches First Pilot Project to Make Jet Fuel from Alcohol

- ✓ Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, has inaugurated the first pilot state-of-the-art technology project to make jet fuel from Alcohol in Praj Industries Limited Research and Development (R&D) unit in Pune, Maharashtra. This project will produce sustainable biological aviation fuel (SAF). The project was launched in the presence of Pramod Chaudhary, President of Praj Industries Limited.

Cabinet approves Creation of Posts to assist 16th Finance Commission

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of three posts at the level of Joint Secretary i.e. two posts of Joint Secretary and one post of Economic Adviser for the 16th Finance Commission which is formed under Article 280 (1) of the Constitution.
- ✓ The newly created posts are required to assist the Commission in carrying out its functions. All other posts in the Commission have already been created as per the delegated powers.
- ✓ The 16th Finance Commission is tasked to review tax distribution between the Centre and states, explore ways to increase revenue, and assess the financing of disaster management activities under the Disaster Management Act of 2005.

Govt of India Formed High-level Committee to Safeguard Interests of Scheduled Castes

- ✓ The government of India (GoI) has formed a high-level Committee to examine administrative measures aimed at protecting the interests of the most disadvantaged groups within the Scheduled Caste (SC), like Madigas.
- ✓ The committee was constituted under the direction of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, with Rajiv Gauba, the Cabinet Secretary as its Chairman. This initiative is to address existing disparities within the SC communities.

India Meteorological Department's 150th Foundation Day

- ✓ On January 15, 2024, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES),

celebrated its 150th Foundation Day commemorating 150 years of its establishment and service to the nation.

- ✓ The inaugural ceremony celebration of 150th years of IMD's establishment was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi. Jagdeep Dhankar, Vice President of India, graced the event as the Chief Guest.
- ✓ During the event, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar launched the following initiatives
- ✓ **WAFES:** IMD developed an in-house Web-Geographic Information System (GIS)-based integrated Decision Support System (DSS) called Weather Analysis and Forecast Enabling System (WAFES), inspired by Pancha Mahabhuta i.e. Water, Air, Fire, Earth and Sky.
- ✓ **Panchayat Mausam Seva Portal for farmers:** The Panchayat Mausam Sewa Portal was jointly developed by IMD, MoES, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), and Green Alert Mausam Sewa. The portal offers weather forecasts in English, Hindi, and 12 regional languages to every panchayat head and secretary. It aids farmers in planning agricultural activities, reducing input costs, minimizing crop loss, and boosting production and income.
- ✓ **IMD's Mobile App and Mausam gram:** IMD launched MAUSAM, an integrated GIS based mobile app and released Mausam Gram in line with programme of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas" during the event. Mausam Gram is available through the Mobile App "Mausam".
- ✓ **National Framework of Climate Services (NFCS):** IMD launched National Framework of Climate Services (NFCS) to control losses due to climate hazards and extreme weather events.

- ✓ Aim: To strengthen the production and delivery of science-based climate monitoring and prediction services for sectors such as agriculture, health, energy, and disaster management.

Horticulture production in 2022-23 is estimated to be 2.32% higher to 355.25 Million Tonnes

- ✓ On January 18, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) released the Third Advance Estimate of Area and Production of Various Horticultural Crops for 2022-23.
- ✓ As per it, the estimation of total horticulture production for 2022-23 is 355.25 million tonnes, which is about 8.07 million tonnes more (an increase of 2.32%) than 2021-22 (final).
- ✓ The total area of horticulture also increased marginally in 2022-23 (the third advance estimate) to 28.34 million hectares from 28.04 million hectares in the 2021-22 (final) estimates.

PM Modi Inaugurated Atal Setu in Navi Mumbai

- ✓ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) named "Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewari-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu" in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - ✓ This 21.8 km long 6-lane bridge becomes the longest bridge and also the longest sea bridge in India.
- About Atal Setu Bridge:
- ✓ Around 16.5 km of the bridge is over the sea and 5.5 km is on the land.



- ✓ The bridge has been built at a total cost of more than Rs 17,840 crore. The foundation stone of the bridge was laid by PM Modi in December 2016.
- ✓ **Benefits:** It will reduce travel time between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai to 15-20 minutes. It will also improve connectivity between Mumbai Port and Jawahar Lal Nehru Port.
- ✓ Apart from this, PM Modi inaugurated phase 1 of the **Surya regional bulk drinking water project**, developed at a cost of more than Rs 1975 crore. This will provide drinking water supply to the Palghar and Thane districts of Maharashtra and benefit about 14 lakh people.

Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh launched Mobile App for MPLADS Scheme

- ✓ The Union Minister of State (MoS)(Independent Charge) Rao Inderjit Singh, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched the MPLADS e- SAKSHI Mobile Application (app) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The app aims to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in the execution of Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme-2023.
- ✓ The app will provide an interface to capture the entire MPLAD scheme cycle thereby making the MPLAD fund cycle more efficient. The application will streamline the communication between MPs and relevant authorities.

NHAI Launches 'One Vehicle One FASTag' Initiative to Enhance National Highway Experience

- ✓ The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) launched the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative to discourage user

behavior of using a single FASTag for multiple vehicles or linking multiple FASTags to a particular vehicle.

- ✓ Under the new initiative, FASTag users must discard all the earlier issued FASTags through their respective banks.
 - Only the latest FASTag account shall remain active, as previous tags will be deactivated or blacklisted after January 31, 2024, even though they have a valid balance.
 - The FASTag users must register the latest FASTag with the completion of 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) process as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.

About FASTag

FASTag is an electronic toll collection system, operated by NHAI. It was first introduced in India in 2014 and has a fixed validity period of 5 years, from the date of issuance. The NHAI made it mandatory for every vehicle in February 2021.

MNRE launches Rs 515-cr Solar Scheme for Electrification of Houses in PVTG Areas

- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the 'New Solar Power Scheme' with an outlay of Rs 515 crore for electrification in habitations and villages of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).
- ✓ The scheme was launched under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) programme. The scheme launched for the tenure expanding from Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) to Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26).
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide solar power in one lakh un-electrified households identified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in

18 states across India and the Union Territories (UT) of Andaman & Nicobar.

- ✓ The 18 states are – Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal.

MoT & MoEF&CC Conducts Training Program in Chilika Lake under Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme

- ✓ Ministry of Tourism (MoT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched the fifth training program under the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme in Chilika Lake, a Ramsar Site in Odisha on 6th January 2024.
- ✓ Under this initiative, two training programmes of 15 days each namely the Alternative Livelihood program (ALP), and the Paryatan Navik Certificate (PNC) will be conducted.
- ✓ With the help of the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) a total of 60 participants (30 for each course) were identified for the program and certified them as nature-guides.
- ✓ The implementation of Amrit Dharohar commenced on June 5, 2023 on the occasion of World Environment Day 2023 and will be continued till June 5, 2026.

MoHFW Notifies Revised Pharma Manufacturing Rules under Schedule M to Ensure Quality Control

- ✓ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) notified the revised Pharma manufacturing rules under Schedule M

guidelines of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, in the Gazette of India to ensure robust quality control for pharma and biopharmaceutical products.

- ✓ Schedule M prescribes Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for pharmaceutical products. The revised Schedule M will upgrade the GMP in India to global standards.
- ✓ The revised Schedule M has been notified as rules to ensure Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Requirements of Premises, Plant and Equipment for Pharmaceutical Products.
- ✓ Schedule M part of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 deals with 'GMP' to be followed by pharmaceutical manufacturing units in India.

DGCA Revises New Flight Duty Time Rules for Flight Crew to Reduce Pilot Fatigue

- ✓ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has introduced substantial revisions to its Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) Regulations' to address fatigue among pilots and crew and enhance overall flight safety.
- ✓ The revised FDTL Regulations include increased rest periods, redefining night duty, and regular fatigue reports to be shared by airlines.
- ✓ DGCA has increased the mandatory weekly rest period for flight crew to 48 hours from the previous 36 hours.
- ✓ DGCA also cut the maximum flight duty period to 10 hours from 13 hours for pilots working at night (between 12 AM and 6 AM).
- ✓ It also limited the number of flight landings during this period to 2, from 6, during night operations.

- ✓ The definition of night has also been adjusted, now spanning 12 AM to 6 AM compared to the previous 12 AM to 5 AM.

Indore, Bhopal, Udaipur nominated for International Wetland City Accreditation

- ✓ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has nominated three Indian cities viz. Indore and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Udaipur in Rajasthan for the Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) scheme under the Ramsar Convention. These are the 1st three Indian cities to be nominated for WCA.
- ✓ The wetlands situated in and around the nominated Indian cities are
- ✓ Indore – SirpurWetland (Ramsar site); Yashwant Sagar (Ramsar site)
- ✓ Bhopal- Bhoj Wetland (Ramsar site),
- ✓ Udaipur – surrounded by 5 major wetlands, namely, Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai

First Meeting of IWDC commits Rs 45,000 crore for development of River Cruise Tourism

- ✓ On 8th January 2024, the first meeting of Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC), chaired by the Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), committed an investment of Rs 45,000 crore for development of river cruise tourism in India.
- ✓ Rs 35,000 crore of this sum has been allocated for cruise vessels and Rs 10,000 crore is set aside for development of cruise terminal infrastructure by 2047(end of Amrit Kaal).
- ✓ The Union Minister also launched ‘Harit Nauka– Guidelines for Green Transition of

Inland Vessels’ and ‘River Cruise Tourism Roadmap, 2047’ during the meet.

Cabinet Approves Overarching Scheme “PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)” of the Ministry of Earth Sciences

- ✓ The union cabinet chaired by PM Modi has approved the overarching scheme “PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)” of MoES with a total outlay of Rs 4,797 crore. The scheme will be implemented during the period from 2021 to 2026.
- ✓ PRITHvi is an acronym for Promoting Research in Earth Systems Science, Technology, & Human Resource Development. The scheme will address the 5 components of the Earth system(atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, cryosphere, and biosphere) to improve the understating of the Earth System Sciences and to provide reliable services.
- ✓ PRITHVI encompasses 5 ongoing sub-schemes which are undertaken to translate Science to Services for the Society.
 - Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)
 - Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)
 - Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER)
 - Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE)
 - Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT)

Cabinet Approves Ayodhya Airport as an International Airport

- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi has approved the proposal to declare Ayodhya Airport as an International Airport and name it “Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham”.The airport’s name pays

homage to Maharishi Valmiki, the author of Ramayana, an epic poem of India.

PM Modi Flags off Two Amrit Bharat and Six Vande Bharat Trains

✓ PM Modi Flagged off two new categories of superfast passenger trains in the country – the Amrit Bharat Express with Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) push-pull technology and locos at both ends for better acceleration. The trains run from:

1. Darbhanga-Ayodhya-Anand Vihar Terminal

2. Malda Town-Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminus (Bengaluru, Karnataka)

✓ The Prime Minister also flagged off six new Vande Bharat Trains. These include

- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi
- Amritsar-Delhi
- Coimbatore-Bangalore Cantt
- Mangalore-Madgaon
- Jalna-Mumbai
- Ayodhya-Anand Vihar Terminal

Union Housing & Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep S Puri Launched Refereshed PAiSA Portal & PM SVANidhi Portal

✓ Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), launched 2 portals namely the refreshed Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA Portal) Dashboard; and the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Mission Monitoring Portal during the inauguration of a seminar on 'Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) for Street Vendors.

✓ These portals will provide real-time progress updates on the mission and scheme, fostering transparency and accountability.

✓ The MoHUA launched the PM SVANidhi scheme on 1 June 2020, to address challenges faced by Street Vendors and help them resume businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

✓ The PAiSA portal was launched on November 26, 2018. The web portal was designed and developed by Allahabad Bank.

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched 'e-samridhi portal', a Tur Dal Procurement portal for Farmers

✓ On 4th January 2024, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Cooperation, launched the 'e-samridhi portal', a platform for registration, purchase, and payment of tur dal producing farmers across India. The portal was launched during the national symposium on 'Self-reliance in Pulses' held in New Delhi, Delhi.

✓ The portal was developed by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF).

✓ The portal offers a unified platform in which farmers can register directly or through Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

PM Modi initiated the KLI-SOFC project

✓ PM Modi initiated the Kochi –Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection (KLI-SOFC) project which will help to address the challenge of slow internet speed on Lakshadweep Island. It will increase internet speed by more than 100 times i.e. from 1.7 Gbps to 200 Gbps. It will enhance

internet services, telemedicine, e-governance, education and digital banking.

- ✓ The project was announced by PM Narendra Modi during his Independence Speech at Red Fort, New Delhi, Delhi on 15th August 2020.
- ✓ PM Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth Rs 1150 crore at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep on 3rd January 2024. The Project include various sectors: technology, energy, water resources, healthcare and education.

CDSCO launches NSWS Portal for Medical Devices Management

- ✓ On January 1, 2024, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare(MoHFW), launched the National Single Window System (NSWS) Portal to streamline, import, clinical investigations, and testing of medical devices.
- ✓ The site is designed and developed by Invest India, under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade(DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry(MoCI), through Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) for CDSCO.
- ✓ The portal will be a one-stop shop for all approvals required by the investor and facilitates ease of doing business.

Govt amends CCS (Pension) rules 2021; Allows Female Govt Servant/Pensioner to Nominate her child for Family Pension

- ✓ Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, has amended the Central Civil Services (CCS) (pension) rules, 2021, to allow female government servant/pensioner to nominate

her child/children for family pension in precedence to her husband.

Tenure of PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components extended by 1 Year with Partial Amendments

- ✓ The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) extended the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components by one year, with partial amendments. This amended incentive scheme will be applicable for five consecutive financial years, starting from 2023-24 (FY24) and ending in 2027-28 (FY28). These amendments aim to provide clarity and flexibility to the scheme.

What is the amended Scheme?

- ✓ Under this, the incentive disbursement will be made in the subsequent financial year i.e. FY25. If a company fails to meet the determined sales value threshold in a year, it won't receive an incentive for that year.
- ✓ The eligibility for benefits in the next year if the threshold is met with a 10% year-on-year growth.
- ✓ The PLI-Auto Scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet on September 15, 2021, with a budgetary outlay of Rs 25,938 crore for a period of 5 years (FY2022-23 to FY2026-27).

CCEA Approved MSPs for Copra for 2024 season

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Modi, approved the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Copra for the 2024 season.

The MSP for Fair Average Quality(FAQ) of milling copra has been fixed at Rs. 11,160 per quintal and for ball copra at Rs.12,000 per quintal for the 2024 season.

- ✓ The MSP has been increased by Rs 300 per quintal for milling copra and Rs.250 per quintal for ball copra over the previous season.
- ✓ The new rates will ensure a margin of 51.84% for milling copra and 63.26% for ball copra. This is over 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production.
- ✓ Nodal agencies: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF).

MoRTH to Introduce Nationwide GPS-based Toll Collection System by March 2024

- ✓ Union Minister Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) announced that the Government of India plans to introduce a Global Positioning System (GPS)-based toll collection system to replace the existing highway toll-collection booths entirely.
- ✓ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will begin implementing this new system by March 2024.
- ✓ Aim: To reduce traffic congestion and institute a system where motorists are charged accurately for the distance travelled on highways.
- ✓ Currently, physical toll plazas on highways across India deduct toll fees through the Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID)-base technology called FASTag.

India celebrated its 75th Republic Day on 26th January 2024

- ✓ India celebrated its 75th Republic Day (R-Day) on 26th January 2024. The republic day events and parade were held at the newly-renovated and renamed Kartavya Path (previously known as Rajpath) in New Delhi,

Delhi. The Republic day of India marks and celebrates the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on January 26, 1950.



- ✓ President of India Droupadi Murmu unfurled India's National Flag accompanied by Major Saumya Shukla ASC, it was followed by the National Anthem and a 21-gun salute from indigenous 105-mm Indian Field Guns.
- ✓ Theme of Republic Day 2024: 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) and 'Bharat-Loktantra ki Matraka' (Bharat – The Mother of Democracy).
- ✓ **Chief Guest of the 75th Republic Day:** President of France **Emmanuel Macron** was the chief guest for Republic Day 2024. This is for the 6th time that French leader graced the occasion.
- ✓ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu approved The highest gallantry awards included,
- ✓ **Param Vir Chakra winners** – Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (retd.) and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar (retd.)
- ✓ **Ashok Chakra winners** – Major General CA Pithawalla (retd.), Colonel D. Sreeram Kumar and Lt. Col. Jas Ram Singh (retd.).
- ✓ To mark the 75th Republic Day celebration, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence Rs 75 commemorative silver coin, and a postage stamp of 75th Republic Day Celebrations. It is minted by Indian Government Mint, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The President Droupadi Murmu resurrects 250-yr-old tradition with majestic horse-drawn buggy. She and her French counterpart Emmanuel Macron arrived on Kartavya Path

in a traditional buggy, which made a comeback after 40 years.

- ✓ For the first time, an all-women tri-services contingent marched down the Kartavya Path, reflecting India's growing 'Nari Shakti' (women power). In another first, the parade was heralded by over 100 women artistes playing Indian musical instruments such as Sankh, Naadswaram, Nagada, etc.
- ✓ 31-year old **Major Divya Tyagi** became the first woman officer in the Indian Army (IA) to lead an all-male contingent of the Bombay Sappers at the 2024 Republic Day parade. She is an officer in the 115th Engineer Regiment of the Corps of Engineer.
- ✓ The Ministry of Culture's 'Anant Sutra – The Endless Thread' exhibition promises a visual feast for attendees. Featuring around 1,900 sarees and drapes from diverse Indian states and union territories, the installation pays homage to India's rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship.
- ✓ A total of 25 Tableaux from 16 states and Union Territories (UTs) took part in the parade.
- ✓ Tableaux from the states and UTs – Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Tableaux from Ministries and Organizations – Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Culture, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Election

Commission of India, and Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs.

- ✓ The parade also included French military contingent comprising 95 troops and 33-member French band contingent.
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) tableau commemorates the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, emphasizing India's strides in space exploration. The tableau's depiction of Chandrayaan-3's journey reflects the nation's scientific prowess and ambitions.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia Inaugurates Asia's Largest Aviation Expo Wings India 2024

- ✓ Union Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Wings India 2024, Asia's largest aviation expo, at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad. This event marks a significant milestone in the Indian aviation sector, highlighting its growth and future potential.
- ✓ The theme of Wings India 2024 is "Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal: Setting the Stage for India Civil Aviation @2047".

Major Announcements

- ✓ The inauguration saw several key announcements, including the release of a joint knowledge paper on civil aviation by FICCI and KPMG, and the launch of UDAN 5.3.
- ✓ Notable developments included the Airbus-Air India Training Centre, contracts with TATA ASL and Mahindra Aerospace Structures Pvt. Ltd., and the inauguration of the GMR School of Aviation.
- ✓ Akasa Air announced a massive order of 200 aircraft over 17 months.

