

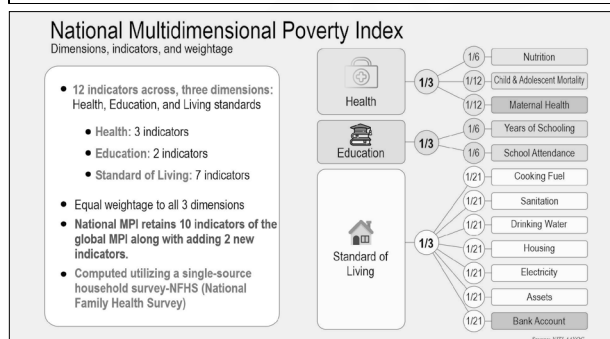
# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## BIHAR SPECIAL

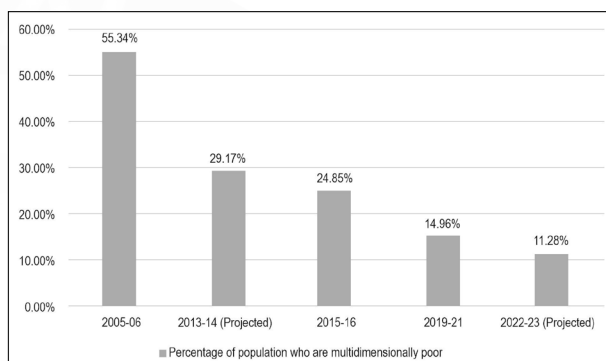
### Poverty in India and Bihar

#### Context

According to a report released by the NITI Aayog, 24.82 crore people in India have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty during the past nine years, with the largest decreases observed in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh.



- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh had the largest decline in multidimensional poverty between 2013-14 and 2022-23.
- India will achieve SDG 1.2 (reduce multidimensional poverty by at least half) well before 2030.



### Recent Initiatives by the Government of India to Reduce Poverty

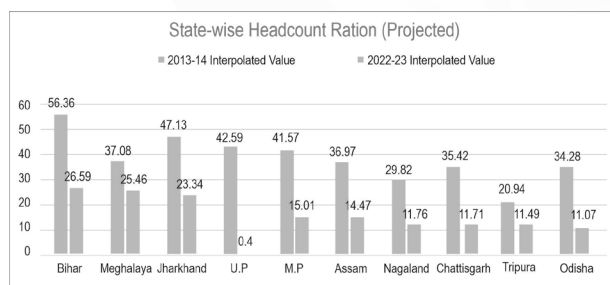
- Poshan Abhiyan** and **Anaemia Mukt Bharat**.
- The Targeted Public Distribution System under the National Food Security Act.
- Recent decisions like the continuation of Free Food Grain distribution under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**.
- PMKVY- Through this scheme, Lakhs of Youths are being Skilled and got jobs at different organizations.

### Recent Initiatives of the Government of Bihar to Reduce Poverty

- Jeevika Mission**: This is a flagship programme, which promotes social and economic empowerment of the rural poor, particularly women.
- Bihar Skill Development Mission**: This programme focuses on imparting job-oriented skills to youth through training programmes in various sectors like IT, construction, hospitality, etc.
- Arakshit Rozgar Mahila ka Adhikar**: This scheme supports women from socially disadvantaged groups through skill development training and livelihood programmes to improve their employment opportunities and economic independence.

### Objective

According to the Sustainable Development Goals, India's goal of reducing multidimensional poverty to half by **2030**.



### Key Findings

- In the last 9 years, 24.82 crore Indians have been estimated to have escaped out of multidimensional poverty.
- A steep decline in Poverty Headcount Ratio from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23 is seen.
- All 12 indicators of MPI showed significant signs of improvement.

## Poverty Estimation In India

- In India poverty estimation is done by NITI Aayog through the calculation of the poverty line, based on data captured by NSSO.
- Poverty line estimation in India is based on consumption expenditure.
- Important committees on Poverty Estimation:
  - Alagh Committee (1979):** It suggested that the Poverty line should be based on a minimum daily requirement of 2400 calories for adult persons in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas.
  - Tendulkar Committee (2009):** It suggested a unified all-India urban poverty line basket (PLB) for both rural and urban India, as opposed to two different PLBs for each. In contrast to the Uniform Reference Period (URP) based estimates used in previous techniques for determining poverty, it proposed utilizing estimates based on the Mixed Reference Period (MRP).
  - Rangarajan Committee(2012):** It went back to using different poverty line baskets for rural and urban areas of India and estimating rural and urban areas at the state level based on these. This committee increased the daily per capita expenditure from Rs 32 and Rs 26 at 2011–12 prices to Rs 47 for urban areas and Rs 32 for rural areas respectively.

## Patna Metro

### Context

The state cabinet has approved the transfer of 0.498 acres of land to the Urban Development and Housing Department for the construction of an underground metro station.

### About

The Patna Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (PMRCL) is building the urban Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) with two lines and twenty-four stations in Patna.

### Key Points

- **The Patna Metro Rail Corporation (PMRC),** a public company established in February 2019, is in

charge of developing the project. The final detailed project report (DPR) for the first phase of the metro rail project was created by PMRC and **Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES).**

- The project was approved in February 2016 by the state government and in February 2019 by the Central government.
- The Patna metro rail project's general consultant is **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).**
- **The European Union, the Asian Development Bank, and the Japanese government agency "JICA"** had decided to provide a loan of up to eight thousand crore rupees for the building of Patna Metro in 2021.
- The **first U-Girder** was installed near the proposed **Bhoothnath station.**

## AMBITIOUS PROJECT

**Corridor I:** Danapur to Khemnichak  
(Sept 2025 deadline)

**Corridor II:** Patna Junction to Patliputra Bus Terminal  
(May 2026 deadline)

**Project cost:** 13,925 crore



### Green initiatives

The metro stations will have facilities like **rooftop solar panels, rainwater harvesting and waste management**



All the 24 elevated and underground metro rail S stations are being designed as green buildings. The initiative will prove beneficial for preservation of the environment. We are also following green practices during construction work

**A DMRC OFFICIAL**

Source: Times of India

## Corridors of Patna Metro

- **Corridor-1:** Bailey Road serves as the East-West **corridor-1** from **Danapur** in the west to **Khemnichak** in the East. Corridor 1, spanning **17.78 km** between Danapur and Khemni Chak, has more than 7 km of elevated section and 10.17 km of underground section planned.
- **Corridor-2:** The North-South corridor-2 connects

Patna Junction with Rajendra Nagar Terminal, Ashok Rajpath, Gandhi Maidan, and Karmalichak in southeast Patna, where the new inter-state bus terminal (ISBT) would be built. Corridor-2 stretches over **14.5 km** and includes a 6.6 km elevated section and a 7.9 km long underground section.

### U-Girder

- A precast and pre-tensioned structure on which rail tracks can be placed as per the timeline.

## Bihar Startup Policy

### Context

State Industry Minister Samir Kumar Mahaseth said that the government is working on a Mission to make Bihar a leader in the field of startups.

### Key Points

- As per the Bihar Startup Policy, aspiring entrepreneurs can receive interest-free seed funding up to Rs 10 lakh for a period of ten years.
- Startups led by women receive 5% while the companies led by members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and people with disabilities receive 15% more seed funding.

**Industry Department**  
Government of Bihar

**Bihar Start-Up Policy-2022**

**Aim**  
To promote the youth of Bihar in the field of industry and self-employment.

Under Bihar Start-up Policy-2022, there is a provision to give an amount of Rs.10 lakh as seed fund for 10 years at 0% interest.

- Individuals taking part in acceleration programmes are eligible for a grant of up to Rs 3 lakh.
- If investments are made by Registered entities and Angel investors, combining loans of up to Rs 50 lakh will be provided.

## Kushal Yuva Programme

### Context

The Labour Resources Department has decided to conduct door-to-door skill surveys. For this, the department will take the help of a private agency.

### Kushal Yuva Programme

- The “Kushal Yuva Programme,” a unique skill-training initiative, was introduced by the **Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM)** to improve Soft Skills( Life skills, basic computer literacy, and communication skills in Hindi and English).

### Key elements of the KYP include

- The Programme would enhance employability and would act as a value addition to the various domains, specifically training of youth aged 15 to 28, who have completed their 10th or 12th grade, dropped out of college, and are seeking employment.
- **Four** Block Skill Development Centers (BSDC) have been granted to AFC (Agricultural Finance Corporation) India Ltd for a period of five years (**two** in the district of **Sitamarhi** and one each in the districts of **West Champaran** and **Muzaffarpur**).
- Currently, approved centers cover 494 blocks out of 534 blocks across all the 38 districts of Bihar. Its target is to cover each and every block of Bihar.
- **Three skills would be covered in the Kushal Yuva Programme course curriculum:** basic computer literacy, life skills, and communication skills in Hindi and English. All three skills would be covered in 240 hours of instruction.
- Kushal Yuva Program (KYP) is a part of one of the “Saat Nischay” namely “**Aarthik Hal, Yuvaon ko Bal**”.

## Status of Electoral Roll in Bihar

### Context

According to the state election body, Bihar has added 1.2 million voters to its electoral roll.

### Key Points

- The age group of 19 to 29 years old was the primary source of the voter list increase, with all other age groups experiencing a decrease.
- This brings the total number of eligible voters to

7,64,33,329, an increase of 12,09,347 over the list that was released the previous year.

- The age group of 70–79 years old has seen the largest decrease in voters, down 2,25,554 from the previous year.
- There are now 2,290 third-gender voters, 16 fewer than the previous year.
- The service voters' segment has slightly increased to 1,67,469, a gain of 472 from the strength of the previous year.
- There are **909** female voters for every **1000** male voters, a slight improvement over the 907 listed voters from the previous year.
- Out of all the voters, 4,00,29,136 are men (compared to 3,94,50,370 in 2023) and 3,64,01,903 are women (compared to 3,57,71,306 in 2023).
- There have been an addition of 6,30,597 female voters and 5,78,766 male voters.
- 16,85,844 people's names have been removed from the voter list for a variety of reasons, such as fraud and deaths.

### **Bihar Logistics Policy 2023**

#### **Context**

The Government of Bihar has recently published the "Bihar Logistic Policy 2023".

#### **Key Points**

- The Policy aims towards promoting Private investment by upgrading and improving the existing warehouse and logistic infrastructure and enhancing the warehousing capacity.
- The Policy will come into force from the date of issue of the notification and will continue till the completion of Five years.

#### **Features of the Policy**

1. Multimodal Logistic Park
2. Logistic Park
3. Grade A Warehouse
4. Inland Container Depot
5. Cold storage Facility
6. Container Freight Station

### **Incentives**

- Capital Investment Subsidy: 20% of Fixed Capital Investment, Maximum Rs.25 Crores.
- Interest Subvention: 10% or actual rate of interest on Term loan, Maximum Rs.60 Crores.
- All Incentives would be facilitated Under Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Policy, 2016.

### **Mukhyamantri Vridhjan Pension Yojana (MVPY)**

#### **Context**

Recently, more than **75,000** beneficiaries got the benefit of Mukhyamantri Vridhjan Pension Yojana.

#### **Benefits of the scheme**

- Any senior citizen who is 60 years of age or above are eligible for the scheme and they will get financial assistance of Rs 400 every month from the state government.
- If the person is 80 years of age or above they will receive a pension of Rs 500

#### **Eligibility for the scheme**

- A person should be a permanent resident of the state.
- The candidate needed to be at least sixty years old.
- The applicant cannot be a retired government employee.
- The applicant should belong to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.

### **NITISH LOCKET**

#### **Context**

Recently, CM Nitish Kumar launched a pendant named "Nitish locket", an alert device during natural disasters like lightning, floods, heat wave, cold wave, etc.

#### **Nitish Locket**

- **Novel Initiative Technological Intervention for Safety of Human Lives [NITISH] Locket** is like a pendant-shaped device that will sound alert to its user through voice messages on lightning, floods, heat waves, and cold waves.
- The Locket is made by **Bihar State Disaster Management Authority** in collaboration with



**IIT Patna.** The device is synced with the **Bihar Meteorological Service Center.**

- It will issue an alert to its user **30 minutes** before disaster occurs.
- The device will sound an alert in three ways; it will send a voice message; the color will change from green to red; and the device will keep warming till its user switches it off.
- The pendant will get charged from body heat.
- The device is waterproof and is designed keeping in mind the farmers.



### Other initiative

**Indra Vajra App:** Alerts **45 minutes** before a thunderstorm to its user.

### Bihar Laghu Udyami Yojana

#### Context

On 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 CM Nitish Kumar launched "Bihar Laghu Udyami Yojana".

### More About News

Bihar caste survey 2023, Report showed that about 94 lakh families (34.13%) out of 2.76 crore, earn less than Rs 6000 per month. To empower these socio-economic poor families, the Government launched this scheme.

<b>Mission Theme:</b>
•Har Ghar Udyami, Har Ghar Rozgar, Uchi Uddan ke Liye, Bihar hai Tayaar.
<b>Objective:</b>
•To provide economic assistance to economically poor families for self employment and to reduce unemployment rate.
<b>Nodal Ministry:</b>
•Department of Industries, Bihar
<b>Duration of scheme:</b>
•for 5 years •Registration for scheme: online registration started from 5 february to 20 February 2024.
<b>Eligibility criteria of Beneficiary:</b>
•Age group: between 18-50 years. •Income criteria: Family income less than Rs 6000 monthly. •Resident of Bihar.
<b>Benefit of scheme:</b>
•Beneficiary will get maximum 2 lakh per family (only one person from every family). •Amount will be received in three installments. •1st installment -25%; 2nd installment 50%; 3rd installment 25% of total money.
<b>coverage:</b>
•Total 61 small and medium project covered under this scheme.

### Health Facility for Domestic Animals at Doorstep

#### Context

In February 2024 Govt. of Bihar approved Rs **355.17 crore** for availing health facilities for domesticated animals at the doorstep.

### Key points

- The allocated fund will be spent under Bihar's "Saat Nischay-2" scheme and Centre's "National Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme".
- The allocated fund is approved for **FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26**.
- The motive behind this program is to provide **animal health care facilities** at the **doorstep** in all districts of Bihar.
- **207** animal ambulatory vans and **8** animal lifting and caring vehicles would be bought.
- Arrangements for doorstep service will be made through a Call center and Mobile app.
- Animal hospitals will be established at every **8 to 10** villages.
- A solid system will be placed for door-to-door delivery of medical facilities like medical treatment, vaccination, artificial insemination, deworming, etc.

- All types of medical facilities for animals will be **free** of cost.
- Through Telemedicine, all animal hospitals will be connected.
- Under the Animal Science University, an institute for the development and conservation of indigenous cattle will be established.

## MAUSAM BIHAR APP

### Context

Bihar's weather forecast model "MAUSAM BIHAR App" will be adopted in the entire country.

### More about news

- Bihar is the first state in the country to develop a Mobile application for weather forecasting.
- In "Satellite Vision" of the Country, Bihar is the only state that uses these types of advanced technology in weather forecasting.
- Scientists of **NASA** and **ISRO** also visited Bihar to learn about this weather forecasting model.
- The Government of Bihar signed two MOUs with the **USA** and **Netherlands** on weather forecasting.



### About App

- On **27 May 2023** CM Nitish Kumar launched this app in Patna.
- This App gives weather information like Temperature, Humidity, Wind speed, etc, **5 days** prior.
- This app works **24X7** days.
- Weather data is collected from every Panchayat, in every **15 minutes**. From one Panchayat **96 times** data is being collected in a day. **80 thousand** data collected from all panchayats every day.

- The App is beneficial in the agriculture sector like in sowing seeds, and harvesting crops and mitigating the impacts of natural disasters like floods, cold waves, drought, etc.
- Bihar is the **2nd state** after Karnataka that collects weather information at the Panchayat level.

### Other Models of Bihar adopted at all India levels

1. Har Ghar Bijli
2. Smart Meter scheme
3. Jeevika
4. Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal
5. Kisan Ke Ghar Tak Bij Pahuchana (Delivering seed at Farmer House)

## Stunting problem in BIHAR

### Context

According to the NFHS-5 report, **42.9%** of children in Bihar are suffering from growth failure or stunting problems.

### More about news

- **Malnutrition** is the most common cause of growth failure in India. As per the NFHS-5 report **35.5%** of children (0 to 5 years) in India are suffering from stunting.
- According to UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank every **4th** child in the world that suffers from stunting problems belongs to India.
- In Bihar percentage of stunting was reduced by 5.4% from the NFHS-4 to the NFHS-5 survey.

State	% of stunting
1. Meghalaya	46.5
2. Bihar	42.9
3. Uttar Pradesh	39.7

District with lowest % of stunting	% of stunting
1. Gopalganj	34.2
2. Sheohar	34.4
3. Patna	34.5
4. Khagaria	34.8
5. Munger	35.5

District with highest % of stunting	% of stunting
1. Sitamarhi	54.2
2. Sheikhpura	53.6
3. Araria	49.9
4. Nawada	49.4
5. East Champaran	49.4

### Causes of stunting

1. Lack of nutritious food and intake of junk food by children.
2. Lack of playgrounds.
3. Environmental pollution.
4. Lack of nutritious food available to the mother during pregnancy.

### Government initiative to reduce Stunting problem

1. **Integrated Child Development Scheme:** Launched in 1975, it provides nutritious food, health care facility, immunization facility etc to children (0 to 6 year) and pregnant and lactating women.
2. **Mission Indradhanush:** Immunization scheme for 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.
3. **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** To Provide nutritious food to children.
4. **National Food Security Act, 2013:** To provide subsidized food grain to poor families (under Targeted Public Distribution System).
5. **Food Fortification:** Addition of vitamins and minerals like Iron, Vitamin A, Folic Acid, zincloine etc to make food more nutritious.

### Empowering Rural Startups In Bihar

#### Context

Bihar Entrepreneurship Association (BEA) will empower Rural Startups in Bihar.

#### More about news

- BEA under the '**HDFC Parivartan Grant Scheme**' will add the startups that are involved in Agriculture and Rural Development in Bihar through its Incubation programme to empower them.

- **Selection criteria:** BEA will select startups based on use of Agriculture methodology, Biodiversity conservation, climate-smart agriculture in startup components.
- **Grant:** Selected startups will get up to 50 Lakhs grants.
- **Application:** Applications are invited till 10th February 2024.
- **AIM:** Through this programme "Skill India program" would be brought to the surface.

#### About BEA

- BEA was founded in 2011 as a Non-profit, voluntary organization by the youths of Bihar.
- BEA works for the Economic Empowerment of women and youth through entrepreneurship in the state. BEA focused more on grassroots entrepreneurship and startups through inspiration, preparation, and execution.
- In the last 10 years, BEA has conducted over 1.5 lakh direct interactions with youth, women, and farmers through 100 plus "start-ups yatra" and "Krishi Samvad".

### Apple Farming Promotion Scheme

#### Context

The Department of Agriculture of Bihar discontinued the 'Apple Farming Promotion Scheme' in the state.

#### More about news

- Based on a report of Bihar Agriculture University (BAU), the Department of Agriculture discontinued this scheme.
- According to the BAU report, for Apple Farming, the temperature of the environment should be less than 7 degrees Celsius at least for 100 hours. But in Bihar, there is no such environmental condition.
- However, Central Agriculture University in its report said that Apple farming is possible in Bihar.
- **Apple Farming Promotion Scheme:**
  - The scheme was launched in 2021-22 by the Department of Agriculture, Bihar under "**Bihar Vishesh Udyanik Fasal Yojana**".
  - This scheme was launched as a pilot project in 7 districts of Bihar.

- In **Vaishali, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, Aurangabad, Katihar, and Samastipur** districts, the scheme was implemented in the initial phase.
- Under this scheme a subsidy of up to Rs 1.23 lakh per hectare for the apple plantation was given to farmers, nearly 50% of the estimated cost Rs 2.46 lakh.
- Apple Varieties like Hariman-99, Dorsett Golden, Anna, Michael, Tropical sweets, etc . can be grown in high-temperature areas also.



### Patna Planetarium

#### Context

Recently, the Planetarium in Patna has been modernized making it world-class.

#### More about the news

- The renovation work started in 2021 and project was supposed to be completed by May 2023, but due to COVID-19 it got delayed by 1 year.
- **Firms involved:** USA-based **Astro Tech** and Germany-based **Carl Zeiss**.
- **Project cost:** Approximately 36 crores.
- **Infrastructural changes:**
  1. **Sound system:** 5.1 surround system with wall-mounted speakers have been installed.
  2. **Projector:** State-of-the-art Mirage RGB (red, green, blue) pure Laser projection system which includes an 8K 3D Digistar projection system.
  3. **LED-based projector** with multiple lenses can beam a million stars on the 16-meter diameter

projection dome which will be hanging on existing aluminum screen at a certain angle.

4. **Seats:** The number of seats was reduced to **225** seats from the existing **261** seats to make seats more comfortable. These are pushback seats for an enriching cosmic show experience.
5. A high-capacity **Optical Telescope** will also be installed in the planetarium.

### Patna Planetarium

- It was set up after the idea presented by the former Bihar Chief Minister **Shri Satyendra Narain Sinha** in the year **1989**.
- Its construction began in **1989** and was completed in **1993**. It opened for the public on **1 April 1993**.
- It is also known as **Indira Gandhi Planetarium**.

### Bihar Horticulture Festival 2024

#### Context

Recently, "Bihar Horticulture Festival" was organized at Gandhi Maidan, Patna.

#### More about the news

- The festival was organized to increase competition among the farmers and will give them recognition at the state level.
- Farmers from across the state participated in this event with 13 categories of horticulture products like Honey, Fruit, vegetable, Mushroom, etc.
- The winner of this event will get an amount of Rs.5000 and the winner of Special Award for Best Gardening will be given Rs.10000.
- Bihar ranks **1st** in Makhana production, **4th** in Honey production, and **1st** in Mushroom production.

#### Bihar government's initiatives for Horticulture:

1. Chief Minister Horticulture mission.
2. Makhana Vikas Yojana.
3. Integrated Horticulture Development Scheme.
4. Bihar Madhumakhi Palan Yojana.
5. National Beekeeping and Honey Mission.

### Sinha Library Patna

#### Context

On 9th February 2024 Patna's famed Sinha Library completed its 100th year of establishment.

## More about news

- A commemorative special cover was made for this library to celebrate the centenary of the landmark institution by the Bihar Circle of Indian Post Office department.
- The Chief guest of this programme was Post Master General of Bihar Circle, Mr. **Anil Kumar**.

## About Sinha Library

- The library was founded by **Sachchidananda Sinha** and was inaugurated by the then Governor of Bihar and Orissa, **Sir Henry Wheeler** on **February 9, 1924**.
- It was established officially as the “Srimati Radha Sinha Institute and Sachchidananda Sinha Library”, popularly known as ‘Sinha Library’.
- The Library has a rich collection of 1.8 lakh books and copies of some of the oldest Newspapers from 1901 onwards.
- Sachchidananda Sinha donated his collection of around 50000 rare books, which includes copies of Manu Simiriti, original copy of the Indian Constitution, Sacred Books of the East edited by Max Muller, Buddhist suttas, etc.
- Some old newspapers like Indian People, Bihari Times, Leader, Harijan, Criterion, Searchlight are also preserved here.
- **Other:** Most of the Relief Committee (during the 1934 Earthquake ) meetings were also held here under the chairmanship of Rajendra Prasad.

## Growth rate of Bihar

### Context

Recently, the growth rate of Bihar has remained constant at **10 percent** during **2023–2024**.

## Key Points

- In 2022–2023 the “**Real GSDP**” is expected to grow by **10.6% to Rs. 4.4 lakh crore**, while the GSDP of Bihar is expected to grow by **15.5% to Rs. 7.5 lakh crore**.
- As per Economy survey 2023-24, the **Gross fixed capital formation(GFCF)** in the state at the current price, as a percentage of GSDP(at current price) is estimated to be **4.7% in 2022-23**.
- As per Bihar Economy Survey 2023-24, the nominal per capita income in the state is estimated to be

**Rs. 59,637**, with an increase of **13.9%** over the previous year.

- After adjusting Inflation, the real per capita income of the state is expected to grow by **9%** in 2022-23 to reach **Rs. 35,119**.
- The capital expenditure increased by **41.4%** whereas revenue expenditure increased by **15.5%** over the previous year.
- As per the **quick estimate for 2022-23**, the share of the tertiary sector in the gross value added in the state’s economy is estimated to be **60%**, share of the primary and secondary sectors is estimated to be **20% each in 2022-23**.
- The value added by the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors is estimated to increase by **6.7%, 6.8%, and 13% respectively in 2022-23**.
- Primary sector has a significant share in employment, and lowest in the gross value added in both Bihar and India. With the primary sector, agriculture is the biggest employer in the state.
- **Example:** The share in the gross value added by the primary sector in **2021-22** was **20.7%** in Bihar and the sector employed **47.8%** of the total workforce in the state.
- Secondary sector has a **20.7%** share in the gross value added in Bihar in 2021-22 and a **25.9%** share in the state’s employment.
- Tertiary sector has a **58.6%** share in the Gross Value Added in Bihar in 2021-22 and a **26.3%** share in the state’s employment.

## Usha Kiran Khan

### Context

Recently, litterateur and Padma Shri awardee Ushakiran Khan passed away.

### Ushakiran Khan

- She was born at Laheriasarai in Darbhanga district in October 1945.
- Notable works:
  1. Maithili novel ‘Bhamati: Ek Avismaraniya Prem Katha’, for which she received the Sahitya Akademi Award.
  2. Hindi novel ‘Sirjanhaar’, which earned her the Kusumanjali Sahitya Samman from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in 2012.



### Padma Awards

Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997.

The award is given in three categories, namely,

- Padma Vibhushan for exceptional and distinguished service.
- Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order.
- Padma Shri for distinguished service.

#### Exceptions

- All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards. However, Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.

#### Who provides the awards

- All nominations received for the Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.

### Urban Haat

#### Context

The Ministry of Textile will open Urban Haat in 6 districts of Bihar.

#### More about news

- Haats will be opened at **Patna, Gaya, Darbhanga, Siwan, Nalanda, and Bhagalpur**.
- According to the Ministry's directions, construction of Haat must be within 8 km from the center of the main city and spread over an area of 8000 sq km.
- **National Handloom Development Corporation** will construct these haats.
- Through these Haats, weavers will get an Infrabased

Market for their products and recognition of their special skill and technique, removal of middlemen, and an increment in their income.

- It will provide permanent marketing infrastructure and direct marketing facilities to weavers and other craftsmen in the region.

### Urban Haat in Bihar

- **Mithila Urban Haat** is the **1st** Urban Haat in Bihar.
- It was inaugurated by CM Nitish Kumar in January 2023.
- World-famous Mithilanchal paintings, Craft Court, Boating (in the pond), Food Court, Multipurpose Hall, Open Theater for folk songs (of Mithilanchal), and dance performances and other cultural festivals are organized in this haat.
- This haat is serving as a harbinger of development in the region.

National Handloom Development Corporation Limited (NHDC) was set up in 1983 by the Government of India as a public sector undertaking under the ambit of the Ministry of Textiles to

### Agro Bihar - 2024

#### Context

Recently, Agro Bihar-2024 was organized at Patna between 8th February to 11th February.

#### More about the news

- Agro Bihar-2024 is the **12th** State-level Agriculture Mechanisation Fair of Bihar organized at **Gandhi Maidan, Patna**.
- This fair was organized by **CII (Confederation of Indian Industry)** and the **Agriculture Department, Govt. of Bihar**.

#### Key Points

- Modern agriculture machinery was demonstrated by the leading agricultural machinery manufacturers in the country.
- During the fair "**Kisan Pathshala**" was organized on a daily basis to give information about modern agricultural machinery to the farmers.
- Provision of grant on purchase of agricultural equipment for farmers who have received "Acceptance Letter".

- A cultural festival was also organized.
- Under the “Krishi Yantrikaran Yojana” provision of government grants on a total of 110 types of agricultural machinery.
- Provision of up to 80% grant on Crop Residue Management Machine.
- Provision of Extra grants for farmers, who belong to SC, ST, and EBC communities.
- In this fair, a total of Rs 5.39 crore grants were provided to the farmers, for the purchase of 744 agricultural machinery and 41 “Krishi Yantra Bank”.

## BIHAR ONE LINERS

- According to **Niti Aayog**, how many people in Bihar were lifted out from the poverty in the last nine years – **3.77 crore**.
- What percent of the population has come out from poverty in Bihar between 2005-06 to 2019-21 – **44.52%**.
- Under the Bihar startup programme, the state offers an interest-free seed fund of what amount – **Rs 10 lakh. (16 Jan)**
- Sanskriti Mishra of Darbhanga won the **Sahitya Akademi Youth Award** for which poetry – **“Kahbak Achhi Hamra”**.
- Under ‘Bihar Laghu Uddyami yojana’, what amount will be given to the poor families – **2 Lakh**
- Which state has won the ‘Aspiring Leadership Award’ for creating a robust startup ecosystem – **Bihar**
- What is the rank of Bihar in the country in terms of people working in the construction sector – **2nd**.
- According to the Bihar government, People with disabilities are eligible for what percentage of reservation in promotions – **4%**.
- Which startup has named as the best startup of the year on Bihar Startup Day 2024 – **Mediviser**.
- Which Organization of Bihar has won the ‘Best Women Leadership Award’ on Bihar Startup Day 2024 – **Gramshree Kisan Private Limited**.
- What percent of Bihar’s farmers don’t have a Kisan Credit Card – **80%**.
- How many central jails of Bihar have ‘**Mukti Bazar**’, that have been created to sell products made by prisoners – **5**.
- What is the rank of Bihar in Digital health account report – **11th**.
- Who has won the **14<sup>th</sup> Digvijay Mandar Marathon** in Female category – **Anjali of Patna**.
- National Road Safety Month was observed in the districts of Bihar between – **15 January & 14th February**.
- Who become the winner of **14<sup>th</sup> ‘Digvijay Mandar Marathon’** in Male Category – **Ishwar Chandra Verma of Ballia**.
- What is the rank of Bihar police in responding to the calls of Victims – **4<sup>th</sup>**
- What is the rank of Bihar in registering complaints in cyber policing – **10th**.
- When did Air service between Darbhanga and Ayodhya started – **1st February**.
- Bihar’s total mines output has increased by what percent – **4.8% (increased by 17 lakh tonnes)**.
- On the occasion of Republic Day, how many children of ‘Kilkari Bal Bhavan’ participated in the function organized at Kartavya Path in Delhi – **15 (3 boys from Patna, 2 boys & 10 girls from Purnia)**.
- Who has received the Prime Minister’s National Children’s Award from Bihar – **Mohammad Hussain of Kilkari**.
- Which project of Patna Smart City has been selected for **SKOCH Award** – **Integrated Command and Control Center (ICC)**.
- As per the Niti Aayog Multidimensional **Poverty Index**, which district of Bihar is poorest – **Araria**
- The Bihar government has increased the price of Sugarcane by what amount per quintal – **Rs 20**.
- **Gaon Chalo Abhiyan** was started by which Political Party – **Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP)**
- Who has won two gold medals in the **Khelo India Swimming Competition** held in Bhubaneswar – **Katyayani Singh of Bihar**.

- The total number of voters in Bihar as of January 24, 2024 as per data provided by Election Commission – **7.64 crore.**
- How many Police camps were made by Bihar Police in Diara areas of 15 districts under Mission Suraksha – **23 camps.**
- What percentage of the state's Jamabandi are not yet connected to Aadhaar – **82%.**
- Who will assist PMCH in the assessment of the qualities of its laboratories – **Christian Medical College, Vellore**
- How many ICT labs were constructed in Bihar school till January 2024 – **175.**
- What is the height of the statue of India's first President **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** also known as "**Statue of Wisdom**" that will be installed near the Ganga Ghat at Patna – **243 feet.**
- Which device has been developed by the IIT Patna that would provide 'thirty minutes' prior notice of the disaster to the workers in the fields or those outside from the home – **Nitish Locket.**
- In how many subjects the "Sakshmta Pariksha" will be taken to grant status of state employee to the Niyojit teachers – **59 Subjects.**
- In which district of Bihar, a 100 bed super specialty cancer hospital has been started – **Darbhanga.**
- How much amount has been spent to build 'BAPU TOWER' in Patna, which was inaugurated on 4th February 2024 – **129 crores.**
- What is the rank of Bihar among the all states in providing online services in governance – **18th.**
- What is the rank of Bihar in 6th Khelo India youth Games-2024, which was held in Tamil Nadu – **21st rank (Bihar won 5 medals in this tournament).**
- How many countries will install Smart prepaid Meter on the lines of Bihar's Smart Prepaid Meter project – **25 countries.**
- Which state has organized the 41st Junior National softball championship 2024 – **Bihar (Patna)**
- In which district of Bihar 'khadi Mela sah Udyami Bazar' (khadi fair cum entrepreneur market) was organized in February 2024 – **Bhagalpur.**
- 43. Which institute has started a Startup "**Inaya**" in Bihar – **Patna Women's College.**
- 44. In which state **12th National School Chess Championship** was organized in India – **Bihar (Patna)**
- In which district of Bihar '**Agro Bihar Festival**' 2024 was organized – **Patna (Gandhi Maidan)**
- When did **Janta Dal United** party form an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (**BJP**) for the first time – **in 1995**
- Which Municipal Council in Bihar has started **Open Manhole Free City (OMF)** programme on the lines of the **ODF** program – **Patna Municipal Council**
- Who got ACS GCI Joseph Breen Memorial Fellowship 2024 award from IIT Patna – **Neha Parashar**
- Where in Bihar, the **1<sup>st</sup> Biotechnology college** will be established – **Bhagalpur (In Sabour Agriculture University campus)**
- According to the report released by Department of Tourism, which place in Bihar was most visited by tourists in 2023 – **Rajgir**



# NATIONAL

## POLITY

### Indian Stamp Bill 2023

#### Context

The government prepared a draft of "Indian Stamp Bill 2023" to replace the Indian Stamp Act 1899 and put it up for public suggestion within 30 days.

#### The Indian Stamp Act

- Came into force in 1899, it lays down the legal provisions for the tax levied in the form of stamps on instruments recording transactions.

#### Stamp Duty

- Stamp Duty is a tax imposed on the sale of property or property ownership by the state government.
- Stamp duties are levied by the Central Government and collected by the State government.
- Stamp duties are mentioned in entry 91 of the Seventh schedule.
- It also includes bills of exchange, cheques, and promissory notes..

### EVMs and VVPATs

#### Context

Before the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, the Election Commission of India started a nationwide awareness Programme on EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) and VVPATs (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails) by setting up over **3500 demo centers** and **4250 mobile vans**.

#### EVM (Electronic Voting Machines)

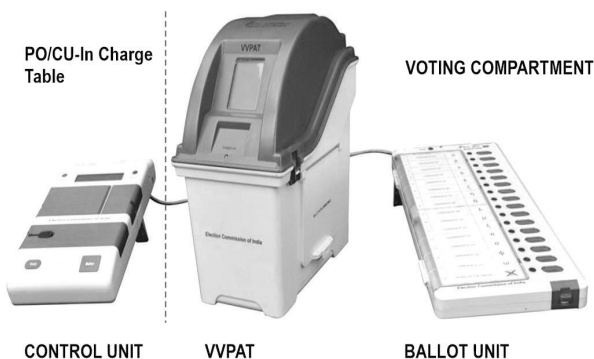
- It is a device used by electronic means to record and count votes cast in elections.
- The Indian EVM system is also known as ECI-EVM, which comprises a Ballot Unit (BU), a Control Unit (CU), and a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).
- EVMs were used for the first time in the by-elections of the Parur Assembly Constituency of Kerala in 1982.
- In 2004, in the General Elections of the Lok Sabha,

the EVMs were used in all 543 Parliamentary Constituencies of the Country.

#### VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails)

- It is a self-governing system committed to the Electronic Voting Machines that allows the voters to validate that their votes are cast as projected.
- When a vote is cast, a slip is printed on the VVPAT printer comprising the serial number, name, and symbol of the candidate and remains visible through a see-through window for 7 seconds, after which the printed slip automatically gets cut and falls into the sealed drop box of the VVPAT.
- VVPAT consists of a **Printer** and a **VVPAT Status Display Unit (VSDU)**.
- VVPAT was used for the first time in the **Noksen Assembly Constituency of Nagaland in 2013**.

#### 11.2. SET UP OF EVMS AND VVPATS



Source: ECI

### Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana (PMSY)

#### Context

The "Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana" has been announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a major step towards increasing the use of Renewable energy.

#### Objectives of PMSY

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana, solar panels will be installed in **1 Crore homes**.

- The Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana seeks to generate extra revenue for excess electricity generation while simultaneously supplying low- and middle-income individuals with electricity through **solar rooftop installations**.

### Eligibility

- This scheme is open only to Indian citizens who are permanent residents.
- Homeowners can only take advantage of this programme.

### Key Points

- According to a recent CEEW (Council on Energy, Environment and Water) study, Indian households have the potential to install more than **640 GW** of rooftop solar power.
- There are currently about 7-8 lakh rooftop solar system installations and 4 GW of solar capacity created by the government capital subsidy programme.
- India is the **3rd largest** energy-consuming country in the world after China and USA.
- India secured 4th rank globally for renewable energy and wind energy installed capacity.
- India ranks 5th in Solar Power Capacity globally.
- India has set a target at the COP26 of **500GW** of non-fossil fuel-based energy by **2030**.
- The installed solar energy capacity has increased by 30 times in the last 9 years and stands at 72.31 GW as per the latest Report.
- The installed Renewable energy capacity (including large Hydro) has increased by around 128% since 2014.

### Custodial Death

#### Context

Recently, a man from Gujarat died in police custody after an alleged torture.

### Custodial Death

- It covers deaths that take place in jail, on a police or other official vehicle, in a public area, on a private or medical property, or in a police station.
- Numerous factors, including the use of excessive force, neglect, or abuse by the authorities, can result in custodial death.

- As per the Law Commission of India, the offense committed by a public servant against an arrested or detained individual while they are under custody is considered to be custodial violence.

State/UT	2018 - 19	2019 - 20	2020 - 21	2021 - 22	2022 - 23
<b>Punjab</b>	5	6	2	8	10
<b>Haryana</b>	7	3	3	4	3
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	1	4	0	0	1
<b>Chandigarh</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Delhi</b>	8	9	4	1	5
<b>Uttara khand</b>	2	1	1	2	4
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	0	0	2	2	2
<b>Total in India</b>	136	112	100	175	164

### Constitutional Provisions for Custodial Death

- **Article 21:** Accused individuals, those awaiting trial, and other detainees could not be denied access to Article 21 of the Constitution unless it was done so in accordance with procedure established by law.
- **Article 22:** Article 22 specifies that no one who is arrested may be held in custody without being made aware of the reason for the arrest, as well as providing protection against arrest and detention in specific circumstances.
- **CrPC, 1973:** Section 49 provides that the police are not permitted to use more restraint than is necessary to prevent the accused's escape.
- **IPC, 1860:** If a police officer kills an accused while they are in custody, they will be held accountable for murder under Section 302.

### Implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

#### Context

Recently, the Uttarakhand Cabinet has approved the final draft of the Uniform Civil Code.

## About UCC

UCC aims to replace the unique personal rules of each faith with a unified body of laws covering topics including adoption, divorce, marriage, and inheritance.

<p><b>What is Banned?</b></p> <p>Marriage and divorce practices that come under Muslim Personal Law such as halala, iddat, triple talaq.</p> <p>Child marriage and polygamy</p>	<p><b>What is Uniform?</b></p> <p>Across all religions:</p> <p>Adoption rights</p> <p>Legal age of marriage for men (21) and women (18)</p> <p>Equal inheritance rights for men and women</p>
<p><b>What is Unique?</b></p> <p>All live-in relationships must be registered within a month, or else both partners are liable to 25k fine and/or three months in jail</p> <p>All children born to live-in couples will be considered legitimate and receive legal inheritance rights</p>	<p><b>Who is Excluded?</b></p> <p>Uttarakhand's Scheduled Tribes, which make up nearly 3% of the state's population, are outside the purview of the UCC bill.</p>

## The Constitutional Provisions of UCC

- **Article 44** of the Constitution which mandates that the state "shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India".
- Articles 14, 15, and 21 which acts as a watchdog against any inequality irrespective of religion, Race, Cast, or Sex.
- These Articles also deal with discrimination, cruel treatment, and infringements on fundamental rights due to gender prejudice.
- On the other hand Articles 25 to 28 deal with the freedom of religion and religious practice.

## The Delimitation Exercise

### Context

The delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently due to delays on the part of the Central government will be carried out based on the first Census after 2026.

### What is delimitation?

- Delimitation is the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies to reflect the change in population.
- Delimitation exercise also determines the seats to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.
- Delimitation Exercise is conducted by the Delimitation Commission that is set up under an act of Parliament.

### Delimitation Commission

- The President of India appoints the Delimitation Commission under Article 82 of the Indian Constitution.
- **Article 170** mentions division of states into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- The Delimitation Commission works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- **Members** Retired Supreme Court judge (Chairperson)
- Chief Election Commissioner
- Respective State Election Commissioners
- The Commission's orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court.
- The Delimitation Commission works without any executive influence.
- The Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly cannot modify the orders of the commission.

## Historical Timeline of Delimitation Exercises

Delimitation act	Delimitation exercise
1952	1952
1962	1963
1972	1973
2002	2002

**Note:** The commission was not created after the 1981, 1991 and 2011 Censuses.

## Present status of Delimitation exercise

- The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act froze the number of seats of the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies based on the census 1971 figures until after the 2001 census.
- The 84th Constitutional Amendment Act froze the number of seats based on the 1971 census till 2026.

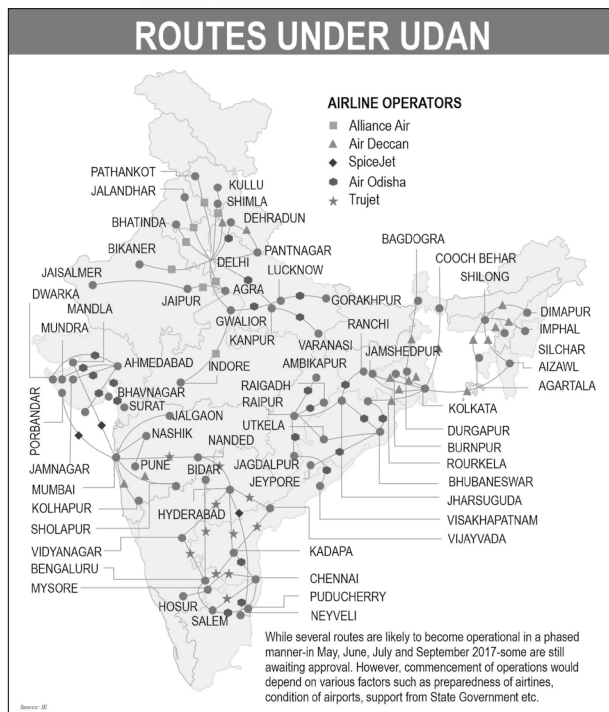
## Regional Connectivity Scheme

### Context

Budget allocation in the Regional Air Connectivity Scheme (UDAN) has been reduced by around 60%.

## More about the news

- The scheme UDAN will receive ₹502 crore in FY25 which is around 60% lower than last year i.e. 850 crore.
- The amount will be spent to renovate 22 airports, start 124 air routes, and finance viability gap funding for north-east connectivity.



## About UDAN Scheme

- It is a government-sponsored program under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) to enhance India's air connectivity and infrastructure, especially in remote areas.
- The first UDAN flight was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in 2017 connecting Shimla to Delhi.

## Objectives

- Refueling Growth in the Aviation Industry.
- Promoting the Tourism sector in India.
- Boosting Air connectivity- from Mundra in Gujarat to Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh.

## Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

### Context

Recently, the Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024 and Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024.

## About the Bill

- The passage of the Bill cleared the way for the addition of many new communities to the ST list of Odisha and the inclusion of synonyms and phonetic variations of existing tribes in the ST lists of both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- **7 PVTGs** were added of which 4 are from Odisha and 3 from Andhra Pradesh. They are:

## From Odisha

1. Bondo as a sub-tribe of the Bondo Poraja Tribe;
2. Mankidia as a synonym of Mankiridia tribe;
3. Pauri Bhuyan and Paudi Bhuyan as a synonym of Bhuyan Tribe;
4. Chuktia Bhunjia as a synonym of Bhunjia Tribe.

## From Andhra Pradesh

1. Bondo Porja and Khond Porja as a synonym of Porja Tribe
2. Konda Savaras as a synonym of the Savaras Tribe

## Background

- **Dhebar commission (1960-1961)** was constituted to address the issues of Tribal people.

- The Government of India declared 52 tribal groups as PVTGs on the recommendation of this commission in 1975.

### About PVTG

- They are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.
- Population- Small and stagnant/declining
- Technology- simple technology with slow rate of change in adoption of technology.
- Location- Physically isolated
- Literacy level- Extremely low
- Economy- Subsistence agriculture and collection of forest's resources.

### Present status

- Presently there are **75 PVTGs**.
- They are spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (Census 2011).
- **Odisha** has the highest number (more than 2.5 lakh) of PVTGs.

### Government Schemes for PVTGs

#### The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)

- It is part of the Pradhan Mantri Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Development Mission.
- This scheme was launched on 15th November 2023 in Jharkhand, on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- **Budget**- Approximately Rs 24,000 crore.
- **Objective of the Scheme**- To improve socio-economic conditions of the PVTGs by providing PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, electricity, road and telecom connectivity etc.
- **Coordinating role**- The scheme will be implemented by 9 ministries with Ministry of Tribal Affairs playing the key role.
- **Focus**- 11 critical interventions for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).

#### Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- This scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.

- This scheme is a centrally Sponsored scheme having a provision of 100% Central assistance.



- This scheme aims at socio-economic development of PVTGs in a comprehensive manner, while retaining their culture and heritage.

### Home Ministry meets with the 'Zo United' delegation

#### Context

Delegation of various Tribal organizations from Manipur under the banner of 'ZO United' met Ministry of Home Affairs Officials.

### Key Points

- The delegation consisted of 9 members.
- The meeting was arranged to discuss the current situation in the north-eastern states.
- The Tribal leaders' delegation comprises of leaders of
  1. Indigenous Tribal Leader's Forum (ITLF).
  2. Committee on Tribal Unity.
  3. Kuki Inpi Manipur.
  4. Zomi Council.
  5. Hill tribal council and all tribal Council.

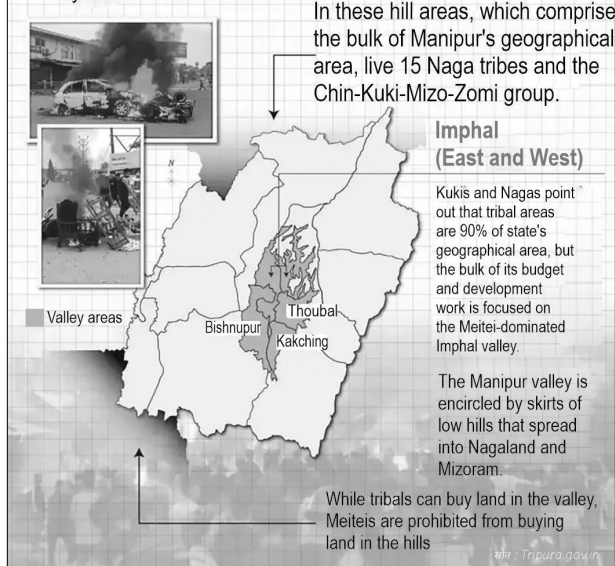
### Kuki Tribe

- The Kuki people are an ethnic group in the Northeastern Indian states (except-Arunachal Pradesh) as well as the neighboring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- According to the **2011 Census**, Tripura has **10,965** total Kuki residents.
- They manage their livelihood through **Jhum cultivation and by producing fruits**.

- They speak a language which is close to the **Kuki-Chin linguistic** family of the **Sino-Tibetan** race.
- Majority of the Kuki tribes are Christians.

## Manipur's ethnic faultlines: Kuki-Meitei divide & recent unrest

There are 16 districts in Manipur, but the state is commonly thought of as divided into 'valley' and 'hill' districts.



## Subcategorization within SC quota

### Context

A Seven Judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud is examining the issue of the Sub Categorisation of the Schedule Castes, dismissed the argument that preferential allotment to the certain sub-castes within schedule caste would lead to 'Balkanisation of the list'.

### Observation of the Supreme court

- Subcategorization could be a measure to ensure that the benefits of reservation reach the more backward categories within the reserved classes.
- If only certain castes are cornering the reservation benefits, it can lead to inequality.

### Inclusion/Exclusion in Schedule Castes List

- **Articles 341** empowers the **President** to notify a list of Scheduled Castes.
- The inclusion or exclusion of any caste from the Presidential list is done by **Parliament through legislation**.

### Previous Judgements of the Supreme Court:

- **E V Chinnaiah Vs State of Andhra Pradesh (2004):** The Supreme court held that Under Article 341, only the President can notify which communities will get reservation.
- **Jarnail Singh Vs Lachhmi Narain Gupta case (2018):** The Supreme court held the concept of "Creamy Layer" within SCs too.

### Constitutional Provisions For the Schedule Castes

Clause 4 and 5 of article 15 of the constitution states that, nothing in Article 15 (discrimination on the basis of caste) prevents the government from making special legal provisions to improve the lives of socially and educationally backward citizens as well as those from schedule castes.

#### Article 15

#### Article 16

Clause 4 and 4(A) of article 16 of the constitution provides for reservation in appointments to post and services in favour of the backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the state, is not adequately represented in the service under the state.

#### Article 46

The State shall promote the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes.

#### Article 243D and 243T

Reservation of seats for Schedule castes in Panchayats and Municipalities.

#### Article 330

Reservation for Scheduled Castes in the Lok Sabha.

#### Article 335

Reservation for schedule castes in public service

#### Article 338

Establishment of National Commission for Schedule Caste.

#### Article 340

The President appoints a commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes.

## Statutory Provisions

- **The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:** The Parliament of India enacted this law to prevent atrocities and hate crimes against the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

## Namo Drone Didi (NDD)

### Context

The Finance Minister in the interim budget allocated 500 crore rupees for the Namu Drone Didi scheme to provide drones to **15000 Women SHGs**.



## Namo Drone didi

- Namu Drone Didi is a scheme launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** to empower rural women by training them to operate drones for agricultural purposes.
- The scheme aims to train 15,000 Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) across the country to fly drones and provide drone-based services to farmers.
- The scheme aims to utilize innovation in technology to empower women in rural areas and make them the center of economic activity and rural prosperity.
- This scheme addresses the need to modernize the agriculture practices and increase the agriculture productivity by applying cutting-edge technology by rural women.
- It provides new opportunities for the country's new start-ups to enter the emerging field of Drone aeronautics.

## GHAR Portal

### Context

As informed by NCPCR, a total of 5175 children have been registered on the "Go Home and Re-Unite" (GHAR) Portal for repatriation.

## Go Home and Re-Unite (GHAR) Portal

- GO Home and Re-Unite (GHAR) is a Portal developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), launched on 20th November 2022.
- It has been developed to digitally monitor and track the restoration and repatriation of children under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

## Salient Features of GHAR Portal

### Salient features of GHAR Portal

To digitally track and monitor the children who are in Juvenile Justice system

Digital transfer of cases of children to the concerned Juvenile Justice Board for speedy repatriation of children.

Where there is a requirement of a translator/interpreter /expert, request to be made to the concerned State Government.

Child Welfare Committees and District Child Protection Officers can ensure proper restoration and rehabilitation of children

A checklist format will be provided so that the children who are hard to repatriate or children who are not getting their entitled compensation can be identified.

List of Government implemented schemes are provided, so that at the time of restoration the Child Welfare Committees can link the child with the schemes.

Source: PIB

## Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar

### Context

Recently, the Government of India has decided to map and document all villages under the project "**Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar**".

## Meri Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD)

- MGMD is a web portal that was launched in **July 2023**.
- The mission of the MGMD is to gather comprehensive data about the history, way of life, and culture of Indian villages.

Under MGMD, information is collected under seven-categories

1. Arts and Crafts Village.
2. Ecologically Oriented Village.

3. Indian Textual and Scriptural Traditions Connected to a Scholastic Village.
4. Epic Village is associated with oral epics and Puranic legends, the Ramayana, and the Mahabharata.
5. Historical Village linked with Local and National History.
6. Architectural Heritage Village.
7. Any other feature that should be highlighted, like a shepherding village, horticultural village, fishing village, etc.

#### Financial assistance

- Under the Financial Assistance for **Promotion of Art and Culture scheme**, which consists of eight scheme components, a financial outlay of **Rs. 353.46** crores has been approved for a period of five financial years from **2021–2022 to 2025–2026**.

#### Features of MGMD

- The contribution of tribal freedom fighters was also brought to light through **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**, and celebrations were held in their honour.
- The significance of India's forts and caves to the freedom struggle was brought to light through the campaigns **Qila aur Kahaniya** and **Wonder Caves**.

#### PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

##### Context

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana', to encourage people to install solar panels on their rooftops.

#### Objectives of The Scheme

- This scheme aims to light up one crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month.

#### Total investment in the scheme:

- **Rs 75,000 crore** have been earmarked for this project.

#### Features of the scheme

- **Subsidies and concessional bank loans:** Substantive subsidies will be given directly to people's bank accounts. There is a provision for concessional bank loans to install solar panels.

- **Promotion of Rooftop Solar Panels:** Urban local bodies and panchayats will be incentivised to promote rooftop solar panels in their jurisdiction.
- **Benefits of the scheme:** The scheme will lead to more income, lesser power bills and employment generation for people.
- **National Online Portal:** A National Online Portal will integrate all stakeholders, consumers, urban local bodies, and financial institutions. This portal will streamline the application and implementation process.

#### SHRESHTA SCHEME

##### Context

Recently, **CBSE** has issued guidelines for the implementation of the SHRESTA Scheme 2023 in all affiliated private residential schools.

#### About SHRESHTA Scheme

- The **SHRESHTA** (Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas) program is launched by the Government to give meritorious **SC** (Scheduled Caste) **boy and girl** students admission in the nation's top private residential school.

#### Objectives of the Scheme

- To expand the scope of the government's development initiative.
- To bridge the gap by working with **non-profit organizations** in areas where Scheduled Castes (SCs) are underrepresented in the education sector.

Class	Scholarship per student per annum (Rs)
9th	1,00,000
10th	1,10,000
11th	1,25,000
12th	1,35,000

- To create an atmosphere that will support the Scheduled Castes' (SCs) **socioeconomic advancement and general development**.
- To give talented Scheduled Caste (SC) students access to a **high-quality education** so they can pursue opportunities in the future.



Scheme is implemented in two modes

- **In mode-1**, a set number of deserving SC students—roughly 3000 students of class 9th and 11th in States and UTs—are chosen annually via the **National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)** conducted by **National Testing Agency's (NTA)** and accepted into private residential schools connected to the CBSE/State Boards.
- **Under mode-2**, **NGOs** will receive funding to manage school and hostel projects related to the education of Scheduled Caste students. Every year, **13,500** slots are set aside for SC students.

Tentative number of Seats

	9th class	11th class	total
2023-24	1500	1500	3000
2024-25	1500	1500	3000
2025-26	1500	1500	3000

Source: msje.gov.in

## Competition Commission of India

### Context

The Competition Commission of India will soon start studying the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on business and services.

## Competition Commission of India

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002.
- The Act forbids anti-competitive agreements, the misuse of a dominant position by businesses, and combinations (acquisition, takeover, and mergers and acquisitions) that have the potential to materially harm Indian competition.
- The Competition (Amendment) Act of 2007 amended the Competition Act of 2002, keeping it consistent with the principles of contemporary competition law.

## Objectives of CCI

- To provide proactive engagement with the stakeholders, consumers, industry, government, and international jurisdiction.
- As a knowledge-intensive organization with a high competence level.

- Professionalism, transparency, resolve, and wisdom in enforcement.
- To eliminate practices that have adverse effects on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers, and ensure trade in the markets of India.
- The commission has to give an opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority.

## Member of CCI

- CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.

## EDCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Program

### Context

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched EDCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Program scheme on 6th February 2024 in New Delhi.



## More about News

- This initiative aims to ensure access to high-quality learning systems by facilitating a seamless transition from secondary to higher education and extending financial support for the meritorious Navodaya Vidyalaya students who lack means.
- This scheme is in alignment with the **NEP-2020**, aimed at revolutionizing opportunities for quality education and access to higher education institutions.
- This scheme focuses on 'Going beyond mere Enrollment' and providing quality education.
- The **Online Vidyanjali Fintech Platform** was also launched during the event.

- **Five significant MOUs** were also exchanged between the government and private sectors towards nation-building and empowerment of the future workforce of India.

## Deputy Chief Minister

### Context

Recently, The Supreme Court of India dismissed a petition challenging the appointment of Deputy Chief Ministers in States on the ground that no such position exists in the Constitution.

### Arguments of the petitioner

- The post of The Deputy Chief Minister is not mentioned in The Constitution.
- The appointment of the Deputy Chief Minister is motivated by religious and sectarian considerations.
- The appointment of the Deputy Chief Minister is against **Article 14 (right to equality)** and **Article 15 (Prohibition of discrimination by the State)**.

### Observations of the Supreme Court

- A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India found no harm in the appointment of Deputy Chief Ministers due to following reasons-
  - The Deputy Chief Ministers are Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) of the States and Ministers of State governments.
  - The Deputy Chief Minister does not draw a higher salary and is as like as any other Minister in the government.

### Constitutional provisions: Chief Minister and Council of Ministers

- **Article 163:** There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions.
- **Article 164:** The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- **The Post Of Deputy Chief Minister lacks any Constitutional backing.**

### Deputy Chief Minister: present scenario

- Presently 14 states have deputy chief ministers.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has **five** Deputy Chief Ministers while **Bihar** has **two** deputy Chief Ministers.

### Anugrah Narayan Sinha

- He holds the distinction of being the first Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar in independent India.
- He remained Deputy CM until his death in 1957.

## Appointment of Election Commissioners

### Context

Recently, the Supreme Court of India refused to pass any interim order staying the operation of a new law on the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners. The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners shall be appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.

- The Selection Committee will consist of **3 members – the Prime Minister, the Union Cabinet Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.**

### Supreme Court's Judgement

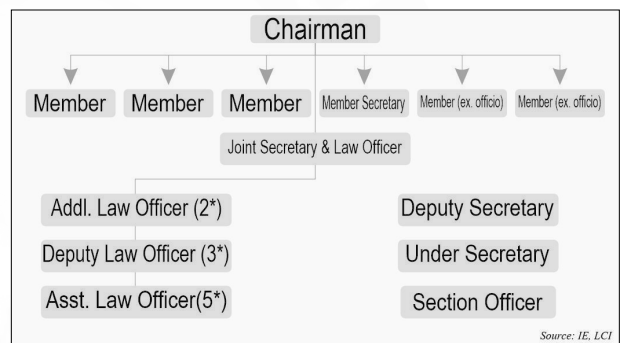
The appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners shall be made by the President on the advice of a Selection Committee that will consist of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India (CJI). (The above-mentioned act replaced CJI with the union cabinet minister).

- Earlier Election Commissioners used to be appointed by the President on the recommendations of the Union Government.
- This law was brought by the Union Government after the Judgement of the Supreme court (September 2023) on appointment of Election Commissioners.

### Election Commission of India

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a Constitutional body.
- The ECI was established on 25th January 1950.
- ECI derives its power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of the president of India, and the office of vice-president of India from **Article 324** of the Indian Constitution.
- Presently ECI is a multi-member body consisting of Chief Election Commissioners and other Election Commissioners.
- The tenure of election commissioners is not prescribed in the Constitution.
- As per Statutory law, the Chief Election Commissioner or an Election Commissioner shall hold office for a term of **six years**, or up to the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed by the President on the approval of a resolution by a **two-third majority** in both the houses on the grounds of proven misbehavior or incapacity.
- Election Commissioner can be removed by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
- ECI has the power to register a political party but it cannot deregister a political party.

- **Punishment for abetment:** The punishment for abetment shall be the same as that for the offense abetted.
- **Definition of Fine:** It will mean and include a sum equal to the market worth of the damaged public property.
- **Bail:** A person can be released on bail if the court satisfies itself that the person is not guilty
- **Special Circumstances for Lesser Punishment:** A court must record "special" reasons, rather than just any reasons if it sentences someone to fewer than six months in prison for mischief or damage to public property.



### New Laws to Tackle Damaged Public Property

#### Context

The 22nd Law Commission of India recommended key changes in the law to tackle damage to public property.

#### Recommendation of law commission

- **Presumption against the accused:** A rebuttable presumption will be present if evidence demonstrates that the offense directly caused harm to the property
- **The prosecution for assisting mischief:** When public property is damaged as a consequence of demonstrations, hartals, or bandh called by any organization. The organization's officers will be found guilty of aiding and abetting the offense and will face appropriate sanctions.

### What is Public Property

Public property encompasses anything (land, buildings, equipment) owned or controlled by central/state governments, local authorities, public corporations, and specified institutions funded mainly by the government.

#### About the Law Commission

- The Law Commission of India is a **non-statutory organization** that was established by a notification from the Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs, and the Government of India.
- Its purpose is to conduct legal research, and it reports to the Government on its findings in the form of reports.
- It works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- Present Chairman-Rituraj Awasthi.

## ECONOMICS

## NGOs' FCRA Registrations Canceled

## Context

The Center for Policy Research (CPR) and World Vision India (WVI) registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) has been withdrawn by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

## Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976

- The Act, which was first passed in 1976, requires registration for any association, group, or non-governmental organization that wants to accept donations from overseas.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs controls foreign donations through the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) to make sure that the money doesn't compromise the nation's internal security.

## Key Points

- NGOs whose registration was about to expire between September 29, 2020, and September 30, 2021, were granted an extension by the MHA to apply for a renewal until September 30, 2021.

## FLOW OF CASH

- Kiren Rijiju said around **25,000 NGOs** registered under FCRA in the country
- **190 NGOs'** FCRA placed on cancelled list of MHA in Telangana in 2017
- Quantum of foreign funds received in 2014-15 | **₹15,299 crore**
- In 2015-16, foreign funds stood at **₹17,773 crore**
- In 2016-17, foreign funds added up to **₹13,750 crore**



- The deadline has been repeatedly extended by the MHA, with the most recent extension being March 31, 2024.
- According to a 2012 MHA Report, there are more than 20 lakh NGOs registered in the country; out of which less than 2% of these NGOs will only be registered under the FCRA.
- According to the ministry, 13,520 NGOs got foreign contributions totaling ₹55,741.51 crore in the fiscal years 2019–2020, 2020–21, and 2021–22.

## Work Capacity Of Farm Labour

## Context

A new study by Researchers from various universities in the United States of America, United Kingdom, and Australia highlighted that the physical work capacity (PWC) of farm labour is decreased due to heat exposure.

## Key Points

- PWC is the ability to work hard for extended periods, having strong tolerance, and the capacity to prevent changes brought on by fatigue.
- In regions of Southeast and South Asia, West and Central Africa, and northern South America PWC reduced to 70%.
- Process Flow of PM KISAN Scheme:
- On the other hand in the Indo-Gangetic region of India and Pakistan, PWC has gone below 40%.
- In addition to Climate Change it has become another threat to World's food security.

## PM KISAN Scheme

## Context

The Finance Minister in the Interim Budget has said that a total of 11.8 crore farmers have been provided financial assistance under the PM KISAN scheme.

## About PM KISAN

- It is a **Central Sector** scheme with 100% funding from the Central government.
- An income support of **₹6000** is provided to all landholding farmers in 3 equal installments.

- 
- ```
graph TD; A[Farmer/CSC registers on PM KISAN portal/mobile app and state validates farmer's eligibility.] --> B[The state uploads farmer details on the PM KISAN portal after eligibility verification.]; B --> C[PM KISAN portal validates the records for Aadhaar, Income Tax Payees and Pensioners and marks them as ineligible farmers]; C --> D[Accepted data is sent to PFMS for account number and type validation.]; D --> E[Rejected Data at different stages are sent back to States/UTs for correction.]; E --> F[Eligible records are available for generation of Request for Fund Transfer (RFT).]; F --> G[Creation of sanction orders by DA&FW for approved FTOS. FTO list transferred to Sponsor Banks.]; G --> H[Signed RFTs are sent to PFMS for sanction generation.]; H --> I[Fund Transfer Order (FTO) generated against List sent back to states for final approval.]; I --> J[Payment is processed through Sponsor banks and NPCI. The beneficiary list is made available on the portal.];
```
- Farmer/CSC registers on PM KISAN portal/mobile app and state validates farmer's eligibility.
- The state uploads farmer details on the PM KISAN portal after eligibility verification.
- PM KISAN portal validates the records for Aadhaar, Income Tax Payees and Pensioners and marks them as ineligible farmers
- Accepted data is sent to PFMS for account number and type validation.
- Rejected Data at different stages are sent back to States/UTs for correction.
- Eligible records are available for generation of Request for Fund Transfer (RFT).
- Creation of sanction orders by DA&FW for approved FTOS. FTO list transferred to Sponsor Banks.
- Signed RFTs are sent to PFMS for sanction generation.
- Fund Transfer Order (FTO) generated against List sent back to states for final approval.
- Payment is processed through Sponsor banks and NPCI. The beneficiary list is made available on the portal.

**Context**  
Recently, the Finance Ministry said that inflation should be kept within the Range of **2% to 6%**.

- Inflation is the rate at which prices of goods and services rise.
- The most commonly used inflation indexes are the **Consumer Price Index** and the **Wholesale Price Index**.
- The WPI is used as the benchmark for calculating inflation in India.

1. Demand-pull inflation
2. Cost-push inflation
3. Built-in inflation



- Context**  
Index of Eight Core Industries increased by 3.8 percent (provisional) in Dec 2023 compared to Dec 2022.

|                                              |                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| About                                        | The Index of Eight Core Industries acts as an indicator of the health of the industrial sector.                                    |
| Release and compiled by                      | The Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. |
| Periodicity                                  | Monthly                                                                                                                            |
| Eight core sectors                           | Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers. (In decreasing order of their weightage) |
| Weight in the Index of Industrial Production | These Eight sectors comprise 40.27% of the Index of Industrial Production.                                                         |

### FAME 2 Scheme

#### Context

Recently, the Government reported that subsidies under the **FAME II** scheme will be eligible for **e-vehicles** sold till **31st March, 2024** or till the time funds are available, whichever is earlier.

#### FAME scheme

- The **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME)** was launched in **April 2015** under the National Electric Mobility Mission to encourage electric and hybrid vehicle purchase by providing financial support.
- It was implemented by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.
- Its first phase was in operation from **2015 to 2019**.

#### FAME 2 scheme

- Phase- 2 will have a total budgetary support of **Rs. 10,000 crore** and will run for five years, starting on **April 1, 2019**.
- The Ministry of Heavy Industries has increased the **outlay** of the FAME II scheme from **Rs 10,000 crores** to **Rs 11,500 crores**.
- This phase mainly focuses on supporting electrification of public & shared transportation, and aims to support through providing incentives for **7090 eBuses**, **5 lakh electric 3 Wheelers**, **55000 electric 4 Wheeler Passenger Cars** and **10 lakh electric 2 Wheelers**.
- Under the Scheme, the development of charging infrastructure is also encouraged.

### Green Mobility Push

India registered over 1 million battery-operated vehicles in 2022 against 32,500 in the previous year

**FAME-2 subsidy** accounts for 85% of total budget allocation for ministry of heavy industries

Over **750,000 units** benefited by FAME-2

| FAME subsidy allocation ₹cr |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| FY24                        | 5,172 |
| FY23                        | 2,897 |
| FY22                        | 800   |
| FY21                        | 318   |
| FY20                        | 500   |

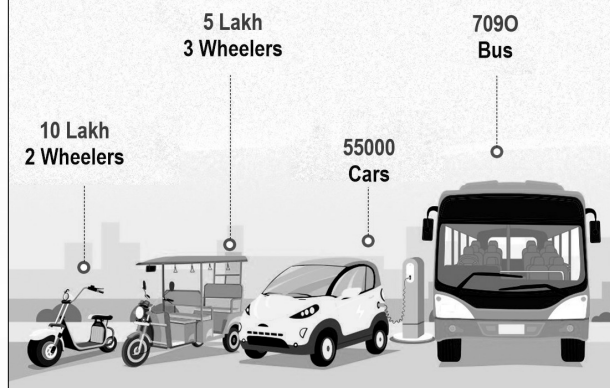
**₹9,687 cr Total**

Government has taken various steps to give Incentives on electric vehicles

- The **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** Scheme for the Automotive Sector was approved by the government on **September 15, 2021**.

### FAME INDIA II SCHEME BOOSTING EV ADOPTION

#### Subsidy support for



- **PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC):** On **May 12, 2021**, the government approved the PLI Scheme to begin producing ACC domestically. The plan is for setting up a **50 GWh** competitive ACC battery manufacturing facility in the nation. Furthermore, **5 GWh** of specialized ACC technologies are covered by the Scheme.
- **GST on EVs** has been reduced from **12% to 5%**.
- **GST on chargers/charging stations** for EVs has been reduced from **18% to 5%**.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)** announced that the battery-operated

vehicles will be given **green license plates** and be exempted from permit requirements.

## Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojan

### Context

Recently the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojan.

### About Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojan

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojan is a central sector sub scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- The objective behind this scheme was Formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises.

### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

- The scheme is being implemented in all States and UTs for a period of 5 years from Financial year 2020-21 to Financial year 2024-25.
- Aim
  1. Promote Blue Economy by means of systematic and sustainable development of the Fisheries sector.
  2. Modernisation of Fisheries sectors and creation of infrastructure for post harvest management.
  3. Double fishers' and Fish farmer's income.
- India is the 3rd largest fish producer and the 2nd largest aquaculture producer globally.
- Under this sub scheme **₹6,000 crore** will be invested in the next **four years** from Financial year 2023-24 to 2026-27.
- An estimated outlay of 6000 crore consisting of 50% i.e. Rs.3,000 crore public finance including **the World Bank and the AFD (Agence Française de Développement) external financing**, and rest 50% i.e. Rs.3,000 crore being the anticipated investment from the beneficiaries/private sector leverage.

## Government E-Marketplace

### Context

Government e-marketplace surpasses INR 1 lakh crore Gross Merchandise Value milestone in record time.

### More in the news

- Accelerated growth, increased efficiency, and unwavering trust propelling Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to achieve an impressive milestone.
- It crossed INR 1 lakh crore in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) within a remarkable span of 145 days.
- This outstanding achievement signifies a substantial improvement compared to the previous year.

### What is GeM

- GeM is a short form of a one-stop Government e-marketplace where common user goods and services can be procured.
- GeM is a dynamic, self-sustaining, and user-friendly portal for making procurements by Government officers.

### Features

- GeM eliminated human interface in vendor registration, ordering placement, and payment processing, to a great extent.
- Being an open platform, GeM offers no entry barriers to bonafide suppliers who wish to do business with the Government.



सत्यमेव जयते



**GeM**  
Government  
e Marketplace

Efficient • Transparent • Inclusive

- At every step, SMS and e-mail notifications are sent to both buyers and sellers.

### What is eNAM

The National Agriculture Market (NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal that networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

## Lakhpati Didi Scheme

### Context

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced to enhance the target for the 'Lakhpati Didi scheme' from 2 crore to 3 crore in Union Budget 2024-25.

### About 'Lakhpati Didi Scheme'

- 'Lakhpati Didi Scheme' is a central government scheme to financially empower women driven by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- The initiative has been initiated by DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission)
- **Lakhpati Didis-** A woman who earns a sustainable income of at least one Lakh per annum per Household.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Lakhpati Didi scheme on **15th August 2023**.
- The scheme aims to provide skill development training and financial help to women in villages and encourage them to start micro-enterprises.

### Features

- Women with annual family income of at least Rs 1 lakh can take benefit of this scheme.
- The scheme can be availed by joining a self-help group.
- Women self-help groups will be made self-reliant by teaching them technical skills like making LED bulbs, plumbing, drone repairing, etc.

### Achievement

- Nearly one crore women have become Lakhpati Didi already.
- Eighty-three lakh SHGs with nine crore women are transforming the rural socio-economic landscape.

## National Technical Textile Mission

### Context

Up to February 2024, 137 Research Projects have been approved under NTTM.

### More about news

- So far **137** research projects worth **474.7 crores** (approx.) has been approved by the Government to realize the goal of NTTM.

## NTTM

- The mission was approved in 2020 by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs with the aim to position the country as a global leader in technical textiles.
- It aims at taking the domestic market size from USD 40 billion to USD 50 billion by 2024.
- To make India a global leader in Technical Textiles, NTTM has been approved with an outlay of **Rs. 1480 crore**; from **FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26**.

### NTTM has four components

| Components                                    | Objective                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Research, Innovation & Development         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Total Outlay: Rs. 1000 crore</b></li> <li>• Key area of Research activities: Fiber level like - Nylon, Carbon and Composite fibers, etc.. Application-based fibers like agro, sports, medical mobile textile, etc.</li> </ul>          |
| 2. Promotion & Market Development             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> NTTM will target an average growth rate of <b>15-20%</b> per annum by <b>2024</b> and develop the domestic market size to <b>40-50 billion USD by 2024</b>.</li> </ul>                                                        |
| 3. Export promotion                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> <b>10%</b> increase in the average growth of export per annum up to <b>FY 2023-24</b>.</li> <li>• Establishment of "Export Promotion Council For Technical Textiles" to increase the export of Technical Textiles.</li> </ul> |
| 4. Education, Training, and Skill Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical education at the Engineering level, Launching different Skill development courses and training modules.</li> </ul>                                                                                                      |

### Other Government Schemes for the Textile Sector

1. **PM MITRA Park scheme:** Seven Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks will be set up in different states.
2. **PLI Scheme for Textile Sector:** Government approved total Rs. 10,683 crore for five years for enhancing India's textile manufacturing capabilities.



3. **100% FDI** (under Automatic route) allowed for the Textile sector.
4. **SAMARTH Scheme:** This scheme is a demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling program of the Ministry of Textile.
5. **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme:** To catalyze capital investments for Technology upgradation and modernization of the Textile industry.

### Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

#### Context

Recently, CBI registered a case of alleged Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) violation against an NGO named "Centre for Equity Studies", and over 20,000 FCRA licenses have been canceled.

#### About FCRA

- It was enacted in the year 1976 to regulate the receiving and utilization of foreign contributions by individuals or organizations.
- It directly comes under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **CBI** has the power to investigate or arrest any person for violation of FCRA.

#### Key Provisions

- Any person who is accepting foreign money or donations of more than Rs. 1 lakh, has to inform the Central government.
- Any person belonging to any of the categories specified in section 6 who wants to avail foreign hospitality shall apply to the Central Government.
- The application for grant of permission to accept foreign hospitality must reach the appropriate authority ordinarily **two weeks** before the proposed date of onward journey.
- The acceptance of foreign monetary assistance in case of a medical emergency, central government has to be informed within **60 days**.

#### What are the foreign Sources

1. The government of any foreign country.
2. Any international agency except the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, etc.
3. Foreign company and a citizen of a foreign country.

4. A society, club, or other association or individuals formed or registered outside India.

### MSP

#### Context

Recently the demands of farmers to legalize MSP has not been accepted by the Central Government and it has invited farmers to discuss the issue with them.

#### Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- It is a type of market intervention used by the Indian government to protect farmers from any significant decline in farm prices by guaranteeing a minimum price for their produce.
- The Government of India declares the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) at the starting of the sowing season for specific crops based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- Government agencies buy the whole produce that farmers offer at the minimum price specified by the government.

#### Objectives

- To insure the farmers against a steep decline in the prices of their produce.
- To encourage farmers diversify their crops as MSP is announced for a diverse range of crops.



#### Methods to calculate MSP

1. **A2 method:-** The minimum support price (MSP) is set at 50% more than the total amount a farmer

spends on labours, seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides.

2. **A2+FL method:-** The A2+FL method has been used by the Indian government to calculate the current MSP. The MSP is set 50% higher than the total that results from adding the amount farmers spend on labours, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other farming-related expenses, as well as the value of labour supplied by family members for agriculture.
3. **C2 method:-** The financial worth of the family members' labour on the farm as well as the expenses incurred, such as rent and other assets. After calculating these, MSP is set at 50% above the derived amount.

### Swaminathan Commission

The Swaminathan Commission, suggested that the MSP should be at least **50%** higher than the **C2** cost.

### Crops Covered

- Minimum support prices (MSPs) for **22** crops and **fair and remunerative price (FRP)** for sugarcane.
- Crops:- **14** crops of the kharif season, **6** rabi crops and two commercial crops.
- **The list of crops are**

| Kharif Crops           | Rabi Crops              | Other Crops          |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Paddy               | 1. Wheat                | 1. Sugarcane         |
| 2. Jowar               | 2. Barley               | 2. Copra             |
| 3. Bajra               | 3. Gram                 | 3. Raw Jute          |
| 4. Maize               | 4. Masur (Lentil)       | 4. De-Husked Coconut |
| 5. Ragi                | 5. Rapeseed and Mustard |                      |
| 6. Arhar(Tur)          | 6. Toria                |                      |
| 7. Moong               | 7. Safflower            |                      |
| 8. Urad                |                         |                      |
| 9. Cotton              |                         |                      |
| 10. Groundnut in shell |                         |                      |
| 11. Sunflower seed     |                         |                      |
| 12. Soyabean           |                         |                      |
| 13. Sesamum            |                         |                      |
| 14. Niger Seed         |                         |                      |

- The MSPs of **toria** and **de-husked coconut** are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of **rapeseed/mustard** and **copra**, respectively.

## PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme

### Context

A study conducted by the **Centre for the Analytical Finance of the Indian School of Business (ISB)** found that PM -SVANidhi boosted the annual income of street vendors by **Rs.23,000**.

### About PM SVANidhi Scheme

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** on June 01, 2020.
- PM SVANidhi is a micro-credit facility scheme that provides street vendors with a **collateral-free** loan of Rs 10,000 with low rates of interest (below 12%) for a period of **one year**. On timely repayment of the first loan of Rs.10000, the second loan of Rs.20000, and the third loan of Rs.50,000 will be given.

### Objectives of the scheme

- To improve the financial condition of street vendors by providing working capital loans without any collateral.
- To inculcate the habit of regular repayment by providing incentives.
- To promote digital transactions by means of rewards.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** implements this scheme.
- The scheme has been extended till **December 2024** from the initial target of **March 2022**.
- **Eligibility:**
  - The Scheme is available to all street vendors engaged in vending in urban areas.



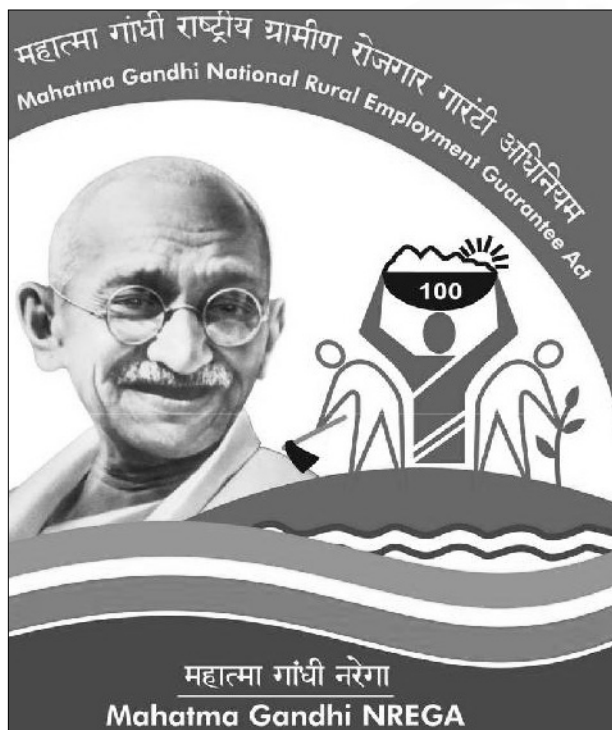
### Benefits of the scheme

1. There is a provision of interest subsidy @ 7% per annum on timely/ early repayment of the loan.
2. No extra charges will be levied for early/timely repayment of loans.
3. Digital transactions are being promoted through this scheme by means of cash-back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.

## MGNREGS

### Context

A total of ₹86,000 crore has been allocated for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) under the Union Budget which represents a ₹26,000 crore increase in the scheme from last year.



### Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

- It was implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development in 2005**.
- It is one of the biggest work guarantee programs globally.



### Objectives

The main objective of the program is to provide

adult members of rural households who are willing to perform unskilled manual labor related to public work with **100 days** of employment guaranteed every fiscal year.

### Recent data of MGNREGA as of 2023-24

There are 14.33 crores of active workers.  
There are 269.16 crores person days generated.  
There are 41.75 crores DBT transactions.  
There are 5.66 crores households benefited.

### Features of MGNREGA

- For working as a MGNREGA worker, a person must have completed **18 years** of age.
- **“Household”** means the members of a family related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption and normally residing together and sharing meals or holding a common ration card.
- There is a minimum wage for MGNREGA workers, **“minimum wage”** means the wage fixed by the **State Government** under **section 3** of the **Minimum Wages Act, 1948** for agricultural laborers as applicable in that area.
- **“Unskilled manual work”** means any physical work which any adult person is capable of doing without any skill or special training.
- The disbursement of daily wages shall be made on a **weekly basis** or in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which such work was done.
- Provided further that the wage rate specified from time to time under any such notification shall not be at a rate less than **sixty rupees** per day.
- If an applicant for employment under the Scheme is not provided such employment within **fifteen days** of receipt of his application seeking employment or from the date on which the employment has been sought in the case of an advance application, whichever is later, he shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance in accordance with **section of Minimum Wages act**.
- **Women** must make up at least one-third of the beneficiaries.

## GEOGRAPHY

## Delayed Snowfall in Kashmir

## Context

Kashmir, a major winter tourist attraction, has remained without snowfall for a very extended period in this winter season.

## Reasons for the delay

- **Role of Western Disturbance:** winter precipitation in Kashmir valley occurs mainly due to western disturbance. Generally during winter five to six western disturbance events happen every month. But this winter only two western disturbances happened.
- **Role of El Nino:** Several past years like 2022, 2018, and 2015 winter was relatively dry in Jammu and Kashmir and snowfall was also very low. Therefore Scientists observed that there might be a contribution of El Nino this winter.
- **Rising sea surface temperatures:** This has affected global weather patterns and is partly to blame for the decline in precipitation and snowfall in the Himalayan region.



## Western Disturbances

Western Disturbances are a group of cyclonic storms that move nearly 9,000 kilometers from the Mediterranean Sea to northwest India, bringing rainfall to the areas.

## El-Nino

- El Nino is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- El Nino is the "warm phase" of a larger phenomenon called the El Nino–Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
- El Nino has an impact on ocean temperatures, the speed and strength of ocean currents, the health of coastal fisheries, and local weather from Australia to South America and beyond.
- El Nino events occur irregularly at two- to seven-year intervals.

## Lakshadweep

## Context

During the Budget speech Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid special emphasis on Domestic tourism with special focus on Lakshadweep.

## Focused Area

- Port connectivity and infrastructure development on islands, including Lakshadweep.
- Geographical inclusivity through the development of all regions of the country.

## Key Points

- To achieve this aspiration, the government increased budget outlay from Rs 818 crore to 1412 crore in 2024-25 under Swadesh Darshan Scheme and also announced a framework for Rating iconic tourist destinations.
- To promote tourism, the Prime Minister also visited Lakshadweep and shared photos from there.
- G-20 meetings organized throughout India showcased diversity in heritage and focused on showcasing MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conference and Exhibition) infrastructure to the world.

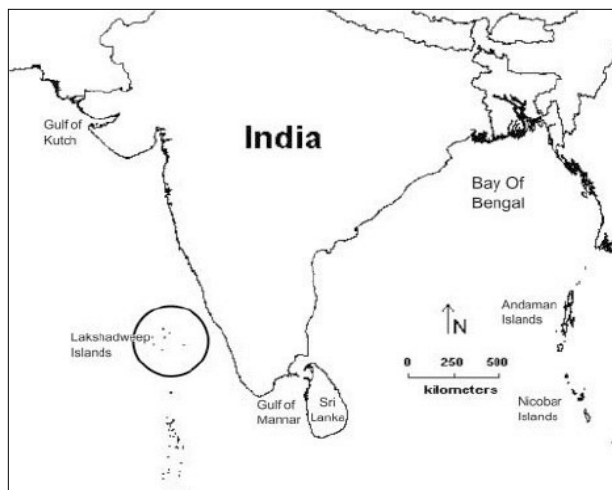


## Lakshadweep

- It is a tropical archipelago comprising 36 atoll and coral reefs situated in Laccadive sea.
- Minicoy, Thundi Beach and Kadmat beaches are Blue flag certified beaches.
- Largest island: Minicoy Island
- The **9 degree channel** separates Minicoy island from the main Lakshadweep archipelago and the

**8 degree channel** separates the island of Minicoy and Maldives.

- Capital - Kavaratti.



## Red Sea Crisis

### Context

The Red Sea crisis is leading to higher freight costs on certain routes and a doubling of transit time of vessels.

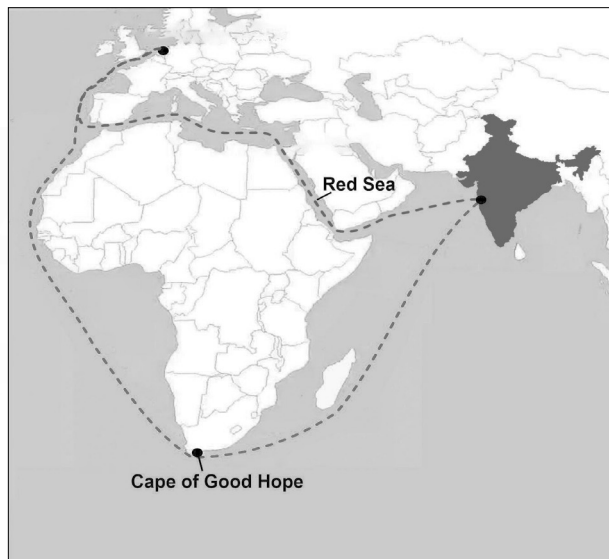
### More about the news

- The average increase in the freight cost for trade from India to Europe and US across the sector including pharma automobile and textile has been around 40-50% in January 2024 as compared to September 2023.
- Since India buys goods from Europe on a CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) basis therefore India is less affected than other countries.

### What are the effects

- Pressures on cash flow (foreign currency) will increase borrowing, especially for sectors such as iron and steel, chemicals, and textiles.
- Major shipping lines have rerouted their vessels around the Cape of Good Hope, which has increased time and costs, impacting both exports and imports.
- The crisis will increase shipping vessels fuel consumption because they are majorly depends on crude oil.

- Disbalance of exports and imports will impact India's Balance of Payment (BOP).



### What is Cost Insurance and freight (CIF)

- These are the fees a seller pays to cover the costs, insurance, and freight of a dealer's order when it's enroute.
- Rules for CIF is set by the **International Chamber of Commerce**.
- CIF is only applicable when goods are transported through waterways.

## EL-Nino

### Context

Experts are expecting that South India may see early, intense heat waves due to El Nino and global warming.

### More about the news

- The Northern hemisphere including south India is facing heightened temperatures due to the EL-Nino and global warming.
- Daily maximum temperature in southern India is 4° to 8° celsius above normal.
- According to the India Meteorological Department the worst affected areas are in the western and central Maharashtra, Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh, and northern Karnataka.

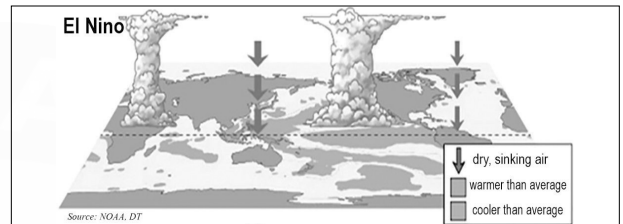
## What is EL-Nino

- El-Nino is an abnormal situation that describes the unusual **warming** of **surface water** in the **eastern Pacific Ocean**.
- During El Nino, trade winds get weakened therefore warm water is pushed back east, toward the west coast of America.
- Low-pressure condition is formed that lead to heavy precipitation across the coastline.
- It has an impact on ocean temperatures, the speed and strength of ocean currents, the health of coastal fisheries, and local weather from Australia to South America.
- This event occurs irregularly at a **2 to 7-year** interval.

## How does El Nino affect the Indian monsoon:

- The trade winds that blow across the Pacific decrease during El Niño years, making it harder

for them to force moisture-laden winds into the Indian subcontinent. Consequently, the monsoon winds across the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean become weaker, which lowers the monsoon's overall strength.



- In India, the monsoon season might start later than expected due to El Niño events. In a similar vein, El Niño may cause the monsoon to depart early, reducing the length of the rainy season overall.
- This phenomenon leads to drought in India.

## ENVIRONMENT

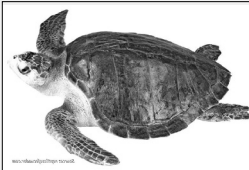
### Olive Ridley turtles

#### Context

Wildlife experts expected that Ridley turtles are likely to lay eggs this year near the mouth of Rushikulya river in Odisha.

#### About Olive Ridley Turtles

- Named for their distinctive olive green shell, these turtles have the largest population among all sea turtle species.
- Habitat: Tropical & subtropical waters (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Oceans),
- Scientific name: *Lepidochelys Olivacea*,
- Weight: Between 75 to 110 pounds,
- Length: 24 to 28 inches,
- Diet: Omnivorous (crabs, shrimp, fish, jellyfish, seaweed, algae),
- Behavior: Synchronized nesting (arribadas),
- Reproduction: Maturity: 6-10 years, Eggs/clutch: up to 100, Hatching: 50-60 days.



climate are responsible for this trend.

- Near Rushikulya River millions of female Olive Ridley turtles rush for mass nesting.
- Last year around 637,000 turtles laid eggs on the coast of Odisha.
- Conservation efforts are crucial to protect these gentle giants, ensuring their nesting grounds remain undisturbed and their future secure.
- Despite their large numbers, they are in IUCN's "Vulnerable" list because their survival is dependent on a limited number of nesting sites, and disruption to even one location could significantly impact the entire population.

### Gangetic Dolphin

#### Context

Recently, the Gangetic River dolphin was rescued by Forest officials in Odisha from the **Jalaka River**, and are planning to release it into the **Budhabalalang River**.

## Key Points

- The good condition of the coast and a favorable

## Key Points

- The dolphin species was last seen in Odisha on October 23, 2020, when a dead Gangetic dolphin

was found in the Govari River, near the village Kaikula in Odisha's Kendrapada district.

- Before that, a carcass of a Gangetic dolphin was found in Bhitarkanika waters in 1978.
- The state forest department preserved its skeleton and displayed it in its animal museum.

### About Gangetic Dolphin

- Habitat: Freshwater Ganges & Brahmaputra river systems of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.,
- Appearance: Blind, long-snouted, greyish-brown, up to 8 ft long.,
- Diet: Carnivorous (fish, shrimp) using echolocation.,
- Behavior: Solitary or small groups, mothers & calves stay together.,
- Reproduction: 1 calf every 2-3 years, gestation 9-11 months.,
- Threats: Endangered, facing habitat loss, pollution, bycatch.,
- IUCN status: Critically Endangered,
- CITES: Appendix 1,
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1.

- The Ganga River dolphin (*Platanista Gangetica*) is one of the three obligate freshwater dolphins in the world and is **distributed in the** Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Sangu-Karnaphuli River

System in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

- They are an indicator of the freshwater ecosystem because they live in freshwater only.
- They are **blind** by birth and use **Ultrasonic sound** to hunt their prey.



### Conservation Programme

- In **2009**, Gangetic dolphins were declared the **National Aquatic Animal** of India.
- **Project Gangetic Dolphins** was launched on **15th August 2023** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Conservation of Gangetic Dolphins.

### Other Dolphins

| Common Name          | Scientific Name              | Habitat                                                                                               | IUCN Status | Other Informations                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amazon Dolphin       | <i>Inia geoffrensis</i>      | Amazon and Orinoco River basin of South America.                                                      | Endangered  | Also known as Boto or Pink River Dolphin.                                                                                                 |
| Irrawaddy Dolphin    | <i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> | South and Southeast Asia. Three rivers: Ayeyarwady (Myanmar), Mahakam (Indonesia Borneo), and Mekong. | Endangered  | Found in marine, brackish, and freshwater environments. Known for unique behavior such as spy hopping, spitting water and fluke slapping. |
| Indus River Dolphins | <i>Platanista Minor</i>      | Found mostly in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan and Beas River in India.               | Endangered  | They are also known as Bhulan and rely on echolocation clicks to navigate and find food.                                                  |
| Tucuxi Dolphin       | <i>Sotalia fluviatilis</i>   | Central region of Amazon River basin found in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.                    | Endangered  | They are Freshwater Dolphin species.                                                                                                      |

|                               |                        |                                |                       |                                                                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yangtze River Dolphin         | Lipotes Vexillifer     | China                          | Critically Endangered | Also known as baiji and has been considered functionally extinct since 2006. |
| <b>La Plata River Dolphin</b> | Pontoporia Blainvillei | Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. | Vulnerable            | Female La Plata River dolphin dolphins are bigger compared to males.         |

## Albatrosses

### Context

A recent study points towards the destructive impacts of climate change on nesting sites of Albatrosses.

### About Albatrosses

- The wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) is the world's largest flying bird.



- These birds live in oceans for the majority of their life span and only come to land for breeding purposes.
- They reside mainly in the southern ocean.
- IUCN status:** Vulnerable

### Threats

- The nesting site of Albatrosses depends on coastal vegetation, elevation, etc, and these factors are being altered by climate change.
- They also face risks from longline fishing trawlers.

## Golden Tiger

### Context

Recently a Rare Golden tiger was photographed in the Kaziranga National Park.

### About Golden Tiger

- Also known as Golden Tabby Tiger.
- It is a colour variant of the Bengal tiger and not a different subspecies.
- Pale-golden color and red-brown stripes are its identity.

### Golden tiger: Matter of concern

- Colour variation may be a result of **excessive inbreeding** aggravated by habitat destruction and lack of wildlife corridors.
- Expression of recessive genes is due to inbreeding in a fragmented population.

### Kaziranga National Park

- Located in the Nagaon and Golaghat districts of Assam.
- This National park is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a Tiger Reserve (2006), and an Important Bird Area recognized by BirdLife International.
- This park is the habitat of two-thirds of the world's Indian Rhinoceroses.
- Many small rivers flow through this park including the Brahmaputra.
- Some important species of this park are -Wild Water Buffalo, Swamp Deer, Elephants, and Tall Elephant Grass.

## Laughing Gull

### Context

Recently, Laughing Gull, a migratory bird from North America, has been seen for the first time in the country at the Chittari Estuary in the Kasaragod district in Kerala.

### Key Information

- Laughing Gull is a migratory species predominantly seen in North America, the Caribbean, and Northern South America.
- It is a diurnal species mostly found in Coastal Areas and is rarely found inland.
- It is a medium-sized gull having a wingspan of 37–47 inches and measures 15–17 inches in length.
- Eats almost everything including Garbage therefore they are also termed as scavengers.





Source: American Bird Conservancy

## Schemes for Restoration of Mangrove Forests

### Context

Union Budget 2023-24 announced 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)' to promote and conserve mangroves as a unique, natural ecosystem having very high biological productivity and carbon sequestration potential, besides working as a bioshield.

### More about the news

- The promotional measures are being taken through a Central Sector Scheme named "**The Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs**" that has been launched under the National Coastal Mission Programme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- PM Modi also launched **MISHTI**, which is a significant step in providing nature-based solutions for mitigating the effects of cyclones and storm surges and our fight against the climate crisis.

### What are Mangroves

Mangroves are tropical plants that are adapted to loose and wet soils, salt water, and being periodically submerged by tides. Such areas are characterized by high rainfall around 1000 to 3000 mm.

### Worldwide status

- As per the Global Forest Resource Assessment 2020, a total of **113 countries** have mangrove forests.
- Asia has a large mangrove area of around 5.55 million hectares.

### Major threats to Mangroves

- **Urbanization:** Urban developments including the construction of buildings and roads leading to the rapid reduction of mangroves.
- **Agriculture:** 1.5 lakh hectares of Sundarbans have been destroyed in the last 100 years for agriculture.
- **Sewage and industrial pollution:** Mangroves serve as a dumping ground for solid waste from various sources like industrial wastewater and wastewater from Municipal corporations.
- **Cyclones:** Frequent cyclone damage slows the recovery of mangroves and changes the forest composition in comparison to other regions that don't witness many cyclones. The recent cyclone Amphan has destroyed 18.8% of the Sundarbans.

## Nagoya Protocol

### Context

Recently, Cameroon adopted the Nagoya Protocol to benefit from its rich biodiversity.

### More about the news

- Cameroon in Central Africa is home to vast biological resources, which have long been exploited by foreign firms without fair and equitable benefits to the communities that own them
- Cameroon has ratified the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.
- In accordance with the Nagoya Protocol, Cameroon is working to preserve and exploit a variety of biological resources, including the **Bush Mango**.

### About Nagoya Protocol

- It is related to the Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization.
- The Nagoya Protocol on ABS was adopted on 29 October 2010 in **Nagoya, Japan**, and entered into force on 12 October 2014.

### What does Nagoya protocol cover

- Genetic resources that are covered by the Conservation of Biodiversity (CBD)
- Benefits arising from their utilization.
- Also covers **Traditional Knowledge (TK)** associated with genetic resources covered by the CBD.

## Significance

- With the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, both genetic resource producers and users will benefit from increased legal clarity and transparency.
- Establish more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources.
- Helping to ensure benefit-sharing when genetic resources leaves the country providing the genetic resources.

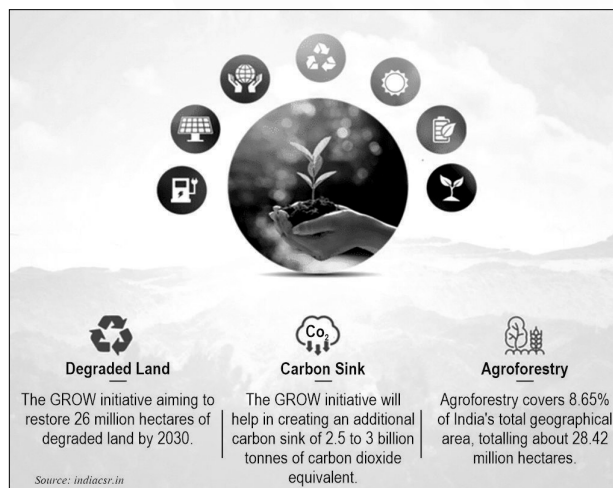
## GROW Initiative

### Context

Recently, NITI Aayog launched the **GROW initiative** to transform India's wastelands through agroforestry.

## GROW (Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry)

- It aims to boost effort in **environmental conservation** and **sustainable land** use across **India**.
- By using **remote-sensing** and **geographic Information systems (GIS)**, the initiative offers a comprehensive state-wise and district-wise analysis and provides crucial insights to government departments and industries engaged in greening and restoration projects.



- The initiative uses remote-sensing and GIS techniques to evaluate the suitability of agroforestry practices across all districts of India.
- It introduced an **Agroforestry Suitability Index**

(ASI) for national level utilizing and prioritizing thematic datasets.

- This initiative includes the “**Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping**” on ‘**Bhuvan portal**’, ensuring universal access to state and district-level data.
- It is estimated that agroforestry occupies approximately **28.42** million hectares, or **8.65% of India's total land area**. This project is in line with the country's pledge to rebuild **26 million** hectares of degraded land by **2030** and create a new carbon sink that can store **2.5 to 3 billion** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

## Black Necked Crane

### Context

The Wildlife Institute of India in association with the Zoological Survey of India have been carrying out assessment of the Black-necked cranes.

## Number of Black Necked Crane in India

As per the survey conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India in 2016-2017 in the **Ladakh** region, the population size of black necked cranes was around **66-69** individuals. In Arunachal Pradesh, a small population of approximately **11** individuals arrives during the winter months.



## About Black Necked Crane

- **Distribution-** China, Vietnam, Bhutan, and India (Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh).

- The main breeding ground of this species is the **Tibetan plateau**.
- Black-necked crane species are omnivorous.
- The male Black Necked Crane is slightly bigger than the female.

## Conservation Status

|                                |                                             |                   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| IUCN Red List: Near Threatened | Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I | CITES: Appendix I |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|

- The male Black Necked crane is central to Buddhist mythology and culture.
- The Bird is revered by the strong community of **Monpas** (major Buddhist ethnic group of Arunachal Pradesh) as an embodiment of the sixth Dalai Lama (Tsangyang Gyats).
- The Black-Necked Crane was adopted as the **state bird** of the **Union Territory of Ladakh in 2021**.

## Clean water crisis due to Nitrogen pollution

### Context

A recent study published by Nature Communications has highlighted that an additional 40 million square kilometers of river basin area and 3 billion more people may face water scarcity by 2050 compared to previous estimation, due to **nitrogen pollution**.

### About Nitrogen Pollution

- When the amount of Nitrogen Compounds like ammonia and nitrous oxides become too abundant, it leads to Nitrogen Pollution.
- Nitrogen pollution is also the byproduct of burning fossil fuels to meet growing demands in the agriculture, transport, industry, and energy sectors.
- Nitrous oxide ( $N_2O$ ) is a greenhouse gas, **300 times** more powerful than carbon dioxide and has been proven to deplete the ozone layer.

## How rivers getting polluted by Nitrogen pollution

- Human wastes, agricultural practices such as fertilizer application which are added into the river water.
- Sewage is the dominant source of nitrogen pollution in rivers due to rapid urbanization.
- Inadequate wastewater treatment infrastructure is also a significant reason in the present time.

## What are the effects

1. It reduces the source of clean water by polluting rivers.



Source: DTE, UNEP

2. Consumption of contaminated water raises the risk of infants developing methemoglobinemia, commonly referred to "**blue baby syndrome**".
3. High levels of nitrate in drinking water can also increase the risk of cancer in adults.

## The American Horseshoe Crab

### Context

Recently, Environmental groups petitioned the U.S. government seeking endangered species protection for the "American horseshoe crab" which is also a living fossil under threat from commercial harvests for baiting and biomedical uses as well as from habitat loss and climate change.

## What are Living fossils?

Living fossils are the living animals or plant species that are almost identical to species known from the fossil record. Living Fossils have changed very little over a long period.

## Example of Living Fossils

- Horseshoe Crab, Ginkgo biloba, Coelacanth, Komodo Dragon, Red Panda, Tuatara, Nautilus, Purple Frog, Platypus, Koala etc.

### Horseshoe Crab

#### Key points

- Horseshoe crabs are marine arthropods.
- They live in shallow coastal waters and lay their eggs mostly on the coastal beaches in late spring and summer.
- **There are Four species of Horseshoe crab**
  1. The American horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*)
  2. The tri-spine horseshoe crab (*Tachypleus tridentatus*)
  3. The coastal horseshoe crab (*Tachypleus gigas*)
  4. The mangrove horseshoe crab (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*)
- Odisha is the largest habitat of Horseshoe crabs in India.

#### Importance

##### • Medicinal use

- Horseshoe crabs contain **blue blood** which is used to test vaccines, drugs and medical devices to ensure that they aren't contaminated with dangerous bacterial toxins.
- A special clotting agent **limulus amebocyte lysate (LAL)** is found in Horseshoe crab's blood which detects a contaminant called endotoxin.
- The large hard shell of Horseshoe crabs acts as a

microhabitat for many other species like sponges, mud crabs and snails.

##### • Threats:

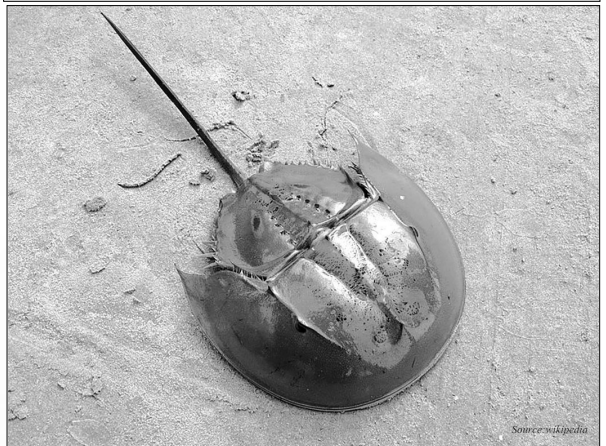
1. Habitat destruction;
2. Overharvesting for use as food
3. Biomedical testing.

##### • Conservation Status

- It is placed under Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

##### • IUCN Status:

- **American horseshoe crab:** Vulnerable.
- **Tri-spine horseshoe crab:** Endangered.



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Distress Alert Device for Fishermen

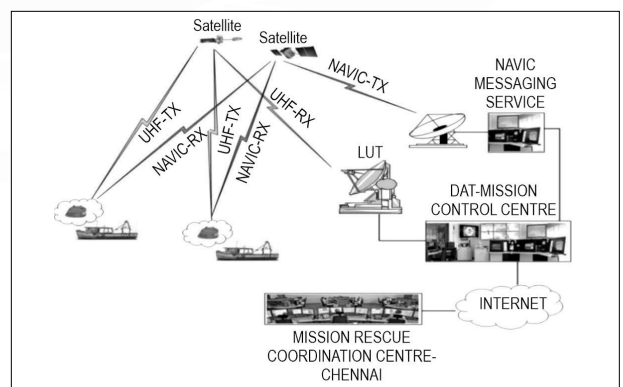
#### Context

ISRO Chairman Shri S. Somanath recently launched an improvised Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT) developed by ISRO at INMCC Bangalore.

#### What is DAT

- It is an indigenous technology developed for fishermen to send emergency messages from the fishing boat.
- The previous system of **DAT** has been operational since 2010 and till now more than 20,000 **DATs** are being used.
- Recently ISRO has developed the improvised

#### DAT as Second Generation Distress Alert Device (DAT-SG).



## DAT-SG

- It can send back an acknowledgment to the fishermen who activate the distress alert from the sea.
- It can give information about potential fishing zones.
- It can be connected to a mobile phone using Bluetooth and messages can be read in the native languages.
- It can receive messages from the control center that will help to send advance alert messages of bad weather, tsunamis, etc. to the fishermen.

## Working principle

- In this technology, the messages are sent through a communication satellite and received at a central control station where the alert signals are decoded for the identity and the location of the fishing boat.

## Some Important Facts about ISRO

- **Formation-** August 15, 1969.
- **Headquarters** - Bengaluru.
- **Chairman-** Shri S. Somnath.

## Malignant Melanoma

### Context

Sara Ferguson the Duchess of York, has recently been diagnosed with malignant melanoma.

## What is Malignant Melanoma

Melanoma is a **tumor** caused by the malignant transformation of **melanocytes**. Generally it occurs on the skin and also can appear in other locations for example in the **gastrointestinal tract and brain**.

## Key information

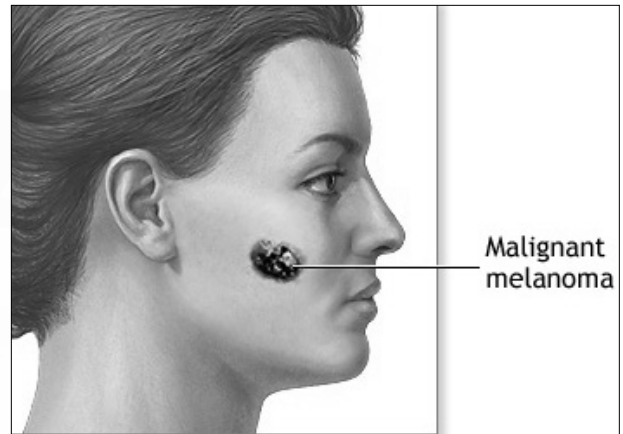
- Melanocytes are derived from the neural crest.
- It is caused mainly due to prolonged exposure to the Sun.
- People above the age of 40 are more prone to this disease.

## Way to Cure

- Latest approach to cure this disease, is recently developed drugs i.e Dabrafenib and Trametinib. They target the effected cells.
- Early-stage surgery can cure, but for around 20%

of patients, additional treatment is required.

- Radiotherapy i.e. chemotherapy treatments is also one of the popular way for its treatment.



## Lab Grown Sea Fish

### Context

Recently, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has come into a collaborative Research agreement with a private organization "Neat Meatt Biotech" under the PPP Model to develop Fish meat in the laboratory.

## Objective

The objective is to advance the production of cultured marine fish meat, addressing the rising demand for seafood and phasing out the strain on wild resources.

## Key Points

- The process of producing lab-grown or "cultivated" fish meat involves separating particular fish cells and cultivating them in a lab environment without the use of animal components.
- The cells are then combined with nutrients in machines called "**Bioreactors**" that create the ideal condition for the cell to multiply.
- The final product will have similar flavor, texture, and also nutritional qualities as the original.



## Benefits of Lab Grown Fish meat

- It has the potential to solve issues related to the environment and food security.
- It provides a sustainable and secure future for seafood production in India.

## Healing Touch Device

### Context

AIIMS has developed wound-healing devices with a combination therapy of negative pressure and oxygen delivery which is cost-effective for the patients.

### The advantage of this Innovation

- It takes less time to heal wounds.
- It reduces the number of dressing changes of the patients.
- It has better outcomes and reduced wound size and also helps in the formation of new and healthy tissue.
- No exudates on clothes.
- It reduces microbial infection due to local oxygen delivery.



## Asteroid Bennu

### Context

NASA recently announced that it had successfully removed two stuck fasteners that had collected samples in 2020 from the Asteroid Bennu.

## Asteroid Bennu

- Bennu is a carbon-rich asteroid that is about one-third of a mile (half a kilometer) wide at its equator.



- It is a **4.6 billion** years old small, near-Earth asteroid that passes close to the Earth about every **six years**.
- It is categorized as “**potentially hazardous**” due to its one in 2700 chances of colliding with Earth by 2182.
- It was likely formed in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- Its orbital distance from the Sun is about 168 million kilometers.
- NASA sent a mission named OSIRIS-REx to collect the asteroid sample and bring it back to Earth.

### New mission

The spacecraft of the mission OSIRIS-REx after delivering samples to the Earth, began a new mission as OSIRIS-Apophis Explorer (OSIRIS-APEX) to encounter asteroid Apophis in 2029.

## MQ-9B Drone

### Context

Recently the US Department of State approved the sale of an MQ-9B SkyGuardian Drone to India in a deal worth \$4 Billion.

### Key Points

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) had accorded the Acceptance Of Necessities (AoN) for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B UAVs.

- Out of 31 drones, 15 will be acquired for the Indian Navy, 8 for the Indian Army, and 8 for the Indian Air Force.
- The deal also includes **170** AGM-114R Hellfire missiles; **16** M36E9 Hellfire captive air training missiles; **310** GBU-39B/B Laser small diameter bombs (SDB) and **8** GBU-39B/B LSDB guided test vehicles.



### About MQ-9B UAV

- Made by General Atomics Aeronautical System, it can stay airborne for over **40 hours** and can be used for both military and civilian purposes.
- It can provide continuous intelligence and surveillance over vast areas, even beyond visual range with a top speed of **300 mph**.
- It can arm up to 8 AGM and 114 Hellfire missiles with an operational altitude of 25000 ft.

### Autoimmune Disease in Women

#### Context

Scientists at Stanford University have found an explanation for a decade-old Biological mystery, why more women compared to men suffer from autoimmune diseases, like Lupus and Rheumatoid Arthritis.

### What is Autoimmune Disease

- When the immune system of a person is overactive, it starts to attack and damage a Person's own Tissues.
- In the case of Autoimmune Disease, the immune system of the patient is unable to detect the

- difference between Invader cells and Healthy Cells.
- 78% of people with autoimmune disease are Women.

### Cause of Disease

- **Certain Medication**- Some drugs may cause changes in the body that confuse the immune system.
- **Genetics**- Some autoimmune diseases run in Families.
- **Infections**- Microorganisms like Viruses and bacteria could set off changes that make the immune system attack itself.

### Symptoms

|         |                 |                       |              |                 |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Fatigue | Frequent fevers | Joint pain & Swelling | Skin problem | Digestion Issue |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|

### Unfolding Biological Mystery

- Human cells typically have 23 pairs of chromosomes. Males and Females have the same appearances for 22 of these pairs, known as **autosomes**. But the 23rd pair is different between Males and Females.
- Chromosome is a microscopic thread-like structure made of protein and is found in the nucleus of every cell of animals, humans and plants.
- **Two (XX) chromosomes** in females risk overproduction of protein that might become lethal for women. So nature provided a process called "**X chromosome inactivation**".
- X chromosome inactivation achieved by courtesy of a molecule called "**Xist**", a type of long encoded RNA (lnc RNA). Xist inactivates one of the X chromosomes, however scientists found that in this process Xist also generates molecular complexes linked to many autoimmune diseases.
- During the normal process of cell dying, cells spill open, dumping their molecules in the bloodstream.
- In females, this dumped material includes the Xist molecule and protein attached to it. When immune cells encounter the Xist molecules, it finds protein stuck to them.
- Due to this unusual biological process, immune cells get confused and start making antibodies against the Xist protein, which may start attacking other parts of the body as well. Due to this, females have more autoimmune disease.
- Men having the 23rd chromosome as XXY (**Klinefelter syndrome**) have a high risk of autoimmune disease.

## INSAT-3DS MISSION

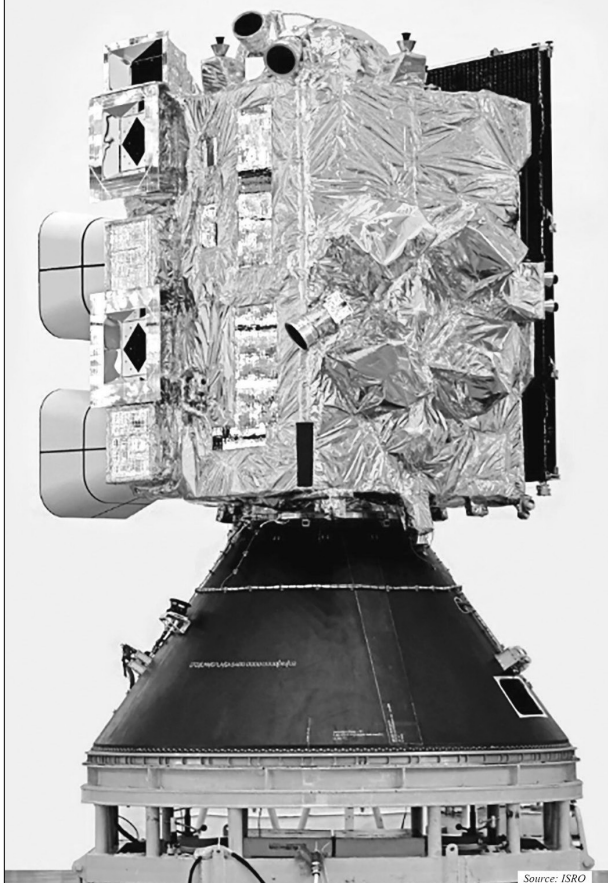
### Context:

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its meteorological and disaster warning satellite INSAT-3DS from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota.

### About INSAT-3DS Mission

- This mission is fully funded by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

### GSLV-F14 / INSAT - 3DS Mission



- This satellite mission is the result of the collaborative efforts of ISRO and the Indian Meteorological Organisation (IMO).
- This satellite is the third in a series of INSAT 3D satellites. INSAT-3D was launched in 2013.

- INSAT-3DS was launched by using the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F14).
- GSLV-14 placed the satellite into the **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**. Subsequent orbit-raising maneuvers will ensure that the satellite is positioned in a **Geo-stationary Orbit**.

