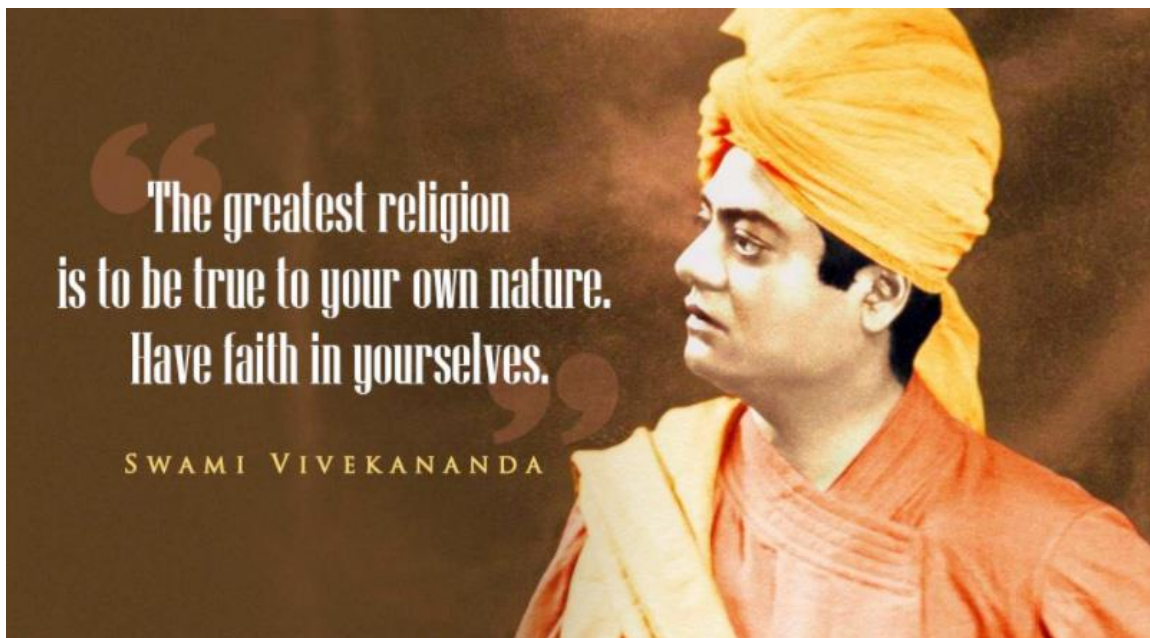


# Daily Current Affairs

## 12 January 2024

### National Youth Festival

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **27th National Youth Festival** at Nashik in Maharashtra tomorrow. He will also address the youth of the nation.
- National Youth Day is celebrated every year to honour the **ideals and thoughts of Swami Vivekananda**.



- This year, National Youth Day will be celebrated by all field organisations of the Department of Youth Affairs in districts in collaboration with multiple government departments. Road safety awareness events will be conducted at major cities and 750 district headquarters of the country.
- The theme of the National Youth Festival this year is **"MYBharat-ViksitBharat@2047- By the Youth, For the Youth."** During the celebration, various states will showcase cultural programmes of their diverse cultural heritage.
- In **1984**, the **Indian Government first declared** to celebrate the birthday of **Swami Vivekananda as National Youth Day**. Since then the day has been celebrated as National Youth Day all over the country.

- The day is celebrated to highlight the youths who are the future of our country and to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda who always motivated the youth of the country and spoke about the right use of the youth in the development of the country.



## New Republic Day Pact

- In recent years, the **selection of tableaux for the Republic Day parade** has been marred by controversies, with complaints from various States about the exclusion of their representations.
- The **Defence Ministry has responded** to these concerns by proposing a comprehensive rollover plan to address the issue.



- Defence Ministry has proposed a rollover plan to give every State and Union Territory (UT) an opportunity to **showcase their tableaux within a three-year cycle**.
- Approximately 15 tableaux are selected for the Republic Day parade each year, making it challenging to accommodate every State annually. The proposed plan aims at ensuring equitable distribution and fair representation for all.
- Discussions have taken place with Resident Commissioners from different States and UTs, chaired by the Defence Secretary.
- A three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been proposed to facilitate the implementation of the rollover plan. As of now, 28 States have signed the draft agreement.



- To **expedite the participation process**, States and UTs were approached in advance for their willingness to participate in the Republic Day Parade for the next three years (2024, 2025, and 2026). Most States/UTs have expressed their willingness for all three years, demonstrating a positive response to the proposed plan.
- The **Ministry of Culture** has played a role in encouraging new and fresh talent by empanelling 30 agencies for the design and fabrication of tableaux. These agencies were selected through an open selection process, and States/UTs were advised to engage them following appropriate procedures.

- After four rounds of meetings, **16 States and UTs were selected for the 2024 Republic Day parade**. However, States that did not secure a spot were invited to showcase their tableaux at Bharat Parv, held from January 23 to 31, 2024, at Red Fort.

## Divyakriti Singh

- In a historic moment for Indian sports, the **accomplished equestrian athlete, Divyakriti Singh**, has been conferred with the **prestigious Arjuna Award**, making her the **first woman** from Rajasthan to achieve this honour.
- The award was presented in a grand ceremony at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu.



