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C- CARES: Web Page For Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization

- The Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, **Shri Pralhad Joshi** launched a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) namely C- CARES.
- C- CARES Portal is developed and designed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**.
- The portal, will allow CMPF subscribers and coal companies to login and perform various functions tailored to their needs.
- While the subscribers can access and view their individual details and subscription status, the coal management can submit contribution details, subscribers' particulars and claims for online settlement and payment through the portal.
- It will also ensure paperless working, timely and accurate settlement of claims, reduction in processing time and grievance redressal.
- The portal being a public service platform is intended to benefit the CMPF subscribers who are working in the coal sector as well as its pensioners.
- **Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization** is an autonomous organization under the aegis of **Ministry of Coal** established in the year **1948**.



World Cancer Day celebrated on 4th February

- World Cancer Day is an international awareness day led by the **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)** celebrated on February 4 every year.
- Cancer is caused by an uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells in the body that causes lump or tumour in most causes.
- If left untreated, tumours can grow and spread to other body parts and affect all body functions.
- It has been predicted that cancer cases in India would increase to a staggering 2 million by 2040.
- Cancer, the second leading cause of death worldwide, has become a major health concern in the past decades.
- World Cancer Day was first celebrated on February 4, **2000** at the World Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium in Paris.
- The Paris Charter's mission is to promote research, prevent cancer, improve patient services, raise awareness and mobilise the global community to make progress against cancer, and includes the adoption of World Cancer Day.
- The theme for this year is '**Together, we challenge those in power**'.



Justice Ritu Bahri becomes the first woman Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court

- Justice Ritu Bahri was administered oath as the new chief justice of the Uttarakhand High Court by Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh.
- In October last year, justice Bahri was appointed as acting chief justice of the Punjab and Haryana high court.
- On November 2, 2023, the Supreme Court collegium recommended her appointment as the chief justice of Uttarakhand high court.
- In March 1992, she was appointed as assistant advocate general, Haryana, and in 1999, as the deputy advocate general and senior advocate general in December 2009.
- She was elevated as judge of the Punjab and Haryana high court in August 2010.



Uttarakhand police embrace smart policing with self-balancing electric scooters

- In a step towards moving towards smart policing, the Uttarakhand Police will use self-balancing scooters to conduct patrolling in crowded and narrow areas of Haridwar.
- Director General of Police **Abhinav Kumar** flagged off 4 self-balancing electric scooters from the Police Headquarters to Haridwar.
- With the help of these scooters, patrolling and monitoring of crowded areas and pavements, Ganga Ghats and narrow lanes and bylanes will be possible for the greater safety of tourists and local citizens.
- These 4 self-balancing electric scooters (hover-boards) have been handed over to the Uttarakhand Police by the **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank**.
- The police personnel who have received training in driving these self-balancing electric scooters were also given citations by the Director General of Police on the occasion.





Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code Committee

- The Uttarakhand cabinet gave its approval to table the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the state assembly during the four-day House session beginning on February 5.
- The five-member committee formed for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) submitted its draft report to the Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.
- The report was handed over to the CM by **Ranjana Desai**, a retired judge of the Supreme Court and **chairperson of the committee**.

- Other members of the committee who were present included Pramod Kohli, retired judge, Manu Gaur, social activist, Shatrughan Singh, retired IAS officer and Surekha Dangwal, vice-chancellor Doon University.
- The committee has been studying relevant laws regulating personal civil matters of residents of Uttarakhand to prepare the draft and suggest changes in existing laws on the subject that include marriage, divorce, property rights, succession/inheritance, adoption, maintenance, custody and guardianship.
- The committee also formed two sub-committees for wider public consultation. People across the state, even in the remote border areas like Mana were consulted. The committee also launched a web portal (for seeking suggestions).
- Over 2.33 lakh suggestions were received and around 10 % of the state's population participated in the interactions with the committee. This is the first time such a wider consultation has been held. The committee held 72 meetings to prepare this draft.
- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** refers to a common set of laws that will subsume customary laws across faiths and tribes and govern issues such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and maintenance.
- According to the Constitution, it is a part of the **non-justiciable directive principles of state policy**.

