

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

1. How does the definition of the poverty line affect policy decisions in India? Discuss the implications of using varying consumption baskets for determining the poverty line and its impact on poverty alleviation efforts. [BPSC GS 2: Section II] (19 Marks)

Bihar Special

85th All India Presiding Officers Conference

Why in the news?

The 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference concluded in Patna, Bihar on 21 January 2025.

- ❖ The two-day 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference was held at the Bihar Legislature premises in Patna on 20 & 21 January 2025.
- ❖ **Theme** - '75th Anniversary of Constitution: Contribution of Parliament and State legislative bodies in strengthening constitutional values.'

- ❖ Shri Om Birla released the 8th edition of 'Practice and Procedure of Parliament' and also inaugurated Neva Seva Kendra in Bihar Legislature premises on 21 January 2025.

All India Presiding Officers Conference

- ❖ Bihar hosted the All India Presiding Officers Conference for the third time.
- ❖ Bihar hosted the All India Presiding Officers Conference for the first time on the 6th and 7th January 1964.
- ❖ The second time Bihar hosted was in 1982.

61st Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies

- ❖ The 61st Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies was held on 19th January 2025 in Patna just before the 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference.
- ❖ The 61st Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies was inaugurated by the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, Utpal Kumar Singh.
- ❖ The theme of the Conference was - Adoption of modern technologies in our legislative bodies for greater efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity.

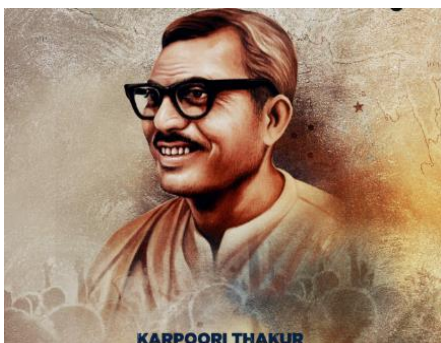


- ❖ The first All India Presiding Officer Conference was held in 1921 in Shimla. The 82nd All India Presiding Officer Conference which marked the 100th year of the first Conference was also held in Shimla in November 2021.
- ❖ The 84th All India Presiding Officer Conference was held at the Maharashtra Legislature premises in Mumbai on the 27th and 28th of January 2024.

Karpoori Thakur

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Bharat Ratna and former Chief Minister of Bihar, Karpoori Thakur, on his birth anniversary on 24 th Jan 2025



About Karpoori Thakur

- ❖ Karpoori Thakur, born in 1924 in Pitaunjhia (now Karpoori Gram) in Darbhanga, Bihar, was a freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Bihar.
- ❖ Posthumously honoured with the Bharat Ratna in 2024, he earned the title 'Jannayak' for his unwavering commitment to serving the people and advancing their causes.
- ❖ Thakur became a member of the Bihar Vidhan Sabha in 1952.
- ❖ A strong advocate of socialist ideology, he worked tirelessly for the Praja Socialist Party and the Joint Socialist Party.
- ❖ Thakur served as a minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar before serving two terms as CM of Bihar from 1970 to 1971 and 1977 to 1979. He passed away in February 1988 in Patna.

National Affairs

Deep Ocean Mission

Why in the news?

India is gearing up to deploy its first human-operated underwater submersible as part of the Deep Ocean Mission.

- ❖ Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh revealed plans to launch a submersible capable of diving up to 500 meters this year, with an extended depth target of 6,000 meters by next year.

Objective

- ❖ The Deep Ocean Mission aims to explore underwater resources, improve knowledge of deep-sea ecosystems, and advance India's blue economy.
- ❖ The mission's objectives include identifying critical minerals, rare metals, and undiscovered marine biodiversity, which have economic and environmental implications. It will also contribute to sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation, providing long-term benefits to India's scientific community and economy.
- ❖ The announcement was made during the Mission Steering Committee meeting at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi on Jan 24, 2025.



International Relations

7th India-France Maritime Cooperation Dialogue



Why in the news?

The 7th India-France Maritime Cooperation Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 14 January 2025.

