

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

1. Discuss the role and mandate of the State Public Service Commission in promoting meritocracy and ensuring transparency in recruitment processes. Highlight the recent issues, including the trust deficit among aspirants, and suggest possible solutions to restore credibility and improve the efficiency of the commission [BPSC GS II Section I: 38 marks]
2. Madhubani paintings are an integral part of Bihar's cultural heritage. Discuss the distinctive features of this art form and its journey toward global recognition. Evaluate the steps taken by the Bihar government to promote and preserve Madhubani paintings. [BPSC GS 1 Section 1: 38 marks]

Environment And Geography

Wetland Cities

Why in the news?

Indore and Udaipur have become the first Indian cities to gain international recognition as accredited wetland cities under the Ramsar Convention.

- ❖ Although Bhopal was also nominated, it missed out due to ecological concerns.

What is an accredited wetland city?

- ❖ Accreditation is an international recognition for the cities that value their natural and human-made wetlands.
- ❖ An independent Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation of the Convention in its latest round accredited 31 new cities, including two from India, making the global list of such cities to reach 74.
- ❖ **Significance:**
 - The Wetland City Accreditation scheme will encourage cities in close proximity to and dependent on wetlands, especially Wetlands of International Importance, to highlight and strengthen a positive relationship with these valuable ecosystems.
 - The Accreditation scheme should further promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local people.

Ramsar Convention

- ❖ The 'Convention on Wetlands', signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971 is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- ❖ Wetlands are the only ecosystem to have a dedicated multilateral environmental agreement of their own, the Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ India became a party to the Convention on 01.02.1982.



Awards and Honors

ICC AWARDS 2024

Why in the news?

The International Cricket Council has announced winners of the awards 2024.

Category	Winners
ICC Umpire of the Year 2024	Richard Illingworth (England)
ICC Men's Test Player of the Year 2024	Jasprit Bumrah (India)
ICC Women's ODI Player of the Year 2024	Smriti Mandhana (India)
ICC Men's ODI Player of the Year 2024	Azmatullah Omarzai (Afghanistan)
ICC Emerging Women's Player of the Year 2024:	Annerie Dercksen (South Africa)
ICC Emerging Men's Player of the Year 2024	Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka)
ICC Women's T20I Player of the Year 2024	Melie Kerr (New Zealand)
ICC Men's T20I Player of the Year 2024	Arshdeep Singh (India)
ICC Women's Associate Player of the Year 2024	Esha Oza (UAE)
ICC Men's Associate Player of the Year 2024:	Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia)



Sports

5th edition of Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)

Why in the news?

The KIWG 2025 is being held in two phases.

- ❖ The first phase was held in Ladakh from January 23 to 27 while the second will be held in Jammu and Kashmir from February 21 to 25.
- ❖ The first phase in Ladakh concluded on 27th January, 2025.

Medal Tally after 1st phase of KIWG 2025:

Rank	State/UT/Team	Gold medals	Silver medals	Bronze medals	Total medals
1	Ladakh	4	2	1	7
2	Tamil Nadu	3	2	0	5
3	Maharashtra	2	4	4	10
4	Telangana	2	1	2	5
5	Karnataka	1	2	1	4
6	Army	1	0	0	1
7	ITBP	0	2	0	2
8	Haryana	0	0	2	2
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	2	2

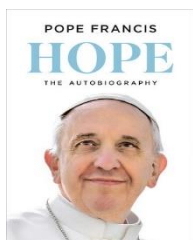
About the KIWG 2025:

- ❖ It features more than 400 athletes from 19 teams comprising states, Union Territories and institutions, competing in disciplines across six winter sports.
- ❖ A total of 136 medals will be up for grabs.
- ❖ It follows a team championship format, where medals earned by individual athletes or teams contribute to the overall tally of their respective state, Union Territory or institutions.
- ❖ After the event's conclusion, the state, Union Territory or institution with the most gold medals is declared the winner.



Books And Authors

Hope: The Autobiography



Why in the news?

Hope is the first autobiography in history ever to be published by a Pope.

- ❖ It has been written by Pope Francis and Jorge Mario Bergoglio.
- ❖ It has been translated by Richard Dixon with Carlo Musso.

News in Short

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has published the **Payment System Report, December 2024**.
 - It analyses the trends in payment transactions carried out using various payment systems in India during the last five calendar years up to CY-2024.
 - It also covers important developments in the payment ecosystem and provides an in-depth analysis of UPI.
 - Henceforth, the report will be published on the RBI website on a half yearly basis.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) will organise **Global Hyperloop Competition (GHC) 2025**, Asia's first international Hyperloop competition, from 21st to 25th February 2025.



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