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History of 24 February

- ◆ **1949** : Israel and Egypt sign an armistice agreement.
- ◆ **1739** : In the battle of Karnal, the Turk Nadir Shah, ruling Persia, defeated the army of Mughal Emperor Alam.
- ◆ **1979** : War begins between North and South Yemen.
- ◆ **2011** : Anant Pai, Indian educationist and founder of Amar Chitra Katha passed away.

Current Affairs Related to 24 February

- ◆ The World Health Organization has declared Cape Verde a malaria-free country. Cape Verde is currently the third country in the African region to be certified malaria free by WHO, along with Mauritius and Algeria. A country is certified by WHO as malaria-free when it demonstrates prevention of malaria transmission throughout the country for at least 3 years and has functional surveillance and monitoring systems to prevent re-introduction of indigenous transmission. There is a feedback system.
- ◆ Dr S Jaishankar co-chaired the 6th India Nigeria Joint Commission meeting with his Nigerian counterpart Yusuf Tuggar. He also addressed the Indian community in Lagos. He spoke to them about India's Covid response, economic recovery, ease of living, space achievements and migrant concerns.
- ◆ The Board of Control for Cricket in India will honor exemplary performances in Indian cricket at the Naman Awards ceremony in Hyderabad. Held for the first time since 2019, the prestigious event celebrates the achievements of Indian cricketers over the past year. Representing Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League, Gill won the Orange Cap after scoring an astonishing 890 runs in the 2024 edition.
- ◆ In an important step towards promoting multilingualism in education, the Central Government has launched an Artificial Intelligence based platform Nidalini App. The initiative aims to make study material available in digital form for all school and higher education courses, exclusively in the languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The move is in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes the importance of studying in one's mother tongue.
- ◆ Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah released Braveheart of Assam Lachit Barphukan in Guwahati, highlighting the inspiring story of Lachit's resistance against fanaticism and power-hungry elements. Underlining the importance of the Battle of Saraighat, Mr Shah said that if Lachit had not been victorious, Assam might have become a part of Bangladesh. He credited Lachit with fending off invasions from Khilji to Aurangzeb, protecting Assam, and contributing to the integration of the region with India.
- ◆ Two important components in the field of government financial planning are capital budget and revenue budget. While both contribute to the overall fiscal framework, they have different effects on the assets and liabilities of the government. Capital budget includes transactions that directly affect the assets and liabilities of the government. This budget includes both capital receipts and capital expenditure. In contrast, the revenue budget includes those items which do not affect the assets and liabilities of the government.
- ◆ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has invested Rs 4.86 billion in Sustainable Energy Infra Trust, India's largest renewable energy infrastructure investment trust. Ampz, backed by Mahindra Sustain Pvt Ltd and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, boasts eight operational solar power assets across India with a combined capacity of 1.54 GW peak.
- ◆ The inaugural flight, operated by Indian Air Force pilots, airlifted 11 passengers from Kargil to Jammu and seven passengers from Jammu to Kargil. This initiative will play an important role in enhancing regional connectivity and promoting economic growth. The AN-32 courier service aims to streamline travel and improve connectivity to Kargil. Dr. Mohammad Jafar Akhoun, Chairman and CEC, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, welcomed the Indian Air Force pilots for the launch of this important service.

National & International Current Affairs

1. According to the data of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the direct tax to GDP ratio will increase to an all-time high of what percent at the end of financial year 2023?

(A) 3.9% (B) 5.10%
(C) 6.11% (D) 7.5%

(C) According to Central Board of Direct Taxes data, the direct tax to GDP ratio increased to an all-time high of 6.11% at the end of FY 2023. The data also shows that the cost of collection has fallen to the lowest level since FY 2015. The ratio has crossed the 6% level for the third time in the last 22 financial years.



2. Who has recently announced the first batch of Vaibhav Fellowship?

(A) Piyush Goyal (B) Jitendra Singh
(C) Sarbananda Sonowal (D) Rajnath Singh

(B) 22 scientists of Indian origin from different parts of the world received Vaibhav Fellowship. Two prestigious fellowships were also offered to senior professors, Aarogyaswami Paulraj and Jitendra Malik. The Department of Science and Technology is implementing the Global Indian Scientific Fellowship Programme. A total of 302 applications have been received for Vaibhav Fellowship.