STATES

Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024

- ✓ The Gujarat government signed 41,299 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) for investment intentions on the 10th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) 2024, with a value of Rs. 26.33 lakh crore, at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat from January 10th to 12th, 2024.
- ✓ The theme of this year's summit is 'Gateway to the Future'
- ✓ 35 partner countries and 14 partner organizations participated in the summit. The Summit is also being used as a platform by the Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region to showcase investment opportunities in the North-Eastern regions.
- ✓ During the summit PM Modi launched commemorative Coin of Rs 20, to honour the first Vibrant Gujarat-2024 Summit of Amrit Kaal. A Commemorative Stamp marking the successful completion of 20 years of the vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.



Gujarat's Kachchhi Kharek Fruit Gets Geographical Indication Tag

- ✓ Kachchhi Kharek or Kutchi dates, the indigenous dates variety of Kutch in Gujarat got a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ Kachchhi Kharek is registered under the goods type of 'Agriculture'.



- ✓ "Kachchhi Kharek" is the product of date palm harvested at Khalal (fresh stage), when the fruits are in their active colour (red, yellow, or its variants).

Arunachal Pradesh Celebrated 9th Edition Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival

- ✓ The 9th edition of the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) was celebrated at Seijosa in the Pakke-Kessang district of Arunachal Pradesh (AR) from January 18th to 20th, 2024.
- ✓ It was held under the theme "Domutoh Domutoh, Paga hum Domutoh," meaning 'Let Our Hornbills Remain' in the Nyishi language.
- ✓ PPHF festival was celebrated for the first time in 2015 to recognize the role played by the resident Nyishi tribe in conserving hornbills in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) of AR.


Goa Becomes the First State in India to Launch Regenerative Tourism

- ✓ The Government of Goa has launched India's first regenerative tourism model to redefine tourism by promoting environmental restoration, cultural preservation, and community empowerment.
- ✓ The model aims to promote 11 spiritual sites under the Ekadasha Teertha campaign. The campaign involves local communities in exploring, understanding, and projecting their culture, cuisine, and lifestyle.
- ✓ The model was launched to mark the 62nd anniversary of the Liberation of Goa (December 19, 2023).

Chhattisgarh Govt. to launch 'Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme' for Pilgrimage to Ayodhya

- ✓ The Cabinet of the government of Chhattisgarh headed by Chief Minister (CM) Vishnu Deo Sai has decided to launch a pilgrimage scheme 'Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme' to offer the people of Chhattisgarh Free Pilgrimage Visit to the newly built Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- ✓ Eligibility: The people of Chhattisgarh natives aged 18 to 75 who are medically fit are eligible under the scheme.
- ✓ The scheme will be facilitated by the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board and the Budget Tourism Department in collaboration with the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- ✓ The scheme aims to take around 20,000 pilgrims to Ramlala Darshan annually.

Maharashtra's Pench Tiger Reserve Becomes India's First Dark Sky Park

- ✓ The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has been designated as India's first Dark Sky Park and Asia's fifth park for protecting the night sky and preventing light pollution, making the place ideal for astronomy enthusiasts. 
- ✓ The Dark Sky Place certification focuses on lighting policy, dark sky-friendly retrofits, outreach and education, and monitoring the night sky.
- ✓ A night observatory has also been inaugurated under the innovation scheme of the district planning committee (DPC) fund. It is noted that the area near Bagholi has been reserved for stargazing.

- ✓ The Pench Tiger Reserve, named after the Pench River, is spread across the two states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Assam CM unveils 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan' scheme

- ✓ The Chief Minister (CM) of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma launched 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan' scheme to develop 4 million Self-Help-Group (SHG) women as rural micro-entrepreneurs and help them become 'lakhpati baidos (elder sister)'.
- ✓ The outlay of the scheme is Rs 4,000 crore and will be offered to SHG members who are committed to personal business plan along with their group activity.
- ✓ Under the scheme, eligible women gets Rs 35,000 over three years.
- ✓ Phase I – Each eligible woman will get Rs 10,000 in the first year (Entrepreneurship Fund).
- ✓ Phase II – Loan amount of Rs 25,000 will be availed to the SHG Members from the bank over the next two years.
- ✓ Rs 25,000 will be split into two halves for which Rs 12,500 is of government's money (Capital Subsidy, non-refundable) and Rs 12,500 of the bank must be repaid.

Punjab Becomes 1st State to Map All Accident-Prone Sites in Mappls

- ✓ Punjab has become the first state in India to map all 784 accident black spots on the mobile application "Mappls", a navigation system developed by C. E. Info Systems Limited (MapmyIndia).
- ✓ Punjab Police collaborated with MapmyIndia for real-time traffic updates and alerts on the Mappls App about Black and Blind spots.
- ✓ Mappls mobile app will provide voice alerts (in Punjabi language) to the commuters about the upcoming black spots.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Launches 'Yogyasree' for SC/ST students

- ✓ On January 8, 2024, the Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal (WB) Mamata Banerjee launched a new social welfare scheme 'Yogyasree' during a programme in Kolkata, WB. Yogyasree is a free training module for the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in WB for various entrance and competitive examinations.

International Kite Festival 2024 held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

- ✓ Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendrabhai Patel has inaugurated the International Kite Festival 2024 at Sabarmati Riverfront, Vallabh Sadan in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ✓ The festival will be held from 7th to 14th January 2024 in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ The festival marks the days in the Hindu calendar when winter begins turning to summer, known as Makar Sankranti or Uttarayan.
- ✓ The festival features over 153 international kite flyers from 55 countries, 68 national kite flyers from 12 states, and 865 kite enthusiasts from 23 cities in Gujarat.
- ✓ Since 1989, the city of Ahmedabad has hosted the International Kite Festival as part of the official celebration of Uttarayan.

Baayu: Assam launched India's 1st 100% Electric Bike Taxi Service

- ✓ Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) has launched an initiative called 'Baayu' a Clean Air Movement to improve air quality in Assam's cities.
- ✓ It is India's First 100% electric and decentralized open mobility electric bike (e-bike) taxi service.

- ✓ The movement is supported by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's Shunya Zero Pollution Mobility campaign.

Three varieties of handloom Sarees in West Bengal & 7 Products from Odisha get GI tag

- ✓ The Geographical Indications Registry under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), has recently awarded geographical indication (GI) tags to 3 handloom sarees of West Bengal, namely Tangail, Korial and Garad received geographical indication (GI) tags under the goods of Textiles.
- ✓ The Geographical Indications Registry also awarded GI tags to 7 distinct products of Odisha. These include two local foods, three agricultural products and one each for Textile and Handicraft products viz. Lanjia Saura painting, Dungaria Kondh embroidered shawl, Gajapati Date Palm, Dhenkanal Magji, Mayurbhanj Kai Chutney, Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal and Koraput Kalajeera Rice.
- ✓ With this, Odisha has received 25 GI tags to date.

3 Products from Arunachal Pradesh gets GI tag

- ✓ Geographical Indications Registry has awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to 3 indigenous products from Arunachal Pradesh (AR) namely Adi Kekir (ginger), Handmade Carpet (by Tibetan settlers), and Wancho Wooden Craft.
- ✓ With the addition of 3 new GI products, Arunachal Pradesh now has a total of 8 GI products.

- ✓ The other 5 products are: Arunachal (Wakro) Orange; Idu Mishmi Textile; Khaw Tai (Khamti Rice); Yak Churpi and Tangsa Textile.

WB Govt Declared Poila Baisakh as State Day & Tagore's Banglar Mati Banglar Jal as State Song

- ✓ The Government of West Bengal(WB) declared Poila Baisakh, the Bengali New Year, as the State day and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's 1905 ode to Bengal, "Banglar Mati, Banglar Jal" (The soil of Bengal, the water of Bengal) as the State Song.
- ✓ The state day will be celebrated as "Bangla Divas". Poila Baisakh is celebrated on the first day of the Baisakh month, the first month of the Bengali calendar year which usually falls on the 14th or 15th of April.

Assam Celebrates 14th Chandubi Festival – 1 to 5 January 2024

- ✓ The Chandubi festival is an annual 5 day festival held from the first day of the New Year along the Chandubi lake(64 km away from Guwahati city), Assam. The 14th edition of Chandubi Festival was held from 1st to 5th January 2024.
- ✓ This festival celebrates the cultural heritage of Assam's tribal communities such as Rabhas, Garos, Gorkhas, etc that live near the Chandubi Lake.

J&K becomes First UT to Implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has become the first Union Territory (UT) in India to implement the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY). The training programme for the 1st batch of 30 trainees (Viswakarmas) in 'darzi craft' under PMVY

was inaugurated at Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Shopian, J&K.

Kerala CM launches K-SMART App to Offer Digital Access to Local Govt Services

- ✓ On 1st January 2024, Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, launched the K-SMART (Kerala Solutions for Managing Administrative Reformation and Transformation) software/mobile application, in an event held in Kochi, Kerala.
- ✓ K-SMART app will streamline the services provided by local government bodies in Kerala with its 35 different modules.

J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 Amended to Incorporate OBC Reservation

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Administrative Council led by Lieutenant Governor(LG) Manoj Sinha amended J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 to incorporate the definition of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Act to ensure reservation for OBCs in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). For the 1st time, OBCs in J&K will benefit from reservations for positions such as Sarpanchs and Panchs.

Tansen Samaroh 2023: 99th World Music Festival held in Gwalior, MP

- ✓ Tansen Samaroh 2023, The 99th edition of the annual World Music Festival, is being held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh (MP) from 22 to 28 December 2023. The festival also includes the presentation of the Rashtriya Tansen Samman Award, to individuals who have made significant contributions to Hindustani classical music. Tansen Samaroh 2023 is organized jointly by Ustad Alauddin Khan Kala Evam Sangeet Academy and the Department Of Culture, Government of MP.

ECONOMY AND BANKING

Max Life Insurance Launches 'SWAG Pension Plan'

- ✓ Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Max Life) launched "Max Life Smart Wealth Advantage Guarantee Plan" (SWAG Pension Plan), that offers customers to tailor their policies, choosing from a range of annuity options according to their unique requirements.
- ✓ SWAG Pension Plan is a non-linked, non-participating individual/group general annuity savings plan. With this plan, customers can also have the freedom to select from a range of 'Return of Premium' options.

General Insurance Council Launches "Cashless Everywhere" Initiative

- ✓ The General Insurance Council (GIC) has launched the 'Cashless Everywhere' initiative in consultation with general and health insurance companies. The initiative aims to extend cashless treatment at all hospitals, thereby making the whole claims journey a frictionless process.
- ✓ The initiative extends cashless hospitalization benefits to all hospitals, including those not in tie-ups with insurance companies.
- ✓ To claim the insurance under the initiative, the customer should notify their insurer 48 hours before admission for elective procedures, and 48 hours post admission in case of emergency treatment.
- ✓ The initiative applies to hospitals with 15+ beds registered under the Clinical Establishment Act 2010.

Japan's Softbank Sold Another 1.95% Stake in Paytm

- ✓ Japan-based Softbank Group Corp has sold another 1.95% of paid-up share capital in Paytm's parent company One97 Communications for approximately Rs 950 crore. This reduced Softbank's share in Paytm to 5.06% from 7.01%. For this purpose, SVF India Holdings (Cayman) Limited a subsidiary of Softbank, sold a total of 12.7 million equity shares of Paytm through open market transactions.

Sony Terminates Merger Agreement with Zee Entertainment

- ✓ Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (CME), formerly known as Sony Pictures Networks India Private Limited (SPNI) has officially terminated its USD 10 Billion merger agreement with Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL).
- ✓ The amalgamation agreement was signed between Sony and Zee in December 2021, but the merger remained incomplete due to regulatory investigation and legal suits.
- ✓ The partnership aimed to establish India's largest entertainment company, to compete against global giants like Netflix Inc. and Amazon.com Inc.
- ✓ CME is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Sony Group Corporation, Japan.



Govt Expands Scope of Financial Services at IFSC GIFT city; Notified 4 Additional Services

- ✓ The Ministry of Finance, Government of India (GoI) has expanded the scope of financial services offered at India's 1st International Financial Services Centre

(IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- ✓ **Notified 4 additional services** – Financial crime compliance, taxation, accounting, and bookkeeping – as a part of financial services.
- ✓ These 4 additional services will be provided through units in GIFT City or IFSC, regulated by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) with tax benefits available to the entities.

India became Fourth-Largest Stock Market, Overtakes Hong Kong

- ✓ India has become the world's fourth-largest stock market by market capitalization with the combined value of shares listed on Indian exchanges reaching USD 4.33 trillion.
- ✓ India has thereby surpassed Hong Kong whose combined value of shares is USD 4.29 trillion.
- ✓ The top three stock markets are the United States of America (USA), China, and Japan respectively.

Yes Bank becomes First Indian Bank to Conduct Export Finance Transaction on RXIL's ITFS Platform

- ✓ Yes Bank Limited, has become the first Indian bank to execute an export finance transaction on the International Trade Financing Services Platform (ITFS) of RXIL Global IFSC Limited (RXIL Global), a subsidiary of Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL).
- ✓ The collaboration empowers both Indian and global exporters and importers to access competitive financing options like factoring, forfeiting, and other trade finance services through the platform.
- ✓ Apart from this, Yes Bank Limited has launched SmartFin, an end-to-end digital

supply chain finance (SCF) platform powered by Mumbai (Maharashtra)- based Veefin Solutions Limited (Veefin) to cater to the financial needs of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

SEBI Chairperson Launched Two Unique Multi-Lingual Initiatives for CDSL

- ✓ The Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Madhabi Puri Buch, has launched two unique multi-lingual initiatives namely Multi-Lingual CAS and CDSL Buddy Sahayta 24x7 Chatbot for Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). These initiative aims to promote ease of doing business among investors.
- ✓ The chatbot offers round-the-clock assistance to the investor in four languages.

LIC launches a New Annuity Plan 'Jeevan Dhara-2 plan 872'

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a new individual, savings, deferred annuity (pension) plan 'Jeevan Dhara-2 plan 872'. The plan will be available for sale from 22nd January 2024.

NSE Remains World's Largest Derivatives Exchange in 2023 for 5th Consecutive Year; 3rd in Equity Segment

- ✓ According to the statistics published by the Futures Industry Association (FIA), the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2023 in terms of the number of contracts traded. NSE has retained the title for the 5th consecutive year.
- ✓ As per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), NSE ranks



3rd in the world in equity segment by number of trades (electronic order book) in 2023.

- ✓ NSE was the first exchange in India to implement electronic or screen-based trading.

AIIB Invested Rs.486 Crore in SEIT for the Project Meridian

- ✓ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has invested INR 486 Crore (approximately USD 58.4 million) in Sustainable Energy Infra Trust (SEIT) for AIIB's project 'India: Project Meridian'.
- ✓ The project aims to support the development of InvIT as an infrastructure asset class in India by financing the InvIT's acquisition of renewable energy assets. The total funding of the project is USD 73 million.
- ✓ AIIB's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) applies to this Project.

RBI's Economic Activity Index Nowcasts Q3FY24 growth at 7%

- ✓ According to an article titled 'State of the Economy' in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s monthly bulletin i.e.'RBI Bulletin – January 2024', RBI's economic activity index (EAI) has nowcast India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 3rd quarter of 2023-2024 (Q3FY24)(October 2023 – December 2023) at 7%.

Google Pay India signs MoU with NPCI International to expand UPI Globally

- ✓ On January 17, 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Google India Digital Services (P) limited (Google Pay India) and NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to expand the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) globally.

- ✓ This MoU has three main goals viz. Expand UPI payments for Indian travelers globally, facilitate the establishment of UPI-like systems in other countries, and simplify cross-border remittances using UPI infrastructure.

DLabs at ISB launches 'Build for Billions' jointly with RBIH & UBI

- ✓ DLabs at the Indian School of Business (ISB) in Hyderabad, Telangana launched "Build for Billions", a startup accelerator program, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) and Union Bank of India (UBI).
- ✓ It is themed around financial inclusion for the informal economy by address the gap between financial services and the informal economy.
- ✓ Reason behind the Program: Informal economy is represented by Gig workers, migrant workers, domestic workers, street vendors, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and construction labourers. Their challenges include low and volatile income; irregular income streams; limited access to credit and savings; and a lack of social security nets.

SEBI allowed Voluntary Freezing of Clients' Trading Account from July 1, 2024

- ✓ On January 12, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) notified that Investors will be allowed to freeze or block their trading account any suspicious activity is detected. The framework for the same will be laid down by stock brokerages on or before 1st April 2024 and will be implemented from 1st July 2024.
- ✓ This information was SEBI is provided in its exercise of powers conferred under Section 11(1) of SEBI Act, 1992 read with

Regulation 30 of SEBI (Stock Brokers) Regulations, 1992, to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of securities markets.

✓ **SEBI Chairperson**– Madhabi Puri Buch

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

- ✓ REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Power (MoP) has successfully issued its inaugural Japanese Yen (JPY) 61.1 billion worth Green bonds under its USD 10 billion Global Medium Term Notes Programme.
- ✓ It is the first Yen Green Bonds issuance by any Indian Public Sector Unit (PSU).
- ✓ The bond is issued in three tenure namely 5-year, 5.25-year and 10-year at yield of 1.76%, 1.79% and 2.20% respectively.
- ✓ It is the largest Yen-denominated issuance from India and the largest ever Euro-Yen issuance in South and South East Asia.

ICICI Bank Canada Launches “Money2India (Canada)”, a Mobile Banking App

- ✓ ICICI Bank Canada, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICICI Bank Limited, launched its mobile banking application, “Money2India (Canada)”. The app enables customers of any bank to instantly transfer money to any bank in India without opening an account with ICICI Bank Canada.
- ✓ With this launch, ICICI Bank Canada enters into the remittance market of Canada.

Reserve Bank of India imposes Rs.2.49 crore Monetary Penalty on 3 Banks

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties of about Rs.2.49 crore on three banks namely Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited, Punjab & Sind Bank and ESAF Small Finance Bank Limited for contravention of regulatory norms.
- ✓ Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd – Rs.1.20 crores. Reason: Non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI.
- ✓ ESAF Small Finance Bank Limited – Rs.29.55 Lakh. Reason: Non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on ‘Customer Service in Banks.’
- ✓ Punjab & Sind Bank – Rs.1 crore Reason: Non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on ‘Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions’

Haldia Petrochemicals Becomes India’s First BSI Certified ISO 27001:2022 Petrochemical Firm

- ✓ Haldia Petrochemicals Limited (HPL) has become the first International Organization for Standardization (ISO) / International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 27001:2022 certified petrochemical organisation in India.
- ✓ The certification was awarded by the United Kingdom (UK) based certification body, British Standards Institution (BSI) in a ceremony held in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

SBI Inks Pact with MoRD to Provide Loan Credit Facility to SHGs

- ✓ Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and State Bank of India (SBI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide loans to rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- ✓ With this, SBI launched Svyam Siddha, a specialised financial product developed

exclusively for women Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Its main purpose is to provide access of financial assistance up to Rs 5 lakh to women entrepreneurs.

