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January 1, 2024

Hemant Soren:

(Importance level-3/5)

- In a major announcement, Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren on Friday said the government has reduced the qualifying age for old-age pension for tribals and Dalits to 50 years from the previous 60 years.
- The government has decided to provide pension benefits to tribals and Dalits on reaching the age of 50 years. The death rate among them is high and they do not get jobs after 60 years.



Maharashtra government:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- ➔ **The Maharashtra government will observe January 15 every year as the state sports day to celebrate the birth anniversary of wrestler Khashaba Jadhav, the first Indian to win an independent medal in the Olympics in 1952.**
- ➔ Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had announced in Pune about having a day devoted to sports on the birthday of Jadhav, who was born in Maharashtra.
- ➔ Jadhav had won a bronze medal at the 1952 Summer Olympics held at Helsinki in Finland. A government resolution was issued directing schools and colleges to organize sporting events on this day.



ISRO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat).**
- ➔ The PSLV, in its 60th mission, lifted off at 9.10 a.m. on 1 Jan, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, and 22 minutes later launched the XPoSat into an eastward low inclination orbit.
- ➔ The PSLV-C58 has placed the primary satellite at the XPoSat in the desired orbit of 650 km with six-degree inclination.
- ➔ XPoSat is the first dedicated scientific satellite from the ISRO to carry out research in space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources. It carries two

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payloads, namely POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing).



Arvind Panagariya:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The government has appointed former NITI Aayog vice chairman Arvind Panagariya as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.**
- ➔ Joint Secretary in the finance ministry Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey will be the secretary to the commission. The commission will submit its report for the five-year period (2026-27 to 2030-31) to the President by October 31, 2025.
- ➔ The Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on center-state financial relations.
- ➔ The erstwhile 15th Finance Commission under NK Singh had recommended that states be given 41 percent of the divisible tax pool of the Centre during the five-year period 2021-22 to 2025-26, which is at the same level as was recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

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UAE:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **The UAE has initiated the process of channelising its long-promised \$2-billion investments into food parks in India, starting with Gujarat, after the two countries sorted out concerns on curbs imposed by the Essential Commodities Act.**
- The investments are being made as part of the four-nation I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) initiative to develop a series of integrated food parks across India to enhance food security in the Middle East and South Asia.
- The first food park is likely to be set up on land near Kandla where the investors would get into contract farming arrangements with locals. The UAE had first promised in 2018 to invest in food parks in India which later got dovetailed into the I2U2 initiative announced at the Leaders' Summit in July 2022.



National Street Food Festival 2023:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas, has inaugurated the National Street Food Festival 2023 in New Delhi.**
- This street food festival was organized by the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. This festival is the first 'Zero Waste Street Food Festival' in India.

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India & UAE:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Inaugural edition of Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone, between India & UAE, will be conducted from 02 Jan to 15 Jan 2024 in Rajasthan.**
- The joint manoeuvres during 'Desert Cyclone 2024' aim to boost interoperability through the exchange of knowledge and best practices in urban operations. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability by learning & sharing best practices in Urban Operations.



Global Family Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Global Family Day is celebrated every year on January 1. The day aims at commencing the new year with peace, unity and brotherhood among people and across nations and cultures.**
- ➔ The idea to mark the day was first initiated in November 1997 after people were inspired by a book named, One Day In Peace – January 1, 2000.

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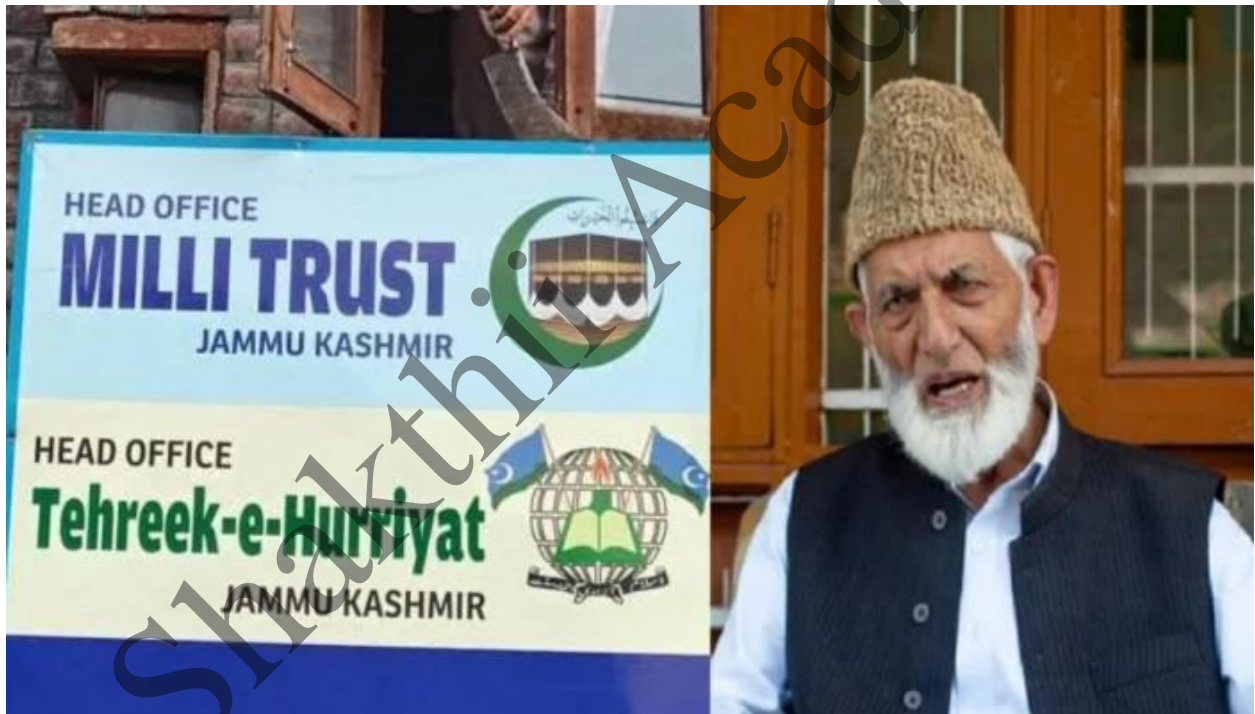
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January 2, 2024

Tehreek-e-hurriyat:

(Importance level-3/5)

- The central government designates 'Tehreek-e-hurriyat, J&K (the)' as an 'Unlawful Association' under the UAPA.
- Amit Shah accused the group of spreading anti-India propaganda and fueling secessionism through terror activities in J & K.



New traffic law:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- ➔ **New traffic law that increased jail term for road accidents. A change in the colonial-era criminal laws increasing jail terms in hit and run cases across the country.**
- ➔ Under the new law, drivers can be jailed up to 10 years for fleeing and not reporting a fatal accident. Earlier, the accused could be jailed only for up to 2 years under section 304A of the IPC(Causing death by negligence).



K-Smart:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **K-Smart an e-governance initiative digitizes all local government services accessible through a mobile platform. Inaugurated by Kerala CM on January 1, 2024.**
- ➔ Developed by the Information Kerala Mission for the Local Self-Government Department, the platform covers various services like certificates, permits and complaints.

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Girls Sainik School:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **India inaugurated its first all-girls Sainik School in Vrindavan, UttarPradesh.**
- Approval for girls admission to Sainik Schools was granted in 2019 allowing them to pursue education and careers in defense. The initiative aligns with the National Education Policy 2020.

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Uttarakhand government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Uttarakhand government has banned the purchase of agricultural land by non-residents until a committee delivers report on new land laws.**
- As part of the ban, 'outsiders' are not permitted to buy land intended for agricultural or horticulture uses.
- The move aims to respect and uphold the sentiments of the people of Uttarakhand.



Hatee:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **The Hatee community in Trans-Giri, Sirmaur district has been granted Scheduled Tribe Status by the Himachal Pradesh government.**
- The Lok Sabha passed the inclusion of Hatee community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in December 2022.

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Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ On January 1st, Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh assumed duties as the Chief of Material of the Indian Navy.
- ➔ He took over from Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, who retired following 39 years of praiseworthy service spearheading the Navy's maintenance efforts.

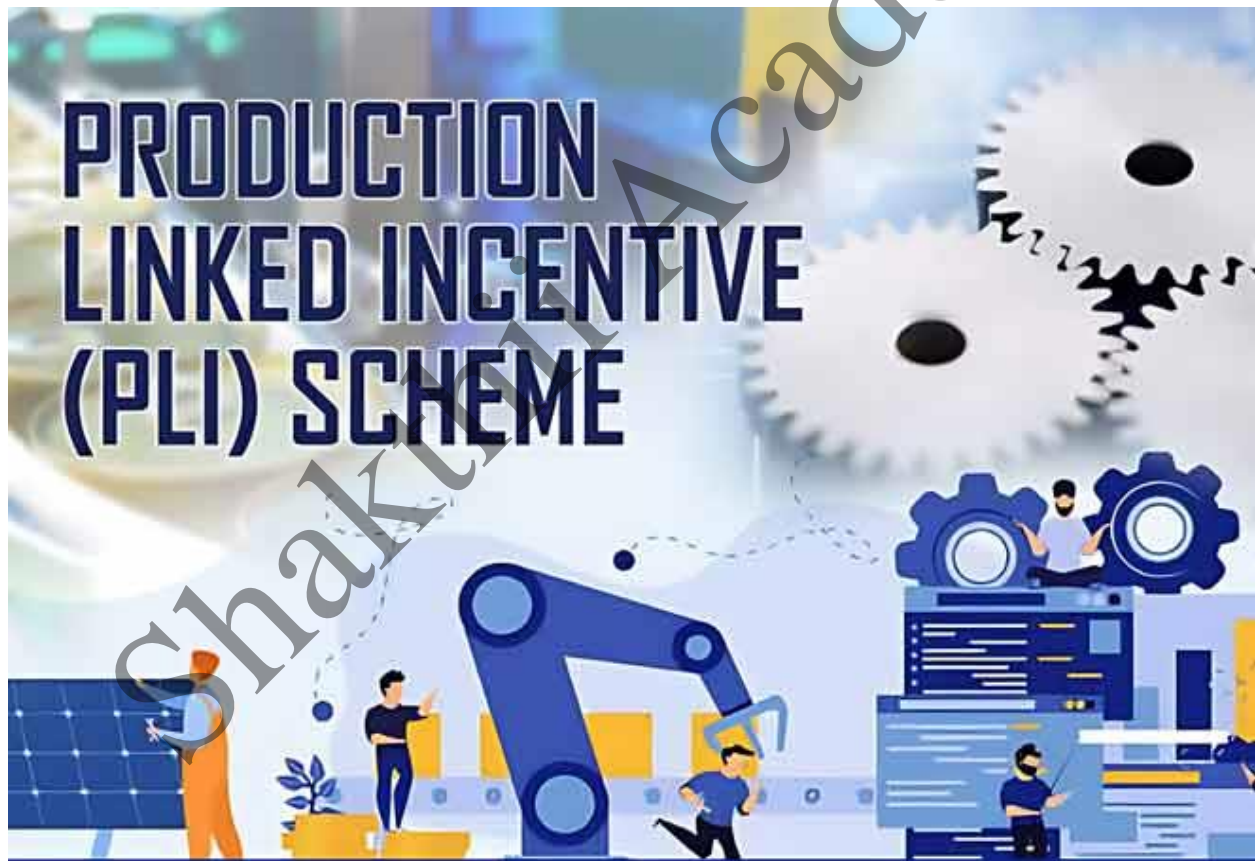


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PLI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) program for the automobile sector has been extended by one year through March 2028. Simultaneously, amended rules provide added clarity and concessions to approved applicants.**
- ➔ The moves signal the government's adaptive support for strategic sectors like autos even amid economic uncertainties.
- ➔ Enhancing PLI duration and introducing reasonable safeguards boosts industry confidence while ensuring rigorous monitoring of public funds.
- ➔ By providing policy stability coupled with pragmatic concessions, India aims to consolidate its positioning in global automotive supply chains.



Gujarat:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Gujarat, known for its rich cultural heritage and commitment to health and wellness, achieved a remarkable feat on New Year's morning by making an indelible mark in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- ➔ The state hosted the largest simultaneous Surya Namaskar performance, involving over 4,000 participants from 108 locations across 51 categories.
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded the extraordinary achievement, emphasizing the state's commitment to yoga and cultural heritage.



Power Grid Corporation:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ Power Grid Corporation, a leading state-owned enterprise, announced a significant change in its leadership on January 1.

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- ➔ **Ravindra Kumar Tyagi has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), succeeding Sreekant Kandikuppa who retired upon reaching the age of superannuation.**
- ➔ With over 33 years of experience in the power sector, Tyagi has held various key positions in central public sector undertakings (CPSUs).
- ➔ His tenure at POWERGRID is marked by his expertise in handling multidisciplinary work across different business areas, including Asset Management, Engineering, and Business Development, both domestically and overseas.



Vivek Srivastava:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has recently approved the appointment of Vivek Srivastava, a seasoned 1989-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, as the Director General of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- ➔ The decision was made official through an order issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) on December 28.

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- This significant appointment is set to take effect from the date of Srivastava's joining the post and will continue until June 30, 2025, or until further orders, whichever occurs earlier.



DRDO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) commemorated its 66th Foundation Day on January 1, 2024, marking a significant journey of innovation and self-reliance in the country's defence sector.**
- The day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and a renewed commitment to bolstering India's defence capabilities.
- The celebrations commenced with paying floral tributes to former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the "Missile Man of India," and Dr. VS Arunachalam, the former DRDO chief. Their contributions to India's defence prowess were remembered and celebrated.

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TNFRS:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ In a first for the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Service (TNFRS) department, joint director N Priya Ravichandran has been inducted into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) from the non-state civil service cadre.
- ➔ She is also one of the first woman officers to be inducted into the TNFRS. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has given nod for inducting the officer into the IAS.

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India and Pakistan:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Maintaining a 30+ year tradition, India and Pakistan exchanged lists of their respective nuclear facilities, as per an agreement prohibiting attacks on each other's atomic sites.**
- This marked the 33rd consecutive year of this exchange, instated by an agreement signed in 1988 an enacted in 1991 aimed at promoting nuclear non-aggression.



BRICS:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Russia assumed 2024 BRICS chairmanship with a focus on global development, security and expansion welcoming Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE into the group.**
- ➔ Key domains for the BRICS partnership include political and security cooperation, economic and cultural exchanges.

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Lithium Reserve:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **World's largest Lithium Reserve Discovered Beneath California's Salton Sea. The discovery of the deposit could shift the US towards self-sufficiency in lithium.**
- The Salton Sea is a shallow, saline, endorheic rift lake located directly on the San Andreas Fault. It is situated at one of the lowest points in the country.



Argentina:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Argentine President Javier Milei has officially declined the invitation to join the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) grouping of major emerging economies.**
- ➔ The bloc — made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — in August announced it was admitting six new members in a bid to counter the Western-led global order.
- ➔ The membership of Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates was due to take effect from January 1, 2024.
- ➔ The rejection was conveyed through letters sent to BRICS leaders, solidifying Argentina's decision to abstain from the bloc.

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- President Milei's rejection was grounded in the assertion that Argentina's membership was "not considered appropriate at this time. The president highlighted that his geopolitical alignment prioritizes ties with the United States and Israel, eschewing alliances with communist nations.



World Day of Peace:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **World Day of Peace is celebrated on January 1 every year, is primarily a Catholic feast day dedicated to universal peace on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. On this occasion, Popes generally make authoritative declarations on the Catholic Social Teachings (C.S.T).**
- World Day of Peace began in 1967 when Pope Paul VI announced that the world needs to be sensitized and oriented for peace and understanding.



Copyright Law Day:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Copyright Law Day is celebrated every year on 1 January to emphasize on the need to give credit where it is due.**
- The first copyright statute was made by British Statute of Anne 1710 and applied only to books. In 1787, the United States Constitution protected copyrights to promote the progress of science and useful arts.



David Warner:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **On New Year's Day, Australian cricket stalwart David Warner officially announced his retirement from ODI cricket.**
- ➔ This announcement came just before his final Test match against Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Warner, a two-time Cricket World Cup champion, chose this significant moment to close the chapter on his remarkable ODI career.
- ➔ Warner's impact in the ICC Cricket World Cup is notable. He scored 1,527 runs in World Cup matches, averaging 56.55 and maintaining a strike rate exceeding 100.

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January 3, 2024

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency declared 2024 as “Year of HR Development and Discipline”.**
- The move suggests IREDA’s commitment to evolving and adapting to new challenges while prioritizing the development and discipline of its human resources to drive the organizations progress.



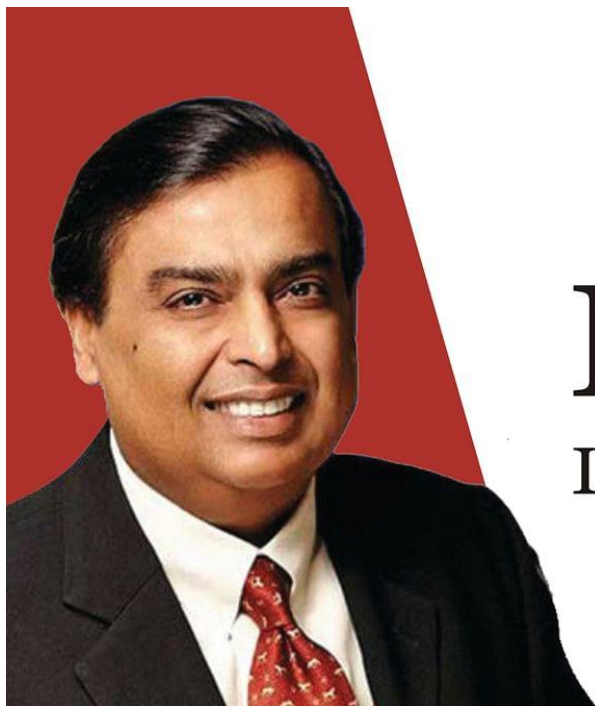
Reliance industries:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Reliance industries first in India to receive ISCC-Plus certification. ISCC-Plus certification applies to RIL’s Jamnagar refinery in Gujarat.**
- ISCC Plus certification ensures transparency and traceability of sustainable feedstocks. Reliance industries is the largest integrated petrochemical producer in India.

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Reliance
Industries Limited

Ola Electric:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Ola Electric became the first Indian electric scooter company eligible for the government's production-linked incentive scheme with potential benefits of INR 15,000-18,000 per unit.**
- Ola Electric made significant moves towards its initial public offering, filling its draft red herring prospectus with the securities and exchange board of India.

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Ola Electric Becomes First Indian EV Company To Get PLI Nod

Cancer cases:

(Importance level-4/5).

- India recorded around 12 lakh new cancer cases and 9.3 lakh deaths in 2019 making it Asia's second highest contributor as per Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia Journal.
- China, India and Japan emerged as leaders in new cancer cases and deaths with Asia facing 94 lakh new cases and 56 lakh deaths in 2019.



Arindam bagchi:

(Importance level-3/5).

- Arindam bagchi, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson has been named India's permanent representative to the UN and other organizations in Geneva.
- He is a 1995 batch IFS officer.

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Randhir Jaiswal:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **Randhir Jaiswal, a Senior Indian Foreign Service Officer, assumed the position of Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs.**
- ➔ A seasoned 1998 batch IFS officer, Jaiswal replaced Arindam Bagchi in this capacity. The new MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal previously served as consul general in New York in July 2020.



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Square Kilometre Array Observatory project:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India has joined the Square Kilometre Array Observatory project, the world's largest radio telescope array to study celestial phenomena with a budget of Rs 1250 crore.
- This project is an international effort and India's involvement is via the Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics. GoI approved to construct 3rd node of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory.



PMVY:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Jammu and Kashmir has taken a significant step towards empowering its vibrant community of artisans and craftspeople by becoming the first Union Territory (UT) to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY).
- This initiative, launched by the Central government in September 2023, aims to uplift and recognize the crucial role these skilled individuals play in preserving and enriching India's cultural heritage.
- The scheme provides formal recognition to artisans and craftspeople through the issuance of PM Vishwakarma certificates and ID cards. This recognition not only validates their skills and expertise but also opens doors to new opportunities and market access.



Cirium:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a recent on-time performance review conducted by aviation analytics firm Cirium, Hyderabad and Bengaluru airports have emerged as global leaders in punctuality, securing the second and third ranks, respectively.**
- ➔ With over 84 per cent on-time departures, these airports have showcased their commitment to efficiency and reliability in air travel. The impressive on-time performance of Hyderabad and Bengaluru airports can be attributed to a combination of infrastructure improvements and the significant presence of IndiGo, one of India's leading airlines.
- ➔ IndiGo, which stood fourth among Asia Pacific airlines with over 82 per cent on-time arrivals, plays a crucial role in contributing to the punctuality at these airports. Approximately half of all flights at Bengaluru and 65 per cent in Hyderabad are operated by IndiGo.



Hyderabad, Bengaluru Airports Score High in Global On-Time Ranking

State's first floating air-conditioned restaurant:

(Importance level-4/5).

- In a groundbreaking move for the state of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the state's first floating air-conditioned restaurant during his visit to Sangam City.
- The restaurant, managed by the Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (UPSTDC), is set to redefine the dining experience for visitors on the picturesque Yamuna river.