3. Recently, in the Swachh Survekshan 2023, what is the position of Bhopal in cleanliness?

(A) 2 (B) 3
(C) 4 (D) 5

(D) Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, has made significant progress in cleanliness and has emerged as the 5th cleanest city of India among the cities with population of more than 1 lakh. The consistent efforts of Bhopal Municipal Corporation have not only increased its ranking from 6th in 2022, but have also achieved the coveted 5-Star Garbage Free City Rating, making it the cleanest state capital in the country.



4. Who has recently become the best junior women's cricket player of the country?

(A) Saumya Tiwari (B) Seema Sharma
(C) Preeti Singh (D) None of these

(A) Recently, Bhopal cricketer Soumya Tiwari has received the Best Cricketer Award. She played the winning innings in the final of the Women's Under-19 T20 Cricket World Cup held in South Africa in January 2022 and January 2023. Soumya received the award for the Jag Mohan Dalmiya Trophy 2021-22 at a cricket star-studded ceremony at the BCCI Annual Awards 2024 held in Hyderabad.



5. Who has become the first Indian to win the Senior Euro Q-School recently?

(A) Nishant Pahuja (B) Pratham Srivastava
(C) Jyoti Randhawa (D) None of these

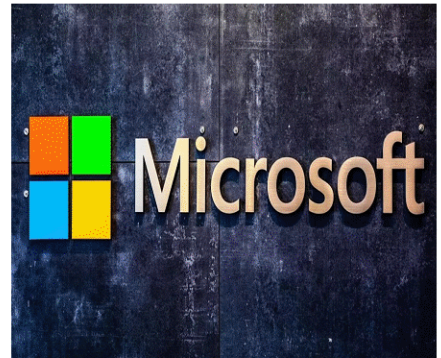
(C) Recently, Indian golfer Jyoti Randhawa has achieved a historic feat by becoming the first Indian to top the qualifying school of the Senior European Tour. This remarkable achievement grants him full rights to play in the Legends Tour for the current season.



6. Who has become the second company to cross the market capitalization of Rs 3 trillion?

- (A) Apple (B) TCS
(C) Tesla (D) Microsoft

(D) The market capitalization of the giant technology company Microsoft has crossed 3 trillion dollars. Microsoft is the second company after iPhone maker Apple to touch this figure. Currently Apple is the most valuable company in the world. At third place is oil and gas company Saudi Aramco with a market cap of Rs 170.09 lakh crore, at fourth place is Google's parent company Alphabet and at fifth place is e-commerce business platform Amazon.



7. Where was the National Workshop on Panchayat Devolution inaugurated recently?

- (A) Varanasi (B) Goa
(C) Jammu and Kashmir (D) Jaisalmer

(B) Shri Vivek Bhardwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, inaugurated the National Consultative Workshop on the status of devolution of powers to Panchayats in Goa. On this occasion, Director General of Indian Institute of Public Administration, Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Dr. Chandrashekhar Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Smt. Mamta Verma and other senior officials were present.



8. Recently, Monpa handmade paper of which state has got GI tag?

- (A) Arunachal Pradesh (B) Kerala
(C) Karnataka (D) Maharashtra

(A) Recently, Monpa handmade paper of Arunachal Pradesh has got GI tag. With the support of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, 12 specific products of Arunachal Pradesh have received Geographical Indication tag. This achievement is a testament to the dedication of the local communities in preserving the traditional and unique products that reflect the rich social and cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh.



9. Recently the Defense Ministry signed a contract with Mazagon Dock for how many Fast Patrol Vessels?

- (A) 14 (B) 16
(C) 20 (D) 24

(A) The Defense Ministry signed a contract with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited to acquire 14 Fast Patrol Vessels for the Indian Coast Guard. The cost of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels will be Rs 1070 crore. These FPGVs will be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by MDL under the Buy Acquisition category.



10. Recently India and which country agreed to increase cooperation in the South-West Indian Ocean?

- (A) Russia (B) Sri Lanka
(C) France (D) Japan

(C) India and France agreed to intensify joint surveillance missions off the French island territory of La Reunion. Prime Minister Modi and French President Macron agreed to further deepen their long-term partnership based on their shared vision for the Indo-Pacific region. According to the joint statement, defense and security partnership plays an important role in the India-France partnership in the Indo-Pacific region.

