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Important Days



➤ **What is the main purpose of the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness?**

- A) Celebrate achievements in healthcare innovation
- B) Raise awareness about epidemic prevention and preparedness
- C) Highlight the economic impact of pandemics
- D) Promote vaccination campaigns exclusively
- E) Support funding for pharmaceutical companies



Answer

B) Raise awareness about epidemic prevention and preparedness



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** International Day of Epidemic Preparedness.
- **Location:** Globally observed.
- **Date:** December 27, annually.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Day:**
 - Raise global awareness about epidemic preparedness and prevention.
 - Promote education and knowledge-sharing on health threats.
 - Strengthen international partnerships to combat infectious diseases.
- **Establishment:**
 - Declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 7, 2020.
 - Inspired by challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Important Days



Significance:

- Encourages governments and organizations to improve public health systems.
- Focuses on building **resilient healthcare infrastructures** globally.



Important Days



Activities and Actions:

- **Education Campaigns:** Promote awareness about epidemic prevention.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Support research, innovation, and global partnerships.
- **Preparedness Actions:** Build infrastructure and capabilities for epidemic response.



Important Days



Lessons from COVID-19:

- Highlighted the gaps in global health systems.
- Emphasized the importance of robust, proactive measures to address future health crises.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Epidemic Preparedness:** The process of ensuring readiness to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
- **Resilient Healthcare Systems:** Health systems capable of absorbing shocks, maintaining essential functions, and adapting to challenges like pandemics.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **United Nations (UN):**
 - **Established:** 24 October 1945
 - **Headquarters:** New York, USA
 - **Secretary-General:** António Guterres
- **World Health Organization (WHO):**
 - **Established:** 7 April 1948
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
 - **Director-General:** Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness
Date	December 27
Established By	United Nations General Assembly (December 7, 2020)
Purpose	Raise awareness and promote epidemic prevention and preparedness
Key Objectives	Education, awareness, global partnerships, and resilient healthcare systems
COVID-19 Lessons	Highlighted global preparedness gaps and the need for robust responses
WHO's Role	Advocates for resilient health systems and support for vulnerable populations



OBITUARY



➤ **What was Dr. Manmohan Singh's most significant contribution as India's Finance Minister in 1991?**

- A) Implementation of GST
- B) Launch of NREGA
- C) Economic liberalization reforms
- D) Signing the Indo-US Nuclear Deal
- E) Introduction of Aadhaar



Answer

C) Economic liberalization reforms



OBITUARY



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Passing of Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India and renowned economist.
- **Location:** India
- **Date:** December 26, 2024.



OBITUARY



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Key Contributions:**
 - Architect of India's economic reforms in 1991.
 - Transforming India into a global economic player.
 - Spearheaded programs focused on rural development, social welfare, and global diplomacy during his tenure as Prime Minister.



OBITUARY



Early Life and Academic Excellence:

- **Born:** September 26, 1932, in Gah (now in Pakistan).
- **Education:**
 - Panjab University.
 - Advanced studies at Oxford University and Cambridge University, earning a doctorate in economics.
- **Key Roles:**
 - Advisory positions in the Reserve Bank of India, Planning Commission, and Ministry of Finance.



OBITUARY



Economic Reforms of 1991:

- **Role as Finance Minister:**
 - Introduced policies to address a balance of payments crisis.
 - **Key Reforms:**
 - Devaluation of the Indian Rupee.
 - Removal of trade barriers.
 - Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
 - Dismantling the License Raj.
- **Impact:** Transformed India into one of the fastest-growing economies globally.



OBITUARY



Prime Ministership (2004–2014):

- **Achievements:**
 - Average annual GDP growth of 8%.
 - Launched **NREGA**, providing rural employment.
 - Focused on infrastructure development, including roads, telecom, and power generation.
 - Signed the **Indo-US Nuclear Deal (2008)**, strengthening India's global standing.
- **Challenges:**
 - Criticized for policy paralysis and corruption scandals during his second term.



OBITUARY



Legacy:

- Renowned as a statesman, economist, and scholar.
- Focused on financial inclusion, infrastructure modernization, and social welfare.
- Elevated India's status in global geopolitics through diplomacy and economic policies.



OBITUARY



Important Terms Explained:

- **Economic Reforms of 1991:**
 - A series of structural adjustments in trade, investment, and industrial policies that liberalized the Indian economy.
- **Indo-US Nuclear Deal (2008):**
 - Agreement allowing India access to civilian nuclear technology, marking a milestone in India-US relations.
- **NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act):**
 - A flagship program ensuring 100 days of wage employment annually to rural households.



