

CUET PG 2024
Special Edition

SUCCESS
MANTRA

MONTHLY
Coverage of
CURRENT
AFFAIRS



- 15 Important Legal Maxims
- Recent News Highlights
- Important Topics for Self Study
- List of Important Days.
- Total 25 MCQ's Inside

MARCH 2024

PRAVAHINI

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER OF YOUR PREPARATION JOURNEY

Blue Economy 2.0 Scheme announced in the Union Interim Budget 2024-25.

PM Modi Inaugurates Abu Dhabi's First Traditional Hindu Stone Temple.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) launched at the iconic Eiffel Tower in France.

Maratha Military Landscape.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The US House of Representatives has passed the Quad bill

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1. 'Smart Gram Panchayat: Revolution towards Digitization of Gram Panchayat' pilot project:-

- ❑ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) launched the 'Smart Gram Panchayat: Revolution towards Digitization of Gram Panchayat' pilot project.
- ❑ This project aims to extend Prime Minister's WiFi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) service in all gram panchayats across Begusarai district in Bihar.
- ❑ Project is funded under the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, implemented by MoPR.
- ❑ Enhance connectivity, bridge rural-urban divide, foster accountability and efficiency in local self-governance.
- ❑ Enhance access to online services in crucial sectors like health, education and skilling, thereby elevating quality of life in rural areas.
- ❑ Create employment, enhance disposable incomes of small and medium entrepreneurs and boost GDP of the country.
- ❑ The PM- WANI Scheme was launched by the Department of Telecommunication in 2020.
- ❑ It aims to enhance the proliferation of public WiFi hotspots to create robust digital communications infrastructure in the country, especially in rural areas.

PM WANI consists four elements

- ❑ Public Data Office (PDO): Establish, maintain, and operate PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi Hotspots and deliver Broadband services to subscribers.
- ❑ Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA): Provide aggregation services like authorization and accounting to PDOs.
- ❑ App Provider: Develop an App to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots for accessing internet service.
- ❑ Central Registry: Maintain details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. Currently, it is maintained by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT).



Need to Digitise Gram Panchayats

2. PM Modi Inaugurates Abu Dhabi's First Traditional Hindu Stone Temple

- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first traditional Hindu stone temple located in Abu Dhabi.
- constructed it for worshippers. The complex is located at Abu Mureikha, just off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi highway.

Name and Location

- ❑ The temple is formally called the 'BAPS Hindu Mandir Abu Dhabi' named after the organization, Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan (BAPS), that
- Built entirely using hand-carved beige sandstone and white marble hauled from Rajasthan and Gujarat in India, the temple architecture represents ancient Hindu haveli styles displaying intricate decorative sculptures depicting deities,

Intricately Carved Stone Structure



columns, arches and scenes from Hindu scriptures.

First Traditional Temple in UAE

While there are a few Hindu temple premises in UAE, this is the first stone temple constructed on such an expansive

scale providing traditional architecture seen in ancient Indian places of worship as opposed to converted spaces.

3. Electoral bonds violate citizens' right to information under Article 19(1)(a).

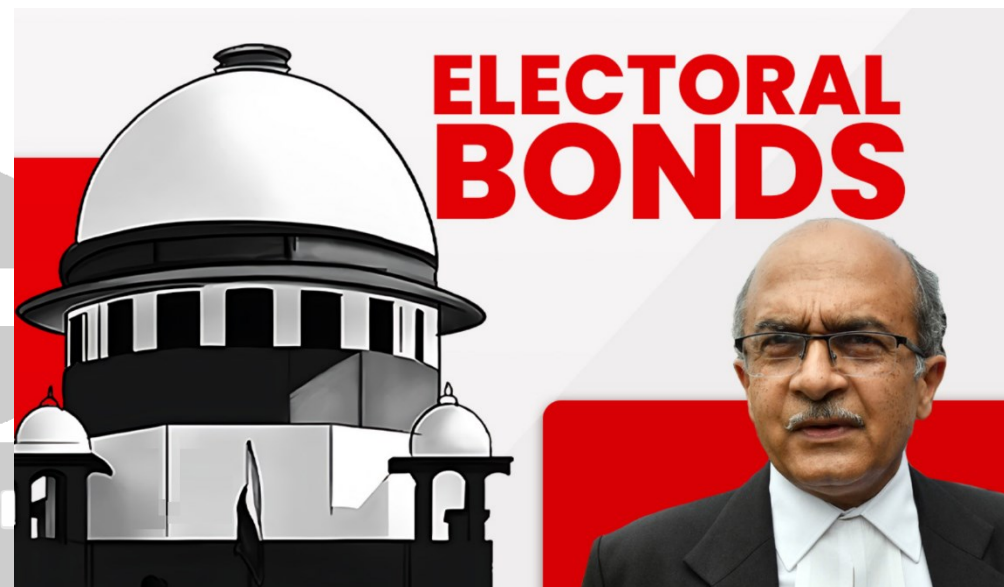
In an effort to increase openness in political fundraising, the Indian government launched the electoral bonds programme in 2018 as an alternative method of accepting financial contributions to political parties. But the plan was just declared illegal by the Supreme Court in 2024.

