

Daily Current Affairs

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M S Swaminathan Award

- Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University's Vice Chancellor **Prof. B.R. Kamboj** has been honoured with the prestigious **M.S. Swaminathan Award** in recognition of his contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the field of agronomy.
- Thawar Chand Gehlot, the Governor of Karnataka, presented him this award. The award ceremony took place at the International Conference on '**One Health One World,**' held at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agricultural University at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.



- A special committee, constituted for the M.S. Swaminathan Award, selected Prof. B.R. Kamboj for his excellent achievements in the field of education, research, technology development and extension in agricultural science.
- Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.R. Kamboj is well aware of the common problems, **needs and socio-economical conditions of the farmers**. The agricultural recommendations put forth by Prof. Kamboj, stemming from his research work and collaborative extension activities with university scientists, have consistently proven to be highly advantageous for farmers.
- Prof Kamboj has published about 300 research papers and articles in national and international journals, books and technical magazines.

Russia's 2024 BRICS Chairmanship

- Russian President Vladimir Putin officially marked the commencement of **Russia's 2024 BRICS Chairmanship**.
- During this handover, President Putin emphasized the motto for the upcoming tenure, **"Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security."**
- This signifies Russia's commitment to fostering collaboration among the BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.



- President Putin outlined **Russia's approach to its BRICS Chairmanship**. The emphasis will be on positive and constructive cooperation with all concerned countries.
- The overarching strategy will continue **to promote BRICS partnerships** in politics and security, economy and finance, as well as cultural and humanitarian contacts.
- President Putin articulated Russia's priorities, which **encompass a wide array of sectors**. These include cooperation in science, high technology, healthcare, environmental protection, culture, sports, youth exchanges, and civil society.
- Furthermore, Putin highlighted that BRICS is garnering increasing support from like-minded countries, emphasizing its principles such as sovereign equality, mutual consideration of interests, openness, consensus, and the aspiration for a multipolar international order.
- Russia's President underscored the need to work on the modalities of a new category of BRICS partner countries.



- **Approximately 30 countries** are being considered for inclusion in some form into the BRICS multidimensional agenda.
- This move aims to facilitate the integration of **new participants into various aspects of BRICS activities**, building on the experience gained by the association over the years.
- Putin emphasized Russia's commitment to **enhancing foreign policy coordination** among BRICS member countries. The focus will be on developing joint responses to challenges and threats to international and regional security and stability.
- Additionally, the practical implementation of the Strategy for **BRICS Economic Partnership 2025** and the Action Plan for BRICS Innovation Cooperation 2021-2024 will be prioritized.
- Russia aims to **contribute to energy and food security**, bolster the role of BRICS in the international monetary system, expand interbank cooperation, and increase the use of national currencies in mutual trade.

Expansion In BRICS

- The upcoming **BRICS summit in Russia this October** is set to undergo a significant transformation as it expands its membership to include five new nations alongside the original founding five – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- This expansion, featuring **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates**, signifies a notable shift in the global landscape, characterized by increasing multipolarity and assertive middle powers challenging the established Western-led order.



- Notably, **Argentina**, under its new President Javier Milei, has decided to withdraw from its planned entry into the expanding BRICS club of nations. The last expansion of the BRICS took place in 2010 when South Africa joined, adding an "S" to the acronym a year after the bloc's inception.
- This move is seen as a strategic effort to reshape the global order into a multipolar world, with voices from the Global South taking a more prominent role on the international stage.
- The **inclusion of Saudi Arabia and the UAE** further emphasizes the changing dynamics of international relations, highlighting a trend towards a more multipolar world and the growing assertiveness of middle powers challenging the established Western-led order.



- However, it also underscores the inherent challenges of achieving unified goals within a diverse "**global south.**"

- The expansion of the BRICS bloc is expected to create new investment opportunities for the Arab world's two largest economies – Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
- In 2022, **Saudi Arabia achieved** an impressive annual growth rate of **8.7%**, the **highest** among the world's 20 largest economies.
- Looking ahead to 2023, the International Monetary Fund projects a further **expansion of 0.8%**, demonstrating the kingdom's commitment to its Vision 2030 diversification agenda, with a particular emphasis on its non-oil economy.



- Similarly, the **UAE anticipates a robust economic performance** in 2023, with an expected growth rate of 3.4%, with expectations of further increase to 3.7% in 2024.
- A recent report from the World Bank highlights positive trends across various sectors, including tourism, real estate, construction, transport, manufacturing, and capital expenditure. The UAE's dedication to diversification and non-oil sectors positions it resiliently amidst global economic challenges.
- As these dynamic **economies join the BRICS bloc**, the geopolitical landscape is poised for further transformation, creating new opportunities for collaboration and economic development on a global scale.

India Pakistan Exchange List Of Nuclear Installations

- **India and Pakistan** exchanged the list of **nuclear installations** and facilities, covered under the Agreement on the **Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations** and Facilities between the two countries.
- External Affairs Ministry said, the list was exchanged through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad.
- The Agreement was **signed in 1988**.

