

2024 APRIL

₹ 110/-




IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Explained: What is happening in Sandeshkhali?
- ▶ Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 Explained
- ▶ India remains World's Top Arms Importer: SIPRI
- ▶ Sweden officially becomes 32nd member of NATO
- ▶ Bhavish Aggarwal launches India's AI chatbot 'Krutrim AI'
- ▶ Know who won Ranji Trophy and Santosh Cup this season
- ▶ Russia, Pakistan, Guinea & Wales appoints their new heads
- ▶ Eminent Leaders Damodar Rout, Aziz Qureshi & Lama Lobzang died
- ▶ Know about MethaneSAT that will 'name and shame' methane emitters
- ▶ National Creators, Sahitya Academy, Oscar & Sangeet Natak Akademi awards presented

FEATURING:

- ▶ 500+ High Level Questions
- ▶ Current Affairs based GS
- ▶ Revision Corner
- ▶ Burning Issues
- ▶ Infographics

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Burning Issues of the Month

Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 explained: What you need to know



The Central government notified Rules for The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), paving the way for the implementation of the controversial law more than four years after it was passed by Parliament in December 2019. The CAA will benefit thousands of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014, and seek citizenship of India. This group of people has been living in India illegally or on long-term visas (LTV).

What is the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019?

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) is a legislative enactment that the Parliament of India passed on December 11, 2019 to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955. This amendment allowed for the grant of Indian citizenship to religious minorities, including Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians, who fled from neighbouring Muslim-majority countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan due to religious persecution or fear thereof before December 2014. Under the CAA 2019 amendment, migrants who entered India by December 31, 2014, were eligible for fast-track Indian citizenship. The amendment reduced the residence requirement for naturalisation from eleven years to five.

Note: The Act was heavily criticised for excluding Muslims from its purview.

What are the CAA 2024 rules?

The rules, in line with the 2019 amendment to The Citizenship Act, 1955, aim to provide citizenship to migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian communities who entered India before December 31, 2014, from Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Bangladesh. An online system for application, processing, and grant of citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is being explored by the Home Ministry.

Eligibility criteria for citizenship application

Eligible applicants include individuals of Indian origin, spouses of Indian citizens, minor children of Indian citizens, individuals with registered Indian citizen parents, and Overseas Citizens of India Cardholders, among others.

Documentation requirements for citizenship by naturalisation

Individuals seeking citizenship by naturalisation must submit Form VIII A, accompanied by an affidavit verifying the accuracy of the provided information and attesting to the applicant's character by an Indian citizen. Additionally, applicants must declare their proficiency in one of the languages specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.



The application process for citizenship

Under Section 6B of the Citizenship Act, 1955, applicants must follow a specific application process, including electronic submission of the application to the Empowered Committee through the designated District Level Committee. Upon submission, applicants will receive an acknowledgement in Form IX. This will be followed by document verification by the District Level Committee. The designated officer administers the oath of allegiance to the applicant, and the application, along with necessary documents, is forwarded to the Empowered Committee for further processing. In case the applicant fails to appear in person for the oath-taking, the District Level Committee may forward the application to the Empowered Committee to be considered for refusal. Upon successful completion of the application, citizens will be provided digital certificates. A hard copy of the certificate may be provided on request.

What the rules state

Centre has implemented CAA, 4yrs after the law was passed, as it notified rules ahead of expected announcement of LS polls

THE 39-PAGE NOTIFICATION...
of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024

...STATES THAT AN APPLICANT WILL HAVE TO SUBMIT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form VIII, with affidavits verifying statements and character of applicant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Declaration that they have adequate knowledge of a language specified in 8th schedule of Constitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting papers like a passport, or identity document to show someone in lineage was a citizen of one of the three countries
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APPLICANT MUST ALSO PROVE

1 They entered India before December 31, 2014	2 The applicant or either of his parents was a citizen of Independent India
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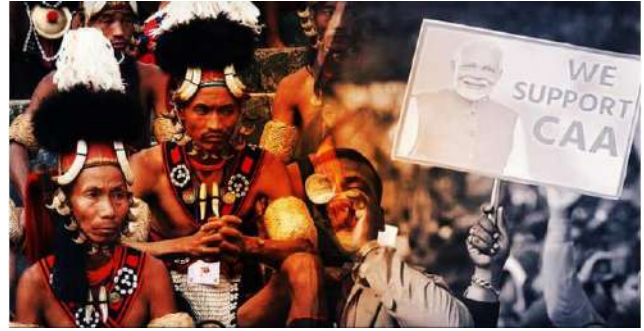
WHAT IS THE 2019 ACT?

CAA made people from Hindu, Sikh, Jain Buddhist, Christian and Parsi faiths who entered India from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for citizenship

Who will be in charge of processing the applications for citizenship?

The citizenship applications were earlier made to the district collector — who is under the administrative control of the state government — the new Rules provide for an Empowered Committee and a District Level Committee (DLC), to be instituted by the Centre, to receive and process the applications, which are to be submitted electronically. Applications will be made to the DLC, and the final decision will be taken by the Empowered Committee.

Who is exempted from the CAA?



Autonomous councils created under the 6th Schedule of the Constitution are exempted from the purview of CAA. The law that came into effect will, therefore, not be implemented in most tribal parts of Northeastern states. Autonomous councils under this special status include Karbi Anglong, Dila Hasao and Bodoland Territorial Council areas in Assam, Garo Hills in Meghalaya and tribal areas in Tripura. Areas where the Inner Line Permit (ILP) is required for a visit by people from other parts of the country in Northeastern states are excluded from the law. The ILP is in place in parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

Protests against CAA



The Citizenship (Amendment) Act has sparked widespread protests across the country, including in the national capital region and northeastern states since its introduction in 2019. Protesters in Assam and other northeastern states expressed concerns over potential loss of political, cultural, and land rights, as well as fears of increased migration from Bangladesh. Protestors have also argued that the amendment discriminates against Muslims and violates the right to equality enshrined in the Constitution. Some also question the exclusion of persecuted religious minorities from regions such as Tibet, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar.

National Creators Award 2024



As the trend of social media increases, the creator category grows day by day and reaches a global level. Millions of digital creators on Facebook, Instagram, X, and other platforms create positive content on social media and inspire others. So, the Indian government decided to honor such creators and empower them. PM Modi created a new category of awards that is known as the National Creators Award 2024. It is the effort of the Indian government to recognize the excellence and knowledge of online creators who create content across various categories. The award ceremony is starting to drive positive changes among creators.

Motto:

The awards aim to recognize the efforts of creators and make India more digital. The creators of different categories are invited to this award ceremony. This program aims to boost the value of digital content creation in the current world and promote innovation and positive change.

Selection process:

The selection process consists of the opening of a nomination window on the Innovate India website from 10 February to 29 February 2024. There are more than 1.5 lakh nominations are received on the website, and around 10 lakh votes are cast to announce the winners across several categories.

Here is the List of Winners:

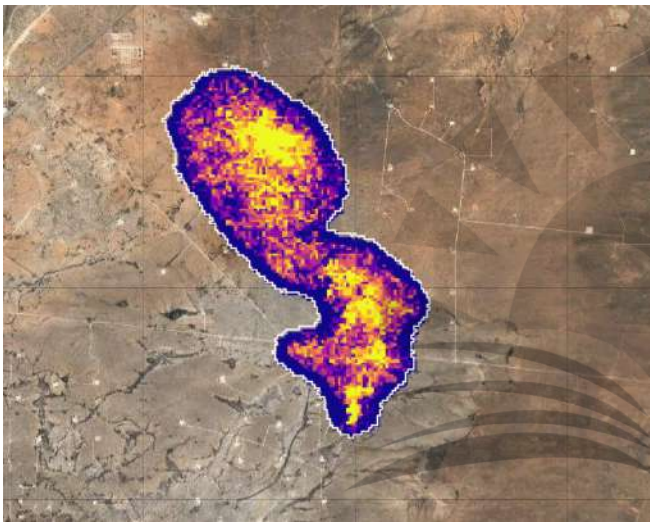
- ❖ Disruptor of the Year award: Ranveer Allahbadia (BeerBiceps)
- ❖ Best Creator in Education Category(Male & Female): Naman Deshmukh
- ❖ Best Creator in Tech Category: Gaurav Chaudhary(Technical Guruji)
- ❖ Favourite Travel Creator: Kamiya Jani
- ❖ Best Health and Fitness Creator: Ankit Baiyanpuria
- ❖ Best Creator in Food Category: Kabita Singh (Kabita's Kitchen)
- ❖ Celebrity Creator of the Year: Aman Gupta (Founder and CEO of boAT)
- ❖ Green Champion' Category: Pankhti Pandey
- ❖ Best Storyteller: Keerthika Govindasamy
- ❖ Cultural Ambassador of the Year: Maithili Thakur
- ❖ Most Creative Creator Female: Shraddha Jain
- ❖ Most Creative Creator Male: RJ Raunac
- ❖ Heritage Fashion Icon Award: Jahnvi Singh
- ❖ Best Creator for Social Change Award: Jaya Kishori
- ❖ Best Micro Creator Award: Aridaman
- ❖ Best Creator in Gaming Category Award: Nishchay
- ❖ Swachhta Ambassador Award: Malhar Kalambe
- ❖ Best International Creator Award: Drew Hicks, Kili Paul, Cassandra Mae Spittmann
- ❖ Best Nano Creator Award: Piyush Purohit
- ❖ Most Impactful Agri Creator: Lakshay Dabas
- ❖ The New India Champion Award: Abhi and Niyu



Meet MethaneSAT, a satellite which will 'name and shame' methane emitters

MethaneSAT — a satellite which will track and measure methane emissions at a global scale — was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon9 rocket from California on March 4. While the washing-machine-sized satellite is not the first spacecraft to identify and quantify methane emissions, it will provide more details and have a much wider field of view than any of its predecessors.

Why do we need to track and measure methane emissions?



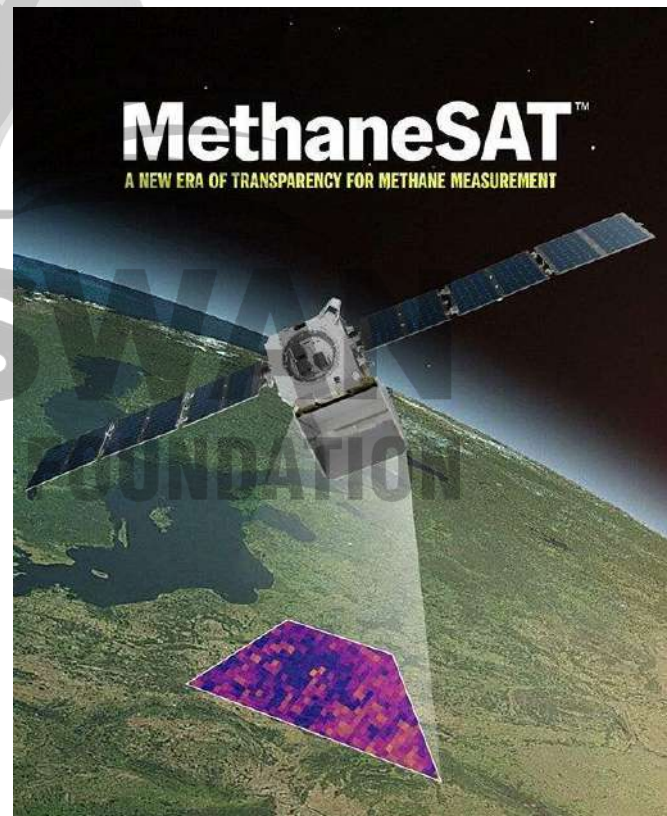
Methane is an invisible but strong greenhouse gas, and the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide, responsible for 30 per cent of global heating since the Industrial Revolution. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, over a period of 20 years, methane is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide. The gas also contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone — a colourless and highly irritating gas that forms just above the Earth's surface. According to a 2022 report, exposure to ground-level ozone could be contributing to one million premature deaths every year. Therefore, it is crucial to cut methane emissions. And the main culprit: fossil fuel operations, which account for about 40 per cent of all human-caused methane emissions. The objective of MethaneSAT is to help achieve this goal.

"The Future Belongs To The Competent. Get Good, Get Better, Be The Best!"

Here is all you need to know about MethaneSAT

What is MethaneSAT?

The entity behind MethaneSAT is the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) — a US-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group. To develop the satellite, EDF partnered with Harvard University, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, and the New Zealand Space Agency. Essentially, MethaneSAT will orbit the Earth 15 times a day, monitoring the oil and gas sector. It will create a large amount of data, which will tell "how much methane is coming from where, who's responsible, and are those emissions going up or down over time". The data collected by MethaneSAT will be made public for free in near real-time. This will allow stakeholders and regulators to take action to reduce methane emissions.



"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

What are the features of MethaneSAT?

Historically, tracking the source of methane emissions and measuring them has been quite challenging. While some satellites can provide high-resolution data, they can only scan specific, pre-targeted sites. Others can examine larger areas and detect large emitting events, but cannot scan smaller sources that account for the majority of emissions. Due to this discrepancy, global methane emissions are about 70 per cent higher than levels reported by national governments.



MethaneSAT is expected to fix the issue. Equipped with a high-resolution infrared sensor and a spectrometer, the satellite will fill critical data gaps. It can track differences in methane concentrations as small as three parts per billion in the atmosphere, which enables it to

pick up smaller emissions sources than the previous satellites. MethaneSAT also has a wide-camera view — of about 200 km by 200 km — allowing it to identify larger emitters so-called “super emitters”. The collected data will be analysed using cloud-computing and AI technology developed by Google — the company is a mission partner — and the data will be made public through Google’s Earth Engine platform.

Why is it significant?

The launch of MethaneSAT has come at a moment when the world is implementing more stringent methane management policies. For instance, more than 150 countries signed the Global Methane Pledge in 2021, to cut their collective methane emissions by at least 30 per cent from 2020 levels by 2030. At last year’s COP, more than 50 companies committed to virtually eliminating methane emissions and routine flaring. MethaneSAT will help them meet these targets. The satellite will also usher in a new era of transparency. Its publicly available data, which can be accessed by anyone in the world, will keep track of methane commitments made by governments and corporations.



Explained: What is happening in Sandeshkhali?



WHAT IS SANDESHKHALI

INCIDENT?

EXPLAINED

Sandeshkhali, a village in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, has been at the centre of a political storm for nearly a month and has witnessed unprecedented protests over allegations of sexual abuse by scores of women against a local TMC leader.

How did it start?

It all started on a sleepy, cold morning of January 5 after a raid by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at the residence of TMC strongman Shahjahan Sheikh in Sandeshkhali in the multi-crore ration distribution scam. Shahjahan's men in the locality not only prevented the ED officers from entering his home but also assaulted them before the central probe agency's men managed to escape from the village around 74 km away from the city. After the ED incident, local women in large numbers came out in the open and alleged that Shahjahan and his men forcibly grabbed their land for prawn cultivation, torturing and sexually harassing them for several years.

Who is Shahjahan Sheikh?

Shahjahan Sheikh has had a steady rise in the TMC in the last 10 years, joining the party in 2013, two years after Mamata Banerjee came to power in Bengal. In 2018, he became the up-pradhan of the panchayat and his rise in the party began. Sheikh was the sabhapati of the Sandeshkhali unit of the TMC, and last year won a

zilla parishad seat. He is also North 24 Parganas's 'Matsa Karmadhakshya', that is, in-charge of the district's fishery development. That appointment was not surprising given Sheikh's ownership of a string of fishery units in the area, falling in the Sunderbans, as well as brick kilns. Sheikh owns a number of brick kilns and controls over 200 bighas of fisheries. He also owns or controls local wholesale fish markets, and a processing centre for baby shrimps, which he delivers to fish farmers throughout Bengal.



Note: Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Sheikh Shahjahan, the prime accused in the case related to the attack on ED officials in Sandeshkhali, was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the state police on the orders of the Calcutta High Court.



What are the main allegations?

Local Women said the party (TMC) men survey every home and if there was any beautiful woman, primarily a young wife or a girl, they took them to the party office. They will keep that woman there night after night till they are satisfied, one of the several local women, who kept her face covered to hide her identity fearing attack by Shajahan and his associates, alleged. The women said that the absence of Shajahan has given them the courage to speak about the torture they have been undergoing for several years. They not only accused Shajahan but also alleged that his close aides and other TMC leaders Uttam Sardar and Shibaprasad Hazra were involved in the abuse. We are unable to live here. There is always a fear of being tortured or sexual molestation. We want safety. Most of our men have left the village and are working in other states.



Women protested with bamboo sticks, and brooms and gheraoed the local police stations demanding the immediate arrest of Shajahan, Shibaprasad Hazra. Tension escalated when the protesting women burnt down three poultry farms owned by Hazra, which they claimed were built on a piece of land forcibly grabbed from local villagers. This led the opposition parties in Bengal to escalate their demands to arrest Shajahan and his men immediately.

Police action and visits by commissions:

Police arrested former CPI(M) MLA from Sandeshkhali Nirapada Sardar, and a local BJP leader Vikas Singh over the allegations. Barishat Police said that they have received only four complaints from the people of violence-hit Sandeshkhali but none of them mentioned any incident of rape or sexual harassment. Meanwhile, the police have set up barricades on

approach roads to Sandeshkhali police to prevent political personalities from visiting the place.

The state administration has constituted a 10-member team headed by Arun Halder under senior IPS officers to probe into the incidents of Sandeshkhali. Representatives of the National Women's Commission and National Commission for Scheduled Castes tried going to Sandeshkhali have also faced hindrances from the police who cited the prohibitory orders, stating that their visits might cause a law and order problem in the area. A National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) delegation visited the trouble-torn village.



Protests and allegations prompted Calcutta HC to react:

The Calcutta High Court revoked the imposition of Section 144 in trouble-torn Sandeshkhali, it also said the state should deploy more security forces and there should be close monitoring through drones and CCTV cameras. Another Calcutta High Court Judge Justice Apurba Sinha Ray took suo motu cognisance of the allegations of the local women being sexually harassed and tribal land forcibly taken away and instructed the state to file a report within a week.



Recent Appointments

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju Gives Additional Charge of Ministry of Food Processing Industries



Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has been given an additional charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries after Union Minister and Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party Chief Pashupati Kumar Paras resigned from the Union Cabinet. The President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignation of Mr. Paras with immediate effect. Pashupati Kumar joined the Cabinet as minister of food processing industries in July 2021 after a mid-term reshuffle of the Cabinet. Mr Rijiju is currently holding the charge of Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Vladimir Putin Wins Russian Presidential Elections for Record Fifth Term



Russian President Vladimir Putin has clinched a historic fifth term, securing a landslide victory in the presidential polls. He claimed another six-year term by getting 87 per cent of the vote with 80 per cent of the precincts counted. This victory has solidified Mr. Putin's position as Russia's longest-serving leader, surpassing Josef Stalin.

Russia:

- Capital: Moscow
- Currency: Russian Ruble

Tata Technologies appoints Sukanya Sadasivan as Chief Operating Officer



Global engineering and product development digital services firm Tata Technologies Ltd announced the appointment of Sukanya Sadasivan as its Chief Operating Officer. Before joining Tata Technologies, Sukanya held the position of Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer at TCS, leading strategic transformation initiatives across the organisation.

Tata Technologies

- Parent organizations: Tata Motors, Tata Group
- Subsidiaries: Tata HAL Technologies Ltd, Incat Gmbh, etc.
- CEO: Warren Harris
- Founded: 1989
- Headquarters: Pune

Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, selected as new election commissioners



Former bureaucrats Sukhbir Sandhu and Gyanesh Kumar have been selected as new election commissioners by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led high-powered committee. According to sources six names came up before the panel for the selection of the two election commissioners and the names of Sukhbir Sandhu and Gyanesh Kumar were finalised by a majority of members of the high-powered panel.



The six names shortlisted were those of Utpal Kumar Singh, Pradeep Kumar Tripathi, Gyanesh Kumar, Indevar Pandey, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Sudhir Kumar Gangadhar Rahate, all former bureaucrats. Note: The vacancies had come up after the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey on February 14 and the sudden resignation of Arun Goel.

Who is Chief Election Commissioner of India?

The Chief Election Commissioner of India heads the Election Commission of India, a body constitutionally empowered to conduct free and fair elections to the national and state legislatures and of President and Vice-President.

- Appointer: President of India
- Term length: 6 years or up to 65 years of age
- Incumbent: Rajiv Kumar

ISMA appoints Deepak Ballani as the new Director General



Industry body Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has announced the appointment of Deepak Ballani as its new Director General. Prior to joining ISMA, Ballani served as the Director General at the All India Plastics Manufacturers Association, where he spearheaded policy advocacy, government affairs management, and international partner management. The Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) is the national body representing the interests of sugar and bio-energy producers in India.

ISMA :

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Established: 1932

Asif Ali Zardari elected Pakistan President for second time

Pakistan Peoples Party co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari was elected as Pakistan's 14th President, becoming the head of state for a second time. Zardari,

68, was the joint candidate of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) while his rival Mahmood Khan Achakzai,



75, was the candidate of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). The new president was elected by the electoral college of the newly elected members of the National Assembly and the four provincial assemblies, as per the provisions of the Constitution. A businessman-turned-politician, Zardari is the husband of slain Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto. Zardari would replace the incumbent Dr Arif Alvi, whose five-year term ended last year. However, he has continued since the new electoral college was not yet formed. Zardari, who served as the president from 2008 to 2013, will also be the first civilian to be elected for the second time as president.

Devendra Jhajharia elected Paralympic Committee of India president



Two-time Paralympics gold medallist Devendra Jhajharia elected as the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president, succeeding another celebrated para athlete Deepa Malik. The 42-year-old javelin thrower, who had won a gold medal each in the 2004 Athens and 2016 Rio Paralympics in the F46 disability category, was the only candidate in the fray for the top post. The PCI elections were held for the posts of president, two vice-presidents, secretary general, treasurer, two joint secretaries and five executive committee members. Jayawant Hammanawar, an international coach and referee from Goa, was elected unopposed as the secretary general.



R. Chandrashekhar and Satya Prakash Sangwan will be the two vice-presidents, while Sunil Pradhan was the lone candidate for the treasurer's post. Lalit Thakur and T. Diwakara are the two joint-secretaries.

Paralympic Committee of India

The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) is the body responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at the Paralympic Games and other international athletic meets and for managing the Indian teams at the events. The organisation was founded in 1992 as the Physically Handicapped Sports Federation of India.

JSW Steel appoints Robert Simon as CEO of JSW USA



JSW Steel has appointed Robert Simon as Chief Executive Officer of JSW, USA. In his role, he will lead the overall business in the USA, comprising slab, coil, pipe and plate production, and sales at Baytown and Mingo Junction, the company said in a statement. Before joining JSW USA, Simon consulted with several companies, including OmniTrax in Denver, Colorado, and also served as the chairman of the Steel Manufacturers Association in the USA, according to the statement.

JSW Steel:

- Founded: 1982
- Founder: Sajjan Jindal (chairman)
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Future generali India life insurance appoints Alok Rungta as Managing Director & CEO



Future Generali India Life Insurance announced the appointment of Alok Rungta to the position of Managing Director & CEO effective 1st April, subject to receipt of necessary regulatory approvals. Alok, currently serving as the Deputy CEO and CFO, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role. He takes the reins from Bruce De Broize, who is the MD & CEO until 31st Mar 2024.

Future Generali India life insurance:

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Mumbai, India

Manish Prasad appointed president and MD for SAP Indian Subcontinent



German technology major SAP has appointed Manish Prasad as president and managing director for SAP Indian Subcontinent. He succeeds Kulmeet Bawa, who takes on a global role to drive the growth and adoption of the SAP Business Technology Platform (SAP BTP) for global customers.

Shehbaz Sharif to be next Prime Minister of Pakistan



Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shehbaz Sharif has been elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He secured 201 votes while Omer Ayub Khan, the Imran Khan-backed PTI candidate managed to get 92 votes. The PML-N president Shehbaz is the younger brother of former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, 74, who was projected as the party's prime ministerial candidate ahead of the February 8

elections last month. He was marred by allegations of rigged vote. Nawaz Sharif who has headed the country thrice earlier as PM decided against contesting as his PML-N party failed to garner majority seats in the February 8 elections to form a government on its own. Meanwhile, Sharifs-led party is the largest party with 75 out of 265 seats.

Pakistan:

- Capital: Islamabad
- President: Asif Ali Zardari
- Currency: Pakistani rupee

Thailand replaces its WTO ambassador after protest by India



Thailand has reportedly decided to replace its Ambassador to World Trade Organization (WTO), Pimchanok Vonkorpon, after India lodged a protest over her remarks at the 13th ministerial conference. Vonkorpon accused India of using its rice procurement programme at Minimum Support Price (MSP) to capture the export market and not to benefit the people. From 2018 to 2022, India held the title of the world's largest rice exporting country, followed by Thailand and Vietnam. However, in 2023, India banned the export of broken and non-basmati white rice due to uncertainties surrounding rice production, geopolitical factors, El Nino phenomena, and extreme weather conditions. This measure aimed to stabilise domestic prices and ensure sufficient availability in the domestic market. She'll be replaced by Thai foreign secretary.

Thailand:

- Capital: Bangkok
- Monarch: Vajiralongkorn
- Prime Minister: Srettha Thavisin
- Currency: Thai baht

Guinea appoints Mamadou Oury Bah as prime minister



Guinea's transitional president General Mamady Doumbouya appointed Amadou Oury Bah as prime minister. Bah, commonly known as Bah Oury, has been a prominent figure on the Guinean political scene since the early nineties. He served as minister of reconciliation in a consensus government in the wake of a political crisis triggered by the killing of at least 130 people in union-led protests in 2007.

Guinea:

- Capital: Conakry
- Currency: Guinean Franc

Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar Appointed as New Lokpal, Six Members Also Named



Former Supreme Court judge Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar was appointed the chairperson of Lokpal. The Lokpal has been functioning without its regular chief after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term on May 27, 2022. President Droupadi Murmu also named six others as members of the anti-corruption ombudsman. Former Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court Lingappa Narayana Swamy, former chief justice of Karnataka High Court and the current chairperson of the Law Commission of India Ritu Raj Awasthi, and former Allahabad High Court chief justice Sanjay Yadav are the new judicial members of Lokpal. Former Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, former Gujarat chief secretary Pankaj Kumar, and former secretary, Department of Land Resources Ajay Tirkey are the new non-judicial members.



Lokpal:

The Lokpal is a powerful institution that has jurisdiction over central government to inquire into allegations of corruption against its public functionaries including the Prime Minister, cabinet ministers, members of Parliament, and Group A officials of the central government. It is the President who appoints the chairperson and members of the Lokpal based on the recommendations of a selection committee headed by the prime minister.

India-born economist Geeta Batra named as first woman Director of World Bank's GEF

Geeta Batra, a distinguished India-born economist, has been appointed as the Director of the Independent Evaluation Office of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF). This historic appointment makes her the first woman from a developing country to hold this prestigious position. She is currently serving as the Chief Evaluator & Deputy Director for Evaluation at the GEF's Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), affiliated with the World Bank.

Background:

The GEF has been a significant player in the environmental sector since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, providing substantial grants and co-financing for projects addressing global environmental concerns.

Vaughan Gething Becomes First Black Leader of a European Country

A Zambian-born lawyer Vaughan Gething has become the first Black head of government in Wales, in the United Kingdom — and in all of Europe. He was elected by the Welsh parliament in Cardiff a day earlier, and approved by King Charles III. Wales, with a population of about 3 million, is one of four countries in the U.K., along with England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. They run local services, including health and education systems, while London is responsible for their defense, foreign relations and other issues. He previously served as Welsh health minister for five years, including during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2021, he had been the country's economy minister. Gething's election means three of the U.K.'s four countries — England, Wales and Scotland — now have non-white leaders. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is of Indian descent and Scottish First Minister Humza Yousaf has Pakistani heritage.

China's Ant Group appoints new president

Han Xinyi will become president of China's Ant Group, opens new tab and some units of the financial technology company will set up their own boards of directors to operate more independently. The organisational changes flagged in Jing's email constitute the biggest shake-up in the Jack Ma-founded fintech group since it was fined \$984 million by Chinese authorities last July. That penalty, one of the largest fines for an internet company in China, drew to a close a years-long regulatory overhaul of the group. Han will be responsible for Ant's digital payments, digital connectivity and digital finance businesses and will report to Jing.

Ant Group

- Subsidiaries: AliPay (China) Internet Technology, WorldFirst, etc.
- CEO: Eric Jing
- Founder: Jack Ma
- Headquarters: Hangzhou, China
- Founded: 16 October 2014



Mustafa Suleyman appointed as CEO of Microsoft AI



Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella welcomed Mustafa Suleyman as CEO of the company's artificial intelligence (AI) venture. As CEO of Microsoft AI, Suleyman will lead consumer AI products and research, including Copilot, Bing and Edge. Suleyman was the co-founder and former head of applied AI at DeepMind, an AI company acquired by Google. After leaving DeepMind, he co-founded Inflection AI, a machine learning and generative AI company, in 2022. Suleyman co-founded DeepMind Technologies, an AI and machine learning company, and became its chief product officer.

Microsoft

- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen
- Headquarters: Washington, United States
- CFO: Amy Hood
- Chairperson: Satya Nadella

C P Radhakrishnan takes additional charge of Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry



President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignation of Telangana Governor TAMILISAI Soundararajan. Soundararajan, who also held the position of Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, tendered her resignation. The Rashtrapati Bhavan also announced that the President is "pleased to appoint C P Radhakrishnan, Governor of Jharkhand, to discharge the functions of the Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry in addition to his own duties until regular arrangements are made. Meanwhile, reports claim that TAMILISAI Soundararajan plans to contest the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha polls from Tamil Nadu. She had contested the 2019 Parliament elections from the Thoothukudi seat in southern Tamil Nadu on a BJP ticket and lost to DMK's Kanimozhi.

Tamilisai Soundararajan

Tamilisai Soundararajan served as the second governor of Telangana, assuming office on September 8, 2019. Since February 18, 2021, she also served as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. Earlier, Tamilisai was the National Secretary and Tamil Nadu State Unit President of the BJP.

BIBASWAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

"For Every Reason It's Not Possible, There Are Hundreds Of People Who Have Faced The Same Circumstances And Succeeded."

"One Of The Lessons That I Grew Up With Was To Always Stay True To Yourself And Never Let What Somebody Else Says Distract You From Your Goals."



National News

Cabinet announces International 'Big Cat' Alliance

The Union Cabinet formally announced the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with one-time budgetary support of Rs 150 crore from the central government until 2028. The IBCA is an initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2023 in Mysuru commemorating the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger. The objective of the IBCA is to ensure cooperation for the conservation of seven big cats: lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard, jaguar, and puma. Five of these cats, apart from jaguar and puma, are found in India. The IBCA proposes to have an assembly of members, a standing committee as well as a secretariat based in India. The Environment Ministry will appoint an interim director general to head the IBCA secretariat, until members of the alliance can meet and appoint a permanent office-bearer to oversee day-to-day operations.

PM Modi lays foundation for semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 trillion

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the inauguration of "India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat", where he laid the foundation stone for three semiconductor projects collectively worth around Rs 1.25 trillion. The foundation stones were laid for three crucial semiconductor projects: the Semiconductor Fabrication Facility at the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) in Gujarat, the Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Morigaon, Assam, and another OSAT facility in Sanand, Gujarat.

- DSIR in Gujarat - Rs 91,000 crore
- OSAT facility in Assam - Rs 27,000 crore
- OSAT facility in Gujarat - Rs 7,500 crore

EC Announces Para Archer & Arjuna Awardee Sheetal Devi As National PwD Icon

Election Commission has announced Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee, Sheetal Devi as its National PwD Icon.

Sheetal Devi :

Sheetal Devi is an Indian Para-archer. Devi was born with a rare medical condition called phocomelia, which makes her the first and the only international para-archery champion without upper limbs.

She received the Arjuna Award 2023 from the President of India on 9 January 2024.

She was born in Loidhar village, Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir.

Asian Para Games

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|----------|
| ➤ Gold medal – first place | 2022 | Hangzhou |
| Individual Compound | | |
| ➤ Gold medal – first place | 2022 | Hangzhou |
| Mixed Team Compound | | |
| ➤ Silver medal – second place | 2022 | Hangzhou |
| Doubles Compound | | |

Maharashtra Cabinet Approves Renaming Ahmednagar District as Ahilya Nagar

Maharashtra Cabinet approved renaming Ahmednagar district as Ahilya Nagar.

The State cabinet also decided to rename eight suburban railway stations in Mumbai that carry colonial names, including Curry Road station, which will be called Lalbaug; Sandhurst Road station, which will be called Dongri, Marine Lines to be renamed Mumbadevi, Charni Road as Girgaon, Cotton Green as Kalachowki, Dockyard as Mazgaon, King's Circle as Tirthankar Parswanath and Mumbai Central as Nana Jagannath Shankarsheth.

Who was Ahilya Bai Holkar?

Regarded as the most visionary female rulers of independent India, Ahilya Bai Holkar was the Queen of the Maratha Malwa kingdom. She is known for her role in propagating dharma. The 'Philosopher Queen' built several temples and dharmshalas (public rest houses) across early-modern India. Ahilya Bai is also known for her efforts to popularise industrialisation. The Queen established the textile industry in Maheshwar, which is famously known for its Maheshwari sarees to date.

President Murmu Approves Uniform Civil Code Uttarakhand Bill, 2024

President Droupadi Murmu approved the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Uttarakhand Bill, 2024. With the

implementation of this Bill, Uttarakhand will become the first State in the country to implement the UCC after Independence. The Bill addresses practices such as polygamy, polyandry, halala, iddat, and talaq, and ensures property rights, equal marriageable age, and equal inheritance rights. With the enactment of UCC law, everyone in the State will get equal rights without any discrimination in matters like maintenance, adoption, inheritance and divorce.

Uttarakhand:

- Capital: Bhararisain, Dehradun (winter)
- Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Governor: Gurmit Singh

PM Modi launches Mahatari Vandana Yojana in Chhattisgarh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the Mahatari Vandan Yojana of the Chhattisgarh government. He released the first installment worth 655 crore rupees online in the accounts of around 70 lakh women in the first phase of the scheme. This scheme aims to provide financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month to eligible married women of the state through monthly Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Targeting all eligible married women above 21 years of age as of January 1, 2024, the scheme extends its benefits to widows, divorced, and deserted women. Approximately 70 lakh women stand to benefit from this program.

Chhattisgarh:

- Capital: Raipur
- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief Minister: Vishnu Dev Sai

PM Modi unveils 125-foot statue of Lachit Borphukan in Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of 'Ahom general' Lachit Borphukan in Assam's Jorhat. The 'Statue of Valour' was unveiled by the PM at the Lachit Borphukan Maidam Development Project at Hollongapar near Teok. The height of the statute, built by Ram Vanji Sutar, is 84 feet and it is set on a pedestal of 41 feet, making the structure 125 feet tall. The foundation of the statue was laid by former President Ram Nath Kovind in February 2022. Lachit Borphukan was a legendary army commander of the Ahom kingdom (1228-1826).

