

# Daily Current Affairs

## 13 January 2024

### ANUBHAV Awards Scheme, 2024

- **ANUBHAV Awards Scheme**, initiated by the **Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW)**, is an innovative platform for recognizing the contributions made by retired officials to nation-building during their tenure in government service.
- **Launched in 2015** under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the scheme is a step towards documenting India's administrative history through written narratives by retired Central Government employees.
- To acknowledge and honour the valuable contributions and experiences of retired government employees.



- **Retiring Central Government employees/pensioners** can participate by submitting their 'Anubhav' write-ups 8 months before retirement and up to 1 year after their retirement.
- The scheme offers 05 ANUBHAV Awards and 10 Jury Certificates annually.
- The DoPPW has launched an outreach campaign to encourage broad participation, including knowledge-sharing sessions and coordination with ministries and departments.
- The scheme helps in **creating a repository of experiences** that can serve as a foundation for good governance and administrative reforms.

- It provides a national forum for the retirees to share their experiences and insights, fostering a culture of learning and reflection.
- Acknowledging the unsung heroes of the government machinery, it boosts morale and encourages a sense of ownership and pride among the retirees.

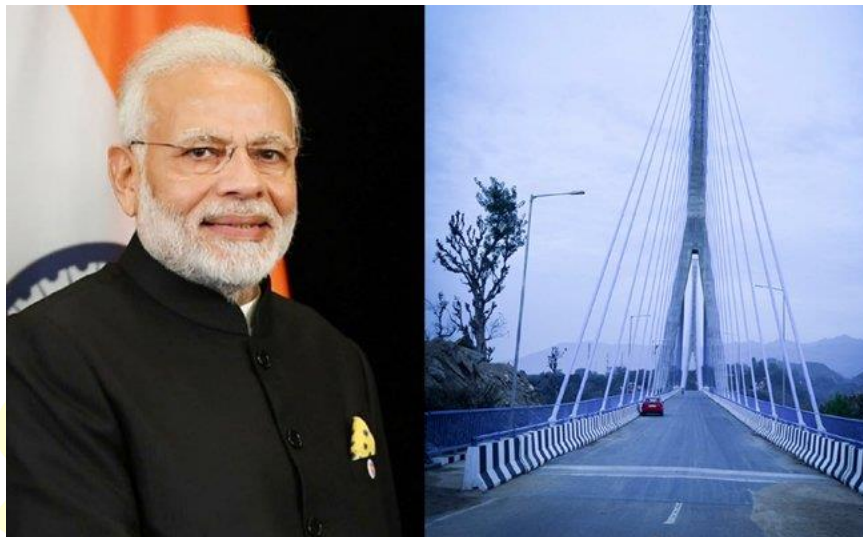
## Atal Setu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 Jan 2024, inaugurated **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri - Nhava Sheva Atal Setu**, India's longest bridge and a major infrastructure project for Mumbai.
- The **21.8 km long bridge** also holds the distinction of being the longest sea bridge in the country.
- PM Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of Atal Setu in December 2016. After the inauguration, the PM travelled from Atal Setu and reached Navi Mumbai Airport site at Panvel.



- Atal Setu aims to **improve connectivity in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region**, namely Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, and Raigad.
- The bridge aims to reduce travel time between Sewri and Nhava Sheva - from around **two hours to just 20 minutes**. It also shortens the route from Mumbai to Pune, Goa, and the rest of South India.
- It will provide a faster route from the **Mumbai International Airport** and Navi Mumbai International Airport and will also improve connectivity between the **Mumbai Port and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port**.

- The 6-lane bridge stretches for 16.5 km over the sea and about 5.5 km over land, making it the longest sea bridge, and the longest overall in India. The project was executed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) on an Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) basis with engineers and experts from across the globe.
- It has been constructed at a total cost of over **Rs 17,840 crore**, as per MMRDA. The Japan International Cooperation Agency also sanctioned a loan of approximately 30,755 million yen for the project.



