

# SHAKTHII ACADEMY – CHENNAI

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December 20, 2023

## 1<sup>st</sup> winter expedition:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **India begun its 1<sup>st</sup> winter expedition to the Ny-Alesund research base in Svalbard, Norway. The expedition has been launched by Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijju.**
- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research has a research station, Himadri. The expedition will collect data on atmospheric processes, aurora borealis, atmospheric electricity and space physics studies.



## IIT Lucknow and Bhatkhande Sanskriti University for research:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **An MoU was signed between IIT Lucknow and Bhatkhande Sanskriti University for research on Kathak and music using technology.**
- Kathak is a classical dance form, indigenous to northern India and developed under the influence of both Hindu and Muslim cultures.

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## Uttar Pradesh Police:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Uttar Pradesh Police has become one of the first to launch Whatsapp Channels for its headquarters and all district units in India. It is aimed at publishing their work and providing information about legal and crime events.
- ➔ The channel will facilitate the sharing of police stations, traffic advisories, refutation of misleading news and correct information to the media.



## Central Goods and Services Tax(Second Amendment) bill:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Central Goods and Services Tax(Second Amendment) bill, 2023 has been passed. It aims to amend the 2017 CGST Act to allow the central government to establish an Appellate Tribunal.**
- ➔ The bill adjusts the age limit for Tribunal members, permits advocates with a minimum of 10 years experience to be appointed as judicial members and aligns provisions with the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.



## Contribution of agriculture:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The contribution of agriculture to India's GDP has shrunk from 35% to 1990-91 to 15% in 2022-23 due to fast paced growth in the industrial and service sectors.**
- ➔ Despite the decrease, the agriculture sector has maintained an average annual growth of 4% over the past 5 years. The government is actively implementing various programs, reforms and policies to boost agricultural productivity.



## Paradip port:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Paradip port in Odisha has set a new record by handling 100 Million Metric Tonnes of cargo on its shortest time yet, hitting the landmark in 262 days.**
- ➔ Operational excellence marked by system improvement fueled 9.64% growth in total cargo with outbound Iron Ore and Pellet displaying an impressive growth of 69.03%. The Port leads in performance parameters nationwide with highest berth productivity.



## Smishing:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian government has issued a warning regarding a new and sophisticated scam known as “Smishing.”**
- ➔ This term is a combination of “SMS” (Short Message Service) and “phishing,” signifying a malicious practice that exploits text messages to deceive individuals into divulging confidential information.
- ➔ With the increasing reliance on mobile phones, smishing has emerged as a significant threat, necessitating individuals to remain vigilant and well-informed.

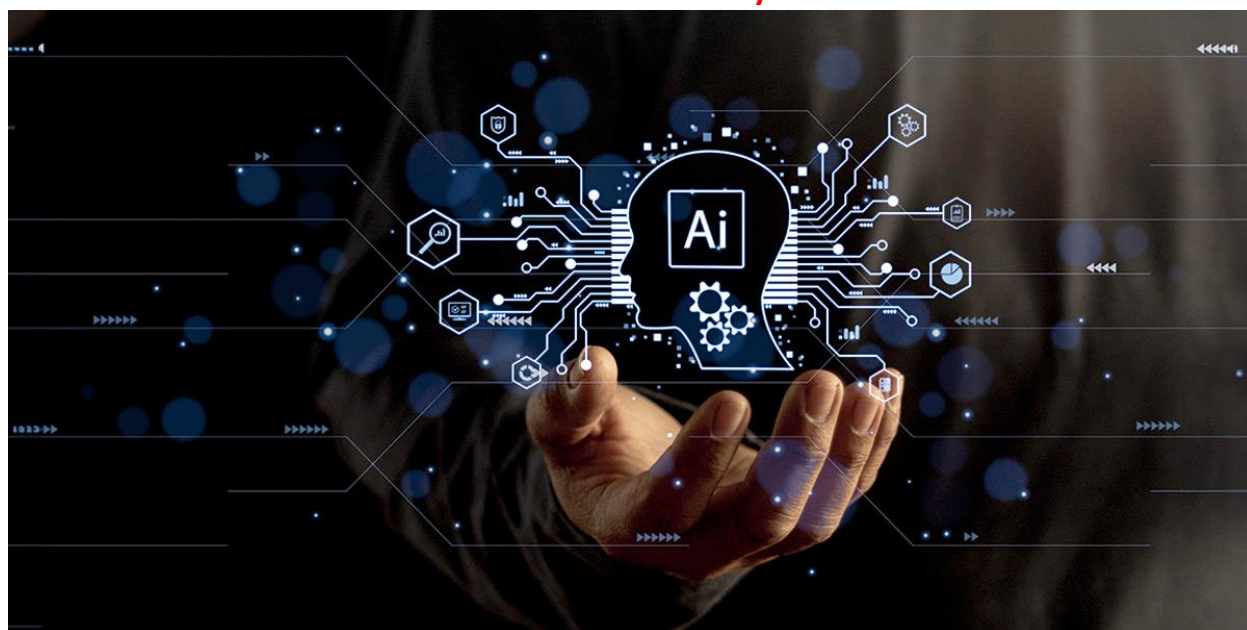
## SMISHING ATTACK PHASES



### Accenture:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Accenture, a global leader in professional services, has taken a significant stride in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) with the establishment of its Generative AI Studio in Bengaluru, India.**
- ➔ This cutting-edge facility is poised to become a central hub for the development and application of generative AI technologies, showcasing Accenture's commitment to advancing AI solutions for businesses.
- ➔ The primary objective of the Generative AI Studio is to serve as a collaborative space where Accenture's data and AI team collaborates with clients in the development of solutions based on generative AI. Accenture envisions these solutions as powerful tools to optimize business processes and facilitate the reinvention of enterprises.



