

# Daily Current Affairs

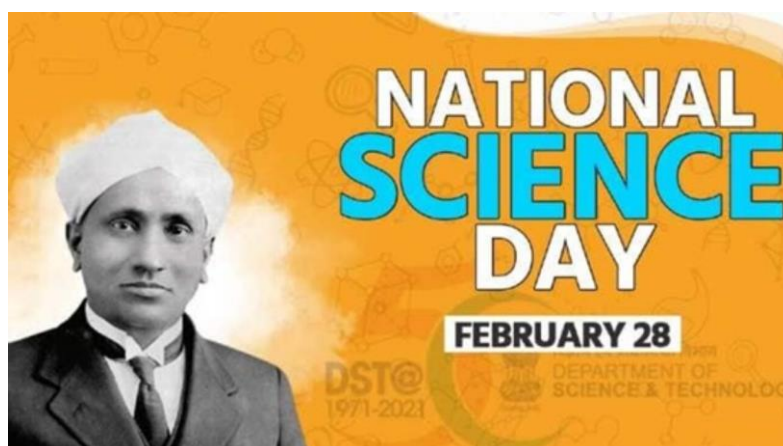
## 07 February 2024

### National Science Day 2024

- Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh today released the theme for the "**National Science Day 2024**", titled "**Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat**" in New Delhi.



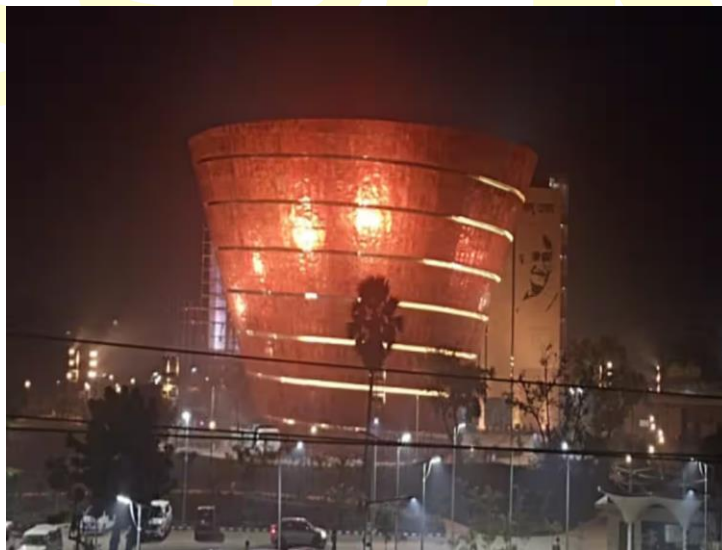
- The theme reflects a strategic focus on promoting public appreciation for **Science, Technology and Innovation** and accomplishments of Indian scientists to address challenges through home-grown technologies for over-all well-being.
- The National Science Day is celebrated every year on **28 February** to commemorate the **discovery of the 'Raman Effect'**.
- The Government designated **28th February as National Science Day in 1986**.
- On this day, **Sir C.V. Raman** announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' for which he was awarded the **Nobel Prize in 1930**.



- The theme launch will trigger celebrations of National Science Day specially in schools and colleges throughout the country.
- India is now ready to match the global stride in Quantum Technology. On this occasion, the Secretary of **Department of Science and Technology** Professor Abhay Karandikar said that as we embark on the celebration of National Science Day and move ahead with the launch of the theme for 2024, it is clearly evident that our scientific endeavours have the power to shape not only the future of our nation but also contribute significantly towards global advancement.


## Bapu Tower

- In the heart of **Patna, Bihar**, a **new landmark** has emerged as a monumental tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, fondly known as the **Father of the Nation**.
- The Bapu Tower, located in Gardanibagh, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.
- This tower, the first of its kind in the country dedicated to Gandhi, has been completed, marking a significant milestone in the architectural and cultural landscape of Bihar.



