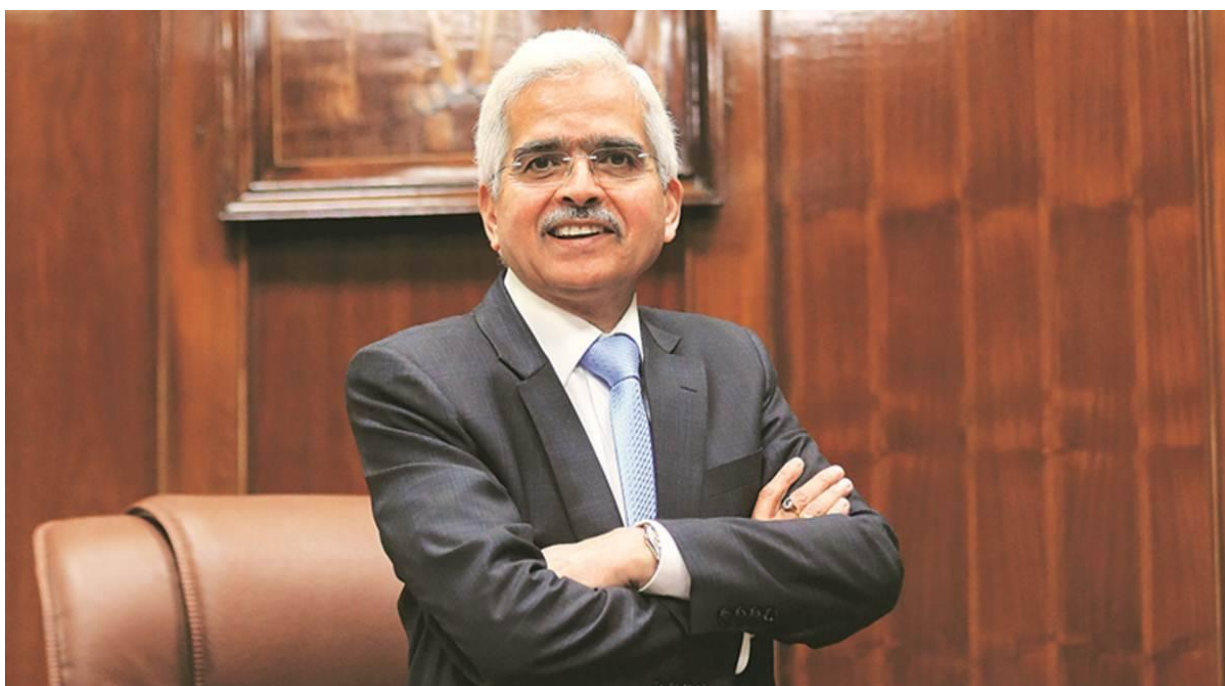


Daily Current Affairs

23 February 2025

Shaktikanta Das Principal Secretary-2 to PM Modi

- The government has **appointed retired IAS officer** and former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das as Principal Secretary-2 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **Das is the first Principal Secretary to have extensive experience** in both fiscal and monetary policy, making his appointment crucial at a time when the Indian economy faces challenges such as trade wars, rupee volatility, and economic slowdown.



- His tenure will be **co-terminus with the term of the Prime Minister** or until further orders. Former RBI Governor (December 2018 – December 2024). served in the Ministry of Finance in multiple roles, Revenue Secretary, Economic Affairs Secretary, Fertilisers Secretary
- 1980-batch Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer.

PM-KISAN Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the **19th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme from Bhagalpur in Bihar today.

The Prime Minister installment **will be released to 9.8 crore beneficiary farmers** via Direct Benefit Transfer.



- **More than 22 thousand 700 crore rupees** in assistance will be directly released to the bank accounts of beneficiaries of the scheme. The Prime Minister will also inaugurate and dedicate various development projects in Bihar and address a public meeting at Airport Ground in Bhagalpur in the afternoon.
- **The PM-KISAN scheme provides six thousand rupees annually** to landholding farmers in three equal installments. Programmes will also be organized in 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras across the country with nearly two and a half crore farmers joining the programme physically or virtually.
- **Sharing the details of the programme, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan** said, the day will be celebrated as Kisan Samman Samaroh to create awareness about the schemes of the central and state governments. He said, **more than 3.46 lakh crore rupees have been disbursed** so far to more than 11 crore farmer families in the country under the PM-KISAN scheme.

