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# Important Days



➤ **Which service's foundation day was being celebrated during the Civil Accounts Day?**

- A) Indian Revenue Service (IRS)
- B) Indian Police Service (IPS)
- C) Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)
- D) Indian Foreign Service (IFS)
- E) Indian Administrative Service (IAS)

**Answer**

**C) Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)**



# Important Days



## Explanation

- **The Civil Accounts Day 2024 was celebrated in New Delhi to mark the 48th foundation day of Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS).**
- Union Finance Secretary and Secretary Expenditure, Dr. T. V. Somanathan presided over the event as the Chief Guest.
- On this occasion a short film on the evolution and achievements of the Indian Civil Accounts Organization (ICAO) was also screened.



# Important Days



➤ **What is the theme of the National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024?**

- A) "Breaking Barriers: inclusive support for children with birth defects"
- B) "Prevention is Better Than Cure"
- C) "Early Detection, Early Intervention"
- D) "Ensuring Healthy Start for Every Child"
- E) "Building a Brighter Future Together"



**Answer**

**A) "Breaking Barriers: inclusive support for children with birth defects"**





# Important Days



## Explanation

- **Dr. V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog launched the National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024 in the august presence of Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- **The theme of this National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024 is “Breaking Barriers: inclusive support for children with birth defects”.**
- The birth defects awareness campaign would be focusing on the awareness about prevention, early identification and timely management.



# Important Days



## Explanation

- **This campaign is an effort for observing Birth defect day, which is observed on 3rd of March every year and the National Birth Defect Awareness Month is an initiative in raising awareness for all birth defects and improve the care and treatment for children.**
- The month-long activities are planned under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram of Child Health division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for creating nationwide awareness at community level.



# Important Days



## Note:

- **Presently the Neonatal mortality rate is 20 per 1000 live births, Infant mortality rate is 28 per 1000 live births and Under 5 mortality rate is 32 per 1000 live births as per Sample Registration System 2020 Report.**
- Birth defects contribute significantly to perinatal, neonatal and under five morbidity and mortality.
- Six percent of children are born with Birth Defects every year worldwide.
- As per Cause of Death Statistics 2017-19 report of Sample Registration System under Registrar General of India, Birth Defect contributes to 4.9% defects of neonatal mortality and 5.7% of U5MR mortality.



# Important Days



## Note:

- Being aware of the impact of Birth Defects on our future generation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is giving utmost priority to strategies for their identification, prevention and management under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).
- RBSK focuses on early identification and management of birth defects to minimize disability.



# Important Days



**To achieve this objective, the program screens the children at four different levels**

- Comprehensive New born screening at Delivery points
- Screening for visible birth defects in New born by ASHA during home visitation
- Children (6 weeks to 6 years) bi-annually screening at Anganwadis
- Children (6 years to 18 years) screening at Government and Government aided schools once a year



➤ **Which entity signed the MoU with Greece-based Eurobank S.A. to enhance cross-border UPI payments?**

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- C) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- D) State Bank of India (SBI)
- E) Indian Banks' Association (IBA)



**Answer**

**B) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**



## Explanation

- **NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), a subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed an MoU with Greece-based Eurobank S.A. to enhance cross-border UPI payments.**
- The agreement is aimed at revolutionising the process of international money transfers, with a specific focus on streamlining remittances from Greece to India.
- The agreement will enable Foreign Inward Remittance transactions from Greece to India, and will help manage fund settlement, reconciliation, and dispute resolutions in the respective jurisdictions.



## Titbits

**NPCI International:**  
CEO: Nitesh Shukla





➤ **What was the total value of transactions processed through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in February?**

- A) Rs 18.41 lakh crore
- B) Rs 18.28 lakh crore
- C) Rs 18.01 lakh crore
- D) Rs 17.95 lakh crore
- E) Rs 17.75 lakh crore



**Answer**

**B) Rs 18.28 lakh crore**



## Explanation

- **The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) saw transactions dip slightly in February but remain above December 2023 levels.**
- **Transactions worth Rs 18.28-lakh crore were processed during February, nearly 1 per cent lower than the peak of Rs 18.41 lakh crore in January 2024.**
- **The value of transactions was 48 per cent higher year-on-year, as per data by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**



## Explanation

- The number of transactions on the UPI network too fell by 0.8 per cent to 1,210 crore from the January level of 1,220 crore transactions.
- On year, the volume of transactions was 61 per cent higher.



➤ **Which company conducted the trial shipment of Pomegranates to the US?**

- A) Export Trading Group
- B) Olam International
- C) ITC Limited
- D) Inl Farms
- E) Adani Agri Logistics Limited



**Answer**  
**D) Inl Farms**



## Explanation

- **India successfully flagged off its first commercial trial shipment of Pomegranates to the US via sea under the aegis of Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) by Inl Farms from IFC facility, MSAMB, Vashi (Navi Mumbai).**
- Last year APEDA successfully carried out an air shipment of Pomegranates with irradiation treatment and static trial in association with ICAR-NRC Pomegranate Solapur as technical partner.



