

Springboard
ACADEMY

Current Affairs

April-2024



MAHECHA

P U B L I C A T I O N

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Topper Talk - 1



Vishwajeet Singh

Rank – 04 (RAS - 2021)

Father – Puran Singh

Mother – Aruna Kanwar

Grad. – B.Tech (Mechanical Branch) MNIT, Jaipur
(7.6 CGPA)

12th – Central Academy School, Kota (84%)

10th – Vidhyashram International School, Jodhpur (88%)

Question: Congratulations for your great success in RAS 2021 exam.

Vishwajeet - Thank you very much

Question: How are you feeling after success?

Vishwajeet - It is a very unique experience when preparing alone for a long time and now admiring glances from all sides are making me happy.

Question : When did you start preparing for this exam?

Vishwajeet – RAS-2018 was my first attempt. Before this I was preparing for U.P.S.C. In the attempt of 2018, I got 281st rank and was allotted the service of Cooperative Inspector. I joined the job and continued my studies. In 2021, I took 3 months leave and prepared for the main exam and the result was very pleasant.

Question : In your opinion, when should start preparing for this exam and how much time should spend at least?

Vishwajeet - The ideal situation should be that during graduation itself, one should try to develop basic understanding of all the subjects and after graduation, one should continuously refine one's writing by understanding each subject deeply in an institutional manner. If you want to start preparing for the exam after graduation, then at least one year's time is required. The syllabus of this examination is quite wide, hence core

subjects like History, Polity, Geography, Science and Technology and Economy strengthen the basis of preparation of the candidate.

Question : What contribution did your graduation subjects make in the exam?

Vishwajeet - I have studied B. Tech, I have benefited from the logical approach developed during this period. Apart from this, my tendency to cover everything in the last moments of the exam helped me to cope with the pressure and stress of this exam.

Question: Who were your sources of inspiration?

Vishwajeet - If seen from the family point of view, my grandfather Mr. Tej Singh ji is my permanent source of inspiration. I learned from him that big goals can be achieved in life by keeping a very simple but conscious approach. I have learned from him how even free time can be converted into productivity. It was from this perspective that I approached every activity during my exam preparation from the exam point of view and ultimately I benefited from it at every stage.

Question: Did you take coaching from any coaching institute?

Vishwajeet - Yes, I received coaching from Springboard Academy located in Jodhpur and Jaipur. I was a student of offline batch in Jodhpur branch and in the 2021 attempt, I took online classes from Springboard Institute, Jaipur.

Question: In your opinion, is online study better or offline?

Vishwajeet - Both the mediums are better and both have their pros and cons like the advantage of online medium is that time is saved, syllabus is completed quickly, revision can be done again and again. My Rajasthan General Knowledge was weak so I strengthened this part by watching videos again and again and making notes. But in the online medium,

generally the candidate is not able to remain disciplined for a long time and there is a risk of carelessness. Whereas in offline medium, students remain active due to discipline, regularity and better guidance.

Question : How to choose coaching?

Vishwajeet – While selecting a coaching institute, the student should see the results of the previous years of the institute and then consult the students studying in that institute. If possible, guidance should be sought from candidates who got success in the examination. Apart from this, one should also know about the features like regularity of classes, level of test series etc. I got information about all these aspects before taking admission in Springboard and I am satisfied that my decision was right.

Question: What was your medium and does it make any difference in the exam?

Vishwajeet - I don't think the medium makes any difference because if you see the final result of 2021, the candidates selected at first and second rank are from Hindi medium, whereas in 2018, the candidates selected at first rank were from English medium. Apart from this, almost equal number of candidates are selected from both the mediums, hence one should not be in doubt about the medium.

Question: Apart from practice, what other method is effective to improve the level of writing in the main examination and to memorize facts in the preliminary examination?

Vishwajeet - In my opinion, test series is a better medium which increases confidence in terms of preparation for preliminary and main examination. Joining test series for preliminary exams and being regular ensures that students keep revising from time to time. Preliminary test lets you know which part of the syllabus is your weak point. As far as practicing for mains exam is concerned, test series play a decisive role as it is the only way which refines your preparation. In this attempt, I wrote 27 papers of Springboard Test Series which helped me a lot in completing the syllabus and improving my writing ability.

Question: These days many institutes organize

test series online and offline. In such a situation, what things should a student keep in mind while joining the test series?

Vishwajeet - It is true that students get confused due to having so many options, but an alert student should join the test series keeping in mind the points like regularity of the test series, level of questions and style of checking the answer sheets. Personally, I found Springboard Academy's test series to be the best among the options available. Apart from this, as an innovation in Springboard Academy, a team sits outside each classroom which makes the students focus on daily answer writing practice, which sharpens the preparation of the students.

Question: What are the problems faced while preparing away from home and how did you overcome them?

Vishwajeet - Situations like eating outside, sometimes health issues and choosing the right place to live come with every student but to achieve the bigger goal, small problems have to be ignored. Apart from this, there are some benefits of staying away from home like focusing on studies and knowing the level of competition. Therefore, I believe that staying away from home is generally beneficial for this examination. If you are preparing at home then it is mandatory for you to be self-disciplined.

Question: Tell us about your study material and resources during preparation.

Vishwajeet - For my preparation, I only followed Springboard's notes for subjects related to Rajasthan like History, Art and Culture, Geography, Economics. For other subjects, Springboard notes and my UPSC notes were used as basis and value added. Used internet for diagrams, flow charts, images and other value additions.

Question: How did you keep yourself motivated and regular in this long process of RAS preparation?

Vishwajeet - To be honest, it is difficult to stay motivated all the time but one should try to study for 4 to 5 hours every day. You can take a break to travel

once a month. But one should study for 7 to 8 hours two months before the exam. The time between pre and main examination should not be wasted at all. Candidates can develop a hobby which will help them in coping with this long and tiring process.

Question: What has been the role of friends/group during RAS preparation?

Vishwajeet - Friends with similar goals are helpful to you during preparation. If a small group of friends are associated with you in preparation and they are also serious about the preparation, then such friends can be icing on the cake. Who can also provide you guidance with necessary support during preparation. You can strengthen your weak subjects by discussing them with friends.

Question: How do family support and social pressure affect preparation?

Vishwajeet - The behavior of my family was very positive for me and family is helpful in reducing social pressure. This type of atmosphere prevailed during my preparation also.

Question: What was the contribution of teachers from primary education to RAS preparation? Who were you most influenced by?

Vishwajeet - It was my teachers who encouraged me to go to Kota for 11th and 12th. Pramod Sirvi, selected in RAS in 2013, who was my senior, guided me for RAS preparation. During my preparation in Jodhpur, Manohar sir played a major role in my preparation.

Question: What is the importance of short notes during RAS Prelims and Mains exam?

Vishwajeet - I think that if you maintain good notes then you should keep adding value to them. There is no need to make short notes of them. Short notes can be made on some subjects in which definitions and words have to be remembered like law and behavior.

Question: There is a lot of discussion about Plan B. What is your opinion on it?

Vishwajeet – At least two attempts should be made seriously because this examination is conducted

in three stages. There may be shortcomings in the first attempt. There is a lot of time between the first and second attempts, during which those shortcomings can be removed. If you are not selected after the second attempt and your circumstances are not favourable, then you should think of Plan B. Because two attempts take about 5 years and then family pressure increases. In the next attempt, one should prepare dedicatedly for two to three months before the exam.

Question: After the selection, what changes are you experiencing at the personal level and from the society side?

Vishwajeet - The first change is that respectable behavior is seen from the society and people in the society treat you well. At a personal level, your accountability increases and you become more conscious of your words and statements. Because your views are not personal but represent a larger institutional structure.

Question: What is your opinion about Springboard's new initiative (Current Affairs Magazine)? How will it be helpful for students preparing for RAS?

Vishwajeet – Candidates remain in a state of dilemma regarding current affairs. At present there is no dedicated magazine for the RAS preparation. But if such an initiative is being taken by Springboard then it will undoubtedly prove to be a panacea for the candidates.

Springboard family wishes you a bright future.

Vishwajeet – Thanks.



SCHEMES IN NEWS

Social Security Pension Schemes

- ❑ The amount of social security pension schemes has been increased from Rs 1000/month to a minimum of Rs 1150/month from April 1, 2024.
- ❑ **Mukhyamantri Ekal Nari Pension Yojana** - A single woman between 18 to 75 years will be given a pension of Rs 1150 instead of Rs 1000 from April 1 and a single woman of 75 years or more will be given a pension of Rs 1500 per month.
- ❑ **Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Samman Pension Scheme**
Male - 58 years or older - Rs 1150 per month
Female - 55 years or older - Rs 1150 per month
- ❑ **Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyajan Samman Pension Scheme-**
Up to 75 years of age - Rs 1150 per month
Female above 75 years of age - Rs 1250 per month

Farm Pond Scheme

- ❑ This scheme is being operated by Rajasthan Agriculture Department from April 1, 2020. Recently, the subsidy amount in this scheme has been increased from 90 thousand to 1.35 lakh.
- ❑ **Objective** - To stop the falling ground water level in Rajasthan and to deal with the problem of irrigation.
- ❑ To encourage farmers to collect water by making ponds in the fields and use it for agriculture, the state government is giving subsidy to farmers for making ponds in the fields under the Farm Pond Scheme.

Eligibility -

- To avail the benefits of this scheme, it is necessary to have 0.3 hectare agricultural land or at least 0.5 hectare agricultural land in case of joint ownership.
- Farmers with lease/agreement should be farming on that land for at least 7 years, an affidavit has to be given on plain paper that how much irrigated and non-irrigated land the farmer has.
- The size of the pond should be at least 400 cubic meters.

Benefits -

- General category farmers will be given a grant of Rs 1.20 lakh.
- Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and small marginal category farmers will be given a grant of Rs 1.35 lakh.

PM Kusum Yojana

- ❑ KUSUM (Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan)
- ❑ Ministry-Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- ❑ A recently Jodhpur Discom topped the PM Kusum's component-C. Jodhpur Discom approved solarization of 3000 MW agricultural pumps i.e. installation of plants in one month.

Objective

- ❑ The objective of the scheme is to increase the solar capacity by 30,800 MW by the year 2022 with a total central financial assistance of Rs 34,422 crore including service charges to the implementing agencies.

Components of the scheme

- Component-A - Installing 10,000 MW solar capacity through installation of small solar power plants of capacity up to 2 MW.
- Component-B - Installation of 20 lakh stand-alone solar powered agricultural pumps.
- Component-C - Solarization of 15 lakh grid connected agricultural pumps.
- Period - By 31 December, 2026.

Swami Vivekananda Academic Excellence Scholarship Scheme

- ❑ Changed name of Rajiv Gandhi Academic Excellence Scholarship Scheme
- ❑ Under this scheme, the number of seats will be 500, in which 300 seats will be for studies in foreign institutions and 200 seats will be for studies in educational institutions of the country itself.
 - In the earlier scheme, out of 500 seats, 150 students were sent to study in foreign institutions.
- ❑ The entire expenditure of education of all the students selected under the scheme will be borne by the Rajasthan government.

PERSONALITY IN NEWS**Amar Singh**

- ❑ In the 'Asia Oceania Ultra Marathon Championship - 2024' held in Canberra (Australia) from 6 to 7 April 2024, Amar Singh of Jaipur district won the gold medal by covering a distance of 272 km in 24 hours.
- ❑ This marathon was organized under the aegis of the International Association of Ultra Runners.
- ❑ Amar Singh represented the Indian team in the Asia Oceania 100 km Championship held in Bangalore in July 2023 and the 24 Hour World Championship held in Taiwan in December 2023.

Ultra Marathon

- ❑ In this, the participants have to run for 24 hours and cover the maximum distance.

Pana Devi Godara

- ❑ The 92-year-old woman from Ankhisar village, Bikaner recently participated in the 44th National Master Athletics Championship-2024 held in Pune and won three gold medals in 100m race, shot put and discus throw.
- ❑ Pana Devi will participate in the World Championship to be held in Sweden in August.

Rosie Baroliya

- ❑ Rosie Baroliya of Jaipur became the first transgender of the state to get a passport.
- ❑ Rosie Baroliya is also known as an activist for raising awareness about the rights of the transgender community.