OBITUARY



Static GK Information:

- **Dr. Manmohan Singh:**
 - **Birth:** September 26, 1932, Gah, Pakistan.
 - **Death:** December 26, 2024, India.
 - **Prime Minister of India:** 2004–2014.
 - **Finance Minister:** 1991–1996.
- **Honors and Recognitions:**
 - **Padma Vibhushan (1987):** Second-highest civilian award in India.
 - **Order of the Paulownia Flowers (Japan, 2014):** For fostering bilateral relations.



OBITUARY



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Passing of Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India
Date	December 26, 2024
Major Contributions	Economic reforms of 1991, Indo-US Nuclear Deal, NREGA
Key Roles	Finance Minister (1991–1996), Prime Minister (2004–2014)
Education	Panjab University, Cambridge University, Oxford University
Global Impact	Strengthened India's global economic standing
Honors	Padma Vibhushan (1987), Order of King Abdulaziz (2010), Order of Paulownia Flowers (2014)



➤ What was the net profit of Indian public sector banks (PSBs) in H1 2024-25?

- A) ₹68,500 crore
- B) ₹85,520 crore
- C) ₹1.41 trillion
- D) ₹61,964 crore
- E) ₹11,333 crore

Answer

B) ₹85,520 crore



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Public sector banks report a 25% rise in net profit in H1 2024-25.
- **Location:** India
- **Date:** H1 2024-25 (April–September 2024)



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Profitability Growth:** Reflects improved asset quality, low NPAs, and robust credit growth.
- **Banking Stability:** Strengthened capital adequacy ratio and financial health support economic growth.
- **Digital Fraud Prevention:** Tackling the ₹11,333 crore loss to cybercrime in 2024 through advanced fraud prevention measures.



Key Highlights:

- **PSBs' Financial Performance:**
 - Net profit for H1 2024-25 rose by 25% to ₹85,520 crore, compared to ₹68,500 crore in H1 2023-24.
 - Highest-ever net profit of ₹1.41 trillion recorded in FY24.
- **Improved Asset Quality:**
 - Gross NPA ratio fell to 3.12% in September 2024, a sharp decline from 14.58% in March 2018.
- **Capital Strength:**
 - CRAR of PSBs at 15.43%, well above the RBI's requirement of 11.5%.
 - Strong return on assets (RoA) at 1.4% and return on equity (RoE) at 14.6% in FY24.



Key Highlights:

- **RBI's 4Rs Strategy:**
 - **Recognition, Recapitalization, Resolution, Reform:** Initiated in 2015 to address NPA crises and improve banking resilience.
- **Digital Fraud Challenges:**
 - ₹11,333 crore lost to digital frauds in 2024.
 - RBI introduced MuleHunter.AITM, an AI-based system, to combat fraudulent activities.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Gross NPA Ratio:**
 - The percentage of total bad loans to total advances, reflecting the health of banks' loan portfolios.
- **Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR):**
 - A measure of a bank's financial strength, indicating its ability to absorb losses.
- **4Rs Strategy:**
 - **Recognition:** Transparent identification of NPAs.
 - **Recapitalization:** Infusion of capital into banks.
 - **Resolution:** Settling stressed assets.
 - **Reform:** Enhancing governance and efficiency in banking.



Important Terms Explained:

- **MuleHunter.AITM:**
 - An AI/ML-based model piloted by the RBI to detect and prevent fraudulent digital transactions.



Static GK Information:

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**
 - **Established:** 1935
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Public sector banks report 25% rise in net profit in H1 2024-25
Location	India
Net Profit	₹85,520 crore in H1 2024-25 (up from ₹68,500 crore in H1 2023-24)
Gross NPA Ratio	Declined to 3.12% in September 2024 from 14.58% in March 2018
Capital Adequacy Ratio	15.43% in September 2024
Return on Assets (RoA)	1.4% in FY24
Return on Equity (RoE)	14.6% in FY24
RBI Initiative	Asset Quality Review (AQR) in 2015 to address NPA issues
Digital Fraud Losses	₹11,333 crore in 2024



➤ **What is the main objective of the RBI's newly formed FREE-AI committee?**

- A) To regulate AI in IT services
- B) To promote AI adoption in agriculture
- C) To develop a framework for ethical AI use in the financial sector
- D) To monitor global AI research
- E) To create AI-based education tools



Answer

**C) To develop a framework for ethical AI use
in the financial sector**



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI sets up the FREE-AI committee to develop a framework for ethical AI usage.
- **Location:** India
- **Date:** Announced in December 2024 during the RBI's monetary policy meeting.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Framework Development:** Create guidelines for responsible and ethical adoption of AI in the financial sector.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Identify and address risks associated with AI in financial services.
- **Regulatory Insights:** Review global regulatory approaches to AI and adapt them to India's financial ecosystem.
- **Governance Guidelines:** Recommend monitoring, evaluation, and compliance mechanisms for ethical AI implementation.