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AMRUT:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ France's development agency, AFD, and Germany's KfW Bank are reportedly in talks with India to extend a €100 million loan to support the country's urban infrastructure plan, specifically the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.
- ➔ Negotiations for the loan are scheduled for early 2024, with the signing expected to take place in February.
- ➔ This collaborative effort follows their recent partnership on the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) 2.0 program, demonstrating a continued commitment to sustainable urban development in India.
- ➔ The Union Cabinet approved the plan in May 2023, emphasizing its support for competitively selected projects promoting a circular economy, integrated waste management at the city level,

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climate-oriented reforms at the state level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the national level.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for a slew of development projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.**
- ➔ The projects encompass various sectors, including rail connectivity, roads, oil and gas, and shipping, and are poised to contribute significantly to the state's progress.
- ➔ The Prime Minister highlighted that these projects are not only integral to strengthening Tamil Nadu's infrastructure but also instrumental in fostering progress, creating employment opportunities for thousands, and enhancing travel facilities.
- ➔ He extended his congratulations to the people of the state for their dedication and perseverance in the pursuit of development.

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Rani Velu Nachiyar:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **3rd January: 294th birth anniversary of Rani Velu Nachiyar. Queen Rani Velu Nachiyar of Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu known as “Veeramangai”, was the first Indian queen to confront the East India Company.**
- With Hyder Ali’s support and a broader coalition, she fought the British after eight years of strategic planning.



World Introvert Day:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **World Introvert Day is observed on January 2 every year. It is a day committed to understanding and valuing the exceptional characteristics of introverted people.**
- ➔ An introvert person is somebody who is shy, calm and likes to invest energy alone instead of frequently being with others.
- ➔ The date January 2 was picked in light of the fact that it denotes the end of the holiday season beginning from Christmas to New Year and permits introverts to take a collective full breath.

WORLD INTROVERT DAY



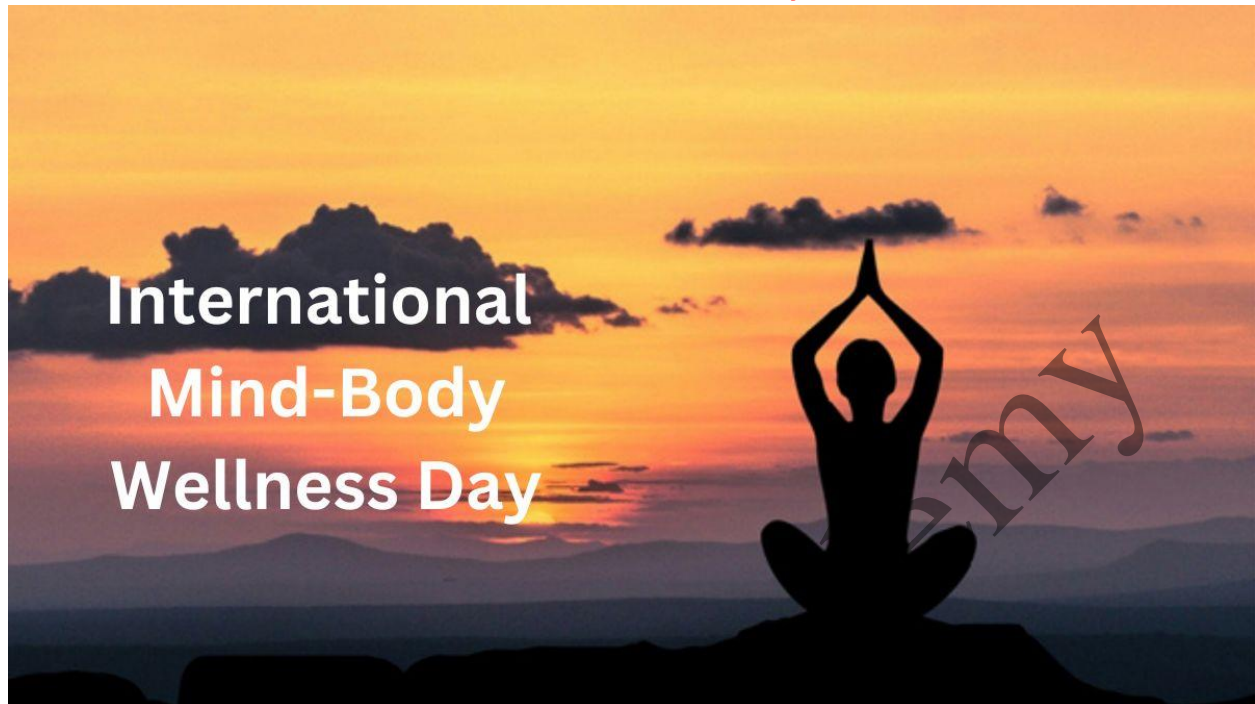
International Mind-Body Wellness Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **International Mind-Body Wellness Day, observed annually on January 3, is a global celebration dedicated to fostering the harmonious coexistence of physical and mental health.**
- ➔ This occasion serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of our mind, body, and spirit, emphasizing the importance of holistic well-being.
- ➔ Celebrated every January 3, this day encourages individuals to reflect on their overall wellness. The modern exploration of mind-body wellness gained momentum in recent decades, focusing on understanding how mental and physical health mutually support each other.

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Mount Lewotobi:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Over 2,000 residents have been evacuated due to increased volcanic activity at Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.**
- The evacuations highlight the risks present in Indonesia which is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire and hosts approximately 130 active volcanoes.

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Cyber crimes:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Work from home and Part time job scams are the most prevalent cybercrimes in India, topping the list of reported incidents in 2023, according to the Indian cybercrime coordination centre.**
- CEO Rajesh Kumar highlights that scammers often target victims through digital advertisements, online messenger channels and bulk sms urging the public to be cautious and avoid falling for such scams.



LEAD-TD mission:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **LEAD-TD mission, launched on January 1 via ISRO's PSLV-C58 integrated a derivative of Dhruva Space's P-30 Nanosatellite platform for in orbit scientific experiments.**
- Telemetry and beacon data were successfully received at the ground station of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology Trivandrum.

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Dry day:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Chattisgarh announced 'dry day' on January 22 to celebrate 'Shri Ram Lala Pran Pratishtha' ceremony at Ayodhya.**
- CM Vishnu Deo emphasizes the significance of the event, considering Chattisgarh as the maternal birthplace of Shri Ram.

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Optic fibre:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands submarine optical fiber connection project. This marks the 1st time Lakshadweep gets connected via Submarine Optic fibre cable.**
- The project promises 100 times faster internet for Lakshadweep expected to improve government services, healthcare, education, digital banking and to develop Lakshadweep as logistics hub.

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CCI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the Punjab government's purchase of a private thermal plant, Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Plant.**
- ➔ CCI approves the proposed acquisition of 100 percent shareholding of GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Ltd by Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL). This is the first time that a State has purchased a thermal plant. The 540-MW thermal plant would be named after Guru Amardass, the third Guru of Sikhs.



KABIL:

(Importance level-4/5).

- India's KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) will invest ₹211 crore (\$ 25.712 million) over a five-year period for exploration stage activities of five lithium blocks in Fiambala area of Argentina.
- An exploration and development agreement in this regard is expected to be signed with CAMYEN, a state-owned miner in Argentina's Catamarca province, later this month.
- The KABIL board approved proposals of signing an exploration and development agreement with CAMYEN and opening of branch office in Catamarca; as well as the investment proposal towards exploration stage activities of the five lithium blocks in June last year.

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ISRO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a groundbreaking move, NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has announced its collaboration with SpaceX, owned by billionaire Elon Musk, to launch the communication satellite GSAT-20.
- This marks India's first partnership with SpaceX, reflecting a significant stride in space exploration and satellite deployment. GSAT-20, now renamed GSAT-N2, is a high throughput Ka-band satellite designed to meet the growing broadband communication needs of India.
- Ka-band satellites, such as GSAT-20, deliver high-speed broadband internet connectivity, as well as facilitate digital video and audio transmission.

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FAITH:

(Importance level-3/5).

- In a recent development, Puneet Chhatwal, the Managing Director and CEO of Indian Hotels Company Limited, has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH).
- This move comes as he succeeds Nakul Anand, the retired Executive Director at ITC Hotels.

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NALSA:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **In a significant development, the President of India has appointed Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the Executive Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). Justice Khanna, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, has taken over from Justice S. K. Kaul, who retired on December 25.**
- ➔ This appointment adheres to the convention of appointing the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court to the crucial position of NALSA Executive Chairman.
- ➔ The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987.
- ➔ This organization plays a pivotal role in providing free legal services to the weaker sections of society and aims to organize Lok Adalats for the amicable settlement of disputes.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment as he dedicated the Rs 400 crore Demonstration Fast Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plant (DFRP) at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, to the nation.**
- ➔ This facility is a significant step towards advancing India's nuclear capabilities, designed to reprocess fuel from Prototype Fast Breeder Reactors (PFBR).
- ➔ The fast reactor power generation company, Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI), based in Kalpakkam, is at the forefront of this initiative.
- ➔ BHAVINI is currently setting up the PFBR and has plans for two additional fast reactors in the future. The DFRP, a pilot project for larger facilities, plays a vital role in reprocessing fuel from the upcoming PFBRs.

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10,000 megawatts of electricity:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Kathmandu and New Delhi signed a long-term agreement for Nepal to export 10,000 megawatts of electricity to India over the next ten years.**
- ➔ This agreement is aimed to promote power trade between government and private entities in both nations.
- ➔ As part of Nepal's broader energy development strategy, the country plans to produce 28,000 MW of electricity in the next 12 years.

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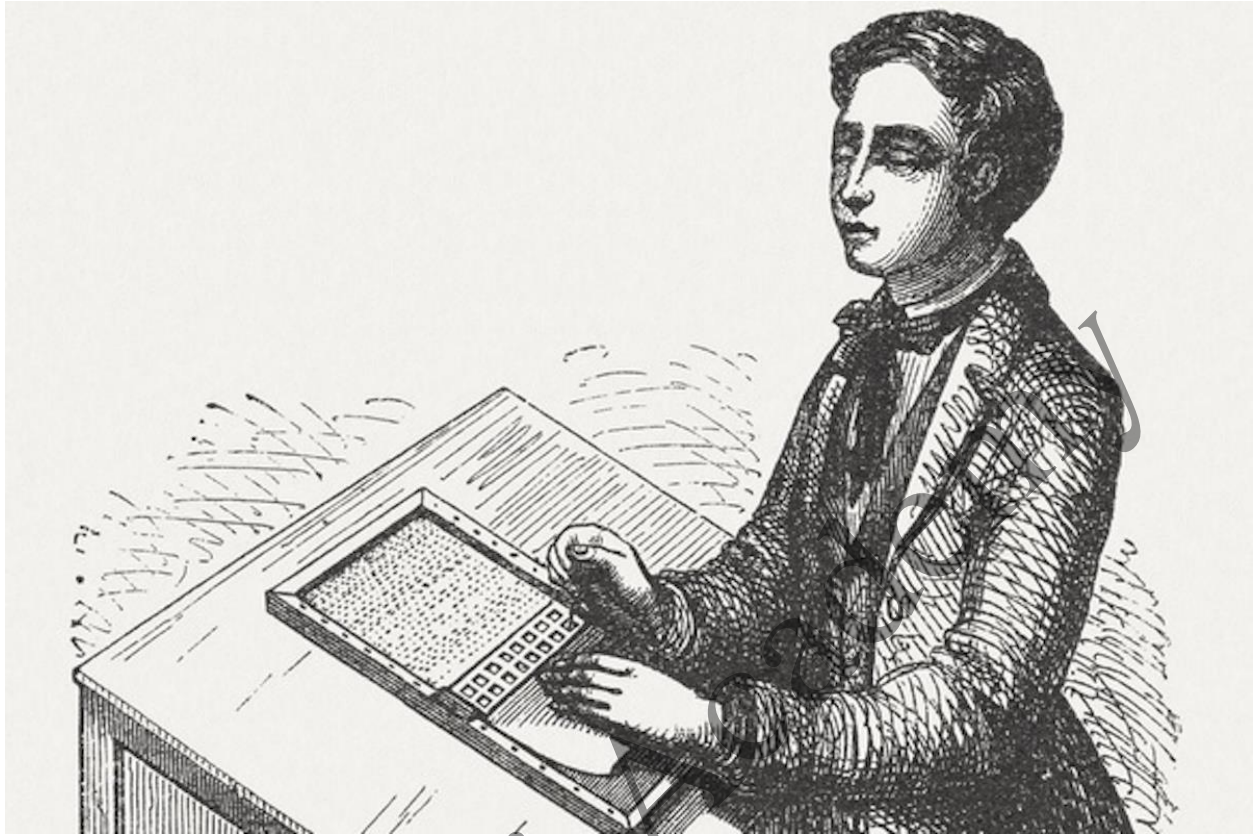
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World Braille Day:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **World Braille Day is observed every year on January 4 to honour the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille writing system for blind and visually impaired individuals.**
- ➔ The primary objective of recognising World Braille Day is to promote Braille literacy and raise awareness among people about its importance.
- ➔ Despite the advent of new technologies and systems, visually impaired and blind people still face significant challenges in leading an independent life.



Beatrice Chebet:

(Importance level-3/5)

- In a spectacular display of athletic prowess, Kenya's Beatrice Chebet concluded her remarkable year by smashing the world record for the women's 5 km marathon at the **Cursa dels Nassos in Barcelona**.
- Clocking an astounding 14:13, Chebet outpaced her competitors and bettered the previous record by six seconds, setting the stage for a memorable achievement.
- Although subject to World Athletics' ratification procedure, this victory marks a triumphant end to Chebet's stellar 2023 campaign.

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January 6, 2024

“Top cities for women in India 2023”:

(Importance level-4/5)

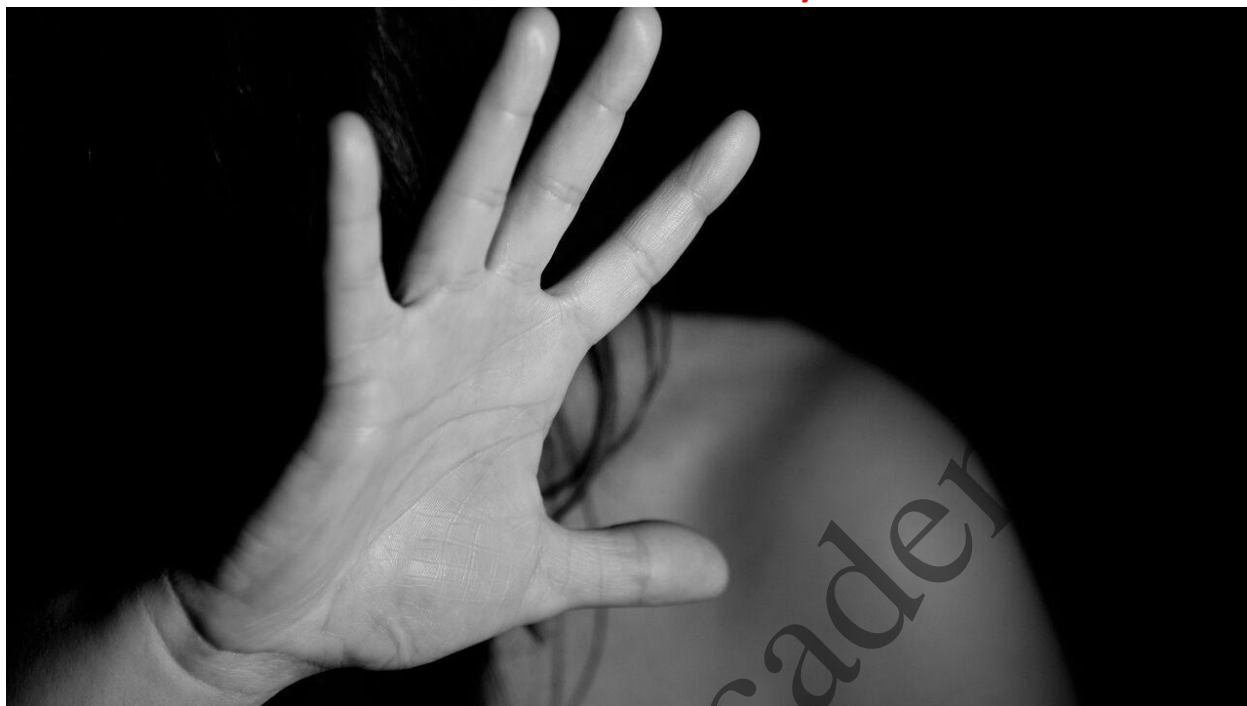
- “Top cities for women in India 2023” has been released by the Avatar Group based on a City Inclusive Score.
- The CIS out of 100 is the aggregate of the Industrial Inclusion Score and Social Inclusive Score.
Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai and Hyderabad emerged as the Top 5 cities for women in India.



National Commission for Women:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The National Commission for Women recorded 28,811 complaints of crimes against women in 2023 with approximately 55% originating from Uttar Pradesh.
- The majority of complaints pertaining to the right to dignity, usually involving non-domestic violence harassment(8,540) followed by domestic violence incidents(6,274).



‘Panchayat Se Parliament Tak’:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated ‘Panchayat Se Parliament Tak’ program for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies highlighting the Nari Shakti Vandan Act.
- ➔ The Act reserves one third of Lok Sabha and State legislature seats for women, promoting their leadership in decision making.



IAS Officer Senthil Pandian:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **IAS Officer Senthil Pandian is appointed as India's ambassador to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, succeeding Brajendra Navnit whose tenure ends on March 31, 2024.**
- ➔ The Appointments Committee approved Pandian's appointment, a 2002 Uttar Pradesh Cadre IAS officer, for a three year term. Currently, Pandian holds a key post as Commissioner of Excise in Uttar Pradesh.

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GDP:

(Importance level-4/5).

- In the eagerly awaited United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 report, India emerges as a key player, projecting a GDP growth of 6.2% in the coming year.
- This slightly trails behind the 6.3% estimate for 2023, a testament to the country's robust domestic demand and the flourishing manufacturing and services sectors.
- South Asia, driven by India's prowess, is anticipated to witness a GDP surge of 5.2% in 2024 after a commendable 5.3% growth in 2023.



Indian Railways:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Indian Railways, a key player in the transportation sector, has reaffirmed its commitment to environmental sustainability by renewing its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).**
- ➔ The collaboration aims to reduce energy and water consumption, ultimately lowering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This marks the third consecutive term of partnership between Indian Railways and CII.
- ➔ Indian Railways, recognizing its role as a major stakeholder in the transportation sector, has signed a renewed MoU with CII to actively contribute to environmental protection. The railway network has set an ambitious target of achieving “Net Zero Carbon Emission” by 2030, reinforcing its dedication to sustainable practices.

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Maharashtra government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a landmark decision, the Maharashtra government appointed Rashmi Shukla, a distinguished 1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, as the Director General of Police (DGP).
- This appointment is groundbreaking as Ms. Shukla becomes the first woman to hold this prestigious position in the state.

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Sanjiv Aggarwal:

(Importance level-3/5).

- In a strategic move to bolster its leadership team, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) has welcomed Sanjiv Aggarwal as its new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director.
- Aggarwal, formerly a partner at the UK-based private equity firm Actis, brings a wealth of experience in energy investments, particularly in the Asian market, including India.



IIT Madras:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Researchers from the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Madras and Mandi have achieved a significant milestone in the field of biotechnology.**
- They have successfully metabolically engineered plant cells to boost the production of the anti-cancer drug camptothecin (CPT).
- In a groundbreaking research paper published in 2021, IIT Madras researchers identified a sustainable and high-yielding microbe alternative for CPT production.
- The Plant Cell Technology Lab at IIT Madras, using computational tools, developed a genome-scale metabolic model for *N. nimoniana* plant cells.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ In a significant move towards sustainable development, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- ➔ The focus of this collaboration is to support Indian Railways in achieving 'net zero carbon emission' by the ambitious target year of 2030.
- ➔ The MoU, originally signed in June of the preceding year, was a momentous occasion featuring Naveen Gulati, a distinguished Railway Board member, and Isabel Coleman, the deputy administrator of USAID.
- ➔ The collaboration envisions a comprehensive framework for bolstering sustainability within the Indian Railways system.

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United States of America:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **The United States of America declares January 5 as National Bird Day to raise awareness of the significance of birds to our ecosystem.**
- ➔ The day is set apart to make all of us understand that birds are not made to be caught or had as showpieces in our homes, rather, they are nature's lovely creatures that deserve to live with complete freedom.
- ➔ The day was first observed by the Avian Welfare Coalition, which is involved in the cause of promoting awareness about birds that are caught or end up in captivity for either monetary profit or for human entertainment.

