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February 2, 2024

Lochan Singh Pathania:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Vice Admiral Lochan Singh Pathania assumed charge as the Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India. Commissioned in the Executive branch of the Indian Navy in 1990, he is a Hydrography Specialist.
- The Flag Officer has commanded in Ships Darshak and Sandhayak. He also has the distinction of serving onboard HMS Bulldog of the Royal Navy.



Surajkund Mela:

(Importance level-4/5)

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➔ The Surajkund Mela 2024 is scheduled to commence on February 2 and will run until February 18. The 37th Surajkund Mela 2024 is scheduled to take place in Surajkund, Faridabad.

➔ The festival will commence with a grand inauguration, presided over by the President of India, Draupadi Murmu. It is organized by the Haryana Tourism department in Surajkund.



Human DNA bank:

(Importance level-4/5)

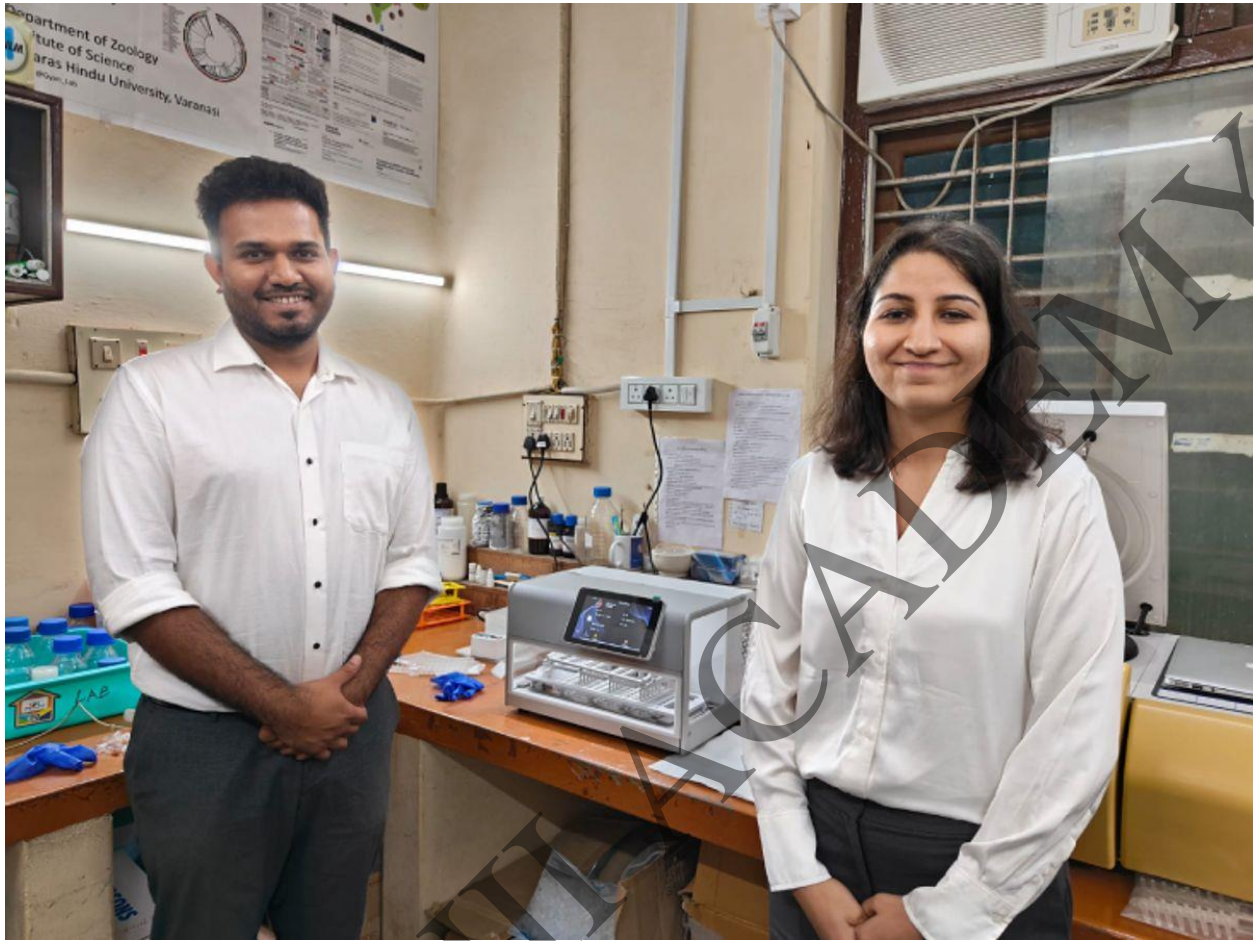
➔ North India's first human DNA bank is being set up at Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The Automated DNA Extractor Machine has been installed in the Gnyaneshwar Lab of the Zoology Department of BHU.

➔ These machines are completely indigenous to Make in India. It has been made in such a way that the minimum plastic is used in it, so that there is no harm to the environment.

➔ With this machine, DNA can be extracted from any biological material, like blood, saliva, hair or tissue. With its help, DNA can be separated from about 32 samples at one time in 30 minutes.

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Government of Karnataka:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In an era where digital devices have become an extension of our lives, the Government of Karnataka has taken a pioneering step towards fostering a healthier digital ecosystem.**
- ➔ Recognizing the need to mitigate the adverse effects of excessive online gaming, the state has announced a groundbreaking digital detox initiative to create a responsible gaming environment.
- ➔ This move not only highlights the government's commitment to public health but also sets a precedent for digital wellbeing.



Indian Navy:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a strategic move to bolster efficiency and bolster the well-being of its civilian workforce, the Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians.'**
- ➔ This groundbreaking initiative targets comprehensive Civilian HR Management, with a sharp focus on enhancing administrative efficiency, embracing digital transformation, implementing targeted training programs, and fostering employee welfare activities.



‘Kalaighnar Sports Kit’ initiative:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin recently announced a pioneering scheme aimed at nurturing sports talent at the grassroots level.**
- ➔ Named after the late Kalaighnar Karunanidhi, the ‘Kalaighnar Sports Kit’ initiative is set to provide sporting kits to 12,000 village panchayats across the state.
- ➔ The launch of the Kalaighnar Sports Kit scheme coincides with the birth centenary of Kalaighnar Karunanidhi, a towering figure in Tamil Nadu politics and culture. The initiative seeks to honor his legacy by promoting sports development among the youth of Tamil Nadu.

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“Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril” initiative:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Tamil Nadu unveiled the “Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril” initiative. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin launches an initiative for monthly 24 hour visits by officials to taluks, prioritizing infrastructure, public services and feedback collection.
- ➔ From healthcare centers to public toilets, the program ensures a through assessment, fostering transparent governance and addressing local concerns promptly.

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BRICS:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The BRICS group, a key platform for emerging markets and developing countries, has officially welcomed five new members: Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Ethiopia.**
- ➔ The five countries were extended invitations along with Argentina at a summit in August in Johannesburg to join the bloc comprising Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa. Argentina has declined the invitation to join.
- ➔ The newly enlarged BRICS now boasts a combined population of 3.5 billion and an economy exceeding \$28.5tn, constituting around 28% of the global economy.

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WHO:

(Importance level-3/5)

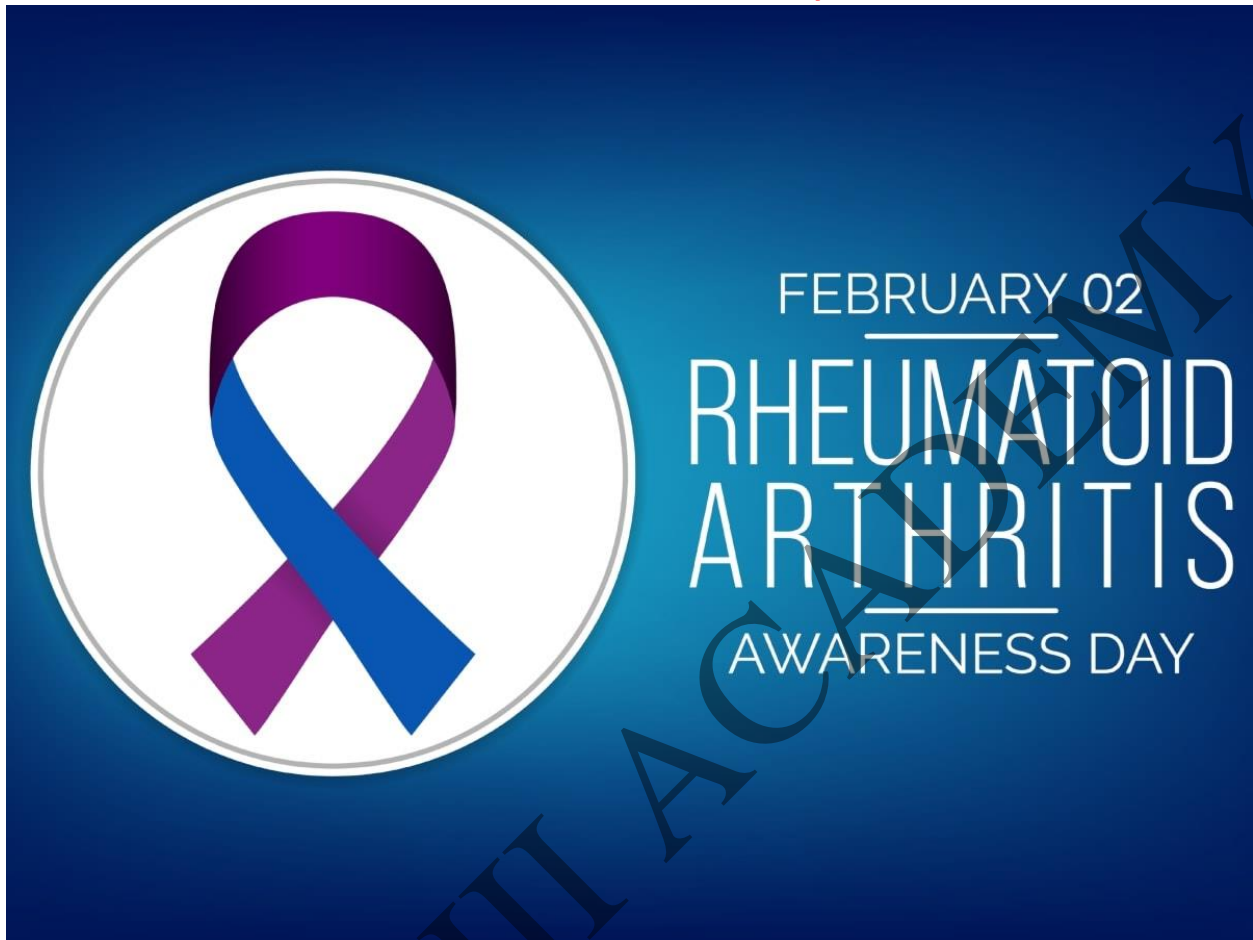
- WHO has awarded its first-ever certificates validating progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fatty acids to five countries.
- Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand have each demonstrated they have a best practice policy for industrially produced trans-fatty acids (iTFA) elimination in effect, supported by adequate monitoring and enforcement systems.
- In 2023 alone, new best-practice policies became effective in 7 countries (Egypt, Mexico, Moldova, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Philippines, and Ukraine).



Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Every year on February 2nd, the world marks Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day, dedicated to shedding light on rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a chronic autoimmune disease that significantly impacts the lives of millions globally.
- ➔ This observance aims to raise awareness, encourage early diagnosis and treatment, and provide support to those affected by RA. With women being disproportionately affected, understanding this disease's nuances is crucial for all.



World Wetlands Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- On February 2, 2024, the world comes together to celebrate World Wetlands Day, emphasizing the undeniable importance of wetlands to both the environment and human wellbeing.
- Wetlands, with their diverse ecosystems ranging from freshwater to marine environments, including swamps, marshes, and mangroves, play a pivotal role in the lives of countless species, including humans.
- This day serves as a critical reminder to raise awareness and take action towards the conservation of our planet's vital wetlands. World Wetlands Day is observed annually on February 2, marking the anniversary of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

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- This international treaty aimed at the conservation and wise use of wetlands was a significant milestone, leading to the global recognition of the value of wetlands.
- The United Nations General Assembly further cemented its importance by establishing February 2 as World Wetlands Day in 2021 through Resolution 75/317.



India and Oman:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **India and Oman have taken significant strides in bolstering their strategic partnership through enhanced defence cooperation.**
- The recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) underscores their commitment to deepening collaboration in various realms of defence engagement.
- The signing of the MoU serves as a pivotal framework for advancing defence collaboration between India and Oman.
- This agreement lays down clear guidelines for procurement of military equipment and signifies a tangible step towards solidifying their strategic partnership.



International Energy Agency Electricity 2024 Report:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India's electricity demand to grow at 6.5% annually until 2026, surpassing China's growth rate. Coal remains the dominant energy source, meeting 68% of India's electricity needs in 2026.
- Nuclear and hydro generation to expand, with Asia set to overtake North America in nuclear generation. India is also expanding renewable energy, with a target of 40% non-fossil fuel generation by 2030.

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February 3, 2024

National Rural Livelihood Promotion Society and BRAC International:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **National Rural Livelihood Promotion Society and BRAC International signed an MoU to empower poor women under DAY-NRLM.**
- ➔ The collaboration aims to provide economic inclusion and social protection for the poorest of the poor women in India.
- ➔ The MoU was formalized in the presence of senior officials from NRLPS, MoRD and BRAC international.



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(Importance level-3/5)

- **AIIMS, New Delhi, collaborates with CDAC, Pune to launch iOncology.ai, an AI platform for early cancer detection.**
- Cancer cases are on the rise in India, with late detection being a significant cause of death. iOncology.ai utilizes sophisticated AI systems, including deep learning models, to enhance accuracy in diagnosis.



Bharat Ratna:

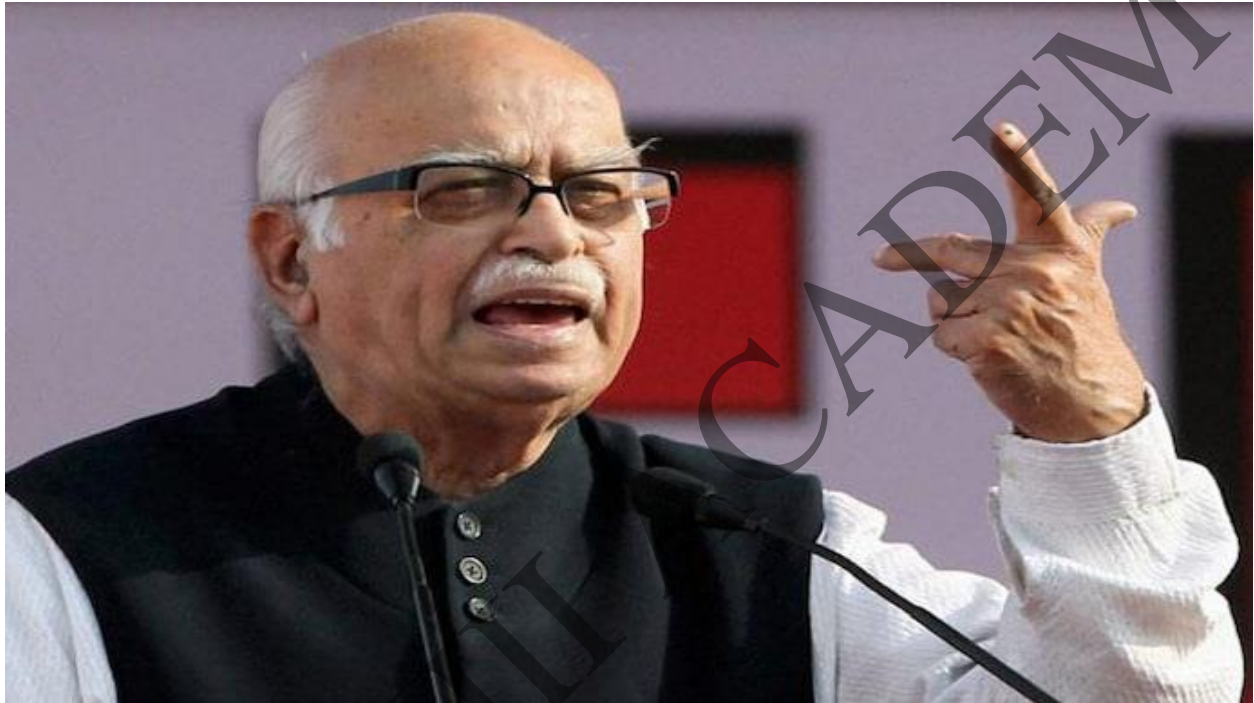
(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Indian government has announced that LK Advani, one of the most prominent figures in Indian politics, will be conferred with the Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian award.**

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- This prestigious honour is a testament to Advani's indelible contribution to Indian politics and society over several decades.
- The Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian award, established on 2 January 1954. It is awarded to recognize the highest degrees of national service, including artistic, literary, and scientific achievements, as well as recognition of public service of the highest order.
- The honour is not limited to Indian citizens; it has been awarded to non-Indians as well.



Uttarakhand Police:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Uttarakhand Police Adopt Self-Balancing e-scooters For Smart Patrols. Director General Abhinav Kumar, overseeing police operations in Haridwar, inaugurated a novel approach to law enforcement by deploying self-balancing electric scooters, generously donated by Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.**
- These eco-friendly vehicles are set to revolutionize police patrol in the bustling streets of Haridwar, enhancing crowd management and promoting sustainability.

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Uttar Pradesh government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government is set to establish a cutting-edge Centralized GIS Data Centre in Ayodhya under the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA).**
- ➔ This initiative aligns with the Chief Minister's vision to enhance the city's infrastructure and efficiently manage the ongoing 141 projects worth Rs 30,977 crore, aimed at restoring Ayodhya's historical grandeur.
- ➔ ADA has initiated the development process for the necessary software and hardware infrastructure required for the state-of-the-art GIS data centre integrated with Geographic Information System (GIS).



IAF:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to conduct Exercise Vayu Shakti-24, a grand display of its aerial might, on 17 February 2024, at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range near Jaisalmer.**
- ➔ Following the successful execution of the previous edition on 16 February 2019, this year's exercise promises to be an even more impressive demonstration of the IAF's offensive and defensive capabilities, both during the day and night.



MQ-9B:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India's strategic collaboration with the United States in defense takes a significant leap forward with the procurement of MQ-9B armed drones.**
- ➔ This acquisition underscores the strengthening ties between the two nations and represents a pivotal moment in enhancing India's military capabilities.
- ➔ The MQ-9B, developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc., epitomizes the cutting-edge advancements in armed drone technology.
- ➔ Designed to provide unparalleled intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, the MQ-9B heralds a new era in modern warfare.



Pradeep Kumar Srivastava:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The Ministry of Law and Justice has officially appointed Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava as a permanent judge at the Jharkhand High Court.
- The appointment process for the Chief Justice and Judges of High Courts is governed by Article 217(1) of the Indian Constitution.
- The President's consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the respective state is integral to appointing the Chief Justice, while the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court is also consulted for other judicial appointments.
- In cases where a High Court serves multiple states, consultations with the governors of all relevant states are mandatory.



Shri Pawan Kumar:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Consequent upon approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Shri Pawan Kumar, ICoAS, has assumed charge as Chief Adviser (Cost), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, in Level-17 (Apex level) on 01/02/2024.
- Shri Kumar is a 1992-batch officer of the Indian Cost Accounts Service under Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Prior to assuming the charge Shri Kumar was holding the charge of Additional Chief Adviser (Cost).

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Actor Vijay:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ Popular Tamil actor Vijay announced the formation of his political party, 'Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam,' on February 2. This announcement comes as a pivotal moment ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, marking Vijay's official entry into the political arena.
- ➔ Vijay announced during a press conference, unveiling 'Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam' as the name of his newly formed party.
- ➔ While he disclosed that his party would not contest in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he expressed his intention to run in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly polls. This strategic move has sparked widespread discussions and speculations about the actor's future role in state politics.



Nagesh Trophy:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Karnataka clinched the Nagesh Trophy, marking a significant milestone in the Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023-24.**
- ➔ The thrilling final, held in Nagpur, saw Karnataka defeating Andhra Pradesh by nine wickets, ending a 20-year wait for a national title.
- ➔ This victory not only showcased the exceptional talent of the visually impaired cricketers but also highlighted the spirit of resilience and determination that defines the sport.

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Abhinav Bindra:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ The ancient tradition of the Olympic Torch Relay continues its journey towards Paris 2024, with the flame set to cross the Mediterranean and embark on a 68-day adventure across France.
- ➔ **Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist and an IOC Athletes' Commission member, is among the 11,000 torchbearers chosen to carry the iconic symbol.**

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Februaryy 4-5, 2024

Ritu Bahri:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Justice Ritu Bahri took oath as the first women Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court today.**
- The oath of office was administered by Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh (Retd). She officially replaces former Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi.



Radha Raturi:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- **Radha Raturi, an IAS officer of the 1988 batch, replaced Sukhbir Singh Sandhu. She is the first woman to hold the top administrative post in Uttarakhand.**
- She has worked as a bureaucrat both in undivided Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which came into existence in November 2000.



Ellora – Ajanta International Festival:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **The Ellora – Ajanta International Festival, held in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar concluded marking the end of a three-day musical extravaganza that delighted audiences with a rich cultural treat.**
- After a seven-year hiatus, the event returned in 2023. Now, the district plans to host it annually in early February.
- District Guardian Minister Sandipan Bhumre, along with Ministers Atul Save and Abdul Sattar, and MLA Sanjay Shirsath, inaugurated the festival amidst grandeur, symbolized by the traditional lamp lighting ceremony.

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Badrinath Dham:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri, the chief priest (Rawal) of the world-renowned Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand, was honoured with the Shankar Smriti Award in Kerala.**
- ➔ This recognition marks a significant acknowledgement of his dedication and service to the spiritual domain, enhancing the rich tapestry of Indian religious practices.
- ➔ Badrinath Dham, often referred to as the earthly abode of Lord Vishnu, is a key pilgrimage site for Hindus around the world.

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Apurva Chandra:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ The government has made some big changes in who is in charge of different departments. This means that some people who used to work in one area are now going to work in another area to help make things better.
- ➔ Apurva Chandra used to be in charge of the Information and Broadcasting department, but now he's going to be the Health Secretary. He's been working for the government since 1988, so he has a lot of experience.
- ➔ Sanjay Jaju is going to take Apurva Chandra's old job as the Information and Broadcasting Secretary. He used to work in Telangana and started his government job in 1992.



ISRO:

(Importance level-5/5)

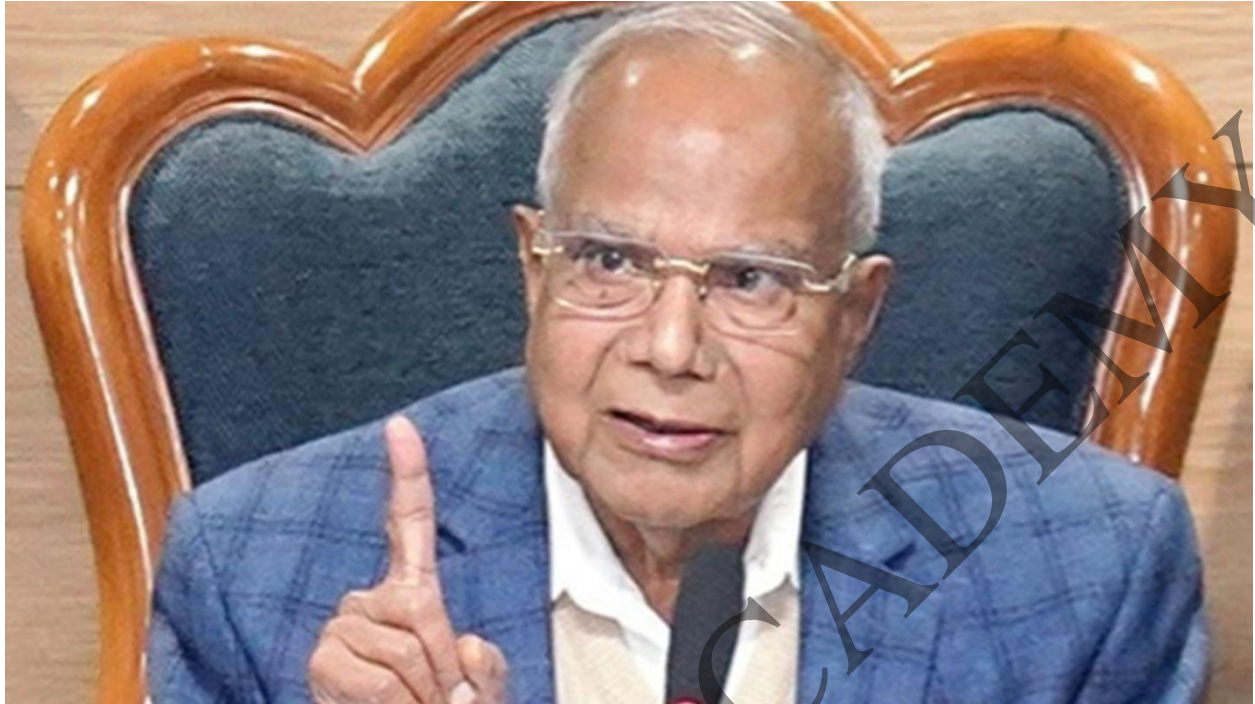
- ➔ In a pioneering leap for India's space endeavors, Vyommitra, the woman robot astronaut developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is set to embark on an uncrewed mission in the third quarter of this year.
- ➔ The mission, named after the Sanskrit words "Vyoma" (Space) and "Mitra" (Friend), signifies a significant stride towards the ambitious Gaganyaan mission, the country's maiden manned space flight, slated for 2025.
- ➔ Vyommitra, equipped with advanced capabilities, is designed to monitor module parameters, issue alerts, and execute life support operations.
- ➔ This female robot astronaut simulates human functions in the space environment, interacting seamlessly with the Life Support System. Its tasks include operating six panels and responding to queries, showcasing its versatility for space exploration.



Banwarilal Purohit:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit resigned from his post, citing “personal reasons.” In his resignation letter, he wrote, “Due to my personal reasons and certain other commitments, I tender my resignation from the post of governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh. Please accept the same and oblige”.**
- ➔ Purohit’s resignation comes just a day after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. The timing of his resignation, following the BJP’s triumph in the Chandigarh mayoral polls where they secured all three posts, has raised eyebrows.
- ➔ This victory dealt a blow to the Congress-AAP alliance, and despite allegations of ballot paper tampering from the opposition, the BJP emerged successful.



Uttarakhand Cabinet:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Uttarakhand Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has greenlit the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill, marking a historic move.**
- ➔ The bill, crafted based on recommendations from a government-appointed committee, will be presented in the Uttarakhand Assembly on February 6.
- ➔ If passed, Uttarakhand would be the first state post-Independence to adopt the Uniform Civil Code, aiming to standardize civil laws for all citizens, irrespective of their religious affiliations.

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India Energy Week 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Building on the resounding success of the 2023 edition, India Energy Week 2024 is set to take place in Goa from February 6 to 9, 2024.**
- ➔ This premier event, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, is the country's largest and sole comprehensive energy exhibition and conference.
- ➔ Under the esteemed patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, and with official backing from the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), India Energy Week 2024 aims to be a pivotal force in driving India's energy transition goals.



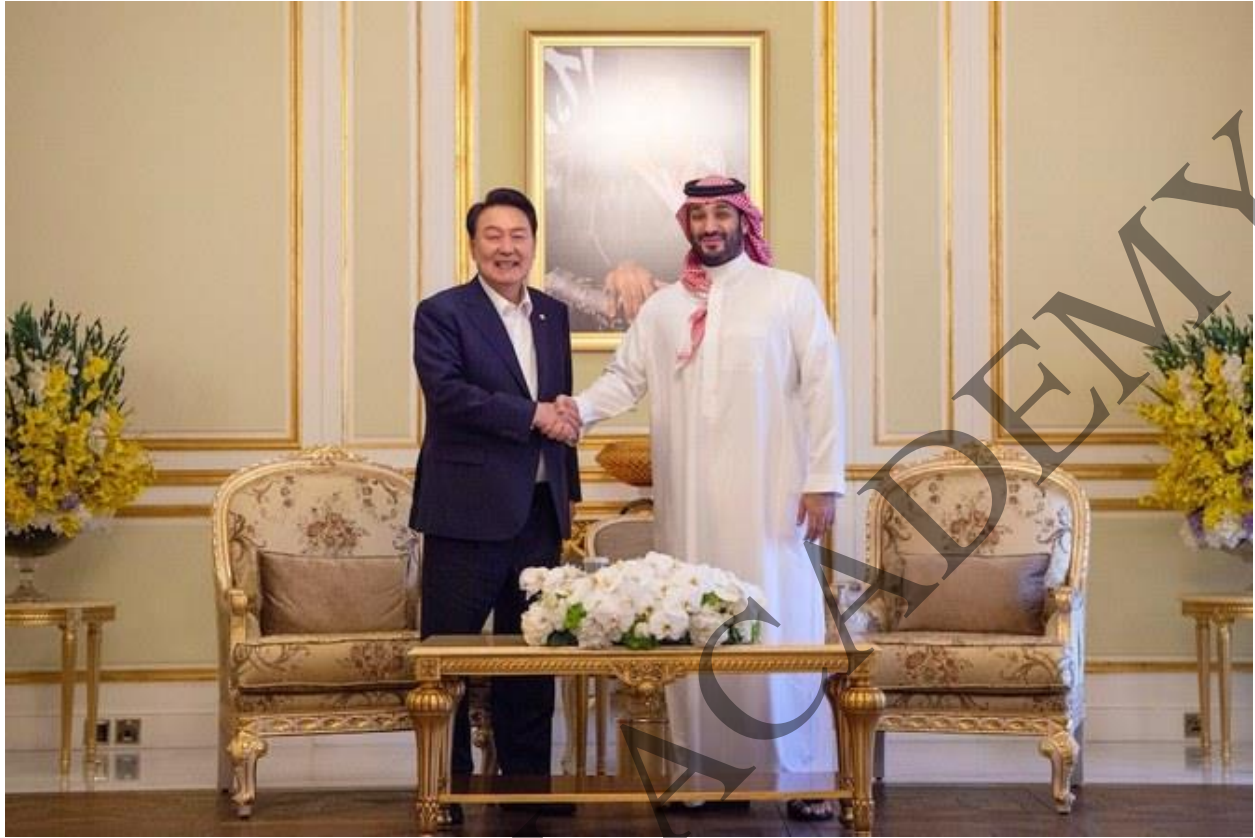
South Korea and Saudi Arabia:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **South Korea and Saudi Arabia on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding to expand defence cooperation.**
- ➔ The agreement will see the two establish a joint committee to form a working group for weapons systems research and development as well as production to continue cooperation in defence.
- ➔ South Korea is looking to boost sales to become one of the world's largest suppliers of weapons, despite stiff competition from other global arms exporters.

