₹125

arihant
Competition inFOCUS



UPDATED TILL FEBRUARY 2024

# Current Affairs REFRESHER 2024

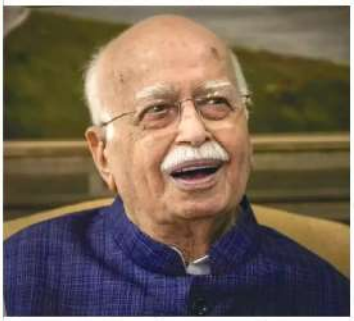
Interim Budget 2024-25 • Bharat Ratna 2024 • 75th Republic Day • U19 Men's World Cup 2024
Padma Awards 2024 • INS Sandhayak Commissioned • Important Reports and Indices

















**500+ MCQs**

Evenly Useful for **UPSC, State PSCs, NDA/NA, CDS, SSC** (CGL, MTS, CHSL, Constable) **Railways** (ALP, Technician, Constable, SI) and other National & State Level Competitive Exams

9789359982236

arihant
Competition inFOCUS

₹125

# Current Affairs REFRESHER 2024

Union Interim Budget 2024-25 • Bharat Ratna 2024 • 75th Republic Day • U19 Men's World Cup 2024
Padma Awards 2024 • INS Sandhayak Commissioned • Important Reports and Indices

**500+ MCQs**

Evenly Useful for **UPSC, State PSCs, NDA/NA, CDS, SSC** (CGL, MTS, CHSL, Constable) **Railways** (ALP, Technician, Constable, SI) and other National & State Level Competitive Exams

**FREE Online Test** Package of ₹99

**CURRENT AFFAIR (Aug 23-Feb 24)**

**50** Total Tests

Attempt Test

View

Price ~~₹99~~

Validity 6 Months

Coupon Code: **EwACAr**

**Features of Package**

- ✓ Detailed Analysis Report
- ✓ Multiple Times Attempt Available
- ✓ Detailed Solutions of All Questions

**Login Instructions**

- **Login at www.examwitharihant.com**
- **Coupon Code mentioned above to entered in Book Code/ Coupon Code Tab.**

**Download** App

# Inside the Pages


**Interim Union Budget 2024-25** 3-4

**National Affairs** 5-36
- Scheme/Programme
- Summit/Conference
- Education Sector
- App/Portal
- Railways Sector
- Major Bills Passed in 2023-24
- Art & Culture
- Index/Report
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**World Affairs** 37-53
- Newly Appointed Prime Ministers 2023-24
- Newly Elected Presidents 2023-24
- Indices/Reports/Rankings 2023-24
- Summit/Meeting
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**India & World** 54-62
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**Economy & Banking** 63-77
- Banking Sector
- Corporate Sector
- Summit / Meeting
- RBI Activities
- Various Indices/Reports/Rankings 2023-24
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**State Affairs** 78-99
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**Science & Technology** 100-108
- Computer / IT
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**Space Technology** 109-115
- ISRO Activities
- NASA Outcomes
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**Defence & Security** 116-125
- Missile Test
- Commission / Decommission
- Armed Forces Exercise
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**Health & Nutrition** 126-132
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**Environment & Ecology** 133-138
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**Sports Panorama** 139-154
- Sports News
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**Awards & Honours** 155-169
- National (Film & Music/Literature/Economic/
- Sports/Science & Technology/Miscellaneous)
- International (Film & Music/Literature/ Science & Technology/Sports/Miscellaneous)
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit

**News Line** 170-192
- National (Appointment/Resignation/ Person in News/Person Died/Sportsperson)
- International (Appointment/Person in News/ Person Died/Sportsperson)
- Books & Authors
- Revision Bullets
- QUANkit



Publisher : Payal Jain

Chairman : YC Jain

Publishing Manager **Amit Verma**

Project Manager **Amit Tyagi**

Editor **Sanjay Sagar**

Cover & Layout : Bilal Hashmi

Proof Reading : Suraj

Type Setting : Pradeep Kumar, Harun Khan

***Circulation & Advertisement***

General Manager

**Anil Kumar Gupta (9258074261)**

e-mail **arihantmedia.anil@gmail.com**

Sales Executive **9258332426**

**Khalid Anjum 9258076307**

(Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh)

***Administrative & Production Offices***

Head Office **Kalindi, TP Nagar, Meerut-2**

Phone **0121-2401479, 2512970** Fax **0121-2401648**

Website **www.arihantbooks.com**

Circulation/Corp Office **4577/15, Agarwal Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-2**

Phone **011-47630600** Subscription **+91-9219641329**

**subscribe@arihantbooks.com** Enquiry **0121-4030840**



© ***Publisher***

Printed and Published by Payal Jain for Arihant Media Promoters

Printed at Arihant Publications (India) Limited, TP Nagar, Meerut (UP)

All rights reserved. No part of this magazine can be printed in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher.

The editors and publisher of this magazine do their best to verify the information published, but do not take any responsibility for the absolute accuracy of the information published.

*All disputes subject to Meerut (UP) jurisdiction only.*



# Interim UNION BUDGET 2024-25

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Interim Budget 2024-25 on February 1, 2024. It is her sixth Budget presentation as Finance Minister, and the last Budget of the current Lok Sabha. Like the previous three full Union Budgets, Interim Budget 2024 is also delivered in paperless form. This will provide funding for the government for a part of the financial year until the main budget is passed after the General Elections 2024.

