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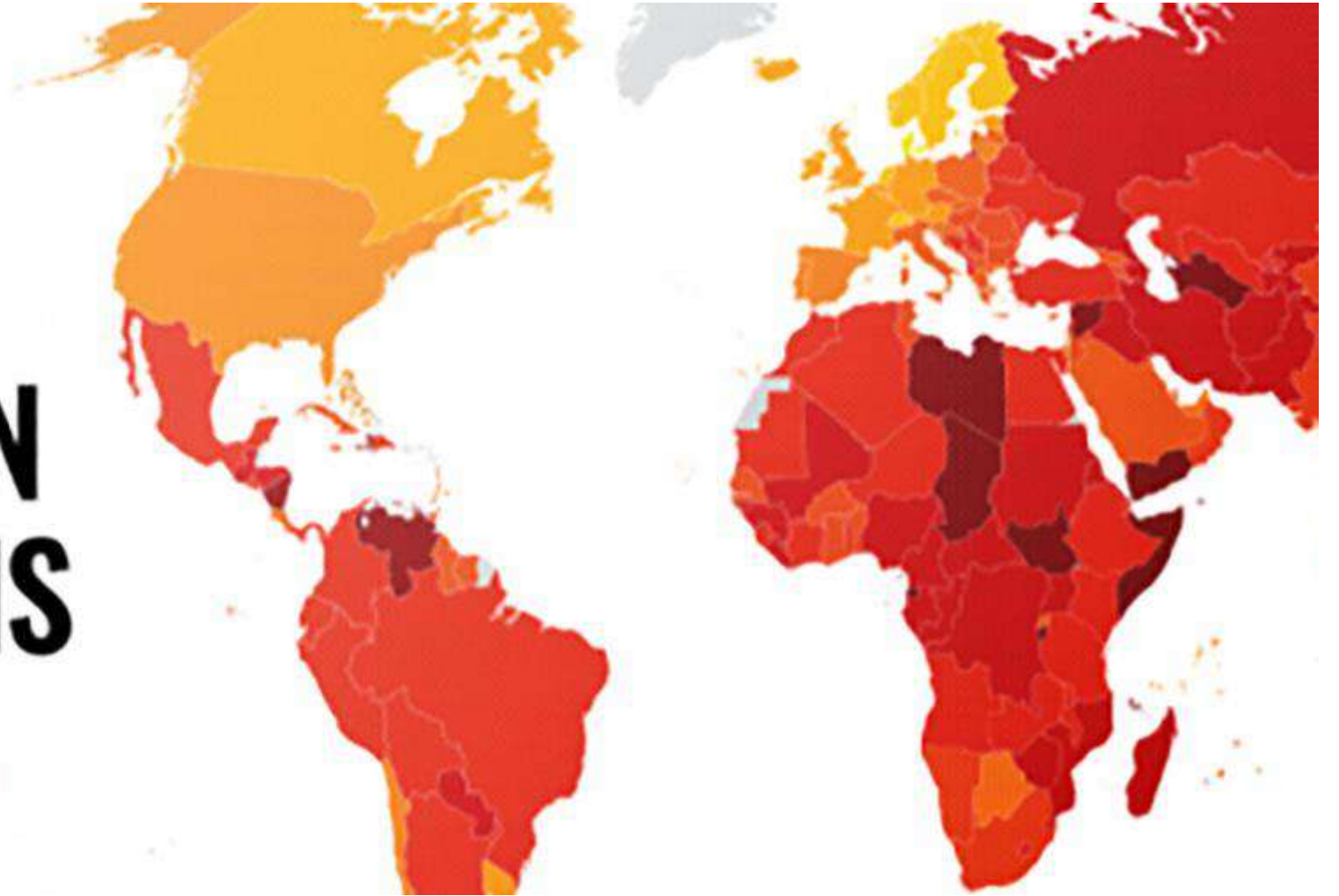