- After the grand inauguration event of Atal Setu, the PM is now participating in a public programme at Navi Mumbai. Soon he will inaugurate, dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 12,700 crore rupees.
- These include the foundation stone for the **underground road tunnel** connecting Eastern Freeway's Orange Gate to Marine Drive, the inauguration of the first phase of the **Surya regional bulk drinking water project**, Phase 2 of Uran-Kharkopar railway line and a new suburban station '**Digha Gaon**' on the Trans-harbour line.

## Swachh Survekshan Awards

- The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu conferred **Swachh Survekshan awards 2023 at Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi hosted by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.

- 13 awardees received felicitations under categories of Clean Cities, Cleanest Cantonment, SafaiMitra Suraksha, Ganga Towns and Best Performing State were given away. This year the cleanest city award showcased joint winners.



- **Port city Surat** bagged the top honours, alongside Indore, who had conquered the top spot alone for 6 consecutive years. In the category of cities with a population of less than 1 lakh, **Sasvad, Patan and Lonavala** secured the top three spots.
- **Mhow Cantonment Board** in Madhya Pradesh was adjudged the Cleanest Cantonment Board. Varanasi and Prayagraj won the top two awards amongst the Cleanest Ganga Towns.
- **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh** won the top three awards for Best Performing State. Chandigarh walked away with the award for the Best Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher. 110 awards were bestowed during the ceremony.

## Global Economic Resilience Amid Dark Outlook

- The **World Bank** reveals a **surprising resilience** in the global economy, though shadows loom over the future, anticipating a third consecutive year of slowdown in 2024.
- After a robust rebound to **6.2% in 2021**, global growth waned to 3.0% in 2022 and further to 2.6% in 2023. Projections indicate a continued deceleration to 2.4% in 2024 before a modest recovery to 2.7% in 2025, notably below the 3.1% average of the 2010s.
- Key Projections by the World Bank
- **World Growth:** Estimated at 2.6% (2023), 2.4% (2024), and 2.7% (2025).



- Country Highlights:
- US: 2.5% (2023), 1.6% (2024), 1.7% (2025).
- China: 5.2% (2023), 4.5% (2024), 4.3% (2025).



- **India: Anticipated to maintain the fastest growth**, ascending from 6.3% (2023-24) to 6.5% (2025-26).
- Despite India's optimistic trajectory, the World Bank's forecast for 2023-24 is a full percentage point lower than the government's estimate, attributing it to a slight deceleration in investment and a tapering off of private consumption growth.
- The report **underscores India's post-pandemic recovery**, emphasizing maintained robustness in investment, though private consumption is expected to ease due to diminishing pent-up demand and inflation constraints.

## Fresh Oil Discovery in Krishna Godavari Basin

- The recent announcement by the Indian government regarding a **fresh oil discovery in the Krishna-Godavari Basin** signifies a major breakthrough in the country's energy sector.
- The discovery, led by the state-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, is located near Kakinada's coastline in the Bay of Bengal.
- The oil has been extracted from the **Krishna Godavari Deep-Water Block 98/2**, approximately 30 kilometers off the coast of Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. This new crude discovery in the Krishna-Godavari Basin is a pivotal moment in India's energy landscape.
- As of January 2024, four of the 26 wells in the basin are operational, with plans to increase this number significantly.