## Major Features

- The capital expenditure outlay for the next year is being increased by 11.1% to ₹ 11,11,111 crore, which would be 3.4% of the GDP.
- The government is estimated to spend ₹ 4765768 crore in 2024-25, 6% higher than the revised estimate of 2023-24. Interest payments account for 25% of the total expenditure, and 40% of revenue receipts.
- The receipts (other than borrowings) in 2024-25 are estimated to be ₹ 3080274 crore, about 12% higher than the revised estimate of 2023-24.
- Tax revenue which forms major part of the receipts is also expected to increase by 12% over the revised estimate for 2023-24.
- The government has estimated a nominal GDP growth rate of 10.5% in 2024-25 (i.e., real growth plus inflation).
- Revenue deficit in 2024-25 is targeted at 2% of GDP. This is lower than the revised estimate of 2.8% in 2023-24.
- Fiscal deficit in 2024-25 is targeted at 5.1% of GDP, lower than the revised estimate of 5.8% of GDP in 2023-24.
- ₹ 70,449 crore has been allocated to the Department of Economic Affairs for New Schemes. The allocation is for capital expenditure, and accounts for 7.5% of the total capital outlay.
- A corpus of ₹ 1 lakh crore will be set up with a 50-year interest-free loan for the youth for the upliftment of the 'Garib' (Poor), 'Mahilayen' (Women), 'Yuva' (Youth) & 'Annadata' (Farmer).
- Proposal to create a corpus of ₹ 1 lakh crore rupees to boost private investment in sunrise technologies
- No change was made in the tax slab. Tax rates for Direct and Indirect taxes to be retained
- Corporate tax was reduced to 22%; Tax exemption extended for sovereign funds; Tax exemption on sovereign funds extended till March 2025; Scope of tax exemption extended for startups.
- The scope of Ayushman Bharat scheme will be further expanded; Now its benefits will also be given to Asha and Anganwadi workers.
- Government to launch a scheme to help deserving sections of the middle class ''living in rented houses, o2r slums, or chawls and unauthorized colonies' to buy or build their own houses.
- Laid down the strategy for 'Amrit Kaal'. In line with 'Panchamrit' goals, government to facilitate high and more resource-efficient economic growth; also work towards energy security.
- Promised for stepping up value addition in agricultural sector and boosting farmers' income.
- Strategy to be formulated to achieve 'Atmanirbharta' for oilseeds.
- Application of Nano DAP on various crops to be expanded in all agro-climatic zones.
- Rooftop solarisation to enable one crore households to obtain upto 300 units of free electricity every month.
- A framework for rating iconic tourist centres based on quality of facilities and services to be established.
- Government to lay White Paper on Economy- Then and Now.
- Target for Lakhpati Didi to be enhanced from 2 crore to 3 crore.
- Five Integrated Aquaparks to be set up. New Climate Resilient Scheme for Blue Economy 2.0 to be launched.
- Comprehensive Programme for Supporting Dairy Farmers to be formulated.
- More Medical Colleges to be set up. The new medical colleges will utilize the existing hospital infrastructure under various departments.
- Anganwadi Centres to be upgraded under 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' will be expedited.

## Policy Highlights

**Railways** Three major economic railway corridor programmes will be implemented. These are: (i) energy, mineral and cement corridors, (ii) port connectivity corridors and (iii) high traffic density corridors. 40000 normal rail bogies will be upgraded to Vande Bharat standards to ensure passenger safety and comfort.

**Housing** An additional two crore houses will be built over the next five years under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen. A new scheme will be launched to help sections of the middle-class living in rented houses, slums, and unauthorised colonies, to buy or build their own houses.

**Health** Vaccination to prevent cervical cancer will be encouraged for girls

between nine and 14 years of age. A new platform, U-WIN, will be rolled out for managing immunisation across the country. Healthcare cover under Ayushman Bharat scheme will be extended to all ASHA workers, and Anganwadi workers and helpers.

**Energy** Rooftop solarisation of one crore households will be taken up. To achieve net-zero by 2070, blending of compressed biogas in CNG and PNG will be mandated in a phased manner. Coal gasification and liquefaction capacity of 100 metric tonnes will be installed by 2030.

**Environment** EV manufacturing and charging infrastructure will be strengthened and expanded. Adoption of E-buses for public transport will be encouraged. Blue economy 2.0 scheme will be launched to restore coastal aquaculture and mariculture. A new scheme will be launched to provide environment friendly alternatives such as biodegradable polymers, bio-plastics and bio-pharmaceuticals.

**Agriculture** Public and private investment will be promoted in post-harvest activities including aggregation, storage, supply chain, processing and marketing. Application of the Nano DAP fertiliser will be expanded in all agro-climatic zones. A programme for supporting dairy farmers will be formulated. PM Matsya Sampada Yojana will be expanded to enhance aquaculture productivity from three to five tonnes per hectare, double seafood exports to one lakh crore rupees, and generate 55 lakh employment opportunities.

**Research** To encourage the private sector to scale up research and innovation, a corpus of one lakh crore rupees will be set up. This corpus will provide long-term loans at low or nil interest rates.

**Demographic Changes** A high-powered committee will be set up to address challenges arising out of fast population growth and demographic changes.

Scheme-wise Allocation in 2024-25 (₹ crore)

| | Actuals 2022-23 | Budgeted 2023-24 | Revised 2023-24 | Budgeted 2024-25 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MGNREGS | 90806 | 60000 | 86000 | 86000 | 0.0% |
| Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana | 73615 | 79590 | 54103 | 80671 | 49.1% |
| Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Mission | 54700 | 70000 | 70000 | 70163 | 0.2% |
| PM-KISAN | 58254 | 60000 | 60000 | 60000 | 0.0% |
| National Health Mission | 33803 | 36785 | 33886 | 38183 | 12.7% |
| National Education Mission | 32875 | 38953 | 33500 | 37500 | 11.9% |
| Modified Interest Subvention Scheme | 17998 | 23000 | 18500 | 22600 | 22.2% |
| Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 | 19876 | 20554 | 21523 | 21200 | -1.5% |
| National Livelihood Mission-Ajeevika | 12083 | 14129 | 14652 | 15047 | 2.7% |
| Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana | 10296 | 13625 | 15000 | 14600 | -2.7% |
| Reform Linked Distribution Scheme | 2738 | 12072 | 10400 | 14500 | 39.4% |
| PM POSHAN | 12681 | 11600 | 10000 | 12467 | 24.7% |
| Swachh Bharat Mission | 6851 | 12192 | 9550 | 12192 | 27.7% |
| Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana | 18783 | 19000 | 17000 | 12000 | -29.4% |
| Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana | 6380 | 10787 | 8781 | 11391 | 29.7% |

## 'Indian Economy - A Review' Report

The Finance Ministry on January 29, 2024 released "The Indian Economy : A Review - January 2024" instead of 'Economic Survey 2023-24'. This comprehensive 74-page document, a precursor to the upcoming Interim Union Budget 2024, delves into the country's real growth rate projections for the fiscal year and highlights key challenges.

