

Daily Current Affairs

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Asia's Largest Aviation Expo Wings India

- Union Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated **Wings India 2024, Asia's largest aviation expo**, at **Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad**.
- The inauguration saw several key announcements, including the release of a **joint knowledge paper** on civil aviation by **FICCI and KPMG**, and the launch of **UDAN 5.3**.
- Notable developments included the **Airbus-Air India Training Centre**, contracts with TATA ASL and Mahindra Aerospace Structures Pvt. Ltd., and the inauguration of the GMR School of Aviation.



- Akasa Air announced a massive order of 200 aircraft over 17 months. The **theme of Wings India 2024** is "Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal: Setting the Stage for India Civil Aviation @2047".
- Shri Scindia emphasized the **3As of Indian aviation**: Accessibility, Availability, and Affordability.
- The **aim is to support a USD 20 trillion economy** by 2047 with a robust aviation system.

- Over 130 exhibitors and 15 Hospitality Chalets from across the globe showcased their innovations and services.
- The expo included a static display of around 25 aircraft, including the first display of Boeing 777X in India and Air India's Airbus A350.
- The **Indian Air Force's Sarang team** performed a captivating air show. Multiple drone shows and the display of innovative aviation technologies were part of the event.

'One Vehicle, One FASTag'

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced the '**One Vehicle, One FASTag**' initiative.
- This strategic measure aims to **curb the prevalent practice** of using a single FASTag for multiple vehicles or linking multiple FASTags to a specific vehicle.
- The 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative is a proactive step taken by NHAI to address **concerns related to the misuse of FASTags**.



- Reports have surfaced indicating instances where multiple FASTags were issued for a single vehicle, leading to misuse and evasion of toll charges.
- This initiative seeks to promote a one-to-one correspondence between vehicles and FASTags, ensuring **transparency and accountability** in toll collection.
- NHAI is actively promoting the completion of the '**Know Your Customer**' (KYC) process for the latest FASTag. Users are urged to update their KYC details in adherence to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.

- FASTags with valid balances but incomplete KYC details will **face deactivation or blacklisting by banks** after January 31, 2024. To avoid any inconvenience, users must ensure the timely completion of KYC for their latest FASTag.
- Compliance with the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' principle is paramount. Users are required to discard all previously issued FASTags through their respective banks.
- After January 31, 2024, only the latest FASTag account will remain active, as previous tags are slated for deactivation or blacklisting.
- This measure ensures that the ETC system operates seamlessly with the most up-to-date information and minimizes the chances of misuse.

Farsi As India's New Classical Language

- Government of India, **under the New Education Policy**, has decided to include **Farsi (Persian)** as one of the **classical languages** of India.
- This announcement was made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a two-day visit to Iran, highlighting the cultural, literary, and linguistic connections between Iran and India.
- **Farsi, also known as Persian, is an Indo-Iranian language** belonging to the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian languages.
- It has a rich historical and cultural significance, not only in Iran but also in the broader Persian-speaking world.



- The language is known for its extensive literary heritage, with poets like Rumi and Hafez making significant contributions to Persian literature.
- Before Farsi's inclusion, India recognized **six languages as classical**: Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).
- The criteria for declaring a language as 'Classical' include a recorded history of **1500-2000 years**, a valuable heritage of ancient literature, an original literary tradition, and distinctness from modern forms or offshoots.

Persian Alphabet										
ذ	د	خ	ح	چ	ج	ث	ت	پ	ب	ا
z	d	kh	h	ch	j	s	t	p	b	-
[z]	[d]	[x]	[h, Ø]	[tʃ]	[dʒ]	[s]	[t]	[p]	[b]	[ʔ, ʌ] [æ, Ø]
غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش	س	ژ	ز	ر
gh	'	z	t	z	s	ʃ	s	zh	z	r
[ɣ]	[ʔ, Ø]	[z]	[t]	[z]	[s]	[ʃ]	[s]	[ʒ]	[z]	[r]
[q, ɟ, x]										
ی	ه	و	ن	م	ل	گ	ک	ق	ف	
y	h	w	n	m	l	g	k	q	f	
[j, i, e]	[h, Ø]	[v, u]	[n]	[m]	[l]	[g]	[k]	[q, ɟ]	[f]	
	[ɛ, æ]	[o, ow]								
Persian Numbers										
۱	۲	۳	۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	

- The recognition as a **classical language brings several benefits**, such as international awards for scholars, the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages, and the creation of Professional Chairs for Classical Languages in Central Universities.
- The **Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution** lists the **official languages** of the Republic of India, **including 22 languages**.
- This schedule is pivotal for representation on the Official Languages Commission and enriches Hindi and English, the official languages of the Union.
- The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, governed by **Articles 344(1)** and 351, lists the official languages of India, currently numbering 22. This schedule initially included **14 languages in 1950**, with gradual additions over the years, reflecting India's linguistic diversity and cultural richness.

