

Daily Current Affairs

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Padma Awards for year 2024

- The government has announced the **Padma Awards for the year 2024**.
- The list comprises **five Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 110 Padma Shri Awards**.
- **Thirty of the awardees are women** and the list also includes eight persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and nine Posthumous awardees.
- **Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu**, actor K Chiranjeevi, actress Vyjayantimala Bali, and Bharat Natyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam have been selected for Padma Vibhushan.
- **Social activist Bindeshwar Pathak** has been awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.
- The **first women Supreme Court Judge** M Fathima Beevi and Tamil actor Vijaykanth have been awarded Padma Bhushan posthumously. Bollywood actor Mithun Chakraborty, singer Usha Uthup, industrialist Sitaram Jindal, composer Pyarelal Sharma, and Foxconn Chairman Young Liu are among those who will be given Padma Bhushan. Among the Padma awardees, 34 are unsung heroes.
- They include **India's first woman elephant mahout Parbati Baruah**, tribal environmentalist Chami Murmu and social worker Sangthankima. Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country is conferred in three categories - Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- The Awards are given in various disciplines and fields of activities, including art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature, and education. **'Padma Vibhushan'** is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, **'Padma Bhushan'** for distinguished service of high order, and **'Padma Shri'** for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

Padma Bhushan Awards

S.No.	Awardee Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Ms. M Fathima Beevi	Public Affairs	Kerala
2.	Shri Hormusji N Cama	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
3.	Shri Mithun Chakraborty	Art	West Bengal
4.	Shri Sitaram Jindal	Trade & Industry	Karnataka
5.	Shri Young Liu	Trade & Industry	Taiwan
6.	Shri Ashwin Balachand Mehta	Medicine	Maharashtra
7.	Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee	Public Affairs	West Bengal
8.	Shri Ram Naik	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
9.	Shri Tejas Madhusudan Patel	Medicine	Gujarat
10.	Shri Olanchery Rajagopal	Public Affairs	Kerala
11.	Shri Dattatray Ambadas Mayaloo alias Rajdutt	Art	Maharashtra
12.	Shri Togdan Rinpoche	Others – Spiritualism	Ladakh
13.	Shri Pyarelal Sharma	Art	Maharashtra
14.	Shri Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur	Medicine	Bihar
15.	Ms. Usha Uthup	Art	West Bengal
16.	Shri Vijaykanth	Art	Tamil Nadu
17.	Shri Kundan Vyas	Literature & Education – Journalism	Maharashtra

Padma Vibhushan Awards

S.No.	Awardee Name	Field	State
1.	Ms. Vyjayantimala Bali	Art	Tamil Nadu
2.	Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi	Art	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Shri M Venkaiah Naidu	Public Affairs	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Shri Bindeshwar Pathak	Social Work	Bihar
5.	Ms. Padma Subrahmanyam	Art	Tamil Nadu

Republic Day 2024: Tableaux List

- **The Republic Day Parade** at Kartavya Path in 2024 promises to be a vibrant and eclectic celebration of India's unity in diversity.
- **With 25 captivating tableaux** from 16 states and Union Territories, the parade showcases a kaleidoscope of themes ranging from education and empowerment to traditional arts and sports achievements.
- Each tableau represents the unique cultural, social, and technological facets of the participating regions, contributing to the rich tapestry of India's national identity.
- **A total of 25 splendid tableaux**, representing 16 states and Union Territories, along with nine Ministries and Departments, will grace the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path.
- **Each tableau vividly depicts themes** ranging from women empowerment to technological advancements, offering a glimpse into the multifaceted tapestry of India's identity.
- **The states and UTs set to be represented in the parade** include Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Ladakh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana.
- The **tableaux representing Ministries and Organizations in the Republic Day** parade are from the following entities:
 - **Ministry of Home Affairs**, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Ministry of Culture, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Election Commission of India, and Central Public Works Department (CPWD).
- **The selection of tableaux for the Republic Day Parade follows** a rigorous process overseen by an expert committee comprising eminent individuals from various artistic and cultural fields.
- To ensure equitable representation, the Ministry of Defence introduced a unique **three-year roll-over plan**. This plan guarantees rotational participation for all states and Union Territories, addressing concerns of non-inclusion and fostering inclusivity on the grand stage of the Republic Day Parade.

