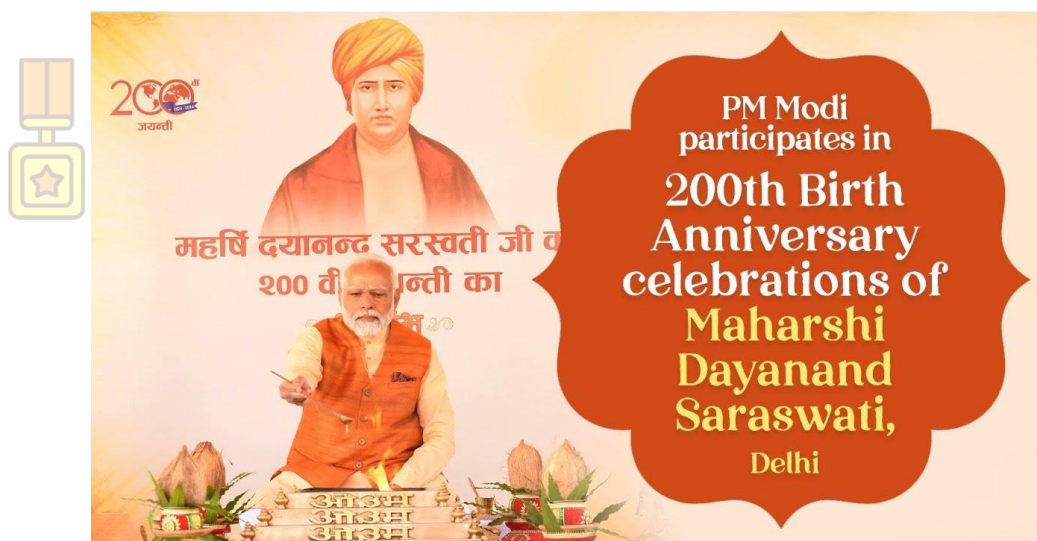


Daily Current Affairs

12 February 2024

200th Birth Anniversary Of Maharshi Dayananda

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed a **programme on the 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayananda Saraswati** organized at the birthplace of Swami Dayananda, *Tankara in Morbi, Gujarat*, via a video message.
- In his address, PM Modi conveyed his delight at the **Arya Samaj organizing the event to honour Swami Ji's contributions** and to bring his teachings to the masses. Reflecting on his participation in last year's inauguration of the festival, he remarked, "When the contributions of such a great soul are so exceptional, it is natural for the festivities associated with them to be extensive.



- "Swami Dayanand Saraswati was born on **12th February 1824** in Tankara, Gujarat in a Brahmin family. His parents, **Lalji Tiwari and Yashodhabai** were orthodox Brahmin.
- He was earlier named Mool Shankar Tiwari as he was born during Mool Nakshatra. He wandered as an **ascetic for fifteen years (1845-60)** in search of truth. Dayananda's views were published in his famous work, **Satyarth Prakash** (The True Exposition).
- He was an Indian philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj. Arya Samaj is a reform movement of **Vedic dharma** and he was the first to give the call for Swaraj as "**India for Indian**" in **1876**.