### Objectives of the mission

- To monitor Earth's surface and carry out Oceanic observations.
- To provide Satellite Aided Search and Rescue services.
- To provide data regarding various meteorological parameters of the Atmosphere.

## Vyommitra

### Context:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Science and Technology and Space said that **"The uncrewed Vyommitra"** mission is scheduled for the third quarter of this year while a manned mission **"Gaganyaan"** is scheduled to be launched next year in 2025.

### VyomMitra

- It is derived from two Sanskrit words 'Vyoma' which means **Space** and 'Mitra' which means **friend**.
- It is a female looking robot which was introduced at the **"Human Spaceflight and Exploration – Present Challenges and Future Trends"** event in 2020.
- This robot was created for the unmanned **Gaganyaan mission**.
- It is also known as a **'half-humanoid robot'** because of no legs attached to it.

### Robot was designed by

- The ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (**IISU**) has designed, developed, and integrated the robot.
- Its fingers were built by **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.

### Objective

- The AI-enabled robot is designed to ride a rocket and survive the stress and the vibration felt by astronauts in the flight.



## Mission of the Robot

- Its mission is to perform a specific task to analyze how astronauts behave.
- She will answer in two languages and mimic every move that astronauts have to make.
- It will alert and carry out life support procedures, operating switch panels, and other human actions in space throughout the flight.

### Gaganyaan Mission

- It was launched by the Prime Minister on Independence Day, 2019.
- Its objective is to send 3 astronauts into space for a 3 day mission.
- It will send the 3-member crew into a 400-kilometer orbit and then safely land them in Indian Sea waters.
- It involves the creation of many essential technologies, including emergency escape supplies, a system that mimics Earth's life support systems, and human-rated launch vehicles for the safe transportation of people into space.

## Current Status of Railway Kavach

### Context

As per recently released status report Kavach have so far been deployed on 1465 Route kms and 139 locomotives on South Central Railways.

## About the Kavach system

- The KAVACH is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system developed by Research Design and Standards Organisation(RDSO).
- Modern electronics with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) certifications are used in it.
- It avoids collisions between two locomotives by prohibiting trains from crossing red signals.

## How does it work

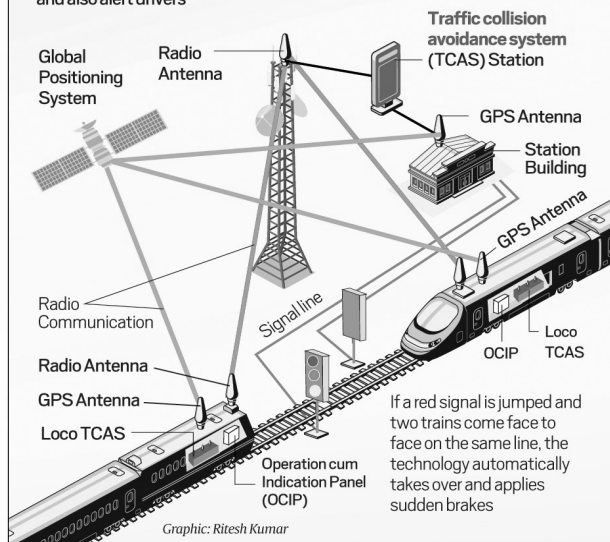
- Using **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** tags facilitates two-way communication for any emergency messages between the loco-pilot and station master.
- The instrument panel within the cabin assists the loco-pilot in anticipating the signal without

needing to visually see it resulting in maintaining constant speed.

- If a red signal is jumped and two trains come face to face on the same line, the technology automatically takes over and applies sudden brakes.

## HOW RAILWAYS' KAVACH PROTECTION SYSTEM WORKS

KPS is a set of electronic and radio frequency devices installed in locomotives, in the signalling system as well the tracks, that talk to each other using ultra-high radio frequencies to control the brakes of trains and also alert drivers



## Current status

- Laying of Optical Fibre Cable: 3040 Km
- Installation of Telecom Towers: 269 Nos.
- Provision of equipment at Stations: 186 Nos.
- Provision of equipment in Locomotives: 170
- Installation of Trackside equipment: On 827 Route Km.

## Anaemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyan

### Context

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the Anemia Mukh Bharat report for 2023-24.

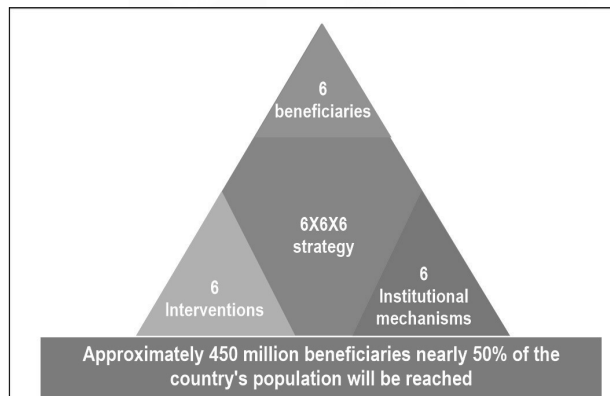
## More about news

- In Bihar, **26 districts** come under the **Red Zone** in providing Iron tablets to girls.

- Only 8.4% of children (up to age 5 years) in Bihar received Iron tablets.
- **Sitamarhi** district topped the list with 68.8% of children receiving iron tablets in school while **Muzaffarpur** is at the bottom among all districts of Bihar.
- In Muzaffarpur only 0.1% of government school students received the Iron tablets.

### Anaemia Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

- Anaemia Mukta Bharat is an **Intensified Iron Plus** initiative aims to reduce anemia in vulnerable age groups of women, children, and adolescents.
- It was launched in **2018**, under **POSHAN Abhiyan**.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare took the initiative.
- It is mainly designed to reduce the prevalence of Anemia by 3% points per year between 2018 and 2022.
- This scheme is implemented through “6x6x6 strategy”:



4. 6 target beneficiaries
5. 6 interventions
6. 6 institutional mechanisms.

### CAR-T Cell

#### Context

Indigenous CAR-T cell therapy is now available for commercial use and the first patient (Dr. VK Gupta) has been declared free of cancer.

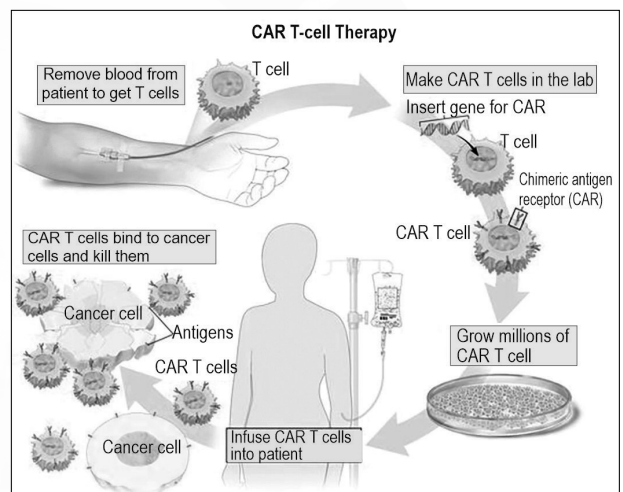
#### What is CAR-T Cell

A course of treatment wherein a patient's T cells are modified in a lab to combat cancer cells.

- The indigenous CAR-T cell therapy has been developed by **IIT Bombay** in association with **Tata memorial hospital**.

#### Method

- After isolating T cells from a patient's blood, the patient's cancer cells' gene encoding a unique receptor that binds to a specific protein is introduced to the T cells in a lab.
- A chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) is the name given to this unique receptor. Large quantities of CAR T cells are generated in a lab and infused into the patient.



### High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) vehicles

#### Context

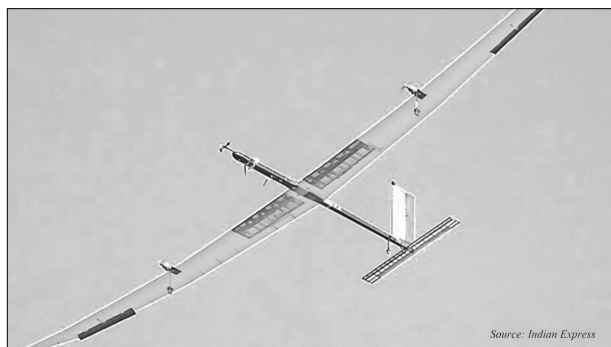
Recently, the first flight test of a High Altitude Pseudo Satellite vehicle prototype was conducted by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in **Bengaluru** (Test carried out in the **Challakere testing range** in Karnataka).

#### High Altitude Pseudo satellite

- HAPS is a solar-powered “**pseudo satellite**”.
- It is a new **unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)**.
- It can fly at an altitude of **18-20 km** from the ground.
- It has the ability to generate solar power and can remain in the air for more than a month.
- The cost of operating HAPS is very low as compared

to Satellites that are usually placed at least **200 km** from the earth because it does not require a rocket to get into space.

- It is a **23-kg** prototype with a wing-span of about **12 meters**.



### Benefits of HAPS

- It can significantly increase India's surveillance and monitoring capabilities in border areas.
- It can be used to provide mobile communication networks in remote areas.
- HAPS can be very useful during disaster situations.

### Kyasanur Forest Disease

#### Context

A viral outbreak of the Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), a tick-borne hemorrhagic fever, is rising in **Karnataka**.

### About the Disease

- The disease is caused by Kyasanur Forest disease virus (KFDV).

|                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Transmission</b><br>Transmission to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal...                | <b>Diagnosis</b><br>Diagnosis can be made in the early stage of illness by molecular detection by PCR... |
| <b>Signs and Symptoms</b><br>Symptoms of KFD may appear suddenly 3-8 days after exposure...                                    | <b>Treatment</b><br>Hospitalization and supportive therapy is important for treating KFD...              |
| <b>Risk of Exposure</b><br>KFD has historically been limited to the western and central districts of Karnataka State, India... | <b>Prevention</b><br>A vaccine does exist for KFD and is used in endemic areas of India...               |

- KFDV is a member of the virus family **Flaviviridae**.
- KFDV was identified in **1957** when it was isolated from a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest in Karnataka.
- **Rodents, shrews, and monkeys** are common hosts for KFDV after bitten by tick-borne encephalitis
- The disease is highly fatal for humans.

### Smart Gram Panchayat Project

#### Context

Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh launched the pilot project '**Smart Gram Panchayat: Revolution Towards Digitization of Gram Panchayat**' in all Panchayats of Begusarai District of Bihar.

### Objective

To Digitize Gram Panchayat, Enhancing Connectivity and bridging the Rural-Urban divide.



### Key Points

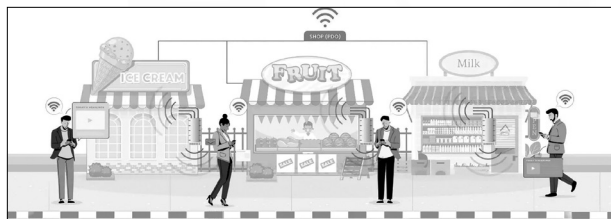
- The project aims to extend **PM-WANI** (Prime Minister WI-FI Access Network Interface) service in all Gram Panchayats across Begusarai District of Bihar.
- The Project is funded under the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).
- Begusarai has become the **first** District in Bihar to equip all Gram Panchayats with WI-FI service under PM-WANI Scheme.

## Beneficiaries

|          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Students | Farmers               |
| Artisans | Women Self-Help Group |

## About the PM-WANI scheme

- PM-WANI stands for **Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface**.
- Launched by the Department of Technology (DoT) in 2020.
- It consists of elements such as **Public Data Office (PDO)**, **Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA)**, **App Provider** and **Central Registry**.
- The set target by the central government was to set up 10 million Wi-Fi hotspots across the country by 2022
- To facilitate ease of doing business and encourage local shops and small establishments to become Wi-Fi providers.
- Users can choose internet packages/coupons from the portal.



- **Public Data Office (PDO)**: It will establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers.
- **Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA)**: It will be an aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting.
- **App Provider**: It will develop an App to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service.
- **Central Registry**: It will maintain, in accordance with the WANI architecture and specifications, the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs.

## About Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- The 'RGSA' Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in 2018.
- Later it was revamped and the centrally sponsored scheme of RGSA was approved for implementation from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- The objective of this scheme was to develop and strengthen the Panchayati Raj System across India in rural areas.

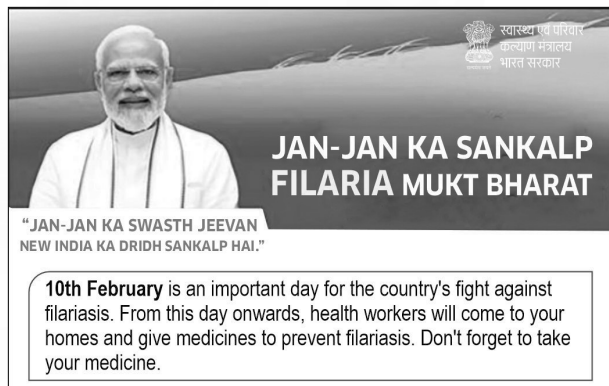
## Mass Drug Administrative Campaign

### Context

On 10th February 2024, a statewide drug distribution campaign was started to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis disease (commonly called as elephantiasis).

### More about news

- The campaign was started in **24** districts of Bihar and targeted to give medicine to 6 crore people.
- This distribution campaign is scheduled for **17** days in the state.



- Under this campaign, A Medicine named **Albendazole tablet** will be given to the people. (patient should not take tablet in an empty stomach)
- In **2023**, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched a nationwide Sarva Dawa Sevan or Mass drug Administration Campaign to eliminate this disease.
- **Aim: To eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, 3 years ahead of Global target.**
- Mainly **92 districts of 11 states** which have relatively more cases of filariasis disease (Andhra

Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, UP, West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Jharkhand) are the focused area of this campaign.

## Lymphatic Disease

- **Lymphatic filariasis** is caused by infection with parasites classified as nematodes (roundworms) of the family Filarioidea. There are 3 types of these thread-like filarial worms:
- 5. **Wuchereria bancrofti**, which is responsible for 90% of the cases.
- 6. **Brugia malayi**, which causes most of the remainder of the cases
- 7. **Brugia timori**, which also causes the disease.
- **Symptoms:** Filariasis usually leads to a weakened immune system. It also leads to lymphoedema (tissue swelling) or elephantiasis (skin/tissue thickening) of limbs and hydrocele (scrotal swelling). Involvement of breasts and genital organs is common. Some people may experience inflammation (an overactivated immune system)

## SWATI Portal

### Context

Recently, A single online portal representing Indian women and girls in **STEMM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) was created with the launch of the "SWATI (Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation)" Portal in New Delhi.

SWATI (Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation)

- The **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)**, in New Delhi, launched the portal on **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**.
- The Portal is a complete interactive database which is developed and maintained by the **National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR)**, New Delhi.
- This is the initiative of **Inter Academy Panel (IAP)** on Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine (STEMM).



## Objectives

- To include each and every Indian woman in science, across all career stages and subjects.
- Long term research on the issues of **equality, diversity and inclusivity** in India.
- To support and unite all progress of science in the young female **scientists, academics, researchers, and young start-ups** from India and overseas under one roof.

## Benefits

- It will serve in policy making to address the challenges of **Gender-gap**.
- Provide an opportunity to discuss and evolve a roadmap for '**Women in Science**' & '**Science for Women**'.

## Tear Gas

### Context:

Recently, Haryana Police deployed drones to drop tear gas shells on the protesting farmers.

## About Tear Gas

- Tear gas (Lacrimator) is a group of substances that stimulate the nerves of the **lacrimal gland** in the eye that produces tears.
- It also causes severe eye and respiratory pain, skin irritation, bleeding, and blindness.
- Generally, the effect of tear gas is temporary and reversible.
- They are aerosolized liquids or solids that are dispersed in the air through the use of sprays, fog generators, grenades or shells.
- Tear Gas was extensively used in World War I.

## Use of Tear Gas

- It is used to disperse crowd during protests and to control riots.

## Protection Against Tear Gas

- Gas masks fitted with activated charcoal filters provide protection against Tear Gas.

## Substances used in the Tear Gas

- Tear gas is made up of **synthetic organic halogen**

### Important components of Tear Gas

**1-chloroacetophenone** - It chiefly affects the eyes. O-chlorobenzylidene malononitril- Burning sensations in the respiratory tract and involuntary closing of the eyes are caused by it.

**compounds** such as bromoacetone, ethyl bromoacetate, xylyl bromide, benzyl bromide and  $\alpha$ -bromobenzyl cyanide.

- Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray) is also used in Tear Gas.

## ART & CULTURE

### Jain Sculpture of 11th Century

#### Context

Three Jain sculptures dated around the 11th century CE were discovered in Varuna village in the Mysuru district of Karnataka.

## Jain Sculpture

- Jain sculptures were primarily notable for their magnificence which can be seen in the beautiful images of Jain Tirthankaras.
- Pillared chambers, inner sanctums, domes, and pointed towers are common elements of Jain temple architecture.



- Images of Jain Tirthankara are mostly those of Lord Parshvanatha, Rishabh Dev, or Vardhaman.
- The highest ideal of Jainism is the wandering and dispassionate ascetic, which is why Jains are always portrayed as yogis.
- They are depicted in only two positions: either

seated in the **Lotus Position (Padmasana)** or standing exclusively in the Jain posture of renunciation of the body (**Kayotsarga**).

## Jainism

- Jainism also known as Jain Dharma, traces its spiritual ideas and history through the succession of twenty-four Tirthankaras (supreme preachers of Dharma), the first being Rishabhadeva, whom the tradition holds to have lived millions of years ago.
- It believes that the universe regulates itself, with souls evolving through karma.
- Three Pillars
  1. **Ahimsa (Non-Violence):** Reverence for all life, from the smallest insect to humans.
  2. **Anekantavada (Multiple Perspectives):** Truth is multifaceted, no single view holds absolute truth.
  3. **Aparigraha (Non-Attachment):** Minimizing possessions and desires for inner freedom.
- **Spiritual Guides:** 24 Tirthankaras, with Mahavira (6th century BCE) being the last.
- **Followers:** Both monks and lay people strive for liberation through ethical living and self-discipline.
- **Practices:** Vegetarianism, fasting, meditation, minimal clothing for monks.
- **Impact:** Inspired vegetarianism, animal welfare movements, and philosophies of non-violence.

## Important Jain Pilgrimage Sites in India

| Sites            | Location      |
|------------------|---------------|
| Sammed Shikharji | Jharkhand     |
| Shatrunjaya Hill | Gujarat       |
| Girnar           | Gujarat       |
| Deogarh          | Uttar Pradesh |
| Pawapuri         | Bihar         |
| Dilwara-temple   | Rajasthan     |
| Shravanabelagola | Karnataka     |
| Ellora cave      | Maharashtra   |

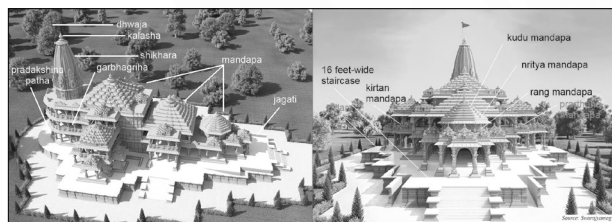
### Shri Ram Temple, Ayodhya

#### Context

The 'Pran Pratistha' ceremony took place on the 22nd of January.

#### About Pran Prathista

Pran Pratistha is the act through which an idol transforms into a deity and giving the capacity to accept Prayers and Boons. For "Pran Prathistha" the following rituals are to be followed:



- **Multiple adhivaas:** Idol is submerged in various materials for healing and quality check.
- **Jalādhivās:** Submerged in water for one night.
- **Dhānyādhivās:** Submerging in grain.
- **Ritual bath:** Cleanses the idol.
- **Abhishek:** Performed with various materials based on ceremony scale. Can involve **108** items like panchamrit, fragrant water, cow horn water, and sugarcane juice.
- **Awakening the Statue**
  - **Mantras:** Chants invoke different deities to

animate specific body parts (e.g., Surya for eyes, Vayu for ears).

#### • Eye-opening ceremony

- **Anjan:** Kohl-like substance applied around eyes with a gold needle. The process is performed from behind as looking into the eye can be too much to take because of its brilliance.

### Features of Ram Temple

#### Architectural Style

- **Māru-Gurjara type of the Nagara style** (prevalent in North India).
- Characterized by intricate carvings, towering Shikharas (spires), and ornate decorations.

#### Dimensions and Layout

- **360 ft long, 235 ft wide, 161 ft high**, spanning 4.0 hectares (10 acres).

#### Three storeyed

- Ground floor houses the revered idol of Ram Lalla.
- First floor features the "**Ram Darbar**," a complex with **05 halls**: Nritya Mandap (dance hall), Rang Mandap (stage hall), Sabha Mandap (assembly hall), Prarthana Mandap (prayer hall), and Kirtan Mandap (chanting hall).
- The second floor's purpose is yet to be finalized.
- The remaining 23 hectares (57 acres) form a complex with a prayer hall, lecture hall, educational facilities, museum, cafeteria, and more.

#### Key Elements

- Five intricately carved mandapas (halls) between the sanctum sanctorum and entrance, each topped with a shikhara.
- Unique octagonal sanctum sanctorum (Garbhagriha) inspired by scriptures related to Lord Vishnu.
- 366 meticulously carved columns, each adorned with 16 idols depicting divine figures like the incarnations of Shiva, Dashavataras, Chausath Yoginis, and Saraswati.
- Five elegant domes and a majestic central tower adorning the rooftop.

- Special design allows natural sunlight to illuminate the inner sanctum, highlighting the idol of Ram Lalla.
- Advanced 3D analysis ensures structural stability for over 2,500 years.
- Design incorporates various Hindu mythological references and motifs, symbolizing piety and devotion.

### Rajon Ki Baoli

#### Context

Mehrauli Archeological Park is the storehouse of monuments each narrating part of Delhi's history of the last thousand years. Rajon ki Baoli is one among them.

#### About Rajon Ki Baoli

- It is a complex that includes a Stepwell and a mosque with Chhatra (dome-shaped pavilion), situated 400 meters south of Adham Khan Tomb.



- It was made to serve the needs of **Mason** i.e. Raj Mistri.
- It was built in 1516 by **Daulat Khan**, Governor of Punjab during the **Ibrahim Lodi Era**.

- Out of the 66 steps, only 41 steps and 3 storeys are visible due to it being partially filled.
- The design of the Rajon ki Baoli represents the footprint of Indo-Islamic design.

### 390 years old Deepastambham (lamp post)

#### Context

Recently, Telangana's trading ties were unravelled by a 390-years-old lamp post in Nalgonda district which was dedicated to **Kasi Viswanatha**.

#### About the lamp post

- Archaeologists **Ashok Kumar and Srinivasan** found this lamp post in **Mudimanikyam village** near Krishna river in **Nalgonda district, Telangana**.



- It is likely to have served as a lighthouse on the riverine trade route which is dedicated to **Kasi Vishwanath**.
- Inscription on the lamp post is written in a combination of **Tamil and Telugu** languages and is dated to 1635 C.E.
- This pillar is **20 feet** tall and has hollows for lamps.

## ONE LINERS

- The Current Head of the committee on MSP formed to review the demands of farmers  
- **Sanjay Agarwal**
- Which committee recommended the setting up of IIT Campus outside India  
- **Dr K Radhakrishnan Committee**
- UAV(Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) '**HAPS**' vehicle that works on solar power used for surveillance,

monitoring, and disaster management was successfully tested by

- **NAL (National Aerospace Laboratory), Bengaluru**
- **Suraj Kund International Crafts Mela 2024** will be held in which state  
- **Haryana**
- India's largest and first-of-its-kind mobility exhibition - Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 will be held at  
- **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**



- Where did Shringar Gauri Puja resumed after 30 years - **Gyanvapi Cellar, Varanasi.**
- The opening ceremony of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 (KIWG) was held on 2 February at - **the NDS Stadium in Leh**
- Who chaired the **Unicorn Roundtable** at Startup India Innovation Week - **Piyush Goyal (Union Minister).**
- The Indian Air Force will be conducting **Exercise Vayu Shakti-24** at which place - **Pokhran field firing Range, near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**
- Who won the US-based National Boxing Association's Intercontinental Title - **Mandeep Jangra**
- The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs was held at - **Kochi (Kerala)**
- India's largest energy exhibition and conference, **India Energy Week 2024** will be held at - **Goa**
- **Dusted Apollo**, an extremely rare high-altitude butterfly has recently been sighted for the first time in which state - **Himachal Pradesh.**
- **Green Propulsion System**, a non-toxic and environment friendly propulsion system for low orbit space is developed by - **DRDO**
- In the Interim Budget 2024, the term "**Blue Economy 2.0**" represents the development of - **India's marine and fisheries activities.**
- What is the name of country's first and largest survey vessel ship of the Indian Navy which was commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Vishakhapatnam - **INS Sandhayak.**
- Who ranked first in "**Brand Guardianship Index 2024**" - **Mukesh Ambani.**
- Justice **Ritu Bahri** became the first woman chief justice of which state - **Uttarakhand.**
- Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **Boat Audio Company** - **Ranveer Singh.**
- What is the name of the high-speed expendable aerial target developed by DRDO - **ABHYAS.**
- The first indigenously designed **155 mm Smart Ammunition** has been developed by the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** in collaboration with - **'Munitions India Limited'.**
- Recently, a two-day '**ULLAS**' Mela was organized at which place - **New Delhi.**
- Who has been honoured with the '**Outstanding Business Women of 2023**' - **Dr Bina Modi.**
- Which institute has developed and successfully tested India's first '**Hypervelocity expansion tunnel**' test facility - **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT Kanpur).**
- Recently, which State Legislative Assembly passed the '**Uniform Civil Code**' Bill - **Uttarakhand**
- The selection committee for the appointment of the Election Commissioner comprises - **the Prime Minister, a Leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha and a Union Minister.**
- The '**Water Warrior Award**' for water conservation efforts at the **World Water Award 2023-24** has been given to which city - **Noida (Jointly organized by the Central government and UNESCO).**
- "**Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India**" case was recently in the news is related to - **Section 377 of IPC and decriminalisation of same-sex relations between consenting adults.**
- Recently, who has been awarded as the Sportsman of The Year in Team Sport category at the Sportstar Aces Award - **MD. Shami.**
- Which state won the title in the boy's category at the **73rd National Junior Basketball Championships** held in **Bhubaneswar** - **Uttar Pradesh**
- Which state won the title in the girls' category at the **73rd National Junior Basketball Championships** held in **Bhubaneswar** - **Tamil Nadu**
- Who won the first prize in the **International High Jump Gala Elmos 2024** held in Belgium - **Tejaswin Shankar (2.23 meters)**
- Who won the final of the **L&T Mumbai Open WTA Tournament** against **Storm Hunter** - **Darja Semenistaja.**
- Who won the final of the men's **U-19 World Cup 2024** by defeating India by a margin of **79 runs** - **Australia.**

- Who will be the focus country at the 2024 International Kolkata Book Fair  
– **United Kingdom (From 18 to 31 January at Salt Lake's Central Park)**
- Which programme has been launched by **Union Education Ministry** in collaboration with the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) and **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)** in which they will distribute 11 lakhs FIFA footballs throughout the country  
– **Football for Schools (F4S)**
- Which tribes has set the Guinness world record for a 2km line walking on bamboo stilts  
– **Karbi tribesmen (the oldest inhabitants of Assam, is called Kengdongdang)**
- Recently which state has introduced **the** silicon-proven Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chip **named Kairali Chip**  
– **Kerala.**
- Odisha government seeks urgent deployment of "Kumki elephants" from which state of India  
– **Tamil Nadu.**
- Who has chaired the first meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission  
– **Arvind Panagariya**
- Recently, which central government's bond has been declared as unconstitutional  
– **Electoral Bond.**
- Recently, which country's first Hindu stone temple was inaugurated by PM Modi  
– **UAE (Abu Dhabi)**
- Recently, who has been awarded by Aces award  
– **Shami, Bopanna, and Sheetal.**
- Recently, RBI issued a notice against which Payment Bank  
– **Paytm Payments Bank.**
- "Mallkambh" combines gymnastic and martial arts of which Indian state  
– **Madhya Pradesh**
- Which organization has built the Abu Dhabi Hindu Stone temple  
– **BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha**
- Which state requested the central govt to amend the Wildlife Act to tackle human-animal conflict  
– **Kerala**
- Which company has becomes the first Indian Company to cross 20 lakh crore market capital  
– **Reliance**
- Which Northeastern State will get its first Naturopathy Hospital  
– **Assam**
- Which city topped the TomTom Traffic Index 2023  
– **Bengaluru**

# INTERNATIONAL

## India-Iran Relationship

### Context

Recently India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jayshankar met with Iran's President.

### Key Points

- During the meeting, Drone attacks near India and Houthi attacks near the **Red sea** were discussed.
- Both countries signed an agreement on the further development of the **Chabahar Port**.
- The Houthi rebels have attacked the Malta flagged cargo ship in the Red sea in response to the war in the **Gaza Strip**.

### About Houthis

- The Houthis are an armed political and religious group which champions the Shia Muslim minority, The Ziadis.
- They declared themselves to be part of the Iranian-led "Axis of resistance" against Israel and USA.
- The Organization emerged in the 1990s and took its name from movement founder Hussein Al-Houthi.
- Present Leader - Abdul Malik Al-Houthi.



### Chabahar Port

- **Chabahar** is the only oceanic port of Iran situated in Sistan and Baluchistan province on the Makran coast.

- In 2016 India and Iran signed an agreement to develop and operate the port Shahid Beheshti Terminal for Ten years (One of the two main ports of Chabahar).
- The Chabahar offers an alternative route to India that bypasses Pakistan in reaching Afghanistan and beyond.

## Global Alliance for Global Good- Gender Equity and Equality

### Context

India recognized the 'Global Alliance for Global Good- Gender Equity and Equality' at the World Economic Forum annual meeting held at Davos, Switzerland from January 15-19, 2024.



### Key Points

- **Indian delegation at the WEF 2024:** Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Minority Affairs, & Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Goal:** To convey together global best practices, share knowledge, and attract investments in the fields of women's health, education, and enterprise.

- The conference room held several conversations and talks with topics including “Women-led Growth and Development,” boosting women’s economic involvement, closing the disparity between men and women in technology, improving women’s health, etc.
- Multiple partners like Uber, Tata Mastercard, Serum Institute of India, etc. have participated in this event.
- Prof Klaus Schwab has praised India’s exceptional achievement of upholding an annual growth rate of 7%, as well as the country’s positive involvement in Davos 2024.

## Gender Equality vs Gender Equity

| Equality                                            | Equity                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Implies 50/50 equation between women and men        | Fair treatment/ consideration                                                       |
| Equal treatment before the law, policies & programs | Each according to their needs, circumstances & contribution                         |
| Same policies/laws/programs "level playing field"   | Approves of special affirmative measures that on the surface appear to discriminate |
| None discrimination                                 | Accommodates progressive strategies to achieve equality                             |

### About WEF

- **Chairperson:** Borge Brende
- **Founder:** Klaus Schwab
- **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland
- **Founded:** 24 January 1971

## India has Sent Pesticides to Afghanistan

### Context

Recently, India has sent 40,000 liters of **Malathion liquid pesticides** to Afghanistan to ensure food security in the country.

### About Malathion

- It is an environment friendly pesticide.
- It is very suitable for arid regions.
- It is very useful for fighting against **Locust menace**.

**Note:** Previously India has also sent 47,500 metric tons of wheat to the United Nation World Food Programme (UNWFP) to meet food shortage in Afghanistan.

## Xiang Yang Hong 03

### Context

Chinese research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 03 is heading towards Maldives.

### About Xiang Yang Hong 03 vessel

- It can create intricate maps of underwater features using multibeam sonar.
- It can study the ocean floor with its sub-bottom profiling technology.
- It can collect samples from various depths and can measure key oceanographic parameters.
- It can track and study marine mammals in their natural habitat with specialized equipment.

### The Indian Ocean Region

- The Indian Ocean region is surrounded by Africa in the west, Australia in the east, Asia in the north and Antarctica in the south.
- It is a salt water body covering approximately one-fifth of the total ocean area of the world.
- Its average depth is 12274 feet.
- Deepest point- Java Trench (24442 feet)

### Importance of IOR for China

- The Indian Ocean Region is vital for the success of **the Maritime Silk Road project** of China.
- The Indian Ocean Region is essential for trade activities of China.
- 80% of China’s energy imports occur through the Indian Ocean route.
- **The Malacca Dilemma** also motivates China to have military presence in the Indian ocean region.

## Some Nations stop funding to UNRWA

### Context

Recently, UN officials urged countries to reconsider their decision on stopping funds to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)**.

### More about the News

- Six countries (United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Switzerland) had stopped funding to UNRWA.
- The decision was taken because some UNRWA

staff were involved in the Hamas attack on Israel.

## What is UNRWA

- UNRWA was established by the **United Nations General Assembly's** Resolution on 8 December 1949 to carry out relief work programmes for Palestinian refugees.

## Functions of UNRWA

- Developmental initiatives in social and economic development in the Gaza Strip.
- Providing Health services including disease prevention and treatment to Palestine refugees.
- Provide educational services including higher education and vocational to Palestine refugees.
- Reducing Palestine refugees by providing material assistance and skill development training.

## Who Funds UNRWA

- Voluntary contributions are made by United Nation member states including regional governments and the European Union.

## India-France Relationship

### Context

French President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations.

## More about news

- France has emerged as one of the key defense partners of India, the two sides have maintained consistent high-level contacts.
- India and France share a high degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues and this year, we are celebrating the **25th anniversary** of the India France Strategic Partnership.

| AREA OF COOPERATION  | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ECONOMIC COOPERATION | France is India's 11th largest investor, with cumulative FDI inflows of \$10.76 billion from April 2000 to September 2023. |

### CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION

- India and France signed a civil nuclear agreement in 2008, making France the first country after the United States to sign such an agreement.
- India and France have collaborated to build the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant, which will be the world's largest nuclear power generating station having a net generation capacity of 9900 MW.

### DEFENSE COOPERATION

- France was the 2nd largest defense supplier to India from 2017 to 2021.
- French Scorpene submarines and Rafale fighter jets - Joint military exercises with Varna (Navy), Garuda (Air Force), Shakti (Army), etc.
- Co-manufacturing: Tata Group is manufacturing its C-295 tactical transport aircraft in collaboration with Airbus in Vadodara, Gujarat.

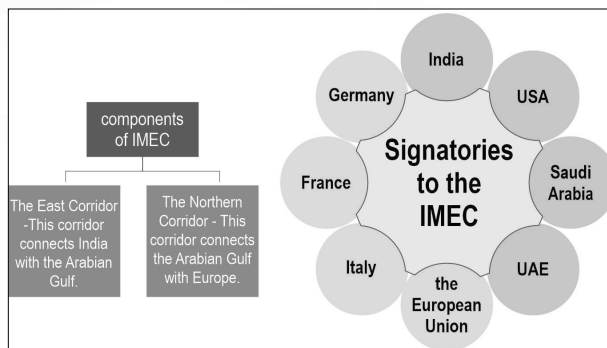
## India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

### Context

Recently, Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is a strategic and economic game changer for India and others.

## About India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

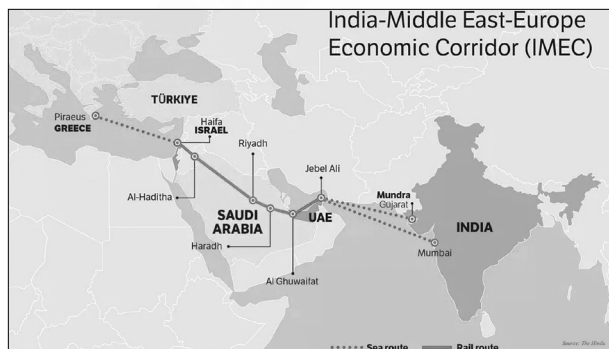
- The IMEC Project was signed at the G20 Summit in New Delhi.



- IMEC is a multimodal project consisting of Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks, and Road transport routes.
- This project is a part of the **Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)**.
- The transportation of energy resources through pipelines and the transmission of data via an optical fiber network are also parts of the IMEC.

### Objectives of IMEC

- Aims to create an integrated transport network connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- Aims to build an affordable, efficient, and sustainable transportation system.
- Aims to increase trade relations between India, the Middle East, and Europe.



### Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)

- It is an initiative of G7.
- G7 countries will mobilize 600 billion dollars by 2027.
- The purpose of the PGII is to create infrastructures in low and middle-income countries.
- PGII is considered as Counter of China's BRI.

### Kaladan multimodal project

#### Context

Recently, a rebel group named **Arakan Army (AA)** has captured the **Paletwa township** in Myanmar near the Mizoram border that may affect the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP).

### Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)

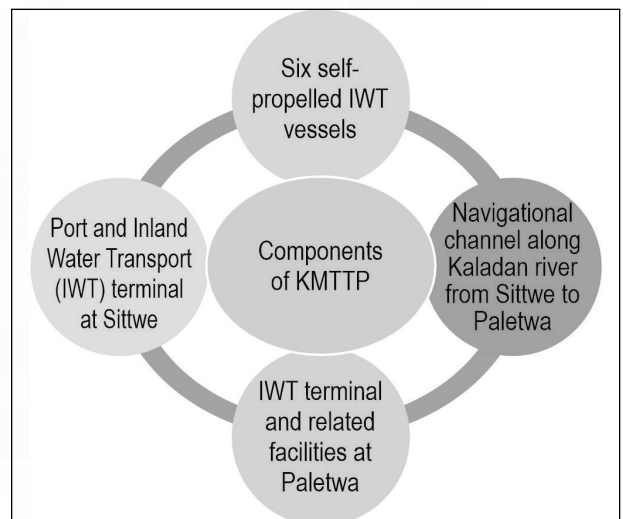
- The project's goal is to establish connectivity by

**land, sea, and road** between India and Myanmar. Specifically, it will connect India's eastern seaports to Sittwe Port in Myanmar which will create an alternate access route to the Northeastern states of India.

- The project consists of a **158-kilometer** waterway from **Sittwe to Paletwa** in Myanmar along the Kaladan River and a **109-kilometer** road from **Paletwa to Zorinpui** on the border between India and Myanmar in Mizoram.



### Components of KMTTP



### Benefits for India

- This project will save time and money and will increase efficiency for the trade and commerce for India, compared to the existing route via **Siliguri to Kolkata**.
- Cost of transportation of goods from **Kolkata to Aizawl** saw a drop of more than **50%**.
- Using marine transportation will significantly

reduce transportation's **environmental cost** due to a decrease in carbon emissions from fossil fuels, in addition to reducing traffic on the roads.

