

December - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Home Ministry launched a unique initiative named Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar.
 - The main objective of the project is to culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages, spanning 29 States and seven Union Territories.
- ❖ US President announced a high-speed rail project connecting Las Vegas and Los Angeles.
 - The high-speed rail project aims to reduce the travel time between Los Angeles and Las Vegas from seven hours to just three hours.
- ❖ A 2,400-meter-deep physics laboratory in southwest China's Sichuan Province became operational to pursue the invisible substance known as dark matter.
 - This is the deepest and largest underground lab in the world.

NATIONAL

India Art, Architecture, and Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023



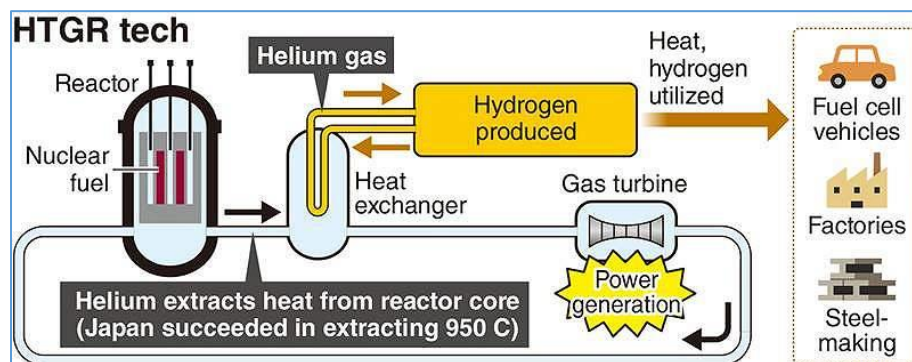
- ❖ The first India Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 is launched in New Delhi.

- ❖ This initiative is aligned with a nationwide campaign to revitalize museums and develop cultural spaces in five major cities: Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Varanasi.
- ❖ The Kochi-Muziris Biennale held in Kerala 2012.
- ❖ The Bihar Museum Biennale started in 2021 in Patna.

INTERNATIONAL

Shidaowan Nuclear Plant

- ❖ China's Shidaowan nuclear power plant, the world's first fourth-generation reactor, has begun commercial operations.
- ❖ This illustrates China's global leadership in high-temperature gas-cooled reactor (HTGR) nuclear energy technology.
- ❖ Instead of using water to cool the system, the high-temperature reactor will be cooled using helium gas.
- ❖ This will help to develop more inland nuclear plants, as they will not need to be located next to a water source.
- ❖ Up to 93.4 per cent of the material used in the Shidaowan HTGR was domestically sourced.
- ❖ China has a goal to produce 10% of electricity from nuclear by 2035 and 18% by 2060.



ECONOMY

UPI Payment Limit

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the transaction limit for UPI payments to hospitals and educational institutions to Rs 5 lakh.
- ❖ Earlier the limit was set at Rs 1 lakh per transaction.

- ❖ The transaction limit for UPI payments for capital markets collections (credit card payments, loan re-payments, EMI), insurance, etc. was limited to Rs 2 lakh.
- ❖ In December 2021, the transaction limit for UPI payments for Retail Direct Scheme and IPO subscriptions was increased to Rs 5 lakh.

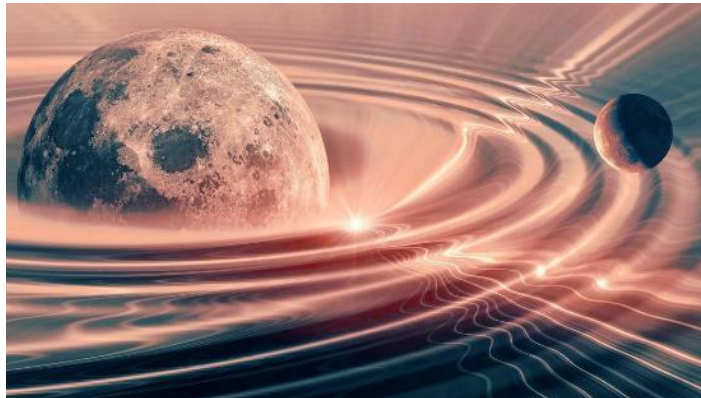
RBI eases regulations on payments through UPI and bank mandates but tightens the screws on fintechs



- The central bank raises the limit on recurring e-payment mandates for credit card, insurance and mutual fund payments to ₹1 lakh from ₹15,000 currently
- RBI proposes the creation of a Fintech Repository by April as banks and NBFCs begin to partner with fintechs to offer loans
- RBI also opts to regulate web-aggregation of loan products to enhance transparency

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

“Singing” Plasma Waves



- ❖ The Scientists discovered and recorded mysterious “singing” plasma waves around planet Mercury.
- ❖ Such chorus waves have been recorded on Earth, Jupiter, and Saturn, and observed at Uranus and Neptune.
- ❖ This is the first time that “whistling” sound waves were found emitting from Mercury’s magnetic field.
- ❖ This discovery is interesting because that while other planets have a strong magnetic field, Mercury doesn’t.
- ❖ Mercury is essentially a big rock with a pretty much non-existent atmosphere.

- ❖ Since it orbits too close to the Sun, the planet is constantly bombarded with solar radiation and wind.

