



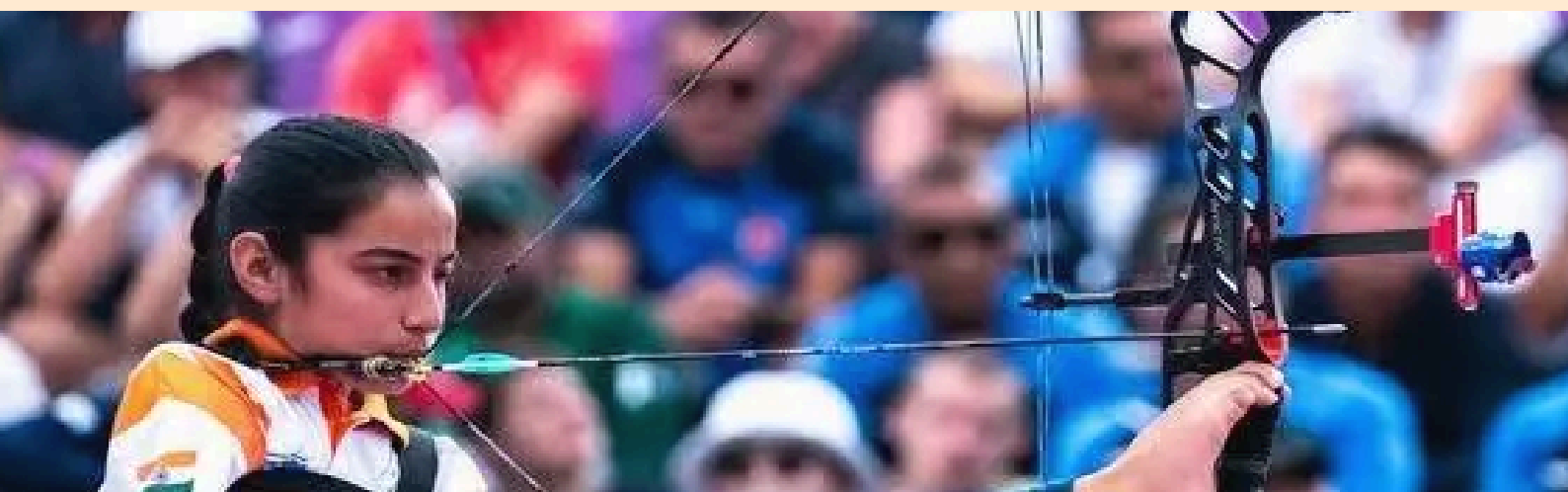
18/03/24 - 23/03/24



THE DESERVING INDIA

# C.A. SHORTS

GAGAN - THE DESERVING INDIA





## **RATAN TATA AWARDED PV NARASIMHA RAO MEMORIAL AWARD**

- Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, has been bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award.
- The PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award is named after the former PM of India.
- It is an award of recognition for individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to social welfare and humanitarian causes.
- Ratan Tata has been recognized for his remarkable and relentless efforts in the field of philanthropy.





## **LAMITIYE EXERCISE- 2024**



- **Indian Army contingent will participate in the 10th edition Joint Exercise between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence force will be conducted at Seychelles from March 18-27.**
- **Aim: To improve sub-conventional operations in a semi-urban setting, fostering bilateral military relations.**



## ULLAS INITIATIVE

- The Ministry of Education is set to conduct the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) as part of the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.

### About Ullas Initiative:

- The Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) initiative is poised to revolutionise education and literacy across the nation.
- Objective : To impart not only Foundational Literacy and Numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21st century such as
  1. Critical Life Skills
  2. Vocational Skills Development
  3. Basic Education





## **KARNATAKA BAN HARMFUL FOOD COLOURING AGENTS**

- **Recently, the Karnataka Government has announced a ban on the use of harmful colouring agents in popular food items like cotton candy and Gobi Manchurian.**
- **The ban targets Rhodamine-B in cotton candy and imposes restrictions on Tartrazine usage in Gobi Manchurian.**
  - **Rhodamine B is a chemical compound commonly employed in synthetic dyes for colouring silk, jute, leather, cotton, and wool, as well as in the cosmetics and plastics industries.**
  - **Tartrazine is a bright yellow azo dye that is more stable and a cheaper alternative to natural food dyes.**



## **Manual on Model Code of Conduct**

### **MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

- As the Election Commission of India (EC) has announced the dates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections recently, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has come into force immediately and will be in place till election results are announced.

