

Daily Current Affairs

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7th Indian Ocean Conference

- The 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference will get underway in **Perth, Australia**. External Affairs Minister **Dr. S Jaishankar** would address inaugural session of Conference, along with Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong, and Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan.



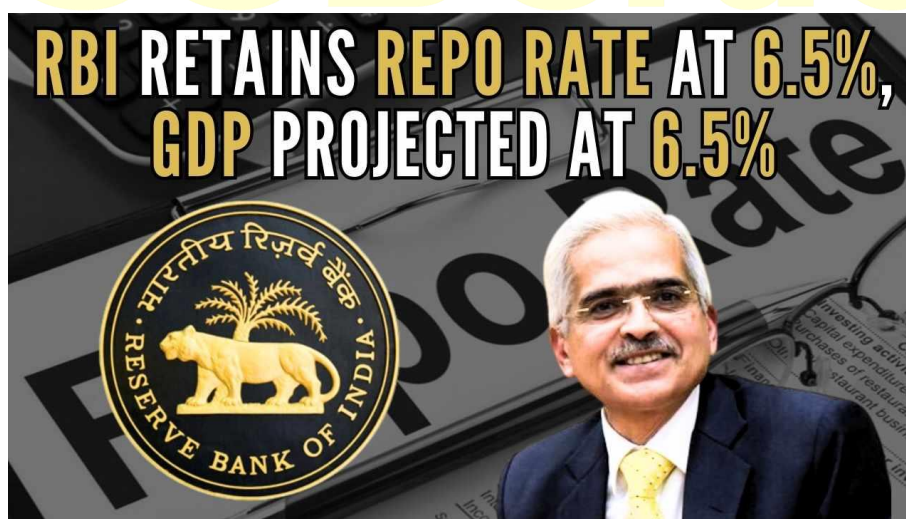
- **Two day Conference** is being held in association with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia, along with S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore and Perth-US Asia Centre in Australia.
- Theme of this edition of the conference is "**Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean**".



- Indian Ocean Conference is a flagship consultative forum for countries in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It is **organized annually** by the External Affairs Ministry, in association with the India Foundation.
- 7th Indian Ocean Conference will also bring together delegations led by Ministers from over 22 countries and senior officials from 16 countries and 6 multilateral organizations.
- **The Conference will also witness the participation of over 400 social and corporate leaders, policy practitioners, scholars, professionals, and media personnel from about 40 countries.**

RBI Retains Repo Rate At 6.5 Percent

- **Reserve Bank of India** has kept repo rate unchanged at **6.5 percent** for the sixth time in a row.
- The **six-member monetary policy committee** (MPC) voted by 5:1 majority to keep the repo rate unchanged in its last meeting of the current financial year as retail inflation continues to be above its target of 4 percent.
- The **repo rate is the interest rate** at which banks draw funds from RBI to overcome short-term liquidity mismatches.



- **Announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said, the Standing Deposit Facility rate remains at 6.25 percent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 percent.
- He has projected **the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index at 5.4 percent** in the current fiscal and 4.5 percent during the next financial year. The

RBI Governor highlighted that domestic economic activity remains strong and **real GDP growth is 7.3 % for the year 2023-24.**

- This will be the third successful year for the GDP to grow above 7 percent. RBI has pegged real GDP growth for the next financial year at 7 percent. The RBI Governor highlighted that agriculture activity is also holding up well, despite lower inflation, lower reservoir level and delayed sowing.
- The Governor also informed that **global growth is expected to remain steady in 2024** with heterogeneity across the region. The global trade momentum remains weak. It is showing signs of recovery and is likely to grow faster in 2024, Mr Das said.
- The government has mandated the central bank to ensure the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) remains at 4 percent with a margin of 2 percent on either side.

Golden Visa To Super 30 Founder Anand Kumar

- Esteemed mathematics **educator Anand Kumar**, renowned as the visionary behind **Super 30**, reached a remarkable milestone on February 6 when the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** government bestowed upon him the prestigious 'Golden Visa'.



- This accolade propels Kumar into an esteemed echelon traditionally reserved for Bollywood luminaries and sports icons. Reflecting on this honor, Kumar expressed his sincere gratitude, stating, "As a simple teacher, being awarded the Golden Visa in Dubai alongside Bollywood stars and sporting legends is deeply humbling."

- **Introduced in 2019 by the UAE government**, the Golden Visa seeks to attract exceptional foreign talent across diverse domains, including entrepreneurs, scientists, and exemplary students. It provides recipients with opportunities to reside, work, or pursue education in the UAE, along with a host of exclusive benefits.

