

### PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR 2024

The President of India to confer Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 to 19 children for their exceptional achievement in six categories.



#### About Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:

- The awards are given to children in the age group 5 – 18 years for their excellence in seven categories Bravery, Art and culture, Environment, Innovation, Science and technology, Social Service, and Sports.
- **Objective:** Encourage children who have shown exceptional achievement in any field including academics, arts, culture sports etc.

The two categories covered under these Awards are as follows:

- **Bal Shakti Puraskar (earlier called National Child Award) –**
  - These awards are to be given as recognition to children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievement in the fields of innovation, scholastic achievements, sports, arts & and culture, social service, and bravery which deserves recognition.
  - Each awardee will be given a medal, a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/-, book vouchers worth Rs. 10,000/-, a certificate and a citation.
- **Bal Kalyan Puraskar (earlier called the National Child Welfare Award)**
  - **Individual** - These Awards are given as recognition to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution towards service for children in the field of Child Development, Child Protection, and Child Welfare for not less than 7 years and have a positive impact on the lives of children.
  - The number of awards would be three. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs. 1, 00,000/ - (one lakh), a citation, and a certificate to each awardee.

- **Institution** - These awards are given to institutions that have done exceptional work for **the cause of children in any field of child welfare**. The number of **awards would be three**.
- The award for the institution consists of a **prize of Rs. 5,00,000/-** each and a citation and a certificate.

## KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES- 2023



Recently Prime Minister inaugurated the Khelo India Youth Games and expressed the government's commitment to hosting the 2029 Youth Olympics and the 2036 Olympic Games in the country.

Tamil Nadu is hosting the **sixth edition** of the Khelo India Youth Games. This is the **first time that Khelo India Youth Games are being held in South India**.

- The Games will be played across **four cities of Tamil Nadu, namely Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, and Coimbatore** from 19th to 31st January 2024.
- This edition of Khelo India Youth Games will see participation from over 5600 athletes with over 275 competitive events across **26 sports disciplines and 1 demo sport**.
- **Silambam**, a traditional sport of Tamil Nadu, is being introduced as a **demo sport for the first time** in the history of the Khelo India Youth Games and the **sport of Squash** shall be organized for **the first time in this edition of the Games**.
- **The Mascot: 'Veera Mangai'**. Rani Velu Nachiyar, fondly known as Veera Mangai, was an Indian queen who waged a war against British colonial rule.
- **The logo:** The figure of poet Thiruvalluvar.

### Background:

- **Objective:** To revive the sports culture in India at the grassroots level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establishing India as a great sporting nation.
- It is an annual event. The **first edition was held in 2018** in Delhi.
- **Organised by:** Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

## GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF COACHING CENTER

2024

The Ministry of Education's Department of Higher Education recently introduced the "Guidelines for Registration and Regulation of Coaching Center 2024."



### About Guidelines for Registration and Regulation of Coaching Center 2024:

- According to the guidelines, a **'coaching center'** includes a center established, run, or administered by any person to **provide coaching** for any study program, **competitive examinations**, or academic support to students at the school, college, and university level for more than 50 students.
- Guidelines:
  - **Registration process:**
    - Coaching centers are required to **submit applications** for registration to **the competent authority within their local jurisdiction.**
    - Notably, if a coaching center has multiple branches, **each branch is considered a separate entity, necessitating individual registration.**
  - **Marketing Standards:**
    - Coaching centers must **refrain from making misleading promises** or guarantees regarding ranks or marks to attract parents and students.
  - **Student Enrolment:** Students **below the age of 16 are not permitted** to enroll, and entry is **allowed only after the completion of secondary school examinations.**
  - **Fee Structure:**
    - Tuition fees for various courses **must be fair and reasonable, with detailed receipts provided.**
  - **Exit Policy:** In the case of mid-course withdrawals, a **pro-rata refund is mandated within 10 days.**

- **Infrastructure Requirements:**
  - Coaching centers must allocate a **minimum of one square meter per student** in each class.
- **Study hours:**
  - Classes **should not coincide with school hours** to ensure regular attendance.
  - **Weekly offs** for both students and tutors are mandatory.
- **Mental wellbeing of students:**
  - Coaching centers should **establish a mechanism** for immediate intervention **to provide targeted and sustained assistance to students in distress** and stressful situations.
- **Complaint Mechanism:**
  - **Students, parents, or coaching center tutors/employees can file complaints** against coaching centers, and **coaching centers can file complaints against students/parents.**
- **Penalty:** If the coaching center breaches any terms or conditions of registration or general requirements, it will **face penalties: ₹25,000 for the first violation, Rs 1 lakh for a second offense, and registration revocation for subsequent breaches.**

## JAPAN'S MOON MISSION - SLIM

Japan recently landed a spacecraft called SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon) on the lunar surface, becoming the 5th country after the Soviet Union, the US, China, and India to achieve a soft landing on the moon.