PM YASASVI Scheme

PM YASASVI scheme

- It is a scholarship scheme for Other Backward Class (OBCs), Economically Backward Class (EBC), and Denotified Nomadic Tribes (DNT) students.
- Under this scheme, students can avail of Pre-Matric Scholarships from Classes 9 to 10 and Post-Matric Scholarships for their higher education at the post-matriculation or post-secondary level.
- Exceptional students also have the opportunity to receive scholarships for top-tier schools and colleges.
- Additionally, hostel facilities are provided for OBC students through a construction scheme.
- These scholarships shall be available for studies in India only and will be awarded by the Government of State/Union Territory to which the applicant actually belongs, i.e., permanently settled.
- **Entitlement:** Upto Rs. 75,000 p.a. for Class 9/10, Rs. 1,25,000 p.a. for Class 11/12, covering the school tuition fee/hostel fee.
- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- A total of ₹32.44 Crore has been released for Pre-matric Scholarships and ₹387.27 Crore for Post-Matric Scholarships to States/Union Territories (UTs) under the PM Young Achievers' Scholarship Award Scheme.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2023



Global Corruption Index -2023

- **Transparency International** released its **2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)**, revealing a list of the world's most corrupt countries. The report highlighted minimal progress in addressing public sector corruption, as the global average for CPI remained stagnant at 43 for the twelfth consecutive year.
- Most countries have made little to no progress in tackling public sector corruption.
- More than two-thirds of the 180 listed countries received a score below 50 on the scale, indicating a prevalence of corruption. The CPI ranks countries based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption, which range from **zero (extremely corrupt) to 100 (very clean)**.
- **Least corrupt countries in the world**
- **Denmark** tops the index for the sixth year in a row, with a score of 90, owing to its "well-functioning justice systems".
- Finland and New Zealand are in second and third place, with scores of 87 and 85 respectively.
- This year's top ten countries are Norway (84), Singapore (83), Sweden (82), Switzerland (82), the Netherlands (79), Germany (78), and Luxembourg (78).
- **Most corrupt countries in the world**
- Taking the bottom spots in the CPI are Somalia (11), Venezuela (13), Syria (13), South Sudan (13), and Yemen (16). These countries are all affected by protracted crises, primarily armed conflicts.
- **India secured the 93rd position with a score of 39**, according to the Transparency International report. India's overall score remained relatively stable, as it was 40 in 2022, securing the 85th position.



‘Ek Samanthar, Mere Andar’ Book

- ‘Ek Samandar, Mere Andar,’ a collection of 75 poems penned by **BrahMos Aerospace Deputy CEO Sanjeev Joshi**, was launched in a prestigious event graced by top Indian defence and literary figures.
- This book reflects the confluence of creative expression and defence expertise.
- The launch of ‘Ek Samandar, Mere Andar’ highlights the lesser-known creative side of individuals deeply involved in the defense sector.
- Sanjeev Joshi, known for his role in BrahMos Aerospace, showcases his poetic prowess in this collection, offering a unique perspective on life and experiences.

First Naturopathy hospital in North East India

- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, and Assam's Chief Minister, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, laid the foundation stone for the Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy and a 100-bed Yoga & Naturopathy hospital in **Dibrugarh, Assam**.
- With an investment of **₹100 crores**, the 15-acre institution aims to synergize traditional Yoga and Naturopathy with modern technology, setting benchmarks in education, preventive healthcare, and research.
- The institute will focus on evidence-based research, international collaboration, and incubation for startups in the Yoga and wellness sector.
- This state-of-the-art institute will focus on fundamental aspects, scientific validation of traditional systems of medicine and practices through evidence-based research, apart from functioning as an international collaboration centre for global promotion and research in Yoga and Naturopathy.
- The services offered by the institute are naturopathy diet and nutrition, yoga therapy, massage & manipulative therapies, acupressure, acupuncture, chromotherapy, magneto therapy, physiotherapy and hydrotherapy treatments.



The tableau of Ministry of Culture has secured first prize at the Republic Day parade 2024

- The Republic Day Parade 2024 witnessed a remarkable tableau that captured the essence of India as the ‘Mother of Democracy.’
- This stunning representation clinched the first spot in the parade, symbolizing India’s rich democratic heritage. The tableau of the **Ministry of Culture** has secured the first prize at the Republic Day Parade 2024.



- The winning tableau was based on the theme ‘**India: Mother of Democracy**’, showcasing the country’s long-standing tradition of democratic values and practices. The tableau highlighted India’s journey through the ages as a cradle of democratic principles, reflecting the diverse and inclusive nature of its political system.
- The theme ‘India: Mother of Democracy’ resonates deeply with India’s identity as the world’s largest democracy. It underlines the country’s commitment to democratic ideals and its role in shaping democratic discourse globally.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs**’ tableau, depicting ‘**Vibrant Villages**’, won the second prize.
- The Republic Day Parade is not just a display of India’s military might and cultural diversity; it is also an occasion to reflect on the nation’s democratic values.