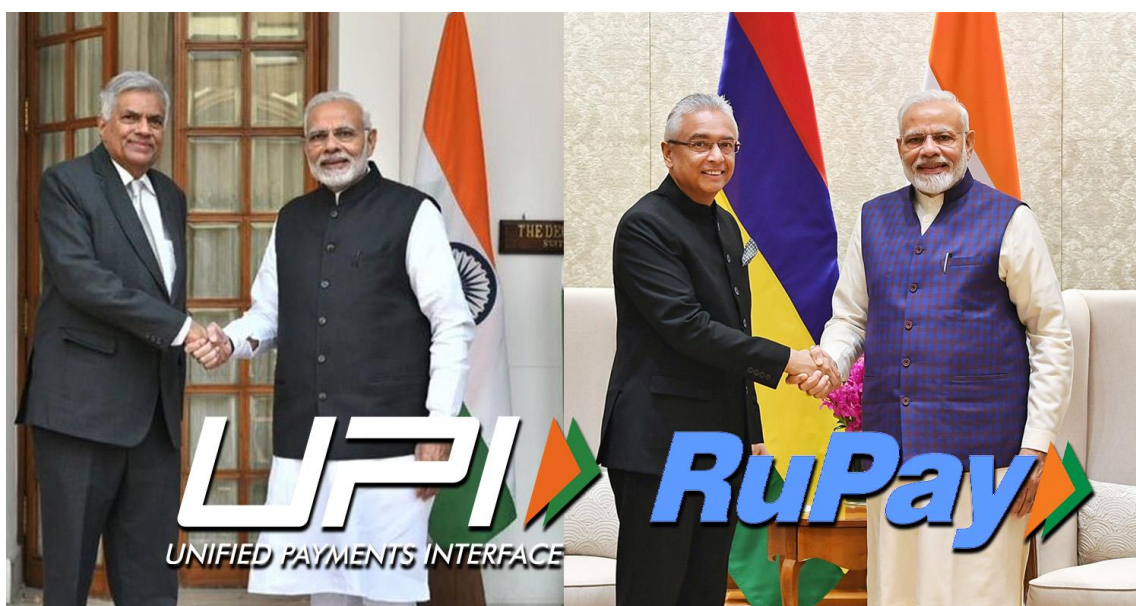
- He was a self-taught man and a great leader of India leaving a significant impact on Indian society.
- During his life, he made a prominent name for himself and was known among a wide array of Princes and the public.
- **The first Arya Samaj unit** was formally set up by him at **Mumbai** (then Bombay) in **1875** and **later the headquarters** of the Samaj were established at **Lahore**.
- His vision of India included a classless and casteless society, a united India (religiously, socially and nationally), and an India free from foreign rule, with Aryan religion being the common religion of all. \



- He took inspiration from the Vedas and considered them to be **'India's Rock of Ages'**, the infallible and the true original seed of Hinduism. He gave the slogan "Back to the Vedas".
- He subscribed to the Vedic notion of chaturvarna system in which a person was not born in any caste but was identified as a brahmin, kshatriya, vaishya or shudra according to the occupation the person followed.
- He introduced a **complete overhaul of the education system** and is often considered as one of the visionaries of modern India. The DAV (Dayanand Anglo Vedic) schools came into **existence in 1886 to realize the vision** of Swami Dayanand Saraswati. The **first DAV School** was established at Lahore with Mahatma Hansarj as the headmaster.

UPI & RuPay in Sri Lanka & Mauritius

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi along President of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe, and Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth will witness the launch of **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius and **RuPay card services** in Mauritius on Monday through video conferencing.