- ❖ co-chaired by Shri Pavan Kapoor (India) and Ms. Alice Rufo (France).

Focus Areas

- ❖ Enhancing cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) for maritime security and freedom of navigation.
- ❖ Upholding international law, supporting multilateralism, and respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Key Agreements:

- ❖ Free and Open Indian Ocean: Reaffirmed the 2018 Joint Strategic Vision, supporting secure sea lanes through maritime collaboration.
- ❖ Threat Assessments: Joint evaluation of threats like piracy, maritime terrorism, contraband smuggling, illegal fishing, and cybersecurity threats.

- ❖ Information Sharing: Strengthened mechanisms such as the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (Gurugram) and regional centers in Seychelles and Madagascar for coordinated surveillance.
- ❖ Marine Conservation: Commitment to conserving biodiversity and protecting marine resources through the UN Ocean Conference, focusing on the blue economy and ocean governance.

India and France are strengthening their maritime cooperation to promote peace and security in the Indian Ocean Region, with New Delhi set to chair the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for two years starting in 2025.

Nigeria: Ninth BRICS partner country

Why in the news?

Nigeria becomes the ninth BRICS partner country, joining Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan on 17 Jan 2025.

- ❖ BRICS was formed by Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009, with South Africa added in 2010, as a counterweight to the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised nations.

- ❖ In 2023, the bloc added Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the UAE, while Saudi Arabia has been invited to join.



Defence And Security

Scramjet Engine Ground Test

Why in the news?

Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), a Hyderabad-based laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken the initiative in developing a long-duration Supersonic Combustion Ramjet or Scramjet-powered Hypersonic technology.

- ❖ DRDO conducted the successful test of an actively cooled combustor of a scramjet engine on the ground for 120 seconds for the first time in the country on 22 Jan 2025.
- ❖ **Scramjets:** Air-breathing engines capable of sustaining combustion at supersonic speeds without moving parts, essential for hypersonic vehicles.

- ❖ Advanced weaponry traveling at speeds exceeding Mach 5 (5,400 km/hr), enabling rapid and high-impact strikes.
- ❖ Nations like the USA, Russia, India, and China are actively developing hypersonic technology.



Schemes In News

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana's

Why in the news?

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) completed 10 years on January 22, 2025.

- ❖ Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015, the scheme has encouraged families to invest in the bright futures of their daughters in the last decade.
- ❖ As per the Ministry of Finance, the scheme had over 4.2 crore subscribers until November 2024.
- ❖ SSY account allows one to invest a minimum ₹250 and a maximum ₹1.5 lakh in a year in the name of a girl child.

- ❖ The account can be opened in the name of a girl child till she attains the age of 10 years.



Miscellaneous

HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024


Why in the news?

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella secured the first spot on the inaugural HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024, followed by Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and YouTube CEO Neal Mohan.

CLIMBING THE GLOBAL LADDER


Value of the company (\$ bn)

★ No. of years in role




1
RANK

SATYA NADELLA
MICROSOFT
Chairman & CEO
★★★★★ 10
3,146 (Andhra Pradesh)




2

SUNDAR PICHAI
ALPHABET CEO
★★★★★ 5
(Tamil Nadu)
2,107




3

NEAL MOHAN
YOUTUBE CEO
★ 1
(Uttar Pradesh)
455




4

THOMAS KURIAN
GOOGLE CLOUD
CEO
★★★★★ 6
353 (Kerala)




5

SHANTANU NARAYEN
ADOBE
Chairman & CEO
★★★★★ 17
231 (Telangana)




6

SANJIV LAMBA
LINDE CEO
★★ 2
222 (Punjab)




7

VASANT NARASIMHAN
NOVARTIS CEO
★★★★★ 6
216 (Tamil Nadu)




8

ARVIND KRISHNA
IBM
Chairman & CEO
★★★★ 4
208 (Andhra Pradesh)



9

VIMAL KAPUR
HONEYWELL
INTERNATIONAL
Chairman & CEO
★ 1
152 (Punjab)



10

KEVIN LOBO
STRYKER
Chairman & CEO
★★★★★ 12
149 (Goa)

Note: State of origin in brackets; 9 of the top 10 leaders now reside in the U.S.