Dr. Chandrashekhar Sen

- ❑ Dr. Chandrashekhar Sen is a terracotta artist from Jaipur.
- ❑ Dr. Chandrashekhar Sen was awarded the Kausa Trust Kala Award 2024 by Kausa Trust Amritsar.
- ❑ Dr. Chandrashekhar Sen has been awarded an honorary degree by the African Moon University, South-West Africa.

PLACES IN NEWS**Rural Haat Bazaar - Thikriya**

- ❑ A multipurpose rural haat bazaar has been set up by NABARD in Thikriya village of Sikar.
- ❑ Its objective is to reduce the interference of middle men in agriculture.
- ❑ Weekly or fortnightly fairs will be organized for the sale of products, goods and commercial crops manufactured by farmers and women producer groups.

- ❑ This is the fifth multipurpose rural haat bazaar of Rajasthan built by NABARD.

Gagan Shakti

- ❑ **Gagan Shakti** - India's largest air military exercise was organized by the Indian Air Force from 1 to 10 April.
- ❑ It was organized at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer.

Mallinath Animal Fair

- ❑ Mallinath Animal Fair is held every year from Chaitra Krishna Ekadashi to Chaitra Shukla Ekadashi.
- ❑ This year it was organized in Tilwara, Balotra from 5 to 19 April.
- ❑ First of all, the festival was organized in Vikram Samvat 1431 on the auspicious occasion of Rao Mallinath ascending the throne.
- ❑ This fair is being organized for about 650 years.
- ❑ It is being organized by Rajasthan Animal Husbandry Department since 1958.
- ❑ Cattle breeders from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and other states participate in it.
- ❑ In this fair, Tharparkar, Kankrej cattle, Malani breed horses and camels are bought and sold.

Sheetla Mata Mela

- ❑ Sheetla Mata Mela is held every year on Chaitra Krishna Ashtami at Sheel Ki Dungri, Chaksu, Jaipur.
- ❑ Sheetla Mata is worshipped on Chaitra Krishna Ashtami. On this day, Basoda (food cooked at night) is offered as prasad.
- ❑ On this day, a fair of donkeys is held in Chaksu. According to popular belief, donkey is the vehicle of Sheetla Mata.
- ❑ Sheetla Mata is famous as the protector goddess of children and Mahamai.
- ❑ Sheetla Mata is worshipped to avoid the outbreak of skin diseases like smallpox and measles.

- ❑ As per the tradition only the people of the potter community are the priests of Sheetla Mata Mandir.
- ❑ The Sheetla Mata temple at Sheel Dungri, Chaksu was built by Maharaja Madho Singh II of Jaipur.
- ❑ Another major temple of Sheetla Mata is located at Kaga Ki Pahari, Jodhpur.
- ❑ The broken idol of Sheetla Mata is worshipped.

Devikot, Jaisalmer

- ❑ A 180 MW solar power plant will be set up by Adani Green Energy at Devikot, Jaisalmer.
- ❑ It will generate 540 million units of electricity per year.
- ❑ Adani Green Energy and Solar Energy Corporation of India have signed a power purchase agreement for 25 years.

Gandhi Vatika Museum

- ❑ The Gandhi Vatika Museum is located in Central Park, Jaipur.
- ❑ It depicts the life, ideology and role of Gandhiji in the freedom movement in a pictorial manner.
- ❑ The walls of this three-storey museum, built in an area of 14500 square meters, are made of clay.

Frontline Fusion

- ❑ 'Frontline Fusion' is a program jointly organized by the Battle Axe Division of the Indian Army and the Border Security Force (BSF) in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan recently.
- ❑ The objective of the program was to improve mutual coordination for joint operations in desert areas and border areas.

Jeenmata Temple Ropeway

- ❑ The seventh ropeway of Rajasthan has been started in Jeenmata Temple located in Sikar.
- ❑ The length of this ropeway is 500 meters.
- ❑ This will promote religious tourism and local tourism.

Other ropeways of Rajasthan -

1. Sundha Mata Temple - Jalore
2. Savitri Mata Temple - Pushkar
3. Samod Veer Hanuman Temple - Chomu, Jaipur
4. Khole Ke Hanuman Temple - Jaipur
5. Manshapurna Karni Mata Temple - Udaipur
6. Neemach Mata Temple - Udaipur

Emergency Air Strip

- ❑ The country's first emergency air strip has been constructed in Agdawa village of Sanchore.
- ❑ Recently Tejas and Jaguar fighter planes were landed on it.
- ❑ It is located on National Highway 925-A built under the Bharatmala project.
- ❑ It is located about 40 km away from the India-Pakistan border.
- ❑ Its length is 3 km.
- ❑ This air strip will play an important role in the strategic area in emergency situations.

Butterfly Park

- ❑ The second Butterfly Park of the state will be built in Ajmer.
- ❑ The first Butterfly Park is located in Udaipur.
- ❑ It will be developed by the Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan.
- ❑ 115 species of butterflies are found in Rajasthan. A favorable environment will be created in the Butterfly Park to increase their number, under which such plants and flowerbeds will be planted where butterflies like to live more.

Mewar Festival

- ❑ The Mewar Festival was organized by the Tourism Department in Udaipur from 11 to 13 April.
- ❑ During the event, processions of Lord Shiva (Isar) and Gangaur (Parvati) are taken out at various ghats of Udaipur.

Other famous Gangaur of Rajasthan (Chaitra Shukla Tritiya)

- Pink Gangaur - Nathdwara
- Gangaur without Isar - Jaisalmer (Chaitra Shukla Chaturthi)
- Gangaur Sawari - Jaipur

Various initiatives of Election Commission in Rajasthan**C-Vigil App**

- ❑ C-Vigil App is becoming an excellent means for quick redressal of complaints of violation of Model Code of Conduct in Lok Sabha Elections-2024 and for strict monitoring.
- ❑ C-Vigil App allows any person to report Model Code of Conduct violations. It has the option to keep the identity of the complainant confidential.
- ❑ The officers will resolve the problem within a time limit of 100 minutes.

Complaints can be made regarding the following-

- Distribution of liquor and drugs, display of arms, paid news, distribution of money, defacement of property, threats, free distribution, voter transportation, fake news and speeches spreading communal hatred.

Suvidha App

- ❑ Through this application, candidates can submit their nomination form and affidavit online.
- ❑ Online application can be made for permission of rally/meeting etc. through this application.

Voter Service Portal

- ❑ In this portal, application for adding, deleting or modifying name in voter list, updated status of application, link to voter list and list of concerned election officers can also be obtained.

Voter Turnout App

- ❑ Through this app, assembly wise voter turnout (including number of men, women, third gender) in the state can be seen on polling day.

National Grievance Services (NGS) Portal

- ❑ Voters can use this app to register complaints regarding non-receipt of voter ID card, non-resolution of application form or violation of model code of conduct.

Saksham App

- ❑ This app developed by the Election Commission of India for the convenience of Divyang people.
- ❑ Through this, Divyang people can apply to register their disability in the electoral roll.
- ❑ They will be able to apply for wheelchair for polling day.

KYC (Know Your Candidate) App

- ❑ Through this, complete information about the candidates participating in the election can be obtained.

Home Voting

- ❑ The facility of home voting is available to such voters who are senior citizens above 85 years of age or specially abled persons with more than 40 percent disability category.
- ❑ In the Lok Sabha elections-2024, 76,636 eligible voters have registered for 25 Lok Sabha constituencies of the state.
- ❑ To opt for this facility, eligible voters have to apply through form 12-D.
- ❑ This includes 58,954 elderly and 17,682 disabled voters.

Vote-Q-Tracker App

- ❑ Voters will be able to know the status of the polling station and the number of voters through this app.

- ❑ For the first time, the Vote-Q-Tracker mobile app innovation has been launched for a total of 9 assembly constituencies of the city including Jhotwara assembly of Jaipur urban and Jaipur rural Lok Sabha constituency.
- ❑ The total number of voters will be updated on the mobile for booth every hour. With this information, voters will be able to go to the booth and vote as per their convenience.

Rajasthan Lok Sabha General Election - 2024

- ❑ Elections for the 18th Lok Sabha were held in Rajasthan in April 2024.
- ❑ There are a total of 25 Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan.
 - General - 18
 - Scheduled Caste (SC) - 4 (Karauli-Dholpur, Bharatpur, Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner)
 - Scheduled Tribe (ST) - 3 (Udaipur, Banswara, Dausa)
- ❑ These elections were conducted in two phases -
 - First Phase - 19 April, 2024 - on 12 Lok Sabha seats
 - Second Phase - 26 April, 2024 - on 13 Lok Sabha seats
- ❑ Total registered voters in Rajasthan - 5,35,08,010
 - Male voters - 2,78,74,533
 - Female voters - 2,56,32,849
 - Third Gender - 628
- ❑ Total polling stations - 53,126
 - Highest number of voters - in Pali Lok Sabha constituency
 - Lowest number of voters - in Dausa Lok Sabha constituency
- ❑ In the Lok Sabha elections 2024, 61.60% voting took place in the state. There has been a decrease of 4.84% as compared to 2019. In 2019, 66.34% voting took place.
 - Highest voting - Barmer Lok Sabha constituency (76.50%)

- Lowest voting - Karauli-Dholpur Lok Sabha constituency (50.04%)
- Compared to the Lok Sabha elections 2019, the number of voters in 2024 has increased by 45,51,376.
- Highest increase - in Barmer Lok Sabha constituency
- Lowest increase - in Ajmer Lok Sabha constituency

MISCELLANEOUS

Great Indian Bustard

- Recently, the Supreme Court has constituted a committee (under the chairmanship of Supreme Court Chief Justice Justice D. Y. Chandrachud) for the conservation of the state bird Great Indian Bustard.
- This committee will have a total of 7 members including environmental experts, government officials.
- The expert committee will submit its report regarding the conservation of Great Indian Bustard to the court by July 31.

Great Indian Bustard

- Scientific name - *Ardeotis nigriceps*.
- It was declared the state bird of Rajasthan in 1981.
- Great Indian Bustard is a critically endangered bird of the country.
- On 5 June 2013, the government started 'Project Great Indian Bustard' for the conservation and breeding of Great Indian Bustard from National Desert Park (Jaisalmer, Barmer).
- Great Indian Bustard breeding centers are established in Jodhpur Zoo, Sorsen (Baran) and National Desert Park.
- Great Indian Bustard is included in the list of critically endangered species in the Red Data

Book of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-1972.

- Hunting of Great Indian Bustard is prohibited under Wildlife Protection Act-1972. (Included in Schedule-1)
- The Great Indian Bustard is included in Appendix-1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

DIA-CoE launched by IIT Jodhpur

- IIT Jodhpur has launched DRDO-Industry-Academic Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- This Centre of Excellence will conduct research in the field of Desert Warfare Technology, Futuristic Omni Mobility System and Artificial Intelligence for Information and Wargaming Technology.

Roots of Rajasthan

- On the occasion of 75th Foundation Day of Rajasthan, Tourism Minister Diya Kumari launched the campaign 'Roots of Rajasthan' of Digital Bal Mela. In this programme, children between 10 and 18 years will make videos giving information about the tourist places of Rajasthan. So that the art, culture and heritage of Rajasthan can come in front of the world and tourism can be promoted.
- 100 children who perform well will get rewards and a chance to visit Jaipur for 3 days.
- This campaign will run for 6 months.

Children will learn in schools the AI-IT.

- The Rajasthan State School Education Council has approved robotic labs in 281 Mahatma Gandhi Government Schools.
- Robotic labs are being set up in 9 Mahatma Gandhi Government Schools in Jodhpur district.
- Teachers of computer, mathematics and science of selected schools are also being trained.

- ❑ Students from class 6 to 12 will be given at least 1 hour a week in the lab related to AI-IT.

Jadui Pitara App

- ❑ Recently, the Central Board of Secondary Education has launched an app called 'Jadui Pitara' for primary class children.
- ❑ Through this app, children will be taught jingles and stories through AI.
- ❑ Jadui Pitara is a game-based teaching material designed for children in the age group of 3 to 8 years and guidelines for Balvatika (pre-primary education) which will be implemented from the new session on April 1.
- ❑ There are three AI robots in it-
 1. **Katha Sakhi** - It will work as a story teller buddy and will tell stories to children in an interesting way.
 2. **Teacher Tara** - It will work as a guide for teachers and provide them teaching tips and resources.
 3. **Parent Tara** - It will provide guidance to parents and conduct fun activities.
- ❑ Through this app, children will learn more than a thousand stories in different languages with the help of AI.

