

# pravahini

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**05 FEB – 11 FEB**



**FEB**  
**WEEK - 2**  
**2024**

**MRP ₹ 50.00**

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS:

1. India's first private Launchpad readies for lift-off
2. Vyommitra to Precede India's Gaganyaan Mission in 2024
3. Sultan Ibrahim Officially Assumes Role as Malaysia's 17th King
4. DoNER Hosts 'North-East Sammelan'
5. The Indian P M has inaugurated India Energy Week in 2024
6. The Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024



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## 1. Juspay, Zoho, and Decentro Receive RBI Approval for Payment

### Aggregator Business

Fintech startups Juspay and Decentro have secured the final license to operate as payment aggregators, joining the ranks of established players like Razorpay, Cashfree.

#### Key Highlights

- + Diverse Offerings: Juspay previously functioned as a payment gateway specializing in ecommerce transactions, while Decentro focuses on enabling ecommerce and consumer-facing businesses to provide financial services like lending and KYC verification.
- + Zoho's Achievement: Zoho, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) startup, also obtained the payment aggregator license on February 2, marking its entry into the payment services sector and becoming the first enterprise SaaS player to receive such approval from the RBI.
- + A payment aggregator is a third-party service provider that enables customers to make and businesses to accept payments online.



## 2. India, Türkiye, and Qatar have been declared the guests of honor at the 2024 World Governments Summit:

India, Türkiye, and Qatar have been declared the guests of honor at the 2024 World Governments Summit which is set to take place in Dubai from February 12-14.

- + The summit, themed 'Shaping Future Governments,' will see the participation of over 25 government and state heads worldwide.
- + The delegations from Türkiye, India, and Qatar will be led by their respective leaders: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and



Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

### 3. Maharashtra Government to Launch 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana'.

- The Maharashtra Government has decided to introduce the 'Mukhyamantri Vayoshri Yojana' aimed at benefiting around 15 lakh senior citizens with physical or mental disabilities.

#### About Mukhyamantri Vayoshri Yojana:

- Eligibility and Benefits:** Citizens above 65 years of age suffering from disabilities will be screened, and eligible individuals will receive Rs 3,000 under the scheme.
- Implementation and Cost:** The scheme, costing approximately Rs 480 crore, will be implemented across all districts of Maharashtra.
- Support Scheme for Cooperative Societies:** The government has announced a support scheme to increase the confidence of depositors in cooperative societies.
- The government will create an independent entity that will pay deposits up to Rs 1 lakh in case of bankruptcy of a non-agricultural cooperative society.
- Funding:** The government will contribute Rs 100 crore as the initial corpus for the support unit, and cooperative societies will also contribute ten paise for every Rs 100 of deposits.



### 4. First Survey Vessel Large INS Sandhayak Commissioned:

- In the presence of Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, the Indian Navy commissioned their newest survey vessel, INS Sandhayak, at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam on February 3, 2024.



✚ At Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata, four Survey Vessel (Large) ships are being constructed, the first of which is INS Sandhayak.

✚ INS Sandhayak is primarily designed to conduct comprehensive coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys for



mapping navigational channels, port and harbor approaches, as well as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and extended continental shelf of India.

✚ The 110 meter long and 3400 ton displacement vessel is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment including multibeam echo sounders, side scan sonars, autonomous underwater vehicles, remotely operated vehicles and advanced data acquisition and processing systems.

## 5. Three Indian-origin researchers named recipients of the Blavatnik

### Awards For Young Scientists in the UK:

✚ Three Indian-origin researchers are among nine scientists named recipients of the prestigious Blavatnik Awards For Young Scientists in the UK.

✚ The awards recognize research that is transforming medicine,



technology, and our understanding of the world across three categories: Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences & Engineering, and Life Sciences.

✚ The recipients, including Professors Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, and Tanmay Bharat, will be honored at a black-tie gala dinner and award ceremony in London on February 27, 2024.

✚ They will receive grants totaling 480,000 pounds.

## 6. India's first private launchpad readies for lift-off:-

- Preparations are in the final stages by the Chennai headquartered space-tech startup Agnikul Cosmos for the maiden launch of India's first-ever private launchpad and the second rocket launch by a private sector player.



- Its launch vehicle Agnibaan will take off from Sriha-rikota during the current financial year itself.

### Key Highlights:

- Agnibaan is a two-stage launch vehicle with the capability to carry up to 100 kilogram payload to an extent of around 700 km to the lower earth orbit.
- Agnikul launch will be the world's first single-piece 3-D printed engine, fully designed and manufactured in India.
- The vehicle has the capability for a plug-and-play engine configuration that is configurable to match the mission's needs.