Key Highlights:

- **FREE-AI Committee:**
 - An 8-member panel chaired by Pushpak Bhattacharyya from IIT Bombay.
 - Supported by the RBI's fintech department.



Key Highlights:

- **Committee Members Include:**
 - Debjani Ghosh, Independent Director, RBI Innovation Hub.
 - Balaraman Ravindran, Professor, IIT Madras.
 - Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT.
 - Rahul Matthan, Partner, Trilegal.
 - Anjani Rathor, Group Head, HDFC Bank.
 - Sree Hari Nagaralu, Head of Security AI Research, Microsoft India.
 - Suwendu Pati, CGM, RBI's FinTech Department.



Key Highlights:

- **Institutions Covered:**
 - Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), FinTechs, and Payment System Operators (PSOs).
- **Report Submission Timeline:** Within six months from the first committee meeting.



Important Terms Explained:

- **FREE-AI Committee:**
 - **Full Form:** Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence.
 - **Focus:** Responsible AI adoption and governance in India's financial sector.
- **AI in Financial Sector:**
 - **Applications:** Fraud detection, credit risk analysis, customer service automation.
 - **Concerns:** Ethical challenges, data privacy risks, and potential biases in AI algorithms.



Static GK Information:

- **IIT Bombay:**
 - **Location:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Founded:** 1958
 - **Known For:** Engineering and technology education
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**
 - **Established:** 1 April 1935
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	RBI sets up FREE-AI committee to develop ethical AI framework
Location	India
Chairperson	Pushpak Bhattacharyya, Professor, IIT Bombay
Committee Members	Includes experts from RBI, academia, government, and the private sector
Objective	Assess AI adoption, mitigate risks, and recommend governance for ethical AI use in the financial sector
Institutions Covered	Banks, NBFCs, FinTechs, Payment System Operators (PSOs)
Report Timeline	Six months from the first meeting
Announcement Timing	December 2024 RBI monetary policy meeting



➤ **What is the projected economic growth rate of India for FY25?**

- A) 5.4%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 6.7%
- D) 4.8%
- E) 7.0%

Answer
B) 6.5%



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's economic growth forecast for FY25 is set at 6.5%.
- **Location:** India
- **Date:** Fiscal Year 2024-25



Mandates and Objectives:

- **RBI's Role:** Manage inflation with restrictive monetary policies while supporting economic recovery.
- **Government Measures:** Boost rural demand and industrial activity with increased MSP, favorable monsoon, and government capital expenditure.
- **Economic Stability:** Address domestic challenges and global uncertainties to maintain steady growth.



Key Highlights:

- **Economic Growth Slowdown:**
 - India's GDP growth fell to 5.4% in Q2 (July-September 2024) from 6.7% in Q1.
 - **Contributing factors:** Weaker manufacturing and consumption, and restrictive RBI policies.
- **Second Half (H2 FY25) Recovery:**
 - **Rural Demand Resilience:** Growth in tractor, two-wheeler, and three-wheeler sales.
 - **Urban Demand Revival:** Passenger vehicle sales up 13.4% YoY; air traffic also rising.



Key Highlights:

- **Inflation Easing:**
 - CPI inflation projected at 4.8% for FY25.
 - **Factors:** Lower food inflation, declining crude oil prices, and robust rabi harvest.
- **Key Economic Sectors:**
 - **Agriculture:** Supported by higher MSPs, adequate reservoir levels, and strong fertilizer availability.
 - **Industrial Activity:** Boosted by demand in cement, iron, steel, and electricity sectors, alongside government capital expenditure.



Key Highlights:

- **Global Risks:**
 - Trade tensions, a stronger US dollar, and global oil prices could affect India's exports and currency stability.



Important Terms Explained:

- **CPI Inflation:**
 - Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures retail inflation by tracking changes in prices of essential goods and services.
- **Minimum Support Price (MSP):**
 - A government-fixed price to ensure farmers receive a minimum profit for their produce, encouraging agricultural production.
- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):**
 - The percentage of a bank's total deposits required to be maintained in reserves with the RBI. A reduction boosts liquidity and credit growth.



Static GK Information:

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**
 - **Established:** 1 April 1935
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **Ministry of Finance:**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Finance Minister:** Nirmala Sitharaman
- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	India's economic growth forecast set at 6.5% for FY25
Location	India
First Half Growth	GDP growth slowed to 5.4% (July-September 2024) due to weaker demand
Second Half Recovery	Supported by robust rural and urban demand, and industrial activity
Inflation Outlook	CPI inflation projected at 4.8% for FY25
Rural Demand Indicators	Growth in tractor, two-wheeler, and three-wheeler sales
Urban Demand Indicators	13.4% rise in passenger vehicle sales; increased air traffic
Global Risks	Trade tensions, strong US dollar, and global oil price volatility



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of J&K Bank?**

- A) Baldev Prakash
- B) Shaktikanta Das
- C) Amitava Chatterjee
- D) Dinesh Khara
- E) Rajnish Kumar



Answer

C) Amitava Chatterjee



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Appointment of Amitava Chatterjee as MD & CEO of J&K Bank.
- **Location:** Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Date:** Effective December 30, 2024.