Poshan Tracker Report

- ❑ **Issued by** - Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
- ❑ Poshan Abhiyan Yojana was started in the year 2018 by the Department of Women and Child Development.
- ❑ Under this, the nutrition system is being monitored through Anganwadi centers.
- ❑ Poshan Tracker application was started for this.
- ❑ Pregnant women are being given counseling and information from time to time for their health and nutrition of children.
- ❑ Khichdi, Daliya and Premix Nutrition are provided to children at Anganwadi centres.

- ❑ The list of districts with the most malnourished and the least malnourished children has been released through the Nutrition Tracker Report.
- ❑ 1.94 lakh children are malnourished in the state.

Districts with the most malnourished children		
Districts	Total malnourished	Very Severe
1. Udaipur	12976	3483
2. Dausa	12459	3477
3. Banswara	10063	3594

Districts with the least number of malnourished children		
Districts	Total malnourished	Very Severe
1. Jaisalmer	2246	1063
2. Kota	2361	550
3. Dhaulpur	2529	719

Sindesar Khurd

- ❑ According to the World Silver Survey 2024, Hindustan Zinc Limited's "Sindesar Khurd Mines" located in Dariba (Rajsamand) became the second largest silver producing mine in the world.
- ❑ This survey was conducted by The Silver Institute USA.
- ❑ Hindustan Zinc Limited became the third largest silver producing company in the world.

Khabha Fort

- ❑ Khabha Fort located in Jaisalmer will be made a National Geological Museum.
- ❑ Khabha Fort is a symbol of prosperity of Paliwal Brahmins.



SCHEMES IN NEWS

Green Hydrogen Pilot Project

- ❑ India's first multi-purpose (combined heat and power) Green Hydrogen Pilot Project was inaugurated at Nathpa Jhakri Hydropower Station (Himachal Pradesh).
- ❑ The Nathpa Jhakri Hydropower Station is a project of 'Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam'.
- ❑ This state-of-the-art project will produce 14 kg of green hydrogen in a daily 8-hour operation.

MyCGHS App

- ❑ This app has been launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to enhance access to electronic health record information and resources for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.
- ❑ This app has been developed by the technical teams of National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and NIC Health Team.

Myth Versus Reality Register

- ❑ This is a web portal.
- ❑ The Election Commission has launched this register on April 2 to prevent the spread of misinformation during the Lok Sabha elections and maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

Gaj Soochna

- ❑ Recently, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is going to start genetic profiling of captive elephants in Kerala.
- ❑ For this, a mobile application 'Gaj Soochna' has been developed at the Wildlife Institute of India.

Through this, forest department officials of any state of the country can get information and statistics.

PRERNA Program

- ❑ On April 12, the Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy addressed the first alumni meeting of the PRERNA program online.
- ❑ The Ministry of Education, Government of India launched 'PRERNA: An Experiential Learning Program' in January 2024.
- ❑ PRERNA is a week-long residential program for selected students of classes IX to XII.
- ❑ The PRERNA program was started from the Vernacular School established in 1888 in Vadnagar, District Mehsana, Gujarat, one of the oldest cities in India.

CDP - SURAKSHA

- ❑ Recently, the Central Government has launched a new platform named CDP – SURAKSHA for distribution of subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP).
- ❑ SURAKSHA stands for System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge and Secure Horticulture Assistance.

Digi Yatra

- ❑ Recently, Digi Yatra Foundation has announced the launch of Digi Yatra facility at 14 airports.
- ❑ Digi Yatra is a mobile application aimed at providing contactless seamless travel to passengers at airports using facial recognition technology (FRT).
- ❑ The Digi Yatra app is operated by Digi Yatra Foundation, which is a non-profit organization.

PERSONALITY IN NEWS

Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi

- ❑ Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi has recently been appointed as the judicial member of the Lokpal.
- ❑ Earlier, Ritu Raj Awasthi was working as the Chairman of the 22nd Law Commission of India.
- ❑ Apart from this, Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey have been appointed as members of the Lokpal.
- ❑ At present, Justice A.M. Khanwilkar is the Chairman of the Lokpal of India.

Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond

- ❑ The book Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond by Prof. Raman Mittal and Seema Singh was released by the Vice President of India.

Manoj Panda

- ❑ Recently, the Central Government has issued a notification appointing economist Manoj Panda as a full-time member of the 16th Finance Commission.
- ❑ The 16th Finance Commission was constituted in December 2023 under the chairmanship of former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Arvind Panagariya.
- ❑ The 16th Finance Commission will give its recommendations for the next 5 years starting from 1 April 2026.

Bilkis Mir

- ❑ Water sports kayaking and canoeing athlete Bilkis Mir will be the first Indian woman to be appointed as a jury member in the Paris Olympics.
- ❑ The Olympic Games are proposed to be held in Paris, France from 26 July.

Gopi Thotakura

- ❑ Recently, Gopi Thotakura has been selected in the six-member passenger crew of the NS-25 mission of Jeff Bezos' space startup Blue Origin.

- ❑ Gopi Thotakura is an NRI entrepreneur and pilot.
- ❑ On successful completion of the NS-25 mission, Gopi Thotakura can become the first Indian space tourist.
- ❑ The first Indian to go to space is Rakesh Sharma who flew in the Soviet Soyuz T-11 in 1984.

Rakesh Mohan

- ❑ Recently, the World Bank has appointed RBI Deputy Governor Rakesh Mohan as a member of the Economic Advisory Panel.
- ❑ Rakesh Mohan is also a part-time member of the PM Economic Advisory Council.
- ❑ Rakesh Mohan has also been an executive director on the IMF board.

Dinesh Kumar Tripathi

- ❑ Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as the next Chief of the Indian Navy.
- ❑ Tripathi is currently serving as the Deputy Chief of the Indian Navy.

Rajiv Gauba

- ❑ Rajiv Gauba has been appointed as the head of the Central Government's Cabinet Committee constituted for the LGBTQ+ community.

Gita Sabharwal

- ❑ Recently, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed India's Gita Sabharwal as the United Nations' local coordinator in Indonesia.

Time magazine's list of 100 most influential people

- ❑ Eight Indians have been included in the recently released Time magazine's list of 100 most influential people of the year 2024.
- ❑ Indians included in the list-
 - Dev Patel - British actor of Indian origin
 - Alia Bhatt - Indian actress

- Satya Nadella - CEO of Microsoft
 - Ajay Banga - President of the World Bank
 - Jigar Shah - Director of the Loan Program Office of the US Department of Energy
 - Priyamvada Natarajan - Professor of Astronomy and Physics at Yale University
 - Asma Khan - Entrepreneur of Indian origin
 - Sakshi Malik - Olympic medalist Indian wrestler
- ❑ The Time 100 list is published by the American news magazine Time Magazine on an annual basis since the year 2004.

D-Subbarao

- ❑ Recently, the memoir of former Reserve Bank of India Governor D-Subbarao, Just a Mercenary, has been published.

Sudhir Kakkar

- ❑ The father of Indian psychology, Sudhir Kakkar, passed away.
- ❑ He was born in Nainital, Uttarakhand.
- ❑ He worked to explore the interrelationship of psychoanalysis with Indian culture, mythology and religion.
- ❑ Books - 'The Seeker' and 'A Book of Memory'

Naima Khatoon

- ❑ Appointed as the first woman Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University.

PLACES IN NEWS**Paradip Port**

- ❑ In the financial year 2023-24, Paradip Port has been ranked at the top among the major ports of India in terms of cargo handling.
- ❑ Paradip Port is a major natural, deep-water port located at the confluence of Mahanadi and Bay of Bengal in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha.

- ❑ It is operated by Paradip Port Trust, an autonomous corporation wholly owned by the Government of India.
- ❑ Paradip Port has planned to install a 10 MW solar power plant to run its operations fully on renewable energy.

MEGHYAAN-24

- ❑ As a part of World Meteorological Day (March 23), the METOC (Meteorology and Oceanography) seminar Meghyaan-24 was organised by Naval Oceanography, School of Meteorology and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre at Southern Naval Command.
- ❑ The seminar was based on the theme 'At the Frontline of Climate Action' promulgated by World Meteorological Organisation for the year 2024.
- ❑ On this occasion, an indigenous mobile application centre 'Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis' was launched to disseminate meteorological information and forecasts that empower better and quicker decisions.

Nimmu-Padam-Darcha Road, Ladakh

- ❑ This strategically important road will go from Manali to Leh.
- ❑ The length of this road is 298 km.
- ❑ This road has been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- ❑ This road passes through the Shinku La pass.

Shinku La Pass-

- This is a mountain pass connecting the Jaskar Valley of Ladakh and Lahaul Spiti of Himachal Pradesh.

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

- ❑ Recently, about 100 hectares of forest was destroyed due to fire in the Sultan Bathery forest range of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❑ Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Kerala in the Western Ghats.

- ❑ It is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ❑ Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary extends to the protected areas of Nagarhole and Bandipur in Karnataka in the northeast and Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu in the southeast.

Flora

- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary has a range of moist deciduous to dry deciduous and semi-evergreen vegetation. These include teak, rosewood, eucalyptus and silver dhok trees.

Fauna

- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary has the largest population of tigers in Kerala.
- Apart from this, elephants, leopards, wild cats, bison, bears and deer are mainly found.

Poorvi Lehar

- The Indian Navy recently conducted a comprehensive exercise on the eastern seaboard, which was named 'Poorvi Lehar'.
- Naval ships, submarines, aircraft and special naval forces participated in the Poorvi Lehar exercise.

Panandhro Lignite Mine

- ❑ Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee have discovered the fossil of one of the largest snakes found on earth from the Panandhro Lignite Mine, Kutch, Gujarat.
- ❑ Researchers have named it Vasuki indicus, which was between 10 and 15 meters long and probably existed on Earth in the middle Eocene era, 47 million years ago.
- ❑ Vasuki refers to the mythical snake that is often depicted around the neck of the Hindu god Shiva.

Tashigang Village

- ❑ Tashigang village, located at an altitude of 15256 feet above sea level in Lahaul Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, is the highest polling station in the world.

- ❑ According to the voter list of Lok Sabha elections 2024, there are 52 voters in this village.

Khavda

- ❑ The world's largest renewable energy park has been set up in Khavda, Kutch (Gujarat).
- ❑ The Khavda Renewable Energy Park has been set up by Adani Green Energy Limited.
- ❑ The Khavda Renewable Energy Park is spread over 538 sq km.
- ❑ Khavda receives the highest solar radiation in India after Ladakh and the wind speed here is five times more than the plains.

AWARDS**Skoch Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Award 2024**

- ❑ Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited has been awarded the Skoch Award 2024 in the Renewable Energy Financing category.
- ❑ The award was presented to T.S.C. Bosch, Executive Director, REC in New Delhi.
- ❑ The award reflects REC's dedication towards sustainable financing, paving the way for a greener future and accelerating the process of transition to the use of renewable energy.
- ❑ The Skoch Environmental, Social and Governance Awards recognize organizations that demonstrate excellent work in environmental, social and governance practices.
- ❑ The ESG Awards and Assessment serve as an important benchmark for evaluating the commitment of organizations to 'India 2047'.

Rural Electrification Corporation Limited-

- It is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and is registered with RBI as a Non-Banking Finance Company and Infrastructure Finance Company.

Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2024

- ❑ The Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust has recently announced the annual Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah National Award 2024.
- ❑ The Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for the year 2024 was awarded to Professor Surinder S. Jodhka (JNU) and the Elizabeth Adiseshiah Award was awarded to Associate Professor Vikas Kumar of Azim Premji University.
- ❑ The Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah National Award is given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust, Chennai in memory of eminent economist and educationist Dr. Malcolm S. Adiseshiah.

MISCELLANEOUS**Invasive alien species**

- ❑ According to the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, a species of animal or plant that is not native to India and whose spread in an area adversely affects or poses a threat to wildlife and their habitat is called an invasive species.
- ❑ A recent massive increase in the population of Chital (Spotted Deer) on Ross Island (Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island) in the Andaman-Nicobar Islands has had a devastating effect on the local fauna and flora.
- ❑ Some invasive species found in India are
 - African Catfish
 - Nile Tilapia
 - Red Billed Piranha
 - Alligator Gar
 - Red Eared Slider
- ❑ African Catfish is known for hunting waterfowl and migratory birds in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MRSA)

- ❑ Recently, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has become the third Indian shipyard to enter into a

Master Shipyard Repair Agreement with the US.