- The Bapu Tower, **towering at a height of 120 feet** and comprising six stories, is the realization of a dream project envisioned by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- The tower is not just an architectural marvel but also a hub for learning and reflection on Gandhi's life and contributions to India's freedom struggle and his universal principles of peace, non-violence, and harmony.

- The structure, designed to facilitate an immersive journey through Gandhi’s history, includes both circular and rectangular buildings that guide tourists through an engaging narrative of Bapu’s life and legacy.
- An exhibition relating to the history of Gandhiji and Bihar, organized within the tower, has been set up at a **cost of about Rs 45 crore**.
- A striking feature of the **Bapu Tower is its exterior copper layer**, weighing 42 thousand kg, which adorns the circular building’s outer wall.
- This copper facade undergoes a beautiful transformation into rainbow colours due to the **reaction of oxygen and nitrogen**, enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the tower.
- Additionally, the tower’s construction has embraced green technology, reflecting high standards of environmental management and sustainable development.

<p><b>Bapu Tower:</b> G+6 buildings (circular and rectangular)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Area:</b> 7 acres</p> <hr/> <p><b>Administrative approval:</b> ₹84.49 crore</p> <hr/> <p><b>Target:</b> To be completed by this year-end</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A 'TOWERING' TOWER IN CITY</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Circular Structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>120 FEET TALL</b></li> <li>● Will have exhibits related to Mahatma Gandhi</li> <li>● <b>Exhibits will be in different forms, 2D, 3D, audio-visual and documentaies</b></li> <li>● Orientation hall for 60 people on the ground floor</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rectangular Structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Souvenir shop and cafeteria on ground floor</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conference hall of 200 capacity on first floor</li> <li>● <b>Administrative building on second floor</b></li> </ul>

## Asset Triple A Awards 2024

- **REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise** under the **Ministry of Power** and a leading NBFC, has been honored with the prestigious Best Green Bond – Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance.
- This recognition underscores REC’s commitment to Sustainable Finance and Environmental Sustainability.



- In April 2023, REC issued USD Green Bonds worth **\$750 million**, marking a **milestone** as the first from India post its assumption of G20 Presidency.
- This issuance, the largest Senior **Green Bond Tranche** by a South or South-East Asian issuer, received widespread acclaim.
- Priced at a minimum new issue premium of **7.5 bps**, **REC's USD Green Bonds** were well received by investors, showcasing REC's prowess in Financing Solutions and Climate Change Mitigation.



- Highlighted REC's recent achievement in **pricing Euro-Yen Green bonds**, further demonstrating its leadership in Infrastructure Financing and Renewable Energy.
- The Asset Triple A Awards are a renowned acknowledgment of organizations excelling in their respective industries.

## BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships

- Sports Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated the **first-ever BIMSTEC Aquatic Championship** in New Delhi.
- The championship features the **seven BIMSTEC member nations** from South and Southeast Asia competing in distinct aquatic events.



- Speaking at the event, Mr Thakur said that the sports meet serves as a platform for shared prosperity, fairness, and mutual respect for the BIMSTEC nations.
- He added that the sports of **swimming, diving, and water polo** were chosen to signify the endurance, strength, collaboration, cooperation, and cultural richness of BIMSTEC.

## BIMSTEC

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical & Economic Cooperation



Bangladesh



Sri Lanka



India



Nepal



Bhutan



Thailand



Myanmar

- The Minister urged the participants to showcase excellence and engage with the cultures of the participating nations.

- The **BIMSTEC Aquatic Championship 2024** is a six-day sporting event with over 400 sportspersons and officials from its member nations from the Bay of Bengal region. The BIMSTEC consists of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

## ULLAS Mela in New Delhi

- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** said that the strongest pillar of Viksit Bharat is **ULLAS**, and only this scheme will bring Ullas (happiness) in the country.
- Addressing the inaugural session of **ULLAS Mela in New Delhi**, Mr Pradhan added that the government aims to increase the literacy rate in the country to **100 percent** by the next census.



