

CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 01-31, 2023

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TNPSC EXAMS
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Foot Prints

(Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 BANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

- **UGC upgrades Madras University to category-1**
- ✓ Madras University is now a category 1 university in the country.
- ✓ A++ grade in NAAC gives it full autonomy to start courses and launch offshore campuses.



- ✓ The University Grants Commission has upgraded the status of University of Madras and recognised it as a category-1 institution, following its improved NAAC score.
 - ✓ In the recent round of accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, the university secured a score of 3.59, an improvement from 3.32, in the previous cycle of NAAC assessment.
 - ✓ “The UGC came up with a regulation for graded autonomy around five years ago. The main benefit is that category I universities can start programmes without the UGC’s approval, and they need to only report it to the UGC.
- **HR&CE Dept. Forms Team of Experts - To write history of 26 temples in the State**
 - ✓ The readers of the autobiography of Tamil Scholar U.V. Swaminatha Iyer - *En Charithiram* - would come across details about his teacher Meenakshisundraman Pillai, being invited to various temple towns to write the *sthalapuranam* (purana of the temples) of various temples.



- ✓ *Sthalapuranas*, more often than not a hagiography, in a language beyond the grasp of the common man, was part of the Tamil tradition. Now the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department has constituted a team of experts to pen the history of 26 temples in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The department has issued an order detailing the requirement of the books with a minimum of 140 pages.
- **Makkaludan Mudhalvar**
- ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the Makkaludan Mudhalvar scheme and laid the foundation stone for the Semmozhi Poonga project at Gandhipuram on Monday.



- ✓ Under the scheme, special camps will be held in urban and rural local bodies to redress grievances relating to 13 key departments.
- ✓ In the first phase (between December 18, 2023, and January 6, 2024) as many as 1,745 special camps will be organised in all districts.
- ✓ Officers from the 13 departments will receive and register petitions of people in the special camps.
- ✓ All the petitions would be duly considered by the respective departments and appropriate action would be taken within 30 days.
- **Tamil Nadu retains 'achiever' status - Logistics Infra Rankings of States**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is this year's top performer in a central government tool ranking states and union territories in terms of logistics infrastructure.



- ✓ The state maintained its “achiever” status within the coastal group in the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023 rankings by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **World Bank provides \$300 Million Loan to Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ World Bank provides \$300 million loan to Tamil Nadu to help 21 Urban Local Bodies.
- ✓ The World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors has approved a new program to support Tamil Nadu and provide around 2 million people with more and better access to water and sewerage services in cities.



- ✓ The \$300 million Tamil Nadu Climate Resilient Urban Development Program will help 21 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) update their delivery systems and provide quality and efficient water supply and sewerage services to consumers.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is one of the most urbanised states in India and faces increasing impacts of climate shocks like floods and droughts.
- ✓ For its rapidly growing population, access to services like water and sanitation is essential for more climate-resilient cities.
- **State-Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC)**

- ✓ The School Education Department has decided to set up a State-level monitoring committee (SLMC) to address the infrastructure needs of schools. According to a government order, the School Management Committee (SMC) had submitted a report in which it had sought to know the requirements of each school.



- ✓ The SLMC was set up to address these needs, with the Chief Secretary as its chairman.
- ✓ In the G.O. issued on December 22, the State government had directed the establishment of the SLMC to systematically address the requirements of SMCs.
- ✓ The SMCs, which were revived in July 2022, are considered a flagship initiative of the Education Department “aiming to bring together schools and communities, fostering mutual accountability and ownership”.

➤ **Makkal Medai**

- ✓ Makkal Medai, a citizen platform, looks to empower residents to handle disasters.



- ✓ Eight years after its conception and first discussion on steps to mitigate floods in the city, *Makkal Medai* aka Citizen Platform has once again gained prominence, and this time, it aims to empower people to find solutions to the issues they face.
- ✓ The platform took shape after local welfare associations and activists pushed for an urgent need to address disaster reduction in the city.

STATE

➤ UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List

- ✓ Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' has been included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



- ✓ The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list.
- ✓ The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed 'Garba of Gujarat' on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 18th session, taking place in Kasane, Botswana.

➤ Geographical Indication Tag

- ✓ Meghalaya's Lakadong turmeric, known for its exceptional quality, has been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



- ✓ Considered one of the finest turmeric varieties globally, Lakadong turmeric boasts an impressive curcumin content ranging from 6.8 to 7.5 percent.
- ✓ The GI tag is expected to enhance marketing opportunities for farmers, ensuring customers have access to the genuine product.

Alongside Lakadong turmeric, three more products from Meghalaya were honoured with the GI tag: **Garo Dakmanda** (traditional dress), **Larnai pottery**, and **Garo Chubitchi** (alcoholic beverage).

- **Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University**
- ✓ Parliament passed bill to make Central Tribal University in Telangana December 16, 2023.



- ✓ Parliament has passed a bill to establish the Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana.
 - ✓ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan specified that the university's establishment fulfils a commitment under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
 - ✓ This university, with a budget of Rs 889 crore, will be located in Mulugu district.
- **First Ever "School of Happiness"**
 - ✓ A first-of-its-kind school for imparting lessons on humanity and societal happiness will take root in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of Assam at the dawn of 2024.



- ✓ The foundation of the International School of Peace and Happiness is scheduled to be laid in the first week of January at Bijni in Chirang district of western Assam, one of five in the BTR.
- ✓ This School of Happiness aims to nurture individuals equipped to not only excel academically but also cultivate inner peace and contribute to societal harmony.
- **India's First AI City in Lucknow**
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh, India's biggest state is going to make Lucknow the country's first AI city. This is a big step forward.



- ✓ The goal of this project is to make a successful center for artificial intelligence by combining cutting-edge technology, research centers, and educational institutions. A study by Grand View Research says that the global AI market was worth \$137 billion in 2022.
- ✓ It is expected to keep growing at a rate of 37.3% per year from 2023 to 2030.
- ✓ The decision by Uttar Pradesh to build an AI city is in line with how important AI is becoming around the world.
- **Mission Investigation@75 Days**
- ✓ In a significant move, the Bihar Police has announced the implementation of 'Mission Investigation@75 Days,' aiming to streamline and expedite the criminal justice process in the state.



- ✓ Starting from January 1 next year, investigators will be mandated to complete the investigation of cases within 75 days of the registration of First Information Reports (FIRs).
- ✓ The initiative aims to ensure that investigations, including the filing of chargesheets, are concluded within 75 days of the registration of FIRs.

➤ **India's Petro Capital**

- ✓ Gujarat has emerged as the nation's petrochemical powerhouse, boasting the world's largest grassroots oil refinery and a state-of-the-art petrochemical complex.



- ✓ With established players like Reliance, Shell, ONGC, and others having firmly established their manufacturing units in Gujarat, experts foresee the state becoming unparalleled in the chemicals and petrochemicals sector.
- ✓ The upcoming 10th edition of VGGS, themed 'Gateway to the Future,' is poised to further boost investments and collaborations in the petrochemical domain.

➤ **India's First Submarine Tourism**

- ✓ India's first submarine tourism business will be started by the Gujarat government and Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL). This will make waves in the tourism industry.



- ✓ The big goal of this project is to study the fascinating sea life around Bet Dwarka, a holy island off the coast of Dwarka city that has a lot of mythological meaning in Hinduism.
- ✓ The Gujarat submersible tourism project is based on the Titanic submersible mission and aims to provide a one-of-a-kind underwater experience.
- ✓ Tourists will be able to dive 100 meters below the surface of the water in a specially made submarine. This will give them a chance to get close to the sea life around the island.
- ✓ The tourism center should be up and running before Diwali in 2024.

NATIONAL

➤ **Blod+: India's First On-Demand Blood Platform**

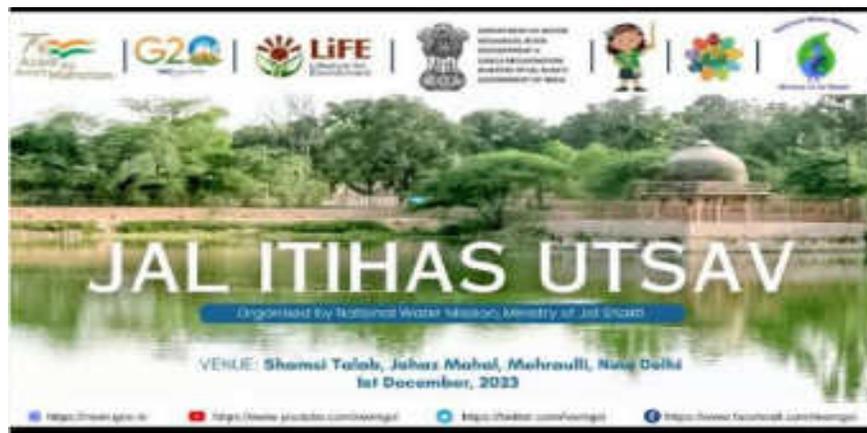
- ✓ Blod.in has unveiled its groundbreaking healthcare software and logistics platform, Blod+.
- ✓ This innovation aims to revolutionize blood management and delivery, addressing the alarming issue of blood wastage in healthcare facilities across the country.



- ✓ The platform's mission is to ensure that **hospitals have steady access to blood**, ultimately reducing wastage significantly.
- ✓ Blod+ surpasses industry norms, reducing the average sourcing time for blood from 6 hours to an average of **2 hours and 7 minutes**. This remarkable improvement ensures that critical patients receive timely access to blood, potentially saving countless lives.

➤ **Jal Itihas Utsav**

- ✓ Ministry of Jal Shakti Celebrates Water Heritage in Delhi.
- ✓ Ministry of Jal Shakti's 'Jal Itihas Utsav' raises awareness on water heritage preservation and historical structure restoration.