- ❑ Cochin Shipyard Limited is located in Kochi, Kerala.
- ❑ Larsen & Toubro (L&T), a state-run shipbuilding facility in Chennai, was the first Indian shipyard to enter into this agreement. It was followed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.

Agreement signed to make Bengaluru a major aviation hub for South India

- ❑ Recently, Air India and Bengaluru International Airport Limited have signed an agreement with the aim of developing Bengaluru as a major aviation hub for South India.

Memorandum of Understanding signed between PhonePe and Singapore Tourism Board (STB)

- ❑ Recently, Indian fintech company PhonePe and Singapore Tourism Board (STB) have signed an agreement to enable payments through UPI (Unified Payment Interface) in Singapore. Bhutan was the first country to adopt UPI in 2021.
- ❑ At present, UPI can be officially used in the following countries -

• Sri Lanka	• Mauritius
• France	• United Arab Emirates
• Singapore	• Bhutan
• Nepal	

Mohan Babu

- ❑ Recently, the Election Commission has made 'Mohan Babu' the election mascot in Cooch Behar, West Bengal.



- ❑ Mohan Babu is a black softtail turtle found in the pond of the Shiva temple in Baneshwar village of North Bengal.
- ❑ Mohan Babu is worshiped by the local people as an incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu.
- ❑ Mohan Babu has been included in the 'critically endangered' category by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Shompen tribe

- ❑ In the Lok Sabha elections 2024, members of the Shompen tribe have cast their vote for the first time.
- ❑ Shompen is a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) living in the dense tropical rain forests of Great Nicobar Island.

Agreement on cooperation in the field of human resource development in civil services

- ❑ A Memorandum of Understanding has recently been signed between India and Cambodia for cooperation in the field of human resource development in civil services.
- ❑ This agreement will determine the relationship between the two countries in the field of human resource development in civil services in the next 5 years.

Sagar Kavach

- ❑ Sagar Kavach is a joint maritime security exercise of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police and other security agencies.
- ❑ Recently Sagar Kavach exercise was conducted at Lakshadweep.

Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)

- ❑ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has identified three domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) for the year 2023-24.
- ❑ The list includes Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India and New India Assurance Company Limited.

- ❑ D-SIIs refer to insurers with capital size, market importance, and domestic and global interconnections such that a crisis or economic failure of these could cause significant dislocations in the domestic financial system.

Mushk Budhiji Rice

- ❑ It is an indigenous rice variety grown in Kashmir-Himalayas.
- ❑ It is known for its rich aroma and unique taste.
- ❑ It was on the verge of extinction due to blast disease, low yield, lack of profitability etc.
- ❑ Recent studies have shown that altitude and temperature play an important role in the development of the aroma of this rice.

Cybersecurity Readiness Index-2023

- ❑ The 2023 Cybersecurity Readiness Index was released by Cisco.

Key Points

- Only 4% of firms in India have the required 'mature' level of preparedness against modern cybersecurity risks.
- According to the index, enterprises are being targeted by cybercrime through a variety of techniques, ranging from phishing and ransomware to supply chain and social engineering attacks.
- Enterprises have failed to develop adequate security infrastructure against these attacks.
- According to Cisco, their pace has slowed down due to complex security structure with multiple points.
- In an era of unprecedented proliferation of devices and the rise of AI-driven cyberattacks, it is critical that organizations increase their investment in cybersecurity.
- Industries should focus on additional research for cybersecurity.

Forex Reserves

❑ Why is it in the news?

India's foreign exchange reserves have doubled in the last decade. Currently it is \$642.63 billion. It can cover up to 11 months of imports.

Reason

- Reduction in current account deficit at present.
- Strong service exports leading to improvement in balance of payments.

Foreign exchange reserves are managed by the RBI. Foreign exchange reserves include the following components:-

- (i) Foreign currency assets
- (ii) Gold
- (iii) Reserve Fund
- (iv) Special Drawing Rights
- ❑ Top 5 countries with maximum foreign exchange reserves at present (March 1, 2024)
 - (i) China (ii) Japan
 - (iii) Switzerland (iv) India
 - (v) Taiwan

Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- ❑ Officials of India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) bloc formally began negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

About EU

- It is an ambitious project for economic integration in the former Soviet region.
- It aims to create a common market like the European Union (EU).
- Established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union signed in Astana (now Nur-Sultan) in 2014.
- **Members:** Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.
- Within the EEU, Russia is India's top trading partner with bilateral trade of US\$ 49.4 billion (FY2023).

Defence Exports

- ❑ India's defence exports reached an all-time high. It stood at Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24.
- ❑ This indicates that defence exports have grown 31 times in the last 10 years as compared to FY 2013-14 and increased by 32.5% as compared to FY 2022-23.
- ❑ Further, the number of export authorisations increased to 1,507 in FY 2023-24.
- ❑ The private sector contributed nearly 60% to defence exports.

Sittwe Port

- ❑ India has secured the right to operate the Sittwe Port after the approval of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project



About Sittwe Port

- It is a deep-water port located at the mouth of the Kaladan River in Rakhine State of Myanmar.
- It has been developed as a part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTP) funded under grant-in-aid from the Government of India.
- It will open up new opportunities for trade and transit for India's Northeast, enhancing trade and commerce between India and Myanmar.

Form M

- ❑ The Election Commission of India has abolished the requirement of Form M for Kashmiri migrant voters in Jammu and Udhampur districts of Jammu and Kashmir to vote in the Lok Sabha elections.
- ❑ The decision comes after years of demand from displaced voters of the region.
- ❑ Migrants living outside these districts will still need to submit 'Form M' but they can now self-attest the required certificate instead of having it attested by a gazetted officer.
- ❑ These changes were made in response to the difficulties faced by Kashmiri migrant groups in filling out Form M for every election.

Clean Energy Joint Report

- ❑ Karnataka and Gujarat are leading in adopting green energy, according to the Clean Energy Joint Report.

- ❑ The report was released by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and clean energy think tank Amber.
- ❑ The report covered 21 states in India.
- ❑ Karnataka meets 37% of its electricity consumption and Gujarat 17% from green energy.

Tiranga Barfi and Cast Metallurgy

- ❑ Varanasi's Tiranga Barfi and Cast Metallurgy have been included in the GI tag list.
- ❑ The GI tags were awarded by the Geographical Indications Registry Office in Chennai.
- ❑ Tiranga Barfi is considered a symbol of the country's freedom struggle.
 - Saffron is used for saffron colour, pistachio for green colour and khoya and cashews for white colour.
- ❑ The Gangajali lota, bell and brass statues are examples of cast metal craft.



PERSONALITY IN NEWS

Salman Rushdie

- ❑ Indian-born British-American writer Salman Rushdie's memoir 'Knife' has been published recently.
- ❑ Other famous works of Salman Rushdie include 'The Satanic Verses' and 'Midnight Children'.
- ❑ Salman Rushdie was awarded the Booker Prize for 'Midnight Children'.

Simon Harris

- ❑ Simon Harris has recently been appointed as the Prime Minister of Ireland.
- ❑ 37 year old Simon Harris has become the youngest Prime Minister of the country till date.

Aung San Suu Kyi

- ❑ Recently, Myanmar's military government has transferred Aung San Suu Kyi from jail and placed her under house arrest.
- ❑ Aung San Suu Kyi is the pro-democracy leader of Myanmar.
- ❑ Aung San Suu Kyi has also been awarded the Nobel Prize for leading a peaceful pro-democracy movement against the military regime.
- ❑ In February 2021, the military junta arrested Suu Kyi after overthrowing the government of Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy.

Daniel Kahneman

- ❑ Daniel Kahneman recently died at the age of 90.
- ❑ Daniel Kahneman was a famous Israeli psychologist and behavioral economist.
- ❑ Daniel Kahneman was awarded the 2002 Nobel Prize in Economics for his contribution to behavioral economics.

Kristalina Georgieva

- ❑ Kristalina Georgieva is currently the Managing Director of the IMF.
- ❑ Recently, the IMF Executive Board has reappointed Kristalina Georgieva for a second term of five years.
- ❑ Kristalina Georgieva is a citizen of the European country Bulgaria.

Rumi Alqahtani

- ❑ 27-year-old Rumi Alqahtani is the first woman from Saudi Arabia to participate in the Miss Universe 2024 competition.
- ❑ Bahrain's Loujain Yacoub is the first woman from Arab countries to participate in the Miss Universe contest.

Juan Vicente Perez Mora

- ❑ Recently, Juan Vicente Perez Mora died at the age of 114.
- ❑ Venezuela resident Juan Vicente Perez Mora was certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest person in the world in the year 2022.
- ❑ After Juan's death, 111-year-old John Alfred Tinniswood of England has been officially considered the oldest person in the world by the Guinness Book of World Records.

PLACES IN NEWS

International Year of Nutrient (Coarse) Cereals - 2023

- ❑ It was organized on 29 March 2024 at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy.
- ❑ It was organized in a hybrid format.

- ❑ Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, participated on behalf of the Government of India.
- ❑ On the proposal of India, the United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Nutritious Cereals in its 75th session in March 2021.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations, which leads international efforts to combat hunger.
- Established on 16 October 1945.
- Headquarters - located in Rome, Italy.
- India is a founding member of FAO.
There are currently 195 members including the European Union.

Tiger Triumph 2024

- ❑ The bilateral tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise between India and the United States concluded on 30 March 2024.
- ❑ It was conducted on the US Navy's San Antonio class transport dock-Somerset.
- ❑ It aims to share best practices and standard operating procedures in launching multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

IMT Trilet-24

- ❑ IMT Trilet is a trilateral exercise between the navies of India-Mozambique-Tanzania.
- ❑ The second edition of IMT Trilet-24 was conducted in Nacala, Mozambique.
- ❑ In this exercise, INS Tir and Sujata participated from India's side.

Zaporizhia Nuclear Power Plant

- ❑ Recently, the Zaporizhia nuclear plant was attacked by drones during the Russia-Ukraine war.
- ❑ Zaporizhia is Europe's largest nuclear power plant located in South-Eastern Europe.

- ❑ Russia has been controlling this plant for the last two years.

Mount Etna Volcano

- ❑ Recently, circular rings of smoke are coming out from Mount Etna, one of Europe's largest and world's most active volcanoes. These rings are called volcanic vertex rings.



- ❑ The Mount Etna volcano is located on the eastern coast of Italy's Sicily island in the Mediterranean Sea.
- ❑ Mount Etna is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list (2013).

Nagorno-Karabakh Region

- ❑ Russian peacekeepers have recently started withdrawing from the Nagorno-Karabakh region after it came under the control of Azerbaijan last year.



- ❑ Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked mountainous region in the South Caucasus in Europe.
- ❑ This region has been a cause of dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.
- ❑ The Nagorno-Karabakh region is officially a part of Azerbaijan but the population here is of Armenian origin.

Mount Ruang

- ❑ Mount Ruang, located in a remote area of Indonesia, has recently erupted due to which thousands of people had to be evacuated from there.



- ❑ Mount Ruang is a stratovolcano located on the North Sulawesi Island of Indonesia, which keeps erupting repeatedly.
- ❑ Indonesia experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Isfahan

- ❑ Recently Israel has targeted an air force base in Iran's Isfahan province.



- ❑ Isfahan province is located in the center of Iran and is named after its largest city.
- ❑ Isfahan houses Iran's important military infrastructure. It includes a large air force base, a missile production center and several nuclear facilities.
- ❑ Isfahan is also an important cultural site of Iran. UNESCO World Heritage Sites are also present here.

Gaza Strip

- ❑ The Gaza Strip is a narrow Palestinian territory of 41 km along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, which is surrounded by Israel in the north and east and Egypt in the south.



- ❑ There are three points of entry and exit in the Gaza Strip
 - The Erez or Beit Hanon crossing in the north - connects the Gaza Strip to the West Bank.
 - Karem Abu Salem and Rafah Crossing in the south

Award

John L Jack Swigert Junior Award 2024

- ❑ Recently, India's Chandrayaan-3 mission team has been awarded the John L Jack Swigert Junior Award for the year 2024 for space exploration.

- ❑ D.C. Manjunath, Consul General of India in Houston, received this award on behalf of ISRO during the opening ceremony of the Annual Space Symposium in Colorado, USA.
- ❑ The John L Jack Swigert Award is given by the Space Foundation. The Space Foundation was established in 1983 to honor the memory and achievements of American astronaut John L Jack Swigert Junior.
- ❑ ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission was the first mission to land on the south pole of the Moon.