### About SLIM:

- SLIM was launched by the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** in September 2023 aboard the H-IIA rocket from the Tanegashima spaceport.
- It aims to demonstrate precision landing within 100 meters through new technologies.

- It also carried **two mini robotic rovers** developed by **Sony** and **Tomy** for reconnaissance.
- The mission aims to revitalise Japan's space program which suffered setbacks like the failure of the flagship H3 rocket in March 2023.

## Objectives:

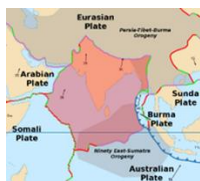
- The mission aims to observe X-rays coming from deep space and to identify their wavelengths with unprecedented precision.
- It will use state-of-the-art spectroscopy to measure changes in the brightness of celestial objects at different wavelengths.
- It detects X-rays with energies ranging from **400 to 12,000 electron volts**. (For comparison, the energy of visible light is **2 to 3 electron volts**.)
- This range will provide astrophysicists with new information about some of the universe's hottest regions, largest structures, and objects with the strongest gravity.

## Future Moon Missions:

- **ISRO (India):** LUPEX with JAXA, Chandrayaan-4
- **NASA (USA):** Lunar Trailblazer Mission, Viper Rover, Artemis 2-6 (Manned mission).
- **ROSCOSMOS (Russia):** LUNA 26-28, ORYOL
- **CNSA (China):** Chang'e 6-8
- **JAXA (Japan):** Destiny+

## KEY FACTS ABOUT THE INDIAN TECTONIC PLATE

Researchers recently unveiled new seismic data indicating that the Indian tectonic plate is splitting in two beneath the Tibetan plateau.



### About Indian Tectonic Plate:

- It is a **minor tectonic plate**.
- It is **bound by four major tectonic plates**. North of the Indian plate is

the **Eurasian plate**; to the southeast is the **Australian plate**; to the southwest is the **African plate**; and to the west is the **Arabian plate**.

- As the **Indian plate** moves northward relative to the **Eurasian plate** and collides with it, a **convergent boundary** is created.
- On the opposite side, the **Indo-African boundary** is **divergent**.
- The **western Indo-Arabian boundary** is **lateral** relative to each other, **giving rise to a transform boundary**.
- It was previously thought that the **Indian and Australian plates** formed one single plate as there is no clear type of boundary but recent seismologic evidence suggests that the two plates will **have a transform boundary, as the drift velocities of these two plates are different** even if the general direction of motion of the two plates is similar.
- **The collision of the Indian plate with the Eurasian plate** about 50 million years ago **resulted in the erection of the Himalayan Mountains**.
- As the **Indian plate is still active today** and drifts at a velocity of about 5 cm per year, **earthquakes occur in the northern part of the plate**.

## CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The Central Consumer Protection Authority issues a notice to Amazon for the sale of sweets under the misleading name of Shri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad.



### About Central Consumer Protection Authority:

- As provided in the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been **established w.e.f. 24th July, 2020**.
- **Objective:** To promote, protect, and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- **Composition:**
  - It will have a **Chief Commissioner as head**, and **only two other commissioners** as members — one of whom will deal with **matters relating to goods** while the other will look into **cases relating to services**.

- **It will be empowered:**
  - To conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute complaints/prosecution,
  - Order recall of unsafe goods and services,
  - Order discontinuation of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements,
  - Impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

## NAGARA STYLE OF TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

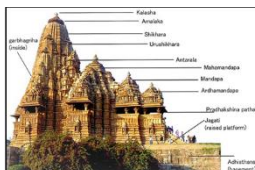
### Why in the News?

- The Ram temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh will be inaugurated on January 22.
- Chandrakant Sompura, 81, and his son Ashish, 51, have designed the complex in the **Nagara style** of temple architecture.

### About Nagara Style of Temple Architecture:

- The Nagara Style of temple architecture emerged sometime in the **5<sup>th</sup> century AD**, during the late **Gupta period**, in northern India.
  - It is seen as a contemporary to the **Dravida Style of architecture** in southern India which too emerged in the same period.
- Temples classified as Nagara Style are found in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh (areas bordering Odisha) and West Bengal (southwest and Sundarbans areas).
- The sub-styles or schools are **Orissa School**, **Chandel School**, and **Solanki School**.