DigiReady Certification Portal

- In a significant stride towards fostering digital inclusion in the **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** sector, the **Quality Council of India (QCI)** and **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** launched the **DigiReady Certification (DRC) portal**.
- QCI Chairperson Jaxay Shah said that the initiative is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to **sensitise villages and promote digital transactions**.
- He further added that the launch of the DRC portal marks a pivotal moment in the mission **to empower MSMEs and make e-Commerce** more inclusive and accessible.



- ONDC Managing Director, T Koshy who was also present at the launch ceremony said that the initiative is a **transformative leap for MSMEs, equipping them with the digital capabilities** needed to navigate the evolving e-Commerce business landscape.
- He said that DRC accelerates the integration of MSMEs into the Network while also amplifying their potential to thrive in the digital economy.

- The DRC portal aims to facilitate a streamlined seller journey, ensuring that **MSMEs and small retailers can integrate seamlessly into existing digitised workflows.**
- The certification process evaluates various aspects of digital readiness, including the presence of necessary documentation for online operations, proficiency in using software and technology, integration with existing digitised workflows, and efficient management of orders and catalogue offerings.

Constitution ST & SC Order Amendment Bill

- **Parliament has passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024** with Lok Sabha approving it on Thursday (08th February 2024) .
- The Upper House has already cleared it. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is intended to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes regarding Andhra Pradesh to include **Bondo Porja, Khond Porja and Konda Savaras communities in the list of ST.**



- While the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024 proposes to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in relation to Odisha.**

- Under it, four communities of primitive tribes - **Pauri Bhuyan, Chuktia Bhunjia, Bondo and Mankidia** and 46 others who have not been included in the ST list due to phonetic variations or spelling mistakes will be the part of ST list.
- Narendra Modi Government is committed to the welfare of tribal communities of the country. She said, to provide medical facilities in the remotest parts of the country, medical units are being made operational.



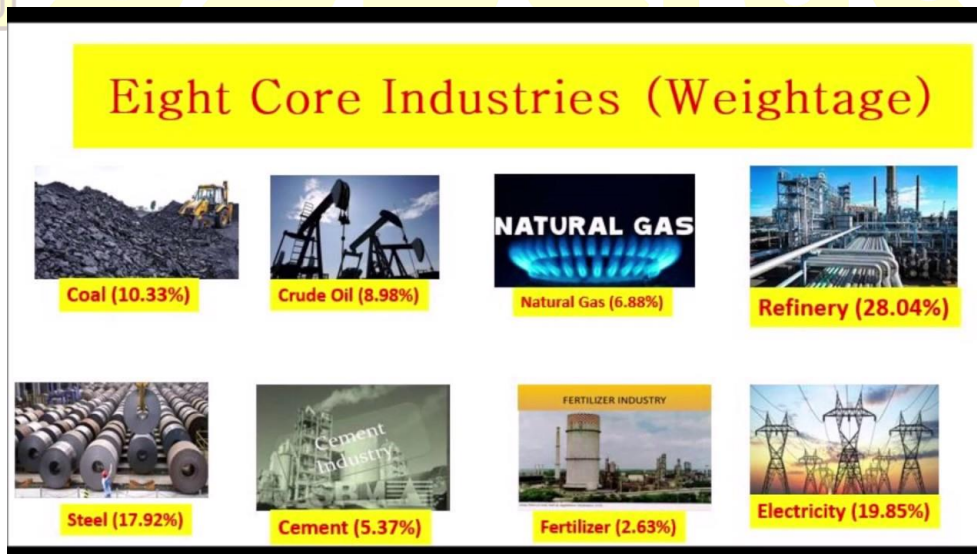
- Ms Pawar also said that through Aadi Mahotsav the tribal artisans are being encouraged to showcase their talent. She said that with this Bill, the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal groups will get justice.
- Earlier, participating in the discussion, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, the Government is committed to the protection of tribal and the upliftment of the poor.

Eight Core Industries

- The **Coal sector has showcased the highest growth of about 10.6 per cent** among the eight core industries for December 2023 as per the **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries.**
- In a release, the Coal Ministry said that the cumulative index has increased by 12.5 per cent during April to December 2023-24 over the corresponding period of the previous year.
- The latest data indicates that the **Combined Index of Eight Core Industries** has shown an increase of **3.8 per cent in December 2023** as compared to the same period of the previous year.