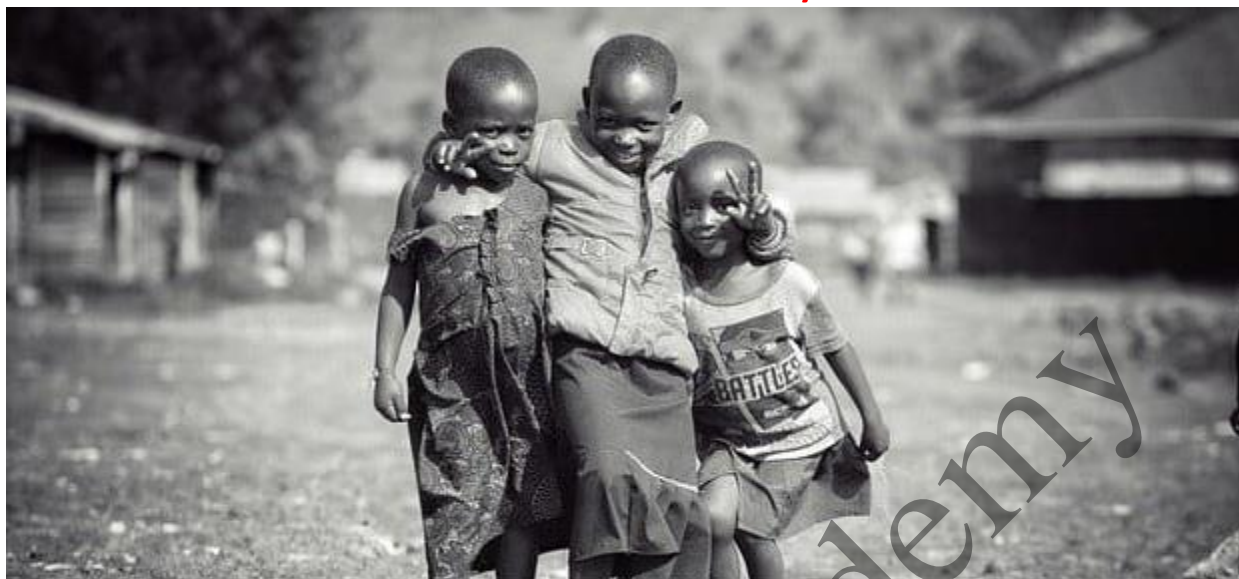
National Bird Day 5 January



World Day of War Orphans:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ On January 6, 2024, the world will observe the World Day of War Orphans, a day dedicated to highlighting the struggles and needs of the most vulnerable victims of war – the children.
- ➔ This day comes amidst ongoing global conflicts, serving as a poignant reminder of the deep and lasting impact war has on the lives of innocent children.
- ➔ This year, World Day of War Orphans is marked with two powerful themes: “Orphan Lives Matter” and “Standing Up for War-Affected Children”.



WORLD DAY OF WAR ORPHANS

IOA:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has welcomed a seasoned professional, Raghuram Iyer, as its new CEO, marking a significant development after a meticulous selection process conducted by the nomination committee.**
- ➔ The appointment, long-awaited and in response to reminders from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), brings a wealth of experience to the forefront.

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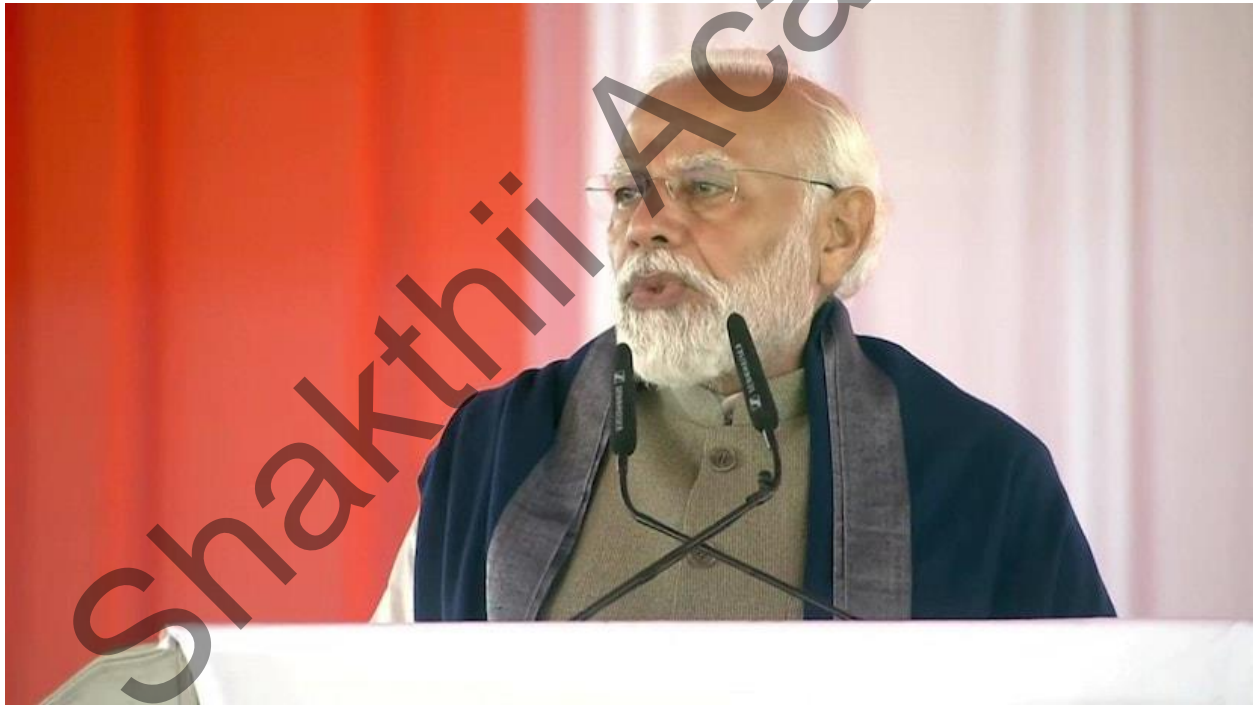
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January 7-8, 2024

Prithvi Vigyan Scheme:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **PM Modi-led government approved transformative Prithvi Vigyan Scheme for earth science research and applications.**
- Consolidates five existing sub-schemes to synergize efforts in atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere, seismic and capacity building.
- This scheme focuses on sustained observations, predictive modeling, climate change science and disaster alerts for societal and environmental health.



PRASADAM:

(Importance level-3/5)

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- ➔ Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya opens PRASADAM, the nation's first Health and Hygienic Food street in Ujjain.
- ➔ Launches Mannhit app, emphasizing mental health awareness and unveils efforts to promote safe and healthy eating habits through PRASASAM.



College Fagathansi Mission:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh inaugurated College Fagathansi Mission at Moirang College. Foundation stones laid for various development projects in Moirang Assembly Constituency.
- ➔ Emphasis on improving health and education infrastructure with the College Fagathansi Mission targeting 24 colleges in the state.

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Supreme Court:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Supreme Court ruled Gujarat government not the appropriate authority for remission in the 2002 Bilkis Bano Case.**
- All 11 convicts released on August 15, 2022 had been granted remission by the Gujarat government.



Suchetha Satish:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a historic and awe-inspiring event, Suchetha Satish (from Kerala) has etched her name in the annals of music history by setting a new world record for singing in the most languages during a single concert in the UAE.**
- ➔ The Guinness Book of World Records officially attested to this feat earlier this week. Suchetha's groundbreaking performance was part of a Concert for Climate, a unique initiative aimed at raising awareness about the critical issue of climate change.
- ➔ The talented artist delivered an astounding rendition of songs in an unprecedented 140 languages, captivating the audience with her musical prowess and a powerful message.



Union Cabinet:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of MoU between India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/India) to support Indian Railways in achieving 'net zero carbon emission' by 2030.**
- ➔ The MoU provides a platform for Indian Railways to interact and share the latest developments and knowledge in the railway sector.

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Delhi's per capita:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a remarkable achievement, Delhi's per capita income surged by over 14%, reaching Rs 4,44,768 in the current fiscal year.**
- ➔ The latest Statistical Handbook-2023, released by the Economic and Statistics department of the Delhi government, highlights the capital's outstanding socio-economic progress.
- ➔ Delhi's per capita income experienced an impressive growth from Rs 3,89,529 to Rs 4,44,768, surpassing the national average by 158%.
- ➔ Delhi is at the forefront of the electric vehicle revolution, boasting 7,200 buses on the streets, including 1,300 electric buses. The number of electricity consumers increased by nearly 2.8 lakh, and over 1 lakh water connections were added in 2022-23.



Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Republic of Guyana:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has granted approval for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Republic of Guyana.**
- ➔ This MoU aims to foster collaboration in the hydrocarbon sector, covering various aspects of the value chain.



International Purple Fest:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a groundbreaking initiative, the International Purple Fest – Goa 2024, India's inaugural inclusive festival for persons with disabilities, kicked off today and is set to captivate audiences until January 13.**
- ➔ The festival, organized by the Office of the State Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, and supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, showcases unity and diversity in a spectacular display.

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Tamil Nadu government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government, led by Chief Minister MK Stalin, revealed its ambitious vision for the state to achieve a \$1 trillion economy by 2030 during the Global Investors Meet in Chennai on January 7.
- ➔ The policy extends to various sectors, including agriculture, machinery, textiles, tourism, infrastructure, education, and healthcare, emphasizing inclusive growth and sustainable practices.

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Sheikh Hasina:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is set to secure her 5th term as the leader of the country following the 12th general elections.**
- ➔ Sheikh Hasina is expected to win a 4th straight term for her Awami-league-led alliance, making it her 5th overall term. The election was boycotted by the main opposition party BNP.



India and Mauritius:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India and Mauritius signed agreement for joint development of a small satellite set to be launched by ISRO in early 2024.**
- ➔ Collaboration ensures continued support for ISRO's ground tracking station in Mauritius and signals potential for future bilateral space projects.

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Peregrine:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Astrobotic Technology's lunar lander, Peregrine, launched aboard United Launch Alliance's Vulcan rocket marking the first US Lunar lander mission in over 50 years.**
- ➔ The launch aims to kickstart a space race between private companies to provide delivery services for NASA and other clients. Astrobotic Technology seeks to be the first private company to successfully land on the moon.



Indra Mani Pandey:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, a senior diplomat of India, assumed the position of Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Dhaka.**
- ➔ Pandey, who succeeded Tenzin Lekphell of Bhutan, is the 4th SG of BIMSTEC and will remain in office for a period of three years.



ANC:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The African National Congress (ANC), a pivotal force in South Africa's history, celebrates its Foundation Day on January 8, commemorating its establishment in 1912.**
- ➔ This day marks the ANC's enduring commitment to uniting African people and defending their rights and freedoms.
- ➔ The ANC, initially founded as the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) in Bloemfontein, symbolizes a landmark event in Africa's struggle against centuries of exploitation and humiliation.
- ➔ Formed in a time of rapid change, with the discovery of diamonds and gold in South Africa, the SANNC aimed to counter oppressive laws and taxes designed to dispossess Africans of their

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land. The notorious 1913 Land Act, which severely restricted African land rights, catalyzed the SANNNC's activism.



Sweden Scientists:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **A groundbreaking development in agricultural technology has emerged from the laboratories of Linkoping University in Sweden.**
- ➔ Scientists have unveiled an electrically conductive “soil” engineered to foster exceptional growth in crops, particularly barley seedlings, marking a potential 50 per cent surge in growth within a mere 15-day period.
- ➔ This innovative soilless cultivation method, termed hydroponics, harnesses a sophisticated root system activated through a novel cultivation substrate. With hydroponics, the prospect of

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cultivating food in urban landscapes under meticulously controlled conditions becomes a tangible reality.



Earth's Rotation Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Every year, Earth's Rotation Day is celebrated on January 8, and this year, the special day falls on a Monday. It's a day dedicated to recognizing the pivotal discovery of Earth's rotation on its axis.**
- The concept of Earth's rotation dates back to ancient Greece in 470 BC. However, it wasn't until 1851 that French physicist Léon Foucault provided concrete proof with his famous pendulum experiment.
- This experiment, showcased at the Pantheon in Greece and the Paris Observatory, became a cornerstone in demonstrating Earth's rotation, a fact that had long been theorized but never conclusively proven.



ICC:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant alteration to cricket playing conditions, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has restricted the Decision Review System (DRS) for stumping incidents.**
- ➔ Effective from December 12, 2023, teams can now only challenge caught-behind decisions with a separate DRS option, preventing misuse observed in the 2020 series against India.
- ➔ The amended rule mandates umpires to rely solely on side-on camera images for stumping reviews, eliminating the examination of potential snicks. This ensures a focused review for stumped incidents without allowing teams a free review for other modes of dismissal.

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Dronacharya Award 2023:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **President Droupadi Murmu presented Dronacharya Award 2023. Dronacharya Award (regular category): Lalit Kumar (wrestling), RB Ramesh (chess), Mahaveer Prasad Saini (para athletics), Shivendra Singh (hockey), Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar (mallakhamb).**
- ➔ **Dronacharya Award (life-time category): Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf), Bhaskaran E (kabaddi), Jayanta Kumar Pushilal (table tennis). Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement: Manjusha Kanwar (badminton), Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey), Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi).**



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Aruna Nayar:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Aruna Nayar has been appointed as Railway Board Secretary. She is an Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) Officer of 1987 Batch and Level-16 empanelled IRMS officer.
- Nayar was earlier working in Railway Board as Additional Member, Staff, from May 2023, and as Principal Executive Director/Staff, Railway Board, from Feb 2022 to May 2023.



Gangasagar Mela:

(Importance level-4/5)

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has inaugurated the Gangasagar Mela. The Mela will continue till 17th of January. The 'Shahi Snan' will be held on 15th and 16th January. Chief Minister has also inaugurated nine projects at Sagar.

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- ➔ The state government has sent a letter to UNESCO to declare Gangasagar Mela a heritage site. This year pilgrimage tax has been waived off for the pilgrims, instead 5 lakhs rupees insurance will be given to all.



NRI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day, holds a significant place in the Indian calendar.**
- ➔ Celebrated on January 9, it serves as a tribute to the contributions and achievements of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.
- ➔ The day also marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915, symbolizing the leadership that fueled India's freedom struggle. The inaugural celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas took place in 2003.
- ➔ Originally an annual event, the format underwent revision in 2015, transforming it into a biennial celebration. This restructuring included the introduction of theme-based conferences during the intervening years, bringing together overseas diaspora experts, policy-makers, and stakeholders.

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Mulugu district:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Mulugu district of Telangana has become the stage for an unexpected archaeological revelation following the devastating floods in July 2023.**
- ➔ Amidst the aftermath of the natural disaster, a team of amateur historians stumbled upon a collection of paleolithic quartzite tools that have not only captivated the local community but also pushed back the understanding of human habitations in Telangana and central India.



CBRE-CREDAI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ A recent report by CBRE-CREDAI sheds light on the landscape of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India, revealing noteworthy trends and state-wise contributions.
- ➔ As of December 2023, the country boasts over 3 crore registered MSMEs, with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh jointly constituting nearly 40% of this vibrant sector. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu emerge as pivotal contributors, collectively representing a significant portion of the registered MSMEs in India.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh secures a notable position among the top three states, holding a 9% share in the national MSME landscape. Policy initiatives, including interest subsidies and stamp duty exemptions, have catalyzed this growth.



Yogyasree:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has recently introduced a comprehensive social welfare scheme named “Yogyasree.”**
- ➔ The initiative aims to provide free training modules for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in West Bengal, specifically targeting entrance and competitive examinations.
- ➔ This move comes ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, reflecting the government’s commitment to educational empowerment. The Yogyasree scheme encompasses the establishment of fifty training centres across the state.
- ➔ These centres will offer cost-free training for SC and ST students, focusing on competitive examinations. Additionally, 46 centres will provide similar opportunities for those aspiring to secure government jobs and pursue careers in civil services.

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Microsoft India:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Microsoft India has unveiled the 'AI Odyssey' initiative, aiming to train 100,000 Indian developers in the latest AI technologies. Emphasizing AI as the future of innovation, Microsoft underscores India's leadership in tech talent.
- ➔ The program seeks to equip developers with skills essential for executing AI projects aligning with business goals. The company, having invested \$13 billion in OpenAI, continues to expand its AI product portfolio, aiming to launch around 100 new AI-powered products and services.

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VinFast Auto Ltd:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **Vietnamese electric vehicle giant VinFast Auto Ltd made a significant announcement on Sunday, revealing plans to establish an integrated electric vehicle facility in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.**
- ➔ With an eye on breaking into the world's third-largest automobile market, the automaker confirmed its commitment to invest a staggering \$2 billion in the state.
- ➔ In a social media post, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin expressed enthusiasm about the investment, stating that VinFast would establish an EV car and battery manufacturing facility in Tuticorin with an investment of ₹16,000 crore.
- ➔ He emphasized that this move signifies not just an investment but a giant leap for economic growth in South Tamil Nadu. The project is expected to generate around 3,500 jobs in the region.

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GIM:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **At the Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2024, Denmark unveiled the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI), a pivotal initiative under the Green Strategic Partnership (GSP) signed between India and Denmark in 2020.**
- ➔ The GFAI aims to accelerate collaboration in the sustainable energy solutions sector, aligning with the joint global objective of carbon neutrality.
- ➔ The primary goal of the GFAI is to establish an ecosystem promoting collaboration among businesses, government entities, research institutions, and financial stakeholders.
- ➔ This initiative bolsters India's efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2070, showcasing a commitment to sustainable energy growth.



Sea Dragon-24:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Navy's P8I aircraft landed at Guam, a US island territory for the Exercise Sea Dragon-24, enhancing India's global military outreach.**
- ➔ This exercise seeks to augment synergy and interoperability among the navies from the US, Australia, South Korea and Japan.

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Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Indian shuttlers secure the esteemed Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, a first for any Indian Badminton duo.
- The pair now targets an Olympic medal in paris having nearly confirmed their qualification as world No.2.

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Mohammed Shami:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India's ace pacer, Mohammed Shami, expresses joy as he is set to receive the prestigious Arjuna Award.
- He is the only cricketer among the 26 players chosen for the Arjuna Award in 2023 by the Sports Ministry of India.

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January 11, 2024

Indian Army:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Indian Army declared 2024 as the “Year of Technology Absorption”, highlighting the army’s commitment to utilizing technology.**
- ➔ The army has also initiated ‘Project SAMBHAV’, a secure mobile ecosystem operating on state-of-the-art 5G technology to enhance its cyberspace capability.



GI:

(Importance level-3/5)

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- ➔ As Ayodhya readies for the Ram temple's historical consecration, the famous Hanuman Garhi Besan Ladoo has been granted a Geographical Indication tag. This recognition distinguishes the ladoos as unique to the region.
- ➔ Makers of the Hanuman Garhi Ladoo have expressed their appreciation for the government's initiative, marking a significant milestone for Ayodhya Locals and Madak Samaj.



Swachh Survekshan 2023:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Swachh Survekshan 2023: Indore and Surat emerged as cleanest cities. President Dorupadi Murmu identified Indore and Surat as the country's cleanest cities for populations exceeding one lakh.

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- For populations below one lakh, Sasvad, Patan and Lonavala emerged as top clean cities setting benchmarks in cleanliness standards. Along with city accolades, cleanliness awards for states were also granted- Maharashtra led, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh.



Goa:

(Importance level-3/5)

- As a landmark initiative marking the 62nd anniversary of Goa's liberation, Goa's Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte launched India's first regenerative tourism model.
- Tourism focuses on restoring the environment, cultural conservation and community empowerment.

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DPIIT:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is set to orchestrate the Startup India Innovation Week 2024, spanning from January 10th to January 18th.**
- ➔ This week-long initiative seeks to unite startups, entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and stakeholders to celebrate and advance the Indian Startup Ecosystem, culminating in the National Startup Day on January 16th, 2024. Theme: 'Startups Unlocking Infinite Potential'.

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Lal Bahadur Shastri:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **January 11, 2024, marks the 58th death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India. A man of simplicity, integrity, and dedication, Shastri's tenure left an indelible mark on the nation's history.**
- As we reflect on his life and legacy, it's essential to remember the significant contributions he made to India's progress and the ideals he stood for.
- Born on October 2, 1904, in Mughalsarai, Uttar Pradesh, Lal Bahadur Shastri's journey began in a small town with humble beginnings.
- His education at the East Central Railway Inter College in Mughalsarai and Varanasi laid the foundation for his future endeavors. Graduating from Kashi Vidyapeeth in 1926, he earned the title "Shastri," signifying his scholarly achievements.

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Maharashtra government:

(Importance level-4/5).

- The Maharashtra government has established a crucial new wildlife habitat in Sangli district, aptly named the Atpadi Conservation Reserve. Spanning a compact 9.48 sq. km, this reserve prioritizes the protection of the endangered 'canid' family, including wild dogs, wolves, jackals, and foxes.
- Strategically located, Atpadi bridges the gap between the Maini Conservation Area and the Madhok Bird Sanctuary, fostering a safe wildlife corridor.



Chhattisgarh Government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Chhattisgarh Government will launch the Ramlala Darshan Scheme, a pilgrimage to the newly built Ram Temple at Ayodhya. The decision was made during a state cabinet meeting held in Raipur.
- ➔ To fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee, the state will send around 20,000 residents to Ayodhya for darshan of Shri Ramlala every year.

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Indian Navy:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **The Indian Navy has recently acquired its first indigenous medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) drone, the Drishti 10 Starliner unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).**
- ➔ This marks a significant development in enhancing the navy's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.
- ➔ Manufactured by Adani Defence and Aerospace in collaboration with Israeli defence firm Elbit Systems, the drone offers versatility and advanced features.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra, on January 12th, 2024. This annual event honors the inspiring ideals of Swami Vivekananda and empowers young minds across the nation.**
- ➔ This year's theme, "MYBharat-ViksitBharat@2047 – By the Youth, For the Youth," resonates deeply with youth aspirations for India's future.
- ➔ The Department of Youth Affairs, in collaboration with various government departments, will spread the festivities across all districts, fostering a spirit of national unity and progress.
- ➔ To mark the occasion, major cities and 750 district headquarters will host road safety awareness events, prioritizing responsible citizenship.