Source: HSBC Hurun Global

Note: State of origin in brackets; 9 of the top 10 leaders now reside in the US; Vasant Narasimhan lives in Switzerland

Source: HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024

- ❖ Ranks 226 Indian-origin leaders heading the world's most valuable companies, with a combined valuation of \$10 trillion.
- ❖ The youngest entrepreneur on the list is 27-year-old Tanay Tandon, co-founder of Commure.
- ❖ The list features 12 women, leading with Reshma Kewalramani of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, followed by Jayshree Ullal of Arista Networks, and Leena Nair, Global CEO of fashion brand —Chanel, who is also recognised as the most influential woman of Indian origin.

Sports

India Open 2025 badminton

Why in the news?

Denmark's Viktor Axelsen and South Korea's An Se-young won the men's and women's singles titles at the 2025 India Open Badminton Tournament.

- ❖ The Indian Open Badminton Tournament was held in New Delhi from 14-19 January 2025.
- ❖ Viktor Axelsen who was appearing in the final of the Indian Open for the sixth time in the last 10 years defeated Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong China 21-16, 21-8 to win his third India Open Title.

- ❖ Viktor Axelsen had previously won the Indian Open singles title in 2017 and 2019.

Winners of the 2025 India Open Badminton Tournament

Event	Winner (Nationality)	Runners-Up (Nationality)
Men (Singles)	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)	Lee Cheuk Yiu (Hong Kong China)
Women (Singles)	An Se-young (South Korea)	Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand)
Men (Doubles)	Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin (Malaysia)	Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae (South Korea)
Women (Doubles)	Arisa Igarashi and Ayaka Sakuramoto (Japan)	Kim Hye-jeong and Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)
Mixed Double	Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin (China)	Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue (France)

- ❖ The Indian Open Badminton tournament is organised by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) and hosted by the Badminton Federation of India in New Delhi.
- ❖ The first Indian Open Badminton Tournament was held in 2018 and since then it has been held every year.

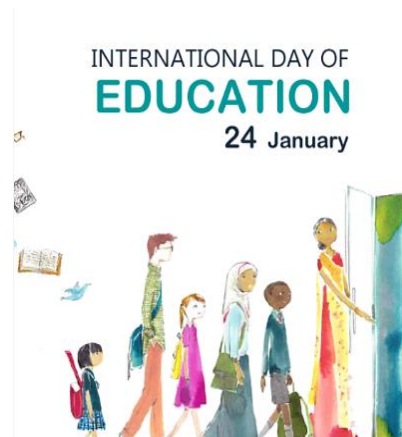
Important Days/ Dates

International Education Day 2025

Why in the news?

On December 3, 2018, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed January 24 as the International Day of Education to raise awareness of education's accessibility and significance for everyone

- ❖ International Day of Education 2025 is being celebrated under the theme "AI and education: Preserving human agency in a world of automation".
- ❖ The right to education is a part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which calls for free and compulsory elementary education.



National Girl Child Day 2025

Why in the news?

National Girl Child Day, observed annually on January 24, is a pivotal occasion dedicated to raising awareness about the rights and potential of girls across the nation.

- ❖ The 2025 theme, "Empowering Girls for a Bright Future,"
- ❖ National Girl Child Day was initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in India in 2008.



News in Short

- ❖ The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) has announced the election of Dhananjay Shukla as its president for the year 2025.
- ❖ Yala glacier in Nepal is predicted to vanish by the 2040s, due to significant reductions in area and volume.
 - Monitoring since 1974 shows a retreat of 680m and a 36% area reduction. This glacier is critically endangered, with the Hindu Kush Himalaya region warming twice as fast as the global average.

- ❖ UNESCO, in collaboration with MeitY and Ikigai Law, held a two-day consultation on AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) at IIT Bangalore and Nasscom AI office on 16–17 January 2025.
- ❖ Governor of Gujarat, Shri Acharya Devarat, inaugurated a two-day national workshop on natural farming at Gujarat Natural Farming Science University, Halol, on 23 Jan 2025.



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