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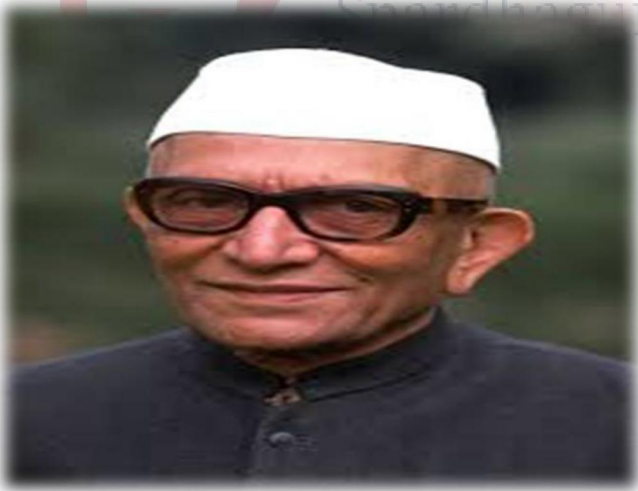
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Today in History on 24 MAR

- 1977: Morarji Desai became the fourth Prime Minister of India and formed the first non-Congress government in the country.

Mr. Desai was elected to the Lok Sabha from Surat constituency of Gujarat. Later he was unanimously elected as the leader of the Janata Party in Parliament and on 24 March 1977 he took oath as the Prime Minister of India. Chaudhary Charan Singh became the Prime Minister of India after Morarji Desai. Chaudhary Charan Singh was the fifth Prime Minister of India. He served as Prime Minister from 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980.



- 1989: Testing of the 'Delta Star' satellite.

In March 1989, the "Delta Star" satellite, which was part of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) or "Star Wars" program, was launched to test missile-hunting technology, aimed at detecting simulated enemy targets in space. The Delta Star satellite had a set of sensors, including infrared imagers, ultraviolet and visible imagers, and laser detectors, to observe ballistic missile launches and collect data on rocket exhaust against the backdrop of the North Pole region.



- 1603: Elizabeth I dies.

In 1603, on March 24, Queen Elizabeth I died at Richmond Palace, and was succeeded by James VI of Scotland, son of Mary Stuart, as King of England. He was born on September 7, 1533, in Greenwich. Elizabeth I reigned for nearly 45 years, from 1558 to



1603. She was also known as the "Virgin Queen" because she never married and had no children.



➤ 1946: British Cabinet Mission headed by Lord Pathik Lawrence arrived in India.

The Cabinet Mission headed by Secretary of State for India Sir Pathik Lawrence arrived in India on 24 March 1946. The mission also included Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade and First Lord Alexander of the Admiralty. This commission was formed on the initiative of Clement Attlee, Prime Minister of Great Britain. The objective of the mission was to maintain the unity of India and provide it independence.



➤ 1855: The first long distance telegraphic message was sent from Calcutta to Agra.

The first long distance telegram in India was sent from Agra to Kolkata in 1855. On March 24, when about 800 miles of telegraph line was laid between the two ends. Later these wires also reached Mumbai (then Bombay) and Madras but before that the telegram had travelled a long distance. The first message was received in 1851 by the Submarine Telegraph Company based in London from Paris on the Foy-Breguet apparatus.



Important NEWS on 24 MAR

➤ Japan Becomes First Team to Qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup After Host Nations

Japan became the first team to qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup after the host nations, securing its eighth consecutive appearance with a 2-0 win over Bahrain at Saitama Stadium on March, 2025. Daichi

Kamada and Takefusa Kubo scored in the second half, sealing the victory. Coach Hajime Moriyasu praised the team's performance, while Bahrain coach Dragan Talajic acknowledged Japan's strength.



➤ Tata Communications Unveils Vayu – A Comprehensive AI Cloud Offering for Enterprises

Tata Communications launched Vayu, an AI-powered cloud solution designed to offer cost-effective, flexible, and intelligent enterprise cloud services. Integrating IaaS, PaaS, AI, security, and cloud connectivity, Vayu reduces multi-cloud complexities, offers 15-25% cost savings, eliminates data egress charges, and enhances workload performance. With no vendor lock-in and built-in FinOps automation, it simplifies cloud management while optimizing efficiency.



➤ Vijay Sankar Honoured with Denmark's Knight's Cross

➤ ISRO Develops High-Speed Microprocessors: Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201

ISRO, in collaboration with SCL Chandigarh, has developed Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201, India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessors for space applications, enhancing self-reliance in high-performance computing. Vikram 3201, qualified for space missions, supports floating-point arithmetic, is backward compatible with Vikram 1601, and was validated in the PSLV-C60 mission. Kalpana 3201, a SPARC V8 RISC microprocessor, follows the IEEE 1754 ISA, supports open-source software, and ensures high-speed processing for space operations.