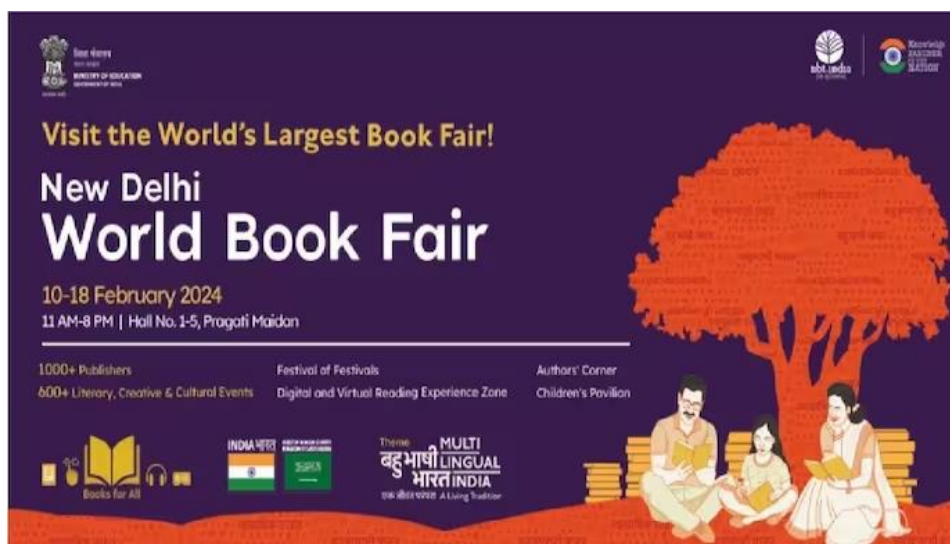


- The launch will enable the availability of **UPI settlement services** for Indian nationals travelling to Sri Lanka and Mauritius as well as for Mauritian nationals travelling to India.
- The **extension of RuPay card services** in Mauritius will enable Mauritian banks to issue cards based on the RuPay mechanism in Mauritius and facilitate usage of RuPay Card for settlements both in India and Mauritius.
- Given India's robust cultural and people-to-people linkages with Sri Lanka and Mauritius, the launch will benefit a wide **cross-section** of people through a faster and seamless digital **transaction experience** and enhance digital connectivity between the countries.

World Book Fair

- Information and Broadcasting Secretary, Sanjay Jaju inaugurated the **Publications Division stall at the World Book Fair in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan** on Saturday.
- Mr. Jaju also unveiled the Division's latest publications '**India Year Book 2024**' and '**Career Calling.**' The Secretary expressed delight upon witnessing the

diverse collection helmed by the Publications division that includes over 700 books covering a wide array of subjects in various Indian languages.



- **'India Year Book 2024,'** the annual reference guide captures the pulse of India's progress, encapsulating the latest government plans, policies, and initiatives. In addition to that **'Career Calling,'** is a curated collection exploring careers from traditional to lesser-known paths.
- The book, emphasizing the importance of informed choices in today's competitive landscape, gained rapid attention and drew a diverse audience. From guiding aspirants for the **Civil Services and other competitive exams,** to encouraging the youth to steer away from a singular focus on government jobs by introducing the myriad realms and possibilities offered by India's rapidly evolving and expanding economy, this book has it all.
- The stall also features various **journals of the division including** 'Yojana,' 'Kurukshetra,' 'Aajkal,' and 'Bal Bharti,' that provide valuable insights into a plethora of subjects.

Neeraj Chopra

- **India's Olympic gold medalist and world champion javelin thrower,** Neeraj Chopra, was honoured with a commemorative plaque at the renowned Ice Palace.
- This prestigious recognition adds another feather to his cap and strengthens the **bond between Switzerland and India.**
- Carved into the heart of a glacier, the Ice Palace in **Jungfrauoch serves** as a unique and awe-inspiring monument. Surrounded by breathtaking alpine

scenery, this setting provided the perfect backdrop to honour Chopra's exceptional achievements.



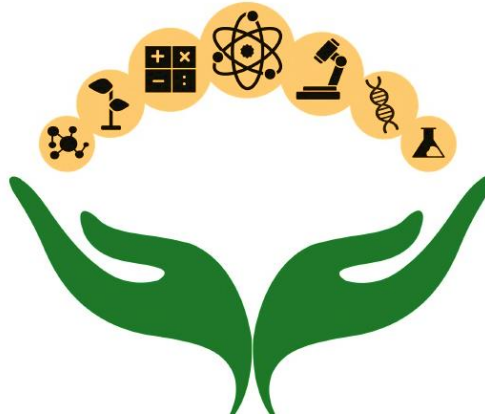
- Unveiling the plaque, Chopra expressed his gratitude and stated, “To have a plaque installed here in this stunning Ice Palace was beyond my wildest dreams, yet here I am.”
- The **plaque recognizes Chopra's remarkable journey** – from a small village in Haryana to becoming an Olympic champion and global sporting icon.
- His dedication, discipline, and relentless pursuit of excellence have not only brought him personal glory but also inspired millions worldwide.
- This honor goes beyond recognizing his athletic prowess; it acknowledges his role as a symbol of hope and potential.

