

❖ Nina Singh is appointed as 1st Woman DG of CISF

➤ The appointment Committee of the Central Government has announced the names of the Director Generals of the 3 major paramilitary forces of the country. The appointment Committee has appointed IPS officer Neena Singh as the Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

➤ Neena Singh has become the first woman to be appointed to the post of Director General of CISF. The appointment committee has appointed Neena Singh to this post till 31 July 2024.

About IPS Officer Nina Singh: Neena Singh is a 1989 batch Rajasthan Cadre IPS officer. She was presently posted a Special Director General CISF and was holding the additional charge of Director General. She was the distinction of being the first woman IPS officer in Rajasthan.

❖ Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):

➤ It works under the Union Home Ministry. It was established in 1969 by the Indian Parliament under the CISF Act 1968.

➤ The security cover of the Central Industrial Security Force includes the country's highly sensitive infrastructure facilities, including nuclear establishments, space establishments, airports, ports, power plants etc.

Motto – “Safety and Defense”

Headquarters – New Delhi.

❖ **New Director General appointments of ITBP and CRPF**

➤ **New Director General of CRPF:**

- 1988 batch IPS officer Anish Dayal Singh has been appointed as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by the central government.
- Presently, Anish Dayal was posted as Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and was also holding the additional charge as the Director General of CRPF after retirement of IPS officer SL Thaosen. He will remain the CRPF chief till his retirement on December 31, 2024.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF): It is the largest central armed police force under the Union Home Ministry. It was established in 1939 as the Crown Representatives Police. After Independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on 28 December 1949 with the enactment of the CRPF Act.

- The CRPF was the first Central Armed Police Force (CRPF) to induct woman into operations in 1986.
- **Motto** – Service and Loyalty
- **Headquarters** – New Delhi.

➤ **New Director General of ITBP**

- 1989 batch IPS officer Rahul Rasgotra was appointed Director General of ITBP (Indo Border Tibetan Police). Rahul Rasgotra was posted as Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB). Rahul Rasgotra succeeded Anish Dayal Singh and will be the new DG of ITBP till the date of his superannuation of 30 September 2025.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP): It was established in 1962, after the 1962 India-China war. It is usually deployed in the Himalayan mountains along the border with China.

➤ **Motto** – ‘Bravery – Perseverance – Dedication’

➤ **Headquarters:** New Delhi

➤ The above mentioned forces are known as para military forces, which come under CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces). This CAPF refers to 7 security forces in India under the authority of Ministry of Home Affairs.

They are, Assam Rifles (oldest force established in 1835), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Force (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG) and Sahasra Seema Bal (SSB).

❖ **Reliance Jio & IIT-Bombay collaborates to Build ‘BharatGPT’**

➤ Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Mumbai, Maharashtra, to develop the ‘BharatGPT’ (Generative Pre-Trained Transformer)’ program.

➤ **About Bharat GPT program:**

➤ Bharat GPT program aims to use large language models and generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve various sectors in India. The program is part of an upgraded mobile ecosystem ‘Jio 2.0’ of Reliance Jio.

➤ Bharat GPT will be available in 11 languages. The objective of the program is to explore the huge potential of artificial intelligence in bringing innovation in products and services. Bharat GPT will be developed in the year 2024.

❖ **India Ranked Second Largest Steel Producer in the World**

- According to the government, India has become the world's second-largest steel producer, signifying remarkable progress in the steel industry. According to the Ministry of Steel, domestic steel production was around 90 million tonnes, with domestic steel consumption at 87 million tonnes.
- According to the report, the Production Linked Incentive Scheme increased investment in the steel sector. This year, a Memorandum of Understanding was inked with 27 companies covering 57 projects totalling over 29 crore rupees.
- The steel sector in India has grown significantly over the last decade, with production increasing by 75% since 2008. Steel consumption per capita in India was 86.7 kilograms in FY23.
- India is the world's largest producer of sponge iron and the world's third-largest user of finished steel, after only China and the United States.
- In this achievement the major Government initiative includes 'National Steel Policy 2017' which enshrines the Government's long-term aim for boosting the steel sector, and also the government has approved a Specialty Steel Production-Linked Incentive (LPI) Scheme. It has been estimated that specialty Steel production will reach 42 million tonnes by the end of 2026-27.

