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Current Affairs - English ***JANUARY' 2024***



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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

"CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF JANUARY' 2024"

LAW AND AMENDMENT

Uttarakhand likely to be first state to implement UCC

- The Defence Minister of India has said that Uttarakhand is likely to become the first state in the country to implement a Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- A Uniform Civil Code refers to the provision of one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities, in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, etc.
- Currently, separate personal laws apply for the members of different major religions.
- Article 44 contained in part IV of the Constitution says that the state "shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India".
- Part IV of the Constitution outlines the Directive Principles of State Policy, which, while not enforceable or justiciable in a court of law, are fundamental to the country's governance.
- UCC in Goa: It follows the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867, which means that people of all religions in Goa are subject to the same laws on marriage, divorce, and succession.
- The Goa Daman and Diu Administration Act of 1962, which was passed after Goa joined the union as a territory in 1961, gave Goa permission to apply the Civil Code.
- States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Assam have also expressed their willingness to follow the UCC, none have officially adopted it.

Bilkis Bano Case and Remission

- Recently, the Supreme Court has nullified the Gujarat government's decision to grant Remission to 11 convicts involved in the gangrape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of seven of her family members during the 2002 Riots in the state.
- During 2002 Gujarat riots, Bilkis Bano, a pregnant woman at the time, was subjected to a brutal gangrape, while seven members of her family, including her three-year-old daughter, were killed by a mob during the riots.
- Following extensive legal proceedings, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigated the case.
- In 2004, SC moved the trial from Gujarat to Mumbai after Bilkis faced death threats; directed the central government to appoint a special public prosecutor.
- In 2008, a Mumbai court convicted 11 individuals for their involvement in the gangrape and murder, marking a significant step towards justice for Bilkis Bano.
- However, in August 2022, the Gujarat government granted remission to these 11 convicts, leading to their release. This decision sparked controversy and legal challenges due to concerns regarding the authority and jurisdiction responsible for granting such remissions.
- Constitutional Provisions:
- Both the President and the Governor have been vested with sovereign power of pardon by the Constitution. Under Article 72, the President can grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person.
- Under Article 161, a Governor can grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment, or suspend, remit or commute the sentence.
- The Supreme Court's verdict in the Bilkis Bano case is a testament to the significance of upholding the rule of law, ensuring proper jurisdiction in legal matters, and protecting personal liberty within the legal framework.

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- It serves as a reminder of the judiciary's duty to maintain the sanctity of justice and rule of law, even in emotionally charged cases, to uphold the constitutional values and principles of justice, equality, and fairness.

Anti Defection: Tenth Schedule

- The Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly has declined to disqualify 40 MLAs belonging to the Eknath Shinde faction, having officially acknowledged it as the authentic Shiv Sena.
- During the 1960s and 70s, defections of legislators led to political instability in several Indian states, resulting in the downfall of elected governments.
- The 52nd constitutional amendment in 1985 introduced the 'anti-defection' law through the Tenth Schedule to ensure the stability of elected governments.
- The 52nd Amendment Act of 1985 introduced Schedule 10, commonly known as the 'anti-defection law,' providing for the disqualification of members of Parliament and state legislatures for defection.
- The 91st Amendment Act in 2003 eliminated the exception provision related to defection in case of a split.
- In the Kihoto Hollohan case, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the law but the provision under para 7 of the defection law under which the final decision of the speaker was made beyond judicial scrutiny was declared unconstitutional.
- In Shri Rajesh Verma v. Shri Mohammad Shahid Akhlaque, public opposition to the original party was deemed a resignation.
- In Mannadi Satyanarayan Reddy v. Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, the court affirmed the Speaker's jurisdiction to decide questions related to defection.

Dispute over Minority Status of AMU

- The Supreme Court has recently stated that an educational institution does not forfeit its minority status solely because its administration is governed by a statute.
- Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) originated from the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MOA) College established by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in 1875.
- In 1920, the institution attained university status through an Act of the Indian Legislative Council, officially becoming Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- Legal challenges to the AMU Act of 1920 arose in 1967, focusing on amendments made in 1951 and 1965.
- Amendments allowed non-Muslims to participate in the University Court and altered the balance of authority within the institution.
- Supreme Court's Ruling
 - ✓ In 1967, the Supreme Court ruled that despite Muslim initiation of the university in 1920, it couldn't be considered a minority institution.
 - ✓ The court emphasized that the Act was established to gain government recognition of degrees, not solely through the efforts of the Muslim minority.
- Why Does the Dispute Persist?
 - ✓ Protests following the 1967 ruling prompted a 1981 amendment affirming AMU's minority status.
 - ✓ In 2005, the Allahabad High Court nullified the 1981 Act, leading to ongoing disputes over AMU's minority status.
 - ✓ In 2019, the matter was referred to a seven-judge Bench.
- Observations of the Supreme Court
 - ✓ The court emphasized that regulatory statutes don't diminish an institution's minority status.
 - ✓ A minority institution can have a secular administration and admit students from diverse communities.
 - ✓ Presence of a majority community in administrative roles doesn't dilute minority character.
- Article 29 protects distinct language, script, or culture of citizens, encompassing both religious and linguistic minorities.
- Article 30 (1) empowers religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.

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- Article 25 protects freedom of religion, while Article 26 grants the right to establish and maintain religious institutions.

South Africa's case against Israel in ICJ

- Judges at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) opened two days of legal arguments in a case filed by South Africa accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza war.
- South Africa had moved the ICJ, invoking the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948, against Israel, accusing it of committing genocide during its ongoing military campaign in Gaza.
- Both South Africa and Israel are signatories to the Genocide Convention of 1948.
- Earlier Instances: In 2019, the Gambia had approached the ICJ against Myanmar for its alleged genocide against the Rohingya community.
- ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

Order of Supreme Court to implement Second National Judicial Pay Commission to High Courts

- On 4th January 2024, the apex court stated vide a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra directed all High Courts to form committees for the implementation of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission which adheres to salaries and service conditions of members of district judiciary and for dealing with grievances of judicial officers.
- Following the SC order, the Union cabinet approved the appointment of a second national judicial pay commission for the subordinate judiciary in November, 2017, headed by Justice J P. Venkatrama Reddi, former Judge of Supreme Court.
- The Interim Report was submitted by the Commission in 2018.
- To recommend a uniform pay scale for the service of judicial officers of the subordinate judiciary throughout the country.

Stay on Shahi Idgah Survey by Supreme Court: Krishna Janmbhoomi Case

- On 16th January 2024, the apex court upheld the decision of the Allahabad High Court whereby it had ordered inspection of the Shahi Idgah complex in Mathura.
- The same had to be conducted by a court-appointed commissioner.
- This had been ordered instead of the Krishna Janmbhoomi Dispute.
- The supreme Court bench which stayed the inspection comprised of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta.
- A plea for a survey was filed on behalf of the Hindu deity Shri Krishna and seven others, who claim that the mosque was built over the birthplace of Shri Krishna on Aurangzeb's orders in 1670.
- Since the 2019 Babri Masjid judgment, nine cases related to the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi and Shahi Idgah Masjid have been filed in the Mathura court.
- The Allahabad High Court consolidated all suits pertaining to the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Mosque dispute.
- In the High Court, the U.P. Sunni Central Waqf Board and the Shahi Idgah Masjid Committee argued against the plaintiffs' claim, asserting a lack of evidence and reliance on speculation.
- When the Committee of Management Trust sought a stay on the survey from the Supreme Court, no relief was granted.

Right of Mother as natural guardian in child adoption case upheld by the Court

- On 31st January 2024, the Punjab and Haryana High Court passed an order in favour of the mother's right as a natural guardian in a case concerning child adoption.
- The decision made by Justice Vinod also stated that only the mother of an illegitimate child was the guardian.
- The decision also opined the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act' before ruling that an unwanted child of a sexual assault victim might be declared free for adoption by the Child Welfare Committee.

APPOINTMENTS

M.M. Srivastava will be the new Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court

- M.M. Srivastava will be the new Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.
- Till now he was the acting Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.
- The Supreme Court Collegium appointed has been M.M. Srivastava's name.
- The appointment and transfer of judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court is done by the Supreme Court Collegium.
- The recommendation of the Collegium is approved by the President.

Arvind Panagariya has been made the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.

- The 16th Finance Commission was constituted by the President in December 2023.
- Arvind Panagariya has been made the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.
- Arvind Panagariya has been the former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- This Finance Commission will submit its report to the President by October 31, 2025.
- This commission will give recommendations for the next 5 years from April 1, 2026.
- Finance Commission is a constitutional institution.
- It is formed under Article 280 of the Constitution.
- Its function is to recommend the distribution of taxes between the Center and the states and to decide the framework for distribution of taxes among the states.

Felix Tshisekedi has been elected President of the Republic of Congo.

- Félix Tshisekedi has been elected President of the Republic of Congo in January 2024.
- He has been elected President of the Republic of Congo for the second consecutive time.
- Felix Tshisekedi will now be the President of Congo for the next 5 years.
- The Republic of Congo is a country located in the Central African continent.
- It is the second largest country in the African continent in terms of area.
- Its capital is Kinshasa.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed as the acting Chairman of NALSA

- NALSA stands for National Legal Services Authority.
- Recently, Supreme Court Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed the acting chairman of NALSA.
- Sanjeev Khanna took over this post from S. K. Kaul.
- S. K. Kaul retired on 25 December.
- Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed by the President as the acting chairman of NALSA.
- Presently the Chairman of NALSA is Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.
- National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987.
- This body provides free legal aid to the weaker sections of the society.

Indramani Pandey has assumed the post of Secretary General of BIMSTEC

- Indramani Pandey is a senior Indian diplomat. In January 2024, he has assumed the post of Secretary General of BIMSTEC.
- The full name of BIMSTEC is Bay of Bengal Initiative for Economic Cooperation.
- He is the fourth Secretary General of BIMSTEC.
- His appointment has been made for three years.
- Before this, Indramani Pandey had been India's permanent representative to the United Nations.
- BIMSTEC is an international organization of South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.
- It was established in the year 1997.
- Its members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Dinesh K. Tripathi has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Navy

- Dinesh K. Tripathi in January 2024 has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Navy.

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- The Deputy Chief of the Navy is called Vice Admiral.
- Vice Admiral Tripathi has previously served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.
- He has also been the Director General of Naval Operations till May 2021.
- Dinesh K. Tripathi has taken the place of Sanjay J. Singh.
- Admiral R. Hari Kumar is the Chief of the Navy.

Indian government has appointed Senthil Pandian C as the new ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva

- Senthil Pandian C, will serve as India's ambassador to the WTO for a three-year term from the date of assuming office.
- He succeeds Brajendra Navnit, whose term concludes on March 31, 2024, indicating a change in India's representation at the WTO.
- This decision was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), marking a significant diplomatic role for Pandian in representing India's interests in global trade discussions.

Randhir Jaiswal has been appointed as the new spokesperson of the Indian External Affairs Ministry

- Randhir Jaiswal is an Indian Foreign Service officer.
- He has been appointed as the new spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in January 2024.
- He has replaced Arvind Bagchi on this post.
- Arvind Bagchi has been appointed India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.
- Jaiswal previously served as the Consul General of India in New York.
- The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs is the official person of the Government of India who communicates the government's views on foreign affairs to the public.

Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar CM for 9th time

- Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar CM for the second time. Along with him, Samrat Chaudhary and Vijay Sinha have also become Deputy Chief Ministers.
- Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar Chief Minister for the ninth time. Governor Rajendra Arlekar administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a ceremony held at Raj Bhawan in Patna. Along with him, two deputy CMs of BJP have also taken oath. This includes Samrat Chaudhary and Vijay Sinha.
- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office to Nitish Kumar. After this, Samrat Chaudhary and Vijay Sinha took oath of office and secrecy. Both got the post of Deputy CM in the Nitish-led NDA government.

Karnataka HC Chief Justice appointed as Supreme Court judge

- The Central Government approved the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium, appointing Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- After this appointment, the Supreme Court approval number has reached 34 judges.
- On January 19, the five-judge collegium led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud had selected Prasanna B Varale to fill the place of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul after his retirement.
- Warale, who belongs to the Scheduled Caste, is ranked sixth in the combined seniority of all high court judges.
- He was appointed as a judge of the Bombay High Court on July 18, 2008.
- He was elevated as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court on 15 October 2022.

Crown Prince Frederik X becomes King of Denmark

- Crown Prince Frederik X ascends to the throne, succeeding his mother, Queen Margrethe II, who officially abdicated after a reign of 52 years.
- Queen Margrethe II, aged 83, makes history as the first Danish monarch in almost 900 years to voluntarily resign from the throne.

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- Mary, born in Australia, achieves the historic milestone of becoming the first commoner to assume the title of Queen of Denmark, adding a unique dimension to the royal lineage.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Family Day 2024

- Global Family Day is celebrated every year on 1 January.
- The theme of this day for the year 2024 has been 'Families Together: Building Resilience for a Brighter Future'.
- The celebration of this day was announced by the United Nations General Assembly in the year 1997.
- This Global Family Day was celebrated by the United Nations and member countries in the year 1999.

Every year on 1 January, D.R.D.O., the foundation day of is celebrated

- D. R. D. O. stands for Defense Research and Development Organisation.
- Every year on 1 January, D.R.D.O. The foundation day of is celebrated.
- D.R.D.O. in the year 2023 The 66th foundation day of is being celebrated.
- Defense Research and Development Organization (D.R.D.O.) was established in the year 1958.
- The headquarters of D.R.D.O. is located in New Delhi.
- Presently its President is Sameer V. Kamat.

World Braille Day 2024

- World Braille Day is celebrated every year on 4 January.
- The theme of World Braille Day, 2024 is 'Reaching the Blind and Visually Impaired'.
- This day is celebrated on the birthday of Louis Braille.
- The United Nations General Assembly had announced to celebrate this day in the year 2018.

World War Orphans Day 2024

- World War Orphans Day is celebrated every year on 6 January.
- This day is celebrated to spread awareness about the plight of war orphans and the painful conditions they face.
- The theme of World War Orphans Day for the year 2024 has been kept as 'Orphan Lives Matter'.
- World War Orphans Day was started by the French organization S.O.S.

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2024

- This day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.
- This day is celebrated to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.
- Celebrating Migrant Day was started from the year 2003.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a major program of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- It is organized in different cities to showcase the diversity and progress of different regions of India.

World Hindi Day 2024

- Every year on January 10th, the world celebrates World Hindi Day, a day dedicated to recognizing the cultural significance and global influence of the Hindi language.
- It's a time to appreciate the richness of this language and its role in connecting diverse communities across the globe.
- In 2024, the theme of the World Hindi Day is "Hindi-Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence".

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National Youth Day 2024

- National Youth Day 2024, celebrated on January 12th, is an event that honours the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- The theme for National Youth Day 2024 is "Arise, Awake, and Realise the Power You Hold."
- The decision to celebrate Vivekananda's birthday as National Youth Day was taken in 1984 and it was first marked on January 12, 1985.

National Girl Child Day 2024

- National Girl Child Day is observed on 24 January every year to spread awareness about the inequalities faced by a girl child in Indian society.
- The day not only advocates for equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and nutrition, but also promotes awareness about the rights of a girl child and addresses issues like child marriage, discrimination, and violence against girls.
- The government, through National Girl Child Day, aims to highlight the principles of equality and dignity for every girl child.

International Day of Education 2024

- Every year on 24 January, International Day of Education is celebrated across the world, which is organized to explain the importance of education.
- On this day, various programs are organized worldwide to promote the importance of education and to explain the important roles of education in human development.
- Every year, International Day of Education is celebrated on a particular theme.
- The theme for 2024 is 'Learning for Lasting Peace' thereby securing the role of education.
- Last year's theme was "Invest in People and Prioritize Education", which emphasized the need to invest in individuals and prioritize education.
- On 3rd December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved a resolution, declaring January 24 as the International Day of Education.

National Voters Day 2024

- National Voters Day is celebrated on January 25 across the country.
- Its purpose is to increase electoral awareness and motivate people to cast their votes
- The theme for the 2024 National Voter's Day is 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure.'
- The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950
- Self-introduction cards and voting schemes are presented to the new voters by the Election Commission.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

IMF's Upcoming Bailout Installment to Pakistan

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is scheduled to release a crucial \$700 million bailout installment to Pakistan in its Executive Board meeting on January 11.
- This financial support is part of a larger \$3 billion Standby Arrangement, intended to stabilize Pakistan's struggling economy.

India-Nepal Relations Strengthened by EAM S. Jaishankar's Visit

- India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar enhanced bilateral ties with Nepal during his two-day visit, culminating in key agreements and initiatives.
- At the 7th India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting, an important agreement was made for India to import 10,000 MW of hydroelectric power from Nepal over the next decade.
- Additionally, India committed to a financial aid package of Nepali Rs 1,000 crore (about USD 75 million) for the reconstruction of areas affected by the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

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Saudi Arabia to Open First Alcohol Store for Diplomats

- In a groundbreaking move, Saudi Arabia is preparing to open its first alcohol store, exclusively for diplomats.
- This significant development represents a notable shift in the Kingdom's approach to alcohol, which has traditionally been banned under its strict interpretation of Islamic law.
- Historically, Saudi Arabia has enforced a strict prohibition on the sale and consumption of alcohol.
- This policy aligns with the conservative religious principles that govern many aspects of life in the Kingdom.

Japan Secures U.S. Tomahawk Missiles Amid Security Concerns

- Japan has entered an agreement with the United States to procure 400 long-range Tomahawk missiles, enhancing its defense capabilities against regional threats.
- This acquisition is part of Japan's broader plan to increase its defense spending in response to security challenges posed by neighboring countries.
- Despite Japan's pacifist constitution, its security and defense strategies have been updated to address the emerging challenges in the region.

India and Oman Sign IT Cooperation MoU: Endorsed by Indian Cabinet

- The Indian Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oman for cooperation in the Information Technology sector.
- Signed on December 15, 2023, the agreement between India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Oman's Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology is intended to enhance IT collaboration, including technology exchange and investment.
- The MoU will be effective for three years from the date of signing.

Comoros President Azali Assoumani Re-elected Amid Controversy

- In a closely-watched election, Comoros President Azali Assoumani secured a fourth term with 63% of the vote, amid allegations of electoral malpractice.
- Despite claims of irregularities like ballot stuffing and early poll closures, international observers deemed the election largely fair.
- Assoumani's presidency, following a controversial 2018 referendum that removed term limits, has faced criticism for its treatment of political opponents.

Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay Begins Second Term

- Tshering Tobgay of the People's Democratic Party starts his second term as Prime Minister of Bhutan.
- His leadership is crucial for Bhutan's economic revival and addressing youth migration issues.
- Tobgay, a proponent of Gross National Happiness and a former bureaucrat, previously served as Prime Minister from 2013 to 2018 and was instrumental in Bhutan's first free election in 2008.

Sultan Ibrahim of Johor Installed as Malaysia's 17th King

- Malaysia celebrated the formal installation of Sultan Ibrahim of Johor as the nation's 17th king, marking a significant moment in its constitutional monarchy. The ceremony, part of Malaysia's rotational monarchy system, was attended by dignitaries and royals from across the country.
- Sultan Ibrahim, serving as the Sultan of Johor since 2010, is noted for his commitment to his people's welfare and his contributions to the state's development.

Withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger from ECOWAS

- The military regimes of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have announced their withdrawal from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), critiquing the bloc as a sovereignty threat.
- These nations criticized ECOWAS for its sanctions and formed the "Alliance of Sahel States" in response to the bloc's perceived deviations, particularly in addressing jihadist threats.

NATIONAL NEWS

Delhi Govt. introduces consumer-friendly 'Solar Policy 2024'

- The Delhi government has introduced the Delhi Solar Policy 2024, aimed at promoting solar power adoption among residents.
- The policy allows residents to install solar panels on their rooftops, enabling them to generate their own electricity.
- Residents can benefit from zero electricity bills and even earn by selling excess solar power back to the grid.
- The new policy targets to achieve 4500 megawatts of installed capacity of solar power in Delhi by 2027, a significant increase from the previous target of 1500 MW.
- The Delhi Solar Policy 2016 laid the foundation for solar adoption in the city, resulting in 1500 MW of solar power installed capacity.
- The primary objectives of the Delhi Solar Policy 2024 are to reduce air pollution and combat inflation by reducing electricity bills for residential and commercial/industrial consumers.
- Solar power adoption is crucial for reducing air pollution and promoting sustainable energy practices in Delhi.

Republic Day 2024

- Republic Day in India is celebrated every year on January 26th to commemorate the day when the Constitution of India came into effect in 1950, replacing the Government of India Act (1935).
- This day marks India's emergence as a sovereign, democratic republic. The 75th Republic Day in 2024 holds a special place in the hearts of Indians as it symbolizes the journey of the nation from colonial rule to an independent, vibrant democracy.
- The themes for Republic Day 2024, "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) and "Bharat – Loktantra ki Matraka" (India – Mother of Democracy), encapsulate the aspirations and democratic ethos of the nation.
- For the Republic Day 2024 celebrations, the guest of honour is Emmanuel Macron, the President of France. This significant day will be marked with various patriotic events, including an impressive parade and a vivid showcase of India's cultural richness. The occasion is set to honour India's unity, diversity, and development remarkably and memorably.

Ram Mandir Inauguration Pran Pratishtha Ceremony

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to preside over the 'pran-pratishtha' ceremony at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, marking the consecration of the 51-inch idol of Ram Lalla.
- Crafted by sculptor Arun Yogiraj, the idol depicts a five-year-old Lord Ram.
- January 22, 2024, the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will be a historic event led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Pran Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony.
- The nation eagerly anticipates this momentous occasion, marking a significant milestone in India's cultural and religious heritage.
- PM Modi has been associated with the Ram Temple movement since 1990 and played a crucial role in managing the Rath Yatra of former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani. The construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya has been part of BJP's main election planks since its inception in 1980.