Rs 25 lakh, pension for Padma award winners: Telangana CM Revanth

- Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy announced that the state government would deliver a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh and a pension of Rs 25000 per month to Padma award winners from the state.
- He made the announcement at an event held at Shilpakala Vedika in the city to felicitate Padma Award winners of this year from the state.
- In 2024, 5 individuals from Telangana were named in the list of Padma awards by the Central government. They are **A Velu Ananda Chari** (Art), **Dasari Kondappa** (Art), **Gaddam Sammaiah** (Art), **Kethavath Somlal** (Literature & Education) and **Kurrella Vittalacharya** (Literature & Education).
- The decision to a cash prize and pension was taken after observing the “dire economic conditions” faced by many Padma awardees, especially artists, in the past even after winning the prestigious awards.



Tom Tom Traffic Index – 2023

- The UK capital **London** was the slowest city to drive through 2023 in the world, with an average speed of 14 kmph in rush hour.
- Two Indian cities, **Bengaluru** and **Pune**, were also on the list of cities with the worst traffic, the report by the Amsterdam-based location technology specialist TomTom showed.
- The TomTom Traffic Index evaluated 387 cities across 55 countries on six continents by their average travel time, fuel costs, and CO2 emissions. It was based on data from over 600 million in-car navigation systems and smartphones.
- For each city, TomTom calculated the average travel time per kilometer from the time it took to cover the millions of kilometers driven across the entire network in the year 2023.
- **Bengaluru (6)** and **Pune (7)** were the two Indian cities that were named among the world's ten worst traffic-hit cities in 2023.
- In Bengaluru, the average travel time per 10 km in 2023 was 28 minutes 10 seconds, while in Pune, it was 27 minutes 50 seconds.
- Bengaluru, the IT capital of India, was also named the second most congested city in 2023 after Ireland's capital Dublin.
- **Delhi (44)** and **Mumbai (52)** were also on the TomTom Traffic Index.



Russian Cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko Makes History By Spending Over 878 Days In Space

- Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko has made history by spending a total of over 878 days in space, the highest for any human.
- The 59-year-old Russian cosmonaut beat Gennady Ivanovich Padalka, a Roscosmos cosmonaut who had spent 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds in space over the course of five different missions, from 1998 to 2015.
- Kononenko spent the highest number of days in space not during a single mission, but over the course of five different missions.
- His first mission to the International Space Station (ISS) was Soyuz TMA-12. He reached the ISS on October 24, 2008, and spent 199 days in space.
- His second mission was launched on December 21, 2011, the third on July 22, 2015, and the fourth on December 3, 2018.
- Kononenko's fifth mission to the ISS launched in September 2023, and is called Soyuz MS-24. He is currently in space, and a part of Expedition 71.
- The cosmonaut is a flight engineer on the space station. If he spends 300-365 days in space as part of the Soyuz MS-24 mission, he will have spent a total of 1,036 to 1,101 days in space.
- On June 5, 2024, Kononenko is expected to become the first person to spend 1,000 days in space at one stretch.



According to the interim budget 2024-25, Bhutan is the top country receiving Indian aid



According to the interim budget 2024-25, Bhutan is the top country receiving Indian aid

- The Interim Budget 2024, unveiled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, sheds light on India's foreign aid allocation, with Bhutan emerging as a significant recipient.
- In the Financial Year 2024-25, India allocated a substantial portion of its budget to foreign aid, with a notable emphasis on Bhutan.
- The allocation for Bhutan underscores India's commitment to supporting its neighboring countries' development initiatives.
- The Indian government provided ₹6,541.79 crore to foreign governments with ₹4,927.43 crore as a grant and ₹1,614.36 crore as a loan, as per the revised estimates for 2023-24.
- It crossed the budget estimates of ₹5,848.58 crore for 2023-24. For 2024–2025, the projected grants and loans total ₹5,667.56 crore.
- It's crucial to remember that this is a vote on account, and the full budget is expected in July following the inauguration of the new administration.