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **RBI Approval:** Appointment approved under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- **Vision:** To leverage Chatterjee's 33 years of banking experience to steer J&K Bank towards growth.
- **Compensation Structure:** Fixed annual pay of ₹1.40 crore with a variable pay of ₹1.40 crore.



Key Highlights:

- **Amitava Chatterjee's Career:**
 - Deputy Managing Director at State Bank of India (SBI).
 - Former MD & CEO of SBICAPS, SBI's investment banking arm.
 - Experienced in leadership roles across SBI's New Delhi and Jaipur circles.
 - Holds an MBA from ICFAI University and CAIIB certification.



APPOINTMENTS



Key Highlights:

- **J&K Bank Overview:**
 - **Founded:** 1938.
 - **Headquarters:** Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
 - **Operational Scope:** Universal bank in J&K and Ladakh, specialized bank elsewhere in India.
- **Market Impact:**
 - J&K Bank shares surged by 7.4% on December 26, 2024, reaching ₹105.44 per share.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Banking Regulation Act, 1949:**
 - A law regulating banking companies in India. Section 35B governs the appointment of senior management in banks.
- **CAIB (Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers):**
 - A professional certification offered by the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF) for advanced banking knowledge.
- **SBICAPS (SBI Capital Markets Limited):**
 - The investment banking arm of State Bank of India, providing advisory and financial services.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **Jammu & Kashmir Bank:**
 - **Founded:** 1938
 - **Headquarters:** Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
 - **Tagline:** Serving to Empower
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**
 - **Established:** 1935
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **State Bank of India (SBI):**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Chairman:** Dinesh Khara
 - **Tagline:** The Banker to Every Indian



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Amitava Chatterjee appointed as MD & CEO of J&K Bank
Location	Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
Effective Date	December 30, 2024
Predecessor	Baldev Prakash
Pay Package	₹1.40 crore fixed annually, ₹1.40 crore target variable
Approval Authority	Reserve Bank of India under Section 35B of Banking Regulation Act, 1949
J&K Bank Headquarters	Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
Market Impact	Shares rose 7.4%, hitting ₹105.44 per share on December 26, 2024



AWARDS



➤ Which company won the Gold Award at the AP State Energy Conservation Awards 2024?



- A) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
- B) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)
- C) Tata Steel
- D) Hindalco Industries
- E) JSW Steel

Answer

B) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RINL won the Gold Award at the Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Awards 2024.
- **Location:** Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Date:** December 2024 during Energy Conservation Week celebrations.



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Award:** Recognize exceptional energy conservation initiatives in the iron and steel sector.
- **RINL's Contribution:** Reduce energy consumption and utilize waste energy effectively.
- **Commitment to Sustainability:** Highlight RINL's dedication to energy efficiency and innovation in operations.



Key Highlights:

- **Award Recognition:**
 - Awarded to RINL, the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), for its energy conservation efforts.
 - Focused on waste energy utilization over the past three years.
- **Award Ceremony:**
 - Presented by K. Vijayanand, IAS, Special Chief Secretary (Energy), Andhra Pradesh.
 - Accepted by Uttam Brahma (GM, Energy, Environment & Utilities) and VVVS Pulla Reddy (DGM, Energy Management Department).



AWARDS



Key Highlights:

- **Acknowledgement of Excellence:**
 - CMD (additional charge) A.K. Saxena commended the Energy Management team for their dedication to sustainability.
- **Company Overview:**
 - **RINL:** India's first shore-based integrated steel plant, known for producing high-quality steel.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Energy Conservation:**
 - The practice of reducing energy consumption through efficient processes and innovative technologies.
- **Waste Energy Utilization:**
 - Capturing and reusing energy that would otherwise be wasted during industrial processes.



Static GK Information:

- **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL):**
 - **Headquarters:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
 - **Founded:** 1982
 - **CMD (Additional Charge):** A.K. Saxena
 - **Tagline:** Pride of Steel
- **Andhra Pradesh:**
 - **Capital:** Amaravati (**official**); **Largest City:** Visakhapatnam
 - **CM:** Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
 - **Governor:** S. Abdul Nazeer



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	RINL won the Gold Award at AP State Energy Conservation Awards 2024
Location	Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
Award Presented By	K. Vijayanand, IAS, Special Chief Secretary (Energy), Andhra Pradesh
Award Received By	Uttam Brahma (GM) and VVVS Pulla Reddy (DGM)
Focus Area	Waste energy utilization and energy efficiency in the iron and steel sector
Company	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant)
Recognition Timeline	Sustained energy conservation measures over three years



➤ **What was the value of India's defence exports in FY 2023-24?**

- A) Rs 15,920 crore
- B) Rs 21,083 crore
- C) Rs 1,26,887 crore
- D) Rs 2.63 billion
- E) Rs 50,000 crore



Answer

B) Rs 21,083 crore



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's defence exports reached a record high of Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24.
- **Location:** India
- **Date:** Fiscal Year 2023-24



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Boost Defence Exports:** Reflects India's growing defence manufacturing and export capabilities.
- **Target for 2029:** Set by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Rs 50,000 crore.
- **Strengthen Self-Reliance:** Aligns with the government's **Aatmanirbharta** vision by reducing import reliance.