#### **About MCC:**

- The model code of conduct is a set of norms and principles to guide the political parties and candidates during elections.
- The Model Code of Conduct is enforced from the date of announcement of the election schedule by the Election Commission and is operational till the process of elections is completed.





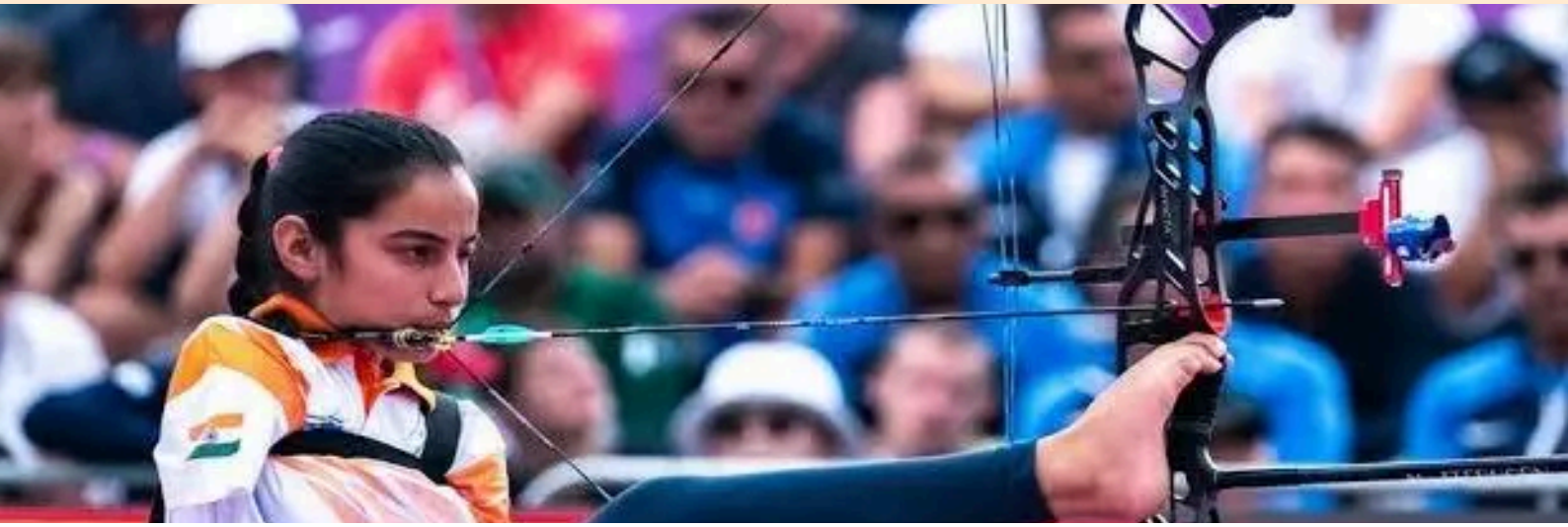
## EX TIGER TRIUMPH – 24

- A joint military exercise called Tiger Triumph-24 has started between India and the United States. This exercise is taking place on the Eastern Seaboard (East Coast) of India.
- Objective: To improve cooperation between the two countries' armed forces for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

### EX TIGER TRIUMPH – 24 Participants

- Indian Navy ships, helicopters, and landing crafts.
- Indian Army personnel and vehicles.
- Indian Air Force aircraft and helicopters.
- Rapid Action Medical Team.

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## **NATIONAL DISABILITY ICON OF ECI**

- Recently Para archer and Arjuna Awardee Ms. Sheetal Devi was declared the National Disability Icon of the Election Commission of India.
- The Commission launched a dedicated voter guide for persons with disabilities and senior citizen voters.
- This includes infrastructural, informational and procedural details at polling stations. It also includes usability and process for postal ballots, facilitating a seamless and enjoyable voting experience.