Diamond Jubilee of Supreme Court of India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Supreme Court of India, marking 60 years of judicial service.
- Several technology-driven initiatives were launched, including the Digital Supreme Court Reports, Digital Courts 2.0, and a revamped Supreme Court website.
- These initiatives aim to modernize and digitize the Indian judiciary, enhancing transparency and accessibility.

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Prime Minister Leads Celebrations of Supreme Court's 75th Anniversary with Technological Innovations

- In a significant event in Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Supreme Court of India.
- He introduced several technological initiatives, including the Digital Supreme Court Reports and a new bilingual website, which are in line with the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution.
- Emphasizing the Supreme Court's indispensable role in upholding the pillars of democracy, specifically the freedom of speech and the essence of justice, Modi's speech highlighted the court's contributions to India's democratic fabric.

Kyrgyzstan has declared the snow leopard as the national symbol

- Kyrgyzstan is a Central Asian country.
- Recently it has declared the snow leopard as the national symbol.
- President Zhaparov's order highlights the important role of snow leopards in maintaining ecological balance.
- The loss of these magnificent creatures in the wild poses a significant threat to the delicate balance of mountain ecosystems.
- This has potentially harmful effects on various animal species and even human populations.
- The snow leopard held great significance in the ancient culture of Kyrgyzstan, being inextricably linked with Manas, the great hero of the Kyrgyz people.
- The Global Snow Leopard Forum was hosted by Kyrgyzstan in the year 2013.
- The capital of Kyrgyzstan is Bishkek.

PM Modi Unveils Ram Mandir Stamps

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a series of postage stamps celebrating Ayodhya's Ram Temple, a significant cultural event.
- The collection comprises six stamps, each representing key figures and elements from Lord Ram's story, such as the Ram Temple, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman, Jatayu, Kevatraj, and Ma Shabri.
- This initiative underscores the government's effort to honor cultural heritage and religious narratives through philately, enabling people to own a part of this historic narrative.

NHAI's FASTag Initiative

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' program to improve toll collection efficiency on national highways.
- This initiative addresses the misuse of FASTags, ensuring a unique FASTag for each vehicle to enhance transparency and accountability in toll collections.
- The program marks a significant move towards digitalizing and simplifying the toll payment process throughout India.

Illumination of Lata Mangeshkar Chowk in Ayodhya:

- Ahead of the Ram Temple inauguration, Ayodhya's Lata Mangeshkar Chowk has been vividly illuminated.
- Named after the legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, this vibrant and attractive spot has gained attention from national and international visitors.
- The illumination is part of Ayodhya's larger transformation, making the chowk a popular destination and reflecting the city's evolving cultural significance.

Wings India 2024 Inaugurated by Union Minister

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Wings India 2024, Asia's largest aviation expo, in Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport.
- The expo, themed "Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal: Setting the Stage for India Civil Aviation @2047," aims to showcase the future of India's aviation sector.
- This significant event brings together industry leaders and enthusiasts, highlighting latest aviation trends and innovations.

Tableau on theme 'India: Mother of Democracy' clinches First Spot at Republic Day Parade 2024

- The Republic Day Parade 2024 witnessed a remarkable tableau that captured the essence of India as the 'Mother of Democracy.'
- This stunning representation not only enthralled the audience but also clinched the first spot in the parade, symbolizing India's rich democratic heritage.
- The tableau of the Ministry of Culture has secured the first prize at the Republic Day Parade 2024.

Farsi Would be the 9th Indian Classical Language

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that the Indian government has included Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy. It is announced that Farsi will be a new classical language Under the New Education Policy 2020.
- Whereas there are officially under the Eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution, 6 classical languages have been identified so far.
- According to the National Education Policy-2020 of India, Pali and Prakrit along with Farsi (Persian) should be preserved.
- Recognising Farsi as a classical language will foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Farsi's rich heritage within the Indian educational framework.
- There are six classical languages of India. In 2004 Tamil was the first Indian language accorded as a classical language, later Odia added in 2014 was the last Language declared as a classical language.

27th National Youth Festival Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 27th edition of the National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra, from January 12th to 16th, 2024.
- The festival, aligning with Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, aimed to showcase the varied talents and skills of Indian youth.
- It sought to provide a platform for young Indians to exhibit their abilities, reflecting India's commitment to development by its centennial of independence in 2047.
- This event and its associated development projects are seen as key steps in empowering youth and enhancing national infrastructure.

Desert Festival 2024 in Jaisalmer

- The Desert Festival 2024, themed "Back to the Desert," is scheduled from February 22 to 24 in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The event will commence with a procession from the Lakshminath temple and focus on showcasing local artists' talents.
- Preparations are underway, including stakeholder meetings involving local residents, hoteliers, tourism operators, and artists, under the supervision of district collector Pratap Singh.

Telangana government set to launch free power scheme: "Gruha Jyothi"

- Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced the upcoming implementation of the Gruha Jyothi scheme by the state government, which aims to provide free electricity up to 200 units to eligible domestic consumers starting from the February month.
- The announcement of the Gruha Jyothi Scheme, offering 200 units of free electricity, led to widespread confusion among citizens, resulting in many refraining from paying their electricity bills in anticipation of the scheme's implementation.
- To address this confusion, the Telangana government clarified that only individuals who have cleared their electricity bills for December 2023 and January 2024 are eligible to benefit from the Gruha Jyothi Scheme. Any outstanding arrears during this period would disqualify applicants from availing the scheme's benefits.

Assam's Educational Assessment 'Gunotsav 2024'

- Assam is preparing for the fifth edition of 'Gunotsav' in 2024, aiming to assess around 40 lakh students in government schools.
- This extensive evaluation is part of an effort to enhance educational quality and learning outcomes.

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- The program encourages active involvement from teachers, students, administrators, and community members, fostering accountability and overall educational improvement.

India's 'Bharat Park' Trade Zone in UAE

- The Indian government plans to establish 'Bharat Park' in the UAE, a trade zone designed to showcase and store Indian goods for an international market.
- This initiative is in response to the growing demand for Man Made Fibre Textiles and aims to utilize free trade agreements with countries like Japan, Australia, UAE, and South Korea.

Ayodhya Airport Renamed As 'Maharishi Valmiki International Airport

- The Union Cabinet recently gave its approval to declare Ayodhya Airport as an international airport, marking a significant development for the city.
- The airport will be named "Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham," reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the region.
- On December 30, 2023, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the newly built Ayodhya Airport.

IREDA Releases Vigilance Journal 'Pahal'

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, unveiled its Vigilance Department's house journal, 'Pahal,' on January 25, 2024
- The unveiling ceremony was presided over by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, the Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA, along with the presence of Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Ajay Kumar Sahani and other senior officials, marking a significant step towards promoting transparency, accountability, and renewable energy initiatives.
- 'Pahal' serves as an insightful platform for fostering awareness and promoting renewable energy development. It emphasizes active participation from employees and their children, encouraging contributions such as articles and poems to create a more profound impact.

Abu Dhabi's First Temple to be Inaugurated by PM Modi on 14 Feb

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate another significant temple on February 14 in Abu Dhabi.
- The BAPS Hindu Mandir, located in the capital's Abu Mureikha area, marks the first Hindu temple in the UAE and is anticipated to be one of the largest and most exquisite Hindu temples outside of India, as well as the largest in West Asia.
- During PM Modi's first visit to the UAE in 2015, the country allocated land in Abu Dhabi for the construction of a Hindu temple.
- This visit held diplomatic importance, making Modi the first Indian Prime Minister in 34 years to visit the strategic Gulf nation. The temple project was inaugurated by the PM in February 2018, and construction commenced in December 2019.

PM Modi Inaugurates New Campus of National Academy of Customs in Andhra Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN) in Andhra Pradesh
- The state-of-the-art NACIN campus, a national-level institute, will provide training to Indian Revenue Service officials (Customs & Indirect Taxes) and central allied services.
- In addition, the institute will extend its training programs to state governments and collaborate with partner nations.
- NACIN's focus on diverse officials and partnerships reflects its commitment to fostering excellence in taxation and governance.

PM Inaugurates Khelo India Youth Games 2023 in Chennai

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially opened the 13th Khelo India Youth Games in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- This event signified the start of an esteemed national sports event and the initiation of various broadcasting projects worth approximately Rs 250 crores.

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- The lighting of the Games' torch, a symbol of the beginning of this significant sporting event, was a highlight, demonstrating India's commitment to nurturing young sports talent.

UNDP and EU Funding for Papua New Guinea

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union (EU) have jointly committed over \$420,000 to Papua New Guinea.
- This funding is allocated to combat deforestation, enhance food security, and facilitate climate change adaptation.
- This substantial financial aid is aimed at addressing some of the pressing environmental and socio-economic challenges in the nation.

KVIC Launches 'Sanatan Khadi Vastra'

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) introduced 'Sanatan Khadi Vastra' at its flagship store in Connaught Place, New Delhi.
- This new clothing range aligns with KVIC's mission to promote Khadi as a symbol of Indian heritage and sustainable fashion.
- 'Sanatan Khadi Vastra' launch is part of the government's vision to support traditional industries and position Khadi as a fashionable, eco-friendly fabric choice.

Rajya Sabha Members Retirement

- A significant change in India's political scene is expected as 68 members of the Rajya Sabha, including prominent figures like Manmohan Singh and Jaya Bachchan, and nine Union ministers, are due to retire in 2024.
- The electoral battleground has already been set with contests declared for three seats in Delhi and one in Sikkim.

Kolkata Hosts Inaugural Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India, functioning under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, organized the first meeting of the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) in Kolkata.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal presided over this landmark meeting, which saw participation from state representatives, central government officials, and industry experts aboard the MV Ganga Queen.
- Key discussions included the launch of eco-friendly initiatives like the "Harit Nauka" for sustainable inland vessels and formulating a strategic plan for river cruise tourism development by 2047.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, announced the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana'

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has announced the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana'. Under this scheme, 1 crore families of the country will get solar energy on the roof of their house.
- The central government will launch "Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana" with a target of installing rooftop solar systems on the roof of 1 crore houses
- This will not only reduce the electricity bills of the poor and middle class, but it will also make India self-sufficient in the field of energy.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to inaugurate 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' campaign to commemorate 75th Republic Day

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will launch the year-long pan-India 'Our Constitution, Our Respect' campaign to mark the 75th year of the Indian Republic in New Delhi today.
- The aim of the campaign is to reaffirm the collective commitment to the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India and celebrate the shared values that unite the nation.
- The countrywide initiative will reflect the sense of pride and responsibility towards upholding the ideals of the constitutional framework.
- This campaign will give every citizen an opportunity to participate in the democratic journey in different ways and empower them to contribute to it.

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- This campaign includes Sabko Nyay - Har Ghar Nyay, Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp and Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyan.
- The objective of Sabko Nyay, Har Ghar Nyay is to connect the villagers through the entrepreneurs of public utility centers at the village level and to motivate them to read the Nyay Sankalp to all.
- On the other hand, the objective of Nav Bharat, Nav Sankalp is to encourage the common people to adopt the proposals of Panch Pran by reading it.

