



13 January 2025

National and International News

<p>PM Modi to visit Paris for AI summit</p>	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PM Modi is set to visit Paris next month for an AI summit focused on advancing artificial intelligence technologies and fostering international collaboration. ● This summit aims to address the challenges and opportunities presented by AI, with discussions likely centered on ethical considerations, regulatory frameworks, and the role of AI in sustainable development. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a branch of computer science that deals with the creation of intelligent agents, which are systems that can reason, learn, and act autonomously ● The history of AI can be traced back to the early 1950s, when Alan Turing published a paper titled "Computing Machinery and Intelligence". ● The first AI programs were developed in the 1950s and 1960s. These programs were rule-based systems that could solve specific problems, such as playing chess or proving mathematical theorems.
<p>India adds record renewable energy capacity of about 30 GW in 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy data, India logged a record high renewable energy capacity addition of about 30 GW in 2024. ● It is more than 113% higher than 13.75 GW recorded in 2023. ● This assumes significance in view of India's ambitious plan to have 500 GW of renewable energy capacity in the country by 2030. <p>Key Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India has undertaken several initiatives to promote renewable energy sources, aiming for a sustainable and cleaner energy future. ● Here are some key ones: <p>National Solar Mission (NSM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A flagship program with ambitious targets for solar power generation. ● Focuses on grid-connected solar power, off-grid applications, and research and development. <p>National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourages the development of hybrid wind-solar power



	<p>plants to improve grid stability and optimize energy generation.</p> <p>Green Energy Corridor (GEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to strengthen the grid infrastructure to integrate large-scale renewable energy sources into the national grid. <p>Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses on promoting solar power in agriculture, including solar pumps for irrigation and rooftop solar installations. <p>International Solar Alliance (ISA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A global coalition of solar-resource-rich countries, initiated by India, to promote solar energy cooperation and deployment. <p>National Hydrogen Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to position India as a global leader in green hydrogen production and utilization. <p>Focus on Bioenergy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the use of biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
<p>2024 will be the warmest year on record.</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 has officially been declared the warmest year on record, with global temperatures exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels for the first time. NASA reports that the average temperature was approximately 1.28 degrees Celsius above the 20th-century baseline, surpassing the previous record set in 2023. The World Meteorological Organization confirms this unprecedented rise, highlighting that all months from July 2023 onwards, except one, exceeded this critical threshold. The ongoing trend of rising temperatures poses significant risks to ecosystems and human societies, underscoring the urgent need for climate action. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics. It was established on March 23, 1950.
<p>'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India)</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025 commenced recently at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Organized by the Department of Youth Affairs, this



	<p>three-day event aims to engage 3,000 young leaders from across India in discussions on innovative solutions for a developed India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants include winners from various tracks such as the Viksit Bharat Challenge and cultural programs. • The dialogue features presentations, competitions, and cultural performances, culminating in a session with PM Modi on January 12, coinciding with National Youth Day. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Viksit Bharat 2047' agenda is a vision plan by the Indian government to turn India into a developed nation by 2047, the 100th anniversary of its independence. • It focuses on economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance. • The essence of Indian development is highlighted through the Prime Minister's commitment to five vital principles, with Viksit Bharat being one of them and extremely important. • The four pillars of Viksit Bharat are Youth, Poor, Women, and Farmers. • It emphasizes that happiness should be the primary pursuit, as development lacks meaning without it. • Interestingly, while nations have developed, people are not necessarily happier. <p>National Youth Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Youth Day in India is celebrated annually on January 12th to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a renowned spiritual leader and philosopher. • It was first celebrated in 1984 • This day aims to inspire the youth of India to follow in the footsteps of Swami Vivekananda by embracing his ideals of service, nationalism, and spiritual awakening. • National Youth Day emphasizes the importance of youth in nation-building and encourages them to actively participate in social and national development. <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ramakrishna Mission is a spiritual and philanthropic organization founded by Swami Vivekananda, the chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa.
Great Bustards	<p>Indian</p> <p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 12 endangered Great Indian Bustards were spotted together at the Desert National Park in Rajasthan, marking a significant conservation milestone. • This highlights the success of ongoing efforts to protect this



critically endangered species, which now has **only 173 individuals remaining in the wild.**

About:

- The **Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*)** is a **critically endangered** bird species found in the Indian subcontinent.
- The bird is locally known in northern and western India as "Godawan" and "Maldhok".

Habitat:

- Prefers open grasslands, scrublands, and semi-arid areas.
- Historically found across India, but now restricted to a few isolated populations

Conservation Status:

- **Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List**
- **Listed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (offering the highest level of protection).**

The Desert National Park:

- **The Desert National Park** is a national park located in the Indian state of Rajasthan, near the towns of Jaisalmer and Barmer.

Key Features:

- **Vast Area:** It's one of the largest national parks in India, covering an area of 3,162 square kilometers (1,221 sq mi) **within the Thar Desert.**
- **Approximately 44%** of the park is covered by **sand dunes**, creating a unique and ever-changing environment.
- It is home to various desert-adapted animals like the Great Indian Bustard (endangered), blackbuck, chinkara, desert fox, Indian wolf, and desert cat.



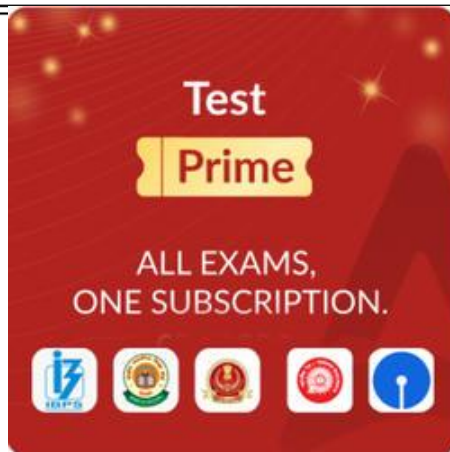
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