- Union Minister said that the country is witnessing **digital literacy** but there is twenty percent of the population who are not connected to formal institutional education.
- This scheme, the nation needs to make such people literate in their local language. The scheme ULLAS is **Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society**, upholding the motto "**Jan-Jan Sakshar**".
- The two-day ULLAS mela **aims to showcase various National and State level activities** under ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.
- Seven hundred participants from various States and UTs along with more than 100 dignitaries from the **Ministry of Education**, and various organizations are taking part in the event.
- The scheme, in line **with NEP 2020**, targets adults aged 15 and above, who could not go to school or attain formal education.

## Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill

- The Rajya Sabha has passed the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024**.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Act **establishes the central and state pollution control** boards to prevent and control water pollution.
- The Bill decriminalizes several violations and imposes penalties. It will **initially apply to** Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the Union Territories.



- Under the act, the chairman of a **State Pollution Control Board** is nominated by the state government.
- The Bill imposes a penalty between **ten thousand rupees to 15 lakh rupees** for violation of provisions related to discharge of polluting matter in water bodies.
- Replying to the discussion Bill, Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav said, the government is committed towards water conservation.
- The amendment will **provide certain mandatory qualifications**, experience and procedure to ensure fair and transparent appointment of chairperson of the State Pollution Control Board.
- The bill is intended to address the delay in clearance for establishing industrial units and their functioning.

## Bharat Rang Mahotsav

- The prestigious **Bharat Rang Mahotsav, India's foremost theatre festival**, inaugurated its festivities in the culturally vibrant **Kachchh district of Gujarat**, heralding the onset of a lively homage to the performing arts.
- The festival kicked off in grand style with a mesmerizing rendition of **'Uttararamacharitam,' a classic masterpiece** by Bhavabhuti, directed by Dr. Chavan Pramod R. from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.



- This stirring play, presented in Gujarati, showcased the remarkable talent of NSD students. The festivities continued with the presentation of **'Golden Jubilee'** by the Jubilee Theatre Company at the iconic Town Hall in Nagar Palika.
- Meanwhile, at the Delhi Campus, Rangprayog mesmerized the audience with **'Aadi Vikramaditya,'** a compilation of tales from Sinhasana Battisi and Betaal Pachchisi, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of India.
- As **Bharat Rang Mahotsav enters its 25th year**, it stands as a testament to the diverse theatrical voices that enrich India's cultural landscape.
- **NSD introduces Rang Haat, Asia's first global theatre market**, providing a platform for artists, patrons, and supporters to collaborate and showcase their talent on an international stage.
- Bharat Rang Mahotsav continues to be a beacon of creativity and collaboration, fostering the growth of the theatrical community in India and beyond.
- As the festival unfolds across the country, **it reaffirms the transformative power** of theatre and the enduring legacy of Bharat Rang Mahotsav as a global cultural phenomenon.



## World Government Summit

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the **prestigious World Government Summit (WGS)** in Dubai on February 14.
- This marks his **second invitation to the WGS**, with the **first being in 2018**. The WGS, an annual **global gathering held in Dubai since 2013**, convenes world leaders, policymakers, and experts to tackle pressing global issues.
- Scheduled from February 12 to 14, the WGS is a cornerstone event in Dubai, attracting participants from across the globe.



- This follows **UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's** recent attendance at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in January, underscoring the growing diplomatic ties between India and the UAE.
- President Mohammed bin Zayed's acknowledgment of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit as a platform for economic growth highlights the strengthening ties between the UAE and India.



- The upcoming WGS featuring Prime Minister Modi signifies the high regard both leaders hold for each other.
- In addition to addressing the WGS, **PM Modi will speak at the Ahlan Modi event** in Abu Dhabi on February 13, celebrating the sizable Indian diaspora in the UAE.
- The UAE is **home to over 3.5 million Indians**, making it one of the largest overseas Indian communities.
- On February 14, PM Modi will inaugurate the UAE's first traditional stone temple, **the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi**, symbolizing inclusivity and tolerance. This gesture underscores the deepening cultural ties between India and the UAE.



