

Springboard
ACADEMY

Current Affairs

February - 2024

**CURRENT AFFAIRS (February -2024)
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Rajasthan

MoU for Centre of Excellence for Blockchain Technology

- Between Rajcomp Info Services Limited (RISL), Government of Rajasthan and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT Kanpur).
- State's first Centre of Excellence based on Blockchain Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Iron Ore

- Large deposits of iron ore have been found in Karauli, Rajasthan
- More than 840 million tonnes of iron ore deposits have been found in Khoda, Dadroli, Todupura and Liloti near Hindaun in Karauli
- At these places, there are indications of both types of iron ores like magnetite and hematite.

Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Center

- Established in Jhalawar Medical Collage
- State's first non transplant organ retrieval center
- Here, kidney, liver and cornea of patients declared brain dead were transplanted in other cities after getting consent from their families

World's first Shiva temple with ☸ shape

- Located in Jadan of Pali district
- Use of red stone from Bansi Paharpur of Bharatpur
- 1008 idols in the name of Shiva and the tomb of 7 sages
- 135 feet high Shikhar - Shivalinga is installed at the top and the shape of the universe is engraved on it

World record for Surya Namaskar

- Organized - On 15 February 2024 in all government and non-government schools of Rajasthan
- More than 1.33 crore people including students participated in this program and created a world record

Rajendra Prasad Gupta

- New Advocate General of Rajasthan
- 19th Advocate General
- Replaced Mahendra Singh Singhvi on this post
- Article 165: Advocate General is the highest law officer of the state
- Appointment - By the Governor
- He works at the pleasure of the Governor
- First Advocate General - G.C. Kasliwal

New Solar Projects

- NICIL Barsingsar Solar Project (300 MW) – Bikaner
- Karanisar-Bhatian Bikaner Solar Power Plant (300 MW) – Pugal of Bikaner (by NHPC – National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Private Ltd.)
- Nokhra Solar PV Project (300 MW) – Bikaner (NTPC Green Energy Ltd.)
- Indian Oil LPG Bottling Plant – Jodhapur

Bounce of Joy

- By the Education Department of Rajasthan Government in collaboration with Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Sangathan, Stairs Foundation and ITC.
- Objective: To promote sports in the schools of Rajasthan.
- To enhance sports talent by giving special training to the physical teachers of the state.
- 100 schools and 132 physical teachers included in the pilot phase.

5th Brassica Conference

- Organized - 7th to 9th February, Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute, Durgapura
- Organiser - Mustard Research Committee, Bharatpur and Shri Karan Narendra Agricultural University Jobner
- Rajasthan ranks first in the production of the following crops - mustard, guar, total oilseeds, millet

Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava

- 42nd Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court

Chalaknechi Mata Mandir Panorama

- Chalkana, Barmer
- Kul Devi of Charans
- Unveiled by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on 21 February
- Birthplace of Tanot Mata

Veer Viramdev

- An ashtadhatu statue of Veer Viramdev, son of Kanhaddev, ruler of Jalore, is installed on Tunkali hill.
- Made by - Sculptor Fakir Charan Firoda (Based on the mention of Kanhaddev Prabandha written by Padmanath)

Maru Mahotsav

- Organized - 22 to 24 February in Pokaran, Jaisalmer

Mahi Mahotsav

- Organized - 15 to 17 February in Banswara

Rajasthan Vigyan Mahotsav

- Organized - 26 to 28 February at Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute, CEERI, Jaipur

National

Justice Ritu Bahri

- First woman Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court
- Currently women judges in Rajasthan High Court-
 1. Justice Kumari Rekha Borana - First woman judge of Rajasthan High Court from Bar
 2. Justice Shubha Mehta (Husband – Justice Mahendra Kumar Goyal)
 3. Justice Dr. Nupur Bhati (Justice Dr. Pushpendra Singh Bhati)

Fali S Nariman

- Former Additional Solicitor General of India Fali S Nariman passed away
- He was Union Carbide's lawyer in the 1984 Bhopal gas leak case in the Supreme Court

Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj

- Jain Saint Vidyasagar Maharaj gave up his life through the tradition of Sanlekhana.
- Modern Vardhman of Jain society
- Sanlekhana - Voluntary fast unto death

37th International Surajkund Crafts Mela

- Organised - 2 to 18 February at Faridabad, Haryana
- Inauguration - By President Draupadi Murmu
- Theme State - Gujarat
- Partner Country - Tanzania

South India Cultural Centre:-

- In Hyderabad, Telangana,
- The first regional cultural center established by Sangeet Natak Academy

First Digital India Future Skills Summit:-

- Organised - 15 February in Guwahati, Assam
- Organizer - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill passed in Uttarakhand Assembly

- Uttarakhand is the first state in independent India to pass UCC Bill.
- Currently UCC is applicable only in Goa - since Portuguese colonial period

Sudarshan Bridge

- Inaugurated by - Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- Bridge connecting Okha mainland and Bet Dwarka island in Gujarat
- Old name - Signature Bridge
- Country's longest (2.32 km) cable-stayed bridge

APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry)

- Launch - on February 7, 2024
- Ministry - Ministry of Education, Government of India
- One Nation, One Student ID Initiative
- In line with the new National Education Policy 2020
- Unique and permanent 12-digit ID for each student that provides a comprehensive record of their academic achievements, including degrees, scholarship awards and other credits.