❖ **'UPI Tap and Pay' Facility by NPCI**

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has initiated the deployment of 'UPI Tap and Pay' across various digital payment providers.
- **Feature of UPI Tap and Pay**
- Instead of a camera, it employs Near-Field Communication (NFC) technology (short-range wireless connectivity technology) to capture the payee's UPI ID or Virtual Payment Address (VPA). This functionality is only available on Phones or devices equipped with NFC capability.

- Users are required to find the “Tap & Pay” button with their UPI app, and the transaction is finalized by tapping the device on the UPI Smart Tag/Smart QR.
- If a user activates the tap feature for the UPI LITE account, transactions below Rs. 500 will be processed through UPI LITE. For transactions exceeding Rs. 500, a UPI PIN will be necessary.
- About **Near-Field Communication (NFC)** is a short-range wireless technology that allows two devices to communicate when they are within 4 centimeters of each other. NFC uses magnetic field induction to enable communication.

❖ **LP Hemanth K Srinivasulu Receives ‘Man of the Year 2023’ Award from Home Minister Amit Shah**

➤ In a momentous ceremony held on **December 28, 2023**, **Mr. L.P. Hemanth K. Srinivasulu**, the newly appointed **Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Council**, was bestowed with the prestigious “**Man of the Year-2023**” award.

➤ The honour, presented by **Shri Amit Shah, the Home Minister of India**, serves as a recognition of Mr. Hemanth’s outstanding contributions to trade diplomacy and global economic relations.

➤ As the **Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Council**, Mr. Hemanth continues to spearhead initiatives for trade diplomacy. His legacy is characterized by innovation, collaboration, and an unwavering pursuit of excellence within the dynamic and interconnected world of trade.

➤ The “**Man of the Year-2023**” award is not just a recognition of past achievements but a testament to the ongoing impact that Mr. Hemanth is making in the realm of international trade and diplomacy.

❖ **The Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2023 goes to Bengali writer Shirshendhu Mukhopadhyay**

- Bengali writer Shirshendhu Mukhopadhyaya has been awarded the 2023 Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar. The writer will receive a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation.
- He has written more than 90 books, including travelogues and fiction for children. The selection committee for the national award, named in honour of the late Kannada poet Kuvempu, was chaired by BL Shankar (president of the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust) and comprised Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharya, Geetha Vijayakumar, and Agrahara Krishnamurthy.
- The Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar is a national annual literary award that recognise writers who have made significant contributions to any Indian language. Tamil writer Imayam was the previous year's winner.

❖ **Women's National Boxing Championships 2023**

- The 7th Women's National Boxing Championship 2023 were held from 22 to 27 December.
- It was organized at GBU Indoor Stadium, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, UP.
- World champion Sweety Boora, Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Jasmine and Olympian Pooja Rani won gold medals in their respective weight categories at the Women's National Boxing Championships 2023.
- Sweety Bora won the gold medal by defeating Lalfakmawii Ralte 5-0 in the final of 81 kg weight category.

➤ Jasmine won the gold medal in the 60 kg category by defeating Tokyo Olympian Simranjit Kaur by a margin of 4-3.

➤ Tokyo Olympian Pooja Rani defeated Nandini 5-0 to win the gold medal in the 75 kg category.

Boxing Federation of India:

➤ Established : February 25, 1949

➤ Headquarters : New Delhi

➤ Chairman :Ajay Singh

❖ SC Collegium Recommends Names Of New Chief Justices For 5 High Courts

➤ The Supreme Court collegium finalised names of judges for recommendation to appoint them as Chief Justices of the High Courts of Allahabad, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana, Gauhati and Jharkhand.

➤ It selected Rajasthan HC acting chief justice Manindra Mohan Srivastava as the regular CJ of that high court.

➤ Justices Vijay Bishnoi and Arun Bhansali were selected to head the Gauhati HC and Allahabad HC respectively.

➤ Justice Sheel Nagu was selected to head the Punjab and Haryana HC.

❖ **Secretive X-37B Robot Space Plane was launched by US Military**

- The U.S. military's secretive X-37B robot space plane blasted off from Florida on its seventh mission, the first launched atop a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket capable of delivering it to a higher orbit than ever before.
- The X-37B is a Boeing vehicle resembling a small space shuttle.
- The X-37B mission serves as further evidence of the increasing strategic significance of space in both technological innovation and national defence.
- Its ability to reach higher orbits and potentially venture near the moon constitutes a huge jump in capability, especially in light of the US-China rivalry.
- This mission can open the path for new space-based surveillance, communication and other classified operations.