

Daily Current Affairs

23 March 2024

India - Bhutan

- India will provide support of **ten thousand crore rupees** to Bhutan over the next five years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured Bhutan's top leadership that India will stand by the **Himalayan kingdom in its quest** for development and that their unique bilateral ties would create avenues for greater cooperation in connectivity, infrastructure, trade and energy sectors.



- The two countries exchanged several MoUs and signed agreements in the fields of **energy, trade, digital connectivity, space and agriculture**, and finalised the MoU on the establishment of rail links between the two nations.
- Informing about the **Prime Minister's economic aid to Bhutan**, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said, the assistance also includes India's support to Bhutan's economic stimulus package.
- Mr Modi called on the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and held talks with Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay.



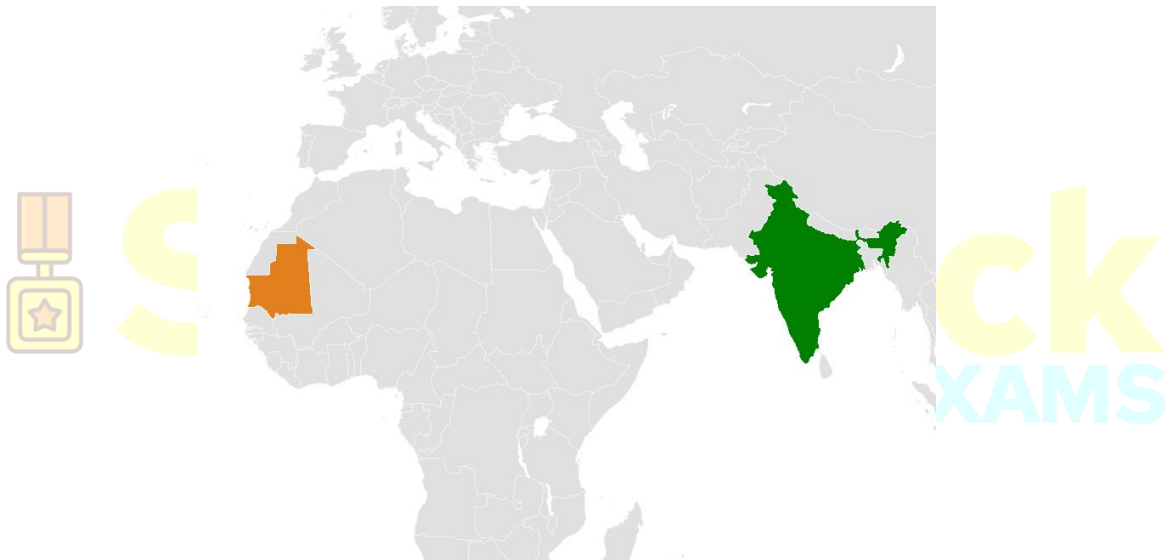
- Mr Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart reviewed the entire gamut of India-Bhutan friendship and agreed to boost the developmental partnership as well as deepen cultural linkages. Mr Modi said the MoUs and agreements will add momentum to India-Bhutan relations.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **the Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Mother and Child Hospital**, a state-of-the-art hospital in Thimphu, built with the assistance of the Government of India.
- Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay was also present on the occasion a short while ago. king of Bhutan **Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** conferred Bhutan's highest civilian award, the Order of the **Druk Gyalpo**, on **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in Thimpu.



- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Modi said it is a very big day in his life. He said every award is special, but when one receives an award from another country, it shows that both countries are moving on the right path.
- He said, this honour is not his personal achievement, but the honour of India and 140 crore Indians. He accepted the honour on behalf of all Indians and expressed gratitude upon being conferred the award.

India And Mauritania

- **The 1st Foreign Office Consultations** between **India and Mauritania** was held in Nouakchott. During the consultations, both delegations engaged in constructive discussions on a wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest.



- External Affairs Ministry said, the discussions encompassed various facets of collaboration, **including political cooperation, economic partnership, development assistance, cultural exchanges**, and cooperation in multilateral forums.
- **India and Mauritania** share long-standing ties of friendship and collaboration.
- The bilateral trade between India and Mauritania has grown steadily during the last three years and it reached **over 378 million US dollar** during 2022-23, from 108 million US dollar in 2021-22.
- **India's Resident Mission** has been opened in June 2021 which has been providing impetus in strengthening our bilateral relations.



Reusable Launch Vehicle Pushpak

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation**, ISRO has successfully carried out today morning the landing of its **Reusable Launch Vehicle Pushpak** at the Aeronautical Test Range in **Challakere in Chitradurga** in Karnataka.
- A message on microblogging site **X**, says '**ISRO nails it again**' signifying the precise landing of the winged launch vehicle **RLV in autonomous mode**.
- ISRO Chairman S Somanath has congratulated the team for the flawless execution of maneuvering, landing and energy management of the spaceship in a fully autonomous mode.



- **With the RLV-LEX-02, ISRO** has re-validated its indigenously developed technologies in areas such as navigation, control systems, landing gear, and deceleration systems, which are essential for performing a high-speed autonomous **landing of a space-returning vehicle**".