Supreme Court Judgment

- ❑ In the recent ruling, the Constitution bench of the Supreme Court held that electoral bonds violate citizens' right to information under Article 19(1)(a).
- ❑ By enabling anonymous donations, it fails transparency over possible 'quid pro quo' deals for quid pro quo.

The key reasons cited by the Supreme Court while striking down India's electoral bonds scheme:-

- ❑ The amendment to Section 182 of the Companies Act enabling blanket corporate funding of parties is unconstitutional.
- ❑ It fails to address risks of quid pro quo deals from allowing even loss-making firms to donate anonymously.
- ❑ The judgment upholds citizens' right to information on political financing as essential for making informed electoral choices and holding parties accountable.
 - It distinguishes between small donations by individuals warranting privacy versus large influential corporate donations needing transparency given significant public interest.



- ❑ The Court notes that while some donations are made just to support parties, opacity in financing channels can obscure those intended to buy policy influence. Hence, transparency is required.
- ❑ The right to privacy for political affiliation does not extend to major contributions made to shape public policy, as per the Supreme Court verdict striking down electoral bonds.

4. The 21st edition of BioAsia, Asia's premier biotechnology and life sciences convention began on February 27, 2024 in Hyderabad, India.

- ❑ The annual event witness's participation from leading global scientists, researchers, politicians and industry captains discussing latest developments and future opportunities.
- ❑ The flagship initiative started in 2003 by the Government of Telangana, it has become a leading ideas exchange
- ❑ II and medium (MSME) sector.

platform at the intersection of scientific research and business bringing together diverse stakeholders from pharma giants to startups.

2024 Edition Theme

- ❑ The theme for the current year summit is "Transforming Life Sciences with Data and AI" highlighting the immense potential in deploying advanced

analytics alongside machine learning promises for revolutionizing drug discovery, healthcare delivery etc. through evidence-based interventions.

Collaboration with the Centre

- ❑ BioAsia 2024 has teamed up with the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium



Enterprises (MSME) to provide support to the micro, sma

5. President Murmu appoints former SC judge Justice AM Khanwilkar as Chairperson of Lokpal

- ❑ Former Supreme Court judge A M Khanwilkar was appointed as the chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal nearly 2 years after the post fell vacant.
- ❑ The Lokpal has been working without its regular chief after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term on May 27, 2022.
- ❑ Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, a judicial member of the Lokpal, is currently the acting chairperson.

About Justice AM Khanwilkar :-

- ❑ Justice Khanwilkar served as a judge of the Supreme Court from May 13, 2016, to July 29, 2022.
- ❑ He was involved in several significant judgments during his tenure, including those related to Sabarimala women entry, decriminalization of homosexuality, and the validity of Aadhaar.

About Lokpal:

- ❑ The Lokpal was established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act of 2013.
- ❑ Its primary task is to inquire and investigate allegations of corruption against public functionaries covered under the Lokpal Act.
- ❑ According to a notification from Rashtrapati Bhawan, several appointments have been made to the Lokpal: Judicial Members: Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy, Justice



Sanjay Yadav, and Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi.

6. The National Conference on APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card was opened by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

- ❑ The National Conference on APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❑ It was inaugurated by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ❑ The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) will be an ambitious and global document for students in India.
- ❑ Till now 25 crore APAAR IDs have been created.
- About Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry**
- ❑ The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) is a transformative initiative introduced in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 and the National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCrF).
- ❑ The aim of the APAAR is to provide a unified and accessible educational experience for students across India by providing each student with a unique and permanent 12-digit ID, consolidating their academic achievements in one place.



7. Blue Economy 2.0 Scheme announced in Union Interim Budget 2024-25

- ❑ Blue Economy 2.0 is a blueprint to make further progress on India's existing initiatives to explore the potential of the Indian maritime blue economy.
- ❑ It aims to promote climate resilient activities (along with restoration and adaptation measures).
- ❑ It will emphasize coastal aquaculture and agriculture in an integrated and multi-sectoral approach.
- ❑ Aquaculture includes cultivation of aquatic animals and plants in natural or controlled marine or freshwater environments.
- ❑ Mariculture pertains to marine and estuarine (brackish) waters.
- ❑ Blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem."
- ❑ It involves tapping ocean resources for renewable energy, fisheries, ports, shipping, and tourism.
- ❑ India's blue economy is estimated to be around \$1 trillion.
- ❑ Factors limiting the development of Blue Economy:-
- ❑ Threat to Maritime security e.g. recent Houthis attacks, etc.



- ❑ Climate change and Pollution due to human activities like use of plastics etc.
- ❑ Other: Lack of Infrastructure, high operating costs of shipping industry, high installation cost of tidal power plants etc.
- ❑ Other Steps taken:- Deep Ocean Mission (mine the metals in the Indian oceans) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana SAGARMALA project Draft Blue Economy Policy.