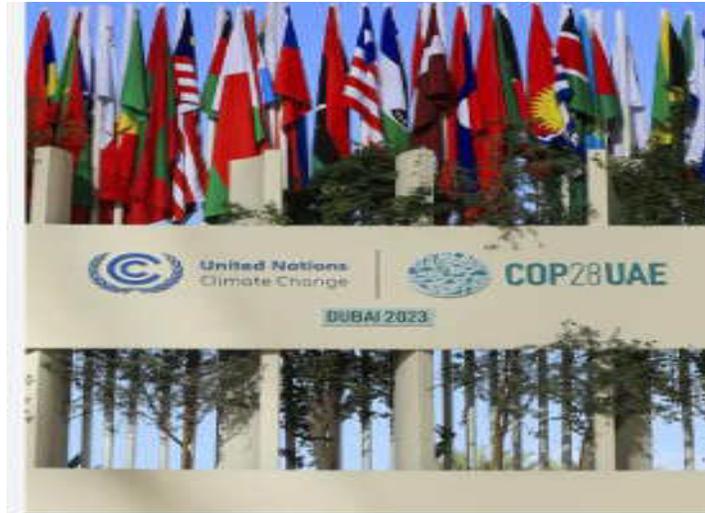
- ✓ **Campaign Highlights:** Culmination of "Water Heritage Fortnight" at 75 sites and the successful conclusion of 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign.
- ✓ Theme: Emphasis on "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water," targeting 150 Water Stressed Districts for rainwater harvesting.
- **World's First Portable Hospital**
- ✓ The World's first portable hospital, 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' was unveiled in Gurugram.
- ✓ Designed indigenously under the Project 'BHISHM', the modular trauma management and aid system is made up of 72 detachable mini-cubes, each being a specialized station for emergency response and humanitarian efforts.



- ✓ It can handle **bullet injuries**, burns, head, spinal and chest injuries, minor surgeries, fractures and major bleeding.
- ✓ It can treat as many as 200 patients. These cubes are light and portable, and can be rapidly deployed anywhere, from airdrops to ground transportation.
- ✓ The mobile hospital is part of India's message of **health for all** and assisting other nations during their times of crises.

➤ **Lead IT 2.0**

- ✓ PM Modi launches LeadIT 2.0, prioritizing inclusive industry transition.
- ✓ The initiative aims to co-develop low-carbon tech and offer financial aid to emerging economies.



- ✓ On the sidelines of the 28th edition of the climate change conference, COP28, taking place in Dubai, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled LeadIT 2.0.
- ✓ The initiative, with a primary focus on an inclusive and just industry transition, aims to facilitate the co-development and transfer of low-carbon technology while providing financial assistance to emerging economies.

➤ **Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar**

- ✓ Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, responsible for culture, tourism, and the development of the North Eastern Region, announced a groundbreaking initiative, titled “Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar” (MGMD).



- ✓ The primary objective of MGMD is to make the wealth of information about Indian villages accessible to both virtual and real-time visitors.

- ✓ This aligns with the broader goals of the National Mission on Cultural Mapping, reflecting the government's commitment to document and map the cultural diversity inherent in villages across the country.

➤ **Infinity Forum 2.0**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the second edition of the Infinity Forum, a premier Financial Technology event.



- ✓ The event, hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City, is under the auspices of the Government of India.
- ✓ Building on the success of its inaugural edition in December 2021, the Infinity Forum 2.0 promises to be a global thought leadership platform focusing on financial services.
- ✓ The central theme of the 2nd edition is 'GIFT-IFSC: Nerve Centre for New Age Global Financial Services.'

➤ **India Joins UN's 'Race To Resilience' At COP28**

- ✓ India has taken a significant step towards addressing the challenges posed by climate change by joining the United Nations' 'Race to Resilience' global campaign.



- ✓ The Climate Centre for Cities (C-Cube) at NIUA, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, will play a pivotal role in spearheading India's participation in the 'Race to Resilience.'

- ✓ The 'Race to Resilience' is a worldwide platform that aims to unite non-state actors, investors, businesses, cities, regions, and civil society.
 - ✓ The goal is to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change by 2030.
- **India's Fastest' Solar-Electric Boat "Barracuda"**
- ✓ 'India's fastest' solar-electric boat "Barracuda" launched.



- ✓ Furthering the objective of eco-friendly maritime transportation, Barracuda was launched on December 13 at the yard of Nevalt Solar and Electric Boats located near Aroor in Alappuzha.
 - ✓ It is named after the fast, long fish, the barracuda.
 - ✓ Navalt Solar and Electric Boats had won the World's Best Start-up award in the Mobility and Transport category at the Berlin Start-up Energy Transition Awards 2023.
- **ASEAN-India Millet Festival**



- ✓ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare inaugurated ASEAN-India Millet Festival at New Delhi.

- ✓ In line with the International Year of Millets, the festival aims to increase awareness and establish a larger market for millet and millet based products.
 - ✓ Millet provides benefits to farmers, consumers, environment, makes an important contribution to global food-nutrition security.
- **58 Airports covered under “Krishi Udan” Scheme**
- ✓ The Government has said that 58 Airports in the country have been covered under the Krishi Udan Scheme.



- ✓ The Scheme was launched in 2020 on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products to help improve their value realization.
 - ✓ Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was also announced in 2021 focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North Eastern States, and tribal areas.
 - ✓ The scheme currently covers 25 airports focusing on North Eastern, Hilly and Tribal region besides 33 airports in other regions/areas.
- **PM inaugurated Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023**
- ✓ PM Modi inaugurated Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023 in Varanasi, launching multi-lingual and braille translations of classic Tamil literature.



- ✓ The event celebrated the age-old connection between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, with PM highlighting the shared cultural heritage.

✓ The Tamil Sangamam is aimed to help continue empowering India's heritage, and strengthening the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

➤ **Parliament Passes Post Office Bill, 2023**

✓ The Indian Parliament recently approved the Post Office Bill, 2023, marking a significant overhaul of the 125-year-old Indian Post Office Act, 1898.



✓ With over 1.5 lakh post offices in India, including a substantial presence in rural areas, the legislation addresses concerns related to national security, public safety, and the expanding role of post offices in citizen-centric service delivery.

✓ The new legislation aims to modernize and consolidate the legal framework governing post offices in India.

➤ **Telecommunications Bill 2023**

✓ The Lok Sabha recently approved the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, a significant piece of legislation that empowers the government to temporarily take control of telecom services in the interest of national security.



✓ The bill, passed by a voice vote after a brief debate, also addresses the allocation of satellite spectrum and grants the government authority to assume possession of a telecom network during public emergencies or in the interest of public safety.

✓ The bill outlines provisions for stopping transmission and intercepting messages in case of public emergencies.

✓ It emphasizes that such measures are essential to prevent incitement for committing offenses during times of crisis.

➤ **Lok Sabha passes Bill on CEC, EC appointment**

✓ The Lok Sabha has passed the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023. The Bill replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.



✓ Till the Supreme Court ruling, Election Commissioners and Chief Election Commissioners (CECs) had been appointed by the President after recommendations by the government.

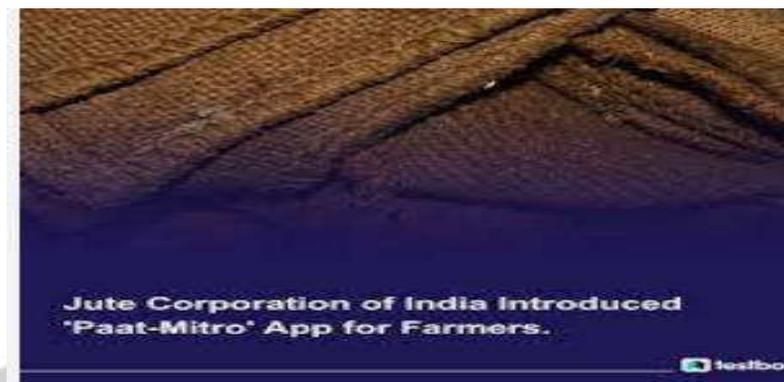
✓ According to the Bill, the search committee, headed by the Law Minister and comprising two Union Secretaries, will shortlist five names for consideration of the selection committee for appointment as the CEC and ECs.

✓ The selection committee, which would be headed by the Prime Minister and comprise a Union Minister nominated by the Prime Minister, and the leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, will select members of the Election Commission.

➤ **Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023 (BNSS)**



- ✓ Contrary to what Union Home Minister Amit Shah told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, the amended Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023 (BNSS) does not provide a blanket exemption to doctors in cases of death due to negligence; instead, it prescribes a maximum two-year imprisonment in such cases, slightly lower than the punishment for other cases.
- ✓ The amended Section 106 (1).
- **'Paat-Mitro' App for Farmers**
- ✓ The **Jute Corporation of India** has unveiled the **'Paat-Mitro'** app aimed at aiding **jute cultivation and income generation**.



- ✓ It is Launched by Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, the application offers vital knowledge on jute farming.
- ✓ It will also feature information on jute gradation parametres, farmer-centric schemes like 'Jute-ICARE', weather forecasts and procurement policies.
- ✓ 'Paat-Mitro' marks a significant step forward in supporting jute farmers and revitalizing the industry.
- **Press And Registration Of Periodicals Bill, 2023**
- ✓ The Lok Sabha recently approved the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023, effectively replacing the outdated Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.
- ✓ The Bill, previously cleared by the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session, streamlines the process of title allotment and periodical registration by introducing an online system, eliminating the need for physical interaction.



- ✓ The new law aims to expedite the title registration process, reducing the time from 2-3 years to just 60 days, benefiting small and medium publishers.
- ✓ The Press Registrar General will play a key role in fast-tracking the process, eliminating the need for publishers to file declarations with local authorities.

➤ **Three Criminal Code Bills**

- ✓ On December 25, President Draupadi Murmu granted her assent to three groundbreaking criminal code bills, marking a significant shift in India's legal landscape.

Three bills introduced in Lok Sabha

<p>Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 TO BE REPLACED BY Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will have 356 sections (instead of 511 sections in IPC) • 175 sections have been amended • 8 sections have been added, and 22 sections have been repealed 	<p>Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 TO BE REPLACED BY Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will have 333 sections (instead of 478 sections in CrPC) • 360 sections have been changed • 9 sections have been added, and 9 sections have been repealed 	<p>"From 1860 to 2023, the country's criminal justice system functioned as per the laws made by the British. I can assure the House that these bills will transform our criminal justice system. The aim will not be to punish, it will be to provide justice." — AMIT SHAH</p>
<p>Indian Evidence Act, 1872 TO BE REPLACED BY Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will have 170 sections (instead of 167 sections in IEA) • 23 sections have been changed • 1 section has been added, and 5 sections have been repealed 	<p>WHAT NEXT The three bills will be studied by the standing committee on home affairs, which is chaired by BJP MP Biju Patil (who is a retired IPS officer).</p>	

- ✓ These bills, namely the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**, the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita**, and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Act**, received parliamentary approval and are poised to replace the age-old Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.
- ✓ The trio of bills aims to redefine various offenses and their corresponding punishments.
- ✓ Notably, the legislation provides a clear definition of terrorism and introduces a novel section titled "Offences Against the State."