## Maheshwar Dayal:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Senior IPS officer Maheshwar Dayal officially assumed the role of Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services on Monday, December 18. With a distinguished career marked by various leadership roles across multiple districts and specialized units, Dayal brings a wealth of experience to his new position.**
- ➔ Maheshwar Dayal's journey in law enforcement began as a Superintendent of Police (SP) in Virudhunagar, where he quickly demonstrated his dedication and leadership skills.
- ➔ His proficiency led to subsequent appointments as SP in The Nilgiris and Nagapattinam districts, showcasing his ability to adapt to diverse operational environments.



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## World Bank:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief revealed the report. Remittances to low and middle income countries grew by an estimated 3.8% in 2023, totaling USD 669 billion.
- First- India(USD 125 billion). Second- Mexico(USD 67 billion). Third- China(USED 50 billion).



## Plastic rocks:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ A new type of rock containing plastics, termed a “plastic rocks” has been discovered globally on five continents. They are formed by compressing rock and discarded plastic polymers.
- ➔ The formation of plastic rock is a direct result of plastic pollution with humans contributing roughly 22-48 million metric tonnes annually.



## International Human Solidarity Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **International Human Solidarity Day 2023 is a significant observance held annually on December 20th. Recognized by the UN General Assembly, this day emphasizes the importance of solidarity in fostering global unity and diversity.**
- ➔ Marked on the 20th December 2023, International Human Solidarity Day serves as a reminder of the shared responsibility of nations to honor their commitment to international agreements.
- ➔ The roots of this day trace back to December 22, 2005, when the UN General Assembly acknowledged solidarity as a fundamental value of the twenty-first century through Resolution 60/209.
- ➔ This recognition led to the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund to combat poverty, coupled with the declaration of International Human Solidarity Day.

# INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SOLIDARITY DAY



## MediaTek and Nvidia:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Semiconductor powerhouses MediaTek and Nvidia have recently forged a strategic partnership aimed at bringing artificial intelligence (AI) to the forefront of the automotive industry.**
- ➔ This collaboration signifies a bold step towards revolutionizing in-car experiences, shaping the evolution of autonomous driving systems, and establishing a new standard for smart vehicles.
- ➔ MediaTek, a global leader in semiconductor technology, and Nvidia, renowned for its graphics processing units (GPUs) and AI solutions, have joined forces with a shared vision of creating intelligent, connected vehicles.
- ➔ The partnership prioritizes safety, efficiency, and an enhanced driving experience as core pillars of their collaboration.
- ➔ **Semiconductor powerhouses MediaTek and Nvidia have recently forged a strategic partnership aimed at bringing artificial intelligence (AI) to the forefront of the automotive industry.**