## Indian Ocean Conference

### Context

Recently, the Sri Lankan President stated that smaller nations in the region are becoming increasingly concerned about the militarization of the Indian Ocean and the **"great power rivalry"** on the first day of the **Indian Ocean Conference held in Perth**.



### Indian Ocean Conference

- It is an annual event which was started in the year **2016** with over **300** delegates from **22** countries including ministers, political leaders, diplomats, strategic thinkers, academicians etc.
- Over seven years, the conference has emerged as the flagship consultative forum for countries in the region.
- It brings critical states and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**.

### 7th Edition of Conference

- The **7th edition** of the Conference is being organized by **India Foundation** in association with the Ministry of External Affairs (Government of India), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Government of Australia), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (Singapore) and Perth US-Asia Centre from **February 9-10, 2024, in Perth, Australia**.

- **Theme: "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".**
- The Conference will bring together key stakeholders to make the roadmap for strengthening regional cooperation.

## RuPay, UPI payment services implemented in Mauritius, Sri Lanka

### Context

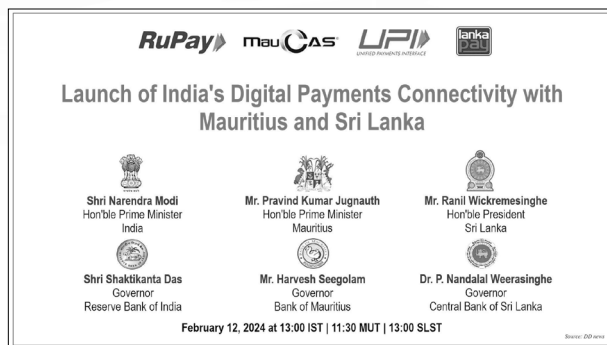
Recently, India has launched its UPI along with RuPay service in Mauritius and Sri Lanka.

### Key Information

- The adoption of RuPay technology will enable banks in Mauritius to issue RuPay cards domestically.
- Mauritius becomes the first country outside Asia to use RuPay technology.
- Through this digital payment connectivity now citizens of Sri Lanka and Mauritius can make QR code base payment in India as well as in their own country and vis-a-vis.
- These projects has been developed and executed by NPCI, International Payments Ltd along with partner banks of Sri Lanka and Mauritius.

### What is a UPI Payment system

- A Unified Payments Interface or UPI is an application-based system which enables transfer of money between bank accounts.
- It is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- It eliminated the need to enter bank details or other sensitive information each time a customer initiates a transaction.



## India- UAE Relations

### Context

Recently, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a temple, built by the 'Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha' in Abu Dhabi (UAE).

### BAPS TEMPLE

- This temple is constructed by the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha.
- This temple will be the First Hindu temple in Abu-Dhabi.
- The UAE government allotted land for this Hindu Temple.
- The Temple will welcome people of all faiths to experience and understand The Hindu Culture and Spirituality.



## India- UAE Ties

### Diplomatic Ties

- Diplomatic ties established in the year 1972 between India and the UAE.
- The visit of India's Prime Minister to the UAE in August 2015 initiated a new strategic partnership between the two countries.
- This recent visit was the PM's seventh visit to the UAE since 2015.
- The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi was the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2017.

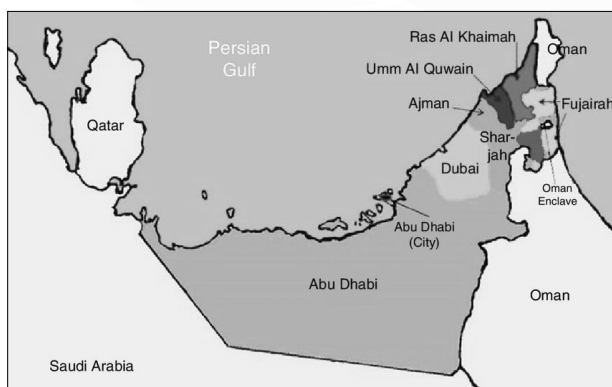
|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bilateral trade  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was signed in the year 2022, aiming to increase trade in services to \$115 billion in Five years.</li> <li>• Bilateral trade grew to <b>\$85 billion</b> in 2022-23.</li> <li>• The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner and India's second-largest export destination in FY 2022-2023.</li> <li>• The UAE is the fourth-largest overall investor in India.</li> <li>• <b>The RuPay card</b> has been accepted in the UAE since August 2019.</li> <li>• Since July 2023, the rupee has been accepted for transactions at Dubai's airports.</li> <li>• India and the UAE also operationalized a rupee-dirham settlement system.</li> </ul> |
| Energy security  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UAE was the 4th biggest supplier of crude oil to India in the year 2022.</li> <li>• The UAE has <b>strategic oil reserves store</b> in India (Mangaluru).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Defence Exercise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desert Cyclone (Military Exercise)</li> <li>• Exercise Desert Eagle (Air Force)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Strategic ties   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UAE was invited for the G-20 summit, under India's G-20 presidency.</li> <li>• When the UAE hosted the OIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2019, UAE invited India's External Affairs Minister as a keynote speaker/guest of honour despite protests from Pakistan.</li> <li>• UAE and India are the members of strategic groups like I2U2 or the <b>West Asian Quad and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Cultural ties    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The First Hindu Temple in Dubai was opened in October 2022.</li> <li>• India was the 'Guest of Honour' country at the Abu Dhabi Festival (ADF), the UAE's annual cultural festival in the year 2018.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Educational ties               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The First offshore campus of IIT-Delhi is being established in Abu Dhabi.</li> </ul>                                                                                            |
| Indian Diaspora                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Diaspora constitutes over 38 percent of the total population of the UAE.</li> <li>This Indian Diaspora is a major source of remittances inflows to India.</li> </ul> |
| Cooperation for Climate Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and the UAE co-launched the <b>Global Green Credit Initiative</b> at COP28 Summit in UAE.</li> </ul>                                                                      |

### Challenges to India-UAE Relations

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trade Restriction     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imposition of Non-Tariff Barriers like Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures by the UAE affects exports from India particularly in the sectors of poultry and processed food.</li> </ul> |
| Chinese influence     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China's '<b>Cheque Book Diplomacy</b>' impacting India's relation with UAE.</li> </ul>                                                                                                       |
| Kafala Labour system  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delayed wages, confiscation of passports and pathetic working conditions pose challenges to the immigrant labourers.</li> </ul>                                                              |
| War in the Arab World | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing Israel-Hamas war poses a challenge to India to balance its relation between Israel and the Muslim world.</li> </ul>                                                                  |
| UAE-Pakistan Relation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial assistance to Pakistan by the UAE is a cause of concern for India.</li> </ul>                                                                                                      |



### India-Qatar Relations

#### Context

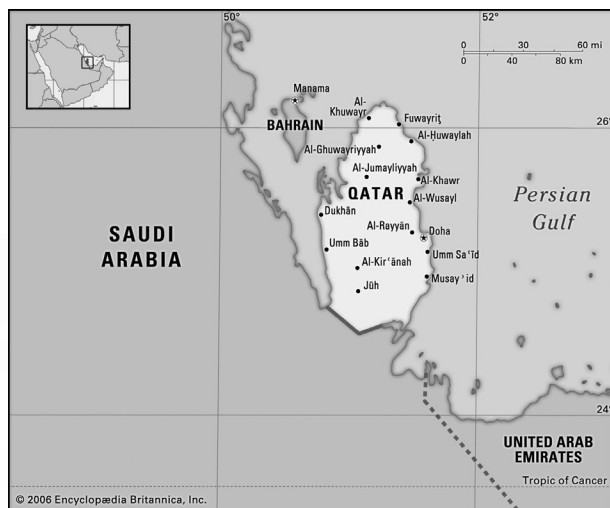
Recently, Qatar has released eight former Indian naval officers previously sentenced to death on charge of spying for Israel.

#### The significance of India-Qatar Relations:

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Diplomatic and Political Relations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India established full diplomatic relations with Qatar in 1973.</li> <li>India and Qatar completed 50 years of their bilateral diplomatic relation in the year 2023.</li> <li>Qatar's membership in organizations like the <b>Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)</b> and the <b>Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)</b> is politically significant for India, to protect India's interest on its internal matters like Farmer's protest and Kashmir issue.</li> <li>PM Narendra Modi visited Qatar in 2016 and 2024.</li> </ul> |
| Economic and Trade Relations       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's bilateral trade with Qatar was US\$ 18.77 billion in 2022-23.</li> <li>Balance of Trade between India and Qatar is in favour of Qatar.</li> <li>India is the <b>third</b> largest export destination for Qatar.</li> <li>Indian businesses like Wipro, L&amp;T, TCS etc. operate in Qatar.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Energy security                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India imports about 50% of its Liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Defence Cooperation                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a '<b>Defence Cooperation Agreement</b>' for stronger defence ties between India and Qatar.</li> <li>Both the countries conduct a joint <b>naval</b> exercise called <b>Zair Al Bahr</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Indian Diaspora                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are about 8 Lakh Indian expatriates in Qatar.</li> <li>Security and safety of these expatriates is vital for the flow of remittances.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Cultural Exchange                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's resolution in United Nation General Assembly (2014) for the declaration of <b>June 21 as International Yoga Day</b> was co-sponsored by Qatar.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Challenges in the India-Qatar relationship

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Derogatory comments   | • India's ruling Party's spokesperson made derogatory references to the prophet in the year 2022. These comments were objected by Qatar and they demanded a public apology from India. |
| Al-Jazeera channel    | • Al-Jazeera channel has often run aggressive campaigns against India like the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. This channel is financially supported by Qatar.                      |
| Conflict in West Asia | • The ongoing Israel-Hamas war complicated the situation of India in West Asia.                                                                                                        |



## ONE LINERS

- Bilateral exercise 'Ex Ayutthaya' was conducted between the India and which country – **Thailand**.
- Who has won 'Miss America 2024' award – **Madison Marsh**.
- Who has become the first female disabled umpire appointed by the ICC in a bilateral series – **Sue Redfern**.
- Where was the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace held – **New Delhi**.
- Which is the most valuable currency according to the Forbes report – **Kuwaiti Dinar**.
- Who has been selected as the 'Balkan Athlete of the year' for the 8<sup>th</sup> time – **Novak Djokovic**.
- Mission 'Moon Sniper' has been launched by which country – **Japan**.
- Which language will be included as one of the 9 classical language of India under the New Education Policy – **Persian**.
- Which country has tested an underwater nuclear weapon system – **North Korea**.
- Who has represented India at G-77 Third South Summit held at Uganda – **V. Muraleedharan**.
- On January 21, India announced to fence its border with which country – **Myanmar**.
- In which country will the world's tallest Ram temple will be built – **Australia**.
- Who has topped Forbes 'Gold Reserve Banking' list – **USA**.
- 'Green Room' were in news recently is associated with which country – **Ukraine**.
- 19<sup>th</sup> NAM Conference was held at which country – **Kampala (Uganda)**.
- Which country has made a historic soft landing on the moon through Mission **SLIM** – **Japan**.
- A joint exercise 'Khanjar' was held between India and which country – **Kyrgyzstan**.
- Where did joint exercise 'Cyclone' was held between India and Egypt – **Anshas (Egypt)**.
- Which country's government has declared **22 January** as Ayodhya Ram Day – **Canada**.
- Which Islamic country has opened its first 'alcohol store' – **Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)**.
- 'Desert Night' air exercise have been conducted recently between India, France and which country – **United Arab Emirates**.
- Which country has given 'Death penalty' by using nitrogen gas for the first time – **USA**.
- Which company became the second company in the world to cross three trillion market capitalization – **Microsoft**.
- Which country has won the 'Hockey 5s Women's World Cup' 2024 – **Netherlands**.
- Who has become the richest person in the world according to Forbes list – **Bernard Arnault**.
- 'Sada Tanseeq' joint exercise is held between India and which country – **Saudi Arabia**.

- Union Cabinet has signed an agreement with which country for cooperation in the field of Information technology – **Oman.**
- What is the rank of India in the Corruption Perception Index for the year 2023 – **93rd (85th in 2022).**
- Which African nation was partnered with India at the 37<sup>th</sup> Surajkund International Crafts Mela, 2024 – **Tanzania**
- Who has become the 17th king of Malaysia – **Sultan Ibrahim.**
- What is the theme of World Leprosy Day 2024 – **Beat Leprosy.**
- Which country will host the 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of Olympics in 2024 – **France.**
- Which country won the FIH Women's Hockey5s world cup – **Muscat, Oman.**
- Which city has the worst traffic jam in the world according to the TomTom traffic index 2023 – **London.**
- What is the theme of "World Wetland Day 2024" – **Wetlands and Human Wellbeing.**
- Who has won the "Best Global Music Album" Awards 2024 at Grammy – **This Moment.**
- What is the theme of International Day of zero tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 2024 – **Her Voice, Her Future.**
- The first G20 Education working group meeting of 2024 held in – **Brazil.**
- The **logistics performance index** is released by – **World Bank.**
- "Fukushima Daiichi," a nuclear power plant which was recently seen in the news is located in which country – **Japan.**
- "Steadfast Defender 2024" is a multi-domain exercise (air, land, sea) conducted by which organization – **NATO.**
- What is the name of the tooth-shaped iceberg that was recently freed from the Antarctica ocean floor after being stuck there for thirty years – **A23a.**
- In defiance of Beijing, recently a joint drills between US, Australian, and Japanese warships have taken place in – **South China Sea.**
- Which International body is pressurizing India on farm subsidies – **WTO.**
- Which country is facing rise in temperature beyond the tolerance level of Rhinos – **South Africa**
- Which country's cabinet has decided to amend the Online Safety Act. – **Sri Lanka.**
- India signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty and a Comprehensive Partnership Agreement with which country – **UAE.**
- Which country released 8 Indian Navy personnels who were previously given death sentence – **Qatar.**
- Which country has started the world's first regular Malaria vaccination program for children – **Cameroon**
- Google renamed its AI chatbot Bard to – **Gemini**

# MISCELLANEOUS

## ASER Report

Context:

Recently, **the** Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER) was released which showed that most of the youth aged between **14 to 18 years** are not able to solve basic standard math.

Key findings of the Report:

- The Report highlighted a huge skill deficit among adolescents.
- Overall, 86.8% of 14-18-year-olds are enrolled in an educational institution.
- In Std XI or higher, Arts/Humanities stream has the highest enrollment rate (55.7%), followed by STEM (31.7%) and Commerce (9.4%).
- Compared to males (36.3%), females are less likely than males to be enrolled in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) stream (28.1%).
- The percentage of youth not enrolled is 3.9% for 14-year-old youth and is 32.6% for 18-year-olds.
- A higher percentage of males (40.3%) than females (28%) report doing work other than household work.

What is ASER:

It was established by the Pratham Education Foundation in 2005. The survey is conducted every alternate year to collect data on the enrolment status of children in the age group of 3-16 years, and basic reading and arithmetic levels of children in the age group of 5-16 years.

## Wings India 2024

Context:

In the recently conducted “Wings India 2024” conference in **Hyderabad**, Civil Aviation Minister has stated that India’s domestic air passenger traffic is expected to touch 300 million by 2030, an almost two-third rise from 153 million in 2023.

Wing India 2024 Conference:

- It is Asia’s largest civil aviation exhibition and is being held at Begumpet airport in Hyderabad, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024.
- The conference is being organized by the Airport Authority of India, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and FICCI.
- Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia along with Minister of State for Civil Aviation V.K Singh inaugurated the conference on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Theme:

Connecting India to the world in Amrit Kaal: Setting the stage for India Civil Aviation @2047.

## Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Context:

The president of India gave the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puruskar (PMRBP) to 19 children for their exceptional abilities and outstanding achievements.

Key Points:

- The 19 children, comprising nine **boys and ten girls**, were from eighteen states and union territories, including two aspirational districts.
- The award ceremony was held at **Vigyan Bhawan** on 22nd January 2024.
- Each awardee of PMRBP participated in the Republic Day parade on 26th January 2024.
- Each awardee of PMRBP received a Medal, a Certificate, and a Citation booklet.

About PMRBP:

- It is awarded annually by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), GoI.**
- Awards are given to children in the **age group 5-18 years.**
- The award is given for their excellence in **seven categories:**
  1. Art and Culture;
  2. Bravery;
  3. Environment;
  4. Innovation;
  5. Science & Technology;
  6. Sports, and
  7. Social service.

## Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar-2024 list

| Sr. No. | Name                                | State             | Category             |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1.      | Aaditya Vijay Bramhane (posthumous) | Maharashtra       | Bravery              |
| 2.      | Anushka Pathak                      | Uttar Pradesh     | Art & Culture        |
| 3.      | Arijeet Banerjee                    | West Bengal       | Art & Culture        |
| 4.      | Armaan Ubhrani                      | Chhattisgarh      | Art & Culture        |
| 5.      | Hetvi Kantibhai Khimsuriya          | Gujarat           | Art & Culture        |
| 6.      | Ishfaq Hamid                        | Jammu & Kashmir   | Art & Culture        |
| 7.      | Md Hussain                          | Bihar             | Art & Culture        |
| 8.      | Pendyala Laxmi Priya                | Telangana         | Art & Culture        |
| 9.      | Suhani Chauhan                      | Delhi             | Innovation           |
| 10.     | Aryan Singh                         | Rajasthan         | Science & Technology |
| 11.     | Avnish Tiwari                       | Madhya Pradesh    | 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               |

- **Md Hussain:** Mohammad Hussain, resident of Patna, is associated with **Kilkari**. Hussain is an

expert in creating beautiful shapes from **waste materials**.

- He has excellence in handcraft art, winning accolades in state and National level competitions.
- **For the first time, a child from Kilkari was honored** with the Prime Minister's National Children's Award for his contribution in the field of art and culture.
- He also presented his indigenous toys to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 'Pariksha pe Charcha Programme'.
- **Pendyala Laxmi Priya:** Kuchipudi dancer Pendyala Laxmi Priya, who hails from Telangana, is a winner of the **Kala Utsav National Award 2023** in the **classical dance** category and she has been titled "Laasyapriya."

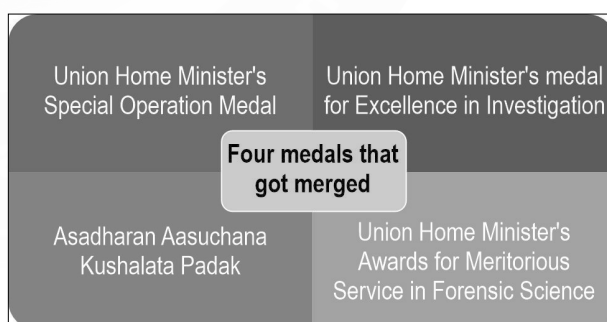
## Kendriya Grihamantri Dakshata Padak (KGDP)

## Context:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has introduced a new medal, "Kendriya Grihamantri Dakshata Padak" after merging four existing medals.

## Key points

- The Medal will be conferred for excellence in operation in several areas including Counter-terrorism, Arms control, and Prevention of Narcotics smuggling.



## First Survey Vessel

## Context

Recently, the Indian Navy's first large survey vessel, **INS Sandhayak** has been installed in Visakhapatnam.

## More about News

- This Ship is developed by 'M/S Garden Reach SHIPbuilders and Engineering' at Kolkata.
- It is the **first** among ,Four large survey vessels that are under construction at **Kolkata**.
- The foundation stone of **INS Sandhayak** was laid in **2019 and it was launched on December 5, 2021**.
- It was handed over to the Indian Navy on **December 4, 2023**.

## Role of INS Sandhayak

- **Primary role:-** The ship's job is to conduct comprehensive hydrographic surveys of harbors, ports, and navigational routes.
- **Secondary role:-** The vessel will be equipped to perform a variety of naval tasks.



## Features of the INS Sandhayak

- The ship is **110 meters** long and **16 meters** wide, with a displacement capacity of **3,400 tons**.
- It has state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment, including side scan SONARs, autonomous underwater vehicles, satellite-based positioning systems, multibeam echosounders for deep and shallow water, and terrestrial survey equipment.
- With two diesel engines generating propulsion, the ship can reach speeds of more than **eighteen knots**.
- The product showcases the joint efforts of the Indian Navy and industry, particularly MSMEs, with over **80%** of its cost being indigenous.
- The Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau has been in charge of the project.

## 25T BOLLARD PULL TUG, MAHABALI

### Context

Recently, 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, Mahabali has been delivered to Indian Navy.

### About 25T Bollard Pull Tug, Mahabali

- These tugs are domestically constructed under the "Make in India" initiative by M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd.
- These tugs are being built in accordance with the classification rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).



### Role of 25T Bollard Pull Tug 'MAHABALI' in augmenting India's naval capabilities

- **Berthing and unberthing Support:-** These tugs will assist Naval ships and submarines during berthing and unberthing.
- **Navigational assistance:-** These tugs will assist naval ships in turning and maneuvering in confined waters.
- **Search and Rescue Operations:** These tugs are capable of conducting limited Search and Rescue Operations.

## Indians at Grammys

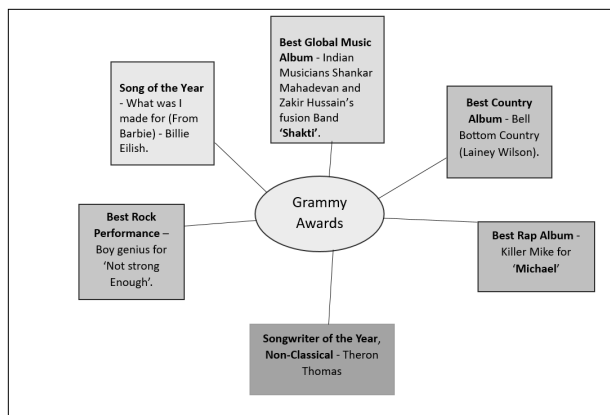
### Context

Indian artist **Shankar Mahadevan** and **Zakir Hussain's** fusion group "Shakti" won the Grammy for "Best Global Music Album" at the **66th Grammy Awards 2024 Ceremony**.

### Grammy Award

- It is a series of awards presented annually in the United States by the Latin Academy of Recording

Arts and Science(LARAS) or National Academy of Recording Arts and Science(NARAS) to identify exceptional achievements in the music industry.



- In order to honor the performers for the year 1958, it was started in **1959**. After it was created, the committee chose to honor **Emile Berliner's** gramophone by naming it Grammy.



## India Ageing Report 2023

### Context

Recently, the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** and the **International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS)** together published the **India Ageing Report 2023**.

### Salient findings of the report

- It is difficult to persuade elderly people to utilize digital platforms, but it is possible to provide them with the tools and knowledge they need to do so on a regular basis.
- **Alzheimer's disease** and **dementia** are two mental health conditions that are still stigmatized in society.

- The aging of the Indian population raises serious concerns about inability, which in turn increases the responsibility of providing care.
- Corporate and NGOs have made efforts for joyful aging, social assistance, old age homes

### What is UNFPA

- The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is in charge of this trust fund.
- Founded in **1969** the **UNFPA** is the main international donor to population projects.
- It is also known as **The United Nations Agency for sexual and reproductive health**.

### Functions of UNFPA

- It promotes gender equality and empowers women and girls.
- Provide sexual and reproductive health services.
- The purpose is to eradicate gender-based violence, avoidable maternal deaths, and unmet family planning needs.
- Ending harmful practices including child marriage and female genital mutilation by 2030.

### About the Institute for Population Sciences:

- The **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust**, the **United Nations**, and the **Indian government** all contributed to its founding in **1956**.
- **IIPS** is a population studies training and research center located in **Mumbai, India**.

## Gatling Gun

### Context

Recently, a Gatling gun was on display in Nagpur's Mankapur sports stadium on the occasion of the 'Shourya Sandhya' event.

### About Gatling gun

- The Gatling gun is the world's first rapid-firing multiple-barrel machine gun.
- It was **Invented in 1862** by **Richard Jordan Gatling** (A medical practitioner).
- It was declared obsolete by the US army in **1911**.
- Presently **Only 20** Gatling guns are surviving of which only one is still functional.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- **Jabalpur's Ordnance Corps Museum** is the home of this Gatling gun.
- The government of India had refuted the proposal of the American government to sell this gun at any price to them in 1986.

### Hawk 132 Aircraft

#### Context

Recently, during a training sortie, an Indian Air Force's **Hawk132 aircraft** met with an accident in Kalaikunda, West Bengal.



Hawk 132 aircraft

- It is a **British Origin** aircraft produced by Britain's **BAE systems**.
- This training aircraft has a **single engine** and **jet powered design** making it suitable for a range of roles like ground attack, weapon training and aerobatics etc.
- It has the ability to serve as an aircraft that can conduct air-to-ground and air-to-air missions.
- It has a **Rolls-Royce Adour Mk 871** twin-spool turbofan engine.
- It has a range of **2,520 kilometers** and a top speed of **1,065 km/hr**.
- It is assembled in India by **Hindustan Aeronautical Limited**.

### Birth Anniversary of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati

#### Context:

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long celebrations commemorating the **200th birth anniversary** of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Delhi.

### About Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati

- Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, was born on 12th February 1824 in Gujrat.
- He was a social reformer who founded **Arya Samaj** in 1875 to counter the prevalent social inequities.
- Arya Samaj has played a key role in the cultural and social awakening of the country by emphasizing on social reforms and education



### Bharat Ratna

#### Context

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the **Bharat Ratna** to former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh and PV Narasimha Rao, and agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan.





This year the award is also conferred to **Karpuri Thakur and Lal Krishna Advani**.

### Chaudhary Charan Singh

- Chaudhary Charan Singh (23 December 1902 – 29 May 1987) was an Indian politician and a freedom fighter. He served as the **5th Prime Minister of India** and **5th Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**.
- He was born at Noorpur in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh.
- He was first elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1937 from Chhaprauli.
- His role is important in the **eradication of the Zamindari system in Uttar Pradesh**. The **Uttar Pradesh Zamindari and Land Reform Act, 1952** was the result of his untiring efforts which resulted in the abolition of the system throughout the state.
- He became the **first non-Congress Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh** on April 3, 1967.
- He became the CM of the state for the second time in February, 1970.
- Chaudhary Charan Singh was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1977. He became the **Union Home Minister** and was subsequently elevated to the post of **deputy Prime Minister**. He became the **Union Finance Minister** in January 1979.
- He **became the Prime Minister of India after the resignation of Morarji Desai in July 1979**.
- He was Prime Minister only for **23 days**.
- **Political Parties founded by Chaudhary Charan Singh**
  - The Jan Congress
  - Bharatiya Lok Dal (BLD)
- Books written by Chaudhary Charan Singh-
  - Abolition of Zamindari
  - Co-operative Farming X-rayed
  - India's Poverty and its Solution
  - Peasant Proprietorship or Land to the Workers
  - Prevention of Division of Holdings Below a Certain Minimum.
- **'Kisan Diwas'** or National Farmers Day is observed on 23rd December to celebrate his birth anniversary.

### PV Narasimha Rao

- PV Narasimha Rao was born on 28th June 1921 in present day Telangana.

- He served as the **9th Prime Minister of India (1991 to 1996)**.
- Economic reforms
  - He brought the policy of economic liberalization in India.

### Foreign Policy

- Diplomatic relations with Israel was established by him.
- **'The Look East Policy of India'** was initiated during his tenure.

### Constitutional Reforms

- The Local bodies got constitutionalised through the **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments Act** during his tenure.

### MS Swaminathan

- Dr MS Swaminathan, also known as the **"Father of Green Revolution in India,"** was an Indian agricultural scientist and humanitarian. He contributed significantly in the field of agriculture, food security, and sustainable development.

### Early Life and Education

- He was born on **7th August 1925** in **Tamil Nadu**.
- He completed his Ph.D. from **Cambridge University** in 1952.
- **Mahatma Gandhi's teachings of 'Selfless service to the poor and the nation'** and the **1943 Bengal famine** influenced him greatly.

### Career

|           |                                                                                              |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1961-1972 | • Served as the Director of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).               |
| 1972-1979 | • Served as the Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR).       |
| 1980-1982 | • Served as the incharge of India's Planning Commission's agriculture and rural development. |
| 1982      | • Appointed as the Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).     |
| 1988      | • MS Swaminathan Research Foundation was established by him.                                 |

## Contributions of MS Swaminathan

- He contributed in the development of high-yielding varieties of Wheat.
- He chaired the **National Commission on Farmers** where he recommended for minimum crop support prices, faster and more inclusive growth and a comprehensive National policy to address farmer suicides.
- He played an instrumental role in bringing the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act of 2001**.
- He was a supporter of the idea of an **evergreen revolution**( Boosting agricultural production and productivity while protecting Environment).

## Awards Received by MS Swaminathan

|      |                                                                   |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1961 | S.S. Bhatnagar Award for his contribution to biological sciences. |
| 1967 | Padma Shri                                                        |
| 1971 | Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership                    |
| 1972 | Padma Bhushan                                                     |
| 1986 | Albert Einstein World Science Award                               |
| 1987 | World Food Prize                                                  |
| 1989 | Padma Vibhushan                                                   |
| 1994 | UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize                                   |
| 2000 | Mahatma Gandhi Prize of UNESCO                                    |
| 2000 | Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development        |
| 2007 | Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award                                |

## 'Jan Nayak' Karpoori Thakur

The highest civilian award Bharat Ratna would be awarded to former Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur posthumously.

## About Karpoori Thakur

- He was born on 24 January 1924 at Karpuri gram in **Samastipur district** of Bihar.
- He was a staunch socialist and greatly influenced

by stalwarts such as Jayaprakash Narain, Rammanohar Lohia.

- He was elected to the Bihar legislative assembly for the First time in **1952** from **Tajpur constituency** as a Socialist party candidate.
- He was the **11th Chief Minister** of Bihar, serving two terms- First term(December 1970 to June 1971), Second term(June 1977 to April 1979).



## Contribution of Socialist Icon karpoori Thakur

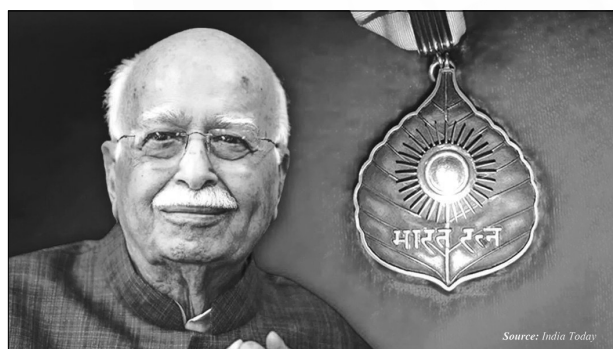
|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Freedom struggle        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He participated in Quit India Movement.</li> <li>• He was imprisoned for 28 months due to his participation in freedom struggle.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                        |
| Reservation policy      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He propounded 26% model in Bihar for the Backward class in 1978.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Education               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He served as a teacher in his village' school.</li> <li>• He promoted Hindi language as medium of education.</li> <li>• He discontinued English language as compulsory subject in Matriculation curriculum when he was the Education minister of Bihar.</li> </ul> |
| Socialistic initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He implemented prohibition in Bihar in March 1979 for the first time.</li> <li>• Many schools and colleges were established during his reign in backward areas.</li> <li>• His efforts led to strengthening of Panchayati raj institutions.</li> </ul>             |
| Mentor                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders like Lalu prasad Yadav, Nitish kumar, Ramvilas paswan were mentored by him.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                     |

Relevance of ideology of karpoori Thakur in present time

- He is considered as champion of social justice. He attempted to address the social inequality prevailed in the Indian society.
- Some of the schemes of Bihar government such as 50% quota to women in panchayats, promotion of women's education are inspired by his ideology.
- Efforts of central governments to empower weaker sections by means of schemes like National food security mission, PM Jan Arogya Yojna, Ujjwala scheme etc are in accordance with his vision.

### Lal Krishna Advani

- Birth: 8th November 1927 in Karachi, British India.
- Advani became a member of the **Rajya Sabha** for the first time and would go on to serve **four terms** till 1989.
- He was elected to **the Lok Sabha** for the first time in 1989 where he served **seven terms**
- He served as the **7th Deputy Prime Minister of India** from 2002 to 2004.



- He is one of the co-founders of Bharatiya Janta party (BJP).
- He is the **longest serving Minister of Home Affairs** serving from 1998 to 2004.
- He is also the **longest serving Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha**.
- He was the prime ministerial candidate of the BJP during the 2009 General Election.
- Books Written by L K Advani- A Prisoner's Scrap-Book (2002), My Country My Life(2008), As I See It i(2011), Rashtra Sarvopari (2014), Nazarband Loktantra (2016), Drishtikon (2016).

### Bharat Ratna

- The Bharat Ratna is the Highest Civilian award of the Republic of India.
- It was Instituted on 2nd January 1954.
- The Award is conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order".
- The recommendations for the Award are made by the Prime Minister to the President.
- The recipients receive a *Sanad* (certificate) signed by the President and a **peepal leaf-shaped medallion**.
- There is **no monetary grant** associated with this Award.
- The Bharat Ratna recipients rank **seventh (7A)** in the Indian order of precedence.
- The Award has been bestowed upon a total of **53 individuals**, including **18** who were awarded posthumously.
- The Bharat Ratna was briefly suspended from July 1977 to January 1980 and for a second time from August 1992 to December 1995.