He is known for his leadership in the 1671 'Battle of Saraighat' that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by the mighty Mughal forces, led by Raja Ramsingh-I, to take back Assam.

Assam

- Capital: Dispur
- Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Bird: White-winged duck
- Flower: Foxtail orchid
- High Court: Gauhati High Court

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Sela Tunnel: world's longest twin-lane tunnel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a day-long visit to Arunachal Pradesh, inaugurated the world's longest twin-lane tunnel 'Sela Tunnel'. PM Mod also launched several other developmental projects in the state including the UNNATI scheme worth ₹10,000 crore.

Sela Tunnel:

The Sela Tunnel is situated at an elevation of 13,000 feet and is built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of ₹825 crore. The project comprises two tunnels - Tunnel 1 is 1,003 meters long, and Tunnel 2 is a 1,595-meter twin-tube tunnel. The project also includes two roads measuring 8.6 km. The tunnel has been designed for a traffic density of 3,000 cars and 2,000 trucks per day, with a maximum speed of 80 kmph. The tunnel is significant as it will provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang bordering China. It will also cut down the travel time to Tawang by at least one hour, allowing faster deployment of weapons, soldiers, and equipment to forward areas near the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Bichom becomes 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh

Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng, became the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh. Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the district and laid the foundation of its headquarters at Napangphung. He also handed over responsibilities to Deputy Commissioner Akriti Sagar and Superintendent of Police Sudhanshu Dhama. A total of 27 villages from West Kameng and 28 from East Kameng were made part of Bichom district.

Arunachal Pradesh:

- Capital: Itanagar



- Chief minister: Pema Khandu
- Governor: Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnai

Union Cabinet Approves IndiaAI Mission With 10,371 Crore Budget Outlay

In a significant step to encourage artificial intelligence (AI) development in India, the Union Cabinet gave a green signal to the national-level IndiaAI Mission with a budget outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore. The decision came against the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's multiple references to the developments in AI space and how India can be a huge contributor to the same. The IndiaAI Mission seeks to showcase to the international community the positive applications of the revolutionary technology for societal benefit, thereby elevating India's global competitiveness.

Govt approves Rs 10,037 cr scheme to promote industrialisation in NE region

The government approved a Rs 10,037-crore new industrial development scheme, UNNATI, for northeast states. The central sector scheme has been announced for the development of industries and employment generation in the states of North East Region. The scheme's main objective is to generate gainful employment, which will lead to the area's overall socio-economic development.

Jharkhand government initiates landmark Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme

Under the Vidvāh Punar Vivāh Yojna, the first of its kind in Jharkhand, Chief Minister Champai Soren digitally gave Rs 2 lakhs each to two widows in Palamu district. Seven widows in the state will be getting two lakhs each as part of their remarriage. The scheme has set forth specific eligibility criteria to ensure that the assistance reaches those in genuine need. Beneficiaries must be of marriageable age and not employed as government employees, pensioners, or income tax payers. Furthermore, to avail of the benefits, eligible widows must apply within one year from their remarriage date and are required to submit the death certificate of their late husband, ensuring a streamlined and transparent process. In addition to the remarriage scheme, the Chief Minister announced an increase in the honorarium for Anganwadi workers to

Rs 9,500 and for helpers to Rs 4,750 per month. This move is set to benefit the workforce dedicated to child development and maternal health.

Jharkhand:

- Capital: Ranchi
- Governor: C. P. Radhakrishnan
- Chief minister: Champai Soren

Himachal Pradesh Announces "Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna"

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced that his government will give Rs 1,500 per month to women in the age group of 18 to 60 years from the the 2024-25 financial year, fulfilling one of the 10 'guarantees' promised by the Congress ahead of the assembly polls. Every woman above the age of 18 will get Rs 1,500 under the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna. In Himachal Pradesh, the women above 60 years of age are covered under the old age pension. Women in the age group 60 to 69 receive Rs 1,500 monthly pension, and those aged 70 years and above get Rs 1,700.

Himachal Pradesh:

- Capital: Shimla, Dharamshala (winter)
- Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla
- Chief minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

PM Modi inaugurated India's first underwater metro rail service

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section of Kolkata Metro's East-West corridor, branded as India's first underwater metro service. Built at a cost of Rs 4,965 crore, the engineering marvel is part of the 16.6 km of the East-West Metro corridor. The project is being executed by Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL).

CM Yogi launches 'MYUVA Scheme' to empower youth entrepreneurs in Uttar Pradesh

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is poised to launch the "Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)" scheme in Uttar Pradesh, aimed at nurturing entrepreneurship among the state's youth. This program offers interest-free loans to help young people kickstart their business ventures with projects valued up to Rs 5 lakh.



Highlights:

The scheme offers interest-free loans to young entrepreneurs for projects valued up to Rs 5 lakh. The government aims to prepare one lakh young entrepreneurs every year through this initiative. A substantial budget of Rs 1,000 crore has been allocated for the fiscal year 2024-25 to support the implementation of the scheme. MYUVA targets educated and skilled youth across the state, providing them with opportunities for self-employment.

Ashwini Vaishnav Launches Digital Intelligence Platform and CHAKSHU on Sanchar Saathi Portal

Union Minister for Communications Ashwini Vaishnav launched the Digital Intelligence Platform and CHAKSHU - Report Suspected Fraud Communication Facility on Sanchar Saathi Portal at a function in New Delhi. Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) developed by the Department of Telecommunications aims at facilitating coordination among the Stakeholders to Curb the Misuse of Telecom Resources in Cybercrime and Financial Fraud. While the Chakshu facilitates citizens to report suspected fraud communication received over call, SMS or WhatsApp to defraud.

Telangana government to launch Indiramma housing scheme

The state government is set to launch the Indiramma housing scheme on March 11. In the first phase of its implementation, financial assistance would be extended for the construction of 3,500 houses in each Assembly segment. The priority would be given to those who applied for houses under the Praja Palana programme. Only the eligible poor should get the benefit.

What does it entail?

Under the Indiramma housing scheme, the state government will offer 5 lakh in financial aid to eligible beneficiaries who already own a house plot for constructing their homes. For those who do not possess a house site, a piece of land along with 5 lakh will be provided.

Telangana:

- Capital: Hyderabad
- Chief minister: Revanth Reddy
- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Cuttack's silver filigree craft enters GI league

There's finally a ray of hope for the dying silver filigree or 'Rupa Tarakasi' of Cuttack. The famed handicraft of thin silver wires has finally received the geographical indication (GI) tag, four years after an application was filed by the Odisha State Cooperative Handicrafts Corporation. According to historians, the origin of Cuttack's silver filigree is ambiguous but it has been proven that as far back as the 12th century, craftsmen working with silver existed in the city. The craft received patronage under the Mughals, thus strongly linking it to them as source of origin. Further, the three dimensional nature of the products made in Cuttack give it a realistic finish and make it unique to the cluster. Earlier, the silver filigree craft of Karimnagar in Telangana had received the GI tag in 2006. Unlike Cuttack, the craft in Karimnagar is believed to have started in the 19th century.

PM Modi launches hydrogen-powered ferry

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched India's first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell ferry. The vessel, manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), will be deployed for service at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. Built at a cost of Rs 18 crore, the ferry will be handed over to the Inland Waterways Authority of India by the CSL after rigorous trials. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways met 75 per cent of the project cost.

Country's longest cable-stayed bridge, 'Sudarshan Setu' inaugurated by PM Modi in Gujarat

PM Narendra Modi dedicated the nation country's longest, about 2.32 km. long, signature stayed bridge 'Sudarshan Setu' connecting Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island at Dwarka in Gujarat. Sudarshan Setu has a unique design, with footpaths decorated with verses from Srimad Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna on either side. It also has solar panels installed on the upper parts of the footpath, which generate one megawatt of electricity. The bridge will ease transportation and significantly reduce the time spent by devotees traveling between Dwarka and Bet Dwarka. Before the construction of the bridge, pilgrims had to rely on boat transport to reach Bet Dwarka. This iconic bridge will also serve as the main tourist attraction of Devbhumi Dwarka.



International Events

Defense chiefs of South Korea, Iraq agree to bolster defense industry cooperation

The defense chiefs of South Korea and Iraq agreed to strengthen arms industry cooperation amid signs of Baghdad's interest in a South Korean-built helicopter. In 2013, Korea Aerospace Industries Ltd. (KAI) signed a deal to supply 24 T-50IQs, a variant of the T-50 supersonic trainer, to the Middle Eastern country. The Iraqi minister expressed expectations that if advanced South Korean weapons are introduced to Iraq, it would help strengthen the country's defense capabilities.

South Korea:

- Capital: Seoul
- President: Yoon Suk Yeol
- Prime Minister: Han Duck-soo
- Currency: Korean Republic won

Iraq:

- Capital: Baghdad
- President: Abdul Latif Rashid
- Prime Minister: Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani
- Currency: Iraqi dinar

Sweden officially becomes 32nd member of NATO

Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO after it completed the accession process in Washington last night. The handover of documents took place at a ceremony two years after Sweden applied to join the military alliance following the full-scale war between Russia and Ukraine in February 2022.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

- Formation: 4 April 1949
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Membership: 32 states
- Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg
- Chair of the NATO Military Committee: Rob Bauer

France become first country to enshrine abortion rights in its constitution

France has become the first country in the world to enshrine abortion rights in its constitution. French lawmakers from both houses of the Parliament, in a

special session, voted 780 to 72 in favor of the move to amend the Constitution. The amendment states that there is a guaranteed freedom to abortion in France. France has a long history of supporting abortion rights. The voluntary ending of pregnancy became legal in France in 1975 with a law named after Simone Veil, the health minister who supported it. The law allowed abortion up to the tenth week of pregnancy. Later, it was extended to the twelfth week in 2001 and then to the fourteenth week in 2022. Since the 1980s, the procedure has been covered by France's national healthcare system.

France:

- Capital: Paris
- President: Emmanuel Macron
- Prime minister: Gabriel Attal

Nicaragua becomes first Spanish-speaking nation to recognise Indian pharma standards

Nicaragua has become the first nation in the Spanish-speaking world to recognise Indian Pharmacopoeia, as India and Nicaragua signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pharmacopoeia on cooperation in the field of the regulation of medicines. India's Ambassador to Nicaragua Sumit Seth and Nicaragua's Minister of Health Martha Reyes signed the MoU between the two nations. Countries either have their own Pharmacopoeia or recognise the Pharmacopoeia of another country for referring to the standards of drugs manufactured or consumed in that country, according to the Indian Embassy in Nicaragua. Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) is an autonomous institution under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, created to set standards for drugs in the country. IP is the official book of standards for drugs defining the specified limits and testing methods for crude drugs and finished formulations. IP has a legal status within the Second Schedule of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. All the drugs imported, manufactured and distributed in India must conform to the standards codified in the IP. The IP has been recognised as a book of standard by five nations - Afghanistan, Ghana, Nepal, Mauritius and Suriname.

Nicaragua:

- Capital: Managua

- President: Daniel Ortega
- Currency: Córdoba

New Zealand to repeal world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations

New Zealand is all set to repeal the world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations. The new coalition government elected in October 2023 confirmed the repeal will happen as a matter of urgency, enabling it to scrap the law without seeking public comment, in line with previously announced plans. Set to take effect from July, the toughest anti-tobacco rules in the world would have banned sales to those born after Jan. 1, 2009, cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products and reduced the number of tobacco retailers by more than 90%.

New Zealand:

- Capital: Wellington
- Prime Minister: Christopher Luxon
- Currency: New Zealand dollar

'Operation Indravati' to evacuate stranded Indians in Haiti launched

India launched 'Operation Indravati' to evacuate its citizens stranded in war-torn Haiti amid the intense

fighting between the armed groups and the government. Jaishankar informed that 12 citizens have been successfully rescued to the Caribbean nation Dominican Republic.

What's happening in Haiti?

The Caribbean nation of Haiti has been plagued by widespread gang violence for over two years since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. In the power vacuum that followed the assassination, the country's de facto leader, Prime Minister Ariel Henry, assumed power, with the support of several nations. Meanwhile, attempts to chart a political transition for Haiti have failed, and various armed groups launched coordinated attacks on key installations in Haiti in an attempt to force the resignation of the country's embattled PM Henry as Haiti has not held functional elections since 2019.

India in Haiti

India doesn't have an embassy in Haiti and the situation in the country is being monitored by the Indian mission at Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic. There are between 75 and 90 Indians in Haiti and about 60 of them have registered with Indian authorities to return to India.

**"The Future
Belongs To The
Competent. Get
Good, Get
Better, Be The
Best!"**

21 March

International Day of Forests

EDITION: 12th
2024 THEME:
Forests and innovation
It has been celebrated around the world for 30 years to remind people of the importance of forests and the many benefits we gain from them.

Importance
To mark the adoption of resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012.

Motto
To raise awareness of the importance of forests to people and their vital role in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and food security.

Note
World Forestry Day established by the States Member of Conference of the Agriculture and Food organization with the help of the voting for creating it.

Banking & Economy

RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed penalties on DCB Bank and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to 'interest rate on advances'. A monetary penalty of Rs 63.6 lakh has been imposed on DCB Bank. The central bank informed that a penalty of Rs 1.31 crore has been imposed on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) - Revision in Reporting'. In both cases, the penalties were based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transactions or agreements entered into by them with their customers.

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank:

- Founded: 1921
- Headquarters: Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: S.Krishnan

UltraTech Cement receives CCI's approval to acquire Kesoram Cement (Economy)

Fair trade regulator CCI granted approval to UltraTech Cement's proposed acquisition of Kesoram Cement Business from Kesoram Industries. Kesoram Industries is engaged in the manufacture of grey cement through the Kesoram Cement Business. UltraTech is a public-listed company and is engaged in the business of the manufacture and sale of grey cement, white cement, ready-mix concrete, clinker, and building products in India. The company is also engaged in the provision of building solutions in India. It is a subsidiary of Grasim Industries Ltd. In November last year, UltraTech Cement announced it was set to acquire the cement business of BK Birla Group's flagship company Kesoram Industries in an all-share deal, with a business valuation of approximately Rs 7,600 crore, including debt.

UltraTech Cement:

- Founded: 1983
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director: K.C.Jhanwar

Paytm gets NPCI nod to become a third-party UPI app

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) granted approval to One97 Communications Limited (OCL), Paytm's parent entity, to participate in UPI services as a third-party application provider (TPAP). For Paytm, four banks will act as partner banks- Payment System Provider (PSP)- in order to aid the payment service. These banks are Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, YES Bank. The regulator also advised Paytm to complete migration for all existing handles and mandates, wherever required, to new PSP banks at the earliest. The nod means you can use Paytm app for payments through unified payment interface. This comes as a number of Paytm services will stop working after March 15 as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed restrictions imposed on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) citing persistent non-compliance and continued material supervisory concerns on January 31, 2024. After March 15, PPBL has been barred by RBI from accepting fresh deposits or top-ups.

Paytm:

- Founded: August 2010
- Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Fitch Ratings ups GDP growth forecast to 7% for FY25

Global rating agency Fitch Ratings raised India's growth forecast for the next financial year (FY25) to 7 per cent from 6.5 per cent estimated earlier, citing robust domestic demand and sustained growth in business and consumer confidence. It also expects the growth in the current financial year to clock 7.8 per cent, slightly higher than the government's own forecast of 7.6 per cent.

RBI slaps fines on Bank of India & Bandhan Bank for breach of rules

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms. It has also imposed a



penalty of Rs 29.55 lakh on private sector lender Bandhan Bank for non-compliance with certain directions. The penalty on Bank of India has been imposed for non-compliance with the RBI's directions related to 'interest rate on deposits', 'customer service in banks', 'interest rate on advances', and contravention of provisions of Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006. Meanwhile, the RBI also said a penalty of Rs 13.60 lakh has been imposed on Indostar Capital Finance Ltd for non-compliance with the 'Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016' and with certain provisions of KYC directions.

Policy Rates at a glance

- Policy Repo Rate: 6.50%
- Standing Deposit Facility Rate: 6.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%
- Bank Rate : 6.75%
- Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- CRR: 4.50%
- SLR: 18.00%

India's GDP growth likely to moderate to 6.8% in FY25: Crisil

After expanding by 7.6 per cent in the current fiscal, the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth is likely to decelerate to 6.8 per cent in the fiscal 2025 as higher interest rates and lower fiscal impulse will temper domestic demand, Crisil Ratings said. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected the real GDP growth for 2024-25 at 7 per cent. The recent data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the country's economy is expected to grow at 7.6 per cent in 2023-24.

Crisil:

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amish Mehta

Moody's raises India's 2024 GDP forecast to 6.8%.

Global rating agency Moody's has raised India's growth forecast for 2024 calendar year to 6.8 per cent from 6.1 per cent estimated earlier on the back of strong economic data. The Indian economy soared ahead in the December quarter (the third quarter of FY24) with a surprise growth of 8.4%, belying fears of tempering as the manufacturing, electricity and construction sectors put up a robust show. The

statistics ministry also raised its GDP growth estimate for FY24 to 7.6% in its second revised estimate, up from 7.3% in its first advance forecast. The Reserve Bank of India's GDP growth estimate for FY24 is 7%, while the International Monetary Fund's forecasts 6.7%. According to RBI, the total cost of private corporate projects sanctioned by major banks and financial institutions was up 23% annually during the April-December period as compared with the same period a year earlier, suggesting that the private capital expenditure cycle is gaining steam.

Fincare Small Finance Bank merger with AU SFB gets RBI approval

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the amalgamation of Fincare Small Finance Bank with Jaipur-based AU Small Finance Bank, effective from April 1, 2024, creating an entity with a balance sheet of over Rs 1.16 trillion. All the branches of Fincare SFB will function as branches of AU Small Finance Bank with effect from April 1, 2024, RBI said in a statement. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had already approved the merger in January 2024. In October last year, the board of directors of AU SFB and Fincare had approved an all-stock merger. This is the first-ever merger in the small finance bank space, wherein Fincare shareholders will receive 579 shares of AU for every 2,000 shares held. As per the terms of the scheme of amalgamation, Fincare Business Services, the promoter of Fincare SFB, shall infuse Rs 700 crore into Fincare SFB prior to the completion of the merger.

FIU imposes Rs 5.49 cr penalty on Paytm Payments Bank for PMLA violations

The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-India), an organisation under the Revenue Department of the Finance Ministry, imposed a penalty of Rs 5.49 crore on Paytm Payments Bank. The FIU's penalty is with reference to the violations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) read with PML rules. The FIU action follows the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) January 31 directive barring Paytm Payments Bank from accepting fresh deposits or credits in the accounts of its customers from February 29. The date was later extended to March 15.

FIU:

- Formed: 2004



- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Director: Vivek Aggarwal

Reliance, Disney to merge Indian media businesses

Reliance Industries Ltd. will merge its television and streaming business with the India unit of Walt Disney Co. to create the country's largest media company worth Rs 70,352 crore. The two companies have signed a binding, definitive agreement to form a joint venture that will combine the digital streaming and television assets of Viacom18 and Star India. As part of the transaction, Viacom18's media ventures will be merged into Disney-owned Star India Pvt. Ltd. Through a court-approved plan of arrangement. To boost growth, Reliance will invest Rs 11,500 crore in this venture. The Mukesh Ambani-promoted company will control the joint venture through 16.34% direct stake and 46.82% stake in Viacom 18. Disney will hold a 36.84% stake. Nita Ambani will be the chairperson of the merged entity, while former Star India chief Uday Shankar will serve as the vice-chairman.

Note: The deal is one of the biggest consolidations in India's media sector, even as the \$10 billion merger between Sony Group's Indian unit and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd has run into trouble.

DGCA Imposes Rs 80 Lakh Penalty On Air India For Violating FDTL Rules

Directorate General of Civil Aviation has imposed a financial penalty of eighty lakh rupees on Air India Limited for violation of regulations about Flight Duty Time Limitations, FDTL and Fatigue Management System, FMS of the flight crew. DGCA said in a release that the analysis of reports and evidences revealed that Air India Limited operated flights with both flight crew aged above 60 years flying together in a few instances, which is a violation of Aircraft Rules. The operator was also found deficient in providing adequate weekly rest, adequate rest before and after ultra-long range, ULR flights and adequate rest on layover to flight crew, which violates the extant provisions of the Civil Aviation Requirements pertaining to FDTL.

DGCA :

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Minister: Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation
- Deputy Minister: V.K. Singh
- Director General: Vikram Dev Dutt

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

24 March

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day

2024 THEME:
Yes! We can end TB!

World TB Day is a day to educate the public about the impact of TB around the world.

Importance

This day marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.

Motto

To raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.

Facts Behind

Each day, over 4000 people lose their lives to TB and close to 50,000 people fall ill with this preventable and curable disease.

About TB

TB is an infectious bacterial disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which most commonly affects the lungs. It is transmitted from person to person via droplets from the throat and lungs of people with the disease.

MoU's Signed

India, Singapore Sign MOU On Law and Dispute Resolution

India and Singapore have signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the sphere of law and dispute resolution. The Ministry of Law and Justice in a statement said that this agreement will further enhance the cooperation between the two countries in areas of common interest such as international commercial dispute resolution.

Singapore:

- Capital: Singapore
- President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- Prime Minister: Lee Hsien Loong
- Currency: Singapore dollar

India and Dominican Republic Signs Protocol for Establishment of Joint Economic and Trade Committee

The protocol for the establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) between India and the Dominican Republic was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic at Santo Domingo. The protocol envisages strengthening and developing cooperation on trade, services, industrial technologies, and various other sectors by means of technical assistance, training programmes, and capacity building.

Dominican Republic:

- Capital: Santo Domingo
- President: Luis Abinader
- Currency: Dominican peso

India Signed 181 Million Dollars Loan With ADB To Improve Urban Livability And Mobility In Ahmedabad

India has signed a 181 million dollars loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve urban livability and mobility in Ahmedabad. The loan will fund development in areas transitioning from rural to urban, called Peri-urban areas. Under the Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project, 166 km of water distribution network, 126 km of climate-resilient stormwater drainage, 300 km of sewerage

systems, and four sewage treatment plants will be constructed.

ADB:

- Formation: 19 December 1966
- Headquarters: Philippines
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa

Ministry Of Defence Signed Two Contracts With HAL

The Ministry of Defence has signed two contracts worth 8 thousand 73 crore rupees with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the acquisition of 34 Advanced Light Helicopters. The deal was sealed for procuring 25 Advanced Light Helicopters for the Indian Army and 9 Advanced Light Helicopters for maritime role for the Indian Coast Guard under the buy Indian-indigenously designed, developed and manufactured category.

HAL:

- Founded: 22 December 1940 (as Hindustan Aircraft), 1964 (Hindustan Aeronautics)
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman & MD: CB Ananthkrishnan (Additional Charge)

NIELIT, ITI Egypt sign MoU to enhance workforce skills, promote employment, foster international cooperation

The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) in India and the Information Technology Institute (ITI) in Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance workforce skills, promote employment opportunities, address skills gaps, and foster international cooperation.

The MoU outlines several key areas of collaboration, including:

- Curriculum and Training Materials Development
- Exchange of Trainers and Experts
- Sharing of Virtual Labs Facility
- Offering of Post Graduate (PG) Diplomas/ Technical Certificates
- Offering of B. Tech/ M. Tech Programs
- Free Digital Literacy Flagship Course



India signs trade agreement with European Free Trade Association

India has signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in New Delhi. For the first time, India is signing a Free Trade Agreement with four developed nations, an important economic bloc in Europe. The agreement will give a boost to Make in India and provide opportunities to a young and talented workforce. The FTA will provide a window for Indian exporters to access large European and global markets. The agreement comprises of 14 chapters with the main focus on market access related to goods, rules of origin, trade facilitation, and trade remedies among others. EFTA is an important regional group, with several growing opportunities for enhancing international trade in goods and services.

EFTA countries, Switzerland is the largest trading partner of India followed by Norway.

EFTA:

- Secretariat: Geneva
- Member states: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland
- Secretary General: Henri Gétaz
- Council Chair: Iceland

NPCI ties up with Nepal's Fonepay for cross-border merchant payments

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI and Fonepay Payment Service Ltd, Nepal's largest payment network, announced that Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for cross-border transactions between India and Nepal is live now. In its first phase, this partnership will enable Indian consumers to make instant, secure and convenient UPI payments across various business stores in Nepal by using UPI-enabled Apps. Merchants acquired by the participating members of Fonepay Network can seamlessly accept UPI payments from Indian customers.

NIGEL, GUVNL inks PPA for 600 MW solar project in Gujarat

NLC India Green Energy (NIGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NLC India (NLCIL), has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam (GUVNL) for a 600 MW solar power project.

The PPA was signed at Vadodara, Gujarat. This project is located in the Khavda Solar Park in Bhuj district of Gujarat. The agreement specifies a PPA tariff of Rs 2.705 per kWh, with the project expected to generate an annual electricity output of 1,577.88 million units (MU), reaching up to a cumulative 39.447 billion units (BU) over its lifetime. This initiative is estimated to offset about 35.5 million tonne of CO₂ emissions, which in turn will contribute to India's environmental sustainability goals.

NLC:

NLC India Limited (NLC) is a central public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Coal, Government of India.

- Founded: 1956 by the effort of T. M. Jambulingam Mudaliar
- Headquarters: Neyveli, Tamil Nadu, India

RBI, Bank Indonesia agree to use local currencies for bilateral trade

The Reserve Bank of India and Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote use of local currencies for bilateral transactions. The MoU was signed here for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz. , the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) for cross-border transactions. This framework would enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, which in turn would enable the development of an INR-IDR foreign exchange market.

Bank Indonesia:

- Established: 1 July 1953
- Governor: Perry Warjiyo
- Currency: Indonesian rupiah

India, South Korea to expand cooperation in new technologies, semiconductors

India and South Korea explored ways to expand cooperation to new areas such as emerging technologies, semiconductors, green hydrogen and mobility of professionals during a meeting of the bilateral joint commission in Seoul. The 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties celebrated in 2023 further highlighted the enduring bond between the two nations. Jaishankar was in South Korea as part of a two-nation tour that will also take him to Japan.

South Korea:

- Capital: Seoul
- President: Yoon Suk Yeol
- Prime Minister: Han Duck-soo
- Currency: Korean Republic won

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum signs MoU to deploy the Pine Needles-based fuel-making technology

An MoU was signed between CSIR Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun and UCOST under the aegis of the "Adarsh Champawat" mission on deploying the technology of making fuel from Pine Needles in Champawat. Under this agreement, the CSIR - Indian Institute of Petroleum will implement two major technologies at the grassroots level in Champawat. The selected technologies include a briquetting unit with a capacity of 50 kg per hour based on Pine Needles and 500 units of Improved Cookstoves for rural households. An extended field trial study will be conducted regarding energy conservation and its environmental impact. The briquetting unit will be established in the Energy Park in Champawat as a part of the Women Empowerment initiative. The briquettes produced will be used as fuel in homes and local industries.

Uttarakhand

- Capital: Dehradun (Winter)
- Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhama
- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- Districts: 13

Google partners with Shakti to battle misinformation

With India preparing for its general elections, Google has announced a partnership to combat misinformation. The tech giant has partnered with Shakti, an Indian fact-checking collective, to help detect online misinformation, including deepfakes. Shakti comprises of major Indian news outlets along with independent fact-checkers. It aims to create a common repository that news publishers can use to tackle the challenges of misinformation at scale. Shakti will be driven by DataLEADS, in collaboration with the Misinformation Combat Alliance, The Quint, VishvasNews, Boom, Factly, and Newschecker, with support from the Google News Initiative.

Defence Ministry signs 5 major capital acquisition contracts to further boost Make-in-India initiative

Defence Ministry has signed five major capital acquisition contracts worth over 39,125 crore rupees to further boost Make-in-India initiative. Out of the five contracts, one was with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for procurement of Aero-engines for MiG-29 aircraft, two with Larsen and Toubro Limited for procurement of Close-in Weapon System and procurement of High-Power Radar and two with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited for procurement of BrahMos missiles and procurement of Ship borne BrahMos system for the Indian Defence Forces. The contract for RD-33 Aero Engines for MiG-29 aircraft has been signed at a cost of 5,249. 72 crore rupees. These Aero Engines are expected to fulfill the need of Indian Air Force to sustain the operational capability of the MiG-29 fleet for the residual service life. The Close-in Weapon System will provide terminal Air Defence to select locations of the country. The High-Power Radar will replace existing long-range radars of Indian Air Force with modern Active Aperture Phased Array based HPR with advanced surveillance features. Meanwhile, the BrahMos missiles would be utilized to meet combat outfit and training requirements of Indian Navy.

Reliance, Disney To Merge Indian Media Businesses

Reliance Industries Ltd. will merge its television and streaming business with Walt Disney Co. 's India unit to create the country's largest media company valued at Rs 70,352 crore. The two companies have signed a binding, definitive agreement to form a joint venture that will combine the digital streaming and television assets of Viacom18 and Star India. As part of the transaction, the media undertaking of Viacom18 will be merged into Disney-owned Star India Pvt. through a court-approved scheme of arrangement. Reliance will invest Rs 11,500 crore in the venture to fund growth. The Mukesh Ambani-promoted company will control the joint venture via a 16. 34% direct stake and 46. 82% held through Viacom 18. Disney will own 36. 84%. Nita Ambani will be the chairperson of the merged entity, while former Star India chief Uday Shankar will serve as vice chairperson.

Note: The deal marks one of the biggest consolidations in India's media sector, even as a \$10 billion merger between Sony Group's India unit and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. has run into trouble.

Tech Mahindra, Pegatron ink MoU to develop AI-enabled private 5G networks

Indian IT and consulting services firm Tech Mahindra signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Taiwanese Pegatron to develop private 5G solutions for enterprises. The two companies signed the MoU at the ongoing Mobile World Congress 2024 (MWC 2024). The partnership will enable the two companies to collaboratively find global prospects, with Pegatron offering the 5G connectivity layer and private 5G products and Tech Mahindra delivering end-to-end 5G services.

Pegatron:

- Industry: Electronics manufacturing
- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Beitou District, Taipei, Taiwan
- Chairman: T. H. Tung

India and Bhutan exchanged several MoUs to strengthen partnership

India and Bhutan exchanged several agreements of mutual interest to further strengthen their partnership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan will give new boost to bilateral relationship by focusing on developmental partnership. India is currently engaged in capacity development of Bhutan and assisting several projects in the sectors including Hydroelectric, digitization, financial inclusion, health and education. India is providing support to various digital programmes like E-Business National Single Window, Bhutan Integrated Taxation System, Integrated Citizen Services, and Digital School to enable Bhutan becoming a smart, connected and inclusive society.

CBI, Europol sign working arrangement to establish cooperative relations

The Working Arrangement was signed by Europol Executive Director Catherine De Bolle and CBI Director Praveen Sood. This arrangement promotes direct cooperation between both organisations to build

on their respective mandates, strategies and to explore the potential for synergies. The Working Arrangement that Europol has signed with the CBI underscores the interconnected nature of security threats and the necessity of international cooperation to effectively address them. By joining forces with India, Europol further solidifies the EU's commitment to proactive and comprehensive security measures, recognising that safeguarding our citizens requires a coordinated effort on a global scale. This working arrangement not only brings together CBI and Europol but also enables wide cooperation between all law enforcement agencies in India and all law enforcement agencies of 27 European countries that Europol represents as well as third countries and organizations associated with Europol.

Europol:

Europol, officially the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, is the law enforcement agency of the European Union.

- Founded: 1 October 1998
- Headquarters: Eisenhowerlaan
- Jurisdiction: European Union

NCC And NPCIL Ink A Deal To Raise Awareness On Peaceful Use Of Nuclear Power Through Various Programmes Pan India

National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) signed a MoUs in New Delhi to conduct various awareness programs throughout the country to enhance public perceptions on the peaceful use of nuclear power and disseminate scientific & authentic information. The NPCIL will be providing resource persons in this initiative for field engagements with the NCC during the camps and various activities by educating the cadets. The MoU also facilitates a unique opportunity to the cadets to visit various facilities of NPCIL across the country, thereby giving a first-hand experience on peaceful use of nuclear energy, its technical and technological aspects.

Canada, Germany sign MOU to implement transatlantic hydrogen corridor

Canada signed an agreement with Germany that would accelerate work towards the commercial-scale trade of clean hydrogen fuel. Actually Canada is working with European allies to displace imports of

Russian oil and gas and fight climate change with clean Canadian hydrogen. Hydrogen is a zero-carbon fuel best suited for powering large industrial machines, heavy vehicles and for heating. To create a hydrogen economy, Germany launched the H2-Global project in 2021 using a "double auction" model in which the government would buy the green fuel from producers and sell it to industrial consumers for less. In August 2022, Canada and Germany agreed to establish a transatlantic supply corridor while coordinating policies to attract investments in hydrogen projects. The deal envisaged Canadian exports to Germany starting in 2025.

Canada

- Capital: Ottawa
- Prime minister: Justin Trudeau
- Official languages: French, English

Germany

- Capital: Berlin
- Chancellor: Olaf Scholz
- Official language: German

Cisco completes \$28 billion acquisition of cybersecurity leader Splunk

Networking major Cisco has completed the acquisition of Splunk, the leader in cybersecurity and observability, for about \$28 billion in the generative AI era. Cisco and Splunk are two leaders with complementary capabilities across AI, security, and observability. Cisco will bring the full power of the network together with market-leading security and observability solutions, to deliver a real-time unified view of the entire digital landscape, helping teams proactively defend critical infrastructure, prevent outages, and refine the network experience.

Cisco

- CEO & President: Chuck Robbins
- Headquarters: California, United States
- Founded: December 10, 1984
- Founders: Leonard Bosack & Sandy Lerner

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today."

"The ones who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones that do."

27 March

World Theatre Day

INCEPTION: 1961
EDITION: 63rd
1ST CELEBRATED:
1962 ("Theatre of Nations" season in Paris).



Importance

This day is a celebration for those who can see the value and importance of the art form "theatre".

Motto

To generate awareness about the importance of theatre arts, how they played an important role in the field of entertainment and the changes that theatre brings in the life.

By

International Theatre Institute (ITI).

Facts Behind

The first World Theatre Day Message was written by Jean Cocteau in 1962.

2nd Thursday of March

World Kidney Day

INCEPTION: 2006
EDITION: 19th

2024 THEME:
Kidney health for all: Advancing equitable access to care and optimal medication practice.



Motto

To raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.

Note

World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF).

Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme

ROLLED OUT IN 2016

Motto:

To provide important life-saving procedure close to the community and also for reducing impoverishment on account of out of pocket expenditure for patients.