Manipur's Naorem Roshibina becomes 'Female Wushu Athlete of the Year 2023'

- Naorem Roshibina, Arjuna awardee 2023, who is currently training at SAI NCOE Imphal, has been named the best international athlete for the year 2023 in the Wushu female category by the International Wushu Federation (IWUF) .
- After a month-long voting from December 15, 2023 to January 15, 2024 coupled with technical scrutiny by the IWUF, Naorem Roshibina was declared the best athlete of the year 2023, beating Wu Xiao-wei of China and Manshoriya Semiromi of Iran.
- Roshibina, is the **first Indian athlete to become Asian Wushu champion** and the country's youngest Asian Games medallist in wushu.
- She bagged a silver medal in 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou, China, in September 2023, as well as a silver medal at the 16th World Wushu Championship in Texas, USA.



According to the first scientific calculation, Ladakh has the highest population of snow leopards

- India is home to around 718 snow leopards, according to the first-ever population estimation exercise conducted by the **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India** (SPAI) Programme.
- The highest number of snow leopards were recorded in **Ladakh** (477), followed by Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (9).
- The **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** was the National Coordinator for the exercise that was carried out with the support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners, the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, and WWF-India.
- The recent status surveys have significantly increased understanding, providing preliminary information for 80 per cent of the range (about 79,745 square kilometres), compared to 56 per cent in 2016.
- To gather robust information on snow leopard numbers, the SPAI exercise surveyed habitats using a substantial network of camera traps.



Odisha government approved Rs 100 crore 'LABHA scheme' for purchasing minor forest produce

- The Odisha government announced a new scheme called “**Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya**” (LABHA) for tribals under which they can sell minor forest produce at a minimum support price.
- LABHYA Yojana is a 100% state funded MSP for the MFP scheme (minimum support price for minor forest produce).
- Some of the popular minor forest produce in Odisha are tamarind, mahua seed, sal seed, karanja seed, sal leaves, harida, chironjee seed, lac, honey, gum karya etc
- Under this scheme, tribals can sell minor forest produce at a minimum support price.
- State-owned Tribal Development Co-Operative Corporation Of Odisha Ltd (TDCCOL) would then buy the MFP from the SHGs at a 2% commission. After the collection of the MFPs, the money will be transferred as direct benefit transfers (DBT) to the beneficiaries and SHGs.
- It will benefit more than 30,000 primary collectors and 1000 SHGs (women) in 119 blocks of 14 predominantly tribal districts.
- The government made **100 crore budget** provisions for this scheme.





2nd Edition of

India Energy Week Will Take Place in GOA

- India Energy Week is a great opportunity to showcase the latest developments in the energy sector and provide a platform for further growth.
- The event hosts two influential conferences - the Strategic Conference and the Technical Conference.
- **The Strategic Conference** will host global energy ministers, CEOs, policymakers and business leaders to discuss the trends shaping the future of energy.
- **The Technical Conference**, on the other hand, will provide technical expertise for engineers, project managers and innovators driving India's energy transition. This conference will focus on cutting-edge research and industry best practices.
- **India, world's third-largest energy consumer**, is a vanguard in the global energy dialogue. With a thriving economy and a growing population, India stands at the forefront of discussions surrounding the future of energy.

2nd Edition of India Energy Week will take place in Goa

- The second edition of India Energy Week is scheduled to take place in Goa from 6 to 9 February 2024.
- Indian Energy Week is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**, the Government of India and the **Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI)**.

Indian Navy Decommissioned INS Nirupak at Visakhapatnam

- The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built survey ship, INS Nirupak, was decommissioned after 38 years of illustrious service to the nation.
- The ship, third of its class was launched on June 4, 1981, at GRSE and commissioned into service on August 14, 1985 by Vice Admiral Jayant Ganpat Nadkarni, then Chief of Naval Staff.
- The ship is based at Visakhapatnam under the administrative and operational control of Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command.
- In recognition of its relentless dedication to the field of hydrography, INS Nirupak was awarded the **Admiral Jal Cursetji Rolling Trophy** for best survey ship in the years 1994, 1995, 2005 and 2009.
- It was actively engaged in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, including **Operation Gambhir** (Tsunami Relief) in 2004, offering critical relief as a hospital ship to Indonesia.
- The data collected by INS Nirupak has been instrumental in enhancing navigational safety in the Indian Ocean Region including foreign countries.