25 States' Tableaux or 'Jhakiyaan' on Republic Day 2024

State/ Ministry	Theme	Highlights
Andhra Pradesh	Revolutionizing School Education	Focus on global competitiveness in education.
Rajasthan	Women's Handicraft Industries	Showcasing Ghoomar dance, Meera Bai's statue, and traditional handicrafts.
Odisha	Women in Handicrafts and Handlooms	Emphasizing women's role in preserving and promoting traditional arts.
Haryana	Empowerment of Women	Illustrating empowerment through the 'Mera Parivar – Meri Pehchan' program.
Madhya Pradesh	Women's Integration in Development	Featuring Avani Chaturvedi, the first woman fighter pilot, and women in various sectors.
Chhattisgarh	Muria Darbar Tradition in Bastar	Highlighting tribal community decision-making and equal involvement of men and women.
Ladakh	Indian Women's Ice Hockey Team	Showcasing achievements and contributions of Ladakhi women in sports.
Manipur	Women in Socio-Economic Activities	Featuring women working with lotus stems, Ima Keithel market, and lotus silk making.
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	AI in various sectors	Illustrating the role of artificial intelligence in diverse industries.
CRPF	Women Empowerment	Central Armed Police Forces' tableaux focusing on empowering women.
IAF	Power Beyond Boundaries	Showcasing major assets of the Indian Air Force, including recent inductions

BharatGPT

- **CoRover.ai**, a leading player in the **Conversational AI space**, has recently introduced **BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM)**.
- This groundbreaking development aims to **revolutionize AI conversations** across 22 Indian languages, addressing the language diversity challenges prevalent in the country.
- Positioned as an **Indigenous Generative AI platform**, BharatGPT integrates seamlessly with **both voice and text modalities**, offering a unique solution to the complexities of linguistic diversity.



- One of the notable achievements of BharatGPT is its extensive language integration. The model proudly supports **voice modality in over 12 Indian languages** and **text modality in a whopping 22 languages**.
- This impressive feat has been made possible through a strategic collaboration with the **National Hub of Language Technology (NHLT)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's National Language Translation Mission (NLTM)**.
- Amitabh Nag, CEO of BHASHNI, expressed enthusiasm about the scalability and creative use cases demonstrated in collaboration with CoRover. Nag emphasized the pivotal role of language technology breakthroughs, such as BharatGPT, powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML).
- **CoRover.ai, known for providing AI Virtual Assistants** to prominent organizations like IRCTC, LIC, IGL, and NPCI, has seamlessly integrated BharatGPT into its existing platforms.



- This integration enhances the capabilities of the CoRover Conversational AI platform, allowing developers and business users to effortlessly create text and voice-enabled multilingual virtual assistants.
- The **CoRover Conversational AI platform** comes equipped with several notable features, including data sovereignty, tight integrability with enterprise-wide automation applications, and real-time transaction APIs through the API sandbox.
- Additionally, **the platform supports the integration of payment** gateways and Aadhar-based authentication for KYC, making it a comprehensive solution for diverse business needs.
- The platform's components encompass dialogue/conversational management, real-time analytics, speech to text, text to speech, sentiment analysis, and more. This comprehensive suite of components ensures a robust and versatile solution for organizations seeking to enhance their conversational AI capabilities.

Global Table Tennis Title

- Indian table tennis player **Sreeja Akula** achieved a significant milestone in her career by securing her maiden international title at the **WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 in Texas, USA**.
- The 25-year-old athlete displayed exceptional skill and determination in the women's singles event, culminating in a remarkable victory.