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France:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **France will become the first European country to issue digital Schengen visas to visitors for the upcoming Paris Olympics.**
- ➔ France has announced plans to shift entirely to online procedures for 70,000 French Schengen Visas, in a move that aligns with the EU's digitalization plans. This will help evade the complication of French Visa processes amidst rising visa demand.



International Day of Human Fraternity:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **International Day of Human Fraternity serves as a powerful reminder of the beauty of unity and the strength found in diversity.**
- ➔ Observed annually on February 4th, the day calls for global solidarity and mutual understanding, underscoring the importance of compassion, respect, and empathy in overcoming hatred and conflict.
- ➔ The International Day of Human Fraternity underscores the necessity of fostering a culture of peace and non-violence.
- ➔ It serves as a call to action for individuals, communities, and nations to come together in the spirit of dialogue and cooperation, transcending differences of race, religion, and language.

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- The day emphasizes that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but involves active participation, mutual respect, and the resolution of disagreements through understanding and collaboration.



World Cancer day:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- Cancer remains one of the most formidable health challenges of our time, affecting millions of people worldwide with its myriad forms and complexities.
- **Recognized annually on February 4th, World Cancer Day aims to shed light on this critical issue, advocating for advances in research, prevention, and patient care.**
- The ongoing theme for World Cancer Day from 2022 to 2024, “Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access To Cancer Care,” focuses on the disparities in cancer care across different communities and regions.
- This year’s sub-theme, “Together, we challenge those in power,” emphasizes the importance of holding leaders accountable for investing the necessary resources to combat cancer effectively. It is a powerful reminder that collective action and pressure can lead to significant improvements in how we address cancer worldwide.



Oleg Kononenko:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- ➔ Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko achieved a historic milestone by setting a world record for the most time spent in space, surpassing his compatriot Gennady Padalka's previous record of 878 days in orbit, as reported by Russia's space corporation, Roscosmos.
- ➔ At 0830 GMT, Oleg Kononenko officially broke the record, marking a significant achievement in the history of space exploration. His dedication and contributions to space missions have positioned him as a prominent figure in the realm of human spaceflight.



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Februaryy 6, 2024

Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Rajya Sabha has passed the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024. The Bill seeks to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.**
- The Act establishes the central and state pollution control boards to prevent and control water pollution. The Bill decriminalizes several violations and imposes penalties.
- It will initially apply to Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the Union Territories.



'EV Upyog':

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In line with its dedication to promoting the use and manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Uttar Pradesh, the state government is currently focusing on the enhancement of the 'EV Upyog' portal.**
- ➔ The government intends to engage a software development agency to get several attractive features added to the portal.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh Development Systems Corporation Limited (UPDSCL) has started the process of hiring a software development agency for one year to carry out the upgrade of the portal.
- ➔ It is noteworthy that a cloud server is a pooled, centralized server resource that is hosted and delivered over a network--typically the Internet--and accessed on demand by multiple users.



The Bapu Tower:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **In the heart of Patna, Bihar, a new landmark has emerged as a monumental tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, fondly known as the Father of the Nation.**
- The Bapu Tower, located in Gardanibagh, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.
- This tower, the first of its kind in the country dedicated to Gandhi, has been completed, marking a significant milestone in the architectural and cultural landscape of Bihar.
- The Bapu Tower, towering at a height of 120 feet and comprising six stories, is the realization of a dream project envisioned by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

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“Dhami against drugs campaign”:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Uttarakhand, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the “Dhami against drugs campaign,” a pivotal initiative spearheaded by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Metropolitan Dehradun.**
- ➔ This campaign, running from February 5 to February 10, marks a significant step in the state government’s resolution to eradicate drug abuse and cultivate a healthier, drug-free society by the year 2025.
- ➔ The launch event was not just a formal inauguration but also an opportunity to unveil campaign-specific merchandise, including T-shirts and posters, designed to spread awareness and mobilize support for this noble cause.



Bharat Rang Mahotsav:

(Importance level-3/5)

- The prestigious Bharat Rang Mahotsav, India's foremost theatre festival, inaugurated its festivities in the culturally vibrant Kachchh district of Gujarat, heralding the onset of a lively homage to the performing arts.
- The festival kicked off in grand style with a mesmerizing rendition of 'Uttararamacharitam,' a classic masterpiece by Bhavabhuti, directed by Dr. Chavan Pramod R. from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.



Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a strategic move within the Indian Army, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi has been appointed as the new Army Vice Chief, effective February 15.
- ➔ This transition signifies a seamless succession plan as Lt Gen Dwivedi steps into the role, succeeding Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, who is set to assume command at the Northern Army Command in Udampur.



Geological Institute of Israel:

(Importance level-4/5)

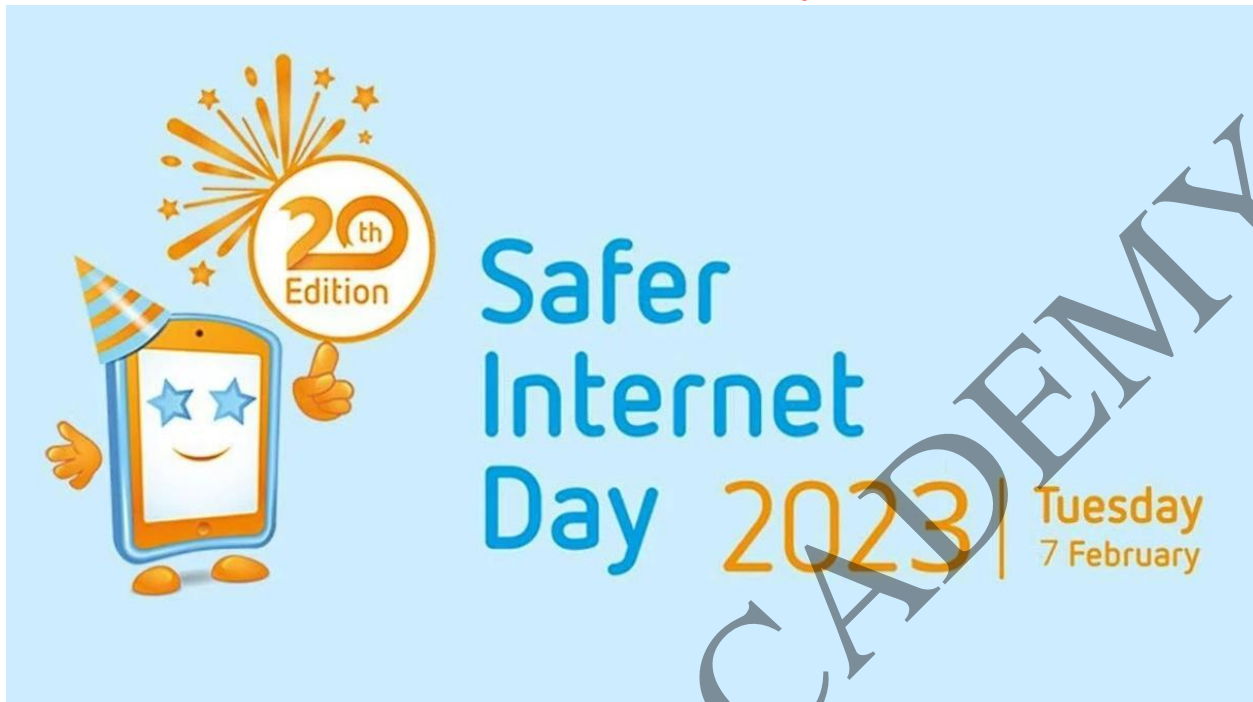
- ➔ **The Geological Institute of Israel has recently made a groundbreaking discovery near Cyprus, uncovering an underwater canyon of unprecedented proportions.**
- ➔ Named Eratosthenes after the nearby underwater mountain, this canyon sheds new light on the geological history of the Mediterranean region.
- ➔ Eratosthenes Canyon is a relic of the past, dating back approximately 5.5 million years to the Messinian Event.
- ➔ This pivotal period in Earth's history marked a significant geological transformation, known as the Messinian salinity crisis.
- ➔ Stretching across approximately 10 kilometers in width and plunging to depths of 500 meters, Eratosthenes Canyon's sheer magnitude is awe-inspiring. Yet, its existence remained hidden until now, buried beneath the seabed since the dawn of the Messinian period.



Safer Internet Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In the ever-evolving digital age, the significance of internet safety cannot be overstated. Safer Internet Day, celebrated on 6th February each year, serves as a global call to action for individuals, families, and communities to unite in making the digital world a safer and more secure environment for all.**
- ➔ The theme for Safer Internet Day 2024, “Inspiring Change. Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online,” reflects a proactive approach towards fostering a positive and secure online experience.
- ➔ This blog post delves into the history, importance, and ways to celebrate Safer Internet Day 2024, emphasizing the collective effort required to safeguard our digital footprint.



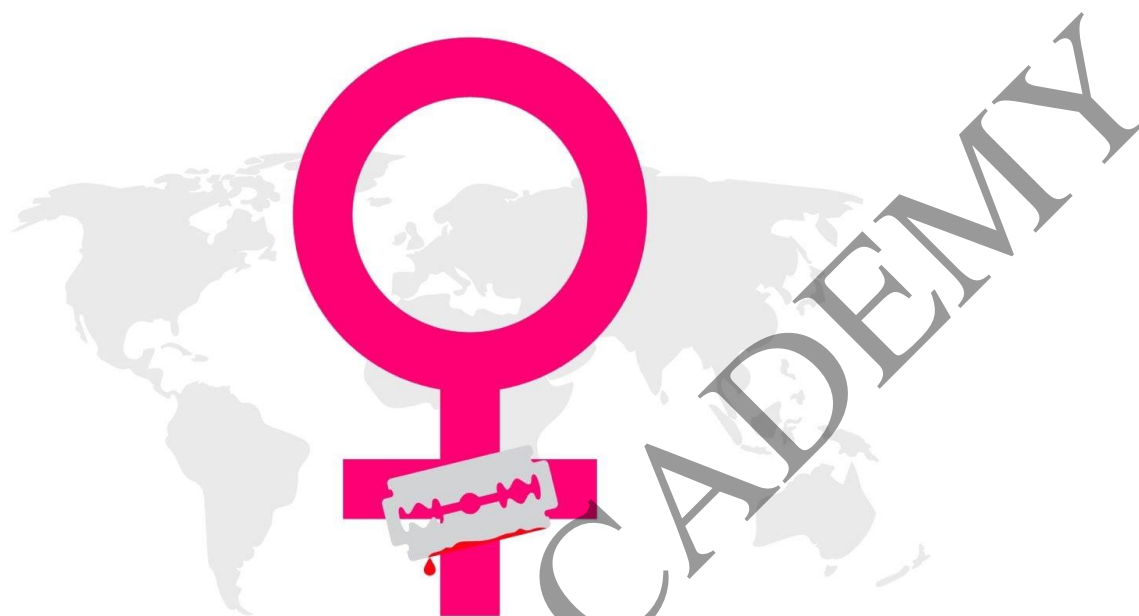
International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ February 6th, 2024, marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), a pivotal moment for communities worldwide to unite against a practice that infringes on the rights, health, and well-being of millions of women and girls.
- ➔ This day serves not only as a call to action but also as a reminder of the progress made and the challenges that remain in the fight to eradicate FGM.

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International Day of Zero Tolerance for
Female Genital Mutilation

WGS:

(Importance level-3/5)

→ **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the prestigious World Government Summit (WGS) in Dubai on February 14. This marks his second invitation to the WGS, with the first being in 2018.**

→ The WGS, an annual global gathering held in Dubai since 2013, convenes world leaders, policymakers, and experts to tackle pressing global issues.

→ Scheduled from February 12 to 14, the WGS is a cornerstone event in Dubai, attracting participants from across the globe.

→ This follows UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's recent attendance at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in January, underscoring the growing diplomatic ties between India and the UAE.

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10



PT Usha:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Legendary sprinter and current President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), PT Usha, was honoured with the prestigious 'Lifetime Achievement' award.**
- ➔ This accolade was presented to her by the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) and Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA), recognizing her extraordinary contributions to Indian athletics.
- ➔ The award ceremony saw the attendance of notable personalities, including Rajeev Shukla, Member of Parliament – Rajya Sabha and Vice President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), and former Indian shooter Jaspal Rana, among the Guests of Honour.

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BIMSTEC:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The 1st BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships is being held at Delhi's Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Swimming Pool Complex from February 6 to February 9, 2024 with competitions being held for Under 20 age category in Swimming, Water Polo and Diving events.
- ➔ Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation constitutes 5 members from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) and 2 members from South Asia (Myanmar and Thailand). BIMSTEC founded year is 1997.

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February 7, 2024

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Lok Sabha has cleared the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, which aims to address malpractices and irregularities in government recruitment exams by imposing strict penalties, including a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 1 crore.
- ➔ The Lok Sabha passed the Bill after rejecting some amendments proposed by opposition members.
- ➔ The Bill, presented by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, stated that there is no specific substantive law to deal with unfair means adopted or offences committed by various entities involved in the conduct of public examinations.

Prevention of Unfair Means Bill 2024

10 years of imprisonment
and 1 crore fine if caught
indulging in malpractice in
public examinations



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“Water Warrior” title:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Noida has been awarded the “Water Warrior” title by the Union Water Ministry for its efforts in wastewater treatment and reuse. The city received awards in 2 categories: Best Sewage treatment plant and water reuse project of the year.
- Noida currently operates eight STOs with a total capacity of 411 MLD, treating 260 MLD of sewage, of which 70-75 MLD is reused for various purposes.



NITISH:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and IIT Patna have collaborated to develop a pendant-shaped device called NITISH.
- The device uses voice messages to alert users about impending lightning, floods, heatwaves and coldwaves, helping farmers and common people stay informed and protected.

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National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- February 7 is National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day which was first observed in 1999. This year's theme is "Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in black communities".
- Black communities have made great progress in reducing HIV. This observance is a day to acknowledge how HIV disproportionately affects Black people.



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The Indian government:

(Importance level-3/5)

- The Indian government plans to fence the entire 1643 km Indo-Myanmar border to enhance surveillance and curb insurgencies, smuggling and the drug trade.
- The border currently has a free movement regime that allows people on both sides to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents. After an assessment by Central intelligence and security agencies, MHA took the decision.



UN MMEIG 2020:

(Importance level-4/5)

- As per the UN MMEIG 2020 report, India's Maternal Mortality Ratio declined from 384 in 2000 to 103 in 2020, a 6.36% annual reduction rate.
- The decline in India's MMR is three times higher than the global decline rate of 2.07%. Government initiatives like PMSMA, SUMAN, JSSK, LaQshya, VHSND and HWCs have contributed to this decline.

Maternal mortality ratio:
the number of maternal
deaths per *live births*

Numerator: Maternal deaths

Maternal
Death

Denominator: Live births



Population Research Institute: pop.org

National Science Day 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- National Science Day 2024 will focus on promoting public appreciation for science, technology and innovation.
- The theme, “Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat”, underscores the importance of making India Atmanirbhar through science.
- **National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the “Raman Effect”.**



28:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has approved the creation of two new districts for ease of administration.**
- ➔ The cabinet decided to carve out Keyi Panyor district from Lower Subansiri and Bichom from East and West Kameng districts. The number of districts in the northeastern state will now rise to 28.



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“Mahtari Vandan Yojana”:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Chhattisgarh government has launched a welfare scheme “Mahtari Vandan Yojana”. Under the scheme, government will provide Rs 1,000 financial assistance for married women.
- Under the scheme, Rs 1,000 per month — i.e. Rs 12,000 per annum — will be sent into the bank accounts of married women accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer).
- The married women who are a domicile of Chhattisgarh and aged above 21 years as on January 1, 2024, will be eligible to avail benefit of the scheme.



महतारी वंदन योजना

सशक्त महिला मजदूर प्रदेश

मुख्य पृष्ठ	आवेदन एवं भुगतान की स्थिति	सामान्य प्रश्न	आवेदन पत्र	शपथ पत्र	छ.ग. शासन द्वारा जारी आदेश	हितग्राही लॉगिन
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महतारी वंदन योजना

12,000 रु.

वार्षिक वित्तीय सहायता
विवाहित महिलाओं को

Divya Kala Mela:

(Importance level-3/5)

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- ➔ The Divya Kala Mela, an initiative by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), is set to grace the vibrant city of Agartala, Tripura.
- ➔ This event, inaugurated on 6th February 2024, aims to celebrate the talents and skills of Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs from across the country.



KFD:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), also known as Monkey Fever, has emerged as a significant health concern in Karnataka, India.**
- ➔ With two fatalities reported this year and 49 positive cases, the state's health department is on high alert.
- ➔ Originating from the Kyasanur Forest in 1957, KFD is caused by the Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV), belonging to the Flaviviridae family.



‘Parvatmala’:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The collaboration between the Maharashtra government and the National Highways Logistic Management Limited (NHLML) marks a significant step towards advancing connectivity and tourism development through ropeways under the National Ropeway Programme ‘Parvatmala’.**
- ➔ The Maharashtra government and NHLML formalized their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), emphasizing the joint commitment towards infrastructure development and the implementation of ropeway projects.

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‘Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana’:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant move aimed at improving the lives of senior citizens and boosting confidence in cooperative societies, the Maharashtra government has announced a series of initiatives covering various sectors.**
- ➔ From welfare schemes to development projects, these measures reflect the government’s commitment to addressing the needs of its citizens and fostering growth across the state.
- ➔ The introduction of the ‘Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana’ is set to benefit around 15 lakh senior citizens suffering from physical or mental disabilities.
- ➔ Under this scheme, eligible citizens above the age of 65 will receive financial assistance of three thousand rupees, providing much-needed support and relief to vulnerable members of society.



TomTom:

(Importance level-4/5)

- London was the most congested city in the world in 2023, with commuters spending 37 minutes 20 seconds in traffic on average to cover a distance of 10 km, a new study has found.
- The report by the Amsterdam-based location technology specialist TomTom showed during rush hours, people in the UK capital lost 148 hours yearly. Bengaluru and Pune in India took the 6th and 7th spots respectively.



Telangana Football Association:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The Telangana Football Association (TFA) has achieved a significant milestone by securing approval to host the FIFA World Cup qualifiers round between India and Kuwait.
- The match is scheduled to take place on June 6th of this year in Hyderabad, announced Dr. K.T. Mahi, Chairman of TFA.

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Ethiopia:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ Ethiopia signed a memorandum of understanding with the breakaway region of Somaliland. Somaliland, historically, the area now comprising Somalia and Djibouti.
- ➔ The name is also used to refer to the Republic of Somaliland, a self-declared independent country in the Horn of Africa.

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February 8, 2024

White Paper:

(Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tables 'white paper' on Indian economy in Lok Sabha. A white paper is a government document which is presented to highlight new policies and achievements to gain support and to gauge public reaction.**
- ➔ The Modi government had announced in the Union Interim Budget presented on February 1 that it would come out with a 'White Paper' to compare the economic performance of 10 years of the Congress-led UPA government with that of 10 years of the BJP-led NDA government.



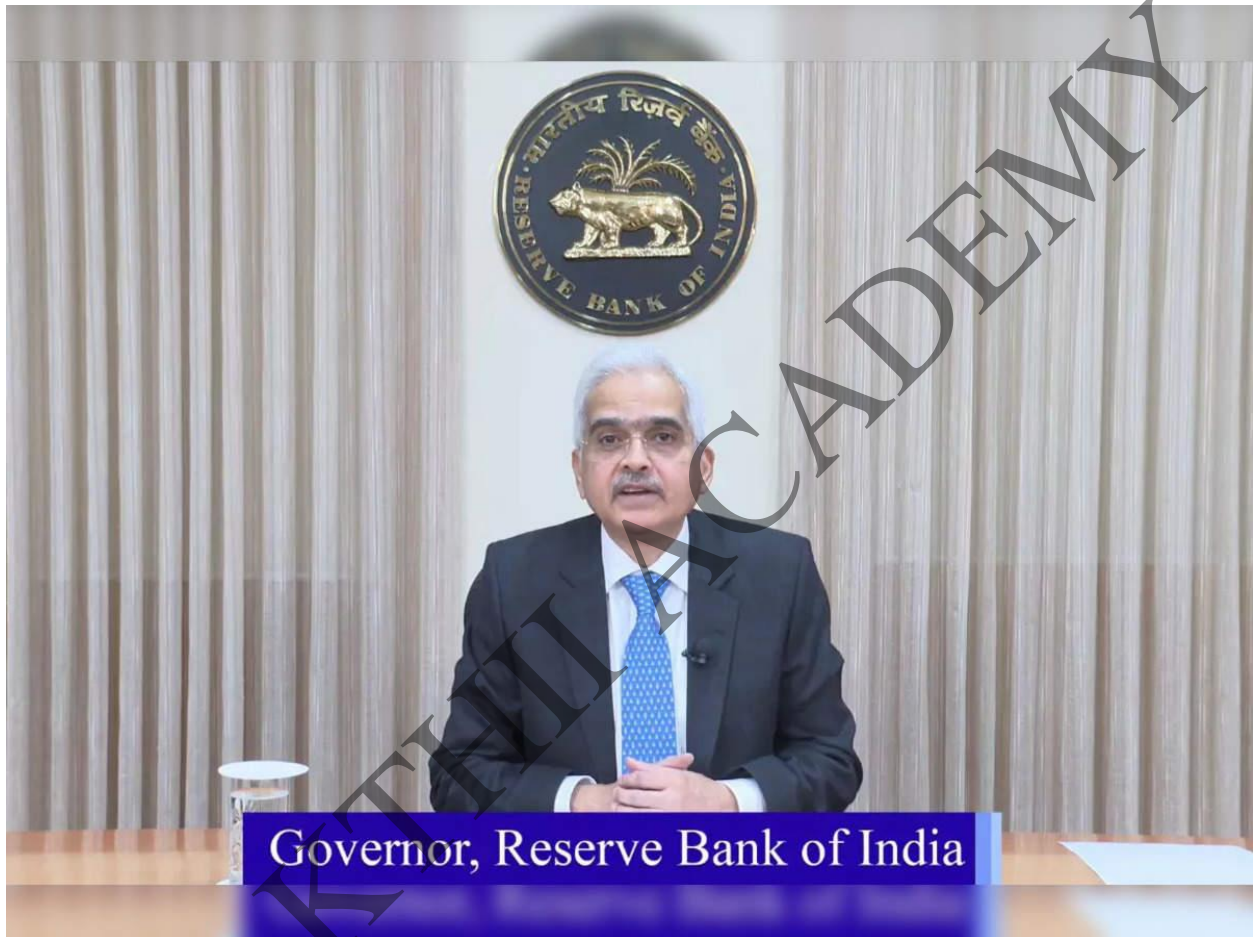
Reserve Bank of India:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- The Reserve Bank of India has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the 6th consecutive time. The decision was made to keep inflation under control, as retail inflation continues to remain above the RBI's target of 4%.
- RBI Governor Shaktikanda Das projected retail inflation at 5.4% for the current fiscal year and 4.5% for the next fiscal year.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has announced that the government will introduce a free bus scheme for transpeople, similar to the scheme for women.
- The proposal will soon be put before the cabinet and, if approved, will be implemented within a few weeks.

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- The scheme aims to provide convenience and equal rights to the transgender community, which has been neglected for many years.
- The free bus scheme for women was launched in October 2019 and has been successful thus far. The scheme will be available to all members of the transgender community, regardless of where they live.



Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) has achieved a major milestone by successfully establishing and testing India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility.**
- With this technical facility developed by IIT Kanpur, hypersonic cruise missiles can be prepared for precise targeting.
- According to IITK, the facility is capable of generating flight speeds between 3-10 km/s, simulating the hypersonic conditions encountered during atmospheric entry.
- Thus, it is a valuable test facility for ongoing missions of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) including Gaganyaan, RLV (Reusable Launch Vehicle), and hypersonic cruise missiles.

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Bina Modi:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, Bina Modi has been honored with the 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year 2023' award by the Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh.**
- ➔ The award, presented to her at a prestigious conference by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) on 'Strengthening Indo-US Relationship in Amritkal-Aatmanirbhar Bharat.'

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IEA:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India will in seven years become the largest source of global oil demand growth as its domestic production shrinks 22 per cent, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- The two trends have major implications as India is already the world's second largest net importer, said the agency in a report released at the India Energy Week in Goa. India's crude imports reached 4.6 million b/d in 2023, increasing 36 per cent in a decade.



EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme.**
- The Vidyanjali Scholarship Program symbolizes a whole-of-society approach to empowerment through access and opportunities of education, particularly to students belonging to economically disadvantaged sections.
- He commended the efforts of students of NVS and mentioned that nearly 14,000 students have succeeded in getting admission to reputed institutes including IITs, NITs, etc. without joining any coaching centres.



Uttarakhand:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Uttarakhand has marked a significant milestone in India's legislative history by becoming the first state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).**
- This groundbreaking move was initiated by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, with the state Assembly passing the UCC Bill.
- The UCC aims to standardize laws governing personal matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and more across all citizens, irrespective of their religion.
- Goa is the only state which has a common family law. After its liberation in 1961, Goa, with a population of just six lakh at that time, retained the Portuguese Civil Code, making it the only state to have a uniform civil code for all religions.

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Abu Dhabi Investment Authority:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), the largest sovereign wealth fund in the UAE, is establishing a substantial investment fund totaling \$4-5 billion through India's Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), situated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state.**
- ➔ The regulatory authority overseeing financial services at GIFT City has granted in-principle approval to ADIA for setting up the fund. This development marks the first instance of a sovereign wealth fund initiating investments in India via GIFT City.

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Indian Institute of Technology Madras:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with Munitions India Limited (a Defence Public Sector Enterprise) to develop India's first indigenously-designed 155 Smart Ammunition to achieve indigenization in the defence sector.**
- ➔ The objective is to increase the accuracy of 155 mm shell within a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of 10 m. At present, ammunitions developed in India has a CEP of 500 m. Another goal is to increase the lethality at the terminal impact point.



International Monetary Fund:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **International Monetary Fund warns Maldives is at risk of “debt distress” due to excessive borrowing from China.**
- China has increased funding to the Maldives since the pro-china president took office. Maldives’s shift in allegiance from India to China has raised concerns about its ability to repay its debts.



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NASA:

(Importance level-5/5)

- American space agency NASA has discovered a "super-Earth", a planet that could potentially support life. It is located 137 light-years away.
- The planet is dubbed TOI-715 b and is around one and a half times as wide as Earth, and orbits within the "conservative" habitable zone around its parent star, possibly indicating that it may form liquid water on its surface, as per NASA. It completes a full orbit (a year) in just 19 days.



China:

(Importance level-4/5)

- China launches nine satellites into orbit on powerful Jielong-3 rocket. The Jielong-3, or Smart Dragon-3, blasted off from a floating barge off the coast of Yangjiang in southern Guangdong province.
- It was the third launch of the rocket, developed by China Rocket Co, a commercial offshoot of a state-owned launch vehicle manufacturer, since December 2022.



Iranian government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Iranian government has approved a visa-free policy for Indian nationals. This policy will be only valid for tourism purposes.**
- ➔ With this exemption, Indian citizens holding ordinary passports can enter Iran without a visa once every six months for a maximum stay of 15 days.
- ➔ In December, Iran approved a new visa-free programme for India and 32 other countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia.
- ➔ If Indian citizens wish to stay for a longer period or make multiple entries within a six-month period or require other types of visas, it is mandatory to get necessary visas through the respective representations of Iran in India.

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India and Saudi Arabia:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **India and Saudi Arabia recently engaged in discussions aimed at bolstering their bilateral defence and strategic cooperation.**
- ➔ These talks, held between Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt and Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud in Riyadh, highlighted several key areas of collaboration.
- ➔ One significant aspect of the discussions was the potential for enhancing joint military training exercises between the two nations. Both sides recognize the importance of interoperability and readiness in addressing shared security challenges.

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Wei Yi:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Grand Master Wei Yi emerged triumphant in the highly anticipated 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament, showcasing his exceptional skill and tactical prowess.**
- ➔ His victory in the thrilling four-player tiebreak, which featured esteemed grandmasters Anish Giri, Gukesh Dommaraju, and Nodirbek Abdusattorov, solidified his position as one of the premier chess players on the global stage. Notably, this victory marks Wei Yi's ascent into the esteemed ranks of the world's top 10 players.

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SCA:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) Stadium is set to be rebranded as the Niranjan Shah Stadium.**
- ➔ This change comes as a tribute to the former first-class cricketer and senior cricket administrator, Niranjan Shah, marking his immense contributions to the sport and the region.
- ➔ The renaming ceremony will be a notable event, taking place in Khandheri, where the stadium has been a central hub for national cricket matches for over a decade.
- ➔ Niranjan Shah's legacy in cricket extends beyond his playing days; from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, he represented Saurashtra in 12 first-class games, laying the groundwork for a lifelong association with cricket.

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- His impact, however, is most profoundly felt through his administrative roles, where he has stood as one of the senior-most figures in Indian cricket, wielding significant influence within the SCA.



Jasprit Bumrah:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Jasprit Bumrah's sensational performance in the second Test against England has led to him topping the world rankings for bowlers.**
- Jasprit Bumrah has jumped to the top of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test rankings for the first time in his career on the back of a sensational performance in India's second Test against England.
- Bumrah dislodged teammate Ravichandran Ashwin from the position and in the process, has become the first Indian fast bowler to top the ICC Test rankings.

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February 9, 2024

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the development of infrastructure projects and public welfare schemes, making Uttar Pradesh a breakthrough for the development of new India.**
- ➔ The state aims to have 21 airports soon and has seen an increase in power generation capacity, solar energy projects, and tourism.
- ➔ The government is also focused on improving law and order and creating a secure environment for the common people. The Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj is expected to be grander than in 2019.



Cherlapally:

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(Importance level-3/5)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the upcoming 4th terminal at Cherlapally, Telangana.
- The ongoing modernization work of the Secunderabad railway station will be completed by the end of 2025.



NPCI:

(Importance level-3/5)

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Ajay Kumar Choudhary as non-executive chairman of the Board and independent director for a period of three years starting February 8, 2024.

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- Choudhary succeeds Biswamohan Mahapatra who was appointed non-executive chairman in 2018. Dilip Asbe is the managing director and chief executive officer of NPCI.



Bharat Ratna:

(Importance level-5/5)

- **India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, is set to honour the indelible contributions of three distinguished individuals whose efforts have significantly shaped the nation's trajectory.**
- Former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, alongside renowned agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan, are the esteemed recipients of this prestigious accolade, acknowledging their unparalleled dedication to the progress of India.
- PV Narasimha Rao, often hailed as the Architect of Modern India, played a pivotal role in ushering in economic liberalization in the early 1990s.
- His visionary leadership not only averted a financial crisis but also laid the groundwork for India's rapid growth and integration into the global economy.

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Assam government and Larsen & Toubro:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a collaborative effort between the Assam government and Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the Construction Skill Training Centre in Assam.
- This initiative aims to address unemployment by providing comprehensive training opportunities to the youth and enhancing their employability in the construction sector.
- Chief Minister Dr. Sarma emphasized the urgent need for skill development to tackle unemployment in Assam.
- The Construction Skill Training Centre is a pivotal step towards bridging the gap between job seekers and employment opportunities in the construction industry.