Key Highlights:

- **Defence Exports:**
 - Record Achievement: Rs 21,083 crore (USD 2.63 billion), up 32.5% from Rs 15,920 crore in FY 2022-23.
 - Decade-Long Growth: Increased 31 times since FY 2013-14.
- **Indigenous Defence Production:**
 - Record Value: Rs 1,26,887 crore in FY 2023-24.
 - Year-on-Year Growth: 16.7% increase from Rs 1,08,684 crore in FY 2022-23.



Key Highlights:

- **Sector Contributions:**
 - Private Sector: Contributed 60% to exports.
 - DPSUs: Contributed 40% to exports.
- **Positive Indigenisation Lists (PIL):**
 - 5 new PILs issued, adding 346 items to boost local production.
 - Focused on complex systems, sensors, and weapons.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Positive Indigenisation Lists (PIL):**
 - **Objective:** Reduce imports by mandating local production of items for Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).
 - **Recent Development:** Five new lists with 346 items were issued in FY 2023-24.
- **Aatmanirbharta:**
 - **Meaning:** Self-reliance.
 - **Significance:** A cornerstone of India's defence production and export policy.
- **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs):**
 - Government-owned enterprises responsible for manufacturing defence equipment and systems.



Static GK Information:

- **Ministry of Defence, India:**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Minister:** Rajnath Singh
- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	India's defence exports reached Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24
Location	India
Date	FY 2023-24
Defence Exports	Rs 21,083 crore (USD 2.63 billion), 32.5% growth
Indigenous Production	Rs 1,26,887 crore, 16.7% growth
Sector Contributions	Private sector: 60%, DPSUs: 40%
Export Growth	31x increase since FY 2013-14
PIL Issuance	5 new lists with 346 items
Target by 2029	Rs 50,000 crore



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ **Which two UK universities have received approval to establish campuses at GIFT City, Gujarat?**

- A) University of Oxford and University of Cambridge
- B) Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University
- C) University of Glasgow and Durham University
- D) Imperial College London and University of Manchester
- E) Deakin University and Coventry University



Answer

B) Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Approval for UK universities to establish campuses at GIFT City.
- **Location:** GIFT City, Gujarat, India.
- **Date:** December 27, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Encourage Foreign Universities:** The IFSCA framework attracts globally reputed universities to set up campuses in India.
- **Strengthen GIFT City's Role:** Transform GIFT City into a global education and financial innovation hub.
- **Promote International Education in India:** Facilitate access to global educational standards and opportunities.



Key Highlights:

- **Queen's University Belfast:**
 - **Notable Approval:** The third foreign university approved for GIFT City.
 - **Legacy and Expertise:** Nearly 200 years old and a member of the Russell Group.
 - **Program Plans:** Postgraduate programs initially, with expansion to research and undergraduate courses.
 - **Indian Presence:** Already hosts over 1,000 Indian students.



Key Highlights:

- **Coventry University:**
 - **Global Experience:** Operates campuses in Egypt, Poland, Morocco, and Kazakhstan.
 - **Focus on India:** Launched an “India Hub” in Delhi in 2024 to address global challenges like climate change.
 - **Future Offerings:** Set to contribute to the GIFT City ecosystem with its expertise.



IFSCA Regulations:

- **2022 Framework Features:**
 - Allows repatriation of funds in freely convertible foreign currency.
 - Exempts universities from typical Indian infrastructure requirements.
 - Restricts eligibility to universities ranked in the top-500 globally or reputed in their home countries.



Important Terms Explained:

- **IFSCA (International Financial Services Authority):**
 - **Role:** Regulatory body for managing international financial services and education in GIFT City.
 - **Established:** 2020 to position India as a global hub for finance and education.
- **GIFT City:**
 - **Full Form:** Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.
 - **Purpose:** Designed to attract international institutions in education and financial services.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Russell Group:**
 - A consortium of 24 prestigious research-intensive UK universities, including Queen's University Belfast.