8. Government issues Guidelines for Pilot Projects for utilizing Green Hydrogen in the Shipping and Steel Sector.

- ❑ Guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).
 - ❑ Guidelines call for retrofitting existing ships to run on Green Hydrogen and developing bunkering and refueling facilities on ports for Green Hydrogen fuels.
 - ❑ While also providing for the use of hydrogen in blast furnaces and the substitution of fossil fuels with Hydrogen in the Steel sector.
- Significance: Both sectors has potential for**
- ❑ decarbonization of the economy.
 - ❑ reduced dependence on fuel imports through the use of Green Hydrogen or its derivatives (Green Ammonia / Green Methanol) as fuel.
 - ❑ Green hydrogen is defined as hydrogen produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity.
- About NGHM:**
- ❑ Mission was launched in 2023, to facilitate demand creation, production, utilization, and export of Green Hydrogen.
 - ❑ **Sub-schemes of Mission include:**
 - ❑ Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT): Supports domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and offers incentives for the production of green hydrogen.
 - ❑ Green Hydrogen Hubs: Identify regions/areas capable of supporting



large-scale production or utilization of Hydrogen as Green Hydrogen Hubs.

9. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) launched at the iconic Eiffel Tower in France:-

- ❑ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) in partnership with Lyra, a French leader in securing e-commerce and proximity payments, announced acceptance of UPI payment mechanism in France.
- ❑ France became the first European country to accept UPI.
- ❑ UPI, launched by NPCI in 2016, is an instant payment system which acts as an interface to facilitate inter-bank transfers.
- ❑ India Stack is a set of open APIs (Application Program Interface) and digital public goods that aim to unlock economic primitives of identity, data, and payments at population scale.
- ❑ India Stack consists of 3 layers – Identity, Payments, and Data.
- ❑ APIs are a set of defined rules that enable different applications to communicate with each other.
- ❑ Significance of internationalization of India Stack
- ❑ Global market expansion for Indian startups and tech firms.

- ❑ Interoperability and standardization at global scale.
- ❑ Innovation and collaboration leading to creation of new solutions and services.
- ❑ Soft power and digital diplomacy, particularly in the global south.

Efforts at Internationalization of India Stack

- ❑ NIPL: Wholly owned subsidiary of NPCI, incorporated in 2020, for deployment of RuPay and UPI outside of India.
- ❑ Acceptance of UPI payments in Overseas markets such as Singapore,

UAE, etc. MoU on sharing of India Stack with Armenia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, and Antigua and Barbuda.

- ❑ India's Initiatives under G20: Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository.
- ❑ Social Impact Fund to advance DPI in the Global South.



10. Maratha Military Landscapes

- ❑ The Ministry of Culture made an announcement stating that the country is nominating the "Maratha Military Landscape" for the UNESCO World Heritage List of 2024-25.
- ❑ A total of 12 components have been included in the nomination.
- ❑ The "Maratha Military Landscapes" depict the vision of a strong military of

the Maratha rulers and the exemplary fortification.

- ❑ The Maratha Military Landscapes express the eventful history of the country. The Salher fort, Khanderi fort, and the Panhala fort are some of the twelve forts nominated.
- ❑ It was between the 17th and the 19th centuries when the Maratha Military

Landscapes developed. The Maratha Military Landscapes depict "an extraordinary fortification and military system envisioned by the Maratha rulers", as said in the statement.

- ❑ A total of 12 forts belonging to the Maratha Empire have been nominated.



11. Interim Budget 2024-2025

- ❑ Recently, the Interim Budget 2024-25 was tabled in the parliament. It envisions 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, with all-round, all-pervasive, and all-inclusive development.

What is an Interim Budget?

- ❑ An Interim Budget is presented by a government that is going through a

transition period or is in its last year in office ahead of general elections.

- ❑ The purpose of the interim budget is to ensure the continuity of government expenditure and essential services until the new government can present a full-fledged budget after taking office.

What are the Major Highlights of the Interim Budget 2024-25?

- ❑ Capital Expenditure: An 11.1% increase in the capital expenditure outlay for 2024-2025 was announced.
 - The capital expenditure is set at Rs 11,11,111 crore, constituting 3.4% of the GDP.



- ❑ Economic Growth Projections: The GDP growth for FY 2023-24 real GDP growth is projected at 7.3%, aligning with the RBI's revised growth projection.
- ❑ The International Monetary Fund upgraded India's growth projection to 6.3% for FY 2023-24. It also anticipates India becoming the third-largest economy in 2027.
- ❑ Total Expenditure: Projected at Rs 47.66 lakh crore.
- ❑ Tax Receipts: Estimated at Rs 26.02 lakh crore.
- ❑ Priorities: Emphasizing the focus on the Poor, Women, Youth and Farmer
- ❑ Healthcare Sector: Encouraging Cervical Cancer Vaccination for girls (9-14 years).
- ❑ Agricultural Sector: Encouraging the use of 'Nano DAP' for various crops across all agro-climatic zones.

Revenue and Expenditure Estimates (2024-25):

- ❑ Total Receipts: Estimated at Rs 30.80 lakh crore, excluding borrowings.

12. Country's first and largest survey ship INS Sandhayak

- ❑ The country's first and largest survey ship INS Sandhayak (Yard 3025) formally commissioned into the Indian Navy on February 3, 2024.
- ❑ INS Sandhayak was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.