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‘Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar’:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a significant move towards bolstering infrastructure and fostering socio-economic development, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu recently spearheaded the ‘Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar’ program at Amb-Pathiyar under the Jawalamukhi assembly constituency.
- ➔ The event served as a platform for the CM to engage with local residents and gain insight into their concerns, while also unveiling a series of transformative announcements aimed at propelling the region forward.



Tamil Nadu MSME Minister:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Tamil Nadu MSME Minister Unveils 'Smart Cards' To Aid Startups. In a significant stride towards fostering entrepreneurship in Tamil Nadu, the MSME Minister, T M Anbarasan, launched two pivotal initiatives during an event organized by StartUp TN.**
- ➔ These initiatives, the Smartcard scheme and the StartUp Challenge website, underscore the government's unwavering commitment to nurturing startups and fostering innovation in the state. At the core of this initiative lies the Smartcard scheme, designed to provide startups with essential support services at discounted rates.

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Google:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Alphabet's Google has made significant strides in the realm of artificial intelligence (AI), recently rebranding its chatbot and introducing a new subscription plan.**
- ➔ This move places Google in direct competition with its rival OpenAI, signaling a pivotal moment in the ongoing AI race.
- ➔ Formerly known as Bard, Google's chatbot has undergone a transformation and is now dubbed Gemini. This rebranding effort coincides with the launch of a new subscription plan, offering users access to Google's most advanced AI model, the Ultra 1.0, within the Gemini family.



China:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **China has inaugurated its newest Antarctic research station, the Qinling facility, situated on Inexpressible Island in the Ross Sea.**
- This marks China's fifth research station in Antarctica and signifies its commitment to advancing scientific exploration in the region.
- The Qinling station is poised to operate year-round, accommodating a team of up to 80 researchers and support staff.
- Its primary focus is on conducting diverse research activities encompassing biological oceanography, glaciology, marine ecology, and other scientific disciplines.
- China's investment in the Qinling station underscores its dedication to expanding our understanding of the Antarctic ecosystem and its broader implications for global environmental dynamics.



India and Russia:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **India and Russia have strengthened their long-standing nuclear cooperation with the signing of a protocol amending the 2008 intergovernmental agreement.**
- The agreement focuses on the construction of additional nuclear reactors at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project site and the development of Russia-designed nuclear power plants at new locations in India.



International Football Association Board:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The International Football Association Board (IFAB) is preparing to debut a new card, the blue card as part of trials involving sin bins in professional football.**
- ➔ In November 2023, the governing body recognized the necessity of addressing player conduct towards match officials, leading to the implementation of temporary dismissals for dissent and certain tactical infractions.
- ➔ IFAB proposes the inclusion of blue cards alongside the traditional yellow and red cards. Blue cards will serve as a disciplinary measure for dissent and cynical fouls, resulting in players being temporarily sent to the sin-bin.



SAFF U19:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ India was declared the winner of the SAFF U19 Women's football final over Bangladesh with a coin toss after the game was tied 11-11 on penalties.
- ➔ The match officials later announced both sides as the joint winners of the tournament.

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West Bengal:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **West Bengal has achieved an increase in its Gross State Domestic Product. The state has successfully reduced its revenue deficit, fiscal deficit and debt to GSDP ratios.**
- These improvements are attributed to significant public financial management reforms implemented by the state government in recent years. The above implements were hailed in the Economic Review for 2023-24.

Tata Steel:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Tata Steel collaborates with South Eastern Railway to develop sustainable rail infrastructure using slag-based aggregates.**
- Tata Aggreto and Tata Nirman will be used in constructing railway tracks. Additionally, Tata Nirman is utilized in the manufacturing of fly ash bricks and cement.
- This collaboration aims to preserve biodiversity by reducing the need for mining natural aggregates.

UPSC:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **According to the proposal put forth by the Ladakh Administration, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has agreed to establish a center in Kargil for conducting the Civil Service (Preliminary), NDA, and IFS examinations.**

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- Starting from this year, the CAPF examinations will be held in both Leh and Kargil. Considering the recent developments and requests received from the Ladakh UT Administration, as well as other organizations and individuals from the region, the Commission has decided to establish a center in Kargil for all the aforementioned examinations, including the Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination.
- The Kargil center will be operational for the first time during the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination in 2024, scheduled to be held on April 26, 2024 (Sunday).

Baba Amte's death anniversary:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Baba Amte's death anniversary, observed on February 9th, serves as a poignant reminder of his extraordinary contributions to humanity.**
- His life story continues to inspire generations, reminding us of the transformative power of compassion and social activism.
- February 9th, 2024, marks the 16th death anniversary of Baba Amte, a towering figure in India's history of social reform and compassion. As we pause to remember his life and legacy, we are reminded of his profound impact on the lives of the marginalized and oppressed.
- Murlidhar Devidas Amte, affectionately known as Baba Amte, was a prominent Indian social worker and activist whose profound commitment to the welfare of humanity left an indelible mark on society.
- Born on December 26, 1914, in Hinganghat, Maharashtra, Baba Amte dedicated his life to the service of the marginalized and oppressed, particularly those afflicted by leprosy.

ITPO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The New Delhi Book Fair, organized by the National Book Trust in collaboration with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), is set to enchant visitors at Pragati Maidan from February 10 to 18, 2024.**
- This year's theme, "Multilingual India: A Living Tradition," promises a celebration of linguistic diversity and cultural exchange.

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- Saudi Arabia takes center stage as the Guest of Honor, showcasing its rich literary heritage. With 25 delegates from the Kingdom participating, the fair becomes a platform for strengthening bilateral ties between India and Saudi Arabia.

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan made groundbreaking announcements during her address to the joint session of the legislature, outlining the state government's ambitious agenda for digital inclusion and technological advancement.**
- With a focus on ensuring universal access to the internet and positioning Hyderabad and Telangana as the nation's AI capital, Governor Soundararajan's vision sets a bold precedent for the state's future development.
- Governor Soundararajan's commitment to making the internet a basic right for all citizens of Telangana underscores her dedication to bridging the digital divide and empowering every individual with the tools for success in the digital era.

OPS:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **In a groundbreaking move for the Northeast region, Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang of Sikkim announced the revival of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for state government employees hired on or after April 1, 2006, during the State Level Temporary Employees' Convention.**
- This decision underscores the government's commitment to the welfare of its workforce. Under the provisions of the Sikkim Services Pension Rules, 1990, employees appointed on or before March 31, 1990, are set to benefit from the reinstatement of the OPS.

Uttar Pradesh:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Uttar Pradesh aims to revolutionize its energy sector by constructing one million tonne per annum (mtpa) green hydrogen production capacity, generating an estimated 120,000 jobs.**
- ➔ This initiative stems from the state's commitment to sustainable development and capitalizes on the burgeoning global green hydrogen market.
- ➔ Investment proposals worth Rs 2.73 trillion have been secured from 20 companies during the UP Global Investors Summit in February 2023.
- ➔ The state is formulating a comprehensive policy offering incentives on capital outlay, land acquisition, and power transmission to attract investment in green hydrogen infrastructure.

Embraer and Mahindra:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant development in the aerospace industry, Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer and Mahindra announced a strategic partnership aimed at fulfilling the Indian Air Force's (IAF) acquisition of the C-390 multi-mission transport aircraft.**
- ➔ With the IAF seeking to replace its aging fleets of AN32 planes, this collaboration aligns with India's defense modernization efforts under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- ➔ The Indian Air Force's requirement for 40 to 80 medium transport aircraft underscores the need for modernization and operational efficiency.

ADB:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to enhance flood and riverbank erosion risk management along the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India.**
- ➔ This project aims to build on previous successful initiatives and address the persistent challenges of flooding and erosion in the region.

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NADA:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **With the Paris Olympic Games approaching, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) hosted the “Road to Paris 2024: Championing Clean Sports and Uniting for Anti-Doping” Conference.**
- ➔ The event aimed to educate Indian athletes about the dangers of prohibited substances while emphasizing ethical competition.
- ➔ Anurag Singh Thakur virtually inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Nutritional Supplements Testing (CoE-NSTS) at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ➔ NFSU, known for its expertise in forensic and cyber sciences, now houses a cutting-edge facility dedicated to testing nutritional supplements for athletes.

Fit India Movement:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Fit India Movement broke the mold by appointing Narendra Kumar Yadav, an IRS officer, as its new brand ambassador.**
- ➔ This groundbreaking choice highlights the diverse paths to fitness and challenges us to rethink what it means to be a role model for a healthier India.
- ➔ Mr. Yadav, who made history as one of the youngest Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers in 2009, embodies a unique story.
- ➔ He has excelled in his demanding civil service career while simultaneously fostering a deep-rooted passion for health and fitness. He actively champions holistic wellness practices, emphasizing nutrition, mindful living, and a balanced approach to fitness.

PACE:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- The vast expanse of our planet's oceans and the intricate dance of Earth's atmosphere hold key secrets to understanding and battling climate change.
- **In a recent groundbreaking move, NASA launched the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, embarking on a crucial journey to unlock these mysteries.**
- This ambitious project promises to revolutionize our understanding of the complex interactions between air, water, and life, providing invaluable insights into our planet's changing climate.

World Pulses Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Every year on February 10th, the global community celebrates World Pulses Day, an occasion dedicated to recognizing the pivotal role of pulses in promoting food security, nutrition, and sustainable agricultural practices.**
- This year's theme, "Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People," emphasizes the dual benefits of pulses for enhancing soil health and providing essential nutrients to humans.
- It's a day to appreciate the humble pulse, not just as a source of food but as a cornerstone of ecological and human health.

International Day of the Arabian Leopard:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The United Nations General Assembly has marked February 10th as the International Day of the Arabian Leopard.**
- This decision, formalized in resolution 77/295, highlights the critical status of the Arabian Leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*), classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- The rapid decline of this majestic creature signals a dire need for concerted actions to address the biodiversity crisis threatening ecosystems globally.
- The Arabian Leopard is a beacon of the Arabian Peninsula's rich biodiversity. With males averaging 30-40 kg and females 25-35 kg, it stands as one of the smallest subspecies of leopards.

India, Türkiye, and Qatar:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- **The 2024 World Governments Summit, scheduled to be held in Dubai from February 12-14, has designated India, Türkiye, and Qatar as guests of honor.**
- Themed 'Shaping Future Governments,' the summit aims to facilitate discussions among over 25 government and state heads worldwide. These nations will exhibit their successful government experiences and best developmental practices.

Jungfrauoch:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **The iconic Jungfrauoch, also known as the Top of Europe, witnessed a momentous event recently. India's Olympic gold medalist and world champion javelin thrower, Neeraj Chopra, was honoured with a commemorative plaque at the renowned Ice Palace.**
- This prestigious recognition adds another feather to his cap and strengthens the bond between Switzerland and India.

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Semiconductor policy:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Uttar Pradesh implements semiconductor policy for the first time in country. State Government's initiatives highlighted with Formation of Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority between Kanpur and Jhansi.**
- Uttar Pradesh has enacted a dedicated Semiconductor Policy, eliciting keen interest and multiple proposals.



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Odisha Government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The Odisha Government raised the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana pension amount by Rs.500. The MBPY beneficiaries who were availing Rs 500, Rs 700 and Rs 900 each month will now receive Rs 1000, Rs 1200 and Rs 100 every month.
- MBPY was launched on January 1, 2008 by the Women and Child Development Department.



CAA:

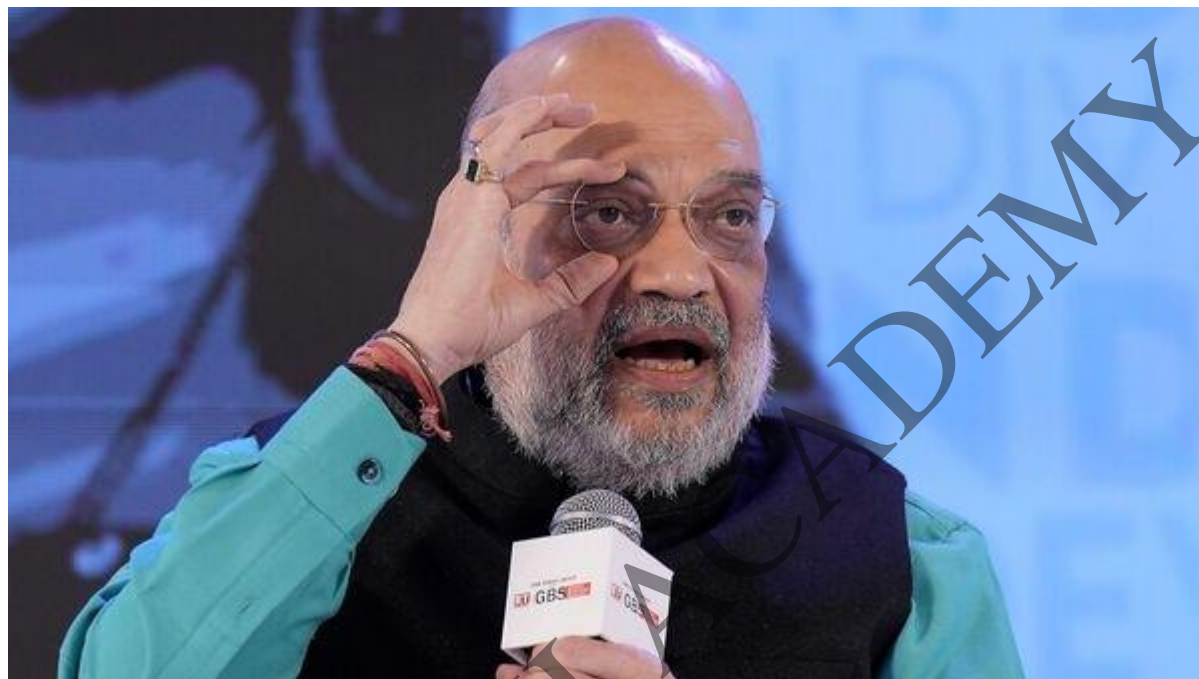
(Importance level-4/5)

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stated that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be notified and implemented before the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.
- Shah emphasized that the CAA is an act to provide citizenship and not to take away anyone's citizenship, and that it aims to confer Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim migrants. CAA was passed by the Parliament in December 2019.

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- Under the CAA brought in by the Narendra Modi government, Indian nationality will be granted to persecuted non-Muslim migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who had come to India till December 31, 2014.



SWASTHA:

(Importance level-4/5)

- IIT Guwahati launches SWASTHA project for nanotech facilities in healthcare. SWASTHA (Smart Wearable Advanced NanoSensing Technologies in Healthcare ASICs), aims to transform healthcare through cutting-edge nanoelectronic theranostic devices.
- The project is committed to delivering top-notch products and prototypes in micro/nanoelectronics and nanomaterials, with a special focus on healthcare and energy applications.

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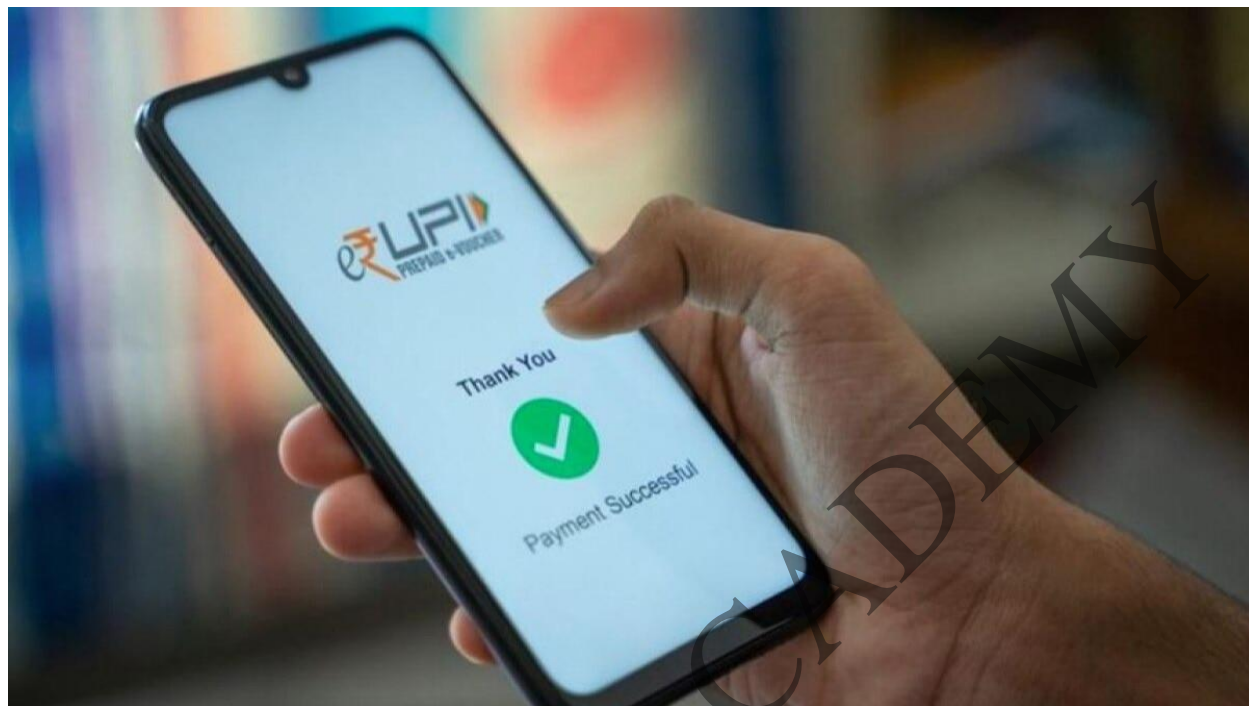
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UPI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India has successfully launched its Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius. RuPay card services were also introduced in Mauritius as part of this strategic initiative.**
- ➔ The first UPI transaction was carried out by an Indian in Sri Lanka. India's leadership in Fintech innovation and Digital Public Infrastructure shared with partner countries for mutual benefit.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 Feb, 2024, the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, witnessed the launch of the “Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)” Portal.
- ➔ Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, initiated this significant step towards addressing gender disparity in science and technology fields. This portal promotes gender equality, inclusivity and scientific advancement for women.

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Papanasham Beach:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Varkala's Papanasham Beach has achieved a significant milestone by securing a place among the world's top 100 beaches in Lonely Planet's renowned guidebook, "Best Beaches: 100 of the World's Most Incredible Beaches".
- ➔ Situated approximately 45 kilometers north of Kerala's capital, the beach is easily accessible via road and rail, attracting a plethora of backpackers due to its stunning cliffside setting.
- ➔ Recognized as a geological monument by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the beach offers breathtaking views of the Arabian Sea and serves as a popular destination for both international and domestic tourists.



Gangatiri:

(Importance level-3/5)

- The Uttar Pradesh government will set up the country's first conservation centre for Gangatiri, a breed of cows in Varanasi. This breed of cows originates along the Ganga banks.
- The state government will establish a centre for genetic improvement and propagation of the breed in Varanasi with the help of the Central government. Over the years, Gangatiri has been significantly overshadowed by high-yielding cow breeds like Sahiwal.

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GANGATIRI

LEED:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ India ranked third in the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions in the world for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2023.
- ➔ While mainland China and Canada held the first and second positions, respectively. The United States has not been included in the list. LEED is a green building rating system and the certification is a globally recognised symbol of sustainability achievement and leadership.

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Google:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Tech giant Google has signed an MoU with the Government of Maharashtra to provide artificial intelligence (AI)-led solutions across key sectors in the state.**
- As a part of the collaboration, Google will leverage its AI capabilities to provide solutions in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, sustainability, education, and startups.
- The company also launched a state-of-the-art AI Centre of Excellence at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Nagpur.
- This collaboration will empower our citizens with critical future-ready skills, revolutionise essential sectors like healthcare and agriculture, and create a thriving environment for the Maharashtra AI startups through the AI Center of Excellence at IIIT Nagpur.

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Indian Oil-Adani Gas Pvt Ltd:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Indian Oil-Adani Gas Pvt Ltd will invest 25 billion rupees (\$301.24 million) over four years as it looks to double gas sales to small industries and households in India.**
- ➔ The company, an equal joint venture of refiner Indian Oil Corp and Adani Total Gas, daily sells about one million standard cubic metres of gas through its 300 retail outlets.
- ➔ The joint venture aims to double gas sales in four years and strengthen infrastructure to more than 600 retail outlets during the period to meet India's rising gas demand.

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Tata Trusts:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Tata Trusts has launched India's first state-of-the-art Small Animal Hospital, with a mission to save the lives of pets and strengthen the bond between pet parents and veterinarians.
- ➔ The hospital, to be located in Mahalaxmi, Mumbai, will be a 5-floor, 98,000-square-foot facility, with 200 beds, and will dedicate itself to providing round-the-clock services. The hospital will specialize in pet care to bridge the gap in quality pet care in India.



SARATHI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Centre Government has launched a portal 'SARATHI' that aims to help insurance companies reach out to farmers and rural population with tailored products as well as the government's subsidised insurance products including Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- ➔ Sarathi (Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance)



Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:

(Importance level-4/5)

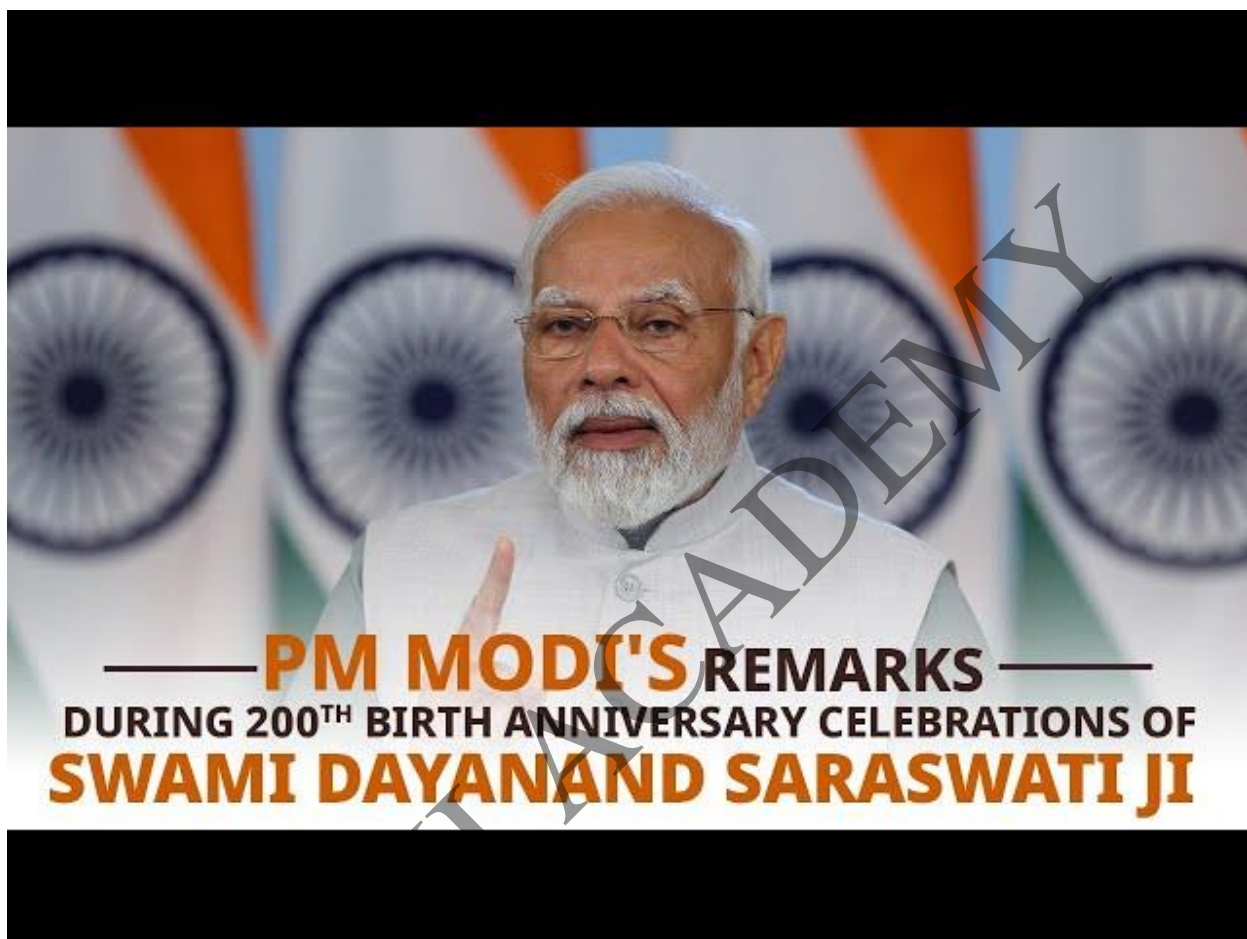
- The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 6,000 crore sub-scheme under the flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with the objective of formalizing the largely unorganized fisheries sector in the country.
- The formalization will be done through the creation of a national fisheries digital platform, facilitating access to institutional finance for the sector and creating an insurance product which would cover at least 100,000 hectares of aquaculture farms during the project period.



Swami Dayananda Saraswati:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a momentous commemoration of the 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a profound address via video message at the birthplace of the revered Swami, Tankara in Morbi, Gujarat.**
- ➔ The event, organized by the Arya Samaj, stands as a testament to Swami Ji's enduring contributions to Indian spirituality and societal reform.
- ➔ Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, born Mool Shankar Tiwari on February 12, 1824, in Tankara, Gujarat, was a stalwart of Indian society whose influence resonates to this day. His profound impact on religious reform, education, and social justice laid the groundwork for a modern and enlightened India.



K.P.P. Nambiar Award:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The field of space exploration and technology in India witnessed a momentous occasion as the IEEE Kerala Section announced the recipient of the prestigious K.P.P. Nambiar Award.
- This year, the accolade was bestowed upon ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, a figure synonymous with innovation and leadership in space technology.
- Named after the doyen of the electronic industry and the founder chair of the IEEE Kerala section, K.P.P. Nambiar, the award stands as a beacon of excellence in technology.
- It honors individuals or groups within the State who have demonstrated significant contributions towards the IEEE vision of advancing technology for humanity.

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National Creators Award:

(Importance level-4/5)

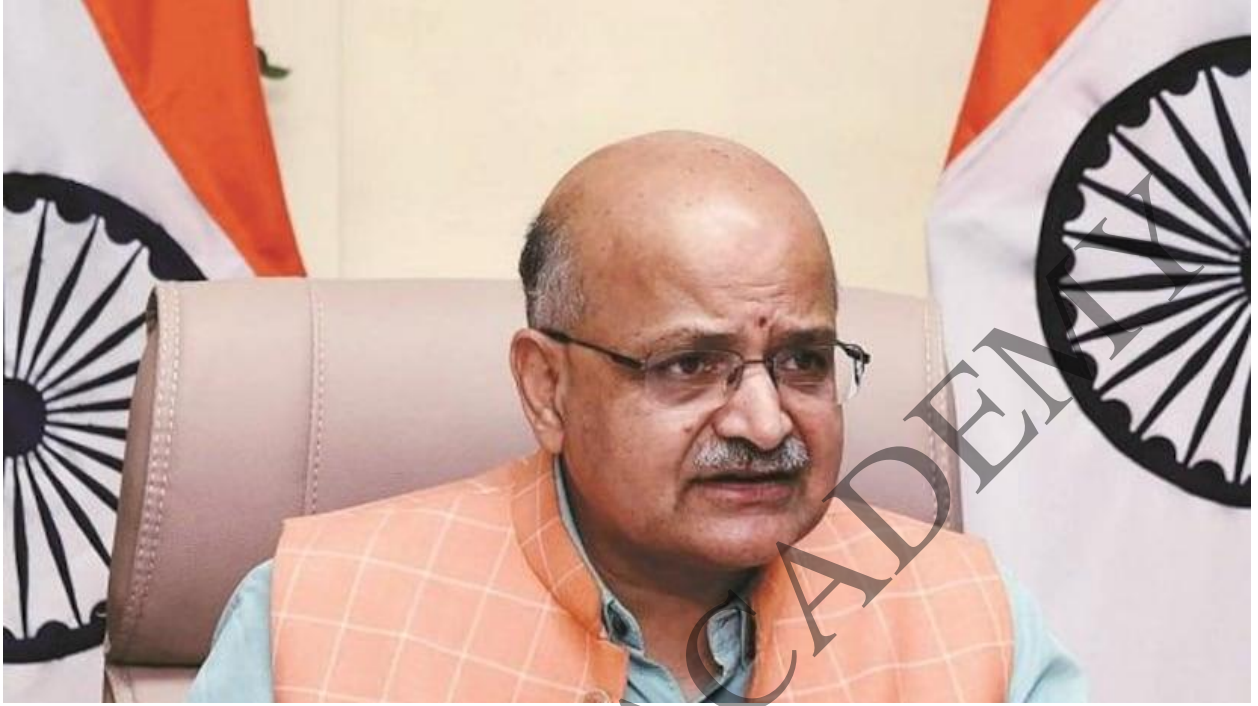
- ➔ **The government of India has recently unveiled the prestigious 'National Creators Award', a groundbreaking initiative aimed at acknowledging and celebrating the remarkable contributions of new-age influencers and creators in shaping India's digital landscape.**
- ➔ The 'National Creators Award' endeavors to shine a spotlight on the myriad voices and talents that are instrumental in propelling India's growth trajectory while simultaneously enriching its cultural fabric.
- ➔ According to the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), this initiative seeks to recognize those individuals who have not only fostered innovation and creativity but have also driven positive social change through their digital endeavors.



NITI Aayog:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **NITI Aayog, under the leadership of CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, is spearheading an ambitious initiative to drive economic transformation in four key cities – Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi, and Vizag. This initiative aims to propel India towards becoming a developed economy by 2047.**
- ➔ NITI Aayog has developed comprehensive economic plans for Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi, and Vizag, focusing on their economic transformation. These plans mark a departure from traditional urban planning, emphasizing economic growth as a crucial aspect of city development.



Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Ministry of Culture takes a momentous stride towards cultural enrichment with the inauguration of the Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Akademi in Hyderabad, known as the Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra.**
- ➔ This initiative aims to foster the diverse cultural heritage of South India.
- ➔ The Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra, envisioned as a premier cultural space, will serve as a hub for the promotion and preservation of various art forms including music, folk and tribal arts, theater, and puppetry. It will be a beacon for the advancement of South India's rich artistic legacy.

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Prama India:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a development for indigenous manufacturing and innovation, Prama India has forged a partnership with the Government of India's Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).**
- ➔ This collaboration, facilitated through a Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement, focuses on the production, marketing, and support of Thermal Cameras.
- ➔ Prama India's collaboration with C-DAC, under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), underscores India's commitment to Atmanirbhar Bharat. The partnership aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat and Surakshit Bharat, contributing to the nation's self-reliance and security objectives.