Static GK Information:

- **Queen's University Belfast:**
 - **Founded:** 1845
 - **Headquarters:** Belfast, Northern Ireland
 - **Membership:** Russell Group
- **Coventry University:**
 - **Founded:** 1843
 - **Headquarters:** Coventry, England



Static GK Information:

- **IFSCA:**
 - **Abbreviation:** International Financial Services Authority
 - **Founded:** 2020
 - **Headquarters:** Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- **Gujarat:**
 - **Capital:** Gandhinagar
 - **CM:** Bhupendra Patel
 - **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Approval for UK universities to establish campuses at GIFT City
Location	GIFT City, Gujarat, India
Date of Announcement	December 27, 2024
Approved Universities	Queen's University Belfast, Coventry University
Approval Authority	International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA)
Regulations	Foreign currency repatriation, exemption from Indian infrastructure norms
Significance	Strengthens India as a global education hub
Predecessors	Australian universities like Deakin and Wollongong set up earlier in 2024
Duration of Registration	Initial 5 years, renewable for another 5 years



➤ **What is the estimated cost of the mega dam China is constructing on the Brahmaputra near the Indian border?**

- A) \$137 million
- B) \$1.5 billion
- C) \$137 billion
- D) \$200 billion
- E) \$100 billion

Answer
C) \$137 billion



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Approval of the world's largest hydropower project on the Brahmaputra River.
- **Location:** Lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) in Tibet, near the Indian border.
- **Date:** December 25, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Dam:**
 - To accelerate clean energy development.
 - Address climate change and manage extreme hydrological events.
- **China's Assurances:**
 - Project will not negatively impact downstream countries (India and Bangladesh).
 - Extensive safety and ecological studies have been conducted.
- **India's Counteraction:**
 - India is constructing its own dam on the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh to counter potential risks.



Key Highlights:

- **Strategic Concerns:**
 - **Control over Water Flow:** China could regulate the Brahmaputra's flow, potentially flooding areas in conflict scenarios.
 - **Riparian States at Risk:** Downstream countries like India and Bangladesh face ecological and strategic threats.
- **Environmental and Engineering Challenges:**
 - **Tectonic Risks:** The dam is located in a seismically active zone, increasing earthquake risks.
 - **Geopolitical Context:** The Tibetan Plateau, the dam's location, is prone to tectonic activity.



Key Highlights:

- **Data Sharing:**
 - The Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) established in 2006 facilitates India-China discussions on trans-border rivers.
 - China provides hydrological data during flood seasons.
- **Comparison:**
 - The dam will surpass the scale of the Three Gorges Dam, currently the largest in the world.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra):**
 - Originates in Tibet, flows into Arunachal Pradesh, and continues into Bangladesh.
- **Expert Level Mechanism (ELM):**
 - **Established:** 2006
 - **Purpose:** Facilitate trans-border river discussions between India and China.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Tibetan Plateau:**
 - Known as **the “roof of the world,”** it is seismically active due to tectonic movements.
- **Three Gorges Dam:**
 - Currently the world’s largest dam, located in China. The proposed Brahmaputra dam will surpass it in scale.



Static GK Information:

- **China:**
 - **Capital:** Beijing
 - **Currency:** Renminbi (Yuan)
 - **President:** Xi Jinping
 - **Premier:** Li Qiang
- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi



Static GK Information:

- **Bangladesh:**
 - **Capital:** Dhaka
 - **Currency:** Taka
 - **President:** Mohammed Shahabuddin
 - **Prime Minister:** Sheikh Hasina
- **Brahmaputra River:**
 - **Origin:** Tibetan Plateau
 - **Flows Through:** Tibet, Arunachal Pradesh (India), Assam (India), and Bangladesh.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Approval of the world's largest hydropower project on the Brahmaputra
Location	Lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) in Tibet
Date of Approval	December 25, 2024
Cost	\$137 billion
Significance	Strategic and environmental concerns for India and Bangladesh
India's Countermeasure	Constructing its own dam on the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh
Tectonic Challenges	Seismically active location increases risks
Comparison	Larger in scale than China's Three Gorges Dam
Data Sharing Agreement	Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) established in 2006 for trans-border river discussions



➤ **What does the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar primarily recognize?**

- A) Contributions to international relations
- B) Outstanding achievements in various fields by children
- C) Innovations in the education sector
- D) Bravery in military operations
- E) Excellence in government policies



Answer

B) Outstanding achievements in various fields by children



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Presentation of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 to 17 children.
- **Location:** Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, India.
- **Date:** December 26, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Awards:** Recognize exceptional achievements in seven categories:
 - Art and Culture
 - Bravery
 - Innovation
 - Science and Technology
 - Social Service
 - Sports
 - Environment
- **Promote Talent:** Highlight young achievers who inspire others with their courage, talent, and innovation.



Key Highlights:

- **Awardees:**
 - **Number of Recipients:** 17 children (7 boys and 10 girls) from 14 states and Union Territories.
 - **Recognition:** Medal, certificate, and citation booklet.