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## **ELEPHANT TRANSFER RULES- 2024**

- Recently the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified new rules for the transfer of captive elephants.
- For initiating transfer of elephants from one state to another, the chief wildlife warden of the state, where the elephant is being transferred, has to be notified.
- According to the new rules, if the donor is no longer capable of taking care of the captive elephant. For a transfer to be allowed, the genetic profile of the elephant has to be entered into an MoEFCC application, electronically.

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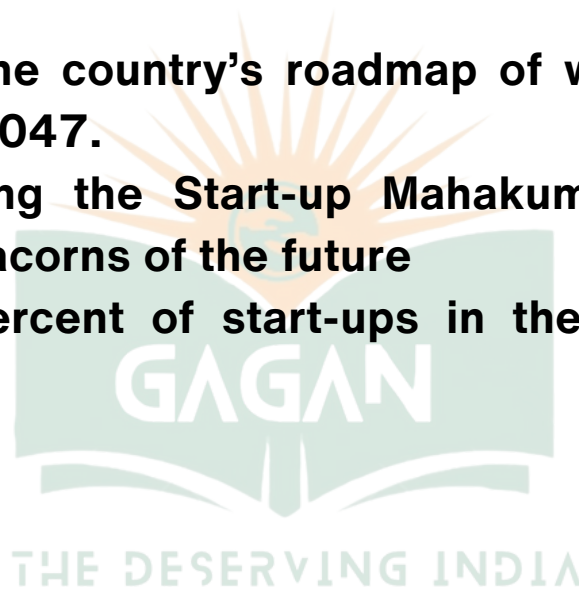


## PM INAUGURATES START-UP MAHAKUMBH AT BHARAT MANDAPAM

- Recently The PM of India inaugurated the Start-up Mahakumbh at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

### Highlight

- To emphasized the country's roadmap of working to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- Any Indian visiting the Start-up Mahakumbh will witness the unicorns and decacorns of the future
- More than 45 percent of start-ups in the country are led by women.







## **WORLD AIR QUALITY REPORT 2023**

- According to the World Air Quality Report 2023, Delhi was identified as the capital city with the poorest air quality.
- Published by : Swiss organisation IQAir.

### **Highlights:**

- India was better than only two of its neighbouring countries, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- It also identified Delhi as the most polluted capital city in the world for the fourth consecutive time.
- Bihar's Begusarai was termed the world's most polluted metropolitan area.

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## INDIA TO JOIN US-LED CARBON MARKET

- India has decided to join at least one of the four cooperative work programmes under the clean energy pillar of the U.S. - led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) - the one on facilitating and promoting carbon - market activities.
- Indo- Pacific Economic Framework for prosperity(IPEF) was launched jointly by the USA and other partner countries of the indo-Pacific region.
- IPEF has partner countries including Australia, Brunei, Fiji India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic Of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam.
- India will join the cooperative working group on carbon market through the Ministry of Power and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency will be the nodal body.





## SARASWATI SAMMAN AWARD

- Recently, Malayalam poet Prabha Varma for the 33rd Saraswati Samman for his novel Roudra Sathwikam.

### About Saraswati Samman Award

- It is given annually for outstanding literary works in 22 Indian languages in the last 10 years.
- It is among the highest recognitions in the field of Indian literature.
- It was instituted by the K. Birla Foundation.





## **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT TIGHTENS RULES ON BIOPLASTICS**

- The Environment Ministry has introduced rules that make it harder for makers of disposable plastic ware to label such products as 'biodegradable', introducing a stipulation that they must not leave any microplastics behind.
- Biodegradable plastic and compostable plastic are projected as the two broad kinds of technological fixes to India's burgeoning problem of plastic waste pollution.
- Biodegradable plastic involves plastic goods being treated before they are sold.
- Compostable plastics, on the other hand, do degrade but require industrial or large municipal waste management facilities to do so.