SBI Launches Green Rupee Term-Deposit FD Scheme to Support Green Finance Ecosystem

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) launched a special Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme named SBI Green Rupee Term Deposit (SGRTD), to mobilise funds for environment-friendly projects and initiatives. The SGRTD scheme is open to Resident individuals, Non-residents, and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- ✓ The SGRTD scheme offers 3 distinct tenors: 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days. It is initially available through SBI's branch network. The interest rate on SGRTD will be 10 Basis Points lower than the card rate for retail and bulk Deposits for respective tenors.

India's GDP to surpass USD 4 trillion in 2024-25: PHDCCI report

- ✓ According to PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) report, India's Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to surpass USD 4 trillion in 2024-2025 and reach USD 5 trillion by 2026-2027.
- ✓ It also projected India's GDP to reach USD 7 trillion by 2030, as India is committed to attaining the status of a developed economy by 2047 under the initiative of 'Viksit Bharat'.

Narayana Health Received IRDAI Approval to Launch Health Insurance Business

- ✓ Bengaluru based Narayana Health Insurance Limited (Narayana One Health), a subsidiary of Narayana Hrudayalaya Limited, has received a license from the Insurance

Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to operate independently as a health insurance company.

- ✓ The approval from IRDAI will allow the healthcare provider to diversify its business into the health insurance business through the subsidiary and also offer integrated healthcare.

Bloomberg Index Services Ltd to Include India's FAR Bonds into its EM Index from September 2024

- ✓ Bloomberg Index Services Ltd (BISL) proposed the incorporation of India's Fully Accessible Route (FAR) bonds into its Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Index. As per the proposal, the inclusion of Indian government bonds will be a phased implementation plan spanning over 5 months starting in September 2024.
- ✓ Each month will add 20% of the bonds' full market value (100%) falling under the FAR category which does not involve any restrictions on foreign investors. The process will be completed in January 2025.
- ✓ Once completely phased into the Bloomberg EM 10% Country Capped Index, India FAR bonds will be fully capped at 10% weight within the index.
- ✓ At that point, the Indian Rupee will become the 3rd largest currency component, following the Chinese Renminbi and the South Korean Won, within the Bloomberg EM Local Currency Index.

Zerodha Fund House Launches India's 1st Growth Liquid ETF Scheme

- ✓ Zerodha Fund House announced the launch of India's 1st Growth Liquid Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) – Zerodha Nifty 1D Rate

Liquid ETF, that offer a Growth Net Asset Value (NAV).

- ✓ The new scheme follows Nifty 1D Rate Index, which measures the returns generated by market participants lending in the overnight market, as its benchmark.
- ✓ The scheme is designed to prioritize liquidity while maintaining a relatively low-risk profile.

WB forecasts 2024 Global Growth to slow for 3rd Consecutive Year to 2.4%; India to grow at 6.4% in FY25

- ✓ On January 9, 2024, the World Bank (WB) has released its 'January, 2024 Global Economic Prospects'(GEP) report projecting a third consecutive year of slowdown for global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth with a decrease to 2.4% in 2024. It was 2.6% in 2023, 3% in 2022 and 6.2% in 2021.
- ✓ The WB has kept India's GDP growth forecast unchanged at 6.3% for FY 2023-24 and 6.4% for FY 2024-25 driven by robust investment and services.
- ✓ It will edge up to 6.5% in FY26. India is expected to maintain the fastest growth rate among the world's largest economies, but its post-pandemic recovery is expected to slow.

ADB Sells USD 5 Billion in Dual Tranche 3Yr and 10Yr Bonds to Promote Development in the Region

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) sells a dual-tranche global benchmark bond valued at USD 3 billion with a maturity of 3 years and at USD 2 billion with a maturity of 10 years to raise USD 5 Billion to promote social and economic development across its member countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

World Bank's IBRD raises GBP 1.5 billion in 5-year Sustainable Development Bond

- ✓ The World Bank (WB) arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has priced a 5-year Sustainable Development Bond in Great British Pound sterling (GBP) to raise GBP 1.5 billion from investors, contributing to finance sustainable development initiatives in World Bank member countries.
- ✓ IBRD has maintained a triple-A (AAA) rating (investment grade ratings) since 1959.
- ✓ The bond will mature on 2nd October 2028. The bond is listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LSE) in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.

SBI raises USD 250 million through Green Bonds to Finance Green Projects

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI), the largest public sector bank in India, has raised USD 250 million by issuing 5-year green bonds (also known as green notes) which will mature on 29th December 2028 to fund green projects which are in line with SBI's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Financing framework. The bonds were issued as part of SBI's USD 10 billion medium-term note programme.
- ✓ SBI has successfully raised USD 1 Billion through Syndicated Social Loan to cater to the domestic ESG financing market.

India's GDP likely to grow by 7.3% in FY24: First Advance Estimated by NSO

- ✓ On January 5, 2024, the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the First Advance Estimates (FAE)

of National Income for the financial year 2023-24, both at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices. As per it, Indian economy growth in real GDP will be at 7.3% in FY24 as compared to the 7.2% in FY23.

- ✓ While in nominal terms, the projected GDP growth for India in FY24 is 8.9%, a deceleration from the 16.1% recorded in FY23.

REC & BoB sign MoU to Finance Power, Infra and Logistics Projects

- ✓ REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to jointly offer loans for power, infrastructure and logistics projects for a duration of three years (till 2026).
- ✓ The MoU was signed in presence of Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), REC Limited and Debadatta Chand, MD and CEO, Bank of Baroda
- ✓ The MoU aims to catalyse transformative projects that will positively impact communities and drive socio-economic progress in India.

Ola Electric Becomes First Indian e2W Company Eligible for PLI Scheme

- ✓ Ola Electric Mobility Private Limited (Ola), has become the 1st Indian electric two-wheeler (e2W) company to get eligible for the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme after receiving approval from the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).
- ✓ The PLI certification offers Ola a financial benefit of Rs 15,000 to Rs 18,000 per unit.
- ✓ This financial incentives will help to increase the penetration of Electric Vehicles (EVs) across India.

- ✓ Ola Electric has fulfilled all the requirements outlined in the PLI Scheme, including a minimum of 50% domestic value addition to its vehicles.

EPFO extends Deadline to Upload Wage Details for Higher Pension Options till May 31

- ✓ On January 3, 2024, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has approved a five months extension for employers for uploading wage details of higher pension options online i.e. till 31st May, 2024 from 31st December 2023. The information for the same was provided by Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Bajaj Finserv launched India's First Credit Pass, Powered by CIBIL

- ✓ Bajaj Finserv Limited has launched a Credit Pass, a first-of-its-kind subscription in India, that enables its customers to get real-time access to their credit dashboard to track and monitor credit health.
- ✓ The credit pass is powered by TransUnion CIBIL Limited (formerly Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited), a credit information company (CIC) operating in India.

India Ratings raises India's GDP growth forecast for FY24 to 6.7% from 6.2%

- ✓ On January 3, 2024, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) Private Limited, part of the Fitch Group, increased India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth estimate for 2023-2024(FY24) to 6.7% from 6.2%.
- ✓ The increase in GDP forecast is led by various factors like, The resilience of the Indian economy, which grew 7.6% yoy in second quarter growth (Q2FY24), after growing 7.8% yoy in 1QFY24.

Bank of Baroda launches NCMC RuPay Prepaid Card

- ✓ The Bank of Baroda has launched the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) RuPay Reloadable Prepaid Card in alignment with the 'One Nation, One Card' initiative.
- ✓ It is a chip-enabled contactless RuPay Platinum Europay, Mastercard and Visa (EMV) prepaid card.
- ✓ Apart from acting as a traditional ATM card, it can also be used to pay for public transport (such as metro rails, buses, trains, cabs, ferries, tolls and parking).
- ✓ The maximum online wallet balance allowed is Rs 1 lakh and the maximum offline wallet balance allowed is Rs 2,000.

Tata Power acquires 100% stake in Bikaner Special Purpose Vehicle

- ✓ Tata Power has acquired a 100% equity stake in Bikaner III Neemrana II Transmission Limited, a special purpose vehicle (SPV), for Rs 18.6 crore.
- ✓ SPV was set up by PFC Consulting Limited which is a subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation.
- ✓ The transmission line project with an estimated cost of Rs. 1544 crore will transfer 7.7 Gigawatt (GW) of green power from Bikaner to Neemrana in Rajasthan about a distance of 340 kms.

Bandhan Bank Introduces 'Inspire' Programme Exclusively for Senior Citizens

- ✓ Bandhan Bank Limited has launched a new scheme called 'Inspire' programme designed to cater to the specific needs and aspirations of senior citizens. It offers plans that focus on financial security, healthcare, and convenience of old age people.

- ✓ Individuals residing in India of age 60 years and above. Monthly Average Balance (MAB) should be Rs.1 lakh for Premium Savings Account and Rs.25,000 for Advantage Savings Account.
- ✓ The Inspire programme offers benefits like preferential interest rates, priority banking services, and doorstep banking facilities to senior citizen customers.

India's GDP growth to Exceed 6.5% in FY24: DEA

- ✓ The "Half-Yearly Economic Review 2023-24-November 2023" released by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, mentioned that India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 7.7% in the first half (H1) of financial year 2023-2024 (FY24). With this, India is expected to achieve a growth rate of over 6.5% in FY24.
- ✓ India's real GDP grew by a 7.6% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in 2nd quarter (Q2) of FY24

SBI, HDFC Bank will need to maintain Higher Capital from FY25

- ✓ On December 28, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) in which State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank continued to be identified as D-SIBS. However, SBI and HDFC Bank will need to maintain higher capital from April 1, 2025.
- ✓ The additional common equity Tier 1 (CET-1) as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) requirement for SBI will be 0.80%, and for HDFC Bank, it will be 0.40%.
- ✓ .D-SIBs are those institutions which are "too big to fail", meaning their failure will negatively impact the economy.

RBI UPDATES

RBI Cancels Licence of Karnataka's Hiriyur Urban Co-Op Bank

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of Karnataka based The Hiriyur Urban Co- operative Bank Limited as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- ✓ The bank also does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) Sections 22(3)(a), 22 (3)(b), 22(3)(c), 22(3)(d) and 22(3)(e) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ✓ Upon bank liquidation, each depositor is entitled to a deposit insurance claim of up to Rs.5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), as per the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.

RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra tenure was extended for one year

- ✓ Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the reappointment of Michael Debabrata Patra as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the second time.
- ✓ His tenure was extended by one year with effect from 15th January 2024 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Patra was initially appointed as RBI Deputy Governor in 2020 for a tenure of three years (till 2023) by replacing Viral Acharya. In 2023, his tenure was extended for one year which expired on 14th January 2024.
- ✓ RBI has one Governor, and four Deputy Governors appointed by the Central Government. Their tenure in office is 3 years (previously it was 5 years). However, the

term can any time be increased by the government.

- ✓ Shaktikanta Das takes charge as the 25th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

4 Deputy Governors of RBI:

1. Swaminathan J, 2. T. Rabi Sankar, 3.M. Rajeshwar Rao.4.Dr. M.D. Patra.

RBI doubles Minimum Capital Requirement to Rs 200 cr for SFBs

- ✓ On January 8, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the minimum capital requirement for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) from Rs 100 crore to Rs 200 crore, and permitted Payments Banks to upgrade as SFBs.
- ✓ The reason behind this is to improve the financial resilience of SFBs and ensure their long-term sustainability.
- ✓ Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) transitioning to Small Finance Banks (SFBs) need an initial net worth of Rs 100 crore, to be increased to Rs 200 crore within five years.
- ✓ Payments Banks, eligible as per guidelines, can apply for SFB conversion after five years of operation.
- ✓ SFBs will be granted scheduled bank status immediately upon commencement of operations, and will get immediate general permission to open banking outlets.

Customer Complaints should be communicated in 30 days: RBI IO for RE Directions, 2023

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Internal Ombudsman for Regulated Entities) Directions, 2023, as per which the regulated entities (REs) and their Internal Ombudsmen

(IOs) should communicate a final decision to customers within 30 days of receiving a complaint.

- ✓ This directive aims to enhance consumer grievance redress and customer service standards within RE by facilitating a thorough review before the rejection of customer complaints by IO.
- ✓ IOs usually deal with customer complaints related to deficiency in service.
- ✓ This directive by RBI is issued in exercise of its powers conferred by Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, Section 45L read with 45M of the RBI Act, 1934, sub-section (1) of Section 11 of Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005 and Section 18 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

RBI Issues Master Direction on Commercial Paper & Non-Convertible Debentures 2024

- ✓ On January 3, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued Master Direction – RBI (Commercial Paper and Non-Convertible Debentures of original or initial maturity upto one year) Directions, 2024 which will come into effect from April 1, 2024.
- ✓ These Directions have been issued in exercise of the powers conferred under section 45J, 45K, 45L and 45W of RBI Act, 1934 read with section 45U of the Act and of all the powers enabling it in this behalf.
- ✓ Tenor:
- ✓ Non-Convertible Debenture (NCD) means a secured money market instrument with a tenor between 90 days and one year.
- ✓ Commercial Paper (CP) means an unsecured money market instrument issued in the form of a promissory note with maturity between a

minimum of 7 days and a maximum of up to one year from the date of issue.

Guidelines:

- ✓ CPs and NCDs must be issued and held in dematerialized form with a Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered depository.
- ✓ The minimum denomination for CPs and NCDs is Rs 5 lakh, with multiples of Rs 5 lakh thereafter.
- ✓ CPs have a tenor between seven days and one year, while NCDs have a tenor between ninety days and one year.

RBI revised guidelines for Inoperative Accounts and Unclaimed Deposits

- ✓ On January 1, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines for classifying accounts and deposits as inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits by banks which will come into effect from April 1, 2024.
- ✓ These will be applicable to all Commercial Banks (including Regional Rural Banks/RRBs) and all Co-operative Banks.
- ✓ These instructions by RBI are issued in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 35A of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 read with Sections 26A, 51 and 56 of the Act ibid and all other provisions of this Act or any other laws enabling RBI to issue instructions in this regard.

RBI enhances bulk deposit limit for large UCBs 6.66 times to Rs 1 cr and above

- ✓ RBI also revises Bulk Deposits limit for Scheduled Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks in Tier 3 and 4 to Rs 1 crore and above from Rs 15 lakh and above. This is 6.66 times increase.

- ✓ The bulk deposit limit for urban co-operative banks not located in Scheduled UCBs in Tier 3 and 4 cities has been increased to Rs 15 lakh and above.
- ✓ Previously, a deposit of Rs 15 lakh and above was considered a bulk deposit across all UCBs, allowing customers to negotiate interest rates with the banks. However, with the revised threshold set at ₹1 crore and above, customers depositing amounts below this limit will now earn a uniform rate of interest.

Types of UCB

- ✓ There are four types of UCBs:
- ✓ Tier 1: Deposits up to Rs 100 crore
- ✓ Tier 2: Deposits between Rs 100 crore and Rs 1,000 crore
- ✓ Tier 3: Deposits between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 10,000 crore
- ✓ Tier 4: Deposits of over Rs 10,000 crore
- ✓ Tier 1 UCBs operating in a single district should have minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore. For all other UCBs, the minimum net worth should be Rs 5 crore.
- ✓ Tier 1 UCBs have to maintain a minimum capital to risk weighted assets ratio of 9% of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) on an ongoing basis.

RBI grants Payment Aggregator Licence to Tata Pay & DigiO

- ✓ Tata Group's digital payments arm, Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited (Tata Pay), has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as a Payment Aggregator (PA).
- ✓ The approval from RBI allows Tata Groups to power all their e-commerce transactions within its subsidiary entities through Tata Payments Limited.

- ✓ The Groww (financial services platform)-backed identity verification startup, DigiO, also has received PA licence from RBI.

RBI extends Deadline for Implementation of Instructions regarding Penal Charges in Loan Accounts to April 1, 2024

- ✓ On December 29, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the deadline for implementation of Instructions regarding Penal Charges in Loan Accounts by three months i.e. from January 1, 2024 to April 1, 2024, as a part of fair lending practices.
- ✓ In this regard, all Regulated Entities (REs) must implement the new penal charges instructions for fresh loans from April 1, 2024.
- ✓ In case of existing loans, the transition to the new regime should be ensured by the next review/renewal date on or after April 1, 2024, but no later than June 30, 2024.

RBI Extends PIDF Scheme Till 2025

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme and extended the deadline by two years, i.e., upto December 31, 2025.
- ✓ Included Beneficiaries of PM Vishwakarma Scheme as merchants under the PIDF Scheme. Sound Box devices and Aadhaar-enabled biometric devices are now eligible to claim subsidy under the scheme.
- ✓ PIDF scheme was introduced by RBI in 2021 for a period of 3 years (until December 2023). The scheme aims to encourage deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure such as physical Point of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes by adding 30 lakh touch points every year.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Cameroon became the First Country to Roll Out Malaria Vaccine in Child Immunization Program

- ✓ The Republic of Cameroon, a Central African country, has become the first country in the world to incorporate a malaria vaccine into its routine national immunization program.
- ✓ Cameroon uses a RTS,S/AS01(Mosquirix) vaccine, the only vaccine that has demonstrated it can significantly reduce malaria in young children Cameroon will offer the vaccine free of charge to infants up to six months old, requiring a total of four doses.
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended two malaria vaccines – the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine in 2021 and the R21/Matrix-MTM vaccine in 2023, to prevent malaria in children.

NASA Unveils X-59 Quiet Supersonic Jet Known as 'Son of Concorde'

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Lockheed Martin, a global aerospace and defence company unveiled the X-59 quiet Supersonic Jet, a one-of-a-kind experimental aircraft known as the 'Son of Concorde'.
- ✓ X-59 Supersonic Jet was revealed at Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works facility in Palmdale, California, United States of America (USA).
- ✓ The X-59 will be used to collect community response data on the acceptability of a quiet sonic boom generated by the unique design of the aircraft.