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Sindhu Ganapathy:

(Importance level-4/5)

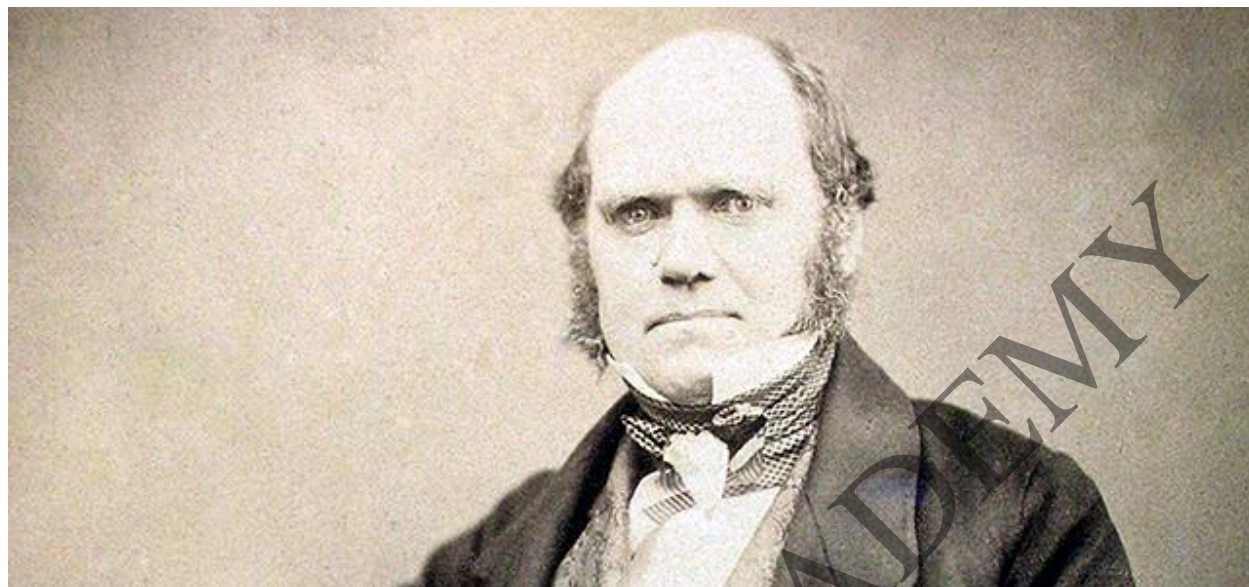
- ➔ **Sindhu Ganapathy's appointment as the first transwoman Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) of Southern Railway marks a significant milestone in the journey towards inclusivity and acceptance in the Indian workforce.**
- ➔ At the age of 37, Ms. Ganapathy has not only broken barriers but also set a precedent for the transgender community's representation in prestigious government positions.



Darwin Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Every year, scientific community around the world celebrates evolutionary biology on the occasion of Charles Darwin's birthday, February 12. These events are collectively referred to as "Darwin Day".
- ➔ The goals of Darwin Day are to reach out and inform the public about the importance of evolution as the foundation of modern biology, the life and findings of Charles Darwin, and to promote scientific literacy in general.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is celebrated on February 11 every year.** The day is observed by the United Nations to promote full and equal access and participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.
- ➔ This year will be the ninth International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly. Theme – Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability and the subtheme is “Think Science ... Think Peace”.

International Day of

WOMEN & GIRLS

in Science



International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism (PVE Day):

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Every year on February 12th, the world observes the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism (PVE Day).
- ➔ This crucial day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the dangers of violent extremism and promote international cooperation in tackling this complex issue
- ➔ Violent extremism manifests in various forms, often fueled by ideological, political, or religious radicalization.
- ➔ It thrives on marginalization, social grievances, and a lack of opportunities, leading individuals to adopt violent means to achieve their goals. This phenomenon creates widespread fear, disrupts lives, and destabilizes communities across the globe.

International Day for Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism

February 12, 2024

chrda.org

World Radio Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Every year on February 13th, the world unites to celebrate World Radio Day, a day that marks the enduring significance of radio as a medium of communication.**
- In 2024, this occasion is especially noteworthy as it commemorates more than a century of radio's remarkable journey. Radio, despite facing the digital revolution and the advent of new media platforms, continues to be a vital medium, reaching remote communities and offering a voice to the vulnerable.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) honours this day to reflect on radio's vast virtues and its ongoing relevance in today's digitally divided world. The inception of radio can be traced back to the pioneering experimentations of Guglielmo Marconi in 1895, leading to the first radio transmission.
- By the early 20th century, radio broadcasting began to emerge, targeting wider audiences with music and talk. The commercial breakthrough of radio in the 1920s marked the beginning of a new era. By the 1950s, radio broadcasting had cemented its place globally as a common household commodity.

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U19 World Cup 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Australia U19 win the U19 World Cup 2024 Final by 79 runs. With the massive win over India, Australia has secured its fourth World Cup title in U-19 cricket. Australia added to their triumphs in 2002, 2010, and 2020.**
- ➔ Their consistent performance throughout the tournament showcased their depth and talent, making them deserving champions. India, aiming for a record-extending sixth title, was left heartbroken but can hold their heads high for a commendable campaign.

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FIFA:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Aiming to significantly broaden the accessibility of football within the school setting for students, the Ministry of Education has embarked on a transformative initiative in partnership with the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).
- ➔ This initiative involves the distribution of 11 lakh footballs across the country in a phased manner, benefitting more than 1.5 lakh schools.

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CM Elevate:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched CM-Elevate, a state-funded entrepreneurship program, aiming to support over 20,000 entrepreneurs in various businesses over the next 3-4 years.**
- ➔ The government has allocated Rs. 300 crore for the scheme, offering up to 75 percent subsidy and comprehensive support for proposal implementation.
- ➔ Sangma emphasized promoting entrepreneurship to reduce dependency on government jobs and encourage private sector job creation.



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'Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The Parliament passed the 'Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024', the 'Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Caste Order (Amendment) Bill 2023' and the 'Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill 2023' with the approval of Rajya Sabha.
- Pahari Ethnic Group, Paddari Tribe, Koli and Gadda Brahmin communities were included in the list of STs of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.



Eastern Command Investiture Ceremony 2024:

(Importance level-3/5)

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- ➔ **Eastern Command Investiture Ceremony 2024 was held at Bengdubi Military Station, Siliguri, West Bengal.**
- ➔ Kt Gen Ram Chander Tiwari felicitated officers and soldiers with gallantry and distinguished service awards. 26 awardees received medals including 20 Seva Medals, 2 Bar to Sena Medal and 4 Vishisht Seva Medals.



National Productivity Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Every year, India marks February 12 as National Productivity Day, launching the beginning of the Indian Productivity Week, which lasts until February 18.**
- ➔ This annual observance is not just a celebration but a pivotal reminder of the country's commitment to enhancing productivity across all sectors.
- ➔ The National Productivity Day 2024 stands out with its forward-looking theme, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Productivity Engine for Economic Growth," spotlighting the transformative role of AI in boosting economic development and productivity.



Nightingale of India:

(Importance level-4/5)

- February 13, 2024 marks the 145th birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, a distinguished figure in India's struggle for independence and a celebrated poet known as the "Nightingale of India."
- This day is also recognized as the National Women's Day as she played a pivotal role in advocating for women's rights.
- Born into a Bengali family in Hyderabad in 1879, Sarojini Naidu's contributions to Indian politics, literature, and women's rights are remembered and celebrated across the nation. As the first Governor of the United Provinces and a prominent poet, Naidu's contributions have left an indelible mark on India's history.



Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo inaugurated the 2nd edition of the SARAS Aajeevika Mela, organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM).**
- The primary objective of SARAS Aajeevika Mela is to empower rural women by providing a direct market for their products, enhancing their marketing skills, and fostering cultural exchange. Through exhibitions, sales, and cultural programs, the Mela aims to promote economic empowerment and preserve cultural heritage.



Gupteswar forest:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Odisha has taken a significant step towards conservation by declaring the Gupteswar forest in Koraput district as its fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).**
- This declaration marks a pivotal moment in the state's environmental conservation efforts, joining the ranks of Mandasaru, Mahendragiri, and Gandhamardan, which have previously been recognized for their unique biodiversity.

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RPF:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is organizing the 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) in Lucknow from February 12th to 16th, 2024.**
- ➔ This esteemed event, entrusted to the RPF by the Central Coordinating Committee of AIPDM, aims to foster excellence and collaboration among police officers, enhancing internal security through scientific crime detection and investigation.



UN General Assembly:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In its resolution 77/243, the UN General Assembly decided to declare 12 February the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism, in order to raise awareness of the threats linked to violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism, and to enhance international cooperation in this regard.
- ➔ The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism was established in 2004 in New York, USA.

International Day for Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism

February 12, 2024

chrda.org

World Day of the Sick:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **World Day of the Sick is observed every year on 11 February. Objective – To raise awareness about the importance of healthcare and the need for compassion and support for the sick.**
- This day was first established by Pope John Paul II in 1992. He had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease a year earlier but the Vatican Church kept this secret for almost 12 years.
- The World Day of the Sick was established on 13 May 1992, in response to his neuro-degenerative condition. Pope John Paul II chose 11 February, because it is the Memorial Day of Our Lady of Lourdes.



International Epilepsy Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **International Epilepsy Day, observed on the 2nd Monday of February each year, is a pivotal event in the global healthcare calendar that aims to unite individuals affected by epilepsy.**
- ➔ Since its inception in 2015, the day has served as a platform for raising awareness about epilepsy, its diagnosis, treatment, and the challenges faced by those living with the condition.
- ➔ This year, the day was marked on 12 February 2024, underlining the ongoing efforts to foster community and support among epilepsy patients worldwide.



International Epilepsy Day

Sonam Losar:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Sonam Losar, The New Year of the Tamang Community Residing in Nepal. Nepal is a tapestry of cultures and traditions, each contributing to the rich mosaic of its heritage.**
- Among these, the Tamang community holds a significant place, celebrating their identity and history through the vibrant festival of Sonam Losar.
- Sonam Losar, the New Year according to the Tamang calendar, is not just a festivity but a profound expression of the community's culture, spirituality, and ancestral bonds.



Indian Ocean Conference:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **The 7th Indian Ocean Conference recently convened in Perth, Australia, drawing together leaders, ministers, and officials from Indian Ocean rim countries.**
- Organized by India Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the conference aimed to address diverse issues under the theme “Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean”.



Sumit Nagal:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Sumit Nagal, India's top-ranked tennis player, secured the 98th spot in ATP's top 100 rankings through his victory in the ATP Chennai Open Challenger.**
- Nagal's journey began in 2023 when he played as a player ranked 506 in the world and qualified for the ATP Chennai Open Challenger.
- Despite setbacks, including a hip injury in 2021, Nagal persisted and continued to pursue his dream. His success in Chennai Challenger last year marked the beginning of his resurgence after surgery.

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Februaryy 14-15, 2024

‘Best Debut Film of a Director’:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The ‘Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director’ and the ‘Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration’, which are part of the National Film Awards, have been renamed on the recommendation of the Committee for Rationalisation of Film Awards.
- **The committee recommended that the ‘Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director’ be renamed as ‘Best Debut Film of a Director’, and the award money be increased to Rs 3 lakh.**



Haryana police:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Haryana police used drones to drop tear gas shells on farmers protesting near Shambhu border on February 13, 2024. This is the first time that law enforcement in India has used drones against protesters in such a way.**
- The drones are designed for surveying infrastructure projects, monitoring of agriculture and horticulture crops and surveillance of sensitive areas.



Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Chief minister Yogi Adityanath's government has increased the grant given in six categories under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000, beginning financial year 2024-25.
- ➔ The increase in grant amount will be effective from April 1. Under this scheme, the state government has conducted 3 lakh marriages since 2017, spending Rs.51,000 per couple.

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Helicopter Emergency Medical Service:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India is set to witness its first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) which will operate from All India Institute for Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh.
- The new HEMS would operate under project 'Sanjeevani' with a coverage radius of 150 kilometers. This will ensure timely transportation of accident victims and patients from hilly terrain to AIIMS.

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Supreme Court:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds scheme, which provides blanket anonymity to financial contributions to political parties, and amendments made to the law allowing rich corporations to make unlimited political donations “unconstitutional and manifestly arbitrary”.**
- ➔ The court emphasized the need for transparency in political funding, pointing out that information regarding corporate contributors through electoral bonds must be disclosed.



PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the scheme to encourage people to install solar panels on their rooftops will be known as 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana'.**
- ➔ The scheme, worth over ₹75,000 crore, aims to light up one crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month.

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Uttar Pradesh:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a move aimed at bolstering disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts, the Uttar Pradesh government is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR) for enhanced disaster management.**
- ➔ The MoU will be signed between the relief commissioner's office and IIT Roorkee on the instructions of chief minister Yogi Adityanath with the aim to minimise casualties and shift people to safe places before the disaster strikes.



PM-WANI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurated a landmark initiative today at Paprou Gram Panchayat under Barauni Block of Begusarai District, signalling a significant leap towards digital empowerment in Grameen Bharat (rural India).**
- ➔ The pilot project titled ‘Smart Gram Panchayat: Revolution towards Digitization of Gram Panchayat’ was launched with the aim to extend PM-WANI (Prime Minister’s Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) Service in all Gram Panchayats across Begusarai District in Bihar.
- ➔ Begusarai has now become the first District in Bihar to equip all Gram Panchayats with Wi-Fi services under the PM-WANI Scheme.



Cochin international airport:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Cochin international airport, the world's first airport fully powered by solar energy, has entered into an agreement with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for setting up a green hydrogen plant on the airport premises, making Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), as it claims, the first airport operator in the world to have a hydrogen power generation facility on its premises.**
- ➔ This strategic partnership will contribute to CIAL's continued efforts in promoting sustainable and innovative green energy initiatives.



Swayam:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Odisha government has decided to provide interest-free loans up to Rs 1 lakh to youth of the state under the new government scheme 'Swayam'.**
- Under the scheme 'Swayam' to create self-employment for youth, 1 lakh eligible rural and an equal number of urban youth in the age group of 18-35 years will receive interest-free loans of up to Rs 1 lakh for starting a new business.
- The scheme will be operational for two years and Rs 672 crore will be spent from the state's coffers.



Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar have signed an MoU.**
- ➔ The partnership between IREDA and IIT Bhubaneswar will facilitate joint research ventures and technology exchange, and offer comprehensive support to budding start-ups.
- ➔ Additionally, it will encompass capacity-building initiatives such as training programs, seminars, and workshops to enhance the skills of IREDA personnel.

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Basant Panchami:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Basant Panchami, also known as Saraswati Puja, is a vibrant and spiritually significant festival celebrated in several states of India. This auspicious day is dedicated to honoring Goddess Saraswati, the divine embodiment of knowledge, education, and information.**
- ➔ In 2024, the festival is set to grace us on February 14, symbolizing the onset of spring and the beginning of preparations for the colorful festival of Holi.



World Government Summit 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India was honoured with the 9th GovTech Prize at the World Government Summit 2024, held in the United Arab Emirates.
- This accolade is a testament to India's innovative use of artificial intelligence in enhancing government services, specifically under the 'AI-Powered Government Services' category.
- The award, established by the UAE government, acknowledges the creative and innovative technological solutions implemented by government entities worldwide.

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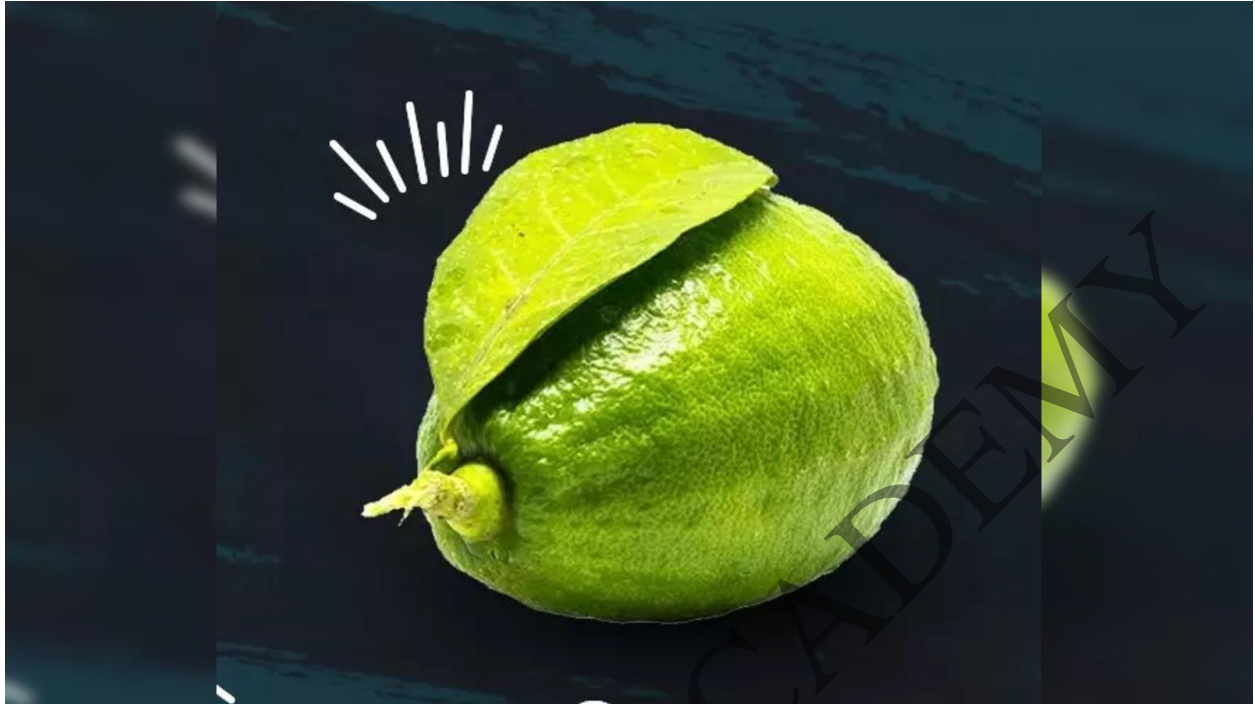
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Kaji nemu:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Assam, the state government has officially declared kaji nemu (Citrus limon), a variety of lemon unique to the region, as the 'State Fruit'.
- The announcement was made by State Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, following a Cabinet meeting on February 12, underscoring the fruit's cultural, traditional, and nutritional significance to the state and its people.
- Kaji nemu, known for its juicy, aromatic nature, and immense nutritional value, holds a special place in Assam's agricultural landscape.



GeM:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has achieved a significant milestone on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, recording procurement worth ₹1 lakh crore since the portal's inception in 2016.**
- ➔ This achievement underscores MoD's commitment to optimizing public spending in the defense sector through efficient procurement practices on GeM.
- ➔ The MoD has executed over 5.47 lakh orders through GeM, ranging from general store items to critical defense acquisitions. Transactions worth approximately ₹45,800 crore have been awarded in the current fiscal year alone, demonstrating robust procurement activity.



Havildar Varinder Singh:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Havildar Varinder Singh, a member of the Sikh Regiment in the Indian Army, has been honored with the prestigious Vishisht Seva Medal for his remarkable contribution to military technology.**
- President Droupadi Murmu bestowed this accolade upon him in recognition of his outstanding efforts in developing a groundbreaking piece of equipment.
- Crafted by Singh, the Multipurpose Octocopter stands as a testament to innovation in drone technology.
- Unlike conventional drones limited to surveillance purposes, Singh's creation offers unparalleled versatility. Capable of executing a myriad of tasks, it serves as more than just a reconnaissance tool.

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ICAI:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), a pivotal organization in the field of Chartered Accountancy in India, announced a significant leadership transition.** In a recent meeting, the Council of ICAI elected CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as the President and CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda as the Vice-President for the term 2024-25, starting from February 12, 2024. This change in leadership marks a new chapter in ICAI's storied history, promising to steer the institute towards new horizons of professional excellence and regulatory prowess.

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Sanjay Kumar Jain:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ In a significant development for the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC), Mr Sanjay Kumar Jain, an accomplished Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) Officer of the 1990 batch, has assumed the pivotal role of Chairman & Managing Director.
- ➔ With a distinguished career spanning over three decades, Mr Jain brings to the table a wealth of experience and a proven track record of exemplary leadership in various key positions within the Ministry of Railways and public sector undertakings (PSUs).



Sripathy:

(Importance level-4/5)

- A 23-year-old woman has become the first Civil Court judge from the Malayali tribe in Tamil Nadu. V Sripathy, hailing from Yelagiri Hills in Thirupathur district, cleared the Civil Judge exam conducted by TNPSC.
- A 23-year-old woman has become the first Civil Court judge from the Malayali tribe in Tamil Nadu.



World Hippo Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **World Hippo Day is celebrated on 15 February every year to raise awareness about the plight of hippos, which are one of the most endangered large mammals on the planet.**
- Today, the hippo population is estimated to be between 115,000 and 130,000, with the decline being attributed to poaching, loss of access to fresh water, mechanised farming, and urbanisation.
- Hippos are semiaquatic mammals, native to sub-Saharan Africa, and weigh up to 2,000 kg, making them the third-largest land mammal after elephants and rhinos.
- They are mostly found in rivers, lakes, and mangrove swamps, and have adapted to a semiaquatic lifestyle. Their diet consists mostly of leaves, roots, and stems, supported by a robust digestive system that is adapted to conserve nutrients.



UPI (India) and AANI (UAE):

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The agreement on interlinking of the instant payment platforms — UPI (India) and AANI (UAE) — will facilitate seamless cross-border transactions between the two countries.**
- ➔ This follows the MoU on interlinking payment and messaging systems signed in July last year during PM Modi's visit to Abu Dhabi.



International Childhood Cancer Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Every year on February 15th, the world comes together to observe International Childhood Cancer Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the challenges and struggles faced by children and adolescents battling cancer.
- As we mark International Childhood Cancer Day 2024, it's crucial to spotlight the ongoing fight against this devastating disease and the importance of supporting affected families.
- This day serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience of young patients and the collective effort required to support their journey towards recovery.



Japan's economy:

(Importance level-4/5)

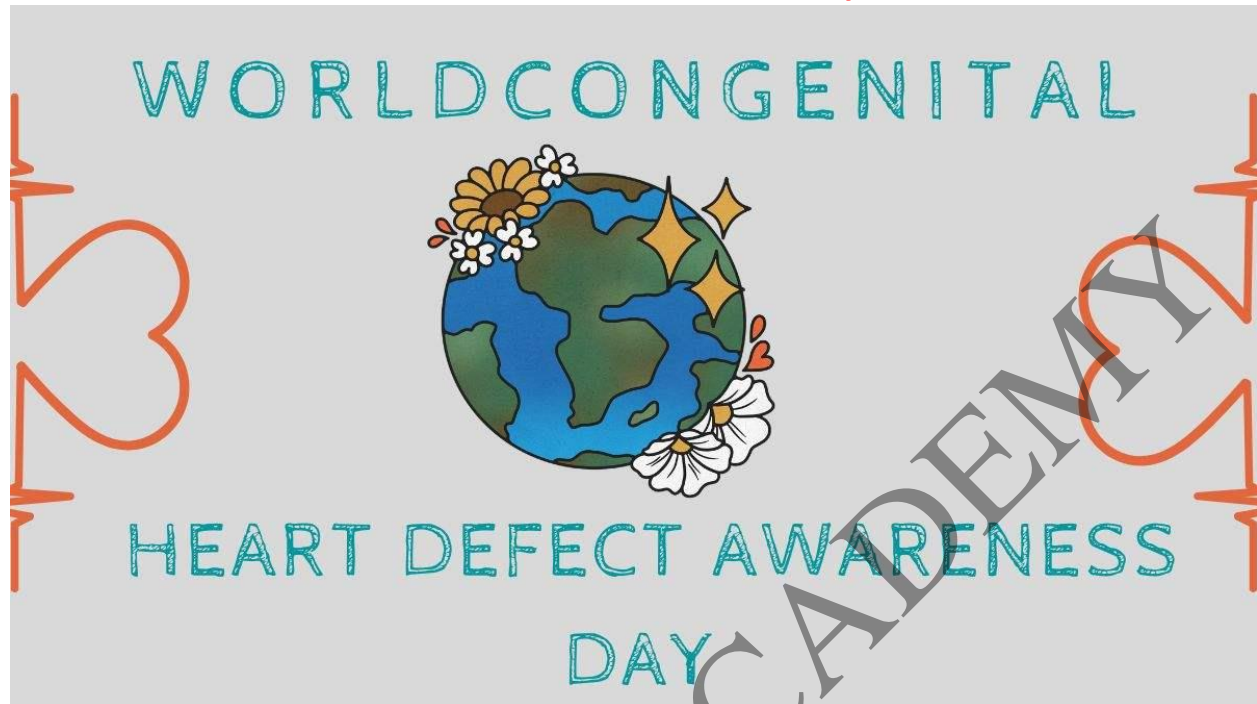
- ➔ **Japan's economy has contracted unexpectedly, pushing the country into recession and causing it to lose its position as the world's third largest economy to Germany. A technical recession is often defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth in the real GDP.**
- ➔ Japan imports 94% of its energy requirements and 63% of its food, so the weak yen significantly contributes to a higher cost of living.
- ➔ Similarly, a weak currency typically makes imports costlier. Private consumption has been particularly weak, and market expectations are expected to be flat. Recent earthquakes in Japan made things worse for the country as People stop spending in times of natural disasters.



Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Every year on February 14, while many celebrate love and affection, the medical and health advocacy communities band together to observe a day of significant importance – **Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day.**
- ➔ This day is dedicated to increasing awareness about congenital heart defects (CHDs), the most common type of birth defect affecting infants across the globe.
- ➔ Organizations such as the Pediatric Congenital Heart Association and the American Heart Association lead the charge in promoting this day, aiming to shed light on the challenges faced by individuals with CHDs and the need for advanced medical research and treatments.



World Government Summit 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **At the World Government Summit 2024, Dubai has unveiled groundbreaking agreements to introduce the world's inaugural air taxi service, setting a new standard in urban transportation.**
- ➔ This initiative, centered around the innovative Joby Aviation S4 aircraft, promises to revolutionize Dubai's cityscape with its electric-powered, environmentally friendly design.



Hungary:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur handed over the Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest, Hungary, the host city for the 45th edition of the Chess Olympiad.**
- The ceremony, held at the Major Dhyanchand National Stadium in New Delhi, was not just a formal handover but also a celebration of chess as an intellectual sport deeply rooted in India's heritage.

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RPF:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of the Central Railway said on Friday that it had rescued 504 children in coordination with Government Railway Police and other frontline railway staff from railway platforms in the past four months under Operation Nanhe Farishte.
- They included 330 boys and 174 girls and were reunited with their parents with the help of non-governmental organisations such as Childline.



Armed Forces Medical Service:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- ➔ **Armed Forces Medical Service has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee. The MoU aims towards promoting collaborative biomedical research, to aid in improving the combat medical support and patient care of serving personnel.**
- ➔ Under this MoU, Armed Forces Medical Services will be able to utilize the expertise of IIT Roorkee in various fields like, development of novel medical devices, robotics, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence and machine learning.



ISRO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has once again marked its presence in the space arena with the successful launch of its advanced meteorological satellite, INSAT-3DS. Launched on Saturday at 5:35 pm from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre – SHAR, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, the INSAT-3DS mission symbolizes a significant leap in the field of meteorology.**
- ➔ This satellite, serving as a successor to the Third Generation Meteorological Satellite, underscores ISRO's commitment to enhancing weather forecasting and environmental monitoring capabilities.



Minister Nitin Gadkari:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a development announced by India's Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, the nation is set to embark on testing (Global navigation satellite system) GNSS-based toll collection on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway.
- ➔ This move underscores the government's commitment to leveraging technologies to modernize infrastructure and improve transportation systems. The GNSS-based tolling system marks a departure from conventional toll collection methods, offering a seamless and efficient alternative.

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Karan Nathwani:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Professor Karan Nathwani from IIT-Jammu has created a groundbreaking anti-drone system that relies on sound technology.**
- ➔ This innovative approach ensures affordability and user-friendliness. Unlike conventional methods using visual or radar technology, Nathwani's system identifies drones accurately by analyzing their distinct acoustic signatures.



Third-largest digitalized nation:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India has cemented its position as the third-largest digitalized nation in the world, trailing only behind the technological powerhouses of the United States of America (USA) and China.**
- ➔ This significant finding is part of the “State of India’s Digital Economy Report, 2024,” unveiled by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), a renowned Delhi-based think tank.
- ➔ The report paints a comprehensive picture of India’s digital landscape, comparing it favorably with some of the world’s most developed economies, yet highlighting areas for improvement in user-level digital engagement.



Serum Institute of India:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Serum Institute of India (SII), led by Adar Poonawalla, has recently secured the prestigious title of India's most valuable unlisted company, boasting a valuation of Rs 1.92 lakh crore, as per the esteemed Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list.**
- ➔ This achievement highlights SII's crucial role not only in driving innovation in healthcare but also in shaping the nation's economic trajectory.

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Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Centre and Research Institute (BSCCRI) in Bhubaneswar.**
- This state-of-the-art facility, established in collaboration with the Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Bengaluru, represents a leap forward in making high-quality cancer treatment accessible and affordable to patients.



Traveller Review Awards:

(Importance level-4/5)

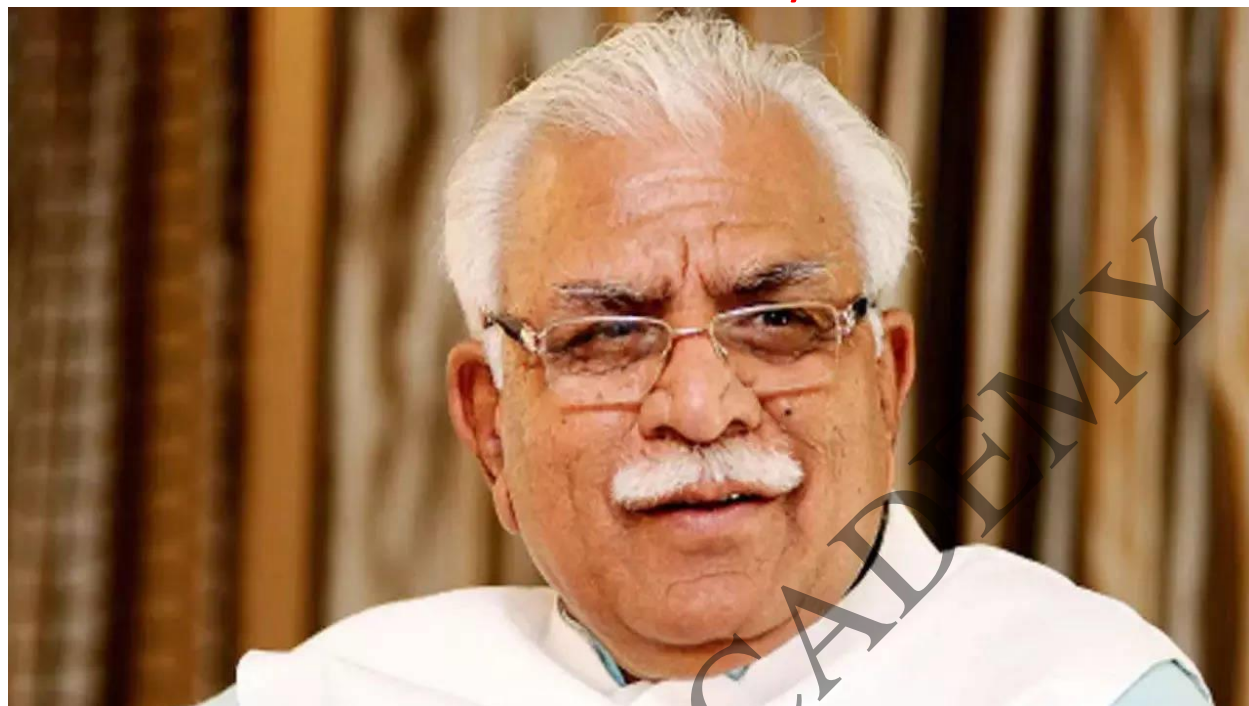
- ➔ **In a recent announcement, Booking.com, the popular online travel agency, unveiled its 12th Annual Traveller Review Awards 2024, highlighting the Most Welcoming Regions and Cities in India.**
- ➔ The rankings were determined based on customer reviews received on the platform, providing valuable insights into the hospitality landscape of the country.
- ➔ This recognition reflects the state's commitment to providing a warm and hospitable environment for travelers. The rankings further feature Goa, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand in the following positions.