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Vijay Sankar, Honorary Consul General of Denmark for Southern India and Chairman of The Sanmar Group, has been awarded the prestigious Knight's Cross of the Order of Dannebrog by the King of Denmark for his outstanding consular services and contributions to Indo-Danish relations. The award was presented by Ambassador Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen at a ceremony in Chennai on March, 2025.



➤ Chiranjeevi Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award by UK Government

Veteran Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by London-based think tank Bridge India at the House of Commons, UK Parliament, for his immense contribution to Indian cinema, cultural influence, and public service. The event, hosted by MP Navendu Mishra, saw attendance from MPs, Ministers, and Diplomats, recognizing Chiranjeevi's unparalleled legacy and philanthropy.



➤ Hydrologist Günter Blöschl Wins 2025 Stockholm Water Prize

Günter Blöschl has been awarded the 2025 Stockholm Water Prize for his pioneering research in flood hydrology. Announced on March, 2025, the award recognizes his groundbreaking contributions to flood risk analysis and climate change research. A professor at Vienna University of Technology, Blöschl developed a global flood risk database and established a strong link between climate change and increasing flood frequency, improving flood prediction models to help communities prepare for extreme weather events.



➤ Delhi Minister Launches Mobile Dental Clinics for Free Check-ups



Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh launched six mobile dental clinics in collaboration with Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences (MAIDS) to provide free oral healthcare, especially in underserved areas. Flagged off on World Oral Health Day, these state-of-the-art units feature modern dental chairs, portable X-ray machines, ultrasonic scalers, and sterilization units, offering fluoride treatments, sealants, and restorative procedures to ensure comprehensive dental care across Delhi.



Current affairs MCQS on 24 MAR

Q.1. Recently, the National Wildlife Health Policy (NWHP) has been launched by which organization?

- (a) Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)
- (b) Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
- (c) Central Zoo Authority (CZA)
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Central Zoo Authority (CZA)

The Government of India is drafting a National Wildlife Health Policy (NWHP) to strengthen wildlife disease surveillance, research and diagnosis. The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) launched the programme for improving wildlife health and management of zoonotic diseases. The NWHP is an important part of the National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-31) and follows the One Health approach, integrating human, animal and environmental

health. The National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-31) includes 103 conservation actions, 250 projects and standard disease surveillance protocols for tiger reserves and protected areas.

Q.2. Recently, the number of one-horned rhinoceroses has increased to 392 in which state?

- (a) Chhattisgarh
- (b) Assam
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) West Bengal

The population of one-horned rhinoceros in West Bengal has increased from 229 to 392. Rhinos were counted in an area of 396 square kilometres in Jaldapara National Park, Gorumara National Park, Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary and parts of Jalpaiguri Reserve Forest in West Bengal.

Q.3. Recently, Stuart Young has taken oath as the Prime Minister of which country?

- (a) Trinidad and Tobago
- (b) Guyana
- (c) Venezuela
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Trinidad and Tobago

Stuart Young will be sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago during a formal ceremony at the President's House in St. Ann's. He will take over the leadership from outgoing Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley, who has officially resigned from his position.

Q.4. Recently, who has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador of Vision 2020 India?

- (a) Krishnamachari Srikkanth
- (b) Vijay Mishra
- (c) Abhay Karandikar
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Krishnamachari Srikkanth

Former Indian cricket team captain and batsman Krishnamachari Srikkanth has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador of Vision 2020 India. The



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initiative is dedicated to eliminating blindness across the country. The announcement was made at an event organised by Sankara Nethralaya in Chennai, a key member of Vision 2020: Right to Sight - India.

Q.5. David Steven Cohen has passed away recently. Who was he?

- (a) Journalist
- (b) Singer
- (c) Writer
- (d) Artist

Answer:(c) Writer

David Steve Cohen, one of the main writers of the cartoon series 'Courage the Cowardly Dog', died of cancer at the age of 58. The head writer was responsible for creating memorable but disturbing episodes featuring the pink dog, which fascinated viewers for years.

Q.6. Who has topped the recently released Free Speech Index?

- (a) Denmark
- (b) Norway
- (c) Sweden
- (d) Spain

Answer:(b) Norway

Norway (87.9) and Denmark (87.0) top the released Free Speech Index. In a new global survey conducted by independent US think tank The Future of Free Speech, India has been ranked 24th out of 33 countries surveyed on the question of support for free speech.

Q.7. Recently the 23rd edition of bilateral naval exercise Varuna has started between India and which country?