## 7. Union Culture Minister Lays Foundation Stone For India's Digital National Museum of Epigraphy:-

- Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy recently laid the foundation stone for the country's digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad.

- Spearheaded by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), this museum aims to house approximately one lakh ancient writings spanning various times and languages, preserving them for future generations.



Union Culture Minister Lays Foundation Stone for India's Digital National Museum of Epigraphy

- ✚ This initiative builds upon the announcement made last year by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman regarding the establishment of the Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BharatSHRI).
- ✚ The goal of this project is to digitize one lakh ancient inscriptions, ensuring their accessibility to a wider audience and facilitating scholarly research.

## 8. The Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024:-

- ✚ The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, represents a comprehensive legal framework aimed at safeguarding the integrity and fairness of public examinations across India.
- ✚ The bill is introduced to address and prevent the use of unfair means in public examinations.
- ✚ It encompasses a wide range of definitions and stipulations that clarify the roles, responsibilities, and penalties associated with the conduct of public examinations.
- ✚ The bill's enactment underscores the government's commitment to ensuring a transparent, equitable, and merit-based assessment system.



## 9. DoNER Hosts 'North-East Sammelan':-

- ✚ A North-East Sammelan convened at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi drawing attention to the region's progress and collaborative efforts.
- ✚ The event boasted the presence of distinguished ministers, MPs, MLAs, officers, and students, accentuating the significance of the occasion.





- ✚ Additionally, the ministers inaugurated significant projects virtually, including the North Eastern Cultural and Social Institute in Dwarka and the Barak Hostel at JNU, New Delhi.
- ✚ The institute, with a substantial budget allocation, promises to be a hub of cultural exchange and social engagement, while the hostel addresses the accommodation needs of Northeast students, enhancing their academic experience.

## 10. Vyommitra to Precede India's Gaganyaan Mission in 2024:-

- ✚ In 2025, India intends to launch the manned Gaganyaan space mission. However, Vyommitra, a "robot companion" in space, will travel to orbit later this year to test vital systems before astronauts from Earth take off.
- ✚ With the proper tools, this female humanoid robot can perform human tasks inside the spacecraft's orbit



### About Vyommitra

- ✚ The name Vyommitra (Vyom – Space, Mitra – Friend) is a half-humanoid robot weighing 40 kg developed by ISRO. By simulating human activities aboard the spacecraft, Vyommitra will allow ISRO engineers to fully test the Gaganyaan module's habitability and safety prior to crewed flights.
- ✚ About Gagayanyaan Mission
- ✚ Gaganyaan mission has been under development for several years with the goal of sending Indian astronauts to low Earth orbit by 2025.
- ✚ This will mark India's first human spaceflight as only the 4th nation with independent manned mission capabilities, after Russia, U.S, and China.



## 11. Tata Group becomes first Indian conglomerate to cross Rs 30 lakh cr market cap:-

- + Tata Group achieved a historic milestone as its combined market capitalization surpassed Rs 30 lakh crore on February 6, making it the first Indian business house to reach this valuation.
- + The overall valuation of Tata Group now stands at Rs 30.6 lakh crore, making it the most valued conglomerate in the country, surpassing Reliance Group and Adani Group in market cap rankings.
- + TCS, the flagship company, witnessed a notable surge of over 9% in 2024, reaching a market cap of Rs 15 lakh crore on February 5.
- + The surge in market value is attributed to increased investor interest in shares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tata Motors, Tata Power, and Indian Hotels since the beginning of the year.



## 12. Asian Development Bank Names Mio Oka as Country Director for India:-

- + The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Mio Oka as its new Country Director for India, succeeding Takeo Konishi, who has been promoted to the position of ADB Director General for South Asia at the Manila headquarters.
- + Responsibilities of the Country Director: Mio Oka will be responsible for steering ADB operations in India and nurturing relationships with the government and other development partners in the country.



