



TNPSC

FEBRUARY 24 ENGLISH

EFFORT

100% RESULTS

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FEBRUARY - 2024

FIRST IN NEWS

- 1. **First robotic elephant** A robotic elephant was handed over to the Shivan Temple in **Devarshola in Gudalur in Ooty**, **Tamil Nadu** by an NGO, **Voices for Asian Elephants**.
- 2. The world's highest single-arch railway bridge Chenab bridge was inaugurated; the bridge runs between **Bakkal** and **Kauri** in the **Reasi** district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 3. **World's First Malaria Vaccine Program** for Children- **Cameroon** will be the **first country** to routinely give children a new malaria vaccine as the shots is rolled out in Africa.
- 4. **India's first 360-degree** super immersive dome theatre was opened at the **Kelambakkam** Road in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

POLITY

- 1. The Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds scheme on grounds it violated citizens' right to information, was unconstitutional citing it as arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution in (Association for Democratic Reforms & Anr. v. Union of India (UoI) & Ors.)
- 2. **75 Years of The Supreme Court of India** Prime minister inaugurated the **Diamond Jubilee celebration** of the **Supreme Court of India** on **28th January** at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi.
- 3. **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** set a record by presenting the **sixth Budget** in a row -- **five annual Budgets** and **one interim**.
- 4. The union government appointed Arvind Panagariya as Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.
- 5. **Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi Commission** tasked to examine the issues plaguing NRI marriages and strengthen the legal framework concerning international public law and private laws.





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SCHEMES IN NEWS

Scheme Name	Launched by	Objective
Sukanya Samriddhi account scheme 2024	Ministry of Finance	To promote the social, economic and educational status of girl child
Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah- Yojana	Ministry of Fishing, Animal Husbandary and Dairying	Formalisation of the unorganised fisheries through self-registration of fishers, fish farmers and supportive workers under a National Fisheries Sector Digital Platform (NFDP).
PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana	Ministry of New and renewable energy	It aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month.
Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana	Ministry of Education, skill development and entrepreneurship	It aims to equip individuals with comprehensive entrepreneurship training, creating job providers rather than job seekers.
Maa Kamakhya Divya Pariyojana	Under Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE) scheme.	The significant pilgrimage centre Kamakhya temple is located on the Nilachal hills in Guwahati, Assam.





ECONOMY

- 1. **RBI** has authorized **payment aggregator license** to **Zoho** and fintech companies **Juspay** and **Decentro**.
- 2. The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES). The per capita monthly household expenditure was more than doubled in 2022-23 as compared to 2011-12.
- 3. **Switzerland and India** have reached consensus on a **Free-Trade Agreement (FTA)** after **16 years** of negotiations.

ENVIRONMENT

- 1. Tamil Nadu government created a corpus of 50 crore, a dedicated "Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund".
- 2. **Five more Indian wetland**s have been added to the global list of wetlands of international importance under the **Ramsar Convention**.
 - Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve Karnataka
 - Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve Karnataka
 - Aghanashini Estuary Karnataka
 - Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary Tamil Nadu
 - Longwood Shola Reserve Forest Tamil Nadu.
- 3. The scientists announced the **first-ever rhino pregnancy** achieved by transferring a **lab-made rhino embryo into a surrogate mother**.
- 4. Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) in Assam revealed two new mammalian species, the Binturong and the small-clawed otter.
- 5. Researchers have discovered **two eel species**, one each from the coasts of **Gulf of Mannar** in **Ramanathapuram** and **Kochi** in **Kerala**.
 - Gulf of Mannar- Ariosoma kannani
 - Kerala coast- Ariosoma gracile
- 6. After nearly 50 years, two tigers were recorded in camera traps in reserve forests of **Jawalagiri range** in the **Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Hosur**.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- 1. **Nasa's Mars robot helicopter Ingenuity**, the **first vehicle** to achieve powered, was controlled flight on another world.
- 2. **NASA spacecraft** has successfully pinged **India's Chandrayaan-3** lander on the moon.
- 3. **Neuralink startup** had installed a **brain implant** in its **first human patient** with "promising" initial results.
- 4. **India** is set to enhance its meteorological monitoring capabilities with the launch of **INSAT-3DS** by using **GSLV-F14 rocket**.
- 5. **NASA** have found a 'super-Earth,' a planet that could potentially support life. This planet, called **TOI-715 b**, is **137 light-years** away from us.
- 6. **IIT Madras** has joined hands with **Munitions India (MIL)** to develop **India's first indigenous** 155mm guided smart ammunition.
- 7. **The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)** has successfully built and tested India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility.
- 8. **DRDO** is preparing to test a real prototype of its indigenous laser weapon system, **DURGA-2**.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- 1. **G77** + China third south summit 2024 ended in **Kampala**, **Uganda**.
- 2. The US and eight other Western countries, have decided to pause funding for the **United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).**
- 3. India has paid **USD 32.89 million** to the **United Nations Regular Budget** for 2024.
- 4. **Iran** announced the initiation of a **15-day visa-free policy** for **Indian tourists** visiting the country.
- 5. Member states of the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, agreed to begin discussions on the Indian government's request to become a full member of the body.