World Literary Award

- ❑ Kannada poet Mamta ji Sagar has been awarded the World Literary Award for her contribution to the world of literature.
- ❑ The World Literary Award is given by the World Writers Organization.

John Dirks Award

- ❑ Recently, Dr. Gagandeep Kang of India has been selected for the John Dirks Award in Global Health.
- ❑ Dr. Gagandeep Kang is currently working as the Global Health Director at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ❑ The John Dirks Award in Global Health is awarded by the Gairdner Foundation of Canada.
- ❑ Dr. Kang is the first woman to receive this award.
- ❑ Dr. Kang is also the first Indian woman to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.
- ❑ Dr. Gagandeep Kang has been given this award for doing research related to intestinal diseases in children.

MISCELLANEOUS

National Stock Exchange launches four new indices

- ❑ Nifty 500 Multicap India Manufacturing
- ❑ Nifty 500 Multicap Infrastructure

- ❑ Nifty Midsmall Healthcare Index
- ❑ Nifty Tata Group 25 Percent Cap Index

FDI Confidence Index

- ❑ It is released by American management consulting company Carney.
- ❑ India ranked 18th (2023-16th)
- ❑ India has been ranked among the top-25 countries in the world for the second consecutive year.

Global Hepatitis Report 2024

- ❑ The Global Hepatitis Report 2024 has been released by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❑ According to the report, India is one of the countries with the highest number of cases of viral hepatitis.
- ❑ About 2.9 crore people in India are suffering from hepatitis-B infection and 0.55 crore people from hepatitis-C infection.

Business Ready (B-Ready) Report

- ❑ The World Bank is preparing to release a new business environment report in place of the Ease of Doing Business Index, which has been named 'Business Ready Report'.
- ❑ The B-Ready report will include details of the standards of business and investment environment in most of the world's economies.
- ❑ The first B-Ready report will be presented on 25 September 2024. The first report for India will be released in 2026.
- ❑ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India has been made the nodal agency for the reporting process.
- ❑ Each parameter of the B-Ready report will be evaluated on the basis of three cross-cutting themes - digital technology, environmental sustainability and gender.

Dastlik Exercise

- ❑ Dastlik is a bilateral military exercise between India and Uzbekistan.
- ❑ The 5th edition of Dastlik will be held from 15 to 28 April in Termez, Uzbekistan.
- ❑ The 4th edition of Dastlik was held in Pithoragarh, (Uttarakhand), India.

Food Waste Index Report 2024

- ❑ The Food Waste Index Report 2024 is jointly published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a non-profit organisation based in New Delhi.

Nuclear energy and climate solutions

- ❑ The Nuclear Energy Summit was held in Brussels on 21 March.
- ❑ Nuclear energy is a clean energy source with very little waste in the energy production process.
- ❑ The greenhouse gas emissions from nuclear power generation are 100 times less than coal and half that of solar and wind power.
- ❑ The share of nuclear energy in global commercial energy production is less than 10%, which has been declining over the last decade.
- ❑ The production cost of nuclear energy remains expensive.
- ❑ India includes nuclear energy in its decarbonisation strategy.
- ❑ There are currently 23 nuclear reactors in operation in India. Their installed capacity is 7.5 gigawatts which is 3.1 percent of the total energy production.

World Cybercrime Index

- ❑ The first 'World Cybercrime Index' was released by the University of Oxford and UNSW Canberra.

Cyber Crime Index

Rank	Country
1.	Russia
2.	Ukraine
3.	China
4.	USA
5.	Nigeria
6.	Romania
7.	North Korea
8.	United Kingdom
9.	Brazil
10.	India

About the World Cybercrime Index

- It identifies the world's major cybercrime hotspots at the national level.
- It ranks nearly 100 countries and identifies major hotspots according to different categories of cybercrime, including ransomware, credit card theft and scams.

Indian Ocean Observing System

- ❑ India and the US have recently agreed to reactivate the Indian Ocean Observing System (IOS).

Indian Ocean Observing System (IndOOS)



What is IndOOS?

- It is a network of 36 floating platforms in the open ocean aimed at collecting ocean and atmospheric data for weather forecasting.
- The system got neglected during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to gaps in critical observational data. This particularly relates to the Indian Ocean Dipole phenomenon and monsoon predictions.

World Population Status Report 2024

- ❑ This report was released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- ❑ According to this report, India is the most populous country in the world with an estimated population of 1.44 billion.
- ❑ China is in second place with a population of 1.42 billion.
- ❑ The average life expectancy of men in India is estimated to be 71 years and 74 years for women.

SIPRI report on global military expenditure

- ❑ This report was released by the international think tank 'Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- ❑ Countries with the highest military expenditure
 1. United States (916 billion dollars)
 2. China (296 billion dollars)
 3. Russia (109 billion dollars)
 4. India (83.6 billion dollars)

2024 World Press Photo of the Year Award

- ❑ This award is given by the World Press Photo Foundation.
- ❑ This award was given to Reuters news agency photographer Mohammad Salem for his photograph of a Palestinian woman holding the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.

QS World University Rankings 2024

- ❑ This ranking is released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

- ❑ Jawaharlal Nehru University (Rank 20) is the highest ranked university in India.

Katchathivu Island

- ❑ Disputed island between India and Sri Lanka.
- ❑ This is a 285 acre island located 33 km from Rameswaram in India in the Palk Strait.
- ❑ This is an uninhabited island as there is no source of potable water here. The only structure built in the 20th century on this island is St. Anthony's Church.
- ❑ This was part of the Madras Presidency under British rule.
- ❑ This remained under the control of British India amid disputed claims until 1947.
- ❑ In 1974, India handed it over to Sri Lanka under the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Agreement.
- ❑ In 1991, the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution demanding the re-control of the island. In 2013, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court in this regard.
- ❑ The petition cited the decision of the Berubari Union Case, which considers constitutional amendment mandatory for the transfer of any area, whereas the process of constitutional amendment was not adopted in the Kachchativu case.
- ❑ On this issue, the Union Government replied in the court that this was not Indian territory but a disputed site.

Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Report

- ❑ This report is released by the World Trade Organization.

Key results of the report

- ❑ The global commercial trade is estimated to grow by 2.6% in 2024 and 3.3% in 2025.
- ❑ The US dollar value of global commercial trade fell by 5% in 2023 due to falling oil and gas prices.



National Youth Basketball Championship 2024

- ❑ The National Youth Basketball Championship was organized in Puducherry.
- ❑ The Rajasthan team won the championship by defeating Punjab in the boys category.
- ❑ The Haryana team finished third in the boys category.
- ❑ The Tamil Nadu team won by defeating Karnataka in the girls category.
- ❑ The Kerala team finished third in the girls category.

Hybrid Pitch

- ❑ The Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) has become the first BCCI-recognized venue to install a state-of-the-art hybrid pitch in Dharamsala.
- ❑ The pitch has been prepared by Netherlands-based 'SISgrass', a part of the SIS Pitches Group of Companies.
- ❑ The hybrid pitch uses 95% natural grass and 5% polymer fiber.

Narsingh Pancham Yadav

- ❑ Commonwealth Games gold medalist wrestling player Narsingh Pancham Yadav has been elected as the Chairman of the Athletes Commission of the Wrestling Federation of India.

Asian Wrestling Championship 2024

- ❑ The 20th edition of the Asian Wrestling Championship was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❑ Japan topped the Asian Wrestling Championship medal table with a total of 18 medals.
- ❑ India finished 9th in the medal table with a total of 9 medals (4 silver, 5 bronze).

- ❑ A total of 30 Indian wrestlers participated in the three events of the championship.

Indian Medalists

Silver Medal

- Udit (58kg)
- Radhika (68kg)
- Anju (53kg)
- Harshita (72kg)

Bronze Medal

- Abhimanyu (70kg)
- Vicky (97kg)
- Shivani Pawar (50kg)
- Antim Kundu (65kg)
- Manisha (62kg)

Badminton Asia Championship 2024

- ❑ The Badminton Asia Championship 2024 was held at Ningbo Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium, Ningbo, China.
- ❑ The Championship was organized by China Badminton Association.
- ❑ **Championship Winners**
 - Men's Singles Winner - **Jonathan Christie (Indonesia)**
 - Men's Singles Runner-up - **Li Xi Feng (China)**
 - Men's Doubles Winner - **Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang (China)**
 - Men's Doubles Runner-up - **Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin (Malaysia)**
 - Women's Singles Winner - **Wang Zhi Yi (China)**
 - Women's Singles Runner-up - **Chen Yu Fei (China)**
 - Women's Doubles Winner - **Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee (South Korea)**

- Women's Doubles Runner-up - **Zhang Shu Jian and Zheng Yu (China)**
- Mixed Doubles Winner - **Feng Yan Zhi and Huang Dongping (China)**
- Mixed Doubles Runner-up - **Seo Seung and Chae Yoo Jung (South Korea)**

51st National Carrom Championship

- ❑ 51st National Carrom Championship was organized by Madhya Pradesh Carrom Association at Gwalior, M.P. In the championship, the women's title was won by three-time world champion Rashmi Kumari (ONGC) by defeating Nagamoithi.
- ❑ The men's title was won by K. Srinivasan by defeating S Aditya.

56th National Kho-Kho Championship

- ❑ The 56th National Kho-Kho Championship was organized by the Indian Kho-Kho Federation at Karnail Singh Stadium and Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- ❑ In the men's category of the championship, the Maharashtra team was the winner and the Indian Railways team was the runner-up.
- ❑ In the women's category, the Maharashtra team was declared the winner and the Airports Authority of India team was declared the runner-up.

PR Sreejesh

- ❑ Recently, the International Hockey Federation has appointed Indian team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and Chile's Camila Carrom as co-chairs of the federation's Athletes Committee.
- ❑ The International Federation Athletes Committee acts as an advisory body.

D. Gukesh

- ❑ 17-year-old D- Gukesh of India has become the youngest challenger for the World Championship by winning the FIDE Candidates Tournament held in Toronto, Canada.



- ❑ The FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament has been organized by the International Chess Federation since 1950.
- ❑ D- Gukesh will challenge Chinese player Ding Liren in the World Chess Championship to be held in November-December, 2024.

66th Annual Hockey India Awards 2023

- ❑ The Hockey India Annual Awards have been given by the Hockey India Federation since 2014.
- ❑ **Hockey India Awards 2023 winners -**
 - Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award - **Ashok Kumar (30 Lakhs)**
 - Balbir Singh Senior Player of the Year Award, Men - **Hardik Singh (25 Lakhs)**
 - Balbir Singh Senior Player of the Year Award, Women - **Salima Tete (25 Lakhs)**
 - Asunta Lakra Under-21 Player of the Year Award, Women - **Deepika Soreng (10 Lakhs)**
 - Jugraj Singh Award Under-21 Player of the Year Award, Men - **Arijit Singh Hundal (10 Lakhs)**
- ❑ Baljit Singh Goalkeeper of the Year Award - **PR Sreejesh (5 Lakhs)**
- ❑ Pargat Singh Defender of the Year Award - **Harmanpreet Singh (5 Lakhs)**
- ❑ Dhanraj Pillai Forward of the Year Award - **Abhishek (5 Lakhs)**

Laureus World Sports Awards

- ❑ The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual award given by the Laureus Sports Academy which was started in the year 2000.

Winners of the Laureus World Sports Award 2024

- The Best Male Player of the Year Award - **Novak Djokovic**
- The Best Female Player of the Year Award - **Natana Bonmati**
- The Comeback of the Year Award - **Simone Biles**
- The Breakthrough of the Year Award - **Jude Bellingham**
- The Action Sports Person of the Year Award - **Arisa True**
- The Laureus Sports for Good Award - **Fedación Rafa Nadal**
- The Best Team of the Year Award - **Spain Women's Football Team**

Munich Open 2024

- ❑ BMW ATP Munich Open was organized in Munich city of Germany.
- ❑ Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri and France's Albano Olivetti have won the men's doubles event of Munich Open.
- ❑ This is Yuki Bhambri's second ATP title.
- ❑ German pair Andreas Mies and Jan Lennard Struff were runners-up in the doubles event of Munich Open.