Tamil Nadu government:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Tamil Nadu government has launched the Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency to preserve and restore coastal ecosystems.**
- This part of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Mission was announced in the 2023-24 state budget with Rs.2000 crore cost backed by World Bank funding.
- This is a significant move towards environmental conservation, focusing on protection and revitalization of the state's coastal ecology.



National Human Trafficking Awareness Day:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Every individual deserves a life free from fear, filled with joy, and marked by a commitment to health and well-being. Unfortunately, human trafficking disrupts this ideal, forcing people into lives of punishment, terror, and crime.**
- National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, observed annually on January 11, serves as a poignant reminder of the need to address this global crisis and bring an end to the suffering endured by victims.
- This year, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day falls on a Thursday, January 11. The annual observance serves as a rallying point for individuals, communities, and organizations to come together, share information, and take collective action against human trafficking.



Passport:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant development, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain share the top spot in the quarterly ranking of the world's most powerful passports.**
- ➔ Enjoying visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to an impressive 194 destinations, this marks a historic high since the inception of the Henley Passport Index 19 years ago.
- ➔ Japan and Singapore, holding the top position for the past five years, now see a triumphant rise for Europe. Finland and Sweden, tied with South Korea, secure the second spot with easy access to 193 destinations.
- ➔ Following closely, Austria, Denmark, Ireland, and the Netherlands claim the third position, providing access to 192 destinations.

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- India secures the 80th position, with visa-free access to 62 countries. The global passport landscape showcases varying degrees of accessibility, highlighting the significance of diplomatic relations and international cooperation.



National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **This December, India's 43rd Antarctic expedition, led by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, welcomed scientists from Mauritius and Bangladesh onboard, marking a significant step in international polar research collaboration.**
- This initiative stems from the maiden Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference held in 2022, which laid the groundwork for scientific partnerships among member nations.
- This conference facilitated joint endeavors in oceanographic and hydrographic studies, paving the way for further cooperation.



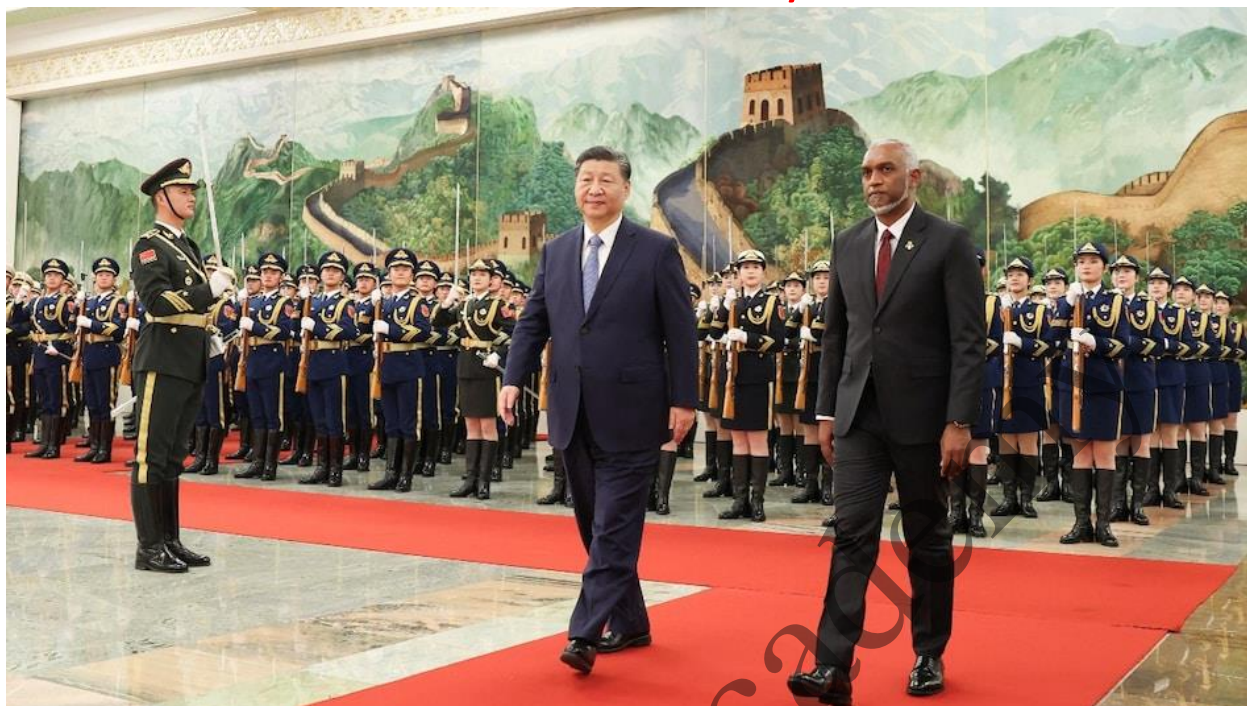
Chinese President Xi Jinping and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Chinese President Xi Jinping and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu recently held significant talks, culminating in the signing of 20 key agreements that span various areas of cooperation.**
- The leaders announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership, demonstrating the mutual commitment to enhancing diplomatic relations between the two nations.
- Twenty key agreements were signed, encompassing various sectors such as tourism cooperation, disaster risk reduction, blue economy, and investments in the digital economy.
- The agreements also included a commitment from China to provide grant assistance to the Maldives, with specific details undisclosed.

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Bhutan:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **In a significant political development, Bhutanese voters have overwhelmingly chosen Tshering Tobgay as their Prime Minister for a second term.**
- The People's Democratic Party (PDP), led by Mr. Tobgay, secured a landslide victory, winning nearly two-thirds of the seats in the recent election, as announced by the election commission on January 10.
- Tshering Tobgay, a former Prime Minister who previously held office from 2013 to 2018, has promised to strengthen ties with India, Bhutan's key trading partner.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his congratulations to Tobgay through a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), acknowledging the victory and expressing his support.



Sheetal Devi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Sheetal Devi, the world's first armless woman archer won Arjuna Award. Arjuna Awardee Sheetal Devi is a para-archer from Jammu and Kashmir.**
- ➔ Sheetal scripted history at the Para Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China by winning 3 medals- 2 gold and one silver.

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IIT Delhi:

(Importance level-3/5)

- IIT Delhi develops 'Work4Food', ensuring government mandated minimum wage compensations for delivery workers.
- The concept was presented at the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence.



100% recruitment:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- **Karnataka High Court strikes down the provision reserving 100% recruitment for women in the cadres of nursing officers.**
- The decision comes in response to a plea filed by Sanjay M Peerapur, highlighting the constitutional concerns associated with the gender specific reservation in military recruitment.



Varanasi and Prayagraj:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Varanasi and Prayagraj clinch top positions as the cleanest Ganga Towns in the Swachh Survekshan 2023 Awards organized by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.**
- Uttar Pradesh Urban Development Minister AK Sharma lauds the achievement as a 'great accomplishment' for the state.



AKASH:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **DRDO conducts a flawless test of the New Generation AKASH missile off the Odisha coast.**
- The test conducted at the integrated Test Range in Chanipur, validates the entire weapon system including the missile with an indigenously developed radio frequency seeker, launcher, radar and command and control system.

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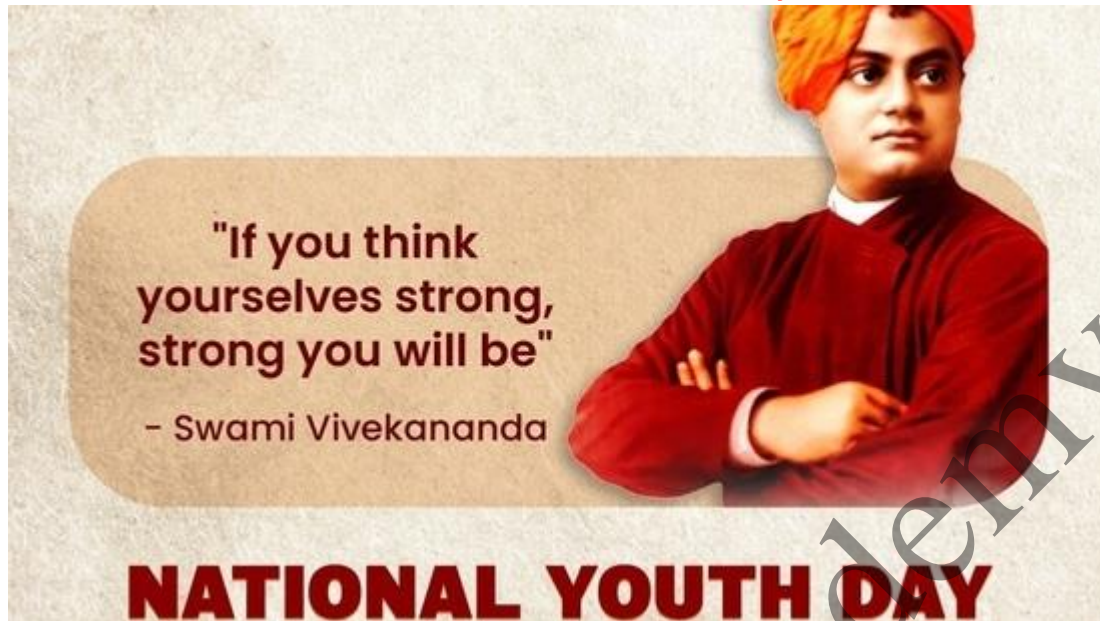
National Youth Day:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **National Youth Day observed every year on January 12th in India, is not just a day of celebration but a day of inspiration and reflection on the teachings and ideals of one of the greatest spiritual leaders and philosophers of India, Swami Vivekananda.**
- This day commemorates his birth anniversary and recognizes his significant contributions to Indian society and the world.
- Swami Vivekananda, born on January 12, 1863, in Kolkata, was a key figure in the introduction of Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world.
- He is best known for his stirring speech at the 1893 Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago, where he introduced Hinduism to the Western audience.

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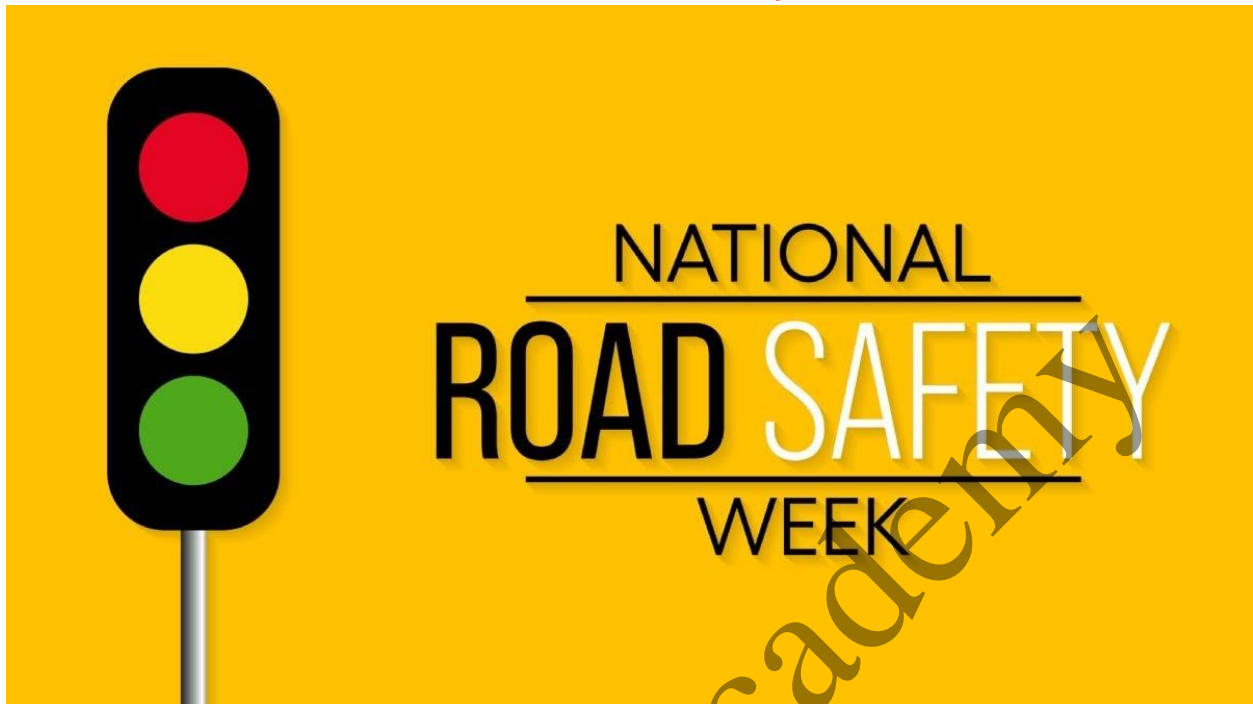
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National Road Safety Week:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **National Road Safety Week, a crucial initiative in India, is observed annually from January 11 to 17. The 2024 observance marks the 35th year of this vital campaign.**
- ➔ Aimed at raising awareness about road safety, this week-long event plays a significant role in educating citizens about responsible driving, pedestrian safety, and the need for improved road infrastructure.
- ➔ The “Road Accidents in India-2022” report, released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), presents alarming statistics.
- ➔ In 2022, India witnessed 4,61,312 road accidents, resulting in 1,68,491 fatalities and injuring 4,43,366 individuals.
- ➔ These figures represent an 11.9% increase in accidents, a 9.4% rise in fatalities, and a 15.3% hike in injuries compared to the previous year. Such data underlines the urgent need for intensified road safety measures.



Rural Development Ministry and the State Bank of India:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant move towards fostering rural development and financial inclusion, the Rural Development Ministry and the State Bank of India (SBI) have joined hands through a memorandum of understanding (MoU).**
- ➔ The primary objective of this collaboration is to streamline and facilitate enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHGs), as announced in an official statement.
- ➔ The MoU, a pivotal step towards rural economic empowerment, was formally signed by Mr. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, Additional Secretary – National Rural Livelihoods Mission, and Mr. Shantanu Pendsey, Chief General Manager at the Corporate office of State Bank of India in Mumbai. This strategic partnership aims to address the financial needs of SHGs, particularly focusing on women entrepreneurs.

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Rear Admiral Upal Kundu:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **Rear Admiral Upal Kundu, an esteemed alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy, has recently taken over as the Chief of Staff at the Southern Naval Command (SNC).**
- ➔ This seasoned naval officer brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise, particularly in anti-submarine warfare (ASW). Commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1991, Rear Admiral Upal Kundu embarked on a distinguished naval career.
- ➔ His early training at the prestigious Indian Naval Academy laid the foundation for his future accomplishments. Known for his dedication and commitment, Kundu quickly rose through the ranks, showcasing a natural aptitude for naval operations.

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Sheel Vardhan Singh:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a significant development, Sheel Vardhan Singh, the former Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), has been appointed as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ➔ The decision was conveyed through a personnel ministry order, marking a notable milestone in Singh's distinguished career.
- ➔ The UPSC, headed by a chairperson, is responsible for conducting the civil services examination, a rigorous process that selects individuals for key administrative and leadership roles in the country.
- ➔ The commission can have a maximum of 10 members, each appointed for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65.

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IIT Madras:

(Importance level-4/5)

- IIT Madras partners with Hyundai Motor India Ltd to create a 'Hydrogen Innovation Valley' in Tamil Nadu.
- Hyundai provides a grant of INR 100 crore for the establishment of the dedicated hydrogen initiative.

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Mitsubishi Heavy Industries:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Japan's H2A rocket, deployed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries carries an optical satellite aimed at monitoring activities in North Korea.**
- ➔ The satellite's capability to capture images even in severe weather enhances Japan's surveillance capabilities, ensuring a constant and reliable flow of intelligence. The mission also focuses on improving disaster response by providing real time information.



Einstein Probe:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **China has recently sent a groundbreaking astronomical satellite named Einstein Probe (EP) into space on a mission to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe.**
- The satellite, shaped like a lotus in full bloom, employs innovative X-ray detection technology inspired by the functioning of a lobster eye.
- Launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province, this mission marks a significant step in unraveling the secrets of the cosmos.



World Bank:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The World Bank reveals a surprising resilience in the global economy, though shadows loom over the future, anticipating a third consecutive year of slowdown in 2024.**
- After a robust rebound to 6.2% in 2021, global growth waned to 3.0% in 2022 and further to 2.6% in 2023.
- Projections indicate a continued deceleration to 2.4% in 2024 before a modest recovery to 2.7% in 2025, notably below the 3.1% average of the 2010s.

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CREA:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **A small industrial town in Meghalaya, Byrnihat, and not Delhi, is the “most polluted” city in India, according to the ‘Tracing The Hazy Air 2024’ report released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).**
- ➔ The report reviews the progress made by the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), a Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change scheme that completed five years Wednesday.
- ➔ NCAP aims to reduce air pollution by reducing concentrations of particulate matter (PM) of less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (or PM2.5) and PM10 in the air by 20-30 percent by 2026.
- ➔ The NCAP scheme disburses yearly funds to cities under the programme, and tracks their progress. Particulate matter of less than PM 2.5 in size is believed to pose the greatest health risk.



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MILAN 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The 12th edition of the largest multilateral naval exercise, 'MILAN 2024' is scheduled to be held in Vishakhapatnam.
- The exercise includes both harbor and sea phases with the goal of strengthening maritime cooperation and security.
- Visakhapatnam is chosen as the preferred destination for future MILAN exercises due to its growing stature and the need for a larger staging and hosting base.



SBI:

(Importance level-3/5)

- State Bank of India launches SGRTD, a special fixed deposit scheme to gather funds for environmentally-friendly projects.
- SGRTD allows pre-mature withdrawal, follows standard maturity guidelines and offers loan facility with applicable TDS.

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Report Fish Disease-App:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **The National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases has introduced the 'Report Fish Disease-App' on the Google Play Store under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.**
- ➔ The mobile app is designed to strengthen India's aquaculture industry by providing fish farmers with a user-friendly platform to report diseases on their farms conveniently.

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Hyderabad:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Hyderabad, the capital city of Telangana, achieved a significant milestone by securing the ninth position in cleanliness among cities with a population exceeding one lakh in the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023.**
- Additionally, Siddipet, a city in Telangana, proudly clinched the national award for being the cleanest city in south India within the 50,000-1 lakh population category.
- A remarkable achievement for Greater Hyderabad was the attainment of a five-star rating for sanitation. This marks the first instance of a Telangana city, with a population surpassing one lakh, receiving such a prestigious certification.
- The city also garnered a recertification as a 'water+' city, further highlighting its commitment to sustainable water management practices.

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International Camel Festival:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The three-day International Camel Festival kicked off with great fervor in the culturally rich district of Bikaner, Rajasthan.**
- ➔ The festival commenced with an enthralling Heritage Walk, setting the stage for a celebration of folk culture that captivated both domestic and foreign tourists.
- ➔ On the inaugural day of the festival, the streets came alive with the vibrant hues of decorated camels, traditional robes, and women adorned in colorful costumes.
- ➔ The Heritage Walk, starting from Rampuriya Haveli, saw the enthusiastic participation of folk artists, adding a touch of authenticity to the cultural fiesta.
- ➔ Local folk artists mesmerized the onlookers with traditional songs, Rammats, and captivating dances, offering a glimpse into the rich local culture.

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Ganga Sagar Mela:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ The Ganga Sagar Mela stands as a testament to the vibrant cultural and spiritual tapestry of India.
- ➔ Held annually in Sagardwip, West Bengal, this magnificent fair has earned the distinction of being the second most popular mela in the country, surpassed only by the revered Kumbh Mela.
- ➔ The festival draws a massive influx of devotees who converge to partake in rituals, seek spiritual purification, and celebrate with immense fervor.
- ➔ The Ganga Sagar Mela aligns with the celebration of Makar Sankranti, observed on either the 14th or 15th of January each year. This auspicious day adds to the festive atmosphere, amplifying the cultural and religious importance of the gathering.

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NPCI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant move, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced the UPI-PayNow linkage, facilitating direct remittances between India and Singapore.**
- ➔ This collaboration, a result of close coordination between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), aims to enhance financial inclusion and convenience in cross-border transactions.

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NDB:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a significant stride towards bolstering Gujarat's infrastructure, the Shanghai-based New Development Bank (NDB) inked an agreement during the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, pledging a substantial \$500 million loan to the Gujarat government.
- ➔ This financial infusion is earmarked for the Mukhayamantri Gram Sadak Yojana, a pivotal project in the state. The agreement solidifies NDB's commitment to supporting the roads and buildings department of the Gujarat government.
- ➔ The allocated funds will facilitate the construction of approximately 1,200 kilometers of roads, a critical initiative for enhancing connectivity and accessibility across the state.

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World Tamil Diaspora Day:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **The World Tamil Diaspora Day was celebrated on January 12 in Chennai on Friday. Awards were given to thirteen exemplary personalities for their contribution for the development of Tamils.**
- Speaking at the meeting, Chief Minister M.K.Stalin said that a special department and has been created and a Minister has been appointed for the welfare of Tamils living abroad. He said that a separate board has been formed with a 14 member team.
- Enathu Gramam, My village, a unique scheme for developing Villages was launched. In this scheme, one can adopt their native village and ensure holistic development.