Ms. Mio Oka,  
Country Director,  
Asian Development Bank

- ✚ Oka will lead the implementation of ADB's country partnership strategy for India spanning from 2023 to 2027.
- ✚ The strategy aims to catalyze robust, climate-resilient, and inclusive private sector-led growth in India through accelerated structural transformation, job creation, promotion of climate-resilient green growth, and enhanced social and economic inclusiveness

### 13. India is set to be the fastest-growing source of oil demand in the world through 2030, according to IEA:-

- ✚ India will become the largest source of global oil demand growth between now and 2030, while growth in developed economies and China initially slows and then subsequently goes into reverse in our outlook, the latest report 'Indian Oil Market Outlook to 2030' released at the second edition of India Energy Week 2024 in Goa by International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ✚ It further added that India's role in global oil markets is expected to expand substantially over the remainder of the decade, fuelled by strong growth in its economy, population and demographics.
- ✚ According to the report, Urbanisation, industrialisation, the emergence of a wealthier middle-class keen for mobility and tourism, plus efforts to achieve greater access to clean cooking, will underpin the expansion in oil demand.



### 14. IIT-Madras Partners with Munitions India for Development of India's First Indigenous 155mm Smart Ammunition:-

- ✚ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with Munitions India Limited, a Defence Public Sector Enterprise, to develop India's first indigenously-designed 155 Smart Ammunition to achieve indigenisation in the defense sector.



#### Objective:

- ✚ To increase the accuracy of the 155 mm shell within a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of 10 m.
- ✚ At present, ammunition developed in India has a CEP of 500 m. Another goal is to increase the lethality at the terminal impact point.

### **Key features**

- ✚ The project aims to develop an established, canard-controlled guided artillery shell with a minimum range of 8 km and a maximum range of 38 km.
- ✚ It can be fired from 39 and 45 caliber howitzers without any modifications to the gun.

## **15. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme in New Delhi:-**

- ✚ Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme in New Delhi.
- ✚ Addressing the event, Mr. Pradhan, as envisioned in the New Education Policy 2020, the Vidyanjali Scholarship Program symbolizes a whole-of-society approach to empowerment through access and educational opportunities.
- ✚ This scholarship will benefit students belonging to economically disadvantaged sections.
- ✚ The Minister said that Nation-building is a collective effort of all citizens.
- ✚ Appreciating the efforts of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya students, Mr. Pradhan said that nearly 14 thousand students have succeeded in getting admission to reputed institutes including IITs and NITs, without joining any coaching centers



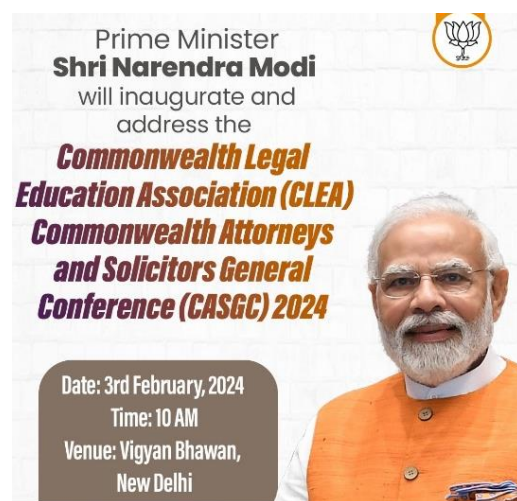
## 16. The Indian Prime Minister has inaugurated India Energy Week in 2024:-

- ✚ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India Energy Week 2024 in Goa.
- ✚ India Energy Week 2024 is India's largest and only all-encompassing energy exhibition and conference, bringing together the entire energy value chain to catalyze India's energy transition goals.
- ✚ The Prime Minister also held a roundtable with Global oil & gas CEOs and experts.
- ✚ India Energy Week 2024 is taking place at a significant period when India's GDP rate crossed 7.5 per cent in the first six months of the financial year.
- ✚ Achieving Aatmanirbharta in energy requirements has been a key focus area of the Prime Minister.



## 17. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CLEA) in New Delhi:-

- ✚ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference in New Delhi.
- ✚ The theme of this conference is Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery.
- ✚ During the conference, important issues of law and justice will be deliberated.
- ✚ Some of these issues are judicial transition and the ethical dimensions of legal practice, executive accountability and revisiting modern-day legal education.





- Participants in the conference are Attorney Generals and Solicitors from the Commonwealth nations spanning the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean along with different international delegations.

## **18. The Uttarakhand government has introduced legislation to implement a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state.**

- If enacted, Uttarakhand would become the second Indian state to adopt a UCC after Goa, where it has been in effect since Portuguese rule.
- The proposed bill aims to regulate and govern laws related to marriage, divorce, successions, and live-in relationships.
- The bill specifically prohibits bigamy and polygamy, practices that involve marrying multiple people simultaneously or while still legally married to another person.
- The UCC Bill also outlines five specific conditions for the solemnization of marriages in the state.



### **Key Features**

#### **Bans on Polygamy and Child Marriage**

- The draft UCC includes a complete ban on practices like polygamy and child marriage across religions.