CoRover.ai Launched India's first Indigenous GenAI 'BharatGPT'

- ✓ Bengaluru based CoRover Private Limited(CoRover.ai) launched India's 1st indigenous Generative AI (GenAI) Large Language Model (LLM) called BharatGPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformers).
- ✓ This is the only Indian Indigenous GenAI platform available across channels in 14+ Indian languages, with generative Video, Voice & Text.
- ✓ BharatGPT is integrated for voice modality in more than 14 Indian languages and 22 languages for text modality, in partnership with BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India), a National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ✓ CoRover has partnered with Google to host BharatGPT on Google CloudPlatform (GCP) to ensure data sovereignty, privacy, and security.

JAXA Successfully landed SLIM on Lunar Surface; Japan Becomes 5th Nation to land on Moon

- ✓ On 20th January 2024, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Japanese national air and space agency, successfully landed Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) within 330 feet (100 meters) of its target site on the rim of Shioli Crater.
- ✓ With this Japan became the 5th nation to soft land on lunar surface after the United States of America (USA), Russia, China, and India.



- ✓ The SLIM probe nicknamed “Moon Sniper” was launched onboard the H-IIA Launch Vehicle No. 47 (H-IIA F47) on 7th September 2023 from JAXA Tanegashima Space Center, Kagoshima.

Iran's IRGC launches Sorayya Satellite by Qaem 100 Satellite Carrier

- ✓ Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has launched Sorayya satellite using a three-stage solid-fuel Qaem 100 satellite carrier, developed by IRGC Aerospace Force. Iran for the very first time launched a satellite to a height of about 750-kilometre (460 miles) above the earth's surface.
- ✓ The satellite was launched from IRGC's mobile launch pad on the outskirts of Shahroud, Iran.

SpaceX Launched Axiom Space's Ax-3 Mission; Launched 1st Turkish Astronaut to Space

- ✓ On 18th January 2024, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation's (SpaceX) Falcon 9 rocket launched Axiom Space's Axiom Mission 3 (Ax-3) to the International Space Station (ISS) from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Kennedy Space Center in Florida, The United States of America(USA).
- ✓ The mission carried the **Türkiye's 1st astronaut, Alper Gezeravcı**, along with crew members representing Spain, Italy and Sweden aboard the SpaceX's Dragon 'Freedom' spacecraft.


North Korea tests Underwater Nuclear Weapon System 'Haeil-5-23'

- ✓ North Korean defence ministry's think tank has tested a nuclear-capable underwater

attack drone 'Haeil-5-23'(meaning tsunami) in the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan.

- ✓ The underwater drone 'Haeil-1' was first tested in March 2023. Haeil-5-23, the unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) attacks by creating a large radioactive wave by exploding under the water.
- ✓ The test was conducted in response to the three-day joint military exercises conducted by the navies of South Korea, the United States of America (USA) and Japan.

Himalayan Wolf Classified as 'Vulnerable' on IUCN Red List

- ✓ The Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus*; Subspecies: *chanco*), a crucial lupine predator in the Himalayas, is classified as 'Vulnerable' under criteria C2a(ii) on the global International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. 
- ✓ The classification is based on a population size estimate of 2,275-3,792 mature individuals, with a continuous population decline suspected due to significant threats and a lack of conservation action.
- ✓ All individuals belong to a single subpopulation that spans across the Himalayan range of Nepal and India and extends across the Tibetan Plateau.
- ✓ This is the 1st time the Himalayan wolf has been assessed by the IUCN and the assessment was done on 27 June 2023.
- ✓ IUCN Red List Assessment flags a continuing decline in the area, extent, and/or quality of Himalayan wolf habitat.

MeitY Secretary launches India's First Graphene Centre, IIoT CoE in Kerala

- ✓ The two flagship programs namely “Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Intelligent Internet of Things (IIoT) Sensors” and India’s first Graphene Centre “India Innovation Centre for Graphene(IICG)” were launched by S Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in Kochi, Kerala.

India Signs Agreement for Lithium Exploration and Mining Project in Argentina

- ✓ Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) signed an agreement with Argentina’s state-owned enterprise Catamarca Minera y Energética Sociedad del Estado (CAMYEN SE) at Catamarca, Argentina to explore and develop 5 lithium brine blocks.
- ✓ The agreement is worth about Rs. 200 crores and is the 1st-ever lithium exploration and mining project by a Government of India-owned enterprise.
- ✓ The 5 lithium brine blocks are namely Cortadera-I, Cortadera-VII, Cortadera-VIII, Cateo-2022-01810132, and Cortadera-VI

DRDO Conducts Successful Flight-test of New Generation AKASH Missile off Odisha coast

- ✓ On 12th January 2024, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted a flight test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ The AKASH-NG system is a state-of-the-art missile system, capable of intercepting high-speed, agile aerial threats.

New butterfly species ‘Cigaritis Conjuncta’ Discovered in Bramhagiri Wildlife Sanctuary

- ✓ Researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, have discovered a new butterfly species Cigaritis conjuncta (also known as Conjoined Silverline butterfly) in Bramhagiri Wildlife Sanctuary in Kodagu district (also known as Coorg), Karnataka.
- ✓ The new species is named after its most “unique” feature: the “conjoined” bands on its wings.

China's OrienSpace Launches its Maiden Rocket Gravity-1

- ✓ OrienSpace, a Chinese space startup firm has launched its maiden rocket Gravity-1(Yinli-1) from Defu-15002 the mobile sea platform off the coast of Haiyang (Yellow Sea) in the eastern Shandong province of China.
- ✓ Gravity-1 carried three Yunyao-1 weather satellites to 500km low earth orbit(LEO).
- ✓ Gravity-1 is a three-stage solid fuel-propelled rocket that can carry a payload of up to 6,500 kg into LEO and 4200 kg into sun-synchronous orbit, making it the most powerful launch vehicle developed by a private Chinese enterprise.

NASA Tested Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine in USA

- ✓ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully tested the 3- dimensionally (3-D) printed innovative propulsion system called “Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine (RDRE)” at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, the United States of America (USA). RDRE is NASA’s first engine which generates thrust using a

supersonic combustion phenomenon known as a detonation.

NASA Launched Peregrine Mission One to Moon with Five Payloads

- ✓ On 08th January 2024, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched five payloads to soft land on the Moon's surface aboard Peregrine Mission One (PM1) (TO2-AB). The mission was launched through United Launch Alliance (ULA)'s Vulcan Centaur Launch Vehicle (VC2S) from Cape Canaveral, Florida, United States of America (USA).
- ✓ This is the first launch of NASA under the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) Initiative.
- ✓ This is the first lunar mission of NASA after the launch of Apollo 17 in 1972.

ISRO successfully Tests Fuel Cell based Power System in Space

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has tested a 100-watt(W) class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell based Power System (FCPS) to assess its operation in space and to collect data to facilitate the design of systems for future missions.
- ✓ The test was carried out in ISRO's orbital platform, PSLV Orbital Experimental Module- 3 (POEM3) which was launched onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)- C58 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on 1st January 2024.

ISRO Successfully Injected Aditya L1 into the Halo Orbit Around L1

- ✓ On 6th January 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully performed the crucial manoeuvre (final manoeuvre) of injecting the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, India's first space-based

observatory-class solar probe to study the Sun, into the halo orbit around Lagrangian point 1 (L1).

- ✓ Aditya L1 has travelled around 3.7 million kilometers in 126 days to reach L1. This marks the transition of Aditya L1 mission from cruise phase to orbit phase.

ISRO's NSIL to launch GSAT-N2 Satellite onboard SpaceX's Falcon-9

- ✓ NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is set to launch GSAT-20 (renamed GSAT-N2), a Ka-band high throughput satellite (HTS), onboard the Falcon-9 rocket of Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) in the 2nd quarter of 2024. This will be ISRO's first partnership with SpaceX to launch the satellites.

ISRO launches PSLV-C58/XPoSat: India's 1st X-ray Polarimeter Satellite to study Black Holes & Neutron Stars in Space

- ✓ On 1st January 2024, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite), India's 1st dedicated polarimetry mission onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C58 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). PSLV-C58 has launched XPOSAT Satellite into an Eastward low inclination orbit.
- ✓ It was PSLV-C58's 60th mission and lifted a mass of 260 ton. It should be noted that this launch was by PSLV-DL variant. It was PSLV-DL's 4th mission. The satellite is expected to operate for at least 5 years.

USSF-52 Mission: SpaceX launches secretive U.S. military spacecraft on research mission

- ✓ On 28th December 2023, SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket carrying US military's secretive X-37-B military space plane to the orbit was launched from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the United States of America(USA).
- ✓ The mission codenamed "USSF-52" is the 7th mission of X-37B. This mission includes multiple cutting-edge experiments. This is the first time the X-37B is launched using a Falcon Heavy rocket.

Reliance Jio & IIT-Bombay collaborates to Build 'BharatGPT'

- ✓ Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited(RIL), has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Mumbai, Maharashtra, to develop the 'BharatGPT(Generative Pre-Trained Transformer)' program. Bharat GPT program aims to use large language models and generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve various sectors in India. The program is part of an upgraded mobile ecosystem 'Jio 2.0' of Reliance Jio.

Russia & NASA Agrees to Extend Cross-flight Programme to ISS until 2025

- ✓ Russia's Roscosmos and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have agreed to extend their partnership in space exploration by continuing cross-flights, involving crews of various nationalities to travel on a single spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS) until 2025.

- ✓ The mutual commitment is aimed at ensuring the overall reliability and operational continuity of ISS and will be carried out on Russian and United States of America (U.S.) spacecraft.

SpaceX launches its first 'direct-to-cell' Starlink satellites

- ✓ On 2nd January 2024, SpaceX's Falcon 9 launched the 21 Starlink satellites, including its first six "direct- to-cell" satellites, to Low-Earth orbit(LEO) from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, the United States of America(USA).

Pakistan Conducted Successful Flight Test of Indigenously Developed 'Fatah-II' Rocket System

- ✓ Pakistan Military conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed guided Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS) 'Fatah-II', which is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics, a sophisticated navigation system, and a unique flight trajectory. It has been developed as a potential challenger to the regional missile defense systems.

NASA Relaunches OSIRIS-APEX mission to study Apophis Asteroid's 2029 flyby

- ✓ NASA launched OSIRIS-APEX (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security – Apophis Explorer) to study the asteroid Apophis and take advantage of the asteroid's 2029 flyby of Earth. Asteroid 99942 Apophis is named for the demon serpent "Apophis" of the ancient Egyptian mythology, which personifies evil and chaos. It is also known as "God of Chaos".

DEFENCE

Ex Desert Knight: Trilateral Air Force Exercise Conducted Between India, France & UAE

- ✓ “Exercise Desert Knight”, a Trilateral Air Force Exercise, was conducted between the Indian Air Force (IAF) along with the French Air and Space Force (FASF) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force on 23rd January 2024. The joint exercise was hosted at the Al Dhafra air base in the UAE.

Participants and Aircraft

- ✓ FASF: Rafale fighter aircraft, Multi Role Tanker Transport.
- ✓ UAE Air Force: F-16.
- ✓ IAF: Su-30 MKI (Sukhoi), MiG-29, Jaguar, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), C- 130-J transport plane, Air to Air Refueller.

MoD Signed Rs.1070cr Contract with MDL for the Procurement of 14 FPVs

- ✓ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract worth Rs. 1070 crore with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL – functioning under MoD) for the acquisition of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- ✓ The contract was made under the Buy Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (IDDM) category.
- ✓ The FPVs are designed, developed and manufactured by MDL Mumbai, Maharashtra. All the FPVs will be delivered in sixty-three months to ICG. The contract also aims to promote the growth of ancillary industries, especially the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector.

Indian Army Opens ‘India Selfie Point’ Near LOC in Jammu and Kashmir

- ✓ The Dagger Division (the then 19th Indian Infantry Division) of the Indian Army opened ‘India Selfie Point’ near the Line of Control(LOC) in Uri in the Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).
- ✓ The selfie point has been gifted by acclaimed artist Rouble Nagi, who has set up several such points in J&K.
- ✓ It is located along the National Highway 44 (NH 44), which is the longest national highway in India and connects Srinagar (J&K) to Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu).
- ✓ This initiative of opening selfie points symbolizes the Army’s commitment to enhancing community engagement and providing a space that truly resonates with the spirit of Vibrant India.

Fifth ACTCM Barge ‘Yard 129 (LSAM 19)’ launched at SPPL, Thane

- ✓ On 24th January 2024, the fifth Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge, Yard 129 (LSAM 19) was launched by Commodore V Pravin AWPS (Mumbai, Maharashtra) at M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited (SPPL), Thane (Maharashtra).
- ✓ All the major and auxiliary equipment/systems in this Barge were sourced from indigenous manufacturer. This caters to the ‘Make in India’ initiative of Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ✓ In 2021, IN signed a contract with Suryadipta Projects to construct 11 ACTCM barges with with Suryadipta Projects Private Limited.

- ✓ The first three ACTCM Barge was
 - Yard 125 (LSAM 15) launched in February 2023
 - Yard 126 (LSAM 16) launched in July 2023
 - Yard 127 (LSAM 17) launched in October 2023

2nd edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Cyclone II' commenced in Egypt

- ✓ "Exercise Cyclone II", the 2nd edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise, commenced on 22nd January 2024 in **Anshas, Egypt**. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 22nd January to 1st February 2024.
- ✓ The first edition of the exercise was held in January 2023 in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Participants:

- ✓ The Indian contingent is represented by troops from The **Parachute Regiment** (Special Forces).
- ✓ Egyptian contingent of 25 personnel is represented by the Egyptian Commando Squadron and Egyptian Airborne Platoon.

The exercise has 3 phases

- ✓ i. The first phase will include Military Exhibitions and Tactical Interactions
- ✓ ii. The second phase will focus on training on Improvised Explosive Device (IED), counter IED and Combat First Aid.
- ✓ iii. The third phase will encompass a Joint Tactical Exercise based on Fighting in Built-up Areas and Hostage Rescue Scenarios.

11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Ex Khanjar 2024' commenced at HP

- ✓ "Exercise Khanjar 2024", the 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise, commenced on 22nd January 2024

at Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh(HP).

- ✓ The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 22nd January to 3rd February 2024.
- ✓ Indian Army (IA) contingent of 20 personnel is represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces).
- ✓ Khanjar is an annual exercise held alternatively in India and Kyrgyzstan. The first edition of Ex Khanjar was held in 2011 in Nahan, Himachal Pradesh.

MoS Ajay Bhatt Flagged Off Indigenous Astra Missiles For Supply to IAF

- ✓ The Minister of State (MoS) Ajay Bhatt, Ministry of Defence (MoD) flagged off the indigenously developed and manufactured Astra Missiles for supply to the Indian Air Force(IAF). The flag off ceremony was held at Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)'s Kanchanbagh Unit in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ Astra is a Beyond Visual Range (BVR) class of Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) system
- ✓ Astra is designed to be mounted on fighter aircraft. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by BDL.

Specification:

- Range – 80 -110 km
- Altitude – up to 20 km
- Maximum Speed – Mach 4.5
- Length – 3840 mm

Indian-Thai Navy's First Bilateral Exercise "Ex-Ayutthaya" Conducted

- ✓ The Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) conducted a maiden bilateral exercise, from 20th to 23rd December 2023. The 36th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was also conducted along with the Exercise Ayutthaya. Both the

navies conducted surface and anti-air exercises including weapon firing, seamanship evolutions and tactical manoeuvres.

- ✓ The exercise is named symbolises two of the oldest cities – Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand.
- ✓ Indigenously built Indian Naval Ships (**INS Kulish**) and Indian Navy Landing Craft Utility- 56 (**IN-LCU 56**) participated in the exercise.

INS Cheetah, Guldar and Kumbhir Decommissioned in A&N

- ✓ Three Indian Navy Ships (INS) namely INS Cheetah, INS Guldar and INS Kumbhir were decommissioned simultaneously during a ceremony conducted at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N). All three ships rendered nearly 40 years of glorious service to India.
- ✓ All three ships were built at Gdynia Shipyard, Poland; They belonged to the Polnocny class Landing Ships. The ships were commissioned in 1984 (Cheetah), 1985 (Guldar), and 1986 (Kumbhir)

Indian & Japan Coast Guards Conducts Joint 'Exercise Sahyog Kaijin' off Chennai Coast

- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Japan Coast Guard (JCG) conducted a 5-day annual joint exercise, 'Sahyog Kaijin,' off the coast of Chennai, Tamil Nadu from 8–12 January 2024. This marks the 20th edition joint exercise between the Japanese and Indian Coast Guards since its institution in 2000.

Participating Units

- ✓ ICG: Shaunak, Shaurya, Sujay, Rani Abbakka, Annie Besant, C-440, Sagar Anveshika, Matsya Drishti, Chetak helicopters.

- ✓ JCG: Yahsima and Samudra Paheredar with an integral helicopter.

SAMBHAV: Indian Army's Indigenously Developed End-to-end Secure Mobile Ecosystem

- ✓ The Indian Army has indigenously developed an end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem calledSAMBHAV(Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version) to enhance national defence capabilities.
- ✓ SAMBHAV operates on state-of-the-art contemporary 5G technology and aims to provide secure communication with instant connectivity, even on the move. It was developed in collaboration with the National Centres of Excellence from academia and industry.

Indian Army Declares 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption"

- ✓ The Indian Army has officially declared 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption", symbolising a dedicated commitment to integrating cutting-edge technologies, fostering development, and promoting innovation.
- ✓ The objective is to transform the Indian Army into a modern and agile force, with a strong emphasis on indigenization.
- ✓ Note: The year 2023 was declared as the "Year of Transformation."

India and U.K. signed LoA and MoU for Defence Collaboration in R&D

- ✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a two day visit to the United Kingdom (U.K) on 9 & 10 January 2024 and held the bilateral meeting with his British Counterpart Grant Shapps. The visit also saw signing of LoA and MoU by both the countries.
- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and U.K. on

conduct of bilateral international cadet exchange programme and Letter of Arrangement was signed between Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), India and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), U.K. on defence collaboration in Research and Development (R&D).

Indian Navy Received the 1st Indigenous Drishti 10 Starliner Drone from Adani Defence and Aerospace

- ✓ The Indian Navy received Drishti 10 Starliner (also known as Elbit Hermes 900), the 1st indigenously manufactured Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), manufactured at the Adani Defence and Aerospace (ADA) facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ The drone was unveiled by Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Indian Navy, in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Indian Navy's P-8I Participates in 4th Edition of ASW Exercise Sea Dragon 24 at Guam, USA

- ✓ The Indian Navy's (IN) P8I aircraft participate in the on-going 4th edition of the anti-submarine warfare (ASW) 'Exercise Sea Dragon 24' from January 10th to January 22nd, 2024, held at Anderson Air Force Base in Guam, United States of America (USA).
- ✓ Sea Dragon is an annual, multinational ASW exercise for Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) ASW aircraft conducted by the US Navy.
- ✓ Six countries that are participating in the exercise are India, USA, Australia, Japan, Canada, and the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

DRDO launches Assault Rifle 'Ugram' for Indian Army

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched the "Ugram (ferocious)" assault rifle for the Indian Army (IA).
- ✓ It was unveiled by Shailendra Gade, the Director General of the Armament and Combat Engineering (ACE) system of the DRDO during a program organised at Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune, Maharashtra.