Awards & Recognitions

24 writers receive Sahitya Akademi Award for 2023

Twenty four writers, including English author Neelum Saran Gaur and Hindi novelist Sanjeev, received the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2023. The award ceremony coincided with the 70th anniversary celebrations of the National Academy of Letters at the Sahityotsav. The awards were given for literary works including nine books of poetry, six novels, five of short stories, three essays, and one literary study. Sanjeev for his novel Mujhe Pehchaano and Gaur for her book Requiem in Raga Janki received the prestigious award. Sadiqua Nawab Saher received the award for her book Rajdev Ki Amrai in Urdu, while Swarnjit Savi was awarded for his book of poetry Mann Di Chip in Punjabi. Other recipients of the awards in poetry include Vijay Verma (Dogri), Vinod Joshi (Gujarati), Manshoor Banihali (Kashmiri), Sorokkhaibam Gambhini (Manipuri), Ashutosh Parida (Odia), Gaje Singh Rajpurohit (Rajasthani), Arun Ranjan Mishra (Sanskrit), and Vinod Asudani (Sindhi). Apart from Gaur, Sanjeev and Saher, writers such as Swapnamay Chakrabarti (Bengali), Krushnat Khot (Marathi), and Rajasekaran Devibharathi (Tamil) have been awarded for their novels. For short stories, Pranavjyoti Deka (Assamese), Nandeswar Daiman (Bodo), Prakash S Parienkar (Konkani), Taraceen Baskey (Turia Chand Baskey) (Santali) and T Patanjali Sastry (Telugu) got the award. Lakshmisha Tolpadi (Kannada), Basukinath Jha (Maithili) and Judhabir Rana (Nepali) received the prize for their essays, while EV Ramakrishnan was awarded for his literary study in Malayalam.

Award includes:

The authors and poets received the award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and an amount of ₹1 lakh.

Sahitya Akademi Award:

- Awarded for: Literary award in India
- Sponsored by: Sahitya Akademi, Government of India
- First awarded: 1954

Oscar Awards: Oppenheimer bags six awards including Best Actor and Best Director

Hollywood's biggest stars are at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California for the 96th Oscars. Emma Stone has bagged the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance as Bella Baxter in Yorgos Lanthimos' Poor Things. Biographical thriller Oppenheimer has won six awards including best actor for Cillian Murphy and best director for Christopher Nolan. The film, which had 13 nominations, also won Best Supporting Actor for Robert Downey Jr, as well as Best Film Editing, cinematography, and Original Score. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), during the Oscars ceremony, paid tribute to Indian art director and production designer Nitin Chandrakant Desai who passed away on August 2, 2023.

Here is the full list of winners:

- Best Supporting Actress: Da'Vine Joy Randolph, "The Holdovers"
- Best Animated Short: "War Is Over!"
- Best Animated Feature: "The Boy and the Heron"
- Best Original Screenplay: "Anatomy of a Fall"
- Best Adapted Screenplay: "American Fiction"
- Best Makeup and Hairstyling: "Poor Things"
- Best Production Design: "Poor Things"
- Best Costume Design: "Poor Things"
- Best International Feature: "The Zone of Interest"
- Best Supporting Actor: Robert Downey Jr. , "Oppenheimer"
- Best Visual Effects: "Godzilla Minus One"
- Best Film Editing: "Oppenheimer"
- Best Documentary (Short Subject): "The Last Repair Shop"
- Best Documentary Feature: "20 Days in Mariupol"
- Best Cinematography: "Oppenheimer"
- Best Short Film (Live Action): "The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar"
- Best Sound: "The Zone of Interest"
- Best Score: "Oppenheimer"
- Best Song: "What Was I Made For?" from "Barbie"
- Best Actor: Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"
- Best Director: Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"
- Best Actress: Emma Stone, "Poor Things"
- Best Picture: "Oppenheimer"

Krystyna Pyszkova from Czech Republic crowned Miss World 2024 in Mumbai



Krystyna Pyszková of the Czech Republic has been crowned the 71st Miss World in a grand ceremony held in Mumbai. Last year's winner, Miss World 2022 Karolina Bielawska of Poland crowned Krystyna as the 71st Miss World. Meanwhile, Yasmina Zaytoun of Lebanon was crowned the First Runner-Up at the beauty pageant. Pyszkova, fluent in English, Polish, Slovak, and German, is the second Miss World from the Czech Republic. She founded the Krystyna Pyszko Foundation and continues to support the work there.

From India:

India, which hosted the event after 28 years, was represented by 22-year-old Sini Shetty. Mumbai-born Shetty, who was crowned Femina Miss India World in 2022, was unable to make it to the top 4 of the contest. India has won the prestigious title six times -- Reita Faria (1966), Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (1994), Diana Hayden (1997), Yukta Mookhey (1999), Priyanka Chopra Jonas (2000), and Manushi Chhillar (2017).

India receives 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Global Award

India has been bestowed with the prestigious measles and rubella champion award for its exemplary efforts in combating these diseases. The award was received by the ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington. The measles and rubella partnership comprises a multi-agency planning committee, including the American Red Cross, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), UNICEF and World Health Organisation. All of these organisations are dedicated to reducing global measles deaths and preventing rubella illness. Measles and Rubella are

vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) and MR Vaccine has been part of India's Universal Immunization Programme since 2017.

Yatin Bhaskar Duggal Wins First Prize in National Youth Parliament Festival 2024

Yatin Bhaskar Duggal from Haryana won the first prize in the National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024, while Vaishna Pitchai from Tamil Nadu won the second prize and Kanishka Sharma from Rajasthan the third prize. The National Youth Parliament is being organised this year based on the theme of 'Young Voices: Engage and Empower for Nation's Transformation'.

Parliament of India

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Preceded by: Constituent Assembly of India
- Seats: 788 (245 Rajya Sabha; 543 Lok Sabha)

Bengali translation wins Romain Rolland Book Prize 2024

The French Institute in India, in collaboration with Apeejay Trust, announces Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee's book "Divan Staliner", a translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat's Stalin's Couch, the winner of 7th Romain Rolland Book Prize. This Bengali translation has been published by New Bharat Sahitya Kutir. Instituted in 2017 by the French Institute in India, it recognises translations of French books into Indian languages, including English. The prize aims to promote and acknowledge the efforts of Indian translators and publishers in introducing the richness of Francophone literature and thought in all its diversity to Indian readers. Ms. Priti Paul, Director, of Oxford Bookstores supports the Romain Rolland Prize through the Apeejay Trust. This is the second time a Bengali translator has won the prize, with Trinanjan Chakraborty winning for Kamel Daoud's Meursault, contre-enquête in 2022. The French original, Le Divan de Staline, by Jean-Daniel Baltassat, has been adapted into a 2016 movie of the same name.

Acharya Lokesh Muni Honoured As 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will honour Acharya Lokesh Muni, the founder of Ahimsa Vishwa



Bharti and the World Peace Center, as the 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador' This will be done in an event in Karnataka, which is being organised by the Jain Pilgrim Centre, Navagraha Tirtha Kshetra in Hubli Varur, Karnataka. The honour will be conferred in recognition of Acharya Lokeshji's contribution to promoting peace and harmony globally as well as his efforts in enhancing the pride of India and Jainism on the international platform.

Sunil Bharti Mittal becomes first Indian citizen to be conferred an honorary Knighthood by Britain's King

Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman, Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian citizen to receive an Honorary Knighthood from United Kingdom's King Charles III. The award grants Mr. Mittal the title of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, recognising his contributions to fostering stronger business ties between India and the UK. The 66-year-old entrepreneur in a statement said that UK and India share historical relations, which are now entering a new era of increased cooperation and collaboration. An honorary Knighthood is one of the highest honours granted by the British Sovereign to civilians, conferred upon foreign nationals in recognition of their exceptional contributions.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Honors Six Artists as Fellows; Awards Announced for 92 in Various Fields

Six eminent personalities in the field of performing arts have been elected by Sangeet Natak Akademi as Akademi Fellows or Akademi Ratna. These six personalities are Vinayak Khedekar, R. Visweswaran, Sunayana Hazarilal, Raja & Radha Reddy, Dulal Roy and D. P. Sinha. The Fellowship of the Akademi is a most prestigious and rare honour, which is restricted to 40 at any given time. The Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952. These honours not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievement, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution. The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of Rs. 3, 00, 000/- (Rupees three lakhs) while the Akademi Award carries a purse money of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh), besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

Adani Vizhinjam Port wins 'International Safety Award' from British Safety Council

Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited (AVPPL) has won an International Safety Award for calendar year 2023 from the British Safety Council in recognition of its commitment to keeping workers and workplaces healthy and safe. AVPPL is one of 269 global organisations to win a distinction in the International Safety Awards 2024, out of the total of 1,124 that won the award.

Vizhinjam International Seaport Thiruvananthapuram

- Operated by: Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd (VISL) & Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt Ltd (AVPL)
- Owned by: Government of Kerala

MP's Tani Gautam clinches title of 'Mrs International Global Beauty Pageant 2024'

Madhya Pradesh's Tani Gautam has won the title of 'Mrs International Global Beauty Pageant 2024' held in Malaysia. Hailing from Jabalpur, Tani, who dreamt of becoming a CBI officer, was the single contestant from India, who participated in the pageant in which more than 30 countries have participated. Tani also clinched the title for 'Best National Costume'.

Malaysia

- Capital: Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur
- Official language: Malay
- Prime minister: Anwar Ibrahim
- Currency: Malaysian Ringgit

PM Modi Becomes 1st Foreign Head To Be Bestowed With Bhutan's Highest Civilian Award

King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck conferred Bhutan's highest civilian award, the Order of the Druk Gyalpo, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Thimpu. Prime Minister Modi is the first foreign leader to be given this prestigious award. The King of Bhutan had announced the conferment of the award during Bhutan's 114th National Day celebrations in December 2021.

Bhutan

- Capital: Thimphu
- Prime Minister: Tshering Tobgay
- Currency: Ngultrum, Indian rupee



Sports

Sharath Kamal is highest-ranked Indian player in latest ITTF rankings

Achanta Sharath Kamal, the seasoned table tennis maestro, reclaimed the India No. 1 spot with a staggering leap in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings following a dream run at the recent Singapore Smash. Consequently, the current Commonwealth Games men's singles gold medallist has shot up to 34th place in the men's singles rankings from 88th place. Harmeet Desai (65th) and Manav Thakkar (74th) are the other two Indian men in the top 100. In women's singles, Manika Batra continues to reign supreme as the highest-ranked Indian paddler, retaining her distinguished status despite a minor setback of slipping down two spots to 38th in the list. Meanwhile, Sreeja Akula's stellar performance has seen her ascend three places to secure the 47th position, further solidifying India's prowess in the international table tennis arena. Yashaswini Ghoshalkar is ranked World No. 100 in the latest rankings.

ITTF:

- Formation: 1926
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- President: Petra Sörling

Indian sailor Vishnu Saravanan clinches gold medal at Europa Cup in Spain

Indian sailor Vishnu Saravanan won the gold medal at the Europa Cup 2024 in the ILCA 7 category in Mallorca, Spain. The event was organised by Reial Club Nautic Port de Pollença. Saravanan topped the 91-boat race with 17 net points. Netherlands' Willem Wiersema also accrued the same points but Saravanan won the category on technicality. The ILCA7 is a category within the ILCA -International Laser Class Association sailing class. The Laser Standard is a small, lightweight boat with a single mast.

Ranji Final: Mumbai ends eight-year drought to clinch 42nd title

Mumbai won their record-extending 42nd Ranji Trophy title defeating Vidarbha by 169 runs on the final day of the 2023-24 season. This is Mumbai's

first Ranji trophy win since 2015-16, a period in which Gujarat, Vidarbha (x2), Saurashtra (x2) and Madhya Pradesh have all lifted the trophy. Mumbai were the losing finalists in 2016-17 and 2021-22.

Ranji Trophy

The Ranji Trophy is a premier domestic first-class cricket championship played in India and organized annually by the Board of Control for Cricket in India. The teams representing regional and state cricket associations participate. BCCI founded the championship in 1934. Since then it has been organised across various grounds and stadiums in India.

- Administrator: BCCI
- Number of teams: 38
- Most successful: Mumbai (42 titles)
- Most runs: Wasim Jaffer (12,038)
- Most wickets: Rajinder Goel (640)

FIH Hockey Rankings: Indian men slip to 4th, women's team ranked 9th

India slipped a spot to the fourth position in the latest FIH men's world rankings with Germany taking the third place following their impressive run at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers. Netherlands (3060) continue to sit at the top of the rankings. Belgium (2848) continue to hold on to the second place in the rankings. Australia (2757), who were the stand out performers during the FIH Pro League mini-tournament in India, leapfrogged England (2720) into fifth place. Argentina (2524) and Spain (2296) continue to hold on to the seventh and eighth positions respectively. In the Women's Rankings, India (2215), who failed to make the cut for the Paris Games, are ranked ninth in the list headed by Netherlands (3422). Argentina (2827) and Germany (2732) moved ahead of Australia into second and third places.

Top 5:

- 1: NETHERLANDS: EUROHOCKEY
- 2: BELGIUM: EUROHOCKEY
- 3: GERMANY: EUROHOCKEY
- 4: INDIA: ASIAN HOCKEY FEDERATION
- 5: AUSTRALIA: OCEANIA HOCKEY FEDERATION



Football: Services lift Santosh Trophy for seventh time

In the 77th National Football Championship, Services lifted the Santosh Trophy for the seventh time, beating Goa in the Santosh Trophy final at the Golden Jubilee Stadium at Papum Pare District in Arunachal Pradesh. With the win, Services took their title count to seven in the history of the competition.

Awards:

- Best Goalkeeper: Sayad bin Abdul Kadir (Services)
- Top scorer of the tournament: Phijam Sanathoi Meitei (Manipur) – 11 goals
- Player of the tournament: Samir Murmu (Services)
- Fair Play Award: Jharkhand.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty win Doubles title at French Open badminton tournament in Paris

Indian pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have clinched their second French Open Men's doubles Badminton title. The Indian top seed registered a straight games victory over Yang Po-han and Lee Jhe-huei of Taiwan in the final. Satwik and Chirag had earlier won the title in 2022.

- Edition: 94th
- Total prize money: US\$850,000

Champions

- Men's singles: Shi Yuqi (China)
- Women's singles: An Se-young (South Korea)
- Men's doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (India), Chirag Shetty (India)
- Women's doubles: Chen Qingchen (China), Jia Yifan (China)
- Mixed doubles: Feng Yanzhe (China), Huang Dongping (China)

Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth announces retirement from international badminton

Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth has announced his retirement from international badminton. In his 24-year-long career, he won a World Championships bronze medal and represented India at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Following his retirement, Praneeth who has also won the 2017 Singapore Open, is set to begin a new innings as the head coach of the Triangle

Badminton Academy in the US. Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth (born 10 August 1992) is an Indian badminton player. He became the first Indian male shuttler in 36 years to win a bronze medal in the BWF World Championships in 2019 after Prakash Padukone in 1983. Sai Praneeth was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2019.

Pramod Bhagat wins gold at Para-Badminton World Championships

Pramod Bhagat of India defeated England's Daniel Bethell in the SL3 category to retain his gold at the NSDF Royal Beach Cliff BWF Para Badminton World Championships in Thailand. This win breaks a lot of records for Pramod, not only makes him the first para-athlete to win three consecutive gold at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships but also equals the record of Lin Dan's five World Championships. He has won gold in 2009, 2015, 2019, 2022 and 2024. Pramod's three medals take his tally to 14, which includes six golds, three silver and five bronze in all categories.

Indian Squash player Abhay Singh wins Goodfellow Classic squash in Toronto

Indian Squash player Abhay Singh clinched the Goodfellow Classic PSA Challenger Tour Title in Toronto, Canada. In the finals, he defeated Elliott Morris Devred of Wales by 3-0. With this win, the Asian Games Gold medalist has won his eighth PSA World Tour title.

India's Sathiyam Gnanasekaran Clinches Men's Singles Title At World Table Tennis Feeder Beirut Tournament

World no.103 ranked G.Sathiyam became the first Indian to win a singles title at the WTT Feeder Series event. He beat world no. 74 ranked player Manav Thakkar in the final. G.Sathiyam, a two-time Commonwealth gold medalist, lost the first game to Manav but returned strongly to win the title. In the mixed doubles event, the Indian pair Diya Chitale and Manush Shah defeated the fellow Indian pair Manav Thakkar and Archana Kamath. Xia Lian Ni of Luxembourg defeated Suh Hyo Won of South Korea to win the women's single title. It was the second WTT Feeder Series title for Xia Lian Ni.

Science & Technology

Four astronauts named for India's first manned space mission

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram and announced the names of four Indian astronauts chosen for this unique mission. They (astronauts) have been awarded the 'wings' or logos for them to become the chosen astronauts for the manned space mission. Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla are selected for the manned Gaganyaan mission. Prime Minister Modi will also inaugurate three space infrastructure projects worth about Rs 1,800 crore to provide world-class technical facilities for space sector. The projects include the PSLV Integration Facility (PIF) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota; new 'Semi-cryogenics Integrated Engine and stage Test facility' at the Isro Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri; and the 'Trisonic Wind Tunnel' at VSSC.

Gaganyaan mission:

Gaganyaan mission aims to carry a crew of four astronauts into low Earth orbit. This endeavour will make India the fourth nation in the world, after the United States, Russia, and China, to independently send humans into space. The well-known Indian LVM3 rocket, which was used for the launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, will be the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission. It will consist of solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage. All systems in the LVM3 launch vehicle are reconfigured especially for the Gaganyaan mission to meet human being requirements and given the new name of Human Rated LVM3. HLVM3 will be capable of launching the Orbital Module to an intended Low Earth Orbit of 400 km, as per ISRO.

Home Minister Amit Shah Launches Digital Crime Management System And mobile app 'Sankalan'

In a major fillip to India's fight against terrorism and organised crime, Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurated a unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS), designed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi.

Home Minister Shah also inaugurated NIA's 2 new branch offices in Jammu and Kochi and a residential complex in Raipur. Mr Shah also launched a mobile app 'Sankalan' – A compendium of New Criminal Laws by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The Sankalan app has been designed to navigate through new criminal laws as a bridge between old and new criminal laws.

India's latest carrier Fly 91 gets air operator certificate

Goa-based regional airline FLY91 received the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from aviation regulator DGCA. Aviation veteran Manoj Chacko-backed Fly 91 took to the skies for the first time, operating from Manohar International Airport, Mopa, Goa to Bengaluru. As per officials, the airline, which initially started with an investment of Rs 200 crore, had taken delivery of its first ATR 72 aircraft and chose "IC" as its code, which has a history in India – being of the erstwhile Indian Airlines.

DGCA

It became a statutory body under the Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020. The DGCA investigates aviation accidents and incidents, maintains all regulations related to aviation and is responsible for issuance of licenses pertaining to aviation.

➤ Director General: Vikram Dev Dutt

Kerala introduces its first generative AI teacher 'Iris'

Kerala, known for its strides in education, has taken another innovative step by introducing its first generative AI teacher, Iris. Developed in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited, Iris marks a significant advancement in the integration of artificial intelligence in education. Named Iris, the humanoid was unveiled at KTCT Higher Secondary School in Thiruvananthapuram.

Kerala:

- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Indian Navy to commission newly inducted MH 60R Seahawk multi-role helicopter

Indian Navy will commission the newly inducted MH 60R Seahawk multi-role helicopter at INS Garuda in Kochi. This will mark a pivotal moment in India's Defence modernisation journey. The Seahawks squadron will be commissioned in the Indian Navy as INAS 334. The helicopters are a part of the 24-aircraft Foreign Military Sales contract signed with the US government in February 2020. The Indian Navy is set to witness a significant surge in its maritime prowess with the induction of the Seahawks. The helicopter is designed for anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuation and vertical replenishment. It has been rigorously tested in Indian conditions and is fully integrated into the Fleet. The advanced weapons, sensors and avionics suite make the Seahawks ideal for the Indian Navy's maritime security needs.

L&T commissions first indigenously-built Hydrogen Electrolyser at Hazira

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) commissioned its first indigenously-manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant at A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat. Featuring a rated power capacity of 1 MW (expandable to 2 MW), this electrolyser can produce 200 Nm³/Hr of hydrogen. It is equipped with two stacks and an Electrolyser Processing Unit (EPU) ML-400, which is indigenously manufactured and assembled, adhering to the latest international standards, and offers exceptional flexibility and thermal stability. The electrolyser will now undergo rigorous testing to optimise its performance, and in turn, paving the way for full-fledged manufacturing of electrolysers. L&T Electrolysers Ltd, a newly incorporated entity of L&T, is focused on manufacturing pressurised alkaline electrolysers using the technology from McPhy Energy, France.

Larsen & Toubro:

- Chairman Emeritus: Anil Manibhai Naik
- Chairman & MD: S. N. Subrahmanyam

India successfully flight tests VSHORADS missile

India has conducted two successful flight tests of a very short-range air defence missile off the coast of

Odisha. VSHORADS is a man-portable air-defence system designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories and Indian industry partners. The missile incorporates many novel technologies, including a miniaturised reaction control system (RCS) and integrated avionics, which have been successfully proven during the tests, the ministry said in a statement. The missile is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor and meant for neutralising low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges. The design of the missile including launcher has been highly optimised to ensure easy portability.

Bhavish Aggarwal launches India's AI chatbot 'Krutrim AI'

Krutrim, an artificial intelligence startup launched by Ola founder and chairman Bhavish Aggarwal, rolled out an AI chatbot in public beta, that works similar to OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. Krutrim, which means "artificial" in Sanskrit, aims to focus on building the entire AI computing stack. It is the firm's first product, which will be powered by its multilingual large language models (LLM), also called Krutrim. The chatbot will assist consumers in over 10 Indian languages including Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Marathi, Kannada, Gujarati, besides Hinglish (a mix of Hindi and English) and English.

'Pushpak', ISRO's Reusable Launch Rocket Achieves Test Landing at the Aeronautical Test Range in Karnataka

India progressed further in its attempt to realise a reusable launch vehicle (RLV)/ rocket named 'Pushpak' by successfully test landing RLV LEX-2 at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Karnataka's Chitradurga. According to ISRO, the RLV LEX-2 demonstrated the autonomous landing capability from off-nominal initial conditions at the release from a helicopter. The 'Indian space shuttle' the winged Pushpak was lifted by an Indian Air Force helicopter and was released from 4.5 km altitude. For the second time ISRO successfully completed a test landing of its RLV. The mission successfully simulated the approach and high speed landing conditions of RLV returning from space.



Obituary

Surya Kiran, Telugu Film Director, Passes Away At 48



Telugu child actor-turned-director Surya Kiran, known for directing films such as Satyam and Dhana 51, passed away at the age of 48. Apart from his directorial ventures, Surya Kiran was a former participant in Bigg Boss Telugu. He started his career as a child actor with the Malayalam film Snehikkhan Oru Pennu in 1978. However, he then worked in over 200 feature films. Besides being an actor, Kiran made his directorial debut with the Telugu romantic drama 'Satyam'. Later, he directed several other films including 'Brahmastram' (2006), 'Raju Bhai' (2007) and 'Chapter 6' (2010). Kiran's latest film, titled Arasi will be released soon in theatres.

Tribal Leader Lama Lobzang Passes Away In Delhi At 94



Former member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Prominent Buddhist Monk of Ladakh popularly known as Lama Lobzang passes away in New Delhi. He was 94. A distinguished tribal leader, Lama Lobzang has served the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for 19 years

since 1984. When the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes became constitutional through an amendment of Article 338 of the constitution, Lama Lobzang was appointed anew as its member for two terms from 1995 to 1998 and 1998 to 2001. He also served as the president in several Buddhist Organisations including the International Buddhist Conference and the World Fellowship of Buddhists.

Former Navy Chief Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas passes away



Former Navy Chief Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas, a war hero remembered for a host of accomplishments, including his role in the 1971 India-Pakistan war, died in Telangana. He was 90. Ramdas was the navy chief during 1990-93. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on September 1, 1953, and retired on September 30, 1993. Ramdas was a leading proponent of gender equality in the military, and it was during his term as navy chief that the armed forces began inducting women as short-service commissioned officers with the navy becoming the first service to do so. Ramdas, who was awarded a Vir Chakra for bravery in the 1971 war with Pakistan, was also an advocate of peace and nuclear disarmament. He was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay award in 2004 for promoting peace and understanding between Indian and Pakistan. He also served as the Aam Aadmi Party's internal Lokpal.

Renowned Rabindra Sangeet Singer Sadi Mohammad Passes Away At 70 In Dhaka Tragedy

In Bangladesh, a legendary Rabindra Sangeet singer Sadi Mohammad passed away. He was 70.





Sadi Mohammad completed his bachelor's and master's in Rabindra Sangeet from the Visva-Bharati University in India and is the son of Liberation War martyr Salimullah and Jebunnesa Salim Ullah. Sadi served as the director of the cultural organisation Rabi Raag. In 2007, Sadi debuted as a music composer when he released the album "Amakey Khujey Pabey Bhorer Shishirey". He released the albums "Srabon Akashey" in 2009 and "Sharthok Janom Amar" in 2012.

Dragon Ball Creator Akira Toriyama Passes Away at 68



Akira Toriyama, creator of Dragon Ball, Dragon Ball Z, Dragon Ball Super, and Sand Land, has passed away. The legendary manga artist was 68 years old. Akira Toriyama was born in Japan's Nagoya, Aichi, in 1955. His first works were Wonder Island and Wonder Island 2 but he found popularity with Dr. Slump in the early 1980s. However, Dragon Ball emerged as his most famous work, which spawned video games and film franchises. He first introduced Dragon Ball to the world in 1984 through which he introduced the world to Goku and his friends. The manga has been adapted for the screen and gained immense popularity over the past few decades.

Aziz Qureshi, former Uttar Pradesh Governor and Congress veteran, dies at 83

Former Uttar Pradesh Governor and Congress veteran Aziz Qureshi died in Bhopal. Qureshi was 83.



Qureshi had served as the governor of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Mizoram. He was first elected as an MLA in 1972 from Madhya Pradesh's Sehore seat and became a Lok Sabha member in 1984. Born on April 24, 1941, in Bhopal, Aziz Qureshi embarked on his political journey with a strong foundation rooted in his dedication to public service. Beyond his political roles, Aziz Qureshi was appointed the President of the Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy by the then Kamal Nath government on January 24, 2020. This position allowed him to contribute to the promotion of Urdu language and literature, reflecting his diverse interests and commitment to cultural preservation.

K. Shivaram, Kannada Actor and Former IAS Officer, Passes Away At 71



Renowned bureaucrat-turned-actor K. Shivaram passed away at the age of 71. K. Shivaram emerged as a significant personality within both the cinematic and governmental realms, becoming the first Kannadiga to pass the IAS examination using Kannada as his medium. His tenures in the civil service were marked by roles in diverse regions such as Vijayapura, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Koppala, and Davangere. Making his debut in the Kannada cinema with 'Ba Nalle Madhuchandrake,' Shivaram quickly made a name for himself through performances in movies like 'Vasanta Kavya,' and by portraying a villain in "Sangliana 3." Following his retirement in 2013, K. Shivaram extended his versatile career into the realm of politics, initially allying himself with the Congress party. In 2014, he made a bid for a Lok



Sabha seat from the Vijayapura constituency, although he did not win. Later, he transitioned his political loyalty to the BJP. Throughout his political journey, he has been recognized for championing the rights of the Dalit community.

Former Canadian PM Brian Mulroney dies at age of 84



Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who led his country from 1984 to 1993, has died at the age of 84. The conservative leader, the 18th prime minister in Canada's history, passed away "peacefully". Mulroney led Canada through the closing days of the Cold War and forged a free trade agreement with the US. Born in a blue-collar paper mill town in north-eastern Quebec, Mulroney began his career as a lawyer and business executive before taking over as the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and becoming prime minister.

Canada:

- Capital: Ottawa
- Governor General: Mary Simon
- Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau

Legendary Singer Pankaj Udhas Dies At 72



Legendary singer Pankaj Udhas, who gave memorable hits like 'Chitthi aayi hai', died after a prolonged illness. He was 72. Born on May 17, 1951, in Jetpur, Gujarat, Udhas began his career with the launch of the ghazal album titled "Aahat" in 1980. Swiftly, he became synonymous with ghazal music in India. In Bollywood, the ghazal maestro lent his voice to the

iconic track "Chitthi Aayee Hai" for the film "Naam," featuring Sanjay Dutt. He won numerous prestigious awards, including the Filmfare Award for Best Male Playback Singer, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Ghazal Singing. Udhas was also bestowed with India's fourth-highest civilian award, the Padma Shri.

Veteran Odisha leader Damodar Rout passes away



Former Odisha minister and veteran Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Damodar Rout passed away while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. He was 82. Rout, a seven-time MLA, was actively involved in electoral politics from the 70s to 2019 and had served in the Cabinet of Naveen Patnaik and his father Biju Patnaik. Elected to the state Assembly five times from Ersama and twice from Paradeep, both in Jagatsinghpur district. A veterinary doctor by profession, Rout joined politics in the 70s. He was first elected to the Odisha Assembly in 1977 on a Janata Party ticket, then in 1980 as a Janata Party (Secular) nominee, and later in 1990 as a Janata Dal candidate before being elected as a BJD legislator in 2000.

Former PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan passes away aged 89

Shaharyar Khan, the influential former PCB chairman, has passed away in Lahore. He was 89 years old. Cousin of former India captain and great Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, Shaharyar Khan, had served as Pakistan's foreign secretary from 1990 to 1994 and as a High Commissioner in New Delhi and the United Kingdom. Khan, a career diplomat, had two stints as chairman, between 2003 and 2006 and then 2014 to 2017. He was also a manager of the Pakistan team on two occasions, including on the path-breaking tour of India in 1999.



Miscellaneous Events

Leo Varadkar: Irish Prime Minister unexpectedly quits

Leo Varadkar has stepping down as Ireland's prime minister in a surprise move, saying the country's coalition government would stand a better chance of reelection under another leader. Varadkar's Fine Gael party will open nominations for a new leader with the results to be announced on April 5. Parliament would then vote on that person succeeding Varadkar as prime minister after it returns from Easter recess on April 9. Bookmaker Paddy Power made 37-year-old Higher Education Minister Simon Harris is the clear favourite to take over from Varadkar.

Ireland

- Capital: Dublin
- President: Michael D. Higgins
- Chief Justice: Donal O'Donnell
- Currency: Euro

India remains world's top arms importer: SIPRI report

India remained the world's top arms importer, but its imports declined by 11 per cent between 2013-17 and 2018-22, according to a report released by Stockholm-based defence think-tank SIPRI. The decline was linked to a complex procurement process, efforts to diversify arms suppliers and attempts to replace imports with local designs. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said the five largest arms importers in the world during 2018-22 were India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Australia and China. The five largest arms exporters were the United States, Russia, France, China and Germany. The imports by Pakistan, the world's eighth-largest arms importer during 2018-22, increased by 14 per cent, with China as its main supplier, the report said. It said France's arms exports increased by 44 per cent between 2013-17 and 2018-22 and most of these exports were to countries in Asia and Oceania and the Middle East. The report said India received 30 per cent of France's arms exports during 2018-22 and France displaced the US as the second-largest supplier of arms to India after Russia.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI):

- Formation: 1966
- Founders: Tage Erlander, Alva Myrdal
- Headquarters: Solna, Stockholm, Sweden
- Chair: Stefan Löfven
- Director: Dan Smith

NCRTC managing director Vinay Kumar Singh resigns

In a sudden development, Vinay Kumar Singh, the Managing Director of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), has resigned from his position, according to sources in the transport public sector undertaking (PSU). Singh has been spearheading the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project in India, and his resignation comes at the cusp of the successful completion of India's first Namo Bharat service (formerly RapidX).

NCRTC:

- Founded: 21 August 2013
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Managing Director: Vinay Kumar Singh

2022 Human Development Index: India betters position, ranks 134 out of 193 countries

India's ranking on the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) improved by one position in 2022 to 134 out of 193 countries ranked compared to 135 out of 191 countries in 2021. On the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022, India has been ranked at 108 out of 193 countries with a score of 0.437. Its rank was 122 out of 191 countries with a score of 0.490 in the GII-2021. This shows a significant jump of 14 ranks on the GII-2022 vis-a-vis the GII-2021. However, the country also has one of the largest gender gaps in its labour force participation rate — a 47.8 per cent difference between women (28.3 per cent) and men (76.1 per cent). After a drop in its HDI value in 2021 and following a flat trend over the past few years, India's HDI value has increased to 0.644 in 2022, placing the country at 134 out of 193 countries and territories in the just released 2023/24 Human Development Report (HDR). India ranked 135 out of 191 countries in 2021 on the back of a marginal increase in its HDI value to 0.644 compared to 0.633 in 2021. The report by UNDP on the theme 'Breaking

the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World' stated that this growth is a result of the plan designed by the government to ensure women's empowerment.

Note: Denmark secured first place on GII, Switzerland topped the charts in the Human Development Index. Pakistan and Nepal ranked 135th and 126th, respectively, on GII.

The top 5 countries in the GII 2022 are:

1. Denmark
2. Norway
3. Switzerland
4. Sweden
5. Netherlands

Haiti's PM Ariel Henry Tenders His Resignation

Haiti's Prime Minister Ariel Henry has tendered his resignation. It comes after regional leaders met in Jamaica to discuss a political transition in the Caribbean country. Mr. Henry is currently stranded in Puerto Rico after being prevented by armed gangs from returning home. The capital Port-au-Prince and the surrounding region is under a month-long state of emergency, while a curfew has been extended.

Haiti:

- Capital: Port-au-Prince
- Currency: Gourde
- Official languages: Haitian Creole, French
- Continent: North America

Glenn Saldanha announced resignation as chairman of Glenmark Life Sciences

Glenmark Life Sciences Ltd said its Chairman Glenn Saldanha and non-executive director VS Mani have resigned following change in ownership of the company. Independent director Sridhar Gorthi has also tendered resignation, along with Saldanha and Mani. He is also stepping down as a member of the nomination and remuneration committee and operations committee of Glenmark Life Sciences.

Glenmark Life Sciences Ltd:

Glenmark Life Sciences Limited is an India-based company that is primarily engaged in the business of development, manufacture and marketing of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API).

- Parent organization: Glenmark Pharmaceuticals
- Headquarters: India
- Founded: 2011

The real test is not whether you avoid this failure, because you won't. It's whether you let it harden or shame you into inaction, or whether you learn from it; whether you choose to persevere.

"Don't be distracted by criticism. Remember--the only taste of success some people get is to take a bite out of you."

Defence Exercise of the Month

LAMITIYE-2024



An Indian Army contingent departed for Seychelles to participate in the 10th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024'. The Joint Exercise between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) will be conducted at Seychelles. LAMITIYE' meaning 'Friendship' in the Creole language is a biennial training event and has been conducted in the Seychelles since 2001. 45 personnel each from the GORKHA RIFLES of the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) will participate in the exercise. The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability in sub-conventional operations in a semi-urban environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter on Peacekeeping Operations.

Bharat Shakti

Integrated tri-service exercise 'Bharat Shakti' is slated to be held at Pokhran in Rajasthan and it will showcase the "shock and awe" that the armed forces seek to achieve in an operational situation by employing manoeuvre and fighting capabilities effectively. 'Bharat Shakti' will also demonstrate the prowess of indigenously manufactured defence equipment of the three services. LCA Tejas, ALH Mk-IV, mobile anti-drone system, T90 tanks, Dhanush, K9 Vajra and Pinaka are among the platforms that will be demonstrated during Exercise Bharat Shakti.