SCHEMES

➤ **Seed Fund Scheme - Space Tech Start-ups**

- ✓ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has introduced a seed fund scheme aimed at supporting start-ups engaged in the fields of urban development and disaster management through the utilization of space technology.



- ✓ Additionally, start-ups will receive ISRO facility support, mentorship, and access to data algorithms, including Earth Observation (EO) data for validation.
- ✓ The scheme includes financial assistance of up to Rs 1 crore, along with training, networking opportunities, and mentorship support.

➤ **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**

- ✓ The Ministry of Railways has launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for the development of stations of Indian Railways.



AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME

- ✓ So far, 1309 Stations as appended have been identified for development under this scheme.
- ✓ Modernisation/upgradation of railway stations is a continuous and on-going process.

- ✓ The Ministry of Railways also envisages exploration of various models for the development and/or maintenance of railway stations including Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC), non-EPC modes etc. and a minuscule number of stations under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
- **'NAMO Drone Didi' Scheme: Drones For Women's Self-Help Groups**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative, NAMO Drone Didi, announced on November 30, aims to empower 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) by providing drones for agricultural purposes.



- ✓ This innovative approach harnesses technology to empower rural women, positioning them at the forefront of the agricultural revolution.
- ✓ NAMO Drone Didi addresses the need for modernizing agricultural practices and boosting productivity.
- ✓ By placing cutting-edge drone technology in the hands of rural women, the scheme transforms them into key players in the rural economy.
- **Forest Certification Scheme For Sustainable Management**
- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has introduced the **Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme**.



- ✓ This voluntary national certification initiative aims to encourage sustainable forest management and agroforestry practices in India.
- ✓ The scheme encompasses forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.
- ✓ The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council will oversee the scheme, acting as a multi-stakeholder advisory body. The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies under the Quality Council of India will accredit certification bodies.

➤ **MSME Ministry Unveils 3 RAMP Sub-Schemes**

- ✓ Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane unveiled three pioneering sub-schemes under the existing RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity) programme.

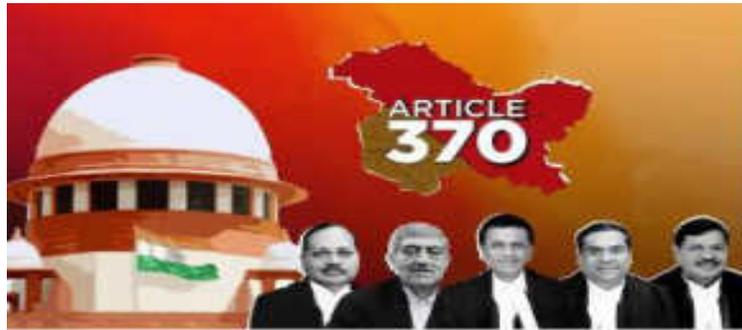


- ✓ These initiatives aim to encourage the adoption of sustainable technology, promote circular economy projects, and tackle the persistent challenge of delayed payments.
- ✓ **The MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSE GIFT Scheme)** is designed to propel enterprises towards adopting green technology.
- ✓ **The MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE Scheme)**, marks the government's first-ever support for circular economy projects.
- ✓ In a move to modernize dispute resolution processes, the MSME Ministry introduced **the MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments.**

COURT VERDICT

➤ Supreme Court Upholds Abrogation Of Article 370

- ✓ The Supreme Court's landmark decision on December 11, 2023, upheld the Union Government's 2019 move to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370 of the Constitution.

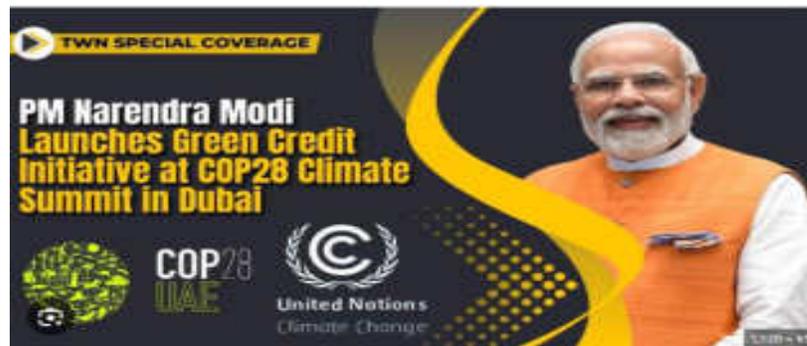


- ✓ The judgment, delivered by a Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, addressed key constitutional questions and outlined significant conclusions.
- ✓ The Supreme Court validated the Union Government's decision to revoke the special status of J&K under Article 370, emphasizing that the state had no internal sovereignty. The court clarified that the concurrence of the State Government was not necessary, and Article 370 was deemed a temporary provision.

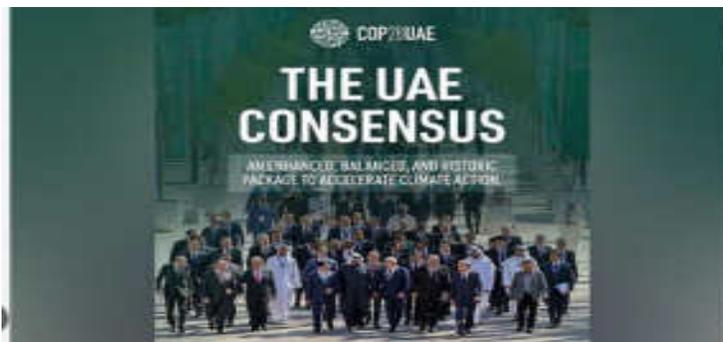
INTERNATIONAL

➤ Green Credit Initiative at COP-28

- ✓ The green credits initiative has been launched by PM Modi at COP28.
- ✓ The initiative was launched by the PM during his two-day visit to the United Nations climate conference being held in the United Arab Emirates.



- ✓ The initiatives aim to encourage the plantations.
 - ✓ The Green Credit Program is a "market-based mechanism designed to encourage voluntary environmental actions in a variety of sectors by various stakeholders such as individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies.
 - ✓ In its initial phase, the program will focus on water conservation and afforestation.
- 'UAE Consensus'
- ✓ In Dubai, nations reached for a landmark agreement, the 'UAE Consensus' that calls for a transition away from fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050.



- ✓ The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) has come to a historic close, marking a turning point in global efforts to combat climate change.
- ✓ 198 participating parties, outlined an ambitious climate agenda aimed at keeping the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C within reach.

- ✓ The UAE Consensus encourages Parties to submit economy-wide Nationally Determined Contributions and sets specific targets, including tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency by 2030.

➤ **International Year of Camelids**

- ✓ The UN has designated 2024 as the International Year of Camelids.



- ✓ Camels, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, and guanacos are an important source of livelihood for millions of families – most of them pastoralists – in dryland and mountainous rangeland ecosystems around the world.
- ✓ The Year is meant to raise the public’s and policymakers’ awareness of the significant role of camelids.

➤ **Gelephu Project**

- ✓ Gelephu Smart City Project is expected to be an “economic corridor connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via India’s northeastern States”.



- ✓ The city is expected to follow environmental standards and sustainability as a goal, and will aim to attract “quality investment” from “specially screened” international companies.

- ✓ The project is expected to include “zero emission” industries, a “mindfulness city” that plays to Bhutan’s strength in tourism and wellness, as well as infrastructure companies.
- ✓ The Government of India agrees to construct the first India-Bhutan railway line to Gelephu.

- **Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU)**
- ✓ Free trade agreement (FTA) talks between India and the five-member Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU), headed by Russia, are expected to commence soon.



- ✓ Exports of engineering items, electronics, and agricultural products from India would be prioritized under this proposed agreement’s efforts to increase trade with the EaEU nations.
- ✓ States mainly situated in Northern Eurasia make up the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), an economic union.
- ✓ **Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Armenia are the original members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).**

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ **Lithium Blocks In Argentina**

- ✓ In a significant development, India is poised to secure exploration and development rights for five lithium blocks in Argentina, marking its second international foray into critical minerals after a partnership with Australia in 2022.



- ✓ The deal is on the verge of finalization between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) and Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN), an Argentine state-owned mining and energy company.
- ✓ This acquisition aligns with India's pursuit of self-sufficiency in meeting clean energy demands, especially for electric vehicles.
- ✓ The exploration and development agreement is a crucial step towards achieving India's goal of becoming a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles by 2070.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023

- ✓ Dehradun is preparing to host the Global Investors Summit on December 8-9, anticipating the participation of 5,000 delegates from India and abroad.



- ✓ The summit is geared towards showcasing investor-friendly policies, good governance, and sustainable practices.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to officially open the summit at the Forest Research Institute on December 8.
- ✓ The summit's framework, 'Destination Uttarakhand,' draws inspiration from the Vibrant Gujarat model.
- ✓ The event will feature Business-to-Business (B2B) and Government-to-Business (G2B) meetings to assist investors in making informed decisions.

➤ GPAI 2023

- ✓ Currently serving as the incoming Support Chair of GPAI, India is set to take on the Lead Chair position for GPAI in 2024.
- ✓ To showcase its commitment to the advancement of AI, India is hosting the Annual GPAI Summit. .



- ✓ The **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**, established in **June 2020**, is a groundbreaking multi-stakeholder initiative. India is one of the founding members of GPAI in 2020.
 - ✓ With a primary objective to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the field of AI, GPAI supports **cutting-edge research** and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
 - ✓ Initially launched with **15 member countries**, GPAI has significantly expanded its membership to include **28 member countries** and the **European Union**.
 - ✓ This collaborative environment aims to **foster international cooperation** and knowledge exchange in the ever-evolving field of artificial intelligence.
- **27th WAIPA World Investment Conference**
- ✓ Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India, is set to host the 27th World Investment Conference (WIC) from December 11-14, 2023.



- ✓ The event, under the aegis of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), promises to be a groundbreaking platform for global investment promotion and innovation stakeholders.
 - ✓ This year's conference will delve into the theme of "Empowering Investors: IPAs Pioneering Future Growth." The focus is on discussing investment policies and trends, providing a unique opportunity for collaboration, trade, investments, and knowledge sharing.
- **New Delhi Declaration**
- ✓ New Delhi Declaration has been adopted at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence summit.
 - ✓ All 29 member countries of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit adopted the New Delhi Declaration.