#### **Standardized Marriage Age**

- The code sets 18 years as the uniform marriageable age for all girls, enabling them to pursue higher education before marriage. Couples who fail to register their marriages would be ineligible for government facilities to encourage legal documentation.

#### **Uniform Divorce Laws**

- The UCC envisages standardized divorce laws such as halala and iddat. This eliminates differential treatments depending on religious affiliations.

## 19. Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain Bag Best Global Music

### Album Grammy Awards for 'This Moment':-

✚ Prominent Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band Shakti bagged the prestigious Grammy award.

✚ They clinched the award in the Best Global Music Album category for their latest album This Moment.

✚ The album This Moment was released in June last year.

✚ The album consisted of eight songs by John McLaughlin, Zakir Khan, Shankar Mahadevan, V Selvaganesh and Ganesh Rajagopalan.

✚ Meanwhile, Zakir Hussain also bagged the Grammy in the Best Global Music Performance category for his contribution to Pashto alongside Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer, featuring Rakesh Chaurasia.



## 20. Sultan Ibrahim Officially Assumes Role as Malaysia's 17th King:-

✚ Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, a billionaire from the southern state of Johor, was appointed Malaysia's 17th king.

✚ He succeeded Al-Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, who would return to lead his home state of Pahang at the end of his five-year tenure as king.

✚ In the presence of other royal families, PM Anwar Ibrahim, and cabinet

members, Ibrahim Iskandar took the oath of office at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur and signed the document of the proclamation of office in a ceremony.



- ✚ Since Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957, Nine ethnic Malay state rulers have taken turns as kings for five-year terms under the world's only such system.

## 21. SELF STUDY POINTERS

1. India has been ranked at the 38th position out of 139 countries in the Logistics Performance Index Report 2023: World Bank.
2. Yemen Names Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as New Prime Minister.
3. Chhattisgarh BJP Government to Introduce Mahatari Vandan Yojana, a Monthly Cash Assistance Scheme - Mahatari Vandan Yojana for Married Women.
4. TOI-715b: NASA Discovers Potential Life-Sustaining 'Super-Earth'.
5. Law Commission Recommends Legal Reforms to Curb Property Damage during Protests.
6. The 2024 theme for National Science Day, unveiled by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, is "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat."
7. The first-ever BIMSTEC Aquatic Championship in New Delhi has been inaugurated by Union Minister Anurag Thakur.

## 22. WEEK THROUGH MCQs

1. **Where is the New Delhi World Book Fair 2024 being held?**
  - a) Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
  - b) India Expo Centre, Greater Noida
  - c) Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi
  - d) Thyagaraj Sports Complex, New Delhi
2. **Who emerged victorious in the Tennis Chennai Open ATP Challenger finale held on February 11, 2024?**
  - a) Prajnesh Gunneswaran
  - b) Roger Federer
  - c) Luca Nardi
  - d) Sumit Nagal
3. **Who is referred to as the "Father of India's Green Revolution"?**
  - a) Chaudhary Charan Singh
  - b) P V Narasimha Rao
  - c) Dr. MS Swaminatha
  - d) Norman Borlaug

4. Which state government recently launched 'Operation Smile X' to rescue child laborers?  
a) Rajasthan                      b) Uttar Pradesh                      c) Telangana                      d) Karnataka
5. Which one of the following best describes the term 'Blue Economy 2.0', recently seen in the budget 2024?  
(a) Sustainable development related to oceans, seas, and coasts  
(b) Providing new agricultural practice methods  
(c) Improving urban infrastructure  
(d) Renewable energy sources
6. With whom has Chennai Super Kings signed an agreement as the official sponsor?  
a) Etihad Airways                      b) Tata Group  
c) Samsung                      d) Qatar Airways
7. Who is the chairman of the 'One Nation One Election' committee?  
a) Ram Nath Kovind                      b) Mohammad Hamid Ansari  
c) Dr. Manmohan Singh                      d) Amitabh Kant
8. How many air routes are currently being operated in the country under the RCS UDAN scheme?  
a) 319                      b) 419                      c) 519                      d) 619
9. In which year did the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) develop the UPI, India's mobile payment system?  
a) 2014                      b) 2015                      c) 2016                      d) 2018
10. When would Sri Lanka commemorate its National Day?  
a) February 4                      b) February 6                      c) February 3                      d) February 2

### ANSWER KEY

1. (a)    2. (d)    3. (c)    4. (c)    5. (a)    6. (a)    7. (a)    8. (c)    9. (c)    10. (a)