*Here are some key highlights of the report*

- **Economic Growth Projection** The Indian economy is expected to achieve a growth rate of 7% or higher for FY24, and there are predictions of sustaining this growth in FY25. This would mark four consecutive years of robust growth post-pandemic.
- **Global Challenges and Trends** The global economy is facing challenges such as supply chain disruptions, a slowdown in trade, and the impact of Artificial Intelligence. India is seen as resilient, having overcome past shocks and is navigating these challenges effectively.
- **Shift in Global Manufacturing** The era of hyper-globalization in global manufacturing is ending. Governments are focusing on onshoring and friend-shoring, impacting transportation, logistics costs, and final product prices.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Energy Transition** The emergence of Artificial Intelligence poses challenges to services trade and employment. Additionally, there is a significant focus on the energy transition, with international pressure on developing nations to reduce carbon emissions.
- **Domestic Economic Strength** Over the last decade, India has invested significantly in infrastructure, leading to a 3.3X increase in public sector capital investment. The financial sector is healthy, with strong non-food credit growth. The pursuit of inclusive development is evident in improved household financial health, job creation, declining unemployment rates and progress in education and healthcare indicators.






# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Kendriya Grihamantri Dakshata Padak Established

- After combining four previous medals, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs unveiled the Kendriya Grihamantri Dakshata Padak on February 1, 2024.
- The awards for meritorious service in forensic science, Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak, Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, and Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal have been combined into four new medals.
- To honour operations requiring extensive planning and bearing substantial weight on national security, the Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal was established.
- In 2018, there was a new award for excellence in investigation : The Union Home Minister's Medal.
- In recognition of outstanding achievement and an unwavering and courageous intelligence service, the Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak was established in 2018.
- In 2010, the Meritorious Service in Forensic Science Awards were instituted by the Union Home Minister.

## Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 Inaugurated

- The Bharat Mobility Expo took place in Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from February 1-3, 2024.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the first-ever and largest mobility expo in India, called Bharat Mobility Expo 2024.
- India's skills were displayed throughout the mobility and automotive value chains at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo in 2024.
- Along with public-facing attractions like go-karting, the expo will include exhibitions, conferences, buyer-seller meetings, state sessions and a road safety pavilion.
- The expo, which has over 800 exhibitors from more than 50 nations, showcased innovative transportation solutions, sustainable technology and cutting-edge innovations.

# Republic Day 2024 Celebrations





## About The Event

| | |
|---|---|
| **Introduction** | India's National Festival |
| **Significance** | Marks the adoption of India's Constitution and transition to a Republic |
| **Edition** | 75th |
| **Theme of Parade** | Twin themes of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat - Loktantra Ki Matruka' |
| **Chief Guest** | Emmanuel Macron (President of France) |
| **Tableaux Displayed** | 25 (16 from States/UTs and 9 from Ministries/Departments) |



## FIRST@PARADE 2024

- An all women Tri-services contingent march during the parade.
- 100 women artists played traditional musical instruments and 1500 women artists from different states presented folk and classical dances
- A married couple serving in different contingents, participated in the parade
- French contingent participation
- Anant Sutra (A display of 1900 sarees from across country)
- Tableau highlighting applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in various fields
- French aircraft included in Flypast

## HORSE-PULLED BUGGY MADE A COMEBACK



After a gap of almost 40 years, the horse-pulled buggy tradition made a comeback. President Droupadi Murmu and her French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, arrived at the majestic Kartavya Path in the 'traditional horse-drawn buggy'. The use of the presidential buggy for Republic Day functions was discontinued in 1984 following the assassination of then PM Indira Gandhi.

## AWARD WINNERS

**By Panel of Judges**

**BEST MARCHING CONTINGENTS**

- Sikh Regiment contingent (Three Services)
- Delhi Police women marching contingent (CAPF/Other Auxiliary Forces)

## BEST TABLEAUX

**State/UTs**

01 **Odisha**
(Tableau themed "Woman Empowerment in Viksit Bharat")





02 **Gujarat**
("Dhordo: A Global Icon of Gujarat's Border Tourism" tableau)

03 **Tamil Nadu**
("Kudavolai System in Ancient Tamil Nadu – Mother of Democracy" tableau)



**Ministries/Departments**

- Ministry of Culture (Tableau "Bharat : Mother of Democracy")

**By Public Choice**

## BEST MARCHING CONTINGENTS

- Rajputana Rifles regimental marching contingent ( Three Services)
- CRPF woman marching contingent (CAPF/Other Auxiliary Forces)

## BEST TABLEAUX

**State/UTs**

01 **Gujarat**
("Dhordo: A Global Icon of Gujarat's Border Tourism" tableau)