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bharat Ratna Awardee 2024                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karpoori Thakur</li> <li>• Lal Krishna Advani</li> <li>• PV Narasimha Rao</li> <li>• Chaudhary Charan Singh</li> <li>• M S Swaminathan</li> </ul> |
| The first recipients of the Bharat Ratna(1954)        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. Rajagopalachari</li> <li>• Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan</li> <li>• C V Raman</li> </ul>                                                            |
| The first individual to be honored posthumously(1966) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lal Bahadur Shastri</li> </ul>                                                                                                                    |
| The youngest recipient(2014)                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sachin Tendulkar (40)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                  |
| The oldest recipient of The Bharat Ratna (1958)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dhondo Keshav Karve (100)</li> </ul>                                                                                                              |
| Non Indian Recipient Of Bharat Ratna                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abdul Gaffar Khan</li> <li>• Nelson Mandela</li> </ul>                                                                                            |

Bharat Ratna recipient from Bihar

| Year | Laureates           |
|------|---------------------|
| 1962 | Rajendra Prasad     |
| 1999 | Jayaprakash Narayan |
| 2001 | Bismillah Khan      |
| 2024 | Karpoori Thakur     |

# PRELIMS SPECIAL

## MOU

| S.No | MoU                                                                       | Between                                                                               | Venue         | About MoU                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Lithium Exploration Agreement                                             | India and Argentina                                                                   | Argentina     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The agreement was signed between KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Limited) and Argentina's CAMYEN SE.</li> <li>This strategic partnership aims to explore and develop five lithium mines.</li> </ul>                                                           |
| 2    | Green Ammonia Supply                                                      | India and Japan                                                                       | Odisha, India | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The agreement was signed between Acme Group and IHI Corporation, enabling the supply of 0.4 million metric tonnes per annum (MMPA) of green ammonia from Odisha(India) to Japan.</li> </ul>                                                              |
| 3    | Co-finance to renewable energy projects pact                              | Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd.(IREDA) and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) | New Delhi     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MoU includes co-lending and co-origination support provisions for all renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                          |
| 4    | India's first private helicopter assembly line establishment partnerships | Tata and Airbus                                                                       | New Delhi     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The partnership aims to produce Airbus's renowned H125 helicopters for both the Indian market and neighbouring countries.</li> <li>The facility will include component manufacturing, engineering, digital design, MRO support, and training.</li> </ul> |
| 5    | Agreement for MQ-9B armed drone                                           | India and America                                                                     | USA           | India has signed an agreement with the US to purchase MQ-9B armed drones for maritime security. The US has approved the sale of 31 MQ-9B armed drones to India at an estimated cost of US\$3.99 billion. These drones will be purchased from the American company General Atomics System.       |

## DEFENCE AND SECURITY

### Military Operations and Exercises

| S.No. | Name          | Venue               | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Sahyog Kaijin | Chennai, Tamil Nadu | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise Sahyog Kaijin is an exercise between India and Japanese Coast Guards.</li> <li>This exercise is a part of the ongoing collaboration between the two countries under the 2006 Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC).</li> <li>The primary objective of this exercise is to conduct search and rescue operations for individuals stranded at sea.</li> </ul> |

|   |                |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Sada Tanseeq   | Mahajan, Rajasthan       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This exercise is the inaugural edition of the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Military Exercise.</li> <li>• The Royal Saudi Land Forces and the Indian Army, each with 45 personnel, are actively participating.</li> <li>• The objective of the exercise is to train troops for Joint Operations in semi-desert terrain.</li> </ul>                                                                  |
| 3 | Desert Night   | Al Dhafra Airport, UAE   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise Desert Night was conducted between the combined air forces of <b>India, France, and the UAE</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 4 | Khanjar        | Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>11th</b> edition of Joint Special Forces Exercise Khanjar between India and Kyrgyzstan.</li> <li>• The <b>10th</b> edition of this exercise was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in March 2023.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6 | Vayu Shakti-24 | Jaisalmer                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Indian Air Force conducted Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 on February 17, 2024, at the <b>Pokhran Air to Ground Range</b> near Jaisalmer, India. The event showcased collaborative manoeuvres with the Indian Army, emphasising their joint operational capabilities. precision, and long-range weapon delivery.</li> </ul>                                                                       |
| 7 | Abhyas         | Odisha                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) completed four flight trials of High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) – ‘Abhyas’ from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha between January 30 and February 02, 2024. As a target for testing missile systems, including autonomous flight capabilities assisted by autopilot, indigenously manufactured by ADE.</li> </ul> |

### Defence Equipment

| S.No. | Equipment Name | Country     | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Bhishma        | India       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 25T Bollard Pull Tug ‘Bhishma’ was commissioned in Kolkata by Commander S. Sreekumar.</li> <li>• This tug is the proud flagbearer of the Make in India initiative of the Government of India.</li> <li>• In October 2023, the 25T bollard pull tug ‘Mahabali’ was launched at Bharuch, Gujarat.</li> </ul> |
| 2     | Heil-5-23      | North Korea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, North Korea tested a nuclear-capable underwater attack drone named “Heil-5-23”.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3     | INS Sandhayak  | India       | <p>The country’s first and largest survey ship INS Sandhyak was formally commissioned into the Indian Navy by Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on February 24, 2024. It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.</p>                                                                           |

| Reports and Indices |                                               |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                              |                                                     |                                     |                               |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| S.No.               | Name                                          | Issued by                  | About                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Rank of India                                                                                                                                | First 3 Rank                                        | India's Rank (in Previous Years)    | Last Position                 |
| 1                   | Corruption Perception Index 2023              | Transparency International | The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is a ranking system that measures the corruption of a country's public sector.                                                                                                                                                              | 93rd                                                                                                                                         | Denmark (1st)<br>Finland (2nd)<br>New Zealand (3rd) | 2022-85th<br>2021-85th<br>2020-86th | Somalia (180th)               |
| 2                   | Logistics Performance Index Report (LPI) 2023 | World Bank                 | The LPI is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries to identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance. The LPI 2023 allows for comparisons across 139 countries. | 38th                                                                                                                                         | Singapore (1st),<br>Finland(2nd),<br>Denmark (3rd)  | 2018-44th<br>2014-54th              | Libya and Afghanistan (139th) |
| 3                   | TomTom Traffic Index                          | TomTom                     | The TomTom Traffic Index evaluates cities worldwide by their average travel time, fuel costs, and CO2 emissions, providing free access to high-quality and useful information featuring 387 cities across 55 countries on 6 continents.                                           | Globally Bengaluru ranked 6th and in India, it stands on top in terms of traffic congestion followed by Pune (7th -Globally) (2nd in India). | London (1st),<br>Dublin (2nd),<br>Ireland (3rd)     |                                     |                               |

| Summits and Conferences |                                                                                                                         |                       |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S.No.                   | Name                                                                                                                    | Date/ Month           | Venue                    | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1.                      | 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit                                                                                  | January 2024          | Kampala, Uganda          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar attended the conference.</li> <li>NAM was established in <b>1961</b>.</li> <li>The first conference of NAM was held in 1961 in <b>Belgrade</b>.</li> <li>Currently, NAM is an organisation of 120 countries.</li> <li>The 18th NAM Summit was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2019.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2                       | Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 | February 2024         | Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi | The <b>theme</b> of the conference is <b>“Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery”</b> . This conference will deliberate on important issues pertaining to law and justice like judicial transition and the ethical dimensions of legal practice; executive accountability; and revisiting modern-day legal education, among others.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3                       | India Energy Week 2024                                                                                                  | February 6 to 9, 2024 | Goa                      | Organized by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry [FIPI] under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. India Energy Week, 2024 will serve as a catalyst for meaningful discussions, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among industry experts, policymakers, academia and entrepreneurs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 4                       | World Government Summit (WGS)                                                                                           | February 12 to 14     | Dubai                    | This marks the <b>second</b> invitation of PM Modi to the WGS, with the <b>first</b> being in <b>2018</b> . The WGS, an annual global gathering held in Dubai since 2013, convenes world leaders, policymakers, and experts to tackle pressing global issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 5                       | 2nd DNPA Conclave & Digital Impact Awards                                                                               | 6th February          | New Delhi                | The Conclave focuses on the theme <b>‘Navigating Digital Transformations and Challenges in the Media Industry.’</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6                       | 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM)                                                                                 | February 12th to 16th | Lucknow                  | The Railway Protection Force (RPF) organised this event. This esteemed event, entrusted to the RPF by the Central Coordinating Committee of AIPDM, aims to foster excellence and collaboration among police officers, enhancing internal security through scientific crime detection and investigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7                       | 7th Indian Ocean Conference                                                                                             | 9-10 February         | Perth, Australia         | The theme of this edition of the conference is <b>“Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean”</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 8                       | Future Skills Summit                                                                                                    | February 15           | Guwahati                 | The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT), hosted this event. The event will be inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar. The Summit will focus on the impact of rapid digitization globally, emphasizing new opportunities for young Indians in cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Semiconductors, Robotics, and Cybersecurity. These advancements offer significant prospects for the country’s youth. |

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| 10 | World Sustainable Development Summit 2024 | 7-9 February | New Delhi | The 23rd edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit, is an annual event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). This conference mainly focused on the <b>theme 'Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice'</b> . TERI is headquartered in New Delhi. |
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### Festivals

| S.No. | Name                | Date/ Month  | Venue        | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.    | Karbi Youth Festiva | January 2024 | Diphu, Assam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This time, the golden jubilee of the festival was celebrated.</li> <li>This festival is the oldest and largest cultural festival in North-East India.</li> </ul> |

### Places in News (National)

| S.No. | Place         | Why in News                                                   | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Surat         | Guinness World Record for largest simultaneous Surya Namaskar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On January 1, 2024, Gujarat broke the record for the largest simultaneous Surya Namaskar performance.</li> <li>At <b>108 locations</b>, almost 50,000 people performed the sun salutation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2     | Hyderabad     | Wings India 2024                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Airports Authority of India (AAI), and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized Asia's largest event on civil aviation, Wings India 2024, in January 2024 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, India.</li> <li><b>Theme: "Connecting the World: Setting the Stage for India @2047"</b>.</li> </ul> |
| 3     | Pune          | The first pilot project to produce jet fuel from alcohol.     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas <b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b> inaugurated a pilot technology project in Pune, aiming to produce jet fuel from alcohol.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4     | Uttar Pradesh | Global Aerospace company Boeing                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Boeing</b> has inaugurated its initial distribution centre in Khurja Uttar Pradesh.</li> <li>Through this distribution centre, Boeing aims to expand its footprint in India and provide locally customised cost-effective solutions to aviation requirements.</li> </ul>                                                                                          |
| 5     | Sikkim        | Tibetan brown bear                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tibetan brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos pruinosis</i>) has been spotted in the elevated terrains of North Sikkim.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 6     | Ladakh        | Mamani Festival                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual ethnic Mamani Mahotsav, organized by the Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF) and the Ladakh Tourism Department, is celebrated in the Stangkung village of Ladakh.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 7     | Goa           | 2nd edition of Indian Energy Week                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Government of India and the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industries (FIPI).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8     | Nagaland      | Organic Orange Festival                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>fourth edition</b> of the "Organic Orange Festival" is celebrated in Rusoma village, Nagaland.</li> <li>The objective of the event was to encourage rural farmers to promote organic products and create income-generating opportunities for them.</li> </ul>                                                                                                 |



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| 9  | Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir  | Gole Mela Mahotsav                                                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gole Mela Mahotsav was organised at Jagannath Temple located in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir.</li> <li>This fair is organised twice a year.</li> <li>There are two temples dedicated to Lord Jagannath in India.</li> <li>The first is located in Puri of Odisha and the second in the Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir</li> </ul>                                                                                 |
| 10 | Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan      | Sambhar Mahotsav                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister <b>Dia Kumari</b> has inaugurated Sambhar Mahotsav 2024 at Sambhar Lake.</li> <li>This festival was organized on the lines of Rann Mahotsav of Kutch.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11 | Palasamudram, Andhra Pradesh | PM Modi recently inaugurated a new campus of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN) at Palasamudram, Sri Sathya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NACIN is an important training institute for providing training to officers of various countries in the field of customs, indirect taxes, and narcotics control.</li> <li>NACIN comes under the control of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes &amp; Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.</li> <li>Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal is the current Chairperson of CBIC.</li> </ul> |
| 12 | Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh   | The 'Statue of Social Justice', also known as Dr B. R. Ambedkar Memorial unveiled                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Ambedkar's statue is 125 feet tall and stands on an 81-foot-tall base building, making its total height 206 feet.</li> <li>The total cost of the project is ₹404.35 crores.</li> <li>On January 19, it was unveiled by Andhra Pradesh's CM, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                         |
| 13 | Kaziranga National Park      | A rare species of golden tiger spotted                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently a rare Golden Tiger has been spotted in Kaziranga National Park, Assam.</li> <li>Kaziranga National Park was established as a <b>Reserved Forest in 1908</b> and became a National Park in 1974.</li> <li>The world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceros is found here.</li> <li>Kaziranga National Park was included in the <b>UNESCO World Heritage Site list in 1985</b>.</li> </ul>               |
| 14 | Similipal Tiger Reserve      | Establishment of the World's First Black Tiger Safari.                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Odisha has recently announced the establishment of the world's first melanistic tiger safari near Similipal Tiger Reserve, Mayurbhanj district and it is likely to be ready for visitors by October this year.</li> <li>The Black Tiger, also known as the <b>Melanistic Tiger</b> is a rare species of Royal Bengal Tiger.</li> <li>In India, it is only found in Odisha.</li> </ul>                 |
| 15 | Hyderabad                    | India's first digital National Archives Museum                                                                                                                            | Union Culture Minister <b>G. Kishan Reddy</b> inaugurated India's digital national archives at Hyderabad's Salar Jung Museum. Led by the Archaeological Survey of India, the initiative aims to digitize one lakh ancient manuscripts, preserving them for future generations and promoting wider access to India's cultural heritage.                                                                                                                         |
| 16 | Mumbai                       | First Small Hospital for Animals                                                                                                                                          | Tata Trusts has proudly announced a visionary collaboration with philanthropist Ratan Tata to launch the nation's foremost Small Animal Hospital in Mahalaxmi, Mumbai. Spanning an impressive 98,000 square feet across five floors, this state-of-the-art facility epitomises excellence in pet healthcare.                                                                                                                                                   |

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| 17 | Dehradun | Statue of India's first Chief of Defence Staff | India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, recently unveiled a statue of India's first Chief of Defence Staff, the late Bipin Rawat, at Tonbridge School in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.                                                                                                  |
| 18 | Goa      | Establishment of Sea Survival Centre           | Recently the Integrated Marine Survival Training Center was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in Goa. This centre has been built by the Indian Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) with the aim of training thousands of relief workers every year to face natural disasters. |

### Places in News (International)

| S.No. | Place                        | Why in News                                                                             | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Cape Verde                   | Declared Malaria Free                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The World Health Organization has declared the African country of Cape Verde malaria-free.</li> <li>Cape Verde has become the <b>third African country</b> to become malaria-free after Mauritius and Algeria.</li> <li>Till now WHO has provided malaria-free certificates to about 43 countries.</li> </ul>                     |
| 2     | Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso | Announcement of separation from the Economic Community of West African Nations (ECOWAS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the last few years, there have been military coups in these countries, due to which the relations of these countries with ECOWAS became strained.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3     | United Arab Emirates         | World's First Air Taxi                                                                  | Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) took a pioneering step to revolutionise urban transportation by signing an air-taxi agreement with Joby Aviation on 11 February. This agreement aims to launch the <b>world's first air taxi service</b> , announced at the World Government Summit 2024.                                                                      |
| 4     | Brazil                       | 37th Stop TB Partnership Board                                                          | The 37th Stop TB Partnership Board Meeting and Brazilian Community Mobilization Summit took place in Brazil on February 4 and 5, 2024. Participated by TB-affected communities, civil society, TB programs and partners from 17 states, the summit aims to strengthen political commitment to end TB at both the state and central levels through strategic discussions. |

### PERSON IN NEWS

#### Appointments (National)

| S.No. | Name         | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Upul Kundu   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upal Kundu, an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy, has assumed charge as the Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command.</li> <li>His expertise lies in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), particularly countering submarine threats.</li> </ul>                                                                                       |
| 2     | Preeti Rajak | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International trap shooter Preeti Rajak has created history by becoming the <b>first woman Subedar in the Indian Army</b>.</li> <li>She became part of the Corps of Military Police in 2022 and has achieved notable success, including winning a <b>silver medal</b> in the women's trap event at the Asian Games.</li> </ul> |

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|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3  | Daljit Singh Chaudhary                | • New Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 4  | Jagrut Kotecha                        | • New CEO of PepsiCo India                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 5  | Samrat Chaudhary and Vijay Sinha      | • New Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 6  | Prasanna Kumar Acharya                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He has been appointed as the new Finance Director of NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) on January 15, 2024.</li> <li>• NLC India Limited is a government sector company that generates power.</li> <li>• It was established in the year <b>1956</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                |
| 7  | Anil Kumar Lahoti                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anil Kumar Lahoti, the former head of the Railway Board, has been appointed chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).</li> <li>• It is an autonomous agency and has been established in 1997.</li> <li>• The <b>tenure</b> of the Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is <b>3 years or till the age of 65 years</b>, whichever is earlier.</li> </ul> |
| 8  | Ajay Kumar Choudhary                  | • He has been named as the new non-executive chairman and independent director of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), with effect from February 8, 2024. He has played a pivotal role in shaping India's financial landscape, spearheading various initiatives, including the development of the Payment System Vision 2025 and the launch of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).                                          |
| 9  | Justice Vijay Bishnoi                 | • Newly sworn in as Chief Justice of the prestigious Guwahati High Court is Justice Vijay Bishnoi. Justice Vijay Bishnoi was sworn in by Gulab Chand Kataria, the governor of Assam, during the oath-taking ceremony at Raj Bhavan.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 10 | Senior Advocate Rajendra Prasad Gupta | • Governor Kalraj Mishra approved the nomination of Senior Advocate Rajendra Prasad Gupta as the new Advocate General of Rajasthan. Entering a new chapter as the 19th Advocate General of Rajasthan, he takes over the position that MS Singhvi formerly occupied.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 11 | Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi    | • He has been named the Army's new vice chief, taking effect on February 15. Lt Gen Dwivedi takes over as the new leader, replacing Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, who is expected to take over at the Northern Army Command in Udhampur.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 12 | Justice Ritu Bahri                    | • The Uttarakhand High Court's new Chief Justice is Justice Ritu Bahri. She was sworn in by Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh in a magnificent ceremony held at Raj Bhawan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 13 | Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava      | • Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava has been formally appointed by the Ministry of Law and Justice to the Jharkhand High Court as a permanent judge. With this appointment, Justice Srivastava's position on the bench is cemented, as per Article 217(1) of the Indian Constitution.                                                                                                                                                        |
| 14 | C.A. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal            | • ICAI elected CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as the President for the year 2024-25, starting from February 12, 2024,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 15 | CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda             | • ICAI elected CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda as the Vice-President for the term 2024-25, starting from February 12, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 16 | Sindhu Ganapathy                      | • Being the <b>Southern Railway's first transwoman Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE)</b> , she represents a critical turning point in the movement for inclusion and acceptance in the Indian workforce.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 17 | Vijay Kumar                           | Shri Vijay Kumar, Special Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, has been temporarily appointed as the <b>Chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India</b> under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. His post has been raised to the rank and pay equivalent to that of a Secretary to the Government of India.                                                                                                                  |
| 18 | Champai Soren                         | New Chief Minister of Jharkhand                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

### Appointments (International)

| S.No. | Name            | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Saima Wajid     | • New Regional Director of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia Region                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2     | Sue Redfern     | • <b>First impartial female umpire</b> appointed by ICC for a bilateral series                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3     | Olzhas Bektenov | Olzhas Bektenov, the chief of staff of Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, has been named prime minister.                                                                                                                                                           |
| 4     | Mio Oka         | Mio Oka has been named the new Country Director for India by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), taking over for Takeo Konishi.                                                                                                                                           |
| 5     | Oleg Kononenko  | Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko has broken the world record for the most time spent in space, surpassing Gennady Padalka. Kononenko has accumulated <b>878 days</b> and over <b>12 hours</b> in space across five trips to the International Space Station since 2008. |
| 6     | Alexander Stubb | Alexander Stubb of the centre-right National Coalition Party narrowly won Finland's presidential election, defeating liberal Green Party member Pekka Haavisto.                                                                                                         |

### Obituaries

| S.No. | Name                | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Harishankar Bhabhra | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former Rajasthan Assembly Speaker (1990-94) and former Deputy Chief Minister (1994) Harishankar Bhabhada passed away.</li> <li>• In the year 1992, on the initiative of Bhabhada, the tradition of starting the Rajasthan Assembly session with 'Vande Mataram' and concluding the session with 'National Anthem' was started, which continues even today.</li> </ul> |
| 2     | Dr Nitya Anand      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Padmashree awardee</b> and former director of the Indian Drug Research Department, Dr Nityananda, died of heart failure in Lucknow.</li> <li>• He discovered India's first oral contraceptive pill 'Saheli'.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |
| 3     | Farooq Nazki        | A revered poet, broadcaster, and distinguished recipient of the <b>Sahitya Akademi Award in 1995</b> died at the age of 83.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4     | Sebastian Pinera    | On February 6th, Chile's former President Sebastian Pinera died in a helicopter crash at the age of 74. He served two terms as president, from 2010 to 2014 and again from 2018 to 2022.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5     | A Ramachandran      | On February 10, 2024, Veteran Artist Ramachandran passed away in Delhi at the age of 88.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6     | Usha Kiran Khan     | Renowned Litterateur and <b>Padma Shri Awardee in 2015</b> passed away at the age of 78                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 7     | Dattajirao Gaekwad  | The nation's oldest Test cricketer, passed away recently at the age of 95.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

### Others

| S.No. | Name                      | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa | • In the 'Tata Steel Chess Tournament-2024' held in Wijk-aan-Zee, Netherlands, 18-year-old chess player Rameshbabu Praggnanandhan from Chennai defeated world number 1 chess champion Ding Liren (China) in round 4. |
| 2     | Madison Marsh             | • US Air Force Lieutenant Madison Marsh won the <b>Miss America 2024 crown</b> .                                                                                                                                     |
| 3     | Lionel Messi              | • Argentina's footballer Lionel Messi has won the <b>Best FIFA Men's Award</b> by defeating Norwegian player Erling Haaland.                                                                                         |
| 4     | Etana Bonamati            | • Barcelona striker Etana Bonamati has won the <b>FIFA Women's Best Player award</b> , beating Colombia's Linda Caicedo.                                                                                             |

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| 5  | Nat Shivers-Brunt            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EKE England's all-rounder Nat Shiver-Brunt has been awarded the ICC Women's <b>Cricketer of the Year</b> award for the second consecutive year.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6  | Mandeep Jangra               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra has won the 'Intercontinental Super Featherweight' title of the America-based 'National Boxing Association' by defeating American boxer Gerardo Esquivel.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 7  | Rohit Sharma                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He became the <b>first male cricketer</b> to play 150 T20 International matches.</li> <li>He played his 150th inning during the second T20I against Afghanistan in Indore.</li> <li>He is the overall <b>5th</b> cricketer and the first male cricketer in the world to achieve this milestone, following women's cricket players <b>Harmanpreet Kaur, Suzie Bates, Danielle Wyatt, and Alyssa Healy</b>.</li> </ul>                                           |
| 8  | Rohan Bopanna                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He recently won the men's doubles title at the <b>Australian Open</b> with his partner Matthew Ebden, creating history as the oldest man to win a Grand Slam in his <b>61st attempt</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9  | Emmanuel Macron              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was the chief guest at India's 75th Republic Day celebrations.</li> <li>France's Rafale aircraft participated in the parade for the first time.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10 | Karpoori Thakur              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Bihar CM Late Shri Karpoori Thakur will be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna.</li> <li>He served <b>twice</b> as the CM of Bihar and was popular for his pro-poor initiatives.</li> <li>He was well known for making a revolutionary reservation policy in 1978 in which he allocated 26% of reservations for OBCs, EBCs, and other backward classes.</li> <li>He also gave the status of the second official language to Urdu in Bihar.</li> </ul> |
| 11 | Dr. Ritu Karidhal Srivastava | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Ritu Karidhal Srivastava has conferred with <b>UP Gaurav Samman</b> recently.</li> <li>She is a scientist of ISRO and has played a key role in the development of India's Mars Mission and Chandrayaan Mission.</li> <li>She was the Deputy Operations Director of this mission.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12 | Vyjayantimala Bali           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She has gained popularity for her dancing, particularly in <b>Bharatanatyam</b>.</li> <li>In <b>2024</b>, she was awarded the <b>Padma Vibhushan</b> by the Government of India.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 13 | Bindeshwar Pathak            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bindeshwar Pathak was a social worker and the founder of a Social Service Organisation, "Sulabh International".</li> <li>He was known as the <b>"Toilet Man of India"</b>.</li> <li>He was recently conferred with the <b>Padma Vibhushan</b> award in <b>January 2024</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 14 | Padma Subrahmanyam           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Padma Subrahmanyam is an Indian classical Bharatnatyam dancer.</li> <li>She was awarded the <b>Padma Shri</b> in <b>1981</b>, <b>Padma Bhushan</b> in <b>2003</b> and recently she has been awarded the <b>Padma Vibhushan</b> in <b>January 2024</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 15 | Man Singh                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 34-year-old Indian runner Man Singh clinched the Gold medal at the Asian Marathon Championship 2024.</li> <li>He became the <b>second Indian to win the gold</b> at the Asian Marathon champion after Thonakal Gopi's achievement in 2017.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 16 | Chamari Athapaththu          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sri Lankan All-rounder Chamari Athapaththu has been named as the ICC <b>Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 17 | Hayley Matthews              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Indies Women's Cricket team all-rounder Hayley Matthews has been named the <b>ICC Women T20 Cricketer of the year 2023</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 18 | Phoebe Litchfield            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australia Women's Cricket team batter Phoebe Litchfield has been named the <b>ICC Women's Emerging Player of the Year 2023</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 19 | Pat Cummins                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian cricket team captain Pat Cummins has been awarded the <b>Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 20 | Virat Kohli                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli has been named the <b>ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| 21 | Usman Khwaja     | • Australian Batter Usman Khwaja has been named the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2023                                                       |
| 22 | Suryakumar Yadav | • Indian Batter Suryakumar Yadav has been named the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2023                                                       |
| 23 | Aryna Sabalenka  | • Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus won the 2024 Australian Open women's singles title.<br>• This is Sabalenka's second consecutive Australian Open title. |

## Awards and Honours

| S.No. | Award's Name                                        | Given to                                                                                     | Given By                    | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | President's Medal for Gallantry                     | Sanwala Ram Vishnoi and Shishu Pal Singh                                                     | President                   | • Two Head Constables of Border Security Force, late Sanwala Ram Vishnoi and late Shishu Pal Singh get awarded posthumously President's Medal for Gallantry (PMG) on the Republic Day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2     | 'Best Film'                                         | 12TH Fail                                                                                    | 69th Filmfare awards        | • The movie "12th Fail" secured the Best Screenplay and Best Film (Popular) awards at the 69th Filmfare Awards.<br>• The film is inspired by Anurag Pathak's 2019 non-fiction book, portraying the true story of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma, who faced academic challenges during his 12th grade.                                                                                                                     |
| 3     | Wings India Awards 2024                             | Kempegowda International Airport (Karnataka) and Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi) | Ministry of Civil Aviation  | • At the fourth edition of the Wings India Awards 2024, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia gave awards during an event held in Hyderabad.<br>• Vistara was awarded the Best Airline of the Year award.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4     | Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award 2024 | 60 Parachute Field Hospital                                                                  | The Government of India     | • On the occasion of Parakram Diwas, 60 Parachute Field Hospitals of Uttar Pradesh were selected for the institutional category of Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award-2024.<br>• This hospital was established in 1942.<br>• It is the only air medical establishment of the Indian Armed Forces.<br>• Recently, it also provided medical assistance during the February 2023 earthquake in Turkey and Syria. |
| 5     | Gaurav Samman 2023-24                               | Dr Ritu Karidhal and Naveen Tiwari                                                           | Government of Uttar Pradesh | • This award was given by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the occasion of Uttar Pradesh Day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 6     | Bharat Ratna 2024                                   | Karpoori Thakur                                                                              | The Government of India     | • Karpoori Thakur was an Indian politician who served two terms as the 11th Chief Minister of Bihar, first from December 1970 to June 1971, and then from June 1977 to April 1979.<br>• He was popularly known as Jan Nayak.                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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| 7  | Polly Umrigar Award                               | Shubhman Gill (Men's Category) and Deepti Sharma (Women's Category) | Board of Control for Cricket in India                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Polly Umrigar Award for International Cricketer of the Year is one of the BCCI Awards, awarded to Indian cricketers for outstanding performance in International Cricket.</li> <li>The award was instituted in <b>2007</b>, with <b>Sachin Tendulkar</b> being the first recipient.</li> <li>The award includes a trophy, citation, and cash prize of <b>₹15 lakh</b>.</li> </ul>                                                           |
| 8  | Filmfare Awards 2024                              | Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt                                        |                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the <b>69th Filmfare Awards</b> ceremony, actor Ranbir Kapoor received the <b>Best Actor</b> award for the film '<b>Animal</b>', while actress Alia Bhatt received the <b>Best Actress</b> award for the film '<b>Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani</b>'.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9  | Balkan Athlete of the Year                        | Novak Djokovic                                                      | Bulgarian Telegraph Agency (BTA)                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Novak Djokovic has been named the Balkan Athlete of the Year award for the <b>8th time</b>.</li> <li>The Balkan Athlete of the Year is an annual sports award. It is given by the <b>Bulgarian Telegraph Agency (BTA)</b>.</li> <li>The Balkans region includes the twelve nations of <b>Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey</b>.</li> </ul> |
| 10 | Colonel CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 | Ravi Shastri and Farokh Engineer                                    | Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the Naman Awards ceremony in Hyderabad, former Indian wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer and all-rounder Ravi Shastri was honoured with the Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Awards.</li> <li>The award is named after Colonel C. K. Nayudu, India's first Test cricket captain.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11 | Blavatnik Awards                                  | Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, Tanmay Bharat,                           | 'Blavatnik Family Foundation' and 'The New York Academy of Sciences' | <p>Young scientists are the primary recipients of this prize for their scientific efforts. On February 27, 2024, an award ceremony held to honour these promising young scientists who have been chosen for their research in many scientific subjects. At a ceremony held at London's Banquet House, they will be honoured. They will receive awards totalling <b>£480,000</b>.</p>                                                                                                   |
| 12 | Maha Gaurav 2024"                                 | Nikhil Mukund Wagh                                                  | Shri Ajit Pawar, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra,           | <p>The Goa Shipyard Limited public relations officer Nikhil Mukund Wagh received the 2024 Maha Gaurav Award in February of that year. On behalf of the Digital Media Editor Journalist Association Maharashtra, Ajit Pawar, the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, accepted the prize.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|----|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 | Bharat Ratna 2024                             | 1. LK Advani<br>2. PV Narasimha Rao<br>3. Chaudhary Charan Singh<br>4. MS Swaminathan | Government of India                                                                           | The highest civilian honour in the country, the Bharat Ratna, will be given to one of the most well-known politicians in India. This esteemed award is proof of Advani's lasting influence on Indian politics and society over a number of decades.                                         |
| 14 | Shankar Smriti Award                          | Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri                                                      | The Malliyoor Bhagavat Hamsa Smriti Trust                                                     | The chief priest (Rawal) of Uttarakhand's famed Badrinath Dham, Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri, received the Shankar Smriti Award in Kerala. His commitment and contribution to the spiritual realm have been duly acknowledged, adding to the intricate web of Indian religious customs. |
| 15 | Lifetime Achievement' award                   | PT Usha                                                                               | Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) and Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA) | PT Usha, who is frequently referred to as the <b>"Queen of Indian track and field,"</b> received a souvenir, a citation, and a medallion as gifts, demonstrating the great regard people have for her outstanding athletic career.                                                          |
| 16 | Outstanding Business Woman of the Year Award  | Dr Bina Modi                                                                          | Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India                                                      | The award ceremony, which honoured Dr Modi's extraordinary accomplishments, was conducted in conjunction with a conference aimed at enhancing ties between the US and India.                                                                                                                |
| 17 | Lakshminarayana International Award           | Pyarelal Sharma                                                                       | L Subramaniam and Kavita Krishnamurthy Subramaniam                                            | He received this honour as a part of the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival, which recognized his significant contributions to the Indian music sector.                                                                                                                                  |
| 18 | K.P.P. Nambiar Award                          | ISRO Chairman S. Somanath                                                             | IEEE Kerala Section                                                                           | It recognizes people or organizations in the State that have made noteworthy contributions to the IEEE's mission of developing technology for humankind.                                                                                                                                    |
| 19 | Water Warrior                                 | Noida                                                                                 | The Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation                  | This acknowledgement is a result of the city's efforts to purify wastewater and reutilise it for a variety of uses, most notably irrigation.                                                                                                                                                |
| 20 | Vishisht Seva Medal                           | Havildar Varinder Singh,                                                              | President of India                                                                            | He has been honoured for his outstanding advancement in military technology. This award was given to him by President Droupadi Murmu in appreciation of his extraordinary work in creating a ground-breaking piece of machinery.                                                            |
| 21 | Best Global Music Album at 66th Grammy Awards | "Shakti Band" for the album "This Moment"                                             | National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS)                                         | The fusion band "Shakti", led by singer Shankar Mahadevan, Zakir Hussain, John McLaughlin, V Selvaganesh, and Ganesh Rajagopalan received the Best Global Music Album award for their album, 'This Moment', at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.                                |



## Important Days

| S.No. | Name                                     | Date         | Theme                                    | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------|------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | National Startup Day                     | 16th January | "Startups Unlocking Infinite Potential." | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This day is celebrated every year to acknowledge and promote the Indian startup ecosystem.</li> <li>The day is significant as the Startup India initiative was launched on <b>16 January 2016</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2     | Kokborok Day                             | 19th January |                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kokborok Day is a festival celebrated in the Indian state of Tripura every year on January 19th.</li> <li>The day commemorates the recognition of <b>Kokborok</b> as an <b>official language</b> of Tripura in the year <b>1979</b>.</li> <li>The term "Kok-Borok" is made by combining 2 words - "Kok" and "Borok", 'Kok' means 'language' and "Borok" means 'nation'.</li> </ul> |
| 3     | Tripura Foundation Day                   | 21st January |                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Foundation Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya is celebrated every year on 21 January.</li> <li>According to the <b>North Eastern Reorganisation Act of 1971</b>, these three states became separate states under the Indian Constitution on 21 January 1972.</li> </ul>                                                                                                    |
| 4     | The Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai | 28th January |                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was born in a small village named Dhudike in Punjab's Ferozepur district on January 28, 1865,</li> <li>He led a silent protest march against the Simon Commission in 1928.</li> <li>He played a significant role in the formation of <b>Punjab National Bank and Laxmi Insurance Company in 1894</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                |
| 5     | Shaheed Diwas                            | 30th January |                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Martyrs' Day is celebrated on 30 January to commemorate the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.</li> <li>It is also known as <b>Sarvodaya Day</b>.</li> <li>Additionally, March 23 is observed as Martyrs' Day to honour the sacrifice of three notable freedom fighters in India.</li> </ul>                                                                                     |
| 6     | Indian Newspaper Day                     | 28th January |                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India celebrates Newspaper Day on 28 January to mark the launch of the <b>country's first newspaper in 1780</b>.</li> <li>The inaugural publication was "<b>Hicky's Bengal Gazette</b>", also known as the Calcutta General Advertiser. Hicky's Bengal Gazette, also known as the Calcutta General Advertiser, was the first weekly publication in India.</li> </ul>               |
| 7     | Parakram Day                             | 23rd January |                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valour Day is celebrated every year from 2021 in honour of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.</li> <li>Netaji was born on 23 January 1897 in Cuttack, Odisha.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 8     | National Girl Child Day                  | 24th January |                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On January 24, 1966, Indira Gandhi took oath as the first woman Prime Minister of India, to commemorate this, National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on January 24 in India.</li> <li>The purpose of this day is to remove the discrimination against daughters in society and to provide them equal status.</li> </ul>                                                  |

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| 9  | International Education Day                                       | 24th January  | "Learning for lasting peace"                                  | It is dedicated to promoting education. On December 3, 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated January 24 as International Education Day to raise awareness about the role of education in bringing global peace and sustainable development. |
| 10 | National Voters Day                                               | 25th January  | "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure".                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11 | National Tourism Day                                              | 25th January  | "Stable Journey, Timeless Memory".                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12 | International Customs Day                                         | 26th January  | "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose". |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 13 | Republic Day                                                      | 26th January  | "Developed Bharat and Bharat-Mother of Democracy".            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 14 | National Geographic Day                                           | 27th January  | "Celebrating a Legacy of Exploration and Discovery"           | The <b>National Geographic Society</b> was founded on <b>January 27, 1888</b> , with a mission to increase and diffuse geographic knowledge.                                                                                                                      |
| 15 | Martyrs Day                                                       | 30th January  |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 16 | World Leprosy Day (Last Sunday of January)                        | 30th January  |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 17 | Indian Coast Guard Day                                            | 1 February    |                                                               | The Indian Parliament officially established ICG Day on February 1 each year on August 18, 1978.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 18 | World Wetlands Day                                                | 2 February    | Wetlands and Human Wellbeing                                  | The Day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.                                                                                                          |
| 19 | World Cancer Day                                                  | 4 February    | Close The Care Gap                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 20 | Kala Ghoda Festival                                               | 5-13 February |                                                               | It is Asia's largest multidisciplinary street art festival, Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF), its <b>24th edition</b> , transforming the heart of Mumbai into a vibrant hub of arts, crafts, and creativity.                                                       |
| 21 | International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation | 6 February    | Her Voice. Her Future                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| 22 | World Pulses Day                                | 10 February | Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People                                 | Building on the success of the <b>International Year of Pulses in 2016</b> , which was implemented by <b>FAO (HQ - Rome, Italy)</b> , the United Nations General Assembly designated 10 February as World Pulses Day.                  |
| 23 | National Deworming Day                          | 10 February |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 24 | International Day of Women and Girls in Science | 11 February | Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability | The annual observance was established in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to promote the full and equal access and participation of women in <b>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)</b> fields. |
| 25 | World Radio Day                                 | 13 February | A century informing, entertaining and educating                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 26 | Sarojini Naidu's Birth Anniversary              | 13 February |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 27 | International Epilepsy Day                      | 12 February | Milestones on My Epilepsy Journey                                   | International Epilepsy Day (IED) is a global healthcare event celebrated on the 2nd Monday of February every year since 2015;                                                                                                          |

### Sports Events

| S.No. | Sport Name | Event                                 | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Cricket    | ICC Under-19 World Cup 2024           | • The ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2024 was hosted by South Africa on 19 January.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2     | Football   | Asian Football Confederation Cup 2023 | • The <b>18th edition</b> of the AFC Asian Cup 2023 is scheduled to be held in <b>Doha, Qatar</b> from January 12 to February 10, 2024.                                                                                                                            |
| 3     | Cricket    | ICC Men's Player of the Month         | • Australian captain Pat Cummins has been awarded the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for December 2023, after a supreme bowling performance in his team's victorious Test series against Pakistan.                                                            |
| 4     | Tennis     | Australian Open tennis tournament     | • India's Sumit Nagal registered a win over Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik and entered the second round of the Australian Open tennis tournament for the first time.<br>• The Australian Open 2024 will be organized at Melbourne Park from January 14 to 28, 2024. |
| 5     | Football   | 'FIFA Men's Player of the Year 2023'  | • Lionel Messi won The Best FIFA Men's Player of the Year 2023 for the third time, beating Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland.                                                                                                                                       |
| 6     | Cricket    | First female neutral Umpire           | • Redfearn will officiate in the upcoming ICC Women's Championship and T20I matches between Australia and South Africa.<br>• The ICC also appointed seven other impartial female umpires to officiate in the Women's Championship series.                          |

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| 7  | Marathon                        | Asian Marathon Championships 2024                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>19th edition</b> of the Asian Marathon Championships 2024 was organised on January 21, 2024, in Hong Kong, China.</li> <li>India's <b>Man Singh</b> won the <b>gold medal</b> at the Asian Marathon Championships 2024 in Hong Kong.</li> </ul>                                                                                        |
| 8  | Hockey                          | FIH Hockey 5S Women's World Cup 2024                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2024 Hockey 5s World Cup was the first edition of the FIH Women's Hockey 5s World Cup, which was held in <b>Muscat, Oman</b> from January 24 to 27, 2024.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 9  | Cricket                         | 'ICC ODI Player of the Year 2023'                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian batsman Virat Kohli was honoured with the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023 award for his outstanding 50-over performance.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10 | Multi Games                     | Meghalaya Games                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the <b>5th edition</b> of the Meghalaya Games in Tura, Meghalaya.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11 | Multisport Event                | Khelo India Youth Games                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On January 19, 2024, PM Modi inaugurated the opening ceremony of the <b>6th edition</b> of the Khelo India Youth Games 2023 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.</li> <li>The <b>First edition</b> of the KIYG was held in the year <b>2018</b> with 18 sports events.</li> </ul>                                                                          |
| 12 | Cricket                         | U19 World Cup 2024                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australia U19 wins by 79 runs by defeating India in the U19 World Cup 2024 final. Australia's stunning victory over India has guaranteed them a <b>fourth World Cup</b> victory in U-19 cricket. Australia's victories from <b>2002, 2010</b> and <b>2020</b> were boosted.</li> </ul>                                                        |
| 13 | Football                        | SAFF Women's U-19 Championships                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and Bangladesh were named joint winners of the SAFF Women's U-19 Championships, which was an unexpected development. This extraordinary decision was made as a result of a number of odd things that happened throughout the <b>Dhaka</b> competition.</li> </ul>                                                                       |
| 14 | Tennis                          | Chennai Open                                             | With his victory in the ATP Chennai Open Challenger, India's highest-ranked tennis player <b>Sumit Nagal</b> claimed the <b>98th position</b> in the ATP's top 100 rankings.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 15 | Aquatic                         | BIMSTEC Aquatic Championship                             | Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports <b>Anurag Singh Thakur</b> inaugurated the BIMSTEC Aquatics Championship 2024 in <b>New Delhi</b> on February 6, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 16 | Global water sport extravaganza | Tawangchu Tides International Kayaking Championship-2024 | The Tawangchu Tides International Kayaking Championship 2024 kicked off with a grand opening ceremony at Dongshengmang near the India-Bhutan border in Arunachal Pradesh. Tawang Deputy Commissioner Kanki Darang inaugurated the event, which attracted 51 kayakers from around the world, including participants from Britain, Russia, Australia, and various states across India. |
| 17 | Boxing                          | 75th Strandja Memorial Tournament                        | At the Strandja Memorial Tournament in <b>Sofia, Bulgaria</b> , two-time world champion <b>Nikhath Zareen</b> and Commonwealth Games gold medalist <b>Amit Panghal</b> were among the six Indian boxers who clinched <b>gold medals</b> in the finals.                                                                                                                               |

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

| S.No. | Book Name                                                                     | Author                                     | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns                                             | MJ Akbar                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The life and struggles of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi have been mentioned in this book.</li> <li>In this, Gandhiji's three major campaigns Non-Cooperation Movement, Salt Satyagraha, and Quit India Movement have been focused.</li> </ul> |
| 2     | An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy                 | Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The biography describes the Murthy couple's early years as a couple, the birth of Infosys, and their struggles and challenges.</li> </ul>                                                                                                               |
| 3     | Maha Swaapnikudu (A Great Visionary)                                          | Vikram Poola                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This book is about the illustrious career of former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. This book was unveiled by former Supreme Court judge V. Gopala Gowda, shining a spotlight on Naidu's remarkable journey in Indian politics.</li> </ul>         |
| 4     | 9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government – Rise of a New and Vibrant Haryana' | Released by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar has released the book at Surajkund Faridabad. The book highlights the state government's accomplishments over nine years and has been published in Hindi and English languages.</li> </ul>                     |