Artificial Reefs In Vizhinjam

- In a significant move **to boost fish production** and promote sustainable fishing, Union Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala inaugurated an **artificial reef project** in **Vizhinjam, Kerala**.
- This initiative aims to **double the income of fishermen** by enhancing fish stocks and contributing to the economic well-being of the local fishing community.
- The **Kerala State Coastal Development Corporation**, with technical assistance from the **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)**, is overseeing the project.



- The project will deploy 6,300 artificial reef units across 42 fishing villages from Pozhiyoor to Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram district.
- The **artificial reefs include 150 modules** for each location in three designs: triangular, flower-shaped, and tubular. The modules are positioned using GPS technology and deposited on the seabed at a depth of 12 to 15 meters.

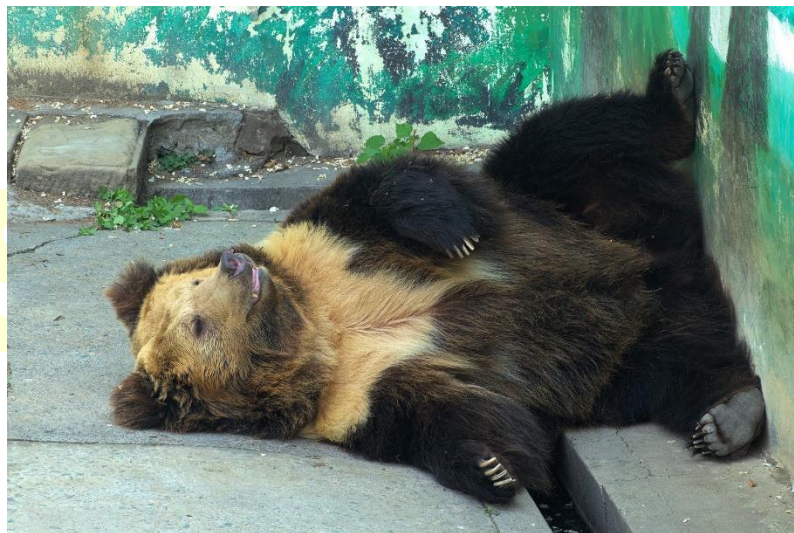


- The total cost of the project is **₹13.02 crore** under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

- The project promotes sustainable fishing practices and fosters a thriving marine ecosystem. The **artificial reefs will provide habitats for various fish species**, contributing to marine biodiversity.

First Ever Sighting Of A Rare Tibetan Brown Bear

- First-ever confirmed sighting of the **rare Tibetan Brown Bear** (scientific name: *Ursus arctos pruinosus*) was recorded in the high altitudes of **North Sikkim**.
- This discovery, made by the joint efforts of the **Sikkim Forest Department** and **WWF-India**, marks a significant addition to the country's mammal diversity and highlights the ecological richness of the region.
- The bear was spotted in the Mangan district of North Sikkim, a region known for its pristine landscapes and rich biodiversity.



- Camera traps installed in the area captured images of the bear in December 2023, revealing its characteristic yellowish scarf-like collar that broadens from the shoulders to the chest.
- This sighting is a groundbreaking revelation for wildlife enthusiasts and conservationists, as it adds a new subspecies to India's mammalian portfolio and emphasizes the importance of preserving the state's precious wildlife.
- The Tibetan Brown Bear, also known as the **Tibetan Blue Bear**, is an omnivore with a diet generally consisting of marmots and alpine vegetation.
- It is distinct from the more commonly found **Himalayan Black Bear** in terms of appearance, habitat, and behavior.



- This rare bear inhabits **high-altitude alpine forests**, meadows, and steppes above 4000 meters and is very shy of human contact, making it seldom observed in the wild.
- It is uniquely adapted to the harsh conditions of the Tibetan Plateau and is one of the rarest subspecies of bears in the world. The elusive nature of this creature has inspired folklore, such as the **Yeti legends**, across the Himalayas.
- It has been a subject of intrigue among the Dokpas, the nomadic herders from the high-altitude areas of the **Tso Lhamo plateau** and Muguthang.
- The Tibetan Brown Bear is accorded the highest protection status under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, and is listed in Appendix I of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** as a protected species.

Advanced Distress Alert Transmitter

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has been at the forefront of technological innovation, contributing significantly to various fields.
- One such noteworthy development is the second-generation '**Distress Alert Transmitter**' (DAT-SG), a remarkable advancement in satellite communication and navigation capabilities.
- Operational since **2010**, the **DAT-SG** has become a crucial tool for fishermen at sea, allowing them to send emergency messages and receive real-time acknowledgments.
- The journey of the Distress Alert Transmitter began with its initial version in 2010.