Miami Open Competition - 2024

- ❑ The Miami Open is an annual tennis tournament held in Miami Gardens Florida, United States.
- ❑ Jannik Sinner of Italy won the title in men's singles.
- ❑ The women's singles title was won by Danielle Collins of the United States.
- ❑ Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden won the men's doubles title.

- ❑ Sofia Kenin and Bianni Mattek-Sands won the women's doubles title.
- ❑ Rohan Bopanna became the oldest player to win this title.
- ❑ Men's singles runner-up Grigor Dimitrov
- ❑ Women's singles runner-up Elena Rybakina.
- ❑ Men's doubles runner-up - Mostin Krajicek, Ivan Dodig
- ❑ Women's doubles runner-up - Annie Khatlif, Gabriela Dabrowski

23rd National Para Swimming Championship-2024

- ❑ The 23rd National Para Swimming Championship was organized at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Center Gwalior between 29-31 March.
- ❑ In this, Rajasthan secured fourth place with 132 points.
- ❑ Rajasthan's Jiya Gimnani won the trophy in the individual event.
- ❑ Karnataka stood first.
- ❑ Bhairaram Meghwal won gold medals in 50m breaststroke, 100m breaststroke and 100m butterfly.

Dipendra Singh Airee

- ❑ Nepal cricketer Dipendra Singh Airee became the third player to hit six sixes in an over in 20 cricket.
- ❑ Earlier, Yuvraj Singh and Kieron Pollard have achieved this feat.
- ❑ Herschel Gibbs is the only batsman to hit six sixes in an over in a one-day international match.

Open Skiff Euro Challenge

- ❑ 15-year-old Anandi Mandan Chandavarkar of India won the bronze medal in the Open Skiff (water stunt game) Euro Challenge.
- ❑ Anandi Mandan topped the girls' under-17 event.
- ❑ This competition was held in Italy from 5 to 7 April.

International Challenge Tournament

- ❑ Indian badminton players Anupama Upadhyaya and Tharun Mannepalli won the women's and men's singles titles respectively in the International Challenge Tournament.
- ❑ The pair of Sanjay Srivatsa Dhanraj - Manisha Gyan were runners-up in the mixed doubles after losing three games in the final.
- ❑ Anupama Upadhyaya defeated Israni Baruah.
- ❑ Tharun Mannepalli defeated Sung Ju Wen.

WTT Feeder Beirut Tournament

- ❑ 25-year-old Indian player Sreeja Akula won the women's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut Table Tennis Tournament.
- ❑ Akula defeated Sara de Knutte of Luxembourg 3-1.
- ❑ India won the mixed doubles and men's doubles titles.
- ❑ Poymanti Baisya and Akash Pal defeated Sathiyan Gyanasekaran and Manika Batra to win the mixed doubles title.
- ❑ Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar won the title in men's doubles by defeating compatriot pair Mudit Dani and Akash Pal.
- ❑ Gerasimeko won the men's singles title by defeating Sathiyan.

164th Indian Open Shotgun Competition - 2024

- ❑ The 164th Indian Open Shotgun Competition was organized by the National Rifle Association in Bathinda, Punjab.
- ❑ **Gold Medal** - Mahipal Singh Shekhawat (Rajasthan)
- ❑ **Silver Medal** - Priyanshu Pandey (Army)
- ❑ **Bronze Medal** - Maninder Singh (Punjab)

Dakshina Joshi

- ❑ Recently, Dakshina Joshi won three gold medals in the Asmita Khelo India Women's Series-2 West Zone competition organized at the Sports Village in Udaipur under the joint aegis of the Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and Swimming Federation.
- ❑ First place in 200 m butterfly, 100 m butterfly and 100 m backstroke.
- ❑ Won the title of Best Swimmer in the 2023 SGFI State Tournament.

'Wisden' Leading Cricketer of the Year Award

- ❑ By the annual magazine Wisden.
- ❑ This award has been given to Australia captain Pat Cummins in the men's category and Nat Sciver-Brunt (England) in the women's category.
- ❑ Australia's Travis Head received the Wisden Trophy for the best individual performance.
- ❑ West Indies' Hayley Matthews was selected as the T20 Cricketer of the Year.



Kala-azar (Kala-azar)

- ❑ Why in the news - Recently India has achieved the target of eliminating Kala-azar.
- ❑ In the year 2023, only 520 cases of Kala-azar were registered in India.
- ❑ As per the elimination criteria of WHO, no more than one case per ten thousand persons was registered in any block of India.
- ❑ Initially, India had set the target of eliminating Kala-azar by the year 2010, which was later increased to the year 2023.
- ❑ Kala-azar is a bacterial disease caused by protozoa parasite. It spreads through the bite of sandfly.

Indian Research Center on Antarctica

- ❑ **Why in the news** - Recently the Indian Postal Department has announced to open the third branch of the post office with pin code MH-1718 at Bharti Research Center located in Antarctica.

Dakshin Gangotri

- India's first scientific research centre established in Antarctica
- It was established in 1984 during the third Indian exploration expedition to Antarctica at a distance of 2500 km from the South Pole.
- It was discontinued in 1988-89.

Maitri

- It is India's second permanent scientific research centre located in Antarctica.
- It was established in 1989.

Bharati

- It is India's third and latest scientific research centre located in Antarctica.
- ❑ The Government of India is planning to establish a new research centre named Maitri-II near Maitri Station on Antarctica by 2029.

Use of 3D printing in the field of veterinary medicine

- ❑ Recently, veterinary hospital chain Maxpetz has announced the use of 3D printing for reconstructive surgery in the field of veterinary medicine.
- ❑ Maxpetz will be the first veterinary institute to do so.
- ❑ Maxpetz is located in Pune, Maharashtra.

PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3)

- ❑ Recently, the Indian Space Research Centre (ISRO) has announced that its PSLV-C58/ExpoSat mission has left zero debris in the Earth orbit.
- ❑ ISRO's ExpoSat mission rocket transforms into a type of orbital station in its fourth stage, called the POEM-3 Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3). POEM-3 deorbits the rocket from 650 km to 300 km so that it enters Earth orbit and burns up.
- ❑ The PSLV-C58 satellite was put into orbit by PSLV-C58.
- ❑ The POEM was developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

Space Debris

- Space debris refers to any non functional or abandoned man-made objects in space including defunct satellites, defunct rockets etc.

Other initiatives taken by India to deal with space debris

- ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Operational Management (IS4OM)
- **Project Netra**
- Maneuver Abhyas
- ISRO SSA Control Centre

BrahMos Missile

- ❑ India recently delivered the first batch of BrahMos missiles to the Philippines.

- ❑ This is the first export order of BrahMos missile.
- ❑ BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile.
- ❑ BrahMos is developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India's DRDO and Russian space company NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM). (India: Russia = 50.5% :49.5%)
- ❑ BrahMos is named after two rivers of India and Russia - Brahmaputra and Moskva respectively.
- ❑ Brahmos is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine.
- ❑ This missile is capable of hitting surface and sea-based targets from land, sea and air.
- ❑ This missile works on the principle of 'fire and forget'.
- ❑ Originally Brahmos was capable of hitting targets at a distance of 290 km. After India's inclusion in the Missile Technology Control Regime in June 2016, its range was increased to 450 km.
- ❑ The Brahmos missile is capable of carrying conventional weapons weighing 200 to 300 kg.
- ❑ The speed of Brahmos is Mach 2.8 (about three times the speed of sound). It is the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile.

C-Dome

- ❑ C-Dome is a naval version of Israel's Iron Dome air defense system used to protect against rocket and missile attacks.
- ❑ Iron Dome is a part of Israel's multi-layered air defense system-
 - Iron Dome - Short Range Air Defense System
 - David's Sling - Medium Range Air Defense System
 - Arrow System - Long Range Air Defense System

EVI

- ❑ EVI is an artificial intelligence application.
- ❑ EVI is the world's first emotional intelligence interactive artificial intelligence application.
- ❑ EVI has been developed by New York-based technology company Hume.

Recombinant Vector Vaccine for Swine Fever

- ❑ Recently, researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and Assam Agricultural University have developed the first recombinant vector vaccine of its kind for swine fever.
- ❑ IIT, Guwahati has transferred the technology to a company called Biomed Private Limited for commercial production of the vaccine.
- ❑ Swine fever is a highly contagious disease of pigs.
- ❑ It does not affect humans.

LCA Tejas Mark One A

- ❑ Recently LCA Tejas Mark 1A successfully completed its first flight.
- ❑ Tejas is an indigenous, all-weather and multi-role light combat aircraft developed for the Indian Air Force.
- ❑ Tejas has been developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore.

Lightest bulletproof jacket

- ❑ Recently, DRDO's Defense Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment, Kanpur has developed the lightest and strongest bulletproof jacket.
- ❑ This bulletproof jacket is capable of withstanding shock up to the standard of Fiest Threat Level 6 of the Indian Standards Authority (BIS).

Surya Tilak Project

- ❑ Under the Surya Tilak Project, on the occasion of Shri Ram Navami in the month of Chaitra, the forehead of Shri Ramlala was illuminated with sunlight in the Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya.
- ❑ Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has played an important role in the Surya Tilak Project.
- ❑ The Central Government has issued a 50 gram silver colored commemorative coin on the occasion of Ramlala Pran Pratishtha.

Project Akashteer

- ❑ The Akashteer project is a cutting-edge initiative of the Indian Army designed to digitize air defense control and reporting processes.
- ❑ Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), the project aims to significantly enhance the operational efficiency and integration of the army's air defense system.
- ❑ The deployment of this system recently began with the flagging off of the first batch of control centers from BEL Ghaziabad.

Devika

- ❑ US recently launched the world's first AI software engineer Devin.
- ❑ Mufid Hamzakutty, a resident of Kerala and founder of an Indian startup 'Station AI', has launched the Indian version of Devin named Devika.
 - Devika can understand human instructions.
 - It can work according to instructions.
 - It can do research.
 - It can write code autonomously to achieve the target.

INS Sharda

- ❑ INS Sharda has been awarded the "On the Spot Unit Citation" for successfully conducting anti-piracy operations.
- ❑ The ship was involved in the safe release of all the crew members of the Iranian fishing vessel Omari which was taken hostage by Somali pirates.
- ❑ INS Sharda (55) is a patrol ship of the Indian Navy.
- ❑ The ship conducts anti-piracy operations.
- ❑ INS Sharda also participated in the Government of India's initiative "SAGAR (Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile Weapon System)".

Indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile Weapon System (MPATGM)

- ❑ The test of MPATGM was successfully completed on 13 April 2024 at Pokhran Field Firing Range Jaisalmer.
- ❑ This weapon system has been indigenously designed and developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- ❑ It is a light weight fire and forget type missile.
- ❑ It uses infrared light emission to track and chase a target.
- ❑ This complete weapon system includes MPATGM, launcher and target acquisition equipment.

Angara - A5

- ❑ It is the first rocket launched by Russia after the disintegration of Soviet Union.
- ❑ It has been recently launched from the Far Eastern Amur region of Russia.

Ethylene Oxide

- ❑ Recently, Singapore and Hong Kong have banned some spices of Indian companies MDH and Everest after ethylene oxide was found in more than the approved limit in some spice products.
- ❑ Ethylene oxide is a flammable colorless gas with a sweet smell.
- ❑ Ethylene oxide is classified as a carcinogen.

LSAM 18 (Yard 128)

- ❑ It is a missile barge boat equipped with ammunition cum torpedo facility.
- ❑ It has been built by M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane under the Torpedo cum Missile Project with 11x ammunition for the Indian Navy.
- ❑ This boat was handed over at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on 28 March 2024 for deployment on NAD (Karanja).
- ❑ It has been indigenously designed and manufactured. These barge boats are the proud flag bearers of the Make in India initiative of the Government of India.

SSPAC (Special Testing and Evaluation Centre for Indian Navy's Sonar Systems)

- S.S.P.A.C. is a premier test and evaluation centre for Indian Navy's sonar systems established by DRDO.
- S.S.P.A.C. has been established by DRDO's Naval Physics and Oceanography Laboratory at Underwater Acoustic Research Facility Idukki, Kerala.

3D Dummy Ballot Unit

- India's first 3D dummy ballot unit has been developed by Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Assam.
- These 3D dummy ballot units will be used to familiarise voters with the voting process in Kamrup district of central Assam.

Shiva-Shakti

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has approved the name 'Shiva Shakti' for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.