- ✓ They agreed to collaboratively develop AI applications in healthcare and agriculture.
- ✓ GPAI will be the centre for shaping the future of Artificial Intelligence in terms of innovation and collaboration among partner countries.
- ✓ As per the declaration, the GPAI will also focus on countries from the Global South and provide benefits of AI platforms and solutions to all the people of the world.

APP
STUDY CENTRE

DEFENCE

➤ **INS Sandhayak**

- ✓ The **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** Ltd delivered the largest-ever survey vessel built in the country, **INS Sandhayak**, to the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The **110-meter-long vessel** is the first in a series of four survey ships being constructed by GRSE for the navy, marking a crucial milestone in the indigenous shipbuilding industry.



- ✓ The Sandhayak-class vessels boast comprehensive capabilities, making them invaluable assets to the Indian Navy. These survey ships can **conduct full-scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys**.
- ✓ Each ship can carry a helicopter, participate in low-intensity combat scenarios, and function as hospital ships.

➤ **Indian Navy Conducts Bi-annual “Ex Prasthan”**

- ✓ The Indian Navy conducted a bi-annual exercise called Prasthan in the Western Offshore Development Area off Mumbai, according to the Ministry of Defence press release.



- ✓ The exercise is conducted under the Western Naval Command and is conducted every six months to validate measures and procedures to address various contingencies that may arise in the oil production platforms.
- ✓ The current exercise was conducted on the R12A (Ratna) platform of ONGC, located about 45 nm West of Mumbai Harbour.

➤ **Table-Top Exercise**

- ✓ In a significant step towards fostering gender inclusivity and strengthening the capabilities of women military personnel in peacekeeping operations, the Indian Army recently conducted a table-top exercise (TTX) for women officers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).



- ✓ This exercise, held at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi from December 4 to 8, is part of the ongoing joint military training initiatives between India and ASEAN member states.
- ✓ The exercise stands as a landmark initiative, explicitly designed to promote gender inclusivity and elevate the capabilities of women military personnel operating in peacekeeping environments.

➤ **VINBAX-23**

- ✓ The Indian and Vietnamese Armies have initiated an 11-day military exercise in Vietnam, commencing on December 11.



- ✓ This collaborative endeavor, named “VINBAX-23,” reflects the deepening strategic partnership between the two nations and is a response to shared concerns over China’s assertive actions in the South China Sea.
- ✓ The joint military exercise is part of an expanding strategic engagement between India and Vietnam, emphasizing their commitment to counterbalance China’s increasing aggression in the South China Sea.
- ✓ The military exercise, VINBAX-23, spans from December 11 to 21 and is hosted in Hanoi.

➤ **8th Edition Of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium**

- ✓ The ‘Indian Ocean Naval Symposium’ (IONS) is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.



- ✓ It was conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008 as a forum which seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.
- ✓ The inaugural edition of IONS was held in Feb. 2008 at New Delhi, with the Indian Navy as the Chair for two years (2008 – 2010).

ECONOMY

➤ TN Ranks Fourth in attracting FDI

- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in attracting FDI in the period between Oct 2019 and September 2023, after Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat.



- ✓ Cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow into Tamil Nadu has touched nearly \$10 billion in the last four years from the period between October 2019 and September 2023.
 - ✓ The total FDI inflow includes equity inflow, equity capital of unincorporated bodies, re-invested earnings and other capital. The State-wise details are maintained for the equity component of total FDI inflow since October, 2019.
- ## ➤ Indian economy to grow 6.3% in FY24 and FY25: IMF
- ✓ Indian economy is likely to log 6.3% growth in FY24 and FY25 on the back of macroeconomic and financial stability, according to the International Monetary Fund's Executive Board.



- ✓ The international fund lauded the macroeconomic policies and reforms of the government, stating that India could achieve even higher growth, with greater contributions from labor and human capital.

➤ **India As Third Largest Economy By 2032**

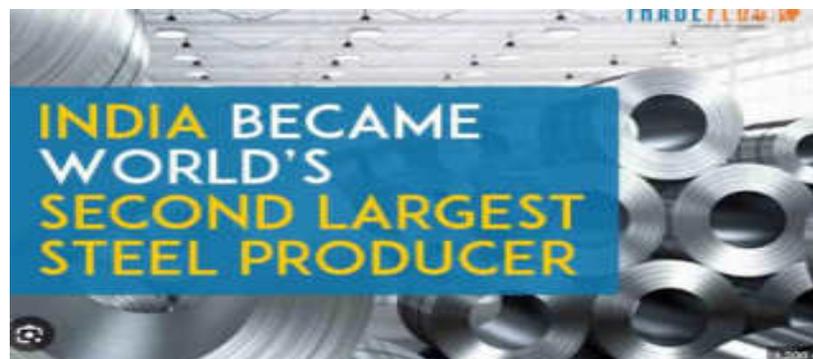
- ✓ The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) has recently released a ground-breaking report projecting India's trajectory as the preeminent global economic superpower by the close of the century.



- ✓ This bold projection places India on a course to surpass both China and the United States in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), underlining its sustained and robust economic growth.
- ✓ According to the latest World Economic League Table by CEBR, India's GDP is poised to exceed that of China by a staggering 90% and surpass that of the United States by 30%.
- ✓ The sustained growth, according to the report, is attributed to India's expansive and youthful population.

➤ **India - 2nd largest producer of Steel in the World**

- ✓ India's Steel Sector records remarkable growth and emerges as the 2nd largest global producer.



- ✓ India has emerged as a global force in steel production and the 2nd largest producer of steel in the world.

- ✓ Domestic finished steel production stands at 89.711 million tonnes, which is 14.3% higher than the corresponding period last year (CPLY).
- ✓ The domestic steel consumption stood at 87.066 million tonnes, which is 14.9% higher than CPLY of 75.765 million tonnes.

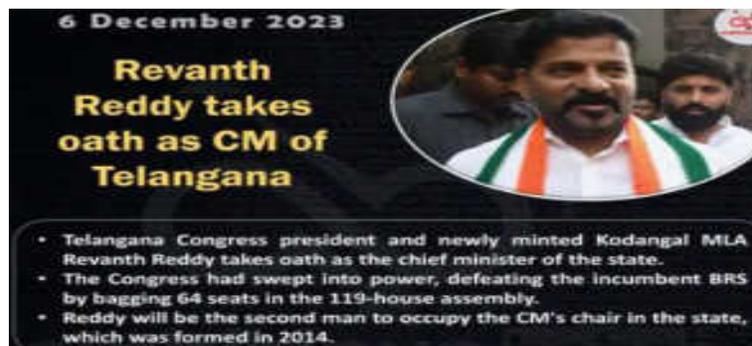


APPOINTMENT

- **First woman Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE)**
- ✓ Kanchan Devi has become the first woman Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE).



- ✓ She is an Indian Forest Service officer from the 1991 batch of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.
 - ✓ She played an important role in setting up of the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management.
 - ✓ She also played a key role in the implementation of the World Bank-funded Ecosystem Services Improvement Project at ICFRE.
- **Revanth Reddy - CM of Telangana**
 - ✓ Telangana Congress president and newly minted Kodangal MLA Revanth Reddy takes oath as the chief minister of the state.
 - ✓ The Congress had swept into power, defeating the incumbent BRS by bagging 64 seats in the 119-house assembly.



- ✓ Reddy will be the second man to occupy the CM's chair in the state, which was formed in 2014.

- ✓ Born in Mahboobnagar district, Anumula Revanth Reddy started his career in politics with the ABVP while he was a student. He was also associated with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (now changed to Bharat Rashtra Samithi).
- ✓ Reddy has been an MLA thrice, twice from the TDP and once from the Congress, which he joined in 2017.

➤ **India's New Vice Chief Of Navy Staff**

- ✓ In a significant development within the Indian Navy, a major reshuffle is set to take place at the top echelons of the force, with Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi slated to assume the position of Vice Chief of Naval Staff on January 4.



- ✓ This transition marks a crucial moment for the Navy, as Vice Admiral Tripathi steps into a role responsibility for overseeing the modernization efforts of the force.
- ✓ Notably, the Indian Navy is set to acquire MQ-9B Predator drones and Rafale fighter jets, underscoring the strategic importance of the position.

➤ **Senior IPS Officer Maheshwar Dayal**

- ✓ Maheshwar Dayal, a senior officer in the Indian Police Service, completed his official transition into the position of Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services on Monday, December 18.



- ✓ Dayal offers a wealth of expertise to his new job, making him an ideal candidate for the post.
- ✓ His remarkable career has been highlighted by a variety of leadership responsibilities throughout different districts and specialized groups.
- **Nina Singh First Woman CISF Chief**
- ✓ Nina Singh has been appointed as the chief of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).



- ✓ Currently, Nina Singh (1989-batch IPS officer -Rajasthan cadre) is working as Special Director General, CISF.
- ✓ CISF is a federal police organisation in India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ Vivek Srivastava, a 1989-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, will be Director General, Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards.
- ✓ He has been appointed to the post till June 30, 2025.

AWARDS

➤ SKOCH Gold Award 2023

- ✓ The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), which is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Power, has been honoured with the prestigious SKOCH Gold Award 2023.



- ✓ This award is a notable recognition of the company's achievement in the power sector.
- ✓ The prestigious award was conferred upon PGCIL in recognition of the revolutionary Pugalur Thrissur 2000 MW Voltage Source Converter High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) System that it developed.

➤ 'Légion d'Honneur' (National Order of the Legion of Honour)

- ✓ Lalithambika VR, 60, was conferred the 'Légion d'Honneur' (French highest civilian award) for her engagement in space cooperation between France and India.



- ✓ The scientist, who was the director of the Human Spaceflight Programme at the ISRO, has been recognised by France for her role in the signing of the first joint

agreement for cooperation between the French National Space Agency CNES and the ISRO on human spaceflight.