Background of INS Sandhayak:-

- ❑ The foundation stone of INS Sandhayak was laid on 12 March 2019 and the ship was launched on 5 December 2021.
- ❑ According to the Indian Navy, four large survey vessels are under construction at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.

INS Sandhayak is the first among them.

- ❑ INS Sandhayak underwent testing both in port and at sea. After this, it was handed over to the Navy on December 4, 2023.

Features of INS Sandhayak:-

- ❑ The ship has a displacement of 3,400 tonnes and an overall length of 110 meters and a beam of 16 meters
- ❑ The Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy is spearheading the project.
- ❑ It is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment. This includes deep sea and shallow water multibeam echo sounders,



- ❑ autonomous underwater vehicles and others.
- ❑ In terms of cost, more than 80 percent indigenous material is used in it.
- ❑ The terrestrial survey equipment ship is powered by two diesel engines.
- ❑ This is a tribute to the collaborative efforts between the Indian Navy and industry, including MSMEs.
- ❑ It is capable of achieving speeds of over 18 knots.

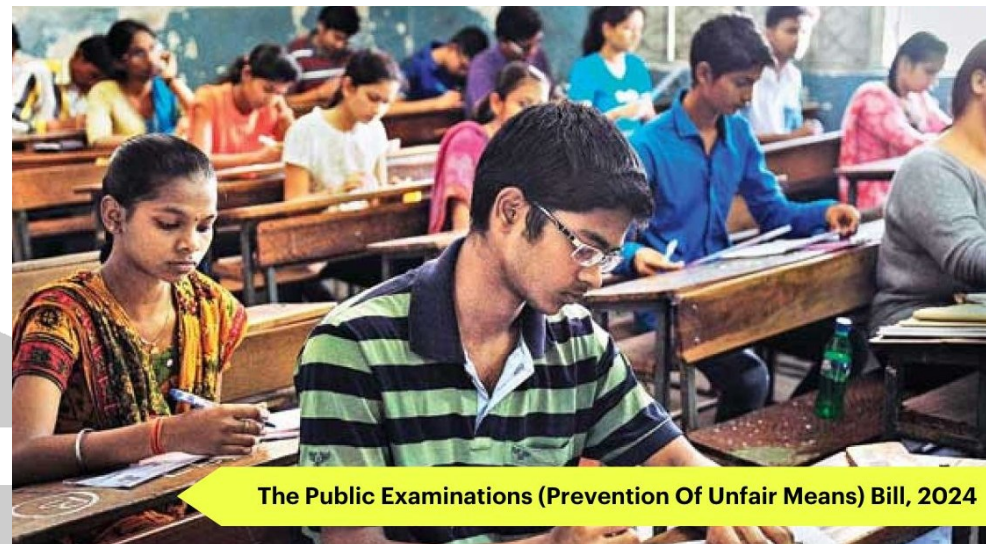
13. Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

- ❑ Recently, the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, has been introduced in Lok Sabha, aiming to prevent “Unfair Means” in order to “bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the Public Examinations System.
- ❑ The Bill, once it becomes law, will also serve the important function of being “a model draft for States to adopt at their discretion”.
- ❑ The schedule lists five public examination authorities, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), and the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- ❑ NTA conducts the JEE (Main), NEET-UG, UGC-NET, and the Common University Entrance Test (CUET).

Key Provisions of the Bill?

Defines Public Examination:

- ❑ Under Section 2(k), a Public Examination is defined as any examination conducted by a “public examination authority” listed in the Schedule of the Bill, or any such other authority as may be notified by the Central Government.
- ❑ Apart from these designated public examination authorities, all “Ministries or Departments of the Central Government and their attached and subordinate offices for recruitment of staff” will also come under the purview of the new law.
- ❑ The central government can add new authorities in the schedule through a notification as and when required.



The Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

Punishments:

- ❑ Section 9 of the Bill states that all offenses shall be cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable.
- ❑ In cognizable offenses, police have a duty to investigate the case without seeking permission from the Magistrate.
- ❑ A non-compoundable offense is one in which the case cannot be withdrawn by the complainant even when the complainant and the accused have reached a compromise, and a trial must necessarily follow.

14. Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference

- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi kickstarted the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, focusing on Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery.
- ❑ The conference, attended by international guests, aimed to address critical issues such as legal education, judicial transition, ethical dimensions of legal practice, and executive accountability.
- ❑ Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's special relationship with Africa and its significant role in the G20 during India's presidency, setting the tone for international cooperation in addressing legal challenges.
- ❑ PM Modi celebrated recent interactions with the legal fraternity, including the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Supreme Court of India and the International Lawyers Conference, emphasizing the importance of global collaboration in the legal field.
- ❑ Echoing Indian philosophy on justice, PM Modi stressed the importance of citizen-centric justice, advocating for initiatives like Lok Adalats to ensure ease of access to justice for all.
- ❑ PM Modi advocated for the inclusion of women in the legal profession and the modernization of legal systems to reflect present realities, including the abolition of colonial laws and leveraging technology for efficiency.
- ❑ Expressing India's willingness to share experiences and learn from other countries, PM Modi emphasized the importance of international exchange programs and collaboration in addressing modern challenges in justice delivery.