Kalam-250

- Skyroot Aerospace has successfully tested Vikram-1 space launch vehicle stage-2, named Kalam-250.
- Stage-2: It will carry satellites from the dense atmosphere of the Earth to the vacuum region of outer space.
- Vikram-1 is a three-stage, solid fuel-based rocket.

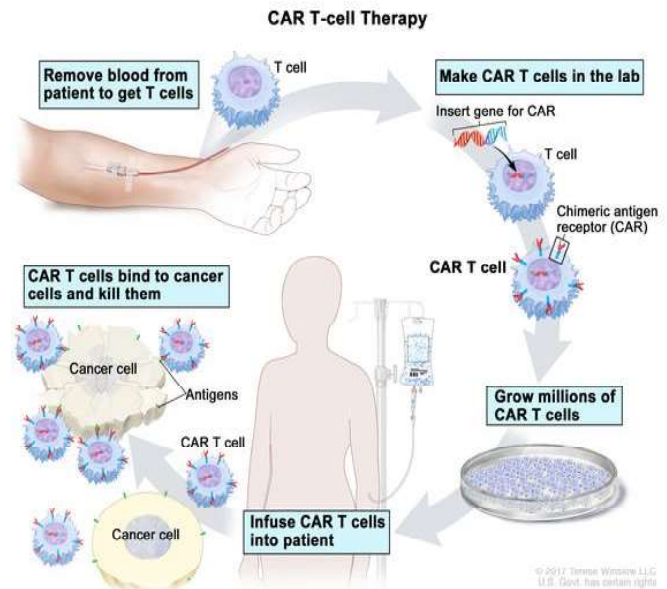
About Kalam-250

- It is a high-power carbon composite rocket, which uses solid fuel and high-capacity Ethylene-Propylene-Diene Monomer (EPDM) protection system.
- The thermal solid propellant in Kalam-250 was processed by Solar Industries at its Nagpur facility.

CAR-T Cell Therapy

- India's first indigenous gene therapy for cancer (CAR-T Cell Therapy) was launched by the President.

- India's first CAR-T Cell Therapy has been developed through a collaboration between Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital in collaboration with industry partner ImmunoACT.



About CAR-T Cell Therapy

- Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR-T) cell therapy modifies immune cells, particularly T-cells, turning them into potent cancer antibodies known as CAR-T cells.
- The T-cells are specialised types of white blood cells whose primary function is cytotoxic, meaning killing other cells.
- The T-cells are taken from a patient's blood and altered in a laboratory by adding a gene for a man-made receptor called C.I.T. The Ig-cells contain proteins that help the Ig-cells recognise and bind to a specific protein present on cancer cells.
- The CAR-T are then returned to the patient.

Igla-S

- The Indian Army has received the first batch of 24 Russian-made Igla-I man portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and 100 missiles in a major deal that also includes domestic production in India.

- ❑ The procurement is aimed at enhancing the army's very short range air defence (VSHORAD) capabilities, especially in the high mountain terrain along the northern border.

About Igla-S

- It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) developed by Russia.
- It has the capability to shoot down aircraft flying at low altitudes.
- It can also identify and disable aerial targets such as cruise missiles and drones.

Hydrogel to remove microplastics from water

- ❑ Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a durable hydrogel to remove microplastics from water, addressing the global problem of plastic pollution.

Victus Hedge

- ❑ The USA's space military branch has announced to conduct 'Victus Hedge' maneuvers in Earth orbit.
- ❑ For this mission, the Space Force contracted with two private space companies - Rocket Lab National Security and Two-Anomaly.

Agni Prime Missile

- ❑ Agni Prime missile was successfully test fired jointly by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- ❑ It is a nuclear capable new generation advanced version of the Agni class.
- ❑ Range → 1000 - 2000 km, Payload → 1500-3000 kg, Fuel → 2 stage solid propellant.
- ❑ It is lighter than the previous missiles of the Agni series.
- ❑ It is equipped with Multiple Independent Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.

Manta Ray Underwater Drone

- ❑ The 'Manta Ray' underwater drone was developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of America.
- ❑ The design of this unmanned vehicle is like the giant sea fish 'Manta Ray'.
- ❑ This drone can stay in the sea for a long time.
- ❑ It can be used for tasks like research and espionage under the sea.

Rampage Missile

- ❑ The Israeli Rampage missile has been included in the fleet of the Indian Air Force and Navy.
- ❑ The Air Force has equipped Sukhoi-30 MKI and MiG-29 Jaguar fighter planes with Rampage missiles.
- ❑ The Navy has included this missile in its fleet for MiG-29 fighter aircraft.



Rajasthan Day

- ❑ The 75th Rajasthan Day was celebrated on 30 March 2024.
- ❑ Special cultural events were organized in the state and tourists had free entry to all state monuments.
- ❑ On 30 March 1949, Greater Rajasthan was created by combining 4 princely states Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner in United Rajasthan (10 princely states) and on the same day Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel inaugurated Greater Rajasthan (fourth phase of integration of Rajasthan) in Jaipur. Hence this day is celebrated as Rajasthan Day.

World Autism Awareness Day

- ❑ World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated every year on 2 April.
- ❑ The celebration of this day was started on the basis of the resolution passed by the United Nations on 18 December 2007.
- ❑ The theme of this day for the year 2024 has been kept as "Empowering Autistic Voices".

Autism -

- Autism is a neurological disorder.
- The brain development of a child suffering from this is less than that of normal children.
- Genetic reasons are responsible for this disease. Apart from this, pregnancy at an older age and premature birth also hinder the development of the child's brain.

World Health Day 2024

- ❑ World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7 April.
- ❑ The purpose of celebrating this day is to increase awareness about global health and inspire people to live a healthy life.

- ❑ World Health Day was first celebrated on 7 April 1950 on the basis of a resolution passed by the WHO.
- ❑ The theme of the year 2024 is "My health, my right".

World Homeopathy Day

- ❑ World Homeopathy Day is celebrated every year on 10 April on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy.
- ❑ World Homeopathy Day is celebrated in India under the aegis of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.
- ❑ The theme of World Homeopathy Day 2024 is "Homeoparivar": One Health, One Family".
- ❑ President of India Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the two-day Homeopathy Symposium organized by Central Council for Research in Homeopathy in New Delhi on the occasion.
- ❑ The theme of the symposium was "Empowering Research, Increasing Efficiency".

Siachen Day

- ❑ Siachen Day, celebrated on 13 April, commemorates the bravery and sacrifice of Indian Army soldiers serving on the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield.
- ❑ **Operation Meghdoot** was launched on this day in 1984 to secure the glacier strategically located near the Indo-Pak Line of Control.

Ambedkar Jayanti

- ❑ Ambedkar Jayanti 2024, the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the "Father of the Indian Constitution", was celebrated on 14 April 2024.
- ❑ This day is celebrated as '**Equality Day**'.

Contribution and work

- He formed the **Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha** in 1924.
- He represented the Dalit classes in the **first Round Table Conference** in London in 1930. He participated in all three Round Table Conferences.
- He founded the Independent Labour Party in 1936, which later changed to the **All India Scheduled Caste Federation** in 1942.
- He opposed the strikes of civil servants and served as a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council from 1942 to 1946.
- Dr. Ambedkar started the weekly paper '**Mook Nayak**' in 1920.
- Ambedkar was elected to the Constituent Assembly first from Bengal and later from Bombay, and served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly.
- He described the right to constitutional remedies as the soul of the Constitution.
- He was appointed as the first Law Minister of independent India but resigned due to differences with Nehru ji.

World Hemophilia Day

- World Hemophilia Day is celebrated every year on 17 April.
- World Hemophilia Day was started by the World Federation of Hemophilia in the year 1989.
- The theme of World Hemophilia Day is 'Equal access for all: Recognize all bleeding disorders'.
- Hemophilia is a rare bleeding disorder in which blood does not clot.
- Hemophilia is also known as 'Shahi Bimari'.

World Heritage Day

- World Heritage Day is celebrated every year on 18 April.
- In the year 1982, the International Council on Monuments and Sites proposed to celebrate World Heritage Day on 18 April, which was approved by UNESCO in the year 1983.

- The theme of World Heritage Day 2024 is "Discover and Experience Diversity".

Bhagwan Mahavira Nirvana Mahotsav

- On 21 April, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahavira Nirvana Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- On this occasion, a commemorative postage stamp and coin were also released by the Prime Minister.
- Bhagwan Mahavira was the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.
- The first Tirthankara of Jainism was Rishabhdev.

National Civil Service Day

- National Civil Service Day is celebrated every year on 21 April by the Government of India to give importance and respect to the work of civil servants engaged in public service, the backbone of the country's administration.
- National Civil Service Day is celebrated in memory of the address given to the probationary officers by the country's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 21 April in the year 1947.

National Panchayati Raj Day

- National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year on 24 April in India.
- National Panchayati Raj Day was started in the year 1993 to commemorate the implementation of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.



Current Affairs Q&A

1. Consider the following statements in the context of World Health Day-
 1. World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7 April.
 2. Health Day was first celebrated on 7 April 1950 on the proposal of the World Health Organization.
 3. The theme of 2024 was 'My Health - My Right'.**How many of the above statements are correct?**
 - (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) Only three
 - (d) None
2. Where will the 180 MW solar power plant be developed by Adani Group in Jaisalmer?
 - (a) Sam
 - (b) Devikot
 - (c) Chandan
 - (d) Lathi
3. Consider the following statements in the context of Mallinath Animal Fair-
 1. It is organized every year between Chaitra Shukla Ekadashi to Chaitra Krishna Ekadashi.
 2. This fair is organized by the Tourism Department.**Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?**
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. At which place is the second Butterfly Park of Rajasthan being constructed?
 - (a) Udaipur
 - (b) Jaipur
 - (c) Sirohi
 - (d) Ajmer
5. At which place is the first emergency air strip of Rajasthan being constructed?
 - (a) Jaisalmer
 - (b) Santhore
 - (c) Jodhpur
 - (d) Bikaner
6. Between which of the following places has the country's first railway elevated track been announced to be developed?
 - (a) Ajmer-Jaipur
 - (b) Jaipur-Delhi
 - (c) Ajmer-Delhi
 - (d) Jaipur-Udaipur
7. At which place has the seventh ropeway of the state been built recently?
 - (a) Jeenmata Temple
 - (b) Nimachmata Temple
 - (c) Manshapurna Karanimata Temple
 - (d) Savitri Mata Temple
8. Consider the following statements with reference to C-Vigil App-
 1. Complaints of Model Code of Conduct violations can be made through this.
 2. Grievance redressal will be done within a period of 100 minutes.**Which of the above statements are correct?**
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Consider the following statements with reference to PM-Kusum Yojana-
 1. This is a scheme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
 2. Jodhpur Discom remained at the top in its implementation.**Which of the above statements are correct?**
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. The objective of Operation Clean Sweep is?
 - (a) Stopping smuggling of arms, liquor and drugs.
 - (b) Improving the condition of medical sector.
 - (c) To make school enrollment 100%.
 - (d) None of the above.

