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December 1-2, 2023

34th International Konark Dance Festival:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The 34th International Konark Dance Festival commenced at Konark Sun Temple in Odisha's Puri District, being one of the largest dance festivals in Odisha.**
- ➔ The festival has been organized in the state jointly by Odisha Tourism and Odissi research centre. It aims to promote the diverse Indian Dance Heritage as well as the popularity of Konark Temple.



Janaushadi Kendras:

(Importance level-3/5)

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- **PM Narendra Modi launched the 10,000th Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS, Deoghar. This effort reinforces the government's commitment towards affordable public healthcare under the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.**
- Janaushadi Kendras across India provide quality medicines at 50-90% lower costs, greatly benefiting the poor and the middle class socio-economic strata.



IIT Guwahati:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **IIT Guwahati has launched an innovative three month training program on drone technology for Junior Commissioned Officers and Other officers aiming to modernize armed forces operations.**
- It offers intense training on drone technologies, pilot training, software operations etc.

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Hornbill Festival 2023:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Hornbill Festival 2023 to star at Naga Heritage Village, Kohima. The 24th Hornbill Festival 2023 coincides with Nagaland Statehood Day.**
- ➔ The festival introduces first ever exhibits featuring Mithun, a local animal, Tenyi Vo, a native pig breed and a 'Bee Tourism' initiative.

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Ranveer Singh:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Ranveer Singh was honoured by Sharon Stine at the Red Sea International Film Festival. The festival held in Jeddah.
- Ranveer received the honour for his contributions towards cinema. Alongside him, actor Dinae Kruger and actor-writer Abdullah Al-Sadhan will be honoured as well.

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iDEX:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative by the Department of Defence Production, has marked its 300th contract signing. The contract focuses on the design and development of advanced Gallium Nitride Semiconductors, crucial for the next generation of wireless transmitters in defence applications.**
- ➔ The signed contract aims to propel India's defence capabilities by designing, developing, and manufacturing Gallium Nitride components using indigenous technology.

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iDEX

Innovations for
Defence Excellence

Indian Navy:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a groundbreaking move aligning with the philosophy of 'all roles-all ranks,' the Indian Navy has achieved a historic milestone by appointing its first woman commanding officer for a naval ship.**
- ➔ Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar made this announcement during a press conference held ahead of Navy Day. Addressing concerns about China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean, Admiral Kumar assured that the Indian Navy closely monitors all activities in the region.

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BSF:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Border Security Force (BSF) celebrated its 59th raising day on 1st December. This significant organization plays a pivotal role in ensuring the security of India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.**
- Established in the aftermath of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, the BSF's motto, "जीवन पर्यन्त कर्तव्य" (Duty Unto Death), reflects its unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation.
- Initially formed with 25 battalions, the BSF has witnessed substantial growth and currently comprises 192 battalions and approximately 270,000 personnel.

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61st Statehood day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Nagaland, a vibrant state in the northeastern region of India, is jubilantly celebrating its 61st Statehood Day on December 1, 2023.**
- ➔ This marks a significant milestone in the historical journey of the Nagas, who became the 16th state of the Union of India on December 1, 1963.
- ➔ The state-level function, to be held at the Nagaland Civil Secretariat Kohima, promises a day filled with cultural richness, reflections on the past and a focus on the future.

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Naval capabilities:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India is set to reinforce its naval capabilities with the addition of a \$5 billion aircraft carrier, signaling its strategic response to China's expanding naval influence in the Indian Ocean region.
- The Defense Acquisition Council, headed by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, is poised to approve the acquisition of India's second indigenous aircraft carrier.

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Air Marshal Makarand Ranade:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Air Marshal Makarand Ranade took over the esteemed position of Director General (Inspection and Safety) [DG (I&S)] at Air HQ New Delhi on December 1, 2023, succeeding the accomplished Air Marshal Sanjeev Kapoor, who retired after more than 38 years of distinguished service.**
- ➔ An alumnus of National Defence College, New Delhi, and College Interarmée de Defense in Paris, France, Air Marshal Ranade's illustrious career in the Indian Air Force spans over 36 years.

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Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Renowned author and translator Arshia Sattar has added another feather to her cap, being honored with the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government.**
- ➔ The prestigious award was presented by Thierry Mathou, the ambassador of France to India, in a ceremony held at the Consulate General of France in Bengaluru on November 28.

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RBI & BoE:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of England (BoE) took a significant step towards fostering international financial cooperation by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Friday.**
- ➔ The focus of this MoU is on collaboration and the exchange of information related to the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL).
- ➔ CCIL, as a central counterparty (CCP), plays a pivotal role in providing clearing and settlement services for transactions in government securities, foreign exchange, and money markets within India. It operates under the regulatory purview of the RBI.