SWATI Portal

- Principal Scientific Advisor Professor **Ajay Kumar Sood** on 11 February 2024, Sunday launched '**Science for Women-A Technology and Innovation (SWATI) Portal** in New Delhi's **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)**.
- Addressing the launch event on the occasion of **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, Professor Sood said that the **database of the SWATI Portal** will serve in policy-making to address the challenges of Gender-gap.
- The Portal is a complete interactive database and the first of its kind in India which is developed, hosted, and maintained by the **National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR)**, New Delhi.

SWATI

Science For Women: A Technology & Innovation Portal



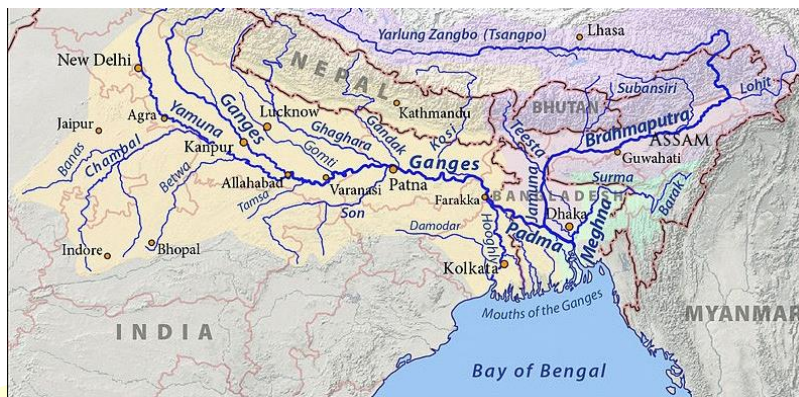
- The portal aims at creating a **single online portal** representing Indian Women and Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM).
- SWATI Portal looks to scale up the effort to include each and every **Indian woman in science**, across all career stages and subjects, spanning both Academia and the Industry enabling reliable and statistically significant long-term research.

Brahmaputra River Project

- The **Government of India and the Asian Development Bank** have signed a \$200 million loan to foster **flood-related erosion risk management** along the 650km long mainstream of the **Brahmaputra river in the state of Assam**.
- The project is estimated to be **aligned with the ADB-financed Assam** Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Programme implemented during 2010-2020.



- The project is supposed to contribute to the **broader stabilization** of the **Brahmaputra River in high-priority flood-**and erosion-prone areas and build the state's disaster resilience.
- Through the project, ADB continues to pursue **its cost-effective, adaptive, and systematic river stabilization** approach to managing the Brahmaputra River. In addition to deploying riverbank protection technology, ADB will continue to build the capacity of state agencies and affected communities to better manage flood and riverbank erosion risks.



- The project interventions include stabilizing 60km of riverbanks, installing 32km of pro-siltation measures, and building 4km of climate-resilient flood embankments in five high-priority districts [Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Kamrup Rural, Morigaon, and Tinsukia].



- Further, it will advance the **institutional capacity in flood forecasting** and warning systems, modern surveys, erosion and embankment breach modeling, asset management, flood risk mapping, land use planning, and pilot nature-based solutions.

- **Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam** will lead, manage, and contribute to the coordination of the project activities. Meanwhile, the Brahmaputra Board, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, and the Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society will be partner agencies.

Aadi Mahotsav

- President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the **Aadi Mahotsav 2024**, an annual National Tribal Festival at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.
- **Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda** will also be present on the occasion. The event, **organised by TRIFED under** the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, will showcase the rich diversity of India's tribal heritage till the 18th of this month.



- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** said that the festival will feature an expanded showcase with over 300 stalls, offering a varied display of Tribal art, handicrafts, natural produce, and delectable tribal cuisine.
- Apart from this, **one thousand artisans** from across the country will also participate and showcase their performances.
- A separate Food court showcasing **Tribal cuisines** from different parts of the country has also been set up.

Nationwide MDA Campaign

- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel today launched the **first phase of the Bi-annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA)** campaign for **Lymphatic Filariasis elimination**.
- The campaign aims to check **disease transmission** by providing free preventive medications to the residents in areas affected by the disease.