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Skytrax:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Singapore's Changi Airport has once again been crowned the World's Best Airport for the year 2023, according to the prestigious awards presented by the air transport research firm, Skytrax.
- After losing the title in the past two years to Qatar's Hamad International Airport, Changi Airport reclaimed its status as the best in the world, marking the twelfth time it has received this coveted accolade.

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ISRO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **ISRO likely to choose Russian-made spacesuits over indigenously crafted Intra Vehicular Activity suits. Indian made IVA suits developed by Vikram Sarabhai Space are ready for use and testing, but preparations suggest astronauts will wear Russian spacesuits.**
- Mission aims to demonstrate ISRO's capability for India's first human spaceflight to a 400km orbit for a three day mission.



‘Sahyog Kaijin’:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **The Indian and Japanese Coast Guards have recently conducted a successful joint exercise named ‘Sahyog Kaijin’ off the coast of Chennai.**
- ➔ This exercise is a part of the ongoing collaboration between the two countries under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed in 2006.
- ➔ The joint exercise, which commenced on January 8, focused on enhancing interoperability and sharing best practices in maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and pollution response at sea.

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PVTG:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **PM Modi will release the first installment to one lakh beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan.**
- It aims to improving the socio-economic conditions of the PVTGs by saturating PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities including safe housing, clean drinking water, improved access to education, health.

PVTG- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.



Apna Vidyalaya:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- ➔ Launched by Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, 'Apna Vidyalaya' aims to foster collaboration between public representatives, administrative leaders and professionals to enhance government school facilities.
- ➔ It seeks to encourage individuals to adopt government schools, offering career counseling, remedial teaching, exam coaching, yoga sessions, community services etc.



Operation Amrith:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Kerala Drug Control Department launched Operation Amrith, an initiative to curb the overuse of antibiotics in the state. AMRITH stands for Anti Microbial Resistance Intervention for Total Health.
- ➔ Pharmacies are required to maintain accurate records of antibiotic sales and display notices stating that antibiotics will not be sold without a doctor's prescription.



Magha Bihu:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Magha Bihu, a harvest festival celebrated in Assam, marks the end of harvesting season in the month of Magh. Makar Sankranti celebrated on January 14 annually marks the transition of the sun from zodiac Sagittarius to Capricorn.**
- Pongal is a hindu harvest festival celebrated by Tamils. Pongal is a hindu festival celebrated by Tamils. Both Makar Sankranti and Pongal are dedicated to the solar deity, Surya.

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Vadnagar:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ A recent study found evidence of cultural continuity in Vadnagar even after the Harappan Collapse. The period between the collapse of Indus Valley Civilisation and the Iron Age is often depicted as a Dark Age.
- ➔ The new evidence suggests that Vadnagar is the oldest living city, suggesting a cultural continuity in India for the last 5500 years and the so called dark Age may be a myth.



Armed Forces Veterans Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated every year on 14th January. The day was first celebrated in 2016.**
- ➔ The 14th of January is commemorated as Armed Forces Veterans Day as a mark of respect and recognition for the services rendered by Field Marshall KM Cariappa. He was the first Indian Chief of the Indian Army. He retired from service on 14th January 1953.

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‘Made In India’ Memory chip:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said the first ‘Made In India’ Memory chip is expected to be produced in Gujarat this year.**
- Addressing a seminar on Semiconductors and Electronics at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar, the Minister said Micron’s investment in Gujarat will pave the way for creating a Semiconductor ecosystem in India.
- The Minister also asked Semicon Giant Micron to undertake research in the semiconductor industry and set up a research centre at IIT Gandhinagar.

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Yuva Nidhi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar have launched the Yuva Nidhi scheme in Shivamogga, Karnataka.**
- ➔ The scheme offers financial aid to graduates and diploma holders who are yet to get a job, but only for a maximum of two years. Training will be provided to the graduates and diploma holders who register themselves on the Skill Connect portal of the State Government.
- ➔ The government has promised ₹3,000 per month to degree holders and ₹1,500 per month to diploma holders who were unable to get a job in the past six months and are not pursuing higher studies.
- ➔ The aid will be paid for two years. The launch was held on the birth anniversary of youth icon Swami Vivekananda.

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Indian Army Day:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Indian Army Day is a special day celebrated on January 15 every year. In 2024, it will be celebrated on Monday, January 15.**
- This day is important because it marks the anniversary of the Indian Army getting its first Indian chief in 1949.
- This chief was General K.M. Cariappa, who took over from the British. The theme for Indian Army Day in 2024 is "In Service of the Nation."
- This means that the Indian Army is always ready to serve and protect our country. Their motto is "Service Before Self," showing that they always think of the country first.



Pench Tiger Reserve:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has made history by securing recognition as India's inaugural Dark Sky Park, marking its position as the fifth in Asia.**
- This prestigious acknowledgment underscores the reserve's unwavering commitment to protecting the sanctity of the night sky and creating an optimal setting for astronomy enthusiasts.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature, recognizing the intrinsic value of the night sky as a natural, cultural, and historical resource, played a pivotal role in conferring this distinction.
- Prabhu Nath Shukla, the deputy director of the reserve, highlighted the significance of preserving natural darkness for nature conservation, maintaining ecological integrity, and contributing to the well-being of communities in urban centers.

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Greece:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Greece will publish a bill shortly that will legalize same-sex marriage in a bid to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said.**
- Greece has implemented a series of reforms over the past decade to improve LGBT+ rights in the country where the Orthodox Church has long opposed equal rights for same-sex couples.
- In 2015, Greece recognised cohabitation agreements for same-sex couples providing them with some rights and benefits, but they are still not allowed to have or adopt children as a couple.



International Kite Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **International Kite Day is observed on 14 January every year. The day celebrates the end of winter and the onset of summer.**
- It also marks the arrival of harvest season. It is believed that the kite was invented in China in the 28th century BC and the popularity of kite-flying peaked in Lucknow in the 1700s.



Himalayan Wolf:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Himalayan Wolf has been assessed for the first time on the IUCN Red list, categorizing it as 'Vulnerable'.**
- The estimated population of 2,275-3,792 mature adults faces ongoing decline, primarily due to threats such as depredation conflict, habitat modification and illegal hunting. Recommendations from the IUCN include securing wild prey populations, improving livestock guarding methods.



Rohit Sharma:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ In a historic moment for Indian cricket, Rohit Sharma, the captain of Team India, etched his name in the record books by becoming the first men's player to feature in 150 T20 International matches.
- ➔ This milestone was achieved during the second T20I against Afghanistan at the Holkar Cricket Stadium, marking a remarkable feat in Rohit's illustrious career.

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January 16, 2024

Indian Army:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Indian Army launched Operation Saravashakti in Jammu and Kashmir. Operation Saravashakti aims to flush out terrorists hiding in the Rajouri-Poonch belt of J & K.**
- ➔ Troops from 15 corps and 16 corps, along with various agencies are part of this multi-agency effort targeting Pakistan sponsored militants.
- ➔ The operation modeled after 2003's successful operation Sarpyinash, focuses on intelligence based actions and aims to restore peace in the region.



NTPC Energy Technology research Alliance:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **NTPC Energy Technology research Alliance has successfully demonstrated hydrogen cooking using hydrogen from an existing Green Hydrogen plant in Greater Noida.**
- ➔ The specially designed hydrogen burner used in a modified cookstove emits only water vapour resulting in 0 carbon emissions.



January 17:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ In Odisha, January 17 has been declared a public holiday to mark the dedication of the **Shree Jagannath Parikrama Project in Puri**.
- ➔ The project encompasses amenities such as parking, a bridge, pilgrimage centres and an improved road network.

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16 January:

(Importance level-4/5).

- In 2022, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had officially declared 16 January as National Startup Day. Under the Startup India programme, startups in the country expanded from around 400 to 1.18 lakh.
- In 2024, Startup India recognized 10-18 January as Innovation Week 2024 with the theme, "Celebrating 8 Years of Innovation".



January 22:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Madhya Pradesh government has declared January 22 as a dry day, when liquor shops will remain closed to mark the consecration of Lord Ram's temple in Ayodhya.**
- Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that keeping in view the public sentiments, the state government has decided that all types of shops including liquor and Bhang outlets will remain closed on the 22nd of this month.
- Meanwhile, states including Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Assam have already declared January 22 a 'dry day' given the Pran Pratishtha ceremony.

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BRO:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal to provide insurance cover to casual workers employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to build infrastructure in remote areas.**
- ➔ The scheme will provide INR 10 lakh (\$13,500) to the families of casual-paid labourers in the event of death. The insurance scheme will serve as a social security and welfare measure and will go a long way in securing the livelihoods of their families.

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I-STEM:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map, known as I-STEM, is set to embark on a groundbreaking initiative named 'Samavesha.'**
- ➔ This ambitious project, spearheaded by the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India, aims to transform research collaboration in the country by facilitating easier access to scientific facilities and laboratories.



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NITI Aayog:

(Importance level-5/5)

- In a significant stride towards poverty alleviation, a recent NITI Aayog report reveals that 24.82 crore people in India have successfully moved out of multidimensional poverty from 2013-14 to 2022-23. The decline is remarkable, dropping from 29.17% to 11.28% during this period.
- The multidimensional poverty index assesses deprivations across health, education, and standard of living using 12 sustainable development goals-aligned indicators.



Vice Admiral AN Pramod:

(Importance level-3/5)

- In a significant development, Vice Admiral AN Pramod assumed the pivotal role of Director General Naval Operations (DGNO) on January 15, 2024.
- A distinguished alumnus of the 38th Integrated Cadet Course at Naval Academy, Goa, Vice Admiral Pramod was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1990.



Thiruvalluvar Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Thiruvalluvar Day is usually celebrated either on the 15th or 16th of January in the state of Tamil Nadu.**
- The occasion is named after and honours the poet, Thiruvalluvar and is a part of the pongal celebrations. Thiruvalluvar was a renowned philosopher and poet of 4th century BCE.



Tamil Nadu:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **Tamil Nadu, a lively state in South India renowned for its cultural richness and traditional festivities, kicked off the Jallikattu competition in the village of Avaniyapuram within Madurai district. The spirited audience erupted with cheers as the traditional and widely-loved sport unfolded.**
- ➔ Jallikattu, a highlight of the Pongal harvest festival held in the second week of January, is poised to extend its excitement over a three-day period with Avaniyapuram hosting the first day, followed by Palamedu on the second day and Alanganallur on the third.
- ➔ Jallikattu, a bull-taming sport, traces its roots back to around 2,000 years, showcasing a deep-seated connection to the cultural fabric of Tamil Nadu. Initially conducted as a means to select suitable bridegrooms, the event has evolved into a symbol of valor and tradition.



Researchers at the University of Oxford:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **In a groundbreaking initiative, researchers at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom have commenced the first-in-human vaccine trials for the deadly Nipah virus.**
- ➔ This initiative is a significant step forward in addressing the severe impact of the virus on various Asian countries, including India. The trials will be conducted on 51 individuals aged 18 to 55 and are led by the Oxford Vaccine Group.



Ex-Ayutthaya:

(Importance level-5/5).

- In a historic move, the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) joined forces for the maiden bilateral exercise named 'Ex-Ayutthaya' in December 2023.
- This maritime collaboration, symbolizing the invincible spirit, holds profound significance as it connects the ancient cities of Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand, reflecting shared historical narratives and rich cultural ties dating back centuries.



Lithium blocks:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant development, India is poised to secure exploration and development rights for five lithium blocks in Argentina, marking its second international foray into critical minerals after a partnership with Australia in 2022.**
- ➔ India has taken a crucial step towards reducing its ₹24,000 crore lithium import dependency, primarily sourced from China.
- ➔ The deal finalized between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd(KABIL) and Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN), an Argentine state-owned mining and energy company.

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Harith Noah:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Harith Noah creates history as the first Indian to secure a stage victory at the prestigious Dakar Rally.**
- ➔ Hailing from Kerala and riding for Sherco TVS Rally Factory, the Germany born rider clinches the win in stage 8 of the Rally 2 class.

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January 17, 2024

Haldia Petrochemicals:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Haldia Petrochemicals: India's first ISO 27001: 2022 certified firm.**
- ➔ HPL leads the industry with BSI certification, reinforcing its commitment to a secure digital environment.
- ➔ Digital transformation at HPL prioritizes efficiency, fostering a collaborative and creative digital culture.



Oxfam report:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The richest one percent in India now own more than 40 percent of the country's total wealth, while the bottom half of the population together share just 3 percent of wealth, according to Oxfam report.**
- ➔ A one-off tax on unrealized gains from 2017–2021 on just one billionaire, Gautam Adani, could have raised Rs 1.79 lakh crore, enough to employ more than five million Indian primary school teachers for a year.
- ➔ The report titled 'Survival of the Richest' further said that if India's billionaires are taxed once at 2 percent on their entire wealth, it would support the requirement of Rs 40,423 crore for the nutrition of malnourished in the country for the next three years.



Rajasthan:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- ➔ **Rajasthan has become the first state to implement a policy to control blindness, with the objective of ensuring the “right to sight”.**
- ➔ The policy has been introduced with the aim to bring light in the lives of more than three lakh people suffering from visual impairment in the state.
- ➔ The prevalence rate of blindness in the country was 1.1 percent in 2020 and work would be done to bring it down to 0.3 percent through the blindness control policy.
- ➔ Under the policy, the Rajasthan government will mandatorily run Keratoplasty Centres and Eye Banks at all government medical colleges.



Union Minister Jitendra Singh:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Union Minister Jitendra Singh has informed that by 2025, the entire country will be covered by the Doppler weather radar network. The purpose is to predict extreme weather events more accurately.**
- ➔ The number of Doppler radars in the country has increased from 15 in 2013 to 37 in 2023. India will set up 25 more radars in the next 2 to 3 years, taking the number to 62.

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- ➔ Doppler weather radar, commonly known as Weather Surveillance Radar (WSR), is a type of radar used to find precipitation, determine its motion, and also the type of precipitation (rain, snow, hail, etc.).



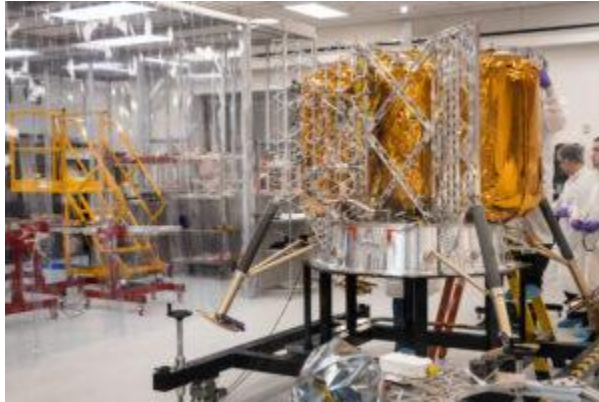
MegaPixxel:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Bengaluru-based space tech startup Pixxel marked a significant milestone on January 15 with the inauguration of its cutting-edge spacecraft manufacturing facility, named “MegaPixxel.”
- ➔ The 30,000 sq ft facility is poised to revolutionize satellite production capabilities in India. MegaPixxel is equipped to provide comprehensive satellite manufacturing services, including spacecraft assembly, integration, and testing (AIT) under one roof.

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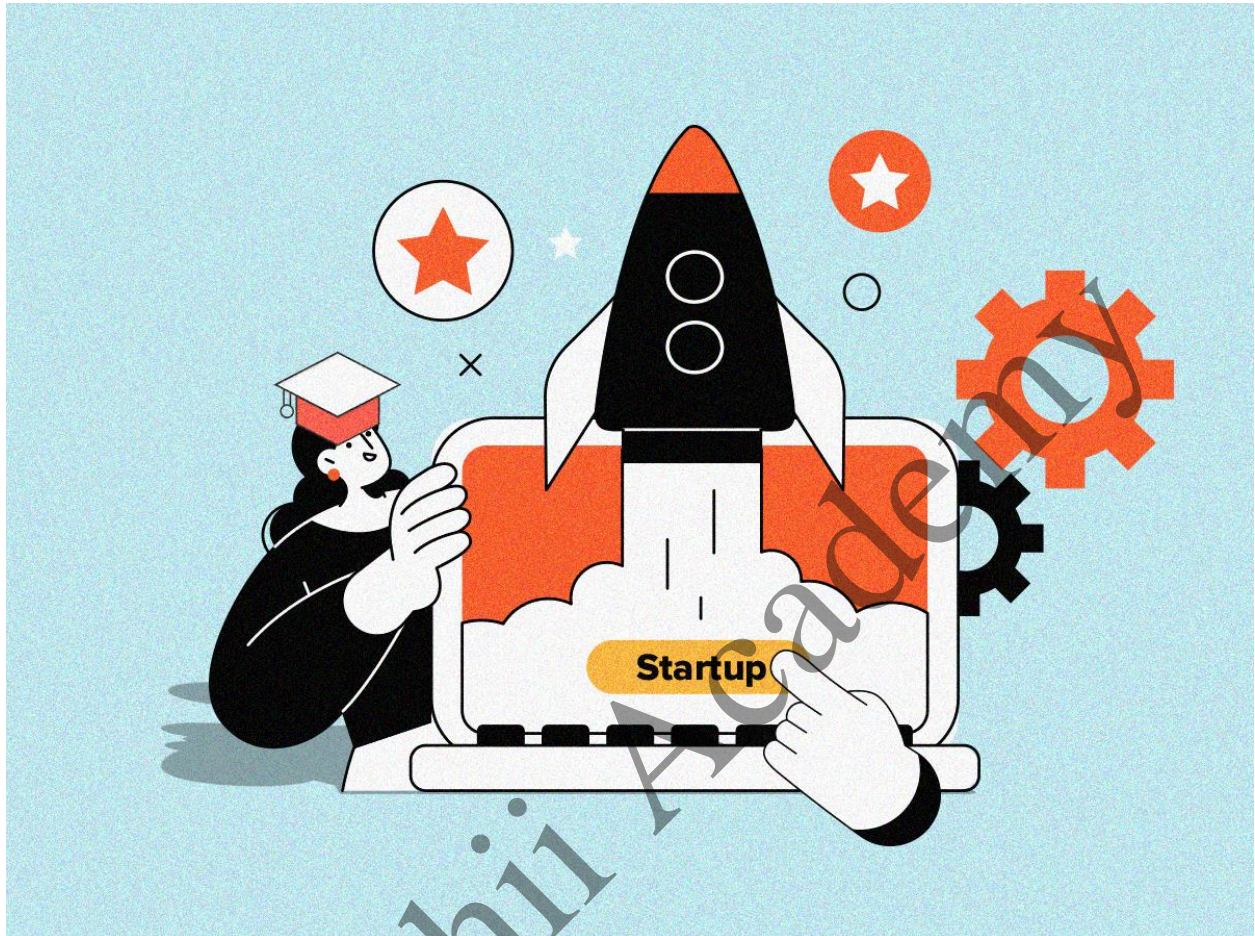
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Startup:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The startup ecosystem in India witnessed a significant boost as Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu emerged as the best-performing states in the Startup Ranking for 2022.**
- ➔ The rankings, released by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, highlight the commendable initiatives undertaken by these states to foster the growth of startups and encourage budding entrepreneurs.
- ➔ Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana were also recognized as top performers in this dynamic landscape.



Edelman Trust:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In the recently unveiled Edelman Trust Barometer 2024, India emerges as a global frontrunner in trust, topping the charts in confidence in businesses and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).**
- ➔ However, the nation secures the 4th spot for media trust and the 5th position for trust in the government.
- ➔ The comprehensive survey, encompassing over 32,000 respondents across 28 countries, highlights a pattern where developing nations outpace their developed counterparts in overall trust perception.

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WEF:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a groundbreaking move, the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Telangana government are jointly establishing the 19th Centre of the WEF's Fourth Industrial Revolution Network (4IR) in Hyderabad.**
- ➔ The WEF-Telangana Centre, slated for launch in February 2024, will be the world's inaugural thematic center dedicated to health tech and life sciences.
- ➔ The centre aims to align with the broader vision of the Telangana government and WEF, emphasizing collaborative efforts to enhance lifestyles and living standards.

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IndoSpace:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **IndoSpace, a leading player in industrial and logistics real estate, has solidified its commitment to Tamil Nadu's economic development by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) valued at Rs 2000 crore.**
- This landmark agreement was unveiled during the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024, a prestigious event attended by key dignitaries, including MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.

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Switzerland:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Switzerland accepts President Zelenskiy's request to host a global peace summit, leveraging its neutrality and past mediation roles.**
- Aims to find a resolution to the conflict initiated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022.

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Firepower:

(Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ **The Global Firepower's Military Strength Rankings for 2024 offer a comprehensive assessment of military capabilities worldwide.**
- ➔ The rankings, encompassing 145 countries, take into account more than 60 factors, including troop numbers, military equipment, financial stability, geographic location, and available resources.
- ➔ The culmination of these factors results in a PowerIndex score, providing a nuanced perspective on global military strength.
- ➔ In the 2024 Global Firepower Military Strength Rankings, the US secured the top position, with Russia and China following. India claimed the 4th spot. Bhutan ranks lowest with a power index of 6.3704.