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- 6. **Dubai** introduces **5-year multiple-entry visa** for Indians, to leverage multiple entries/exits, providing operational flexibility for business, leisure travel etc.
- 7. Philippines becomes first Asian Country to ratify the ILO Convention to End Workplace Violence and Harassment.

NATIONAL NEWS

- 1. A total 16 individuals and organisations were conferred the Election Commission's 'Best Electoral Practices Awards' for 2023.
- 2. The government targets 30 cities for a nationwide survey and rehabilitation effort to eliminate beggary, emphasizing adults, women, and children.
- 3. The **Ministry of Culture** has put forward the '**Maratha Military Landscape**' for consideration in the **UNESCO World Heritage List** for the 2024-25 cycle.
- 4. **The Indian army** has brought **a new fitness policy** in view of the "declining physical standards among officers".
- 5. Interim budget announced the government's initiative to promote cervical cancer vaccination, HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine among girls aged 9 to 14.
- 6. The Indian Navy commissioned its first survey vessel, Sandhayak
- 7. **The Kilkari programme**, a **Mobile Health (m-health) initiative**, was recently launched for beneficiaries in local content in Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- 8. Himachal Pradesh secured the top spot of the Most Welcoming Region in India category and Mararikulam (Kerala) topped ten Most Welcoming Cities in India by booking.com.
- 9. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) will sign 5-year contracts with farmer to assure procurement at pre-fixed Minimum Support Prices (MSP).







- 10. **Palace on Wheels luxury** train is set to embark on a new route, delving into the sacred Indian cities of Ayodhya, Kashi, and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- 11. The **Republic Day Parade 2024** witnessed a remarkable tableau that captured the essence of India as the '**Mother of Democracy**'. The tableau of the **Ministry of Culture** has secured the first prize at the Republic Day Parade 2024.

TAMILNADU NEWS

- 1. Tamil Nadu government announced a **Kalaignar sports kit scheme** to provide free sports kits to students in all the **12,000 village panchayats**.
- 2. Tamil Nadu continues to have maximum number of Ramsar Sites (16 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).
- 3. The Election Commission of India has posted IAS officer Shankar Lal Kumawat as the Additional Chief Electoral Officer in Tamil Nadu.
- 4. **'Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril**' scheme- It aims to improve the delivery of various services and expedite implementation of schemes.
- 5. The Madras High Court has stated that, the revenue officials could not issue a 'No Caste, No Religion' certificate.
- 6. **National Cancer Registry Programme Report**, the estimated prevalence of cervical cancer cases in the State in 2023 was 36,014.
- 7. Chief Minister inaugurated Tamil Nadu's **first Mini-TIDEL Park** in **Villupuram**
- 8. 1,000 crores have been allocated for a new scheme **'Tholkudi**' for development of **Tribals** that would be implemented over the next four years.
- 9. The State recorded its all-time high number of **cadaver(organ) donations** in a month with 30 donors from January 1 to 29, 2024, highest in a month since 2008.
- 10. **The Tamil Nadu government** has declared 80,114.80 hectares of reserve forests in **Bargur Hills** in Erode district, as the **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary**.