Notable Awardees and Achievements:

- **Art and Culture:**
 - **Keya Hatkar (14 years):** Disability advocate and bestselling author.
 - **Ayaan Sajad (12 years):** Sufi singer from Kashmir promoting Kashmiri music.
 - **Vyas Om Jignesh (17 years):** Sanskrit scholar with cerebral palsy; memorized 5,000 slokas.
- **Bravery:**
 - **Saurav Kumar (9 years):** Saved three girls from drowning.
 - **Loanna Thapa (17 years):** Rescued 36 residents from a fire.



Notable Awardees and Achievements:

- **Innovation:**
 - **Sindhoora Raja (15 years):** Created self-stabilizing devices for Parkinson's patients.
 - **Risheek Kumar (17 years):** Launched Kashmir's first cybersecurity firm, "Hack Free Bharat."
- **Sports:**
 - **Hembati Nag:** Silver medalist in judo at Khelo India National Games.
 - **Anish Sarkar:** Youngest FIDE-ranked chess player at 3 years old.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:**
 - India's highest civilian award for children aged below 18.
 - **Categories:** Art, bravery, innovation, science, social service, sports, and environment.
- **Khelo India National Games:**
 - A government initiative promoting sports and physical fitness among youth.
- **FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs):**
 - International Chess Federation, responsible for governing competitive chess rankings.



Static GK Information:

- **President of India:**
 - **Name:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Assumed Office:** July 25, 2022
 - **Residence:** Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development:**
 - **Minister:** Smriti Irani
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024
Location	Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
Date	December 26, 2024
Recipients	17 children (7 boys, 10 girls) from 14 states and UTs
Award Categories	Art & Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science & Tech, Social Service, Sports, Environment
Recognition Items	Medal, certificate, and citation booklet
Notable Achievements	Bravery: Rescues; Art: Sufi music and literature; Innovation: Devices for Parkinson's patients, Cybersecurity Firm



➤ **What was the purpose of the 'Atal Yuva Maha Kumbh' inaugurated by the UP CM?**

- A) To promote cultural heritage
- B) To honor Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 100th birth anniversary
- C) To celebrate Good Governance Day
- D) To felicitate government officials
- E) To promote youth welfare programs



Answer

B) To honor Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 100th birth anniversary



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Inauguration of 'Atal Yuva Maha Kumbh' to commemorate Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth centenary.
- **Location:** Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- **Date:** December 25, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Event:**
 - Celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
 - Promote Vajpayee's legacy of good governance and leadership.
- **Good Governance Day:**
 - Observed annually on December 25 to honor Vajpayee's contributions to governance.



Key Highlights:

- **Inauguration:**
 - Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the event.
- **Key Activities:**
 - Recognition of Students: Meritorious students were awarded certificates and prizes.
 - Cultural Tributes: Poetry recitations and floral tributes were organized nationwide.
 - Discussions: Sessions highlighting Vajpayee's contributions to Indian politics and governance.



Key Highlights:

- **Key Remarks:**
 - CM Yogi Adityanath: Emphasized the cultural significance of the event and its connection to the Kumbh tradition.
 - Defence Minister Rajnath Singh: Praised Vajpayee's personality, humor, and mentorship.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Atal Yuva Maha Kumbh:**
 - A youth-focused event commemorating Vajpayee's centenary, reflecting his legacy in governance, culture, and leadership.
- **Good Governance Day:**
 - Observed annually on December 25 to honor Vajpayee's commitment to transparent and accountable governance.



Static GK Information:

- **Uttar Pradesh (UP):**
 - **Capital:** Lucknow
 - **CM:** Yogi Adityanath
 - **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee:**
 - **Born:** December 25, 1924
 - **Role:** 10th Prime Minister of India (1996, 1998–2004)
 - **Known For:** Good governance, poetry, and statesmanship



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Atal Yuva Maha Kumbh
Location	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Date	December 25, 2024
Inaugurated By	UP CM Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
Purpose	To celebrate Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 100th birth anniversary
Key Activities	Awarding students, poetry recitations, floral tributes, and discussions
Good Governance Day	Observed nationwide on December 25
Key Remarks	CM: Cultural significance; Defence Minister: Vajpayee's simplicity and mentorship



➤ **What is the primary objective of the 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative?**

- A) To enhance urban infrastructure development
- B) To provide advanced tools for effective grassroots governance
- C) To improve international trade relations
- D) To develop AI technologies for urban governance
- E) To simplify pension application processes



Answer

B) To provide advanced tools for effective grassroots governance



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of the 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- **Location:** India
- **Date:** December 25, 2024 (Good Governance Day).