- Divyakriti Singh's remarkable journey in the equestrian world reached new heights with the Arjuna Award, recognizing her outstanding contribution to the sport. Her dedication and prowess were on full display when she played a pivotal role in securing the **Gold Medal for the Indian Dressage team at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China**.
- The Arjuna Award for Divyakriti Singh holds special significance for her home state of Rajasthan, ending a five-year hiatus for the region in receiving this prestigious honour.
- As the sole representative from Rajasthan to be honoured this year, she not only brings glory to herself but also puts Rajasthan back on the map of sporting achievements.

## PAiSA Dashboard

- **Union Minister Hardeep S. Puri** unveiled two key initiatives to empower street vendors:
- **PAiSA Dashboard:** This online platform provides real-time updates on the progress of the PM SVANidhi Mission scheme. Vendors can track loan applications, disbursements, and repayments at their fingertips, fostering transparency and accountability.



- **PM SVANidhi Mission Monitoring Portal:** This dedicated portal offers comprehensive data and insights on the scheme's nationwide implementation. Stakeholders, including government officials, lenders, and street vendor associations, can access valuable information to monitor progress, identify challenges, and ensure effective execution.
- These initiatives mark a significant step towards **Grievance Redressal**, Robust committees will address disputes among vendors, safeguarding their rights and livelihoods.
- **PM SVANidhi Mission** provides **microloans to street vendors**, enabling them to restart and grow their businesses.
- Real-time data on the **PAiSA dashboard and PM SVANidhi portal** promotes accountability and facilitates informed decision-making.

## 43<sup>rd</sup> Antarctic Expedition

- This December, **India's 43rd Antarctic expedition**, led by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, welcomed scientists from Mauritius and Bangladesh onboard, marking a significant step in international polar research collaboration.
- This initiative stems from the maiden **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)** Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference held in 2022, which laid the groundwork for scientific partnerships among member nations.



- This conference facilitated joint endeavors in oceanographic and hydrographic studies, paving the way for further cooperation.
- In June 2023, scientists from CSC nations embarked on a month-long scientific voyage in the **Indian Ocean Region** aboard the '**Sagar Nidhi**,' solidifying the collaborative spirit within the group.
- The scientists joining the Antarctic expedition will spend 3-4 months actively engaged in collaborative research across various polar science disciplines. Their focus will lie on gaining insights into polar logistics and addressing the unique challenges posed by the harsh environment of the Antarctic.

## Steel Fab 2024 Exhibition

- In the **United Arab Emirates**, the **SteelFab 2024 exhibition**, organized by Expo Centre Sharjah with the support of the **Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)**, has become the focal point for India's robust representation in the global steel industry.
- Boasting 35 exhibitors, the Indian Pavilion has emerged as a powerhouse, showcasing premier companies and brands in the iron and steel sector.



- Spearheaded by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, the **India Pavilion stands as a testament** to the nation's prowess in steel and metallurgy, featuring the latest innovations and cutting-edge technologies.
- The exhibition floor is a vibrant display of a diverse range of products and services, encompassing **state-of-the-art machinery and equipment for the steel industry**, advanced metal forming technologies, laser systems for metal cutting, and other groundbreaking solutions that have captivated the attention of attendees.
- **SteelFab 2024 has set the stage for a series of events**, including live demonstrations of cutting-edge iron and steel technologies.



- The exhibition has not only highlighted **CNC cutting systems** but also delved into the energy sources employed in cutting and welding machinery.
- From materials and consumer products to accessories, electronic beam welding apparatus, material handling tools, cost-effective laser systems for metal cutting, steel processing machinery, and artificial intelligence robots, SteelFab 2024 has left no stone unturned in providing a comprehensive overview of the industry.

## South Africa's Genocide Case Against Israel

- **United Nations's International Court of Justice (ICJ)** is hearing a case against **Israel filed by South Africa**.
- **South Africa accused Israel** of subjecting Palestinians to **genocidal acts**. It has demanded an emergency suspension of Israel's military campaign in the Palestinian enclave Gaza.
- South Africa contended that Israel has transgressed Article Two of the **(Genocide) convention**, committing acts that fall within the definition of genocide.



- The actions show a systematic pattern of conduct from which genocide can be inferred, Adila Hassim, advocate of South Africa's high court, told the ICJ.
- South Africa pointed to Israel's sustained bombing campaign which has killed over **23,000 people in the small**, densely populated Gaza Strip, according to Gaza health authorities.



- **Israel has denied the genocide accusations** as baseless. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on social media that Israel has no intention of permanently occupying Gaza or displacing its civilian population.
- The ICJ is hearing South Africa's arguments & Israel's response to the allegations.



- Israel launched their offensive after a **cross-border attack on the 7th of October last year by militants of Gaza's ruling group Hamas** in which Israel says 1,200 people were killed and 240 taken hostage back to Gaza.
- The **1948 Genocide Convention** defines genocide as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group". South Africa and Israel are both parties to the convention, which obliges them to not commit genocide and also to prevent and punish it.
- The **ICJ's decisions are final and without appeal**, but the court has no way to enforce them.