- 11. Consider the following statements in the context of the Farm Pond Scheme which has been in the news-**
1. Its objective is to motivate farmers to make ponds in the fields.
 2. Recently its grant amount has been increased from 90 thousand to 1.50 lakh.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 12. Which of the following institutions has launched the myth Versus Reality Register portal?**
- (a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
(b) Election Commission
(c) People's Union for Civil Liberties
(d) Press Information Bureau
- 13. Which of the following states has decided to do genetic profiling of elephants?**
- (a) Karnataka (b) Kerala
(c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu
- 14. What is the correct order of countries having the highest foreign exchange reserves?**
- (a) America > China > Russia > India
(b) America > China > Japan > India
(c) China > Japan > Switzerland > India
(d) China > America > Japan > India
- 15. Where is the Sheetla Mata fair organized?**
- (a) Chaksu (b) Bassi
(c) Dudu (d) Jhalana
- 16. Consider the following statements with reference to Godavan (Great Indian Bustard)-**
1. It is listed as a critically endangered species in the Red Data Book of the IUCN.
 2. A committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for its protection.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 17. Which Rajasthan Day was celebrated on 30 March 2024?**
- (a) 75th (b) 74th
(c) 76th (d) 77th
- 18. Who has won the Asia Oceania Ultra Marathon Championship-2024 held in Canberra (Australia)?**
- (a) Amar Singh (b) Uday Singh
(c) Noor Shekhawat (d) Rohit Bansawal
- 19. Project Akashteer is related to which of the following?**
- (a) Indian Air Force
(b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
(c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
(d) None of the above
- 20. India Employment Report 2024 was published by whom?**
- (a) International Labour Organisation
(b) Labour Bureau
(c) Institute of Human Development
(d) a & c
- 21. The amount of Social Security Pension Scheme has been increased from Rs. 1000 per month to how much?**
- (a) Rs. 1200 (b) Rs. 1150
(c) Rs. 1100 (d) Rs. 1050
- 22. Dr. Chandrashekhar Sen was in news recently, he is related to which field?**
- (a) Thewa Art (b) Blue Pottery
(c) Terracotta (d) Kofratgari
- 23. Consider the following statements with reference to Frontline Fusion-**
1. It was an exercise organised only by the Border Security Force.
 2. Its objective is to strengthen the preparedness of military forces in the border desert areas.
- Choose the wrong statement from the above-**

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 24. Where has DRDO Industry Academic Centre of Excellence (DIA) been started recently?**
(a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Jodhpur
(c) IIT Kanpur (d) IIT Delhi
- 25. Global Trade Outlook Report is published by which of the following?**
(a) World Bank
(b) World Trade Organisation
(c) Global Economic Forum
(d) None of the above
- 26. Who among the following has been appointed as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission?**
(a) N K Singh
(b) Surjit Bhalla
(c) Arvind Panagariya
(d) Manoj Panda
- 27. Article 293 of the Constitution, which was in the news recently, is related to?**
(a) Trade rights of the States
(b) Borrowing power of the States
(c) Division of taxes between the Centre and the States
(d) None of the above
- 28. On which day is National Panchayati Raj Day celebrated?**
(a) 24th April (b) 21st April
(c) 23rd April (d) 22nd April
- 29. Consider the following statements with reference to Poshan Tracker Report-**
1. It is released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Poshan Tracker Application has been launched to monitor the nutritional status.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 & 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 30. Who has been recently appointed as the part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council by the World Bank?**
(a) Arvind Subramaniam
(b) Rajesh Jhunjhunwala
(c) Rakesh Mohan
(d) D. Subbarao
- 31. Out of the following, "Just a Mercenary" is the memoir of whom?**
(a) C. Rajamohan
(b) Arvind Panagariya
(c) Shashi Tharoor
(d) D. Subbarao
- 32. Who among the following is the chairman of the committee constituted for the LGBTQ Plus community?**
(a) Dalip Singh (b) Geeta Sabharwal
(c) Rajiv Gauba (d) Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
- 33. Who among the following has been appointed as the Chief of the Indian Navy?**
(a) Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
(b) R. Hari Kumar
(c) Karamveer Singh
(d) Sunil Lamba
- 34. "Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary", which was in the news recently, is located in which state?**
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala
(c) Karnataka (d) Andhra Pradesh
- 35. "Nimmu-Padam-Darcha" road will connect which two places?**
(a) Manali-Leh (b) Leh-Baramulla
(c) Ladakh-Leh (d) Kargil-Leh
- 36. What is "Eastern Wave" that was in news recently?**
(a) Exercise conducted by Indian Navy on the eastern coast of India.
(b) Improved variety of rice developed in eastern India
(c) Cyclone on the eastern coast

- (d) None of the above
37. **World's highest polling station is located in which State/Union Territory of India?**
 (a) Jammu and Kashmir
 (b) Himachal Pradesh
 (c) Ladakh
 (d) Sikkim
38. **Which of the following species is not included in the category of invasive alien species?**
 (a) Nile Tilapia
 (b) Alligator Gar
 (c) African Catfish
 (d) None of the above
39. **Which of the following countries has officially recognized UPI?**
 (a) Mauritius
 (b) Singapore
 (c) United Arab Emirates
 (d) All of the above
40. **Who is the author of the recently published book "Knife"?**
 (a) Salman Rushdie
 (b) Aung San Suu Kyi
 (c) Ashish Gupta
 (d) Simon Harris
41. **Who among the following recently became the Prime Minister of Ireland?**
 (a) Simon Harris
 (b) Mykolas Alekna
 (c) Edison Neppo
 (d) Lawrence Wong
42. **Where was the closing ceremony of the International Year of Nutritious Cereals held?**
 (a) Italy
 (b) France
 (c) Switzerland
 (d) United States of America
43. **The Tiger Triumph 2024 exercise, which was in the news recently, was held between which two countries?**
 (a) India-America
 (b) India-Russia
 (c) India-Japan
 (d) India-France

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (b) | 3. (c) | 4. (d) | 5. (b) |
| 6. (b) | 7. (a) | 8. (c) | 9. (c) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (a) | 12. (d) | 13. (b) | 14. (c) | 15. (a) |
| 16. (c) | 17. (a) | 18. (a) | 19. (a) | 20. (d) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (c) | 23. (a) | 24. (b) | 25. (b) |
| 26. (c) | 27. (b) | 28. (a) | 29. (b) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (d) | 32. (c) | 33. (a) | 34. (b) | 35. (a) |
| 36. (a) | 37. (b) | 38. (d) | 39. (d) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (a) | 42. (a) | 43. (a) | | |



Topper Talk - 2



Deepshikha Kalvi

Rank - 13 (RAS - 2021)

Father - Vijendra Singh Kalvi

Mother - Saroj Kalvi

Husband - Rajvendra Singh Rathore

**Graduation - B.Tech (Electronics and communication)
Government Eng. College, Bikaner (72.5%)**

12th - Sophia Sn. Sec. School, Bikaner (74%)

10th - Sophia Sn. Sec. School, Bikaner (9.4 CGPA)

Question: Congratulations for your great success in RAS 2021 exam.

Deepshikha - Thank you very much

Question: When did you start preparing for RAS? What should be the appropriate time to prepare for this exam?

Deepshikha - I have started my RAS preparation after leaving my job as ASE at TCS, Gandhinagar. Although I believe that in this difficult competition and time-taking process one should start his preparation in the graduation year only if his focus is civil services only. According to me 1 year is enough time to complete the syllabus and understand the demand of the exam. However revision and regular test practice is required till exam.

Question: Tell us about your family background.

Deepshikha - I come from a middle-class family. My father was a development officer at LIC. He expired in a road accident in 2003 after which my mother joined in his place. I am only child of my parents and I belong to kalvi village in nagaur district and I am married in Manjhi village in Nagaur District. My husband, Rajvendra Singh Rathore is also selected in RAS-2018 as RTS officer.

Question: Tell us about your educational background and what role did it play in your preparation?

Deepshikha - I have done my schooling from sophia school bikaner. After which I perused engineering in electronics and communication from government engineering college bikaner.

I believe my schooling and college laid good foundation which helped me understand all the subjects well and extra-curricular activities helped in all round development.

Question: Who are your inspirations?

Deepshikha - My inspiration is my uncle Rajendra Singh Sisodiya who is also an RPS officer and bade dadosa sh. Kalyan singh ji kalvi

Question: What is the role of coaching institute in RAS exam? When did you join coaching?

Deepshikha - In RAS examination syllabus plays crucial role. It is equally important to know what we don't have to study as it is to know what we have to study. So coaching helps you in simplifying the content, know the right things and develop understanding. Thereby reducing your efforts and ease your journey.

I have started my journey in December, 2017 with Springboard Academy, Jaipur.

Question: Which medium is suitable for coaching? (Online/Offline)

Deepshikha - It is a personal choice of the student he can choose his medium as per his comfort but discipline and consistency.

Question: What was your language in the exam and which medium is more beneficial?

Deepshikha - My medium was English. I believe medium does not matter much, it is only a mode of expression. Ultimately what matters is your knowledge and how you present it. For Those students who are comfortable with both the medium and confuse what they should opt I would suggest english medium as English is an easy language(vocabulary) to express crisply.

Question: What is the importance of test series for RAS Pre-Exam and Main Exam? Apart from this, what should be done to improve writing ability?

Deepshikha - Test series is very important for both prelims and mains. What we study is only 50% part, how we perform on Exam-day plays 50% role. So test series help you tackle the stress and time better. Often question of test series appears in main exam. It also helps you maintain discipline.

Write answers regularly, it will improve your writing skills gradually. Read question carefully think for a while then start writing. Try to write in points. Underline keywords. Make diagrams, maps, blocks wherever possible.

Question: What challenges did you face while preparing while staying in Jaipur?

Deepshikha - Staying away from home is a challenge in itself. Although there were some issues like food and facilities at PG but I have always ignored them and focused on my studies.

Question: What study material did you use for preparation?

Deepshikha - I was a foundation batch student at springboard academy so my main source were classroom notes only. Apart from that I studied M. Laxmikant for polity, rajasthan adhyan (part1-4), NCERT as per syllabus for audit-accounting, sociology, psychology (behaviour), management and science. Raghav prakash for Hindi and B.K. Rastogi for English.

Question: How to keep yourself motivated to prepare consistently during the long duration of this exam?

Deepshikha - Ras is a test of patience, more than knowledge and consistency is the key to success. Keep these two things in your mind while preparing.

Whenever I was demotivated I recalled myself "why I want to become RAS?" And "what will change if I become RAS?". I used to talk to my mother and friends who were also giving the exam which made me feel good. Few times when I was scared (before the exam) I met Dalip sir and other faculty whose insightful thoughts motivated me.

Question: How did your family support you and how did you deal with social pressure?

Deepshikha - I want to owe my success to my mother, who being a single- mother never stopped me and always motivated me to study. When I failed in my first attempt I was all shattered she gave me support and confidence to work upon my weakness. My whole family was very positive towards my studies. My husband also helped me in identifying my mistakes and improving my answers, he also took my mock interviews. Due to time taking process their was some society pressure but I believe one should have faith in god and his hard work.

Question: What was your objective behind becoming an RAS officer and what changes will you aim to bring while in the administration?

Deepshikha - The respect and the prestige attached with RAS and the platform it provides for welfare of the society always attracted me.

I would like to work in the sector of education, health and livelihood especially for women.

Question: What was the role of friends during preparation?

Deepshikha - Since RAS is a long journey most of us are staying away from home, friends are essential for moral support. My friends and I shared notes, checked each-others answers, discussed on current issues, critically evaluate each others answer copies.

During interview preparation took each others mock interview.

Question: Which teachers influenced you in your journey to success?

Deepshikha - I met Dilip sir for the first time when I was not even sure about doing RAS but with his motivation and under his guidance only I started my preparation which continued till my selection.

Apart for this I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards Vijay sir, Rajveer sir, Digvijay sir, Lakshita mam, Narendra sir and all the teachers of Springboard Academy who helped me develop interest and understand the subjects which I had zero knowledge of. It is there teaching that I am able to clear this examination. Not only studies but I have learnt many values in the institute which will help me become a good person.

Question: What is the role of short notes in pre and main examination?

Deepshikha - I have not made any short notes for prelims instead I would highlight the important facts in my notes itself or compile a topic (6-7pg) in table like format in the end like vegetation, soil, tax reform etc.. for quick revision. For mains I made short notes of world history and 6small subjects.

Question: Tell us about the role of mock interview and how was your interview experience?

Deepshikha - Mock interview help you deal with the pressure of the main interview, provides a question bank from DAF. Sometimes same question maybe asked in the main interview. My interview experience was good most of the question were from my DAF, rajasthan culture and current issues.

Question: What changes have happened in your life after selection in RAS exam?

Deepshikha - Although we have not been given joining yet so there is not much to say but Definitely there is change in how people see you and how they treat you. There is lot more respect then earlier.

Question: What do you think about Plan B?

Deepshikha - I never really thought about planB but I believe due to uncertainty and time taking process of the exam one should have a backup but after one sincere honest attempt of RAS mains because even if we fail we can know our weakness and then we have to only work upon it.

Question: Is monthly journal required for RAS exam? If yes, how will it prove helpful for the exam?

Deepshikha - As RPSC is moving towards analytical approach, we need to update our static portion with current affairs and for that the magazine will be very useful. The special edition will also help in enriching our notes.

Question: What was the most difficult moment during the preparation?

Deepshikha - Most difficult time was when I was not able to clear RAS mains 2018. I was shattered but then my family and friends helped me restart. I identified my weak areas worked on them, when 2018 mains copies were out I analyzed them compared with them with toppers copies and found where I was lagging. Due to corona it was a very long process so it was very difficult to maintain consistency.

Springboard family wishes you all the best for your bright future.

Deepshikha – Thank you.