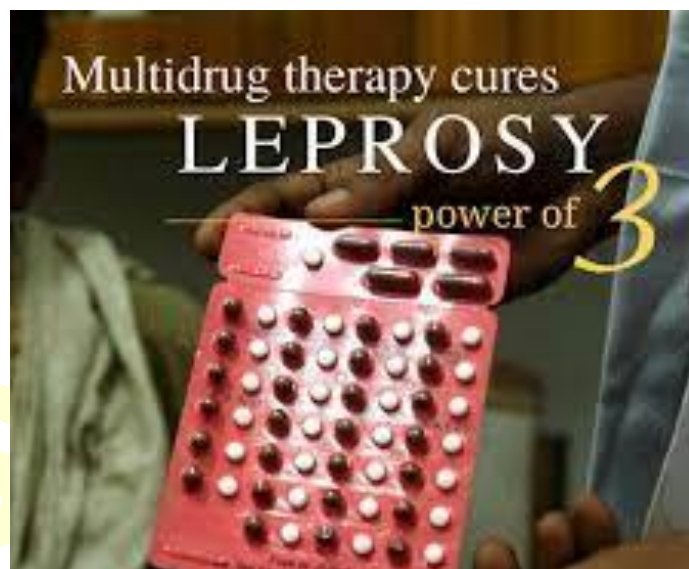
- Sreeja Akula faced a formidable opponent in the final, going up against world No. 46 Lily Zhang of the USA, a three-time Olympian.
- The **WTT Feeder Series serves** as a vital platform for lower-ranked and grassroots players to compete on the **international stage regularly**.
- Positioned below the Contender, Champions, Grand Smashes, and Cup Finals events, this series provides valuable exposure and opportunities for emerging talents. Sreeja Akula's triumph at the WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 highlights the significance of such platforms in nurturing and showcasing table tennis talent.

New 3 Drug Regimen For Leprosy Approved

- The **Central government** has approved a **new three-drug treatment** regimen for leprosy patients, aiming to stop transmission of the disease in India by 2027.
- The **National Leprosy Eradication Programme** is taking steps to introduce this new regimen consisting of **dapsone, rifampicin and clofazimine**.



- The new regimen will be implemented for all PB leprosy patients from April 1, 2025 **instead of the current two-drug regimen** given for 6 months.
- The WHO has agreed to supply the revised drugs and states have been asked to send drug requisitions 12 months in advance. The aim is to eradicate leprosy in India by 2027, **three years before the UN's Sustainable Development Goals** target.
- The introduction of this globally accepted treatment protocol is a significant step towards stopping leprosy transmission across India.



- **Leprosy is an infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae** bacteria which affects the skin and nerves. It can cause permanent disability if left untreated. Transmission occurs through droplets from nose and mouth during close contact with untreated patients.
- It is curable with **Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT)**. There are two classifications – **PB with fewer visible bacteria and no signs of advanced disease. MB has visible bacteria and advanced disease signs.**
- The new regimen will be given to **PB patients for 6 months** and **MB patients for 12 months.**
- WHO provides **MDT free of cost to patients globally.** This uniform regimen makes treatment administration easier across leprosy programmes. Experts say two-drug regimen has adequate efficacy for PB leprosy and low relapse rates, so the third drug may not be strictly needed.
- **Clofazimine has disconcerting side effects like skin discoloration.** But the government aims to fully align with global treatment guidelines.

Cabinet Approves Two Coal Gasification Plants

- The Government has approved that **Coal India Limited (CIL)** will set up **two Coal Gasification Plants** with a view to achieve the target of 100 MT coal gasification by the year 2030 and to fulfil India's dual objectives of self-reliance and energy independence.
- Briefing media after the Union Cabinet meeting, Union Minister for Coal Pralhad Joshi said that total investment in the joint venture of **CIL and GAIL** for the proposed Coal-to-Synthetic Natural Gas at Sonepur Bazari Area of Eastern Coalfields Limited in **West Bengal** will be of 13 thousand 52 crore rupees.



