December 24-25, 2023

BRAHMA-2D:

(Importance level-4/5)

➔ **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D. BRAHMA-2D (Braided River Aid: Hydro-Morphological Analyzer) is a mathematical model to gauge the flow of large braided rivers like the Brahmaputra.**

➔ It is a quasi-3D river flow model which helps to understand how fast the water moves at different depths inside a river and its circulation around a structure like a spur installed to prevent river bank erosion.

➔ It can help engineers in the design of sustainable hydraulic structures like spurs, reverent, and other river bank protection measures in order to check river bank erosion.

SBI & World Bank:

(Importance level-4/5)

➔ **State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a $165 million (over Rs 1,300 crore) Line of Credit (LoC) with the World Bank for promoting rooftop solar projects in India.**

➔ The LoC is specifically aimed at supporting grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) projects in both residential and institutional sectors.

➔ The SBI has outstanding forex loans of $2.3 billion from various multilateral agencies, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and Germany's KfW.
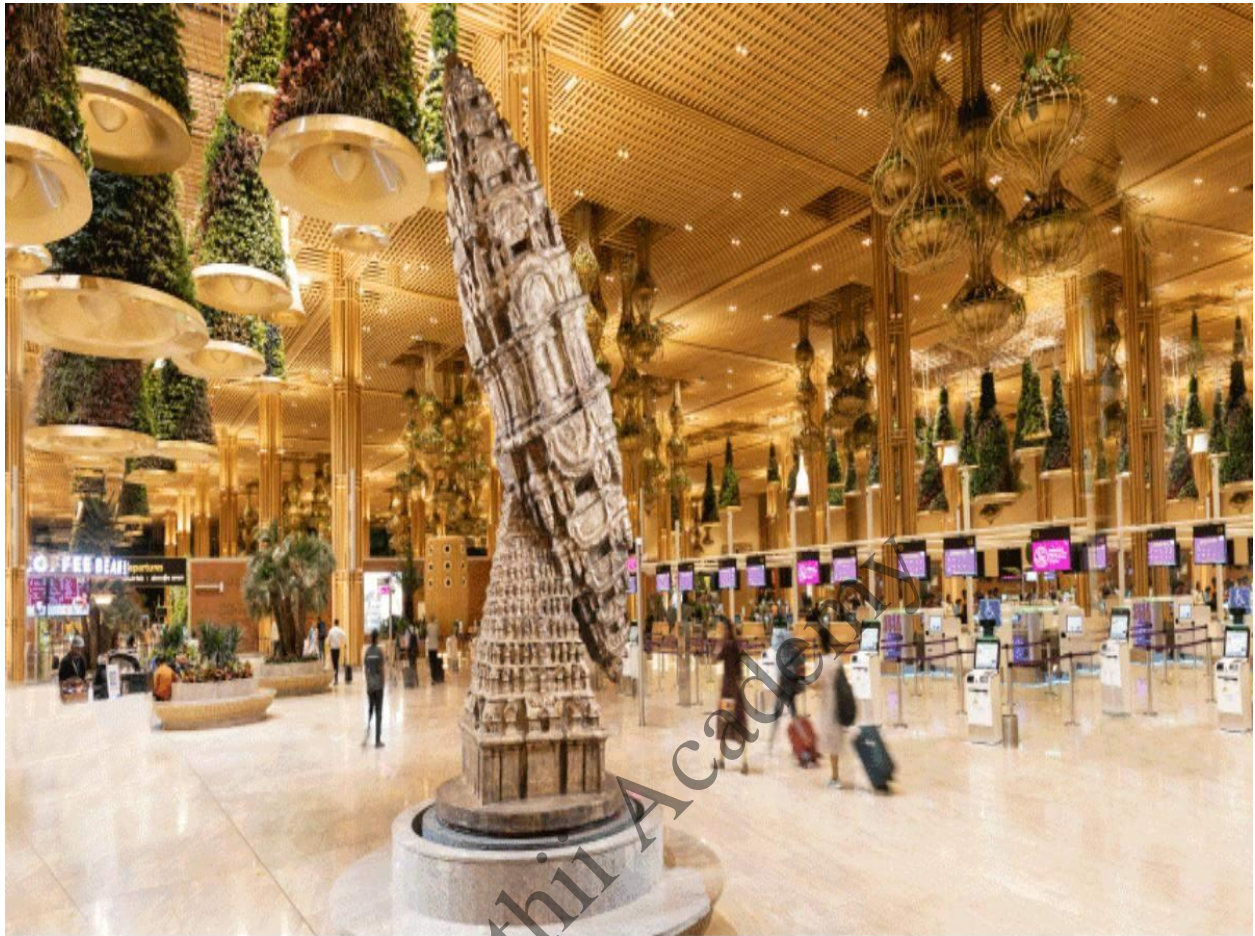

Kempegowda International Airport:

(Importance level-4/5)

➔ **The Terminal-2 (T2) of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.**

➔ It is the only Indian airport to receive this recognition. Phase 1 of T2, inaugurated on November 11, 2022, is designed to accommodate 25 million passengers per annum.

NHSRCL:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Pramod Sharma for the post of Director (Works) of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).**
- ➔ NHSRCL is an implementation agency for high-speed rail projects in India. Appointed on a deputation basis, his term extends until he reaches 60 years or further orders.

RBL Bank:

(Importance level-3/5)

➔ **RBL Bank has launched the Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG), signalling a significant step forward in trade finance digital transformation.**

➔ The e-BG product builds on the framework enabled by NeSL, incorporating their expertise in e-Stamping and e-Sign.

➔ This integration eliminates the traditional physical signing and stamping processes, seamlessly transitioning into a secure and efficient digital format.