- Designed to facilitate communication during emergencies at sea, the DAT quickly became an integral part of maritime safety.
- With over **20,000 units currently** in use, it has proven to be a reliable and effective tool for fishermen in distress.
- The DAT-SG incorporates advanced satellite communication and navigation features, leveraging the latest technological developments.
- Through a communication satellite, fishermen can send distress signals from their boats, initiating a real-time connection with a central control station – the **Indian Mission Control Centre (INMCC)**.



- One of the **key enhancements** in DAT-SG is the ability to provide real-time acknowledgments to fishermen activating distress alerts.
- This feature not only confirms **the receipt of the emergency** message but also reassures the fishermen that their distress signals have been received and are being addressed.
- When distress signals reach the **INMCC**, the alert signals are decoded to determine the identity and precise location of the fishing boat.
- This crucial information is then forwarded to **Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCCs)** under the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

Khadi Sanatan Vastra

- The **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has recently unveiled a new clothing range called **'Sanatan Khadi Vastra'** at its flagship store in Connaught Place, New Delhi.
- This launch aligns with the broader vision of promoting Khadi as a symbol of **national pride and sustainable fashion**.



- The design for the **'Sanatan Vastra'** was prepared at the Khadi Center of Excellence (COEK) located at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).
- The manufacturing of Khadi does not involve any mechanical or chemical processes, making Sanatan textiles unique as they are prepared as per traditional Indian methods.
- The **'Sanatan Vastra'** represents a blend of India's rich heritage and modern fashion trends, aiming to attract the youth to Swadeshi products. Economic Impact: The launch is not just about fashion but also about improving the livelihoods of millions of artisans in rural India, contributing to the economic empowerment of these communities.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Asia's Largest Aviation Expo Wings India Is Inaugurated In

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Kolkata
- C. New Delhi
- D. Bangalore

ANSWER: A

2. Recently Artificial Reef Project Launched In

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Gujrat
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: B

3. Rare Tibetan Brown Bear Is Spotted In

- A. Nepal
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: D

4. Advanced Distress Alert Transmitter For Fisherman Is Made By

- A. NASA
- B. ISRO
- C. JAXA
- D. ESA

ANSWER: B

5. Which Indian States Are Associated With Traditional Folk Performance, Gangireddu Melam

- A. Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
- B. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra and Punjab
- D. Tamil Nadu and Kerala

ANSWER: B

6. Which Indian State Launched 'Paying Guest' Scheme To Boost Tourism Experiences

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

ANSWER: A

7. Which Country Scientists Researched Impact Of Wind Turbines On The Activity Of Forest Bats

- A. Germany
- B. United States
- C. Japan
- D. China

ANSWER: A

8. Acronym For NASA's Robotic Lunar Rover Set To Explore Moon's South Pole

- A. LUMAR
- B. VIPER
- C. SOLARIS
- D. MOONEX

ANSWER: B

9. In Which Sport Did Rhythm Sangwan Secure India's 16th Quota Place For The 2024 Paris Olympics

- A. Archery
- B. Swimming
- C. Gymnastics
- D. Shooting

ANSWER: D

10. Which Ministry Is Responsible For Zero Defect Zero Effect Scheme

- A. Ministry of MSME
- B. Ministry of Environment
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Ministry of Finance

ANSWER: A

11. Where Was 'Indus Food 2024' Inaugurated By Union Minister Piyush Goyal

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Noida

ANSWER: D

12. Which Country Signed An Agreement For Joint Development Of A Small Satellite Set To Be Launched By ISRO

- A. Maldives
- B. Seychelles
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Mauritius

ANSWER: D

13. Where Did Union Minister Gadkari Launch 12 National Highway Projects Totalling 105 Km & Worth ₹1464 Crore In January 2024

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Karnataka
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: A

14. In Which State Is The Paradip Fishing Harbour Situated

- A. Odisha
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Gujarat
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

15. In Which Indian State Will Wings India 2024, Country's Most Significant Civil Aviation Event, Be Held

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Delhi
- C. Telangana
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: C

16. Which Financial Institution Launched India's First Growth Liquid Exchange Traded Fund

- A. Groww
- B. Zerodha Fund House
- C. HDFC Mutual Fund
- D. ICICI Prudential

ANSWER: B

17. In The Recent Allocation Of ₹540 Crore For Pucca Homes Under PMAY-G, Who Is Primary Beneficiary Group

- A. Tribal Group
- B. Urban Dwellers
- C. Farmers
- D. Government Employees

ANSWER: A

18. The 1st Sports Event To Offer Equal Prize Money To Men & Women

- A. BWF world championship
- B. US Open
- C. Australia Open
- D. NBA world championship

ANSWER: B

19. In Which Country Is Location Of Thirty Meter Telescope Project

- A. USA
- B. Japan
- C. China
- D. India

ANSWER: A

20. First Bowler To Take 150 Wickets In T20 Internationals

- A. Trent Boult
- B. Tim Southee
- C. Mitchell Starc
- D. Jasprit Bumrah

ANSWER: B