- Mr Joshi informed that for **CIL and BHEL Joint Venture** for the proposed Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Jharsuguda district of Odisha will be 11 thousand 782 crore rupees.
- The **Centre has also approved a proposal** for equity investment for setting up of Coal-to-Synthetic Natural Gas Project through a Joint venture of Coal India Limited - CIL and Gas Authority of India Limited- GAIL.
- It has also approved for setting up of the **Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project** through a Joint venture of CIL and Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited- BHEL.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Shri Sitaram Jindal Got Padam Bhushan For

- A. Music
- B. Trade & Industry
- C. Public Affairs
- D. Medicine

ANSWER: B

2. Ms. Fathima Biwi Got Padam Vibhushan For

- A. Music
- B. Trade & Industry
- C. Public Affairs
- D. Medicine

ANSWER: C

3. Theme Of Chhattisgarh Tableaux

- A. Women's Handicraft
- B. Muria Darbar In Bastar
- C. Women Empowerment
- D. Power Beyond Boundaries

ANSWER: B

4. What Is 'Andrographis Theniensis', Recently Seen In The News

- A. Plant
- B. Flower
- C. Bacteria
- D. Fungus

ANSWER: A

5. Which Global Financial Institution Became Anchor Investor In India's Largest Renewable Energy Infrastructure Investment Trust

- A. European Investment Bank
- B. World Bank
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

ANSWER: D

6. Which Institution Selected For Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 In The Institutional Category

- A. 60 Parachute field hospital, UP
- B. 30 Parachute field hospital, UP
- C. KJMU, Lucknow
- D. AIIMS, Delhi

ANSWER: A

7. What Organization Recently Removed Aadhaar From List Of Acceptable Documents For Proof Of Date Of Birth

- A. Employee's Provident Fund Organization
- B. National Identification Bureau of India
- C. Social Security and Pension Organization
- D. Labour Welfare Board

ANSWER: A

8. Global 500 IT Services Ranking By Brand Finance, Which Company Is Rated As 2nd Most Valuable IT Services Brand In World

- A. Tata Consultancy Services
- B. IBM
- C. Accenture
- D. Infosys

ANSWER: A

9. Which City Recently Became 1st In India To Develop 3D Urban Spatial Digital Twin

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. New Delhi
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Varanasi

ANSWER: D

10. With Which Group Did Foxconn Forge A Partnership To Establish A Chip Packaging And Testing Facility In India

- A. Silicon Craft Corporation
- B. HCL Group
- C. Tata Group
- D. Reliance Industries

ANSWER: B

11. Name Of The Mobile Application Launched For Transparent Monitoring Of MPLADS Fund Flow

- A. e- Pragati
- B. e- Myscheme
- C. e- taal
- D. e- sakshi

ANSWER: D

12. Company Launched 'ALT ID' Solution For Guest Checkout Transactions

- A. Paytm
- B. PhonePe
- C. Mastercard
- D. VISA

ANSWER:C

13. Who Won Individual Gold Medal In Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol Event At 2024 Asian Shooting Championship In Jakarta

- A. Muad Al Balushi
- B. Anang Yulianto
- C. Pankaj Yadav
- D. Yogesh Singh

ANSWER: D

14. In Which City Was 12th General Assembly Of Asian Buddhist Conference For Peace Inaugurated

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

ANSWER: C

15. Which Indian State Is Hosting 9th Edition Of The Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Kerala
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: B

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

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

ANSWER: A

17. In Which City Is World's Tallest Statue Of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Named 'Statue Of Social Justice,' Set To Be Unveiled

- A. Vijayawada
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Chennai
- D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: A

18. Which Country Recently Conducted A Test Of Its Underwater Nuclear Weapons System

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. Iran
- D. North Korea

ANSWER: D

19. Who Has Been Appointed As The Director General Of Sashastra Seema Bal

- A. Imtiaz Ismail Parray
- B. V.K. Singh
- C. Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- D. Archana Ramasundram

ANSWER: C

20. Rio Carnival Is An Annual Festival Observed In Which Country

- A. Argentina
- B. Brazil
- C. Canada
- D. France

ANSWER: B