

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

1. Critically examine the interplay between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy, highlighting key judicial pronouncements that have shaped this relationship. How does the judiciary ensure harmony between the two, and what are the challenges in maintaining this balance? [BPSC General Studies II Section I: 38 marks]
2. Critically analyze the key outcomes of the Quad Summit 2024 and evaluate its impact on regional security and multilateral cooperation. Discuss the strategic role played by India in shaping the Quad's agenda and addressing emerging issues, including challenges posed by China, climate change, and technology governance. [BPSC General Studies I Section II: 38 marks]

Bihar Special

Sumitra Saha Prasad

Why in the news?

Sumitra Saha Prasad became the first person in Bihar to get citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) of 2019.

- ❖ Also known as Rani Saha (60), she finally received Indian citizenship after a 40-year wait.
- ❖ She has been living on a visa in Bihar's Ara's town ever since she got married to an Indian citizen.



Economy

Metro Network in India

Why in the news?

On January 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation for multiple development projects worth over Rs 12,200 crore in Delhi.

- ❖ It included the inauguration of the 13 km stretch of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Namo Bharat corridor.



- ❖ With this growth, India has surpassed Japan in Metro Rail Projects in 2022.
- Currently, India ranks third globally in operational Metro network length and is on track to become the **2nd largest Metro network** in the world.

History of Metro in India

- ❖ In 1969, the initiative for a metro system was launched through the Metropolitan Transport Project.
- ❖ 1984: The first metro line in India, covering 3.4 km between Esplanade and Bhowanipur, opened in Kolkata. This marked the beginning of metro life in India.
- ❖ 1995: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was established to bring world-class Mass Rapid Transport to Delhi. The project gained momentum with joint participation from the Central Government and the Government of Delhi.
- ❖ 2002: DMRC opened its first metro corridor between Shahdara and Tis Hazari in Delhi, setting the stage for one of the country's largest metro networks.

- ❖ 2011: Namma Metro's (Bengaluru Metro) first segment was built.
- ❖ 2017: Chennai's metro expanded with the inauguration of its first underground section on the Green Line, from Koyambedu to Nehru Park, marking a key milestone for Southern India's metro development.
- ❖ 2020: Phase 1 of Kochi Metro was completed, with the Thykoodam-Petta stretch commissioned, making Kerala part of the growing metro network in India.
- ❖ **Under-Water Metro:** In 2024, PM Modi inaugurated India's first under-water metro tunnel in Kolkata, where the Esplanade-Howrah Maidan section passes beneath the Hooghly River.
- ❖ **Driverless Metro:** On December 28, 2020, India launched its first-ever driverless metro service on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line, setting a new benchmark for automation in public transport.
- ❖ **Kochi Water Metro:** Kochi, Kerala, became the first city in India to launch a Water Metro Project, connecting 10 islands around the city with electric hybrid boats.

Miscellaneous

India's first 'Gen Beta' baby



Why in the news?

India got its first baby of this gen on New Year's Day, January 1, in Mizoram's Aizawl.

- ❖ The baby boy named Frankie Remruatdika Zadeng, was born at 12:03 am on January 1 at Durtlang's Synod hospital in Aizawl, making him the first birth of Generation Beta.

Gen Beta

- ❖ Futurist Mark McCrindle coined the term 'Gen Beta' to define babies born between 2025 and 2039, saying that by 2035 they will make up for 16 percent of the global population.

Sports

Santosh Trophy

Why in the news?

West Bengal defeated Kerala 1-0 to win the Santosh Trophy.



About the trophy:

- ❖ Started in 1941, the Santosh Trophy is one of Indian football's legacy tournaments. It is the national football championship for men.
- ❖ The Santosh Trophy is named after the former Maharaja of Santosh (now in Bangladesh), Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury, a legendary figure in Indian football.
- ❖ West Bengal, then named Bengal, went on to win the inaugural Santosh Trophy title in 1941-42 after beating Delhi Delhi 5-1 in the final.
- ❖ In fact, West Bengal is also the most successful team in Santosh Trophy history, having won the title 33 times while finishing runners-up on 14 occasions.