1st India-UAE Joint Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024'

- ✓ Desert Cyclone 2024, the 1st edition of the India-United Arab Emirates (UAE) joint military exercise, commenced in Mahajan, Rajasthan on 2nd January 2024. The 2-week-long Exercise will conclude on 15th January 2024.
- Participants
- ✓ UAE contingent: 45 personnel from the Zayed First Brigade.
- ✓ Indian Army contingent: 45 personnel, primarily by a Battalion from the Mechanised Infantry Regiment.

Seventh Ferry craft 'Manjula' (Yard 786) Delivered to Indian Navy

- ✓ On 29th December 2023, Kolkata (West Bengal) based The Shalimar Works (1980) Limited has delivered the seventh 250 Men Ferry Craft 'Manjula' (Yard 786) to the Indian Navy (IN).
- ✓ The delivery of the ship concludes the contract for construction of seven 250 Men Ferry Craft with Shalimar Works Limited.
- ✓ The contract is in line with the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' initiatives of the Government of India (GoI).

AWARDS AND HONOURS

BJP co-founder Lal Krishna Advani and former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur (posthumously) were awarded Bharat Ratna for the year 2024.

- ✓ Droupadi Murmu, President of India, announced the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, to BJP co-founder Lal Krishna Advani and former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur (posthumously) for the year 2024.
- ✓ The last Bharat Ratna award was conferred upon Pranab Mukherjee in 2019 and was posthumously awarded to Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika and Nanaji Deshmukh. The award was not given to anyone between 2020 and 2023.
- ✓ The Bharat Ratna has been granted to 50 individuals so far, with 15 posthumously.

About LK Advani

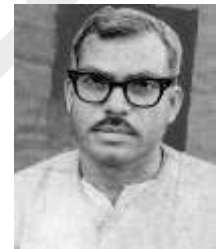
- ✓ BJP co-founder and the man behind the Ram Janambhoomi movement, Lal Krishna Advani, with Bharat Ratna. He will be the 50th recipient of the highest civilian award since its inception and 7th during the Modi Government regime.
- ✓ LK Advani served as the 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004.



About Karpoori Thakur

- ✓ Karpoori Thakur was born on 24 January 1924 in a village in Samastipur district, Bihar. The village of his birth was later named Karpuri Gram.

- ✓ He served as the CM of Bihar for two terms, from December 1970 to June 1971; and from June 1977 to 1979. He was the first non-Congress socialist leader to serve as CM twice.
- ✓ He becomes the 49th recipient of Bharat Ratna, and the 15th to be accorded posthumously.
- ✓ He was well-known for his efforts to uplift the backward classes in Bihar and was often referred to as "Jan Nayak" (People's Leader/Hero). The announcement was made on the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of Karpoori Thakur (24th January 2024).
- ✓ On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of the Late Karpoori Thakur, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) released a commemorative coin of denomination Rs 100 and a postage stamp featuring Karpoori Thakur at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.



About Bharat Ratna

- ✓ It was instituted in 1954 and is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
- ✓ The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President.
- ✓ The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of 3 in a particular year. The award includes a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
- ✓ The Award does not carry any monetary grant.

List of Bharat Ratna award winners (1954 – 2024)	
1954	1988
1. C.Rajagopalachari	21.MG Ramachandran (Posthumous)
2.Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1990
3.CV Raman	22.BR Ambedkar (Posthumous)
1955	23.Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
4.Bhagwan Das	1991
5.Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya	24.Rajiv Gandhi (Posthumous)
6.Jawaharlal Nehru	25.Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Posthumous)
1957	26.Morarji Ranchhodji Desai
7.Govind Ballabh Pant	1992
1958	27.Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Posthumous)
8.Dhondo Keshav Karve	28.Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata
1961	29.Satyajit Ray
9. Bidhan Chandra Roy	1997
10.Purushottam Das Tandon	30.Gulzari Lal Nanda
1962	31.Aruna Asaf Ali (Posthumous)
11.Dr. Rajendra Prasad	32.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
1963	1998
12.Zakir Husain	33.MS Subbulakshmi
13.Pandurang Vaman Kane	34.Chidambaram Subramaniam
1966	1999
14.Lal Bahadur Shastri (Posthumous)	35.Jayaprakash Narayan (Posthumous)
1971	36.Amartya Sen
15.Indira Gandhi	37.Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi (Posthumous)
1975	38.Ravi Shankar
16.Varahagiri Venkata Giri	2001
1976	39.Lata Mangeshkar
17.Kumaraswamy Kamraj (Posthumous)	40.Ustad Bismillah Khan
1980	2009
18.Mother Teresa	41.Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi
1983	2014
19.Vinoba Bhave (Posthumous)	42.C. N. R. Rao
1987	43.Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar
20.Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan	2015
	44.Atal Bihari Vajpayee

45.Madan Mohan Malaviya (Posthumous)
2019
46.Nanaji Deshmukh (Posthumous)
47.Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika (Posthumous)
48.Pranab Mukherjee
2024
49.Karpoori Thakur (Posthumous)
50. LK Advani

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024

- ✓ The Ministry of Women and Child Development announced the recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) for the year 2024. The 2024 awardees include 9 boys and 10 girls, from 18 States and Union Territories (UTs) including 2 Aspirational Districts.
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu will confer the awards during the award ceremony, which
- ✓ will be held in Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi on 22nd January 2024.
- ✓ The award is annually presented to children aged 5-18 from India for their exceptional abilities and outstanding achievements in 7 fields – Bravery; Sports; Social Service; Science & Technology; Environment; Arts & Culture; and Innovation.

Winners

1.Aaditya Vijay Bramhane (posthumous), Maharashtra -Bravery
2.Anushka Pathak ,Uttar Pradesh - Art & Culture
3. Arijeet Banerjee ,West Bengal - Art & Culture
4. Armaan Ubhrani, Chattisgarh - Art & Culture
5. H K Khimsuriya, Gujarat - Art & Culture
6. Ishfaq Hamid, J & K- Art & Culture
7. Md Hussain ,Bihar - Art & Culture
8. P. Laxmi Priya, Telangana - Art & Culture

9. Suhani Chauhan, Delhi -Innovation
10. Aryan Singh, Rajasthan - Science & Tech.
11.Avnish Tiwari, MP- Social Service
12. Garima, Haryana - Social Service
13. Jyotsna Aktar, Tripura - Social Service
14. Saiyam Mazumder, Assam -Social Service
15. Aaditya Yadav ,Uttar Pradesh -Sports
16. Charvi A, Karnataka -Sports
17.Jesicca Neyi Saring Arunachal Pradesh-Sports
18. Linthoi Chanambam ,Manipur -Sports
19. R Surya Prasad ,Andhra Pradesh- Sports

Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023: Indore & Surat Adjudged as 'Cleanest Cities' in India

- ✓ Droupadi Murmu, President of India, presented the Swachh Survekshan (Cleanliness Survey) Awards 2023 at the ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ Surat (Gujarat) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh/MP) were jointly recognised as the cleanest city in India under category of cities with a population more than 1 lakh. For 7 consecutive years (since 2016), Indore city, Madhya Pradesh has been ranked as the cleanest city in India.
- ✓ During the event, 13 awardees received felicitations under the categories of Clean Cities, Cleanest Cantonment, SafaiMitra Suraksha, Ganga Towns, and Best Performing State. A total of 110 awards were presented during the award ceremony.
- ✓ "Swachh Survekshan 2023 – Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan" is the 8th edition of the cleanliness survey started in 2016 by MoHUA under Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM).

- ✓ Theme: The theme of SS 2023: “Waste to Wealth” highlights that wealth should be created out of waste, which will help overall cleanliness.
- ✓ “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” has been set as the theme of SS 2024.

Overall Winners

- ✓ **All India Clean City (Population > 1 lakh):**
1. Surat (Gujarat) & Indore (MP), 3 Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- ✓ **All India Clean City (Population < 1 lakh):**
1.Sasvad(Maharashtra),2.Patan(Chhattisgarh)
3. Lonavala(Pune, Maharashtra).

Fast Moving City:
Population >1 lakh
1.Panaji (Goa), 2 Guntur(Andhra Pradesh-AP)
Population <1 lakh
1.Nowrozabad (MP) 2. Amarkantak(MP)
Other Awards
Cleanest Ganga Town
1. Varanasi(Uttar Pradesh-UP)
2 .Prayagraj(UP)
Best Performing State
1. Maharashtra
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Chhattisgarh
Best Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar
Chandigarh
Cleanest Cantonment Board
MHOW Cantonment Board
Zonal Clean City Awards
Population < 15000
North -Barwar (UP)
East -Chikiti (Odisha)
North East -Jiribam (Manipur)
South -Kilvelur (Tamil Nadu/TN)
West -Panchgani (Maharashtra)

Population between 15000 – 25000
North- Mullanpur Dakha(Punjab)
East -Arang(Chhattisgarh)
North East- Mohanpur(Tripura)
South -Gundlapochampally(Telangana)
West -Budni(MP)
Population between 25000-50000
North- Anupshahr(UP)
East - Kumhari(Chhattisgarh)
North- East Golaghat(Assam)
South- Nizampet(Telangana)
West - Gadhinglaj(Maharashtra)
Population between 50000-1 lakh
North - Gajraula (UP)
East - Mahasamund (Chhattisgarh)
North East - Lunglei(Mizoram)
South - Siddipet (Telangana)
West - Karhad(Maharashtra)

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2022

- ✓ Droupadi Murmu, President of India, honoured the Four winners of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (TNNA) 2022 during the Sports and Adventure Award 2023 event held in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The 4 winners of TNNA 2022 are: Savita Kanswal (posthumous), Praveen Singh, Tulsi Chaitanya Mothukuri, and Anshu Kumar Tiwari. TNNA award honours the achievements of individuals in adventure sports.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino Receives Award for International Sports Personality for 2023

- ✓ Gianni Infantino, President of the International Federation of Association

Football (FIFA), received the Award for International Sports Personality for 2023 at the 12th annual Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Awards held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).



- ✓ He received the award in recognition of FIFA's impactful contributions to football development through various means, including Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology, doping detection, and player injury monitoring.

81st Golden Globe Award 2024: Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" bagged 5 Awards

- ✓ 81st edition of Golden Globe Awards (2024) held on 8th January, 2024 at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, United States of America (U.S.A.).
- ✓ The Golden Globe Awards held annually and are presented by Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA).
- ✓ The 2024 award recognizes excellence in film both American and International, and American T.V. 2023.
- ✓ Five-time Oscar nominee Christopher Nolan's film "Oppenheimer" steals the entire spotlight at 81st Golden Globe Awards by securing 5 awards in coveted categories such as: Best Film in Drama, Best Actor in Drama, Best Supporting Actor and for best original score by Ludwig Goransson.
- ✓ Cillian Murphy won the Golden Globe for best male actor in Drama for his role as the father of the atomic bomb "J. Robert Oppenheimer".



Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay Named for 2023 Kuvempu Award

- ✓ Bengali writer and novelist, Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay (87), has been honoured with the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2023 by the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust. The award recognises the litterateurs who had contributed to any language recognised by the constitution of India.

Former US President Barack Obama won 75th Creative Arts Emmy Awards: Outstanding Narrator

- ✓ Barack Obama, former President of the United States of America(USA) (2009-2017), won the 75th Creative Arts Emmy Award under the Outstanding Narrator category for his Netflix documentary series title Working: What We Do All Day "The Middle". Previously, he won the award in the same category in 2022 for the Netflix documentary series Our Great National Parks "A World Of Wonder".

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023

- ✓ On 4th January 2023, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports(MoYAS) announced the winners of 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' 2023 which recognises the corporate entities and individuals for outstanding contribution in the area of sports promotion and development. The 2023 award was announced under 2 categories:
 - ✓ **Category 1** : Identification and nurturing of budding / young talent
 - ✓ **Winner**: Jain Deemed to be University, Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - ✓ **Category 2** : Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility
 - ✓ **Winner**: Odisha Mining Corporate Limited Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

SPORTS

Shubman Gill and Deepti Sharma Win Best International Cricketers of 2022- 23

- ✓ Shubman Gill won the best men's international cricketer (Polly Umrigar Award) of 2022-23 in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Awards(Naman Awards) 2024 held in Hyderabad,Telangana. 
- ✓ Deepti Sharma won the best women's international cricketer of 2022-23.
- ✓ Ravichandran Ashwin won the Dilip Sardesai Award for finishing as the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket – 2022-23.
- ✓ He also won the Polly Umrigar Award 2020-21 for the second time, earlier he got it in 2012-13.
- ✓ Kashvee Gautam won the Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy for the Best Women Cricketer (Jr Domestic) of 2019-20.
- ✓ Former India all-rounder and coach Ravi Shastri and former Indian wicket-keeper batsman Farokh Engineer were awarded the Col. C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ✓ BCCI Awards for the past four seasons (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23) were awarded jointly at the 2024 Awards ceremony.

India Won Eight Medals in Asian Shotgun Championships 2024

- ✓ The Indian contingent won 8 medals(1 Gold, 3 Silver, and 4 Bronze) in the Asian Shotgun Championships 2024 held at the Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex in Kuwait City, Kuwait from 12-22 January 2024.

- ✓ India ranked fifth in the medal tally with 8 medals while China secured first position with 13 medals(5 Gold, 6 Silver, and 2 Bronze).
- ✓ India's only gold medal at the Asian Shotgun Championships 2024 won by the women's skeet team comprising Ganemat Sekhon, Maheshwari Chauhan, and Raiza Dhillon.
- ✓ Two Indian shooters Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Raiza Dhillon qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics from this tournament.

Opening Ceremony of Khelo India Youth Games 2023 in Chennai

- ✓ PM Modi was the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony of the 6th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2023 held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. This is the first time that Khelo India Youth Games are being held in South India.
- ✓ The KIYG will be held in Four cities in Tamil Nadu- Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, and Coimbatore from 19th to 31st January 2024.
- ✓ Mascot for the games is Veera Mangai inspired by Rani Velu Nachiyar who waged a war against British colonial rule
- ✓ The logo for the games incorporates the figure of poet Thiruvalluvar.
- ✓ Over 5600 athletes will be participating in this edition of Khelo India Youth Games, in 15 venues with 26 sporting disciplines, over 275 competitive events, and 1 demo sport.
- ✓ **Silambam**, a traditional sport of Tamil Nadu, is being introduced as a demo sport for the first time in the history of the Khelo India Youth Games.
- ✓ The 26 games include conventional sports such as Football, Volleyball, Badminton, etc., and traditional sports such as

Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang ta, Kabaddi, and Yogasana

India's Satwiksairaj and Chirag Wins Silver Medal in Men's Doubles of India Open Badminton 2024

- ✓ Indian badminton pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the silver medal(Runners-up) in the men's doubles of Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2024 held from 16th-21st January 2024 in K. D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ In the finals of the men's doubles, the Indian pair lost to South Korean pair Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae (Gold medallists).
- ✓ India Open 2024 is a Badminton World Federation (BWF) Super 750 tournament.



India Open 2024 winners
Men's singles: Shi Yu Qi (China)
Women's singles: Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei)
Men's doubles: Kang Min Hyuk – Seo Seung Jae (South Korea)
Women's doubles: Mayu Matsumoto – Wakana Nagahara (Japan)
Mixed doubles: Dechapol Puavaranukroh – Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand)

Malaysia Open – 9th to 14th January 2024

- ✓ Satwiksairaj and Chirag also won the silver medal(Runners-up) in the men's doubles after they lost to Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang(Winner – Gold Medal) of China in the PETRONAS Malaysia Open 2024.

Tata Group Secures Title Sponsorship Rights for IPL 2024-28

- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced TATA Group as the title sponsor for the Indian Premier League

(IPL) from 2024 to 2028, extending their partnership for a 5-year term.

- ✓ BCCI awards the sponsorship for a value of Rs. 2500 crore. This deal sets a new record for the highest-ever sponsorship amount in IPL history. TATA Group previously held the title sponsorship rights for the IPL in 2022 and 2023.
- ✓ TATA Group is also the title sponsor of the Women's Premier League, the biggest women's T20 league in the world.

Best FIFA Football Awards 2023: Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati Won Best Men's & Women's Player Award

- ✓ The Best FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) Football Awards ceremony 2023 was held in London (United Kingdom) on 15th January 2024.
- ✓ Lionel Messi (Argentina) won the Best FIFA Men's Player 2023 Award, while Aitana Bonmati (Spain) won the Best FIFA Women's Player 2023 Award.
- ✓ This marks Messi's eighth individual FIFA award, including in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2022, and 2023.
- ✓ Aitana Bonmatí(Spain) also received the Ballon d'Or award and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) award in 2023.



Virat Kohli Won Pubity Sport Men's Athlete of Year 2023 Award

- ✓ Indian cricketer Virat Kohli won the Pubity Sport Men's Athlete of the Year 2023 Award by defeating Argentine footballer Lionel Messi in the final clash of the online poll in which Kohli got 78 percent out of the total votes while Messi got remaining 22 percent.

- ✓ Spanish footballer Aitana bonmati (76%)wins Pubity female Athlete of The Year 2023 Award by defeating American tennis player Coco Gauff (24%).

Australian Cricketer David Warner Retires from ODI & Test Cricket

- ✓ Australian batsman David Warner announced his retirement from one-day international (ODI) cricket and test cricket during his last test match against Pakistan, held from 3-6 January 2024 in Sydney, Australia.
- ✓ David Warner made his test debut in 2011 against New Zealand in Brisbane, Australia. He made his ODI debut in 2009 against South Africa.

Germany wins United Cup 2024 title by Defeating Poland in Finals

- ✓ The German tennis team won the United Cup 2024 title by defeating Poland 2-1 in the finals held at the Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney, Australia. 
- ✓ The second edition of the United Cup was held from 29th December 2023 – 7th January 2024 in Perth and Sydney, Australia.
- ✓ Each tie (round) in the United Cup 2024 features three matches (men's singles, women's singles, and mixed doubles).
- ✓ Germany's Alexander Zverev (6th in the ATP ranking) defeated Poland's Hubert Hurkacz (9th ranked) in the men's singles finals.
- ✓ In the women's singles finals, Poland's Iga Swiatek (1st in WTA ranking) defeated Angelique Kerber (Germany).
- ✓ In the mixed doubles event, Alexander Zverev and Laura Siegemund (Germany) defeated Hubert Hurkacz and Iga Swiatek (Poland) in the finals.