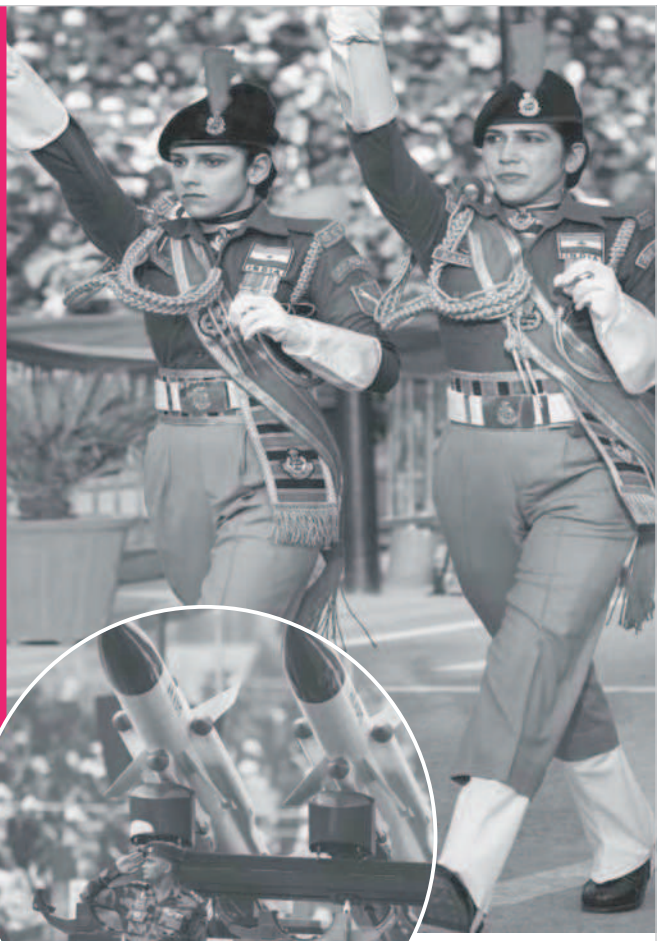
**Uttar Pradesh** 02
("Viksit Bharat Samradh Virasat" tableau)

03 **Andhra Pradesh**
("Transforming School Education in Andhra Pradesh – Making Students Globally Competitive" tableau)



**Ministries/Departments**

- Ministry of Home Affairs ("Vibrant Villages" tableau)



# BEATING THE RETREAT CEREMONY

The Republic Day 2024 celebrations concluded with the Beating the Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on January 29, 2024. The Indian Navy Band paid a unique tribute to India's space achievements during the Beating Retreat Ceremony. The band members recreated the historic landing of the Vikram lander on the Moon through their marching formations. The Army Military Band also paid tribute to Chandrayaan-3 its visual display.

"Beating Retreat" is a centuries-old military tradition, which dates back from the days when troops disengaged from battle at sunset. The drumbeats recall the days when troops, billeted in towns and cities, were recalled to their quarters at an appointed time in the evening. The ceremony is a display of military pageantry and musical prowess. It includes the massed bands of the three wings of the Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force) along with pipes and drums bands from the Army, Air Force, and the Central Armed Police Forces. The bands perform a variety of martial music, patriotic tunes, and popular melodies.



## Extension of Sugar Subsidy for AAY till March 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved has approved to extend the sugar subsidy programme for Antyodya Anna Yojana (AAY) families under Public Distribution Schemes until March 2026 on February 1, 2024.
- The Programme helps the most impoverished people obtain sugar and gives their diets more energy, which enhances their health.
- AAY families in participating states would receive a monthly sugar subsidy from the Central Government of ₹ 18.50 per kg under the scheme.
- Approximately 1.89 crore AAY families nationwide are anticipated to profit from the programme.

## India Ranked 93rd in Corruption Perception Index 2023

- According to the 2023 CPI assessment, India was placed 93rd out of 180 countries as of January 30, 2024.
- India's position in the international arena of public sector integrity was better understood by consulting Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI).
- India's 2023 CPI score of 39 was a slight variation from the 40 scored in the previous year.
- Despite this stability, the report highlights the ongoing problems with India's civic space, including a telecoms bill that raised concerns about possible rights abuses.

## Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court of India's Diamond Jubilee celebration was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi on January 28, 2024.
- A new Supreme Court website, Digital Courts 2.0 and Digital Supreme Court Reports were just a few of the citizen-centric technology initiatives that PM unveiled.
- Citizens of the nation will have free access to Supreme Court rulings in electronic format through the Digital Supreme Court Reports (SCR).
- The 519 volumes of Supreme Court reports published since 1950, which cover over 36000 cases, will be freely accessible in digital format.

## Kaushal Bhawan Inaugurated

- President Droupadi Murmu on January 25, 2024 inaugurated Kaushal Bhawan, signifying India's steady commitment to uplifting its youth *via* skill development.



- The Bhawan is positioned to foster the country's youthful potential and accelerate ambitions realisation under the auspices of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- Complete with cutting edge facilities, Kaushal Bhawan offers the perfect setting for innovative skill development programmes' conception, cooperation and implementation.
- Standing as an example of sustainable development, the building's design integrates environmental responsibility by maintaining two enormous trees.

## 1 Crore Households to get Rooftop Solar Systems

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared on January 22, 2024 that every citizen of the nation ought to own a solar rooftop system.
- The 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana', announced by PM Modi, would provide rooftop solar systems to one crore households.
- In addition, he said, this will lowermiddle-class and impoverished people's electricity bills and increase India's energy independence.
- The Prime Minister wants to lessen India's dependency on non-renewable energy sources and increase the country's energy independence.

## Five New Galleries at Salar Jung Museum Inaugurated

- Union Minister of Culture and Tourism G. Kishan Reddy, opened five new galleries at the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad on January 22, 2024.
- Some of the forty sculptures in the Indian Sculpture Gallery date to the second century B.C. One such sculpture is called 'Anantsayana Vishnu' and is from the Kakatiya period.
- In an effort to attract the public, Salar Jung Museum has reorganised its older galleries and added new ones from collections that have intriguing potential.
- A. Yadagiri Rao, former Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao and senior IIS officer Ashish Goyal, Additional DG, National Museums are presented.