Important Days/ Dates

National Bird Day



Why in the news?

National Bird Day is celebrated on January 5 every year.

- ❖ It is a day dedicated to raising aware-ness about the importance of birds in our ecosystems and their conservation.
- ❖ **Objective:** It encourages people to appreciate the beauty, diversity, and significance of birds while promoting efforts to protect their habitats.
- ❖ **History:** It was first established in 2002 by the Avian Welfare Coalition.

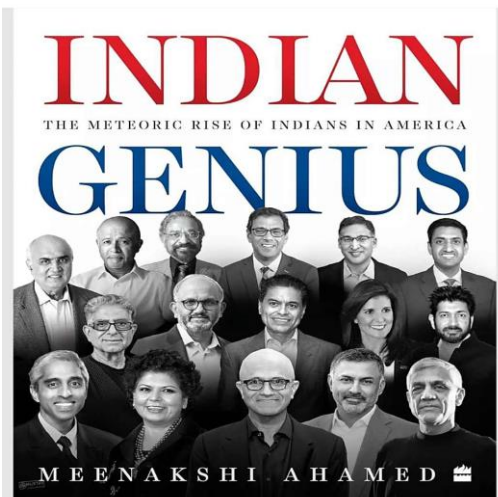
Books And Authors

INDIAN GENIUS: The Meteoric Rise of Indians in America

Why in the news?

INDIAN GENIUS: The Meteoric Rise of Indians in America has been authored by journalist Meenakshi Ahamed

- ❖ The book provides fascinating portraits of the Indian Americans at the forefront of the wave of Indian success stories.

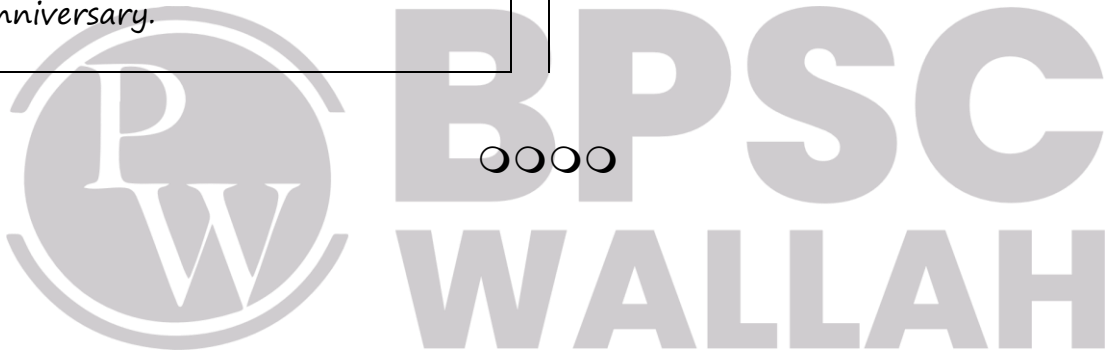


News in Short

- ❖ The Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC) has conceptualized a flagship initiative called 'Faral Sakhi', aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs in the city of Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra.
 - It will provide comprehensive training and support to help women entrepreneurs engaged in traditional snack production to scale their ventures sustainably and effectively.

- ❖ Varun Tomar from the Indian Army has become the national shooting champion after winning the Men's 10-meter Air Pistol finals of the 67th National Shooting Championship 2024 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Centre will issue a commemorative silver coin of Rs. 25 to honour the legacy of philanthropist and industrialist Harakh Chand Nahata, marking his 25th death anniversary.

- ❖ Union Steel Minister H.D Kumara-swamy launched the 'PLI scheme 1.1' for the steel industry in New Delhi.
- ❖ Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurated the new campus of the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology at Fulia, Nadia, West Bengal.



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