



MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

1. SOVEREIGN GOLD BOND SCHEME 2023-24  GS-3, PRELIMS
2. BHARAT RATNA  GS-1, PRELIMS
3. IOC CONFERENCE  GS-2, PRELIMS
4. ONLINE SAFETY ACT  **The Indian EXPRESS** GS-3, PRELIMS

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PRELIMS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q. UN Women has its headquarter in -

- A. New Delhi
- B. Tokyo
- C. London
- D. New York

PRELIMS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q. The host state of Khelo India University Games 2024-

A. Odisha

B. Jharkhand

C. West Bengal

D. Assam

SOVEREIGN GOLD BOND SCHEME 2023- 24



CONTEXT

- The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2023-24 - **Series IV** will be open for subscription during February **12-16**, 2024.

- SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of **gold**.
- They are substitutes for holding **physical gold**.
- Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.
- The Bond is issued by **Reserve Bank** on behalf of Government of India.

- Persons **resident in India** as defined under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 are **eligible to invest** in **SG**.
- Eligible investors include individuals, HUFs, trusts, universities and charitable institutions.
- **e Bonds** are issued in denominations of one gram of gold and in multiples thereof.

- **Minimum investment** in the Bond shall be **one gram** with a maximum limit of subscription of **4 kg** for individuals, **4 kg** for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and **20 kg** for trusts and similar entities notified by the government from time to time per fiscal year (April – March).

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Who issued Sovereign gold bond in India -




A. IMF

B. WB

C. RBI

D. None of the above

BHARAT RATNA

		
<p>Dr. M.S. SWAMINATHAN (7 August 1925 - 28 September 2023)</p>	<p>P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (28 June 1921 - 23 December 2004)</p>	<p>CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH (23 December 1902 - 29 May 1987)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Agricultural scientist & agronomist ■ Born in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Former Prime Minister of India (1991-96) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Former Prime Minister of India (1979-80)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Played an instrumental role in Green Revolution and towards food self-sufficiency in India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Born in Warangal, Telangana ■ Credited with steering the liberalisation of Indian Economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Born in Noorpur, Uttar Pradesh ■ Leader of the Lok Dal, credited as a leader of farmers in north India

CONTEXT

- The **Bharat Ratna** will be conferred on former Prime Ministers **P.V. Narasimha Rao** and **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, as well as Green Revolution pioneer **M.S. Swaminathan**, adding to the two awardees already announced earlier this year — socialist leader **Karpoori Thakur**, and former Deputy Prime Minister **L.K. Advani**.

- This year's tally of five Bharat Ratna awardees is the highest that has ever been announced in a single year.
- 'Bharat Ratna', the highest civilian Award of the country, was instituted in the year 1954.
- Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.

- It is awarded in recognition of **exceptional service/performance** of the highest order in any field of **human endeavour**.
- The **recommendations** for Bharat Ratna are made by the **Prime Minister** himself to the **President**..
- On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a **Sanad (certificate)** signed by the **President** and a medallion.
- The Award **does not** carry any **monetary grant**.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. 'Bharat Ratna', the highest civilian Award of the country, was instituted in the year -

- A. 1955
- B. 1957
- C. 1950
- D. 1954

IOC CONFERENCE



CONTEXT

- India Foundation in association with the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Government of Australia organized the 7th **Indian Ocean Conference – IOC 2024** on February 9-10, 2024 in **Perth, Australia**.

BACKGROUND

- The first edition of the Conference was held in Singapore in 2016.
- It is organized by **India Foundation** in partnership with other organizations in the region.

IMPORTANCE

- It aims to bring together critical states and maritime partners to discuss regional cooperation under the concept of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

WHAT IS SAGAR?

- SAGAR stands for 'Security and Growth for All in the Region'.
- It aims to leverage the blue economy and maintain strategic partnerships with littoral states in Asia and Africa.
- Seeks to provide leadership in capacity building and capability enhancement programs transparently.

Key highlights of the 7th conference:

- **Challenges to International Rule of Law:** EAM S. Jaishankar highlighted challenges to international rule of law from the Red Sea to the Indo-Pacific, implicitly targeting China's actions.
- **Call for Conflict Reduction:** Australian Foreign Minister emphasized the necessity of **reducing conflict** in the region amid growing tensions.

Key highlights of the 7th conference:

- **Veiled References to China's Actions:** Jaishankar made indirect references to **China's troop buildup** at the Line of Actual Control and actions in the South China Sea, stressing the importance of adhering to internationally negotiated regimes.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT



CONTEXT

- Human rights commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) reveals sections non-compliant with SC Determination Under **Online Safety Bill**.

- The wide-ranging law prohibit "false statements about incidents in Sri Lanka"
- Statements with "an express intention of hurting religious feelings"

BACKGROUND

- Critics claim it stifles criticism before of elections.
- Authorities claim it will benefit in the battle against cybercrime.

Statements by International organizations:

- Amnesty International said the act's broad provisions and vague wording would **restrict people's rights to freedom of expression and privacy online.**
- UN's human rights office raised concerns against the draft law saying that it would give **authorities unfettered discretion** to label and **restrict expressions.**

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