- 11. Tamil Nadu consistently maintains the highest Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education for five academic years between 2017-18 and 2021-22, All India Survey on Higher Education by the Ministry of Education, Tamil Nadu's GER was 47 per cent.
- 12. **South India's first cinema hall Delite Theatre** on Variety Hall Road in **Coimbatore** was demolished. Originally known as the 'Variety Hall' cinema, it was established in 1914 by **Samikannu Vincent**.
- 13. The state differently-abled welfare department will soon establish **39 one-stop centres (OSCs)** at the sub-divisional level, held under the World Bankfunded RIGHTS project.
- 14. **Tamil Nadu** recently banned the sale and production of cotton candy because **Food Analysis Laboratory** found **Rhodamine-B** as an **artificial** colouring agent which is a cancer causing chemical.
- 15. **Tamil Nadu** stood **7th among 37 states** in India with 348 species and 3,804 checklists, during the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) India 2024.

CULTURE

- 1. **Goa Carnival (February 7-14)** This lively festival features grand processions, dance, music, and culinary delights, culminating in the Red and Black Ball dance and the crowning of King Momo.
- 2. **50th Khajuraho Dance Festival (February 20-26)** Held in **Madhya Pradesh**, this festival celebrates classical dance forms against the stunning backdrop of the **Khajuraho temples**.
- 3. **37th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela (February 2-18)** Located in Faridabad, this mela showcases a vast array of handicrafts, handlooms, and folk performances from various states of India and other countries
- 4. Losar Festival (February 10-12) Celebrated mainly in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and other Tibetan-populated regions, this marks the Tibetan New Year with vibrant dances, prayers, and cultural performances
- 5. **Jaisalmer Desert Festival (February 22-24)** Set in Rajasthan, this festival includes camel races, folk music, dance performances, and unique competitions like turban tying and the best moustache contest.







- 6. **World Sufi Festival (February 23-25)** Taking place in **Nagaur** and Jodhpur, this festival features Sufi music, dance, and poetry, creating a spiritual and enchanting atmosphere.
- 7. **Taj Mahotsav (February 18-27)** Celebrated near the Taj Mahal in Agra, this event showcases art, craft, music, and dance, reflecting the Mughal era's grandeur.
- 8. Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Maa Kamakhya Access Corridor in Assam, designed on similar lines of Kashi (U.P) and Mahakal (M.P) corridors.
- 9. Maratha Military Landscapes will be India's nomination for recognition as **UNESCO World Heritage List** for the year 2024-25.
- 10. 200th anniversary of the Kittur or Kitturu Revolt, led by Rani Chennamma, was commemorated.
- 11. Stones bearing 11th century Grantham inscriptions and 16th century Tamil inscriptions were discovered near Kangayam in Tamil Nadu.

AWARDS/PRIZE

Award	Awarded by	Awarded to	Known for
2023 Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award	Natural History Museum in London	Nima Sarikhani	Wildlife photographer addressing issues of climate change
Jnanpith Award 2023	The Bharatiya Jnanpith	 Gulzar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya 	 Urdu poet and lyricist Sanskrit scholar
Bharat Ratna Awards	Government of India	 Karpoori Thakur(posthumous) Lal Krishna Advani PV Narasimha Rao 	





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		4. Chaudhary Charan	
		Singh(posthumous)	
		5. MS Swaminathan	
		(posthumous)	
Quaide Milleth Award for	Educational and	N. Ram Abusaleh Shariff	 Journalist Economist
Probity in Political/Public Life for the year 2023.	Social Trust		. >
			Vai
Blavatnik	1. Blavatnik	1. Rahul R Nair	For young
Awards	Family	2. Mehul Malik	scientist
	Foundation	3. Tanmay Bharat	
	2. New York		
	Academy of		
	Sciences		
National Film Awards 2024	National Film Development	Best Actor- Allu Arjun, Pushpa.	
	Corporation.	Best Actress- Alia Bhat, Gangubhai.	
	S. ERO	Best Director- Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari	
Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur' (Knight of the Legion of Honour)	France Government	Shashi Tharoor	This accolade celebrates his lifelong dedication to fostering global understanding and his significant service to India and the world at large
			world at large







