

### Polity And Governance

#### Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi initiative

##### Why in the news?

Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched the 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative on Good Governance Day.

##### About the initiative:

- ❖ It is part of the broader 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur' campaign.
- ❖ It aims to enhance the capacity and competence of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by equipping elected representatives and officials with the tools and knowledge required for effective governance and participatory planning.
- ❖ celebrated to mark the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

#### Launch of CPGRAMS Annual Report 2024

- ❖ It provides a comprehensive review of the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System.
- ❖ As the world's largest citizen interface platform, CPGRAMS has redefined grievance redressal by integrating advanced technologies, multilingual support, and comprehensive tracking mechanisms.

### Environment And Geography

#### Bald Eagle

##### Why in the news?

The bald eagle has been officially recognized as the national bird of the United States of America.

- ❖ President Joe Biden signed a law on Christmas Eve bestowing the honour upon the white-headed and yellow-beaked bird of prey.
- ❖ The bird has been a national emblem in the US for years, appearing on the Great Seal of the US - used on US documents - since 1782.
- ❖ The bald eagle is also protected under the National Emblem Act of 1940, which makes it illegal to sell or hunt the creature.
- ❖ The birds were once on the brink of extinction, but the population has greatly increased since 2009.



## Defence And Security

### AI incubation centre

#### Why in the news?

Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence Incubation Centre (IAAIC) in Bengaluru.

- ❖ It aligns with the Indian Army's vision of technological evolution by enhancing operational capabilities, building an AI-ready force, and addressing modern security challenges.
- ❖ It will focus on research and development in critical areas, including predictive maintenance, enhanced surveillance, decision support systems, and autonomous platforms.
- ❖ **Significance:**
  - It highlights the Army's commitment to adopting innovative technologies and empowering its personnel with Artificial Intelligence (AI).

#### About IAAIC:

- ❖ It has been developed in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

- ❖ The centre will foster innovation and serve as a platform for academia, startups, industry leaders, and domain experts to develop indigenous AI solutions tailored to the Army's unique requirements.
- ❖ BEL is providing the infrastructure and IT support, while the facility will be manned by Army personnel.



## Awards and Honors

### Forbes' 2024 World's Most Powerful Women List

#### Why in the news?

Forbes has unveiled its 21st annual list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women.

- ❖ It is a ranking of influential figures from industries such as business, entertainment, politics, philanthropy and policymaking.
- ❖ Among these global changemakers are three Indian women who have made remarkable strides in their respective fields.

- Nirmala Sitharaman is on number 28 in the list.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra (Chairperson of HCL) is on 81st rank in the list.
- Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (founder and chairperson of Biocon) is on 82nd rank in the list.



### Persons In News

#### Arunish Chawla

#### Why in the news?

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals **Arunish Chawla** as the next revenue secretary.

- ❖ He is a 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Bihar cadre.



### Important Days/ Dates

#### Veer Bal Diwas 2024

#### Why in the news?

Veer Bal Diwas on **December 26** each year to honour the unparalleled sacrifices of the Sahibzadasâ "Guru Gobind Singh Ji's four sons.

#### History:

- ❖ The origin of Veer Bal Diwas lies in the poignant story of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's four sons: Baba Ajit Singh, Baba Jujhar Singh, Baba Zorawar Singh, and Baba Fateh Singh.
- ❖ Each displayed exceptional courage and dedication to uphold Sikh principles and safeguard the oppressed.
- ❖ The two elder sons, Ajit Singh and Jujhar Singh, valiantly laid down their lives fighting in the Battle of Chamkaur in December 1705.
- ❖ Their younger brothers, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, were captured and subjected to brutal coercion by the Mughal forces.
  - Despite their tender ages of 9 and 6, the younger Sahibzadas refused to convert to Islam, embracing martyrdom as they were entombed alive in a wall.

- ❖ This national observance, initiated in 2022 by the Government of India, pays homage to the bravery, commitment, and sacrifice of these young martyrs who stood firm in their faith against tyranny.



#### News in Short

- ❖ India's solar photovoltaic (PV) exports increased to \$1.83 billion in 2023, up from \$200.8 million in 2013, making it the sixth-largest exporter globally.
- ❖ According to "EY Economy Watch December 2024":
  - India is projected to witness 6.5 per cent real GDP growth in the current and next fiscal (FY25 and FY26).
- ❖ Glass child syndrome refers to the emotional experience of children who have siblings with serious health issues, and it can have a significant impact on their mental well-being.

- ❖ The 55th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting was held in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Tonga's parliament has elected Aisake Eke as the country's new prime minister.
- ❖ The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has stated that one child is killed every hour in the Gaza Strip.
  - According to a press release, since the start of the conflict, 14 thousand 500 children have been reported killed in Gaza, as per UNICEF's data.
- ❖ Maia Sandu has assumed office as president of the Republic of Moldova for a second term.
- ❖ British-Indian novelist Salman Rushdie's controversial book "The Satanic Verses" has quietly returned to India 36 years after it was banned by the Rajiv Gandhi government.
- ❖ Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been conferred with eight national awards by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI).



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