Humanitarian Assistance To Honduras

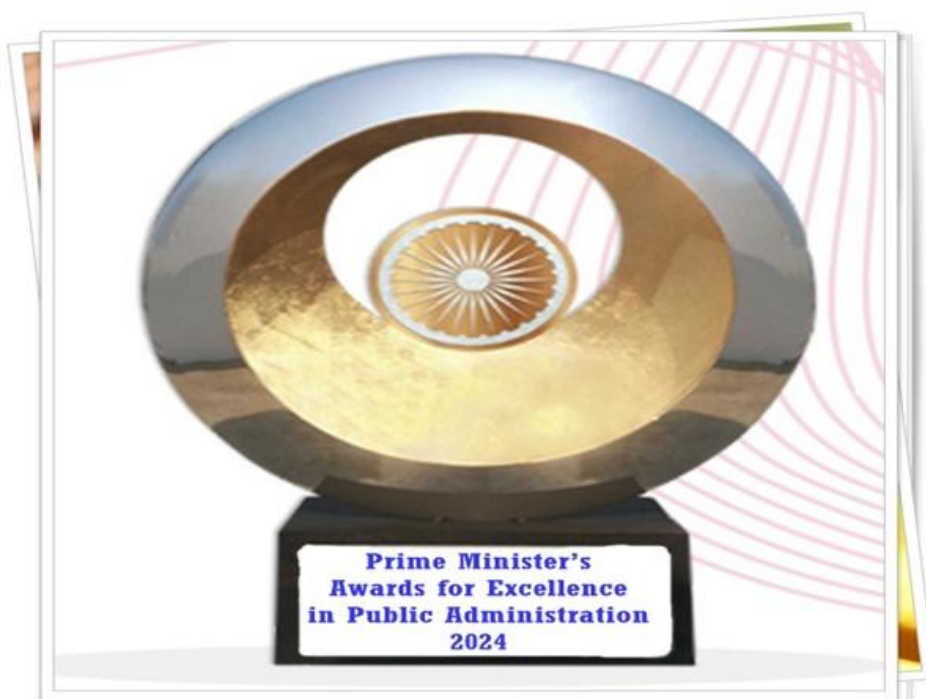
- India has dispatched humanitarian assistance of 26 tons to Honduras in the wake of the **recent Tropical storm SARA**.

- **External Affairs Ministry** said that the consignment comprises medical supplies and disaster relief material including surgical supplies, glucometers, oximeters, gloves, syringes and IV fluids, blankets, sleeping mats and hygiene kits.



PM's Awards For Excellence In Public Administration

- Over 1,500 nominations were received for the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration, 2024. The awards aim to recognise the contribution of civil servants under three categories.



- The categories are **Holistic Development of Districts, Aspirational Blocks Program, and Innovations**. A total of five awards will be conferred in the Holistic Development of Districts and Aspirational Blocks Program categories. Besides, six awards will be conferred in the Innovations category.
- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and **Pensions said 710 districts have** registered for participation in the awards. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will confer the award on the **occasion of Civil Services Day, on the 21st of April** in New Delhi.

Bathouism Recognized As An Official Religion

- **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) government in Assam** has recently included Bathouism as an official religion option in various application forms. This decision has garnered **praise from experts in the field of Bodo culture** and traditional faith.



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah brought into light this initiative during the 13th Triennial Conference of the **All Bathou Mahasabha**. The government has also declared a state **holiday for the Bathou Puja festival**, reinforcing its commitment to preserving nature-centric faiths.



- **Bathouism is the traditional religion of the Bodos**, Assam's largest plains tribe. The Bodos inhabit areas along the north bank of the Brahmaputra River. Bathouism is deeply rooted in ancestral beliefs, though the Bodo community has experienced reform movements. **Many Bodos also identify as Christians.** The faith revolves around the worship of Bathoubwrai, the supreme god of the Bodos.
- **The term 'Bathou' translates to 'five deep philosophical thoughts'.** These thoughts are represented by **five elements – Air, Sun, Earth, Fire, and Sky.** This concept is akin to the Panchatatva in Hinduism, emphasising the connection between nature and spirituality.