PERSONS IN NEWS

'Saheli', passed away recently. Russian opposition leader died in the Arctic penal colony where he was serving a 19-year sentence, widely regarded as the only candidate challenging Russian President. Justice NV Anjaria Appointed as the 34th new Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.	Person	Why in news?	
colony where he was serving a 19-year sentence, widely regarded as the only candidate challenging Russian President. Justice NV Anjaria Appointed as the 34th new Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court. Pradeep Natarajan RBI approved the appointment as IDFC FIRST Bank's full Time Director. Jay Shah Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), was unanimously appointed for a third consecutive term as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).	Dr Nitya Anand	•	
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IMPORTANT DAYS	Jay Shah	India (BCCI), was unanimously appointed for a third consecutive term as the President of the Asian	
	SHIFT	IMPORTANT DAYS	

Day	Date	Theme
Indian Coast Guard Day	February 01	
World Wetlands Day	February 02	Wetlands and human wellbeing
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) Awareness Day	February 02	





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World Interfaith Harmony Week	first week of February	
World Cancer Day	February 04	Close the care gap: Everyone deserves access to cancer care
International Day of Human Fraternity	February 04	
International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	February 06	Her voice. Her future
International Day of the Arabian Leopard	February 10	ADE AIRS
National Deworming Day	February 10	
World Pulses Day	February 10	Pulses: nourishing soils and people
World Day of the Sick	February 11	
International Day of Women and Girls in Science	February 11	Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability
World Unani Day	February 11	
Darwin Day	February 12	
National Productivity Day	February 12	Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Productivity Engine for Economic Growth
World Radio Day 2024	February 13	Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating
International Day for the Prevention of Violent	February 12	Living Together: Fostering the Community Resilience to Prevent





Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism		Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism
International Epilepsy Day 2024	February 12	International Epilepsy Day 2024
World Anthropology Day	February 15	World Anthropology Day
World Hippo Day 2024	February 15	World Hippo Day 2024
World Pangolin Day	February 17	World Pangolin Day
Global Tourism Resilience Day	February 17	Global Tourism Resilience Day
World Whale Day	February 18	World Whale Day

DEFENCE IN NEWS

- 1. Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians.'
- 2. **SARVATRA** a Multispan Mobile Bridging System, Crafted by **Armament** and **Combat Engineering Systems (ACE)** under the **Defence** Research and **Development Organisation (DRDO)**, epitomizes innovation in bridging solutions, ensuring seamless connectivity for the Indian Army.
- 3. **The Indian Air Force** (IAF) is set to conduct Exercise **Vayu Shakti-24**, a grand display of its aerial might at the **Pokhran** Air to Ground Range near **Jaisalmer.**
- 4. The inaugural joint military exercise, **Sada Tanseeq**, between the armies of India and Saudi Arabia, is poised to commence in **Rajasthan**.
- 5. India has embarked on a significant project to fence the entire **1643-kilometer-long Indo-Myanmar** border.





- 6. **12th edition** of the **MILAN** naval exercise in the strategic port city of **Visakhapatnam** held from February 19 to 27.
- 7. The **SAMAR** (Surface-to-Air Missile for Assured Retaliation) air defense missile system marked a significant milestone as it was fired for the first time during the **Vayushakti Exercise** held in **Rajasthan**.
- 8. Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships joined the **Dosti 16 exercise** held in the **Maldives.**

Exercise	Parties involved	Exercise type
Sada Tanseeq	India and Saudi Arabia	Military
12th edition of the MILAN	Over 50 countries participated	Navy
Dosti 16 exercise	Indian and Sri Lanka	coast guard

COMMITTEE IN NEWS

Committee	Purpose of the committee	
T V Somanathan Committee	Aims to streamline and finalize uniform Know your customer (KYC) norms across various sectors.	
Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi Commission	To examine the issues plaguing NRI marriages and strengthen the legal framework concerning international public law and private laws.	