15. NITI Aayog's India's Wastelands with Agroforestry (GROW) Report and Portal

- ❑ NITI Aayog Launches Greening India's Wastelands with Agroforestry (GROW) Report and Portal.
- ❑ Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and portal was launched today by Prof Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog at NITI Aayog.
- ❑ This multi-institutional effort led by NITI Aayog utilized remote sensing and GIS to assess agroforestry suitability across all districts in India.



- ❑ Using thematic datasets, an Agroforestry Suitability Index (ASI) was developed for national-level prioritization.
- ❑ The report provides state-wise and district-wise analysis, supporting government departments and industries for greening and restoration projects.
- ❑ The "Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping" portal Bhuvan https://bhuvan-app1.nrsc.gov.in/asi_portal/ allows universal access to state and district-level data. Currently, agroforestry covers 8.65% of India's total geographical area, totalling about 28.42 million hectares.
- ❑ Current report underscores the potential benefits of converting underutilized areas, especially wastelands, for agroforestry.
- ❑ The GROW initiative aligns with national commitments, aiming to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 and create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

16. Greece becomes first Orthodox Christian country to legalize same-sex civil marriage:-

- ❑ Greece became the first Orthodox Christian country to legalize same-sex civil marriage, despite opposition from the influential, socially conservative Greek Church.
- ❑ A cross-party majority of 176 lawmakers in the 300-seat parliament voted late Thursday in favor of the landmark bill drafted by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' center-right government.
- ❑ Another 76 rejected the reform while two abstained from the vote and 46 were not present in the house.
- ❑ The bill was backed by four left-wing parties, including the main opposition Syriza.
- ❑ It was approved despite several majority and left-wing lawmakers abstaining or voting against the reform.
- ❑ Three small far-right parties and the Stalinist-rooted Communist Party rejected the draft law from the start of the two-day debate.
- ❑ The bill confers full parental rights on married same-sex partners with children.
- ❑ But it precludes gay couples from parenthood through surrogate mothers in Greece — an option



currently available to women who can't have children for health reasons.

17. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:-

- ❑ The Union cabinet assented to the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGBY) by installing in one crore households across the country the rooftop solar.
- ❑ The complete outlay of the project is Rs.75,021 crores.
- ❑ The "PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana" has been approved, and, as per the scheme, a total of one crore families in the country will be getting 300 units of free electricity.
- ❑ The scheme comes with a total outlay of Rs.75,021 crore. The scheme offers central financial assistance of Rs.30,000 to every household for a 1kw system.
- ❑ The financial assistance provided for the 2kw system is Rs.60,000 and Rs.78,000 for 3kw systems and more.

- ❑ Moreover, a Model Solar Village will also be developed by the government in each district which will play the role of a role model for adoption of rooftop solar in the rural areas of the country.
- ❑ A rooftop solar panel on the households will help in saving electricity bills by making use of solar energy.
- ❑ This will also help in earning an additional income by means of selling the surplus power generated to the DISCOMS.
- ❑ Additionally, the scheme will ensure an additional 30 GW of solar capacity via rooftop solar in the residential sector across the country and would lead to the reduction of emissions that are equivalent to 720 million tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) over the lifetime of the rooftop systems which would be for 25 years.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana : पीएम मुफ्त बिजली योजना के लिए आज ही करे आवेदन



18. The US House of Representatives has passed the Quad bill

- ❑ The US House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed the Quad bill aimed at enhancing cooperation between the US, Australia, India, and Japan.
- ❑ The bill mandates the establishment of a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to bolster joint efforts in various domains.
- ❑ Directive: Establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group
- ❑ Strategy Submission: The State Department must present a strategy to Congress within 180 days to increase engagement and cooperation with the Quad.
- ❑ Negotiations Initiation: Within 60 days of enactment, negotiations with Japan, Australia, and India to form the working group are mandated.
- ❑ Composition: A US group of up to 24 members of Congress will represent the nation in the working group.
- ❑ Annual Reporting: The working group is required to submit an annual report to the congressional foreign affairs committees.

Provisions of the Bill

Guidelines Establishment: The bill outlines guidelines for annual meetings and group leadership.

Democratic Dissent

- ❑ Opposition: Two Democratic lawmakers dissented, including Congresswoman Ilhan Omar from Minneapolis.

Bill Sponsor's Remarks

- ❑ Sponsor: Congressman Gregory Meeks

- ❑ Rationale: Meeks emphasizes the importance of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue in promoting a free



and open Indo-Pacific and advancing US interests in the region.

- ❑ Strategy Focus Areas: The bill stresses cooperation on pandemic preparedness, technological innovation, and economic integration.

Bill Overview

- ❑ Name: Strengthen US-Australia-India-Japan Cooperation (Quad) Bill
- ❑ Vote Result: Passed with 379 to 39 votes
- ❑ Purpose: Enhance cooperation between the US, Australia, India, and Japan

19. "SUFALAM: Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors Startup Conclave 2024"

- ❑ Union Minister of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras emphasized the pivotal role of startups in the food processing sector.
- ❑ Inaugurating "SUFALAM: Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors Startup Conclave 2024" he highlighted the significance of events like SUFALAM, emphasizing their potential to enhance networking, facilitate knowledge sharing, and enable startups to leverage various government schemes.

