

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

1. Examine the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on global geopolitics and the world economy. Discuss the recent developments in the conflict, highlighting its implications for international relations. Critically analyze India's position on the conflict, considering its strategic and economic interests. Suggest potential diplomatic solutions that could contribute to ending the crisis and restoring stability in the region [BPSC General Studies I Section II : 10+9+10+9 marks]
2. The Israel-Palestine conflict remains one of the most enduring and complex disputes in modern international relations. Discuss the historical roots and key issues fueling the conflict. Highlight the recent developments and their impact on regional and global stability. Critically analyze India's diplomatic stance on the issue, balancing its strategic interests and moral obligations. Suggest feasible solutions that could contribute to a sustainable and peaceful resolution [[BPSC General Studies I Section II : 10+9+10+9 marks]

National Affairs**23rd Divya Kala Mela****Why in the news?**

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPWD) will organize the 23rd Divya Kala Mela at Akota Stadium, Vadodara, Gujarat.

- ❖ It will be organized from 9th – 19th January 2024 through its apex Corporation, National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC).
- ❖ It was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State (SJ&E), Shri B.L. Verma.

About the Mela:

- ❖ It will showcase a diverse range of products and craftsmanship of Divyang entrepreneurs/artisans from across the country.
- ❖ It is a unique initiative towards the economic empowerment of PwD/Divyangjan.
- ❖ It presents a big platform for marketing and showcasing the products and skills of Divyangjan (PwD).
- ❖ Around 100 Divyang artisans/artists and entrepreneurs from about 20 states/UTs will be showcasing their products and skills.

International Relations

Global Cooperation Barometer 2025

Why in the news?

The *Global Cooperation Barometer 2025* has been released by the World Economic Forum.

- ❖ It is the **2nd edition** of this barometer.
- ❖ It has been developed in collaboration with McKinsey & Company and uses **41 indicators** to measure the current state of global cooperation.
- ❖ **According to the barometer:**
 - International cooperation has 'flatlined', driven by heightened geopolitical tensions and instability.
- ❖ **Objective:**
 - To offer leaders a tool to 'better understand' the contours of cooperation 'broadly' and along five pillars: trade and capital flows, innovation and technology, climate and natural capital, health and wellness, and peace and security.



Economy

Anji Khad Bridge

Why in the news?

Anji Khad Bridge is India's first cable-stayed rail bridge.

- ❖ **Objective:** It is designed to enhance regional connectivity and economic growth.
- ❖ It is located in the **Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- ❖ This monumental structure is part of the ambitious **Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project**.

About the bridge:

- ❖ The bridge, about **80 km** from Jammu, spans a total length of **725.5 meters** and features a main pylon standing at **193 meters** above its foundation, towering **331 meters** above the riverbed.
- ❖ It can withstand wind speeds of up to **213 km/h** and handle a train line with a speed limit of **100 km/h**, without posing any risk to the structural integrity.



Persons In News

Tuhin Kanta Pandey



Why in the news?

Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been appointed as the **Secretary of the Department of Revenue**.

- ❖ He will continue to hold the designation of Finance Secretary.
- ❖ He is an IAS officer of the 1987 Odisha cadre and was serving as Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- ❖ Arunish Chawla, IAS officer of the 1992 Bihar cadre, the current Revenue Secretary, has been appointed Secretary of DIPAM

Important Days/ Dates

Earth Rotation Day



Why in the news?

Earth Rotation Day is observed on **January 8** every year.

- ❖ It celebrates the anniversary of French physicist Leon Foucault's 1851 proof that the Earth rotates on its axis.
 - The day also honours Foucault's first public demonstration in Paris.
- ❖ **History:**
 - It took several years for philosophers and scientists to work out how the Earth rotates around the sun.
 - It was 470 BC, the Greeks claimed that the earth moved on itself.
 - However, in 1851 French Physicist Leon Foucault showed the world's rotation with the help of a pendulum.

Obituary

Pritish Nandy

Why in the news?

Film producer, writer, and journalist Pritish Nandy passed away on 8th January, 2025.

- ❖ He was a multifaceted personality, celebrated for his contributions to journalism, poetry, and Indian cinema.

- ❖ As a film producer, Nandy made a significant impact in the early 2000s with films like Kaante, Jhankaar Beats, Chameli, and Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi.



News in Short

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of India's first Green Hydrogen Hub (GHH) under National Green Hydrogen Mission, at Pudimadaka in Anakapalli district, near Visakhapatnam on January 8, 2025.

- ❖ India's first commercial utility-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) — an inverter that can provide electricity to a grid — from renewable energy is expected to operate in Delhi in March, 2025.
- ❖ Maharashtra will be the first State to introduce drone surveillance of coasts to keep a stronger check on illegal fishing by trawlers from neighbouring States, primarily from Karnataka, Gujarat and Goa.



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