## Note:

- **The fruit was sourced from Anarnet registered farmers from Sangola in Maharashtra.**
- **Significantly, the premium received by farmers was 20% compared to other export markets and 35% compared to domestic market.**
- **Pomegranate production in the recent years has been growing at a healthy rate of 20-25%.**



## Note:

- In India, the major Pomegranate producing states are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh with Maharashtra contributing to more than 50% of the production share.
- APEDA has facilitated Pomegranates exports worth \$58.36 Million in 2022-23 to United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bangladesh, Nepal, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bahrain, and Oman.



# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ **Where is Exercise Samudra Laksamana taking place?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Kochi
- C) Chennai
- D) Visakhapatnam
- E) Kolkata

**Answer**

**D) Visakhapatnam**





## Explanation

- **Exercise Samudra Laksamana is underway from 28 Feb - 02 Mar 24 at/ off Visakhapatnam.**
- **Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir are participating in the 3rd edition of this exercise.**
- The exercise aims to strengthen bonds and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Royal Malaysian Navy.



## Titbits

### Malaysia:

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Currency: Malaysian Ringgit

Prime Minister: Anwar Ibrahim



➤ **Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay the foundation stone and dedicate multiple development projects?**

- A) Dhanbad, Jharkhand
- B) Ranchi, Jharkhand
- C) Sindri, Jharkhand
- D) Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
- E) Bokaro, Jharkhand

**Answer**

**C) Sindri, Jharkhand**



## Explanation

- **The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth Rs 35,700 crores in Sindri, Dhanbad, Jharkhand.**
- **The Prime Minister dedicated to the nation the Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) Sindri Fertiliser Plant.**
- **Developed at a cost of more than Rs 8900 crores,** the fertilizer plant is a step towards self-sufficiency in the Urea Sector.
- It will add about **12.7 LMT per annum indigenous urea production** in the country benefiting the farmers of the country.



## Explanation

- He also dedicated and laid the foundation stone for several **rail projects worth more than Rs 17,600 crore in Jharkhand.**
- The projects include **3rd & 4th Lines connecting Sone Nagar-Andal; Tori- Shivpur first & second and Biratoli- Shivpur third railway line (part of Tori- Shivpur Project); Mohanpur – Hansdiha new rail line; Dhanbad-Chandrapura rail line, among others.**
- The Prime Minister dedicated to the nation important power projects in Jharkhand including **Unit 1 (660 MW) of North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (STPP), Chatra. Developed at more than Rs 7500 crore**



## Titbits

### Jharkhand:

Capital: Ranchi

Chief Minister: Champai Soren

Governor: C P Radhakrishnan



➤ Which organization unveiled Project ODISERV at Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) in Sambalpur, Odisha?

- A) National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM)
- B) National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)
- C) National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
- D) National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM)
- E) National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM)



**Answer**

**C) National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**



## Explanation

- **Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched Project ODISERV in Sambalpur to prepare young graduates of Odisha for employment opportunities in the financial services sector.**
- 1100 students in Odisha have already been trained under Project ODISERV and a few of them have also received job offers in this event.
- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Bajaj Finserv Ltd unveiled their first skill development initiative - Project Odiserv at Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) in Sambalpur, Odisha.**





## Explanation

- Project Odiserv is the inaugural skill development initiative, following the partnership announced by NSDC and Bajaj Finserv in December 2023.
- **The project will impart knowledge and skills to graduates, especially first-generation graduates, through Bajaj Finserv's Certificate Programme for Banking Finance & Insurance (CPBFI) programme, a 100-hour comprehensive training programme that prepares youth from tier-II and tier-III cities for employment in the financial services sector.**
- The launch of Project Odiserv is expected to transform the landscape of skill development in Odisha.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Titbits

### Odisha:

Capital: Bhubaneshwar  
Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik  
Governor: Raghubar Das



➤ What is the approved budgetary support for the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance?

- A) Rs. 50 crore
- B) Rs. 100 crore
- C) Rs. 150 crore
- D) Rs. 200 crore
- E) Rs. 250 crore

**Answer**

**C) Rs. 150 crore**

**Protect Big Cats  
with your creativity!**



## Explanation

- **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.**



## Note:

- The Prime Minister of India during his speech on the occasion of Global Tiger Day, 2019 called for an Alliance of Global Leaders to curb poaching in Asia.
- He reiterated this on the occasion of Commemorating 50 years of India's Project Tiger on April 9, 2023 and formally announced launch of an International Big Cat Alliance aiming at securing the future of big cats and landscapes they thrive.
- Seven big cats include Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and the Cheetah out of these five big cats viz. Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Cheetah are found in India.