- The Ministry said that the coal sector has played a crucial role in the overall growth of eight core industries representing double-digit growth in the last six months and substantially higher growth than the overall growth of eight core industries in the last two financial years.
- The Ministry said that there has been a substantial surge in coal production during December 2023, **reaching 92.92 Million Tonne (MT)**, surpassing the figures of 83.91 MT of the corresponding month of the previous year.



- It further attributed the massive strides in the Coal sector to its persistent endeavours and proactive initiatives that align with the **vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat** and contribute to the nation's progress towards self-sufficiency and energy security.

- The ICI measures the combined and individual production performance of **eight core industries** including cement, coal, crude oil, electricity, fertilisers, natural gas, refinery products, and steel.

Krishi Rakshak Portal

- **Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister** Arjun Munda launched LMS, **Krishi Rakshak Portal** and helpline and **SARTHI initiative** under **Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana**, PMFBY in New Delhi.
- On the occasion, he said that through these initiatives insured farmers will be benefitted and their risk will be also reduced.
- The Minister said that the **Krishi Rakshak Portal and Helpline** is an integrated **grievance redressal mechanism** having a digital portal and a call centre has been developed to enable farmers to lodge their grievances, concerns and queries.



- The **innovative SARTHI (Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance)** platform harnesses technology to provide a broad spectrum of insurance products, offering coverage for health, life, property, agriculture tools, motor assets and disaster risks.
- The Minister said that **the Learning Management System (LMS)** is designed to revolutionize the training and knowledge-sharing landscape for stakeholders in implementing key agricultural schemes across the country. Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shobha Karandlaje and Kailash Chaudhary were also present at the event.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. 7th Indian Ocean Conference Will Be Held In

- A. Australia
- B. USA
- C. Russia
- D. UAE

ANSWER: A

2. Pauri Bhuyan, Chuktia Bhunjia, Bondo & Mankidia Tribes Found In

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Gujrat
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: D

3. RBI Retains Repo Rate At

- A. 6.4%
- B. 6.5%
- C. 6.6%
- D. 7%

ANSWER: B

4. DigiReady Certification Portal Is Launched By

- A. CSIR
- B. QCI
- C. Niti Aayog
- D. RBI

ANSWER: B

5. Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar Programme Comes Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Rural Development
- C. Ministry of Culture
- D. Ministry of Defence

ANSWER: C

6. Thrips Parvispinus Belongs To Which One Of Following Species

- A. Invasive pest species
- B. Butterfly
- C. Spider
- D. Fish

ANSWER: A

7. Bharat 5G Portal An Integrated Portal Is Launched By

- A. Ministry of Communication
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- D. Ministry Of Information & Broadcasting

ANSWER: A

8. Who Won 87 Kg Greco Roman Title At National Wrestling Championships 2024

- A. Yogeshwar Dutt
- B. Sunil Kumar
- C. Ravi Dahiya
- D. Saurav Gurjar

ANSWER: B

9. EV Upyog Portal Is Associated With Which State Government

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: B

10. Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant, Is Located In

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Haryana
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: B

11. Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary In News, Is Located In Which State

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

ANSWER: C

12. Where Was 'Great Indian Board Reboot Roadshow 2024' Held

- A. Chennai
- B. Jaipur
- C. Kolkata
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: D

13. Theme Of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2024

- A. Together For Love: Stop HIV Stigma
- B. To Acknowledge How HIV Disproportionately Affects Black People
- C. Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting To End HIV/AIDS In Black Communities
- D. Let Communities Lead

ANSWER: C

14. Which Indian State Inaugurated "Dhami Against Drugs Campaign

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

ANSWER: B

15. Intelligent Transportation System Endeavor Program Comes Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting
- B. Ministry Of Defence
- C. Ministry Of Electronics & Information Technology
- D. Ministry Of Communication

ANSWER: C

16. Where Did Indian High Commission Host National Davis Cup Team, Which Visited For First Time In 60 Years

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Pakistan
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Nepal

ANSWER: B

17. Interim Budget 2024, Which Country Revealed As Top Recipient Of Indian Aid

- A. Maldives
- B. Nepal
- C. Myanmar
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: D

18. Which Country Announced Discovery Of Coltan Deposits Within Its Borders

- A. Kenya
- B. Brazil
- C. Canada
- D. Australia

ANSWER: A

19. Who Appointed As Chairman Of Telecom Regulatory Authority Of India

- A. PD Vaghela
- B. Anil Kumar Lahoti
- C. Anil Sharma
- D. Bhaskar Ramamurthi

ANSWER: B

20. Who Presided First Buddhist Council

- A. Mahakassapa
- B. Vasumitra
- C. Moggliputra Tissa
- D. Sabakami

ANSWER: A