## **Wrestling Tournament in Croatia**

- Reigning Asian champion **Aman Sehrawat** won the **Gold medal** in Men's 57kg at the **Zagreb Open 2024 Wrestling Tournament in Croatia**.
- He defeated China's Zou Wanhao via technical superiority in the 57kg final yesterday, to win India's first medal in this edition of the Ranking Series.



- **Deepak Punia**, competing in the men's 86kg category, lost by 6-2 against Kazakhstan's Azamat Dauletbekov in the qualification round.
- Meanwhile, another Indian wrestler Yash Tushir was defeated by USA's Quincy Monday by 15-4 in the round of 16 of the men's 74kg category.
- Nonetheless, today's competition will feature Freestyle wrestlers Vicky and Sumit competing in the men's 97kg and 125kg weight classes, respectively.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Theme Of 27<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival In Nashik, Maharashtra**

- A. Youth Empowerment 2047
- B. MYBharat-ViksitBharat@2047 By The Youth, For The Youth
- C. Youth & Sports
- D. Swami Vivekananda's Ideals

**ANSWER: B**

**2. How Often Will Each State And Union Territory Get Opportunity To Showcase Tableaux Under Proposed Rollover Plan**

- A. Annually
- B. Biennially
- C. Triennially
- D. Quarterly

**ANSWER: C**

**3. First Woman To Achieve Arjuna Award**

- A. Divyakriti Singh
- B. Sheetal Devi
- C. Marry Kom
- D. PV Sandhu

**ANSWER: A**

**4. AT Skytrax In 2023, Which Airport Crowned World's Best Airport For Year 2023**

- A. Singapore's Changi Airport
- B. Qatar's Hamad International Airport
- C. Incheon International Airport
- D. Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Name Of Assault Rifle Recently Launched By DRDO**

- A. Agni
- B. Nirbhay
- C. Ugram
- D. Tejas

**ANSWER: C**

**6. From January 1, 2024, Which Country, Same-sex Marriage Received Legal Recognition**

- A. Sweden
- B. Estonia
- C. Netherlands
- D. Canada

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Primary Objective Of North East Venture Fund Set Up By NEDFi**

- A. Financial Assistance For Large Infrastructure Projects Only.
- B. Invest In Real Estate Development Across India.
- C. Invest In Startup Ventures In The North-east Region Of India.
- D. Consultancy Services To State Governments In The North-east.

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Which State Government Signed MoU With Jakson Green For A Green Hydrogen Project**

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Odisha

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Mission Launched By Health Ministry To Screen People For Sickle Cell Disease**

- A. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Mission
- B. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission
- C. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Eradication Mission
- D. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Control Mission

**ANSWER: B**

**10. As Per RBI's New Policy, What Is Maximum Dividend Commercial Banks Can Pay Out Based On Their Net NPA Ratios**

- A. 30%
- B. 40%
- C. 50%
- D. 60%

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Who Is Author Of "Chip War: The Fight For World's Most Critical Technology**

- A. Yuval Noah Harari
- B. Malcolm Gladwell
- C. Chris Miller
- D. Walter Isaacson

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Which Indian Cities Have Been Recently Nominated For Wetland City Accreditation Under Ramsar Convention**

- A. Indore, Bhopal, Jaipur
- B. Indore, Bhopal, Udaipur
- C. Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru
- D. Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad

**ANSWER: B**

**13. Which Company Has Decided To Introduce “Copilot Key” In PC Keyboards**

- A. Apple
- B. Dell
- C. Microsoft
- D. Lenovo

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Which Indian Grandmaster Received Support From Adani Group**

- A. Vishwanathan Anand
- B. Pentala Harikrishna
- C. Vidit Gujrathi
- D. R. Praggnanandhaa

**ANSWER: D**

**15. NAMASTE Portal Is Related To Which Of The Following Fields**

- A. Traditional Medicine
- B. Space Research
- C. Environmental Conservation
- D. Digital Education Technology

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Which Country Recently Announced Its Participation In Developing A Module On NASA’s Lunar Gateway Station**

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. India
- D. UAE

**ANSWER: D**

**17. Which State Government Recently Launched App Based Electric Bike Taxi Service Called ‘Baayu’**

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Assam
- C. West Bengal
- D. Odisha

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Carnivorous Worm Found In Northern Greenland, Recently Named “Terror Beast” By Scientists Found In**

- A. Arcticus Wormensis
- B. Polarterroris Predatoriens
- C. Greenlandicus Carnivorus
- D. Timorebestia Koprii

**ANSWER: D**

**19. Who Is The 4<sup>th</sup> Secretary General Of Bay Of BIMSTEC**

- A. Indra Mani Pandey
- B. Tenzin lekhpal
- C. Abdul Motaleb Sarker
- D. Shabana Fyyaz

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Nakoda At Rajasthan, Which Is Famous For Miracles At Nakodaji, Is A Temple Of Which Among The Following**

- A. Vishnu
- B. Krishna
- C. Buddha
- D. Parsvanath

**ANSWER: D**