

Daily Current Affairs

24 January 2024

Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana

- In a significant move towards sustainable energy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the '**Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana**,' targeting the installation of **rooftop solar panels on one crore households**.
- The announcement was made on the auspicious occasion of the consecration of life in Ayodhya, reflecting the government's commitment to fostering self-reliance in energy.
- PM Modi emphasized the **importance of harnessing solar power to empower households economically and reduce electricity bills**.



- The scheme aims to make **India self-reliant in energy** by promoting rooftop solar installations.
- The initiative focuses on providing electricity to low and middle-income individuals through solar rooftop installations. Additionally, households can generate surplus electricity, contributing to additional income.
- The Prime Minister directed the initiation of a nationwide campaign to encourage residential consumers to adopt rooftop solar systems on a large scale. This push **aims to raise awareness and promote widespread adoption**.

- The government's existing National Rooftop Solar Scheme, **providing 40% financial assistance** for the capital cost of solar rooftop projects, complements the newly announced initiative.

Masjid Muhammed Bin Abdullah Mosque

- **Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF)** has announced the commencement of the construction of a **grand mosque in Ayodhya**, starting this May.
- The mosque, named "**Masjid Muhammed bin Abdullah**" after Prophet Muhammad, aims to foster unity and goodwill among people, transcending religious differences.
- The initiative comes on the same day as Prime Minister Narendra Modi presides over the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple. The senior official of the IICF, Haji Arfat Shaikh, revealed that the construction is expected to span three to four years.



- The ambitious project is set to **redefine the cityscape of Ayodhya and serve as a symbol of communal harmony.**
- To finance the construction, the IICF is considering the establishment of a **crowdfunding website.**
- This approach reflects a broader outreach strategy, enabling individuals from diverse backgrounds to contribute to the **creation of a shared cultural space.**

Shaikh emphasized the foundation's commitment to eradicating enmity and promoting love among people.

- Regardless of individual beliefs regarding the Supreme Court judgment on the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992, the **IICF aims to unite communities** through the construction of "Masjid Muhammed bin Abdullah." The Supreme Court of India, in 2019, declared the demolition of the Babri Masjid as unlawful.
- While acknowledging the presence of a non-Islamic structure beneath the mosque, the court ruled for the construction of a temple on the disputed land and allocated a separate parcel of land for the Muslim community to build a mosque.

Kachchhi Kharek Gem

- **Kachchhi Kharek**, the **indigenous date variety** from the arid region of **Kutch in Gujarat**, has recently been awarded the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- This accolade recognizes Kachchhi Kharek as **the second fruit from Gujarat**, after the **Gir Kesar mango**, to be distinguished with such an honour.
- The GI tag is a form of intellectual property that identifies a product as originating from a specific geographic location.



- It is characterized by qualities, reputation, or attributes unique to that area. This tag **not only protects and promotes products** associated with a particular region but also prevents unauthorized use of the name.
- Receiving a GI tag is a significant **milestone for the farmers in Kutch**, as it provides their indigenous date variety with a distinct identity.

- This recognition is expected to open new avenues for marketing and processing, potentially leading to better pricing and encouraging higher export prices, thus benefitting the local farmers.
- Dates in **Kachchh** have a **history of 400-500 years**. It is believed that the date palm groves in the region developed from seeds brought by settlers who visited the **Middle East for Haj and trade**. The groves might also have contributions from Arab gardeners employed in the palaces of Kachchh's former rulers.

First Indian Bank On RXIL's ITFS Platform

- **YES BANK** has become the inaugural Indian bank to execute an export finance transaction on **RXIL Global IFSC Limited's International Trade Financing Services Platform (ITFS)**.
- The collaboration marks a significant stride in **digitization and cross-border business for YES BANK**.



- The platform, registered under **the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**, offers a digital avenue for arranging credit through Factoring, Forfaiting, and other trade financing services at competitive rates with swift processing.
- This historic transaction is the **first of its kind on the ITFS platform** in conjunction with any bank in India.
- YES BANK's commitment to digitalization and cross-border business. Facilitating credit for exporters and importers globally through a digital platform. Leveraging Factoring, Forfaiting, and other trade financing services.

Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur

- Government of India has announced that former **Bihar Chief Minister, Karpoori Thakur, will be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna**, the nation's highest civilian award. This recognition is a significant acknowledgement of Thakur's contributions to Indian politics and social reform.
- Karpoori Thakur, born in **January 1924**, was a prominent figure in Bihar's political landscape.