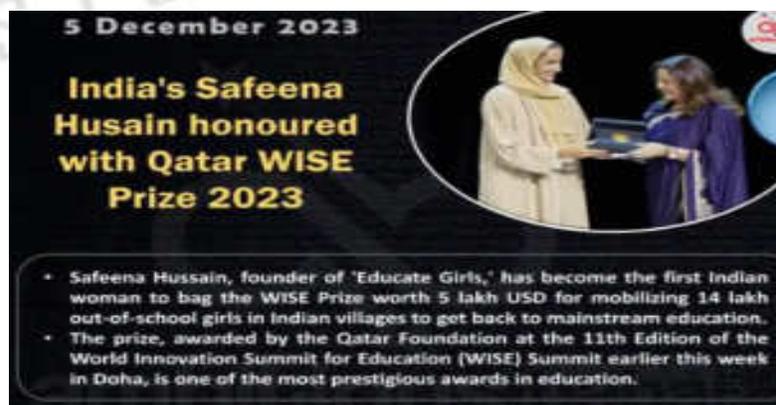
✓ She was the first director of the directorate of the human space programme at the ISRO in 2018.

➤ **Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters)**



✓ Arshia Sattar, eminent scholar of Indian literature and mythology, acclaimed translator, author, and co-founder and director of the literary residency, Sangam House, was conferred the insignia of Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) at a special ceremony at the Consulate General of France in Bengaluru.

➤ **India's Safeena Husain honoured with Qatar WISE Prize 2023**



✓ **Safeena Hussain**, founder of 'Educate Girls,' has become the **first Indian woman to bag the WISE Prize** worth 5 lakh USD for mobilizing 14 lakh out-of-school girls in Indian villages to get back to mainstream education.

- ✓ The prize, awarded by the Qatar Foundation at the 11th Edition of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Summit earlier this week in Doha, is one of the most prestigious awards in education.
The WISE prize was established in 2009 by the Qatar Foundation.

➤ **Best Youth Athlete at APC Awards**

- ✓ Sheetal Devi, Indian para archer, secures the title of Best Youth Athlete at the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) awards during the Asian Awards in Riyadh.



- ✓ Hangzhou 2022 Success: Devi's outstanding performance at the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games, winning gold in individual and team events, contributes to her achievement.
- ✓ Devi's breakthrough year includes a silver at Pilsen 2023 World Archery Para Championships and achieving the world number one ranking in compound women.

➤ **35th Jimmy George Foundation Award**

- ✓ Olympian M. Sreeshankar Receives 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award
- ✓ Olympian M. Sreeshankar honored with the 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award, acknowledging him as Kerala's best sportsperson.



✓ Notable Achievements: Sreeshankar's stellar year includes winning silver in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games long jump events, securing his place as World No. 4.

➤ **Karmaveer Chakra Medal-2023**

✓ In a momentous ceremony on Nov 27, 2023, in New Delhi, Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar was honored with the Karmaveer Chakra Medal and Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship by ICONGO in collaboration with the United Nations, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to R&D in Physical & Bio-Science and Microbiological Studies.



✓ Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar's exemplary work in advancing scientific knowledge and promoting the understanding of Biological Sciences has rightfully earned him this esteemed accolade.

➤ **Order of Merit**

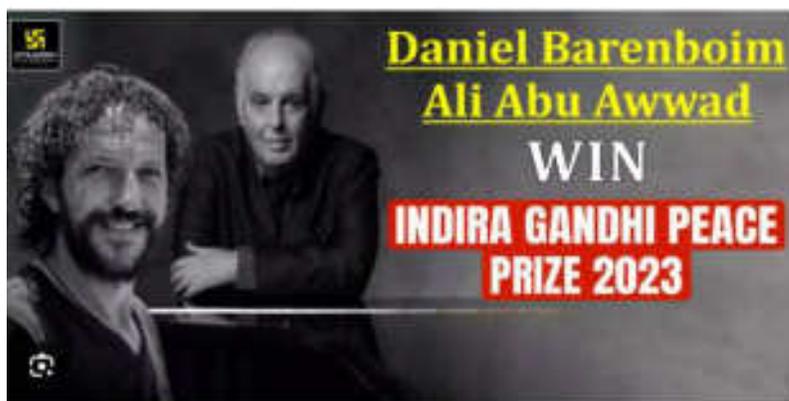
✓ Kabir Bedi was awarded the "Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" (Merito della Repubblica Italiana), the country's highest honour awarded to civilians, at a private ceremony held in Mumbai.



- ✓ The “Order of Merit of the Italian Republic” stands as a testament to Italy’s appreciation for those who have made outstanding contributions to society, embodying the nation’s values of merit and excellence.
- ✓ The “Order of Merit of the Italian Republic,” known as “Merito della Repubblica Italiana” in Italian, is one of Italy’s highest honours.

➤ **2023 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize**

- ✓ 2023 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development awarded to Ali Abu Awwad and Daniel Barenboim.



- ✓ The award has been given for their efforts in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- ✓ Maestro Barenboim is an Argentine-born, distinguished classical pianist.
- ✓ Mr. Awwad is a distinguished Palestinian peace activist who has been working tirelessly with the people of Palestine and Israel for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

➤ **Nyholm Prize For Chemistry Education Excellence**

- ✓ Professor Savita Ladage from Mumbai’s Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, has been awarded the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry’s Nyholm Prize for Education.



- ✓ Professor Ladage's tireless advocacy for the significance of chemical education has earned her this esteemed award.

She has played a pivotal role in mentoring chemistry educators and spearheading impactful teacher and student programs that have significantly contributed to the enhancement of chemistry education in the country.

➤ **Miss India USA 2023**

- ✓ Miss India USA 2023 pageant held in New Jersey marks its 41st year of celebrating beauty, talent, and cultural pride.



- ✓ Rijul Maini, a 24-year-old medical student from Michigan, triumphs as Miss India USA 2023.
- ✓ Rijul Maini, the new Miss India USA, represents beauty, elegance, intelligence, and ambition.
- ✓ As a medical student and aspiring surgeon, poised to inspire women globally.

➤ **Golden Owl**

- ✓ Indian Armed Forces officers awarded 'Golden Owl' for outstanding performance at DSCSC Sri Lanka.



- ✓ All three Indian Armed Forces officers undergoing the Command and Staff Course at Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Sri Lanka have been awarded the 'Golden Owl' for their outstanding performance.
- ✓ The DSCSC course is a program designed to prepare senior officers for leadership roles in joint operations and higher command.

➤ **Golden Bengal Tiger Award**

- ✓ The 29th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) concluded with a momentous highlight as the Israeli film 'Children of Nobody' secured the prestigious Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Film.



- ✓ The movie, written and directed by Erez-Tadmor from Tel-Aviv, unfolds the compelling journey of troubled boys compelled to unite to save a shelter for at-risk youth, providing them refuge from the streets.

➤ **Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal**

- ✓ Dr Poonam Khetrupal Singh has been awarded Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal.



- ✓ The King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk honoured her at Bhutan's 116th National Day celebration.
- ✓ She is the first woman regional director of the WHO South-East Asia region.
- ✓ During her tenure, Bhutan became one of the first countries to eliminate measles and rubella ahead of schedule.

➤ **Leif Erikson Lunar Prize**

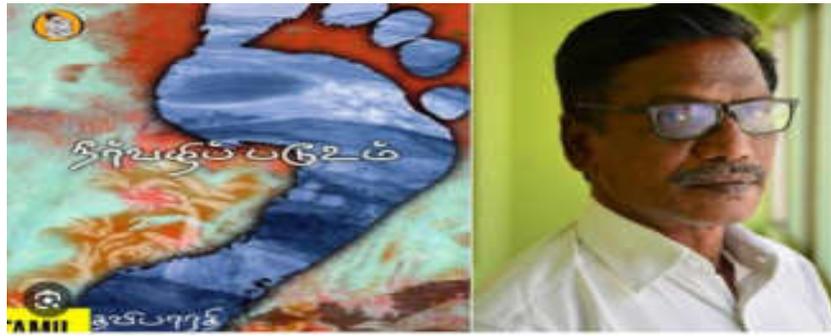
- ✓ Leif Erikson Lunar Prize presented to ISRO for Chandrayaan-3 Mission.
- ✓ The Exploration Museum in Iceland's Husavik has awarded ISRO the 2023 Leif Erikson Chandra Prize for its successful Chandrayaan-3 mission.



- ✓ The award has been given for the first soft landing of a spacecraft near the Moon's south pole and "ISRO's indomitable spirit in advancing the exploration of the Moon and contributing to the understanding of the celestial mysteries."
- ✓ The award is named after Leif Erikson - a Norse explorer who was believed to be the first European to set foot on the continental Americas.

➤ **Sahitya Akademi Award 2023**

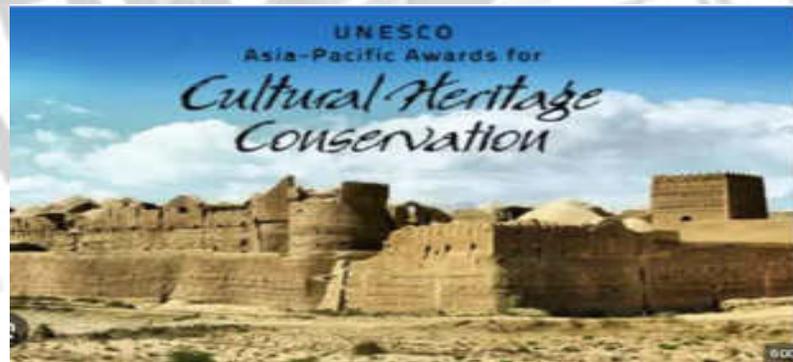
- ✓ Sahitya Akademi Award 2023 has been announced by Sahitya Akademi in 24 languages. 9 books of poetry, 6 novels, 5 short story collections, 3 essays and 1 literary study have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023.



- ✓ Tamil author Rajasekaran has won the award for his novel Neervazhi Padoom. Telugu writer Patanjali Sastry has won the award for his short story collection. Malayalam litterateur EV Ramakrishnan has won award for his literary study.
- ✓ The award will be presented in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and one lakh rupees.

➤ **UNESCO Awards Spotlight Indian Heritage Conservation Efforts**

- ✓ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recognized four Indian projects for their outstanding contributions to cultural heritage conservation in the Asia-Pacific region.



- ✓ The resilient urban revitalization project of Rambagh Gate and Ramparts in Amritsar, Punjab, received the highest honor, the “Award of Excellence.”
- ✓ The Church of Epiphany in Haryana and Bikaner House in Delhi were bestowed with the “Award of Merit” for their exemplary conservation efforts.
- ✓ These projects showcase India’s diverse architectural heritage and dedication to preserving its historical treasures.