Indian Armed Forces

- Supreme Commander: President Droupadi Murmu
- Minister of Defence: Rajnath Singh
- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane
- Chief of Defence Staff: General Anil Chauhan

Dharma Guardian

Indian and Japanese troops are showcasing their abilities on the obstacle course during Exercise Dharma Guardian at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. The Indian army highlighted the joint training effort between the two nations. The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force started recently. The exercise will conclude on the 9th of March. Exercise Dharma Guardian is an annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Japan. The joint exercise signifies the deepening of military cooperation between India and Japan. The training activities aim to strengthen the capabilities of both armies in counter-terrorism and disaster response scenarios.

Japan:

- Capital: Tokyo
- Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- Currency: Japanese yen

Samudra Laksamana



Indian and Malaysian navy ships are currently conducting joint exercise 'Samudra Laksamana'. Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Naval Ship KD Lekir are participating in the 3rd edition of this exercise, which began at Visakhapatnam and comprises both harbour professional interactions, followed by the operational phase at sea. At harbour, crew of both ships will have various professional interactions, Subject Matter Expert Exchange on topics of mutual interest, sports fixtures, and other interactions. These interactions are aimed to enhance knowledge base, share best practices and further cooperation on maritime aspects. The exercise aims to strengthen bonds and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Royal Malaysian Navy.



Important Days of the Month

Day	Observed/Celebrated As	Motto/Importance
01- Apr	Utkal Diwas/Odisha day	To embark the formation of the state(Odisha) as a separate state out of Bihar and Odisha province on 1 April 1936
02- Apr	World Autism Awareness Day	To put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism face every day.
04- Apr	International Day for Mine Awareness	To spread awareness about the threat caused by landmines to the safety, health and lives of civilian populations
05- Apr	National Maritime day	Propelling Indian Maritime to Net Zero
07- Apr	World Health day	Health For All
10- Apr	World Homeopathy day	Homeopathy- Roadmap for Integrative Medicine
11- Apr	National Safe Motherhood Day	To raise awareness about the proper healthcare of women and maternity facilities to pregnant and lactating women.
17- Apr	World Haemophilia Day	Access for All: Prevention of bleeds as the global standard of care
18- Apr	International Day for Monuments and Sites	HERITAGE CHANGES
19- Apr	World Liver Day	To spread awareness about liver related disease
21- Apr	Civil Service Day	To commemorate the day when 1st Home Minister of Independent India addressed the Administrative Services Officers in 1947.
22- Apr	Earth Day	Invest In Our Planet
23- Apr	World Book & Copyright Day	To pay a worldwide tribute to books and authors and to encourage people to discover the pleasure of reading.
24- Apr	National Panchayati Day	On this day the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 came into force
25- Apr	World Malaria Day	Ready to Beat Malaria
26- Apr	World Intellectual Property Day	Women and IP: Accelerating innovation and creativity
28- Apr	World Day for Safety and Health at work	To honour the memory of victims of occupational accidents and diseases
29- Apr	International Dance Day	To mark the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the creator of modern ballet.
30- Apr	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	To mark the rollout of India's most affordable medical Scheme, i.e. Ayushman Bharat Programme.

Books & Authors



Book: Swallowing the Sun

Author: Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri

About: The book explores themes of women empowerment through shedding light on the struggles and triumphs of women during a pivotal period in Indian history.

Book: Israel War Diary

Author: Vishal Pandey

About: This book will give insight to the people about India's stance on the Israel-Hamas war.



Book: The Gems of Indian Art

Author: Harish Khullar

About: This book is a comprehensive documentation of author's extensive collection of 20th-century Indian modern and contemporary art.

Book: Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan

Author: Arup Kumar Dutta

About: The book delves into the life of the legendary 17th-century Ahom warrior Lachit Barphukan and his significant role in defending Assam against the Mughal army.



Book: The Conspiracy

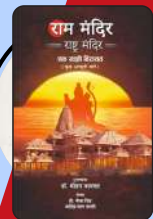
Author: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

About: This book asserts Gotabaya Rajapaksa's removal from office was orchestrated by geopolitical tensions, particularly between China and other nations.

Book: Ram Mandir : Raasht Mandir, Ek Saajhee Viraasat

Author: Geeta Singh & Arif Khan Bharti

About: This book throws light on the historical, cultural and spiritual aspects related to the construction and significance of Ram Temple.



Book: Sculpted Stones: Mysteries of Mamallapuram

Author: Ashwin Prabhu

About: This book serves as a portal to Mamallapuram's illustrious past, offering readers a window into the architectural marvels and cultural heritage.

Book: Pagalkhana

Author: Gyan Chaturvedi

About: The book explores the way how market economy has engulfed our lives altogether and how difficult it is to separate ourselves.



Book: Fertilising the Future: Bharat's March Towards Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency

Author: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

About: The book delineates the journey of making India self-reliant in the fertilizer sector and the revolutionary changes that have taken place till date.

Book: Spare

Author: Prince Harry

About: "Spare" by Prince Harry, offers readers a deeply personal and insightful journey into the life of one of the most intriguing figures of our time.



Current Affairs Based GS Question Bank(500+ Que)

Statement Based Questions

1. The recent protest by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in Bengaluru underscores persistent concerns. With reference to National Rural Health Mission, which of the following are the jobs of 'ASHA' a trained community health worker?
- (1) Using pregnancy test kits for early detection of pregnancy
 (2) Providing information on nutrition and immunization
 (3) Conducting the delivery of baby
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above
- Ans:** (B)
Exp: India's Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) program was established by the National Rural Health Mission in 2010 with an aim to improve health outcomes—particularly among women and children—and to reduce geographic and socioeconomic disparities.
- Responsibilities of ASHA workers
- Identifying and registering new pregnancies, births, and deaths.
- Mobilizing, counselling and supporting the community to demand and seek health services.
- Identifying, managing, or referring cases of illness.
- Supporting health service delivery through home visits, first-aid and immunizations sessions.
- Maintaining data and participating in community-level health planning.
- Arrange escort/accompany pregnant women & children requiring treatment/ admission to the nearest pre-identified health facility i.e. Primary Health Centre/ Community Health Centre/ First Referral Unit (PHC/CHC /FRU).
- (3) In 'Gestational Surrogacy', the resulting child is genetically related to the intended father and the surrogate.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) All of the above
- Ans:** (D)
Exp: A surrogacy arrangement or surrogacy agreement is the carrying of a pregnancy for intended parents. There are two main types of surrogacy:-
- Gestational surrogacy (also known as host or full surrogacy) which was first achieved in April 1986. In gestational surrogacy, the pregnancy results from the transfer of an embryo created by in vitro fertilization (IVF), in a manner so the resulting child is genetically unrelated to the surrogate. Gestational surrogates are also referred to as gestational carriers.
- Traditional surrogacy (also known as partial, genetic, or straight surrogacy). In traditional surrogacy, the surrogate is impregnated naturally or artificially, but the resulting child is genetically related to the surrogate. In the United States, gestational surrogacy is more common than traditional surrogacy and is considered less legally complex
- A surrogate, sometimes also called a gestational carrier, is a woman who conceives, carries and gives birth to a child for another person or couple (intended parent/s).
3. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts is planning a linguistic survey across India. Consider the following statements -
- (1) Article 120: Deals with the language to be used in Parliament.
 (2) Article 210: Similar to Article 120 but applies to the State Legislature.
 (3) Article 343: Establishes a Commission and Committee of Parliament on official language.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above
- Ans:** (B)
Exp: Language of The Union:
 Article 120: Deals with the language to be used in Parliament.
2. Recently, the Indian government has amended the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022. Consider the following statements regarding Surrogacy -
- (1) A surrogate is sometimes called a gestational carrier.
 (2) In 'Traditional Surrogacy', the resulting child is genetically unrelated to the surrogate.



Article 210: Similar to Article 120 but applies to the State Legislature.

Article 343: Declares Hindi in Devnagari script as the official language of the Union.

Article 344: Establishes a Commission and Committee of Parliament on official language.

Regional Languages:

Article 345: Allows the state legislature to adopt any official language for the state.

Article 346: Specifies the official language for communication between states and between states and the Union.

Article 347: Allows the President to recognize any language spoken by a section of the population of a state if demanded.

4. Recently, UNEP and Climate and Clean Air Coalition have released a report on Environment ahead of the 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6).

Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Environment Assembly -

(1) It is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the atmosphere.

(2) The Assembly is made up of the 193 UN Member States.

(3) It was created in June 2012.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

United Nations Environment Assembly - It is the governing body of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

It is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.

The Assembly is made up of the 193 UN Member States and convenes every two years to advance global environmental governance.

It was created in June 2012, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as RIO+20.

5. The government has completed Government Securities (G-Sec) borrowing for the current fiscal 2023-24.

Consider the following statements regarding Government Securities -

(1) The Reserve Bank of India manages and services Government of India Securities but not any State Government Securities.

(2) Treasury bills are issued by the Government of India and there are no treasury bills issued by the State Governments.

(3) Treasury bills offer are issued at a discount from the par value.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Government security (G-Sec) is a tradeable instrument issued by the central government or state governments. It acknowledges the government's debt obligations.

The G-Secs issuances are managed by the RBI, who on behalf of the Centre, regularly conducts G-Sec auctions every Friday.

State Government transactions are carried out by RBI in terms of the agreement entered into with the State Governments.

Treasury bills:

They are short-term debt instruments issued by the Central government. State Government don't issue treasury bills.

Treasury bills play a vital role in cash management of the Government.

Being risk-free, their yields at varied maturities serve as short term benchmarks and help pricing varied floating-rate products in the market.

Treasury bills are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.

6.

Homosep Atom, developed by the startup named Solinas, is India's first septic tank/manhole cleaning robot.

Consider the following statements in respect of flow equalization in a wastewater treatment plant -

(1) Biological treatment is enhanced because shock loadings are eliminated or minimized.

(2) Flow equalization is an attractive option for upgrading the performance of overloaded treatment plants.

(3) Inhibiting substances can be diluted and pH can be stabilized.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) All of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Flow equalization is a method to overcome problems related to fluctuations in flow rate and pollution load. It helps in lowering the strength

of wastewater by diluting it with wastewater already present in the equalization tank. Flow equalization basin is located after screening and grit removal but before the primary sedimentation tank.

Shock loading means an increase in sewage concentration (beyond normal loading) received in a wastewater treatment plant.

The efficiency of primary sedimentation is inversely proportional to its surface area or directly proportional to the overflow rate.

Flow equalization → reduction in strength of sewage → reduction in surface area or an increase in overflow rate → Performance or efficiency of primary sedimentation gets enhanced.

7. National Science Day has been celebrated on 8th February.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) In 1928, on 28th February CV Raman discovered the Raman Effect.
- (2) National Science Day is observed to commemorate birth anniversary of CV Raman.
- (3) CV Raman received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

National Science Day is observed on the day Indian Physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman discovered the Raman Effect.

The Raman Effect is the phenomenon where light gets scattered when passed through a transparent material, leading to changes in wavelength and energy.

In 1928, on 28th February CV Raman discovered the Raman Effect.

He also received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 due to his significant contribution to the field of Physics.

8. Recent research has stated that by 2050, one-third of global river sub-basins are projected to face severe scarcity of clean water due to nitrogen pollution.

Consider the following statements regarding the nitrogen cycle -

- (1) Nitrogen in gaseous form can be used by all living organisms.

(2) Nitrogen can be fixed in the atmosphere by lightning and cosmic radiation.

(3) Bacteria can convert nitrates into free nitrogen.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

(C)

Ans:

Exp:

The movement of nutrient elements through the various components of an ecosystem is called nutrient cycling. Another name of nutrient cycling is biogeochemical cycles (bio: living organism, geo: rocks, air, water). Nutrient cycles are of two types: (A) gaseous and (b) sedimentary.

There are few types of organisms like certain species of soil bacteria and blue-green algae are capable of utilizing it directly in its gaseous form.

However, other than a few forms of bacteria, life-forms are not able to convert the comparatively inert nitrogen molecule into forms like nitrates and nitrites which can be taken up and used to make the required molecules.

9.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a warming El Niño event may develop in the coming months after three consecutive years of La Niña.

Consider the following statements regarding World Meteorological Organization -

- (1) There are 192 Member States and Territories in World Meteorological Organization.
- (2) It originated from the International Meteorological Organization.
- (3) It was established by WMO Convention 1960.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)

(C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct

(A)

Ans:

Exp:

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 192 Member States and Territories. India is a member of WMO. It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress. Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23rd



March 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences. WMO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

10. The Prime Minister paid tributes to Shri Morarji Desai on his birth anniversary. Consider the following statements -

(1) In 1967, Shri Desai joined Indira Gandhi's cabinet as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of Finance.

(2) He was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India on March 24, 1977.

(3) He became a Member of the All India Congress Committee in 1940.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Shri Morarji Desai was born on February 29, 1896, in Bhadeli village, now in the Bulsar district of Gujarat.

He was imprisoned thrice during the freedom struggle.

He became a Member of the All India Congress Committee in 1931 and was Secretary of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee until 1937.

In 1967, Shri Desai joined Smt. Indira Gandhi's cabinet as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of Finance.

He was later unanimously elected as Leader of the Janata Party in Parliament and was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India on March 24, 1977.

11. Belgium has become first country in the European Continent to recognise 'ecocide' as a national as well as an international crime.

Consider the following statements regarding Belgium -

(1) Belgium is called the 'Cockpit of Europe'.

(2) Its capital, Amsterdam, is also the seat of the European Union (EU).

(3) Belgium is a federal and constitutional monarchy.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(A)

Exp: Belgium is a federal and constitutional monarchy divided into two main linguistic and cultural regions: Flemish (Dutch)-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia.

Belgium is called the 'Cockpit of Europe' because it is where the largest number of European battles have taken place in history.

Its capital, Brussels, is also the seat of the European Union (EU).

12. The Himalayan Region, prone to cloudbursts and extreme weather events, is experiencing accelerated impacts of Global Warming.

Consider the following statements about the Himalayan Mountains -

(1) The Brahmaputra marks the eastern-most boundary of the Himalayas.

(2) The altitudinal variations of Himalayas are greater in the eastern half than those in the western half.

(3) The folds of Great Himalayas are symmetrical in nature.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

The Himalayas, geologically young and structurally fold mountains stretch over the northern borders of India.

These mountain ranges run in a west-east direction from the Indus to the Brahmaputra.

Their width varies from 400 Km in Kashmir to 150 Km in Arunachal Pradesh.

The altitudinal variations are greater in the eastern half than those in the western half.

The Himalaya consists of three parallel ranges in its longitudinal extent.

The northern-most range is known as the Great or Inner Himalayas or the Himadri.

It is the most continuous range consisting of the loftiest peaks with an average height of 6,000 metres.

The folds of the Great Himalayas are asymmetrical in nature.

At Raisina Dialogue 2024, 8 Nordic-Baltic countries (NB8) participated together as representatives of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation.

Consider the following statements regarding Nordic-Baltic Cooperation -



- (1) The Nordic-Baltic cooperation is an informal regional cooperation format established in 1992.
 (2) It was named the Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) in 2000.
 (3) Finland holds the chairmanship of the NB8 in 2024.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(B)

Exp:

The Nordic-Baltic cooperation is an informal regional cooperation format established in 1992, bringing together 5 Nordic (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland) and 3 Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania). It was named the Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) in 2000 on the initiative of Toomas Hendrik Ilves (former Estonian Foreign Minister). Sweden holds the chairmanship of the NB8 in 2024.

14. India conducted its first human clinical trial of gene therapy for hemophilia A (FVIII deficiency)

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Hemophilia is a group of rare mental disorders.
 (2) Hemophilia A results from a deficiency in a crucial blood clotting protein.
 (3) It is primarily inherited (genetic) and follows an X-linked recessive pattern.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

Hemophilia is a group of rare bleeding disorders caused by a congenital deficiency in specific clotting factors. The most prevalent form is Hemophilia A.

Hemophilia A results from a deficiency in a crucial blood clotting protein known as factor VIII.

Due to this deficiency, individuals experience prolonged bleeding after injuries, as their blood takes longer to clot than usual.

It is primarily inherited (genetic) and follows an X-linked recessive pattern, meaning the gene responsible for factor VIII production is located on the X chromosome.

Males have one X and one Y chromosome, while females have two X chromosomes.

15. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released a report on the Status of Leopards in India 2022.

Consider the following protected areas:

- (1) Bandipur
 (2) Bhitarkanika
 (3) Manas

Which of the above are declared Tiger Reserves?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) All of the above

Ans:

(D)

Exp:

Tiger Reserves:

Project Tiger was launched by the Government of India in the year 1973 to save the endangered species of tiger in the country.

Starting from nine (9) reserves in 1973-2019 the number is grown up to fifty (50).

A total area of 71027.10 km² is covered by these Project Tiger areas.

Recently, the Central government has given its approval for the creation of a fifth tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu that will encompass the Meghamalai and Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Bandipur, Manas and Sunderban are declared Tiger reserve, but Bhitarkanika is not included.

16. Haryana youth made significant strides in embracing Kalaripayattu, securing the second position, just after Kerala at the Khelo India Youth Games 2023.

Consider the following statements regarding Kalaripayattu -

- (1) It is an ancient martial art form of Karnataka.
 (2) The word 'kalari' first appears in the Tamil Sangam literature to describe both a battlefield and combat arena.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

Kalaripayattu is a great and ancient physical, cultural and martial art of Kerala. The martial art originated during the 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AD. The word kalari first appears in the Tamil Sangam literature (c. 300 BCE to 300 CE) to describe both a battlefield and combat arena. The Kalaripayattu is also considered as one of the oldest fighting systems in existence. Kalaripayattu techniques include a combination of steps (Chuvatu) and postures (Vadivu).

Chuvatu literally means 'steps', the basic steps of the martial arts. Vadivu literally means 'postures' or stances are the basic characteristics of Kalaripayattu training. Named after animals, they are usually eight in number.

17. The Indian Air Force will be conducting Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 on 17th February 2024 at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range, near Jaisalmer.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Indian Air Force conducts Exercise Vayu Shakti every year.
- (2) Vayu Shakti was last held at Pokhran in February 2019.
- (3) It take place at the Pokharan range in Jaisalmer.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducts Exercise Vayu Shakti at the Pokharan range every three years. It is a triennial exercise. It is conducted to demonstrate IAF's readiness to conduct full spectrum operations. The last one took place in 2019. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has postponed it. It take place at the Pokharan range in Jaisalmer.

18. India adds five more wetlands to its list of Ramsar sites.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty, adopted on 2nd February 1971.
- (2) In India, it came into force on 1st February 1974.
- (3) India now has 80 Ramsar sites covering an area of 1.33 million hectares.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty, adopted on 2nd February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea.

In India, it came into force on 1st February 1982, under which wetlands of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.

India now has 80 Ramsar sites covering an area of 1.33 million hectares.

Five new Ramsar sites, added ahead of this year's World Wetlands Day, are in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

19. India's inaugural National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) marks a significant milestone in the conservation efforts for the endangered Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*).

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Gangetic river dolphin is popularly known as 'Susu'.
- (2) It is listed on CITES Appendix I.
- (3) India's only sanctuary for Gangetic dolphins Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary is located in Bhopal.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

The Gangetic river dolphin is India's national aquatic animal and is popularly known as 'Susu'.

It is among the four freshwater dolphins in the world- the other three are:

The 'Baiji' now likely extinct from the Yangtze River in China,

The 'Bhutan' of the Indus in Pakistan, and

The 'Boto' of the Amazon River in Latin America.

These four species live only in rivers and lakes.

Its presence indicates the health of the riverine ecosystem.

IUCN Status: Endangered

It is listed on CITES Appendix I.

It is classified under Schedule 1, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 providing absolute protection as offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties.

Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) in Bihar's Bhagalpur district is India's only sanctuary for Gangetic dolphins.

20. United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 3rd March.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) When a wild animal is declared protected, such animal is entitled for equal protection whether it is found in protected areas or outside.



(2) Apprehension of a protected wild animal becoming a danger to human life is sufficient ground for its capture or killing.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: As per the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, wild animals are not the sole property of the government. The Bombay High Court has ruled that wild animals including tigers should be treated as “government property for all purposes”.

The law governing the subject of wildlife, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, does not discriminate between animals found in protected areas and outside. It provides for equal protection for wild animals irrespective of where they are found.

Only if the wild animal becomes a danger to human life or is diseased or disabled beyond recovery can it be allowed to be captured or killed by the competent authority, the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. This provision is applicable to wild animals listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which includes leopards. Mere apprehension or fear that a wild animal could endanger human life is not a ground for capture or killing.

21. Recently, BJP National President JP Nadda resigns as Rajya Sabha MP.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Rajya Sabha has no power either to reject or to amend a Money Bill.
(2) The Rajya Sabha cannot vote on the Demands for Grants.
(3) The Rajya Sabha cannot discuss the Annual Financial Statement.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Power in Money Matters: Once the Lok Sabha passes the budget of the government or any other money-related law, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it.

The Rajya Sabha can only delay it by 14 days or suggest changes in it, however, the former may or may not accept these changes.

A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject a Money Bill. It should return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, either with recommendations or without recommendations. The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha. In both cases, the money bill is deemed to have been passed by the two Houses.

Special Powers of Rajya Sabha can authorize the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List (Article 249).

It can authorize the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states (Article 312).

It alone can initiate a move for the removal of the vice-president. (Article 67).

22. In the recently announced Interim Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has outlined its development assistance plans.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) They are presented when a government cannot present a full budget.
(2) Budget Estimates are not presented in such budgets.
(3) They allow the government to meet expenses for a short period of time.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp:

The budget usually for the Govt is granted for one financial year which starts from April of the current year to March of next year with due approval by Parliament. If for any reason the government is not able to present a full budget before the financial year ends, it will need parliamentary authority for incurring expenditure in the new fiscal year until a full Budget is presented.

An Interim Budget is not the same as a ‘Vote on Account’. While a ‘Vote on Account’ deals only with the expenditure side of the government’s budget, an Interim Budget is a complete set of accounts, including both expenditure and receipts.

They are usually presented for a four-month period.

23. Recently, the Finance Minister in the Interim Budget 2024-25 has announced the expansion of the application of Nano DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate) as a Fertilizer.

Consider the following statements regarding Di-Ammonium Phosphate -

- (1) DAP is the second most commonly used fertilizer in India after urea.
- (2) In 2023 IFFCO launched its Nano DAP, containing 8% Nitrogen and 16% Phosphorus by volume.
- (3) Fertilizer grade DAP contains 30% Nitrogen and 50% Phosphorus.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate):

DAP is the second most commonly used fertilizer in India after urea.

DAP is a preferred fertilizer in India because it contains both Nitrogen and Phosphorus which are primary macro-nutrients and part of 18 essential plant nutrients.

Fertilizer grade DAP contains 18% Nitrogen and 46% Phosphorus. It is manufactured by reacting Ammonia with Phosphoric acid under controlled conditions in fertilizer plants.

Nano DAP is a specialised form of DAP designed with the goal of improving the fertiliser's effectiveness in promoting plant growth and development.

In 2023 Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) launched its Nano DAP, containing 8% Nitrogen and 16% Phosphorus by volume.

Unlike conventional DAP, which comes in granular form, IFFCO's Nano DAP is in liquid form.

24. Recently, the government has announced that Veteran leader, Shri Lal Krishna Advani will be conferred with Bharat Ratna.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) He served as the 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004.
- (2) Born in Karachi (present-day Pakistan) on 8th November 1934.
- (3) He joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in 1942.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

- (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Recently, the government has announced that Veteran leader, Shri Lal Krishna Advani will be conferred with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the nation.

He served as the 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004.

He also served as a Home Minister and Information and Broadcasting Minister as well.

Born in Karachi (present-day Pakistan) on 8th November 1927, he joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in 1942 and relocated to Delhi from Sindh in 1947 during Partition.

Instituted in 1954, the Bharat Ratna is conferred in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order, without distinction of race, occupation, position, or sex.

25.

Recently, mistaking dry ice for a mouth freshener at a Gurugram restaurant caused a severe incident, emphasising the lethal nature of the substance.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Dry ice is the common name for the solid form of carbon mono oxide.
- (2) It doesn't melt into a wet liquid.
- (3) Dry Ice temperature is extremely cold at -109.3°F or -78.5°C.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Dry ice is the common name for the solid form of carbon dioxide.

It's called dry ice because it doesn't melt into a wet liquid.

Dry ice sublimates, which means it goes from its solid form directly to its gaseous form.

Dry Ice temperature is extremely cold at -109.3°F or -78.5°C.

Always handle Dry Ice with care and wear protective cloth or leather gloves whenever touching it.

It is used primarily as a cooling agent but is also used in fog machines at theatres for dramatic effects.

Its advantages include lower temperature than that of water ice and not leaving any residue



(other than incidental frost from moisture in the atmosphere).

26. Recently, Thailand's ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) accused India of exporting rice at unfairly low prices funded by Government Subsidy. .

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Rice grows best in alluvial clayey soil.
- (2) Millets are coarse grains that can be grown on less fertile and sandy soils.
- (3) Cotton requires 210 frost free days and bright sunshine for its growth.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) All of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Rice does indeed grow best in alluvial clayey soil. It requires a clayey soil that can retain water. These types of soil are typically found in floodplains where rivers deposit silt. Additionally, rice requires a lot of water for its growth, which is why it is often grown in flooded fields, known as paddies.

Millets are a group of highly variable small-seeded grasses, widely grown around the world as cereal crops or grains for fodder and human food. They are drought-tolerant and are often cultivated in less fertile and sandy soils. This makes them important crops in many parts of the world that have less than ideal farming conditions.

Cotton requires a long, frost-free period, plenty of sunshine, and a moderate rainfall, usually the amount of 500 to 1000 mm. The temperatures should be between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius. So, the statement that cotton requires 210 frost-free days and bright sunshine for its growth is correct.

27. Archaeological marvels: Badami Chalukya Temples and inscriptions discovered along river Krishna.

Consider the following statements regarding Chalukya Dynasty -

- (1) The Chalukya dynasty was established by Pulakeshin I in 543.
- (2) The earliest dynasty known as the "Eastern Chalukyas".
- (3) Pulakeshin I took Vatapi under his control and made it his capital.

Ans:

Exp:

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

(A) The Chalukya dynasty was established by Pulakeshin I in 543.

Pulakeshin I took Vatapi (modern Badami in Bagalkot district, Karnataka) under his control and made it his capital.

Pulakeshin I and his descendants are referred to as "Chalukyas of Badami".

The earliest dynasty, known as the "Badami Chalukyas", ruled from Vatapi (modern Badami) from the middle of the 6th century.

Bilhana was a Sanskrit writer and a well-known Kashmiri poet.

He was born in Kavi Bilhana in the middle of the 11th century.

There were three distinct which were related to Chalukya dynasties -

Badami Chalukyas: Capital was Badami (Vatapi) in Karnataka.

Eastern Chalukyas: Emerged after the death of Pulakesin II in Eastern Deccan with capital at Vengi. They ruled till the 11th century.

Western Chalukyas: Descendants of the Badami Chalukyas, emerged in the late 10th century and ruled from Kalyani (modern-day Basavakanlyan).

28.

Ministry of Finance in its Interim Budget 2024-25 has decided to reduce India's Fiscal Deficit to 5.1% of GDP in 2024-25.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Encouraging Foreign Direct Investment inflows
- (2) Down-sizing of bureaucracy
- (3) Selling/offloading the shares of Public Sector Undertakings

Which of the above can be used as measures to control the fiscal deficit in India?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Statement 1 is incorrect because a Fiscal deficit results in inflation which in turn leads to increased interest rates and this makes investments unfavorable.

Statement 2 is correct this will help in reduction in government expenditure and over the past few decades, we have seen that the private sector has

driven capacity-creation in Indian higher education.

Statement 3 is correct because this will help in reducing the wage burden of the government. The erstwhile Planning Commission had recommended to weed out about 2000 senior-level positions in various ministries.

Statement 4 is correct because reducing the shareholding in the PSUs and selling off the shares help in revenue generation. The Indian government is keen on this aspect over the past few years.

29. Odisha is set to unveil the world's first melanistic tiger safari near the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR).

Consider the following pairs -

National Park - River flowing through Park

- (1) Corbett National Park - Ramganga
- (2) Kaziranga National Park - Brahmaputra
- (3) Silent Valley National Park - Kaveri

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp:

The River Kunthi descending from the Niligiri hills above from an altitude of 2000 m flows about 25 km through the valley. Locally known as Kunthi puzha (puzha in Malayalam means river) the river never turns brown; it is crystal clear, perennial and wild. The river sustains about 13 species of fish.

The Kaziranga National Park area is circumscribed by the Brahmaputra River, which forms the northern and eastern boundaries, and the Mora Diphlu, which forms the southern boundary. Other notable rivers within the park are the Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri.

Jim Corbett National Park: River Ramganga, a tributary of river Ganga is the primary source of water for the park.

30. Recently, the Indian Prime Minister inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 in New Delhi.

Consider the following statements:

Attorney General of India can

1. Can take part in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha
2. Can be a member of a committee of the Lok Sabha
3. Can speak in the Lok Sabha
4. Can vote in the Lok Sabha

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) Only (1), (2) and (3)
(D)

Ans:

Exp:

As per Article 76 of the Indian Constitution, the Attorney General of India is the highest law officer in the country.

He is the chief legal advisor to the government of India and advises it on all legal matters.

As the primary lawyer, he represents the Union Government in the Supreme Court of India.

He also advises the President of India on the legal matters referred to him.

The Attorney General of India has the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament, i.e. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The Attorney General of India can be a member of any committee of the Parliament.

The Attorney General of India possesses no voting rights when he takes part in proceedings of the Parliament.

The Attorney General of India is not considered as a government servant, rather is a part of the Union Executive.

The Attorney General of India cannot advise or hold a brief against the Union Government, also cannot defend an accused without the permission of the Union Government.

31. Recently, the Ministry of Power has notified amendments to the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, to accelerate the installation of Rooftop Solar Projects.

Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana -

- (1) Rajasthan has the largest solar park in India.
- (2) Kerala has a fully solar powered International Airport.
- (3) Goa has the largest floating solar photovoltaic project in India.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Kochi International Airport in Kerala is indeed fully powered by solar energy. The airport has a 12 MW solar power plant consisting of more than 46,000 solar panels spread across 45 acres. The largest solar park in India is the Bhadla Solar Park, located in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. The largest floating solar photovoltaic project in India is located in the state of Madhya Pradesh, not Goa.

32. Recently, FAO has released a report titled- "The Unjust Climate", shows how the effects of Climate Change.

Consider the below statements regarding the 'Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2023)' -

(1) Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI, 2023) published by German Watch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International based in Germany.

(2) India ranks 6th as per the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI, 2023).

(3) Denmark topped the list of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI, 2023).

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: India jumps 2 spots higher, and now ranks 8th as per Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI, 2023).

The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI, 2023) published by German Watch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International based in Germany.

The latest report of CCPI, released at COP 27 in November 2022, shows Denmark, Sweden, Chile, and Morocco as the only four small countries that were ranked above India as 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th respectively.

The first, second, and third ranks were not awarded to any country.

In effect, therefore, India's rank is the best amongst all large economies.

33. PM Modi participated in Golden Jubilee Celebration of GCMMF and Amul's Success.

Consider the following statements regarding Amul -

(1) Amul was established in 1946 as the Polson dairy company.

(2) It was founded by Tribhuvandas Patel, with the support of Morarji Desai and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

(3) In 1950, Amul (Anand Milk Union Limited) was formed as a brand for the dairy products produced by the cooperative.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

(C)

Ans:

Exp:

Amul was established in 1946 as the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited in Anand, Gujarat.

It was founded by Tribhuvandas Patel, with the support of Morarji Desai and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

In 1950, Amul (Anand Milk Union Limited) was formed as a brand for the dairy products produced by the cooperative.

Amul is managed by the GCMMF, which is jointly owned by more than 3.6 million milk producers in Gujarat.

Amul pioneered the adoption of the Anand Pattern, an economic organisational model designed to empower small producers through collective action.

This approach fosters integration among producers, enabling economies of scale while preserving individual autonomy in decision-making.

34.

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), released the latest estimates of the Global Burden of Cancer in 2022.

Consider the following statements -

(1) Cervical cancer develops in a woman's cervix.

(2) Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally.

(3) Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk human papillomaviruses.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) All of the above

(D)

Ans:

Exp:

Cervical cancer develops in a woman's cervix (the entrance to the uterus from the vagina).

Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk human papillomaviruses (HPV), an extremely common virus transmitted through sexual contact.

Two HPV types (16 and 18) are responsible for nearly 50% of high grade cervical pre-cancers.

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally. About 90% of the new cases and deaths worldwide in 2020 occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

35. The Delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies is to be carried out on the basis of the First Census after 2026.

Consider the following statements -

(1) Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.

(2) Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

(3) The last delimitation exercise was completed in 1971.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

(B) Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.

The last delimitation exercise that changed the state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha was completed in 1976 and done on the basis of the 1971 census.

Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.

Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

36. Recently, the Supreme Court of India (SC) held its Diamond Jubilee Celebration (75th anniversary).

Consider the following statements regarding Supreme Court of India -

(1) Supreme Court of India succeeded the British Court of India.

(2) Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with Supreme Court.

(3) The Supreme Court of India consists of 34 judges including the Chief Justice of India.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

(C) Supreme Court -

Establishment: On the 28th January 1950, two days after India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic, the Supreme Court came into being.

It succeeded the Federal Court of India, established under the Government of India Act of 1935.

However, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is greater than that of its predecessor because it also replaced the British Privy Council as the highest court of appeal.

Constitutional Provisions: Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organization, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the Supreme Court.

The Parliament is also authorised to regulate them.

Current Composition: The Supreme Court of India consists of 34 judges including the Chief Justice of India, all appointed by the President of India.

The original Constitution of 1950 envisaged a Supreme Court with a Chief Justice and 7 puisne Judges, leaving it to Parliament to increase this number.

37.

Recently, Pakistan signed a new agreement with China to begin the second phase of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Consider the following statements regarding CPEC -

(1) CPEC is a 3,000-km long route of infrastructure projects connecting China's northwest to the Ormara Port.

(2) It is a bilateral project between Pakistan and China.

(3) It will pave the way for China to access the Middle East and Africa from Gwadar Port.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (2) and (1)

(C) Only (3) and (2) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(C)



Exp: CPEC is a 3,000-km long route of infrastructure projects connecting China's northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Gwadar Port in the western province of Balochistan in Pakistan. It is a bilateral project between Pakistan and China, intended to promote connectivity across Pakistan with a network of highways, railways, and pipelines accompanied by energy, industrial, and other infrastructure development projects. It will pave the way for China to access the Middle East and Africa from Gwadar Port, enabling China to access the Indian Ocean and in return China will support development projects in Pakistan to overcome the latter's energy crises and stabilising its faltering economy.

38. Recently, in its interim report, the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Delimitation Commission has proposed significant changes to the electoral map of J&K.

Consider the following statements regarding Constitutional Basis for Delimitation -

(1) Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.

(2) Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

(3) The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1984.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)
(C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct

Ans: (A)

Exp: Constitutional Basis for Delimitation - Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census. Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission. The delimitation commission is an independent body constituted under Article 82 after the Parliament enacted a Delimitation Act after every census. However, the first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51. The

Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.

