



# ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

## SUMMARY OF THE HINDU FOR BPSK EXAMINATION ENGLISH

DATE

**28/02/2024**

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## THE HINDU National

### ➔ 4 IAF pilots named as possible Gaganyaan crew

- India on Tuesday announced the names of four astronauts designates for the Gaganyaan human space flight mission to be launched in 2025 .
  - The names of four Indian Air force (IAF ) pilots are
    - 1. Group captain Prasanth Balkrishanan Nair
    - 2. Group captain Ajith Krishnan
    - 3. Group captain Angad Pratap and
    - 4. Wing Commander Subhanshu Shukla
- were revealed for the first time in presence of PM Narendra Modi . The candidates has been shortlisted from a rigorous training. The final crew will be picked from among four.
- Shortlisted through rigorous selection process they have been undergoing training in various aspects of spaceflight , initially in Russia and then in Astronaut Training facility established by ISRO in Bengaluru .
  - PM Modi dedicated three technical facilities developed at a cost of Rs.1800 crore to ISRO .
  - Gaganyaan Mission – ISRO will display it's human spaceflight capability for first time . For the first time on Astronauts will be sent to slow Earth Orbit ( LEO ) for few days and then will return to earth .
  - The mission is expected to pave the way for a “sustained Indian human space exploration programme” in the long run.



### ➔ India will have its own space station by 2035 , says PM

- Addressing scientists at ISRO , PM Modi said that India will have its own space station by 2035.
- He added that the nation will once again go to the moon by 2040 . He was referring to plans for a crewed lunar mission by 2040 .The ISRO has Venus on its radar, he added .

### ➔ ‘10,000 genome’ project completed , says center

- The department of Biotechnology ( DBT) on Tuesday officially announced the completion of ‘10,000 genome ‘ projects – an attempt to create a reference database of whole genome sequence out of India .
- The database will help customising drugs and therapies .About 20 institutions across country were involved in this.
- The Indian population of 1.3 billion consists of over 46,00 population groups . These factors have contributed to the genetic diversity of current population .
- The United States, United Kingdom and China are among the countries that have programmes to sequence at least 1,00,000 of their genomes.

### ➔ Cross voting in UP and Himachal allows BJP to claim two extra R.S. seats

- Rajya Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh went down to the wire with heavy cross voting by Samajwadi Party and Congress MLAs .
- In UP BJP won eight out of 10 seats that is one more seats than expected .
- Rajya Sabha elections are held every 2 years after one third of seats gets vacant .
- Rajya Sabha MPs are elected by MLAs through single Transferable Voting ( STV ) .
- In STV MLAs has to fill their pregeraves among the candidates

### ➔ Land Reform and capital reform in top of agenda in third term , says Sitharaman

- In a talk with FICCI finance Minister zNitkala Sitharaman said that Narendra Modi , if returned for a third term in office will place all factors of production such as land , labor and capital on “ top of their agenda”along with “ 21 st century factors “such as digital infrastructure , in the pursuit to make India world’s third largest economy s

### ➔ Former SC judge A.M Khanwilkar is Lokpal chairperson

- The post was vacated by Pinaki Chandra Ghose after completion of his term in 2022

### ➔ ‘HCES full result to be out by June ‘

- The center will release the complete findings of the Housing Consumption and Expenditure Survey ( HCSE ) in June after the election results are out .
- The recently released data had shown Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure ( MPCE ) sliced across income classes urban and rural

### ➔ At WTO India asserts food subsidies for developing nations .

- India has emphasized a comprehensive agreement on fisheries subsidies being negotiated at the 13 th WTO Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi

- India said that it must be built on the principle of Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities ( CBDR - RC ). It must incorporate special and Differential Treatment ( S&DT ) ,to protect the livelihood and growth of the fishing community in developing countries .
- WTO in 2022 brought an Agreement on Fishery subsidy . The agreement talks of reducing certain types of fishery subsidy .
- Overfishing is a major problem harming Life under water and fishery subsidies promote overfishing .
- India and some developing countries have not signed the agreement citing that it is not in favor of their fishermen who are already facing problems

## WORLD

### ➔ EU wary as Macron hints at western troops in Ukraine

- After a meeting with EU leaders French President Emanuel Macron said that “ everything that is necessary “ must be done to ensure to defeat the Russia including depliyig of troops to fight alongside Ukriane.
- Nothing should be ruled out . We will do whatever it takes to ensure , Russia cannot win this war “ .
- However other leaders present such as Swedish , Sloavaks and German leaders denied that there was any plan to send EU ,NATO troops to Ukriane

### ➔ EU wary as Macron hints at western troops in Ukraine

- US President Joe Biden talking to NBC signalled that there can be a ceasefire from Israeli side from the beginning of Ramzan .
- “ Ramzan is coming up and there is an agreement with Israelis that they would not engage in activities during Ramzan as well , in order to give us time to get all the hitages out . “ said Mr. Biden .
- Israeli officials however said that Mr. Biden comment came as a surprise and were not made in coordination with country’s leadership . Hamas too has downplayed any progress in talk with Israel . Negotiators from the US, Egypt, Qatar have been working to broker a plan that would result in release of Israeli hostages ,a six week of truce , and increased aid to Gaza

## Text / Context

### ➔ Why science needs sustainable funding

- National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28 .
- The theme for science day this year is “ science for sustainable development ,” . Science and Technology are key drivers of India's journey towards becoming a developed country by 2047 .
- India is committed to making this progress through sustainable means

### ➔ India's spending on Research and Development ( R&D )

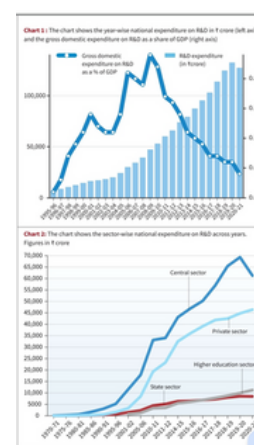
- Currently India’s funding to R&D stands 0.64 % of GDP . This is decline from recent years which stood nearly 0.8% . Still this is very low .
- Most developed countries on an average spend 2 to 4% of their respects GDPs on science and development

### ➔ How India can Improve R&D funding

- India needs to consistently spend 3% of it’s GDP on R&D till 2047 to get the desired results
- One of the major challenge with India is that here funding from Private sector is low . In 2020 - 21 , Private sector contributed 36.4%, whereas Union govt share was 43.7 % .
- In developed countries and average 70 % comes from private sector . The reason for low private investment in R&D can be ragulatory roadmap , lack of clear exit options for investors in sectors such as biotech and fear of IP theft .

### ➔ What does sustainable funding entail ?

- In the latest budget Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman indicated that govt would like more R&D funding from the private sector .
- This will require political prioritization under concerned ministries , clear regulatory roadmap , rebates in FDI and taxation among others



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