➤ **UNESCO’s ‘Most Beautiful Airports’**

- ✓ In a recent announcement from UNESCO’s Prix Versailles 2023, Bengaluru’s Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2) has achieved global acclaim, being recognized as one of the ‘world’s most beautiful airports.’



- ✓ The airport was honored with the prestigious 'Special Prize for an Interior' in recognition of its outstanding design.
- ✓ This global acknowledgment emphasizes the airport's commitment to exceptional design and architectural brilliance on an international level.
- **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize**
- ✓ The renowned Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has named poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar as its sixth recipient for her book, "Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems".



- ✓ This prestigious award recognizes outstanding literary work from around the globe, promoting world peace, literature, art, education, and human rights.
- ✓ Founded in 2018 by US-based publisher Peter Bundalo, the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has established itself as a valuable platform for celebrating literary excellence and championing human rights and world peace.

➤ **ISAE Fellow for 2023**

- ✓ The renowned title of ISAE Fellow 2023 has been bestowed upon Dr. P. Indira Devi, a prominent agricultural economist hailing from Kerala, by the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE).



- ✓ Her ground-breaking work in agricultural research, policymaking, and education over the past three decades has been recognized with this honour.
- ✓ Currently, Dr Indira Devi serves as the Director of Kerala State Farmers' Welfare Board and is an ICAR Emeritus Professor at the Kerala Agricultural University.

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PERSONALITIES

➤ Akshata Krishnamurthy

- ✓ Dr. Akshata Krishnamurthy is the first Indian citizen to operate the Mars Perseverance rover.



- ✓ She currently works for NASA as the mission science phase lead for the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar.
 - ✓ The 'rocket scientist' obtained her Masters from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign before pursuing a Doctorate at MIT.
 - ✓ She had travelled to the US 13 years ago for higher studies.
- **4 Indians among Forbes list of 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' of 2023**



- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HCL Corporation Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal and Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw are the four Indians among the 100 named in Forbes' annual list of 'The World's Most Powerful Women'.

- ✓ The most inspirational woman who leads the list is European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen. She occupies this ranking for the second consecutive year.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

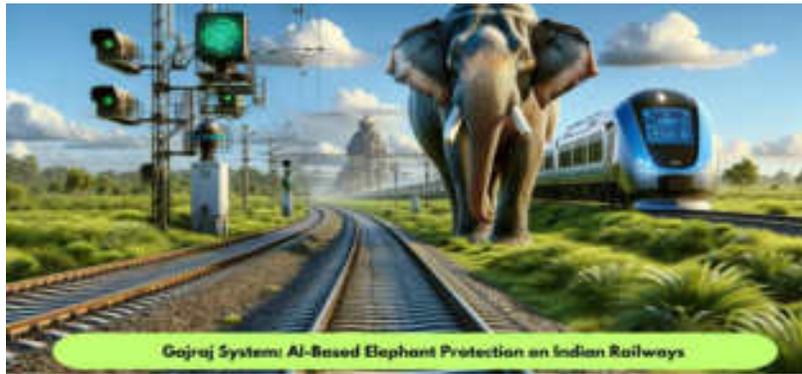
- **Breaking The Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future**
- ✓ Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor, Raghuram Rajan, in collaboration with economist Rohit Lamba, has released a groundbreaking book titled 'Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future.'



- ✓ This latest addition to Rajan's literary contributions marks a significant exploration into the potential and challenges of India's economic trajectory.
- ✓ 'Breaking the Mould' seeks to elucidate strategies for accelerating India's economic development.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Gajraj System: AI-Based Elephant Protection on Indian Railways**
- ✓ The Indian Railways has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the "Gajraj system," an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution.



- ✓ **The Indian Railways** has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the “**Gajraj system**,” an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution designed to prevent elephant fatalities on railway tracks.
 - ✓ This surveillance system is being implemented along a 700-kilometer stretch in forest areas to alert locomotive pilots of elephants’ presence on the tracks, thereby mitigating the risk of collisions.
- **Cyclone Michaung**
 - ✓ The deep depression looming over the Bay of Bengal has rapidly intensified, evolving into a **severe cyclonic storm** named ‘**Michaung**’ as per the latest update from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).



- ✓ Cyclone Michaung is forecasted to make landfall near **Bapatla** on the morning of December 5, around 12 pm. Eight districts—**Tirupati, Nellore, Prakasam, Bapatla, Krishna, West Godavari, Konaseema, and Kakinada**—have been put on high alert.
- ✓ The impending cyclone is poised to **unleash heavy rains** across significant portions of **Tamil Nadu, southern Andhra Pradesh, and southern Odisha**.
- **White Lung Syndrome Outbreak**
- ✓ A new strain of bacterial pneumonia, commonly referred to as 'White Lung Syndrome,' is causing concern in various countries, including China, Denmark, the United States, and the Netherlands.
- ✓ Primarily affecting children between the ages of three and eight, this illness is associated with lung damage visible as white patches on X-rays.



- ✓ The term '**White Lung Syndrome**' encompasses **various respiratory conditions**, including: Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), Pulmonary Alveolar Microlithiasis (PAM), Silicosis. Symptoms may include shortness of breath, coughing, and chest pain.
- **JT-60SA**
- ✓ JT-60SA is the largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor in the world. It started operations in Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan on 01 December.



- ✓ It is a joint initiative between the European Union and Japan. It is the world's biggest experimental nuclear fusion reactor.
- ✓ It consists of a "tokamak" vessel in the shape of a doughnut that is intended to hold spinning plasma that has been heated to 200 million degrees Celsius.
- ✓ JT-60SA is a forerunner for the under-construction International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).
- ✓ The goal of both JT-60SA and ITER is to induce the fusion of hydrogen nuclei into helium, a heavier element, releasing energy in the form of heat and light.

➤ **Impatiens karuppusamyi : New Species in Southern Western Ghat**

- ✓ *Impatiens karuppusamyi*, a new species discovered from the Southern Western Ghats.



- ✓ The researchers of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new species of plant from Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The species is named after Dr. S Karuppusamy (Madhura College, Tamil Nadu) for his significant contributions to the taxonomy of south Indian angiosperms.

➤ **Google Reveals 'Gemini'**

- ✓ Google parent company Alphabet made a significant announcement on unveiling Gemini, its latest and most advanced AI model to date.



- ✓ In a bid to outpace competitors like OpenAI's GPT-4 and Meta's Llama 2, Gemini represents a major leap forward for the tech giant in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence.
- ✓ Gemini marks the first AI model to emerge from Alphabet following the merger of its renowned AI research units, DeepMind and Google Brain.
- **Chillai Kalaan**
- ✓ A 40-day period of "Chillai-Kalaan" in Kashmir is beginning on 21st of this month. This is the harshest period in the entire Kashmir Valley. The period begins on 21st December and ends on 31st January of the next year.



- ✓ In the **Kashmir Valley**, the minimum temperature continued to **settle below freezing point** in the region while Pahalgam, a famous tourist attraction in south Kashmir's Anantnag district was recorded coldest at minus 5.5 degree Celsius.
- ✓ Qazigund in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.0 degree Celsius while Kupwara recorded a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius.
- ✓ During Chillai-Kalaan, the weather in the region continues to remain **dry and cold with minimum temperatures** hovering below the freezing point.
- **AMRIT**
- ✓ IIT Madras developed 'AMRIT' for removing Arsenic and Metal ions from water. 'AMRIT' (Arsenic and Metal Removal by Indian Technology) uses nano-scale iron oxy-hydroxide.



- ✓ It removes arsenic when water is passes through it. This water purifier technology has been developed for both domestic as well as community levels.
 - ✓ This technology has been recommended by the 'Standing Committee' of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation for the examination of the best technologies related to water and sanitation.
 - ✓ Government is committed to provide safe & potable tap water supply to all rural households.
- **World's Deepest Lab - DURF**
- ✓ China achieves a physics milestone with the operationalization of the Deep Underground and Ultra-low Radiation Background Facility (DURF).



- ✓ World's deepest lab located 2,400 meters below Jinping Mountain in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province.
 - ✓ DURF is part of the China Jinping Underground Laboratory's second phase.
 - ✓ Total room capacity of 330,000 cubic meters.
 - ✓ Three years of upgrades and expansion, construction started in December 2020.
 - ✓ Primary objective is to contribute to the global search for dark matter.
- **Genrobotics Ranks Top 3 In Global AI Summit**
- ✓ Genrobotics, a Kerala-based start-up, secured a spot among the top three AI start-ups in India at the GPAI Summit 2023.



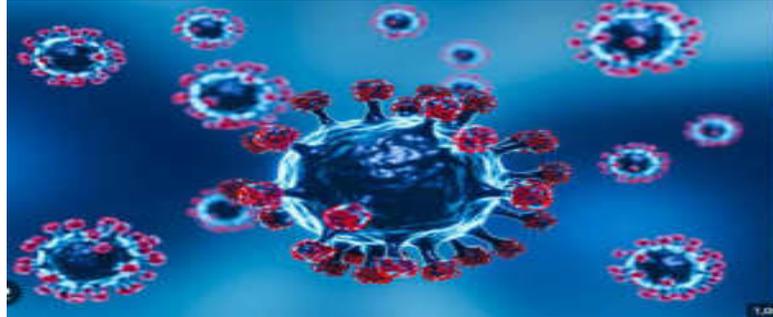
- ✓ The company also received the prestigious 'AI Game Changers' award for its revolutionary G-gaiter Robotic Technology.
- ✓ Genrobotics gained acclaim for G Gaiter, an AI-powered robotic gait trainer designed for individuals with mobility challenges from various conditions.
- **India's First Winter Arctic Expedition**
- ✓ The Raman Research Institute (RRI) here is participating in the first winter Indian expedition to the Arctic region.



- ✓ The institute said on Monday, the day when Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijju flagged off the expedition, that its researchers would examine the characterisation of the radio frequency environment in the Svalbard region of the Arctic in Norway.
- ✓ India has been running its own research station, Himadri, in Svalbard since 2008.
- ✓ The month-long scientific expedition is being funded by the Earth Sciences Ministry.
- ✓ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Goa, is the nodal agency spearheading the expedition, which will go on till January 15.

➤ **JN.1 Variant Of COVID-19 Virus**

- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a warning on Sunday, December 17, expressing concerns over the evolving nature of the JN.1 COVID sub-variant and the surge in respiratory diseases globally.