39. Recently, the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare provided information on Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy.

Consider the following statements regarding Anaemia -

(1) It is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient.

(2) Having anemia, also referred to as typhoid, can make you feel tired and weak.

(3) Aplastic anemia is a condition that occurs when your body stops producing enough new blood cells.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)
(C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct

(C)

Ans:

Exp:

Anemia is a condition in which you lack enough healthy red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen to your body's tissues. Having anemia, also referred to as low hemoglobin, can make you feel tired and weak. Aplastic anemia is a condition that occurs when your body stops producing enough new blood cells. The condition leaves you fatigued and more prone to infections and uncontrolled bleeding.

40. Recently, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Global Risk Report 2024.

Consider the following statements regarding the World Economic Forum -

(1) It was initially known as 'European Management Forum' and was renamed as the World Economic Forum in 1989.

(2) The organization is headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland.

(3) It is an international organization working for the achievement of PPP.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

(C)

Ans:

Exp:

The World Economic Forum came into being in the year 1971.

It was initially named as the European Management Forum and was renamed as the WEF in the year 1987.

The organization is headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland.

It is an international organization working for the achievement of public-private partnership.



41. Recently, the government has proposed a rollover plan for the States and Union Territories (UTs) to showcase their tableaux in the Republic Day Parade.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Ministry of Defence is responsible for conducting the parade and coordinating arrangements with States and other agencies.
 (2) The term 'Republic' indicates that India has an elected head called the Prime Minister.
 (3) On 26th January 1930, Indian National Congress (INC) declared Purna Swaraj from the British regime.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp: India became Independent on 15th August, 1947 which is celebrated as Independence Day. Republic Day is celebrated as the day when India acquired a written Constitution and became an independent republic.

The term 'Republic' indicates that India has an elected head called the President.

The Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949 and came into effect on 26th January 1950.

26th November is observed as Constitution Day. 26th January was chosen to be observed as the Republic Day because it was on this day in 1930 when the Indian National Congress (INC) declared Purna Swaraj or Indian independence from the British regime.

During INC's Lahore session of December 1929, Purna Swaraj resolution was passed. The session was presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru.

42. Recently, scientists have found a natural remedy to protect eucalyptus forest plantations from a pest, eucalyptus snout beetle.

Consider the following organisms -

- (1) Agaricus, (2) Nostoc, (3) Spirogyra
 Which of the above is/are used as biofertilizer/biofertilizers?

- (A) Only (1) (B) Only (1) and (3)
 (C) Only (2) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp: Biofertilizers are products containing carrier based (solid or liquid) living microorganisms which are agriculturally useful in terms of nitrogen fixation, phosphorus solubilisation or

nutrient mobilization to increase the productivity of soil or crop.

Classification of biofertilizers based on microorganism:

Bacterial Biofertilizers: Rhizobium, Azospirillum, Azotobacter, Phosphobacteria, Nostoc, etc.

Agaricus is an edible fungus and is commonly known as mushroom. It is a saprophytic fungus found growing on soil humus, decaying litter on forest floors, in the fields, lawns, wood logs and manure piles.

Spirogyra is a large genus of freshwater green algae found in shallow ponds, ditches and amongst vegetation at the edges of large lakes, generally growing free-floating. It is valued for human consumption, and is known as an important source of natural bio-active compounds for antibiotic, antiviral, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and cytotoxic purposes.

43. A heat-tolerant vaccine developed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) researchers is said to be effective against all current strains of SARS-CoV-2.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Serum Institute of India produced COVID-19 vaccine named Covishield using mRNA platform.
 (2) Sputnik V vaccine is manufactured using vector-based platform.
 (3) COVAXIN is an inactivated pathogen-based vaccine.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp: Covishield vaccine is based on the platform which uses a recombinant, replication-deficient chimpanzee adenovirus vector encoding the SARS-CoV-2 Spike (S) glycoprotein.

The same technology was used to prepare vaccines for viruses like Ebola.

Sputnik V is the world's first registered vaccine based on a well-studied human adenovirus vector platform.

The Sputnik V vaccine has been developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow.

Covaxin vaccine, developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the

National Institute of Virology and uses a different platform.

Covaxin is an "inactivated" vaccine that uses the killed SARS-CoV-2 virus and has no potential to infect or replicate once injected and just serves to uplift an immune response.

44. Recently, the Delhi High Court has recommended an optimal timeframe of 6-8 weeks for completing organ transplant processes involving living donors.

Consider the following statements regarding Xenotransplantation -

(1) Xenotransplantation or heterologous transplant, is the transplantation of living cells, tissues or organs from one species to another.

(2) Pigs were first considered as a potential organ source for xenotransplantation to humans.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: Xenotransplantation or heterologous transplant, is the transplantation of living cells, tissues or organs from one species to another.

Such cells, tissues or organs are called xenografts or xenotransplants.

A worldwide shortage of organs for clinical implantation causes about 20–35% of patients who need replacement organs to die on the waiting list.

Xenotransplants could save thousands of patients waiting for donated organs.

The animal organ, probably from a pig or baboon could be genetically altered with human genes to trick a patient's immune system into accepting it as a part of its own body.

Xenotransplantation also is and has been a valuable tool used in research laboratories to study developmental biology. Non-human primates were first considered as a potential organ source for xenotransplantation to humans.

45. India is set to become the world's largest producer of lentils (masoor) during the 2023-24 crop year.

With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements -

(1) Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crop.

(2) Green-gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.

(3) Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka are the top five pulses producing States.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: Pulses are grown in all three seasons – Kharif, Rabi, and Zaid.

Gram is the most dominant pulse but only with a share of around 40 percent in the total production followed by Tur/Arhar at 15 to 20 percent and Urad/Black Matpe and Moong at around 8-10 percent each.

The production of pulses for both Rabi and Kharif seasons has increased in the last three decades.

India is the largest producer (25% of global production), the consumer (27% of world consumption), and the importer (14%) of pulses in the world.

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka are the top five pulses producing States. The productivity of pulses is 764 kg/ha.

46. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has urged the government to encourage private mining in the sector and diversify supply sources.

Recently, there has been a concern over the short supply of a group of elements called 'rare earth metals'. Why?

(1) China, which is the largest producer of these elements, has imposed some restrictions on their export.

(2) Other than China, Australia, Canada and Chile, these elements are not found in any country.

(3) Rare earth metals are essential for the manufacture of various kinds of electronic items and there is a growing demand for these elements.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (2) and (1)

(C) Only (3) and (2) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: Rare Earth Metals are a set of seventeen metallic elements. These include the fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table in addition to scandium and



yttrium that show similar physical and chemical properties to the lanthanides.

The 17 Rare Earths are cerium (Ce), dysprosium (Dy), erbium (Er), europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), holmium (Ho), lanthanum (La), lutetium (Lu), neodymium (Nd), praseodymium (Pr), promethium (Pm), samarium (Sm), scandium (Sc), terbium (Tb), thulium (Tm), ytterbium (Yb), and yttrium (Y).

China, which is the largest producer of these elements, has imposed some restrictions on their export.

Other than China, Australia, Canada and Chile, these elements are found in any country.

Rare earth metals are essential for the manufacture of various kinds of electronic items and there is a growing demand for these elements.

47. Recently, the CIDCA, held a meeting of the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum in which 19 countries took part but not India.

Consider the following statements regarding Indian Ocean Rim Association -

- (1) It was established in 1997.
- (2) China is a dialogue partner in the IORA.
- (3) The IORA Secretariat is based in New Delhi.

Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)
(C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct

Ans:

Exp:

Indian Ocean Rim Association was established in 1997 and is a regional forum that seeks to build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation through a consensus-based, evolutionary and non-intrusive approach. IORA has 23 member states and 9 Dialogue Partners.

Members: Australia, Bangladesh, the Comoros, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. China is a dialogue partner in the IORA.

The IORA Secretariat is based in Mauritius. The association gains importance by the fact that the Indian Ocean carries half of the world's container ships, one-third of the world's bulk cargo traffic and two-thirds of the world's oil shipments.

It is a lifeline of international trade and transport and the Indian ocean region is woven together by trade routes and commands control of major sea-lanes.

48. The foundation stone for the Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University at Manu Bankul has been laid recently.

With reference to Indian history, consider the following texts -

- (1) Parishishtaparvan
- (2) Avadanashataka
- (3) Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana

Which of the above are Jaina texts?

- (A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)
(C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct
(C)

Ans:

Exp:

The Nettipakarana is a mythological Buddhist scripture, sometimes included in the Khuddaka Nikaya of Theravada Buddhism's Pali Canon. Parishishtaparvan is a 12th-century Sanskrit mahakavya by Hemachandra which details the histories of the earliest Jain teachers. Avadanashataka is an anthology in Sanskrit of one hundred Buddhist legends, approximately dating to the same time. Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana is a major Jain text composed largely by Acharya Jinasena during the rule of Rashtrakuta.

49.

Minorities' right to open institutions not for ghettoisation: Supreme Court.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The NCM is an constitutional body established by the Indian government in 1992.
- (2) In 2014, Jains were notified as another minority community.
- (3) It is responsible for advising governments on matters related minority communities.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above
(C)

Ans:

Exp:

The NCM is an autonomous body established by the Indian government in 1992 under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. The setting up of the Commission was envisaged in the Ministry of Home Affairs Resolution of 1978 for the enforcement and implementation of all the safeguards provided for the Minorities in the Constitution.

It is responsible for advising the central and state governments on matters related to the welfare and development of minority communities in India.

Initially five religious communities, viz., Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities by the Union Government. In 2014, Jains were also notified as another minority community.

50. Anganwadi workers in Andhra Pradesh are on strike demanding better wages and benefits. Consider the following statements -
- (1) The Indian government established these in 1975.
 - (2) Primary aim is to reduce child hunger and malnutrition.
 - (3) It is mostly aimed towards youngsters aged 0 to 18.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

Anganwadi facilities are the world's greatest childcare institutions, committed to providing children with vital care and assistance.

The name 'Anganwadi' means "courtyard shelter" in English.

The Indian government established these in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services programme to reduce child hunger and malnutrition.

It is mostly aimed towards youngsters aged 0 to 6.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), which began on October 2, 1975, is the only significant national programme that addresses the needs of children under the age of six.

It aims to provide an integrated package of services for young children, such as supplemental nutrition, health care, and pre-school education.

The programme also includes adolescent girls, pregnant women, and nursing mothers.

51. Recently, the Prime Minister of India attended the 58th All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Consider the following statements -

Ans:

Exp:

(1) The Malimath Committee on Reforms in the Criminal Justice System set up in 2000.

(2) It was headed by C V Viswanatha.

(3) The National Police Commission (1977-1981) in India made recommendations for police reforms.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

(A)

The National Police Commission (1977-1981) in India made recommendations for police reforms, emphasizing the need for functional autonomy and accountability.

Shri Ribero committee was constituted in 1998, on the directions of the Supreme Court, to review action taken on police reforms, and to suggest ways of implementing recommendations of the Commission.

The Rebeiro Committee endorsed major recommendations of National Police Commission (1978-82) with certain modifications.

The Malimath Committee on Reforms in the Criminal Justice System set up in 2000, headed by V S Malimath made 158 recommendations including that of setting up a central law enforcement agency.

In accordance with the Model Police Act, 2006, each state must establish an authority made up of retired High Court judges, civil society members, retired police officers, and public administrators from another state.

52. Recently, Alanganallur Jallikattu was inaugurated.

Consider the following statements -

(1) Jallikattu is typically practiced in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

(2) Maramadi Bull Surfing race is famous in Karnataka.

(3) Vallam Kali or traditional snake boat race famous sport in Kerala.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

(A)

Ans:

Exp:

Jallikattu is typically practiced in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as a part of Pongal celebrations on Mattu Pongal day, which occurs annually in January.

It involves releasing a bull into a crowd of people where participants attempt to grab its hump and ride it for as long as possible.

Maramadi Bull Surfing race is famous in Kerala. Vallam Kali or traditional snake boat race famous sport in Kerala.

Hori Habba is another rural sport practiced mainly in the Shivamogga districts of Karnataka. Bullock cart race in Maharashtra was a popular tradition in various parts of the state known as Bailgada Sharyat.

53. Recently, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) notified the Point of Presence (PoP) Regulations 2023, Consider the following statements -
- (1) The Central Government has introduced the National Pension System (NPS) with effect from January 2004.
 - (2) The NPS is regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
 - (3) The pension of defense personnel is are paid by the central government and their pension is also included in NPS.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp:

The Central Government has introduced the National Pension System (NPS) with effect from January 2004.

National Pension System Trust (NPST) established by PFRDA is the registered owner of all assets under NPS.

The NPS is regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The pension of defense personnel is are paid by the central government and their pension is not included in NPS.

54. The World Economic Forum (WEF) is holding its Annual Meeting from 15th January to 19th January, 2024 in Davos, Switzerland. Consider the following statements -
- (1) Klaus Schwab, a German professor, founded WEF in 1971.
 - (2) It was originally known as the World Management Forum.
 - (3) It changed its name to the World Economic Forum in 1987.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

WEF is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. The Forum engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Klaus Schwab, a German professor with a background in mechanical engineering and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard, founded WEF in 1971, originally known as the European Management Forum.

He introduced the concept of “stakeholder capitalism.”

It changed its name to the World Economic Forum in 1987 and sought to broaden its vision to include providing a platform for resolving international conflicts.

55.

Recently, the Prime Minister (PM) inaugurated three projects in Kochi, Kerala which include the New Dry Dock (NDD) at Cochin Shipyard Limited.

Consider the following statements about the seaports in India:

- (1) There are 4 major and 25 minor seaports in India.
- (2) The major ports are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- (3) The minor ports are under the jurisdiction of the respective State Maritime Board/State Government.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

India has 13 major seaports (12 Government-owned and one private) and 205 notified minor and intermediate ports that handle a huge volume of traffic.

The major ports are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

Minor and intermediate ports are administered by the relevant departments or ministries in the nine coastal states – Andhra Pradesh, Goa,

Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

Hence we can conclude the jurisdiction of the respective State Maritime Board/State Government.

56. Recently, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes witnessed over Rs 1.03 lakh crore of investment till November 2023.

Consider the following statements regarding Production-Linked Incentive Scheme -

- (1) It was notified as a part of the National Policy on Electronics.
- (2) It proposes a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the electronics value chain.
- (3) FY 2023-24 is considered as the base year for the calculation of incentives.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme:

The government recently announced the PLI scheme for mobile phones, pharma products, and medical equipment sectors to make India a manufacturing hub.

It was notified as a part of the National Policy on Electronics.

It proposes a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the electronics value chain.

The scheme shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over a base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies.

It is for a period of five years.

FY 2019-20 is considered as the base year for the calculation of incentives.

57. Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha has observed a slight increase in the population of saltwater crocodiles.

Consider the following statements regarding Bhitarkanika National Park -

- (1) Bhitarkanika National Park is spread in a vast area of 672 Kms in Orissa.
- (2) It is the second largest Mangrove ecosystems of India.
- (3) The Gahirmatha Beach is the largest colony of the saltwater crocodiles.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Bhitarkanika National Park is spread in a vast area of 672 Kms in Orissa.

It is the second largest Mangrove ecosystems of India.

The National Park is essentially a network of creeks and canals which are inundated with waters from rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra and Patasala forming a unique ecosystem.

Its proximity to Bay of Bengal makes the soil of the area enriched with salts, the vegetation and the species of the sanctuary is comprised of those which are mainly found in the tropical and subtropical inter tidal regions.

It is the breeding place for the Salt Water Crocodiles.

The Gahirmatha Beach which forms the boundary of the sanctuary in the east is the largest colony of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.

58. A recent study delves into the analysis of DNA extracted from a 10,000-year-old chewing gum discovered on the west coast of Scandinavia.

Consider the following statements regarding DNA -

- (1) DNA is the hereditary material of all living organisms.
- (2) Nuclear DNA is double helical with two nucleotide chains that run anti-parallel.
- (3) DNA is also found in mitochondria.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: Molecular genetics emerged from the realization that DNA and RNA both constitute the genetic material of all living organisms.

DNA is called the blueprint of life because it contains the genetic code which are instructions needed for an organism to grow, develop, survive and reproduce.

There are four sorts of nitrogen bases i.e. adenine (A), thymine (T), guanine (G), and cytosine (C).

DNA has a double-helical structure with two nucleotide chains that run anti-parallel, the outer edges are formed by alternating deoxyribose



sugar molecules and phosphate groups, which make up the sugar-phosphate backbone. Mitochondrial DNA or mtDNA is that the small circular chromosome found inside mitochondria.

59. The Indian Prime Minister paid tribute to Mahayogi Vemana on the occasion of Vemana Jayanti on 19th January 2024.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Mahayogi Vemana, popularly known as Yogi Vemana, was an Indian philosopher and poet in the Tamil & Malyalam language.
- (2) Many of his poems end up with the signature line Viswadaabhi Raama Vinura Vema.
- (3) His poems were preserved by people on palm leaves or orally.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp: Mahayogi Vemana, popularly known as Yogi Vemana, was an Indian philosopher and poet in the Telugu language.

His poems are known for their use of simple language and native idioms.

They discuss the subjects of yoga, wisdom and morality.

Many of his poems end up with the signature line Viswadaabhi Raama Vinura Vema.

Vemana's poems are categorised into social, moral, satirical and mystic nature.

His poems are treated as the best morals by the Telugu ancestors.

His poems were preserved by people on palm leaves or orally (vocal).

His poems were published as a book (shatakam) by Charles Philip Brown, ICS, two times in 1829 and 1839.

60. India established the "Global Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality" at the 54th annual WEF.

With reference to 'Global Climate Change Alliance', consider the following statements -

- (1) It is an initiative of the European Union.
- (2) It provides technical and financial support to targeted developing countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets.

(3) It is coordinated by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp: The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) was established by the European Union (EU) in 2007 to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

The GCCA also provides technical and financial support to partner countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets, and to implement projects that address climate change on the ground, promoting climate-resilient, low-emission development.

By fostering effective dialogue and cooperation on climate change, the Alliance helps to ensure that poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change increase their capacities to adapt to the effects of climate change, in support of the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).

There is no mention of WRI and WBCSD at the official partner's page of GCCA, even though a lot of other institutions are mentioned like FAO, UNDP etc.

61.

Recently, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has chaired a meeting on Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP). Consider the following statements Ken and Betwa Rivers -

- (1) Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Ganga.
- (2) Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.
- (3) Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (2) and (1)
(C) Only (3) and (2) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp: Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna. Ken meets with Yamuna in Banda district of UP and with Betwa in Hamirpur district of UP. Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river. Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.



62. With reference to National Legal Services Authority, consider the following statements -
- (1) Its objective is to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society based on equal opportunity.
 - (2) It issues guidelines for the State Legal Services Authorities to implement the legal programmes and schemes throughout the country.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)
(C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct

Ans: (B)

Exp: The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. In every State, State Legal Services Authority has been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA and to give free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State. NALSA issues guidelines for the State Legal Services Authorities to implement the legal programmes and schemes throughout the country.

63. Recently, during the inauguration of online e-inspection software the Chief Justice of India (CJI) stated that the judgments delivered by the Supreme Court will now be translated into four languages—Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati and Odia.

In India, Legal Services Authorities provide free legal services to which of the following type of citizens?

- (1) Person with an annual income of less than 1,00,000
- (2) Transgender with an annual income of less than 2,00,000
- (3) All Senior Citizens

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)
(C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 states that those persons who have an annual income of less than the amount prescribed by the respective State Government, or if the case is before any court other than the Supreme Court, and less than Rs 5 Lakhs, if the case is before the

Supreme Court, are eligible for free legal aid. For most of the States NALSA covers Persons whose annual income does not exceed Rs 1 lakh. For Delhi, there is mention of Income ceiling for transgender in NALSA Portal, which is Rs 2 lakh. There is no such provision of free legal aid specifically for OBC. The free Legal Aid is not available for free for all senior citizens.

64. Lake Victoria confronts a multitude of environmental challenges, necessitating united endeavours for its restoration and conservation.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa.
- (2) It is the world's largest freshwater lake.
- (3) The River Nile carries water out of the lake.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and the world's second-largest freshwater lake. Its shoreline is shared by Kenya (6%), Uganda (43%), and Tanzania (51%).

The Kagera, Katonga, Sio, Yala, Nyando, Sondu Miriu, and Mara rivers feed the lake and the River Nile carries water out of the lake.

65. Homi Bhabha Death Anniversary has been observed on 24th January.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) He is known as the founder of India's space station.
- (2) Bhabha was the first Indian to receive the Adams Prize in 1942.
- (3) He was also awarded the Padma Bhushan.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: Homi Jehangir Bhabha is regarded as the father of India's nuclear programme. He saw the importance of nuclear power as a military deterrent and source of energy, and laid the foundation of India's nuclear establishment.

India's three-stage nuclear power programme was formulated by Homi Bhabha in the 1950s. Bhabha was the first Indian to receive the Adams Prize in 1942, the highest honour given by the University of Cambridge. Bhabha received the award for his "theory of the elementary particles



and their interactions". He was also awarded the Padma Bhushan.

66. India's largest light-emitting diodes (LED) Screen Installed At Saryu Ghat.

Consider the following statements with regard to power diodes -

(1) The breakdown voltage is directly proportional to the doping density of the drift region.

(2) Losses in the diode are less due to conductivity modulation of the drift region in the on-state.

(3) The vertically oriented structure supports large blocking voltages.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp:

The breakdown voltage is inversely proportional to the doping density of the drift region.

Power Diodes of the largest power rating are required to conduct several kilo amps of current in the forward direction with very little power loss while blocking several kilo volts in the reverse direction.

Large blocking voltage requires wide depletion layer in order to restrict the maximum electric field strength below the "impact ionization" level.

On the other hand, if forward resistance (and hence power loss) is reduced by increasing the doping level, the reverse breakdown voltage will reduce.

This apparent contradiction in the requirements of a power diode is resolved by introducing a lightly doped "drift layer" of required thickness between two heavily doped p and n layers.

67. Recently, the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace convened its 12th General Assembly in New Delhi.

With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements -

(1) Sthaviravadins belong to Mahayana Buddhism.

(2) Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.

(3) The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered Mahayana Buddhism.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

(C)

Ans:

Exp:

Sthaviravadins belong to Theravada.

The Lokottaravada was one of the early Buddhist schools according to Mahayana doxological sources compiled by Bhaviveka, Vinitadeva and others, and was a subgroup that emerged from the Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.

The Mahasanghikas believed in a plurality of buddhas who are supramundane (lokottara) and held that what passed for Gautama Buddha in his earthly existence was only an apparition.

They patronized Mahayana Buddhism.

68.

Representative Jigme Tsering Participates in Center for Bodhisattva Buddhist Studies' "108 Hours of Peace" Event.

Consider the following statements regarding Gautama Buddha -

(1) Kapilvastu King Shuddodhan was the father of Gautama Buddha.

(2) Mahamanga was the birth mother of Gautama Buddha.

(3) The Buddha attained Enlightenment at Bodh Gaya in Bihar.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

(A)

Ans:

Exp:

Mahamaya was the birth mother of Gautama Buddha,

She was a princess of the Kollia republic.

She belonged to the ruling family of Deodah state, which is now in the Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh.

Deoria was part of Koshal Rajya in ancient history.

Gorakhpur is the birthplace of Firaq Gorakhpuri, the workplace of writer Munshi Premchand and mystic poet Kabirdas.

Kapilvastu King Shuddodhan was the father of Gautama Buddha.

The Buddha attained Enlightenment at Bodh Gaya in Bihar.

69.

Recently, the Prime Minister (PM) of India has participated in Parakram Diwas.

Consider the following statements -

(1) Parakram Diwas marks the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

(2) It was initiated in 2021.

(3) Marking Netaji's 127th birth anniversary, in 2022, the hologram was installed, near India Gate.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(B)

Exp:

Initiated in 2021, Parakram Diwas is an annual celebration in India commemorating the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The term "Parakram" translates to courage or valour in Hindi, reflecting the strong and courageous spirit of Netaji and those who fought for India's freedom.

As part of the program, the event will host a rich array of activities that delve into the profound legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the Azad Hind Fauj.

Marking Netaji's 125th birth anniversary, in 2022, the hologram was installed, near India Gate, where a statue of King George V had stood till its removal in 1968.

Later the hologram of Netaji replaced by a grand statue on 8th September 2022 near India Gate in New Delhi.

70.

Childhood cancers are emerging as a significant public health concern in India, with a notable percentage of cancer patients falling under the age of 15.

Consider the following statements regarding cancer -

(1) Cancerous cells are fast-dividing cells that display contact inhibition.

(2) Metastasis is the most dreaded problem of any cancer.

(3) Tumours are always confined to their original location.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) (B) Only (1) and (3)
(C) Only (2) (D) None of the above

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

Cancer is one of the most dreaded diseases of human beings and a major cause of death all over the world.

There are several agents (physical, biological and chemical) that cause the transformation of the normal cells into cancerous cells.

The cancerous cells differ in several ways from the normal cells.

A tumour is classified into following types based on its ability to undergo metastasis (spreading to other locations):

Benign tumor - These tumours are localized at a particular location in the body and do not spread to the other parts of the body. Such tumors are generally harmless.

Malignant tumor - These tumours are cancerous - they will grow quickly and spread to other normal tissues of the body. This ability to spread is called metastasis. Usually, cancer cells metastasize when they get into the bloodstream or the lymph nodes and form secondary tumours across various sites in the body.

71.

India's Geographical Indication (GI) tags journey of over two decades faces challenges, with limited outcomes indicating the need for reforms in the registration processes.

Which of the following has/have been accorded 'Geographical Indication' status?

(1) Banaras Brocades and Sarees

(2) Rajasthani Daal-Bati-Churma

(3) Tirupathi Laddu

(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)

(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

(A)

Ans:

Exp:

The Banaras sarees and brocades, renowned for intricate designs of silk and gold threads, have been assigned geographical indication (GI) status in 2009.

Banaras Brocade Sarees are made of finely woven silk and decorated with intricate designs using zari.

Tirupathi Laddu has been accorded GI tag in the year 2014.

Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag, in 2004.

72.

Sri Sri Auniati Satra is a more than 350-year-old Vaishnavite monastery in Assam's Majuli district.

Consider the following statements -

(1) The Sri Sri Auniati Satra was established in the year 1653 in Majuli, Assam.

(2) The Satra is located in Majuli, which is the largest inhabited river island in the world.

(3) Majuli is situated in the Manas River in the northeastern state of Assam, India.



Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Sri Sri Auniati Satra was established in the year 1653 in Majuli, Assam. It has a history of over 350 years, making it one of the oldest Satras in the region.

A Satra is an institutional centre for Assamese Vaishnavism, a bhakti movement that emerged in the 15th century.

The Satra is located in Majuli, which is the largest inhabited river island in the world. Majuli is situated in the Brahmaputra River in the northeastern state of Assam, India.

73. On the 75th Republic Day, the President of India approved Gallantry awards to 80 Armed Forces. Consider the following statements regarding Gallantry awards -

- (1) The Ashoka Chakra (PVC) is India's highest military decoration.
(2) Param Vir Chakra was instituted as a Gallantry Medal with retrospective effect from 15 August 1947.
(3) Gallantry Awards are classified into two Categories - 1. Gallantry in the Face of Enemy and 2. Gallantry Other than in the Face of Enemy
Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Param Vir Chakra (PVC) is India's highest military decoration, awarded for displaying distinguished acts of valor during wartime. This award can be given to an individual more than once in his/her lifetime.

On its medal, four replicas of 'Indra Vajra' are embossed.

The Param Vir Chakra is not just handed out on a silver platter. It's such a rare honor, that only 21 people have ever been awarded one till 31st December 2021, Two-thirds of them posthumously.

On 26 January 1950, celebrated as Republic Day of India, the Param Vir Chakra was instituted as a Gallantry Medal with retrospective effect from 15 August 1947 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India.

The Medal translates as the "Wheel of the Ultimate Brave", and the award is granted for

"most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy".

Gallantry Awards are classified into two Categories -

Gallantry in the Face of Enemy

Gallantry Other than in the Face of Enemy

74. Recently, the Aditya-L1 mission marked a crucial milestone with the successful deployment of its six-magnetometer boom. Consider the following statements about a magnetic field -

(1) A magnetic field has both magnitude and direction.

(2) The direction of magnetic field lines inside a bar magnet is from its south pole to its north pole.

(3) Magnetic field lines are open curves.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: The area around a magnet where a magnetic force is experienced is called the magnetic field. It is a quantity that has both direction and magnitude, (i.e., Vector quantity).

A magnetic field has both magnitude and direction:

Reason: It is a vector quantity.

The direction of magnetic field lines inside a bar magnet is from its south pole to its north pole.

Magnetic field lines are closed curves.

75. The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honors of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.

Consider the following statements in respect of Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards -

(1) The first-ever Indian to receive Bharat Ratna was the famous scientist, Dr Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.

(2) Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, were suspended only once.

(3) The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)



Exp: Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award in the country.

The first-ever Indian to receive this award was the famous scientist, Dr. Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.

The award was started by former President Dr. Rajendra Prasad on January 2nd, 1954, and is announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979, 1993 to 1997, 2020, and 2021. It is suspended many times.

The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year. It was awarded to four people in the same year only once -- in 1999.

In 1996, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the National Awards — Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Sri.

It ruled that these awards do not amount to 'titles' within the meaning of Article 18 which prohibits only hereditary titles of nobility.

Therefore, they are not violative of Article 18 as the theory of equality does not mandate that merit should not be recognized.

76. Consider the following correct statements.

1. Asteroids are found between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

2. The Sun is a G-type main-sequence star that comprises about 99.86% of the mass of the Solar System.

(A) only 1 (B) only 2
(C) both 1 and 2 (D) both 1 and 3

Ans: (C)

Exp: The asteroid is a torus-shaped region in the Solar System, located roughly between the orbits of the planets Jupiter and Mars. The Sun is the star at the center of the Solar System. It is a nearly perfect sphere of hot plasma. The Sun is a G-type main-sequence star that comprises about 99.86% of the mass of the Solar System.

77. Which of the following statements is true?

I. Delta is the triangular landmass that forms at its mouth.

II. An estuary is a partially enclosed coastal body of brackish water.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: A river delta is a landform created by deposition of sediment that is carried by a river as the flow leaves its mouth and enters slower-moving or stagnant water. This occurs where a river enters an ocean, sea, estuary, lake, reservoir, or (more rarely) another river that cannot carry away the supplied sediment.

An estuary is a partially enclosed coastal body of brackish water with one or more rivers or streams flowing into it, and with a free connection to the open sea.

Estuaries form a transition zone between river environments and maritime environments known as ecotone. Estuaries are subject both to marine influences such as tides, waves, and the influx of saline water and to riverine influences such as flows of freshwater and sediment.

78. Which of the following statements is true?

I. A lagoon is a shallow part of water separated from a larger part of water by barrier islands or reefs.

II. The Sunda Trench, earlier known as and sometimes still indicated as the Java Trench, is an oceanic trench located in the Pacific Ocean.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (A)

Exp: A lagoon is a shallow part of water separated from a larger part of water by barrier islands or reefs. Lagoons are commonly divided into coastal lagoons and atoll lagoons. They have also been identified as occurring on mixed-sand and gravel coastlines.

The Sunda Trench, earlier known as and sometimes still indicated as the Java Trench, is an oceanic trench located in the Indian Ocean near Sumatra formed where the Australian-Capricorn plates subduct under part of the Eurasian Plate. It is 3,200 kilometres (2,000 mi) long with a maximum depth of 24,440 feet (7,450 metres). Its maximum depth is the deepest point in the Indian Ocean.

79. Which of the following statements is true?

I. The westerlies are associated with the changeable weather common to the middle latitudes.

II. Trade winds, also called equatorial calms.



Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (A)

Exp: The westerly winds, also known as the westerlies, occur at two regions on Earth: between 30- and 60-degrees latitude in the northern hemisphere and between 30- and 60-degrees latitude in the southern hemisphere. The name of these unique winds comes from the direction of their origin; the westerlies run west to east while other winds run east to west. Doldrums, also called equatorial calms, equatorial regions of light ocean currents and winds within the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), a belt of converging winds and rising air encircling Earth near the Equator. The northeast and southeast trade winds meet there; this meeting causes air uplift and often produces clusters of convective thunderstorms. They occur along the Equator in the Indian and western Pacific oceans and slightly north of the Equator off the African and Central American west coasts.

80. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Narmada rivers flows through a rift valley.
II. Brahmaputra tenth largest river in the world by discharge, and the 15th longest.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Narmada, also called the Rewa, is a river in central India and the fifth longest river in the Indian subcontinent. It is the third longest river that flows entirely within India, after the Godavari, and the Krishna. It is one of only three major rivers in peninsular India that run from east to west (longest west flowing river), along with the Tapti River and the Mahi River. It is one of the rivers in India that flows in a rift valley, flowing west between the Satpura and Vindhya ranges. The other rivers which flow through rift valley include Damodar River in Chota Nagpur Plateau and Tapti. The Tapti River and Mahi River also flow through rift valleys, but between different ranges.

The Brahmaputra, called Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet, Siang/Dihang River in Arunachal Pradesh and Luit or Dilao in Assam, is a trans-boundary

river which flows through China, India and Bangladesh. It is the ninth largest river in the world by discharge, and the 15th longest.

81. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Manipur does not on border Bangladesh.
II. Narmada flows in Atlantic Ocean.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (A)

Exp: Manipur does not form border with Bangladesh. Bangladesh and India share a 4,156 km (2,582 mi)-long international border, the fifth-longest land border in the world, including 262 km (163 mi) in Assam, 856 km (532 mi) in Tripura, 180 km (110 mi) in Mizoram, 443 km (275 mi) in Meghalaya, and 2,217 km (1,378 mi) in West Bengal.

Narmada rises from Amarkantak Plateau near Anuppur district Madhya Pradesh. It forms the traditional boundary between North India and South India and flows westwards over a length of 1,312 km (815.2 mi) before draining through the Gulf of Khambhat into the Arabian Sea, 30 km (18.6 mi) west of Bharuch city of Gujarat.

82. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. The Nile, is a major north-flowing river in northeastern Africa.

- II. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is a nuclear power station in India.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Kakrapar atomic power station is located on the banks of the Tapti River, approximately 80km from the city of Surat, India. The site is situated in Mandvi Tehsil near Moticher. The power station lies in close proximity to the nearest city of Vyara, which is accessible from the cities of Surat and Dhule.

The Nile is a major north-flowing river in northeastern Africa, and is the longest river in Africa and the disputed longest river in the world, as the Brazilian government says that the Amazon River is longer than the Nile. The Nile, which is about 6,650 km (4,130 mi) long, is an "international" river as its drainage basin covers eleven countries: Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo,



Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Republic of the Sudan, and Egypt. In particular, the Nile is the primary water source of Egypt and Sudan.

83. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Godavari rivers has the largest catchment area.
II. Azerbaijan is bounded by the Caspian Sea to the west.

Select the correct option

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (D)

Exp: Krishna rivers has the largest catchment area. It is the fourth largest river in India after the Ganga, Godavari and the Narmada.