- India and Pakistan are required to inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the Agreement on the first of January of every calendar year.
- The Ministry said, this is the 33rd consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries.



IMF - \$700 Million Bailout Tranche To Pakistan

- **Cash-strapped Pakistan** is poised to receive a crucial **\$700 million** bailout tranche from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** during the Executive Board meeting on January 11.
- The disbursement, under the existing **\$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA)**, is expected to provide much-needed financial support to Pakistan's struggling economy.



- The **IMF Executive Board** is scheduled to discuss Pakistan's case on January 11, potentially granting final approval for the release of the **\$700 million tranche**. The current SBA, initiated in 2019, is set to conclude in April 2024, with approximately \$1.8 billion remaining undisbursed.
- The **IMF's updated economic projections** for Pakistan in 2024 indicate a challenging outlook, with a projected contraction of 0.5% in real GDP and a significant increase in the Consumer Price Index, pointing towards rising inflation.
- **Despite facing high inflation**, Pakistan has demonstrated its commitment to economic recovery, surpassing the revenue collection target set by the IMF for July-December.
- Pakistan's reliance on IMF support is underscored by its engagement in 24 arrangements since joining in 1950, reflecting the country's recurrent balance-of-payments challenges.



SSB Crack EXAMS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Year Did Savitribai Phule Start The Mahila Seva Mandal

- A. 1848
- B. 1852
- C. 1860
- D. 1873

ANSWER: B

2. What Was Rani Velu Nachiyar Known As In Tamil

- A. Veeramangai
- B. Rani Sahiba
- C. Maha Rani
- D. Singara Rani

ANSWER: A

3. What Did Rani Velu Nachiyar Grant The Marudu Brothers

- A. Administrative powers
- B. Control over the kingdom
- C. Ownership of territories
- D. Leadership of the army

ANSWER: A

4. What Field Is Prof. B.R. Kamboj Associated With

- A. Physics
- B. Sociology
- C. Agronomy
- D. Economics

ANSWER: C

5. Which Nation Withdrew Its Planned Entry Into The Expanding BRICS Club

- A. Argentina
- B. Egypt
- C. Ethiopia
- D. Iran

ANSWER: A

6. Significant About Satyashodhak Marriage Initiated By Savitribai Phule

- A. No Dowry Was Involved
- B. It Was The First Recorded Marriage
- C. It Was A Love Marriage
- D. Only Brahminical Rituals Were Followed

ANSWER: A

7. Who Is Regarded As The Founding Father Of The EU's Single Currency Project

- A. Angela Merkel
- B. Jacques Delors
- C. Jean-Claude Juncker
- D. Ursula von der Leyen

ANSWER: B

8. Who Is The Author Of "The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test For India's Constitution"

- A. Madhav Godbole
- B. Arun Desai
- C. Sanjay Patel
- D. Ritu Verma

ANSWER: A

9. Which Indian State Has Recently Directed Officials To Implement The Green Hydrogen Policy-2023 To Promote Clean Energy

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A

10. Who Is The Revered Poet Honoured With The Renaming Of Ayodhya Airport

- A. Surdas
- B. Tulsidas
- C. Kabir
- D. Maharishi Valmiki

ANSWER: D

11. Talaeieh And Nasir Cruise Missiles Were Recently Unveiled By Which Country

- A. UAE
- B. Turkey
- C. Iran
- D. Iraq

ANSWER: C

12. Which Ministry Is Responsible For Administering The FAME India Scheme

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C. Ministry of AYUSH
- D. Ministry of Heavy Industries

ANSWER: D

13. Which Player Recently Clinched Chennai Grand Masters 2023 Title

- A. Dommaraju Gukesh
- B. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa
- C. Vidit Santosh Gujrathi
- D. Sandipan Chanda

ANSWER: A

14. India's First Himalayan Air Safari Was Launched From Which Indian State

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Ladakh
- D. Jammu & Kashmir

ANSWER: B

15. Which Sport Is Introduced In 2024 Khelo India Youth Games For First Time

- A. Squash
- B. Canoeing
- C. Kayaking
- D. Canoe Slalom

ANSWER: A

16. Veer Bal Diwas Is Observed To Commemorate The Martyrdom Of The Four Sons Of Which Sikh Guru

- A. Guru Teg Bahadur
- B. Guru Ram Das
- C. Guru Gobind Singh
- D. Guru Arjan

ANSWER: C

17. Dean Elgar Announced Retirement From International Cricket, Is The Former Captain Of Which Team

- A. Australia
- B. South Africa
- C. England
- D. New Zealand

ANSWER: B

18. Amnya Fort Recently Making News, Is Located In Which Region

- A. Sahara
- B. Golan Heights
- C. Siberia
- D. Alaska

ANSWER: C

19. General Dong Jun In News, Is Defence Minister Of Which Country

- A. China
- B. Taiwan
- C. South Korea
- D. North Korea

ANSWER: A

20. Which Physician Was Sent By Bimbisara To Treat Avanti King Pradyota

- A. Jivaka
- B. Udayin
- C. Kalashoka
- D. Both a & b

ANSWER: A