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# Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

# 31 January 2024

# **West Bengal News**

Exercise	Devil	Strike	-Army	and	Air
Force Joint Training Drill					

- Training drill named 'Exercise Devil Strike' conducted by the Army in North Bengal.
- It oversaw the joint participation of over paratroopers from the Eastern Command and IAF's GARUDs.
- They were supported by aircraft such as Rafale, C-130 Hercules, AN-32 and advanced light helicopters of both the IAF and the army.
- The exercise showcased the integrated employment of the latest weapons & equipment in a networked battlefield under an intense Electronic Warfare environment & Indian Armed Forces' capability to employ an airborne force swiftly in a dynamic situation.

# Government appoints Members of 16th **Finance Commission**

- The government recently appointed members to the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
- The appointments received the official approval of the President of India.

### **Full-Time Members:**

- Ajay Narayan Jha: Former Secretary, appointed as a full-time member.
- Annie George Mathew: Former Special Secretary, Expenditure, appointed as a full-time member.
- Dr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha: Executive Director, Artha Global, appointed as a full-time member.

### Part-Time Member:

Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh: Group Chief Economic Advisor of State Bank of India, was appointed part-time member.

### About:

- The Sixteenth Finance Commission was constituted on December 31, 2023.
- Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman, of NITI Aayog, is the Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission.

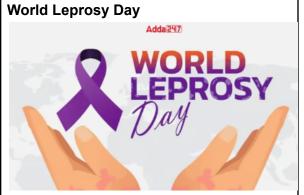
### Timeline and Recommendations:

- The Sixteenth Finance Commission is tasked with making recommendations by October 31, 2025.
- The recommendations will cover a 5-year award period commencing from April 1, 2026.



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### Context:

- World Leprosy Day is celebrated in India annually on 30 January.
- World Leprosy Day helps to create awareness about the disease and eliminate the stigma and discrimination faced by those who suffer from the disease.
- The theme for World Leprosy Day 2024 is "Beat Leprosy"

### About:

World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January across the globe.

### **Interim Budget**

- The Interim Budget is a temporary financial plan announced before a new government is set to come in after general elections.
- It can be understood as a provisional arrangement to meet the expenditure of the government for a short period till the new government comes in and makes the new full budget.

# Ramsar Sites Tally Reaches 80

- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announces the addition of five new wetlands to India's Ramsar Sites.
- The total number of Ramsar Sites in India now stands at
- Minister Yadav reveals the news just two days before World Wetlands Day(2nd February).

### Newly added Ramsar sites:

- Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve- Karnataka
- Aghanashini Estuary- Karnataka
- Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve- Karnataka
- Karaivetti Bird sanctuary Tamil Nadu
- Longwood Shola Reserve Forest- Tamil Nadu

## Wetlands in West Bengal

- Sundarbans Wetland
- East Kolkata Wetlands

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