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## **PUSA BASMATI**

- **Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) have warned of the "illegal" production of its blockbuster varieties in Pakistan.**
- **According to IARI, the illicit seed sales and cultivation of IARI varieties in Pakistan started with Pusa Basmati-1121 (PB-1121).**
- **The varieties, originally developed by IARI, include:**
  - **Pusa Basmati-1121 (PB-1121) known for the extra kernel length of its grains.**
  - **PB-1509, which matures in 115-120 days as against the 135-145 days of other high-yielding basmati varieties.**
  - **PB-1847, PB-1885 and PB-1886 (all improved versions of PB-1509) have resistance to bacterial blight and rice blast fungal disease.**





## **GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD**

- The Supreme Court recently constituted an expert committee to balance the conservation and protection of the endangered Great Indian Bustard bird population with the country's international commitments to promote renewable sources of energy.
- The large-winged birds are on the brink of extinction, and one of the causes is the frequent collision with high-powered power cables running adjacent to its core habitats in Gujarat and Rajasthan.





## **GLOBAL SEA LEVEL JUMPED DUE TO EL NINO, CLIMATE CHANGE: NASA**

- In 2023, global sea levels surged by 0.3 inches (0.76 cm), marking a fourfold increase from the previous year, as reported by NASA.
- This significant rise, attributed to a robust El Niño and climate warming, reflects a concerning trend. NASA's analysis, spanning over three decades of satellite data starting from 1992, highlights an overall rise of approximately four inches since 1993.
- Moreover, the rate of increase has intensified, more than doubling from 0.07 inches annually in 1993 to the present rate of 0.17 inches per year. These findings underscore the urgency of addressing climate change impacts on sea level rise.



## CHINESE COAST GUARD TRIES TO BLOCK FILIPINO VESSELS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

- Chinese coast guard ships backed by a military helicopter attempted unsuccessfully to block two Philippine government vessels carrying scientists from reaching two sandbars in the disputed South China Sea.
- The South China Sea is bordered by China and Taiwan to the north, the Indo-Chinese peninsula (including Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore) to the west, Indonesia and Brunei to the south, and the Philippines to the east.
- Approximately USD 3.37 trillion worth of trade passed through the South China Sea in 2016, making it a crucial global trade route.





## **AUSTRALIA, BRITAIN TO BUILD AUKUS SUBS**

- **Australia and Britain said that a landmark deal to develop AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines would go ahead.**
- **Under the fledgling AUKUS deal, the two countries along with the United States have pledged to beef up their military muscle in a bid to counter China's rise.**
- **AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific, between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS) which was signed in 2021.**
- **Its Indo-pacific orientation makes it an alliance against China's assertive actions in the South China Sea.**

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## **MOHINIYATTAM**

### **Mohiniyattam**

- Students performed Mohiniyattam at a college in Tripunithura near Kochi recently in protest against dancer Kalamandalam Sathyabhama's recent remarks that have triggered a controversy.
- Mohiniyattam (Mohiniattam) is a classical dance form of Kerala in South India.
- One among the eight Indian classical dance forms, Mohiniyattam is a graceful dance to watch and is a solo recital by women.
- The musical accompaniment of Mohiniyattam dance involves what is known as chollu. The lyrics are in Manipravalam, which is a mixture of Sanskrit and Malayalam.



## INDIA TO DOUBLE ASSISTANCE TO BHUTAN

- India has decided to double Bhutan's assistance over the next five years, from ₹5,000 crore in 2019-2024 to ₹10,000 crore for the period till 2029.
- The announcement was made after he was awarded Bhutan's highest honour, the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo', which was announced in 2021, to acknowledge India's role in ensuring Bhutan's success in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.
- After meeting Bhutan's Prime Minister, India and Bhutan inked seven agreements on energy, food safety, sports and research, as well as a space collaboration road map.





## **DECLINE IN SHARE OF COAL IMPORT**

- There has been a reduction in the share of coal import in the total coal consumption in the country.
- The share of coal import declined to 21% during April 2023 to January 2024, which was 22.48% during the corresponding period of previous year.
- There has been a reduction of 36.69% in the volume of coal imported for blending by thermal power plants, amounting to 19.36 million tons (MT) during April 2023 to January 2024, in contrast to the same period of the previous year.
- This reduction in imported coal for blending signifies a shift towards utilising domestic coal, thus reducing reliance on imports.