

### NATIONAL

#### 1. Polo statue

**Why in news** - Amit Shah unveiled a 120-foot-tall statue of a polo player riding a pony in Manipur's Imphal.

#### Key Points –

- Manipur is considered the birthplace of the game.
- This game was earlier known as 'Sagol Kangjei', 'Kanjai-Baji' or 'Pulu'.
- The oldest polo ground in the world is the Imphal Polo Ground in Manipur.

#### 2. Astro Tourism

**Why in news** - National Council of Science Museums has organized Astro Tourism - A Sky Gazing event at Delhi's India Gate.

#### Key Points –

- It was inaugurated by Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- It includes various activities like astro talks by expert astronomers, an exhibition on astronomy, storytelling related to celestial objects etc.

#### • Other sites are –

- A. Gandikota (Grand Canyon of India) and Araku- lambasingi in Andhra Pradesh.
- B. Bomjir and Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh.
- C. Gaya and Nalanda in Bihar,
- D. Dholavira and Dwarka in Gujarat etc.

#### About Swadesh Darshan scheme –

- It was launched in 2015 under which 75 sites were developed.
- Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) - July 2022.
- Central Sector Scheme.
- Aim - for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- 15 thematic circuits have been identified e.g., North East Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Sufi Circuit etc.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 1. "Start Me Up" mission

**Why in news** - Britain's attempt to become the first Western European nation to launch satellites into space ended in failure.

#### Key Points –

- It was launched with Virgin's LauncherOne rocket carried under the wing of a modified Boeing 747 called "Cosmic Girl".
- UK Space Agency name – Archer.
- In Dec 2022, the Italian-built Vega-C rocket mission failed after lift-off from French Guiana.

### SECURITY

#### 1. Prithvi-II missile

**Why in news** – India carried out a successful test launch of tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II off the Odisha coast.

#### Key Points –

- It is a short-range ballistic missile.
- It has a range of around 350 km and can carry 500-1,000 kg of warheads.
- Prithvi was developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

#### 1. Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme

**Why in news** - Mysuru and Hampi have been chosen for development under the scheme.

#### Key Points –

- A total of 36 heritage sites in 19 states and union territories have made it to this list.

### RANKS & INDICES

#### 1. Henley Passport Index

**Why in news** – Henley Passport Index has released the list of countries with powerful passports.

#### Key Points –

##### Top 3 –

- A. Japan
  - B. Singapore, South Korea (tie)
  - C. Germany, Spain (tie)
- Japanese passport allows visa-free access to as many as 193 countries.
  - India's rank - 85th .
  - Last (weakest) – Afghanistan.



### AWARDS & HONOURS

#### 1. Oscar reminder list 2023

**Why in news** – The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) came out with a list of 301 movies that are eligible to be nominated for the Oscars 2023.

##### Key Points –

##### Indian movies –

- A. The Kashmir Files
  - B. Gangubai Kathiawadi
  - C. Kantara
  - D. RRR
- This is perhaps the first time India has made it to four Oscar shortlists.
  - The final nominations are to be announced on January 24, 2023.

#### 2. Patangrao Kadam award

**Why in news** – Adar Poonawalla has been conferred with the first Dr. Patangrao Kadam Memorial Award.

##### Key Points –

- Adar Poonawalla is the CEO of the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, Serum Institute of India.
- Dr. Patangrao Kadam created 190 institutes to provide quality education and created quality human resources.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### 1. Startup India Innovation Week

**Why in news** – DPIIT (M/o Commerce and Industry) organized Startup India Innovation Week from Jan 10 to Jan 16, 2023.

##### Key Points –

- Aim - to celebrate the Indian Startup Ecosystem as well as National Startup Day (16th January 2023).
- Startup India was launched in 2016.
- India is ranked third among global startup ecosystems.

#### 2. National Science Day 2023

**Why in news** – Jitendra Singh released the theme for "National Science Day 2023".

##### Key Points –

- Theme - "Global Science for Global Wellbeing".
- National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28.
- It is celebrated to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman on February 28, 1928.

#### 3. 34th Road Safety Week

**Why in news** – M/o Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) observed the Road Safety Week from 11th to 17th January 2023.

##### Key Points –

- Aim - To encourage road safety practices among people.
- Theme "Parvah krenge surakshit rahenge".
- The World Road Statistics, 2018 ranked India first in terms of road fatalities.

#### 4. National Youth Day

**Why in news** – India celebrates National Youth Day on January 12.

##### Key Points –

- It is celebrated to honour the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- PM Modi inaugurated the 4-day National Youth Festival in Karnataka's Hubballi.
- The theme of this festival is "Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat".



- He is well-known across the globe for his famous speech at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893.

- The 'Swachh Virasat Abhiyan' is set to start on January 14.
- Global Investors Summit would begin on Feb 10, 2023 and conclude on Feb 12, 2023 at Lucknow.
- UP has set a target of making the state a US Dollar 1 trillion economy by 2027.

### STATES/UTS

#### 1. 'UP Global City' campaign

**Why in news** - The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a statewide 100-day 'UP Global City' campaign.

##### Key Points –

- Aim - to transform the lifestyle of urban bodies of the state on par with global standards.
- Launched by - Arvind Kumar Sharma.

#### 2. Saharsh initiative

**Why in news** - The Tripura government introduced a special education program titled 'Saharsh'.

##### Key Points –

- Aim - to encourage social and emotional learning.
- It was launched in August 2022 in 40 schools in the state on a pilot basis.





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### POINTERS

- Osmanabad district court has become the first 'e-court' of which state - **Maharashtra.**
- Which player of India has created a world record by winning two gold in the World Powerlifting Tournament held in Russia - **Pooja Ajay Kumar Mehta.**
- Who is the author of the book 'Revolutionaries: The other story of how India won its freedom' - **Sanjeev Sanyal.**
- Who has become the fastest player to reach 1,500 runs in T20 International cricket in terms of balls faced - **Suryakumar Yadav.**
- Who is the winner of the singles tennis title at the 2023 Maharashtra Open - **Tallon Griekspoor.**
- Which state/UT government has imposed a temporary ban on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in view of the worsening air quality - **Delhi.**
- Which country has announced an additional USD 100 million to Pakistan for its recovery and reconstruction efforts after the 2022 devastating floods - **United States.**
- Who has been appointed as the new Chief Technologist of NASA - **A C Charania.**
- Who has released the autobiography of techno-educationalist K.K. Abdul Gaffar titled 'Njaan Sakshi' (me as the witness) - **MS Dhoni.**
- Which player has won the 92nd tour title of his career - **Novak Djokovic.**



**NEW UPSC ENGLISH MEDIUM BATCH STARTING FROM 8TH FEBRUARY 2023**