- The visit also marks significant **progress in economic cooperation**, with discussions on the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The UAE's role as a key energy partner further strengthens bilateral ties.
- PM Modi's visit will be his seventh to the UAE since 2014, reflecting the importance both countries place on maintaining robust diplomatic relations.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Theme For National Science Day 2024**

- A. Global Science for Global Wellbeing
- B. Indigenous Technologies For Viksit Bharat
- C. 'Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future
- D. Impact on Education Skills and Work

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Bharat Rang Mahotsav Celebrates Its \_\_\_\_ Anniversary In 2024**

- A. 24<sup>th</sup>
- B. 25<sup>th</sup>
- C. 26<sup>th</sup>
- D. 27<sup>th</sup>

**ANSWER: B**

**3. ULLAS Mela Will Focus On**

- A. Literacy Rate
- B. Child Care
- C. Old Age Care
- D. Birth Rate

**ANSWER: A**

**4. How Many Times Has PM Modi Been Invited To Speak At The World Government Summit**

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

**ANSWER: B**

**5. What Is The Theme Of World Cancer Day 2024**

- A. Close the Care Gap
- B. Not Beyond Us
- C. Together let's do something
- D. We can I can

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Lake Rotorua, Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country**

- A. France
- B. New Zealand
- C. Australia
- D. Russia

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Primary Focus Of Gamma Ray Astronomy PEV Energies Phase-3 (GRAPES-3) Project**

- A. To study cosmic rays
- B. To study exoplanet
- C. Investigating dark matter
- D. Measuring Earth's natural resources

**ANSWER: A**

**8. What Is 'Aldabra Rail', Recently Seen In The News**

- A. Flightless bird
- B. Spider
- C. Invasive plant
- D. Fish

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Where Was 7<sup>th</sup> Session Of Codex Committee On Spices & Culinary Herbs Held**

- A. Kochi
- B. Thiruvananthapuram
- C. Jaisalmer
- D. Kutch

**ANSWER: A**

**10. What Is Lantana Camara Recently, Belongs To Which One Of Following Species**

- A. Flowering plant
- B. Butterfly
- C. Fish
- D. Frog

**ANSWER: A**

**11. State Government Announced Free Access To Pertuzumab - Trastuzumab Combination Drug For Treatment Of Breast Cancer**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Which Space Agency Has Identified A Potential "Super-earth" That Could Harbor Life**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Where Was Centre Of Excellence On E-waste Management Inaugurated**

- A. C-MET, Hyderabad
- B. C-MET, Maharashtra
- C. C-MET, Thrissur
- D. C-MET, Lucknow

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Dusted Apollo, Belongs To Which One Of The Following Species**

- A. Butterfly
- B. Frog
- C. Fish
- D. Spider

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Subika Paintings Linked To Which Community's Cultural History**

- A. Bhils
- B. Gonds
- C. Meitei
- D. Chiru

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Which State Government Police Adopted Self-balancing E-scooters For Smart Patrols**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Darlipali Thermal Power Plant, Seen In The News, Is Located**

- A. Odisha
- B. Gujarat
- C. Karnataka
- D. Madhya Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**18. 'Electricity 2024' Report, Seen In The News, Is Released By**

- A. International Energy Agency
- B. International Development Association
- C. Organization for Economic Development
- D. World Bank

**ANSWER: A**

**19. U-WIN Platform Is Associated With Which One Of The Following**

- A. Loan For Startups
- B. Digitization Of India's Universal Immunization Programme
- C. Promoting Excellence In Sports And Wellness
- D. Loan Window For Women Entrepreneurs

**ANSWER: B**

**20. Kamakhya Divyalok Pariyojana, Recently Seen In The News, Is Associated With Which State**

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

**ANSWER: C**