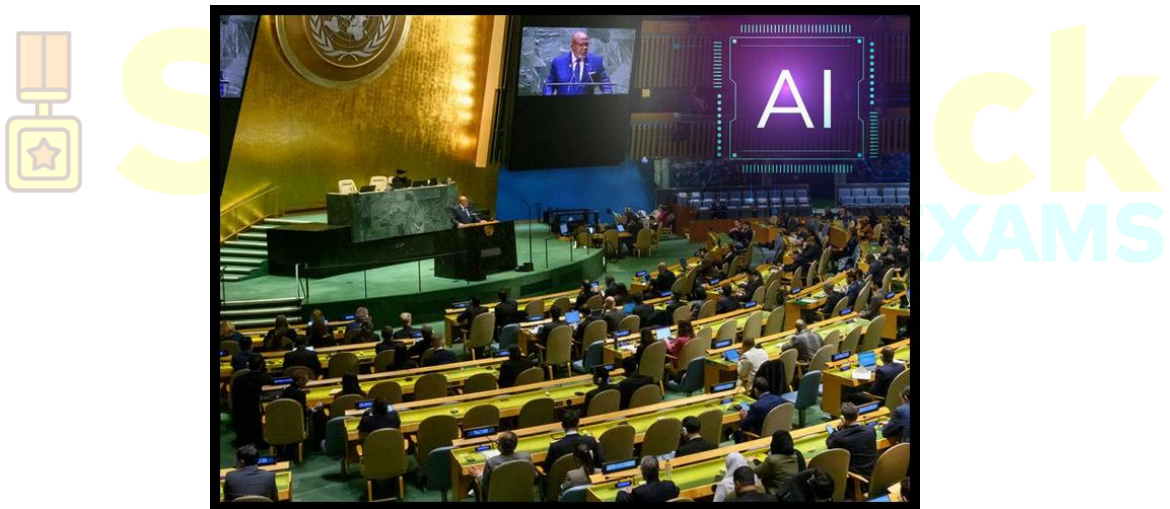
- In this second test today on the Launch Vehicle in Challakere, ISRO successfully tested the **brake parachute, landing gear brakes, nose wheel steering system**, on board **navigation hardware** and software and its capability to withstand conditions created by high velocity landing.
- **A Chinook helicopter** carried the scaled down version of Reusable launch vehicle tied to a string and dropped mid air at the height of **4.5 kms altitude**.
- The **6.5 meter long** winged vehicle descended towards the Earth at a speed of **350 kmph**.
- At such a high velocity and altitude, the spacecraft **Pushpak autonomously approached the runway** with cross-range corrections.
- It landed precisely on the runway and came to a halt using its parachute and other mechanisms. The successful test today is an important step towards building India's futuristic Reusable Launch vehicle that can launch many satellites, thereby cutting cost.

First Resolution On AI

- The **UN General Assembly** has approved the first resolution on Artificial Intelligence, AI.
- The resolution gives **global support to an international effort** to ensure the powerful new technology benefits all nations, respects human rights and is safe, secure and trustworthy.
- The resolution, sponsored by the United States and **co-sponsored by 123 countries** was adopted by consensus with a bang of the gavel and without a vote.



- It means the resolution has the **support of all 193 U.N. member nations**.
- Over the past few months, the **United States worked with more than 120 countries** at the United Nations including Russia, China and Cuba to negotiate the text of the resolution that was adopted yesterday.
- The resolution **aims to close the digital divide between** developed rich countries and poorer developing countries and make sure they are all at the table in discussions on AI.



- It also aims to make sure that **developing countries have the technology** and capabilities to take advantage of AI's benefits, including detecting diseases, predicting floods, helping farmers and training the next generation of workers.

World Table Tennis Feeder Beirut Tournament

- In Table Tennis, **India's Sathiyam Gnanasekaran** has clinched the Men's Singles title at WTT Feeder **Beirut tournament in Lebanon**.
- World Number 103 Sathiyam defeated compatriot and World Number 74 Manav Vikas Thakkar, 3-1 (6-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-4) victory over compatriot Manav Vikas

Thakkar in the final yesterday. Earlier, Sathiyan overpowered World Number 39 Chinese Taipei's Chuang Chih-yuan in the semi-finals.



- However, **Manav had a heartbreaking** day as he missed out on any gold medal despite making it in all three finals. He lost 1-3 to a Cuban pair in the men's doubles final, partnering Manush Utpal Shah. Earlier, he lost in the mixed doubles final to another Indian pair of Diya Chitale and Manush Shah.
- Overall, **Indian paddlers had a good outing** at the tournament making it to the three finals including two all-Indian finals in Men's singles and Mixed doubles categories. Indian paddlers finished the tournament with two titles and three runner-ups finish.

Operation Indravati

- **Haiti is facing a severe crisis** due to escalating gang violence. Armed gangs have launched attacks in the **suburbs of Port-au-Prince**, prompting India to launch **Operation Indravati** to evacuate its nationals to the **Dominican Republic**.
- Similarly, the **US has airlifted more than 15 Americans** to Santo Domingo. The situation has deteriorated since the 2010 earthquake, with gangs staging attacks, burning police stations, shutting down the airport, and freeing prisoners.
- **Haiti declared an emergency** and imposed a curfew.