Praggnanandhaa:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Praggnanandhaa Surpasses Viswanathan Anand to Become India's No.1 Chess Player. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, an 18-year-old chess prodigy from Chennai, achieved a historic milestone in his career by defeating World Champion Ding Liren from China.**
- ➔ This significant victory occurred during the fourth round of the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament held in Wijk aan Zee. Praggnanandhaa's triumph was notable as he played with black pieces and displayed strategic superiority from the onset of the game.

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January 18, 2024

Kachchii Kharek:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Second fruit from Gujarat 'Kachchii Kharek' receives GI tag. Kachchii Kharek, the indigenous dates of Kutch, secures Geographical Indication tag from CGPDT of India.**
- ➔ Jubilant farmers in Kutch celebrate the recognition of their semi-arid district's unique variety of dates.



Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival:

(Importance level-3/5)

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- ➔ The Ninth Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival is scheduled from January 18-20, 2024 in Arunachal Pradesh. Declared a state festival, PPHF emphasizes wildlife conservation particularly of hornbills, within the Pakke Tiger Reserve.
- ➔ The reserve is home to four hornbill species, including the endangered Wreathed Hornbill and the festival aims to raise awareness about their preservation.



Moh-Juj (Buffalo):

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ Moh-Juj (Buffalo) fights make a comeback in Assam, after a hiatus of nine years. Assam Cabinet granted approval to revive and bull fights during Magh Bihu for the cultural practice.
- ➔ Supreme court ban in 2014 led to the prohibition of traditional buffalo fights.



Mahtari Vandana Yojana:

(Importance level-4/5).

- Chattisgarh launched Mahtari Vandana Yojana, providing Rs 1000 monthly assistance to women. It aims to empower through a total annual aid of 12,000 to foster self-reliance and skill development.
- The initiative contributes to improving financial conditions and encouraging small-scale enterprises.

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**Mahtari
Vandana
Yojana**

Government will give Rs 12,000
annually to married women

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Foxconn:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Taiwan's Foxconn is forming a strategic alliance with HCL Group to establish a chip packaging and testing facility in India.
- ➔ Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development, a subsidiary of Foxconn, will invest joint venture with the remaining stake held by HCL. Foxconn has committed to investing over \$2 billion in India over the next 5 years.

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Varanasi:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **Varanasi: first city in India to develop 3D urban spatial digital twin. The 3D Urban Spatial Digital Twin will employ advanced 'Light Detection and Ranging' technology to create a comprehensive digital map covering 160 square kilometers of all wards in Varanasi.**
- ➔ The digital twin will integrate with the Kashi integrated command and Control Centre, enhancing operational efficiency and development Authority.

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NTPC REL:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) has signed an MoU with the Government of Tripura for the Development of Floating and Ground Mounted based Renewable Energy Projects in the State of Tripura.**
- ➔ This MoU embarks upon the journey towards development of large sized Renewable Energy Projects in the State of Tripura and shall help Govt of Tripura in meeting its Clean Energy Commitments and obligations.

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Boeing:

(Importance level-3/5).

- ➔ Global aerospace giant Boeing has opened its first distribution center in India, located in Khurja, Uttar Pradesh. Spanning 36,000 square feet, this parts warehouse aims to assist regional aviation customers in optimizing fleet utilization.
- ➔ This new facility is part of its ongoing efforts to expand its footprint in the country, providing an efficient, cost-effective, and localized solution. This is one of Boeing's eight distribution centers in the world.



Ursus arctos pruinosus:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a remarkable development for India's wildlife conservation, the first-ever confirmed sighting of the rare Tibetan Brown Bear (scientific name: *Ursus arctos pruinosus*) was recorded in the high altitudes of North Sikkim.**
- ➔ This discovery, made by the joint efforts of the Sikkim Forest Department and WWF-India, marks a significant addition to the country's mammal diversity and highlights the ecological richness of the region.



ISRO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been at the forefront of technological innovation, contributing significantly to various fields.**
- One such noteworthy development is the second-generation 'Distress Alert Transmitter' (DAT-SG), a remarkable advancement in satellite communication and navigation capabilities.
- Operational since 2010, the DAT-SG has become a crucial tool for fishermen at sea, allowing them to send emergency messages and receive real-time acknowledgments.



SMPP:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik revealed the Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakalpa (SMPP), a significant peripheral development initiative encircling Puri's 12th-century Shree Jagannath Temple.**
- The SMPP (Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakalpa) introduces a 75-meter-wide space around the temple, referred to as the heritage corridor.
- This expansive area has been meticulously divided into nine distinct zones, each serving a specific purpose aimed at enhancing the overall experience for visitors and preserving the cultural heritage surrounding the Shree Jagannath Temple.

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International Balloon Festival:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **The Tamil Nadu International Balloon Festival now in its ninth edition kicked off in Pollachi. The festival was inaugurated by G.D.Gopalakrishnan, President Chamber of Commerce, Pollachi.**
- The event hosted by Tamil Nadu Tourism in collaboration with Global Media Box.



IIT Madras:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a strategic partnership, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has joined forces with Altair, a global technology leader specializing in simulation, high-performance computing (HPC), and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ➔ Together, they are set to inaugurate the cutting-edge eMobility Simulation Lab within the Department of Engineering Design at IIT Madras.

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UAE:

(Importance level-4/5)

- UAE introduces the world's first sustainability accreditation framework for Micro, Small and Medium sized enterprises.
- 'Ecomark' Global accreditation based on ISO standards aims to enhance MSME's global competitiveness in the green economy.

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Women's Healthy Weight Day:

(Importance level-3/5)

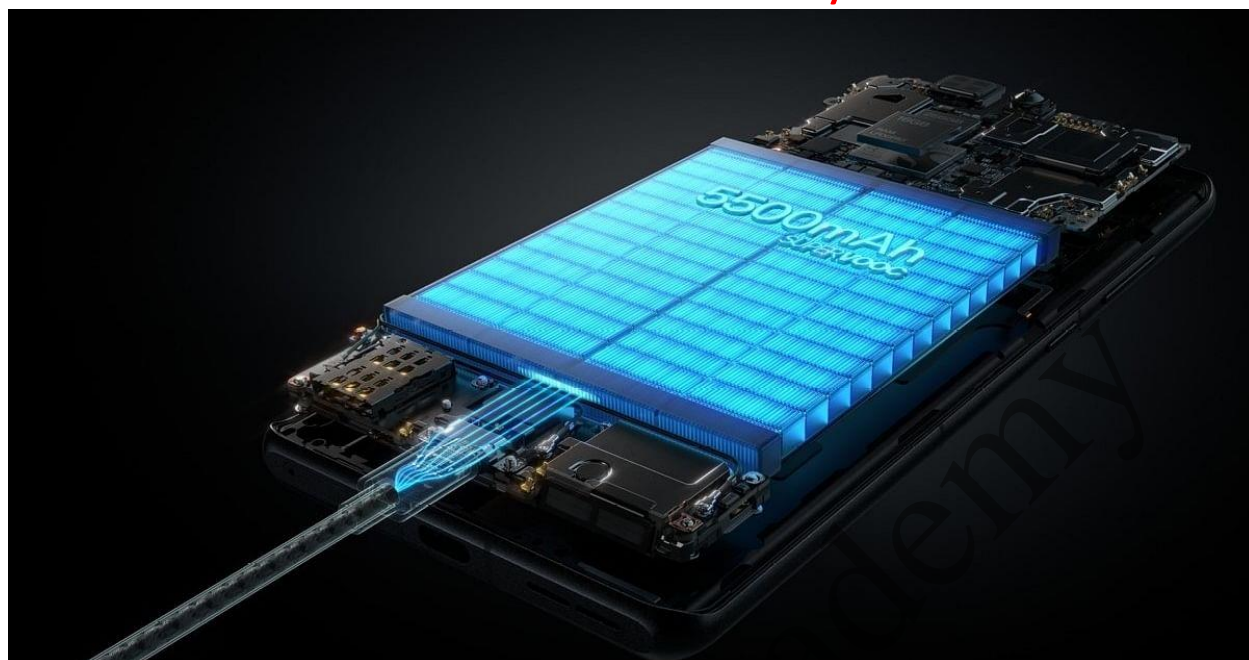
- ➔ **Women's Healthy Weight Day is observed every year on the Thursday of the third week of January. This year it's being celebrated on January 18.**
- ➔ The day aims at spreading awareness around the concept of healthy weight and steps to achieve the ideal weight.
- ➔ Maintaining a healthy weight is important for both men and women and it not only helps you feel better and more energetic but can also reduce risk of falling ill due to chronic diseases like cardiovascular illness, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, fatty liver disease, thyroid issues to name a few.
- ➔ A balanced meal should be consumed to maintain a healthy weight whether you are on a higher or lower side of the ideal weight.



Betavolt:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ China's Betavolt, a cutting-edge startup, has introduced a groundbreaking nuclear battery that claims to provide uninterrupted electricity for 50 years without the need for charging or maintenance.
- ➔ The miniaturization of atomic energy sets this battery apart as the first of its kind globally, challenging conventional views on nuclear technology. The battery integrates 63 isotopes into a coin-sized module, showcasing unprecedented technological advancement.



Sue Redfern:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a groundbreaking development for women's cricket, Sue Redfern from England is set to become the first ICC-appointed female neutral umpire to officiate in a bilateral series.**
- ➔ This historic moment is scheduled to take place during the upcoming WT20I between Australia and South Africa, marking a significant step forward for gender inclusivity in cricket officiating.
- ➔ Redfern's appointment is a result of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision to have one neutral umpire for all ICC Women's Championship series and T20I matches associated with them.
- ➔ This move is aimed at ensuring a degree of neutrality in match officiating while also contributing to the long-term development of female umpires in the sport.

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Rohit Sharma:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Rohit Sharma has created history by becoming the first batsman to score 5 centuries in T20 Internationals.**
- ➔ This milestone was achieved during the third T20I match against Afghanistan in Bengaluru on January 17, 2024. He surpassed Suryakumar Yadav and Glenn Maxwell in T20I hundreds.



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January 19, 2024

ISRO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **ISRO's second generation 'Distress Alert Transmitter' with advanced satellite communication for fishermen at sea.**
- DAT-SG, operational since 2010, facilitates real-time emergency messages and acknowledgments enhancing maritime agency.
- The upgraded version incorporates cutting edge satellite communication and navigation features, ensuring a robust and efficient communication process.



Kokborok Day:

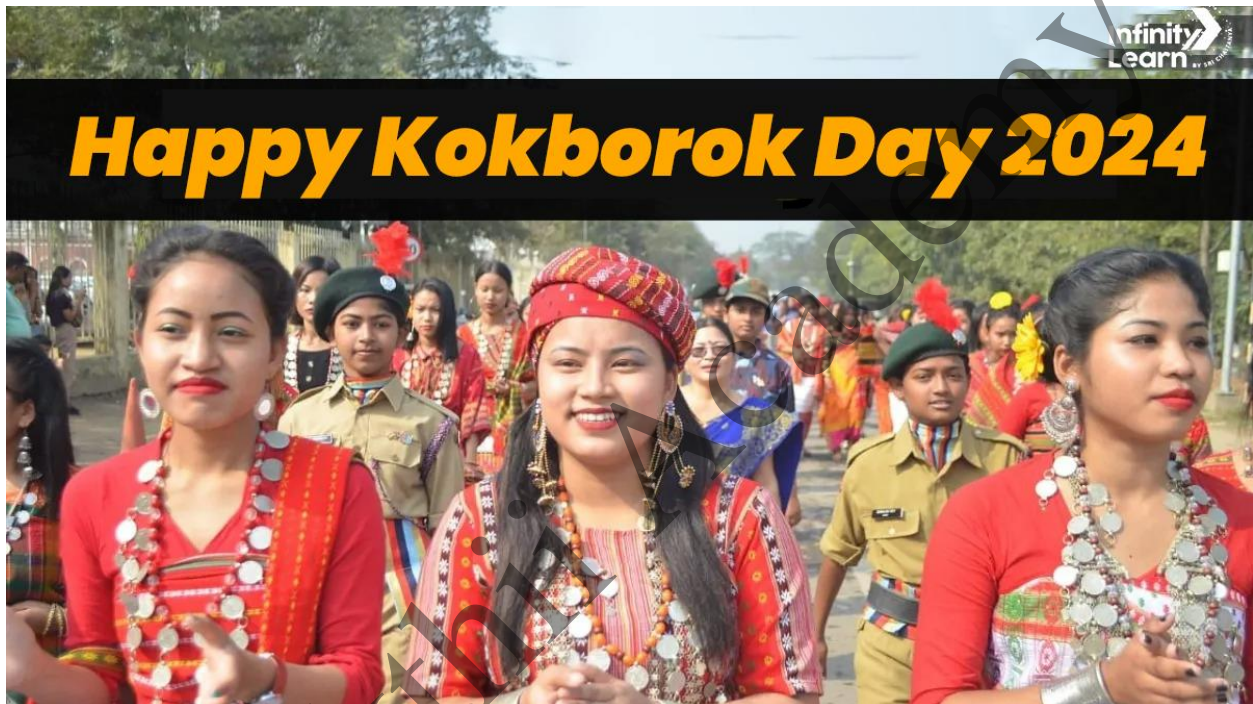
(Importance level-4/5)

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- ➔ **Kokborok Day, observed annually on January 19th, is a significant cultural event in Tripura, India. The 2024 celebration marks the 46th anniversary of Kokborok's recognition as an official language of the state alongside Bengali and English.**
- ➔ This day celebrates the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of the Tripuri people. Kokborok, also known as Tripuri or Tiprakoka, is the native language of the Tripuri community in Tripura and neighbouring regions.
- ➔ It belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family, closely related to the Bodo, Dimasa, and Kachari languages spoken in Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya.



Fuel cell taps:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Northwestern University's breakthrough fuel cell taps into soil microbes for perpetual energy generation. Compact size, similar to book, ideal for powering underground sensors in green infrastructure and precision agriculture.**
- ➔ Offers a sustainable alternative to traditional batteries, eliminating toxic leakage and reducing reliance on conflict affected supply chains.



Farsi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant move to deepen cultural ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that the Government of India has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy.**
- ➔ Jaishankar also highlights the cultural, literary, and linguistic connections between Iran and India. This recognition reflects a commitment to fostering greater understanding and appreciation of Farsi's rich heritage within the Indian educational framework.
- ➔ Tamil was the first language in India to be accorded classical language status in 2004. Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia are the other languages that have been declared classical languages in India by the central government.



World's largest lamp:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **As the devoted city of Ayodhya eagerly counts down to the grand opening of the Ram Temple on January 22, a spectacular celebration is set to unfold.**
- ➔ In a remarkable display, the world's largest lamp, standing at an impressive 300 feet, will illuminate the city at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, adding a dazzling touch to the festivities.
- ➔ Jagadguru Paramhans Acharya, a key figure in the preparations, emphasized the profound symbolism behind the lighting of this colossal lamp.
- ➔ Comprising 1.25 quintals of cotton and 21,000 litres of oil, the lamp holds significance beyond its sheer size. The materials used, including soil and water from different regions across the country, as well as cow's ghee, create a unique blend representing unity and sacredness.



World's tallest statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **The Andhra Pradesh government is set to unveil the world's tallest statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the esteemed architect of the Indian Constitution, in a grand ceremony today in Vijayawada.**
- ➔ The colossal structure, named the 'Statue of Social Justice,' stands at an impressive height of 206 feet, making it one of the top 50 tallest statues globally, with Sardar Vallabhai Patel's 'Statue of Unity' claiming the top spot.
- ➔ This monumental creation is a testament to the significance of Dr. Ambedkar's contributions not only to the state of Andhra Pradesh but to the entire nation.

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Google India Digital Services and NPCI International Payments Ltd:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ In a significant move towards fostering international digital transactions, Google India Digital Services and NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) have joined hands to propel UPI payments beyond the borders of India.
- ➔ The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities is poised to revolutionize the way Indian travellers engage in financial transactions abroad.

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Indian Army:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Army, in a groundbreaking collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), is spearheading the development of cutting-edge military-grade software.**
- ➔ This partnership aims to harness the power of technology for bolstering national defense capabilities, focusing on areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and healthcare.
- ➔ The collaborative efforts between the Indian Army and MeitY are manifesting in the creation of AI-powered decision-making tools and predictive analytics.
- ➔ Operational software, designed for interpreting the Enemy's Electronic Order of Battle (ORBAT) and recognizing patterns, is already in use. This facilitates rapid analysis and enhances the efficiency of strategic decision-making on the battlefield.

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SSB:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Senior IPS officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary has been appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). This appointment is a significant development in the administrative reshuffling within India's internal security apparatus.
- ➔ The Sashastra Seema Bal, one of India's central armed police forces, is primarily responsible for guarding the country's borders with Nepal and Bhutan.



Smart Lander:

(Importance level-4/5).

- **Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon is set for historic moon landing on January 20, marking a significant achievement for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.**
- SLIM entered lunar orbit on January 10 and successfully executed the crucial apolune descent maneuver on January 14, positioning itself in a stable circular orbit at 600 kilometres.



Haeil-5-23:

(Importance level-4/5).

- North Korea carried out a test of its underwater nuclear weapons system known as the 'Haeil-5-23', as a protest against the joint military drills conducted by South Korea, the United States and Japan.
- The test conducted by the Defence Ministry's think tank, is seen as a strategic move by North Korea in response to the joint military exercises held in the region.

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Khelo India Youth Games:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ Tamil Nadu is set to host the Khelo India Youth Games, featuring over 5000 young athletes participating in 26 disciplines.
- ➔ The games will unfold in 4 cities- Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Trichy showcasing diverse sporting talents across the state.

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FAO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **India elected as First Vice Chair of FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. After 57 years, India joins FAO Fisheries Bureau on 'Capture Fisheries', marking a significant milestone in its engagement with International Fisheries Management.**
- India with over 28 million inland and marine fishers, holds a prominent position in the global fishing community.



Assam Government:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- Assam Government unveiled “Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan”. It aims to transform rural women into “Rural Micro-Entrepreneurs” with a Rs 1 lakh annual income target.
- In the inaugural phase of the MMUA, each eligible applicant will receive a grant of Rs. 10,000 in the first year.



Andhra Pradesh:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Andhra Pradesh is set to become the second state in India after Bihar to conduct a caste based census.
- The state government aims to complete the census by January 28, 2024 with the entire exercise conducted through village and ward secretariat staff.

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Bengaluru and IGI Delhi airports:

(Importance level-3/5).

- ➔ Bengaluru and IGI Delhi airports were jointly awarded 'Best Airport of the year' at the Wings India Awards 2024.
- ➔ Bengaluru's airport additionally receives the '25 MPPA Traffic Award' for handling over 25 million passengers annually. Skyways Air Services wins Best Cargo Services Award at the Wings India Awards 2024.

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SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The second edition of "SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0" has organized by the Indian Army under the aegis of HQ Army Training Command from October 2022 to January 2023.
- ➔ Objective – To seek solutions to operational cyber challenges and to jump-start and telescope the development time for innovative solutions in the field of Cyber Security.

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India's first School of Logistics, Waterways, and Communication:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India's first School of Logistics, Waterways, and Communication has launched in Agartala, Tripura.**
- ➔ Objective – To enable the rich pool of talent in the region to become world-class experts in the transportation and logistics sector.
- ➔ It is set up under State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development. It will facilitate in conducting studies/ research, training, workshops/seminars for stakeholders like businesses, exporters, etc.

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Adani Enterprises:

(Importance level-4/5).

- Adani Enterprises has signed an agreement with Ashok Leyland and Ballard Power (Canada) to launch a pilot project to develop a hydrogen fuel cell electric truck (FCET) for mining logistics and transportation.
- The agreement marks Asia's first planned hydrogen-powered mining truck.
- The demonstration project will be led by Adani Enterprises Limited a company focused on both mining operations and developing green hydrogen projects for sourcing, transporting, and building out hydrogen refueling infrastructure.



Udhampur:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The beautiful town of Udhampur witnessed a glorious spectacle today as the sacred precincts of the Jagannath Temple came alive with the vibrant celebrations of the much-anticipated 'Gole Mela.'**
- ➔ Devotees from Udhampur district and beyond flocked to the temple to partake in this annual religious and cultural extravaganza.
- ➔ The air within the temple grounds was charged with spirituality as devotees assembled to pay their obeisance.
- ➔ The annual 'Gole Mela' has become synonymous with a collective expression of faith, drawing people from diverse backgrounds to come together in celebration.

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Himachal Pradesh:

(Importance level-4/5).

- In a progressive move aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, the state of Himachal Pradesh has unveiled the ambitious 'My School-My Pride' campaign under the 'Apna Vidyalay' programme.
- This initiative is set to revolutionize the quality of education in government schools, providing a holistic approach to student growth and development.
- The 'My School-My Pride' campaign aims to encourage active participation from individuals and organizations to adopt schools and contribute to various aspects of students' growth.
- Stakeholders are urged to play a pivotal role in providing career counseling, offering remedial teaching, coaching students for examinations, and engaging in community support services.



WEF:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant move on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, India has unveiled the “Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality.”**
- ➔ The initiative has gained support from influential entities, with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Invest India joining as crucial partners.
- ➔ WEF Founder and Chairman Klaus Schwab has pledged full support to India’s initiative, designating WEF as a “Network Partner” and Invest India as an “Institutional Partner”.



Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a significant development towards revolutionizing the agricultural landscape of India, a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been recently inked between the National Farmers' Welfare Programme Implementation Society, IndiaAI (Digital India Corporation), and Wadhvani Foundation.
- This collaborative effort aims to propel India to the forefront of AI-driven digital agriculture, leveraging the expertise and support of the Wadhvani Foundation in formulating and executing a robust AI strategy.

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Tata Sons Private Limited:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ In a strategic move, Tata Sons Private Limited has successfully utilized its Right to Match card, retaining the prestigious title sponsorship of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the upcoming five seasons, spanning 2024 to 2028.
- ➔ This development follows the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) release of an Invitation to Tender (ITT) for Title Sponsor Rights in late December 2023.

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Zambia:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Mines Ministry proposes sending an Indian Industry delegation, including major players like Vedanta, Hindustan Zinc, Ola Electric and LOHUM to Zambia to explore copper mining projects.**
- With about 6% of the world's copper reserves, Zambia ranks 8th in copper production 2022. China Nonferrous Mining Corporation stands out as a major player in Zambia's copper industry.



Madhika:

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(Importance level-3/5)

- **Madhika, spoken by the Chakaliya Community in Kookanam village, Kannur, faces extinction as only 2 fluent speakers remain 87 year old K.P.Narayanan and his niece Rajputhri.**
- The language, without a script is on the verge of disappearing. Younger members of the Chakaliya community are increasingly opting for Malayalam, accelerating the decline of Madhika.

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“Pran Pratshtha”:

(Importance level-3/5)

- The “Pran Pratshtha” ceremony of Ram Lalla took place in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Trust has invited nearly 8,000 guests including politicians, business stalwarts, entertainment industry stars and other dignitaries for the grand ceremony.



Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism.
- It aims to Strengthen nature tourism at Ramsar sites which are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.
- It also aims to provide alternative livelihoods to local communities residing around these Ramsar sites.

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Cabinet has approved:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Cabinet has approved the creation of three officer-level posts for assisting the 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Arvind Panagariya.**
- ➔ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the creation of three posts at the level of Joint Secretary i.e. two posts of Joint Secretary and one post of Economic Adviser, for the 16th Finance Commission.
- ➔ The newly created posts are required to assist the Commission in carrying out its functions. All other posts in the commission have already been created as per the delegated powers.

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West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has inaugurated the 47th edition of the International Kolkata Book Fair.**
- ➔ The United Kingdom is the theme country for this year's fair, which has about 1,000 stalls and is scheduled to run from January 18 to January 31 at Salt Lake's Central Park here.
- ➔ Nearly 20 countries were participating in this year's book fair, which has become a big festival for Kolkata. This year marks the U.K. as the theme country for the fourth time at the International Kolkata Book Fair.

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January 21st:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **January 21st, 2024, marks a momentous occasion for the northeastern region of India – the 52nd anniversary of statehood for Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya.**
- ➔ Each state, with its own vibrant culture, unique history, and breathtaking landscapes, contributes to a rich tapestry that enhances the nation's identity.
- ➔ On January 21, 1972, the states of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya became full-fledged states under the North Eastern Region (Re-organisation) Act, 1971.
- ➔ The princely states of Tripura and Manipur were merged with India in October 1949. Let us delve into the details of the State Reorganisation of the Northeast.
- ➔ At the time of independence, the North East comprised the Assam plains, hill districts, and North Eastern Frontier Tracts (NEFT) of the North-Eastern border. Manipur and Tripura states were granted Union Territory status in 1949. Nagaland achieved statehood on December 1, 1963.

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Styangkung Barsoo:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The vibrant Mamani Ethnic Food Festival of Purig, held annually at Heritage Village Styangkung Barsoo, stands as a triumphant celebration of culinary diversity, cultural heritage, and community unity.**
- ➔ Organized by the Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation in collaboration with Nyarpa Committee Styangkung, this annual festival has become a cornerstone in preserving and reviving the rich traditions of the Ladakh region.

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Cuba and India:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **Ministry of Electronics and IT signs MoU with Cuba's Ministry of Communications for cooperation in digital solutions.**
- ➔ The agreement focuses on sharing successful digital initiatives, capacity-building and best practices for mutual digital transformation benefits. India to assist Cuba in adopting Digital Public Infrastructure, fostering development partnerships for enhanced collaboration.



SLIM:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Japan becomes the 5th country to achieve a soft moon landing with the successful deployment of the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon Spacecraft.**
- A challenge arises as SLIM's solar panels are not generating power. The mission led by Japan's space agency JAXA, marks a significant leap in precision landing technology with potential applications for future lunar exploration.



India and France:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **India and France have agreed to jointly fund scientific research projects in the fields of health, decarbonized hydrogen, marine sciences, and applied mathematics.**
- The decision was taken during a meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Science and Technology (JCST) in the India International Science Festival.
- The two sides also pointed out the key role of mobility and networking in preparing future cutting-edge scientific cooperation.

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WHO:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued comprehensive guidelines for the ethical use and governance of Large Multi-Modal Models (LMM) in healthcare.**
- ➔ These advanced generative AI technologies, such as ChatGPT, Bard, and Bert, have rapidly transformed healthcare delivery and medical research by processing diverse data inputs like text, videos, and images.
- ➔ Despite their potential benefits, WHO emphasizes the critical need to carefully evaluate the risks associated with LMM adoption.



SpaceX:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a historic event, SpaceX successfully launched the Ax-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) from NASA's Kennedy Space Center on January 18.**
- ➔ The Crew Dragon capsule, named "Freedom," was propelled into space atop a Falcon 9 rocket, marking the third mission organized by Houston-based Axiom Space.
- ➔ The launch, initially scheduled for January 17, was delayed by a day for additional prelaunch checks.



ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **South Africa is hosting the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2024. The World Cup started on 19 January and will conclude on 11 February.**
- ➔ This 50-over tournament will feature 16 teams, with a total of 41 matches scheduled to be played. The initial phase of the tournament organizes the teams into four groups, each containing four teams.
- ➔ This will be followed by the Super Six stage, comprising two groups of six teams each. This stage will be crucial in determining which teams advance to the semifinals and ultimately compete in the final.

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Delhi High Court:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Delhi High Court recalled its earlier order permitting a widow to terminate her 29 week pregnancy, following a central government application emphasizing the right to life of the unborn fetus.**
- Justice Prasad had earlier suggested that continuing the pregnancy could further impair the women's mental stability, triggering suicidal tendencies. But then he retained the previous stance.



Yes Bank:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Yes Bank has become the first Indian bank to execute an export finance transaction on the International Trade Financing Services Platform of RXIL Global IFSC limited.**
- This strategic partnership allows arranging credit for exporters and importers from Indian and global institutions through factoring, forfeiting and other trade financing services at competitive pricing.

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‘Anuvadini’ app:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Union government planned to digitize study materials in all Indian languages from 8th Schedule, facilitated by the AI-based ‘Anuvadini’ app, allowing students to study in their mother tongue.**
- ➔ National and state education bodies have been instructed to implement this for all courses across schools and universities within 3 years. It underlines the National Education Policy 2020.



Ethnic Mamani Festival:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In Ladakh, the annual Ethnic Mamani Festival was organized at Historical Styangkung Village and Chiktan Shagaran.**
- ➔ The Steyangkung village is around 500 years old and still well-preserved till now and is being developed as one of the well-maintained heritage villages in Ladakh.
- ➔ The history of the celebration of the Mamani Festival in Ladakh goes back to the ancient tradition of giving food to departed family members.



Parakram Diwas:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Parakram Diwas, observed on January 23rd, 2024, marks the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a prominent figure in India's freedom struggle.**
- ➔ This day is celebrated to honour his indomitable spirit and invaluable contribution to India's independence.
- ➔ This year nation observe the 127th edition of Parakram Diwas 2024. Parakram Diwas 2024 is a national event celebrated annually in India since 2021.
- ➔ It commemorates Netaji's birth anniversary and is a tribute to his brave legacy. The day serves as a reminder of the courage and determination of one of India's most revered freedom fighters.



Exercise CYCLONE:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The 2nd edition of Exercise CYCLONE commences, featuring a contingent of 25 Indian Army Personnel alongside Egyptian counterparts.**
- Aimed at familiarizing both sides with operating procedures in desert/semi-desert terrains, the exercise focuses on special operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

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Elon Musk:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Elon Musk criticized the lack of a permanent seat for India on the UN Security Council calling it “Absurd” considering India’s immense population.**
- Tesla’s CEO remarks followed UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres’s concerns over the absence of any African nation among UNSC’s permanent members.

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KHANJAR:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **The 11th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has kicked off at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.**
- ➔ Scheduled to take place from 22nd January to 3rd February 2024, this annual event has become a crucial platform for fostering collaboration and enhancing the capabilities of both nations' special forces.
- ➔ The primary aim of the exercise is to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices in Counter-Terrorism and Special Forces Operations.
- ➔ Focusing on Built-up Area and Mountainous Terrain operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the exercise aims to refine and strengthen the skills of the participating special forces units.
- ➔ Emphasis will be placed on developing advanced techniques of insertion and extraction, critical for success in diverse and challenging terrains.

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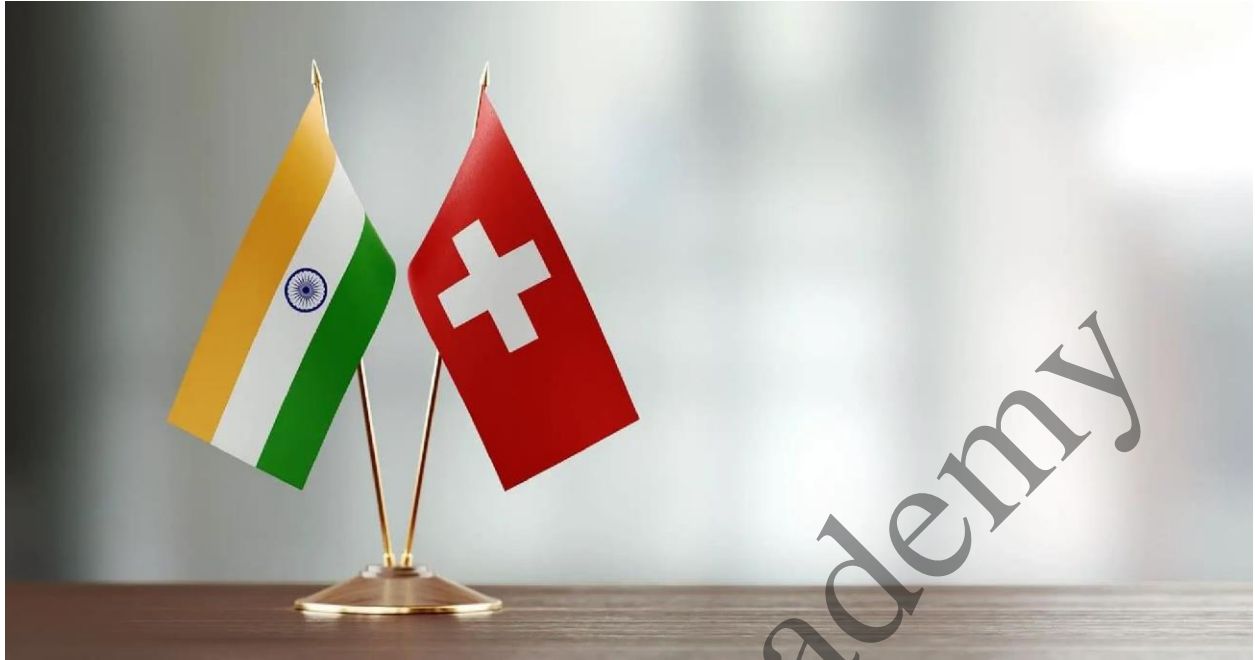
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Switzerland and India:

(Importance level-4/5).

- ➔ **In a historic breakthrough, Switzerland and India have finally sealed a free-trade agreement (FTA) following a marathon 16-year negotiation period.**
- ➔ The announcement came from Swiss Economy Minister Guy Parmelin, who, after attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, swiftly headed to India for crucial discussions with his counterpart, Piyush Goyal.
- ➔ The protracted negotiations signify a landmark achievement in diplomatic and economic relations between the two nations. The FTA holds immense promise for fostering stronger ties and economic collaboration.



Madrid:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Madrid is set to become the new host city for the Spanish Formula 1 Grand Prix starting from 2026. This marks a significant shift in the Spanish Grand Prix's location, as Barcelona has been the event's home since 1991.**
- ➔ The transition will see Madrid hosting the Grand Prix for 10 years, from 2026 to 2035, introducing a brand-new circuit to the world of Formula 1.

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BCCI Awards:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Subhman Gill, the dynamic Indian Opener is set to receive the Cricketer of the year title at the prestigious BCCI awards.**
- ➔ Former Indian head coach, Ravi Shastri will be honored with the lifetime Achievement Award at the BCCI awards in Hyderabad. The BCCI awards held for the first time since 2019, recognize outstanding contributions to Indian Cricket.

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Green hydrogen and ammonia:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **India positioned to become a global leader in green hydrogen and ammonia production. ACME, Indian Renewable Energy Company, partners with Japan's IHI in one of the world's largest agreements for green ammonia supply.**
- The India-Japan clean Energy partnership, initiated by Prime Ministers Modi and Kishida, fuels collaborative efforts in meeting global demand for sustainable energy sources.



Oil India Limited and Guwahati Municipal Corporation:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- **Oil India Limited and Guwahati Municipal Corporation have signed an MoU to convert municipal solid waste into compressed biogas.**
- This agreement is a step towards environmental sustainability and cleaner energy solutions. The MoU was signed aimed the presence of key figures from OIL and GMC at Numaligarh Refinery Limited's Corporate Office in Guwahati.



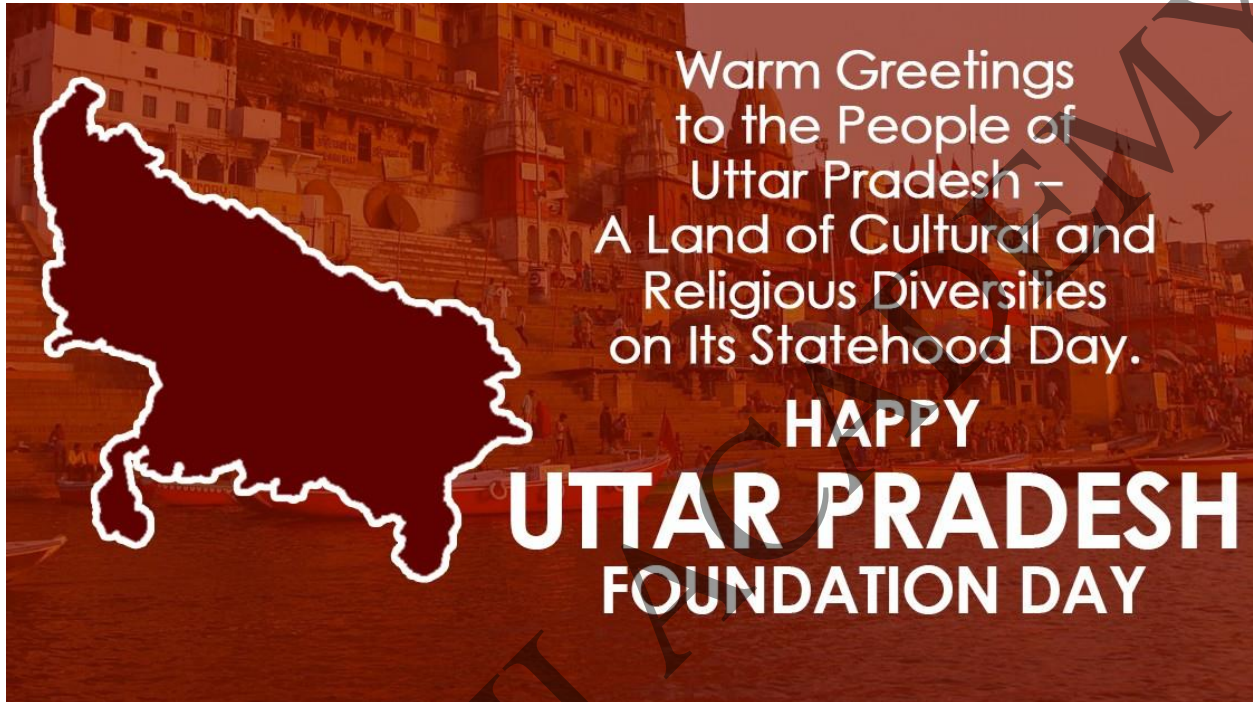
Uttar Pradesh:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- **Uttar Pradesh celebrates its foundation Day on January 24 every year. This day is known as Uttar Pradesh Diwas.**
- 2024 was the 75th Foundation day. The united province was renamed Uttar Pradesh on January 24, 1950. UP Districts: 75.



Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana', a government scheme under which one crore households will get rooftop solar power systems.**
- According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's website, solar power installed capacity in India has reached around 73.31 GW as of December 2023. Meanwhile, rooftop solar installed capacity is around 11.08 GW as of December 2023.
- In 2014, the government launched the Rooftop Solar Programme that aimed to achieve a cumulative installed capacity of 40,000 megawatts (MW) or 40 gigawatts (GW) by 2022 — watt is a unit of power and is calculated as the amount of energy used over time, specifically one Joule per second. However, this target couldn't be achieved.

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IICF:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) has announced the commencement of the construction of a grand mosque in Ayodhya, starting this May.**
- ➔ Haji Arfat Shaikh, the head of the development committee of the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) that is overseeing the mosque project.
- ➔ The mosque, named “Masjid Muhammed bin Abdullah” after Prophet Muhammad, aims to foster unity and goodwill among people, transcending religious differences.



National Girl Child Day 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **National Girl Child Day 2024, observed annually on January 24th in India, plays a pivotal role in highlighting the importance of empowering girls and addressing the challenges they face in society.**
- ➔ Initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, this day marks a commitment to promote gender equality, empower girls, and protect their rights.
- ➔ The inception of National Girl Child Day (NGCD) in 2008 was a crucial step in India's journey towards gender equality.
- ➔ This day emerged from the recognition that girls in India confront numerous challenges, including gender-based violence, child marriage, and restricted access to education and healthcare.



Gruha Jyothi Scheme:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, has taken significant strides to expedite the implementation of various welfare schemes, including the much-anticipated Gruha Jyothi Scheme.**
- ➔ The state government aims to roll out this scheme from the first week of February, bringing relief to numerous households.
- ➔ The announcement of the Gruha Jyothi Scheme, which promises 200 units of free electricity, sparked confusion among citizens. In response, a considerable number of people refrained from paying their electricity bills for the past two months, anticipating the scheme's implementation.

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Serum Institute of India:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant development for global health preparedness, the Serum Institute of India (SII) has joined the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) network of vaccine producers in the Global South.**
- ➔ This collaborative effort aims to strengthen the response to future public health disease outbreaks through rapid, agile, and equitable means.
- ➔ CEPI, a global partnership dedicated to preventing epidemics, is investing up to \$30 million to expand SII's manufacturing capacity. The objective is to enable swift production and supply of investigational vaccines in the face of epidemic and pandemic threats.



Son of Concorde:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **NASA and Lockheed Martin unveiled the X-59 supersonic aircraft 'Son of Concorde', capable of speeds up to 925 mph and quite sonic booms.**
- ➔ The plane which could make New York to London journeys in 3.5 hours marks a step in redefining supersonic travel. The debut comes 2 decades since Concorde's retirement which could reach a top speed of 1350 mph.



Exercise Desert Knight:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Air Force conducted Exercise Desert Knight with the French Air and Space Force and UAE Air Force at the Al Dhafra air base, UAE.**
- ➔ The exercise focused on enhancing synergy and interoperability, facilitating the exchange of operational knowledge and best practices. The exercise indicates growing diplomatic and military interactions in the region and showcases IAF's prowess.