### G.I. Tags

| S.No. | Product's Name       | State             | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Kachchhi Kharek      | Gujarat           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, Kachchi Kharek, a native date variety from Kutch, Gujarat, was granted GI tag status.</li> <li>It has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get this tag, before this in 2011, Kesar Mango of Gir was also given GI tag status.</li> </ul>                                                                                                       |
| 2     | Monpa Handmade Paper | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monpa handmade paper is a traditional art and craft of the Monpa tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>It is made from the bark of the Shugu Sheng tree, which is mainly grown in Tawang.</li> <li>Monpa paper is known for its translucent, fibrous texture, making it light in weight but its natural fibres provide it with tensile strength.</li> </ul> |
| 3     | Apatani Textile      | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh weave textiles for cultural festivals and rituals and is known as Apatani textiles.</li> <li>The angular designs and geometric zigzag patterns of Apatani textiles are well-known.</li> <li>Typically, the Apatani tribe is known for its "jig-jagro" or "jilan" shawls and "supuntarii" coats.</li> </ul>          |
| 4     | Monpa Textile        | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The word Monpa textile comes from the Monpa tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>The attire of the Monpa tribe is generally based on the Tibetan chuba.</li> <li>In January 2024, Monpa Textile got a GI tag for its uniqueness.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                |
| 5     | Nyishi Textile       | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nyishi Textile is related to the Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>The Nyishi tribe is well known for its traditional handloom and weaving art.</li> <li>Lumping gale, Pomo gale and Jekum gale are some dresses made by the Nyishi tribe</li> </ul>                                                                                             |

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| 6  | Adi Textile                       | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adi Textiles got its name from Adi community.</li> <li>• Adi weaving is a part of the people of the Adi community's cultural identity and also a source of income.</li> <li>• The Adi people used cotton and wool to weave fabrics for garments, shawls, bags, and blankets.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 7  | Singpho Phalap (Singpho tea)      | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singpho Phalap is a dark-coloured tea made by the Singpho community in Assam.</li> <li>• The tea leaves are fermented for a longer period than regular tea and the leaves are also pan-fried for a stronger flavour.</li> <li>• The leaves are then dried in bamboo tubes.</li> <li>• Packed in cylinders and cooked over a fire for weeks the leaves harden into the shape of a bamboo tube.</li> <li>• This tea can be preserved for years.</li> </ul> |
| 8  | Galo Textile                      | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galo Textile is a traditional textile and is named after the Galo tribe, the Galo tribe mainly inhabits the West Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>• The yarn used in these textiles is mainly made of cotton and silk.</li> <li>• Galo textiles are well-known for their intricate designs and patterns inspired by the Galo tribe's natural surroundings.</li> </ul>                                                                       |
| 9  | Adi Apong                         | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adi Apong is a local beer made from fermented rice and consumed by the Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>• It is a part of the daily life of the Adi tribe and is commonly used in the festivals of the Adi tribe.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10 | Dao (sword)                       | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dao is the sword of the Naga and Mizo people of northeastern India, primarily in the states of Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Assam.</li> <li>• The sword, with its wooden hilt and uncommon square design, is used both for cutting meat in modern times.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                |
| 11 | Anyat millet                      | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is primarily grown by the Adi community.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12 | Marua Apo (Marua millet beverage) | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marua Apo is a beverage made from millet grown in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>• It is a type of millet with a low glycemic index that helps control blood sugar levels when part of a balanced diet.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 13 | Tai Khampti Textile               | Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tai Khampti Textiles are indigenous products that are made using traditional handloom weaving techniques.</li> <li>• These textiles are known for their green and white checkered pattern.</li> <li>• The word 'Khampti' means a 'land full of gold'.</li> <li>• Tai Khampti is a tribe primarily found in Northeast India, People of this tribe are generally followers of Theravada Buddhism.</li> </ul>                                               |

### Apps/Web portals

| S.No. | Name            | Developed/ Launched by                              | About                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | MPLADS e-SAKSHI | Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rao Inderjit Singh, unveiled the Mobile Application in New Delhi</li> <li>• This app was specifically created for the revised fund flow procedure under the <b>MPLAD Scheme</b> and was inaugurated at Khurshid Lal Bhawan.</li> </ul> |

|   |                                              |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | e-Mobility simulation lab                    | IIT Madras                                                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IIT-Madras has joined hands with Altair, a global technology company specializing in high-performance computing, simulation, and artificial intelligence, to set up the eMobility Simulation Lab.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3 | Second-generation Distress Alert Transmitter | ISRO                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is developed for the safety of fishermen.</li> <li>Operating since <b>2010</b>, this technology enables fishermen to send emergency messages with real-time acknowledgement via satellite communication.</li> <li>Messages decoded at the Indian Mission Control Centre to aid Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres in locating distressed boats for prompt search and rescue operations.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4 | Mausam App                                   | India Meteorological Department                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was launched by <b>Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar</b> during a function to mark the <b>150th</b> anniversary of the establishment of the <b>IMD</b>.</li> <li>This mobile app will provide accurate information on meteorological services like current weather, hourly to 7 days forecast, rainfall, humidity, sunrise/sunset, moonrise/moonset, rainfall warning, lightning warning, cyclone warning, etc.</li> <li>Apart from this, agro-meteorological advice will also be available.</li> <li>This app supports <b>12 Indian languages</b>.</li> </ul> |
| 5 | Panchayat Mausam Seva Portals                | Jointly conducted by the India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Green Alert Weather Service. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through this portal, weather forecasts in English, Hindi, and twelve regional languages will be provided to every Panchayat Pradhan and Panchayat Secretary to reach every village in the country.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6 | E-Seva Portal                                | Government of Uttar Pradesh                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched the e-seva portal and accident insurance and welfare fund of up to Rs <b>10 lakh</b> for sanitation workers during the '<b>Safai Mitra Safety and Honor Conference</b>' in Gorakhpur.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 8 | ANUVADINI App                                | Ministry of Education, GoI                                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The "Anuvadini" app, an AI-based platform, was unveiled by the Central Government to encourage multilingualism in education.</li> <li>The project intends to provide digital study materials in all Indian languages specified in the <b>8th Schedule</b> of the Indian Constitution for all school and university courses.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 9 | SWATI Portal                                 | Launched by Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India                                                      | <p><b>The "Science for Women-A Technology &amp; Innovation (SWATI)" Portal</b> was launched at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, on February 11, 2024, on the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, <b>Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood</b>, was the driving force behind this important initiative to overcome the gender gap in science and technology.</p>                                                                                                                                       |

| Important Missions/Operations |                              |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S.No.                         | Name                         | By Whom              | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1                             | Operation Sarvashakti        | Indian Army          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-terrorism operation has been started by the Indian Army in Rajouri and Poonch of Jammu and Kashmir.</li> <li>This campaign will be based on the lines of 'Operation Sarp Vinash' launched in 2003.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2                             | Operation AMRIT              | Government of Kerala | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This mission was launched to tackle antibiotic resistance.</li> <li>Its objective is to prevent the misuse of antibiotics and protect the citizens of the state from its potentially fatal consequences.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3                             | Operation Marg Bar Sarmachar | Pakistan             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Marg Bar' is a Persian term which means "death to" and was used in the anti-American slogan "Marg Bar America" during Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.</li> <li>In the Baloch language, 'sarmachar' means "Guerrilla".</li> <li>Pakistan has undertaken a series of "highly coordinated and specifically targeted military strikes" against terrorist hideouts in Iran's Sistan and Baluchistan provinces.</li> </ul> |

| Brand Ambassador |                                          |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S.No.            | Brand Name                               | Ambassador Name | Details                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1                | "Rupay Prime Volleyball League Season 3" | Hrithik Roshan  | The RuPay Prime Volleyball League Season 3 will commence on February 15, 2024.                                                                                                                 |
| 2                | boAt                                     | Ranveer Singh   | The well-known lifestyle brand boAt has attracted the attention of Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh, who has invested in the company and is now the official spokesperson for its audio products. |
| 3                | Chennai Super Kings (CSK)                | Katrina Kaif    | Chennai Super Kings (CSK) officially appointed Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif as their brand ambassador for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season.                              |

| Science and Technology |                                                                                              |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S.No.                  | Mission Name                                                                                 | Country | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1                      | INSAT 3DS satellite                                                                          | India   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched the INSAT-3DS satellite from <b>Sriharikota</b>.</li> <li>This satellite is specifically designed for advanced meteorological observations, monitoring land and ocean surfaces for weather prediction, and providing disaster warnings.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                  |
| 2                      | Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM), commonly known as the "Moon Sniper" soft landing | Japan   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The "<b>Moon Sniper</b>" mission is a Japanese mission aimed at collecting samples from the Moon, searching for water and other factors necessary to sustain life on the Moon.</li> <li>It was launched in <b>September 2023</b>.</li> <li>Recently, on January 19, it successfully landed on the Moon, making Japan the <b>5th country</b> after the <b>US, Russia, India and China</b> to achieve a soft landing.</li> </ul> |



|   |                                          |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | "X-59 Quest supersonic aircraft" testing | NASA and Lockheed Martin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The X-59 is a unique experimental aircraft developed by a joint venture of NASA and Lockheed Martin.</li> <li>It is part of NASA's "Quest mission," which seeks to enable supersonic flight over land by lowering the sonic boom to a quiet "thump."</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 4 | Krutrim AI became the Unicorn            | India                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Krutrim AI is a startup founded in 2023 by the founder of Ola, Bhavish Aggarwal.</li> <li>It became the <b>first</b> and the <b>fastest-growing Unicorn</b> in 2024.</li> <li>It's also the <b>first Indian AI startup</b> to become a unicorn.</li> <li>Krutrim, which means "artificial" in Sanskrit, is a Large Language Model (LLM) which has been trained on more than 2 trillion 'tokens', which are sub-words used in conversations.</li> <li>It is building a large language model that has been trained in local Indian languages in addition to English.</li> </ul> |
| 5 | SAMBHAV secured communication system     | India                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"<b>SAMBHAV</b>" (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Vision) is a 5G-based end-to-end encrypted secure mobile ecosystem developed by the Indian Army.</li> <li>It's designed to provide secure communication with instant connectivity.</li> <li>"SAMBHAV" is a product of joint development by top national centres of excellence from academia and industry.</li> <li>To strengthen the cyber security system, the Command Cyber Operations Support Wing (CCOSWs) is being established.</li> </ul>                                                                                   |
| 6 | Discovery of an exoplanet named TOI-715B | NASA                     | TOI-715B, an <b>exoplanet</b> , has recently been discovered by NASA and is about <b>1.5 times</b> the size of Earth and is located in another solar system <b>137 light</b> years away. According to scientists, it may have the right conditions for liquid water.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### Government Schemes

| S.No. | Scheme's Name                           | Ministry/ Government/Body | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan' | Assam Government          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Scheme was launched by <b>Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma</b>.</li> <li>This initiative will be executed by the Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM) Society under the Panchayat and Rural Development (P&amp;RD).</li> </ul>                                                                                                     |
| 2     | 'Yuva Nidhi                             | Karnataka Government      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under this scheme, the state government will provide financial assistance of <b>Rs 3000 per month</b> to unemployed youth who have <b>Graduated</b> and <b>Rs 1500 per month</b> to unemployed youth who have obtained a <b>Diploma</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                         |
| 3     | Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024             | Chhattisgarh Government   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An amount of <b>Rs 1000/month</b> will be provided to the beneficiaries through this scheme.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 4     | 'Sadak Suraksha Force'                  | Punjab Government         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has launched a new initiative called '<b>Road Safety Force</b>' to improve the traffic system and reduce road accidents in the state.</li> <li>The '<b>Road Safety Force</b>' comprising <b>144 vehicles</b> and <b>5,000 personnel</b> was deployed every 30km on the roads to ensure the safety of people.</li> </ul> |

|    |                                        |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5  | Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana         | Union Government                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this scheme</li> <li><b>Solar panels</b> will be installed on the roofs of <b>1 crore</b> houses in the country through this scheme.</li> <li>This scheme aims to reduce the electricity bills of the poor, and middle class as well as make India self-reliant in the energy sector.</li> </ul>                                                            |
| 6  | My School-My Pride                     | Government of Himachal Pradesh                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Himachal Pradesh Government launched the "My School-My Pride" initiative under the '<b>Apna Vidyalaya Programme</b>'.</li> <li>The initiative also includes financial assistance for infrastructure development, scholarships, and a mid-day meal (MDM) programme.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                |
| 7  | SAMALEI Project                        | Government of Odisha                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the <b>SAMALEI (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economic Initiative)</b> Project, facilities for the pilgrims will be improved.</li> <li>It includes peripheral development of the shrines, construction of heritage corridors, improvised access to the temples, and development of the Mahanadi Riverfront.</li> </ul>                                                                  |
| 8  | Kilkari programme and Mobile Academy   | Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prof. S P Singh Baghel and Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar | It is launched to improve <b>Gujarat's and Maharashtra's</b> public health infrastructure. While Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) can receive training via mobile phones via Mobile Academy, Kilkari offers timely audio messages on reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health.                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9  | EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme | The Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan                                                                  | The goal of this new program is to make it simpler for financially disadvantaged students to receive a quality education. It adheres to the universal access to education objectives of the <b>National Education Policy (NEP) 2020</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10 | Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY).      | Odisha Government                                                                                           | 2008 saw the introduction of MBPY, which combined two 1980s-era programs. 36.75 lakhs of the elderly, widows, disabled people, single women, AIDS patients, transgender people, orphan children, and widows of COVID victims are among the beneficiaries. New Monthly Sums: <b>Ages 79 and under Rs 1,000</b><br><b>Rs 1,200 for those over 80. At least 80 years old and 60% disabled: Rs 1,400.</b>                                               |
| 11 | PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana       | Government of India                                                                                         | Through rooftop solar systems, the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana seeks to supply one crore houses with free electricity. The programme was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a budget of more than <b>Rs 75,000 crore</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12 | GROW Initiative                        | NITI Aayog                                                                                                  | The Government of India's main policy think tank, NITI Aayog, has released the Greening and Restoration of Wasteland using Agroforestry (GROW) report and website. With the use of cutting-edge remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, this ground-breaking project seeks to convert India's idle wastelands into fruitful agroforestry zones. A thorough analysis will be conducted at the state and district levels. |

|    |                                         |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 | Mukhyamantri Vishwakarma Pension Yojana | Rajasthan Government    | Under the direction of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal, Finance Minister Diya Kumari unveiled the state's budget on February 8, 2024, marking a significant step towards the wellbeing of workers and street sellers in Rajasthan. After almost 22 years, Rajasthan's financial budget is finally presented with this budget. Notably, it contains announcements specifically intended for children, women, farmers, and senior citizens. |
| 14 | Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana         | Maharashtra Government  | It aims to provide aid to approximately 15 lakh senior citizens with physical or mental disabilities. Beneficiaries aged 65 and above will receive financial assistance of Rs.3,000.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 15 | Digital Detox Pahal                     | Government of Karnataka | The Government of Karnataka in collaboration with All India Game Developers Forum has launched the Digital Detox initiative aimed at promoting moderation and responsible behaviour in the digital and gaming sectors.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

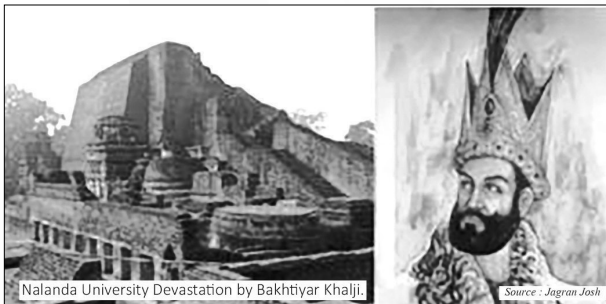
# KNOW YOUR BIHAR

## Bihar during Medieval Era

The Medieval history of Bihar starts from the 8<sup>th</sup> Century itself with the rise of Pala dynasty in the region of Bengal and Bihar. But, the real start of Medieval history of Bihar is considered with the invasion of the Turkish invader “**Bakhtiyar Khalji**” in the late 12<sup>th</sup> Century and the early 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

### Turkish invasion under Bakhtiyar Khalji

- The first Turkish invasion in Bihar was done by **Ibn Bakhtiyar Khalji**.
- He was credited with the establishment of Turkish power in Bihar.
- His most important victory was the victory at **Odantapuri in 1198**.
- Bakhtiyar Khalji destroyed the **Nalanda University** and established the city of **Bakhtiyarpur**.
- He was killed by his officer **Alimardan** and buried at **Imadpur** locality of **Bihar Sharif**.
- Nickname- **Ghazi Ikhtiyar**.



## Important Dynasties, Who Ruled Bihar

### (1) Slave Dynasty

- **Ilutmish** was the first Sultan to bring Bihar under Delhi Sultanate.

- During the rule of Ilutmish, **Malik Jani** was appointed as the first governor of Bihar.
- Ilutmish's son **Nasiruddin Mahmud** organized Awadh, Bihar and Lakhnauti as a single administrative unit and ruled from 1227 AD to 1229 AD.
- During the reign of **Balban**, Gaya region of Bihar was under Delhi, which is mentioned in **Gaya Prashasti** of king **Vanraj** of Gaya.
- **Tughril Khan**, the ruler of Lakhnauti, accepted the suzerainty of Balban but later on he rebelled in 1279AD.

### (2) Khilji Dynasty

- In 1297 **Alauddin Khilji** sent **Sheikh Mohammad Ismail** to Darbhanga but, he was defeated by **Raja Shukra**.
- Some coins during the time of the Khilji dynasty have been found from **Shahpur (Bhojpur)**.

### (3) Tughlaq Dynasty

- **Bihar Sharif** was the capital of Bihar during the Tughlaq period.
- **Muhammad bin Tughlaq** merged Bihar with Delhi Sultanate after detaching from Bengal.
- **Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq** established a mint-town at **Tirhut** sometimes called **Tughlaqabad**.
- A **fort** and a **Jama Masjid** were built in Darbhanga during the time of **Mohammad bin Tughlaq**.
- Muhammad Bin Tughlaq changed the name of Darbhanga to **Tughlaqpur**.

### (4) Afghan Rule in Bihar:

- **Sher Shah** was born in 1472 AD.
- His Ancestors initially lived in Afghanistan. So, His rule is considered as Afghan rule.
- **Farid Khan** (Childhood name of Sher Shah) was the son of **Hasan Khan Sur**, Jagirdar of Sasaram in Bihar.
- He got the title of ‘**Sher Khan**’ by **Mohammad Bahar Khan Nuhani**.

| Battles Fought by Sher Shah | Year of battle | Battle fought between                                                                     | Result of the battle                                                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Battle of Surajgarh         | 1534           | Sher Shah Suri & combined force of Lohani chief of Bihar and sultan Mahmud sah of Bengal. | Sher Shah won and got title of Hazrat-e-Ala.                                    |
| Battle of Chausa            | 1539           | Sher Shah and Humayun                                                                     | Sher Shah won and assume the title of 'Shah'.                                   |
| Battle of Kannauj (Bilgram) | 1540           | Sher Shah and Humayun                                                                     | After defeat, Humayu fled to Iran.                                              |
| Battle of Kalinjar          | 1545           | Sher Shah and Keerat Singh                                                                | During this campaign Sher Shas died and his son Islam Shah ascended the throne. |

### Sher Shah's Tomb

- The construction of this tomb was started by Sher Shah but It was completed by his son Islam Shah.
- The tomb was designed by **Mir Muhammad Aliwal Khan**.
- The tomb is made up of red sandstone in octagonal shape.
- **Location- Sasaram, Rohtas District.**



### Contributions of Sher Shah

- He introduced 'Sarkar'(Districts) first time in the history.
- Introduction of **Zabit System**, made by Todar Mal.
- Introduction of silver coin or **Rupai of 178 grain and copper coin 380 grain**.
- He also started the practice of **Patta and Kabuliyat**.
- He constructed **Sadak-e-Azam** and **Badshahi Sadak**, which was later on known as **Grand Trunk Road**.

### (5) Bihar Under Mughal

| Rulers                            | Events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Humayun (AD. 1530-1540 & 1555-56) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1532, Humayun attacked <b>Chunar Fort</b> for the first time. The end of power of Nuhanis in Bihar began when humayun defeated the Afghans at <b>Dohra sarai</b> in 1532 AD.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Akbar (AD.1556 -1605)             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After battle of <b>Rajmahal (12 March,1576)</b>, fought between Mughal forces and <b>Dawood Khan</b>, Akbar made Bihar a separate subah of his empire.</li> <li>• In <b>1587 Man Singh</b> was appointed as governor of Bihar, He administered excellently and crushed all rebellions.</li> <li>• <b>Man Singh</b> made <b>Rohtas</b> his capital.</li> <li>• <b>Asif khan</b> was appointed as last governor of Bihar during the reign of Akbar.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Jahangir (AD.1605-1627)           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bihar was mainly affected by the rebellion of <b>Jahangir (Salim)</b> in the last year of Akbar's reign.</li> <li>• He made a grant of <b>Madad-i-mash</b> land to descendent of the famous <b>Pir Damaria's</b> family.</li> <li>• During the reign of Jahangir, <b>Mehrunisa</b> also known as <b>Nur Jahan</b> (wife of Jahangir) passed through <b>Darbhanga</b> where she constructed <b>Noor Sarai</b> and a <b>Mosque</b>.</li> <li>• In AD. <b>1621</b> Jahangir appointed his son prince <b>Parvez</b> as Governor of Bihar.</li> <li>• <b>Parvez</b> was the first Mughal prince to rule Bihar, established a city <b>Parvezabad</b>, now known as <b>Paleza</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Nazar Bahadur</b> (officer of Parvez) constructed the famous <b>Sangi Masjid</b>, now known as <b>Patthar ki Masjid</b> in Patna.</li> </ul> |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shah Jahan (AD.1627-1658)    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shah Jaha (Prince Khurram)</b> revolted and turned his attention towards <b>Patna</b>, when <b>Parvez</b> was the governor of Bihar.</li> <li>• <b>Saif Khan</b>, appointed as the governor of Bihar by Shah Jahan was discussed by <b>Peter Mundy</b> as the best governor of Bihar under Mughal.</li> <li>• <b>Shahi Idgah in Patna city</b> was built by <b>Saif Khan</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                          |
| Aurangzeb (AD. 1658-1707)    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>first</b> governor of Bihar during the reign of Aurangzeb was <b>Daud Khan Quraishi</b>.</li> <li>• Daud khan founded the city of <b>Daud Nagar</b> in the Gaya district.</li> <li>• European travellers <b>Tavernier</b> and <b>Bernier</b> visited Patna during the reign of <b>Jan Nishar Khan</b> (Governor) in the rule of Aurangzeb.</li> <li>• Aurangzeb appointed his favourite grandson <b>Azim-Us-Shan</b> as the governor of Bihar. He renamed Patna as <b>Azimabad</b> after his name.</li> </ul> |
| Farrukhsiyar (AD. 1713-1719) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farrukhsiyar came back to Bihar from Bengal in <b>1711 AD</b>.</li> <li>• He was born in <b>Patna</b>.</li> <li>• He was the <b>first</b> Mughal ruler who was coronated in <b>Patna in 1713 AD</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

### Sikhs in Bihar

- The relation of Sikhism has been very old in Bihar.
- Guru Nanak Dev had visited **Gaya, Rajgir, Patna, Munger, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon** for propagating Sikhism.
- **Guru Teg Bahadur**, on his way to Assam, on a peace mission, had left his wife at Patna where she gave birth to **Shri Guru Govind Singh**.
- **Shri Guru Govind Singh**, the **tenth** and the last of the Sikh Guru, was born at Patna in 1666.
- Guru Govind Singh announced the establishment of Khalsa on **1st of Baisakh 1699**.
- A Gurudwara was constructed by the name of "**Takht Shri Harmandir jee**" at Patna Sahib, the birth place of Guru Govind Singh.
- The Gurudwara is the second most important religious place of Sikhs after Golden Temple, Amritsar.



## Rule of Pala and Sena dynasty in Bihar

### 1. The Pala Dynasty

- After the invasion of **Magadha** and **Gauda** by **Yashovarmen of Kannauj**, a period of anarchy arose in the state. This anarchy was too much to be borne with patience for long. The people elected **Gopala** as their king. He founded Pala dynasty. He was followed by many important rulers like Dharmapala, Devapala, Vigrahapala, Narayanapala etc.

| Important Rulers | Their works                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gopala           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded the <b>Pala Dynasty</b> in <b>750 AD</b>.</li> <li>• He not only ended the political anarchy in Bengal but also extended Pala dominion in Magadha.</li> <li>• He was a Buddhist and founder of <b>Odantapura Vihara</b> of Bihar sharif.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Dharam pala      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gopala was succeeded by his son <b>Dharampala</b>.</li> <li>• He made every attempt for the sovereignty of whole north India and for the possession of <b>Kannauj</b>.</li> <li>• He is referred as <b>Uttarapathaswami</b> by a Gujarati writer.</li> <li>• The <b>Munger copper plate</b> inscription of <b>Devapala</b> informs that <b>Dharampala</b> had left to his successor a kingdom free from the troubles.</li> <li>• He was the <b>first</b> Pala king who assumed full imperial Titles of <b>Maharajadhiraja, Parameswara</b> and <b>Paramabhattacharaka</b>.</li> <li>• He built <b>Vikramashila Mahavihara</b> in <b>Antichak village</b> of <b>Bhagalpur</b>.</li> <li>• He also built <b>Sonapura Vihara</b> in North Bengal.</li> <li>• An image of <b>four faced Mahadeva</b> was installed in <b>Bodh Gaya</b> during his reign.</li> </ul> |
| Devapala         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dharampala was succeeded by his son <b>Devapala</b>.</li> <li>• He conquered <b>Utkala (Orissa)</b> and <b>Pragjyotisha (Kamrupa, Assam)</b>.</li> <li>• The inscriptions of Devapala have been found in <b>Ghosrawan, Hilsa, Nalanda</b> and <b>Munger</b>.</li> <li>• He established friendly and cultural relations with <b>Balaputradeva</b>, the king of <b>Suvarnavdipa</b>.</li> <li>• On the request of <b>Balaputradeva</b>, Devapala granted five villages for the maintenance of monastery built by <b>Balaputradeva</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## 2. The Sena Dynasty

- The Palas were succeeded by **Sena** dynasty who ruled in Bengal and Bihar.
- The Dynasty was founded by **Sumantsena** described as **Brahmakshatriya**.
- **Sumantsena** was succeeded by his son **Hemantsena**.
- The invasion of Bakhtiyar khalji took place during the reign of **Lakshmansena**.

## Local Ruling Dynasties of Bihar

### Karnata Dynasty

- The Karnata dynasty in Mithila was founded in **1097 AD.** with its Capital at **Simraon** in **Champaran**.
- The founder of this Dynasty was **Nanyadeva**.
- He is also known as **Karnatakshatriya** and **Karnatakulbhushana** in Mithila tradition.
- At the time of foundation of this dynasty, **Rampala** was the ruler of Pala dynasty.
- **Bakhtiyar Khalji** passed with his army through **Tirhut** during the reign of **Narsimhadeva**.
- **Harisimhadeva** was the **last** great ruler of Karnata dynasty.
- After the defeat at the hand of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, **Harisimha** entered Nepal where he introduced the worship of a goddess **Taleju**.
- The area of Nepal was also under Karnata Dynasty.

### Chero Dynasty

- After the decline of the Pala Dynasty, tribal states emerged in Bihar, in which the Chero dynasty was the most prominent.
- This powerful kingdom was founded by the ruler **Chero Raj** in the districts of **Shahabad**, **Saran**,

Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Palamu.

- Chero of Shahabad were divided in to **four** kingdoms.
- 1. **Ghughuliya kingdom**- ruled by **Ghughuliya** with its capital at **Bihiya**.
- 2. **Bhojpur**- ruled by **Sitam Rai** with its capital at **Tiravana**.
- 3. **Chainpur**- ruled by **Salabahim** with its headquarter at Chainpur (**Kaimur**).
- 4. **Sasaram**- Ruled by **Phoolchand** with its headquarter at **Dev Markandeya**.
- **Phoolchand** is credited with starting of **Jagdishpur fair**.
- The greatest kings among the Chero rulers were **Medini Rai**, followed by his son **Pratap Rai**.
- During the Reign of **Pratap Rai**, Three Mughal invasions took place and finally in **1660 AD.**, Chero was merged in to the Mughal empire.

### Ujjaini Dynasty of Bhojpur

- Unable to face the challenge of Muslim power the Rajput king of Dhar, **Bhojraj** along with his son **Devraj** and other Rajput followers moved to **Shahabad** and **Palamu** and took shelter under the Chero King **Raja Mukund**.
- Originally, they were from Ujjain so they were called Ujjaini Rajput.
- Chero King **Mukund** was succeeded by **Sahasbal**. **Sahabal** killed **Bhojraj**. In retaliation **Devraj** killed **Sahabal** in **1324** and captured major portion of Chero Kingdom.
- **Devraj** founded the city of **Bhojpur**.
- In **1611** Ujjainis won a decisive battle against Cheros, with the help of Mughals.

## Travellers who came to Bihar

| Travellers/Historians | Their works                   | Extra Facts                                                                                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minhas Us Siraj       | Tabakat-i-Nasiri              | It gives a detailed account of attack of Bakhtiyar khalji.                                     |
| Ziauddin Barani       | Tarikh-i-Firozshahi           |                                                                                                |
| Mullah Takiya         | Travelogue was written by him | In his travelogue, Information about Turks invasion in Bihar is mentioned.                     |
| Babar                 | Tuzuk-i-Babari                | It gives an account of fall of Nuhani & Revenue system of Bihar.                               |
| Jahangir              | Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri             | It gives an account of attack of Mughals on Jharkhand and about the mines of Gold and Diamond. |
| Abul Fazal            | Akbarnama                     | Relevant information about Mughal rules in Bihar                                               |
| Muhammad Qasim        | Alamgirnama                   | Relevant information about Mughal rules in Bihar.                                              |

# PRACTICE PAPER

## BIHAR VIDHAN SABHA MOCK TEST

- Q 1. If the length of a rectangle is increased by 28% and its width is reduced by 12.5%, then by what percentage will the area of the rectangle increase?
- (a) 12.8% (b) 15.75%  
(c) 12% (d) 22%
- Q 2. The average weight of 40 employees of a company is 52 kg. If a new employee joins the company, the average weight increases by 500g. Find the weight (in kg) of the new employee.
- (a) 74.5 kg (b) 72.5 kg  
(c) 73.5 kg (d) 78.5 kg
- Q 3. A sum given at compound interest becomes ₹1,200 in 2 years and ₹1,260 in 3 years, while the interest is calculated on a compounded basis annually. What is the annual rate of compound interest?
- (a) 4% (b) 3%  
(c) 5% (d) 6%
- Q 4. A vehicle is moving at one-fourth of its normal speed, and it takes 45 minutes extra time to reach its destination. Its normal time to cover the same distance is.
- (a) 10 minutes (b) 20 minutes  
(c) 15 minutes (d) 30 minutes
- Q 5. Ameesha announces a festive discount of 30% on all items in her gift shop. When Gurmeet bought a gift for himself from the same shop, he got a discount of ₹1,110. What was the face value of the gift?
- (A) 3,850  
(B) 3,650  
(C) 3,750  
(D) 3,700
- Q 6. The simple interest on a certain sum of money at 8% per annum for 3 years is ₹ 9120 less than the simple interest on the same sum of money at 8% per annum for 7 years. Find that amount.
- (a) 28,000 (b) 28,500  
(c) 28,750 (d) 28,250
- Q 7. Solve  $(1+5/6+7/8+11/12) \div (3/4-5/8)$ .
- (a) 29 (b) 19  
(c) 39 (d) 49
- Q 8. The marked price of a chair was ₹1,200. This price was 20% more than its cost price. If the chair is sold at a 5% discount on the marked price, find the profit percentage.
- (a) 16% (b) 14%  
(c) 11% (d) 12%
- Q 9. Find the value of  $[0.7 - \{4.3 - 3.6 - (6.1 - 4.7 - 2.3)\}]$
- (a) 8/10 (b) 7/10  
(c) -9/10 (d) 6/10
- Q 10. The ratio of milk and water in a vessel is 1:2 by the chemical process if we extract some water then the ratio becomes 4:7 and the quantity of the mixture is reduced to 38.5 ltr, then find how much quantity of water was extracted.
- (A) 1.75 ltr  
(B) 2.5 ltr  
(C) 3.25 ltr  
(D) 3.5 ltr
- Q 11. If  $5/8$  of  $4/7$  of a number is 660, then what will be  $5/15$  of  $2/3$  of this number?
- (A) 432  
(B) 440  
(C) 550  
(D) 374



Q 12. During a school excursion, each student of the 11th class was charged Rs 325 and each student of the 12th class was charged Rs 400. If there were 80 students from the 11th class and the combined average amount charged per student was Rs 352, how many students from the 12th class went for the excursion?

- (a) 75 (b) 55  
(c) 48 (d) 72

Q 13. If  $0.2x = 0.04y$ , then the value of is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A)  $\frac{2}{3}$   
(B)  $\frac{7}{2}$   
(C)  $\frac{3}{2}$   
(D)  $\frac{2}{7}$

Q 14. Copper and bronze are in the ratio 4: 5 in 540 gm of an alloy. The quantity (in gm) of copper to be added to it to make the ratio 5: 4 is:

- (A) 135 gm  
(B) 126 gm  
(C) 125 gm  
(D) 130 gm

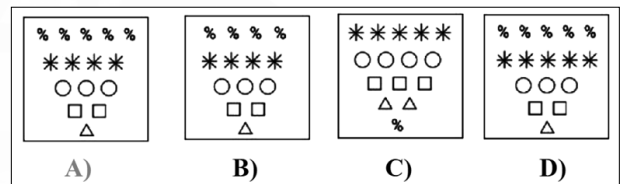
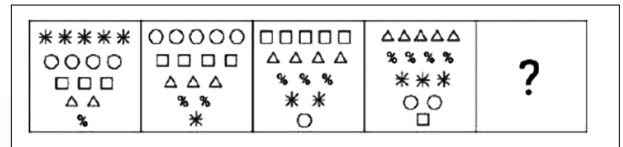
Q 15. The ratio of the present ages of Mohit and Ritesh is 3:4. After 8 years from now, the ratio of their ages will be 4:5. If the present age of Ashutosh is 16 years more than the present age of Mohit, then the present age of Ashutosh (in years) is

- (A) 40  
(B) 30  
(C) 36  
(D) 24

Q 16. In a certain code language, KHAN is written as MECK while NEST is written as PBUQ. Then find out how ZERO will be written in that code language.

- (A) XBTL  
(B) BBTL  
(C) CBTQ  
(D) DPQW

Q 17. Which figure from the four options given below will come in place of the question mark in the category given below?



Q 18. In a certain code language, 'SPECIAL' is written as 'ACEILPS' and 'FATHER' is written as 'AEFHRT'. Then find out from the options given below how 'FORMAT' will be written in that code language.

- (A) AFMORT  
(B) AMFORT  
(C) OFMRTA  
(D) RMFOTA

Q 19. In a certain code language 'INSERT' is written as 181419101820 and 'HOME' is written as 8301310. Find out from the options given below the code of 'GOOGLE' in that code language.

- (A) 715157125  
(B) 1415157245  
(C) 7303071210  
(D) 7303701210

Q 20. In a certain code language, 'PENS' is written as 51 and 'APPLE' is written as 47. Then find out how 'LOGITECH' will be written in that code language.

- (A) 53  
(B) 59  
(C) 52  
(D) 56

**Q 21.** Out of the four options given below, three are alike in some manner and one is different from them; Find that different option.

- (a) BDFH                      (b) JLNP  
(c) MNOP                    (d) KMOQ

**Q 22.** Four options are given below, out of which three are logically alike in some way and one is different. Select that different option.

- (a) AZ- 54                    (b) BP- 36  
(c) AM-18                    (d) SP- 70

**Directions (23-25):** Study the following information carefully and answer the questions.

In a given code language:

'mobile companies are down' is coded as '22 40 27 71'

'electrical vehicles best companies' is coded as '69 50 61 22'

'present electrical vehicles boost' is coded as '50 41 69 30'

'boost in mobile companies' is coded as '41 40 22 25'

**Q 23.** What is the statement for the code '22 25 30'?

- (A) present mobile companies  
(B) companies in mobile  
(C) present electrical vehicles  
(D) in present companies

**Q 24.** What is the statement for the code '41'?

- (A) Boost  
(B) Mobile  
(C) Companies  
(D) Vehicles

**Q 25.** What is the possible code for the statement 'electrical buses'?

- (A) 50 41  
(B) 69 41  
(C) 50 27  
(D) 69 79

**Directions(26-27):** Study the following information carefully and answer the questions.

In a given code language:

'all candidates must qualify' is coded as 'na li ja pa'

'qualify in all subjects' is coded as 'ta ja li ra'

'candidates read all subjects' is coded as 'sa li na ra'

**Q 26.** What will be the statement for the code 'ja na'?

- (A) must qualify  
(B) candidates subjects  
(C) qualify subjects  
(D) None of the above

**Q 27.** How will 'all subjects' be coded?

- (a) li sa                      (b) li ra  
(c) ra ja                      (d) pa li

**Q 28.** 'P \$ Q' implies 'P is the mother of Q'.  
'P # Q' implies that 'P is the father of Q'.  
'P @ Q' implies 'P is the husband of Q'.  
'P % Q' implies 'P is the daughter of Q'.  
**A % S @ T \$ G @ B**

Then, how A is related to B.

- (A) Brother-in-law  
(B) Sister-in-law  
(C) Father-in-law  
(D) Brother

**Q 29.** Z @ A' means 'Z is the son of A'.

'Z \* A' means 'Z is the brother of A'.

'Z × A' means 'Z is the father of A'.

'Z # A' means 'Z is the sister of A'.

'Z \$ A' means 'Z is the daughter of A'.

'Z = A' means 'Z is the mother of A'.

How is A related to Y in the following expression? A \* S = J @ M × Y.