PLACES IN NEWS

Place Name	State/Country	Known for
Southeast Asia	Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines	Hit by floods, landslides, and wind-related disasters due to prolonged heavy rainfall.
Zambia	Zambia	Zambia declared a national disaster due to a prolonged drought exacerbated by the El Niño weather phenomenon.
California	California	California experienced severe storms that led to widespread flooding, mudslides, and debris flows.

INDICES

Report	Released by	Note
INDIA AGEING REPORT 2023	1. International Institute for	Jammu Kashmir stands out with the highest life
REFORT 2023	Population Sciences	expectancy after the age of
	2. United Nations	60.
	Population Fund	
All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22	Ministry of Education	The total enrolment increased from 4.14 crore in the previous session to nearly 4.33 crore in 2021-22





Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	World Bank	India secured 38th position out of 139 countries
Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)	National Statistical Office	The urban jobless rate for Q3FY24 dropped to 6.5% , showcasing a marginal decrease from the previous quarter

SUMMITS

Summit Name	Hosted in	Purpose of Summit
PM GatiShakti Summit	New Delhi	Marking a significant milestone in India's infrastructure development strategy
World Government Summit (WGS)	Dubai	Convenes world leaders, policymakers, and experts to tackle pressing global issues.
North-East Sammelan	Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi	Drawing attention to the region's progress and collaborative efforts.
INDUS-X Summit	New Delhi	Marking a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts between India and the United States in defense innovation.
Mobile World Congress	Spain	Brings people from the mobile industry together and gives them a chance to connect as well as collaborate.
7th Indian Ocean Conference	Perth, Australia,	Theme -Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean.







PORTAL IN NEWS

Portal	Purpose	Launched by
Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) portal	1.45 crore youth registrations within a remarkable three-month period, the platform has swiftly become a crucial driver of youth development and engagement.	Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) portal
SWAYAM Plus platform	Operated by IIT-Madras initiative aims to provide industry-relevant courses to enhance the employability of learners, including working professionals	A.

BOOKS .	AND AUTHORS	
Book Name	Author Name	Note
Political History of Assam (1947-1971)- Volume 1	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Assam Chief Minister
Ek Samandar, Mere Andar	Sanjeev Joshi	BrahMos Aerospace Deputy CEO
9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government – Rise of a New and Vibrant Haryana	Jagdeep Dhankhar	Vice President of India
Dabbling in Diplomacy: Authorised & Otherwise, Recollections of a Non-Career Diploma	Professor S.D. Muni	





SPORTS IN NEWS

- 1. **R Vaishali** becomes India's **3rd female chess Grandmaster**, after Koneru Humpy and D Harika.
- 2. Naorem Roshibina Devi, the pride of Manipur, has clinched the prestigious title of International Wushu Federation Female Athlete of the Year of India (SJFI) and Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA).
- 3. **FIFA World Cup 2026** is set to be hosted by The United States, Canada, and Mexico.
- 4. Ravichandran Ashwin has etched his name in the annals of cricket history by becoming the second Indian bowler to take **500 wickets in Test matches.**

Award	Given by	Recipient	PURPOSE
Lifetime Achievement award	• Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA).	PT Usha	For her contribution to women athletic sports.

Event/Cups	Venue	Note
Australian Open Tennis	Australia	Men Champion- Jannik Sinner (Italy)
		Women Champion- Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
		Men's Doubles- Rohan Bopanna (India) & Matthew Ebden (Australia)





ISSF	(International	Baku, Azerbaijan	10m air rifle event-
Shooting	Sport		Divyansh Singh Panwar
Federation)	World Cup		(Gold)
			10m air pistol mixed team even- Arjun Babuta and Sonam Uttam Maskar (silver)