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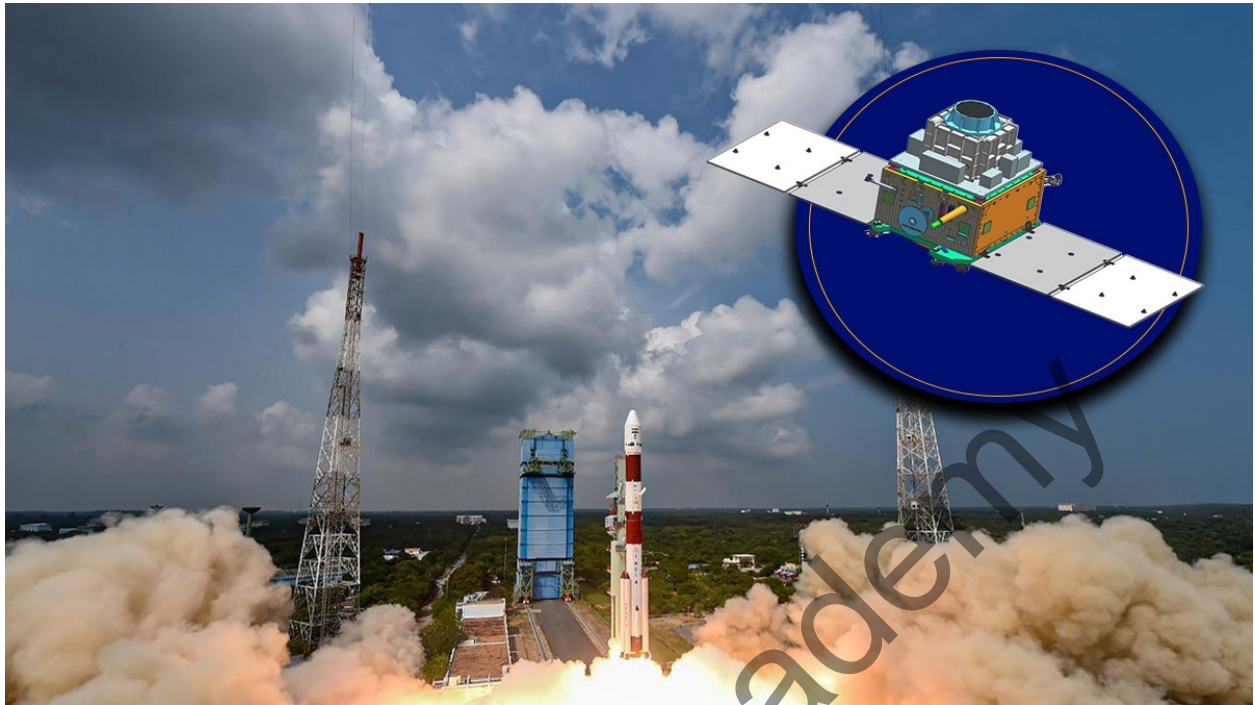
X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Space Research Organisation is all set to launch its first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite; the mission aims to explore the polarization of powerful X-ray sources, adding a valuable dimension to the country's space-based X-ray astronomy.**
- ➔ The primary payload Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays developed by Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru.

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LeadIT 2.0:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **India and Sweden have launched LeadIT 2.0, an initiative aimed at co-developing and transferring low-carbon technology along with offering financial support for Industry transition in developing nations.**
- It focuses on developing a transition roadmap and sharing knowledge within the iron, steel, cement and transport sectors. 18 countries and 20 companies are part of the LeadIT group.