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Strengthen Grassroots Governance:** Build the capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through modern tools and training.
- **Promote Decentralized Decision-Making:** Empower local bodies for participatory governance and sustainable rural development.
- **Leverage Technology:** Use e-learning platforms, AI-powered chatbots, and mobile apps to bridge knowledge gaps and enhance service delivery.



Key Highlights:

- **Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi:**
 - Piloted in **Odisha, Assam, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh** under the broader '**Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur**' campaign.
 - Focuses on decentralizing governance and fostering inclusive decision-making at the grassroots level.



Complementary Governance Initiatives:

- **iGOT Karmayogi Dashboard:** Enhances monitoring and decision-making for capacity-building efforts with the introduction of the 1600th e-learning course.
- **CPGRAMS Annual Report 2024:**
 - Highlights the resolution of over 25 lakh grievances annually under the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System.
 - Includes the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI).



Complementary Governance Initiatives:

- **Single Simplified Pension Application Form:**
 - Combines nine forms into one digital format, integrated with e-HRMS and Bhavishya for real-time tracking.
- **Compendium of Pension Related Instructions, 2024:** Consolidates all pension-related rules and guidelines into one reference document.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Good Governance Day:**
 - Observed on December 25 to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
 - **Focus:** Promote inclusive and accountable governance.
- **Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur Campaign:**
 - A government initiative to decentralize governance and strengthen rural administrative frameworks.



Important Terms Explained:

- **CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System):**
 - A citizen interface platform for resolving public grievances transparently and efficiently.
- **e-HRMS (Electronic Human Resource Management System):**
 - A digital platform for managing personnel records and processes in government organizations.



Static GK Information:

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh:**
 - **Ministries:** Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy, and Space.
- **Odisha:**
 - **Capital:** Bhubaneswar
 - **CM:** Naveen Patnaik
 - **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal
- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee:**
 - **Born:** December 25, 1924
 - **Role:** Former Prime Minister of India
 - **Known For:** Good governance and visionary leadership



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Launch of 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative
Location	India
Launch Date	December 25, 2024 (Good Governance Day)
Piloted States	Odisha, Assam, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh
Objective	Strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions through capacity-building frameworks and modern tools
Associated Campaign	Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur
Complementary Initiatives	iGOT Karmayogi Dashboard, CPGRAMS Annual Report 2024, Single Simplified Pension Application Form, Pension Compendium
Key Focus Areas	Inclusive governance, rural empowerment, participatory decision-making



QUICK RECALL



- International Day of Epidemic Preparedness observed on December 27 annually.
- Dr. Manmohan Singh, India's 13th Prime Minister, passed away at 92 on December 26, 2024.
- Public sector banks reported a 25% rise in net profit to ₹85,520 crore in H1 FY25.
- RBI forms an 8-member FREE-AI committee for ethical AI in financial services.
- India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 is set at 6.5%.
- Amitava Chatterjee appointed MD & CEO of J&K Bank, effective December 30, 2024.
- RINL won the Gold Award for energy conservation at the AP State Energy Conservation Awards 2024.
- India's defence exports hit Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24, a 32.5% growth.



QUICK RECALL



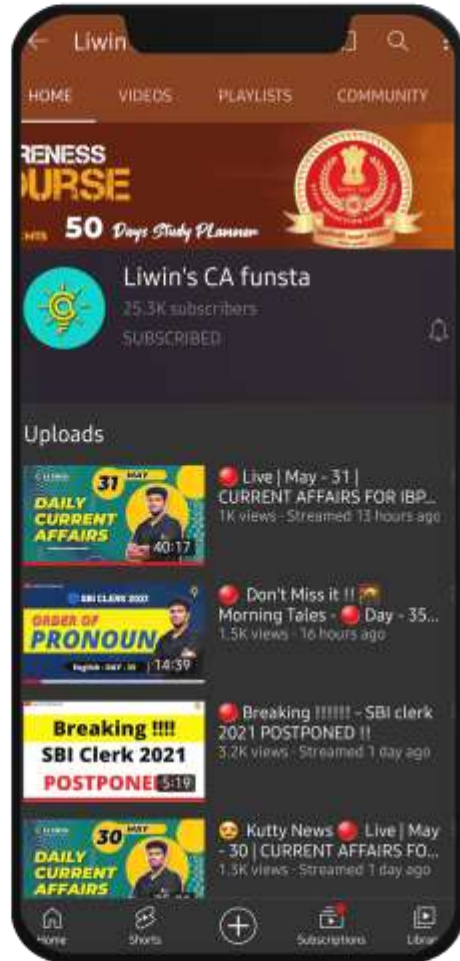
- **Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University approved for campuses in GIFT City.**
- **China approved a \$137 billion mega dam on the Brahmaputra near the Indian border.**
- **President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 to 17 children.**
- **UP CM and Defence Minister inaugurated 'Atal Yuva Maha Kumbh' in Lucknow.**
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative on Good Governance Day.**



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