Azerbaijan is bounded by the Caspian Sea to the east, Russia to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west and Iran to the south. The exclave of Nakhchivan is bound by Armenia to the north and east, Iran to the south and west, and has an 11 km long border with Turkey in the north west.

84. Which of the following statements is true?
I. The area under forest cover is about 68 million hectares or 22 per cent of the total area in the country.

II. This area has under forest cover has increased from 40 million hectares in 1951 to 68 million hectares in 2000.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: The area under forest cover is about 68 million hectares or 22 per cent of the total area in the country. This area has increased from 40 million hectares in 1951 to 68 million hectares in 2000. For the ecological balance the forest cover should be at least 33 per cent of the total geographical area of a country. The states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Jammu & Kashmir and Tripura have relatively larger proportion of area under forest cover.

85. Consider the following statements:
1. The first Lok Sabha speaker was Ganesh Vasudev Mawalankar.
2. After the death of Ganesh Vasudev Mawalankar, M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar

was elected the second president of the first Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (C)

Exp: Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar popularly known as Dadasaheb was an independence activist, the President (from 1946 to 1947) of the Central Legislative Assembly, then Speaker of the Constituent Assembly of India, and later the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar was the second speaker of the Lok sabha.

86. Consider the following statements:

1. The chairman of the steering committee was Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
2. The provision of anti-defection was first used immediately after the first election of Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the chairman of steering committee of constituent assembly.

87. Consider the following statements:

1. 44th Amendments is also known as the 'Mini Constitution' of India.
2. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 provides for amendment of Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act and Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 on laws related to sexual offences.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Nirbhaya Act) is an Indian legislation passed by the Lok Sabha on 19 March 2013, and by the Rajya Sabha on 21 March 2013, which provides for amendment of Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 on laws related to sexual offences.



42nd amendment, 1976: It was called as Mini constitution of India and was brought during national emergency.

88. Consider the following statements:
1. In the Article 54 of the Indian Constitution the process of presidential election has been described.
2. The procedure for the election of Vice President in Article 66 of the Indian Constitution has been described.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans:

Exp:

(A) The manner of election of President is provided by Article 55 of the constitution. According to Article 66 of the constitution, no person shall be eligible for election as Vice-President unless he is a citizen of India, has completed the age of thirty-five years and is qualified for election as a member of the Council of States.

89. Which among the following are constitutional bodies in India?

1. Comptroller and Auditor General
2. Union Public Service Commission
3. National Advisory Council

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans:

Exp:

(A) Comptroller and Auditor General and Union Public Service Commission are constitutional bodies in India.

90. With reference to the Equality before Law and Equal Protection of Law, consider the following statements:

1. Article 14 denies any discrimination to anyone in any situation, because it deals with Equality before Law and Equal Protection of Law.

2. The concept of 'equality before law' is of British origin while the concept of 'equal protection of laws' has been taken from the American Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans:

Exp:

(C) Article 14 of the constitution states that, the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. The concept of 'equality before law' is of British origin while the concept of 'equal protection of laws' has been taken from the American Constitution.

91.

Consider the following statements:

1. The number of assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh is 231.
2. The number of assembly seats in Rajasthan is 200.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans:

Exp:

(C) The number of assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh is 231. The number of assembly seats in Rajasthan is 200.

92.

Consider the following statements:

1. Article 244 deals with the administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas.
2. Article 280 deals with the Finance Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans:

Exp:

(D) Article 244 deals with the administration of Scheduled areas and Tribal areas. The provisions of the Fifth Schedule of the constitution apply to the administration and control of the scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state other than the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Article 280 of the Indian Constitution defines the scope of the commission.

93.

With reference to Article 17 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. A person convicted of the offence of 'untouchability' cannot contest for the election in the Parliament or state legislature.



2. The Protection of Civil Rights Act (1955) deems the social boycott of individuals or their exclusion from religious services as 'offence under untouchability'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

Untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden the enforcement of any disability arising out of Untouchability shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. Note: Article 17 of the constitution abolishes the practice of untouchability.

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 which provides for preaching and practice of untouchability.

94. With reference to the Freedom of Expression, consider the following statements:

1. Article 19 confers the citizens the right to strike but not the right to demonstration or picketing.
2. Freedom of expression empowers a citizen not only to express one's own view but also to express the views of others.
3. It gives right against bundh called by a political party or organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- (A) 1 only (B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans:

(A)

Exp:

Article 19(1)(a) of Indian Constitution says that all citizens have the right to freedom of speech and expression. Freedom of Speech and expression means the right to express one's own convictions and opinions freely by words of mouth, writing, printing, pictures or any other mode.

Article 19(1)(b) specifically confers a right to assembly and, thus, guarantees that all citizens have right to assemble peacefully and without arms. Constitution.

95. Which of the following statements is/are true?

I. The metal potassium reacts most violently with cold water.

II. The pure element is Sodium.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

Potassium is a chemical element with the symbol K and atomic number 19. Potassium is a silvery-white metal that is soft enough to be cut with a knife with little force. Potassium metal reacts rapidly with atmospheric oxygen to form flaky white potassium peroxide in only seconds of exposure.

Sodium is a chemical element with the symbol Na and atomic number 11. It is a soft, silvery-white, highly reactive metal. Sodium is an alkali metal, being in group 1 of the periodic table, because it has a single electron in its outer shell, which it readily donates, creating a positively charged ion—the Na⁺ cation.

96.

Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

I. Deforestation is the major causal agent of Depletion of natural resources.

II. Asthma disease is caused by *Aspergillus fumigatus* fungi.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

The loss of trees and other vegetation can cause climate change, desertification, soil erosion, fewer crops, flooding, increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and a host of problems for indigenous people.

Aspergillus fumigatus is a species of fungus. It can be found throughout the environment, including in soil, plant matter, and household dust. The fungus can also produce airborne spores called conidia.

Most people can inhale many of these spores on a daily basis. In a healthy individual, the immune system often clears them from the body without a problem. However, for some people, inhaling *A. fumigatus*, spores can lead to a potentially severe infection.

97.

Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

I. Sound box of birds is called Syrinx.

II. Linseed is a rich source of Omega-3 fatty acid.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II



Ans: (C)

Exp: Omega-3 fatty acids are found in foods, such as fish and flaxseed, and in dietary supplements, such as fish oil. The three main omega-3 fatty acids are alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA). ALA is found mainly in plant oils such as flaxseed, soybean, and canola oils. DHA and EPA are found in fish and other seafood.

At the point where the windpipe divides is situated the bird's sound producing organ a voice box called the syrinx. the sound is produced by the vibrations of some or all of the membrana tympaniformis (the walls of the syrinx) and the pessulus, caused by air flowing through the syrinx.

A syrinx is a rare, fluid-filled neuroglial cavity within the spinal cord (syringomyelia), in the brain stem (syringobulbia), or in the nerves of the elbow, usually in a young age. Symptoms usually begin insidiously between adolescence and age 45. Syringomyelia develops in the center of the spinal cord, causing a central cord syndrome.

98. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

I. Secretin hormones stimulates pancreas for the production of digestive juice.

II. The arrangement of leaves on an axis or stem is called Venation.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: Secretin is a hormone that regulates water homeostasis throughout the body and influences the environment of the duodenum by regulating secretions in the stomach, pancreas, and liver. It is a peptide hormone produced in the S cells of the duodenum, which are located in the intestinal glands.

99.

Venation is the phenomenon of arrangement of veins in the lamina of the leaf surface. It is of three types, reticulate, parallel and furcate venation. In reticulate venation, veins form the network like structure. For example, leaves of dicot plants. In parallel venation, veins arise from the mid rib and run parallel. For example, leaves of monocot plants. In furcate venation, veins form dichotomous branching. For example, leaves of fern.

Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

I. Acute lead poisoning is also known as Plumbism.

II. Fore-brain the main thinking part of the human brain.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans:

Exp:

(C)

Lead poisoning is a condition, also known as plumbism or painter's colic, caused by increased blood serum lead levels

The main thinking part of the brain is the Forebrain or the Cerebrum. Its functions are: *Specialised for hearing, sight and smell.

100.

Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

I. The later (second) formed primary xylem elements are called Metaxylem.

II. Vitamin B12 vitamins contain cobalt.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I (B) Only II
(C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans:

Exp:

(C)

The part of the primary xylem that differentiates after the protoxylem and that is distinguished typically by broader tracheids and vessels with pitted or reticulate walls.

Vitamin B12 exists in several forms and contains the mineral cobalt, so compounds with vitamin B12 activity are collectively called "cobalamins".

"One Of The Lessons That I Grew Up With Was To Always Stay True To Yourself And Never Let What Somebody Else Says Distract You From Your Goals."

"A Clear Vision, Backed By Definite Plans, Gives You A Tremendous Feeling Of Confidence And Personal Power."

Match The Following

1. Match the following disease and their causes -

- (a) Whooping cough 1- Bordetella pertussis
 (b) Syphilis 2- Salmonella spp
 (c) Gastroenteritis 3- Treponema pallidum
 (d) Athlete's foot 4- Trichophyton

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Whooping cough - Bordetella pertussis
 Syphilis - Treponema pallidum
 Gastroenteritis - Salmonella spp
 Athlete's foot - Trichophyton

2. Match the following Military Operations of Indian Navy -

- (a) Operation Trident 1- 1971
 (b) Operation Vijay 2- 1961
 (c) Operation Cactus 3- 1988

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
 (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Operation Trident - 1971
 Operation Vijay - 1961
 Operation Cactus - 1988

3. Match the common name of the compound with its chemical name -

(a) Bleaching powder	1- Calcium oxychloride
(b) Baking soda	2- Sodium carbonate
(c) Washing soda	3- Sodium bicarbonate
(d) Plaster of Paris	4- Calcium sulphate hemihydrate

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Bleaching powder - Calcium oxychloride
 Baking soda - Sodium bicarbonate
 Washing soda - Sodium carbonate

Plaster of Paris - Calcium sulphate hemihydrate

4. Match the following -

- (a) White light 1- Spectrum
 (b) Virtual images 2- Convex Mirror
 (c) Real images 3- Concave Mirror

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
 (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: White light - Spectrum
 Virtual images - Convex Mirror
 Real images - Concave Mirror

5. Match the following -

- (a) Coffee Board 1- Bengaluru
 (b) Rubber Board 2- Guntur
 (c) Tea Board 3- Kottayam
 (d) Tobacco Board 4- Kolkata

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-4, d-2

Ans: (D)

Exp: Coffee Board - Bengaluru
 Rubber Board - Kottayam
 Tea Board - Kolkata
 Tobacco Board - Guntur

6. Match the following RBI governors and their tenure -

- (a) S. Vpnlraramanan 1- 1990 to 1992
 (b) C. Rangarajan 2- 1992 to 1997
 (c) Bimal Jalan 3- 1997 to 2003

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
 (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: S. Vpnlraramanan - 1990 to 1992
 C. Rangarajan - 1992 to 1997
 Bimal Jalan - 1997 to 2003



7. Match the following Ministries with their related departments -

(a) Ministry of Defence	1- Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare
(b) Ministry of Earth Sciences	2- India Meteorological Department
(c) Ministry of Finance	3- Expanded Department of Land Resources
(d) Ministry of Rural Development	4- Department of Revenue

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Ministry of Defence Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare
 Ministry of Earth Sciences India Meteorological Department
 Ministry of Finance Department of Revenue
 Ministry of Rural Development Expanded Department of Land Resources

8. Match the following in context to Padma awards-

Recipients	Field
(a) Shri Shinzo Abe	1- Medicine
(b) Shri S P Balasubramaniam	2- Public Affairs
(c) Dr. Belle Monappa Hegde	3- Art

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (B)

Exp: Recipients Field
 Shri Shinzo Abe Public Affairs
 Shri S P Balasubramaniam Art
 Dr. Belle Monappa Hegde Medicine

9. Match the following islands with their locations -

- (a) Greenland 1- North Atlantic
 - (b) New Guinea 2- Indian Ocean
 - (c) Borneo 3- West mid-Pacific
 - (d) Madagascar 4- Southwest Pacific
- Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)

Exp: Greenland - North Atlantic
 New Guinea - Southwest Pacific
 Borneo - West mid-Pacific
 Madagascar - Indian Ocean

10. Match the following viruses with their disease -

- (a) Clostridium tetani 1- Tetanus
- (b) Corynebacterium 2- Diphtheria
- (c) Coxiella burnetii 3- Pneumonia
- (d) Hib (type B) 4- Q fever

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Clostridium tetani Tetanus DPT vaccine
 Corynebacterium Diphtheria DPT vaccine
 Coxiella burnetii Q fever Q fever vaccine
 Hib (type B) Pneumonia Hib vaccine

11. Match the following rivers and their origin -

- (a) Painganga 1- Ajanta range
- (b) Indrayani 2- Western ghats
- (c) Pavana 3- Sahyadri range
- (d) Ghataprabha 4- Lonavala

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)

Exp: Painganga - Ajanta range
 Indrayani - Lonavala
 Pavana - Sahyadri range
 Ghataprabha - Western ghats

12. Match the following Books and Authors 2023 -

(a) Ambedkar: A Life	1- Shrimant Kokate
(b) Come! Let's Run	2- Ma Subramanian
(c) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj	3- Shashi Tharoor



Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (C)

Exp: Ambedkar: A Life - Shashi Tharoor
Come! Let's Run - Ma Subramanian
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj - Shrimant Kokate

13. Match the following thermal power stations in India -

- (a) Durgapur TPP 1- West Bengal
- (b) Sikka TPS 2- Gujarat
- (c) Satpura TPS 3- Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Singrauli Super TPS 4- Madhya Pradesh

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Durgapur TPP - West Bengal
Sikka TPS - Gujarat
Satpura TPS - Madhya Pradesh
Singrauli Super TPS - Uttar Pradesh

14. Match the following famous caves in India -

(a) Maharashtra	1- Bhaja Caves
(b) Orissa	2- Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves
(c) Tamil Nadu	3- Mahabalipuram

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Maharashtra - Bhaja Caves
Orissa - Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves
Tamil Nadu - Mahabalipuram

15. Match the following Nutrients and their Contribution to Plant Growth -

(a) Manganese	1- Required for photosynthesis, enzyme activation, and nitrogen metabolism
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(b) Copper	2- Important for enzyme activity, lignin formation, and nutrient uptake
(c) Boron	3- Facilitates cell division, sugar transport, and hormone regulation
(d) Molybdenum	4- Needed for nitrogen fixation, enzyme activity, and amino acid synthesis

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp:

Manganese - Required for photosynthesis, enzyme activation, and nitrogen metabolism
Copper - Important for enzyme activity, lignin formation, and nutrient uptake
Boron - Facilitates cell division, sugar transport, and hormone regulation
Molybdenum - Needed for nitrogen fixation, enzyme activity, and amino acid synthesis

16. Match the following deficiency disease -

- (a) Vitamin B2 1- Ariboflavinosis
- (b) Vitamin B3 2- Pellagra
- (c) Vitamin B5 3- Paresthesia

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp:

Vitamin B2 - Ariboflavinosis
Vitamin B3 - Pellagra
Vitamin B5 - Paresthesia

17. Match the following -

(a) 17th Parallel	1- Between North Vietnam and South Vietnam
(b) 24th Parallel	2- Between North Korea and South Korea
(c) 30th Parallel	3- Between Equator and North Pole
(d) 38th Parallel	4- Between India and Pakistan

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2



(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)**Exp:** 17th Parallel - Between North Vietnam and South Vietnam

24th Parallel - Between India and Pakistan

30th Parallel - Between Equator and North Pole

38th Parallel - Between North Korea and South Korea

18. Match the following parts of constitution of India -

(a) Part IX 1- The Panchayats

(b) Part IXA 2- The Municipalities

(c) Part X 3- The scheduled and Tribal Areas

Options-

(A) a-1, b-2, c-3

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1

(C) a-3, b-2, c-1

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)**Exp:** Part IX - The Panchayats

Part IXA - The Municipalities

Part X - The scheduled and Tribal Areas

19. Match the following types of Soils with the states where it found -

(a) Saline and Alkaline 1- Western Gujarat

(b) Arid and Desert 2- Maharashtra

(c) Laterite 3- Karnataka

(d) Black (Regur soil) 4- Western Rajasthan

Options-

(A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)**Exp:** Saline and Alkaline - Western Gujarat

Arid and Desert - Western Rajasthan

Laterite - Karnataka

Black (Regur soil) - Maharashtra

20. Match the following peak points -

(a) Kangchenjunga 1- Sikkim

(b) Saser Kangri 2- Jammu and Kashmir

(c) Chaukhamba 3- Uttarakhand

Options

(A) a-1, b-2, c-3

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1

(C) a-3, b-2, c-1

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)**Exp:** Kangchenjunga - Sikkim

Saser Kangri - Jammu and Kashmir

Chaukhamba - Uttarakhand

21. Match the following Lok Sabha Speakers and their tenure -

(a) Manohar Joshi 1- 2002-2004

(b) Somnath Chatterjee 2- 2004-2009

(c) Meira Kumar 3- 2014-2019

(d) Sumitra Mahajan 4- 2009-2014

Options-

(A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)**Exp:** Manohar Joshi - 2002-2004

Somnath Chatterjee - 2004-2009

Meira Kumar - 2009-2014

Sumitra Mahajan - 2014-2019

22. Match the following Important Summits -

(a) SAARC 2018 1- Sri Lanka

(b) G-20 2019 2- Chile

(c) BRICS 2018 3- Johannesburg

Options

(A) a-1, b-2, c-3

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1

(C) a-3, b-2, c-1

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)**Exp:** SAARC 2018 - Sri Lanka

G-20 2019 - Chile

BRICS 2018 - Johannesburg

23. Match the following India's Bilateral Maritime Exercises -

(a) Indonesia 1- Samudra Shakti

(b) Qatar 2- VARUNA

(c) Bangladesh 3- Bongosagar Exercise

(d) France 4- Zair -Al-Bahr

Options-

(A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)**Exp:** Indonesia - Samudra Shakti

Qatar - Zair -Al-Bahr



Bangladesh – Bongosagar Exercise
France – VARUNA

Ans: (A)
Exp: Operation Calm Down - 2016
Operation Sahyog - 2018
Operation Randori Behak - 2020

24. Match the following Books and Authors -
(a) Akhil Sharma 1- Family Life
(b) Akhilesh Tilotia 2- The Making of India
(c) Albert Camus 3- Plague
Options
(A) a-1, b-2, c-3
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1
(C) a-3, b-2, c-1
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)
Exp: Akhil Sharma - Family Life
Akhilesh Tilotia - The Making of India
Albert Camus - Plague

25. Match the following concept of Panch Prayag -

(a) Vishnuprayag	1- Where the river Alaknanda meets river Dhauli Ganga
(b) Nandprayag	2- Where river Alaknanda meets river Pinder
(c) Karnaprayag	3- Where river Alaknanda meets river Nandakini
(d) Rudraprayag	4- Where river Alaknanda meets river Mandakini

Options-
(A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)
Exp: Vishnuprayag: where the river Alaknanda meets river Dhauli Ganga
Nandprayag: where river Alaknanda meets river Nandakini
Karnaprayag: where river Alaknanda meets river Pinder
Rudraprayag: where river Alaknanda meets river Mandakini

26. Match the following military operations -
(a) Operation Calm Down 1- 2016
(b) Operation Sahyog 2- 2018
(c) Operation Randori Behak 3- 2020
Options
(A) a-1, b-2, c-3
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1
(C) a-3, b-2, c-1
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

27. Match the following -
(a) Chimpanzee 1- Pan Troglodytes
(b) Crocodile 2- Chamaele ontidate
(c) Chameleon 3- Crocodilia niloticus
(d) Dog 4- Cannis familiaris
Options-

(A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)
Exp: Chimpanzee - Pan troglodytes
Crocodile - Crocodilia niloticus
Chameleon - Chamaele ontidate
Dog - Cannis familiaris

28. Match the following Organisations and their headquarters -

(a) International Atomic Energy Agency	1- Vienna
(b) International Civil Aviation Organization	2- Quebec
(c) International Fund for Agricultural Development	3- Rome

Options
(A) a-1, b-2, c-3
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1
(C) a-3, b-2, c-1
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)
Exp: International Atomic Energy Agency - Vienna
International Civil Aviation Organization - Quebec
International Fund for Agricultural Development - Rome

29. Match the following Governors-General of India and their major reforms -

(a) Lord Hardinge I	1- First Anglo Sikh War (1845-46)
(b) Lord Auckland	2- Established engineering college in Roorkee
(c) Lord Dalhousie	3- The first Anglo-Afghan war



(d) Lord Canning	4- Revolt of 1857 took place
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Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Lord Hardinge I - First Anglo Sikh War (1845-46)

Lord Auckland - The first Anglo-Afghan war

Lord Dalhousie - Established engineering college in Roorkee

Lord Canning - Revolt of 1857 took place

30. Match the following Bird Sanctuaries in India -

(a) Uttarakhand	1- Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve (Bird)
(b) Tamil Nadu	2- Point Calimere Bird Sanctuary
(c) Maharashtra	3- Jawaharlal Nehru Bustard Sanctuary

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Uttarakhand - Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve (Bird)

Tamil Nadu - Point Calimere Bird Sanctuary

Maharashtra - Jawaharlal Nehru Bustard Sanctuary

31. Match the following Father of Various Fields -

(a) Father of White Revolution	1- Verghese Kurien
(b) Father of Linguistic Democracy	2- Potti Sreeramulu
(c) Father of Silver Revolution	3- Indira Gandhi
(d) Father of Indian Railways	4- Lord Dalhousie

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Father of White Revolution - Verghese Kurien
 Father of Linguistic Democracy - Potti Sreeramulu
 Father of Silver Revolution - Indira Gandhi
 Father of Indian Railways - Lord Dalhousie

32. Match the following -

(a) Article 352	1- Proclamation of emergency (National Emergency).
(b) Article 356	2- State Emergency (President's Rule)
(c) Article 360	3- Financial Emergency

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
- (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Article 352- Proclamation of emergency (National Emergency).

Article 356- State Emergency (President's Rule)

Article 360- Financial Emergency

33. Match the following Father of different fields in India -

(a) Father of White Revolution	1- Verghese Kurien
(b) Father of Linguistic Democracy	2- Indira Gandhi
(c) Father of Silver Revolution	3- Potti Sreeramulu
(d) Father of Indian Railways	4- Lord Dalhousie

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (D)

Exp: Father of White Revolution - Verghese Kurien
 Father of Linguistic Democracy - Potti Sreeramulu

Father of Silver Revolution - Indira Gandhi

Father of Indian Railways - Lord Dalhousie

34. Match the following mineral production state in India -

(a) Coal	1- Rajasthan
(b) Chromite	2- Jharkhand
(c) Calcite	3- Odisha



Options

(A) a-1, b-2, c-3

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1

(C) a-3, b-2, c-1

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (B)**Exp:** Coal - Jharkhand
Chromite - Odisha
Calcite - Rajasthan

35. Match the following famous Indian Personalities-Nicknames -

(a) Bihar Vibhuti	1- Dr Anurag Narayan Singh
(b) Grand Old Man of India	2- Saurav Ganguly
(c) Bengal Kesari	3- Ashutosh Mukherji
(d) Prince of Kolkata	4- Dadabhai Naoroji

Options-

(A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)**Exp:** Bihar Vibhuti - Dr Anurag Narayan Singh
Grand Old Man of India - Dadabhai Naoroji
Bengal Kesari - Ashutosh Mukherji
Prince of Kolkata - Saurav Ganguly

36. Match the following Major Ports in India -

- (a) Goa 1- Mormugao
(b) Odisha 2- Paradip
(c) Tamil Nadu 3- Tuticorin

Options

(A) a-1, b-2, c-3

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1

(C) a-3, b-2, c-1

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)**Exp:** Goa - Mormugao
Odisha - Paradip
Tamil Nadu - Tuticorin

37. Match the following Highest Peak in India and their mountain ranges -

- (a) Sandakphu 1- Eastern Himalaya
(b) Nanda Devi 2- Garhwal Himalaya
(c) Amsot Peak 3- Jampui Hills
(d) Betalongchhip 4- Shivalik Hills

Options-

(A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)**Exp:** Sandakphu - Eastern Himalaya
Nanda Devi - Garhwal Himalaya
Amsot Peak - Shivalik Hills
Betalongchhip - Jampui Hills

38. Match the following Folk Dances of India -

- (a) Himachal Pradesh 1- Chhapeli
(b) Karnataka 2- Huttari
(c) Maharashtra 3- Lezim

Options

(A) a-1, b-2, c-3

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1

(C) a-3, b-2, c-1

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)**Exp:** Himachal Pradesh - Chhapeli
Karnataka - Huttari
Maharashtra - Lezim

39. Match the following Military Exercises of India -

(a) Dharma Guardian	1- India & Japan
(b) Surya Kiran	2- India & France
(c) Hand in Hand Exercise	3- India & China
(d) Shakti Exercise	4- India & Nepal

Options-

(A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

(B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

(C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3

(D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (B)**Exp:** Dharma Guardian - India & Japan
Surya Kiran - India & Nepal
Hand in Hand Exercise - India & China
Shakti Exercise - India & France

40. Match the following -

(a) Morarji Desai	1- 24 Mar 1977 to 28 Jul 1979
(b) Charan Singh	2- 28 Jul 1979 to 14 Jan 1980
(c) Indira Gandhi	3- 14 Jan 1980 to 31 Oct 1984

Options



- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
 (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Morarji Desai - 24 Mar 1977 to 28 Jul 1979
 Charan Singh - 28 Jul 1979 to 14 Jan 1980
 Indira Gandhi - 14 Jan 1980 to 31 Oct 1984

41. Match the following -

- (a) Ajatshatru 1- Dr Rajendra Prasad
 (b) Bihar Kesari 2- Dr Srikrishna Singh
 (c) Akbar of Kashmir 3- T Prakasam
 (d) Andhra Kesari 4- Jainul Abdin

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Ajatshatru - Dr Rajendra Prasad
 Bihar Kesari - Dr Srikrishna Singh
 Akbar of Kashmir - Jainul Abdin
 Andhra Kesari - T Prakasam

42. Match the following books and authors -

(a) Amit Dasgupta	1- India for A Billion Reasons
(b) Amitav Ghosh	2- In an Antique Land
(c) Anita Desai	3- Clear Light of Day

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
 (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: Amit Dasgupta - India for A Billion Reasons
 Amitav Ghosh - In an Antique Land
 Anita Desai - Clear Light of Day

43. Match the following Mughal period authors and their works -

- (a) Jahangir 1- Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri
 (b) Aurangzeb 2- Raqqat-e-Alamgiri
 (c) Babur 3- Tarikh-i-Alai
 (d) Amir Khusrau 4- Tuzuk-i-Baburi

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: Jahangir - Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri
 Aurangzeb - Raqqat-e-Alamgiri
 Babur - Tuzuk-i-Baburi
 Amir Khusrau - Tarikh-i-Alai

44. Match the following major events and respective timelines of India -

(a) 1912 CE	1- Delhi conspiracy case
(b) 1913 CE	2- Formation of Gadara Party
(c) 1914 CE	3- Hindu-German Conspiracy

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
 (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp: 1912 CE - Delhi conspiracy case
 1913 CE - Formation of Gadara Party
 1914 CE - Hindu-German Conspiracy

45. Match the following committee and their purposes -

(a) AK Bhuchar Committee	1- Coordination between commercial banks and term lending institutions
(b) Bimal Jalan panel	2- Scrutinizing the applications for new bank licenses
(c) Dave Committee (2000)	3- Management of Data and information in the RBI
(d) Deepak Mohanty Committee	4- Pension-related schemes For Unorganized Sector

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp: AK Bhuchar Committee - Coordination between commercial banks and term lending institutions
 Bimal Jalan panel - Scrutinizing the applications for new bank licenses
 Dave Committee (2000) - Pension-related schemes For Unorganized Sector
 Deepak Mohanty Committee - Management of Data and information in the RBI

46. Match the following -

- (a) Gulf of Tonkin 1- China Sea
 (b) Parsian Gulf 2- Indian Ocean
 (c) Gulf of Aqaba 3- Red sea

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
 (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp:

Gulf of Tonkin - China Sea
 Parsian Gulf - Indian Ocean
 Gulf of Aqaba - Red sea

47. Match the following RBI Governors with their term -

- (a) Y. V. Reddy 1- 2003 to 2008
 (b) D. Subbarao 2- 2016 to 2018
 (c) Raghuram Rajan 3- 2013 to 2016
 (d) Urjit Ravindra Patel 4- 2008 to 2013

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (A)

Exp:

Y. V. Reddy - 2003 to 2008
 D. Subbarao - 2008 to 2013
 Raghuram Rajan - 2013 to 2016
 Urjit Ravindra Patel - 2016 to 2018

48. Match the following G20 meeting with their hosts -

- (a) 13th 2018 1- Argentina
 (b) 14th 2019 2- Japan
 (c) 15th 2020 3- Saudi Arabia

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
 (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

- Exp:** 13th - 2018 - Argentina
 14th - 2019 - Japan
 15th - 2020 - Saudi Arabia

49. Match the following Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers with their tenure -

(a) Kalyan Singh	1- 21st Sept 1997 to 12th Sep 1999
(b) Ramprakash Gupta	2- 12th Nov 1999 to 28th Oct 2000
(c) Rajnath Singh	3- 3rd May 2002 to 29th Aug 2003
(d) Mayawati	4- 28th Oct 2000 to 8th Mar 2002

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: (C)

Exp:

Kalyan Singh - 21st Sept 1997 to 12th Sep 1999
 Ramprakash Gupta - 12th Nov 1999 to 28th Oct 2000
 Rajnath Singh - 28th Oct 2000 to 8th Mar 2002
 Mayawati - 3rd May 2002 to 29th Aug 2003

50. Match the following Mrs World Winners -

- (a) 2021 1- Shaylyn Ford
 (b) 2020 2- Kate Schneider
 (c) 2019 3- Jennifer Lê

Options

- (A) a-1, b-2, c-3
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1
 (C) a-3, b-2, c-1
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: (A)

Exp:

2021 - Shaylyn Ford
 2020 - Kate Schneider
 2019 - Jennifer Lê

**"Leaders Are Innovative,
 Entrepreneurial, And Future-
 Oriented. They Focus On Getting
 The Job Done."**

**"The Future Belongs To The
 Competent. Get Good, Get Better,
 Be The Best!"**

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The Election Commission in collaboration with the Education Ministry has started the campaign 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye'. In context to the same tell us, The members of the Election Commission include_____.
- (A) Only the Chief Election Commissioner
 (B) One Chief Election Commissioner and three Election Commissioners
 (C) One Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners
 (D) One Chief Election Commissioner and one Election Commissioners

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Election Commission was made under the provision of Article 324 of the Indian Constitution.

Article 324 explains the supervision, direction, and control of elections to be conducted by the Election Commission in India.

It was established on 25 January 1950.

The commission consists of one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.

The secretariat of the commission is located in New Delhi.

The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.

They have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

2. India and Thailand strengthen ties at 10th Joint Commission meeting. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is NOT correctly matched?

- (A) East Asia Summit, 2020 - Singapore
 (B) G-20 Summit 2019 - Osaka
 (C) G-7 Summit, 2019 - Biarritz
 (D) East Asia Summit, 2019 – Bangkok

Ans: (A)

Exp: The East Asia Summit, 2020 was held virtually in Chennai due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The East Asia Summit had a focus on maritime security cooperation and tackling challenges in the maritime domain.

The summit was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with the governments of Australia and Indonesia.

East Asia Summit:

East Asia Summit a forum which is held annually by leaders of 18 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian regions. Its first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2005.

The countries in the East Asia Summit represents nearly 50 per cent of the world's population and over 20 per cent of global trade.

3. President Draupadi Murmu has appointed former SC judge Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar as the Chairperson of Lokpal. In context to the same tell us, according to the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 the Lokpal shall consist of maximum how many members including the Chairperson?

- (A) Three (B) Four
 (C) Nine (D) Five
 (C)

Ans:

Exp: THE LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS ACT, 2013

An Act to provide for the establishment of a body of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States to inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

It extends to the whole of India.

It shall apply to public servants in and outside India.

Appointment of Chairperson and Members on recommendations of Selection Committee.

The Chairperson and Members shall be appointed by the President after obtaining the recommendations of a Selection Committee consisting of the

Prime Minister—Chairperson;

the Speaker of the House of the People—Member;

the Leader of Opposition in the House of the People—Member;

the Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him—Member;

one eminent jurist, as recommended by the Chairperson and Members to be nominated by the President—Member

4. RBI is promoting financial literacy among the youth through its annual Financial Literacy Week (FLW) campaign. In context to the same tell us, What does FSDC Stands for?

(A) Financial Security and Development Corporation
 (B) Financial Stability and Development Council
 (C) Financial Stability and Development Convention
 (D) Financial Security Development Council

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) has been constituted vide GOI notification dated December 30, 2010.

The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and its members are:-

Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority and Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.

The Council deals, inter-alia, with issues relating to financial stability, financial sector development, inter-regulatory coordination, financial literacy, financial inclusion, and macro-prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.

No funds are separately allocated to the Council for undertaking its activities.

The Council and its Sub-Committee (chaired by the Governor, Reserve Bank of India) deliberate on agenda items proposed by any of the members of the Council which broadly include matters relating to financial stability, inter-regulatory coordination, and financial sector development.

5. The World Gold Council has recently appointed Sachin Jain as the new CEO for India. According to the recent report of the World Gold Council (WGC), what is the position of India in having the largest gold reserves with the current holding of 607 tonnes?

(A) 11th (B) 10th

(C) 12th (D) 13th
Ans: (A)

Exp: India ranked at 11th in gold reserves by the World Gold Council.

As per WGC, India has gold reserves totalling 618.2 tonnes, which is marginally higher than the Netherlands' reserves of 612.5 tonnes.

U.S. stands at first and leads the country list with total gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes.

International Monetary Fund is ranked third with a holding of 2,451.8 tonnes.

India's gold reserves have grown substantially in the past couple of decades from 357.8 tonnes in the first quarter of 2000 to the current 618.2 tonnes.

Pakistan stands at 45th position.

WGC Headquarters- United Kingdom
 CEO- David Tait.

President- David Harquail

6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of ISRO. In context to the same tell us, Country's second spaceport to launch small satellites is being developed in which state?

(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) Kerala
 (C) Karnataka (D) Tamil Nadu

Ans: (D)

Exp: Country's second spaceport started at Tuticorin in Tamilnadu.

The country's first spaceport is at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, about 90 km northeast of Chennai.

The new launch pad will mainly cater to launches of newly developed Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

Initially, the launches of the SSLV will be done from Sriharikota but once the second spaceport is completed, subsequent launches will be shifted there.

The advantages of the new spaceport include straight southward launches as the current rockets have to be maneuvered around Sri Lanka.

The TN spaceport will also be ideal for putting satellites in polar orbit through a PSLV.

7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.



In context to the same tell us, Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis powered by -

- (A) Energy from thermal power plant
- (B) Lead battery
- (C) Renewable sources of energy
- (D) Nuclear energy

Ans: (C)

Exp: Green Hydrogen

This technology is based on the generation of hydrogen — a universal, light and highly reactive fuel — through a chemical process known as electrolysis.