About SUFALAM

- ❑ The Startup Conclave for Food Processing Entrepreneurs has the potential to be a game-changing event, driving the sector towards a future marked by innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth.
- ❑ As startups come together to exhibit their creativity and foresight, the conclave acts as a source of inspiration, encouraging the upcoming generation of food processing leaders to push the limits of what's possible.



- ❑ India's food industry presents lucrative investment opportunities, driven by growth in the food retail sector, favorable economic policies and attractive fiscal incentives.
- ❑ The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), under the Government of India, is taking all necessary steps to encourage investments in the food processing industry in the Country.

Food processing - 'A Sunrise sector'

20. Gupteswar Forest in Odisha declared Biodiversity-Heritage Site.

- ❑ The pristine Gupteswar Forest, adjacent to Gupteswar Shiva temple in Odisha's Koraput district has been declared as the 4th Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) of the state.
- ❑ Biodiversity Heritage sites (BHS) are well-defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems with a high diversity of wild and domesticated species, the presence

of rare and threatened species, and keystone species.

Area and Importance:

- ❑ The forest covers 350 hectares of demarcated area and holds immense cultural significance with its sacred groves, traditionally revered by the local community.

Flora and Fauna Diversity:

- ❑ It harbors a remarkable diversity of flora and fauna. The forest is home to



at least 608 faunal species, including 28 species of mammals.

Significant Species:

- ❑ Notable faunal species documented in the forest include the mugger crocodile, kanger valley rock gecko,

sacred Grove Bush Frog, and various avifauna such as black baza, Jerdon's baza, Malabar trogon, common hill myna, white-bellied woodpecker, and banded bay cuckoo.

- ❑ The limestone caves within the forest are home to eight species of bats, two of which are under the near-threatened category.
- ❑ As per provision under Section 37(1) of 'The Biological Diversity Act, 2002'

State Governments are empowered to notify in the official gazette, in consultation with 'local bodies', areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

21. The Ministry Of Ports, Shipping And waterways partners with IIM Shillong for India's first Gati Shakti Research Chair:-

- ❑ The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal attended the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the MoPSW and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) to set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair'.
- ❑ The Chair will spearhead high-quality academic research on multimodal logistics with a North-East focus: building knowledge on multimodal logistics development strategies and practice in the North-Eastern region, facilitate knowledge and innovation for logistical capacity building in the region.

- ❑ The chair also aims to foster collaboration with global experts in creating and developing knowledge & expertise while strengthening the links between the multimodal logistics research and capacity-building activities with key stakeholders such as the logistics industry, government bodies, local authorities, and other partners and associations.
- ❑ The chair will also support the multimodal logistics research activities, capacity building and outputs to enable PM Gati Shakti Masterplan to power the East and North-East Region's logistical capacity.



- ❑ A Strategic Round Table was also organized to discuss the multimodal logistics development strategy for connecting the North Eastern Region (NER) to the wider national and

international regions to strengthen the local economy at the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.

22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated Bharat Tex 2024:-

- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Bharat Tex 2024, one of the largest-ever global textile events held in India, at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi.
- ❑ The event marks a significant milestone in promoting India's rich textile heritage and fostering collaboration within the industry.
- ❑ At the inauguration, Union Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted the remarkable growth of Bharat Mandapam since its inauguration just seven months ago. He emphasized the need to expand the infrastructure to accommodate the increasing demand, suggesting the initiation of Phase 2 at both Bharat Mandapam and YashoBhoomi.
- ❑ Bharat Tex 2024 serves as a platform to showcase the iconic handloom and handicraft traditions of various states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❑ Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have been designated as the 'Partner States' for the event, underscoring their significant contributions to India's textile sector.
- ❑ Additionally, Gujarat, Telangana, and Madhya Pradesh have joined as 'Supporting Partner States,' further



enriching the diversity of textile offerings at the event.

23. India approves 100% FDI in space sector:-

- ❑ On February 22nd 2024, the Indian government amended foreign direct investment (FDI) guidelines for the strategic space sector, allowing greater overseas capital inflows across satellite manufacturing, launch vehicles building and ground infrastructure creation.
 - ❑ systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segments, and user segments.
 - ❑ 74 per cent FDI has been permitted for satellite manufacturing and operation, satellite data products, and ground segments and user segments. Beyond 74 per cent, these activities fall under the government route.
 - ❑ For the development of launch vehicles and associated systems, and the creation of spaceports for launching and receiving spacecraft, FDI under the automatic route has been fixed at 49 per cent.
- Indian Space Policy 2023**
- ❑ The Indian Space Policy 2023 was notified as a composite framework to implement the vision for unlocking India's potential in the Space sector through enhanced private participation.
 - ❑ The policy aims to augment space capabilities; develop a flourishing



commercial presence in space; pursue international relations and create an ecosystem for effective implementation of space applications among all stakeholders.