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Kaushal Bhawan, Advancing Skill Development

- President Droupadi Murmu has officially opened Kaushal Bhawan, symbolizing India's commitment to the skill enhancement of its youth.
- This venture, under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), aims to aid young individuals in realizing their potential and contributing to India's skilled workforce.
- Notably, the building integrates modern infrastructure and environmental stewardship, including the preservation of two large trees within its design.

France's Digital Innovation for 2024 Olympics with E-Visas

- France, leading in digital innovation, has become the first EU country to introduce fully digital Schengen visas for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris.
- Effective from January 1, 2024, the "Olympic Consulate" system on the France-Visas portal aims to streamline the visa process for approximately 15,000 athletes, 9,000 journalists, and several foreign delegations.

Chhattisgarh Government Initiates 'Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024

- Chhattisgarh launches 'Mahtari Vandana Yojana,' offering monthly financial assistance to women.
- Women beneficiaries receive ₹1000 per month under the scheme.
- The initiative aims to provide a total annual aid of ₹12,000, fostering self-reliance and skill development among women.
- Resident married women aged 23 to 60 are eligible to apply.
- The scheme targets women with a family income below ₹2.5 lakh.
- The scheme's objective is to empower women economically by improving their financial conditions.

PRITHVI VIGYAN Scheme Launch

- The Indian government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has launched PRITHVI (PRITHvi Vlgyan).
- A comprehensive Earth sciences scheme by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, with a budget of Rs. 4,797 crore for 2021-26.
- The scheme aims to enhance the monitoring and understanding of Earth's various systems.

PM Modi Unveils Inaugural Installment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin Through PM-JANMAN Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to release the first installment to one lakh beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) today via video conferencing.
- Launched in November last year, PM-JANMAN, with a budget of around 24,000 crore rupees, focuses on 11 critical interventions across nine Ministries.
- The initiative aims to enhance socio-economic conditions for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by providing essential facilities like housing, education, healthcare, connectivity, and livelihood opportunities.

Rajasthan's Integration of Health Insurance Schemes

- The BJP government in Rajasthan is proposing to merge its Chiranjeevi health insurance scheme with the central Ayushman Bharat programme.
- The envisioned Ayushman Bharat Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme
- Aims to provide an extensive ₹25 lakh insurance cover, maintaining Chiranjeevi's superior coverage compared to Ayushman Bharat's ₹5 lakh limit.

STATE NEWS

Himachal Pradesh Grants ST Status to Hatti Community

- The Himachal Pradesh government granted Scheduled Tribes (ST) status to the Hatti community in the Transgiri area of Sirmaur district.
- This followed the passing of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023, by Parliament and its notification on August 4, 2023.
- The Hatti community primarily engages in agriculture and is governed by a traditional council called 'khumbli.'
- The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet also approved Phase-2 of the Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Start-Up Yojna, focusing on loans and business opportunities in solar power plants.

Maharashtra's Pench Tiger Reserve India's First Dark sky Park

- Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra achieves the status of India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth in Asia, highlighting its commitment to protecting the night sky from light pollution.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognizes the intrinsic value of the night sky as a natural, cultural, and historical resource.
- It emphasizes the need to preserve natural darkness for nature conservation, ecological integrity, and community well-being in cities.

India Nominates 'Maratha Military Landscapes' for UNESCO World Heritage List 2024-25

- India has nominated the 'Maratha Military Landscapes' for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2024-25 cycle.
- This significant move by the Culture Ministry highlights the exceptional fortification and military systems envisioned by the Maratha rulers.
- The 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India' comprise twelve components, including Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay Durg, Sindhudurg, and Gingee Fort.
- These structures, dating back to the 17th and 19th centuries, span across Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, showcasing the strategic military prowess of the Maratha rule.

West Bengal Gains GI Tags, Boosting Local Industry

- West Bengal has successfully obtained Geographical Indication (GI) tags for several distinct products as part of the National GI Drive Mission.
- The products receiving the GI tag include Sunderbans Honey ('Mouban'), Black Nunia Rice from Jalpaiguri district ('Prince of Rice'), and unique sarees such as Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal, mainly produced in Mirzapur, Murshidabad district.

Kerala Teenager Sets Guinness World Record for Singing in 140 Languages

- Kerala teenager Suchetha Satish achieved a remarkable feat by setting a Guinness World Record during her performance at the 'Concert for Climate' in Dubai on November 24, 2023.
- Singing in an astounding 140 languages, she captivated the audience and earned widespread acclaim for her musical prowess.
- The event was part of the COP 28 summit, attended by representatives from over 140 nations, emphasizing the global significance of her achievement.

Mayurbhanj's Red Ant Chutney from Odisha Receives GI Tag

- The red ant chutney, a tribal delicacy from Mayurbhanj, Odisha, secures a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Known for its healing properties and nutritional value, this chutney sustains around 500 tribal families.

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- The GI tag, an Intellectual Property Right for products with a specific geographical origin, is valid for 10 years.

Punjab Becomes First State To Map All Accident Prone Sites

- Punjab, known for its vibrant culture and rich heritage, has achieved a significant milestone in road safety.
- The state has become the first in India to meticulously map all 784 accident black spots using the Mappls App, a cutting-edge navigation system developed by Map My India.
- The announcement, made by Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav marks a ground-breaking initiative for enhancing road safety in the region.

Himachal Pradesh's 'My School-My Pride' Initiative

- The Himachal Pradesh government launched the 'My School-My Pride' initiative under the 'Apna Vidyalay' programme, adhering to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- This campaign aims to improve the educational quality in government schools through comprehensive student development approaches.
- It fosters community involvement in various capacities, including infrastructure development, event sponsorship, and the Mid-Day Meal programme.

52nd Statehood Anniversary of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya

- The 52nd anniversary of the statehood of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya was celebrated, commemorating their inclusion as states in the Indian Union in 1972.
- The day was marked by cultural programs, highlighting the journey and achievements of these states since their establishment.

Fourth National Chilika Birds Festival Inaugurated in Odisha

- The fourth edition of the National Chilika Birds Festival was inaugurated by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, attracting bird enthusiasts nationwide.
- Held at the scenic Chilika Lake, the festival featured birding trips to Mangalajodi and Nalabana, known for their diverse birdlife.

Odisha Launches LABHA Scheme for Tribal Empowerment

- The Odisha government, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, launched the 'LABHA' scheme, a 100% state-funded MSP initiative for Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
- This scheme aims to support approximately one crore tribals in the state, ensuring fair pricing for their forest produce through TDCCOL-managed procurement centers.

Tamil Nadu's Vision for \$1 Trillion Economy by 2030

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin revealed an ambitious objective to grow the state into a \$1 trillion economy by 2030 during the Global Investors Meet in Chennai.
- This goal includes attracting investments between 3.8 and 4.3 trillion to foster local development and attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

INDEX AND RANKING

India ranks at 93 on Corruption Index

- India's rank on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2023 is 93 out of 180 countries.
- In the previous year (2022), India was ranked at 85, sharing the spot with five other countries, including Maldives.
- The CPI is an annual index released by Transparency International, a global civil society organization.

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- India's score on the CPI for 2023 has dipped by one point compared to the previous year, standing at 39.
- The CPI ranks countries and territories based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption, with scores ranging from zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Chennai Tops As Best City For Indian Women

- Chennai emerged as the top Indian city for women in 2023 in terms of inclusivity and conduciveness to working women.
- As per findings from diversity, equity, and inclusivity consultant Avtar Group's Top Cities for Women in India (TCWI) 2023.
- Tamil Nadu cities topped both categories that the study covered – 49 cities in the million-plus population category and 64 cities in the less than a million-population category.
- Chennai topped the million-plus category, and Tiruchirappalli came on top of the less than a million category. The southern state also had a total of seven cities featuring in the lists.

Hyderabad Ranks 9th Cleanest; Siddipet Tops In South India

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

Finance Ministry's "The Indian Economy: A Decade in Review" Report

- The 74-page document titled "The Indian Economy: A Review" authored by Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran and his team presents a comprehensive analysis of India's economic journey over the past ten years.
- This report is distinct from the official Economic Survey prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and aims to assess the state of the Indian economy and provide insights into its future outlook.
- The Indian economy is likely to grow at over 7 per cent in the coming years and is expected to become the third-largest economy in the world in the next three years, with a GDP of \$5 trillion, driven by domestic demand along with supply-side measures such as investment in infrastructure and measures to boost manufacturing.
- The report said India can aspire to become a \$7-trillion economy by 2030.

Bhopal Ranks 5th In Swachh Survekshan 2023 Cleanliness

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

IEA's Electricity 2024 Report

- According to the latest International Energy Agency (IEA) projections in Electricity 2024 Report, India's electricity demand will outpace China's and have the world's fastest growth rate by 2026.

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- India's annual average electricity demand growth is pegged at 6.5% over 2024-2026. The robust expansion will make India's additional electricity demand over the next three years almost equivalent to the UK's total demand.
- Coal will meet 68% of India's electricity needs in 2026, as per IEA forecasts. While lower than coal's 74% share in 2023, this highlights its continued dominance despite renewable growth.
- India added 21 GW of renewable energy capacity in 2023. But renewables stagnated at a 21% generation share as reduced hydropower output offset solar and wind growth.

AWARDS

Padma Awards

- Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March / April every year.
- In 2024, a total of 132 Padma Awards were approved by the President of India, including 2 duo cases, with 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 110 Padma Shri Awards being conferred. Notably, 30 of the awardees are women, and the list also includes 8 individuals from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI, along with 9 posthumous awardees.

Madison Marsh: Airforce pilot wins 'Miss America beauty pageant 2024'

- The 'Miss America Beauty Pageant 2024' held in January, Florida, Airforce pilot Madison Marsh took the title.
- Madison Marsh has received America's prestigious establishment in 'Miss World 2024' with this victory.
- Marsh, 22, was appointed an officer in 2023 for the U.S. Air Force, where she is a second lieutenant.
- Already 'Miss Colorado', Marsh has rocked many beauty pageants before with her stunning exhibition.
- She surpassed 51 competitions in the 'Miss America Beauty Pageant 2024' to make Ellie Breaux of Texas the first runner up.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur will be honored with Bharat Ratna posthumously

- Former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur will be given Bharat Ratna. This big announcement has been made on the eve of his birth centenary on 24 January.
- Karpoori Thakur is called the messiah of the backwards.
- He is known for clearing the way for reservation for backward classes.
- He implemented the recommendations of the Mungeri Lal Commission. For this, he had to sacrifice his government too.
- Apart from this, he also made many radical changes in the education system of Bihar.
- During his tenure as deputy chief minister, he abolished the requirement of passing English in the matriculation examination.
- Karpoori Thakur was also the CM of Bihar twice and the Deputy CM once. He was the first Chief Minister of Bihar who was not from the Congress.
- He won the assembly election for the first time in 1952.

Dr. Ritu Karidhal and Naveen Tiwari were honored with Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Award

- The Uttar Pradesh government has announced the UP Gaurav Samman Award, which will be dedicated to two prominent personalities - expert scientist Dr. Ritu and leading entrepreneurship Naveen.
- While announcing this award, the government has committed to sanction Unnati to inspire Pramit and future generations.