January 26:

(Importance level-4/5)

➜ **India has invited France President Emmanuel Macron as chief guest for the January 26 Republic Day. Notably, this is the 6th time a French leader will be the Chief guest at Republic Day celebrations in the national capital.**

➜ Earlier in July, PM Modi had visited France to attend the Bastille Day Parade. PM Modi participated in the Bastille Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour on the invitation of President Macron.

➜ PM Modi had visited France to mark the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Jute Corporation of India:

(Importance level-3/5)

➔ **The Jute Corporation of India has unveiled the 'Paat-Mitro' app aimed at aiding jute cultivation and income generation.**

➔ It is Launched by Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, the application offers vital knowledge on jute farming.

➔ It will also feature information on jute gradation parametres, farmer-centric schemes like 'Jute-ICARE', weather forecasts and procurement policies.

➔ 'Paat-Mitro' marks a significant step forward in supporting jute farmers and revitalizing the industry.

➔ With greater access to information, technical advancements, and market opportunities, Indian jute farmers can unlock a brighter future for themselves and contribute to the sustainable development of the sector.

Good Governance Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

➔ **December 25, 2023, is celebrated as Good Governance Day 2023 in honor of the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**

➔ This day pays tribute to Vajpayee's leadership and contributions to society, marked by his three terms as the Prime Minister of India.

➔ The genesis of Good Governance Day can be traced back to December 23, 2014, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was awarded the Bharat Ratna, along with Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (posthumously).

➔ In recognition of this prestigious honor, the Narendra Modi-led government declared December 25 as Good Governance Day, aiming to celebrate Vajpayee's enduring legacy.
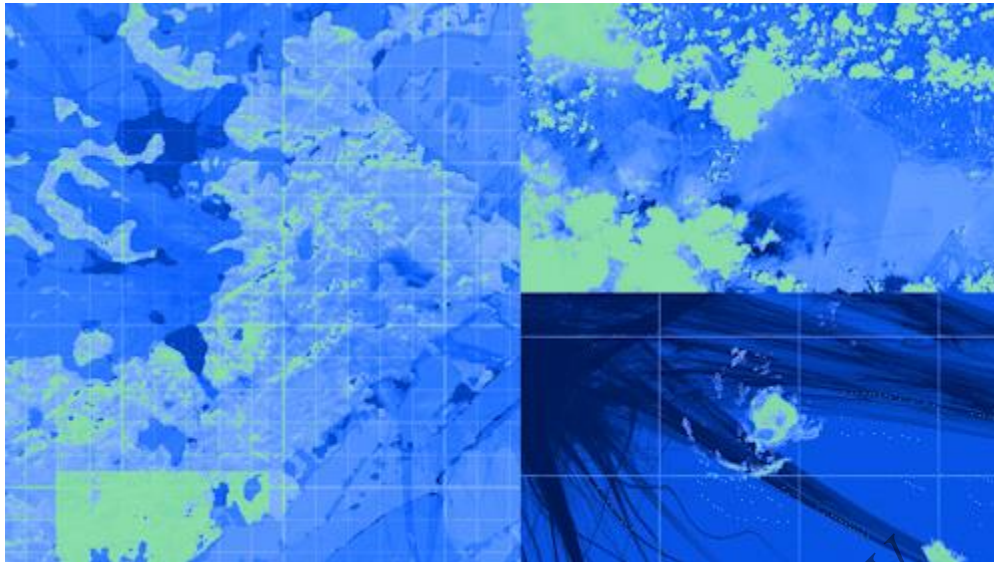
National Consumer Rights Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

➔ **Every year, National Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on December 24. This year, National Consumer Rights Day falls on a Sunday.**

➔ In 1986, the Consumer Protection Act was passed and received the assent of the President on December 24. Since then, National Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on this day to commemorate the occasion.

➔ The Consumer Protection Act acts to protect consumers from defective goods, negligent services, and unfair trade practices. National Consumer Rights Day is often confused with World Consumer Rights Day which is celebrated every year on March 15.

NASA & IBM:

(Importance level-4/5)

➔ **At the COP28, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) announced that an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool called ai would be available on the open-source AI platform Hugging Space.**

➔ It is an Artificial Intelligence tool jointly built by IBM and NASA. It will help users monitor the Earth from space, measuring environmental changes that have already happened while also making predictions about the future.

IFSCA:

(Importance level-3/5)

➔ **The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted an expert committee on transition finance to formulate a regulatory framework to promote green and sustainable debt securities.**

➔ The committee, which includes representatives from corporates, banks, standard setters, exchanges, consultants, and think tanks, will be chaired by Dhruba Purkayastha, the India Director for Climate Policy Initiative.

United Kingdom:

(Importance level-4/5)

➔ **The United Kingdom government follows the European Union in deciding to enforce a carbon border tax on specific commodities such as iron, steel, aluminium, ceramics, and cement, starting in 2027.**

➔ The tax amount will be determined by the volume of carbon emissions associated with the production of the imported goods and the disparity between the carbon price in the UK and the originating country.

Christmas:

(Importance level-4/5)

➔ Christmas, a beloved festival celebrated around the world, brings with it a wave of joy, warmth, and goodwill.

➔ **Every year on December 25th, homes are adorned with twinkling lights, Christmas trees stand tall adorned with ornaments, and the air is filled with the aroma of freshly baked cookies and the melodious tunes of carols.**

➔ The word "Christmas" originates from the Old English phrase "Cristes Mæsse," meaning "Christ's Mass." It commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, believed to be born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph.

➔ While the exact date of Jesus' birth remains unknown, December 25th became widely accepted in the 4th century. Early Christians celebrated the first Christmas in 336 AD during the reign of Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman emperor.

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