24. India completely stops Ravi river water flow to Pakistan

The flow of water from the Ravi River to Pakistan has been completely halted with the completion of the Shahpur Kandi barrage.

Shahpur Kandi barrage:

- ❑ It is located in Punjab's Pathankot district, situated on the border of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❑ The foundation stone for the Shahpur Kandi Barrage Project was laid by former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao in 1995.

- ❑ In 2018, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab signed an agreement to resume work on the Shahpur-Kandi dam project, which had been hanging fire for the last 40 years.

Benefits of a halt on the flow of water from Ravi River to Pakistan:

- ❑ Allocation for Jammu and Kashmir: The halt on the flow of water from Ravi River to Pakistan means that the Jammu and Kashmir region will now benefit from the 1,150 cusecs of water

that was previously allocated to Pakistan.

- ❑ Irrigation Benefits: The water will be used for irrigation purposes, benefiting over 32,000 hectares of land in the Kathua and Samba districts.
- ❑ Priority Status by Prime Minister: The Prime Minister accorded the highest priority to the Shahpur-Kandi dam project as it has the potential to irrigate thousands of acres of agricultural land in Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❑ Maximum Utilization of Ravi River: The completion of the barrage allows India to make maximum use of the Ravi River, ensuring that the water previously flowing towards Pakistan from the old Lakhampur dam will now be utilized in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

River distribution between India and Pakistan under Indus Water Treaty:

- ❑ Under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the water of



- the eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi amounting to around 33 million acre-feet (MAF) annually — is allocated to India for unrestricted use.
- ❑ The waters of western rivers— Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab — amounting to around 135 MAF annually have been assigned largely to Pakistan.

- ❑ According to the Treaty, India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through run-of-the-river projects on the western rivers

subject to specific criteria for design and operation.

- ❑ The Treaty also gives the right to Pakistan to raise objections to the design of Indian hydroelectric projects on western rivers.

- ❑ Pakistan roughly got 80% of the water in the Indus drainage system.
- ❑ India got about 3.3 crore of 16.8 crore acre-feet of water in the Indus system. At current usage, India utilizes a little over 90% of its quota of Indus waters.

25. The Philippines became the first Asian country to ratify ILO Convention 190.

- ❑ GENEVA – On 20 February 2024, the Republic of the Philippines deposited the instrument of ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), with the Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ❑ By depositing the instrument of ratification, the Philippines became the 38th country in the world, and the first Asian country, to ratify Convention No. 190.
- ❑ Convention No. 190 is the first international labor standard to address violence and harassment in the world of work comprehensively.
- ❑ Together with Recommendation No. 206, it establishes a framework for action, fostering a future of work grounded in dignity and respect.
- ❑ These instruments align with the objectives outlined in the ILO Centenary Declaration on the Future of Work, emphasizing a workplace free from violence and harassment, and supporting a human-centered recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.
- ❑ The Convention affirms the fundamental right of individuals to a workplace free from violence and harassment.
- ❑ It introduces the first globally recognized definition of workplace violence and harassment, offering protection to all individuals in the workforce, including interns, apprentices, and those with employer duties or authority.
- ❑ This protection extends across various sectors, including public and private, formal and informal economies, and urban and rural areas.



26. LIST OF IMPORTANT DAYS

Sr. No.	Date	Day
1.	February 1	Indian Coast Guard Day
2.	February 2	World Wetlands Day
3.	February 4	World Cancer Day
4.	February 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.
5.	February 10	National Deworming Day
6.	February 10	World Pulses Day
7.	February 12	Darwin day
8.	February 13	World Radio Day
9.	February 16	World Anthropology Day
10.	February 20	World Day of Social Justice
11.	February 21	International Mother Language Day
12.	February 24	Central Excise Day
13.	February 27	World NGO Day

27.IMPORTANT LEGAL MAXIMS

Sr. No.	Legal Maxim	Meaning
1.	<i>A fortiori.</i>	argument from a stronger reason
2.	<i>Actori incumbit probatio.</i>	The burden of proof is on the plaintiff.
3.	<i>ad hominem</i>	At the person
4.	<i>Ubi jus ibi remedium</i>	where there is a legal right there is a remedy
5.	<i>Ex injuria jus non oritur</i>	Law (or right) does not arise from injustice
6.	<i>Fraus et jus nunquam cohabitant</i>	Fraud and justice never dwell together
7.	<i>Ratio decidendi</i>	The reason for the decision
8.	<i>Obiter dictum</i>	That which is said in passing
9.	<i>Pacta sunt servanda</i>	Agreements must be followed
10.	<i>Pendente lite</i>	During litigation
11.	<i>Per incuriam</i>	Through lack of care
12.	<i>Prima facie</i>	On the face of it
13.	<i>Animus nocendi</i>	Intention to harm
14.	<i>Corpus Delicti</i>	Body of the crime.
15.	<i>Bis dat qui cito dat.</i>	He gives twice who gives quickly.