World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day - January 30

- World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (World NTD Day) is observed on January 30 every year to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) as a critical public health challenge.
- The proposal to recognise the day was floated by the **United Arab Emirates**. It was adopted unanimously by the delegates. The first World NTD Day was celebrated informally in **2020**.
- Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a group of infections that are most common among marginalised communities in the developing regions of Africa, Asia and the Americas.
- They are caused by a variety of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasitic worms.
- NTDs are especially common in tropical areas where people do not have access to clean water or safe ways to dispose of human waste.
- These diseases generally receive less funding for research and treatment than malaises like tuberculosis, HIV-AIDS and malaria.
- Examples of NTDs are: snakebite envenomation, scabies, yaws, trachoma, Leishmaniasis and Chagas disease etc.
- The theme of Neglected Tropical Disease Day 2024 is **Unite, Act, Eliminate**.





India emerges as 5th largest source of tourists for US

- A growing, affluent middle class and younger, intrepid Indians travelling to the United States have made India the fifth largest source for tourism to the US, projected to grow at 30% in 2024.
- Indian tourists spend more than other international travelers and accounted for a significant share of the **\$173.9 billion** spent by international tourists in the US.
- The nearly 30% increase in spending in the period Jan to Oct 2023 when compared to the year before coincides with the easing of delays in processing visas, improved flight connectivity, and a wider cross-section of tourism product offerings, including culinary, sports, transformational and adventure activities.



84th Conference of Presiding Officers of State Legislatures

- Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar addressed the 84th All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC) and 60th Conference of Secretaries of State Legislative Bodies in India at **Maharashtra Vidhan Bhavan**, Mumbai.
- All India Presiding officers conference adopts a resolutions which includes **“One Nation One Legeslative Platform”**.
- Lok Sabha speaker, Om Birla, and Rajya Sabha vice-chairman, Harivansh Narayan Singh, are among the 250 delegates expected to attend. The conference will focus on parliamentary and legislative reforms and procedures.
- The event is partially funded by Parliament, with a budget of approximately **10 crore**.



Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

**Inaugurated
SAMALEI Temple**

Project in Sambalpur



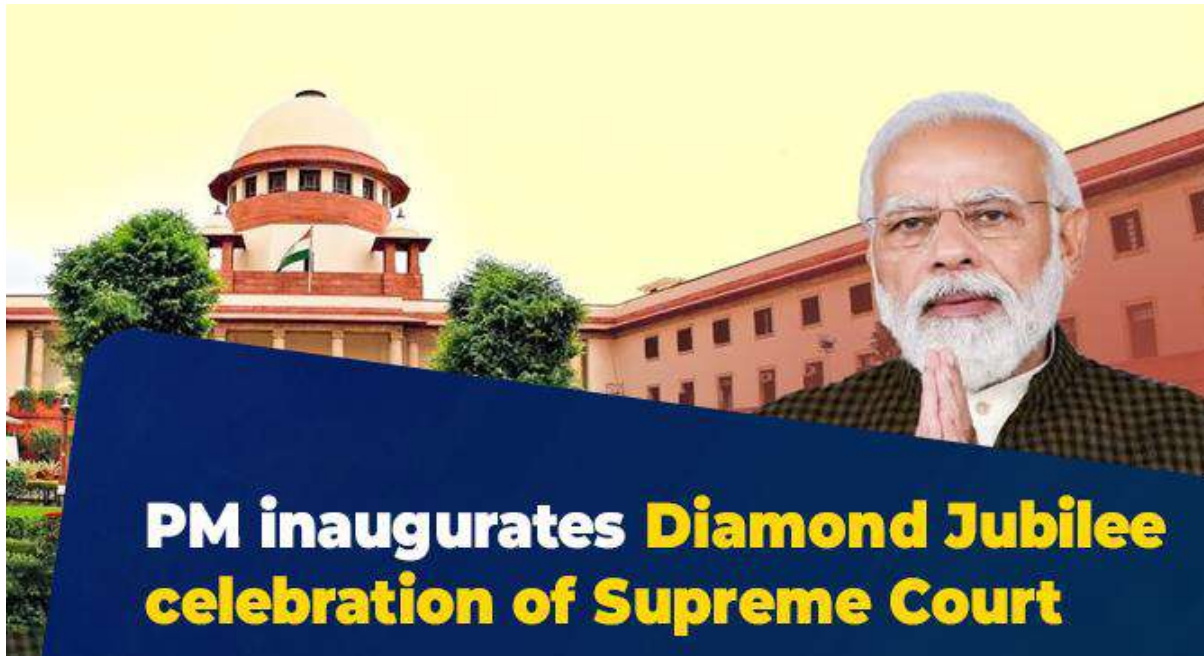
Odisha CM inaugurated SAMALEI Temple Project in Sambalpur