‘Van Mitra’ scheme:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **In a significant move towards environmental conservation, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the ‘Van Mitra’ scheme and its accompanying portal.**
- This innovative initiative is designed to foster community engagement in afforestation efforts, specifically targeting non-forest areas across the state.
- The scheme aims to empower local communities to play an active role in expanding the state’s green cover, thereby enhancing the survival rate of newly planted trees and promoting the planting of trees outside traditional forest zones.



12th edition of the MILAN naval exercise:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The 12th edition of the MILAN naval exercise is poised to set sail in the strategic port city of Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27, marking a significant gathering of naval forces from over 50 countries.
- ➔ This year's theme, "Forging Naval Alliances for a Secure Maritime Future," underscores the exercise's commitment to enhancing global maritime security through cooperation and strategic dialogue.
- ➔ MILAN 2023 seeks to bolster the safety of maritime trade, a vital artery of the global economy, through shared efforts and expertise.

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Tata Steel:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a move aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, Tata Steel recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park (REP).
- This partnership signifies a strategic alignment between industry and academia to explore avenues for mutual growth and development.
- Under the terms of the agreement, Tata Steel and IIT Bhubaneswar REP, a company promoted by IIT Bhubaneswar, are set to embark on a journey of collaboration across various domains.

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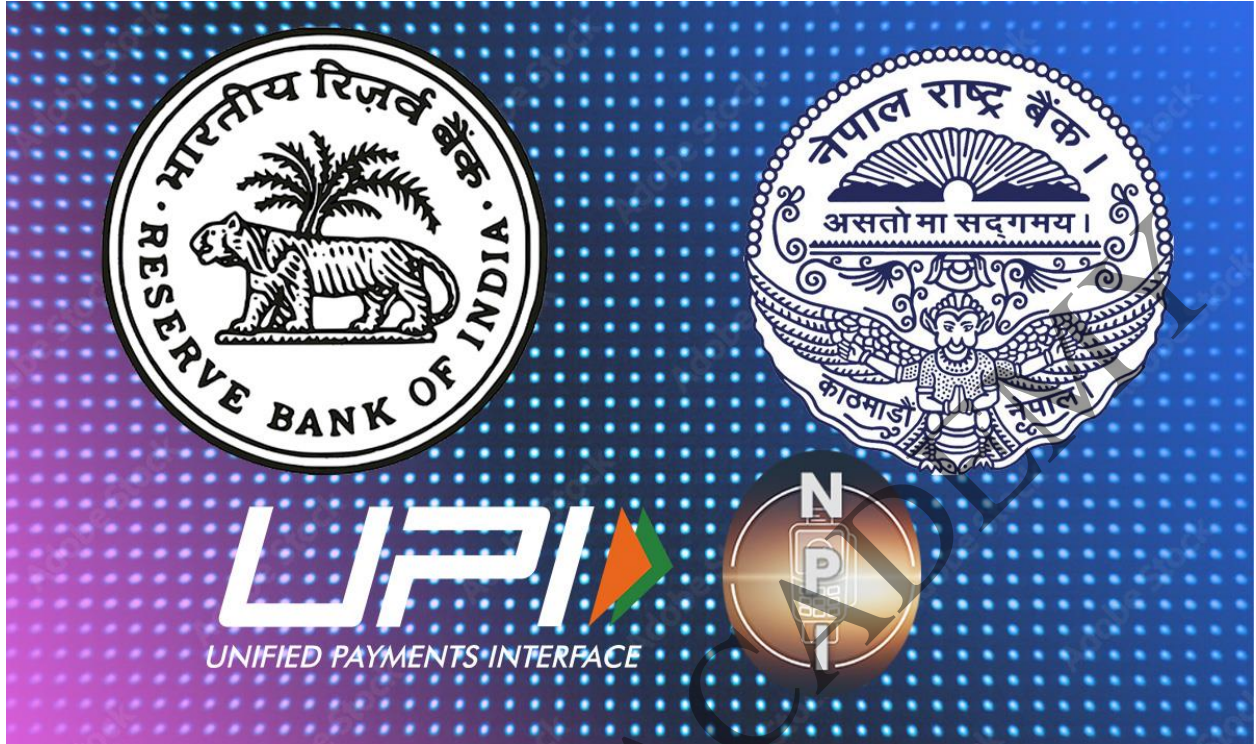
Reserve Bank of India:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant collaboration with Nepal Rastra Bank, aiming to integrate the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and the National Payments Interface (NPI) of Nepal.**
- ➔ This integration seeks to streamline cross-border remittances between the two countries, facilitating instant and cost-effective fund transfers.
- ➔ The RBI and Nepal Rastra Bank have formalized an agreement to integrate their fast payment systems, UPI and NPI respectively, to enable seamless cross-border transactions. The collaboration is designed to establish the necessary infrastructure for interlinking UPI and NPI, paving the way for efficient cross-border remittances.

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Tamil Nadu Assembly:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly made a significant political statement by unanimously adopting two resolutions that challenge the Union government's proposals on 'One Nation, One Election' and the post-2026 delimitation process.
- This move underscores the state's firm stance on maintaining its democratic principles and the autonomy of its electoral processes.

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World Human Spirit Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- World Human Spirit Day is observed annually on February 17 as a day to encourage mindfulness through meditation; to get us to form the habit of constant reflection as a way to feel content in our pressure-filled society.
- World Human Spirit Day aims to help strengthen the connection to our spiritual self as a way to stay grounded even amid societal pressure.

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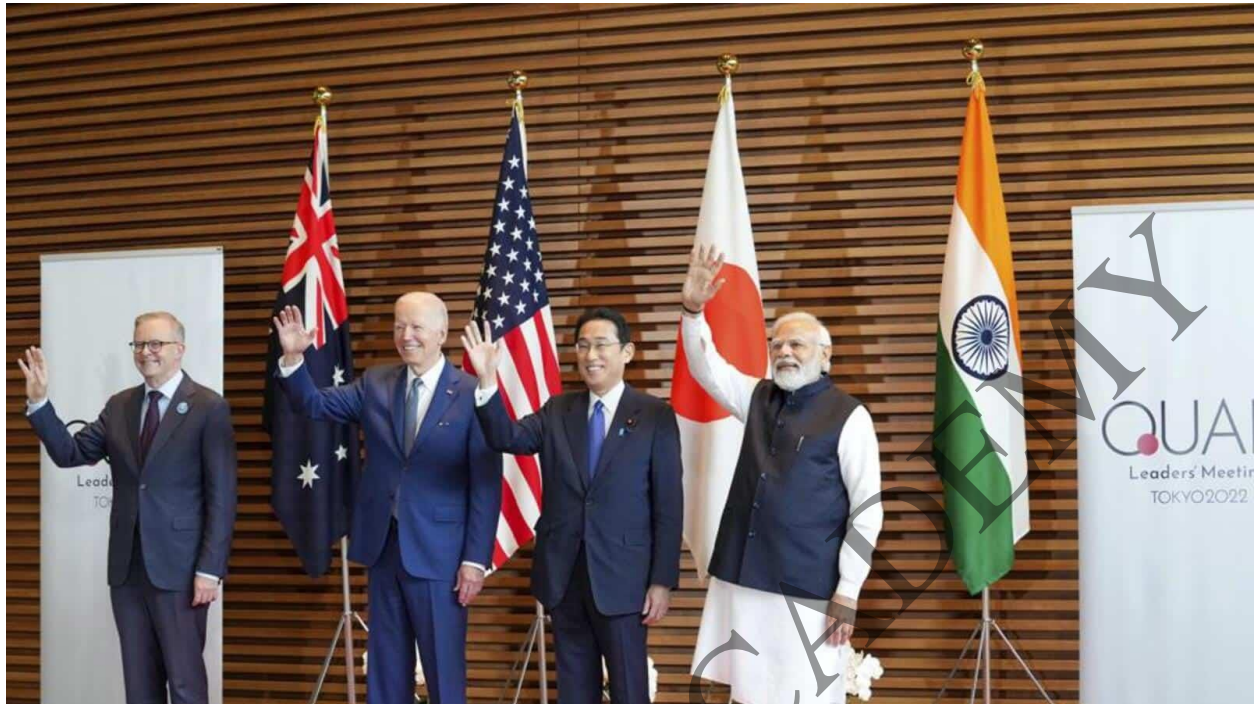
US House of Representatives:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The US House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed the Quad bill aimed at enhancing cooperation between the US, Australia, India, and Japan.**
- The bill mandates the establishment of a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to bolster joint efforts in various domains. The State Department must present a strategy to Congress within 180 days to increase engagement and cooperation with the Quad.

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United Nations' Global Tourism Resilience Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The United Nations' Global Tourism Resilience Day, celebrated for the first time on February 17, 2023, marks a significant step towards acknowledging and enhancing the resilience of the tourism industry.**
- ➔ This initiative aims to foster a tourism sector that can withstand both foreseen and unforeseen challenges, thereby ensuring its contribution to sustainable development and economic stability, especially in developing countries.

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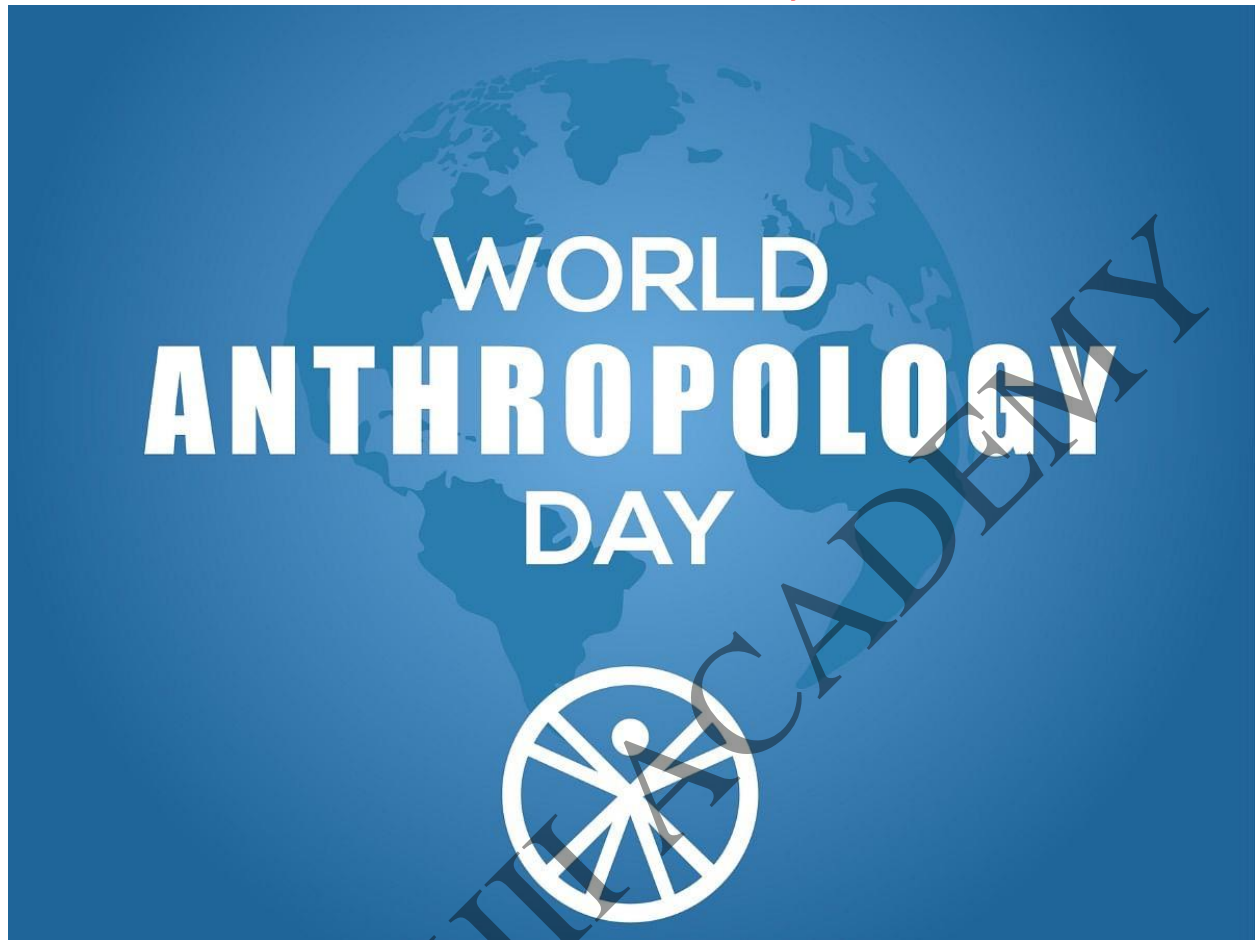
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World Anthropology Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **World Anthropology Day, celebrated on the third Thursday of February each year, marks a significant occasion dedicated to the field of anthropology.**
- This day, falling on February 15 2024, aims to shed light on the comprehensive study of human behavior, biology, and the intricate dynamics of human societies.
- Instituted by the American Anthropological Association (AAA) in 2015, the event initially known as National Anthropology Day, quickly broadened its horizon to encompass a global perspective, thus being renamed World Anthropology Day in 2016.



India and Colombia:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India and Colombia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.**
- ➔ The agreement aims to foster digital transformation through the sharing of India's open-sourced Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs), particularly focusing on India Stack Solutions.

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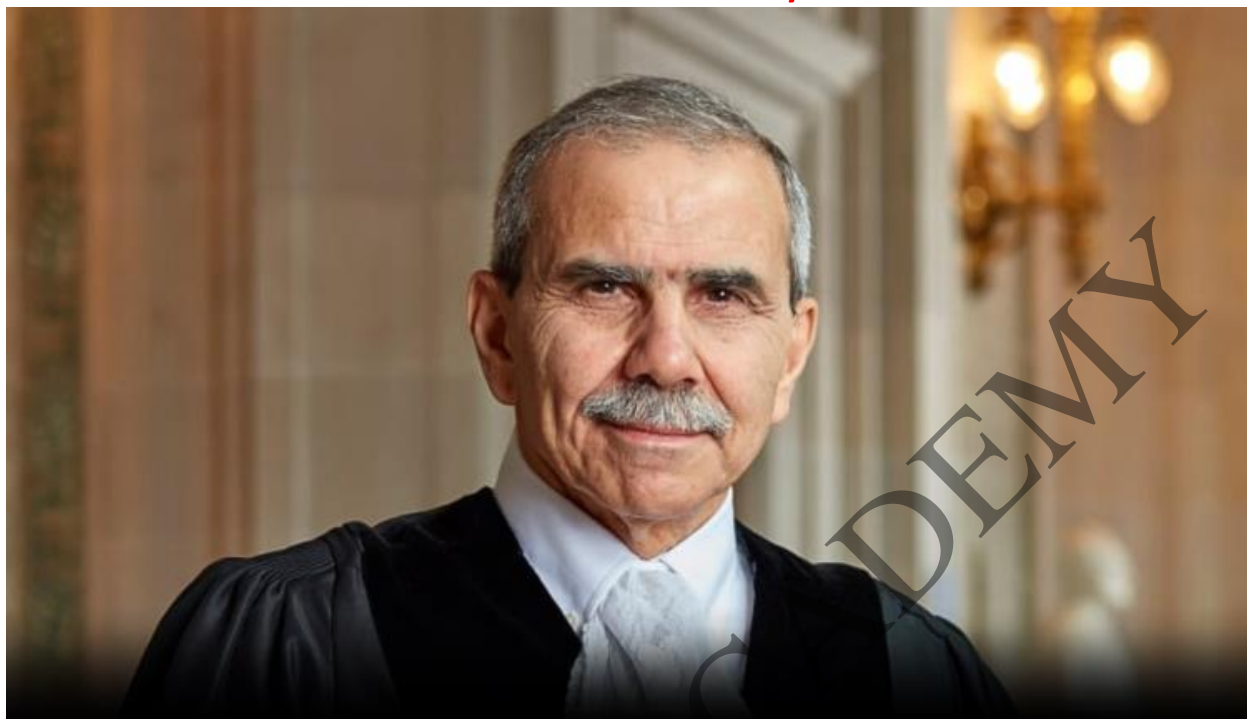
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Nawaf Salam:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Nawaf Salam was elected president of the ICJ in The Hague, succeeding US Judge Joan Donoghue. This significant milestone marks him as the first Lebanese and second Arab to hold this prestigious position for a three-year term.**
- ➔ As the principal judicial body of the United Nations, the ICJ is responsible for adjudicating legal disputes between states and providing advisory opinions on legal questions referred to by UN organs and specialized agencies.



FIFA rankings:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Indian football, the national team has fallen 15 places to the 117th position in the latest FIFA rankings, registering its lowest position in the past seven years.**
- ➔ This decline follows the team's underwhelming performance at the AFC Asian Cup, where it failed to secure a single point, losing all three of its group matches.
- ➔ This current ranking is a stark contrast to the 102nd position India held in the rankings issued on December 21, 2023, and it marks a concerning trend for the team and its management.

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Ravichandran Ashwin:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- **Ravichandran Ashwin has etched his name in the annals of cricket history by becoming the second Indian bowler to take 500 wickets in Test matches.**
- This milestone was reached during the second day of the third Test between India and England in Rajkot, marking a significant achievement in Ashwin's already storied career.



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Februaryy 18-19, 2024

Telangana assembly:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The Telangana assembly unanimously adopted a resolution for a comprehensive household caste survey to provide socio-economic, educational, employment and political opportunities to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other weaker sections of the state.
- With this, Telangana will become the third state to hold such a caste based headcount after Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.



Sikkim INSPIRES project:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- **The World Bank approved the \$100 million Sikkim INSPIRES project to upskill 300,500 women and youth for high-growth sectors.**
- It establishes an Employment and Entrepreneurship Promotion Facility. The World Bank has approved a new project aimed at supporting the state of Sikkim in India.



Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday took over as the vice chief of the Indian Army, replacing Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar who moved on to take charge of the Udhampur-based Northern Command.**
- Dwivedi's appointment as vice chief is significant as he is the front-runner for the army chief's post by virtue of being the seniormost officer when General Manoj Pande retires on 31 May 2024.

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Sarang:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ After arriving at Singapore on 12 February 2024, the Sarang Helicopter Display Team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted its first practice display on 18 February 2024. The team is operating from the Changi airbase of the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF).
- ➔ The Singapore Airshow is scheduled to commence on 20 February 2024. The airshow features a variety of display teams from all across the globe. The show also features leading aircraft and system manufacturers and operators showcasing their products.



Jal Jeevan Mission:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Arunachal Pradesh has achieved 100 percent saturation in 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).**
- ➔ The state has become the first in the northeast and tenth in the country to achieve a cent per cent saturation under the central government sponsored scheme.
- ➔ Launched in 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India by 2024.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **February 19th, marks the celebration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti, the 394th birth anniversary of one of the most revered figures in Indian history.**
- ➔ While the date varies according to the Hindu Tithi, as per the Gregorian calendar, this day is dedicated to commemorating the life and achievements of the great Maratha ruler, Shivaji Maharaj.
- ➔ Regarded as one of the most illustrious Maratha rulers, he initiated the Maratha Empire by carving out territories from the Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur.
- ➔ At just 16, he captured Torna fort, followed by Raigad and Kondana forts a year later, marking significant milestones in his quest for Hindavi Swarajya, or self-rule in the native language.



Andhra Pradesh Forest Department:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, in collaboration with environmentalists, has launched an awareness campaign to commemorate World Pangolin Day on February 17, 2024.**
- ➔ Highlighting the plight of the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), also known as the Thick-Tailed Pangolin or Scaly Anteater, this initiative underscores the urgent need for conservation efforts for one of the world's most trafficked mammals.
- ➔ The Indian Pangolin, native to the Indian Subcontinent, finds itself under severe threat due to illegal wildlife trade.
- ➔ Despite being protected under Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and listed in Appendix-I of CITES, prohibiting trade in pangolin parts, the species is classified as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.



ISRO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) introduces the “Young Scientist Programme” “YUva Vigyani KARYakram” (YUVIKA) to foster the innate curiosity of children and youth towards space science.**
- ➔ YUVIKA aims to impart fundamental knowledge on Space Science, Technology, and Applications, particularly targeting rural areas. The program aspires to ignite interest in STEM fields and nurture future talents in space exploration.

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Tata Advanced Systems Ltd:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India is preparing to launch its first spy satellite developed by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) aboard a SpaceX rocket in April.
- This satellite, designed for discreet information gathering, will bolster the country's defense capabilities by providing real-time monitoring and ground control.
- Previously, Indian armed forces relied on foreign vendors for exact coordinates and timings. The indigenous spy satellite will end this dependency, ensuring sovereignty and security.



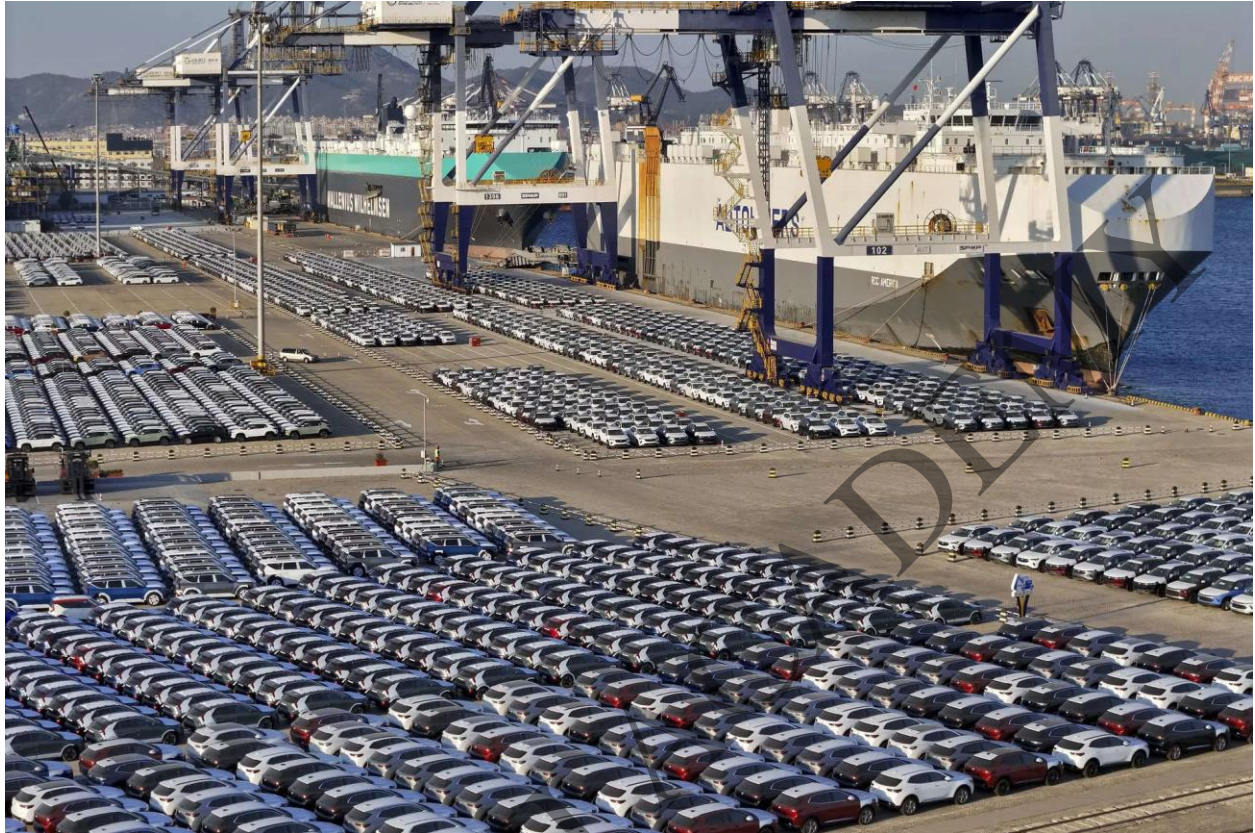
SIAM:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In the dynamic landscape of India's automobile industry, the latest data from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) for October-December 2023 reveals intriguing trends.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh emerges as the frontrunner in vehicle sales during this period, with Maharashtra closely trailing behind. Gujarat records 4,21,026 units sold. Tamil Nadu closely follows with 4,19,189 units sold.

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EV:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Karnataka has emerged as the frontrunner in India's electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure development, boasting the highest number of public charging stations according to Bureau of Energy Efficiency statistics.**
- ➔ Karnataka leads with 5,059 public EV charging stations, surpassing Maharashtra and Delhi. Maharashtra follows with 3,079 stations, and Delhi with 1,886. Other states with notable numbers include Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

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SAMAR:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The SAMAR (Surface-to-Air Missile for Assured Retaliation) air defense missile system marked a significant milestone as it was fired for the first time during the Vayushakti Exercise in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on Saturday, February 17th.**
- ➔ SAMAR represents a remarkable achievement in indigenous defense technology, being developed entirely by units of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Maintenance Command.
- ➔ Notably, it was conceptualized utilizing outdated Russian-origin air-to-air missile systems, showcasing innovative adaptation and utilization of existing resources.



Fishermen's direct market:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **An innovative endeavor is underway to improve fishermen's direct market reach in India's fisheries industry through digital commerce.**
- ➔ Scheduled for February 19th, 2024, at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be inked between the Department of Fisheries (GoI) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).



External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar is currently participating in the 60th Munich Security Conference in Germany.**
- ➔ During the conference, he is engaging in various discussions and meetings with global leaders to address bilateral cooperation and key global and regional concerns.
- ➔ On the sidelines of the conference, Dr. Jaishankar engaged in fruitful discussions with various global leaders.

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Greece:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Greece has become the first majority-Orthodox Christian nation to legalize same-sex marriage under civil law.
- At least for the near future, it will almost certainly be the only one. The bill also allows same-sex couples to adopt children and confers full parental rights to married partners.

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ASAT:

(Importance level-4/5)

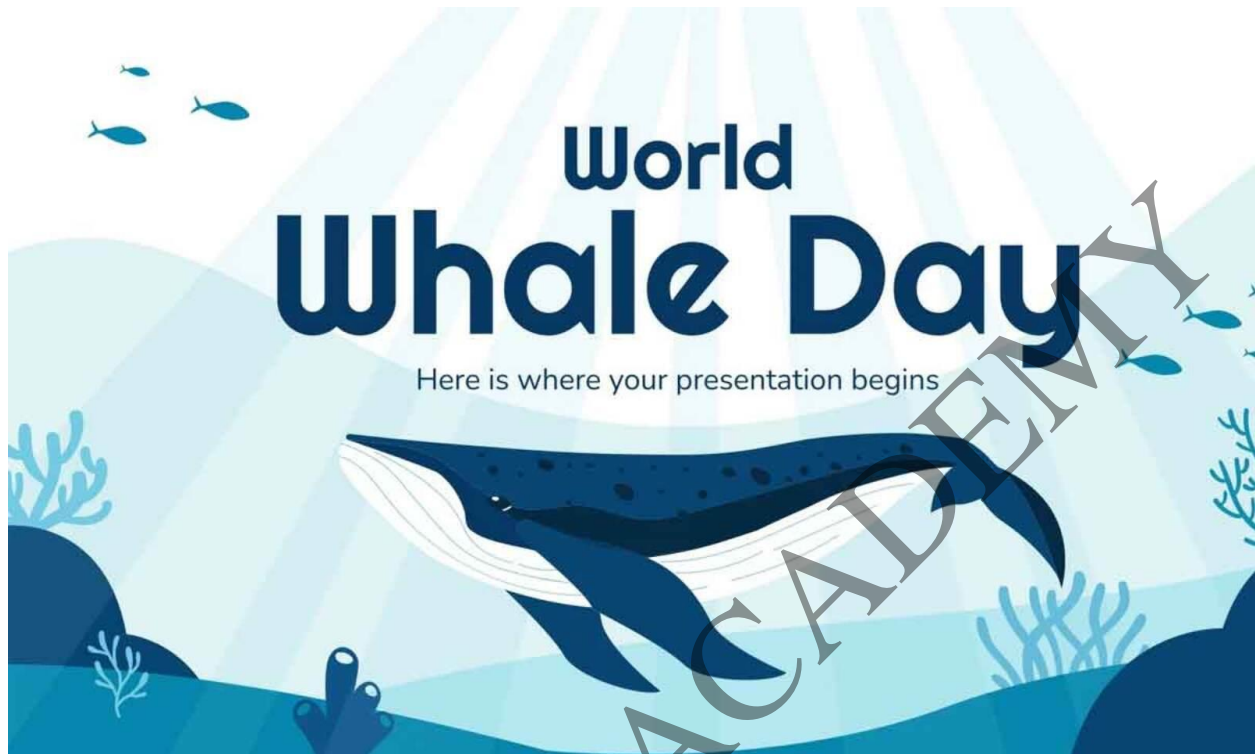
- ➔ **Anti-Satellite Weapons designed to incapacitate or destroy satellites for strategic or tactical purposes. They have been developed by a few countries including United States, Russia, China and India.**
- ➔ The use of ASATs generates space debris which can collide with other satellites and generate more space debris.