- Gang leader **Jimmy Cherizier** demanded the resignation of acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who later announced his intention to step down but remains in power.
- **Operation Indravati**—Gangs Unleash Violence in Haiti : Armed gangs launch attacks in **Port-au-Prince suburbs**, Gangs burn police stations, shut down airport, storm prisons, Thousands of prisoners freed in gang attacks, Haiti declares emergency, imposes nighttime curfew, Gang leader Jimmy Cherizier demands PM's resignation.
- **India launches "Operation Indravati"** to evacuate Indians , Indians being evacuated to Dominican Republic , US airlifts over 15 Americans to Santo Domingo



India's First Battery Storage Gigafactory

- **GoodEnough Energy** has announced that it will start operations at **India's first battery energy storage gigafactory** in the northern region of **Jammu and Kashmir** by October 2024. According to GoodEnough, the facility will help industries cut more than **5 million tons of carbon emissions** in a year.
- India has set a goal to become net zero by 2070. GoodEnough has already invested **1.5 billion rupees** (\$18.07 million) in the **7 gigawatts per hour (GWH)** facility.



- The company plans to spend an additional **3 billion rupees by 2027** to increase the **capacity to 20 GWH**.
- **Battery energy storage projects** are crucial for India's ambitious plan to expand its renewable energy capacity to **500 gigawatts (GW)** by 2030, up from the **current 178 GW**.
- The Indian government is offering **incentives worth \$452 million** to companies under a program to promote **battery storage projects**.



- Battery storage systems enable the storage of energy from solar, wind, and other renewable sources.
- This stored energy can be released when needed, making renewable energy more reliable and consistent.
- The establishment of **India's first battery storage gigafactory** is a significant step towards meeting the country's renewable energy targets and reducing its carbon footprint. The facility's operations in Jammu and Kashmir will play a pivotal role in supporting the growth of the renewable energy sector in India.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Sathiyam Gnanasekaran Seen In News Is Associated With

- A. Tennis
- B. Cricket
- C. Badminton
- D. Soccer

ANSWER: A

2. Operation Indravati Is Launched In

- A. Mauritania
- B. Haiti
- C. Egypt
- D. Algeria

ANSWER: B

3. India's First Battery Storage Gigafactory Will Be Opened In

- A. Gujarat
- B. J & K
- C. Kerala
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: B

4. Government Decided To Impose An Anti Dumping Duty On Cast Aluminum Alloy Wheels From Which Country

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. Malaysia
- D. Iran

ANSWER: A

5. Leo Varadkar Announced His Resignation, Was PM Of Which Country

- A. Indonesia
- B. Sweden
- C. Poland
- D. Ireland

ANSWER: D

6. Where Was 3rd Edition Of North East Games 2024 Started

- A. Nagaland
- B. Assam
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Mizoram

ANSWER: A

7. Where Was 4th Shanghai Corporation Organization Startup Forum Organized

- A. Chennai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: B

8. Which Day Is Celebrated As 'International Day For The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination' Every Year

- A. 20 March
- B. 21 March
- C. 22 March
- D. 23 March

ANSWER: B

9. Which Ministry Hosted First “Blue Talks” Meeting On Ocean In New Delhi

- A. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- B. Ministry of Rural Development
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Defence

ANSWER: A

10. Begonia Narahari Belongs To Which One Of Following Species

- A. Fish
- B. Invasive Weed
- C. Flowering plant
- D. Spider

ANSWER: C

11. Which State Launched State Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme

- A. Bihar
- B. Odisha
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: C

12. Which Ministry Launched ‘Alliance For Global Good-gender Equity And Equality

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry of Women & Child Development
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: B

13. Okhla Bird Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

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

ANSWER: C

14. Which State Government Collaborated With World Economic Forum To Establish AI Centre

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

ANSWER: A

15. CSIR-Indian Institute Of Petroleum Signed Mou With Which State To Deploy Technology Of Making Fuel From Pine Needles

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: C

16. Which City Is Going To Host World's Largest Literary Festival, Sahityotsav

- A. New Delhi
- B. Lucknow
- C. Chennai
- D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: A

17. Coral Reef Watch Programme Is Developed By Which Agency

- A. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
- B. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- C. National Biodiversity Authority
- D. National Ganga River Basin Authority

ANSWER: B

18. Recently, Blue Leaders High Level Event On Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Was Held In Which Country

- A. Belgium
- B. Italy
- C. Spain
- D. Germany

ANSWER: A

19. Mumps Disease Is A Contagious Disease Caused By Which One Of Following Agents

- A. Virus
- B. Bacteria
- C. Fungus
- D. Protozoa

ANSWER: A

20. Global Methane Tracker 2024', Is Released By Which One Of The Following

- A. United Nations Development Programme
- B. International Energy Agency
- C. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency
- D. United Nations Environment Programme

ANSWER: B