- According to the Odisha government, the SAMALEI (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economic Initiative) Plan is proposed to comprehensively develop the temple precinct to provide a unique experiential experience to visitors and pilgrims by creating an ambiance of spirituality.
- The project includes peripheral development of the shrine, construction of a heritage corridor, amenities for pilgrims, improved access to the temple, and development of the Mahanadi riverfront
- The state government has spent more than Rs 200 crore on this project. Projects include the beautification and development of the **Maa Samaleswari temple in Western Odisha**. The project was carried out over an area of around 40 acres.
- The infrastructure upgradation of the temple precinct and the creation of amenities are the main focus of this redevelopment project.
- The major objectives of the SAMALEI Plan are to: celebrate the grandeur of Maa Samaleswari temple; enhance devotees's experiences; boost the tourism-based economy of Sambalpur and Odisha; and develop other projects around the temple to facilitate economic opportunities for locals.
- All buildings and heritage gates have been designed in **Kalingan architecture**. **Khondalite stones** have been used for paving and cladding.

Iran simultaneously Launches 3 satellites for the 1st time using simorgh SLV

- Iran has successfully launched three satellites, including two nano satellites, using the **Simorgh satellite launch vehicle (SLV)**.
- The **Iran Space Agency (ISA)**, operating under the Communications and Information Technology Ministry, stated that this marks the “first time” Tehran has launched three Iranian satellites into orbit simultaneously with a domestically produced SLV.
- The 32 kg **Mahda satellite** entered a 450-km elliptical orbit with an apogee of 1,100 km on January 28. Two nanosatellites, **Keyhan-2 and Hafez-1**, weighing less than 10 kg each, were launched alongside Mahda.
- Mahda’s mission aimed to evaluate the Simorgh SLV’s capability to deploy multiple satellites and assess the performance of domestically produced space technologies.
- Keyhan-2 focused on local positioning for ground receivers without relying on global positioning systems (GPS), while Hafez-1 was designed for narrowband communication using the Internet of Things (IoT).
- These nano satellites were produced by **Iran Electronics Industries (IEI)**, which is under US sanctions.





PM inaugurates **Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court**

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates **Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court of India**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India and unveiled key technology initiatives during the event held at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi.
- The occasion marked the beginning of the **Supreme Court's 75th year, coinciding with the 75th year of the Indian Constitution.**
- The Prime Minister launched the new website of the Supreme Court and its citizen-centric information and multiple technology initiatives, including the Digital Reports (Digi SCR), Digital Courts, and other technological innovations.
- The government approved Rs 800 crore last week for the expansion of the Supreme Court Building Complex and is committed to providing all help in terms of infrastructure, funds, and manpower to modernize and facilitate the legal system.
- The Prime Minister announced a fourfold increase in funds for the third phase of the **E-Courts Mission Project**, demonstrating a commitment to making justice accessible, even in remote areas.
- Digital initiatives aim to provide free and user-friendly access to Supreme Court judgments, utilizing AI for real-time transcription and translation into local languages.



Japan's Toyota to be the world's best-selling car manufacturer in 2023

- Toyota Motor, opens new tab sold a record 11.2 million vehicles in 2023, taking the crown as the world's top-selling automaker for a fourth straight year.
- The Japanese automaker reported a 7.2 per cent jump in global group sales last year, including those of truck unit Hino Motors (7205.T), opening new tab and small-car maker Daihatsu, helped by record overseas sales of 8.9 million vehicles.
- Those two subsidiaries and affiliate Toyota Industries (6201.T), opens new tab have been beset by governance issues involving certification test procedures for cars and engines that could potentially hurt the brand's global reputation for quality and safety.