World Whale Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

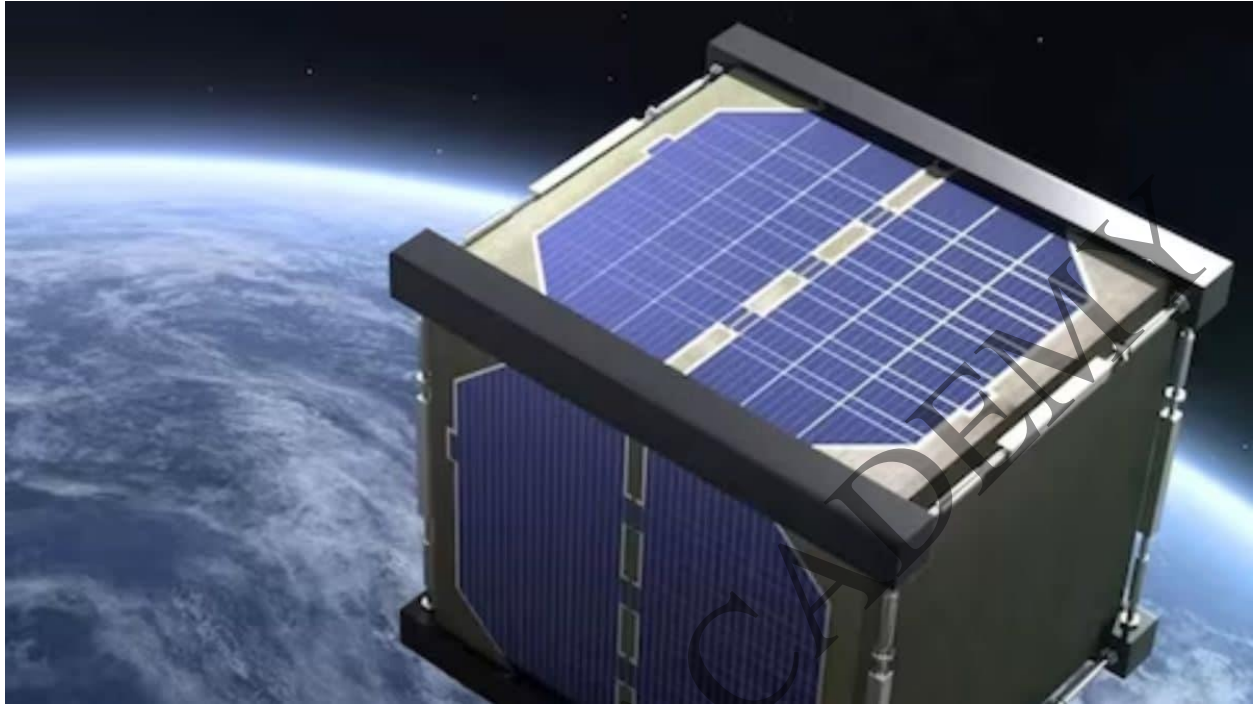
- ➔ **World Whale Day, observed on the third Sunday of February, is a pivotal event aimed at highlighting the critical importance of whale conservation.**
- ➔ This year, the day falls on February 18, spotlighting the urgent need to protect these marine behemoths crucial for ecological equilibrium.
- ➔ Originating in 1980 through the efforts of Greg Kauffman and the Pacific Whale Foundation, the initiative has grown from a focus on the endangered North Pacific humpback whales to a broader celebration of whale conservation success, now known as the Maui Whale Festival.



LignoSat probe:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a groundbreaking collaboration between NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the world's first wooden satellite, dubbed the LignoSat probe, is poised for imminent launch.
- Developed by Kyoto University scientists in partnership with Sumitomo Forestry, this innovative initiative aims to revolutionize spaceflight operations by prioritizing sustainability.
- The LignoSat probe represents a pioneering effort to mitigate the environmental impact of space missions.



Henley Passport Index:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The 2024 edition of the Henley Passport Index has been published, offering significant insights into global mobility and soft power.**
- This index assesses nations based on passport strength, providing valuable insight into the global landscape of mobility and soft power.
- France secures the top spot on the Henley Passport Index, with its passport granting visa-free access to 194 countries.
- India slips one rank down to 85th place, despite an increase in visa-free access for its citizens to 62 countries. Suggests that other countries may have improved their diplomatic relations or visa policies at a faster rate, impacting India's relative position.

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Indian women's badminton team:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ In an unforgettable showdown at Shah Alam, Malaysia, the Indian women's badminton team etched their names into history by clinching a historic gold medal at the Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024.
- ➔ This victory marks a groundbreaking moment in India's badminton journey, as the team emerged victorious against Thailand with a thrilling 3-2 scoreline.
- ➔ The finale saw 17-year-old Anmol Kharb deliver a stellar performance in the decisive match, securing India's maiden continental triumph.

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February 20-21, 2024

Malta:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India has welcomed Malta as the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance. The International Solar Alliance is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.
- It aims to reduce the dependence on non-renewable sources of energy like fossil fuels.



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The Supreme Court:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Supreme Court invoked its plenary power under Article 142 to ensure “complete justice”, saying that the returning officer’s announced result of Chandigarh Mayoral Election was clearly in violation of the law.
- ➔ Article 142(1) of the constitution bestows the Supreme Court with extraordinary authority to ensure “complete justice” in situations where existing laws or statutes may lack adequate remedies.



Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024:

(Importance level-3/5)

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The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024 was held in Mumbai on Tuesday evening.

Winners list:

Best Film: Jawan

Best Film (Critics): 12th Fail

Best Actor: Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan)

Best Actress (Critics): Kareena Kapoor (Jaane Jaan)

Best Actress: Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway)

Best Director (Critics): Atlee (Jawan)s

Best Director: Sandeep Reddy Vanga (Animal)

Best Actor (Critics): Vicky Kaushal (Sam Bahadur)

Best Music Director: Anirudh Ravichander (Jawan)

Best Playback Singer (Male): Varun Jain and Sachin Jigar (Tere Vaste from Zara Hatke Zara Bachke)

Best Playback Singer (Female): Shilpa Rao (Besharam Rang from Pathaan)

Best Actor in a Negative Role: Bobby Deol (Animal)

Best Actor in a Comic Role: Ayushmann Khurranna (Dream Girl 2)

Best Actress in a Comic Role: Sanya Malhotra (Kathal)

Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Anil Kapoor (Animal)

Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Dimple Kapadia (Pathaan)

Most Promising Actor: Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)

Most Promising Actress: Adah Sharma (The Kerala Story)

Most Versatile Actress: Nayanthara

Best Lyricist: Javed Akhtar (Nikle The Kabhi Hum Ghar Se from Dunki)

Best Short Film: Good morning

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Best International Feature Film: Oppenheimer

Best Cinematographer: Gnweana Shekar VS (IB71)

Best Actress in a Television Series: Rupali Ganguly (Anupamaa)

Best Actor in a Television Series: Neil Bhatt (Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin)

Television Series of the Year: Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin

Best Web Series: Farzi

Best Actor in a Web Series: Shahid Kapoor (Farzi)

Best Actress in a Web Series: Sushmita Sen (Aarya Season 3).



IBSA:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- India has contributed \$1 million to a fund established by India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) which undertake projects aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger.
- India is committed to supporting the IBSA Fund as we believe that the Fund has made a positive impact on the lives of millions across the Global South and has strengthened the spirit of South-South cooperation.
- India's contribution to the IBSA Fund has cumulatively exceeded \$ 18 million since the Fund was established in 2004 and became operational in 2006.



Bandhan Bank:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Private lender Bandhan Bank has been authorized by the West Bengal government to collect tax and non-tax receipts on its behalf. The mandate will enable the bank to collect revenues through the Government Receipt Portal System (GRIPS).
- By virtue of this mandate, people will be able to pay various taxes like property tax, motor vehicle tax and professional tax using this portal.

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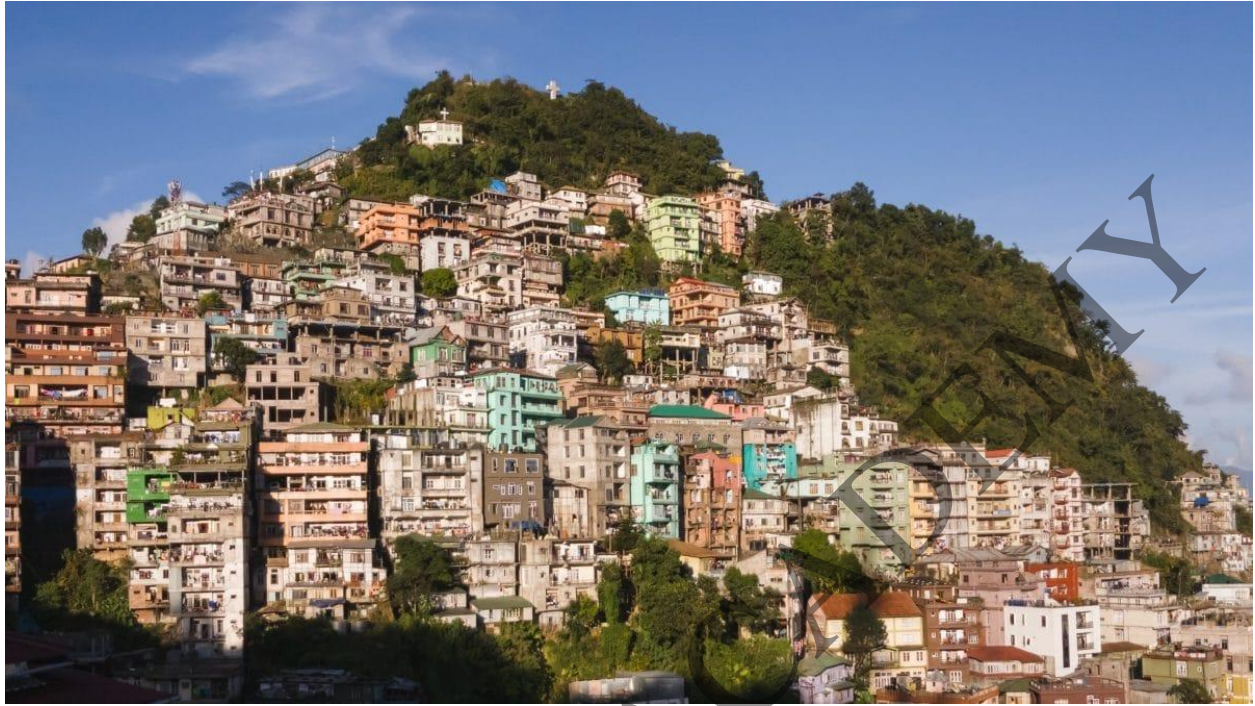
Mizoram Foundation Day 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Mizoram Foundation Day 2024, observed on February 20th, commemorates the state's establishment as the 23rd state of India in 1987.**
- ➔ It celebrates the Mizo people's struggle for self-determination and political rights, culminating in the historic peace accord between the government of India and the Mizo National Front in 1986. The day honors Mizoram's rich cultural heritage and achievements.

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Arunachal Pradesh:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Arunachal Pradesh, nestled in the northeastern corner of India, celebrates its Foundation Day annually on February 20th, marking the day it attained full statehood in 1987.**
- ➔ This occasion commemorates the region's transition from the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) to a distinct state within the Indian union.
- ➔ This significant day commemorates the state's official declaration as a distinct entity within India in 1987.

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IIT Madras:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a prominent NBFC, has been honored with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow' CSR Summit, hosted by IIT Madras.**
- ➔ Madras, which annually generates approximately 3.15 million units of clean energy, contributing significantly to reducing the institute's carbon footprint.



Khajuraho Dance Festival:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The renowned Khajuraho Dance Festival embarks on its 50th year of celebration in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, marking a milestone in the preservation and promotion of India's classical dance heritage.**
- ➔ This prestigious event is being inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, showcasing the state's commitment to cultural festivities.

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Shri Kalki Dham:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh.**
- ➔ The event was marked by speeches from key figures, including Chairman Pramod Krishnam and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, reflecting on the temple's significance and highlighting developmental initiatives in the region.



Himalayan Basket:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami unveiled the 'Himalayan Basket' initiative from his residence.**
- ➔ Initially conceived by local entrepreneurs Sumit and Sneha Thapliyal in 2018, this innovative project aims to harness the agricultural riches of Champawat district, propelling it towards becoming an ideal district through the enhancement of local employment opportunities.
- ➔ The 'Himalayan Basket' initiative is designed to boost local employment by capitalizing on the district's abundant agricultural resources.



Maharashtra Cabinet:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved a draft bill to extend a 10 percent reservation to the Maratha community in both educational institutions and government employment.**
- ➔ This move follows a report submitted by the Maharashtra Backward Class Commission (MBCC) justifying the extension beyond the 50 percent cap.
- ➔ The government has scheduled a special session of the state assembly to introduce the bill in response to Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil's hunger strike.

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CITCO:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **CITCO (Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation) introduces a pizza maker near Sukhna Lake, producing hot pizzas in three minutes, a first in North India. The pizza vending machine is the only one operational in India, marking a significant breakthrough.**
- Operational since early 2024, the Pizza ATM swiftly becomes a local favorite, offering both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options



Northern Railway Firozpur division:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ The Northern Railway Firozpur division is set to revolutionize connectivity in the region with the introduction of a new Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) and Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) train service between Baramulla and Sangaldan stations, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ➔ This initiative marks a significant milestone in the ongoing Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, enhancing transportation infrastructure and facilitating easier access for commuters.



Hindustan Aeronautics Limited:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) embarks on a comprehensive upgrade project worth Rs 60,000 crore for the Su-30MKI fighter jet fleet.
- The initiative aims to bolster the aircraft's capabilities through the integration of advanced technologies and indigenous systems.



Indian Army:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Army is embarking on a significant endeavor to modernize its armored forces by replacing its aging Russian T-72 tank fleet with cutting-edge Future Ready Combat Vehicles (FRCVs).**
- ➔ These FRCVs, totaling 1,770 units, will be produced indigenously in India with advanced technologies including artificial intelligence (AI), drone integration, active protection systems, and enhanced situational awareness.
- ➔ The induction will occur in three phases, each incorporating newer technologies for maximum survivability and lethality.



Government of Goa:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Government of Goa has unveiled plans for a pioneering Blended Finance facility in collaboration with the World Bank.**
- ➔ This initiative marks a significant step towards climate-focused financing at a subnational level, aiming to bolster Goa's resilience to the challenges posed by climate change.

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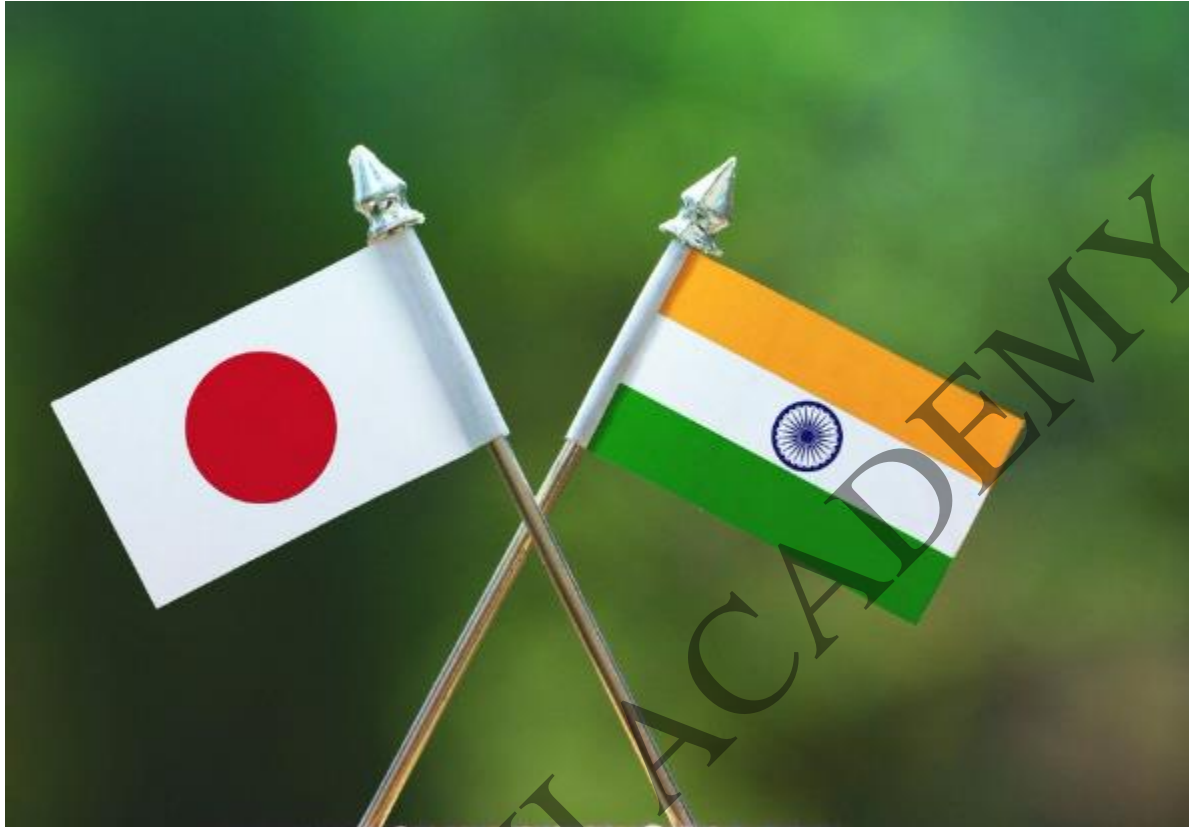
Japanese Government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant move to bolster India's infrastructure and innovation landscape, the Japanese government has pledged a substantial loan of 232.209 billion yen (approximately Rs 12,800 crore) to fund nine distinct projects across various sectors in India.**
- ➔ This financial assistance marks a notable step in enhancing the strategic and global partnership between India and Japan, a relationship that has been thriving since 1958.
- ➔ The agreement was formalized between Vikas Sheel, Additional Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, and Suzuki Hiroshi, the Japanese Ambassador to India.

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IREDA:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance renewable energy initiatives across the nation.**
- ➔ Signed at IREDA's registered office in New Delhi on February 19, 2024, the agreement paves the way for joint efforts in co-lending and loan syndication for a spectrum of renewable energy projects.



Khelo India:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Khelo India University games in Guwahati.**
- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, addressed Khelo India University Games being held across the seven states in the Northeast via a video message.
- Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur announced that the upcoming 4th edition of the Khelo India University Games in 2023 will serve as an exhilarating platform for 4544 athletes representing diverse regions of India.

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INDUS-X:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The highly anticipated INDUS-X Summit is set to take place on February 20-21, 2024, in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts between India and the United States in defense innovation.
- ➔ The summit aims to drive strategic technology partnerships and defense industrial cooperation between the two nations.

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Country's first Skill India Centre:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Country's first Skill India Centre has recently been inaugurated in Sambalpur, Odisha by Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. To Become a self-reliant country, India needs to have a skilled and competent workforce and towards this goal, the Skill India Centre is going to be more beneficial.**
- ➔ The Centre is going to provide low cost courses to empower Youth to make them a part of future Skills and new age jobs around the world.



Tamil Nadu Government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Tamil Nadu finance minister Thangam Thennarasu presented the state's Budget for the year 2024-25 on Monday.**
- The Tamil Nadu government estimated the revenue deficit at over ₹49,000 crore and made new announcements aimed at achieving the "7 grand Tamil dream" which included social justice and women's welfare. In his Budget speech, Thennarasu said the state has made significant progress in poverty reduction through its welfare schemes.
- The NITI Aayog has said that people below the poverty line in Tamil Nadu was only about 2.2 per cent, he added. Rs 2 crore to be allocated for the development of the Tamil language. Rs 120 crore has been allocated to promote SC/ST entrepreneurs. A new Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi named "Vaigai".



Shanti Prayas IV:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Kathmandu became the focal point of global peacekeeping efforts as it hosted the commencement of the multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV'.**
- ➔ This significant event, which draws army representatives from 19 countries actively involved in United Nations Peacekeeping missions, underscores the collaborative spirit and dedication towards maintaining global peace and security.
- ➔ The exercise was inaugurated by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda in a ceremony held at the Nepali Army Headquarters in Bhadrakali, Kathmandu. This marked the beginning of an intensive training program aimed at enhancing the peacekeeping capabilities of the participating nations.



2023 Democracy Index:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ According to the 2023 Democracy Index 7.8% of the world's population in 24 countries live in a "full democracy", 37.6% in 50 countries in a "flawed democracy", 15.2% in 34 countries in a "hybrid regime", and 39.4% in 59 countries in an "authoritarian regime".
- ➔ The global average score in 2023 fell from 5.29 to 5.23 compared to 2022, marking the lowest score since the index was started in 2006, and confirming "a general trend of regression and stagnation in recent years" according to the Economist's researchers.



International Mother Language Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

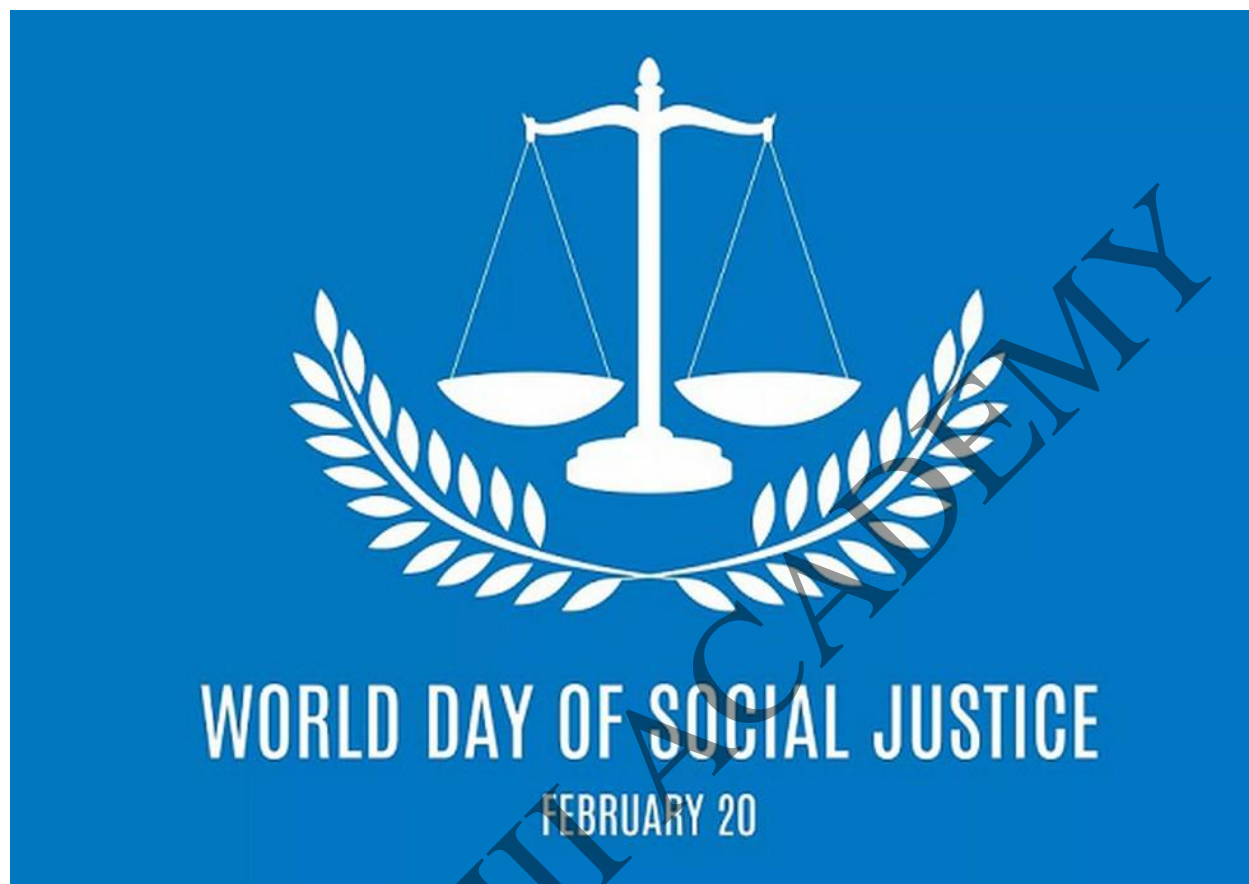
- ➔ **International Mother Language Day is observed globally every year on February 21.**
Objective – To recognize and promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- ➔ Theme 2024 – Multilingual education is a pillar of intergenerational learning. According to UNESCO, the idea to celebrate this day was the initiative of Bangladesh and was approved in 1999 at UNESCO General Conference.



World Day of Social Justice:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Every year, on the 20th of February, the global community comes together to observe the **World Day of Social Justice**. It serves as a reminder of the pressing need to address **inequality, injustice, and social exclusion around the world**.
- ➔ The theme chosen for the World Day of Social Justice 2024, “Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances,” highlights the importance of collaboration and partnership in tackling global challenges.



Shubman Gill:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant move to boost voter engagement and participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the Punjab Chief Electoral Officer's office has announced Indian cricketer Shubman Gill as the new "state icon" for Punjab.**
- ➔ This appointment is a strategic effort to connect with the youth and sports enthusiasts, ensuring that the electoral process resonates more deeply across various demographics.
- ➔ Under the ambitious target of "Is Vaar 70 Paar", the electoral office aims to surpass a 70 per cent voter turnout in the forthcoming polls. This initiative follows the previous voter turnout of 65.96 per cent during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections across the 13 seats in Punjab.

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Februaryy 22-23, 2024

Central Vigilance Commission:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **President Droupadi Murmu has appointed A S Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.**
- The Central Vigilance Commission became a three member body, with the Central Vigilance Commissioner and 2 vigilance commissioners.



World's second-largest road network:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- **India possesses the world's second-largest road network, after the United States. India has surpassed China in the last nine years with the construction of more than 50,000 km of national highways.**
- The nation's longest highway is the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. India has a road network spanning over 63 kilometres.



All India Management Association:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **The All India Management Association observed its 68th Foundation Day and 18th National Management Day on 21st February. The theme for 2024 is "The Indian Century: Managing Growth with Transformation".**
- This flagship event brought together industry experts and senior government officials to share their perspectives on crucial topics related to management.

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Safety of Women:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Union Government has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the continuation of the implementation of the Umbrella Scheme on 'Safety of Women' at a total cost of around 1,180 crore rupees during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Besides, every year 5000 police personnel will be imparted training for effective investigation and prosecution to curb crime.

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FDI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Centre has approved an amendment in the Foreign Direct Investment, FDI policy, allowing 100% foreign investment in the space sector.**
- ➔ The liberalized entry routes under the amended policy are aimed to attract potential investors to invest in Indian companies in space.
- ➔ FDI up to 100% under the Automatic route will be allowed for the manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segments, and user segments.

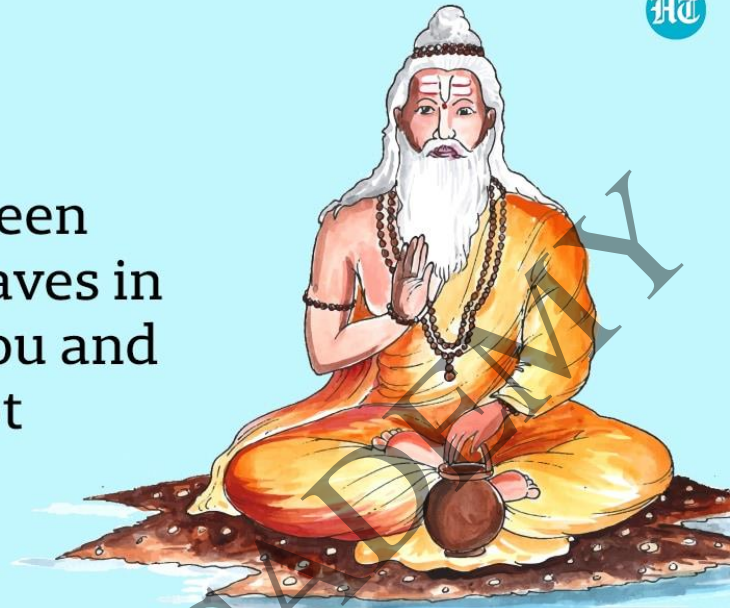


Guru Ravidas Jayanti 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Guru Ravidas Jayanti 2024, marks the 647th anniversary of the birth of Guru Ravidas, observed on February 23rd. Guru Ravidas, also known as Raidas, stands as one of the eminent saints of the North Indian Bhakti movement.**
- Born into a marginalized untouchable leather-working caste in Varanasi, his life and works profoundly reflect the challenges and struggles of his social background.
- Guru Ravidas Jayanti holds great significance, particularly in the Northern states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana. Devotees observe the day by organizing Nagarkirtans, singing gurbani, and performing special aartis.

We should not understand any difference between water and its waves in the same way you and God both are not different.



First Turtle Conservation Reserve:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Uttar Pradesh to Set Up First Turtle Conservation Reserve. The Forest Department in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district, in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India, is initiating a conservation effort.**
- ➔ This endeavor aims to establish a turtle conservation reserve along the Sarju river, a tributary of the Ghaghra river. Gonda district is known for its turtle diversity, making it an ideal location for such a conservation effort.



‘Bag-less school’ policy:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a bold move aimed at revolutionizing the educational landscape, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced a groundbreaking initiative – the introduction of a ‘bag-less school’ policy.
- ➔ This policy, set to be implemented once a week from the upcoming academic session of 2024-25, marks a significant departure from traditional educational norms and underscores the government’s commitment to student welfare and holistic development.

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Sammakka Saralamma Jatara:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Medaram Jatara, known as Sammakka Saralamma Jatara', began this year on February 21 in Medaram, Mulugu district, showcasing Telangana's rich tribal heritage.**
- ➔ This four-day event, considered the world's largest tribal gathering, attracts pilgrims to the remote village of Medaram once every two years.
- ➔ The Medaram Jatara holds historical significance as it commemorates the struggle of a mother and daughter duo, Sammakka and Saralamma, against unjust rulers.
- ➔ Their courage and resilience have been immortalized through this festival, symbolizing the spirit of tribal communities.

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Cabinet Committee on Security:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the acquisition of over 200 BrahMos Extended Range (ER) supersonic cruise missiles for deployment on Indian Navy warships.**
- ➔ The deal, valued at ₹19,000 crore, signifies a significant step towards bolstering India's naval capabilities.
- ➔ The deal worth ₹19,000 crore received approval from the CCS. This approval underscores the government's commitment to enhancing the defense capabilities of the Indian Navy.

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DRDO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a notable stride towards advanced military technology, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reportedly gearing up to test a real prototype of its indigenous laser weapon system, DURGA-2.
- ➔ The project, designed in secrecy by the Indian defence establishment, has garnered attention in global strategic circles due to its potential to transform warfare dynamics by neutralizing ballistic missiles.



CleanMax and Bangalore International Airport Limited:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Renewable power solutions provider CleanMax and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) have signed a 25-year long-term power purchase agreement aimed at fostering sustainable energy practices.**
- ➔ The agreement entails the generation and supply of renewable energy sourced from a Solar-wind Captive Power Project, marking a pivotal step towards green energy adoption in the region.

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IRCTC & Swiggy:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has partnered with Swiggy, a leading food delivery platform in India, to facilitate the delivery of pre-ordered meals booked by passengers through IRCTC's e-catering portal.**
- ➔ This collaboration aims to enhance convenience and choice for railway travelers. Initially, Swiggy's services will be available at four major railway stations – Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam.
- ➔ IRCTC plans to extend this service to more stations after completing the initial phase, broadening its reach and catering to a larger demographic of passengers.



Aeronautical Development Agency:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has taken a significant stride towards enhancing the operational capabilities of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ➔ This strategic partnership aims to integrate futuristic weapons and sensors onto the LCA Tejas platform, ensuring its readiness and effectiveness in modern warfare scenarios.