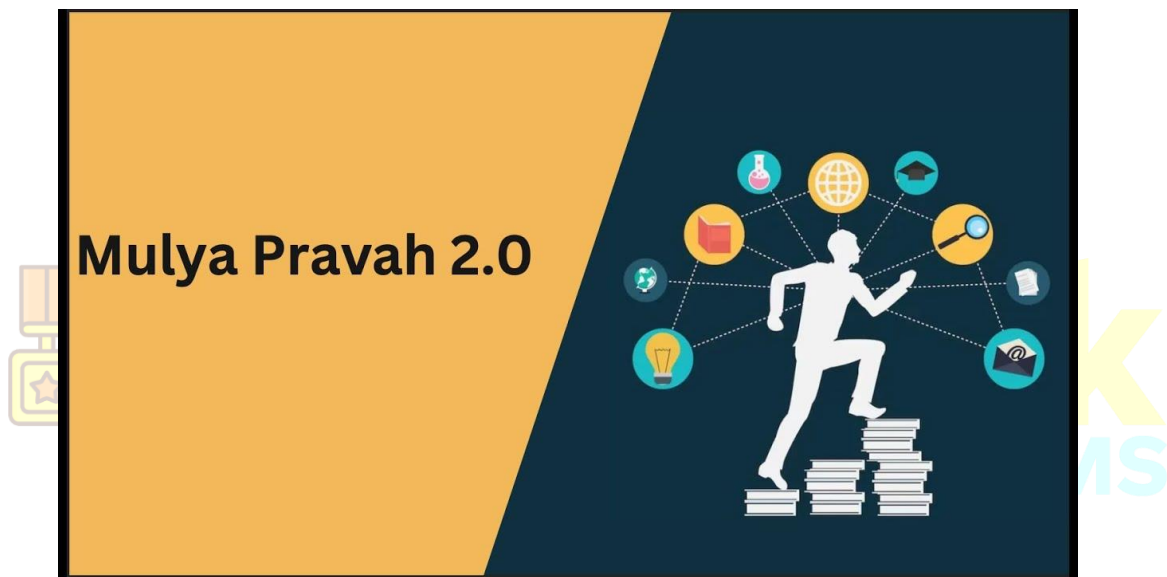
- Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced that the production is expected to reach **45,000 barrels per day by mid-2024**, which will account for about 7% of India's total crude oil production.



- The project is nearing the completion of Phase-2, with Phase-3, aimed at peak oil and gas production, underway and expected to conclude by June 2024.
- This project is anticipated to increase ONGC's total **oil and gas production by 11% and 15%, respectively.**
- Significance and Impact
- India, as the **world's third-largest oil importer** and consumer, heavily relies on global markets for crude oil. This discovery is a significant step towards energy self-reliance and reduces dependency on imported oil.
- The successful extraction and production of oil in the Krishna-Godavari Basin enhance India's position in the global oil market and fortify its energy security.
- The project showcases resilience in the face of global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which had caused some delays in the project that initially started in 2016-17.
- The discovery aligns with India's growing needs for **energy security** and marks a pivotal moment in the nation's pursuit of reducing oil import dependence.

## Mulya Pravah 2.0

- In a significant move to **promote ethical practices** in higher education, the University Grants Commission of India has introduced Mulya Pravah 2.0.
- This new guideline comes as a response to surveys that **highlighted unethical practices** such as favouritism, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination within various educational organizations.
- **Mulya Pravah 2.0** is an updated version of the original Mulya Pravah guideline, which the UGC introduced in 2019. The main objective of this revised guideline is to instill human values and professional ethics in higher education institutions across India.



- **It aims to create a culture of integrity**, accountability, and transparency within these institutions.
- The guideline emphasizes the need to foster human values and professional ethics among students, faculty, and staff.
- It aims to build a culture of honesty, integrity, and trust within educational institutions.
- Mulya Pravah 2.0 highlights the **importance of critical thinking** and open communication in the academic environment.
- The guideline stresses the need for transparent decision-making and holding individuals accountable for their actions.
- Recognizing and rewarding ethical behaviour is a key guideline component.

## 'Einstein Probe,' A Lotus-shaped Satellite

- China has recently sent a groundbreaking **astronomical satellite named Einstein Probe (EP)** into space on a mission to observe **mysterious transient phenomena in the universe**.
- The satellite, **shaped like a lotus in full bloom**, employs innovative X-ray detection technology inspired by the functioning of a lobster eye.
- Launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province, this mission marks a significant step in unraveling the secrets of the cosmos.