28. Monthly MCQs

1. India is home to around 718 snow leopards, according to the first-ever population estimation exercise conducted by the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Programme. The highest number of snow leopards were recorded in which place?
 - (a) Jammu and Kashmir
 - (b) Uttarakhand
 - (c) Himachal Pradesh
 - (d) Ladakh
2. Which state government has launched a new initiative called the 'Sadak Suraksha Force' to improve traffic movement and reduce road accidents in the state?
 - (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Gujarat
 - (c) Rajasthan
 - (d) Punjab
3. What is the mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024?
 - (a) Nokki, Lekki, and Tsukki
 - (b) Neve, Gliz and Aster
 - (c) Miga, Quatchi, Sumi
 - (d) Sheen-e She
4. Who is the author of the book titled 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar'?
 - (a) Amitav Ghosh
 - (b) Vikram Seth
 - (c) Jhumpa Lahiri
 - (d) Sanjeev Joshi
5. Indian Coast Guard Day is observed every year on February 1. The Indian Coast Guard was established in which year?
 - (a) 1952
 - (b) 1959
 - (c) 1969
 - (d) 1977
6. Who has launched 'Ministry of Education - AICTE Investor Network' in New Delhi?
 - (a) Anurag Thakur
 - (b) Piyush Goyal
 - (c) Smriti Irani
 - (d) Dharmendra Pradhan
7. North India's first human DNA bank has been established in which university?
 - (a) Jawaharlal Nehru University
 - (b) Lucknow University
 - (c) Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University
 - (d) Banaras Hindu University
8. Which edition of the Khelo India Winter Games has kicked off in Leh, Ladakh?
 - (a) 3
 - (b) 4
 - (c) 5
 - (d) 2
9. PFRDA-TRACE is the second phase of the TARCH project, demonstrating its importance in the advancement of PFRDA operations. What is "T" in TARCH?
 - (a) Tool
 - (b) Technique
 - (c) Technology
 - (d) Tasked
10. Which city hosted the inaugural BIMSTEC Aquatic Championship, which was opened by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur?
 - (a) Karnataka
 - (b) Telangana
 - (c) Goa
 - (d) New Delhi
11. In which year did the government declare February 28th as National Science Day?
 - (a) 1986
 - (b) 1988
 - (c) 1985
 - (d) 1984
12. DHARMA GUARDIAN' exercise, recently seen in the news, is conducted between two countries?
 - (a) India & Japan
 - (b) India & Sri Lanka
 - (c) India & Egypt
 - (d) India & Australia
13. What is 'Homosep Atom', recently seen in the news?
 - (a) Ancient irrigation technique
 - (b) Septic tank/manhole cleaning robot
 - (c) Nuclear ballistic submarine
 - (d) Ancient medicinal practice
14. What is the theme of 'World NGO Day 2024'?
 - (a) Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the SDGs
 - (b) Building a More Equitable World

- (c) Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development
(d) Celebrating Community Heroes
15. What is the name of the satellite recently launched by NASA to survey oceans and atmosphere?
(a) ROSAT (b) STARS-1
(c) ACE (d) ASTRO
16. According to the Education Ministry, from which academic session onwards should the age of admission to Grade 1 be 6 years?
(a) 2023-24 (b) 2025-26
(c) 2026-27 (d) 2024-25
17. Recently, which musician has been honored with the Laxminarayan International Award?
(a) Pyarelal Sharma
(b) V. M. Bhatt
(c) Santhosh Narayanan
(d) AR Rahman
18. What year did Sir C. V. Raman won the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the Raman Effect?
(a) 1928
(b) 1930
(c) 1935
(d) 1940
19. Rare Disease Day is observed every year on the last day of February. What is the theme of Rare Disease Day 2024?
(a) Express the feelings
(b) Share Your Colors
(c) Share your ideas
(d) Nothing
20. Neil Wagner has announced his retirement from international cricket. He is from which country?
(a) England
(b) New Zealand
(c) Australia
(d) South Africa
21. By which year will India establish its own space station in space?
(a) 2030
(b) 2032
(c) 2035
(d) 2040
22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat in virtual mode. The Vessel has been built at which company?
(a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
(b) Hindustan Shipyard
(c) ABG Shipyard
(d) Cochin Shipyard Limited
23. How many Russian banks have set up rupee vostro accounts with authorized dealer banks in India to promote rupee trading between the two countries?
(a) 10 (b) 20
(c) 15 (d) 25
24. Which ministry initiated the "SUFALAM: Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors Startup Conclave 2024"?
(a) Ministry of Home Affairs
(b) Ministry of Finance
(c) Ministry of MSME
(d) Ministry of Food Processing
25. Which country and India have signed terms of reference for the integration of the Unified Payments Interface and the National Payments Interface for Cross-Border Remittances?
(a) Bhutan
(b) Nepal
(c) Mauritius
(d) Bangladesh

Answer key

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (d) | 3. (d) | 4. (d) | 5. (d) | 6. (d) | 7. (d) | 8. (b) | 9. (c) | 10. (d) | 11. (a) | 12. (a) | 13. (b) | 14. (a) | 15. (c) |
| 16. (d) | 17. (a) | 18. (a) | 19. (b) | 20. (b) | 21. (c) | 22. (d) | 23. (b) | 24. (d) | 25. (b) | | | | | |