Arunachal Pradesh government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Arunachal Pradesh government recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to establish the state's first Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF).**
- ➔ This move aims to bolster conservation efforts and protect the tiger population within the state. Under the terms of the MoU, the NTCA has committed to providing financial assistance for the establishment, equipping, and deployment of the STPF.
- ➔ This funding will be split with 90% provided by the central government and 10% by the state government. Each tiger reserve will host 112 personnel, ensuring comprehensive coverage and protection.



Salil Parekh:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ In a significant move that highlights the deepening ties between the technology sectors of India and the United States, Salil Parekh, the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- ➔ This appointment underscores the critical role of digital trade in consolidating the strategic partnership between the two nations.



Raisina:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 9th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, marking a significant moment for global discourse on geopolitics and geo-economics.**
- Joining him in the inaugural session was the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who graced the event as the Chief Guest.
- The theme of the 9th edition, “Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create,” reflects the multifaceted nature of global challenges and the imperative of collaboration in addressing them.



Global Cybercrime Report 2023:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In Global Cybercrime Report 2023, India ranked as the 80th most targeted country for cybercrime globally. Local threats affected approximately 34% of users, resulting in the blocking of 74,385,324 incidents by Kaspersky products.
- ➔ The country's cybersecurity market reached USD 6.06 billion in 2023, yet the surge in sophisticated external cyber threats poses a significant challenge for enterprises, according to IDC.



Vishwakarma Jayanti 2024:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Vishwakarma Jayanti 2024, celebrated on Thursday, February 22nd, marks the auspicious occasion of Lord Vishwakarma's birth.**
- This festival, deeply rooted in Hindu mythology, holds immense significance for engineers, artisans, craftsmen, and all those involved in various trades and professions.
- In 2024, Vishwakarma Jayanti is observed from February 21 to February 22, according to the Hindu Panchang. Celebrated on Thursday, February 22, 2024, this day marks reverence to Lord Vishwakarma, seeking blessings for success and prosperity in all endeavors.

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IFFCO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked again as the No. 1 cooperative among the top 300 cooperatives in the world, sustaining its position from last year.**
- ➔ The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. This signifies IFFCO's contribution to the GDP.



360 degree immersive dome theatre:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Chennai gets India's first 360 degree immersive dome theatre. At Sun Dance by Casagrand, said to be India's first 360 degree super immersive dome theatre, characters and locations come to life.
- This 360 degree view makes the observers feel like they are in the midst of the movie, thereby enhancing the viewers experience.

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KAAN combat aircraft:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Turkey's domestically built KAAAN combat aircraft completed its first flight.
- The 5th generation aircraft, dubbed KAAAN, "reached an altitude of 8,000 feet and achieved a speed of 230 knots.



Panda conservation:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **China renewed Panda Diplomacy with the US and Europe, aiming to foster international panda conservation efforts and enhance relations.**
- Agreement includes sending pandas to San Diego Zoo and discussions for renewal at Washinton, D.C's National Zoo and Austria's Schonbrunn Zoo.



“Amar Ekushey”:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Bangladesh observes Language Day “Amar Ekushey”, commemorating the language movement martyrs of 1952 who advocated for Bangla as the official language of then East Pakistan.
- ➔ In 1952, Pakistani forces gunfire killed many protesting students during “Amar Ekushey”, sparking widespread unrest in Bangladesh.

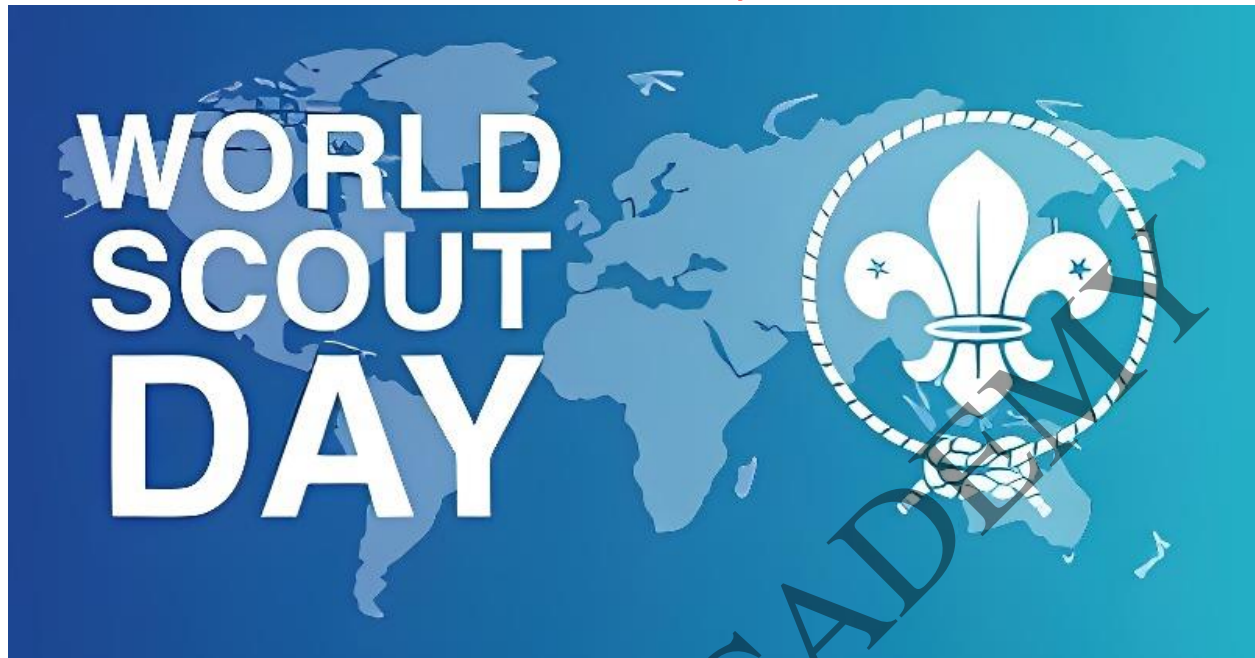


The student movement on 21st February laid the foundation for the Liberation War. PHOTO: COLLECTED

World Scout Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- World Scout Day, which is observed on 22 February every year, is significant as it commemorates the birth anniversary of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts Movement.
- The day is also known as Scouts Founder's Day. Theme 2024 – Scouts for a Better World.



Thinking Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **World Thinking Day is also known as Thinking Day and is observed on 22 February annually by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across 150 countries.**
- The day also raises funds for the development of 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the globe. Theme 2024 – Our World, Our Thriving Future.



WORLD THINKING DAY

Feb. 22

Colossal serpent:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Scientists have unveiled the existence of a colossal serpent lurking within the heart of the Amazon rainforest. This is the world's largest snake discovered to date.**
- Measuring a staggering 26 feet in length and weighing a hefty 440 pounds, this mammoth anaconda possesses a head comparable in size to that of a human. Its magnitude has earned it the title of the largest and heaviest snake species on the planet.

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Dosti 16 exercise:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships joined the Dosti 16 exercise held in the Maldives from February 22-25.**
- ➔ This year marked a significant development with Bangladesh participating as an observer, indicating a widening scope for the exercise and underlining the growing importance of maritime collaboration in tackling evolving challenges.



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Odysseus Spacecraft:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **America's Odysseus Spacecraft Makes 1st Commercial Moon Landing in History.** In a historic moment for space exploration, the Odysseus spacecraft, spearheaded by Intuitive Machines (IM), has achieved what was once solely the domain of national space agencies: a successful soft landing on the lunar surface.
- This landmark event marks the first commercial venture to accomplish such a feat, signalling a significant leap forward in private sector involvement in space exploration.



Babar Azam:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Former Pakistan captain and batting maestro Babar Azam showcased his unparalleled prowess once again as he etched his name in the annals of cricket history by becoming the quickest batter to surpass the milestone of 10,000 runs in T20 cricket.**

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- His remarkable achievement came during an exhilarating clash between Karachi Kings and Peshawar Zalmi in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2024.
- In a display of sheer brilliance, Babar Azam achieved the monumental feat in his 271st innings, surpassing cricketing stalwarts like Virat Kohli, Chris Gayle, and David Warner in an elite list. This remarkable accomplishment solidifies Babar's status as one of the premier batters in the shortest format of the game.



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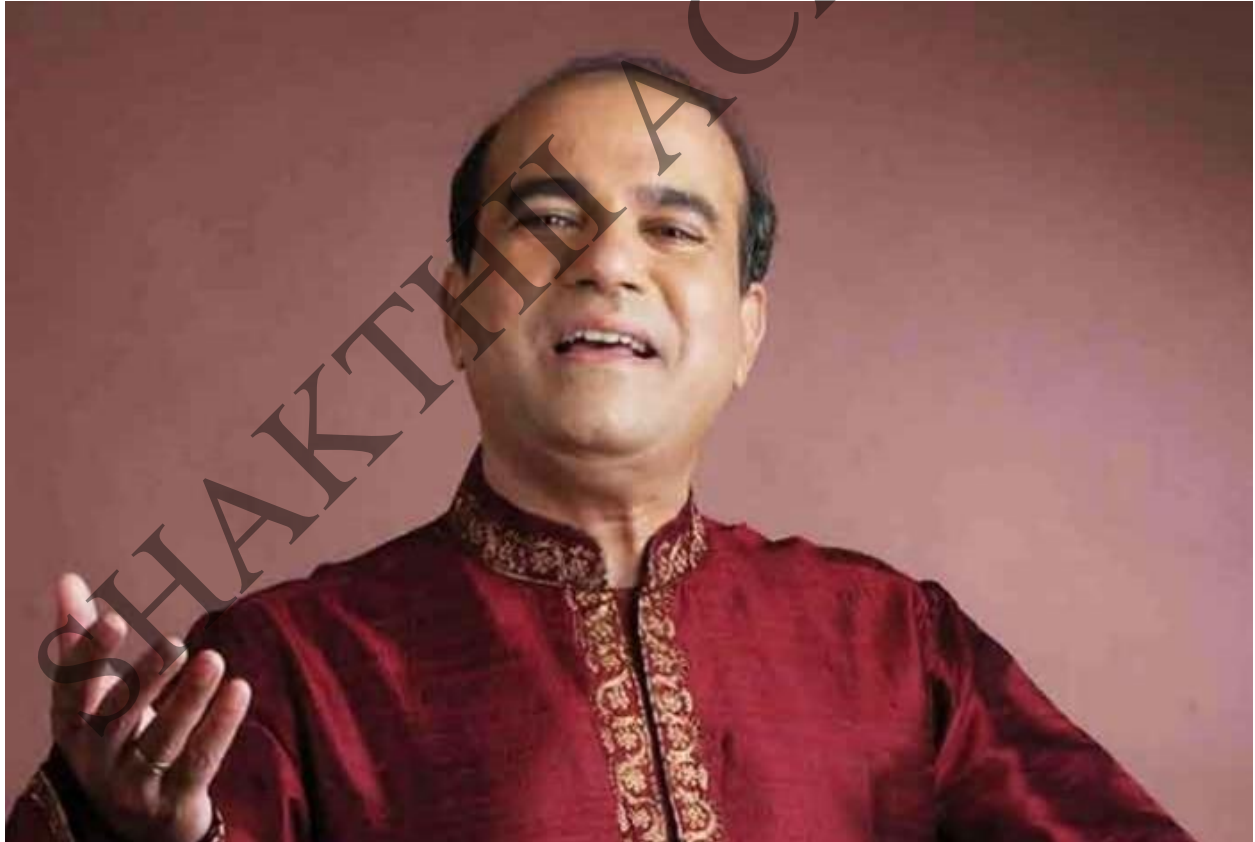
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Gansamragini Lata Mageshkar:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Veteran playback singer Suresh Wadkar has been honoured with the Gansamragini Lata Mageshkar Award.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis presented him with special mementoes.
- In 2021, he also became a recipient of Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in the Republic of India.



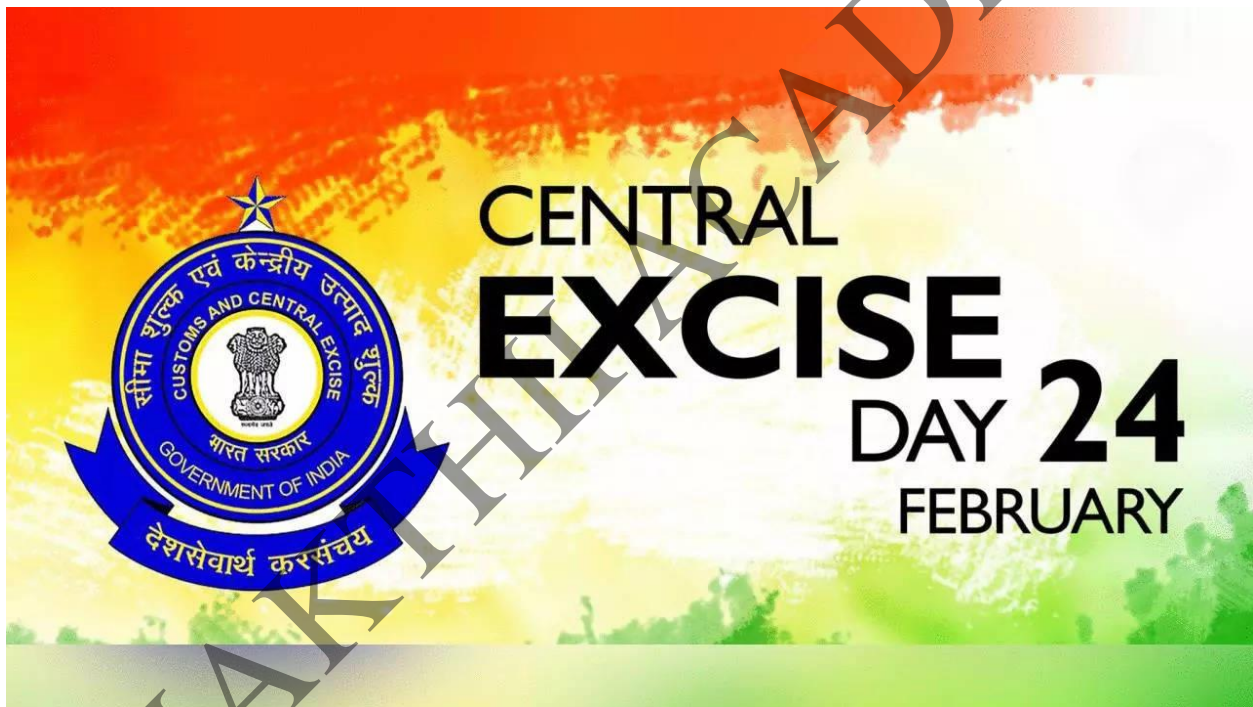
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Central Excise Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Every year on February 24th, India observes Central Excise Day, a tribute to the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act in 1944.
- This significant day marks the foundation of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), a pivotal institution in the administration of indirect taxes in India.
- Central Excise Day 2024 not only commemorates the historic legislation but also celebrates the relentless efforts of the CBIC officers in maintaining the quality and safety of goods within the country.



Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- In a monumental stride towards promoting technological advancement and innovation, the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, in collaboration with EduRade, has inaugurated India's largest Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO).
- Spanning across 18 acres, this initiative boasts the capability to simultaneously fly 9 medium-class drones, positioning itself as a frontrunner in drone technology training.



Nokia and Indian Institute of Science:

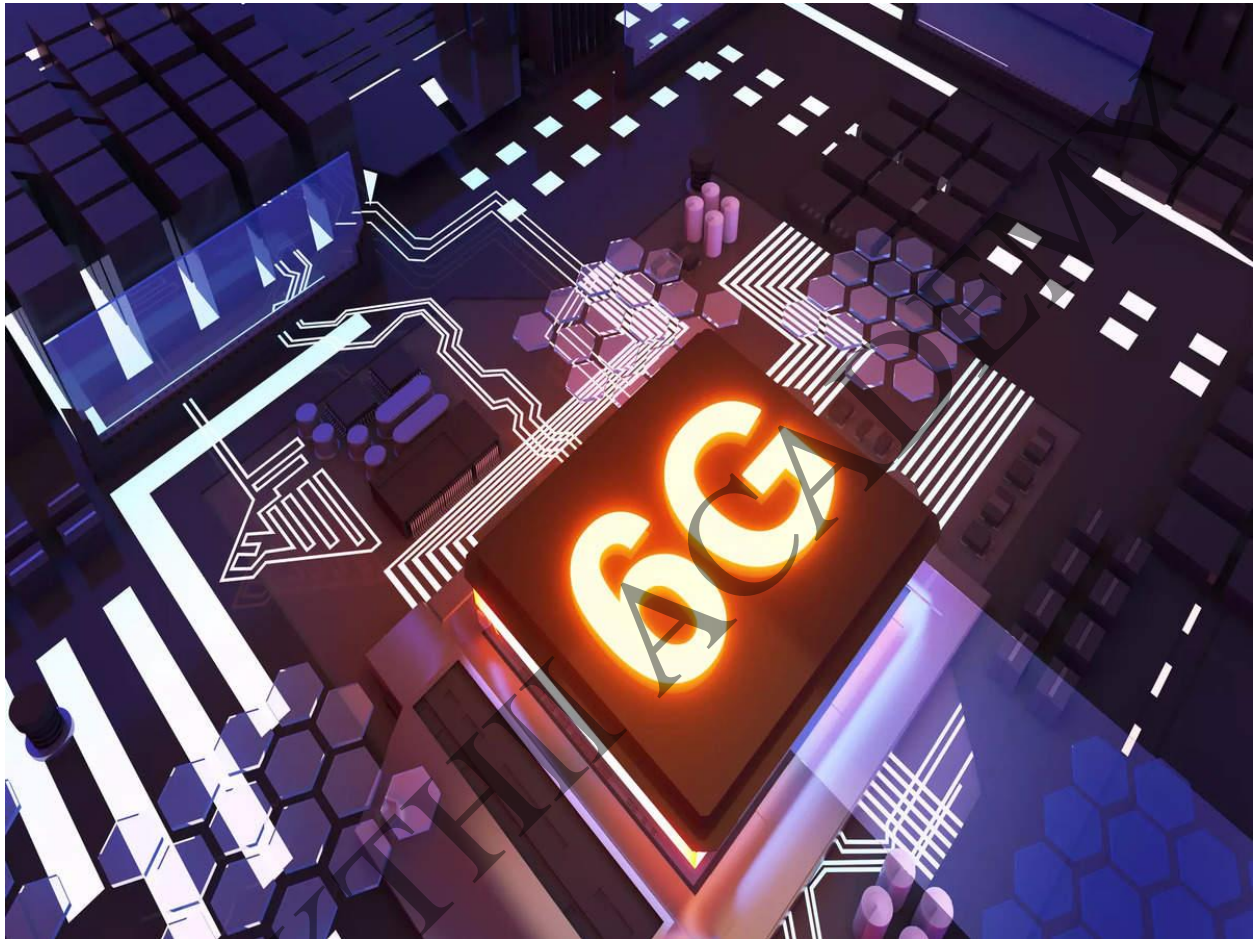
(Importance level-3/5)

- In a groundbreaking partnership, Nokia and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have united to pioneer 6G technology research and its real-world applications, with a particular focus on India.

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- This collaboration, headquartered at Nokia's newly inaugurated 6G Lab in Bengaluru, will delve into various facets of 6G technology, from radio technologies to architecture, while integrating machine learning into the 6G air interface.



UAE:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The UAE has been dropped from a global watchdog's list of countries at risk of illicit money flows. The European Union still lists the UAE as a high risk country for money laundering and terrorist financing, along with countries like South Africa, North Korea and Afghanistan.**
- FATF- Financial Action Task Force founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering and to maintain certain interest.

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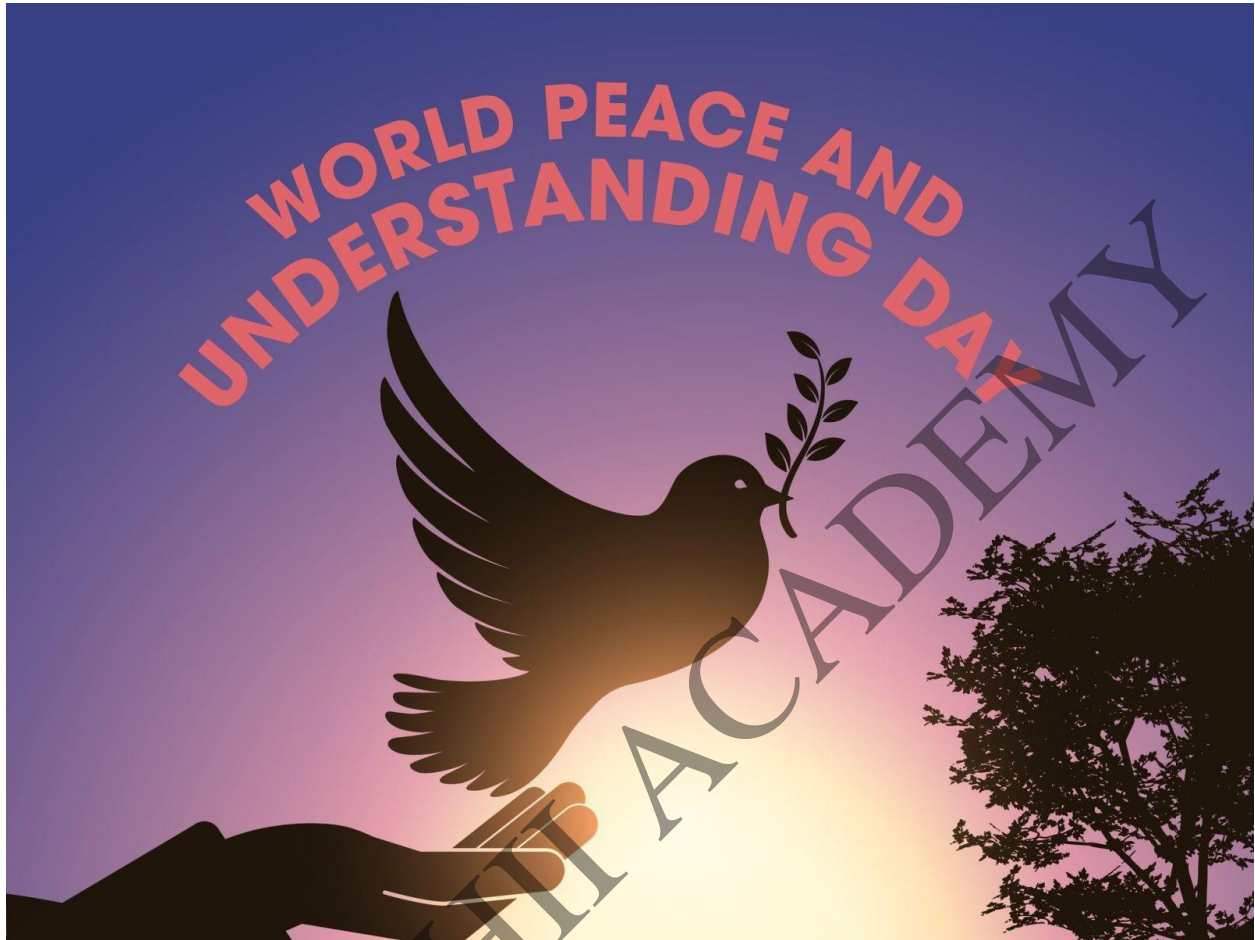
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World Peace and Understanding Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **World Peace and Understanding Day, observed globally on February 23, stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of harmony, compassion, and cooperation among diverse cultures, religions, and regions.**
- Also known as Special Day, this occasion traces its roots to the foundational meeting of Rotary International, a beacon of humanitarian service, peace, and goodwill.



Vietnam:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Vietnam aims to produce 100,000-500,000 metric tonnes of hydrogen per year by 2030 as part of its energy transition efforts.
- The country's hydrogen development strategy, adopted earlier in the month, outlines plans to increase the output to 10-20 million tonnes by 2050, which would include green hydrogen.

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Jacintha Kalyan:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a groundbreaking move for Indian cricket, Jacintha Kalyan has etched her name in the annals of sports history as the country's first female pitch curator.
- With the highly anticipated 2nd edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) just around the corner, the excitement among fans, players, and tournament organizers is palpable.

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Februaryy 25-26, 2024

Ravi River:

(Importance level-3/5)

- **India has marked the completion of the Shahpur Kandi Barrage on the Ravi River, stopping the water flow to Pakistan, and signifying a strategic shift in water management on February 25, 2024.**
- This long-awaited project, overcoming delays spanning over three decades, now redirects 1,150 cusecs of water towards irrigation purposes in the Kathua and Samba districts of Jammu and Kashmir.
- This development is reportedly going to bolster agricultural opportunities in the region while also marking a significant change in water allocation in India. Previously, under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty, a portion of the Ravi River's water flowed into Pakistan via the Lakhanpur dam.



Sudarshan Setu:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on February 25 dedicate to the nation, Sudarshan Setu, India's longest cable-stayed bridge connecting Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island. The inauguration will be done during his visit to Gujarat slated for February 24 and 25.
- The bridge will ease the transportation and significantly reduce the time of devotees travelling between Dwarka and Beyt-Dwarka.



Assam government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a step closer to the Uniform Civil code, Assam government has repealed the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, in a social media post, said, "On 23.22024, the Assam cabinet made a significant decision to repeal the age-old Assam Muslim Marriages & Divorces Registration Act."

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- This Act contained provisions allowing marriage registration even if the bride and groom had not reached the legal ages of 18 and 21, as required by law. This move marks another significant step towards prohibiting child marriages in Assam”.



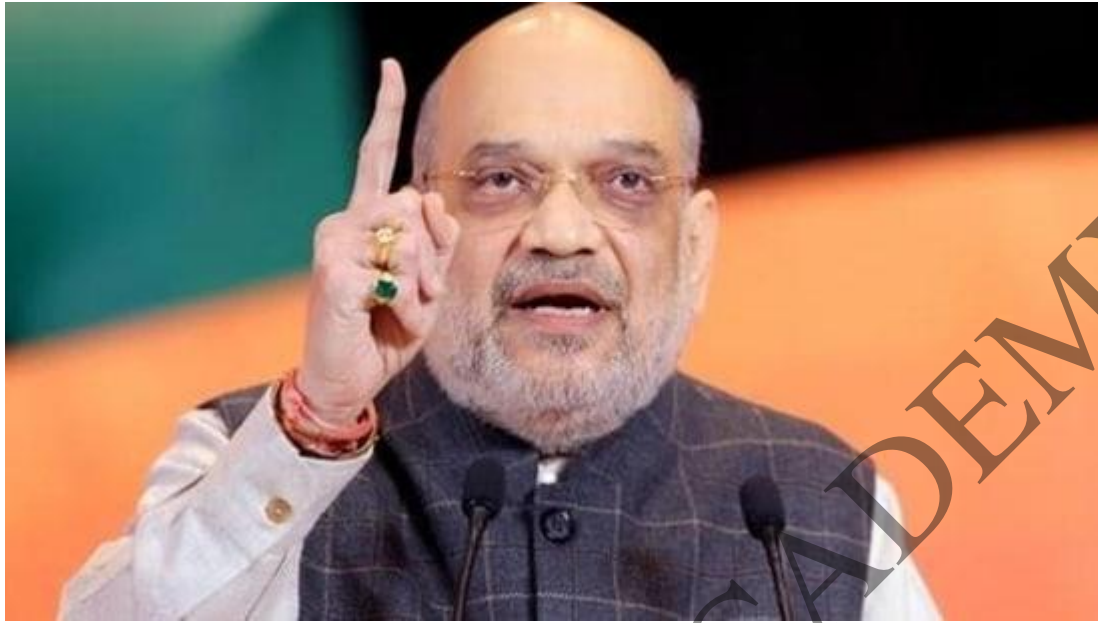
Criminal laws:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The three new criminal laws which replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act will come into effect from July 1, the government notified on Saturday.**
- The three new criminal laws are the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshaya Act.
- The new laws aim at a complete overhaul of the British-era laws giving a clear definition of terrorism, abolishing sedition as a crime and introducing a new section titled "offences against the state" -- among many other changes.

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Rangpo station:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for Sikkim's first railway station Rangpo Station. Rangpo station is the form of a touristic and defensive point of view for Sikkim and India. Basically, Sikkim did not have a railway line earlier.
- The government has signed this project in three phases. In the first phase, Sevoke to the Rangpo rail project; in the other phase, from Rangpo to Gangtok; and the third phase, from Gangtok to Nathula.

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Balakot Airstrike Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **26 February: Balakot Airstrike Day:** The Balakot airstrike, conducted on February 26, 2019, was a meticulously planned and executed operation that demonstrated India's unwavering commitment to national security.
- ➔ The codeword "Bandar Mara Gaya" was reportedly used to relay the success of the mission, signalling the elimination of a significant threat.

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Defence Security Corps:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Defence Security Corps (DSC) is celebrating its 77th Raising Day today. The Corps was raised on this day in 1947 as 'Defence Department Constabulary'.
- ➔ DSC troops have been providing security to various sensitive defence and civil installations across the length and breadth of the Country since 1947.

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Uttarakhand government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Uttarakhand government is all set to introduce the 'Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill' during the budget session commencing on Monday.**
- ➔ Although Uttarakhand has generally remained a peaceful state, government sources indicate that the need for legislation arose after the recent riots in Haldwani.
- ➔ Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has reaffirmed the government's commitment to recovering damages amounting to crores from the individuals accused of rioting in the Haldwani incident.

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NITI Aayog:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The latest consumer expenditure survey indicates that poverty has come down to five per cent in the country and people are becoming prosperous both in rural and urban areas, NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam said on Sunday.**
- ➔ The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released data on household consumption expenditure for the year 2022-23 on Saturday which shows per capita monthly household expenditure more than doubled in 2022-23 as compared to 2011-12.

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IIM:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The country's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' will be established at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has collaborated with IIM-Shillong to set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair'.**
- ➔ This initiative aims to discuss the multimodal logistics development strategy focused on connecting the North Eastern Region (NER) with wider national and international regions to fortify the local economy.

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CBFC:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, revealed plans for a new office of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in Chandigarh.**
- ➔ This move aims to support filmmakers in the region by making the process of obtaining film certification more convenient.
- ➔ At the closing ceremony of the Chitra Bharati Film Festival in Chandigarh, Shri Thakur highlighted that filmmakers in the region will now have access to screening their films and submitting necessary edits or changes without the need to travel to Delhi or Mumbai. This decision is expected to benefit the Punjabi film industry significantly.

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Geeta Batra:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Geeta Batra, a distinguished Indian economist, has been appointed as the Director of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF).**
- ➔ This appointment marks a significant milestone, as Batra becomes the first woman from a developing country to assume this prestigious role.

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Dharma Guardian:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The 5th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' commenced today at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan, India.**
- ➔ The exercise, scheduled to run from February 25th to March 9th, 2024, brings together the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) for a focused training program aimed at enhancing interoperability and fostering closer military cooperation.