2023 World Blitz Chess Championships: Norway's Magnus Carlsen won his 7th title & Russia's Valentina Gunina won her 2nd title

- ✓ Norwegian Grandmaster and World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen won the title at the 2023 World Blitz Chess Championships (open tournament) held at the Samarkand Congress Center, Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 29th to 30th December 2023. This marks Carlsen's 7th World Blitz championship title and 17th World Championship title. He has totally won 17 World Championship titles, which include 5 rapid titles, 7 blitz titles, and 5 classical titles. 
- ✓ Russia's Valentina Gunina won the title in the Women's Blitz tournament. This marks her 2nd World Blitz title. she previously won the title in 2012.

FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship 2023: Magnus Carlsen Wins 5th title, Koneru Humpy wins Silver

- ✓ Norwegian Grandmaster (GM) and World No.1, Magnus Carlsen won 2023 International Chess Federation (FIDE) World Rapid Chess title (Men) held at Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 26 December to 28 December 2023. This title marks Magnus Carlsen's 5th World Rapid Chess Championship title. 
- ✓ Russian chess player Anastasia Bodnaruk (neutral Fide flag) won the 2023 FIDE World Rapid Chess Women's title by defeating Indian Chess Grandmaster, Koneru Humpy in a tiebreaker match to secure first place.

- ✓ Koneru Humpy won her 1st medal (bronze) at World Rapid Chess Championship in year 2012. She was crowned (Gold medal) World Rapid Championship title in year 2019, and Silver medal in 2023.

IOA Forms 3-member Ad Hoc Committee to Run Operations of Suspended WFI

- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) constituted a 3-member ad hoc committee to run the day-to-day operations of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). This comes after the suspension of the WFI's governing council by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS). The IOA appointed Bhupinder Singh Bajwa, the President of Wushu Association of India as chairman of the ad hoc committee.

Australian Open 2024: Jannik Sinner & Aryna Sabalenka Win Men's & Women's Singles

- ✓ Jannik Sinner of Italy won the men's singles title, while Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus won the women's singles title at the Australian Open (AO) 2024 held at Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne, Australia.



Men's Singles

- ✓ Jannik Sinner won the men's singles title by defeating Daniil Medvedev in the finals. Jannik Sinner was presented with the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup, named after Sir Norman Brookes (1877-1968), a former Australian tennis champion.
- ✓ This is the first grand slam title win for Jannik Sinner. Sinner is the first person from

Italy to win the Australian Open singles title in the Open era.

Women's Singles

- ✓ Aryna Sabalenka defeated Zheng Qinwen of China to win her second consecutive women's singles title at the Australian Open, including her win in 2023. This marks her second Grand Slam title including her win in 2023 & 2024 Australian Open.

Women's Doubles

- ✓ Elise Mertens and Hsieh Su-wei won the women's doubles title by defeating Lyudmyla Kichenok and Jelena Ostapenko in the finals. This marks Mertens and Hsieh's second Grand Slam victory after they won at Wimbledon in 2021.

Men's Doubles

- ✓ Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden defeated Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in the finals of the men's doubles. This marks Bopanna's second grand slam title, following his Roland Garros (French Open) mixed doubles victory along with Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) in 2017.
- ✓ Rohan Bopanna also became the oldest world No. 1 in the Pepperstone Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) men's doubles at 43 years and 331 days Rankings as per the list released by ATP on 29th January 2024.

Mixed Doubles

- ✓ Hsieh Su-wei and Jan Zielinski won the mixed doubles title by defeating Desirae Krawczyk and Neal Skupski in the finals. This marks the first major mixed doubles title for both Hsieh and Zielinski.
- ✓ Australian Open 2024, the 112th edition of the Australian Open, the 56th in the Open Era, and the first major/Grand Slam of the year 2024 was held from 14-28 January 2024. The Australian Open is played on **hard** courts.

OBITUARIES

Renowned Classical Singer Prabha Atre Passed Away

- ✓ Prabha Atre, a Hindustani classical vocalist, who received all 3 Padma Awards from the government of India passed away in Pune, Maharashtra at the age of 92. She was born on 13 September 1932 in Pune. She was one of the senior-most, and leading female vocalists in India representing the Kirana Gharana of Hindustani classical music.
- ✓ She was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1990; Padma Bhushan in 2002; and Padma Vibhushan in 2022 for Arts.



Renowned Urdu Poet Munawwar Rana Passed Away

- ✓ Renowned Urdu poet Munawwar Rana passed away at the age of 71 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP). He was born on 26th November 1952 in Raebareilly, UP.
- ✓ He was particularly recognized for his ghazals, a poetic form consisting of rhyming couplets and a refrain. One of his most popular poems was 'Maa', celebrating the virtues of a mother in traditional ghazal form.
- ✓ He was awarded the Gyanpeeth Award in 2014.
- ✓ He was also awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2014 for his poetry book 'Shahdaba'. However, he returned the award due to political reasons in 2015.

Music Maestro & Padma Awardee Ustad Rashid Khan Passed Away

- ✓ Renowned Hindustani classical singer and music maestro, and Padma awardee, Ustad Rashid Khan (55) passed away in Kolkata,

West Bengal. He was born on 1st July 1968, in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- ✓ Ustad Rashid Khan belongs to Rampur-Sahaswan gayaki (style of singing) which is related to the Gwalior gharana.
- ✓ He was the great-grandson of Inayat Hussain Khan who founded Rampur-Sahaswan style of singing. In 1994, ITC Sangeet Research Academy (SRA), Kolkata, acknowledged him as a musician at the academy.

Tamil actor and Politician Vijayakanth Passes Away at 71

- ✓ Tamil actor and the founder of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), Vijayakanth, passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). DMDK is a regional political party in TN. Vijayakanth started his political career in 2005 by forming DMDK and contested in 2006 TN Legislative Assembly Election.
- ✓ He served as a Leader of the Opposition in TN Legislative Assembly from 2011 to 2016.
- ✓ He served as a Member of Legislative Assembly (TN) twice, representing the constituencies of Virudhachalam (2006) and Rishivandiyam (2011), respectively.



Padma Bhushan Awardee Prof Ved Prakash Nanda Passes Away

- ✓ Professor Ved Prakash Nanda, a luminary in the Indian diaspora, recently passed away, leaving behind a legacy of profound contributions to literature, education, and international law. Born in 1934 in Gujranwala, British India, his journey transcended borders as his family migrated to India after the partition in 1947.

APPOINTMENTS

Daljit Singh Chaudhary Appointed as DG of Sashastra Seema Bal

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary as the Director General (DG) of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) with effect from the date of joining till 30th November 2025 (the date of his superannuation).
- ✓ He succeeds Rashmi Shukla, who served as the DG of SSB from March 2023 to January 2024. Prior to this appointment, Daljit Singh Chaudhary was serving as Special DG of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ✓ On 4th January 2024, Rashmi Shukla was appointed as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Maharashtra. She became the first woman officer to hold the post.



Bernardo Arévalo Sworn in as President of Guatemala

- ✓ César Bernardo Arévalo de León, an anti-corruption leader, was sworn in as President of Guatemala. He is the leader of the social democratic Movimiento Semilla Party. Bernardo Arévalo succeeded Alejandro Giammattei, a leader of the right-wing party Vamos. The Guatemala Presidential election was conducted in August 2023.



Praveen Achuthan Kutty Appointed as MD & CEO of DCB Bank

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Praveen Achuthan Kutty as the Managing Director

(MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DCB Bank Limited (formerly known as Development Credit Bank) for 3 years with effect from April 29, 2024.

- ✓ He will succeed Murali M Natrajan, the incumbent MD and CEO of DCB bank, whose tenure is set to end on 28th April 2024. He has been holding the post since 2009.



Frederik X Proclaimed as New King of Denmark

- ✓ Frederik André Henrik Christian (Frederik X) (55 years), Crown Prince of Denmark, was proclaimed as the new king of Denmark by its Prime Minister (PM) Mette Frederiksen.



- ✓ King Frederik X takes throne after the abdication of his mother Queen Margrethe II at Christiansborg Palace on 14 January 2024.
- ✓ He served at the Danish Embassy in Paris (France) and at Denmark's United Nations (UN) mission in New York, the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ Queen Margrethe II has become Denmark's first monarch to abdicate the throne in nearly 900 years.

Taiwan VP William Lai Ching-te Won Presidential Election

- ✓ William Lai Ching-te (64 years) of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the Taiwan Presidential election with 40.05% of the vote and has been elected as the President of Taiwan. He will



succeed Tsai Ing-Wen, the current and the first female president of Taiwan. The formal swearing-in ceremony will be held in May 2024 in Taiwan and Lai Ching-te will be holding the post for 4 years(till 2028).

- ✓ William Lai Ching-te has been serving as the Vice President of Taiwan since 2020.

Indra Mani Pandey appointed as 4th SG of BIMSTEC; becomes 1st Indian to hold the post

- ✓ On 4th January 2024, Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey took charge as the 4th Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). With this, Pandey becomes the first Indian to hold the post. He will remain SG for a period of 3 years.
- ✓ He succeeds Tenzin Lekphell of Bhutan, who served as the 3rd SG of BIMSTEC from 6 November 2020 to 5 November 2023.
- ✓ Pandey has been serving as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations(UN) and other International Organisations in Geneva, Switzerland since September 2020.



Gabriel Attal Appointed as Youngest-ever PM of France; PM Élisabeth Borne Resigns

- ✓ French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed 34-year-old Gabriel Attal as the New Prime Minister (PM) of France. With this, Attal becomes the youngest-ever PM of France since the founding of the French Fifth Republic in 1958. He is also the first openly gay PM of France.



- ✓ Gabriel Attal replaces Élisabeth Borne, who resigned after 20 months in office on 8 January 2024. She was appointed as the PM of France in May 2022.
- ✓ Prior to the appointment, Attal has been serving as the Minister of National Education and Youth (since July 2023).
- ✓ The record of youngest PM of France was previously held by Laurent Fabius, who was 37 years old when he was named PM of France in 1984.

Justice BR Gavai Nominated As Chairperson of SCLSC

- ✓ The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has nominated Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna (BR) Gavai, a judge of the Supreme Court of India, as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC). He succeeds Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the senior most puisne judge of the Supreme court.

Sanjiv Khanna Appointed as Executive Chairman of NALSA

- ✓ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, in exercise of the powers conferred under Clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has nominated Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the Executive Chairperson of NALSA with effect from 26th December 2023.
- ✓ He succeeds Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, who retired on 25th December 2023.

Sheikh Hasina won 5th Term as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh

- ✓ Sheikh Hasina (76), President of Awami League and incumbent Prime Minister of Bangladesh has been re-elected as the PM for the 5th term. This also



marks's her 4th consecutive term as PM of Bangladesh. With this win, Sheikh Hasina retains her title as world's longest-serving female head of state.

- ✓ She was elected as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the first time in 1996. She was re-elected as PM of Bangladesh in 2008, 2014 and 2018.
- ✓ Sheikh Hasina is a daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father and first President of Bangladesh. He was killed during the 1975 Bangladeshi coup d'état along with most of his family members.

Bangladesh General Election 2024

- ✓ Awami League won the Bangladesh General Election 2024 held on 7th January 2024 securing 216 seats out of 224 seats. This marks Awami League's 4th consecutive term. The 12th parliamentary election has recorded the 2nd lowest voter turnout since the reinstatement of democracy in 1991.

Former IPL official Raghuram Iyer Appointed as CEO of IOA

- ✓ On January 5, 2024, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Raghuram Iyer as the its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Previously, he has served as the CEO of Indian Premier League (IPL) teams such as Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Super Giants and Rising Pune Supergiant.
- ✓ Raghuram Iyer was unanimously selected for the post by IOA Nomination Committee.
- ✓ Prior to this appointment, the functions of the CEO at IOA were managed by Kalyan Chaubey, the joint secretary of the IOA and the President of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).



Canara Bank CGM P Santhosh Appointed as MD & CEO of NARCL

- ✓ P Santhosh, Chief General Manager (CGM) of Canara Bank, has been appointed (on deputation) as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Asset Reconstruction of India Limited (NARCL) with effect from 5th January 2024.
- ✓ He succeeds Natarajan Sundar, MD & CEO of NARCL (from 2022), who resigned from the post. Santhosh will hold the post until the appointment of a regular CEO.

Ravindra Kumar Tyagi Took Charge as CMD of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

- ✓ Ravindra Kumar Tyagi assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) with effect from 1 January 2024. Before this, he was serving as Director (Operations) of POWERGRID. He succeeded Kandikuppa Sreekant, who was superannuated on 31 December 2023. He has been the CMD of POWERGRID since August 2019.

Sanjiv Aggarwal Appointed as MD & CEO of NIIFL

- ✓ On 5th January 2023, Sanjiv Aggarwal, Partner (Energy Infrastructure), Actis, was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive officer (CEO) of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL), with effect from February 2024. He will succeed Rajiv Dhar, who has been serving as interim MD and CEO of NIIFL since May 2023.

Succes Masra Appointed as Chad's Prime Minister

- ✓ Succes Masra, president of 'The Transformers' party and former opposition

leader, was appointed as the Prime Minister (PM) of the Republic of Chad by transitional government under the presidentship of General Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno following a referendum.

- ✓ Succes Masra will replace Saleh Kebzabo who resigned from the post in December 2023.

Kuwait Emir Appoints Sheikh Mohammed Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah as PM of Kuwait

- ✓ Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, has appointed Sheikh Mohammed Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah as the Prime Minister (PM) of Kuwait and has been tasked to form a new cabinet.
- ✓ He succeeds Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the son of late Emir Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been serving as the PM of Kuwait since 2022.



Shashi Kumar Singh Elected as President of All India Rubber Industries Association

- ✓ Shashi Kumar Singh, Director of Osaka Rubber Private Limited, was elected as the President of All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA) (2023-24), the apex body for rubber industries in India.
- ✓ He will succeed Ramesh Kejriwal, who served as the President of AIRIA from 2022-23. Prior to the appointment, Shashi Singh was serving as the senior vice president (VP) within AIRIA.

Congo President Félix Tshisekedi Re-Elected for 2nd term

- ✓ Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, the leader of Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) party, was re-elected as the President of the Democratic Republic of

Congo (DRC) for the 2nd term. He is set to be sworn in as the President of Congo on 20th January 2024.

Nadia Calviño of Spain took over as 1st Woman President of European Investment Bank

- ✓ On 1st January 2024, Nadia Calviño Santamaría, a Spanish economist and civil servant, took over as the 8th President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), the lending arm of the European Union (EU).
- ✓ With this appointment, she became the first woman President of EIB. She succeeds Werner Hoyer of Germany, who held the post since 2012.



Nina Singh Appointed as 1st Woman DG of CISF

- ✓ Nina Singh was appointed as the 1st woman Director General (DG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). She will hold the post till her superannuation on July 31, 2024. She was holding the additional charge of DG of CISF from August 2023 following the superannuation of Sheel Vardhan Singh, who held the position from November 2021 to August 2023.

Anish Dayal Appointed as DG of CRPF

- ✓ Anish Dayal Singh, DG of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was appointed as the full-time DG of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) till his superannuation on 31 December 2024. He was holding the additional DG, CRPF charge following S L Thaoson's retirement on 30 November 2023. Rahul Rasgotra succeeded Anish Dayal Singh and will be the new DG of ITBP till the date of his superannuation on 30 September 2025.

REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

RBI Report: Panchayats Need to Intensify Their Efforts to Increase Own Revenues

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s report titled 'Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions' states that Panchayats has to boost their efforts to increase their own revenues (which includes tax and non tax revenue) and improve their governance towards sustainable growth.
- ✓ According to the report, the own revenues of the panchayats accounts for **only 1.1%** of their total revenue.
- ✓ The non-tax revenue of Panchayats (from Panchayati Raj programmes and interest earning) accounted for 3.3% of its total earning. About 95% of their revenue comes from grants, limiting their spending.
- ✓ The report presents an analysis of Panchayats finances and their role in India's socio-economic development. The report has been prepared in the Division of Local Finances (DLF) of the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR). The assessment covered around 75% of the total number of Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in India.

Brand Finance Global 500 2024 Report: Reliance Jio becomes World's 17th strongest brand; WeChat Tops in the list

- ✓ As per the 18th "Global 500 2024" annual report by Brand Finance, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio continues to be India's top and strongest brand, ranked 17th among the world's strongest brands in 2024, with a brand strength index (BSI) of 88.9 out of 100.

- ✓ Globally, WeChat topped the list with a 94.3 BSI followed by YouTube (92.7), and Google (92.5) in the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively in the strongest brands of 2024.
- ✓ The other Indian brands featured in the list are Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), ranked 23rd followed by the State Bank of India (SBI) ranked 24th.

Global Firepower's 2024 Military Strength Ranking: India ranked 4th; USA Tops

- ✓ According to the 2024 Military Strength Ranking released by Global Firepower(GFP), India is ranked as the 4th most powerful military in the world. The United States of America (USA) tops the list followed by Russia and China in the 2nd and 3rd place respectively.
- ✓ The World's top 4 military powers have maintained their positions since 2006.
- ✓ The countries among top 10 include South Korea(5th),UK(6th);Japan(7th);Türkiye(8th); Pakistan (9th) and Italy (10th).
- ✓ In the 2024 list, Bhutan has ranked (145th) as the least powerful military with a PwrIdx of 6.3704, after Moldova (4.2311), Suriname (3.9038), Somalia(3.9006) and Benin(3.8912).
- ✓ About the ranking:
- ✓ The Military Strength Ranking of GFP evaluates the military capabilities based on over 60 factors like manpower, equipment, natural resources, finances, and geography across land, sea, and air.
- ✓ The factors determine the country's PowerIndex (PwrIdx) Score. The lower PwrIdx indicates stronger military capabilities. 0.0000 is considered a perfect

score. The 2024 ranking has reviewed a total of 145 world powers.

- ✓ According to the GFP analysis, the USA spends the most money on its military with a USD 831 billion defence budget followed by China with USD 227 billion, Russia with USD 107 billion and India with USD 74 million. The USA accounts for 63.3% of the total expenditure share.

Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka are Best Performing States in Startup Ranking 2022

- ✓ On the occasion of 8th National Startup Day 2024 (on January 16, 2024) the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued the 4th edition of 'States' Startup Ranking 2022- On support to Startup Ecosystems of States and Union Territories.
- ✓ In the State's Startup Ranking 2022, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu (TN) emerged as the best-performing States in Category A (Population above 1 Cr) for developing startup ecosystems for budding entrepreneurs while Himachal Pradesh is emerged as the best performer in Category B (Population below 1 Cr).
- ✓ In this ranking exercise, 33 states and Union Territories (UTs) were evaluated across five performance categories viz. best performers, top performers, leaders, aspiring leaders and emerging startup ecosystems.
- ✓ The evaluation period was from August 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022, considering their compliance and progress.
- ✓ The assessment focused on 7 reform areas with 25 action points, contributing to a



maximum score of 100 marks, including feedback.

- ✓ States were ranked based on initiatives for developing startup ecosystems, categorized by population size i.e. Category A & B.
- ✓ The ranking involves five grading groups viz. best performers (percentile: 90-100), top performers (percentile: 70-89), leaders (percentile: 50-69), aspiring leaders (percentile: 30-49) and emerging startups ecosystems (percentile: up to 30).
- ✓ There are 5 Best Performers, 7 Top Performers, 8 Leader, 4 Aspiring Leader, and 9 Emerging Ecosystems in the following Category A and Category B of the ranking:
 - Category A**
 - ✓ i. Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana were named the top performers.
 - ✓ ii. Andhra Pradesh (AP), Assam, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Uttar Pradesh (UP), and Uttarakhand were named leaders.
 - ✓ iii. Bihar and Haryana were named as aspiring leaders.
 - ✓ iv. Chhattisgarh, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) named as emerging ecosystems.
 - Category B**
 - ✓ i. Arunachal Pradesh (AR) and Meghalaya were the top performers in this category.
 - ✓ ii. Goa, Manipur, and Tripura placed in the list of leader.
 - ✓ iii. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Nagaland were named as aspiring leaders.
 - ✓ iv. Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Ladakh, Mizoram, Puducherry, and Sikkim named as emerging ecosystems.

NITI Aayog Report: Over 24.8 Cr People Moved Out of Multidimensional Poverty in 9 Years

- ✓ The National Institution for Transforming India's (NITI Aayog) discussion paper on the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 'National Multidimensional Poverty: A Progress Review - 2023,' has reduced India's Multidimensional poverty from 29.17% (2013-14) to 11.28% (2022-23), with about 24.82 crore individuals emerged from poverty during this transformative period.
- ✓ At the State level, Uttar Pradesh leads the list with 5.94 crore people escaping poverty, followed by Bihar at 3.77 crore and Madhya Pradesh at 2.30 crore.
- ✓ With this rate of decline in India's Multidimensional Poverty, India is expected to reach a single-digit level of poverty by the year 2024-25.
- ✓ The report on the National MPI was based on the data from the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) 4 (2015-16) and 5 (2019-21), showing that 13.5 crore people escaped poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.



IEA's Renewables 2023 report: The world added 50% more renewable energy in 2023 compared to 2022

- ✓ International Energy Agency (IEA) released the report titled "Renewables 2023". It highlighted the important finding of the report that the world added 50% more renewable energy capacity in 2023 compared to 2022 but it also mentioned that still world need to adopt more robust efforts to counter climate change.

- ✓ The increase in renewable energy saw the fastest growth in the last 20 years and consecutively for 22 years. It also mentioned that renewable energy capacity reached around 510 GigaWatts (GWs) in last year.
- ✓ Top Countries which contributed maximum in rise of renewable energy at global level: China (which is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases) led the overall maximum increase in renewable energy followed by Europe, United States of America (U.S.A) and Brazil.

ILO Report Increases Global Unemployment Rate to 5.2% in 2024

- ✓ The International Labour Organization (ILO) has released a report titled "World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024". The report projected slight increase in the global unemployment rate to 5.2% in year 2024 as compared to 5.1% in year 2023.
- ✓ The report predicted that the number of unemployed individuals will increase by 2 million at global level in 2024.
- ✓ As per the report, both the unemployment rate and job rate has decreased to pre-pandemic levels.
- ✓ ILO report revealed jobs growth rate for high-income countries in 2023 was 8.2% while, for low- income countries jobs growth rate was 20.5% in 2023.
- ✓ For high-income countries, employment growth is expected to turn negative in 2024 and only slight growth can be expected in 2025.
- ✓ Unemployment rate remain constant for high-income countries at 4.5 % (2023) while for low- income countries was 5.7 % (2023).
- ✓ ILO DG – Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo
- ✓ Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Henley Passport Index 2024: Indian Passport Ranks 80th; Gives visa free Entry to 62 countries

- ✓ According to the Henley Passport Index 2024 Global Ranking released by Henley and Partners, Indian passport is ranked 80th by providing visa-free or visas on arrival access to 62 countries. India shares the 80th rank with Uzbekistan.
- ✓ Previously in 2023, India was ranked 83rd and provided visa free entry to 58 countries.
- ✓ The top spot is grabbed by 6 countries: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain with citizens enjoying visa-free access to 194 travel destinations.
- ✓ Japan and Singapore have consistently held the top spot for the past five years.
- ✓ The world's weakest passports globally is of Afghanistan at 104th rank with access to 28 nations only.
- ✓ Syria is at 103rd with access to 29 nations, Iraq at 102nd with access to 31 nations, and
- ✓ Pakistan at 101st with access to 34 nations.

India Ranks 2nd in MSCI EM Index; China Tops

- ✓ India has secured a 2nd rank in the MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) index by surpassing Taiwan. The first spot is grabbed by China.
- ✓ India's share in MSCI Emerging Markets index saw an increase in over eight years from 7% to 17.1% and is projected to rise further to 20% by early 2024.
- ✓ India witnessed the highest inflows observed in the last 11 years. In 2023, India's stock count in MSCI Standard index increased to 131 after inducting 17 new Indian stocks.

FAO FPI December 2023 stood at 10.1% below 2022 levels

- ✓ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Food Price Index

(FFPI) December 2023 stood at 118.5 points, 1.8 points (1.5%) lower than November 2023 level(120.3) and 13.3 points (10.1%) lower than December 2022 level(130.4).

- ✓ For 2023 as a whole, FFPI stood at 124.0 points, 19.7 points (13.7%) lower than the average value in 2022.

UP ranks First in the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System for 3rd Consecutive Year

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (UP) has ranked first for the third consecutive year in recording the highest entries (1,56,22,514 entries) on the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform.
- ✓ With 35,04,828 entries Madhya Pradesh (MP) secured second position and Bihar is in third place with 16,65,107 entries.

NSE data: Maharashtra tops Among States with Highest Number of Registered Investors

- ✓ According to recent data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Maharashtra tops the list of states with the highest number of registered investors. Maharashtra registered a growth of 16.9% with over 1.48 crore registered investors. Uttar Pradesh (UP), with 89.47 lakh investors, has surpassed Gujarat (76.68 lakh) and secured the 2nd position on the list.

IRDAI Annual Report 2022-23: India's Insurance Penetration Drops to 4% in 2022-23


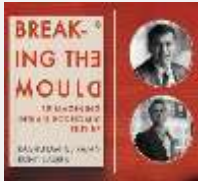
- ✓ According to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)'s Annual Report 2022- 23, the overall insurance penetration in India reduced from 4.2% in 2021-22 to 4% in 2022-23. Life insurance penetration has reduced marginally from 3.2% in 2021-22 to 3% in 2022-23.

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme&Details
December 26	Veer Bal Diwas 2023	<p>► Since 9th January 2022, PM Modi had announced that 26th December would be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas', to mark the martyrdom of sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh – Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji.</p> <p>► The youngest sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, were held captive by the Mughal army.</p>
December 27	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2023	<p>► National Milk Day is annually observed across India on 26th November to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien, the Father of the White Revolution in India.</p>
January 1	Global Family Day 2024	<p>► Theme: "Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Families."</p>
January 3	International Mind-Body Wellness Day 2024	<p>► December 1, marks as the World AIDS Day 2023 which is observed annually since 1988, serving as a crucial occasion to raise awareness about HIV/ AIDS.</p> <p>► Theme: "Let Communities Lead!"</p>
January 4	World Braille Day 2024	<p>► World Braille Day, annually observed on January 4, is a profound tribute to Louis Braille (France), the visionary mind behind the transformative braille system.</p>
January 6	World Day of War Orphans 2024	<p>► Themes: "Orphan Lives Matter" and "Standing Up for War-Affected Children."</p>
January 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2024	<p>► Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day, holds a significant place in the Indian calendar. Celebrated on January 9, it serves as a tribute to the contributions and achievements of the overseas Indian community to the development of India. The day also marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915, symbolizing the leadership that fueled India's freedom struggle. This flagship event is organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.</p>
January 10	World Hindi Day 2024	<p>► Theme: Hindi–Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence".</p>
January 11	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2024	

January 11	58th death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri	► Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India. A man of simplicity, integrity, and dedication, Shastri’s tenure left an indelible mark on the nation’s history.
January 10th-18th	Startup India Innovation Week 2024	► The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is set to orchestrate the Startup India Innovation Week 2024.
January 11th-17th	National Road Safety Week	
January 10th-16th	National Startup Week	► Theme: “Startups Unlocking Infinite Potential.”
January 12	National Youth Day 2024	► National Youth Day 2024 is observed in India every year on January 12 to honour Swami Vivekananda’s birthday . Vivekananda was born on January 12, 1863, in Kolkata. ► Theme: “Viksit Yuva-Viksit Bharat.”
January 15	76th Indian Army Day 2024	► Theme: “In Service of the Nation.” ► Motto: “Service Before Self”
January 16	National Startup Day 2024	
January 23	Parakram Diwas 2024,	► Parakram Diwas, observed on January 23rd, 2024, marks the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose , a prominent figure in India’s freedom struggle. This day is celebrated to honour his indomitable spirit and invaluable contribution to India’s independence. This year nation observe the 127th edition of Parakram Diwas 2024.This day officially declared in 2021. ► The 2024 Parakram Diwas celebrations were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Red Fort .
January 24	International Day of Education 2024	► Theme : “Learning for Lasting Peace”
January 24	National Girl Child Day 2024	► Theme : “Saving our Girls: Educating our Girls.”
January 25	National Voters’ Day 2024	► The National Voters’ Day is celebrated every year in India on January 25 to encourage the country’s voters to participate in the electoral process. This year, it is the 14th edition which is being celebrated. ► Theme ‘Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure’
January 25	National Tourism Day 2024	► Theme ‘Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories.’ It e

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

BOOK NAME	AUTHOR
“An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy”	Authored by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni .
“Gandhi A Life in Three Campaigns”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Renowned author M.J. Akbar, along with co-author K. Natwar Singh, launched a new book titled "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns." ▶ The book delves into the life and struggles of Mahatma Gandhi, particularly focusing on three pivotal mass campaigns he led: Non-Cooperation Movement (1920), Salt Satyagraha (1930), Quit India Movement (1942).
Sanskriti ke Ayaam’	▶ Authored by Manorama Mishra .
“Four Stars of Destiny” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ In a remarkable literary venture, General Manoj Mukund Naravane, the former Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army, has penned his autobiography titled “Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography.” ▶ Gen MM Naravane served as the 28th Chief of Army Staff, leading the Indian Army with distinction from December 2019 to April 2022.
“The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma”	▶ Authored by Madhav Godbole
‘Breaking the Mould’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Former RBI governor, Raghuram Rajan, in collaboration with economist Rohit Lamba, has released a groundbreaking book titled ‘Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India’s Economic Future.’ This latest addition to Rajan’s literary contributions marks a significant exploration into the potential and challenges of India’s economic trajectory.
‘Naye Bharat Ka Samveda’	▶ Former President Ramnath Kovind graced the launch of ‘Naye Bharat ka Samaveda,’ a seminal collection spotlighting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s impactful speeches, delving deep into the core essence and values embedded in our nation’s Constitution.
Zeba: An Accidental Superhero’	▶ Bollywood actor Huma Qureshi marking her debut with the fantasy fiction novel titled ‘Zeba: An Accidental Superhero.’
‘Welcome To Paradise’	▶ The renowned actress and author Twinkle Khanna launched her fourth book, “Welcome to Paradise,” at Taj Lands End, Mumbai.
Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers’	▶ The book, titled ‘Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers’ authored by Sharmishtha Mukherjee. The book is being brought out by Rupa Publications. The book is also a mirror to the father-daughter relationship between Pranab Mukherjee and Sharmishtha.
The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success”	Vivek Agnihotri, director of The Kashmir Files, has launched his latest book, “The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success” in Lucknow.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Who is the chief guest for the Republic Day 2024 celebrations in India?
 - Emmanuel Macron (President of France)
 - Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi (President of Egypt)
 - Joe Biden (President of America)
 - Rishi Sunak (PM of UK)
 - Anwar Ibrahim (PM of Malaysia)
- In which city, the 9th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF 2023) was held in January 2024?
 - Kolkata, West Bengal
 - Pune, Maharashtra
 - Gandhinagar, Gujarat
 - Faridabad, Haryana
 - Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- Name the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise that was commenced at Anshas, Egypt in January 2024.
 - Exercise Cyclone II
 - Exercise Vayu Shakti II
 - Exercise Paschim Lehar II
 - Exercise Vijay Prahar II
 - Exercise Garuda Shakti II
- In January 2024, Union Minister of External Affairs Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar led the Indian delegation at the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Heads of State and Government Summit held in _____ (city).
 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 - Kampala, Uganda
 - Porlamar, Venezuela
 - Baku, Azerbaijan
 - Tehran, Iran
- Which of the following Indian cricketers who have recently (in Jan '24) won the best men's international cricketer & best women's international cricketer of 2022-23 respectively?
 - Suryakumar Yadav and Shafali Verma
 - Shubman Gill and Harmanpreet Kaur
 - Virat Kohli and Deepti Sharma
 - Suryakumar Yadav and Harmanpreet Kaur
 - Shubman Gill and Deepti Sharma
- In January 2024, _____ became the first country in the world to incorporate a malaria vaccine into its routine national immunisation program.
 - Republic of Uganda
 - Mozambique
 - Republic of Ghana
 - Tanzania
 - Republic of Cameroon
- How many medals have won by India in the Asian Shotgun Championships 2024 held at Kuwait in January 2024?
 - 12
 - 8
 - 6
 - 10
 - 5
- What was the theme of United Nations (UN) International Day of Education (IDE) 2024 that was observed across the globe on 24th January 2024?
 - To Invest in People, Prioritise Education
 - Changing Course, Transforming Education
 - Learning for Lasting Peace
 - Transforming Education, Building our Future
 - Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation

9. In January 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the first installment of Rs 540 crore to 1 lakh beneficiaries of _____ (scheme) under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna
 - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
10. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi’s visit to Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu in January 2024?
- During the visit to Maharashtra, the PM laid the foundation stone of 8 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) projects worth around Rs. 2000 crore.
 - PM inaugurated the new State-of-the-art Boeing India Engineering & Technology Centre (BIETC) campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka with an investment of Rs. 1600 crore on 43-acre of land.
 - PM Modi was the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony of the 6th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2023 held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
11. In January 2024, the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participated in the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Shri Ramlalla idol in the newly built Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. The 51-inch (4.25-ft) Ramlalla Idol placed in the sanctum of the temple was sculpted by _____.
- Latika Katt
 - Arun Yogiraj
 - Tutu Pattnaik
 - Shilpa Gupta
 - Anish Kapoor
12. In which state, the 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise ‘Khanjar 2024’ commenced in January 2024?
- Maharashtra
 - Gujarat
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Uttar Pradesh
13. Name the scheme that has recently (in Jan ‘24) launched to provide Rooftop Solar (RTS) power systems to 1 crore households.
- Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Bijli Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Surya Shakti Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Dhamra Urja Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
14. In January 2024, Air India launched India’s first Airbus A350-900 model aircraft ‘AI 589’ from Bengaluru, Karnataka to _____(city).
- Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
 - Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - New Delhi, Delhi
 - Gandhinagar, Gujarat
15. In January 2024, India surpassed _____ to become the world’s fourth-largest stock market by market capitalization.
- Germany
 - Hong Kong
 - United Kingdom
 - France
 - Canada
16. In January 2024, the Ministry of Finance hiked import duties on gold and silver finds and coins of precious metals to _____ from the existing 10%.
- 15%
 - 25%
 - 20%
 - 30%
 - 35%

17. In January 2024, _____ (Indian Cricketer) led team, 'One World' won the T20 format One World One Family (OWOF) Cup in January 2024.
- Yuvraj Singh
 - Sachin Tendulkar
 - Mahendra Singh Dhoni
 - Rohit Sharma
 - Suresh Raina
18. Name the operation that has been recently (in Jan '24) launched by the Indian Army to revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- Operation Rakshak I
 - Operation Shivalik
 - Operation Steeplechase
 - Operation Sarvashakti
 - Operation Mand
19. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) elected as the 1st Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI)?
- Bangladesh
 - Bhutan
 - India
 - Sri Lanka
 - Nepal
20. Name the app/portal that was recently (in Jan '24) launched by GoI to make study materials available for all courses under school and higher education digitally in all 22 languages.
- e-Vidya
 - Bhasha Sagar
 - e-KUMBH
 - Anuvadini
 - Sathee
21. During the visit of Union Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar to Iran in January 2024, Persian (Farsi) became the _____ classical language of India.
- 8th
 - 6th
 - 7th
 - 5th
 - 9th
22. In January 2024, _____ became the first Indian bank to execute an export finance transaction on the International Trade Financing Services Platform (ITFS) of RXIL Global IFSC Limited (RXIL Global).
- Bank of Baroda
 - YES Bank
 - State Bank of India
 - ICICI Bank
 - Axis Bank
23. In January 2024, President of India Droupadi Murmu Conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 award to _____ Children.
- 16
 - 19
 - 10
 - 12
 - 15
24. Who has been recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the Director General (DG) of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?
- Daljit Singh Chaudhary
 - Anish Dayal Singh
 - Vitul Kumar
 - Hanumant Singh Rawat
 - Anshuman Yadav
25. In January 2024, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on the Lunar Surface. With this Japan became the _____ nation to soft land on the Moon.
- 4th
 - 6th
 - 5th
 - 7th
 - 3rd
26. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) declared as a Malaria-free country by the World Health Organization (WHO)?
- Republic of Cabo Verde
 - Burkina Faso
 - Angola
 - Mozambique
 - Nigeria