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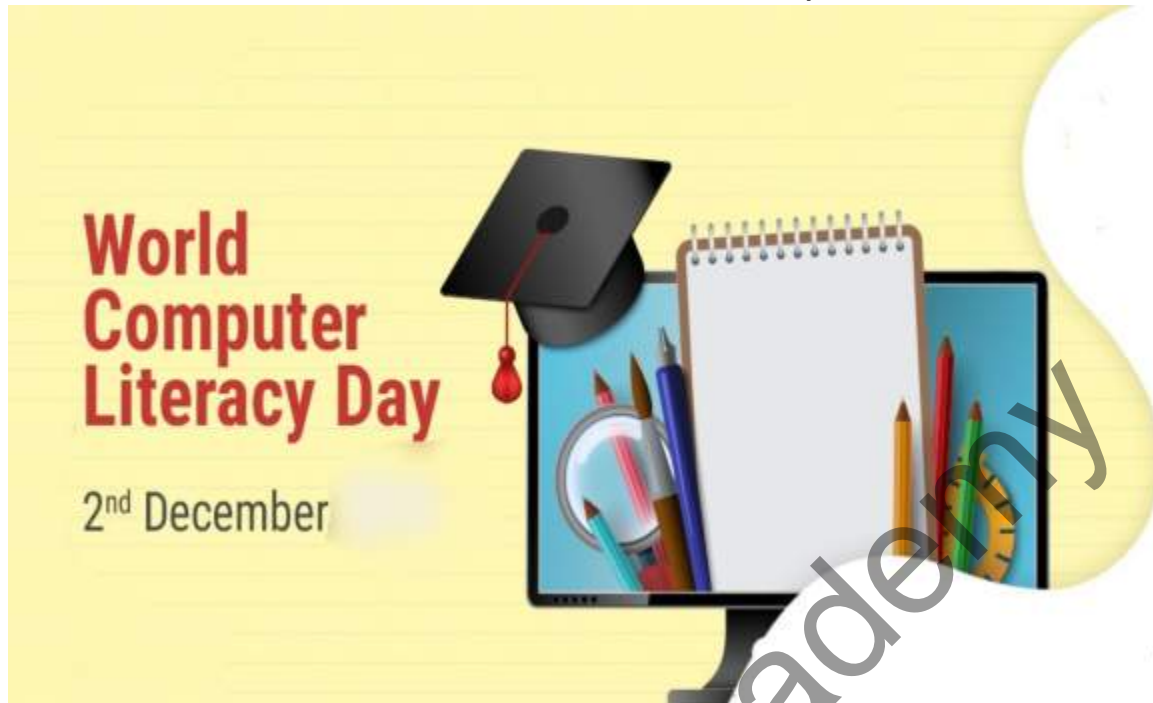
World Computer Literacy Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The World Computer Literacy Day is marked annually on December 2. World Computer Literacy Day was started in 2001 by NIIT limited, an Indian Multinational skills and talent development corporation.**
- ➔ The theme for 2023 is believed to be: Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies.

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2023 Global Snapshot on HIV and AIDS:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **“2023 Global Snapshot on HIV and AIDS”- report published by UNICEF. The reports says Despite progress, adolescent girls continue to bear the brunt of the HIV epidemic with 98,000 new infections in 2022.**
- ➔ Nearly 98000 adolescent girls aged 10-19 were infected with HIV in 2022 or 1900 new infections every week. In sub-saharan Africa, HIV prevalence among adolescent girls aged 10-24 years, is persistently over 3 times higher than among their male counterparts.



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World Digital Competitiveness Ranking:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The International Institute for Management Development has published the 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking in which India ranks 49th among 64 economies.**
- According to IMD's study, India has made significant in terms of cyber security knowledge but lacks on fronts like technology and future readiness. US tops the list followed by the Netherlands and Singapore.



COP28:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Green Credit Initiative at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai.**
- This is an important event jointly hosted by India and UAE at COP28. This collaborative endeavor aligns with the principles of the Green Credit Program, introduced by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

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ALTERRA:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **United Arab Emirates, the COP28 presidency declared an unprecedented \$30 billion commitment to ALTERRA, a climate focused investment vehicle.**
- ➔ This initiative aims to revolutionize international climate finance, prioritizing equitable access for the Global South. ALTERRA now stands as the world's largest private investment vehicle dedicated to climate action.

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Jaywun:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In the eco-conscious lead-up to COP28, the UAE proudly showcases 'Jaywun', its eco-friendly marine research vessel launched by the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi 'Jaywun', a symbol of sustainable innovation.
- At COP28 'Jaywun' actively contributes to the 'Ocean World Discovery' project, emphasizing sustainable practices and ecological awareness.

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International Day for the Abolition of Slavery:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, observed annually on December 2nd, marks a significant moment in global history. It is a day dedicated to remembering and acknowledging the brutal history of slavery and the ongoing impacts of its legacy.**
- ➔ The day originates from the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others on December 2, 1949.
- ➔ This day serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring struggle against slavery and its modern forms.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

World AIDS Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- December 1, marks as the World AIDS Day 2023 which is observed annually since 1988, serving as a crucial occasion to raise awareness about HIV/ AIDS, commemorate those who have lost their lives to AIDS-related illnesses and show solidarity with people living with HIV.
- The day also serves as a platform to advocate for advancements in prevention, treatment and care. The theme for World AIDS Day 2023, “Let Communities Lead” underscores the pivotal role that communities play in shaping the global HIV response.



Ruturaj Gaikwad:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Ruturaj Gaikwad, the talented Indian cricketer, has achieved a remarkable milestone in men's T20 cricket. In the fourth T20I against Australia at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, Gaikwad etched his name in the record books by becoming the fastest Indian to amass 4,000 runs in the shortest format of the game.**
- ➔ Let's delve into the details of this exceptional feat. This achievement makes Gaikwad the quickest Indian batsman to achieve the milestone, surpassing the previous record held by KL Rahul, who reached 4,000 runs in 117 T20 innings. Virat Kohli, one of India's cricketing legends, is the third-fastest Indian to achieve this feat, taking 138 T20 innings to do so.

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