## Fencing of Indo-Myanmar Border

- According to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the border between India and Myanmar will be gated. The announcement came on January 20, 2024.
- He stated that there would be restrictions on people's freedom of movement along the Indo-Myanmar border, and that fencing would soon begin.
- The Union Home Minister stated that the Modi administration has significantly improved the nation's law and order condition.
- The Union Government will soon fence the 1643 km border between India and Myanmar.

## PM Modi Laid the Foundation Stone of 8 Projects of AMRUT

- PM Modi claimed on January 19, 2024, that to make these families' lives easier, his government launched several programmes.
- He said that 10 crore toilets and 4 crore pucca dwellings had already been supplied by the government.

- The Prime Minister dedicated the first of eight Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) projects, totaling around ₹ 2000 crores.
- The first and second installments were distributed to 10000 beneficiaries of PM-SVANIDHI in the state by the Prime Minister as well.

## PM Modi Announced Extension of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi restated the commitment of his administration to guaranteeing the health and nourishment of nation on January 18, 2024.
- While engaging in a video conference with Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra recipients, PM. Modi stated that over 25 crore people had overcome poverty in the past nine years.
- According to PM Narendra Modi, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has been going on for two months and the government wants to use this yatra to push all of its programmes.
- The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is now known as Jan Andolan and 1 crore people have taken part in it to date.

## PM Unveiled ₹ 4000 Crore Projects in Kochi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated three pivotal infrastructure projects in Kochi (Kerala) on January 17, 2024.
- These projects, collectively worth over ₹ 4000 crore, align with the Prime Minister's vision to enhance the nation's maritime capabilities and foster self-sufficiency.
- Ahead of the grand opening, a large number of devotees from across the country have gathered at the seaside pilgrim town.
- India's first fully developed pure ship repair ecosystem, the International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF), was also inaugurated.

## National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics Campus Inaugurated

- PM Narendra Modi is on a two-day visit to Andhra Pradesh and Kerala beginning on January 16, 2024.
- He inaugurated the new campus of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics in Andhra Pradesh.
- He interacted with Officer trainees of the 74th and 75th batches of the Indian Revenue Service and officer trainees of the Royal Civil Service of Bhutan.
- He held a roadshow from Maharaja's College Ground to the Government Guest House on his way to Ernakulam.

## FASTags with Incomplete KYC Process to Get De-Activated

- The NHAI announced on January 15, 2024 that FASTags with valid balance but with incomplete KYC process will get deactivated or blacklisted after January 31, 2024.
- The move came after the recent reports of multiple FASTags being issued for a particular vehicle and FASTags being issued without KYC, in violation of RBI's mandate.
- In a bid to enhance efficiency of the Electronic Toll Collection system and provide seamless movement at the Toll Plazas, NHAI has undertaken 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative.
- FASTag is an electronic toll collection system in India, operated by the National Highways Authority of India.

## Installment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin Inaugurated

- PM Narendra Modi released the first installment to one lakh beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana – Gramin under the PM-JANMAN via video conferencing on January 15, 2024.
- The PM-JANMAN was launched for the socio- economic welfare of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in November 2023.
- The PM-JANMAN, with a budget of around ₹ 24000 crore, focuses on 11 critical interventions through 9 Ministries.
- The initiative aims to enhance socio-economic conditions for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by providing essential facilities like housing, education, healthcare etc.

## Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) Inaugurated

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) on January 12, 2024, also known as Atal Setu, marking the opening of India's longest sea bridge to date.
- The 21.8-km link built at a cost of over ₹ 17840 crore aims to reduce travel time between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from 120 minutes to just 20 minutes.
- The 6-lane Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), spanning across Thane Creek, has been under construction since 2018.



### PM-KISAN SUPPORTS 11 CRORE FARMERS

**The Ministry of Agriculture on January 18, 2024 restated that the government has implemented numerous measures to guarantee the well-being of farmers.**

**It emphasised the money that has been allocated to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperations in the budget.**

**In 2013-14, the budget allocation was ₹ 27662.67 crore; in 2023-24, it exceeded 1.25 lakh crores.**

**Since the programme's commence- ment in 2019, more than ₹ 2.81 lakh crore have been distributed through Direct Benefit Transfer to over 11 crore farmers.**

## CCPA Issued Notice to 31 Coaching Institutes

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued notices to 31 coaching institutes for misleading advertisements on January 9, 2024.
- It has also imposed fine on 9 coaching institutes for misleading advertisement.
- The authority has observed that some of the coaching institutes also indulge in making claims like 100% selection and job guaranteed without providing verifiable evidence.
- The CCPA conducted its first meeting of the Committee constituted to prepare Guidelines with respect to misleading advertisements in coaching sector.

## PM Modi Launched 'Swachh Mandir' Campaign

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has kicked-off the 'Swachh Mandir' (Clean Temple) campaign across the country on January 8, 2024 with an aim to make pilgrimage sites pristine.
- He urged the people nationwide, to kick-off a cleanliness campaign at smaller pilgrimage sites starting from Makar Sankranti (January 14) and continue until January 22, 2024.
- He launched the campaign, ahead of the upcoming consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024.
- The campaign will involve all elected representatives, including MPs, MLAs, and panchayat representatives, who will collaborate to ensure the success of the cleanliness drive.

## National Transit Pass System Launched

- Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched NTPS pan-India to facilitate the seamless transit of timber, bamboo, and other forest produce across the country on December 29, 2023.
- NTPS is envisioned as a 'One Nation-One Pass' regime that will contribute to the ease of doing business and will help strengthen the journey towards greater transparency.
- National Transit Pass System (NTPS) is designed for user convenience, featuring desktop and mobile applications for easy registration and permit applications.
- Presently, 25 States and Union Territories have adopted the unified permit system, streamlining interstate business operations for producers, farmers, and transporters.

## Special Postal Cover Released of Late Justice Madhava Reddy

- A special postal cover has been released on the 100th birth anniversary of late Justice Madhava Reddy on December 27, 2023.