27. In January 2024, Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s economic activity index (EAI) has nowcast India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at _____ for 3rd quarter of 2023-2024 (Q3FY24) (October 2023 – December 2023).
- a) 7%
 - b) 8.2%
 - c) 6.8%
 - d) 6%
 - e) 7.5%
28. In January 2024, GoI formed a high-level Committee under the chairmanship of _____, to examine administrative measures aimed at protecting the interests of the most disadvantaged groups within the Scheduled Caste (SC), like Madigas.
- a) Rajendra Singh Yadav
 - b) Prabhat Kumar
 - c) Rajiv Gauba
 - d) Naresh Chandra
 - e) Ajit Kumar Seth
29. Which country's defence ministry has recently (in Jan '24) tested a nuclear-capable underwater attack drone 'Haeil-5-23'?
- a) North Korea
 - b) Russia
 - c) Israel
 - d) Iran
 - e) China
30. Name the animal that has recently (in Jan '24) classified as 'Vulnerable' under criteria C2a (ii) on the global International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- a) Nilgiri Marten
 - b) Asiatic Wild Dog
 - c) Himalayan Wolf
 - d) Kashmir Stag
 - e) Indian Blackbuck
31. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) announced as the title sponsor for the Indian Premier League (IPL) from 2024 to 2028?
- a) MRF
 - b) TATA Group
 - c) DLF
 - d) TVS Motor
 - e) BYJU'S
32. Which state has recently (in Jan '24) celebrated the 9th edition of the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)?
- a) Mizoram
 - b) Sikkim
 - c) Odisha
 - d) West Bengal
 - e) Arunachal Pradesh
33. In January 2024, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has introduced an agri-export facilitation centre (AEFC) under its Farm Sector Promotion Fund to create an ecosystem and facilitate export of agri commodities in _____ (state).
- a) West Bengal
 - b) Uttar Pradesh
 - c) Haryana
 - d) Rajasthan
 - e) Jharkhand
34. Name the Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India who was recently (in Jan '24) selected for Assam's highest civilian award - Assam Baibhav.
- a) Ranjan Gogoi
 - b) Sharad Arvind Bobde
 - c) N. V. Ramana
 - d) Dipak Misra
 - e) T. S. Thakur
35. As of January 2024, _____ (company) surpassed State Bank of India (SBI) to become India's most valued Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) firm by market valuation.
- a) REC Limited
 - b) Bharat Electronics Limited
 - c) Power Finance Corporation Limited
 - d) Life Insurance Corporation of India
 - e) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
36. As per the 3rd Advance Estimate of Area and Production of Various Horticultural Crops for 2022–23 released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in January 2024, the estimation of total horticulture production for 2022–23 is _____ tonnes.
- a) 502.15 million
 - b) 392.14 million
 - c) 355.25 million
 - d) 419.34 million
 - e) 302.12 million

37. According to the 2024 Military Strength Ranking released by Global Firepower (GFP) in January 2024, India is ranked as the _____ most powerful military in the world, while the United States of America (USA) tops the list.
- 3rd
 - 6th
 - 5th
 - 2nd
 - 4th
38. Which bank has recently (in Jan '24) signed an MoU with the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) to establish a platform for co-lending and loan syndication for a wide range of renewable energy projects across India?
- Canara Bank
 - Indian Overseas Bank
 - State Bank of India
 - Bank of India
 - Union Bank of India
39. Name the 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 Riviresa Guardian
 - Operation Prosperity Guardian
 - Operation Sinsay Guardian
 - Operation Eagle Claw
 - Operation Black Guardian
40. Which bank has recently (in Jan '24) raised Rs. 5,000 crore through its second Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 bond issuance for the current financial year at a coupon rate of 8.34%?
- Bank of Maharashtra
 - Bank of India
 - State Bank of India
 - Bank of Baroda
 - Indian Bank
41. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's visit to Maharashtra in January 2024?
- During his visit, PM inaugurated India's longest bridge, "Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewari-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu" in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects worth Rs 12,700 crore.
 - PM also inaugurated Bharat Ratnam which is a Mega Common Facilitation Center (CFC) for the gems and jewellery sector at Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone- Special Economic Zone (SEEPZ- SEZ) in Mumbai,
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
42. Which of the following footballers have recently (in Jan '24) received the Best FIFA Men's Player 2023 Award and Best FIFA Women's Player 2023 Award respectively?
- Cristiano Ronaldo and Aitana Bonmati
 - Luis Suárez and Jenni Hermoso
 - Lionel Messi and Alexia Putellas
 - Cristiano Ronaldo and Jenni Hermoso
 - Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati
43. In January 2024, Frederik André Henrik Christian (Frederik X) was proclaimed as the new king of _____ (country).
- Australia
 - Canada
 - Denmark
 - Jamaica
 - New Zealand
44. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) launched the Yuva Nidhi scheme for educated unemployed youth?
- West Bengal
 - Maharashtra
 - Karnataka
 - Odisha
 - Madhya Pradesh

45. Which of the following Indian Navy Ships (INS) were recently (in Jan '24) decommissioned in the Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N)?
- INS Kumbhir
 - INS Cheetah
 - INS Guldar
 - Both 1 & 2
 - All 1, 2 & 3
46. According to a recent NITI Aayog report 'National Multidimensional Poverty: A Progress Review -2023,' released in January 2024, _____ individuals emerged from multidimensional poverty between 2013-14 and 2022-23.
- 39.10 crore
 - 24.82 crore
 - 36.21 crore
 - 29.40 crore
 - 30.12 crore
47. Name the bank that has recently (in Jan '24) collaborated with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) and DLabs at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad to launch "Build for Billions", a startup accelerator program.
- Union Bank of India
 - Bank of Baroda
 - Bank of India
 - Canara Bank
 - Bank of Maharashtra
48. Who has recently (in Jan '24) won the Presidential Election of Taiwan?
- Chiang Ching-kuo
 - Chen Shui-bian
 - Ma Ying-jeou
 - William Lai Ching-te
 - Lee Teng-hui
49. In January 2024, Padma Awardee & Renowned Classical vocalist Prabha Atre Passed Away. In which year, Prabha Atre received Padma Vibhushan award in the field of Art?
- 2022
 - 2020
 - 2019
 - 2017
 - 2018
50. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) partnered with Foxconn to form chip packaging and testing joint venture in India?
- Adani Group
 - HCL Group
 - Tata Group
 - ITC Limited
 - Gitanjali Group
51. Which country's Coast Guard, along with Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has recently (in Jan '24) conducted a 5-day annual joint exercise, 'Sahyog Kaijin,' off the coast of Chennai, Tamil Nadu?
- Japan
 - Sri Lanka
 - France
 - Thailand
 - Australia
52. In January 2024, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched the 'New Solar Power Scheme' with an outlay of Rs _____ for electrification in habitations and villages of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).
- 729 crore
 - 218 crore
 - 515 crore
 - 387 crore
 - 629 crore
53. Which country has recently (in Jan '24) partnered with India to launch Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI)?
- United Arab Emirates
 - France
 - Spain
 - Germany
 - Denmark
54. As per the report titled "Renewables 2023" released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in January 2024, the world added _____ more renewable energy capacity in 2023 compared to 2022.
- 20%
 - 50%
 - 30%
 - 40%
 - 60%

55. The Indian Army was officially declared 2024 as the _____.
- Year of Transformation
 - Year of Technology Absorption
 - Year of Cyber Operation
 - Year of Digital Transformation
 - Year of Border Security
56. Which Tiger Reserve has recently (in Jan '24) designated as India's first Dark Sky Park and Asia's fifth park for protecting the night sky?
- Corbett Tiger Reserve (Uttarakhand)
 - Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka)
 - Pench Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)
 - Simlipal Tiger Reserve (Odisha)
 - Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (Assam)
57. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish a wholly-owned finance company at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-City)?
- Power Grid Corporation of India
 - NLC India Limited
 - NTPC Limited
 - Coal India
 - Power Finance Corporation
58. As per the World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024 report released by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in January 2024, the global unemployment rate will increase to _____ in 2024.
- | | |
|---------|---------|
| a) 5.4% | b) 5.2% |
| c) 5.5% | d) 5.6% |
| e) 5.3% | |
59. Name the missile that has recently (in Jan '24) conducted a flight test by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| a) Astra-NG | b) Prahaar |
| c) Akash-NG | d) HELINA |
| e) Amogha 1 | |
60. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) launched a 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan' scheme to develop 4 million Self-Help-Group (SHG) women as rural micro- entrepreneurs?
- Gujarat
 - Assam
 - West Bengal
 - Odisha
 - Madhya Pradesh
61. In January 2024, _____(company) overtook Apple as the world's most valuable company.
- Oracle Corporation
 - Google
 - Microsoft Corporation
 - Amazon
 - Walmart
62. In January 2024, Tim Southee from _____ (country) became the first bowler to reach 150 wickets in Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket.
- Netherlands
 - Australia
 - New Zealand
 - England
 - West Indies
63. Which of the following cities have recently (in Jan '24) recognised as the cleanest city in India under the category of cities with a population more than 1 lakh?
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| a) Surat, Gujarat | b) Indore, Madhya Pradesh |
| c) Panaji, Goa | d) Both 1 & 2 |
| e) Both 2 & 3 | |
64. In January 2024, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the extension of the appointment of Michael Debabrata Patra as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by _____.
- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| a) Two year | b) One year |
| c) 6 months | d) 8 months |
| e) 5 months | |

65. Name the end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem that was recently (in Jan '24) developed by the Indian Army to enhance national defense capabilities.
- SAI
 - mSeva
 - SAMBHAV
 - KEMAS
 - Anuman
66. Which state government has recently (in Jan '24) launched a 'Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme' to provide the free pilgrimage visit to the newly built Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh (UP)?
- Odisha
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Gujarat
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Maharashtra
67. According to the Henley Passport Index 2024 released by Henley and Partners in January 2024, Indian passports ranked _____ by providing visa-free or visas on arrival access to 62 countries.
- 83rd
 - 76th
 - 80th
 - 79th
 - 82nd
68. Name the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) that has recently (in Jan '24) announced a plan to establish a new campus of its Tec University in Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- IIT Kanpur
 - IIT Kharagpur
 - IIT Guwahati
 - IIT Madras
 - IIT Bombay
69. In January 2024, Bloomberg Index Services Ltd (BISL) proposed the incorporation of India's Fully Accessible Route (FAR) bonds into its Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Index from _____.
- April 2024
 - June 2024
 - September 2024
 - August 2024
 - July 2024
70. Name the personality who has recently (in Jan '24) received the Award for International Sports Personality for 2023.
- Pierluigi Collina
 - Gianni Infantino
 - Patrice Motsepe
 - Michel Platini
 - Erick Thohir
71. According to the data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), Indian Mutual Fund Industry's assets under management crossed the Rs _____ mark in December 2023.
- 60 lakh crore
 - 30 lakh crore
 - 40 lakh crore
 - 20 lakh crore
 - 50 lakh crore
72. Which of the following cities are nominated for the Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) scheme under the Ramsar Convention by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)?
- Indore, Madhya Pradesh
 - Udaipur, Rajasthan
 - Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
 - Both 1 & 2
 - All 1, 2 & 3
73. The Indian Navy's (IN) P8I aircraft participated in the on-going _____ edition of the Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) 'Exercise Sea Dragon 24' held at Guam, United States of America (USA).
- 5th
 - 4th
 - 6th
 - 3rd
 - 2nd
74. Which company has recently (in Jan '24) launched India's 1st Growth Liquid Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) to offer a Growth Net Asset Value (NAV)?
- Nippon India Mutual Fund
 - Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund
 - ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund
 - Zerodha Fund House
 - DSP Mutual Fund

- 75.** The World Bank (WB) released its ‘January, 2024 Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report projected the third consecutive year of slowdown for global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth with a decrease to _____ in 2024.
- a) 2.6% b) 2.4%
c) 2.9% d) 3.1%
e) 3.5%
- 76.** Who has recently (in Jan ‘24) became the first Indian to hold the position of Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?
- a) Garima Paul
b) Sunil Achaya
c) Indra Mani Pandey
d) Rajesh Sharma
e) Gaurav Kumar Thakur
- 77.** The _____ National Road Safety Week was observed across India from 11th to 17th January 2024.
- a) 45th b) 40th
c) 35th d) 30th
e) 25th
- 78.** In January 2024, _____ became the first state in India to map all 784 accident black spots on the mobile application “Mappls”.
- a) Odisha b) Maharashtra
c) Gujarat d) Punjab
e) Madhya Pradesh
- 79.** In January 2024, the Ministry of Finance sanctioned an additional Rs _____ for the second phase of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-II) programme.
- a) 1,900 crore b) 1,500 crore
c) 2,000 crore d) 2,500 crore
e) 1,000 crore
- 80.** India is set to chair and host the _____ session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee in July 2024 in New Delhi.
- a) 49th b) 52nd
c) 46th d) 50th
e) 48th
- 81.** Who has recently (in Jan ‘24) became the youngest-ever Prime Minister (PM) of France?
- a) François Fillon
b) Gabriel Attal
c) Jean Castex
d) Bernard Cazeneuve
e) Manuel Valls
- 82.** Name the assault rifle that was recently (in Jan ‘24) launched by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army (IA).
- a) Kiran b) Sitara
c) Pushpak d) Deepak
e) Ugram
- 83.** Renowned Hindustani classical singer and Padma awardee, Ustad Rashid Khan passed away in January 2024. In which year did he receive the Padma Bhushan award in the field of Art?
- a) 2018
b) 2021
c) 2019
d) 2022
e) 2020
- 84.** Which state government has recently (in Jan ‘24) launched a new social welfare scheme ‘Yogyasree’ for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students?
- a) Madhya Pradesh
b) Maharashtra
c) West Bengal
d) Odisha
e) Karnataka

- 85.** In January 2024, the Union Ministry of Coal announced the target of _____ (MT) of production from captive and commercial coal mines during FY25.
- 112.65 million tonnes
 - 120.34 million tonnes
 - 186.63 million tonnes
 - 239.78 million tonnes
 - 152.89 million tonnes
- 86.** In January 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the minimum capital requirement for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) from Rs 100 crore to Rs _____, and permitted Payments Banks to upgrade as SFBs.
- 600 crore
 - 400 crore
 - 200 crore
 - 300 crore
 - 500 crore
- 87.** Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the 81st edition of Golden Globe Awards (2024) presented in January 2024?
- A) Five-time Oscar nominee Christopher Nolan’s film “Oppenheimer” won the 5 awards in 81st Golden Globe Awards under the categories Best Film in Drama, Best Actor in Drama, Best Supporting Actor and for best original score.
- B) Lily Gladstone won best female actor in Drama for Martin Scorsese’s Killers of the Flower Moon.
- C) Succession won the Golden Globe Award under the Best Television Series-Drama Category.
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
- 88.** Every year Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD), also known as the “Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day” is celebrated across India on _____.
- 9th January
 - 5th January
 - 8th January
 - 6th January
 - 7th January
- 89.** In which city, the International Kite Festival 2024 was inaugurated in January 2024?
- Kolkata, West Bengal
 - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - Chandipur, Odisha
 - Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- 90.** Which company has been chosen by the Ayodhya Development Authority as the official map for Ayodhya city in January 2024?
- Genesys International
 - Cadeosys India
 - CompuSense Automation
 - Corengg Technologies
 - Trikaal Tech Enterprise
- 91.** Name the personality who has recently (in Jan ‘24) received the M.S. Swaminathan World Prize 2023.
- Praveen Rao
 - Krishnan Suthanthiran
 - Surinder Sehgal
 - Shenggen Fan
 - Ashis K. Mukherjee
- 92.** Which Union Minister has recently (in Jan ‘24) launched Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA Portal) Dashboard and the Prime Minister Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Mission Monitoring Portal?
- Jitendra Singh (Union Minister of State of Science and Technology)
 - Hardeep Singh Puri (Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs)
 - Mansukh L. Mandaviya (Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare)
 - Giriraj Singh (Union Minister of Rural Development)
 - Virendra Kumar (Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment)

- 93.** In January 2024, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sold a dual-tranche global benchmark bond valued with a maturity of 3 years and 10 years to raise USD _____ to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific region.
- a) 6 Billion b) 7 Billion
c) 3 Billion d) 4 Billion
e) 5 Billion
- 94.** Who recently (in Jan '24) won 75th Creative Arts Emmy Award under the Outstanding Narrator category for Netflix documentary series Working: What We Do All Day “The Middle”?
- a) Barack Obama
b) Ellen DeGeneres
c) Oprah Winfrey
d) Robert Downey
e) Naomi Campbell
- 95.** In January 2024, Sheikh Hasina, President of Awami League and incumbent Prime Minister (PM) of Bangladesh was re-elected as the PM for the _____ term.
- a) 7th b) 5th
c) 4th d) 6th
e) 3rd
- 96.** Which country has recently (in Jan '24) won the United Cup 2024 title by defeating the Poland tennis team?
- a) Serbia
b) France
c) Australia
d) Norway
e) Germany
- 97.** In January 2024, State Bank of India (SBI) raised USD _____ by issuing 5-year green bonds which will mature on 29th December 2028 to fund green projects.
- a) 190 million
b) 200 million
c) 150 million
d) 250 million
e) 170 million
- 98.** Who has recently (in Jan '24) appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Asset Reconstruction of India Limited (NARCL)?
- a) P Santhosh
b) Natarajan Sundar
c) Ajit Nair
d) Rakesh K. Singh
e) Malvika Sinha
- 99.** Former Chief of Army Staff (CoAS), _____ has penned his autobiography titled “Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography”, which is set to be published in January 2024.
- a) General Deepak Kapoor
b) General Vijay Kumar Singh
c) General Bikram Singh
d) General Dalbir Singh Suhag
e) General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- 100.** Which country, along with India, has commenced the 1st edition of joint military exercise, Desert Cyclone 2024 in Mahajan, Rajasthan on 2nd January 2024?
- a) Mongolia
b) Egypt
c) Oman
d) United Arab Emirates
e) Kyrgyzstan

Answers

1	a	11	b	21	e	31	b	41	e	51	a	61	c	71	e	81	b	91	b
2	d	12	d	22	b	32	e	42	e	52	c	62	c	72	e	82	e	92	b
3	a	13	a	23	b	33	d	43	c	53	e	63	d	73	b	83	d	93	e
4	b	14	c	24	a	34	a	44	c	54	b	64	b	74	d	84	c	94	a
5	e	15	b	25	c	35	d	45	e	55	b	65	c	75	b	85	c	95	b
6	e	16	a	26	a	36	c	46	b	56	c	66	b	76	c	86	c	96	e
7	b	17	b	27	a	37	e	47	a	57	e	67	c	77	c	87	e	97	d
8	c	18	d	28	c	38	b	48	d	58	b	68	d	78	d	88	a	98	a
9	d	19	c	29	a	39	b	49	a	59	c	69	c	79	b	89	e	99	e
10	e	20	d	30	c	40	c	50	b	60	b	70	b	80	c	90	a	100	d

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