

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

1. "Technological advancement, while boosting growth, also reduces employment opportunities." Analyse this paradox and suggest strategies to balance technology adoption with employment generation.[BPSC GS 2: Section II](38 Marks)
2. "Bihar's budget for 2025-26 is projected to cross ₹3 lakh crore, marking a significant increase in the state's financial capacity. Discuss the factors driving this growth and analyze the challenges in ensuring effective utilization of such a large budget for equitable development."[BPSC GS 1: Section II](38 Marks)

Bihar Special**State's First Plastic Waste Management Institute****Why in the news?**

The state's first plastic waste management institute opened in **Aliganj, Bhagalpur** on 19 Jan 2025.

- ❖ Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda inaugurated it from Ahmedabad CIPET.

- ❖ A plant has also been found to dispose of plastic waste in municipal bodies.
- ❖ CIPET Bhagalpur will be the 49th institute in the country.

National Affairs**Odisha, Singapore sign MoU to establish FinTech hub****Why in the news?**

The Government of Odisha's Electronics and IT Department and Singapore's Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN) signed an MoU on 18th Jan 2025.

- ❖ **Aim-** to establish a Global Competency Centre in Bhubaneswar to foster FinTech collaboration, with a focus on developing an inclusive and sustainable InsureTech and related areas.
- ❖ The initiative marks another positive step commemorating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore in 2025.
- ❖ The MoU aims to support India's national vision of "Insurance for All" by 2047, where every citizen will have appropriate life, health, and property insurance coverage.



Economy

World Employment and Social Outlook, 2025

Why in the news?

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has recently released its World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2025 report.

Key findings

- ❖ Global unemployment will remain at 5% in 2024, economic growth will remain slow and challenges will persist.
- ❖ The slowing global economy is making it more difficult for labour markets to fully recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Key challenges for the labour market: geopolitical tensions, rising costs of climate change and unresolved debt issues.

About the International Labour Organization (ILO)

- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a United Nations agency that promotes social justice and labor rights.
- ❖ The ILO was created in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I.

Miscellaneous

Kokborok Language

Why in the news?

Tripura is conducting language mapping for the development of 'the Kokborok language'.

- ❖ The word "Kokborok" comes from "Kok" meaning "verbal," and "Borok," meaning "people" or "human."
- ❖ Kokborok is the mother tongue of the indigenous communities of Tripura, including the Debbarma (Tripuri), Reang, Jamatia, Noatia, Kalai, Rupini, Murasing, and Uchoi. It is also one of the state languages of Tripura

Divya Kala Mela



Why in the news?

The 11-day fair, held from 9th to 19th January, featured over 100 Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs from 20 States and Union Territories, showcasing their products.

- ❖ Gujarat's 30 Divyangjans received loan sanction letters worth Rs.1 crore, while motorized tricycles and assistive devices were distributed to 25 Divyangjans.
- ❖ The Divya Kala Mela concluded at Akota Stadium, Vadodara, with a spectacular 'Divya Kala Shakti' cultural performance.
- ❖ The closing 'Divya Kala Shakti' programme saw 78 Divyang artists from 15 States perform 36 captivating acts, including dances on 'Jay Jay Garvi Gujarat' and 'Radha Kaise Na Jale.'

Sports

Kho Kho World Cup 2025

Why in the news?

The Indian men's and women's teams created history at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on the 19th Jan 2025 by beating Nepal in their respective finals and winning the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 titles.

- ❖ While the Indian men's kho kho team beat Nepal 54-36 in the title clash, the women's team outplayed the Nepalese Eves by a 78-40 scoreline.
- ❖ This was the inaugural edition of the Kho Kho World Cup.



Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024-25

Why in the news?

Karnataka won their fifth Vijay Hazare trophy as they beat Vidarbha by 36 runs in the final at the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara on 18th Jan 2025.

Karnataka's Vijay Hazare Trophy Triumphs

- ❖ 2013-14 Season: Karnataka won their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title.
- ❖ 2014-15 Season: Defended their title successfully.
- ❖ 2017-18 Season: Secured their third title, with Agarawal topping the batting charts.
- ❖ 2019-20 Season: Lifted their fourth title, with Padikkal emerging as the highest run-getter.



Awards and Honors

Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025

Why in the news?

Professor Urbasi Sinha, faculty in the Light and Matter Physics theme at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), was honored with the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at Cambridge, UK on 19th Jan 2025.

- ❖ She is among the eight winners of Gates-Cambridge's Impact Prize to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

About Prof. Sinha

- ❖ Prof. Sinha is a researcher in both quantum fundamentals and technologies, and she heads the Quantum Information and Computing (QuIC) lab at RRI an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology.

- ❖ Her lab was one of the first in India to manufacture and establish the usage of heralded and entangled photon sources for various applications in the following areas: quantum communication, quantum computing, quantum optics and quantum fundamentals and information processing.

Awards and Recognition



- ❖ Recipient of the Rashtriya Vigyan Yuva Puraskar by the Government of India and the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Photonic Quantum Science and Technologies at the University of Calgary.
- ❖ Played a key role in establishing the Open Quantum Institute (OQI), a pioneering multi-stakeholder institution launched at CERN in March 2024.

Persons In News

G.P. Singh



Why in the news?

Assam police chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh was appointed Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on January 19, 2025.

- ❖ Mr. Singh is a 1991-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
- ❖ Singh's appointment as CRPF D-G till the date of his superannuation on November 30, 2027
- ❖ CRPF is among the largest Central armed police forces (CAPF) in the country.

Obituary

Denis Law

Why in the news?

Iconic Scottish forward and Manchester United legend and former Ballon d'Or winner Denis Law has passed away recently at the age of 84. Law was regarded as one of the finest footballers of his generation.



News in Short

- ❖ The Wankhede Stadium marked its 50th anniversary with a grand celebration organized by the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).
 - The stadium was inaugurated in 1974.
- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) found ancient Buddhist artefacts in excavations at Odisha's Ratnagiri.
 - ASI found artefacts like Buddha heads and inscribed Buddhist relics etc.
- ❖ Bihar's budget for 2025-26 is likely to surpass ₹3 lakh crore, as hinted by Minister Vijay Chaudhary.



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