➤ Who hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> 'Blue Talks' meeting in New Delhi?

- A) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B) Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- C) Ministry of External Affairs
- D) Ministry of Shipping
- E) Ministry of Science and Technology



**Answer**

**B) Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**



## Explanation

- **The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), hosted the 1st 'Blue Talks' meeting in New Delhi.**
- **The meeting was co-partnered by the Embassy of France and Embassy of Costa Rica in India.**
- More than 50 participants from government, academia and research institutes witnessed the in-person, high level deliberations on matters related to 'Ocean Health and Governance'.
- **The meeting was jointly co-chaired by the Secretary, MoES Dr. M. Ravichandran, along with the Ambassador of France to India, Mr. Thierry Mathou, and Costa Rica Chargée d'affaires, Ms. Sofia Salas Monge.**



## Explanation

- This meeting is a forerunner to the upcoming High-Level Event on Ocean Action (HLEOA) event 'Immersed in Change' scheduled to be held on 7th-8th June, 2024 in San Jose, Costa Rica.





## Explanation

- **The core aim of the 1st Blue Talks meeting were to**
  - i. to exchange good practices and successful experiences on topics related to the governance and health of the ocean,**
  - ii. to seek recommendations and inputs from various stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental,**
  - iii. to reflect and to feed into the preparation of UNOC3 and**
  - iv. to seek specific implementation actions in order to address the concerns over the ocean's health.**



## Explanation

- **India has been recognized as a lead partner for the upcoming Ocean Conference in Nice, in 2025.**
- India looks forward to a close cooperation with France and Costa Rica to prepare for this important global event.



➤ In which Indian Coast Guard Region is the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Jetty Vadinar located?

- A) Eastern Region
- B) Western Region
- C) Northern Region
- D) Southern Region
- E) North-West Region



**Answer**  
**E) North-West Region**



## Explanation

- **Raksha Rajya Mantri, Shri Ajay Bhatt inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Jetty Vadinar on 01 Mar 2024, marking a significant step towards augmenting infrastructure development in the strategically important Indian Coast Guard Region(North-West).**
- **The jetty construction was undertaken by Deendayal Port Authority(DPA) as a deposit work at a cost of Rs. 74 Crores.**



➤ What is the value of the contract for the procurement of BrahMos missiles from M/s BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd (BAPL)?

- A) Rs 9,518.65 crore
- B) Rs 14,518.65 crore
- C) Rs 19,518.65 crore
- D) Rs 24,518.65 crore
- E) Rs 29,518.65 crore

**Answer**

**C) Rs 19,518.65 crore**



## Explanation

- **The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed five major capital acquisition contracts worth Rs 39,125.39 crore for procurement of aero-engines, Close-in Weapon System (CIWS), High-Power Radar (HPR) and supersonic cruise BrahMos missiles.**
- Of the five contracts exchanged in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Secretary Giridhar Aramane, **the voluminous was for procurement of BrahMos missiles from M/s BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd (BAPL) for Rs 19,518.65 crore.**



## Explanation

- Another contract signed with navratna defence **PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** is for the **production of RD-33 aero engines for twin-engine MiG-29 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force struggling with depleting strength.**
- It's worth **Rs 5,249.72 crore.**
- While IAF has about 75 Mig-29s, and Indian Navy has another 45 of them, taking the total to 120.
- To boost the country's air defence, the **MoD inked the remaining two contracts with M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd for the procurement of Rs 7,668.82 crore worth Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) and of High-Power Radar (HPR) for of Rs 5,700.13 crore.**



# QUICK RECALL



- **NPCI International ties up with Greece's Eurobank for cross-border UPI payments**
- **UPI transactions dip slightly in Feb due to fewer days, technical disruptions**
- **APEDA facilitates India's first commercial trial shipment of Sangola pomegranates to the US via sea**
- **PM lays foundation stone and dedicates to nation multiple development projects worth Rs 35,700 crores in Dhanbad, Jharkhand**
- **INDIA - MALAYSIA BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA**
- **Civil Accounts Day 2024 celebrated in New Delhi to mark the 48th foundation day of Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)**





# QUICK RECALL



- **Dr. V.K Paul, Member NITI Aayog launches National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024**
- **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches Project ODISERV**
- **Cabinet approves establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**
- **Secretary, Earth Sciences co-chairs the 1st 'Blue Talks' meeting on Ocean Health and Governance**
- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt Inaugurates ICG Jetty at Vadinaar, Dwaraka (Gujarat)**
- **MoD signs 5 deals worth Rs 39,125 cr for BrahMos, aero engines & air defence systems**



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