- (a) Italy
- (b) Spain
- (c) France
- (d) Germany

Answer:(c) France

The 23rd edition of the bilateral naval exercise Varuna will be conducted as a testimony to the enduring maritime partnership between India and France. Since its inception in 2001, Exercise Varuna has evolved into a cornerstone of cooperation, reflecting the commitment of both countries to enhance naval cooperation and operational synergy.

Q.8. Recently India's first PPP (Public Private Partnership) based green waste processing plant has started in which state?

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Indore
- (c) Pune
- (d) Mumbai

Answer:(b) Indore

Indore is set to take a significant step towards environmental sustainability with the launch of India's first PPP-model based green waste processing plant under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban. This unprecedented initiative aims to revolutionise the city's waste management system by converting green waste into valuable resources. The project underlines the city's commitment to innovation and sustainability in tackling urban waste challenges.

Q.9. Recently which state government has imposed a tourism fee of Rs 50 per person?

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Uttarakhand
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Assam

Answer:(a) Sikkim

The Prem Singh Tamang government of Sikkim has imposed an entry fee of Rs 50 for tourists entering the state. The state government has imposed this fee under the provisions of the Sikkim Tourist Business Registration Rules, 2025. Tourists coming to the state will have to pay a fee of Rs 50 per person and it will be valid for a stay of up to 30 days.





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Q.10. Recently, the delegation of which country has participated in the Smart Cities India Expo 2025?

- (a) Russia
- (b) Japan
- (c) China
- (d) America

Answer: (a) Russia

The Russian delegation will participate in the Smart Cities India Expo 2025 to be held in New Delhi. It will be led by Minister of the Moscow Government and Chairman of the Council for Business Cooperation with India Sergey Cheremin. Smart Cities India Expo is a global platform that brings together leaders in the field of digital technologies, sustainable development and urban innovation. This year the exhibition is expected to be attended by more than 12 hundred participants and 350 startups, who will showcase their cutting-edge development initiatives in front of more than 55 thousand people.

Q.11. Recently India and which country have agreed to trade in local currency?

- (a) Maldives
- (b) Brazil
- (c) Canada
- (d) Japan

Answer: (a) Maldives

In a significant move to enhance trade and financial ties, India and Maldives have agreed to settle bilateral trade transactions in their local currencies- Indian Rupee (INR) and Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR). The decision, which complements the existing Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism, is expected to ease trade settlement and reduce dependence on third-party currencies such as the US dollar.

Q.12. Recently UIDAI has signed an agreement with whom to improve Aadhaar services?

- (a) Sarvam AI
- (b) Meta
- (c) ChatGPT
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Sarvam AI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has collaborated with Bengaluru-based indigenous generative AI (GenAI) company Sarvam AI to make Aadhaar services more accessible, secure and effective. This includes cutting-edge features such as AI-enabled voice interactions, real-time fraud detection and multilingual support. This exclusive GenAI solution will operate within UIDAI's secure infrastructure, ensuring data privacy and sovereignty.

Q.13. Recently in which city of Uttar Pradesh a special smart school for the disabled has been started?

- (a) Gorakhpur
- (b) Greater Noida
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Lucknow

Answer: (b) Greater Noida

The Uttar Pradesh government is going to launch a special smart school for the differently-abled in Greater Noida. This is the first special category school in the state, which has been designed with suitable class rooms, digital boards, labs and other related educational requirements for differently-abled children from class 1 to 5.

Q.14. Recently the police of which state has started 'courtesy squad' to deal with molestation?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Punjab

Answer: (b) Delhi

The Delhi Police has launched an anti-harassment squad called 'Shishtachar', with at least 30 teams deployed across the national capital, especially at sensitive places. It aims to curb incidents of harassment and ensure safety of women in public places. The squad will work as a joint team of male and female officers who will patrol, take prompt action on complaints and create awareness about anti-harassment laws.





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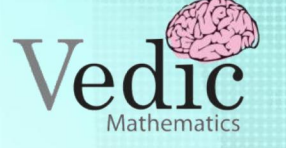
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Q.15. Where was the three-day Fit India Mahotsav organized recently?

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) New Delhi

Answer:(d) New Delhi

The much-awaited Fit India Carnival kicked off with a grand inauguration at the JLN Stadium in New Delhi, setting the stage for three days of high-energy fitness and wellness activities. The event was also graced by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and adding a tadka of star power, Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana joined the celebrations along with wrestling champion Sangram Singh, renowned wellness expert Mickey Mehta, former WWE wrestler Shanky Singh and Guinness World Record holder Rohtash Chaudhary.

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