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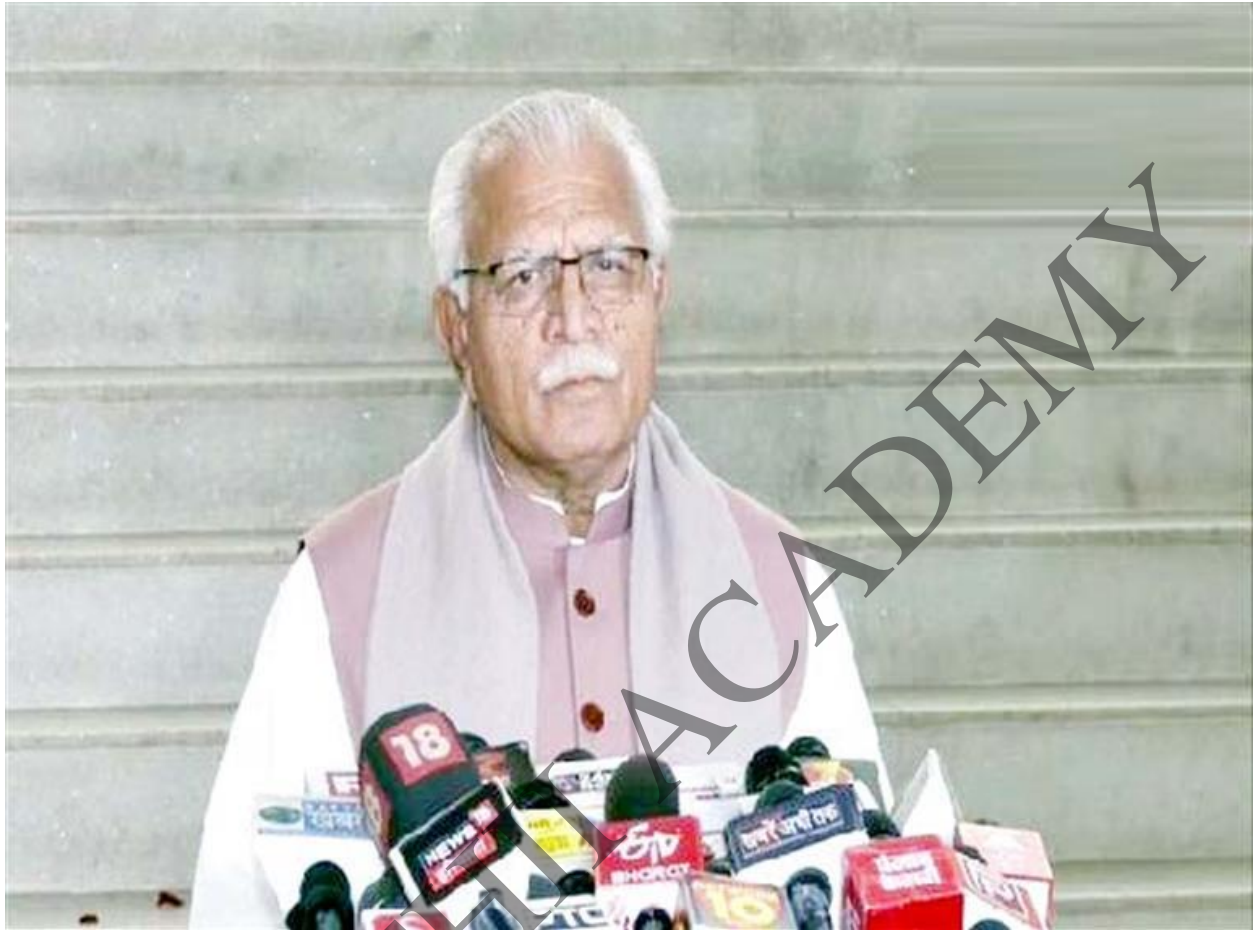
Savera:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the “Savera” program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer in women.
- ➔ Developed in collaboration with the Medanta Foundation and the Health Department, Savera leverages the unique ability of visually impaired women to conduct breast cancer screenings.

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Tatung Padi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Tatung Padi has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Padi has been appointed to the post under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years from the date of taking over charge of the post until further orders.
- Padi is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of 2009-batch. He was recommended for the Central deputation by the Department of Revenue.

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IIT Madras:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Madras) and Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI Faridabad) have developed the first India-specific artificial intelligence (AI) model to determine the age of a foetus in a pregnant woman in the second and third trimesters precisely.
- ➔ The model has been developed as part of the 'Interdisciplinary group for advanced research on birth outcomes – DBT India initiative' (GARBH-Ini) programme.

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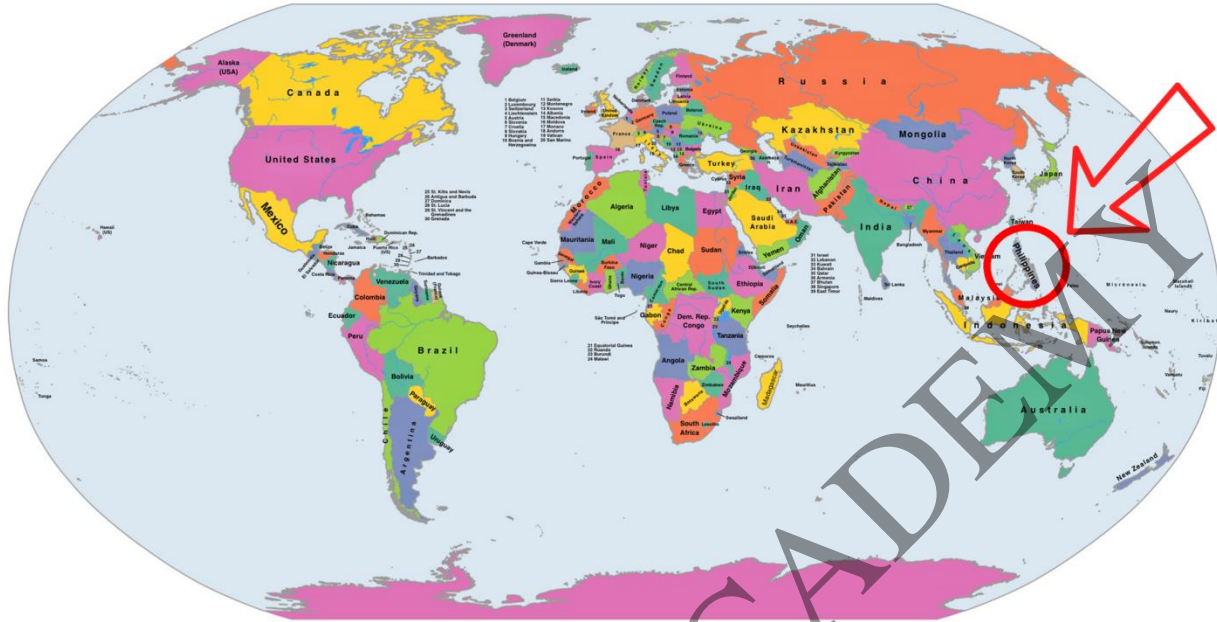
Philippines:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ On World Day of Social Justice, 20 February 2024, the Philippines deposited the instrument of ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), with the Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ➔ By depositing the instrument of ratification, the Philippines becomes the 38th country in the world, and the first Asian country, to ratify Convention No. 190.

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Ravichandran Ashwin:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Indian off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** etched his name in cricketing history, surpassing legendary leg-spinner **Anil Kumble** to become the leading wicket-taker in Test matches played on Indian soil.
- ➔ The feat unfolded during the third day of the ongoing fourth Test match between India and England in Ranchi.
- ➔ Ashwin dismissed Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope, taking his tally to 351 wickets in Tests played in India. This eclipsed Kumble's previous record of 350 wickets achieved in 63 matches.

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Khelo India Winter Games 2024:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Khelo India Winter Games 2024 concluded in Gulmarg, with the Army emerging victorious after a thrilling final day of competition.**
- ➔ Alpine skier Bobby Pandey's gold medal in the parallel slalom event proved decisive, propelling Army to the top of the medal table with 10 gold medals.
- ➔ This narrow margin placed them one gold ahead of Karnataka (9 gold) and three ahead of Maharashtra (7 gold), who had led after the first round in Ladakh.

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Februaryy 27, 2024

'Vikramaditya Vaidik Clock':

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The world's first 'Vikramaditya Vaidik Clock' in Ujjain, India, displays the traditional 'Muhurt' time alongside Greenwich Mean Time.
- ➔ It provides various features through a mobile app and offers information about Vikrami Panchang, Vedic Hindu Panchang, Tithi, and astrological calculations.



Election Commission of India:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- ➔ In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Election Commission of India (ECI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two prominent organizations, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Department of Posts (DoP) to amplify its voter outreach and awareness efforts ahead of the forthcoming General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024.
- ➔ The initiative is in continuation of ECI's untiring efforts to enhance electoral awareness in the country.
- ➔ Notably, ECI had recently signed an MoU with the Ministry of Education to formally integrate electoral literacy into the educational curriculum of schools and colleges.



Anti-Muslim hate speech:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **BJP-ruled states accounted for 75% of anti-Muslim hate speech events in 2023, says report. Out of 668 documented anti-Muslim hate speech incidents in India last year, 498 or 75% took place in the Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states, a report by Washington-based research group India Hate Lab said.**
- ➔ The researchers used the United Nations' definition of hate speech which describes it as pejorative or discriminatory language towards an individual or group based on attributes including religion, ethnicity, nationality, race or gender.

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Septic tank cleaning robot:

(Importance level-4/5)

- India's first septic tank cleaning robot, offering an end-to-end solution to eliminate manual scavenging, is strengthening the Swachhata Abhiyan in different corners of the country.
- The technology called Homosep Atom solves manual cleaning methods and transforms them into robotic cleaning methods. It has been developed by the startup incubated in the Department of Science and Technology (DST)-Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of IIT Madras.

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Jefferies:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Global investment advisory firm Jefferies has projected an optimistic outlook for the Indian economy and its equity markets.
- The New York-headquartered firm said that in the last ten years, India has seen fundamental structural reforms that have created the framework for the country to realise its full potential.
- India's GDP will likely touch five trillion US dollars making it the third largest economy by 2027, overtaking Japan and Germany, maintaining the status of fastest-growing large economy.

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Adani Group:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **In a significant development for India's defense sector, the Adani Group has inaugurated the Ammunition & Missiles Complex in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
- This complex, owned by Adani Defence, marks the first phase of the state's defense corridor and is dedicated to the brave warriors of the Balakot strike.
- In 2022, the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Development Authority (UPIDA) signed MoUs with Adani Aerospace and Defence, among other firms, to establish Kanpur as South Asia's premier manufacturing hub for arms and ammunition.

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US-India Cyber Security Initiative:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a collaborative effort between the US Consulate and the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), the first-ever US-India Cyber Security Initiative has been launched.**
- ➔ US Consul General Mike Hankey emphasized the importance of cybersecurity in the bilateral relationship between the United States and India.

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Gaganyaan:

(Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi disclosed the identities of the four pilots currently undergoing training for India's first human space flight mission, Gaganyaan, during his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram.**
- ➔ The astronauts, Group Captain P Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap, and Wing Commander S Shukla, were also awarded 'astronaut wings' by the Prime Minister.



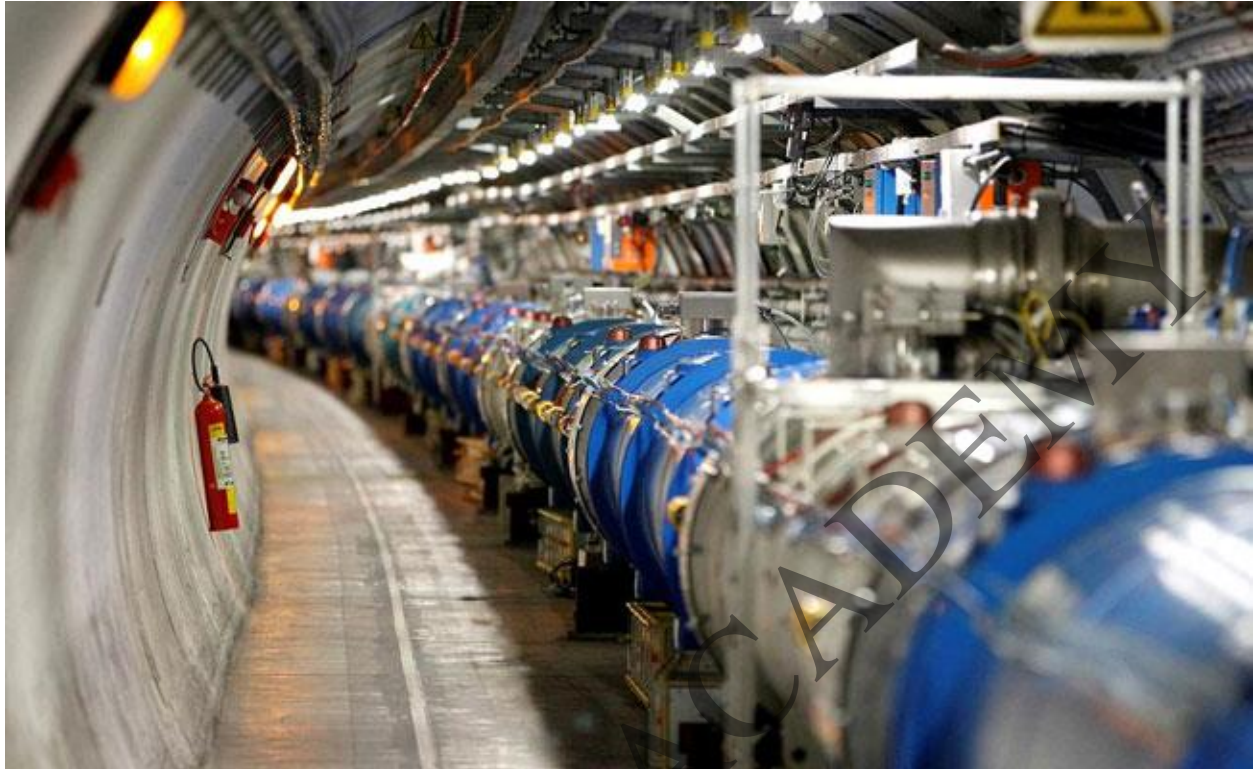
An international collaboration of researchers:

(Importance level-4/5)

- For the first time, an international collaboration of researchers has successfully demonstrated the laser cooling of Positronium, a short-lived hydrogen-like atom that provides an ideal testing ground for bound-state quantum electrodynamics.
- In the recently published paper in the Physical Review Letters, the AEgIS team has described the laser cooling of Positronium atoms achieved from ~ 380 Kelvin (106.85 degrees Celsius) to ~ 170 Kelvin (minus 103.15 degrees Celsius), using a 70-nanosecond pulsed alexandrite-based laser system.

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Maryam Nawaz:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, has achieved a significant political milestone by becoming the first woman Chief Minister of Punjab province.**
- ➔ Maryam Nawaz secured victory in the chief ministerial elections despite facing a walkout by lawmakers from Imran Khan's party-backed Sunni Ittehad Council.

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Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant development, former Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar has been appointed as the chairperson of the Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman of India.**
- ➔ His appointment comes after a distinguished career in the judiciary, retiring from the apex court in July 2022.
- ➔ The chairperson and members of the Lokpal are appointed by the President following the recommendations of a Selection Committee chaired by the Prime Minister. The Lokpal, as per its mandate, can have a total of eight members, comprising four judicial and four non-judicial members.



Hyderabad Pharma City:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a significant move, the Telangana government has opted to discontinue the much-touted Hyderabad Pharma City project, citing legal complexities, farmer protests, and environmental concerns.
- The decision stems from legal entanglements surrounding the project. As an alternative strategy, the government plans to establish Pharma Villages to decentralize the growth of the pharmaceutical industry across the state.

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Uttarakhand government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Uttarakhand government will introduce a bill to hold rioters responsible for damage to both government and private property. In the upcoming budget session, they intend to present the Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill, aiming to make rioters financially liable for losses resulting from protests or strikes.
- ➔ Uttarakhand is poised to become the third state, after Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, to enact such a law.

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RBI:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is promoting financial literacy among young adults through their annual Financial Literacy Week (FLW) campaign, held from February 26 to March 1, 2024.**
- ➔ This year's theme, "Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart," with emphasis on "Saving and Power of Compounding", "Banking Essentials for Students" and "Digital and Cyber Hygiene" which aligns with overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025.
- ➔ The theme for this year is targeted towards young adults, mainly students. The objective is to increase awareness on the advantages of inculcating discipline from an early age.

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National Science Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **National Science Day is celebrated annually on 28th February in India to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Indian physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. This day serves as a reminder of the pivotal role science plays in shaping our lives and society.**
- ➔ Each year, National Science Day is celebrated with a specific theme, highlighting significant aspects of scientific progress and innovation.
- ➔ The theme for National Science Day 2024 is 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat', emphasizing the importance of promoting scientific, technological, and innovation skills.



World's largest grain storage plan:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector, entailing an investment of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore, with the inauguration of 11 godowns in primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) in as many states.
- ➔ Under the programme, 700 lakh tons of storage capacity will be created over the next five years in the cooperative sector by constructing thousands of godowns and warehouses.

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Ministry of Ayush:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Ministry of Ayush has signed an MoU with the Research and Information System (RIS) in New Delhi.**
- ➔ The MoU will bring forth the overview of Ayush Service sector and will serve the continuation of academic cooperation and collaboration with RIS, which is a Policy Research autonomous institute of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ➔ The Knowledge Partnership, through this MoU, will not only serve to strengthen academic cooperation and collaboration but will also bring out Ayush Service Sector overview in a time-bound frame.

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NTPC:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Ravindra Kumar has been appointed as the Director (Operations) of NTPC. He has been appointed to the post till the date of his superannuation i.e. October 31, 2027, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.**
- ➔ Prior to joining as Director (Operations) of NTPC Limited, he was Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Director (Operations) of NTPC Limited.

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Assam assembly:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Assam assembly on Monday passed a bill that proposes a punishment of up to 10 years in jail and a fine of up to ₹ 10 crore on anyone found indulging in unfair means in recruitment examinations.**
- The Assam Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2024 was passed by a voice vote in the House on the last day of the Budget session.
- The bill, moved by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, will give full immunity to any government officer implementing the clauses in "good faith".

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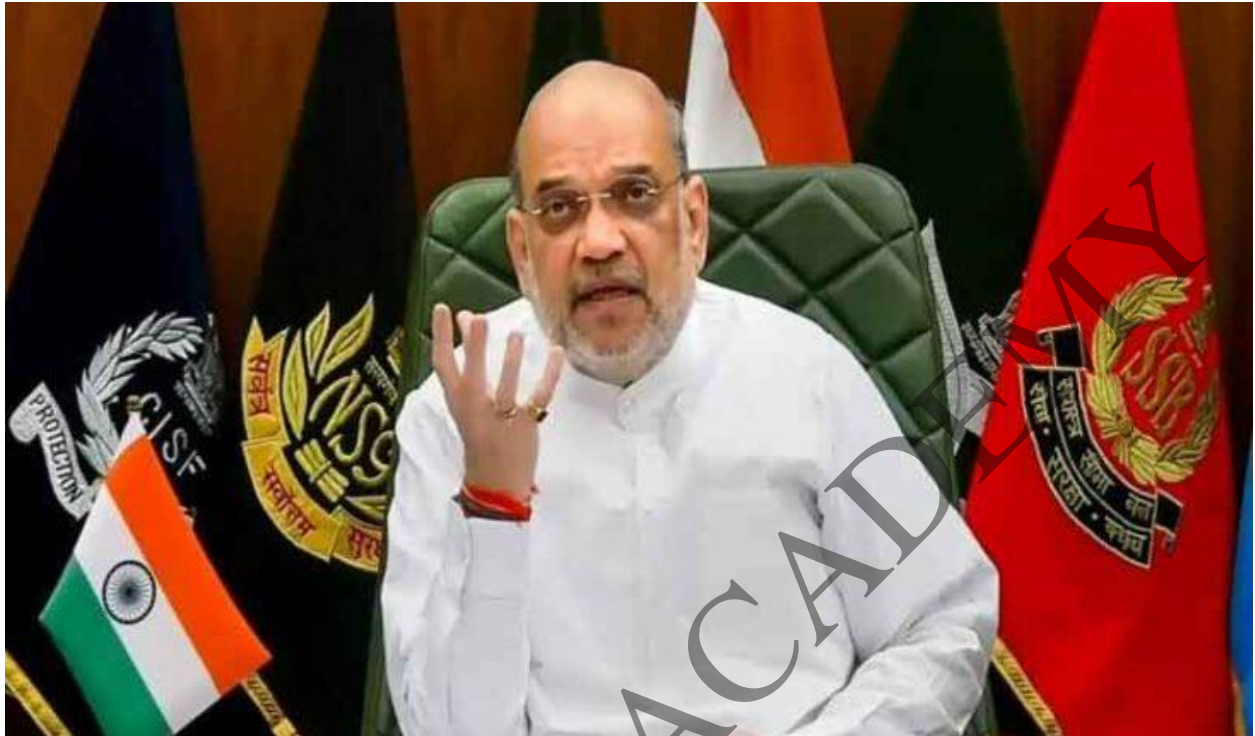
Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Government of India has declared 'Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir' as an 'Unlawful Association' for a further period of 5 years under Section 3(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967.
- The organisation is found continuing its activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

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ISRO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) second spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.**
- ➔ This marks a significant milestone in India's space exploration endeavors, promising to revolutionize the nation's satellite launch capabilities.
- ➔ The project is estimated to cost Rs 950 crore. It aims to cater to the growing demand for satellite launches, particularly for small satellites. Its location promises fuel savings and more efficient satellite launches compared to the existing facility in Sriharikota.
- ➔ The new spaceport allows satellites to travel directly southwards, saving fuel and reducing turnaround time. ISRO scientists highlight its potential to enhance payload capability and efficiency.



Grand Mosque of Algiers:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has inaugurated the Grand Mosque of Algiers on the North African nation's Mediterranean coastline.**
- ➔ Known locally as the Djamaa El-Djazair, it features the world's tallest minaret at 265 metres (869 feet), can accommodate 120,000 people, and is the world's largest mosque only after Islam's holiest sites in Saudi Arabia's Mecca and Medina.
- ➔ It was built over seven years in the form of a modernist structure extending across 27.75 hectares (almost 70 acres), decorated in wood and marble and containing Arab and North African flourishes. It reportedly has a helicopter landing pad and a library capable of housing up to one million books.

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US Chamber of Commerce:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The US Chamber of Commerce recently unveiled the 12th edition of its International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, offering a comprehensive evaluation of the IP landscape across the globe. This year's index ranked 55 economies, assessing their IP frameworks' effectiveness in fostering innovation and creative industries.**
- ➔ The United States retained its position at the pinnacle, followed closely by the United Kingdom and France, highlighting the critical role of robust IP systems in economic development. India secured the 42nd position out of the 55 countries evaluated, with an overall score of 38.64 percent.

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NATO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched its largest military exercise in Europe in decades, Steadfast Defender 2024, in late January 2024.**
- ➔ This large-scale operation, conducted against the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, serves as a potent symbol of NATO's collective military might and unwavering commitment to the security of its member states.

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Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton, the dynamic Namibian batter, etched his name in cricketing history by scoring the fastest T20 International (T20I) century in a blistering innings against Nepal.**
- ➔ Loftie-Eaton's extraordinary feat occurred during the first T20I of the Tri-Nation series on Tuesday, February 27, leaving fans and pundits in awe of his remarkable display of power-hitting.
- ➔ Facing Nepal's bowling attack, Loftie-Eaton demonstrated his prowess with the bat as he notched up a scintillating hundred off just 33 deliveries, eclipsing the previous record held by Nepal's Kushal Malla.

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Februaryy 29, 2024

‘Global Jain Peace Ambassador’:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is set to confer the esteemed title of ‘Global Jain Peace Ambassador’ upon Acharya Lokesh Muni.**
- ➔ The ceremony, scheduled to take place in Karnataka, will be organized by the Jain pilgrim center, Navagraha Tirtha Kshetra, in Hubli Varur.
- ➔ The accolade is a testament to Acharya Lokesh Muni’s unwavering commitment to fostering peace and harmony on a global scale. His significant contributions in promoting Indian heritage and Jainism internationally have earned him this prestigious recognition.



Nagaland government:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Nagaland government has launched a fully-funded universal life insurance scheme to mitigate financial hardship caused by untimely demise.**
- ➔ The scheme ensures financial security and protection, providing coverage for breadwinners and family members, complementing the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme.
- ➔ The Chief Minister's Universal Life Insurance Scheme will be fully funded by the state government.
- ➔ Under this, a life insurance coverage of Rs 2 lakh will be given and additionally, accidental insurance coverage of Rs 2 lakh each will also be provided for the breadwinner and three other family members.



Vantara:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation have launched 'Vantara' (Star of the Forest) programme.**

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- The programme will focus on rescue, treatment, care and rehabilitation of injured, abused and threatened animals, both in India and abroad.
- The Vantara initiative has been conceptualized under the leadership of Anant Ambani, a Director on the boards of RIL and Reliance Foundation.
- Vantara aims to partner with the Zoo Authority of India and other relevant government organisations. It will help improve all the 150-plus zoos in India in terms of training, capacity building and animal care infrastructure.



India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat in virtual mode. The vessel has been built at the Cochin Shipyard.**
- The pilot vessel is a 24-metre catamaran which can carry 50 passengers with fully air-conditioned passenger space.
- It will make urban mobility smooth and easy. The hydrogen fuel vessel has fully home-grown technology and it can be replicated in other parts of the country for urban mobility application.

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Arkaja Das:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Central Government has approved the appointment of Arkaja Das (IPoS) as Director in the Ministry of Women & Child Development.**
- ➔ Das has been appointed under the Central Staffing Scheme with effect from 1 March 2024 and for a period up to 26 October 2027.
- ➔ Das is an Indian Postal Service (IPoS) officer of 2010-batch. Presently, she is posted as Deputy Secretary in the same Ministry.

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Ministry of Women and
Child Development

Space station:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India's plan to establish its own space station by 2035. This initiative aims to facilitate advanced exploration of the universe.**
- Among other feats, India now aims for setting up 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' by 2035 and sending the first Indian to the Moon by 2040.
- Indian is about to go to space after a gap of 40 years, in an apparent reference to Rakesh Sharma's 1984 space flight aboard USSR's Soyuz T-11.



NSG:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The National Security Guard (NSG) of India is making significant strides in bolstering its anti-terrorism capabilities by introducing the Belgian Malinois into its K9 unit.**
- ➔ This shift, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of operations such as sniffing, tracking, and attacking, marks a departure from the traditional use of Labradors and German Shepherds.
- ➔ With the induction of these highly intelligent and trainable dogs, the NSG is setting a new standard in counter-terrorism and hostage rescue.

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Morarji Desai:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to former Prime Minister Morarji Desai on his birth anniversary on 29th February.
- Morarji Ranchhodji Desai was an Indian independence activist and politician who served as the 4th Prime Minister of India between 1977 and 1979 leading the government formed by the Janata Party. He received Bharat Ratna in 1991.

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FMR:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Mizoram Assembly adopted a resolution against the central government's decision to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with the neighbouring country.
- ➔ The FMR allows people living on both sides of the border to travel 16 km into each other's territory without a visa.

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New Zealand:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ New Zealand will repeal a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations. Set to take effect from July, the toughest anti-tobacco rules in the world would have banned sales to those born after January 1, 2009, cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products and reduced the number of tobacco retailers by more than 90 per cent.
- ➔ Repeal flies in the face of robust research evidence, ignores measures strongly supported by Maori leaders and will preserve health inequities.



Rare Disease Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Rare Disease Day is observed on 29 February. Objective – To create awareness on the rare diseases that exist and how they can affect the daily lives of the patients. The theme for 2024, “Share Your Colours,” emphasizes collaboration and support.**
- ➔ Rare Disease Day was first observed in 2008 by EURORDIS and the Council of National Alliances to raise awareness about rare diseases. It falls on the last day of February, but in leap years like 2024, it is observed on February 29th.

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RARE DISEASE DAY®

Singapore:

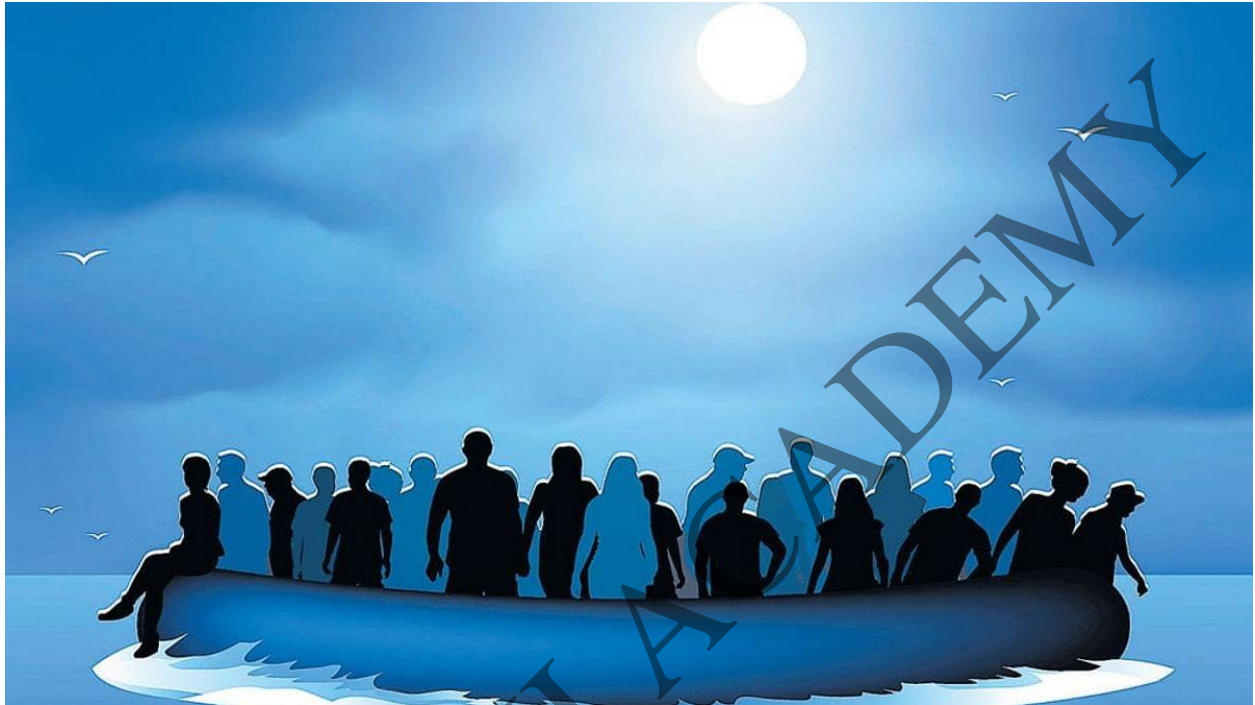
(Importance level-4/5)

- Singapore, facing a dwindling population and a manpower shortage, has seen its resident total fertility rate (TFR) drop to an estimated 0.97 per cent in 2023, the first time it has dropped below one per cent in the country's history.

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→ A rate of 2.1 is needed to replace the population. Authorities attribute the decline to disrupted marriage plans and financial worries.



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