- This postage stamp was released by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar.
- He made valuable contributions to the justice and education system of India.
- He also served as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh and Mumbai High Courts as well as the Governor of Maharashtra and he died in the year 1997.

## MPhil not a Recognised Degree Anymore

- The University Grant Commission has issued a notification on December 26, 2023, alerting students against pursuing an MPhil degree as it is no longer recognised.
- The commission has also warned universities against offering the programme and admissions for the 2023-24 academic year are prohibited.
- However, the MPhil degree awarded till the date of notification of new regulations, issued in 2022, will remain valid.
- UGC had earlier declared the MPhil degree illegitimate, instructing higher educational institutions not to offer MPhil programmes.

## MeitY Issued 2nd Advisory on Deepfakes

- The MeitY released a second advisory targeted specifically at curbing the spread of misinformation through deepfakes on December 26, 2023.
- Deepfakes are fake digital content in the form of images, videos or audios.
- They are created using high-end artificial intelligence tools and deep learning technology.
- Deep learning is a type of machine learning that uses neural net simulations to analyse large data set and create fake content.

## PM Modi Hit 2 Crore Subscribers on YouTube

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's YouTube channel hit two crore subscribers on December 26, 2023, according to a real-time tracker Socialblade.
- Narendra Modi's YouTube Channel has also surpassed the YouTube channels of his Indian and Global contemporaries in terms of views and subscribers.
- Former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro is second on the list of subscriber numbers with around 64 lakh.
- US President Joe Biden has 7.89 lakh subscribers while his Turkiye counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan has 3.16 lakh.

## Guinness World Record by Playing Tabla

- In Gwalior, the 'City of Music', a new Guinness World Record was set 1500 Indian tabla players performed the same time in unison on December 25, 2023.
- This 'Tabla Darbar festival' programme was done in the presence of Madhya Pradesh CM Dr. Mohan Yadav and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia at Karna Mahal of Gwalior Fort.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh announced that 25th December will be celebrated as 'Tabla Day'.
- A 3-member team from the Guinness Book of World Records was present to monitor and record the 'Tabla Darbar' performance at Gwalior Fort.

## Union Cabinet Approved New Bihar Bridge

- The Indian government green lit several major initiatives, including constructing a new Ganga river bridge in Bihar and raising MSP for copra on December 25, 2023.
- A 4.56 km, 6-lane bridge will be built over the Ganga, linking the Bihar areas of Digha and Sonepur.
- The ₹ 3064 crore project aims to improve connectivity between North and South Bihar and facilitate inland water transport.
- The government hiked Minimum Support Prices for copra by ₹ 250-300 per quintal for the 2024 season.

## 1st Series of 11 Volumes of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Released

- PM Narendra Modi released the first series of 11 volumes of Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in New Delhi on December 25, 2023.
- The programme was organised on the occasion of the 162nd birth anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.
- The volumes 1 is bilingual (English and Hindi) and spread across about 4000 pages.
- It is a collection of the writings and speeches of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and collected from every corner of the country.
- The work of researching and compiling the documents was undertaken by the Mahamana Malaviya Mission.

## Union Minister Inaugurated Adi Vyakhyan

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda inaugurated a two-day tribal orientation programme – Adi Vyakhyan – in New Delhi on December 21, 2023.
- The programme has been organised by the National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI).
- The objective is to have a deeper understanding of the complexities of tribal traditions and culture and to explore the challenges to their existence.
- This is an initiative to explore tribal identity and the tribal contributions to the nation's cultural diversity.
- The Adi Vyakhyan programme will familiarise the tribal communities with the statistical input of India and the Constitutional safeguards.

## World's Largest Meditation Center Inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment on December 18, 2023 as he inaugurated the Swarved Mahamandir in Umaraha, Varanasi.
- This newly constructed meditation center stands tall at seven floors, accommodating an impressive 20000 devotees at a time for meditation.
- Swarved Mahamandir is the world's largest meditation centre in Varanasi.
- It is situated in the Umaraha area, approximately 12 km from Varanasi's city center, the temple spans an impressive 300000 sq. ft.

## Surat Airport Declared as International Airport

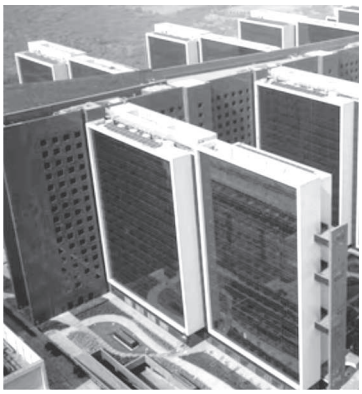
- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport as an International Airport on December 15, 2023.
- Elevating Surat Airport to international status is paramount for enhancing economic growth, attracting foreign investment and bolstering diplomatic ties.
- With a surge in passenger traffic and cargo operations, the airport's international designation will provide a crucial impetus for regional development.

## SC Verdict on Article 370

- Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Article 370 on December 11, 2023, emphasising that Jammu and Kashmir did not retain sovereignty after joining the Union of India.
- The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, declared Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, a temporary provision of the Indian Constitution.
- The ruling was a response to the 2019 move by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The five-judge bench delivered three concurring opinions, affirming that Jammu and Kashmir no longer holds special status in the Indian Union.

## 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' Initiative

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is set to launch the 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' initiative on December 11, 2023 via video conferencing.
- This visionary initiative aims to actively engage the youth of India in shaping the nation's plans, priorities, and goals.
- The core vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 is to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, marking the 100th year of its independence.
- This initiative provides a platform for the youth to actively contribute ideas and suggestions towards realizing the vision of a developed India by 2047.