- The campaign will cover 92 districts across 11 States and will run for the next two weeks.
- Prof S P Singh Baghel reiterated India's commitment to **ending Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027**, three years before the global target.
- He said that India has shown immense resilience against some of the deadliest diseases in the world.



- Prof Baghel said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the department has seen significant success in the TB Elimination programme and is now on the verge of eliminating Kala- Azar.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Book Fair Is Inaugurated In

- A. September 13
- B. September 14
- C. September 15
- D. September 16

ANSWER: D

2. Who Was Honoured With Prestigious 'Lifetime Achievement' Award By Sports Journalists Federation Of India

- A. PT Usha
- B. Mary Kom
- C. Jaspal Rana
- D. Sachin Tendulkar

ANSWER: A

3. Theme Unveiled By Dr. Jitendra Singh For National Science Day 2024

- A. Innovations in Science & Technology
- B. Science and Society: A New Frontier
- C. Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat
- D. Science for Sustainable Development

ANSWER: C

4. Who Appointed As Country Director For India By Asian Development Bank

- A. Takeo Konishi
- B. Mio Oka
- C. Hiroshi Yamamoto
- D. Yuki Tanaka

ANSWER: B

5. Zircon Missile, A Supersonic Ballistic Missile Launched By

- A. Russia
- B. Israel
- C. Ukraine
- D. China

ANSWER: A

6. Steinernema Adamsi Belongs To Which One Of Following Species

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

ANSWER: D

7. Rank Of India In World Bank's 'Logistics Performance Index Report

- A. 38th
- B. 36th
- C. 35th
- D. 39th

ANSWER: A

8. When Is The 'World Pulses Day' Observed Every Year

- A. 10 February
- B. 9 February
- C. 8 February
- D. 11 February

ANSWER: A

9. What Is Trichoglossum Recently Mentioned In The News

- A. Ancient irrigation system
- B. Anti ship missiles
- C. A genus of fungus
- D. Asteroid

ANSWER: C

10. Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar Initiative, Is Launched By Which State

- A. West Bengal
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: B

11. Name Of New Scheme By Union Cabinet To Improve Fisheries Sector

- A. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana
- B. Sagar Parikrama Scheme
- C. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
- D. Palk Bay Scheme

ANSWER: A

12. Author Of Book "KASHMIR: Travels In Paradise On Earth," 2024

- A. Romesh Bhattacharji
- B. Shamas Faqir
- C. Vikram Seth
- D. Jhumpa Lahiri

ANSWER: A

13. In Which Location Is HPCL's Biomass-based CBG Plant Located

- A. Budaun
- B. Varanasi
- C. Agra
- D. Kanpur

ANSWER: A

14. Theme Of Ministry Of Culture's Tableau That Secured 1st Prize At The Republic Day Celebration Parade 2024

- A. India: Unity in Diversity
- B. Vibrant India
- C. India: Mother of Democracy
- D. Cultural Harmony

ANSWER: C

15. Where Did Rajeev Chandrasekhar Inaugurate Digital India FutureLABS

- A. IIIT New Delhi
- B. IIIT Allahabad
- C. IIIT Vadodara
- D. IIIT Bangalore

ANSWER: A

16. Where Was 1st Naturopathy Hospital In Northeast India Inaugurated

- A. Dibrugarh
- B. Guwahati
- C. Shillong
- D. Dispur

ANSWER: A

17. In Which Year Was The Original Water (Prevention And Control Of Pollution) Act Enacted

- A. 1984
- B. 1994
- C. 1974
- D. 2004

ANSWER: C

18. In Which Indian State Does Lincoln University College, Malaysia, Seek To Establish A Campus

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

ANSWER: A

19. On Which Date Is Safer Internet Day Celebrated Annually

- A. January 6
- B. February 6
- C. March 6
- D. April 6

ANSWER: B

20. Which Among The Following Famous Mystics Was Gadadhar Chattopadhyay

- A. Swami Vivekananda
- B. Ramakrishna Paramhansa
- C. Sri Aurobindo
- D. Swami Prabhupada

ANSWER: B