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- Dr. Ritu, known for her unique work in the scientific field, will be honored with this honor.
- With this step of the UP government, Dr. Ritu's contribution is important to be connected to science and motivated to move forward.
- Pre-Entrepreneurship Naveen, who has made a mark for his commitment to entrepreneurship and planning, will also be honoured with this honour.

Ex-CJI Ranjan Gogoi to receive 'Assam Baibhav Award'

- Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Ranjan Gogoi, has been selected for the Assam Baibhav award.
- This marks the third year of the awards, with previous recipients being Ratan Tata and Tapan Saikia.
- Gogoi, the first judge from the North East to hold the position of Chief Justice of India, is recognized for his exceptional efforts to expand the delivery of justice and enrich jurisprudence.
- The Assam government chose Gogoi for his significant contributions to the legal field and the nation.
- Gogoi became a nominated Rajya Sabha MP after retiring as Chief Justice, and he made his first parliamentary speech in support of the Union government's Delhi Services Act.
- Gogoi led the bench that delivered the landmark verdict in the Ram Janmabhumi-Babri Masjid title dispute in 2019, favoring the construction of the Ram Temple.

President of India Presents Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024

- The President of India to confer Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 on 22nd January to 19 children for their exceptional achievement in six categories
- Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2024, will be conferred upon 19 children from across the country.
- Categories include Art and Culture (7), Bravery (1), Innovation (1), Science & Technology (1), Social Service (4), and Sports (5).
- Awardees selected from 18 States and UTs, including 2 Aspirational Districts.
- Among the awardees, there are 9 boys and 10 girls, reflecting gender diversity.
- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) is awarded to children aged 5 – 18 years.

Indore and Surat win Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023; declared the 'cleanest cities' in India:

- Indore and Surat have been awarded with the prestigious 'cleanest cities' of the 2023 title. Indian President Draupadi Murmu presented the Swachh Survekshan Awards declaring the two cities as the joint cleanest cities in the country. Varanasi and Prayagraj were recognized as the cleanest Ganga Towns.
- The President launched the Swachh Survekshan 2023 dashboard during the ceremony.
- A total of 110 awards were bestowed, celebrating excellence in cleanliness initiatives.
- The theme for the Cleanliness Survey 2024 is "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle."

Madhya Pradesh Secures Top Honors as Overall Winner in Inaugural Beach Games Hosted in Diu

- Madhya Pradesh emerges as the undisputed champion in the inaugural Beach Games 2024, showcasing exceptional talent with a remarkable total of 18 medals, including an impressive 7 golds.
- The week-long event at Ghoghla Beach, Diu, brought together 1404 young athletes from 28 states and Union Territories, providing a dynamic and engaging experience for the enthusiastic audience amidst optimal weather conditions from January 4-11.
- A spectrum of sports, including strategic Tug of War, thrilling Sea Swimming, martial artistry in Pencak Silat, acrobatics in Mallakhamb, and the fast-paced Beach Volleyball, captured attention at the inaugural Beach Games.
- The historic introduction of Beach Boxing heightened the excitement, making it a noteworthy milestone in the nation's sports history.

Golden Globe Awards were distributed in California

- In January 2024, the Golden Globe Awards were presented in California, United States.
- This was the 81st edition of the Golden Globe Awards.

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- In this, the Best Director Award was given to Christopher Nolan for the film Oppenheimer.
- The Best Actor Award was given to Cillian Murphy for the film Oppenheimer.
- The Best Actress award went to Lily Gladstone for Killers of the Flower Moon.
- The first Golden Globe Awards were presented in Los Angeles in the year 1944.

CNN-News18 presents India's biggest awards on news television, 'Indian of the Year '2023''

- The 13th edition of the CNN-News18 Indian of the Year was held to recognize exceptional contributions of remarkable individuals across seven categories — Business, Entertainment, Sports, Youth Icon, Rising Sports Star, Social Change, and Climate Warriors.
- Actor in Bollywood Shah Rukh Khan won the CNN-News18 Indian of the Year (IOTY) 2023 award.
- Arun Krishnamurthy and Saalumarada Thimmakka won the climate warriors award, presented by Afroz Shah.
- Arun Krishnamurthy is the founder of the Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI), which works in the field of wildlife conservation and habitat restoration.
- Saalumarada Thimmakka is a 112-year-old climate warrior from Karnataka's Tumkur district and is known as the "Mother of Trees" for planting 8,000 trees.
- State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Dinesh Khara won the prestigious Indian of the Year 2023 award in the business category.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was honoured with the Indian of the Year 2023 award for outstanding achievement.
- Ravi Kannan, a distinguished oncologist, was named the CNN-News18 Indian of The Year 2023 in the social change category.
- Neeraj Chopra clinched the Indian of the Year award in the Sports category in recognition of his remarkable achievements and significant contribution to Indian sports.
- Chess Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa was conferred with the CNN-News18 Rising Sports Star at the Indian of The Year 2023.

L. P. Hemanth Srinivasulu has been awarded 'Man of the Year, 2023'

- L. P. Hemantha Srinivasulu is the newly appointed Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Business Council.
- Recently Hemant has been awarded 'Man of the Year, 2023'.
- This award was presented by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- The honor serves as recognition of Hemanth's outstanding contributions to trade diplomacy and global economic relations.
- Hemanth's journey to the top of the Latin America and Caribbean Business Council has been marked by a distinguished career in multinational corporations.
- Hemant has left an indelible mark on companies like Advanced Biotech, Data Density and Celeb Media.

SPORTS

2024 Australian Open

- The 2024 Australian Open was held at Melbourne Park, Victoria, Australia from 14–28 January 2024. This was the 112th edition of the Australian Open.
- Men's Singles Winner:
 - ✓ Italy's young tennis player Jannick Sinner won the men's singles title at the Australian Open 2024 by defeating Russia's Daniil Medvedev.
 - ✓ Sinner has won the first Grand Slam title of his career.
- Women's Singles Winner:
 - ✓ Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka won her second consecutive Grand Slam title by defeating China's Zheng Qianwen in the Australian Open final.

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- ✓ Sabalenka is the first woman to win consecutive Australian Open titles since Victoria Azarenka in 2012 and 2013.
- Men's Doubles Winner:
 - ✓ In the Australian Open 2024, India's famous tennis player Rohan Bopanna and Australia's Matthew Ebden won the men's doubles title.
 - ✓ The Bopanna-Ebden pair defeated Italy's Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in straight sets in the final.
 - ✓ The pair of Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden have won this title for the first time.
- Women's Doubles Winner:
 - ✓ Taiwan tennis players Hsieh Su Wei and Belgium's Elise Mertens defeated Latvian-Ukrainian pair Jelena Ostapenko and Lyudmyla Kichenok to win the women's doubles title at the Australian Open 2024.
 - ✓ Su Wei and Mertens together won the women's doubles title for the first time in the Australian Open.
- Mixed doubles winners:
 - ✓ Taiwan's Hsieh Su-Wei and Poland's Jan Zielinski won the Australian Open mixed doubles title with a thrilling win over Desirae Krawczyk of the United States and Neal Skupski of Britain.

The first edition of the FIH Hockey 5s World Cup will be held in Muscat

- As per the recent announcement, the first edition of the FIH Hockey 5s World Cup will be held in Muscat.
- Muscat is the capital of Oman.
- A total of 16 teams will participate in this World Cup.
- Both women's and men's competitions will be organized in this.
- The FIH Hockey 5s Women's World Cup will be held from January 24 to 27, 2024.
- The FIH Hockey 5s Men's World Cup will be held from January 28 to 31, 2024.
- Hockey 5s is a new and shorter format of the World Cup Hockey.
- In this match of total 20 minutes, both the teams have 5 players each.
- The first edition of the FIH Hockey 5s World Cup will be played in Muscat.

The country's first multi-sports games are being organized in 'Diu'

- Recently, the organization of the country's first multi-sports games has started in 'Diu'.
- Presently Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu are a union territory.
- This multi-sports games will be organized till 11th January.
- The games started at Ghoghla beach in Diu.
- Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated the games.
- A total of eight sports are being organized in this Games.
- The closing ceremony of this games will be organized at I.N.S. Khukri Memorial.
- Players from more than 20 states and union territories of the country are participating in it.

FIFA Football Awards 2024

- The Best FIFA Football Awards 2024 recognized the most exceptional talents in football.
- Argentina's star football player Lionel Messi has won the FIFA Best Men's Player award for the third time in the last four years. While Barcelona striker Aitana Bonmati received the Best FIFA Women's Player award. Lionel Messi overtook Norwegian striker Erling Haaland in a close contest.
- The ceremony, held in London.

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa surpasses Viswanathan Anand to become India's number-one Chess player

- India Chess Wizard Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa defeated World Chess Champion Ding Liren in the Tata Steel Masters in Wijk aan Zee, in the Netherlands
- As a result of this victory, Praggnanandhaa became only the second Indian after Vishwanathan Anand to defeat a reigning champion.
- He also overtook Anand to become India's new number-one Chess player in terms of live ratings.

"CURRENT AFFAIR"

Shubman Gill awarded Cricketer of the Year

- Shubman Gill will be awarded the Cricketer of the Year title at the BCCI awards.
- Ravi Shastri is set to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Indian opener Shubman Gill will reportedly be conferred the Cricketer of the Year award at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) awards.
- The apex cricket board of India will hold its annual awards ahead of the 1st Test between India and England on Tuesday. The BCCI awards will take place in Hyderabad. Members of Team India and England will attend the function.
- Indian batter Gill had a stellar season in 2023. Gill became the fastest batter to cross the 2000-run mark in the One Day International (ODI) format. The premier batter notched up five centuries in the 50-over format.

Tai Tzu Ying wins Women's Singles India Open 2024 title

- Taiwan's legendary badminton player Tai Tzu Ying won the India Open 2024 women's singles title against Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei of China.
- In the Olympic year, Tai Tzu Ying introduced a unique performance.
- After losing the final of the Malaysia Open, Tai Tzu Ying turned around with resolve, winning the India Open 2024 women's singles title.
- Tai Tzu Ying maintained his reputation by winning against Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei.
- The Olympic year saw badminton lovers witness a unique performance by Taiwanese player Tai Tzu Ying.
- After the defeat in the final of Malaysia Open, Tai Tzu Ying triumphed at the India Open with her hard work and resolve.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Amit Shah launches book 'Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan'

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the book "Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan" by Arup Kumar Dutta in Guwahati.
- Shah stated that almost all disputes and conflicts in Assam have concluded with the signing of several accords.
- Shah emphasized the strength of multilingualism, considering it an asset for the country.
- Lachit Barphukan, an iconic figure in Assam, was lauded by Shah as a national hero, and he stressed the importance of promoting Barphukan's greatness and valor.
- The book, published by the State government, is available in English and translated into 24 Scheduled Indian languages.
- Shah commended Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for efforts to promote and honor Lachit Barphukan.