### SURAT DIAMOND BOURSE INAUGURATED

**PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB), touted as the world's largest office space in a single project, on December 17, 2023.**

**Located in Gujarat, the 15 floors complex surpasses the US Pentagon in capacity, boasting 4200 diamond trading offices. SDB aims to shift and expand the diamond trading business from Mumbai to Surat, known for diamond cutting and polishing.**

**The bourse, built at DREAM (Diamond Research and Mercantile) city, covers an area of 66 lakh square feet, costing ₹ 3200 crore.**

## Infinity Forum 2.0 Held

- PM Narendra Modi addressed the 2nd Edition of the flagship Financial Technology event – Infinity Forum 2.0 on December 6, 2023.
- The event is hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Gujarat International Finance Tec-City,GIFT City, under the aegis of the Union Government.
- The 2nd edition of the Forum will be centered on the theme 'GIFT-IFSC : Nerve Centre for New Age Global Financial Services'.
- It will also witness participation and insightful discussions by several luminaries from the financial sector in India and across the globe.

## National 'Best Tourism Village & Best Rural Homestay' Competition 2024

- Union Tourism Ministry has launched National Best Tourism Village Competition and the National Best Rural Homestay Competition 2024 on December 3, 2023.
- Its aim is to strengthen the promotion and development of Rural Tourism in the country. It has initiated the implementation of the National strategies in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management.
- The earlier version of the National Best Tourism Village Competition 2023 recognized 35 villages all over the country in Gold, Silver, and Bronze categories.

## First-Ever Auction of Critical Mineral Blocks Launched

- Union Minister for Mines Pralhad Joshi has launched the first-ever tranche auction of critical mineral blocks at a function in New Delhi on November 30, 2023.
- 20 blocks of critical and strategic minerals are being auctioned in the first tranche and the blocks include Graphite, Lithium, Molybednum, Nickel, Copper and Potash.
- The blocks are located in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.
- It is a landmark initiative that will boost India's economy, enhance national security and support its transition to clean energy.

## PM Virtually Interacted with Beneficiaries of Central Government's Schemes

- PM Narendra Modi virtually interacted with beneficiaries of central government's welfare schemes under the outreach programme Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra on November 30, 2023.
- The aim of the Yatra is to attain saturation of flagship schemes by ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reach all the targeted beneficiaries in a time bound manner.
- During the programme, the Prime Minister also launched the 10000th Jan Aushadi Kendra at AIIMS, Deoghar.
- Prime Minister also launched the programme to increase the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the country from 10000 to 25000.

## Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers Renamed

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has changed the name of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres on Nov. 27, 2023.




- The new name of these centers is 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir'.
- The tag line of this centre has also been changed to 'Aarogyam Param Dhanam'.
- Ayushman Bharat Scheme was implemented in the year 2018.

## Centenary Year Celebrations of Kaivalyadham Inaugurated

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the centenary year celebrations of Kaivalyadham in Lonavala, Maharashtra on November 29, 2023.
- The theme of this conference was 'Integration of Yoga in School Education System-Exploring the Idea'.
- Kaivalyadham was established in the year 1924 by Swami Kuvalayananda.
- Kaivalyadham is the first yoga institute that actively conducts scientific research to demonstrate the benefits and uses of yoga.

## PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan Approved

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the PM Narendra Modi has approved Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) on November 29, 2023.
- It has approved with total outlay of ₹ 24104 crore (Central Share: ₹ 15336 crore and State Share: ₹ 8768 crore) to focus on 11 critical interventions through 9-line Ministries.
- This scheme has been named 'PM-Janman' and under this, focus will be on 11 important areas through 9 ministries including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- This campaign will be run especially for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

## Safety Notice Issued on Purchase of Acid on e-commerce Platforms

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority has issued safety notice to alert consumers against the purchase of acid on e-commerce platforms.
- The CCPA, being the watchdog of consumer interest in India, has come across the sale of highly corrosive acids on e-commerce platforms.
- According to Consumer Affairs Ministry, the availability of hazardous acids in such an easily accessible manner can be dangerous and unsafe for consumers and the public at large.
- E-commerce platforms have been asked to implement appropriate mechanisms to prevent the sale of acid in violation of mandatory requirements.

## President Droupadi Murmu Visited Odisha

- President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Bhubaneswar on November 26, 2023 on a two-day visit to her home state Odisha.

- The President was given a warm welcome by Governor Raghubar Das and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Biju Patnaik International Airport.
- She is scheduled to grace the 'Boita Bandana' (worshiping boats) ceremony organised by the Paradip Port Authority at Paradip next day.
- The ceremony is held annually across Odisha to celebrate the glorious journey of the state's maritime heritage.

## 54th IFFI in Collaboration with UNICEF Screens 5 Films

- The 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in collaboration with UNICEF screened five films that deal with child rights on November 26, 2023.
- Out of five films, two are from India, while three are from Iran and Sri Lanka.
- These films reflect on the dynamic forces that shape childhood and examines its socio-economic contexts.
- This year, UNICEF and National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), the organiser of IFFI, have partnered to focus attention of the film industry and audiences on child rights.

## Hamfest India 2023 Inaugurated

- Hamfest India 2023 was inaugurated by Devusinh Chauhan, the Minister of State for Communications, at Vigyan Bhawan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat on November 25, 2023.
- It serves as a comprehensive platform for amateur radio enthusiasts, bringing together technical workshops, a trade show, flea market and various activities tailored for HAMs.
- The event fosters connection among HAMs, offering opportunities for face-to-face meetings and providing latest communication techniques and technological advancements.
- Hamfest India 2023 holds historical significance as the largest gathering of Indian HAMs, dating back to its inception in 1991.

## MoU between Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and ISKCON

- MoU was signed between the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and the ISKCON under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan on November 23, 2023.
- The initiative aims to synergise efforts in curbing drug usage, especially among the youth which aligns with Prime Minister Modi's vision of a substance-free India.
- Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan was launched on August 15, 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Its aim is to create awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with a special focus on higher education institutes, university campuses and schools.