➤ **List of Top Recipients of Indian Grants:**

1. Bhutan - 2,398.97 crore
2. Maldives - 770.90 crore
3. Nepal - 650 crore
4. Myanmar - 370 crore
5. Mauritius - 330 crore

Modi Enterprises chairperson Bina Modi honoured as 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year 2023'

- Dr. Bina Modi, Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, was honoured with the 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year - 2023' Award by Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India.
- The award, presented to her at a prestigious conference by the **Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) on 'Strengthening Indo-US Relationship in Amritkal-Aatmanirbhar Bharat'**, in New Delhi recognizes her remarkable contributions to the industry that place her among the distinguished few women chairpersons of Fortune500 and ET500 India companies.
- The conference was attended by distinguished figures like Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti and representatives of IACC. It aimed to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties between India and the US.
- Dr. Bina Modi, the Chairperson of Modi Enterprises - KK Modi Group, also heads the Group's FMCG giant Godfrey Phillips India and one of India's agro-chemical leaders, Indofil, as the Chairperson and Managing Director.
- Honoured with two honorary doctorates, most recently, Dr. Bina Modi was recognised with **'The AsiaOne Women Empowerment Leadership Principles Award, Asia, 2023,'** and the Outlook Business Spotlight Visionary Leader Award 2023's **'Most Inspiring Woman In Business'** award.



RPF to host 67th All India Police Duty Meet in Lucknow from Feb 12th to 16th

- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is set to host the 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) in **Lucknow** from February 12th to 16th, 2024.
- This event aims to promote excellence and collaboration among police officers towards scientific detection and investigation of crimes in order to enhance internal security.
- The **Director General of Railway Protection Force, Shri Manoj Yadava**, launched the dedicated Mobile application and website created by the Tech Group of RPF for the 67th All India Police Duty Meet.
- Developed in-house, these digital platforms are designed to streamline communication, provide real time updates, and facilitate seamless participation for officers and officials attending the prestigious event with highlights like Autobot-based multi-lingual chat support.
- The 67th All India Police Duty Meet is also a call for law enforcement professionals to come together, learn, and strengthen their collective pursuit of investigative excellence.
- Established under the **RPF Act of 1957**, the Railway Protection Force has been instrumental in safeguarding railway property and providing security to passengers and their belongings since 2004.
- RPF has **9% representation of women** which is the **highest percentage among all Armed Forces in India**.



67TH ALL INDIA POLICE DUTY MEET

12th to 16th February 2024, Lucknow

Organised by Railway Protection Force



US state department approves nearly 4 billion sale of 31 armed drones to India

- The US State Department has given the go-ahead for the possible sale of **31 armed MQ-9B SkyGuardian drones**, related missiles, and equipment to India for nearly \$4 billion.
- India has long expressed interest in buying large, armed drones from the United States, but certain bureaucratic hurdles have hindered progress towards finalizing the potential agreement.
- This approval by the State Department does not guarantee the signing of the deal, but it signifies a step forward as the US continues its efforts to steer India away from purchasing Russian military equipment.
- The deal will now be confirmed after approval from the **US Congress**.
- The mega drone deal, announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in June 2023, offers significant potential to further advance bilateral strategic technology and military cooperation in the region.



2,000 banknotes withdrawal notes in circulation decline to 8,897 crore

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said 97.50 per cent of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have been returned till January 31, 2024.
- The total value of ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation, which was ₹3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of ₹2,000 banknotes was announced, has declined to ₹8,897 crore at the close of business on January 31, 2024, per a central bank statement.
- RBI emphasised that ₹2,000 banknotes continue to be legal tender.
- The central bank had announced the withdrawal of ₹2,000 banknotes on May 19, 2023, from circulation as these notes were not commonly used for transactions and the stock of banknotes in other denominations continues to be adequate to meet the currency requirement of the public.