- Known for his deep connection with the backward classes, Thakur's political journey was marked by his steadfast commitment to social justice. He served as **Bihar's Chief Minister twice**, first from December 1970 to June 1971 and again from December 1977 to April 1979.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed happiness on Government's decision to confer the Bharat Ratna on the **beacon of social justice, the great Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur** and that too at a time his his **birth centenary is being celebrated**.
- The Prime Minister said, this prestigious recognition is a testament to Karpoori Thakur's enduring efforts as a champion for the marginalized and a stalwart of equality and empowerment.
- Mr Modi said, his **unwavering commitment to uplift the downtrodden and visionary leadership** have left an indelible mark on India's socio-political fabric. He said , this award not only honours Karpoori Thakur's remarkable contributions but also inspires us to continue his **mission of creating a more just and equitable society**.

UP Gaurav Samman

- **Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh** has announced the prestigious '**UP Gaurav Samman**' award for two distinguished personalities – eminent **scientist Dr. Ritu and renowned entrepreneur Naveen**. This award highlights the government's commitment to acknowledging **excellence and inspiring future generations**.
- **Dr. Ritu**, whose groundbreaking work in the field of science has **gained national and international recognition**, is set to receive this honor for her significant contributions to scientific research and innovation. With a career spanning several years, Dr. Ritu has been at the forefront of scientific discovery, specializing in areas that have had a profound impact on society.



- Dr. Ritu's research has led to numerous advancements in her field, paving the way for **new technologies and solutions to complex problems**. Her dedication to science and her role as a mentor to upcoming scientists have made her a role model in the scientific community.
- **Naveen, a name synonymous with entrepreneurial success**, has transformed the landscape of business with his innovative ideas and leadership skills. Starting from humble beginnings, Naveen has built a business empire that not only generates substantial economic value but also creates numerous job opportunities.
- Naveen's ventures have been instrumental in promoting innovation, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, and contributing significantly to the state's economy. His ability to identify market needs and **introduce groundbreaking products and services** has made him a revered figure in the business world.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Kachchhi Kharek Got GI Tag Is From Which State

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Kerala
- D. Chhattisgarh

ANSWER: B

2. Masjid Muhammed Bin Abdullah Mosque Built In

- A. UP
- B. Telangana
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

3. UP Gaurav Samman 2024 Awarded To

- A. Shreya Mittal
- B. Dinesh Kumar
- C. Soma Sankara
- D. Dr. Ritu

ANSWER: D

4. Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Seen In News Serves As Chief Minister

- A. Bihar
- B. Kerala
- C. UP
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A

5. Which Union Ministry Is Associated With Serious Fraud Investigation Office

- A. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Commerce & Industry

ANSWER: A

6. Who Is The Author Of Tamil Novel Naanthaan Aurangzeb

- A. Charu Nivedita
- B. Amitav Ghosh
- C. Nandini Krishnan
- D. Kiran Desai

ANSWER: A

7. Which Country Recently Signed An Agreement With The United States To Purchase Tomahawk Missiles

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

ANSWER: D

8. Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary Seen In News, Is Located In Which State

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Haryana
- C. Punjab
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: B

9. Primary Objective Of Strategic Interventions For Green Hydrogen Transition Programme

- A. Promoting renewable energy sources
- B. Green hydrogen production
- C. Supporting nuclear energy initiatives
- D. Advancing carbon capture technologies

ANSWER: B

10. IUCN Status Of 'Great Indian Bustard'

- A. Critically endangered
- B. Endangered
- C. Vulnerable
- D. Least concern

ANSWER: A

11. Bureau Of Police Research And Development Comes Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

ANSWER: A

12. Which One Of Following Is The Highest Point Of The Aravalli Range

- A. Guru Shikhar
- B. Jharol
- C. Achalgarh
- D. Gogunda

ANSWER: A

13. Where Was India's First Graphene Centre And Centre Of Excellence In IoT Sensors Inaugurated

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Kerala
- D. Delhi

ANSWER: C

14. In Which Indian State Did The Traditional Buffalo Fights, Known As Moh- Juj Make A Comeback After A Hiatus Of Nine Years

- A. Karnataka
- B. Punjab
- C. Odisha
- D. Assam

ANSWER: D

15. Who Recently Became First Indian Since 1989 To Defeat A Seeded Player At A Grand Slam

- A. Sumit Nagal
- B. Ramesh Krishnan
- C. Mukund Sasikumar
- D. Manish Suresh kumar

ANSWER: A

16. Bank Launched 'Money2india' To Facilitate 24/7 Fund Transfers To India

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. Axis Bank
- C. State Bank of India
- D. ICICI Bank

ANSWER: D

17. Which Company Claimed Top Spot As The Best Selling Smartphone Series, Surpassing Samsung For First Time Since 2010

- A. Samsung
- B. Apple
- C. Xiaomi
- D. Vivo

ANSWER: B

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. Which State In India Celebrates Kokborok Day As A Significant Cultural Event

- A. Tripura
- B. Assam
- C. Manipur
- D. Mizoram

ANSWER: A

20. The Mahzarnama Was Promulgated By Emperor Akbar In

- A. 1560 A.D.
- B. 1572 A.D.
- C. 1576 A.D.
- D. 1579 A.D.

ANSWER: A