- ✓ The organization urged member states to prioritize sequence sharing and enhance surveillance efforts to better understand and combat the changing landscape of the virus.
- ✓ In India, JN.1 was detected in Kerala on December 8, with a reported case in 79-year-old woman who experienced mild symptoms of Influenza like Illness (ILI).

➤ **Noma Added To WHO List Of Neglected Tropical Diseases**

- ✓ Noma, also known as cancrum oris or gangrenous stomatitis, has recently been added to the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).



- ✓ This move aims to elevate awareness, stimulate research, secure finding and intensify efforts to combat this rare yet severe infection.
- ✓ Noma is a rapid and severe infection that primarily affects the soft and hard tissues of the face and mouth.

- ✓ It starts as a small ulcer, often following illnesses like measles and progresses swiftly, causing extensive tissue damage and potentially leading to death in up to 90% of cases.

➤ **Namdapha Flying Squirrel**

- ✓ An nocturnal flying squirrel has resurfaced in Arunachal Pradesh after going missing for 42 years.



- ✓ The Namdapha flying squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*) was last described in 1981 based on a single individual found in the 1,985 sq. km. Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district.
- ✓ **One of the largest arboreal squirrels**, all populations has at least some reddish-brown above and pale under-parts, but otherwise, there are significant geographic variations in the colours.

➤ **Pantoea Tagorei**

- ✓ A team of researchers from Visva-Bharati University's botany department have identified a new bacteria strain capable of boosting plant growth and named it 'Pantoea Tagorei' in honor of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.



- ✓ Pantoea Tagorei has the potential to significantly reduce the need for commercial fertilizers.

✓ Tagore was a vocal advocate for sustainable farming practices and believed in the importance of promoting self-sufficiency in food production.

➤ **MedTech Mitra**

✓ Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya virtually launched MedTech Mitra - a strategic initiative to empower MedTech innovators and advance healthcare solutions.



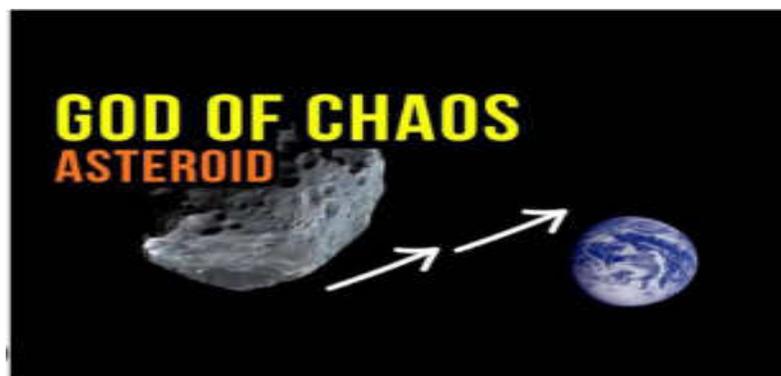
✓ He said, it will be a game-changer for Indian MedTech industry and facilitate indigenous development of affordable, quality MedTech devices and diagnostics.

✓ Dr. Mandaviya stated that the medical devices sector is an integral constituent of India's healthcare sector.

✓ India is taking a holistic approach to health with a vision to transform the health landscape in the country by 2047.

➤ **'God of Chaos' Asteroid**

✓ NASA has relaunched a spacecraft to explore an asteroid nicknamed the "God of Chaos" that will make an extremely close flyby of Earth in 2029.



✓ The asteroid Apophis, named after the Egyptian god of chaos, measures about 1,100 feet wide.

- ✓ It approaches Earth every 7,500 years, with its next close pass happening on April 13, 2029.
 - ✓ On that date, Apophis will come within 20,000 miles of our planet – closer than some human-made satellites – making it visible to the naked eye.
 - ✓ Now called OSIRIS-APEX, its mission is to observe Apophis before, during and after its 2029 flyby to understand the effects of Earth's gravity on the asteroid.
- **India's First X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite**
- ✓ Following the successes of the Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions, ISRO is gearing up for its latest venture – the XPoSat mission.



- ✓ Scheduled for launch on January 1, 2024, this mission marks India's maiden foray into polarimetry, a field crucial for studying black holes and other celestial sources emitting X-rays.
- ✓ ISRO emphasizes the importance of understanding complex emission mechanisms from celestial sources like black holes, neutron stars, active galactic nuclei, and pulsar wind nebulae.

SPORTS

➤ Kerala to Host Transplant Games



- ✓ The World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF), a worldwide organisation with representation from more than 70 countries, has been celebrating the success of organ transplantation and the gift of life through competitive sporting events for transplant recipients since 1978.
 - ✓ “This being the first edition of Transplant Games in the State.
- ## ➤ Vaishali Rameshbabu Becomes Grandmaster, Creating History



- ✓ **Vaishali Rameshbabu**, a 22-year-old chess player from India, has recently earned the title of Grandmaster at the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain.
- ✓ This achievement makes her only the third woman from India to become a Grandmaster, following in the footsteps of **Koneru Humpy** and **Harika Dronavalli**.
- ✓ Her victory over Turkish FM Tamer Tarik Selbes was pivotal in crossing the 2500 FIDE rating threshold required for the Grandmaster title.

➤ **International Tennis Hall of Fame**

- ✓ On December 14, Indian tennis legends Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes created history by becoming the first Asian men to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.



- ✓ Leander Paes, 18-time Grand Slam champion in doubles and mixed doubles, has earned his place in the player category.
- ✓ Vijay Amritraj has been honoured in the Contributor category.
- ✓ Vijay Amritraj, a successful broadcaster and promoter after his illustrious sporting career, has used his platform to popularize tennis in India and across Asia.

➤ **67th National School Games**

- ✓ Delhi Education Minister Atishi has inaugurated the 67th National School Games at Chhatrasal Stadium in New Delhi.



- ✓ At the inauguration of the National School Games, Atishi stressed the need for integrating sports with education for nation-building.
- ✓ Students from 44 units, including states, union territories and other boards, are participating to showcase their sporting skills and talent.
- ✓ The Directorate of Education is hosting the games this year.

➤ **Khelo India Games**

- ✓ Khelo India Games will be held in Tamil Nadu (Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Trichy) from 19 to 31 January, 2024.



- ✓ More than 5,500 sports persons and over 1,600 coaches are expected to participate in the event.
- ✓ More than 1000 referees and 1200 volunteers will be part of the sporting event in which 27 types of sport will be played.
- ✓ For the first time, squash will be included in Khelo India games.

➤ **Chennai Grand Masters 2023 - Chess**

- ✓ In Chennai Grand Masters 2023 tournament, Dommaraju Gukesh clinched the title by drawing with Pentala Harikrishna.



- ✓ Arjun Erigaisi secured the second position in the Chennai Grand Masters 2023.
- ✓ Pentala Harikrishna finished the tournament on third position with 4 points. Arjun and Gukesh secured 4.5 points out of 7.
- ✓ Gukesh takes the lead in the FIDE Circuit by winning this title. He can qualify for the Candidates Tournament 2024 if he keeps the lead till 1st January 2024.

➤ **6th Khelo India Youth Games**

- ✓ Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) unveiled the official logo, jersey, and theme song of the 6th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG 2024) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.



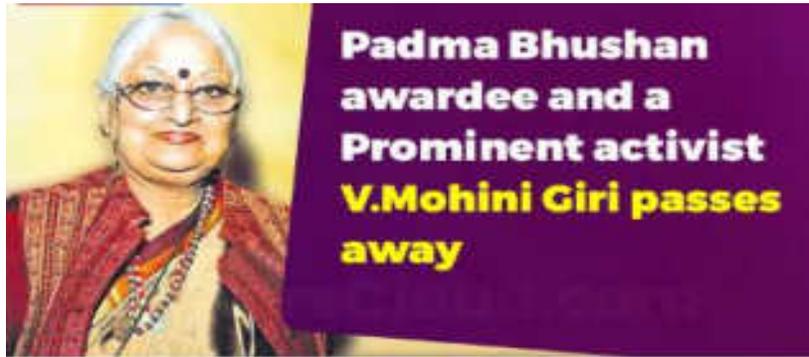
- ✓ The mascot of 6th KIYG named “Veera Mangai” and the ceremonial torch named “Thamizh” were also unveiled during the event.
- ✓ The mascot “Veera Mangai” is the replica of the legendary freedom fighter Tamil queen ‘Velu Nachiyar.’

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OBITUARY

➤ Dr. V Mohini Giri

- ✓ Dr. V Mohini Giri died at the age of 86 following a brief illness. She was a renowned women's rights activist. She has been an icon of the women's rights movement.



- ✓ She was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2007 for her work in the field of women's rights.
- ✓ She was the former Chair of the National Commission for Women.
- ✓ She was the former Chair of the Central Social Welfare Board. She was also the Chairperson of the Guild of Service. It is a New Delhi-based social service organisation.
- ✓ In 1972, she founded the War Widows Association. She was the daughter-in-law of former President Dr. V V Giri.

➤ Actor-turned-politician Vijayakanth passed away

- ✓ Tamil Nadu mourns the passing of beloved actor and politician Vijayakanth, fondly called "Captain," who breathed his last today at the age of 71.



- ✓ He was a successful actor earning the 'Captain' title after his 100th film 'Captain Prabhakaran' became a hit.

- ✓ Transitioning to politics, he successfully led DMDK, allying with AIADMK in 2011, and secured the position of Leader of the Opposition.



REPORT

➤ World Malaria Report 2023

- ✓ In the recently published 2023 World Malaria Report by the World Health Organization (WHO), it was revealed that India accounted for a staggering 66% of malaria cases in the WHO South-East Asia Region in 2022.



- ✓ The report underscores the paradox that, despite efforts to expand access to insecticide-treated nets and preventive medicines for vulnerable populations, the number of malaria cases is on the rise.
- ✓ In the WHO South-East Asia Region, which constitutes approximately 2% of global malaria cases, there was a 76% decline in malaria cases from 2000 to 2022.
- ✓ Globally, the report estimates 249 million malaria cases in 2022, surpassing the pre-pandemic level of 233 million in 2019 by 16 million cases. The report emphasizes the critical link between climate change and the spread of malaria.

➤ India's Safest City: NCRB Report 2022

- ✓ According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Kolkata secures its position as India's safest city for the third consecutive year.