Indian Vishvaa Rajakumar Prodigy

- **20-year-old Vishvaa Rajakumar from India** has been crowned the winner of the Memory League World Championship, as reported by The New York Times. This prestigious competition challenges participants to memorize and recall sequences of numbers, images, and words in record time. Rajakumar's record-breaking performance **saw him recalling 80 digits in just 13.5 seconds,** demonstrating his extraordinary mental agility.



India Defeats Pakistan

- **Indian cricketer Virat Kohli has created history** as he became the quickest batter to score 14,000 runs in One-Day Internationals during the ICC Champions Trophy clash **against Pakistan in Dubai**. Kohli is the quickest ever to the milestone, having completed **his 14,000 ODI runs in 287 innings**.



- **Kohli is now only the third batter in ODI cricket to have scored 14,000 runs**, after the legendary Indian Sachin Tendulkar and Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara. Kohli already holds the record for scoring the most ODI centuries (50).
- **Earlier in the game against Pakistan, Kohli** had gone past former captain Mohammad Azharuddin's record of most catches by any Indian fielder when he took his 157th catch. Azharuddin had taken 156 catches for India between 1985 and 2000.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. PM-KISAN Scheme Launched In

- A. 2014
- B. 2019
- C. 2021
- D. 2024

ANSWER: B

2. Tropical storm SARA Hits

- A. Philippines
- B. Honduras
- C. Sumatra
- D. India

ANSWER: B

3. Shaktikanta Das Became RBI Governor In

- A. 2016
- B. 2018
- C. 2019
- D. 2022

ANSWER: B

4. Indian Vishvaa Rajakumar Prodigy Remembered How Many Digits In 13.5 Seconds

- A. 70
- B. 80
- C. 90
- D. 100

ANSWER: B

5. Bathouism Recognized As An Official Religion In

- A. Tripura
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Nagaland
- D. Assam

ANSWER: D

6. Recently Who Became The Quickest Batter To Score 14,000 Runs In One-day Internationals

- A. Rohit Sharma
- B. Virat Kohli
- C. Shreyas Iyer
- D. Shubman Gill

ANSWER: B

7. Which State Has Recorded The Highest Number Of Bird Species During The Great Backyard Bird Count

- A. Gujarat
- B. Assam
- C. West Bengal
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: C

8. Which Country Become Second In World After China To Launch An Electronic Personnel License For Pilots

- A. France
- B. Russia
- C. India

D. Australia

ANSWER: C

9. Manikaran Pilgrimage Site, Lies In Which State

A. Punjab

B. Uttarakhand

C. Haryana

D. Himachal Pradesh

ANSWER: D

10. Umiam Lake Seen In The News, Is Located In Which State

A. West Bengal

B. Arunachal Pradesh

C. Sikkim

D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: D

11. Which Country Is The Host Of 34th ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup Table Tennis Tournament

A. Indonesia

B. China

C. India

D. Malaysia

ANSWER: B

12. Which Country Experienced The Eruption Of Mount Dukono

A. Indonesia

B. Philippines

C. Japan

D. Thailand

ANSWER: A

13. Where Did The 2nd Simolu Festival Take Place In February 2025

A. Meghalaya

B. Assam

C. Nagaland

D. West Bengal

ANSWER: B

14. Which State's Forest Management Project Won The SKOCH Award 2024

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

ANSWER: B

15. Until When Has India's Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran's Term Been Extended

- A. March 2025
- B. March 2026
- C. March 2027
- D. March 2028

ANSWER: C

16. On Which Date Is International Mother Language Day Observed

- A. February 21
- B. March 21
- C. February 20
- D. March 8

ANSWER: A

17. Which country has joined OPEC+ as an observer

- A. Argentina
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Mexico
- D. Brazil

ANSWER: D

18. Who Became The Fastest Indian Bowler To Reach 200 ODI Wickets

- A. Mohammed Siraj
- B. Bhuvneshwar Kumar
- C. Jasprit Bumrah
- D. Mohammed Shami

ANSWER: D

19. In Which State Is The World's Largest Safari Park, The Aravali Safari Park Project, Located

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

ANSWER: A

20. Which Of The Following Viceroy Abolished The Devadasi System

- A. Lord Hardinge II
- B. Lord Irwin
- C. Lord Reading
- D. Lord Chelmsford

ANSWER: C