- Its design includes **12 petals and two stamens**, with each petal housing wide-field X-ray telescopes (WXT) and each stamen containing follow-up X-ray telescopes (FXT). This unique structure forms a space observatory geared towards capturing elusive celestial events.
- The primary mission objectives of the Einstein Probe focus on **shedding light on enigmatic phenomena in the universe**.
- Scientists aim to capture the first light emanating from supernova explosions, locate and identify X-ray signals accompanying gravitational wave events, and discover dormant black holes and other faint transient celestial objects at the outer reaches of the cosmos.
- The satellite's nomenclature **pays homage to Albert Einstein**, the iconic physicist behind the theory of general relativity. Yuan Weimin, the principal investigator of the EP mission and a researcher at the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), emphasizes the connection between the mission's objectives and Einstein's groundbreaking predictions.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. ANUBHAV Awards Scheme Launched In**

- A. 2013
- B. 2014
- C. 2015
- D. 2016

**ANSWER: D**

**2. Atal Setu Is Inaugurated In**

- A. Kolkata
- B. Mumbai
- C. Delhi
- D. Bhubaneshwar

**ANSWER: B**

**3. Mulya Pravah Initiative Is Related To**

- A. Education
- B. Medicine
- C. Sports
- D. Tourism

**ANSWER: A**

**4. Einstein Probe Is Launched By**

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. South Korea

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Chandubi Festival, Recently Seen In News, Is Celebrated In Which Indian State**

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Assam
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Which One Of Following Describes The '30 Doradus B'**

- A. A Supernova Remnant
- B. A Supermassive Black Hole
- C. A Space Observatory
- D. An Earth-size Exoplanet

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Primary Source Of New Jet Fuel Recently Developed By Firefly Green Fuels**

- A. Cooking Oil
- B. Human Sewage
- C. Rapeseed Oil
- D. Agricultural Remnants

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Primary Objective Of XRISM Satellite Mission, That Was Recently Making News**

- A. Studying Venusian Clouds
- B. Mapping Earth's Surface
- C. Observing The X-ray Cosmos
- D. Monitoring Climate Change

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Which Calendar Do Certain Eastern Orthodox Churches Follow, Leading To Christmas Being Celebrated On January 7<sup>th</sup>**

- A. Gregorian Calendar
- B. Russian Calendar
- C. Julian Calendar
- D. Chinese Lunar Calendar

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Which Region Known For Producing World's Costliest Spice, Saffron, Is Facing A Severe Crisis Due To Encroachment Of Cement Factories**

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Punjab
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Kashmir

**ANSWER: D**

**11. On Which Date National Human Trafficking Awareness Day Observed**

- A. January 11
- B. February 14
- C. March 8
- D. April 22

**ANSWER: C**

**12. How Many Countries Jointly Lead World's Most Powerful Passport Ranking**

- A. Four
- B. Five
- C. Six
- D. Seven

**ANSWER:C**

**13. In Which Indian State Has Atpadi Conservation Reserve Been Created**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Maharashtra

**ANSWER: D**

**14. Who Has Been Elected For A Second Term As Bhutan's Prime Minister In The Recent Election**

- A. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- B. Lotay Tshering
- C. Dasho Tshering Tobgay
- D. Tshering Tobgay

**ANSWER: D**

**15. What Is The Theme For Observing Earth Rotation Day In 2024**

- A. Celebrating Earth's Natural Beauty
- B. Recognizing Human Achievements in Space Exploration
- C. Honoring the Discovery of Our Planet's Movement
- D. Promoting Environmental Conservation

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Gabon Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Region**

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. Australia
- D. Asia

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Which Region Is Associated With The Tropical Cyclone Alvaro**

- A. Southeast Asia
- B. Madagascar
- C. South America
- D. Australia

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Recently, Which Protected Area Was Making News As Endangered “Hog Deer” Was Spotted Here For First Time**

- A. Rajaji Tiger Reserve
- B. Sundarbans Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Bandipur National Park
- D. Kaziranga National Park

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Sukanta Majumdar, Who Is One Recipients Of Sansad Ratna Awards, Belong To Which Political Party**

- A. Bharatiya Janata Party
- B. Shiv Sena
- C. Nationalist Congress Party
- D. Indian National Congress

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Appleton Layer Is A Part Of \_\_\_\_\_**

- A. Stratosphere
- B. Mesosphere
- C. Ionosphere
- D. Exosphere

**ANSWER: C**