



30 January 2024

National and International News

<p>FinMin's Projections and Economic Review of India</p> <hr/> <p>Bullish report</p> <p>FinMin contends the state of the Indian economy today is far better than when Narendra Modi assumed power in 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CEA says 7% growth when the world struggles to grow 2% is better than 8-9% growth when the world grows at 4% ■ Structural reforms since 2014 have strengthened macroeconomic fundamentals, the Finance Ministry argues ■ FinMin outlines reforms such as the GST and IBC but only makes passing mention of demonetisation in 2016 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Finance Ministry anticipates India's real GDP growth to be around 7% in 2024-25. • Possibility of surpassing 7% growth by 2030. • Ambitious goal to make India the third-largest economy globally, reaching \$5 trillion in the next three years. <p>Two Phases of Growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review categorizes India's growth into two phases—1950 to 2014 and '2014-2024: Decade of transformative growth.' • Acknowledges challenges in the early years of the Modi administration, with GDP growth below 5% in 2012-13 and 2013-14, high food inflation, and structural constraints.
<p>Foreign Secretary's Visit to Bhutan: Strengthening Bilateral Ties</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra arrives in Bhutan for a three-day visit. • Visit closely follows Bhutan's new Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's appointment ceremony. <p>Key Points:</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special emphasis on advancing cooperation between India and Bhutan on the Gelephu mega 'Mindfulness City' project, introduced by Mr. Kwatra during his preview visit in July 2023. • Mr. Kwatra's agenda includes discussions on bilateral ties with his Bhutanese counterpart.
<p>Australian Open</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rohan Bopanna, in partnership with Matthew Ebden, achieves historic victory in men's doubles at the Australian Open. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bopanna, at 43 years, became the oldest man to win a Grand Slam title in the Open



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	<p>era.</p> <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Australian Open, initially known as the Australasian Championships, commenced in 1905. • Renamed as the Australian Open in 1969, it stands as the oldest Grand Slam tournament. • The tournament occurs annually across two weeks, concluding with the finals held on the last weekend of January. • Melbourne Park, a prominent sporting complex situated in Melbourne, Australia, serves as the hosting venue for the Australian Open. • The Australian Open comprises five primary events: men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles. • The Australian Open holds the prestigious title of being the inaugural Grand Slam tournament in any given calendar year. • Australian Open is the lone Grand Slam event played on hard courts.
Delhi Solar Policy-2024	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government aims for 20% of Delhi's electricity consumption to be from solar power by 2027. • The government has allocated ₹570 crore for the implementation of the policy. <p>Impact on Household Bills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households generating solar power can reduce their bills to zero if consumption is below 200 units a month. • Example: If a household consumes 400 units but generates 100 units of solar power, they will be charged only for 300 units. • Aim of the policy is to reduce air pollution from diesel generators. • Zero electricity charges for households and reduced bills for industries to counter inflation.
SADA TANSEEQ	<p>Context:</p>



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- The first-ever India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise, named 'SADA TANSEEQ,' commenced in **Rajasthan**.
- The exercise aims to foster interoperability, bonhomie, and camaraderie between the troops of both nations.

Participating Contingents:

- The **Saudi Arabian contingent**, represented by 45 personnel, is from the Royal Saudi Land Forces.
- The **Indian Army contingent**, also comprising 45 personnel, is represented by a battalion from the Brigade of the Guards (Mechanised Infantry).

Objective:

- The primary goal of the exercise is to train troops from both sides for joint operations in semi-desert terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

The exercise is scheduled to take place until **February 10**.

Centre extends ban on SIMI for 5 years

Context:

- SIMI was declared an **"unlawful association"** under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2001.
- **Reasons:** The Union Home Ministry cites SIMI's involvement in terrorism, disruption of peace, and threats to the sovereignty, security, and integrity of India.

Reason for Extension:

- Ministry cites SIMI's involvement in **terrorism, disturbing peace, and threatening the sovereignty, security, and integrity** of Bharat (India).
- 17 cases were registered against former SIMI cadres in the past five years, with 11 instances leading to convictions for crimes committed between 2006 and 2014.
- The fresh cases include two first information reports (FIR) registered at the Gangapur police station in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan on August 25, 2019 for "throwing stones from the top of Jama Masjid on the rally of



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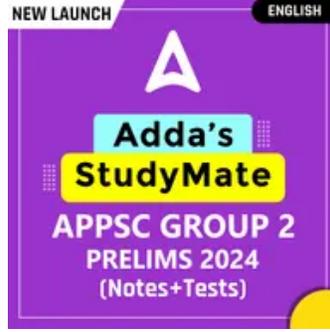
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Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)" on the VHP's
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