

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

- ❖ The use of lathi-charge by police to control protests and public gatherings raises concerns about its impact on democracy and the principles of a welfare state. Critically examine the appropriateness of such measures in a democratic society. Suggest alternative methods for maintaining law and order while upholding citizens' rights to peaceful assembly and protest. [BPSC General Studies II Section I: 38 marks]
- ❖ Nanotechnology has emerged as a transformative field with applications across various domains. Discuss the role and potential of nanotechnology in the fields of healthcare, agriculture, energy, and environment. Highlight the challenges associated with its implementation in India. [BPSC General Studies II Section III: 38 marks]

Bihar Special**42nd Governor of Bihar****Why in the news?**

Arif Mohammad Khan was sworn in as the 42nd Governor of Bihar on 2nd January 2025.

- ❖ He succeeded Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar who has been appointed as Kerala Governor in his place.
- ❖ Patna High Court Chief Justice K. Vinod Chandran administered the oath at the Raj Bhawan.

About Arif Mohammed Khan:

- ❖ Born on 18 November 1951 in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Khan is an alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University and Lucknow University.
- ❖ He is a staunch critic of the Muslim Personal Law Board and resigned from Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet over differences regarding the Shah Bano case.
- ❖ He has also represented the Kanpur and Bahraich constituencies in the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 12th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ As a Union Cabinet Minister, Arif Mohammad Khan held the Ministry of Energy and Civil Aviation during 1989-90.

- ❖ He took charge as the 22nd Governor of Kerala on 06 September 2019.



National Affairs

Project VISTAAR

Why in the news?

IIT Madras will collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare on Project VISTAAR.

- ❖ VISTAAR stands for Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources.
- ❖ **Objective:** It seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the agricultural extension system through Digitalization.

Economy

Textile data

Why in the news?

India is the 6th largest exporter of Textiles & Apparel in the world in 2023.

- ❖ The share of textile and apparel (T&A) including handicrafts in India's total exports stands at a significant 8.21% in 2023-24.
- ❖ India has a share of 3.9% of the global trade in textiles and apparel.
- ❖ Major textile and apparel export destinations for India are USA and EU and with around 47% share in total textile and apparel exports.
- ❖ India is a major textile and apparel exporting country and enjoys a trade surplus.

Employment Data

Why in the news?

According to the Labour and Employment Ministry:

- ❖ Employment generation in the country has witnessed a remarkable growth of **36 percent** during the last ten years (2014-24) as compared to 7% from 2004-2014.
 - Over 17 crore additional jobs were created from 2014 to 2024.
 - Around four crore 60 lakh jobs were generated in the country last year.

- Employment opportunities in the Agriculture sector grew by 19 percent, 15 percent in the manufacturing sector, and 36 percent in the service sector from 2014-2024.
- The unemployment rate declined from 6 percent in 2017-18 to 3.2 percent in 2023-24.
- The employability of graduate youth grew significantly from 33.95 percent in 2013 to 54.81 percent in 2024.

Environment And Geography

1st 'Coastline-Waders Bird Census

Why in the news?

The country's first-ever 'Coastline-Waders Bird Census' began at Marine National Park and Sanctuary in Jamnagar (Gujarat) on 3rd January 2024.

- ❖ The three-day census which has been jointly organized by the Department of Forest and the Bird Conservation Society.
- ❖ According to the Gujarat forest department, Jamnagar district hosts over 300 species of local and migratory birds, including over 50 species of Wader birds.



Awards and Honors

National Sports Awards 2024

Why in the news?

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2024 on 2nd January 2025.

- ❖ The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 17th January 2025.
- ❖ The Selection Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) V. Ramasubramanian, Supreme Court of India and consisting of members from eminent sportspersons, persons having experience in sports journalism and sports administrators.
- ❖ Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar has been awarded to the Physical Education Foundation of India.

**Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2024**

- ❖ It is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over the period of the previous four years.

Name of Sportsperson	Discipline
Shri Gukesh D	Chess
Shri Harmanpreet Singh	Hockey
Shri Praveen Kumar	Para-Athletics
Ms. Manu Bhaker	Shooting

Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2024

- ❖ It is given for good performance over a period of the previous four years and for showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Ms. Jyothi Yarraji	Athletics
2.	Ms. Annu Rani	Athletics
3.	Ms. Nitu	Boxing
4.	Ms. Saweety	Boxing
5.	Ms. Vantika Agrawal	Chess
6.	Ms. Salima Tete	Hockey
7.	Shri Abhishek	Hockey
8.	Shri Sanjay	Hockey
9.	Shri Jarmanpreet Singh	Hockey
10.	Shri Sukhjeet Singh	Hockey



11.	Shri Rakesh Kumar	Para-Archery
12.	Ms. Preeti Pal	Para-Athletics
13.	Ms. Jeevanji Deepthi	Para-Athletics
14.	Shri Ajeet Singh	Para-Athletics
15.	Shri Sachin Sarjerao Khilari	Para-Athletics
16.	Shri Dharambir	Para-Athletics
17.	Shri Pranav Soorma	Para-Athletics
18.	Shri H Hokato Sema	Para-Athletics
19.	Ms. Simran	Para-Athletics
20.	Shri Navdeep	Para-Athletics
21.	Shri Nitesh Kumar	Para-Badminton
22.	Ms. Thulasimathi Murugesan	Para-Badminton
23.	Ms. Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan	Para-Badminton
24.	Ms. Manisha Ramadass	Para-Badminton
25.	Shri Kapil Parmar	Para-Judo
26.	Ms. Mona Agarwal	Para-Shooting
27.	Ms. Rubina Francis	Para-Shooting
28.	Shri Swapnil Suresh Kusale	Shooting
29.	Shri Sarabjot Singh	Shooting
30.	Shri Abhay Singh	Squash
31.	Shri Sajan Prakash	Swimming
32.	Shri Aman	Wrestling

Arjuna Awards (Lifetime) for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2024

- ❖ It is given to honour and motivate those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting career.

Shri Suchna Singh	Athletics
Shri Murlikant Rajaram Petkar	Para-Swimming

Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games 2024

- ❖ It is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work consistently and for enabling sportspersons to excel in International events.

Shri Subhash Rana (Regular Category)	Para-Shooting
Ms. Deepali Deshpande (Regular Category)	Shooting
Shri Sandeep Sangwan (Regular Category)	Hockey
Shri S Muralidharan (Lifetime Category)	Badminton
Shri Armando Agnelo Colaco (Lifetime Category)	Football

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2024:

- ❖ The overall top performing university in Khelo India University Games is given the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy.

Chandigarh University	Overall winner University
Lovely Professional University, (PB)	1st runner-up University
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	2nd runner-up up University

Books And Authors

'Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh: Through the Ages

Why in the news?

Union Home Minister Amit Shah released a book titled- 'Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh : Through the Ages at a function in New Delhi.

- ❖ It has been written by Raghuvendra Tanwar, the Chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research.



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