This method uses an electrical current to separate the hydrogen from the oxygen in water. If this electricity is obtained from renewable sources we will, therefore, produce energy without emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced by splitting water by electrolysis.

This produces only hydrogen and oxygen

8. Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III. In context to the same tell us, Which British monarch awarded knighthood to Rabindranath Tagore ?

- (A) George V
- (B) Queen Victoria
- (C) George VI
- (D) Edward VIII

Ans: (A)

Exp: George V awarded a knighthood to Rabindranath Tagore in 1915.

Rabindranath Tagore had renounced the British knighthood in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.

The returning of the knighthood was a symbolic rejection of the legitimacy of British rule in India.

Tagore also known by his sobriquets Gurudev, Kabiguru, and Biswakabi.

Rabindranath Tagore is the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

9. Lucknow Super Giants has appointed Nicholas Pooran as its vice-captain before IPL 2024. In context to the same tell us, which edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) was organised in the year 2023?

- (A) 13
- (B) 14
- (C) 12
- (D) 16

Ans: (D)

Exp: IPL 2023 was the 16th edition of India's premier T20 league.

Indian Premier League was conceptualized after India's landmark victory in the maiden ICC WT20 in 2007.

IPL has been a great platform for young talent to showcase their skills and rub shoulders with the best players in the world.

10. South American country Peru has declared a health emergency in view of the rapidly increasing cases of dengue fever. In context to the same tell us, The carrier for Dengue virus is

- (A) Female anopheles mosquito
- (B) Housefly
- (C) Female Aedes mosquito
- (D) Rodent

Ans: (C)

Exp: Dengue viruses are spread to people through the bites of infected Aedes species mosquitoes.

Its symptoms are nausea, vomiting, aches and pains, and rash. While vomiting blood, and bleeding from the nose or gums are symptoms of severe dengue.

It can be prevented by cleanliness and preventing oneself mosquito bites.

It can be cured by taking paracetamol and drinking fluids.

Note: Mosquitoes also cause chikungunya, malaria, Zika virus, West Nile virus, etc.

Thus, dengue is caused by Aedes mosquito.

11. Dr VK Paul launches National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024. In context to the same tell us, The birth defect where there is incomplete closing of the back bone and membrane around spinal chord is known as -

- (A) Spina Bifida
- (B) Spinal Chord Injury
- (C) Muscular Dystrophy
- (D) Multiple Sclerosis

Ans: (A)

Exp: Birth defects are the defects present in the child from the time of birth. It includes chromosomal as well as developmental defects.

Spina bifida is a condition that affects the spine and is usually apparent at birth. It is a type of neural tube defect (NTD). It develops when the neural tube doesn't close all the way, and the backbone that protects the spinal cord doesn't form and close.



Spinal cord injury- It is an injury to the spinal cord.

Muscular dystrophy - is a group of muscle diseases caused by mutations in a person's genes. Over time, muscle weakness decreases mobility, making everyday tasks difficult.

Multiple sclerosis- is a disease when the body's own immune system mistakenly attacks and damages the fatty material – called myelin – around the nerves.

12. Cabinet nod to 3 semiconductor plants, Tata Group to set up two. In context to the same tell us, Which special type of diode is capable of both amplification and oscillation?

(A) Point contact diode (B) Zener diode
(C) Junction diode (D) Tunnel diode

Ans: (D)

Exp: A tunnel diode, also known as an Esaki diode, is a special type of diode that exhibits a unique behavior called negative differential resistance. This characteristic makes it capable of both amplification and oscillation.

13. Government clears setting up of International Big Cat Alliance. In context to the same tell us, 'International Tiger Day' is celebrated on which day?

(A) 29th July (B) 13th May
(C) 23rd July (D) 15th May

Ans: (A)

Exp: International Tiger Day (also known as Global Tiger Day) is celebrated every year on 29th July to raise awareness about tiger conservation, promote the protection of the natural habitat of tigers, and support tiger conservation issues.

The annual day is celebrated with the slogan "Their survival is in our hands".

14. PM Modi underlined that the growth rate of 8.4 percent registered during the financial quarter from October to December 2023. In

context to the same tell us, National Income (Market Cost) - National Income (Factor Cost) =

(A) Revenue (B) Taxes
(C) Marked Price (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: The value of total produced goods and services i.e. national income of any economy is

calculated on either of the two parameters - 'factor cost' or the 'market cost'.

Before 2015 officially India calculated the national income at factor cost (however the data regarding market cost was also released) but after 2015, CSO has switched over to calculating it at market price (i.e., market cost).

The market price is calculated by adding the product taxes (both the state and central taxes) to the factor cost.

15. CSIR honours 12 scientists with Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize. In context to the same tell us, for outstanding contribution to which one of the following fields is Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize given?

(A) Literature (B) Performing Arts
(C) Science (D) Social Service

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given each year for outstanding contributions to science and technology.

This award is named after the founder Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) India, Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and is known as the 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize for Science and Technology'.

Prize Money: 5 lakhs rupees.

16. India halts Ravi River water flow to Pakistan. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following dams is built on the Ravi river?

(A) Bhakra Nangal Dam (B) Pandoh Dam
(C) Nathpa Jhakri Dam (D) Chamera Dam

Ans: (D)

Exp: Chamera Dam is built on the Ravi river. It is located near the town of Dalhousie, in the Chamba district in the state of Himachal Pradesh in India.

The reservoir of the dam is Chamera Lake.

17. Bharatanatyam exponent's film on Thanjavur temple launched in France. In context to the same tell us, Bharatanatyam is a classical dance of which state in southern India?

(A) Tamil Nadu (B) Kerala
(C) Karnataka (D) Andhra Pradesh

Ans: (A)

Exp: Bharatanatyam originated in Tamil Nadu.



Bharatanatyam is the oldest Indian classical dance and it originated hundreds of years ago in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

This dance form expresses the religious themes and spiritual ideas of South India.

The ancient Tamil epic Silappatikaram contains the description of Bharatanatyam.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi currently confers classical status on eight Indian classical dance styles: Bharatanatyam (Tamil Nadu), Kathak (North, West and Central India), Kathakali (Kerala), Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh), Odissi (Odissa), Manipuri (Manipur), Mohiniyattam (Kerala), and Sattriya (Assam).

18. India to send 4 relics of Buddha to Thailand. In context to the same tell us, At which of the following places did the Buddhist event known as 'Dharmachakrapravattan' take place?

(A) Lumbini (B) Kushinagar
(C) Sarnath (D) Bodh Gaya

Ans: (C)

Exp: Buddha gave his first preaching at Sarnath and this act is called Dharmachakrapravattan.

Buddha left home at the age of 29 to become a preacher.

The idea of renunciation came to him by the four states of man that are sick man, old man, a corpse, and ascetic.

He roamed for seven years and at the age of 35, he attained enlightenment in Bodh Gaya.

Then he gave his first sermon at Sarnath.

He died in 483 BC in Kushinagar.

19. Japan commits 232.2 billion yen for nine development projects in India. In context to India & Japan tell us, Malabar Naval Exercise is between India and which two other countries ?

(A) Britain and America
(B) America and Japan
(C) Britain and Japan
(D) America and Myanmar

Ans: (B)

Exp: Malabar Naval Exercise is held every year between India, Japan and the US alternately in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

It got its name by the Southwest coast of India.

It was started in the year 1992.

Initially, it was a bilateral agreement between India and the USA in 1992 but it converted into

a trilateral format after Japan was also included in 2015.

In the year 2020 for the first time, Australia also participated, and thus the name quad was given.

This exercise shows the strategic relationship between these four countries.

20. Malta becomes 119th country to join International Solar Alliance. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following has become the first country in European Union to legalize cannabis at home and for personal use?

(A) Cyprus (B) Greece
(C) Malta (D) Italy

Ans: (C)

Exp: Malta has become the first country in European Union to legalize cannabis at home and for personal use.

Under the new law, people aged 18 and above will be allowed to have up to 7 gms of cannabis and grow up to 4 plants at home.

However, consuming cannabis in public remains illegal and punishable by a 235 euro fine.

21. BSF sub-inspector Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force. In context to the same tell us, When is the Border Security Force Raising Day celebrated every year?

(A) 28 November (B) 29 November
(C) 30 November (D) 01 December

Ans: (D)

Exp: The Border Security Force celebrated its 57th Raising Day on 1 December 2021.

The BSF is now one of the largest border guarding armies in the world.

BSF Jammu is stationed on the Line of Control with the Indian Army and along 192 kilometers of the international border with Pakistan.

The Border Security Force (BSF), India's central armed police force, was established on December 1, 1965.

22. The Zoological Survey of India has named a new marine species of ruby red-spotted head-shield sea slug after Indian President Draupadi Murmu. In context to the same tell us, In Ocean, where is 'Benthos' found?

(A) At bottom of ocean
(B) At upper surface of ocean
(C) On, in, or near the seabed



(D) Along the shore

Ans: (C)

Exp: Benthos is all about those creatures which live on, in, or near the seabed like sea stars, sea squirts, sea slugs, corals, crabs, clams, whelks (sea snails), worms, sponges, urchins, and anemones.

At the very beginning of the edge of the ocean, benthos can find out easily.

It is very similar to the creatures of our rock pools and beaches at home so you can accept readily that The Antarctic creatures are similar to your rock pool.

Macrophytic angiosperms like mangrove trees, marsh grasses, and seagrasses are known as Benthos plants.

Macrophytic algae have green, red, and brown seaweeds, and the long-stemmed kelps, a type of brown algae.

Microphytic algae also include benthic species like diatoms, Cyanobacteria, and dinoflagellates.

23. Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched the AYUSH-ICMR. In context to the same tell us, Full form of ICMR is:

- (A) Indian Council of Mental Research
- (B) Indian Council of Medical Research
- (C) Indian Council of Medication Research
- (D) Indian Council of Meditation Research

Ans: (B)

Exp: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research.

Its mandate is to conduct, coordinate and implement medical research for the benefit of Society; translating medical innovations into products/processes and introducing them into the public health system.

In 1911, the Government of India set up the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) with the specific objective of sponsoring and coordinating medical research in the country.

It was redesignated as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 1949, considerably expanded scope of functions.

24. Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' was recently conducted between the Indian and Malaysian

navies. In context to the same tell us, MALABAR is a Naval exercise between India and which country?

- (A) Singapore
- (B) USA
- (C) China
- (D) Britain

Ans: (B)

Exp: Malabar series of exercises began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and US and gained further prominence with the joining of the navies of Australia and Japan.

Before 1998, when the Americans suspended exercises after India tested nuclear weapons, three exercises had been carried out.

The sea phase of MALABAR 22 was conducted over a period of five days near Yokosuka and witnessed live weapon firings, surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills and tactical procedures.

25. The Global Resources Outlook 2024 report was launched recently. In context to the same tell us, "World Economic Outlook" report is published by -

- (A) IMF
- (B) World Bank
- (C) UNCTAD
- (D) OECD

Ans: (A)

Exp: World Economic Outlook report is published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF was set up along with the World Bank in 1945 after the Second World War to assist in the reconstruction of war-ravaged countries.

They are known as the Bretton Woods twins.

India joined the IMF on December 27, 1945.

26. Justice Ritu Bahri has been appointed as the first woman Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court. In context to the same tell us, Jurisdiction of the Guwahati High Court includes?

- (A) Nagaland
- (B) Arunachal Pradesh
- (C) Assam
- (D) All of the above

Ans: (D)

Exp: A common High Court was established for the seven northeastern states according to the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.

The states are the following:-

Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram.

After the Government of India Act, 1956 was passed, The Guwahati High Court was

promulgated by the governor-general of India on 1 March 1948.

It established the High Court of Assam with effect from 5 April 1948.

The court was originally known as the High Court of Assam and Nagaland.

It was renamed as Gauhati High Court in 1971 by the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.

Sir R.F. Lodge was the first Chief Justice of the Assam High Court.

27. REC Limited has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond – Corporate Award. In context to the same tell us, GDP that takes into account the costs in terms of environmental pollution and exploitation of natural resources is called _____.

(A) White GDP (B) Green GDP
(C) Brown GDP (D) Blue GDP

Ans: (B)

Exp: Green GDP is a term used generally for expressing GDP after adjusting for environmental damage.

In other words, Green GDP is a monetization of the loss of biodiversity caused by climate change.

It is calculated by subtracting resource depletion, and environmental degradation from the traditional GDP figure.

It is very helpful for managing economies as well as resources.

It is expected to account for the use of natural resources as well as the costs involved.

28. Indian tourists visiting Eiffel Tower can now make UPI payments when booking tickets. In context to the same tell us, What is the full form of 'UPI' in banking terminology?

(A) Unified Personal Interface
(B) Unified Platforms Interface
(C) Unified Process Interface
(D) Unified Payments Interface

Ans: (D)

Exp: Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

It is an advanced version of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)- round-the-clock funds transfer service to make cashless payments faster, easier and smoother.

The UPI was launched in 2016 and is operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

UPI is currently the biggest among the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operated systems including National Automated Clearing House (NACH), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS), Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), RuPay, etc.

29. France has started the initiative to issue Digital Schengen visas. In context to the same tell us, which one of the following statements regarding an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) is not correct?

(A) An OCI is a citizen of another country.
(B) An OCI possesses multiple-entry long-term visa for visiting India.
(C) An OCI is at par with NRIs in all matters
(D) An OCI is not entitled to the fundamental right to equality of opportunity in public employment.

Ans: (C)

Exp: Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) refers all the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were citizens of India on 26th January 1950 or thereafter or were eligible to become citizens of India on 26th January 1950 except who is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify. A registered Overseas Citizen of India is entitled to general 'parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect of all facilities available to them in economic, financial and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties'.

However, OCI is not at par with NRIs in all the matters.

30. India shines at Grammy Awards; Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain Bag Best Global Music Album Grammy for 'This Moment'. In context to the same tell us, In February 2023, which edition of Grammy awards ceremony was held?

(A) 64th (B) 65th
(C) 66th (D) 67th

Ans: (B)



Exp: The Grammy Awards are the most prestigious and publicly praised awards given in the music industry.

This year (2023) the 65th Grammy Awards ceremony was held.

The 65th Grammy Awards were held at the Crypto.com arena in Los Angeles (Southern California).

This arena in particular can hold up to 13,000 people.

The first-ever Grammy awards ceremony was held in 1959 at the Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills. It was originally called the 'Gramophone awards' as signified by the gilded Gramophone trophies given to winners.

The awards are presented by the 'Recording Academy' in the United States of America.

31. Jyotiraditya M Scindia virtually inaugurated India's first green hydrogen plant in the stainless steel sector located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar (Haryana). In context to the same tell us, Bokaro steel plant was established in which year?

- (A) 1964 (B) 1982
(C) 1974 (D) 1993

Ans: (A)

Exp: Bokaro steel plant is located in the Bokaro district of Jharkhand.

It was established with the help of the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1964.

Production from this plant was started in 1964.

32. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated the Asian River Rafting Championship on the Sutlej River. In context to the same tell us, River Sutlej originates from which place?

- (A) Northern slopes of the Kailash range
(B) Spring at Verinarg
(C) Rakshastal Lake
(D) Amarkantak plateau

Ans: (C)

Exp: River Sutlej originates from Rakshastal Lake. Rakshastal Lake is located near Lake Manasarovar and Mount Kailash. Sutlej River is also known as Shatadru (Ancient name). River Sutlej is one of the major tributaries of Indus. Only tributary of Indus which originates from Tibet. Sutlej River enters India through Shipki La pass. The Bhakra-Nangal Dam is constructed

across the Sutlej river. The Indira Gandhi canal is situated on the Sutlej river.

33. Before IPL 2024, Sunrisers Hyderabad has appointed Pat Cummins as the new captain of its team. Which of the following teams won the Indian Premier League title five times?

- (A) Sunrisers Hyderabad
(B) Mumbai Indians
(C) Rajasthan Royals
(D) Kolkata Knight Riders
(B)

Ans: (B)

Exp: A men's T20 franchise cricket league in India is known as Indian Premier League.

Ten teams representing seven Indian cities and three Indian states compete in it every year.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) established the league in 2007.

IPL's current chairman is Arun Singh Dhumal.

It typically takes place in India's warm months of March through May and has a special window in the ICC Future Tours Programme.

Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings are the most successful teams in the history of the league in terms of titles won with five.

34. Shehbaz Sharif took oath as the 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan. In context to the same tell us, Most of the Pakistan population belongs to which of the following sect?

- (A) Catholic (B) Malays
(C) Sunni (D) Shia
(C)

Ans: (C)

Exp: According to Article 2 of the Constitution, Islam is recognized as Pakistan's official religion. Approximately 96.47% of the people in the nation practice it.

Less than 4% of people practice various religions, including Sikhism, Ahmadiyya, Hinduism, and Christianity.

There are several different Muslim sects the majority practice Sunni Islam (85–90%), while the minority follow Shia Islam (10–15%).

35. Tripura's tribal attire 'Risa' has also been given GI tag. In context to the same tell us, _____ is a major festival of Tripura wherein the deity of livestock and wealth is worshipped.

- (A) Lampra Puja (B) Ker Puja
(C) Kharchi Puja (D) Garia Puja
(D)

Ans: (D)



Exp: Garia Puja Festival -
It is a major festival in Tripura, held on the last day of the month of Chaitra. Celebrated as a harvest festival by the ethnic tribes - Tripuris and Reangs. In this festival, the Garia dance is also performed.

A bamboo pole that symbolizes the Lord Garia, the deity of livestock and wealth, is worshipped with flowers and garland. The main ingredients with which the Garia Puja is conducted are cotton thread, rice, riccha, fowl chick, rice beer, wine, earthen pots, eggs and wine. The fowl is sacrificed before the deity and the blood of the fowl is strewn before the Lord to get his blessing. This puja is held in the seventh day of the month of Baisakh (April) for 7 days

36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India Energy Week 2024 in Goa. In context to the same tell us, which one of the following energy crops can be cultivated for ethanol?

- (A) Jatropha (B) Maize
(C) Pongamia (D) Sunflower

Ans: (B)

Exp: The plant species generally used for ethanol production in India are - Maize, sugarcane, corn grain, etc.

Since maize is easily available and less costly, it makes a good choice for ethanol production.

Following crops are used in ethanol production and are therefore termed as 'Ethanol crops':

Sugary crops ⇒ These include sugarcane, sugarbeet, rotten fruits, and molasses.

Starchy crops ⇒ These include crops such as sorghum, switchgrass, barley, hemp, potatoes, sweet potatoes, cassava, etc.

Cellulosic crops ⇒ These include wood, straw, cotton, etc.

37. Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone of the country's first Digital National Museum of Epigraphy. In context to the same tell us, what is Epigraphy?

- (A) The study of coins
(B) The study of Epics
(C) The study of Inscriptions
(D) None of these

Ans: (C)

Exp: Epigraphy "inscription", is the study of inscriptions, or epigraphs, as writing; it is the

science of identifying graphemes, clarifying their meanings, classifying their uses according to dates and cultural contexts, and drawing conclusions about the writing and the writers.

38. BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 is being organized in New Delhi. In context to the same tell us, BIMSTEC - a regional organization came into being after _____.

- (A) Bangkok Declaration
(B) Geneva Declaration
(C) Kyoto Declaration
(D) Helsinki Declaration

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.

It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.

39. The Ministry of Culture is preparing mapping and documentation of all the villages under the "Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar" programme. In context to the same tell us, which Ministry is associated with the 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar'?

- (A) Union Culture Ministry
(B) Union Finance Ministry
(C) Union External Ministry
(D) Union Corporate Ministry

Ans: (A)

Exp: Union Home Minister is set to inaugurate a distinctive program called 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' as a significant component of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. This initiative falls under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping and is spearheaded by the Ministry of Culture. The main objective of the project is to culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages, spanning 29 states and 7 union territories, on a comprehensive virtual platform.

Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has presented the Uniform Civil Code in the



Assembly. In context to the same tell us, where is mentioned Uniform Civil Code in the Constitution of India?

- (A) Part III (B) DPSP
(C) Part II (D) Part VII

Ans: (B)

Exp: Uniform Civil Code is mentioned in Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) of Part IV of the Indian Constitution.

41. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first underwater metro in Kolkata. In context to the same tell us, which of the following city was first to get a metro rail system?

- (A) Chennai (B) Kolkata
(C) Mumbai (D) Delhi

Ans: (B)

Exp: Metro Railway, Kolkata is the first underground Metro in India.

Metro services in Kolkata began on 24 October 1984.

It ran between Esplanade and Bhowanipur (currently Netaji Bhawan) covering a distance of 3.40 km.

The first metro was driven by Tapan Kumar Nath and Sanjoy Sil.

The foundation stone of the Kolkata Metro project was laid by Indira Gandhi, on 29 December 1972, and construction work started in 1973–74.

Physical construction work on the Delhi Metro started on 1 October 1998.

42. Union Minister Anurag inaugurated Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0. In context to the same tell us, The first Khelo India University Games were organised in which of the following states?

- (A) Assam (B) Punjab
(C) Haryana (D) Odisha

Ans: (D)

Exp: Khelo India University Games (2020)

After the resounding success of the Khelo India School Games in 2018 and the Youth Games in 2019 and 2020, for the very first time, the Khelo India University Games were held in 2020 in Odisha.

It was held in the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Odisha.

This was the largest ever competition held at the university level in India.

There were a total of 17 sports being held in 11

43. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first small scale LNG unit set up by GAIL. In context to the same tell us, In which place is India's first LNG terminal located?

- (A) Gujarat (B) West Bengal
(C) Odisha (D) Kerala

Ans: (A)

Exp: Petronet LNG Limited had set up India's first LNG receiving and regasification terminal in Dahej, Gujarat.

The Dahej terminal has a nominal capacity of 17.5 million tonnes per year (equivalent to 70 million cubic meters per day of natural gas at standard conditions).

The terminal has 6 LNG storage tanks and other vaporization facilities.

The terminal is meeting around 40% of the total gas demand of the country.

The terminal is also offering tolling services to Offtakers & Bulk customers.

To cater to the small customers who are not having gas pipeline connectivity, Dahej is supplying LNG to such customers which are transported through cryogenic trucks.

Petronet LNG Ltd is an Indian oil and gas company formed by the government of India to import liquefied natural gas.

44. NLC India Green Energy Limited secures 600 MW solar power project with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited. In context to the same tell us, In solar panel, energy conversion is from _____

- to _____
(A) Solar, electrical (B) Heat, light
(C) Electrical, light (D) Electrical, magnetic

Ans: (A)

Exp: Solar energy is the energy from the sun that is captured by solar panels and converted into electrical energy.

The process of energy conversion in a solar panel involves photovoltaic cells that absorb sunlight and release electrons, which are then captured as electrical energy.

Electrical energy is the form of energy that can be used to power homes, buildings, and other electrical devices.

Solar energy is a renewable source of energy that is becoming increasingly popular as a way to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.



Electrical energy is a versatile form of energy that can be used for a wide range of applications, from powering homes and businesses to charging electric vehicles.

Heat energy can be used for heating buildings and water.

Light energy is a form of electromagnetic radiation that includes visible light, ultraviolet light, and infrared radiation.

It is used in a wide range of applications, from lighting to communication technologies.

45. Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has launched the State Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme. In context to the same tell us, Which Article of the Constitution of India safeguards one's right to marry the person of one's choice?

(A) Article 19 (B) Article 21
(C) Article 25 (D) Article 29

Ans: (B)

Exp: In the Lata Singh vs. State of Uttar Pradesh case, the Supreme Court viewed the right to marry as a component of right to life under Article 21 of Indian Constitution.

Article 21 states that "No person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except according to procedure established by law".

Article 19 embodies the "basic freedoms" such as protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc

Article 25 says "all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health."

Article 29 of Indian Constitution grants protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities.

46. Recently the Government of Iran has announced visa-free service for Indian citizens. In context to the same tell us, As per Section 5 of the Citizenship Act, a person of Indian origin must normally reside in India for how many years before applying for registration?

(A) 7 years (B) 4 Years
(C) 3 years (D) 1 year

Ans: (A)

Exp: Under the Citizenship Act 1955, there are five ways to attain citizenship in India -
(1) By birth

- (2) By Descent/By hereditary
(3) By Registration
(4) By Naturalisation
(5) By Incorporation of Territory

The citizenship act of 1955 prescribes three ways of losing citizenship.

One of them is, if the citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for 7 years continuously.

South Eastern Railway (SER) has joined hands with Tata Steel for the development of rail infrastructure. In context to the same tell us, The Headquarters of South-Eastern Railway is located at -

- (A) Bilaspur (B) Secunderabad
(C) Kolkata (D) Bhubaneswar
(C)

Ans:

Exp: Currently, there are 19 operational railway zones.

The current CEO of Indian Railways is Jaya Verma Sinha.

The Headquarters of South-Eastern Railway is located at Garden Reach, Kolkata.

South-Eastern Railway: -

It is divided into 5 divisions.

Sri. Sanjay Mohanty is the General Manager of the zone.

The headquarters of South East Central Railway is located at Bilaspur.

The headquarters of South Central Railway is located at Secunderabad.

The headquarters of East Coast Railway is located at Bhubaneswar.

48. 'Divya Kala Mela 2024' is being organized in Agartala, Tripura. In context to the same tell us, The largest fair/tribal festival in South India is -

- (A) Kumbha Mela
(B) Sammakka Saralamma Jatara
(C) Kharchi Festival
(D) Gangaji Fair

Ans: (B)

Exp: Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is a Hindu tribal deity festival observed in the Indian state of Telangana.

This Jatara is famous for hosting one of the world's biggest gatherings of people.

People offer Bangaram: The Jatara starts in Medaram, Tadvai Mandala, Mulugu district.

Saralamma Sammakka Jatara recalls the battle of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and



Saralamma, against an unfair legislation with the governing monarchs.

49. Haryana State Government has approved the construction of 800 MW Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is NOT an example of an energy substitute as a measure for energy conservation?

(A) Replacement of electric heaters by steam heaters
 (B) Replacement of steam-based hot water by solar systems
 (C) Replacement of coal by coconut shells, rice husk, etc.
 (D) Replacement of wind power by thermal power

Ans:

(D)

Exp:

There are two sources of energy:

1.) Conventional sources of energy:

The sources of energy that are present for a limited time and will get exhausted with the passage of time are known as conventional sources of energy.

Example - Coal, Fossil Fuel, Petrol, etc.

2.) Non-conventional sources of energy:

The sources of energy that are present in large amounts in nature and will not get exhausted with the passage of time are known as non-conventional sources of energy.

Example - Wind, sunlight, hydro-energy, etc.

Therefore, all the coal or steam-based power plants, system, or equipment must be replaced with non-conventional sources of energy.

50. Justice Vijay Bishnoi has recently taken oath as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court. In context to the same tell us, In which year Bombay High Court was established?

(A) 1962 (B) 1861
 (C) 1862 (D) 1961

Ans:

(C)

Exp:

The Bombay High Court was inaugurated on 14th August 1862.

The Legal history of Bombay may be said to have begun in 1661, when it became a British possession.

Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta High Courts were established by the Indian High Courts Act of 1861.

It was in 1858 when on the recommendation of the Law Commission, the Parliament passed the Indian High Courts Act 1861 which suggested the establishment of High Courts in place of Supreme Court in three Presidencies: Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay.

51. Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched government think tank NITI Aayog's platform 'NITI For States'. In context to the same tell us, 'NITI' in NITI Aayog stands for -

(A) National Index of Transcending Indian
 (B) National Institute of Transforming India
 (C) National Institution for Tracking Indians
 (D) National Institution for Transforming India
 (B)

Ans:

NITI Aayog:

Exp:

Full Form is National Institution for Transforming India.

NITI Aayog is not a constitutional body.

It was established on January 1, 2015.

It is formed in place of the Planning Commission.

The ex-officio president of this is the Prime Minister.

It is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.

52. Egypt has devalued its currency for the fourth time since the beginning of 2022. In context to the same tell us, What is the currency of Egypt?

(A) Euro (B) Pound
 (C) Dollar (D) Dinar

Ans:

(B)

Exp:

The currency of Egypt is the Egyptian Pound which is divided into 100 piastres.

It is abbreviated as LE which means livre egyptienne (French for Egyptian pound).

Cairo is the capital of Egypt and Arabic is its official language.

Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is the present President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

53. NPCI joins hands with IISc for joint research on blockchain, AI tech. In context to the same tell us, When was the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) incorporated?

(A) 2008 (B) 2014
 (C) 2015 (D) 2012

Ans:

(A)



Exp: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was incorporated in 2008 as an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

An initiative of RBI and IBA under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, NPCI was initiated for creating a robust payment and settlement infrastructure in the country.

54. In the National Youth Parliament Mahotsav, 2024, Yatin Bhaskar Duggal of Haryana won the first prize. In context to the same tell us, 26th National Youth Festival took place in which of the following city?

- (A) Mysuru (B) Hubballi
(C) Bengaluru (D) Kalaburagi

Ans: (B)

Exp: Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 26th National Youth Festival in Hubballi, Karnataka on Jan 12, 2023

The Festival was held on National Youth Day, which is celebrated on birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The festival is held every year to provide exposure to talented youth at national level.

The theme of festival is "Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat".

Festival also witnessed Youth Summit.

It brings diverse cultures from all parts of the country on a common platform and unites the participants in the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

55. Indian Navy has established its new base "INS Jatayu" in Minicoy Island of Lakshadweep. In context to the same tell us, The Minicoy Island of Lakshadweep was part of which neighbouring country of India?

- (A) Sri Lanka (B) Indonesia
(C) Myanmar (D) Maldives

Ans: (D)

Exp: Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands- Lakshadweep are the northernmost islands among the Lakshadweep-Maldives-Chagos group.

These islands are actually the tops of a vast undersea mountain (Chagos-Laccadive) Range in the Indian Ocean.

RBI did not make any change in the repo rate for the sixth consecutive time. In context to the same tell us, What is a 'Repo Rate'?

- (A) Is the rate at which RBI lends to State Government
(B) Is the rate at which International aid agencies lends to RBI
(C) Is the rate at which the RBI lends to Banks in case of short maturity
(D) Is the rate at which RBI borrows funds from the Commercial Banks in the country

Ans: (C)

Exp: Repo rate is the rate at which the central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India in the case of India) lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds. Repo rate is used by monetary authorities to control inflation.

57. India's Foreign Minister Dr. S Jaishankar will address the inaugural session of the 7th Indian Ocean Conference. In context to the same tell us, which Indian Ocean island nations was declared a state of environmental emergency due to oil spill from a grounded ship in 2020?

- (A) Maldives
(B) Mauritius
(C) Madagascar
(D) Sri Lanka

Ans: (B)

Exp: A Japanese bulk-carrier ship MV Wakashio which was carrying fuel oil has split into two parts near Blue Bay Marine Park in southeast Mauritius. The ship was already leaking and had caused an oil spill of over 1000 tonnes in the Indian Ocean. The vessel has broken near Pointe d'esny in Mauritius and the area has many environmentally sensitive zones.

The oil spill threatens the ecology of the coastline of Mauritius and the marine life in the Indian Ocean.

It endangers the already endangered coral reefs, seagrasses in the shallow waters, mangroves, the fishes, and other aquatic fauna.

58. Naveen Tahilyani has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Tata Digital. In context to the same tell us, Sanjiv Chadha is the Managing director (MD) and CEO of which bank?

- (A) Bank of Baroda
(B) Bank of India
(C) Bank of Maharashtra



(D) Indian Bank

Ans: (A)

Exp: The government has extended the tenure of managing director (MD) and CEO of Bank of Baroda (BoB) Sanjiv Chadha till June 2023. His three-year tenure ended in January 2023. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services for extending the term of Chadha. The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), recommended Union Bank of India ED Rajneesh Karnatak for the position of MD & CEO in Bank of India.

59. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme. In context to the same tell us, Which organization of Rajasthan has launched the campaign 'Aayog Aapke Dwar'?

(A) Rajasthan State Child Commission
(B) Department of Financial Services
(C) Rajasthan Export Promotion Council
(D) Information and Public Relations Department

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Second Phase of the 'Aayog Aapke Dwar' Campaign was launched by Rajasthan State Child Commission. Rajasthan State Child Commission is an attached office under the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Rajasthan. The campaign was launched in March 2021 from Tonk by Rajasthan State Child Commission. 'Aayog Aapke Dwar' campaign is essential to raise awareness about crimes against children.

60. Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda has recently launched 'SARATHI Portal'. In context to the same tell us, The Zabo system of rice cultivation is an indigenous method of water harvesting practiced in which state?

- (A) Kerala (B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Nagaland (D) Karnataka

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Zabo system of rice cultivation is an indigenous method of water harvesting practiced in Nagaland. The way of doing rural farming 'Zabo' exists in Nagaland.

'Zabo', which means impounding water, is an ingenious method of catching rainwater from running off the mountains.

It involves the preservation of forests on the hilltops as they are the catchment for the water. At the next level are the ponds dug out to hold rainwater, which is brought there through small channels.

The zabo is the chosen water harvesting system of the Chakhesang tribals of Nagaland's Kikruma village.

Placed by fate in the rain shadow of a mountain receives 1,613 mm of average annual rainfall.

61. Agricultural scientist Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan will be conferred the prestigious Bharat Ratna award. In context to the same tell us, Green revolution is related to which crop?

- (A) Production of milk
(B) Production of jute
(C) Production of coffee
(D) Production of wheat

Ans: (D)

Exp: Green Revolution refers to a period when Indian agriculture was converted into an industrial system due to the adoption of modern methods and technologies such as the use of High Yielding Variety Seeds, irrigation facilities, pesticides, and fertilizers.

M.S. Swaminathan is considered the "Father of Green Revolution" in India.

HYV seeds were developed by Prof. Norman Borlaug.

The term Green Revolution was first used by William Gaud and Norman Borlaug is the Father of the Green Revolution in the world.

It commenced in 1965 that led to an increase in food grain production (most useful for wheat production), especially in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

62. The World Government Summit 2024 will be organized in Dubai between 12-14 February. In context to the same tell us, Where was the 6th World Government Summit held?

- (A) Dubai (B) Germany
(C) US (D) Russia

Ans: (A)

Exp: PM Modi addressed the 6th World Government Summit, at which India is 'Guest of Honour', at Dubai. This was the PM Modi's second visit to

United Arab Emirate. World Govt Summit is an annual event held in Dubai that brings together leaders in govt for a global dialogue about governmental process & policies with a focus on issues of futurism, technology & innovation, as well as other topics.

63. One Nation One Election committee holds consultation meeting with AAP and RPI. In context to the same tell us, In which year simultaneous elections both for Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies were not held?

(A) 1952 (B) 1971
(C) 1957 (D) 1962

Ans: (B)

Exp: The committee noted that the first general election to the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies were held simultaneously in 1951-52.

The practice continued in three subsequent General Elections held in the years 1957, 1962, and 1967.

This cycle got disrupted with the dissolution of some Legislative Assemblies in 1968 and 1969. In 1970, the Lok Sabha was itself dissolved prematurely and fresh elections were held in 1971.