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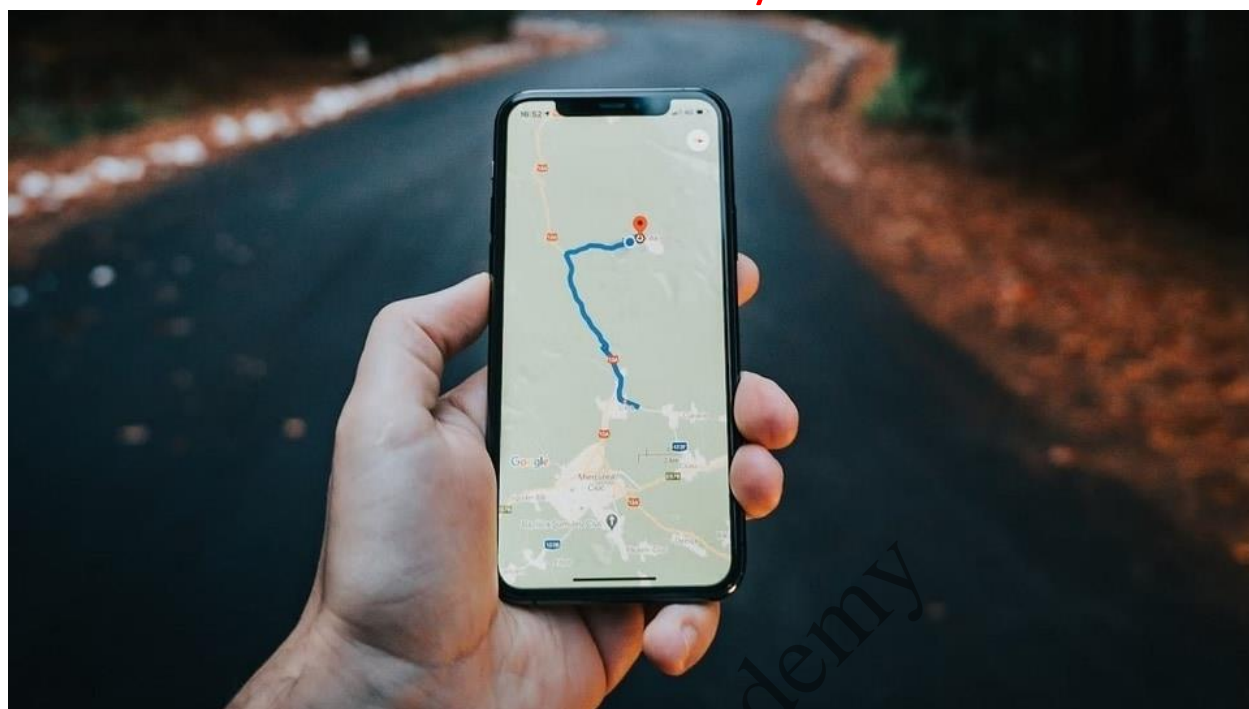
## Google Maps:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Google Maps, a ubiquitous navigation tool, is set to undergo a transformative upgrade in India with a host of new features leveraging artificial intelligence (AI).**
- ➔ Miriam Karthika Daniel, Vice President of Google Maps Experiences, unveiled these innovations, emphasizing the goal of providing accessible and useful information about the real world to users. In a first-of-its-kind initiative for India, Google plans to introduce the Address Descriptor early next year.
- ➔ This innovation aims to simplify location searches by offering a more intuitive experience. By automatically suggesting five landmarks in the vicinity when user drop a pin to share their location, Google enhances the visual mapping experience, moving beyond traditional latitude and longitude coordinates.

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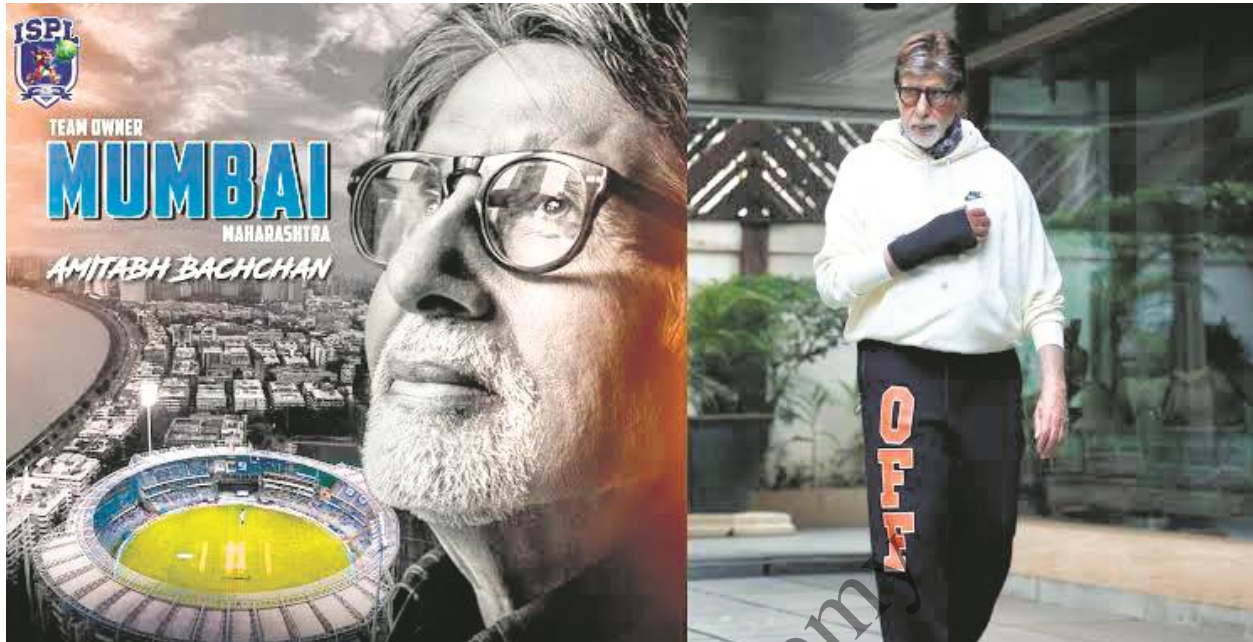
## ISPL:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a groundbreaking announcement, legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan revealed his ownership of the Mumbai team in the upcoming Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).**
- ➔ The ISPL, India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament played within a stadium, is set to kick off its inaugural edition from March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai.
- ➔ The ISPL introduces a unique and exciting cricketing format, bringing together the thrill of T20 matches and the grassroots essence of tennis ball cricket. The tournament aims to provide a platform for street cricketers to showcase their talent on a professional stage.

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