Lake Victoria:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Lake Victoria, the largest freshwater lake in Africa and the world's second-largest, is facing numerous environmental challenges.**
- ➔ Three countries Kenya(6%), Tanzania(51%) and Uganda(43%) share the lake shoreline and 6 countries share the basin: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

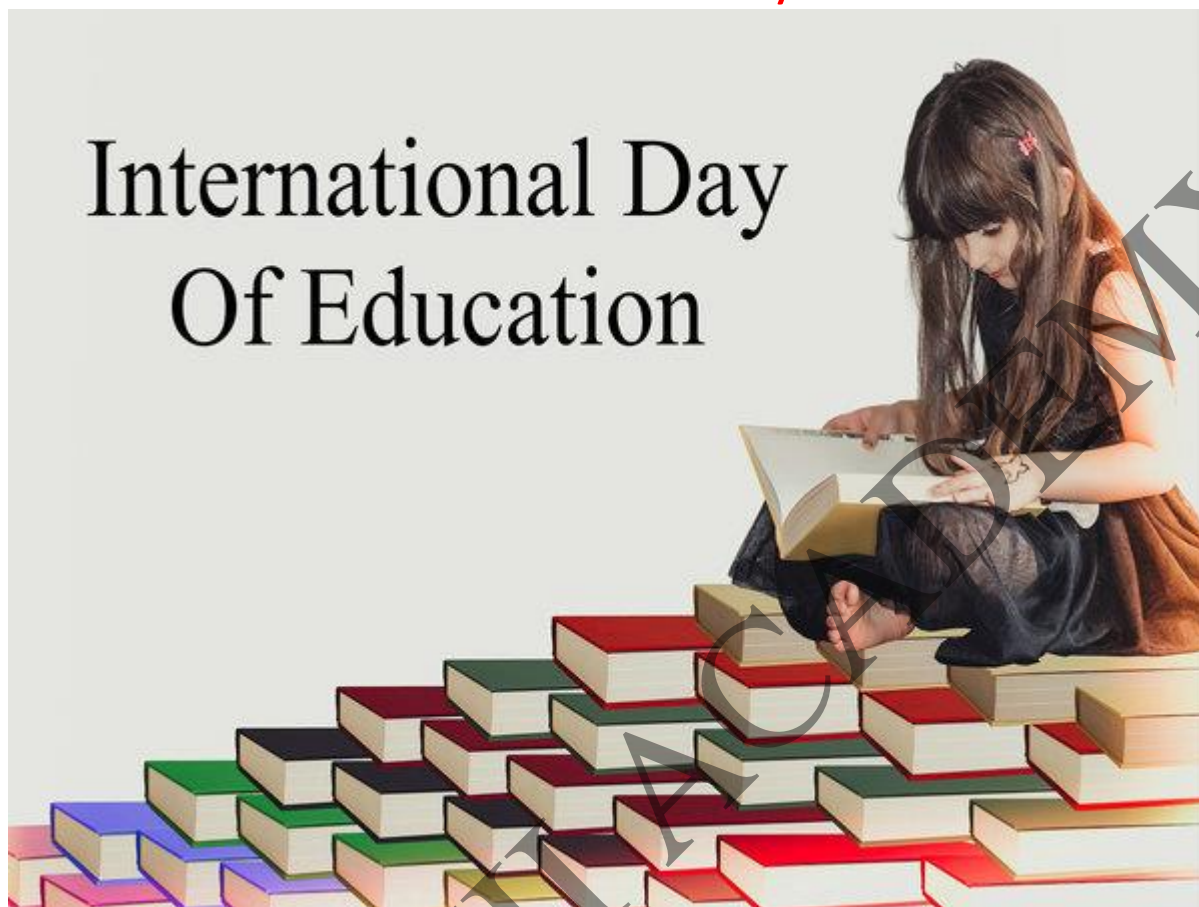


International Day of Education:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Celebrated on January 24th each year, the International Day of Education is a pivotal occasion to underscore the importance of education for all.**
- ➔ In 2024, this day will be observed under the theme “Learning for Lasting Peace,” emphasizing the transformative nature of education in promoting peace and understanding.
- ➔ The United Nations General Assembly declared January 24th as the International Day of Education in 2018, recognizing the fundamental role education plays in fostering peace, development, and intercultural understanding. The 2024 theme “Learning for Lasting Peace” resonates with current global challenges.

International Day Of Education



India's equity market:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **India's equity market has outpaced Hong Kong's Hang Seng, securing the fourth position globally with a market capitalization of \$4.33 trillion.**
- ➔ This milestone, marking India's ascendancy, underscores the nation's robust economic standing. The US remains the largest stock market with a staggering \$50.86 trillion market cap, followed by China at \$8.44 trillion and Japan at \$6.36 trillion.



Iranian army:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Iranian army marked a significant milestone in its defense capabilities as it formally received a substantial number of domestically developed reconnaissance and combat drones in a ceremony held on January 23, 2024.**
- ➔ The event, attended by the Iranian Army's Chief Commander Abdolrahim Mousavi and Defense Minister Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani, showcased the latest advancements in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology.
- ➔ The delivered UAVs encompass a diverse range of capabilities, including the multipurpose Ababil-4 and Ababil-5, Arash, Bavar, and Karrar jet-powered target drones. Each drone is tailored to specific mission profiles, highlighting the versatility of Iran's indigenous drone technology.

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India and Oman:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Union Cabinet apprised of MoU signed between India and Oman on cooperation in information technology. It aims to enhance comprehensive cooperation, mutual support, technology sharing and investments in IT.**
- G2G and B2B collaboration to be strengthened, fostering improved IT Collaboration and generating employment opportunities.



National Tourism Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- ➔ **National Tourism Day, celebrated annually in India, is a significant event that highlights the importance of tourism for the country's economy and cultural heritage. National Tourism Day is observed on January 25th each year.**
- ➔ This day is earmarked to foster awareness among the international community about the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political, and economic values.
- ➔ The day also serves as an opportunity to explore the potential of tourism in India, which is home to a myriad of historical landmarks, natural beauty, and rich cultural traditions.
- ➔ The theme for this year is 'Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories.' It emphasises the concept of responsible and mindful travel. As a part of this day, seminars, cultural events, and other programmes are organised by the central government.



National Voters' Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The National Voters' Day is celebrated every year in India on January 25 to encourage the country's voters to participate in the electoral process. This year, it is the 14th edition which is being celebrated.**
- ➔ In the vibrant democracy of India, where every vote is a testament to the aspirations and choices of its people, National Voters' Day holds a special place. As the world's largest democracy, the importance of each vote in India cannot be overstated.
- ➔ This day serves as a celebration of public consciousness and the immense power vested in the electorate. Initiated in 2011, National Voters' Day was established by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to address a growing concern.

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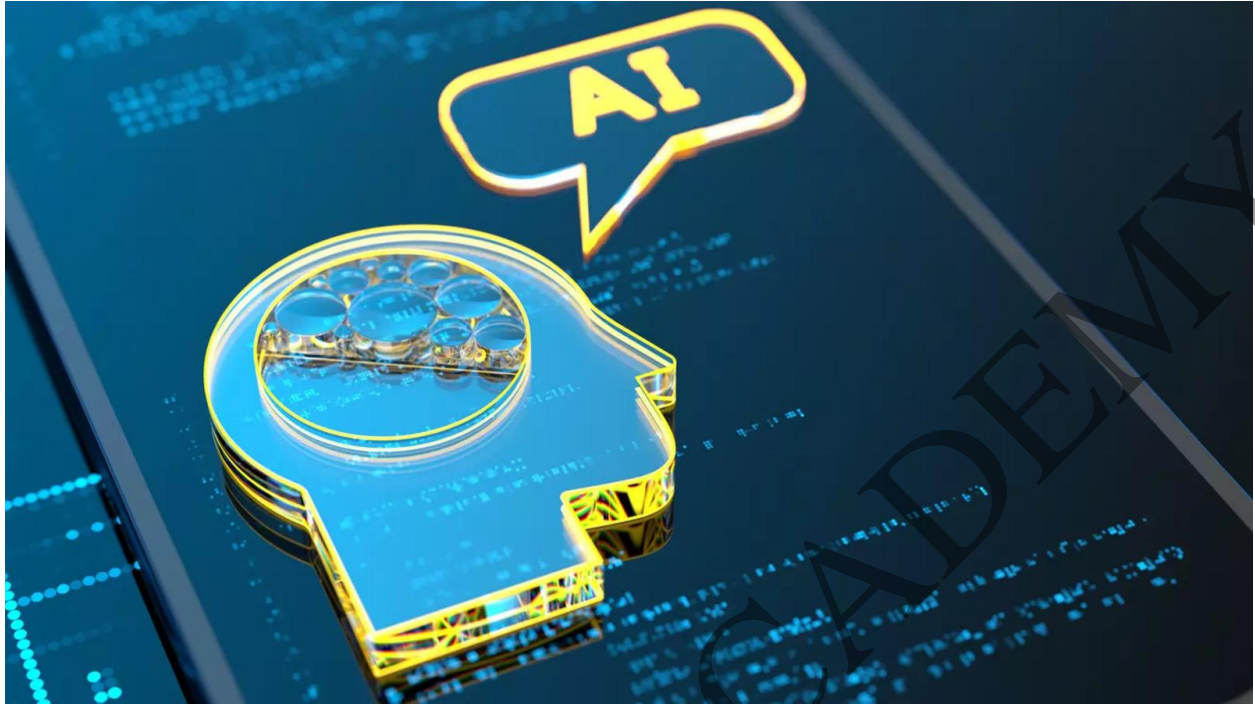
- The then-Information and Broadcasting Minister, Ambika Soni, highlighted the increasing apathy among new voters, particularly those who had recently turned 18, towards enrolling in electoral rolls.



CoRover.ai:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **CoRover.ai, a leading player in the Conversational AI space, has recently introduced BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM).**
- This groundbreaking development aims to revolutionize AI conversations across 22 Indian languages, addressing the language diversity challenges prevalent in the country.
- Positioned as an Indigenous Generative AI platform, BharatGPT integrates seamlessly with both voice and text modalities, offering a unique solution to the complexities of linguistic diversity.



Bhopal:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, has made significant strides in cleanliness, emerging as the 5th cleanest city in India among those with a population exceeding 1 lakh.**
- ➔ The Bhopal Municipal Corporation's persistent efforts have not only elevated its ranking from 6th in 2022 but also earned it a coveted 5-star Garbage Free City (GFC) rating, making it the cleanest State capital in the nation.
- ➔ Bhopal's ascent can be attributed to a combination of best practices, innovation, and distinctiveness.
- ➔ The city produces 850 tons of waste daily, and what sets it apart is its commitment to processing the entire waste stream every day.
- ➔ The focus on scientific waste disposal, waste-to-wealth projects, recycling initiatives, and the mantra of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3Rs) are pivotal in Bhopal's success.



STR:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a groundbreaking move, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled plans for the establishment of the world's first 'black tiger safari' near the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj.
- This visionary project aims to provide tourists and visitors with a rare glimpse of the melanistic tigers, commonly known as black tigers, recently spotted at the Similipal National Park.



VLF:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Navy has strategically chosen Telangana as the location for its second Very Low Frequency (VLF) communication transmission station in the country.**
- ➔ This significant development is set to take place in the Vikarabad district, with the new VLF center scheduled for completion by 2027.
- ➔ VLF communication is crucial for the Navy to maintain effective communication with ships and submarines, emphasizing the strategic role of the new transmission station.
- ➔ The INS Kattabomman Radar Station in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, served as the pioneering VLF communication transmission station and has been operational since 1990.



Ministry of Defence:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **With the growing activities of international pirates off the Gulf of Aden driving up the costs of freight and shipping, the Indian government has taken a significant step to ensure the safety of international shipping lanes.**
- ➔ In a recent development, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai, for the acquisition of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- ➔ Over the last two decades, the Indian Navy has assumed the role of a “net security provider” in the Indian Ocean, aiming to maintain a “free and open Indo-Pacific” and counterbalance China’s expanding naval presence.



Justice Prasanna B Varale:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Justice Prasanna B Varale, currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, will now become the third sitting judge from the Dalit community in the Supreme Court.**
- ➔ His appointment adds to the diversity of the apex court, joining the ranks of Justice BR Gavai and Justice CT Ravikumar.
- ➔ One of the notable aspects of Justice Varale's appointment is that he is the senior-most High Court Judge belonging to a Scheduled Caste.
- ➔ Furthermore, he holds the distinction of being the only Chief Justice belonging to a Scheduled Caste among the Chief Justices of High Courts across the country.



Sri Lankan parliament:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Sri Lankan parliament approves the online safety bill, facing opposition criticism over concerns about potential restrictions on freedom of speech.
- The bill secures 108 votes in favor and 62 against after a 2 day debate, leading to the establishment of the online safety commission with the authority to make punitive rulings on offenses.



NATO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Sweden set to become NATO member as Turkey approves its membership bid. Turkey's parliament votes 287-55 in favor of approving Sweden's NATO membership bid.**
- ➔ President Erdogan is expected to sign the bill into law shortly, paving the way for Sweden to join NATO.
- ➔ NATO Secretary General welcomes the development, anticipating Hungary's prompt ratification, potentially securing the entire Baltic coastline under NATO jurisdiction.

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US and UK:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **US and UK conduct fresh joint air strikes against Houthi in Yemen. These strikes were against eight Houthi Targets in response to the Houthis continued attacks against International and Commercial shipping as well as naval vessels transiting the Red Sea.**
- ➔ The strikes were carried out with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada and the Netherlands. Houthis are a militant group that has been fighting the civil war in Yemen for a decade.

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January 26-27, 2024

Kaziranga National Park:

(Importance level-4/5)

- A stunning Bengal Tiger morph, known as the golden morph, spotted casually strolling in Kaziranga National Park.
- Assam CM's office shares a captivating video, showcasing the elusive golden tiger's mesmerizing presence in the park. The rare sighting on National Tourism Day highlights Assam's rich wildlife diversity.



Airbus and Tata:

(Importance level-3/5)

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- **Airbus and Tata join forces to establish a final assembly line for helicopters in India. The collaboration aims to boost indigenous manufacturing activities.**
- The helicopter manufacturing facility will be the second final assembly line established by airbus in India. The first one was dedicated to the “Make in India C295 military aircraft production in Gujarat.



IREDA:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **IREDA has introduced its Vigilance Department's house journal called 'Pahal'.**
- The initiative aims to enhance transparency, accountability and the advocacy of renewable energy initiatives by IREDA.

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Krutrim:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ AI startup Krutrim became India's first unicorn in 2024. Bhavish Aggarwal's startup Krutrim raised \$50 million in funding. It achieved \$1 billion valuation, becoming India's first AI unicorn. Krutrim launched just a month ago as a large language AI model.
- ➔ Krutrim which means "artificial" in Sanskrit is also in the process of developing data centers across the country, aiming to create a supercomputer ecosystem from AI development in India.

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Awards 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Padma Awards 2024: The Padma Awards, among India's highest civilian honours, are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- ➔ These awards recognize outstanding service in various areas like arts, social work, public affairs, science, trade, medicine, education, sports, and civil service.
- ➔ The Padma Vibhushan is for exceptional service, the Padma Bhushan is for high-order service, and the Padma Shri is for distinguished service in any area. These awards are announced on Republic Day each year.

Padma Vibhushan Awards 2024 Winners List:

S.No.	Awardee Name	Field	State
1.	Ms. Vyjayantimala Bali	Art	Tamil Nadu
2.	Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi	Art	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Shri M Venkaiah Naidu	Public Affairs	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Shri Bindeshwar Pathak	Social Work	Bihar
5.	Ms. Padma Subrahmanyam	Art	Tamil Nadu

Padma Bhushan Awards 2024 list:

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

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Padma Awards



PADMA SHRI



PADMA BHUSHAN

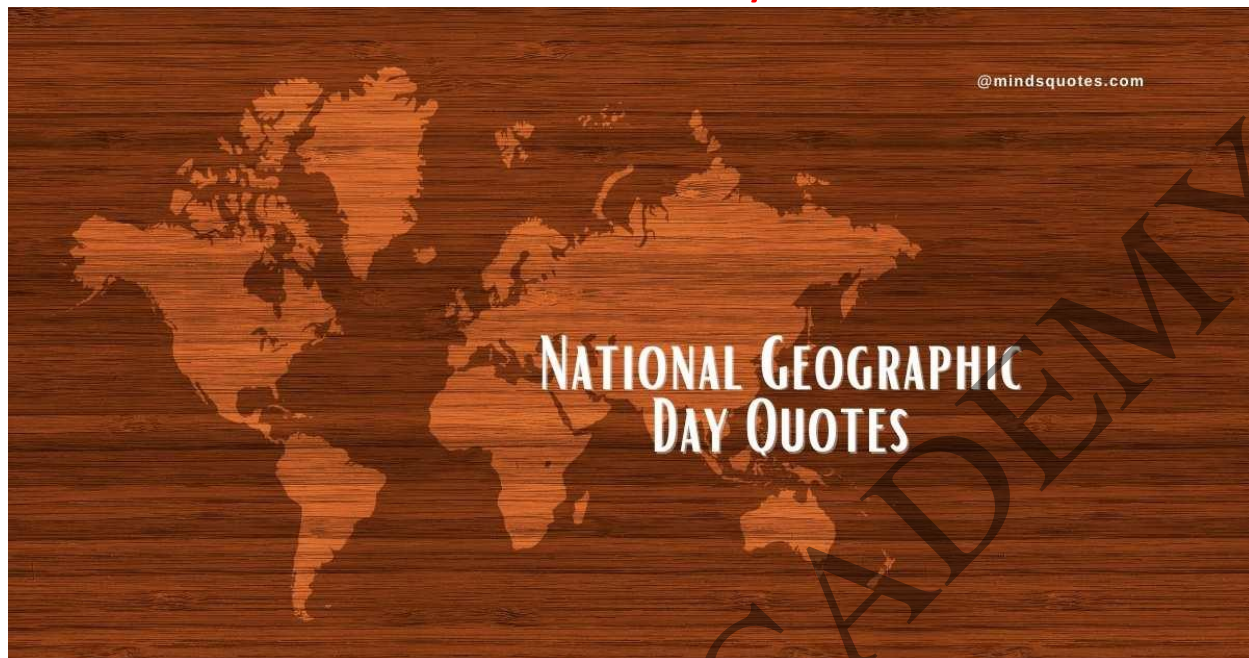


PADMA VIBHUSHAN

National Geographic Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- National Geographic Day 2024 is celebrated on January 27 every year. National Geographic Day is a special occasion dedicated to celebrating the rich history and contributions of the National Geographic Society in the fields of geography, natural science, and exploration.
- Marked annually, this day commemorates the society's commitment to exploring and understanding our planet.
- The National Geographic Society was founded on January 27, 1888, with a mission to increase and diffuse geographic knowledge. Over the years, it has become one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations.



January 26:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India will mark its momentous 75th Republic Day on January 26, 2024. The iconic Republic Day Parade, starting at 9:30 am from Vijay Chowk, will traverse five kilometers to the National Stadium.**
- ➔ This grand celebration, commemorating the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950, includes cultural events, aerial displays by the Indian Air Force, and flag hoisting.

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ACME Group and Japan's IHI Corporation:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- India's ACME Group and Japan's IHI Corporation have inked a groundbreaking deal for the supply of 0.4 million metric tons per annum (MMTPA) of green ammonia from Odisha, India, to Japan.
- The agreement, signed by Manoj Upadhyay, ACME Group's Founder and Chairman, and Hiroshi Ide, President and CEO of IHI Corporation, establishes a long-term partnership covering production, logistics, and supply of green ammonia for diverse industrial uses in Japan, ultimately aimed at reducing emissions.



India, France:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India, France adopted Roadmap for Defence Industrial Partnership. Letter of intent signed for Defense Space Partnership.
- MoU inked between TASL and Airbus for H125 helicopter assembly line. Another MoU in space sector between NSIL and Arianespace S.A.S signed.



January 27:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is an annual observance to remember and honour the six million Jewish victims and millions of other victims of Nazism during World War II.**
- ➔ This day serves as a poignant reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust and the enduring need to fight against hatred, bigotry, and racism in all its forms.
- ➔ The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in November 2005, with resolution 60/7. This date was chosen to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, in 1945.



International Day of Clean Energy:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **International Day of Clean Energy, observed on January 26, is a significant day dedicated to promoting the importance of renewable energy for a sustainable and environmentally friendly future.**
- ➔ This day serves as a reminder of the critical role clean energy plays in combating climate change, reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring a healthier planet for future generations.
- ➔ Clean energy, derived from renewable sources such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power, is essential for reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating the effects of global warming. The transition to clean energy is vital for achieving sustainability, protecting ecosystems, and ensuring energy security for all.



International Customs Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **International Customs Day is observed annually on January 26. This tradition dates back to 1953, when the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), now known as the World Customs Organization (WCO), designated this date to honour the work of customs officials.**
- ➔ The decision was made during a session inaugurated in Brussels, Belgium, with representatives from 17 European countries. Since its renaming in 1994, the WCO has grown to include 182 member states, each committed to international cooperation in customs matters.

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NATO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **NATO launches Steadfast Defender 2024, marking its most extensive military exercise since the cold war, involving over 90,000 troops, more than 50 ships and various aircraft.**
- ➔ Steadfast Defender 2024 marks the implementation of NATO's first defense plans in decades, outlining responses to potential aggression, particularly from Russia.



Rohan Bopanna:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna has etched his name in the history books by becoming the oldest player to claim the No. 1 spot in the men's doubles rankings at the age of 43.
- ➔ This remarkable achievement was secured following his quarter-final victory at the 2024 Australian Open, alongside Australia's Matthew Ebden.

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Virat Kohli:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Virat Kohli named ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the year for 2023. Kohli's outstanding performance in the ODI World Cup, amassing 765 runs, played a vital role in India's journey to the final.
- He surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record for the most runs scored by a batter in the tournament, showcasing his exceptional batting prowess.



Chamari Athapaththu:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Chamari Athapaththu named ICC Women's Cricketer of the year for 2023. She led Sri Lanka to their first bilateral series win over New Zealand. Athapaththu scored 415 runs and took one wicket in 8 ODI matches during the year.
- Her best performance came against New Zealand when Sri Lanka recorded their first-ever bilateral series win.



World Test Championship Final:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **England is set to host the 2027 World Test Championship final in June, marking the 4th consecutive time.**
- The ICC issued a Request for proposal for a social responsibility provider for the period 2024-2027.
- ICC announces the introduction of the women's T20 champions trophy. The inaugural edition is slated to take place in Sri Lanka in February 2027.

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