- ✓ Kolkata reported 86.5 cases of cognisable offences per lakh population in 2022, showcasing a declining trend from 103.4 in the previous year.
- ✓ Pune and Hyderabad follow Kolkata in safety rankings among cities with over 20 lakh population.
- ✓ While overall safety is commendable, crimes against women increased, with Kolkata surpassing figures for Coimbatore and Chennai.
- ✓ The 'Crime in India 2022' report provides comprehensive data on crime trends, highlighting Kolkata's efforts in maintaining its safest city status.

➤ **Quality of Living Index 2023**

- ✓ As per Mercer's survey, Hyderabad has the best 'quality of living' in India. According to the Quality of Living Index 2023 released by Mercer, Hyderabad is in the top spot in terms of 'quality of living' in India.



- ✓ Hyderabad attained the 153rd spot in the Quality of Living Index 2023. Pune has the second-best 'quality of living' in India. It has secured the 154th position in Mercer's Quality of Living City Index. Vienna (Austria), Zurich (Switzerland) and Vancouver (Canada) are the top three cities in the Quality of Living Index 2023.
- ✓ It has taken data from more than 500 cities all over the world. Quality of Living Index is based on different factors like climate, schools and education, disease and sanitation standards, violence and crime, and physical remoteness.

➤ **SBI Report On Voters**

- ✓ After the 2029 election, India's women voters' number will surpass male voters. As per a report by SBI, the women voters will be more than male voters from the 2029 election onwards.



- ✓ In the 2024 election, the total number of voters will be around 68 crore, of which women voters will be 33 crore (49%).
 - ✓ After 2029, the women voters will be 37 crore, which will be more than male voters (36 crore).
 - ✓ In 2047, the women's voter turnout might increase to 55% and men's voter turnout might fall to 45%.
 - ✓ In the last five years, out of the 23 major states, where elections happened, the women's voter turnout was higher than men in 18 states.
- **India Skills Report 2024**
- ✓ As per the India Skills Report 2024, Kerala is the most preferred State to work in India. Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have emerged as premier employment destinations for the youth in the country.



- ✓ According to this report, in urban area, both men and women prefer to work regardless of their age.
- ✓ This report has been published by talent assessment agency Wheebox in collaboration with AICTE, CII, AIU, Google, and Taggd.
- ✓ In overall employability among the 18-21 age group, Kerala secured second position.

RANKING

➤ Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024

- ✓ India has secured the seventh position in climate performance during 2022, making significant progress over the previous year when it held the eighth spot.



- ✓ This positive trajectory places India effectively fourth, considering the absence of countries in the first three ranks within the 'very high' performance category.
- ✓ The rankings are part of the annual report, Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024, published on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai on December 8.
- ✓ Denmark retained the top spot with a remarkable score of 75.59%, showcasing consistent commitment to climate action.
- ✓ Estonia and the Philippines secured the second and third ranks, with scores of 72.07 and 70.70, respectively.
- ✓ India closely followed with a score of 70.25%, demonstrating significant improvement from the previous year's score of 67.35.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
December 01	World AIDS Day	The theme for World AIDS Day 2023, "Let Communities Lead!"
December 02	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Fighting Slavery's Legacy of Racism through Transformative Education'
December 02	National Pollution Control Day	The day is recognized to commemorate the precious lives that were lost in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy
December 02	World Computer Literacy Day	The day serves as a global initiative to promote computer literacy and digital skills
December 03	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	2023 Theme: "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities"
December 04	Indian Navy Day	The theme for Indian Navy Day 2023 is "Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain"
December 05	World Soil Day	Theme: 'Soil and water, a source of life.'
December 05	International Volunteer Day	The 2023 theme, "The Power of Collective Action: If Everyone Did."
December 06	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Death Anniversary	Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was an Indian jurist, economist, social reformer and political leader

December 07	International Civil Aviation Day	This year's theme, "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development"
December 07	Armed Forces Flag Day	It pay tribute to the indomitable spirit and sacrifices of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who stand guard at our borders
December 09	International Anti-Corruption Day	The theme for International Anti-Corruption Day 2023 is 'UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption.'
December 09	International Day Of Commemoration And Dignity Of The Victims Of The Crime Of Genocide	Theme "A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."
December 10	Human Rights Day	Theme for 2023: Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All.
December 10	Nobel Prize Day	Theme: Truth, Trust and Hope
December 11	International Mountain Day	Theme is "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems"
December 11	UNICEF Foundation Day	Theme: "For every child, every right."
December 12	International Day of Neutrality	Promoting neutrality as an instrument of preventive diplomacy."
December 12	Universal Health Coverage Day	The theme for UHC Day 2023, "Health For All: Time for Action"
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day	The day is dedicated to raising public awareness

		about global warming and climate change, as well as encouraging people to save energy
December 16	Vijay Diwas	Vijay Diwas, observed on December 16 every year, stands as a testament to the valor and sacrifice of the Indian armed forces.
December 18	International Migrants Day	Theme 2023 - Act Today for a Better Tomorrow for All: Improving the Health of migrants to Unleash the Power of Migration
December 18	Minorities Rights Day	Theme for 2023 - Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion
December 19	Goa Liberation Day	It commemorates the liberation of the state from Portuguese colonial rule.
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day	To promote social justice and cultural equality to advance human and social development, particularly in developing nations
December 21	World Basketball Day	Commemorating the invention of basketball by Dr. James Naismith in 1891.
December 22	National Mathematics Day	National Mathematics Day aims to propagate the significance of mathematics in various aspects of life and illuminate Ramanujan's remarkable contributions.
December 23	National Farmer's Day - Kisan Diwas	"Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience".

December 25	Good Governance Day - Sushasan Diwas	Governance Day, or Sushasan Diwas is observed on December 25 every year to mark the anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
December 26	Veer Bal Diwas	Veer Bal Diwas is a solemn occasion to pay tribute to the immense sacrifices made by Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh , young sons of Guru Gobind Singh
December 27	International Day Of Epidemic Preparedness	This vital day serves as a stark reminder of the ever-present threat of infectious diseases and the critical need for proactive measures to combat them

MISCELLANEOUS

➤ Forbes Asia Heroes Of Philanthropy List

- ✓ Three prominent Indian business leaders - Nandan Nilekani, KP Singh and Nikhil Kamath, have earned a coveted spot on the 17th edition of Forbes Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy list.



- ✓ **Nadan Nilekani**, co-founder and chairman of the renowned tech **giant Infosys**, has been acknowledged for his substantial contribution of Rs.3.2 billion (USD 38 million) to his alma mater, IIT Bombay.
- ✓ **KP Singh**, chairman emeritus at **DLF**, made a remarkable move in August by divesting his remaining direct stake in the renowned real estate firm he once chaired.
- ✓ **Nikhil kamat**, co-founder of **Zerodha**, is another notable name on the list.



3. The main objective of Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana is ____.
- To give social security benefit to agricultural labourers on hire in the age group of 18 to 60 years.
 - To ensure availability of appropriate quality of food grains.
 - To give educational allowance of Rs. 100 per month to each child of parents living below poverty line.
 - To give advance loans to the poor at very low rate of interest.
 - Answer not known

கிரிஷி ஸ்ராமிக் சமாஜிக் சுரக்ஷா யோஜ்னா வின் முக்கிய நோக்கம் ____.

- 18 முதல் 60 வயதிற்குட்பட்ட வேளாண் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குச் சமூகப் பாதுகாப்பு அளிப்பது.
- போதுமான அளவு உணவு தானிய இருப்பை உறுதி செய்வது.
- வறுமைக்கோட்டிற்குக் கீழ் வாழ்பவரின் குழந்தைகளுக்கு மாதம் ரூ. 100 கல்வி படி வழங்குவது.
- ஏழைகளுக்கு மிகக் குறைந்தவட்டியில் கடன் முன்பணம் வழங்குவது.
- விடை தெரியவில்லை

4. Which of the following is/are true with reference to Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan package insurance scheme for health workers fighting Covid 19?
- To provide an insurance cover of Rs. 20 lakhs for 90 days to total of around 22.12 lakh Public Health Care Providers.
 - Includes Community Health workers who may have to be in direct contact and care of Covid 19 Patients and who may be at risk of being impacted by this.
- (i) only
 - (ii) only
 - Both (i) and (ii)
 - Neither (i) nor (ii)
 - Answer not known

Covid 19 எதிர்த்துப் போராடும் சுகாதாரப் பணியாளர்களுக்கான பிரதான் மந்திரி கரிப் கல்யாண் பேக்கேஜ் இன்சூரன்ஸ் திட்டத்தில் பின்வருவனவற்றில் எது உண்மையானது?

- மொத்தம் 22.12 லட்சம் பொது சுகாதாரப் பாதுகாப்பாளருக்கு 90 நாட்களுக்கு ரூ. 20 லட்சம் காப்பீட்டு தொகையை வழங்குதல்.
 - கோவிட் 19 நோயாளிகளின் நேரடித் தொடர்பு மற்றும் பராமரிப்பில் இருக்க வேண்டிய சமூக சுகாதாரப் பணியாளர்களும் இத்திட்டத்தில் சேர்க்கப்படுவர்.
- (i) மட்டும்
 - (ii) மட்டும்
 - (i) மற்றும் (ii) இரண்டும்
 - (i) மற்றும் (ii) இல்லை
 - விடை தெரியவில்லை

5. Choose the wrong statement:

Services of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) includes:

- (i) To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group 0-6 years.
- (ii) To improve that health, nutrition and education of the target community.
- (iii) Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination.

- a. (i) and (ii) only b. (ii) and (iii) only c. (i) only
d. (iii) only e. Answer not known

தவறான அறிக்கையைத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கவும்.

ஒருங்கிணைந்த குழந்தைகள் மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் சேவைகள் அடங்குவன

- (i) 0-6 வயதுக்குட்பட்ட குழந்தைகளின் ஊட்டச்சத்து மற்றும் சுகாதார நிலையை மேம்படுத்தல்.
- (ii) பின் தங்கிய சமூக மக்களின் சுகாதாரம், ஊட்டச்சத்து மற்றும் கல்வியை மேம்படுத்தல்.
- (iii) பாலின சார்புப் பார்வையுடன் குறிப்பிட்ட மாற்றுப் பாலினத்தைப் புறந்தள்ளுவதைத் தடுத்தல்

- a. (i) மற்றும் (ii) மட்டும் b. (ii) மற்றும் (iii) மட்டும் c. (i) மட்டும்
d. (iii) மட்டும் e. விடை தெரியவில்லை

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