

Louvre museum

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In news- Art historian and **curator Laurence des Cars** has become the **first woman to be appointed the president of Louvre art museum** in its 228-year history. In 1994, she joined Musee d'Orsay, another iconic Paris museum, as curator and, in 2017, became its first woman director.

About Louvre museum-

- The Louvre is the **world's most visited museum and** is the **world's largest art museum** and a historic monument in **Paris, France.**
- It is located on the **right bank of the River Seine.**
- It was **established in 1793.**
- The museum is housed in the Louvre Palace, originally built in the late 12th to 13th century under Philip II.
- Due to urban expansion, the fortress eventually lost its defensive function, and in 1546 Francis I converted it into the primary residence of the French Kings.
- In 1682, Louis XIV chose the Palace of Versailles for his household, leaving the Louvre primarily as a place to display the royal collection.
- During the French Revolution, the National Assembly decreed that the Louvre should be used as a museum to display the nation's masterpieces and it was opened on 10 August 1793 with an exhibition of 537 paintings.
- The collection was increased under Napoleon and the museum was **renamed Musee Napoleon.**
- The collection is divided among **eight curatorial departments:** *Egyptian Antiquities; Near Eastern Antiquities; Greek, Etruscan, and Roman Antiquities; Islamic Art; Sculpture; Decorative Arts; Paintings; Prints and Drawings.*
- It is **home to the Mona Lisa**, the iconic Leonardo da Vinci painting.