### Features of Nagara Style of Temple Architecture:



The plan of a Nagara-style temple is four-sided.

- The **garbhagriha** is a perfect square whereas the whole temple plan could be oblong.
  - The garbhagriha or sanctum sanctorum houses the image or idol of the main deity.

- The pathway leading to the garbhagriha is the **mandapa** where the worshipers accumulate to have darsana.
- In the early stage of temple construction, the roofs were flat. In the next stage of temple construction, the roof became pyramidal.
- This was the **shikhara**, a tall spire that tapered at the top.
- In the later stages, more additions were made to the temple complex.
- More mandapas were added and the garbhagriha was surrounded by a **pradakshinapatha** or a circumambulatory path.
- In some cases, **gavaksa** (windows) were added to allow cross-ventilation for air and light.
- A Nāgara temple generally rests on a high platform- **jagati** over which is constructed a small platform called **pitha**.
- Rising above this is a smaller platform- **adhithana**, which forms the base for the construction of the superstructure of the temple.
- Among the other components of a Nagara temple are: **bhadra, sirsa, amalaka, bijapuraka, rathika**.
- When it comes to decorating the temples, the Nagara temples are intricately ornamented by carvings and sculptures.

Nagara Style	Dravida Style
Commonly found in the northern and central regions of India.	Prevalent in the southern regions of India.
The shikhara is curvilinear or conical in shape, with a beehive-like appearance. It is typically composed of multiple horizontal levels.	The shikhara is pyramidal in shape and consists of progressively smaller stories stacked one over the other, creating a stepped pyramid effect.
The mandapa is often connected to the sanctum and features a pillared hall with a pyramidal or conical roof.	The mandapa is connected to the sanctum and has a flat-roofed assembly hall.
Pillars are usually square-shaped with plain or slightly decorated capitals.	Pillars are often round or octagonal with more elaborate and intricately carved capitals.
Generally, there is one main entrance with a porch leading to the sanctum.	Temples often have multiple entrances, and the main entrance is typically adorned with a monumental pyramidal tower or <b>gopuram</b> .
The sanctum is usually square in shape and is placed at the center of the temple.	The sanctum is typically rectangular and is positioned at the rear of the temple.
Examples include Sun Temple in Konark, the Sun Temple in Modhera, Gujarat, and the Ossian Temple in Gujarat.	Examples include Chennakesava Temple in Belur, Karnataka, Hoysaleswara Temple in Halebidu, Karnataka and the Kesava Temple in Somanathapura, Karnataka.

- The entrance to the temple is highly decorated with images of gods and goddesses, and floral and geometric designs.
- The bottom of the door frame depicts either dvarapalas or Ganga and Yamuna.
- On the walls and pillars of the

temple, the sculptures and carvings depict devakanyas, apsaras, yaksas, yaks, amalakas, and floral garlands.

## GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD



- The Supreme Court directed the Centre to come clean on its plans to save the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard by February 2024.

## Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

- GIBs are the largest among the four bustard species found in India.
  - The other three are **MacQueen’s bustard**, the **lesser florican**, and the **Bengal florican**.
- Being terrestrial birds, they spend most of their time on the ground with occasional flights to go from one part of their habitat to the other.
- They feed on insects, lizards, grass seeds, etc. GIBs are considered the flagship bird species of grassland and hence barometers of the health of grassland ecosystems.

## Habitat and Status

- This bird, **found mainly in Rajasthan and Gujarat**, has been categorized as **critically endangered** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
  - As per the 2021 report of the IUCN, they are on the verge of extinction with hardly 50 to 249 of them alive.
- GIBs’ historic range included much of the Indian sub-continent but it has now shrunk to just 10% of it.
- Among the heaviest birds with flight, GIBs prefer grasslands as their habitats.

## Threats

- Scientists of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) have been pointing out overhead power transmission lines as the biggest threat to the GIBs.
  - WII research has concluded that in Rajasthan, 18 GIBs die every year after colliding with overhead power lines.
  - These birds, due to their poor frontal vision, can’t detect power lines in time and their weight makes in-flight quick maneuvers difficult.
- Kutch and Thar desert are the places that have witnessed the creation of huge renewable energy infrastructure over the past two decades.
- This led to the installation of windmills and the construction of power lines even in core GIB areas.