UPI transactions touch new record of 18.4 lakh crore in January

- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions clocked a new high in value in January by touching Rs 18.41 trillion, up marginally by 1 per cent from Rs 18.23 trillion in December.
- Transactions increased by 1.5 per cent to 12.20 billion, compared to 12.02 billion in October.
- In November, value was seen at Rs 17.4 trillion with 11.4 billion transactions. According to data shared by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), January numbers were **52 per cent higher in volume** and **42 per cent higher in value** compared to the same month last financial year.
- The Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transaction amount was down by 0.7 per cent during the month to Rs 5.66 trillion in January, compared to Rs 5.7 trillion in December.
- FASTag transactions in January dipped by 5 per cent from 348 million in December to 331 million in January.
- In January, Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) was down by 8 per cent to Rs 23,057 crore, compared to Rs 25,162 crore in December.



Union Ayush Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Rashtriya Arogya Mela

- The National Arogya Fair, taking place from February 1 to February 4, 2024, at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, **New Delhi**, serves as a dynamic convergence of India's healing traditions.
- Encompassing Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy, the four-day event celebrates the nation's diverse culture and historical legacy in healthcare.
- The fair aims to showcase the benefits and principles of **Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy**, creating awareness and encouraging the adoption of holistic health and wellness practices.
- It provides a platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing among practitioners, experts, and enthusiasts, offering space for businesses and vendors to promote products and services related to Ayush systems.
- '**Har din Har Ghar Ayush**' campaign, is designed to bring the benefits of Indian traditional medicine systems to the people.



GHAR (GO Home and Re-Unite) Portal for Restoration and Repatriation of Child launched by NCPCR



- In a concerted effort to fortify child protection measures, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has pioneered the development of two pivotal portals: the **Track Child Portal** and the **GHAR – GO Home and Re-Unite Portal**.
- These platforms play a crucial role in tracking missing and found children, enhancing restoration and repatriation processes, and safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable minors under the purview of the Juvenile Justice system.

- The Track Child Portal, serves as a centralized hub for tracking missing and found children nationwide. Developed in collaboration with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network Systems), and various State Governments/UT Administrations, this platform empowers authorities and citizens alike to monitor the whereabouts of missing children effectively.
- Complementing the Track Child Portal, the GHAR – GO Home and Re-Unite Portal is a digital platform designed to facilitate the restoration and repatriation of children in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

Salient Features of GHAR:

- **Digital Monitoring:** GHAR enables the digital tracking and monitoring of children within the Juvenile Justice system, ensuring their timely restoration or repatriation.
- **Efficient Case Management:** The portal facilitates the seamless transfer of cases to the relevant Juvenile Justice Boards or Child Welfare Committees, expediting the repatriation process.
- **Support Mechanisms:** GHAR allows for requests for translators, interpreters, or experts as needed, ensuring effective communication and support for children during the repatriation process.
- **Comprehensive Checklist:** A checklist format embedded within the portal aids in identifying children facing challenges in repatriation or lacking entitled compensation or benefits.
- **Scheme Linkage:** GHAR provides access to government-implemented schemes to strengthen family ties and support the well-being of repatriated children.

Centre launches Digital India future LABS for R&D in automotive, compute, other areas

- The central government launched Digital India future LABS to strengthen research and development (R&D) and innovation in areas such as automotive, computing, communication, strategic electronics, industrial electronics and internet-of-things in the country.
- The futureLABS will serve as a platform for partnerships and strategic direction in these areas.
- Funding for the platform will come from the R&D budget of the electronics and IT ministry (MeitY) and those of various other labs and Rs.1 lakh crore from the government of India.
- The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing** in India (C-DAC) will be the nodal agency to develop the overall plan, standard operating procedures and guidelines for startups and other private sector companies working in this space.
- In the automotive space, the platform will focus on R&D and industry-government collaboration to develop electric vehicles, onboard sensors, and autonomous connected devices.