Kilkari and Mobile Academy

- Mobile health initiative Kilkari and Mobile Academy launched in Gujarat and Maharashtra
- Kilkari - Centralized interactive voice response based mobile health service.
 - ✓ 72 audio messages on childbirth and child care from the second trimester of pregnancy to one year of age
 - ✓ Available in 18 States/UTs including Rajasthan
- Mobile Academy - A free audio training course for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)
 - ✓ Available in 6 languages in 17 States/UTs including Rajasthan

International

Nawaf Salam (Lebnon)

- 27th President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- ICJ - Principal judicial organ of the United Nations
 - ✓ Headquarters - Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands)
- Indian Permanent Judge at ICJ
 - ✓ Sir Benegal Rao - 1952 to 1953
 - ✓ Nagendra Singh - 1973 to 1988 (First Indian to become President of the ICJ- 1985 to 1988)
 - ✓ Raghunandan Swaroop Pathak - 1989 to 1991
 - ✓ Dalveer Bhandari - 2012 to present (3rd time)
- Total Judges in ICJ - 15 (Tenure 9 years)

Alexei Navalny

- Russia's main opposition leader dies in jail

Varun Ghosh

- First Australian MP to take oath with his hand on Gita
- Labor Party representative from Western Australia

First Hindu temple of UAE:-

- Built in Abu Dhabi, the capital of UAE
- Inaugurated by - Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- Temple of Swami Narayan sect
- Built in Nagar style with red sandstone of Jaipur

World Government Summit-2024

- Edition - 11th
- Held - 12-14 February in Dubai, UAE.
- Theme - Shaping future governments.

7th Indian Ocean Conference

- Held - 9-10 February in Perth, Australia
- Organised - Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and India Foundation
- Theme - Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean

Logistics Performance Index - 2023

- Released by World Bank
- India Ranked - 38th (Total Countries 139)
- First Rank - Singapore
- Last Rank - Afghanistan and Libya

Global Intellectual Property Index - 2024

- Released by US Chambers of Commerce
- India Ranked - 42nd (Total Countries 55)
- Top Rank - United States

Military exercises

S.No.	Military exercises	Partner Countries	Date	Place
1.	Dosti (16th Edition)	India, Maldives and Sri Lanka	22 to 25 February	In Male, Maldives
2.	Milan (12th edition)	Indian Navy's multilateral joint exercise involving more than 50 countries	19 to 27 February	in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
3.	Vayu Shakti- 2024	Indian Air Force	17 February	In Pokaran, Jaisalmer

58th Jnanpith Award

- Jagadguru Rambhadracharya (for Sanskrit language)
- Gulzar (for Urdu language)
- To writers of 22 languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution
- Established in 1965
- First winner - G. Shankar Kurup
- Total 64 awards till now

66th Grammy Awards 2024

- Organised at - Los Angeles (USA)
- Indian music band 'Shakti's album 'This Moment' won the award in the Best Global Music Album category.
- Shakti Band includes Ustad Zakir Hussain (tabla), Shankar Mahadevan (vocals), Ganesh Rajagopalan (violin) and Selvaganesh Vinayakram (kanjira).
- Rakesh Chaurasia (flute) - 2 Grammy Awards (1st - for Best Global Music Performance to Pashto, 2nd - for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album to As We Speak)

World Archery Awards 2023

- Breakthrough Archer of the Year - Aditi Gopichand Swami (India's first individual World Archery champion)
- Best Para Women Archer - Sheetal Devi
- Coach of the Year - Sergio Paganini (Indian national compound team coach)
- The World Archery Awards are given by the International Federation of World Archery.

GD Birla Award (2023)

- Dr. Aditi Sen De
- For her work in the field of quantum information and computation.
- By K K Birla Foundation

Science & Technology

IM-1 Mission

- Robotic moon landing mission of American private space company 'Intuitive Machines'
- Intuitive Machines' spacecraft 'Odysseus' is the first commercial spacecraft to land on the moon.

INSAT-3DS :-

- Indian Research Organisation's most advanced meteorological satellite
- Placed in Earth's geostationary orbit.
- Launched by GSLV-F14 from Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota.

India's second spaceport:-

- Foundation stone laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28 February at Kulasekharapatnam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- India's first spaceport - Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- First Launch - Rohini Sounding Rocket 'RH-200'

INS Sandhayak

- Commissioned into the Indian Navy on 3 February at Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam
- Indian Navy's first survey ship

Sports

15th ICC Under-19 World Cup

- Organised - 19 January to 11 February in South Africa
- Winner - Australia (defeated India)
- Winner of 14th ICC Under-19 World Cup - India (winner 5 times)

5th Women's Badminton Asia Team Championship 2024

- Organised - 13 to 18 February at Shah Alam Stadium, Malaysia
- Winner – India (3-2)
- Runner-up - Thailand
- India's first gold medal in Badminton Asia Team Championship

Khelo India Winter Games 2024

- Fourth edition
- Venue - 1st stage (2 to 6 February) – Leh, Ladakh
2nd stage (21 to 25 February) - Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir
- Winner - Indian Army Total 21 medals (10 gold medals, 5 silver, 6 bronze)

Jacintha Kalyan

- India's first female pitch curator

One Liner

- Amrita Devi Vishnoi Indigenous Plant Museum - Khejarli Jodhpur
- Maha Swapnikudu - P. Vikram (Book written on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu)
- Gita Batra - Indian-origin economist Geeta Batra appointed as Director of the Independent Evaluation Office of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Country's first transgender clinic - AIIMS, Bhopal

- World's first air taxi service - Dubai
- Bapu Tower:- Building dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi in Gardanibagh, Patna, the capital of Bihar.

Important Days

Serial No.	Day	Date	Theme	Specific
1.	World Wetlands Day 2024	2 February	Wetlands and human well-being	Commemorating the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on 2 February 1971 in the city of Ramsar, Iran
2.	World Cancer Day	4 February	Close the Care Gap	-
3.	Indian national Womens day	13 February	-	On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu
4.	National Science Day	28 February	Idigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat	To commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Sir C V Raman in the year 1928