Justice Shivaraj V. Patil's autobiography 'Time Spent Distance Travelled'

- Former Supreme Court judge Shivaraj V. Patil is set to release his autobiography titled "Time Spent Distance Travelled."
- The 400-page book will be available in English and Kannada (Kaleda Kaala, Nadedo Doora) and is scheduled for release on January 21.
- Patil, aged 84, initially had no plans to write an autobiography but was encouraged by well-wishers to share his life experiences.
- The autobiography aims to impart knowledge gained over his 84 years, with a focus on inspiring youngsters and reflecting on his life journey.
- The book covers aspects of his life, including childhood, education, legal career as an advocate, judicial tenure, and post-retirement activities, and social service.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Launches Book on “Ram Mandir Rashtra Mandir Ak Sajhi Virast”

- In a significant cultural event, the Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammad, unveiled a book titled “Ram Mandir Rashtra Mandir Ak Sajhi Virast” at the Rang Bhawan Auditorium in Delhi.
- The book launch ceremony was attended by prominent figures, including Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) president Alok Kumar and Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Treasurer Govind Giri Maharaj.
- The book, “Ram Mandir Rashtra Mandir Ak Sajhi Virast,” explores the intricate relationship between the Ram Mandir and the national heritage.
- Authored by a distinguished writer, the book delves into the historical, cultural, and spiritual aspects associated with the construction and significance of the Ram Mandir.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Receives Prestigious Book on Srirangam Temple During Tiruchi Visit

- During his recent visit to Tiruchi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was graced with a special presentation. BJP State President K.
- Annamalai presented him with a unique coffee table book titled “Srirangam – The Resplendent Kingdom of Rangaraja.”
- This significant work, published by The Hindu Group of Publications, was launched during the auspicious Vaikunta Ekadasi festival at the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Unveils the Initial Volume of ‘Political History of Assam (1947-1971)’

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma released the first edition of ‘Political History of Assam (1947-1971)’- Volume 1, marking a significant step in documenting the state’s political journey.
- CM Sarma highlighted the importance of presenting history objectively, without bias towards any ideology.
- He expressed a commitment to presenting Assam’s political events from 1947 to 2020 in a comprehensive three-volume series, scheduled for completion by 2025.

The book “An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy” released

- The book “An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy,” authored by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.
- The book offers an intimate view into the lives of one of India’s most respected couples, Sudha and Narayana Murthy, the co-founders of Infosys.
- The biography details their early life, love story, and the foundational years of Infosys.

A book named “Gandhi A Life in Three Campaigns” Launched by M.J. Akbar

- Renowned author M.J. Akbar, along with co-author K. Natwar Singh, launched a new book titled “Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns.”
- This book was unveiled at a significant event hosted by Nripendra Misra, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Prime Minister’s Museum and Library Society, at the Prime Minister’s Museum and Library at the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya.

Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane’s Book “Four Stars of Destiny”

- In a remarkable literary venture, General Manoj Mukund Naravane, the former Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) of the Indian Army, has penned his autobiography titled “Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography.”
- Scheduled to be published in January 2024 by Penguin Veer.
- An imprint of Penguin Random House India, the book delves into the diverse experiences that have shaped Gen MM Naravane’s character, spanning from his childhood to his illustrious years in the armed services.

DEFENCE

India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'Sada Tansik'

- India-Saudi Arabia Joint Military Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' begins in Mahajan, Rajasthan.
- The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 29th January to 10th February 2024.
- The Saudi Arabian contingent, represented by the Royal Saudi Land Forces, consists of 45 personnel. The Indian Army contingent, represented by a Battalion from the Brigade of the Guards (Mechanised Infantry), also comprises 45 personnel.
- The aim of the exercise is to train troops from both sides for Joint Operations in Semi-Desert terrain, in accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- The exercise will focus on sharing best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for conducting operations in the sub-conventional domain. Specific training activities include the establishment of a Mobile Vehicle Check Post, Cordon & Search Operations, House Intervention Drill, Reflex Shooting, Slithering, and Sniper Firing.

Operation Sarvashakti Launched

- The Indian Army has launched Operation Sarvashakti in Jammu and Kashmir. It involves security forces on both sides of the Pir Panjal range.
- The goal is to flush out terrorists who have ambushed Indian troops in Rajouri and Poonch. Over the past few years, 7 soldiers have been killed in Kashmir ambushes and 20 more were killed in attacks in the Rajouri-Poonch belt.
- Authorities suspect the terrorists responsible for the 2023 ambushes on security forces in Rajouri-Poonch are concealing themselves in these remote areas.
- Sources among the security forces indicate that most of the remaining terrorists currently active in Jammu & Kashmir are of foreign origin.

Indian-Thai Navy first bilateral exercise "Ex-Ayutthaya"

- Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy held first-ever bilateral exercise 'Ex-Ayutthaya', emphasizing the historical and cultural ties between Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand.
- The Indo-Thai Bilateral Exercise 'Ex-Ayutthaya', meaning 'The Invincible One' or 'Undefeatable', signifies the importance of Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand.
- The exercise highlights their ancient cities, rich cultural connections, and shared historical narratives spanning centuries.
- The exercise between the two navies was conducted from 20 to 23 December.
- The Indian Naval ships Kulish and IN LCU 56 participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise.
- The Royal Thai Navy side was represented by His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Prachuap Khiri Khan.

Make in India Triumph: 'Bhishm' - A 25T Bollard Pull Tug Successfully Launched

- Cmde S Sreekumar launched the 25T Bollard Pull Tug, named Bhishm, at M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd in Kolkata on January 14, 2024. The event marks a significant stride in the "Make in India" initiative.
- Contracted under the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, six 25T BP Tugs, including Bhishm, are being constructed by M/s TRSL, Kolkata.
- These Tugs, built under the Indian Register of Shipping rules, will enhance operational support to the Indian Navy, aiding in berthing, un-berthing, firefighting, and limited Search and Rescue Operations.

India, Saudi Arabia To Start Military Exercise SADA TANSEEQ

- The inaugural joint military exercise, Sada Tanseeq, between the armies of India and Saudi Arabia, is poised to commence in Rajasthan, showcasing a significant leap in bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia.
- Scheduled from January 29th to February 10th, 2024, Sada Tanseeq signifies a landmark collaboration, epitomizing the growing strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia.

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- The Saudi Arabian contingent, comprising 45 personnel, is being represented by the esteemed Royal Saudi Land Forces.
- Simultaneously, the Indian Army contingent, also consisting of 45 personnel, proudly represents a Battalion from the Brigade of the Guards (Mechanised Infantry).

DRDO Unveils 'Ugram' – New Assault Rifle for Indian Forces

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) revealed the 'Ugram,' a new 7.62 x 51 mm calibre assault rifle tailored for India's military, paramilitary, and police forces.
- The name 'Ugram,' meaning 'ferocious' in Sanskrit, reflects the weapon's design to meet specific operational requirements.

India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise 'CYCLONE': Anshas, Egypt

- The Indian Army contingent, comprising 25 personnel, has reached Egypt to participate in the 2nd edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE.
- The exercise is scheduled to take place at Anshas, Egypt, from January 22nd to February 1st, 2024. This follows the successful completion of the first edition held in India the previous year.
- The Indian contingent includes troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), while the Egyptian contingent consists of 25 personnel from the Egyptian Commando Squadron and Egyptian Airborne Platoon.
- The primary aim of Exercise CYCLONE is to familiarize both Indian and Egyptian forces with each other's operating procedures, particularly in the context of special operations in desert and semi-desert terrains under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.: The exercise is strategically designed to enhance bilateral military cooperation and strengthen the bond between the two armies. This involves discussions and the rehearsal of tactical military drills.

India-Japan coast guards conduct 'Sahyog-Kaijin' exercise.

- The Coast Guards of India and Japan held a joint exercise of responding in real-time, rescuing the crew of a distressed vessel off the coast of Chennai
- In a significant display of maritime cooperation, the Indian and Japanese Coast Guards successfully conducted the 'Sahyog Kaijin' joint exercise off the Chennai coast.
- This collaborative effort underscores their dedication to strengthening ties at sea.
- The exercise aligns with the 2006 Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan, emphasizing ongoing collaboration for mutual understanding and robust relations.

2024: Year of Technology Absorption by Indian Army

- The Indian Army has designated 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption," focusing on modernization and operational efficiency.
- This initiative is aimed at harnessing technology as a key driver for transformative change, especially in operational and logistic aspects, in collaboration with India's domestic defence industry.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Elon Musk's Neuralink Implants Brain Chip in First Human

- Neuralink has successfully implanted a brain chip in its first human patient.
- Neuralink's first product would be named Telepathy which would be beneficial for those who lost their limbs.
- Neuralink has done various extensive tests on animals. In these tests, monkeys were able to play computer games using their brains.
- It is an American neurotechnology company.
- It implants brain-computer interfaces.
- It was founded in 2016 by Elon Musk

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- Neuralink's brain implant seeks to assist individuals with traumatic injuries in controlling computers solely through their thoughts.
- Its goal is to enhance human abilities significantly by addressing neurological conditions like Parkinson's.

Indian Space Research Organization will launch 50 satellites in the next 5 years

- ISRO Chairman S. Somnath has announced that ISRO will launch 50 satellites in the next 5 years.
- These satellites will be used to meet military needs.
- With this, India will remain the leader in case of any conflict in space.
- These satellites will be able to detect various activities from a range of thousands of kilometers.
- ISRO will place satellites in different orbits of the Earth.
- It will be able to collect pictures of army activity and area of thousands of kilometers.
- These satellites will be installed in 3 different orbits.
- The names of these orbits are – Geostationary Equatorial Orbit, Low Equatorial Orbit and Very Low Earth Orbit.
- ISRO was established on August 15, 1969 AD.

ISRO has launched XPoSat

- Indian Space Research Organization has recently launched XPoSat.
- XPoSat stands for – X-ray Polarimeter Satellite.
- It will study pulsars, black holes, galaxies and radiation etc.
- XPoSat launched by PSLV – C58.
- XPoSat has a life span of 5 years.
- The telescope installed in it has been made by Raman Research Institute.
- This satellite will study the 50 brightest sources of the universe.
- Like- Pulsar, Black Hole X-ray Binary, Active Galactic Nuclei, Non-thermal Supernova.
- This satellite was deployed at a height of 650 km.

Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the implementation of inter-operable criminal justice system

- Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System Report released in January 2024.
- According to this report, Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the implementation of inter-operable criminal justice system.
- Uttar Pradesh has been at the top position in the implementation of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System for the third consecutive year.
- Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System is designed for seamless transfer of data and information between various pillars of the criminal justice system, such as – courts, police, prisons and forensic science laboratories.
- This system has been created on the instructions of the Supreme Court.
- It is implemented by the Union Home Ministry.
- The metadata of FIRs and charge sheets can be accessed by all High Courts and Subordinate Courts of States under the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System Platform.

The Abhra missile system was launched by I.N.S. Posted on Vikrant

- Abhra missile system is a system indigenously developed by India.
- Recently the Abhra missile system has been deployed on I.N.S. Vikrant.
- I.N.S. Vikrant is an aircraft carrier warship of the Indian Navy.
- Abhra missile is a medium-range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM).
- It is a joint venture between DRDO and Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- It is produced in Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- It is designed to destroy enemy aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles and drones at a range of 70 km.

India has joined the Square Kilometer Array Observatory (SKAO)

- India has officially joined the Square Kilometer Array Observatory (SKAO) in January 2024.
- The Square Kilometer Array Observatory (SKAO) is not just one telescope but consists of thousands of antennas.