- (A) A is the father of Y.  
(B) A is the brother of Y.  
(C) A is the brother of Y's mother.  
(D) A is the cousin of Y

- Q 30.** F is the brother of J. E is the sister of D. K is the sister of L. D is the son of L. J is the father of E. How is D related to F?  
 (A) Sister's husband  
 (B) Brother's son  
 (C) Wife  
 (D) Brother's daughter
- Q 31.** A = B' means 'A is the father of B'.  
 'A \$ B' means 'A is the sister of B'.  
 'A \* B' means 'A is the mother of B'.  
 'A ? B' means 'A is the son of B'.  
 If M ? C \$ J \* Z, then how is J related to M?  
 (A) Sisters  
 (B) Mothers sisters  
 (C) Mothers mothers  
 (D) Brother
- Q 32.** L is the wife of Q. P is the mother of M. J is the father of L. M is the sister of H. J is the husband of H. How is P related to L?  
 (A) Mother's mother  
 (B) Sister's son  
 (C) Mother's sister  
 (D) Sister's husband
- Q 33.** From the given alternatives select the word which cannot be formed using the letters of the given word.  
**SUSTAINABLE**  
 (a) UNABLE (b) SALINE  
 (c) TURBINE (d) UNSTABLE
- Q 34.** From the given alternatives select the word which cannot be formed using the letters of the given word.  
**NURTURING**  
 (a) TURING (b) RUNNING  
 (c) TUNING (d) TURNING
- Q 35.** From the given alternatives select the word which cannot be formed using the letters of the given word.  
**VIRTUOUS**  
 (a) VIRUS (b) RIOT  
 (c) SUIT (d) TURBO
- Q 36.** Three of the following letter clusters are alike in some manner and one is different. Select a different one.  
 (a) LOKP (b) HMIL  
 (c) KPLO (d) SXTW
- Directions:(37-41) Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given beside:**  
 Seven persons D, E, F, G, H, I and J belong to three different cities, viz Bangalore, Calcutta and Ahmedabad with at least two persons from each city. Each of them likes a different colour – Yellow, Black, Green, White, Blue, Orange and Pink – but not necessarily in the same order. E likes Black. I do not like Blue but he belongs to Calcutta with J. E belongs to a city only with D and H but is not from Ahmedabad. H does not belong to Calcutta but he likes Orange. The one who likes Pink does not belong to either Bangalore or Calcutta. D likes Green. The one who likes Black does not belong to Calcutta. J does not like Pink. F belongs to Ahmedabad only with the person who likes White.
- Q 37.** G belongs to which of the following cities?  
 (A) Either Bangalore or Ahmedabad  
 (B) Ahmedabad  
 (C) Either Calcutta or Bangalore  
 (D) Can't be determined
- Q 38.** Which of the following combinations is true?  
 (A) J – Bangalore – Blue  
 (B) D – Bangalore – Orange  
 (C) I – Calcutta – Yellow  
 (D) E – Calcutta – Black
- Q 39.** Who among the following belongs to Calcutta?  
 (a) E, I (b) D, H  
 (c) J, E (d) I, J

**Q 40. Who among the following likes the colour blue?**

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| (a) J | (b) I |
| (c) H | (d) G |

**Q 41. 'I' like which of the following colours?**

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| (a) Blue | (b) Yellow |
| (c) Pink | (d) Orange |

**Direction (42 to 45):- Read the following information and answer the given questions.**

8 persons V, X, Y, Z, A, B, C and D are seated around a square table - two on each side. There are 3 females who are not seated next to each other.

B is between D and X.

Y is between A and X.

Z, a lady member, is second to the left of B.

X, a male member, is seated opposite to V, a lady member.

There is a lady member between X and A.

**Q 42. Who among the following is to the immediate left of X?**

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| (a) A | (b) Y |
| (c) D | (d) B |

**Q 43. What is true about B and C?**

- (A) B is male, C is female  
(B) B is female, C is male  
(C) Both are female  
(D) Both are male

**Q 44. How many persons are seated between C and X?**

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| (a) 1 | (b) 2 |
| (c) 3 | (d) 4 |

**Q 45. Who among the following are three lady members?**

- (A) V, Z and B  
(B) V, X and Y  
(C) V, Z and Y  
(D) C, Z and B

**Q 46. Vote on Account is meant for**

- (A) Budget  
(B) Vote on the report of CAG  
(C) To meet the unforeseen expenditure  
(D) Appropriating funds pending the passing of the budget

**Q 47. Which of the following Five-year Plans was based on the "Mahalanobis Model"?**

- (A) First five-year plan  
(B) Second five-year plan  
(C) Third five-year plan  
(D) Fourth five-year plan

**Q 48. The Antyodaya Program was initiated for the first time in which state?**

- (A) Bihar  
(B) Odisha  
(C) Uttar Pradesh  
(D) Rajasthan

**Q 49. What is the minimum age for a member of the parliament in Lok Sabha?**

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| (a) 30 years | (b) 21 years |
| (c) 25 years | (d) 35 years |

**Q 50. Consider the Following Statement in the Context of the basic philosophy of the Constitution and Its Function:**

1. It provides a set of basic rules that allow for coordination among members of society.
2. It sets limits on what a government can impose on its citizens.

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

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Only 1       | (b) Only 2          |
| (c) Both 1 and 2 | (d) Neither 1 nor 2 |

**Q 51. What is meant by "Rule of Law"?**

- (A) One State for all and one judiciary for all  
(B) One act for one and one judiciary for all  
(C) One act for all and one judiciary for all  
(D) One act for all and one State for all

**Q 52. How Many Members of the Rajya Sabha are Nominated by the President of India?**

- (A) 2
- (B) 250
- (C) 10
- (D) 12

**Q 53. The total number of members in the Union Council of Ministers in India shall not exceed**

- (A) 10% of the total number of members of the Parliament
- (B) 15% of the total number of members of the Parliament
- (C) 10% of the total number of members of the Lok Sabha
- (D) 15% of the total number of members of the Lok Sabha

**Q 54. Who Appoints the Judge of the Supreme Court of India?**

- (A) The Chief Justice of India
- (B) The Prime Minister
- (C) The governor of the State
- (D) The President of India

**Q 55. Arrange the following Indian States in descending order according to their geographical areas:**

- 1. Rajasthan
- 2. Tamil Nadu
- 3. Maharashtra
- 4. Karnataka

- (A) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (B) 3, 1, 4, 2
- (C) 1, 3, 4, 2
- (D) 3, 4, 1, 2

**Q 56. In which state Namdapha National Park is situated?**

- (A) Mizoram
- (B) Arunachal Pradesh
- (C) Nagaland
- (D) Assam

**Q 57. Recently, which of the following has/have shrunk immensely due to human activities?**

- 1. Aral Sea
- 2. Black Sea
- 3. Lake Baikal

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (A) 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3
- (C) 1 only
- (D) 1 and 3

**Q 58. The largest island of Japan in terms of geographical area is**

- (A) Hokkaido
- (B) Honshu
- (C) Shikoku
- (D) Kyushu

**Q 59. Minicoy and Maldives group of islands are separated by which one of the following latitudes?**

- (A) 8° N latitude
- (B) 10° N latitude
- (C) 12° N latitude
- (D) 13° N latitude

**Q 60. Siliguri Corridor, or Chicken's Neck, is a narrow stretch of land, it shares borders with which of the following countries?**

- (A) India, Nepal and Bangladesh
- (B) Nepal and the Kingdom of Bhutan
- (C) India, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- (D) None of the above

**Q 61. Coral reefs are not found in which one of the following regions?**

- (A) Gulf of Kachchh
- (B) Gulf of Mannar
- (C) Gulf of Cambay
- (D) Lakshadweep and Minicoy Island

- Q 62. Which one of the following is the largest landlocked country?**  
(a) Ethiopia (b) Kazakhstan  
(c) Hungary (d) Ukraine
- Q 63. Which of the following is the Highest Peak in India?**  
(A) Anai Mudi  
(B) Kanchenjunga  
(C) Guru Shikhar  
(D) Mahendra Giri
- Q 64. Which of the following is the highest navigable lake in the world?**  
(A) Volga Lake  
(B) Lake Victoria  
(C) Lake Titicaca  
(D) Lake Baikal
- Q 65. Dakshin Gangotri is located in?**  
(A) Uttarakhand  
(B) Antarctica  
(C) Himalaya  
(D) Arctic
- Q 66. Which type of Climate is found in India?**  
(A) Mediterranean type  
(B) Tropical -subtropical  
(C) Monsoon-type  
(D) Tundra- Taiga type
- Q 67. In which of the following countries is Pampas grassland found?**  
(A) Brazil  
(B) Argentina  
(C) South Africa  
(D) Australia
- Q 68. Who shifted the capital of the Delhi Sultanate from Lahore to Delhi?**  
(A) Qutb ud-Din Aibak  
(B) Iltutmish  
(C) Balban  
(D) Muhammad bin Tughluq
- Q 69. Who laid the foundation of the Vardhana dynasty?**  
(A) Prabhakara Vardhana  
(B) Pushyabhuti  
(C) Aditya Vardhana  
(D) Rajyavardhana
- Q 70. In which place Khudiram Bose tried to kill Kingsford?**  
(a) Darbhanga (b) Muzaffarpur  
(c) Patna (d) Gaya
- Q 71. A Buddhist council during the reign of Kanishka was held at?**  
(a) Magadha (b) Patliputra  
(c) Rajgriha (d) Kashmir
- Q 72. Where were large granaries found?**  
(A) Harappa and Mohenjo Daro  
(B) Kalibangan  
(C) Banawali  
(D) Lothal and Dholavira
- Q 73. Which of the following acts is also known as the "good governance act in India", during the colonial period?**  
(A) Charter Act 1861  
(B) Government of India Act 1919  
(C) Government of India Act 1858  
(D) Government of India Act 1935
- Q 74. Which suburban town near Vijayanagar was established by Krishnadev Rai in the name of his mother?**  
(a) Hampi (b) Nagal  
(c) Berar (d) Nagalapuram
- Q 75. Which of the following movements led to the split of the Indian National Congress resulting in the emergence of the 'Moderate Party' and 'Extremist Party'?**  
(A) Swadeshi movement  
(B) Non-cooperation movement  
(C) Quit India Movement  
(D) Civil Disobedience Movement

- Q 76. Who among the following organized the famous Chittagong Armoury raid?**  
 (A) Lakshmi Sehgal  
 (B) Surya Sen  
 (C) Batukeshwar Dutt  
 (D) J.M. Sengupta
- Q 77. When does India celebrate National Space Day?**  
 (a) 15 January (b) 4 December  
 (c) 23 August (d) 5 June
- Q 78. At which place did former president of India Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurated India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) school called Santhigiri Vidyabhavan?**  
 (A) Thiruvananthapuram  
 (B) Tiruchirappalli  
 (C) Hyderabad  
 (D) Kochi
- Q 79. Who has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in the year 2023?**  
 (A) Jon Fosse  
 (B) Narges Mohammadi  
 (C) Drew Weissman  
 (D) Katalin Karikó
- Q 80. Recently, 'Ripple Effect Water Scarcity - The Hidden Threat to Global Security and Prosperity', a discussion paper was seen in the news. This paper is published by which of the following countries?**  
 (A) USA  
 (B) European Union  
 (C) United Nations  
 (D) UAE
- Q 81. Recently, who was appointed as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission of India?**  
 (A) N.K Singh  
 (B) Arvind Panagariya  
 (C) Atul Prasad  
 (D) S Somanath
- Q 82. Which of the following actors is the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021?**  
 (A) Rajinikanth  
 (B) Shabana Azmi  
 (C) Waheeda Rehman  
 (D) Asha Parekh
- Q 83. Which Union Ministry oversees the "Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency," which is a public sector enterprise?**  
 (A) Ministry of Power  
 (B) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  
 (C) Ministry of Earth Science  
 (D) Ministry of Finance
- Q 84. What is the motto of the Indian Navy?**  
 (A) Sam no Varunah  
 (B) Touch the sky with Glory  
 (C) Service, Security and Brotherhood  
 (D) Shaurya – Dridhata – Karm Nishtha
- Q 85. The National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) is situated where?**  
 (a) Hyderabad (b) Roorkee  
 (c) Chennai (d) Madras
- Q 86. Which of the following is *NOT* an isotope of Hydrogen?**  
 (a) Protium (b) Deuterium  
 (c) Tritium (d) Cadmium
- Q 87. With the temperature rise, the viscosity of liquids -**  
 (a) Decreases (b) Increases  
 (c) No change (d) None of the above
- Q 88. Optical Fiber is used for visualising the internal sites of the body by doctors in endoscopy. On which of the following principles does it work?**  
 (A) Polarization  
 (B) Total Internal Reflection  
 (C) Refraction  
 (D) Diffraction

**Q 89. Which of the following is known as fool's gold?**

- (A) Mercury
- (B) Iron Pyrites
- (C) Stannus Sulphide
- (D) Silver Iodide

**Q 90. In Nitrification-**

- (A) Nitrogen is converted into nitrites and nitrates.
- (B) Ammonia is converted into nitrites and nitrates.
- (C) Ammonia is formed from organic compounds like protein and nucleic acid.
- (D) None of the above.

**Q 91. Which of the following is a scalar quantity?**

- (a) Force                      (b) Torque
- (c) Momentum              (d) Electric Current

**Q 92. The motion of a needle in a sewing machine is**

- (A) Oscillatory motion
- (B) Periodic motion
- (C) Both A and B
- (D) None of the above

**Q 93. Which gas was released during the Bhopal Gas Tragedy?**

- (A) Phosgene gas
- (B) Acetylene
- (C) Methyl Isocyanate
- (D) Ethyl Mercaptan

**Q 94. The twinkling of a star happens due to -**

- (A) Scattering of Light
- (B) Dispersion of Light
- (C) Refraction
- (D) Reflection

**Q 95. Which one of the following is called Laughing gas?**

- (a) Ammonia              (b) Nitrous Oxide
- (c) Argon                  (d) Helium

**Q 96. Which of the following is used to make waterproof and stainless clothes?**

- (A) Calcium Hydroxide
- (B) Magnesium Hydroxide
- (C) Ammonium Hydroxide
- (D) Aluminium Hydroxide

**Q 97. When a blanket is beaten by a stick, the dust particles are removed. This phenomenon is based on -**

- (A) Newton's second law
- (B) Newton's first law
- (C) Newton's third law
- (D) None of the above

**Q 98. In which of the following processes is no exchange of heat between the system and surroundings possible?**

- (A) Isobaric
- (B) Isochoric
- (C) Adiabatic
- (D) Isothermal

**Q 99. Which of the following is only found in Plant cells?**

- (A) Mitochondria
- (B) Plastids
- (C) Cell Membrane
- (D) Vacuole

**Q 100. Synthetic detergents form more lather than soaps because -**

- (A) Synthetic detergents are less soluble in water.
- (B) Synthetic detergents are more soluble in water
- (C) Synthetic detergents can be used in soft water
- (D) Synthetic detergents do not contain bicarbonates, sulphates, and chlorides of calcium and magnesium.



## ANSWER KEY

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

*Scan the QR Code for the  
explanation of BPSC (Pre) Mock  
Test, given in February Month's  
Edition of Bihar Current Affairs.*



## CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Q 1. Which of the following is correct regarding the UDAN scheme?**
- The government allocated more funds for the year 2024 as compared to 2023.
  - It is a central sector scheme under the Ministry of Transport.
  - The first UDAN flight was initiated from Shimla to Delhi.
  - All of the above.
- Q 2. Consider the following statements concerning the Lakhpati Didi Scheme.**
- It was launched in 2022.
  - It is a centrally sponsored scheme
  - This scheme is launched only for rural women's financial empowerment.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?**
- 1 and 3 Only
  - 3 Only
  - 2 and 3 Only
  - All of the above
- Q 3. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding "Namo Drone Didi"?**
- This scheme intends to supply drones to 15,000 Women's Self Help Groups (WSHG).
  - Men can be beneficiaries in some special circumstances.
  - The applicants must belong to the low-income group.
  - The applicant should be involved in agricultural activities.
- Q 4. Which of the following statements is correct regarding Asteroid Bennu?**
- It is a 10 billion years old small, near-Earth asteroid.
  - Bennu is a carbon-rich asteroid.
  - It was likely formed in the main asteroid belt between Jupiter and Saturn.
  - The asteroid passes close to the Earth about every seven years.
- Q 5. Consider the following statements with respect to the 31 MQ-9B Drone.**
- The sale of 31 MQ-9B is not allowed in the Indian market.
  - It can carry a laser-guided missile.
  - It can also carry an anti-tank missile.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
- 1 Only
  - 2 and 3 Only
  - 1 and 2 Only
  - All of the above
- Q 6. Which of the following statements best describes "Healing Touch" which was recently in the news?**
- Robotic surgery advancements
  - AI-based emotional and mental health support developed by AIIMS
  - Wound healing device for early healing.
  - A type of medicine for healing.
- Q 7. Consider the following statements about the Competition Commission of India**
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a constitutional body established under the Competition Act, of 2002.
  - CCI consists of a Chairperson and 5 Members appointed by the Central Government.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - None of the above
- Q 8. Consider the following statements**
- The Finance Commission is mentioned in **Article 280** of the Constitution.
  - Every fifth year, the Prime Minister of India constitutes a Finance Commission.
  - Recommendations of the Finance Commission are binding in nature.
  - The Finance Commission is a **Quasi Judicial** body.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
- 1 and 2 only
  - 1, 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 4 only
  - All of the above

**Q 9. "Kendriya Grihamantri Dakshata Padak " was recently introduced by merging how many medals.**

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| (A) 2 | (B) 4 |
| (C) 5 | (D) 9 |

**Q 10. Which of the following awards does not come under the "Kendriya Grihamantri Dakshata Padak".**

- (A) Special operation medal
- (B) Ashadharan Anusuchana Kushalata
- (C) Meritorious service in forensic science
- (D) Excellence in security forces.

**Q 11. Consider the following statement with respect to the GHAR portal.**

1. It digitally tracks and monitors children who are in the juvenile justice system.
2. It was launched in 2022
3. It was launched after the recommendation of the National Human Rights Commission

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) All of the above.

**Q 12. Consider the following statements with respect to Railway Kavach.**

1. It works with the help of Radiofrequency Technology.
2. Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards are used in it.
3. Through this system, the loco-pilot can anticipate the signal without needing to visually see it.

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1, 2 and 3
- (D) None of the above.

**Q 13. Which of the following options is NOT correct regarding autoimmune disease?**

1. The immune system starts making antibodies and attacks healthy cell tissues.
2. Some autoimmune diseases target only one organ.
3. Females between the ages of 15 and 44 are more likely to get this disease.

**Choose the correct code given below.**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 3 only
- (D) All of the above

**Q 14. Consider the following statements about Project Cheetah**

1. It aims to reintroduce the critically endangered Asiatic Cheetah, which is native to India but declared extinct in 1952.
2. The first cheetahs released under the project came from Iran, where a small remnant population of Asiatic cheetahs still survives.
3. The project's target area is Pench National Park in Madhya Pradesh, chosen because of its suitable grasslands and prey availability.

**Choose the correct statements**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) All of these

**Q 15. Which of the following is true regarding the Vyom Mitra?**

- (A) It is a female robot astronaut
- (B) It will be used in the experimental Gaganyaan.
- (C) It has been made to support astronauts in crewed missions.
- (D) All of the above.

**Q 16. Consider the following statement regarding INS Sandhyak.**

1. The ship has been made to conduct a comprehensive hydrographic survey
2. It is made up of 40% indigenous material.
3. The ship consists of two hydrogen-fuel engines.
4. The speed is around Eighteen knots.

**Choose the correct statements**

- (A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only  
(C) 1 and 4 only (D) 2, 3, and 4 only

**Q 17. What is the objective behind the concept of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?**

- (A) National Unity  
(B) Cultural Unity  
(C) Social Unity  
(D) Religious Unity

**Q 18. Dusted Apollo, a rare butterfly has been sighted for the first time in which of the following states of India?**

- (A) Uttarakhand  
(B) Himachal Pradesh  
(C) Karnataka  
(D) Madhya Pradesh

**Q 19. Akhoondji Mosque, recently in the news, is related to which State/UT?**

- (A) Delhi  
(B) Uttar Pradesh  
(C) Puducherry  
(D) West Bengal

**Q 20. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Forest Act 1927.**

1. A forest that enjoys high-level protection against hunting and poaching is called a Protected Forest.
2. A forest that is not part of a Protected forest but is government-owned is called a reserve forest.

**Choose the correct statements from the code given below**

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

**Q 21. The Digital - Detox initiative, recently in the news, is launched in which of the following states?**

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

**Q 22. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding "Nitish Locket"?**

- (A) It has been made to save people from lightning, thunderstorms, Flooding etc.  
(B) It has been developed by the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with NIT Patna.  
(C) It will issue an alert to its user 30 minutes before lighting, or flooding.  
(D) The pendant will get charged from body heat.

**Q 23. Who has been conferred with the "Best Global Music Album" award?**

- (A) Shankar Mahadevan  
(B) A.R Rahaman  
(C) Hariprasad Chaurasia  
(D) Taufiq Qureshi

**Q 24. Which of the following statements are true regarding the "Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar" survey?**

1. The contribution of tribal freedom fighters was also brought to light.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Environment.
3. A survey has been conducted by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) under the Ministry of Culture.

**Choose the correct statements from the code given below:**

- (A) 1 only  
(B) 2 only  
(C) 1 and 2 only  
(D) 1 and 3 only

**Q 25. Consider the following states:**

1. Gujarat
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Odisha
4. Andaman & Nicobar Island

**Arrange the given states in their decreasing order of mangrove cover:**

- (A) 1, 3, 4, 2
- (B) 1, 4, 2, 3
- (C) 1, 4, 3, 2
- (D) 1, 2, 3, 4

**Q 26. The 2004 Tsunami made people realize that mangroves can serve as a reliable safety shield against coastal calamities. How do mangroves function as a safety shield?**

- (A) The mangrove swamps separate the human settlements from the sea by a wide zone in which people neither live nor venture out.
- (B) The mangroves provide both food and medicines which people require after any natural disaster.
- (C) The mangrove trees are tall with dense canopies and serve as an excellent shelter during a cyclone or Tsunami.
- (D) The mangrove trees do not get uprooted by storms and tides because of their extensive roots.

**Q 27. Nagoya protocol was adopted for which of the following purposes.**

- (A) Designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions
- (B) Access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits
- (C) Conservation of genetically modified crops
- (D) Reduce Greenhouse Gas.

**Q 28. Consider the following statement with reference to Nagoya protocol.**

1. It is legally binding to the signatory countries
2. India is a signatory to the protocol
3. Traditional knowledge is included under this protocol

**Choose the correct statements from the codes given below.**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 29. Consider the following statement with reference to Black Neck Crane.**

1. They are mainly found in China, Vietnam, Bhutan, and India.
2. Their IUCN status is Endangered
3. It is the state bird of Ladakh

**Choose the correct statements from the code given below.**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) All of the above

**Q 30. Which of the following central African countries recently adopted the Nagoya Protocol**

- (A) Gabon
- (B) Chad
- (C) Republic of Congo
- (D) Cameroon

**Q 31. Goods Trade Barometer, recently seen in the news has been developed by:**

- (A) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- (B) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (C) United Nations Development Program
- (D) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**Q 32. Consider the following statement regarding the Child Marriage Act 2006.**

1. All child marriages between two underage children are deemed null and void under the Act.
2. As per the Act, any male person below the age of 21 years is a child.
3. The custody of the child, born from such a marriage will be given to the mother.

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

- (A) 2 only
- (B) 1, 2 and 3
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 2 and 3 only

**Q 33. Article 30 of the Indian Constitution deals with which of the following?**

- (A) Religious minorities only
- (B) Linguistic minorities only
- (C) A section of citizens with distinct language, culture and script
- (D) Religious and linguistic minorities

**Q 34. Which of the following statements is correct regarding North-East India?**

- (A) It is the habitat of the Lion-tailed Macaque.
- (B) It is a part of the Sundaland Biodiversity hotspot.
- (C) It hosts four of the total Ramsar wetlands in India.
- (D) Shipki La, Nathu La, and Bom Di La passes are situated in the Northeastern Himalayas

**Q 35. The lowering of the Bank Rate by the Reserve Bank of India leads to.**

- (A) More liquidity in the market
- (B) Less liquidity in the market
- (C) No change in the liquidity of the market
- (D) Mobilization of more deposits by commercial banks

**Q 36. Which of the following statements is correct regarding a Closed economy?**

- (A) The money supply is fully controlled
- (B) Deficit financing takes place
- (C) Only exports take place
- (D) Neither exports nor imports take place

**Q 37. Consider the following statement regarding the "Tribes Advisory Council".**

1. "Tribes Advisory Council" is mentioned in the constitution.
2. It consists of 20 members.
3. One-fourth of its members shall be representatives of the Scheduled tribes in the legislative assembly.

**Choose the correct statements from the code given below**

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) All of the above

**Q 38. Which of the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojan is not true?**

- (A) It is a Centrally sponsored scheme.
- (B) 6,000 crore rupees will be invested in the next four years
- (C) The aim is to Double fishermen's and Fish farmers' income.
- (D) India is 2nd largest aquaculture producer globally

**Q 39. If foreign companies want to mobilize funds from India through rupee-denominated securities, then which of the following would meet their needs?**

- (A) Masala Bonds
- (B) Participatory Notes
- (C) Indian Depository Receipts
- (D) American Depository Receipts

**Q 40. In which of the following cases the government does not pay interest?**

1. When it receives foreign grants.
2. When it issues a Zero coupon bond.
3. When it uses its Reserve tranche position

**Choose the correct statements from the code given below.**

- (A) 1 only  
(B) 1 and 2 only  
(C) 2 and 3  
(D) All of the above

**Q 41. Which of the following is NOT a direct consequence of nitrogen pollution in aquatic ecosystems?**

- (A) Increased algal blooms  
(B) Reduced oxygen levels  
(C) Improved biodiversity  
(D) Acidification of water bodies

**Q 42. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Monetary Policy Committee'**

1. MPC is a five-member committee.
2. The Prime Minister is its chairman.
3. Every year, MPC holds three meetings.

**Choose the correct statements from the options given below**

- (A) 1 only  
(B) 2 and 3 only  
(C) 1, 2, and 3  
(D) None of the above

**Q 43. Consider the following statements about the 'Indian Ocean Conference'.**

1. It is a biannual event which was started in the year 2016.
2. Its 6th edition took place in Perth, Australia.
3. The theme of the conference is "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".

**Choose the correct statement:**

- (A) 1 and 2 only      (B) 3 only  
(C) 1, 2, and 3      (D) None of the above

**Q 44. "High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS)" recently seen in the news is**

- (A) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).  
(B) A Satellite for the Moon.  
(C) A Small size satellite for Asteroid exploration.  
(D) Satellite for the study of Black Hole.

**Q 45. Consider the following statements about the FAME scheme:**

1. It was launched in April 2014 under the National Electric Mobility Mission.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of New And Renewable Energy.
3. The ministry has increased the outlay of the FAME II scheme from Rs 10,000 crores to Rs 13,500 crores.

**Choose the correct option:**

- (A) 1 and 2 only  
(B) 2 and 3 only  
(C) 1 and 3 only  
(D) None of the above

**Q 46. "Albendazole" recently seen in the news is**

- (A) Vaccine for rabies.  
(B) A drug for Lymphatic Filariasis disease.  
(C) A type of syrup for malaria.  
(D) Medicine for Asthma.

**Q 47. Consider the following statements about the Green Revolution**

1. It was initiated by Norman Borlaug in 1958.
2. In India, the Green Revolution was led by M.S Swaminathan.
3. It was launched during the Third Five-Year Plan.

**Choose the correct statements from the given option.**

- (A) 1 and 3 only  
(B) 2 only  
(C) 2 and 3 only  
(D) 1, 2, and 3

**Q 48. "TOI-715 b" recently seen in the news is**

- (A) It is a super-earth exo-planet which was discovered by NASA.
- (B) Type of satellite for Earth exploration.
- (C) SpaceX mission for Mars.
- (D) Venus mission by NASA.

**Q 49. "NexCAR19" recently seen in news is**

- (A) Quantum Computer
- (B) Genetically modified Therapy for crops
- (C) An Electric car
- (D) A therapy for cancer

**Q 50. Which of the following is NOT true regarding the Red Sea?**

- (A) It is one of the most saline water bodies.
- (B) It is the Busiest sea route in the world.
- (C) It supports high-species endemism.
- (D) Coral reefs are also found here

**Q 51. Araya Samaj was founded by**

- (A) Swami Dayanand Saraswati
- (B) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- (C) Devendranath Tagore
- (D) Keshabh Chandra Sen

**Q 52. Recently India launched its UPI service in which of the following countries.**

- (A) Myanmar & Bangladesh
- (B) Srilanka & Singapore
- (C) Srilanka & Mauritius
- (D) Thailand & Mauritius

**Q 53. Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary which was recently in the news is located in**

- (A) West Bengal
- (B) Odisha
- (C) Uttara Khand
- (D) Himachal Pradesh

**Q 54. Murray Darling River is located in**

- (A) Canada
- (B) Netherland
- (C) South Africa
- (D) Australia

**Q 55. Consider the following statements with respect to "Zero-Coupon Bond"**

1. It offers regular interest
2. The government sells these bonds at a discounted price
3. Bondholders earn profit by selling it at face value.

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) All of the above

**Q 56. Which of the following data parameters is NOT used while measuring the Human Development Index?**

- (A) Purchasing power parity.
- (B) Life expectancy at birth.
- (C) Mean years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and above.
- (D) Expected years of schooling for children.

**Q 57. Bannerghatta National Park recently seen in the news is located in**

- (A) Karnataka
- (B) Tamil Nadu
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Chattisgarh

**Q 58. Which of the following organizations developed the Unified Payment Interface?**

- (A) SEBI
- (B) NPCI
- (C) IRDA
- (D) RBI

**Q 59. When was the UPI service launched?**

- (A) 2014
- (B) 2017
- (C) 2016
- (D) 2018



- Q 60. Consider the following statements regarding Elephant Conservation Networks**
1. It is launched to reduce Man-Elephant Conflict.
  2. Conservation of Elephant will be its ultimate aim.
  3. This initiative was adopted in Assam.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?**
- (A) 1 only  
(B) 2 and 3  
(C) 1 and 3  
(D) All of the above.
- Q 61. Which of the following organizations regulates Non-Banking Financial Companies?**
- (A) Reserve Bank of India  
(B) National bank for agriculture and rural development (NABARD)  
(C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)  
(D) Security and exchange board of India (SEBI)
- Q 62. Consider the following statements with respect to the SWATI portal.**
1. It has been launched to encourage women to get into the field of science.
  2. The National Informatics Centre maintains the data of this portal.
  3. Portal will have all the women scientists in the country.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?**
- (A) 1 and 2 only  
(B) 2 and 3 only  
(C) 1, and 3  
(D) None of the above.
- Q 63. Which of the following statements with respect to "Kysanur Forest Disease" is correct?**
- (A) Kysanur Forest Disease was first found in Karnataka.  
(B) It is also referred to as Monkey Fever.  
(C) Tick-borne encephalitis is the causal agent  
(D) All of the above.
- Q 64. Which among the following conventions deals with migratory species?**
- (A) Bonn Convention  
(B) Rotterdam Convention  
(C) Basel Convention  
(D) Stockholm Convention
- Q 65. Which of the following ministries conducted "Digital Payment Utsav"**
- (A) Ministry of Finance  
(B) Ministry of Home Affairs  
(C) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.  
(D) None of the above
- Q 66. Which of the following rivers provides a nest for Olive Ridley turtles?**
- (A) Devi River  
(B) Sankh River  
(C) Daya River  
(D) Sileru River
- Q 67. Which of the following regulates the Surety bond?**
- (A) IRDA  
(B) SEBI  
(C) NABARD  
(D) RBI
- Q 68. Consider the following statement regarding the Government e-Market**
1. It provides transparency, efficiency, and speed in public procurement.
  2. There is no charge or fee for registration
  3. There is no return policy available
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?**
- (A) 1 and 2  
(B) 2 and 3  
(C) 1 and 3  
(D) All of the above
- Q 69. The term EMD is associated with Government e-Market, which stands for**
- (A) Earlier Money Debited  
(B) Easy Money Deposits  
(C) Earnest Money Deposit  
(D) Earnest Money Debited

**Q 70. Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Portfolio Investment.**

1. It is a long-term investment by foreigners
2. Investors hold more than 10% of equity
3. It is a very stable investment

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 2 and 3
- (C) 1 and 3
- (D) None of the above

**Q 71. Which of the following monitors Foreign Portfolio Investment?**

- (A) Security and Exchange Board of India
- (B) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- (C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- (D) Export and Import Bank

**Q 72. Which of the following statements is NOT true regarding INSAT-3DS?**

- (A) A PSLV engine has been used for INSAT-3DS
- (B) It is designed for meteorological observations
- (C) It will also be involved in search and rescue service
- (D) It is a 3rd Generation Meteorological Satellite

**Q 73. Consider the following statement with respect to Public Examination Bill**

1. Bill has been brought to prevent the use of unfair means in Central govt exam
2. A maximum of three months of jail can be sentenced for unfair practice

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2 both
- (D) None of the above

**Q 74. Which of the following authorities released guidelines on climate risk and sustainable finance?**

1. NITI Ayog
2. RBI
3. World Bank
4. IMF

**Q 75. The banks are mentioned in the second schedule of RBI known as**

- (A) State's Banks
- (B) Commercial Banks
- (C) Scheduled Banks
- (D) Exim Banks

**Q 76. Consider the following statements about NFHS-5**

1. National Family Health Survey-5 has been released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. According to this report, there has been a significant improvement in the sex ratio of Bihar which has increased from 1062 in the 2015-16 survey (NFHS-4) to 1080.
3. The sex ratio in urban areas of Bihar is only 982, and the sex ratio in rural areas is 1111.

**Choose the correct option from the codes given below:**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2, and 3

**Q 77. Consider the following statements**

1. Bihar is the first state in India that collect weather data at the Panchayat level.
2. The government of India will adopt the 'MAUSAM BIHAR' weather forecasting app of Bihar.
3. The MAUSAM BIHAR app gives 5-day prior information about the weather forecast.

**Choose the correct option given below**

- (A) 1 Only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1, 2 and 3
- (D) 1 and 3 only

- Q 78. Which of the following cities has been included under the Har Ghar Ganga Jal Scheme launched by CM Nitish Kumar?**  
 (A) Rajgir  
 (B) Nalanda  
 (C) Gaya  
 (D) Bodhgaya  
**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**  
 (E) 1, 2, and 3  
 (F) 1, 3, and 4  
 (G) 2 and 4 only  
 (H) All of the above
- Q 79. Odhni Dam is located on the banks of which of the following rivers?**  
 (A) Ganga river  
 (B) Son river  
 (C) Banka river  
 (D) Ghaghra river
- Q 80. Who has received the "Women Changemaker Award" for her remarkable work in the field of cleanliness at the 7<sup>th</sup> ISC FICCI Cleanliness Award Ceremony held in New Delhi?**  
 (A) Ritu Kumari  
 (B) Jyoti Kumari  
 (C) Komal Kumari  
 (D) Shreya Agarwal
- Q 81. The State Cabinet of Bihar gave its assent to the Bihar Energy Department's Investment proposal for setting up a solar power project at Lakhisarai's Kajra. What is the capacity of the Kajra Solar Power Plant?**  
 (A) 280 MW  
 (B) 185MW  
 (C) 185GW  
 (D) 195GW
- Q 82. Which of the following cities of Bihar is the most polluted city as per the National Air Quality Index released by the Central Pollution Control Board?**  
 (A) Bhagalpur  
 (B) Darbhanga  
 (C) East Champaran  
 (D) Purnia
- Q 83. Who among the following has been conferred with the National Award for Best Disabled Person in 2023?**  
 (A) Rakesh Kumar  
 (B) Harsh Raj  
 (C) Jyoti Sinha  
 (D) Shradha Sinha
- Q 84. Which state has received the award for the Best State in Crop Production at the 14th Agriculture Leadership Awards 2023, held in New Delhi?**  
 (A) Maharashtra  
 (B) Kerala  
 (C) Uttar Pradesh  
 (D) Bihar
- Q 85. Who is called the 'Mother of Public Interest Litigation of India?**  
 (A) Hussainara Khatoon  
 (B) Pushpa Kapilahingorani  
 (C) Manorama Agrawal  
 (D) Justice Indu Prabha
- Q 86. Who was the first Governor of Bihar?**  
 (A) Thomas Alexander  
 (B) Sir Maurice Garnier Hallet  
 (C) Jairam Das Daulatram  
 (D) Francis Mudie
- Q 87. According to the 2011 Census of Bihar, which of the following set of districts has the maximum population?**  
 (A) Patna, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani  
 (B) Patna, West Champaran, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur  
 (C) West Champaran, Patna, Gaya, Muzaffarpur  
 (D) East Champaran, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani

**Q 88. Which of the following statements is true about Dharwar Rocks?**

1. The rock system is equivalent in age to Archean Rock.
2. The rock system is found in the southwestern part of Bihar.
3. The region is dominated by Mica-schist.

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 2 and 3
- (C) 1 and 3
- (D) None of the above

**Q 89. Which of the following districts of Bihar does not share a boundary with Jharkhand?**

- (A) Rohtas
- (B) Aurangabad
- (C) Kaimur
- (D) Katihar

**Q 90. Which of the following leaders from Bihar were associated with the Non-Cooperation Movement?**

- (A) Mazharul Haq
- (B) Rajendra Prasad
- (C) Mohammad Shafi
- (D) All of the above

**Q 91. Which of the following statements is true about the Mahabodhi Temple of Bodhgaya?**

1. The Temple was recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2002.
2. The Temple marks the location where Buddha performed Dharmachakra Pravartana.
3. On the top of the temple are Chatras, which symbolize the sovereignty of religion.

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

- (A) 2, and 3 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) All of the above

**Q 92. Who has written the book "Why Socialism"?**

- (A) Jaiprakash Narayan
- (B) Bhagat Singh
- (C) Sachidanand Sinha
- (D) BG Tilak

**Q 93. Which of the following Chinese travellers had written a detailed account of Nalanda University?**

1. Hieun-Tsang
2. I-Tsing

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 & 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 94. Which of the following statements is true?**

1. The mountain range in the northwest of Ganga in Bihar is known as the Lesser Himalaya.
2. The slope of the plain of Bihar is 6 cm/km.
3. The average height of Bihar from the sea level is 76 ft.

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 2 and 3
- (C) Only 2
- (D) All of the above

**Q 95. Which of the following districts is/are included in the Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0?**

1. Nalanda
2. Bhagalpur
3. Sitamarhi
4. Gaya

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

- (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (B) 2, 3, and 4 only
- (C) All of the above
- (D) None of the above

**Q 96. Consider the following statements:**

1. Bihar became the first state in the country to conduct scientific surveys to improve Traffic Management in the city.
2. The 50th Bihar Orthopedic Association Conference 2024 was organized at Rajgir International Convention Center, Bihar

**Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?**

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

**Q 97. In which state of India 12th National School Chess Championship was organized?**

- (A) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Patna, Bihar
- (C) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- (D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**Q 98. Gaon Chalo Abhiyan was started by which Political Party?**

- (A) Janta United Dal (JDU)
- (B) Indian National Congress (INC)
- (C) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
- (D) Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)

**Q 99. Who is the brand Ambassador of Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2024?**

- (A) Maithili Thakur
- (B) Pankaj Tripathi
- (C) Ranveer Singh
- (D) Alia Bhatt

**Q 100. Where was the first Urban Haat opened in Bihar?**

- (A) Sitamarhi
- (B) Muzaffarpur
- (C) Madhubani
- (D) Darbhanga

## ANSWER KEY

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

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