## NITI Aayog Launched Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion

- The Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog launched a new accelerator programme called Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) in New Delhi on November 21, 2023.
- The programme will support startups and small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on circular economy technologies and solutions in India and Australia.
- The applications for the programme are now open till January 7 next year (2024) on rise accelerator dot org.
- There is no charge for startups to participate in the programme, which will be delivered virtually.

## e-Registration Portal for Sari Walkathon Launched

- The Ministry of Textiles launched an e-registration portal for the Sari Walkathon in New Delhi on November 21, 2023.
- Union Minister of State for Textile Darshana Jardosh launched the portal which aimed to promote the handloom sari culture of India.
- The walkathon will be organised at the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority on the 10th of December this year (2023).
- Participants can enroll for the sari walkathon with this e-portal in which registration will be OTP-based.

## Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 Approved

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has approved a path-breaking Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 on November 10, 2023.
- It aims to enable and empower the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) which is the advertising wing of the GoI to undertake campaigns in the Digital Media Space.
- This policy marks a pivotal moment in CBC's mission to disseminate information and create awareness regarding various schemes, programmes and policies of the Government of India.



### PRESIDENT UNVEILED DR. BR AMBEDKAR'S STATUE

President Droupadi Murmu on November 26, 2023 unveiled the statue of Dr. BR Ambedkar on the premises of the Supreme Court on the occasion of Constitution Day.

The unveiling of the 7-foot-tall statue was followed by a plantation of saplings which was done by both President Murmu and CJI Chandrachud.

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal paid their tributes to the 'Father of the Indian Constitution' with folded hands. The event drew the attendance of numerous judges from the Supreme Court, emphasising the significance of commemorating Constitution Day.

## CITIIS 2.0 Challenge Launched

- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched City Investments to Innovate, Integrate, and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0) challenge in New Delhi on November 16, 2023.
- CITIIS 2.0 aims to advance climate action through the promotion of a circular economy with a focus on integrated waste management.
- Addressing the event, Mr. Puri informed that this programme has a demonstrative effect which will lay the basis for the commercialisation of the technology.
- In the 1st phase, 1000 new EVs, 100 km of non-motorised transport corridors, 750 acres of green open spaces, 1400 affordable housing units and 350 education facilities introduced.

## Constitution Quiz & Online Reading of Preamble

- The Government of India has invited citizens on November 20, 2023 to participate in the Constitution Quiz and Online Reading of the Preamble to commemorate Samvidhan Diwas-Constitution Day.
- The quiz and reading will take place on November 26 (Samvidhan Diwas) to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- The Ministry has operationalised two web portals to ensure maximum participation of people and the Preamble can be read in all the 22 official languages of India.
- People of the nation can participate and avail certificates by visiting the websites readpreamble.nic.in and constitutionquiz.nic.in.

## NITI Aayog Appointed Four Distinguished Fellows

- NITI Aayog added four new Distinguished Fellows to its ranks for a period of one year on November 16, 2023.
- These are Prof. Anoop Singh, Dr. OP Agarwal, Dr. Ajai Chowdhry and Sh. V. Lakshmikumaran.
- Dr. Anoop Singh is a distinguished member of the fifteenth Finance Commission and Dr. OP Agrawal, a 1979-batch IAS officer, is a seasoned expert in urban transport.
- Padma Bhushan (2011) awardee Dr. Ajai Chowdhry is a co-founder of HCL and Sh. V. Lakshmikumaran is a legal expert with 35 years of experience.

## PM-PVTG Mission Launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) Development Mission on Nov. 15, 2023.



- The PM-PVTG Development Mission aims to address the critical needs of the 75 PVTG communities residing in over 22000 remote villages across 18 States and Union Territories.
- It will provide basic facilities like road and telecom connectivity, electricity, housing, clean water, sanitation, education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

## Two-day Visit of Prime Minister to Jharkhand

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Ranchi on November 14, 2023 for his two-day visit to Jharkhand.
- He was welcomed by Governor CP. Radhakrishnan and Chief Minister Hemant Soren at Birsa Munda airport.
- Prime Minister Modi is set to make history by becoming the first Prime Minister to visit Ulihatu Village, the birthplace of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- PM paid floral tributes to the life-size statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his 148th birth anniversary at Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Park-cum-Freedom Fighter Museum, Ranchi.

## Supreme Court Welcomed Three New Judges

- The Supreme Court of India has expanded its judicial strength by welcomed three new judges on November 14, 2023.
- The induction of three judges has taken the Supreme Court's judicial strength to its sanctioned capacity of 34.
- This is crucial for ensuring that the court has the necessary manpower to handle the multitude of cases that come its way.
- Delhi High Court Chief Justice Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Rajasthan and Gauhati Chief Justices Augustine George Masih and Sandeep Mehta were sworn in Supreme Court.

## PM Modi Celebrated Diwali with Security Forces at Lepcha

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated Diwali with security forces in Lepcha, Himachal Pradesh on November 12, 2023.
- PM interacted with Army jawans in Lepcha and extended greetings to the people of the country.
- Keeping in with his tradition of spending Diwali with armed forces, the Prime Minister spent this Diwali with the forces in Lepcha.
- Last year, Prime Minister had celebrated Diwali with Armed Forces in Kargil.

## Government Advised Against Calls Threatening

- Department of Telecommunications issued a public advisory on malicious calls on November 10, 2023.
- The Government has advised everyone not to share any personal information if receiving calls threatening disconnection.
- According to Government, the Department does not communicate disconnection warnings through phone calls and any such call should be treated as suspicious.
- The Department of Telecommunications is the nodal agency for formulating policies and regulatory frameworks for the telecommunications sector in the country.

## Mitti Cafe in Supreme Court Inaugurated

- CJI DY Chandrachud inaugurated 'Mitti Cafe', a distinctive establishment within the Supreme Court premises on November 9, 2023.