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- SKAO is a new intergovernmental organization dedicated to radio astronomy.
- Its headquarters is in Britain.
- SKAO is the world's largest radio telescope.
- It is located in Africa and Australia.
- It will enable astronomers to investigate astronomical phenomena at extreme distances, advancing cosmic understanding.
- Pune-based National Center for Radio Astrophysics will receive technical support through this.

Know Your Army program was organized in Lucknow

- 'Know Your Army' program was organized in Lucknow in January 2024.
- The program was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- This program was organized at the Central Command of the Army located in Lucknow.
- For the first time, this festival is being organized outside New Delhi.
- During this, the soldiers of the Sikh Regiment demonstrated their traditional bravery on Punjabi tunes.
- The Army's Central Command has been selected to host the 76th Army Day Parade.
- This is an opportunity for the youth of Uttar Pradesh to know the Indian Army closely and recognize the bravery and valor of the army closely.
- The name of the Central Command of the Army based in Lucknow is 'Surya Command'.

Japan became the fifth country to put a spacecraft on the moon

- Japan, through the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), successfully landed the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on the moon, marking its entry as the fifth country to achieve this feat.
- Achieving a significant milestone, Japan has now joined the exclusive club of nations that have accomplished a gentle landing on the moon.
- On the morning of January 20, 2024, the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon, affectionately known as SLIM, executed a precise landing within its designated zone adjacent to the Shioli crater, positioned to the south of the lunar equator.

Turkey's first astronaut launched on flight to International Space Station

- Turkey's first astronaut and three European crew members launched from Florida on 18 January.
- The mission is a commercially arranged venture by Texas startup Axiom Space.
- A SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule atop a Falcon 9 rocket took off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.
- The planned 36-hour flight aims to reach the International Space Station (ISS).
- The autonomously operated Crew Dragon is set to dock with the ISS on 20 January 2024 morning.

Iran has launched 'Sorayya' satellite

- Soraya satellite, which belongs to the Iranian Space Organization, was launched and placed in an orbit of 750 kilometers.
- It has launched a successful satellite into its supreme space, which the West worries could improve Tehran's ballistic missiles.
- The Soraya satellite was placed with its three-stage KAM 100 rocket into an orbit some 750 kilometers (460 miles) above the Earth's surface.
- News of this positive announcement comes when there is increased tension in Israel's ongoing war against Hamas throughout the Middle East, and just days ago Iran and Pakistan carried out-for-tat air strikes in each other's countries.
- Part of the launch was the space program of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, which is partnering with Iran's civilian space program.

Central Government launches 'Anulatini App'

- The Indian government has introduced the Artificial Intelligence-based platform 'Anulatini' app to encourage multilingualism in education.

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- The initiative aims to make available study material for all school and higher education courses, in digital form, especially in the Indian languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- The move is in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasises the importance of studying in mother tongue.

BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE

India's Corporate Investment Trends in FY24

- According to the Economic Research Department of Bank of Baroda, India's corporate investments in the first nine months of FY24, totaling ₹10.80 lakh crore, did not meet the anticipated levels.
- This trend, based on data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), indicates a cautious approach in sectors such as aviation, chemicals, machinery, and power.

India's GDP Growth Forecast at 7.3% for FY24

- According to the National Statistical Office, India's GDP is expected to grow by 7.3% in fiscal year 2023-24.
- The construction sector is anticipated to lead this growth with a 10.7% increase.
- India's Real GDP at Constant Prices is projected to reach ₹171.79 lakh crore, up from ₹160.06 lakh crore in FY23.

Nirmala Sitharaman To Become 2nd FM To Present 6 Consecutive Union Budgets

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is on the brink of etching her name in history books as she gears up to present her sixth consecutive Budget (Five consecutive annual Budgets and one interim Budget), an unparalleled feat in Indian parliamentary annals.
- Building upon her legacy of fiscal stewardship, Sitharaman's tenure resonates with the tenure of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who previously held the finance portfolio during 1959-1964.
- Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who holds the distinction of presenting 10 Budgets—the highest by any Finance Minister—had consecutively presented six of them, including one interim Budget, in a row.
- Sitharaman's impending presentation on February 1, 2024, marks the interim Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.
- This interim Budget, commonly referred to as a vote-on-account, is pivotal in authorizing government expenditures until the advent of a new administration following the general elections slated for April-May.

RBI Releases Financial Stability Report

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 28th Financial Stability Report (FSR), providing a detailed analysis of the resilience and potential risks in the Indian financial system.
- Key highlights include a Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 16.8% and a Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio of 13.7% for Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) as of September 2023.
- The report also noted a significant decline in the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio for SCBs, reaching a multi-year low of 3.2%.

UN's GDP Growth Forecast for India

- The United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 report projects India's GDP growth at 6.2% for 2024.
- Although slightly lower than the 6.3% growth estimated for 2023, this forecast reflects India's strong domestic demand and growth in manufacturing and services sectors.

Developments in Digital Payment Solutions and Household Financial Stability

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted a payment aggregator license to Tata Pay, Tata Digital's digital payment solution for ecommerce transactions.

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- Tata Pay now joins the ranks of prominent players like Razorpay, Cashfree, and Google Pay in the digital payment ecosystem.
- The RBI's Financial Stability Report sheds light on the household financial savings and liabilities for FY2223, noting a decline in gross household financial savings to 10.9% of GDP. However, the risk of defaults remains low due to limited exposure to high mortgage payments and floating interest rates.
- There has been a notable increase in household financial liabilities, primarily due to higher borrowings for assets such as mortgages and vehicles.

Ola Electric's Milestone and CDSCO-TCS Collaboration

- Ola Electric is poised to become the first Indian Electric Vehicle (EV) company eligible for the government's PLI scheme, as reported by ET Auto.
- This achievement signifies Ola Electric's compliance with the PLI scheme's domestic value addition requirement of 50% for its electric two-wheelers (e2W).
- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has launched the 'National Single Window System' to streamline medical device imports in India.
- This TCS-developed platform, operational since January 1, is designed to enhance the ease of doing business for investors in the medical device sector.

Finance Ministry's "The Indian Economy: A Decade in Review" Report

- The 74-page document titled "The Indian Economy: A Review" authored by Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran and his team presents a comprehensive analysis of India's economic journey over the past ten years.
- This report is distinct from the official Economic Survey prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and aims to assess the state of the Indian economy and provide insights into its future outlook.
- The Indian economy is likely to grow at over 7 per cent in the coming years and is expected to become the third-largest economy in the world in the next three years, with a GDP of \$5 trillion, driven by domestic demand along with supply-side measures such as investment in infrastructure and measures to boost manufacturing.
- The report said India can aspire to become a \$7-trillion economy by 2030.

Switzerland and India Conclude 16-Year FTA Negotiations: Boost to Jobs and Bilateral Ties

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

India Aims to Reach \$5 Trillion Economy by FY28, \$30 Trillion by 2047

- During the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman outlined ambitious projections for India's economic growth.
- Currently the world's fifth-largest economy at USD 3.4 trillion, India aims to become the third-largest by 2027-28, reaching a GDP of over USD 5 trillion.
- Sitharaman expressed confidence that even with conservative estimates, India's economy could soar to USD 30 trillion by 2047.

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE

Inauguration of the 20th Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region by Om Birla

- Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha, has inaugurated the 20th annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region.
- The conference's focal point is centered on deliberations about natural calamities and strategies for their management, particularly concerning the northeast region.
- Emphasis was placed on regional cooperation and enhanced connectivity through the Act East policy, envisaging bolstered regional integration on economic and social fronts in the North East.

India Launches Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality Alliance at WEF

- India launched Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality, at the World Economic Forum Summit at Davos, Switzerland, held from 15-19 January 2024.
- Klaus Schwab, the WEF's founder and chairman, has offered his full support for this initiative.
- At the World Economic Forum's annual meeting, India participated in the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", ready to shape a common future marked by global cooperation,
- The theme of the WEF summit is 'Rebuilding Trust'.

Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Conference of Solicitors Generals and Attorney Generals

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General's Conference (CASGC) 2024 on February 3, 2024.
- The theme of the conference will be "Trans-border Challenges in Justice Delivery".
- Key discussions included judicial changes, ethical aspects of legal practice, executive accountability, and reassessment on contemporary legal education.
- The conference was attended by attorneys generals and solicitors from Commonwealth countries of Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Caribbean, as well as various international delegations.
- It focused primarily on developing a comprehensive roadmap to address challenges in legal education and enhance international justice delivery.

India to Lead and Host UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in 2024

- In a historic development, India is poised to assume the chairmanship and hosting responsibilities of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in New Delhi from July 21 to 31, 2024.
- This notable opportunity signifies the first instance of India leading the committee, showcasing international acknowledgment of the country's rich cultural and natural heritage.
- The decision was formally approved during UNESCO's 19th extraordinary session in 2023, following India's proposal and discussions with the UNESCO Director-General.

Czech PM to be Chief Guest at Vibrant Gujarat Summit

- The 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit (VGGS) is set to take place in Gandhinagar from January 10 to 12, 2024.
- The theme for this edition is "Gateway to the Future."
- This biennial event serves as a crucial platform for global policymakers, diplomats, business leaders, and investors to foster collaborations, partnerships, and explore investment opportunities.

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Current Affairs MCQs

1. Which two countries participated in the joint military exercise SADA TANSEEQ in January 2024 in Rajasthan?
(a) India and China
(b) India and Pakistan
(c) India and Saudi Arabia
(d) India and Nepal
2. Which contingent won the award for the Best Marching Contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces?
(a) Sikh Regiment Contingent
(b) Delhi Police Women Marching Contingent
(c) Gujarat Border Security Force Contingent
(d) Tamil Nadu Naval Contingent
3. Which state has the highest number of snow leopards in India as per the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI)?
(a) Uttarakhand
(b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Ladakh
(d) Sikkim
4. Who was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade in 2024?
(a) Narendra Modi
(b) Droupadi Murmu
(c) Emmanuel Macron
(d) Virat Kohli
5. What penalty and jail term are prescribed in hit-and-run cases under the recently enacted criminal code called Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)?
(a) 5 lakh rupees penalty, 5 years jail term
(b) 7 lakh rupees penalty, 10 years jail term
(c) 10 lakh rupees penalty, 7 years jail term
(d) No penalty, 15 years jail term
6. What is the main cause of the widespread demonstrations by truck drivers in India?
(a) Fuel prices
(b) Recent criminal code (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita)
(c) Labor disputes
(d) Environmental regulations
7. What is the name of the Joint Military Exercise conducted between India and UAE in Rajasthan in January 2024?
(a) Desert Storm 2024
(b) Desert Thunder 2024
(c) Desert Cyclone 2024
(d) Desert Mirage 2024
8. Which pair won the Australian Open Men's Doubles tennis championship in 2024?
(a) Rohan Bopanna and Simone Bolelli
(b) Matt Ebden and Andrea Vavassori
(c) Rohan Bopanna and Matt Ebden
(d) Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori

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9. What is the name of the Indian cricketer who won the ICC ODI Player of the Year award in 2023?
 - (a) Rohit Sharma
 - (b) Virat Kohli
 - (c) Shikhar Dhawan
 - (d) Hardik Pandya
10. When is World Braille Day celebrated annually?
 - (a) January 1st
 - (b) January 4th
 - (c) February 4th
 - (d) March 4th
11. Which countries participated in Exercise Desert Knight alongside the Indian Air Force in January 2024?
 - (a) France and USA
 - (b) France and UAE
 - (c) USA and UAE
 - (d) France and China
12. What were the twin themes of the Republic Day parade in 2024?
 - (a) Unity in Diversity and Military Strength
 - (b) Viksit Bharat and Bharat – Loktantra ki Matruka
 - (c) Cultural Heritage and Economic Progress
 - (d) Nari Shakti and Global Diplomacy
13. Who recently took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the ninth time?
 - (a) Jitan Ram Manjhi
 - (b) Nitish Kumar
 - (c) Vijay Kumar Choudhary
 - (d) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
14. Who are the Grand Slam winners in Tennis from India?
 - (a) Rohan Bopanna, Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi,
 - (b) Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes
 - (c) Sania Mirza, Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi,
 - (d) Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi, Sania Mirza, and Rohan Bopanna
15. 'Beating the Retreat' is held every year at which location?
 - (a) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
 - (b) Red Fort, Delhi
 - (c) India Gate, New Delhi
 - (d) Vijay Chowk, New Delhi
16. Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) primarily deals with which one of the following?
 - (a) Assault and murder
 - (b) Corruption in public sector
 - (c) Corruption in government sector
 - (d) Cheating and dishonest inducement
17. With which state, 'Praja Palana Guarantee Darakasthu' is related to?
 - (a) Andhra Pradesh
 - (b) Telangana
 - (c) Karnataka
 - (d) Tamil Nadu

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18. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission?
- (a) Dr. Arvind Panagariya
 - (b) Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey
 - (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
 - (d) Dr Subramanyam Swami
19. Which state is host of the India-UAE joint military exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024'?
- (a) Gujarat
 - (b) Punjab
 - (c) Rajasthan
 - (d) Haryana
20. Who led the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ramlalla in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024?
- (a) UP Governor Anandiben Patel
 - (b) CM Yogi Adityanath
 - (c) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
 - (d) RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat
21. Who is the President of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly?
- (a) Dennis Francis
 - (b) Narendra Modi
 - (c) Antonio Guterres
 - (d) Joe Biden
22. When is National Girl Child Day celebrated annually?
- (a) 1st January
 - (b) 15th August
 - (c) 24th January
 - (d) 10th February
23. Which animal has recently been declared the national symbol of Kyrgyzstan?
- (a) Snow leopard
 - (b) Yak
 - (c) Eagle
 - (d) Horse
24. What is the significance of Parakram Diwas?
- (a) It is the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
 - (b) It is the birthday of Maharana Pratap
 - (c) It is the birthday of Bhagat Singh
 - (d) It is the death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
25. Who won the gold medal at the Asian Marathon Championships 2024?
- (a) Huang Yongzheng
 - (b) Tiapkin Ilya
 - (c) Man Singh
 - (d) Ashvini Jadhav
26. Who lost in the finals of the men's doubles at the India Open Badminton 2024?
- (a) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
 - (b) Seo Seung-jae and Kang Min-hyuk
 - (c) Shi Yu Qi and Lee Cheuk Yiu
 - (d) Tai Tzu Ying and Chen Yu Fei

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27. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is awarded in which of the following categories?
- (a) Educational Excellence, Scientific Achievement, and Leadership
 - (b) Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Social Service, and Sports
 - (c) Academic Achievements and Technological Advancements
 - (d) Environmental Conservation and Community Development
28. 12th-century Shree Jagannath Temple is located in which city and state?
- (a) Puri, Odisha
 - (b) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
 - (c) Jaipur, Rajasthan
 - (d) Madurai, Tamil Nadu
29. When was the Brics group initially formed, and which countries were its founding members?
- (a) Formed in 2010 with Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
 - (b) Formed in 2006 with Brazil, Russia, India, and China
 - (c) Formed in 2012 with Argentina, China, India, and South Africa
 - (d) Formed in 2008 with Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa
30. Who currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog in India?
- (a) Narendra Modi
 - (b) Amitabh Kant
 - (c) Arvind Panagariya
 - (d) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam
31. What is the reported decline in poverty rate in India over the last nine years according to NITI Aayog?
- (a) 27 percent to around 9 percent
 - (b) 25 percent to around 17 percent
 - (c) 29 percent to around 11 percent
 - (d) 20 percent to around 15 percent
32. Who are the new members set to join the Brics group on January 1, 2024?
- (a) Argentina, Brazil, South Africa
 - (b) Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates
 - (c) Mexico, Australia, Turkey
 - (d) Canada, Japan, Germany
33. When does the Pran Pratishtha program for Ram Lala Virajman at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi complex begin?
- (a) January 21, 2024
 - (b) January 16, 2024
 - (c) January 22, 2024
 - (d) January 15, 2024
34. What is the name of India's longest bridge?
- (a) Rajiv Gandhi Setu
 - (b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri – Nhava Sheva Atal Setu
 - (c) Indira Gandhi Bridge
 - (d) Sardar Patel Crossing
35. Which terrorist group captured a United Nations helicopter in Somalia in January 2024?
- (a) Taliban
 - (b) Al-Shabab
 - (c) ISIS
 - (d) Boko Haram

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36. Why is World Hindi Day commemorated on 10 January every year?
- (a) To celebrate Hindi literature
 - (b) To promote Hindi language abroad
 - (c) To honor Hindi poets
 - (d) To recognize Hindi culture
37. Which Indian state set a Guinness record for performing mass Surya Namaskar simultaneously at 108 places on the first day of 2024?
- (a) Maharashtra
 - (b) Gujarat
 - (c) Rajasthan
 - (d) Karnataka
38. Where is the 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum taking place?
- (a) New York, USA
 - (b) Paris, France
 - (c) Davos, Switzerland
 - (d) Tokyo, Japan
39. What is the significance of Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Uttarayan, and Magh Bihu festivals?
- (a) End of summer
 - (b) Onset of monsoon
 - (c) End of winter and onset of longer days
 - (d) Celebration of spring
40. Which state is hosting the Khelo India Youth Games 2024?
- (a) Punjab
 - (b) Tamil Nadu
 - (c) Karnataka
 - (d) Maharashtra
41. Where will 'Bharat Parv 2024' take place as part of the Republic Day celebrations?
- (a) India Gate, Delhi
 - (b) Red Fort, Delhi
 - (c) Rajpath, Delhi
 - (d) Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi
42. Where did the Wings India 2024 event held in January 2024?
- (a) Mumbai Airport
 - (b) Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad
 - (c) Palam Airport, New Delhi
 - (d) Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi
43. Who succeeded Queen Margrethe II as the new King of Denmark on January 14, 2024?
- (a) Crown Prince Christian
 - (b) Prince Frederik X
 - (c) King Christian IX
 - (d) Prince Mette Frederiksen
44. At what age does Gabriel Attal become the youngest Prime Minister in modern French history?
- (a) 30
 - (b) 34
 - (c) 37
 - (d) 40

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45. In which event did Varun Tomar win a gold medal to secure an Olympic quota place?
- (a) Men's 10m Air Rifle
 - (b) Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol
 - (c) Men's 50m Pistol
 - (d) Men's 10m Air Pistol
46. Who is elected as Bangladesh's prime minister for the fourth consecutive term?
- (a) Mohammed Shahabuddin
 - (b) Sheikh Hasina
 - (c) Nawab Sharif
 - (d) Mohamed Asif
47. How many languages did Suchetha Satish sing in during the record-setting concert in Dubai?
- (a) 100 languages
 - (b) 120 languages
 - (c) 140 languages
 - (d) 160 languages
48. Which countries have been recently designated as "Countries of Particular Concern" by the US for severe violations of religious freedom?
- (a) China, North Korea, Pakistan
 - (b) Burma, Cuba, Eritrea
 - (c) Iran, Nicaragua, Russia
 - (d) Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
49. Where is the 16th edition of the India International Jewellery Trade Show taking place?
- (a) Chennai
 - (b) Pune
 - (c) Mumbai
 - (d) New Delhi
50. Who assumed the position of Secretary General of BIMSTEC in January 2024?
- (a) Mani Sankar Ayer
 - (b) Indra Mani Pandey
 - (c) Lal Mani Tripathi
 - (d) Mukesh Yadav
51. When will the 2024 T20 Men's Cricket World Cup be held in the West Indies and the United States?
- (a) June 1 to June 15, 2024
 - (b) June 1 to June 29, 2024
 - (c) July 1 to July 15, 2024
 - (d) July 1 to July 29, 2024
52. Who participated as the Chief Guest in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024?
- (a) President of the Nepal
 - (b) President of the United States
 - (c) Prime Minister of Israel
 - (d) President of the United Arab Emirates
53. Who are the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)?
- (a) Urban population
 - (b) Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
 - (c) General category citizens
 - (d) Women entrepreneurs

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54. Who won The Best FIFA Men's Player award at the FIFA Football Awards ceremony in January 2024?
- (a) Kylian Mbappe
 - (b) Erling Haaland
 - (c) Lionel Messi
 - (d) Aitana Bonmati
55. Which female football player received the Best FIFA Women's Player Award at the Award ceremony in January 2024?
- (a) Mary Earps
 - (b) Aitana Bonmati
 - (c) Sarina Wiegman
 - (d) Kylian Mbappe
56. Who received the M.S. Swaminathan Award in 2024?
- (a) Prof. B.R. Kamboj
 - (b) Thawar Chand Gehlot
 - (c) Chaudhary Charan Singh
 - (d) Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia
57. Halwa ceremony is associated with which of the following events?
- (a) Independence Day celebrations
 - (b) Budget preparation process
 - (c) National Women's Day
 - (d) Republic Day Celebration
58. What is the primary objective of the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) launched by ISRO?
- (a) Studying atmospheric conditions
 - (b) Analyzing polarisation of cosmic X-rays
 - (c) Monitoring space debris
 - (d) Examining lunar surface features
59. The term "Operation Shadow Play", that was recently in news is related to which country?
- (a) China
 - (b) Maldives
 - (c) Iraq
 - (d) Ukraine
60. Which company has decided to introduce so called "Copilot key" in PC keyboards?
- (a) Apple
 - (b) Dell
 - (c) Microsoft
 - (d) Lenovo

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ANSWER - KEY

1	C	16	D	31	C	46	B
2	B	17	B	32	B	47	C
3	C	18	A	33	C	48	A
4	C	19	C	34	B	49	C
5	B	20	C	35	B	50	B
6	B	21	A	36	B	51	B
7	C	22	C	37	B	52	D
8	C	23	A	38	C	53	B
9	B	24	A	39	C	54	C
10	B	25	C	40	B	55	B
11	B	26	A	41	B	56	A
12	B	27	B	42	B	57	B
13	B	28	A	43	B	58	B
14	D	29	B	44	B	59	A
15	D	30	D	45	D	60	C

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