ENVIRONMENT

Dodo (*Raphus cucullatus*)

- ❖ Geneticists and conservationists have joined forces to re-introduce the dodo to its once native habitat in the island of Mauritius.
- ❖ The dodo is a bird that lived in the Mauritius region and was last spotted 350 years back, in 1662.
- ❖ The phrase “dead as a dodo” is common in English to refer to something totally dead.
- ❖ The dodo is believed to be about 1 metre tall, flightless and weighed between 10 and 18 kilograms.



REPORTS AND INDICES

QS world University ranking for sustainability 2024

- ❖ Among the 56 Indian universities listed, the University of Delhi (DU) claimed the top spot, securing the 220th position worldwide.
- ❖ This university is also ranking 30th in Asia.
- ❖ IIT Madras, Kharagpur, Roorkee, and Delhi are securing ranks of 344th, 349th, 387th, and 426th, respectively.
- ❖ In the Environmental Sustainability indicator, Four Indian universities have found a place among the world’s top 100, with Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) emerging as the national leader (49 globally).

- ❖ Australia stands out as one of the top-performing nations in this year's rankings, securing the second-highest number of universities in the top 10.
- ❖ It is matching the UK with two, and following Canada, which boasts three.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: SUSTAINABILITY 2024		
2024 Rank	Institution	Country/Territory
1	University of Toronto	Canada
2	University of California, Berkeley (UCB)	United States
3	The University of Manchester	United Kingdom
4	University of British Columbia	Canada
5	The University of Auckland	New Zealand
6	Imperial College London	United Kingdom
7	The University of Sydney	Australia
8	Lund University	Sweden
9	The University of Melbourne	Australia
10	Western University	Canada

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

12th edition of annual of REX CONCLiVe

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KARMAVEER CHAKRA AWARDS
KARMAVEER PURASKAR AWARDS
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12th Edition - 2023-24
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Education for Life
VENUE PARTNER: SHIV NADAR SCHOOL, FARIDABAD

Karmaveer Puraskaar
Day 2

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- ❖ Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship 2023-24 and Chakra Awards are presented at this event.

- ❖ The Rex Karmaveer Chakra Medal is a global civilian honour that recognises people who have made outstanding contributions to humanity.
- ❖ Recognizing outstanding contributions in activism, education, volunteering, and healthcare, the Karmaveer Chakra comes in 3 categories.
 - Gold Medal - Rumana Sinha Sehgal, the founder of Serendipity and Mentor at T-Hub.
 - Silver Medal - Maihursa Boro, a first-generation social entrepreneur and education entrepreneur from Assam.
 - Bronze Medal- Narayanappa, a marginal farmer of the Andhra Pradesh

IMPORTANT DAYS

SAARC Charter Day 2023 - December 08



- ❖ The SAARC Charter signed on 08th December 1985 at the inaugural SAARC Summit in Dhaka marks the establishment of the SAARC.
- ❖ Since then, 08th December is observed as the SAARC Charter Day every year.
- ❖ It aims to promote awareness about SAARC and to enhance South Asian identity and solidarity within the region and beyond.
- ❖ The SAARC Charter was signed by the leaders of the Seven South Asian Countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

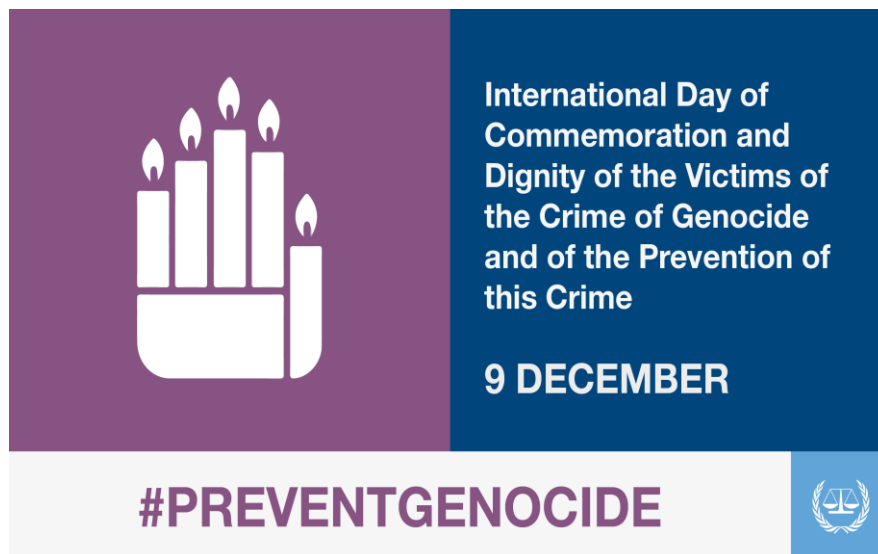
International Anti Corruption Day 2023 - December 09

- ❖ It seeks to highlight the crucial link between anti-corruption and peace, security, and development.

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against corruption on October 31, 2003.
- ❖ The observance of the day was first officially held on 9 December 2005.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption.'



International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide 2023 - December 09



- ❖ United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide with the resolution dated 9 December 1948.
- ❖ The 1948 Genocide Convention codified for the first time the crime of genocide in international law.

- ❖ To date, 153 states have ratified the Convention.
- ❖ The theme of this year is “A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”.

Human Rights Day 2023 - December 10

- ❖ This year marks the 75th anniversary of this day.
- ❖ It aims at promoting and celebrating the fundamental rights and freedoms every individual is entitled to, regardless of their gender, nationality, race, religion, or background.
- ❖ In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- ❖ The theme for the 2023 is ‘Freedom, Equality and Justice for All.’