The committee said it is of the view that the idea of 'One Nation, One Election' or simultaneous elections is not new to the country as the first three Lok Sabha elections in 1952, 1957 and 1962 were held simultaneously only.

It can be brought into the mainstream with suitable amendments to the Constitution.

64. Maharashtra signs MoU with Google for harnessing AI. In context to technology tell us, A search engine is an ordered list of ____.

(A) Answers (B) Directories
(C) Web pages (D) Networks

Ans: (C)

Exp: A search engine is a web-based tool that enables users to locate information on the World Wide Web. Popular examples of search engines are Google, Yahoo!, and MSN Search. Search engines utilize automated software applications (referred to as robots, bots, or spiders) that travel along with the Web, following links from page to page, site to site. The information gathered by the spiders is used to create a searchable index of the Web.

65. SAFF U-19 Women's Championship: India, Bangladesh share trophy after lot of drama. In context to the same tell us, With which of the following sports is Black Pearl associated?

(A) Snooker (B) Golf
(C) Soccer (D) Horse Racing

Ans: (C)

Exp: Black Pearl:

Pele is a Brazilian football (soccer) player, in his time probably the most famous and possibly the best-paid athlete in the world.

He was part of the Brazilian national teams that won three World Cup championships (1958, 1962, and 1970).

He is honored with the tag of Black Pearl.

Pele was the recipient of the International Peace Award in 1978.

In 1980 he was named Athlete of the Century by the French sports publication L'Equipe, and he received the same honour in 1999 from the International Olympic Committee.

66. India and Japan Coast Guard conducted joint exercise in Chennai. In context to the same tell us, in which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20?

(A) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
(B) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
(C) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
(D) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

Ans: (A)

Exp: G20 is an international forum for global economic cooperation.

It has 20 members, and these countries are as follows-

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Union.

G20 members account for 85 per cent of the world economy, 75 per cent of global trade, and two-thirds of the world's population.

G20 was formed in 1999 and its present chairman is Narendra Modi.



67. Rhythm Sangwan secured India's 16th quota place in Shooting for Paris. In context to the same tell us, Hina Sindhu is related to which sport?

(A) Shooting (B) Archery
(C) Lifting (D) Boxing

Ans: (A)

Exp: Heena Sidhu brought India's name to fame by getting India a gold medal in 25m air pistol shooting during the Commonwealth Games. Hina is a dentist by profession, but her passion for shooting is family. Many records are also recorded in his name, as well as he has been honored with Arjuna Award.

68. 'MILAN 2024' Naval Exercise to commence in Visakhapatnam. In context to the same tell us, When did the naval mutiny take place in British India ?

(A) 1946 (B) 1944
(C) 1933 (D) 1942

Ans: (A)

Exp: On February 18, 1946, some 1,100 Indian sailors or "ratings" of the HMIS Talwar and the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Signal School in Bombay declared a hunger strike, triggered by the conditions and treatment of Indians in the Navy. The mutiny started as a strike by the ratings to protest against the hardships regarding pay, food and racial discrimination.

On the same night, a Naval Central Strike committee was created by the Ratings. This committee was presided by Signalman M.S Khan and the Vice president was Petty Officer Telegraphist Madan Singh.

69. Rural Ministry partners with SBI for SHG loans. In context to the same tell us, The Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been set in India with an aim to help the rural poor, especially

(A) Unemployed Youth
(B) Woman
(C) Children
(D) Senior citizen

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been set in India with an aim to help the rural poor, especially women.

A typical Self Help Group comprises 15-20 people from the same neighbourhood who save

some money from their daily wages and collect them together.

A typical SHG has 15-20 members, usually belonging to one neighbourhood, who meet and save regularly.

70. Chennai hosted World Tamil Diaspora Day celebrations. In context to the same tell us, To which country V O C Swadeshi Company operates shipping from Tuticorin ?

(A) Mauritius (B) Singapore
(C) Sri Lanka (D) Malasiya

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company at Thoothukudi was established by V.O. Chidambaranar in 1906.

V.O.C. registered a joint stock company called The Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNC)

They started with a capital of Rs 10 Lakh, divided into 40,000 shares of Rs. 25 each.

Shares were open only to Indians, Ceylonese and other Asian nationals

He purchased two ships Gallia and Lavo and plied them between Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu) and Colombo (Sri Lanka).

When in other parts of India, the response to Swadeshi was limited to symbolic gestures of making candles and bangles.

71. Maldives requests India's troop withdrawal by March 15. In context to the same tell us, An Island nation Maldives, is located in -

(A) Pacific ocean (B) Atlantic ocean
(C) Southern ocean (D) Indian ocean

Ans: (D)

Exp: The Maldives is a small island nation in South Asia and situated to the south of the Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea of the Indian Ocean.

Maldivian's capital city is Male and the currency is the Maldivian rufiyaa.

Maldivian is a democratic republic whereby the President is the Head of Government. Currently, President of Maldivian is Mohamed Muizzu.

Maldivian is a member country of SAARC.

72. Himalayan Wolf classified as 'Vulnerable' on IUCN Red List. In context to the same tell us, what is the scientific name of Himalayan Wolf?

(A) Canis lupus chanco (B) Equus quagga



(C) Columbidae (D) Cercopithecidae
Ans: (A)

Exp: The Himalayan wolf (Scientific Name - *Canis lupus chanco*) is a canine of debated taxonomy. This very wolf *Canis lupus chanco* or *Canis lupus laniger* later became known as the Tibetan wolf. Many other names exist: the Himalayan wolf or even the Mongolian wolf.

73. 'Bhishm,' a 25T Bollard Pull Tug, launched in 'Make in India' triumph. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is an Indian made tank?

(A) Ajay (B) Arjun
 (C) Bheeshma (D) Sarath

Ans: (B)

Exp: Arjun is an indigenous main battle tank of the Indian army.

The Arjun Main Battle Tank project was initiated by DRDO in 1972 with the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) as its lead laboratory. Mass production began in 1996 at the Indian Ordnance Factory's production facility in Avadi, Tamil Nadu.

It also has a computer-controlled integrated fire control system with a stabilized sighting that works in all lighting conditions.

The Mk-1A version has 14 major upgrades on the earlier version.

74. Global Water Crisis Report highlighted heavy heat and climate impact. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is considered as major source of pollution in rivers of India ?

(A) Unregulated small scale industry
 (B) Agricultural run-off
 (C) Untreated sewage
 (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: Untreated sewage refers to wastewater which contains harmful waterborne pathogens and bacteria and which has not yet gone through a sewage treatment plant.

Water pollution is a major environmental issue in India. The largest source of water pollution in India is untreated sewage.

75. Ritu Goswami approved as Director (Technical) of RCF Ltd. In context to the same tell us,

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited is a

(A) Navratna Company
 (B) Mini Ratna Company
 (C) Maha Ratna Company
 (D) Public Sector Unit

Ans: (B)

Exp: RCF is a 'Mini Ratna' company and is a leading producer of fertilizers and chemicals in the country. It is under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

It manufactures urea, complex fertilizers, bio-fertilizers, micro-nutrients, water soluble fertilizers, soil conditioners and a wide range of Industrial Chemicals.

The company is a household name in rural India with brands 'Ujjwala' (Urea) and 'Suphala' (Complex Fertilizers).

76.

Maldives requests India's troop withdrawal by March 15. In context to the same tell us, which of the following operations was undertaken by Indian Airforce against Maldives coup who want to overthrow the government in the island republic of Maldives?

(A) Operation Vijay (B) Operation Meghdoot
 (C) Operation Poomalai (D) Operation Cactus

Ans: (D)

Exp: Operation cactus took place in 1988.

It was against the Maldivian group led by Abdullah Luthufi who wanted to overthrow the government in the Maldives.

The group was aided by armed mercenaries of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), a Sri Lankan Tamil secessionist organization.

77.

Oxford launched first human vaccine trials for deadly Nipah virus. In context to the same tell us, Nipah henipavirus is a _____ borne virus

(A) Water (B) Bat
 (C) Air (D) Housefly

Ans: (B)

Exp: Nipah virus is a bat-borne, zoonotic virus that causes Nipah virus infection in humans and other animals, a disease with a very high mortality rate (40-75%). Numerous disease outbreaks caused by Nipah virus have occurred in South East Africa and Southeast Asia.



78. Indian Army launched Operation Sarvashakti in Jammu and Kashmir. In context to the same tell us, name the operation which was carried out Indian Armed Forces in 2015 to flush out the terrorist from the country especially from Kashmir region.

(A) Operation Black Tornado
(B) Operation Sarp Vinash
(C) Operation All Out
(D) Operation Pawan

Ans: (C)

Exp: Operation All Out - 2015 - This operation was launched to flush out the militants from Kashmir.

Indian Army operations in Jammu and Kashmir include security operations such as Operation Rakshak, which began in 1990, Operation Sarp Vinash in 2003 and Operation Randori Behak in 2020.

Other operations include humanitarian missions such as Operation Megh Rahat and operations with a social aim such as Operation Goodwill and Operation Calm Down. The Indian Army works in tandem with the other arms of the Indian Armed Forces and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir such as during Mission Sahayata or joint operations.

79. M J Akbar and Natwar Singh launch "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaign". In context to Mahatma Gandhi tell us, when did Gandhi Ji win Nobel Peace Prize?

(A) 1937 (B) 1947
(C) 1939 (D) Never

Ans: (D)

Exp: Gandhi Ji never won Nobel peace Prize although Gandhi was nominated in 1937, 1938, 1939, 1947, and, finally, a few days before he was assassinated in January 1948.

80. PM Modi paid tributes to Saint Thiruvalluvar on Thiruvalluvar Day. In context to the same tell us, According to Thiruvalluvar “___” is the basic foundation of The state

(A) People’s-welfare (B) Kings welfare
(C) Military (D) Welfare of the few

Ans: (A)

Exp: The political ideas advocated by Valluvar in porutpal highly circumvent morals and noble principles.

“People’s-welfare” is the basic foundation of his contribution.

Valluvar’s contribution to politics is applicable to the present democratic governance for the welfare of all the people.

81. INOX inks MoU with Maharashtra for \$3 Billion Green Ammonia Plant. In context to the same tell us, For the production of which of the following is the 'Haber Process' used?

(A) Ammonia (B) Nitrates
(C) Potash (D) Urea

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Haber Process -

The Haber Process is used in the manufacturing of ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen and then goes on to explain the reasons for the conditions used in the process.

The process combines nitrogen from the air with hydrogen derived mainly from natural gas (methane) into ammonia.

The reaction is reversible and the production of ammonia is exothermic.

82. Malayalam Music director K J Joy passed away at 77. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is NOT a Dravidian language?

(A) Telugu (B) Malayalam
(C) Sanskrit (D) Kannada

Ans: (C)

Exp: Sanskrit is not a Dravidian language.

Dravidian languages are a family of around 70 languages mainly spoken in South Asia.

The Dravidian languages are split into groups in the South, South-Middle Central, and North, these groups are further split into 24 subgroups.

The Constitution of India acknowledges the four major literary languages: Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada.

83. Abhijit Mitra inaugurates meeting of animal husbandry & dairying. In context to the same tell us, Methylene Blue Reduction Test (MBRT) is conducted to know the efficiency of -

(A) Toned milk (B) Skimmed milk
(C) Sterilized milk (D) Pasteurized milk

Ans: (D)

Exp: Methylene Blue Dye Reduction Test, commonly known as MBRT test is used as a quick method to assess the microbiological quality of raw and pasteurized milk.

The Methylene Blue Reduction Test is based on the fact that in the presence of oxygen the methylene blue solution forms blue color, and it will lose the color as the oxygen is depleted. The bacteria present in the milk will ferment lactose (milk sugar) to form lactic acid, during this fermentation process the oxygen is used up, which causes in depletion of oxygen in milk, and electrons are released. These electrons react with the methylene blue solution. As a result, it decolorizes the methylene blue.

84. Delhi govt banned plying of BS-III petrol, BS-IV diesel four-wheelers. In context to the same tell us, 'Bharat Stage Emission Standards' refers to -

(A) Industrial pollution
(B) Water pollution
(C) Vehicular pollution
(D) Soil pollution

Ans: (C)

Exp: Bharat stage emission standards (BSES) are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engines and Spark - ignition engines equipment, including motor vehicles. The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change.

85. Yogesh Singh won gold in men's 25m pistol event at Asian Shooting Championship. In context to sports tell us, which country has won the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 held on 03 April 2022?

(A) England (B) Pakistan
(C) India (D) Australia

Ans: (D)

Exp: Australia was crowned the winner of the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, on 3 April 2022.

This was their seventh title.

Australia defeated England in the final by 71 runs at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Alyssa Healy became the first batter in the history of the game to hit a hundred in the semi-final and the final of the World Cup.

86. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Asia's largest aviation expo, Wings India 2024. In context to the same tell us, which country released the "Sustainable Green Airports Mission"?

(A) India (B) Sri Lanka
(C) Bangladesh (D) New Zealand

Ans: (A)

Exp: On World Environment Day, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) unveiled a publication called the "Sustainable Green Airports Mission". This booklet highlights the sustainability measures undertaken by the AAI and becoming carbon neutral, in line with the Panchamrit goals declared by the Prime Minister of India at COP26.

87. Indian captain Rohit Sharma has scored his fifth century in T20 International. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following award is called the Oscar of cricket

(A) ICC Prize (B) Wisden Awards
(C) cet award (D) CK Naidu Award

Ans: (A)

Exp: ICC The award is called the Oscar of cricket. These awards are given in 10 categories.

88. Rear Admiral Shantanu Jha has been appointed as the Chief Staff Officer (Operations). In context to the same tell us, Admiral _____ assumed command of the Indian Navy on 31 May 2019 as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff.

(A) Bipin Rawat (B) Karambir Singh
(C) Sunil Lanba (D) Bimal Verma

Ans: (B)

Exp: Admiral Karambir Singh assumed command of the Indian Navy on 31 May 2019 as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff.

General Bipin Rawat is the 27th Chief of Army Staff. He assumed charge on 31 December 2016. Admiral Sunil Lanba served as the 23rd Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy.

Vice Admiral Bimal Verma is the Commander in Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the 25th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.

89. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a series of commemorative postage stamps dedicated to



the Ram temple in Ayodhya. In context to the same tell us, For the first time, postage stamps were released in which of the following reign?

- (A) Lord Ripon (B) Lord Lytton
(C) Lord Dalhousie (D) Lord Canning

Ans: (C)

Exp: Lord Dalhousie started the postage stamps in India in 1854 which gave Indians a new way to communicate through postcards in those years. However, it was a step to make the British Empire efficient in terms of fast communication during the struggle for freedom.

He served as governor-general of India from 1848-1856.

The first attempt towards railway construction in India was made by Lord Dalhousie in 1853 AD. It was laid between Bombay to Thane at the time of Dalhousie.

90. For the first time in India, a boat running on solar energy will be operated in the Saryu river in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. In context to the same tell us, Solar cells are made of -

- (A) Conductor
(B) Non conductor
(C) Superconductors
(D) Semiconductor

Ans: (D)

Exp: Solar cells are made up of Semiconductors.

Two kinds of semiconductors, called p-type and n-type silicon, make up a solar cell.

The p-type silicon is created by the addition of atoms, such as boron or gallium, which have one fewer electron than silicon in their outer energy level.

Since boron has one fewer electron than is needed, an electron vacancy or "hole" is produced to form bonds with the surrounding silicon atoms.

91. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurated the 125 feet tall bronze statue of Dr BR Ambedkar. In context to the same tell us, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was born at -

- (A) Poona (B) Bombay
(C) Mhow (D) Satara

Ans: (C)

Exp: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was born on 14 April 1891 in Mhow (now officially known as Dr.

Ambedkar Nagar) in the Central Provinces i.e present Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was a great jurist, economist & social reformer.

He was the leader of the depressed class and worked for the promotion of education among the depressed classes.

92. Kerala: Artificial reef project launched off Vizhinjam coast. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following types of Coral Reefs are found in India?

- (A) Atoll (B) Fringing
(C) barrier (D) All of the above

Ans: (D)

Exp: In India, major coral reef ecosystems are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kachchh, Andaman & Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands, India has all three major reef types (atoll, fringing, and barrier) and includes diverse and extensive reef areas of the Indian Ocean.

93. Chhattisgarh state government has recently launched a new scheme named 'Mahtari Vandana Yojana' 2024. In context to the same tell us, Pension Scheme, Pradhanmantri Shramyogi Mandhan Yojana is applicable for which of the following in India?

- (A) Construction workers
(B) Audio-visual workers
(C) Mid-day-meal workers
(D) All of the above

Ans: (D)

Exp: Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan is a government scheme meant for old age protection and social security of Unorganized Workers.

It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for unorganized workers for entry age of 18 to 40 years with a monthly income of Rs. 15000 or less.

Unorganized workers area – Street Vendors, washermen, Cobblers, Brick kilns, Rickshaw Pullers, Agricultural Workers, Construction Workers, etc.

The benefit of this scheme will get a minimum monthly pension of Rs 3000 per month who will subscribe to this scheme.

It is started on 15 February 2019 by Central Government.



94. Cabinet approves creation of posts for the 16th Finance Commission. In context to the same tell us, With reference to the Finance Commission of India, which of the following statements is correct?

(A) It was established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
 (B) The Commission was constituted for every five years by the President.
 (C) The Commission consists of five members including the chairperson.
 (D) Nand Kishore Singh was the chairperson of the 16th Finance Commission.

Ans: (D)

Exp: Finance Commission is a constitutional body. Finance Commission was constituted to recommend the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and states, and among the states. It was established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution. The Commission was constituted for every five years by the President. The Commission consists of five members including the chairperson. As of March 2021, Nand Kishore Singh was the current chairperson of the 15th Finance Commission.

95. According to a recent report by Forbes, 'Kuwaiti Dinar' is the most powerful currency in the world. In context to the same tell us, The central banks of which two countries launched a common digital currency named Aber?

(A) Japan and South Korea
 (B) Iran and India
 (C) Saudi Arabia and UAE
 (D) China and Pakistan

Ans: (C)

Exp: The central banks Saudi Arabia and UAE have decided to launch a common digital currency named Aber. The currency will be instrumental in the financial settlements between the two nations. Blockchain technology will be employed here. Initially, the use of this currency will be limited to selected banks. After proper implementation in those banks, its exposure will be expanded.

96. Japan achieved a historic soft moon landing with SLIM Mission. In context to the same tell us,

What was the name of the lunar mission that landed humans on the Moon?

(A) Lunokhod 01 (B) Apollo 11
 (C) Chandrayan I (D) Viking 1

Ans: (B)

Exp: The first moon landing occurred on July 20, 1969, on the Apollo 11 mission. The crew of Apollo 11 was Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin. Armstrong and Aldrin crawled from the command module through an interconnecting tunnel into the lunar module, Eagle.

97. India, Cuba signed MoU on digital public infrastructure collaboration. In context to the same tell us, Which country is called "Bowl of Sugar" in the world?

(A) India (B) Cuba
 (C) China (D) Pakistan

Ans: (B)

Exp: Cuba: It has the largest sugar industry which is now decaying and its position is now taken up by Brazil followed by India. It is an island in the Caribbean region. The Cuban sugar economy is the principal agricultural economy in Cuba. Until 1960 Cuba was the largest Sugar Exporter in the world hence, the name Sugar Bowl of the World. But in the year 2017-18 Year Brazil started its lead in Sugar production which was about 38.9 million metric tons.

98. UNGA President Dennis Francis embarks on 5-day visit to India. In context to the same tell us, The General Assembly decided to make Arabic an official language in which year?

(A) 1973 (B) 1971
 (C) 1984 (D) 1980

Ans: (A)

Exp: There are six official languages of the UN. These are- Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. A delegate may speak in any official UN language. The speech is interpreted simultaneously into the other official languages of the UN. The General Assembly decided to make Arabic an official language in 1973.



With approximately 400 million speakers, Arabic is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world.

99. Amit Shah launches book 'Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan'. In context to the same tell us, Lachit Barphukan was associated with which battle?
 (A) Battle of Plassey
 (B) Battle of Sekigahara
 (C) Battle of Saraighat
 (D) Battle of Novara

Ans: (C)

Exp: Assam is organising the 400th birth anniversary celebration of legendary general of Assam Lachit Barphukan. In the Battle of Saraighat in 1671, under the leadership of General Lachit Borphukan the Assamese army registered a victory against the Mughals. He was a 17th century war-hero from Ahom dynasty. The state is constructing Lachit Barphukan Maidan in Jorhat and erecting the Alaboi battle war memorial.

100. The 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony of Ram Lalla took place in Ayodhya. In context to the same tell us, Who among the following is the architect of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya?

(A) P. O. Sompura (B) Brinda Somaya
 (C) B. V. Doshi (D) Chandrakant Sompura

Ans: (D)

Exp: The chief architect of the temple is Chandrakant Bhai Sompura, who designed the Akshardham temple in Gujarat. His grandfather Prabhakarji Sompura had designed the Somnath temple. He was assisted by his two sons Nikhil Sompura and Ashish Sompura, who are also architects.

The temple, to be constructed in Nagara style of architecture, will have five domes instead of two as envisaged earlier to accommodate more devotees.

101. WHO certifies 'Republic of Cabo Verde' as malaria-free country. In context to diseases tell us, Elephantiasis is caused by -

(A) Flatworms (B) Tapeworms
 (C) Filarial worms (D) Ascaris

Ans: (C)

Exp: Elephantiasis is caused by Filarial worms.

Lymphatic Filariasis commonly known as Elephantiasis is one of the oldest tropical diseases which is caused by Filarial worms.

It is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito.

The saliva of the infected mosquito carries the parasite larva of the worms causing filariasis.

This parasitic larva enters the bloodstream of the person from where it migrates to the lymphatic vessels and develops to become adult worms.

The parasite worms causing this are Wuchereria malayi & Wuchereria bancrofti.

102. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 awarded to 60 Parachute Field Hospital, UP. In context to the same tell us, The Indian National Army (INA) tried to invade India through Imphal and Kohima in the year

(A) 1943 (B) 1945
 (C) 1946 (D) 1944

Ans: (D)

Exp: Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj), with the support of Japanese troops, advanced to Rangoon (Yangon) and hence overland into India, reaching Indian soil on March 18, 1944, and moving into Kohima and the plains of Imphal.

103. Recently PM Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana. In context to the same tell us, Which state in India has introduced the "Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan"?

(A) Bihar (B) Assam
 (C) Tamil Nadu (D) Rajasthan

Ans: (B)

Exp: Assam Govt unveiled "Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan".

Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan aims to transform rural women into "Rural Micro-Entrepreneurs" with a ₹1 lakh annual income target.

In the inaugural phase, each eligible applicant will receive a grant of Rs 10,000 in the first year. Tailored child limitations for General, OBC, ST, SC, and specific communities, encouraging diverse participation.

104. The Ministry of Mines has decided to send an Indian industry delegation to the African country Zambia to pursue potential copper exploration.



In context to the same tell us, Which among the following metals is the lightest?

- (A) Aluminium (B) Tin
(C) Lead (D) Copper

Ans: (A)

Exp: Heaviness or lightness of metals:

Density determines the heaviness, or lightness of a given material.

Density is the measurement of how tightly a material is packed together.

It is the number of particles or matter present in the given volume. It is defined as the mass per unit volume.

Among the four elements given, Aluminum has the least density of 2.7 gm / cm³ and hence Aluminum is the lightest among the 4 metals: Al, Sn, Cu, and Pb.

- 105.** UP govt to confer Gaurav Samman on Lucknow scientist, Kanpur entrepreneur. In context to the same tell us, who was the first awardee of Vigyan Gaurav Samman?

- (A) Dr V P Kamboj (B) RP Rastogi
(C) Dr Jaipal Mittal (D) Dr Nityanand

Ans: (D)

Exp: The Vigyan Gaurav Award or the Vigyan Gaurav Samman is a lifetime achievement award for scientific research conferred by the Council of Science and Technology, Government of Uttar Pradesh in India.

The council also presents a Vigyan Ratna Award.

Since 2013, the award includes a cash price of ₹500,000 which was earlier ₹100,000.

This is the highest science-related award given by the Uttar Pradesh government.

Year - Awardee

1999-2000 - Dr. Nityanand

2000-2001 - Prof. R.P. Rastogi

2001-2002 - Dr. Jaipal Mittal

- 106.** Former Chief Minister of Bihar Karpoori Thakur will be honored with Bharat Ratna (posthumously). In context to the same tell us, The first Bharat Ratna award of independent India was given to -

- (A) C N R Rao (B) Jawaharlal Nehru
(C) C V Raman (D) Sardar Patel

Ans: (C)

Exp: The first scientist to receive Bharat Ratna - C V Raman (1954)

C. V. Raman was an Indian Physicist.

He discovered a Scattering of Light.

On 28th February 1930, He got the Nobel Prize for Physics for the discovery of the Raman Effect

National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28th February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect.

- 107.** Every year 'National Girl Child Day' is celebrated on 24 January across the country. In context to the same tell us, when was it initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development?

- (A) 2008 (B) 2002
(C) 2004 (D) 2009

Ans: (D)

Exp: National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on January 24 across the country.

Its objective is to provide maximum support and facilities to the girls of the country in every respect.

It was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.

The Government of India has started National Girl Child Day to bring equality in society as a campaign.

This campaign aims to make people aware of girls across the country.

- 108.** BCCI Awards 2024 have been announced, this time this award function was organized in Hyderabad. In context to sports tell us, Arjuna award given in which field?

- (A) Sports (B) Architecture
(C) Music (D) Writer

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Arjuna Award is considered the second-highest sporting honor presented by the Government of India.

It is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in Sports.

The award is named after Arjuna, one of the characters of the Sanskrit epic Mahabharata of ancient India.

The Arjuna Awards were instituted in 1961 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

- 109.** Recently, the documentary film 'To Kill A Tiger' has been nominated for the 96th Academy



Awards (Oscar 2024). In context to the same tell us, Name the first actor to win the Oscar Awards?

- (A) Lionel Barrymore (B) Warner Baxter
(C) Emil Jannings (D) Charlie Chaplin

Ans: (C)

Exp: Emil Jannings was the first actor to win the Oscar Awards.

He won the award for the movie- The Last Command and The Way of All Flesh.

First Best Actress - Janet Gaynor

First Best Outstanding Picture - Wings

These awards are presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The first Oscars honored the best films of 1927 and 1928.

Douglas Fairbanks presented the award. He was the President of Academy.

The awards were awarded in 12 categories.

110. Man Singh has become only the second Indian male athlete to win a gold medal in the Asian Marathon Championships. In context to the same tell us, What is the distance of Marathon Race?

- (A) 25 .3 miles (B) 21.2 miles
(C) 29.2 miles (D) 26.2 miles

Ans: (D)

Exp: The length of a marathon is 26.2 miles (42.195 kilometers).

The event was instituted in commemoration of the fabled run of the Greek soldier Pheidippides, a messenger from the Battle of Marathon to Athens, who reported the victory.

The marathon can be completed by running or with a run/walk strategy.

111. The market capitalization of the giant technology company Microsoft has crossed \$3 trillion. In context to the same tell us, Capital market is a market for _____.

- (A) Long term capital (B) Short term capital
(C) Working capital (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: A capital market is a financial market in which long-term debt or equity-backed securities are bought and sold, in contrast to a money market where short-term debt is bought and sold.

Capital markets consist of the primary market, where new securities are issued and sold, and the

secondary market, where already-issued securities are traded between investors.

112. Emmanuel Macron is the sixth French leader (fifth president) to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day. In context to the same tell us, Who among the following was the Chief Guest at Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2023?

- (A) Norodom Sihamoni
(B) Sergio Mattarella
(C) Abdel Fattah Al Sisi
(D) Abdul Hamid

Ans: (C)

Exp: President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al Sisi was the Chief Guest at Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2023.

Both India and Egypt are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.

113. Zydus gets USFDA nod for generic medication for postherpetic neuralgia. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is a procedure that uses nerve freezing to reduce pain?

- (A) Radio Ablation (B) Rhizotomy
(C) Cryoanalgesia (D) Cordotomy

Ans: (C)

Exp: Cryoanalgesia is a procedure that uses nerve freezing to reduce pain.

It is long-term pain management.

Rhizotomy is a minimally invasive procedure to remove or cut nerve roots to stop the sensation of pain.

The procedure is also called ablation or neurotomy.

Cordotomy is also a procedure to treat chronic pain.

The procedure also destroys the pain conducting tracts or nerves in the spine.

Radiofrequency ablation is a procedure to treat varicose veins and tumors.

The procedure is minimally invasive that uses heat to burn the cells.

114. On this year's Republic Day, the Central Government will honor 31 people with 'Jeevan Raksha Padak'. In context to the same tell us, Jeevan Raksha Padak awards, an offshoot of the



Ashoka Chakra series of Gallantry awards were instituted in which year?

- (A) 1961 (B) 1974
(C) 1985 (D) 1992

Ans: (A)

Exp: Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards- Jeevan Raksha Padak awards, an offshoot of the Ashoka Chakra

series of Gallantry awards were instituted in 1961.

The award is given to a person for saving someone's life. The award is given for a humane act of saving a person's life in cases like drowning in water, accidents, fire incidents, electrocution, natural calamities, rescue operation in mines, etc.

It is given in the following three categories:-

Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak- Prize ₹ 2,00,000/-

Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak- Prize ₹ 1,50,000/-

Jeevan Raksha Padak- Prize ₹ 1,00,000/-

115. National Voters' Day is celebrated every year on 25 January across the country. In context to the same tell us, who was the first woman Chief Election Commissioner of India?

- (A) Pratibha Devi Patil
(B) Rama Devi
(C) Meira Kumar
(D) Nirmala Sitaraman

Ans: (B)

Exp: V S Ramadevi was the first woman Chief Election Commissioner of India.

Apart from this, she was also the first female Governor of Karnataka.

Pratibha Devi Patil was the first woman President of India (From 2007 to 12).

Meira Kumar was the first woman Lok Sabha Speaker of India from 2009 to 2014.

Nirmala Sitharaman is a famous politician and a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

She currently serves as the Finance Minister of India.

116. Indian Naval Hydrographic Dept. celebrated Republic Day in Antarctica. In context to the same tell us, what is the highest peak of Antarctica?

- (A) Kosciuszko (B) Mount Vinson
(C) Elbert (D) Aconcagua

Ans: (B)

Exp: The highest peak of Antarctica is Mount Vinson. Vinson Massif is a large mountain massif in Antarctica that is 21 km long and 13 km wide and lies within the Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains. It overlooks the Ronne Ice Shelf near the base of the Antarctic Peninsula. The massif is located about 1,200 kilometres

117. India sent 40 kilo litres of Malathion to Afghanistan to repel locusts. In context to the same tell us, BHC and Malathion are-

- (A) Pesticides (B) Fungicides
(C) Insecticides (D) Weedicides
(C)

Ans:

Exp: Insecticides are chemicals used to control insects by killing them or preventing them from engaging in undesirable or destructive behaviors.

Benzene hexachloride is used as an insecticide on crops, in forestry, and for seed treatment.

It is used in the treatment of head and body lice.

It is used in pharmaceuticals.

Malathion is an organophosphate insecticide that acts as an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor.

It is used mainly to control mosquitoes and a variety of insects that attack fruits, vegetables, landscaping plants, and shrubs.

'Pesticide' is the general term for a chemical that kills pests. Pests can be weeds, insects, nuisance rodents, diseases, etc. An insecticide is a type of pesticide. Insecticides kill insects.

118. NASA unveiled X-59 supersonic jet 'Son of Concorde'. In context to the same tell us, The supersonic jet planes fly in which of the following layers of earth's atmosphere?

- (A) Stratosphere (B) Mesosphere
(C) Troposphere (D) Thermosphere

Ans:

Exp: The supersonic jet planes fly in the lower stratosphere.

It is flying in this layer of the atmosphere to avoid turbulence which is common in the troposphere below.

The stratosphere layer is very dry and contains very less amount of water vapor.

Because of this feature, only a few clouds are found in the stratosphere.

All the clouds occur in the lower and most humid troposphere.



The temperature rises as one moves upward through the stratosphere and there is very little convection and mixing in the stratosphere.

119. Telangana government set to launch free power scheme: "Gruha Jyothi". In context to the same tell us, Which committee was appointed to look into forming of Telangana as a new state ?

(A) Chidambaram Committee
(B) Srikrishna Committee
(C) Duggal Committee
(D) None Of The Above

Ans: (B)

- Exp: Telangana, as a geographical and political entity, was born on June 2, 2014, as the 29th and the youngest state in the Union of India.

The Committee headed by the former Chief Justice, B. N Srikrishna was formed to look into the proposed state of Telangana. It was known as the Srikrishna committee or the Committee for Consultations on the Situation in Andhra Pradesh (CCSAP).

The committee was constituted by the Government of India on 3 February 2010 and submitted its report on 30 December 2010 to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

120. NATO commences largest military exercise, "Steadfast Defender 2024". In context to the same tell us, which of the following the country is not a member of NATO?

(A) France (B) Spain
(C) Germany (D) India

Ans: (D)

- Exp: NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization - Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.

This organization is an alliance of 30 independent member countries, by 12 founding members in Washington, USA.

It is an inter-governmental military organization. It was established at the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on 4 April 1949. India is not member of NATO.

121. The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan. In context to the same tell us, Joint Military training exercise "Ajeya Warrior" was carried out between which of the following countries?

(A) India and United Kingdom

(B) India and Israel
(C) India and France
(D) India and United States of America
(A)

Ans:

- Exp: Ajeya Warrior is a bilateral military exercise between India and the UK. The seventh edition of the Ajeya Warrior exercise took place from April 27th to May 11, 2023. Armies of both countries participate in this joint military exercise. The first military training took place in 2013. The second and third editions of the Ajeya Warrior exercise took place in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

122. Justice Prasanna B Varale has recently taken oath as the new judge of the Supreme Court. In context to the same tell us, The power of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution and to declare any law invalid is known as -

(A) Judicial Activism
(B) Judicial Review
(C) Judicial Precedent
(D) Judicial Independence

Ans: (B)

- Exp: Judicial review, power of the courts of a country to examine the actions of the legislative, executive, and administrative arms of the government and to determine whether such actions are consistent with the constitution. Actions judged inconsistent are declared unconstitutional and, therefore, null and void. The institution of judicial review in this sense depends upon the existence of a written constitution.

123. The state government of Punjab has started 'Road Safety Force' to prevent road accidents. In context to the same tell us, which state has launched Rakshak, a road safety initiative?

(A) Gujarat (B) Haryana
(C) Odisha (D) Uttar Pradesh

Ans: (C)

- Exp: Odisha government has launched Rakshak, a road safety initiative.

In a first-of-its-kind state-level program, 30,000 volunteers staying or working at the eateries and different business establishments located near accident-prone spots will be trained as first responders to road accidents.

Odisha annually loses more than 5,000 precious lives in accidents.

124. Hyderabad cricketer Tanmay Agarwal has created history by becoming the fastest batsman to score a triple century in first class cricket. In context to the same tell us, who hold the record for the highest career runs as a wicketkeeper in T20 International?

- (A) Quinton de Cock (B) Rodney Marsh
(C) Ricky Ponting (D) M S Dhoni

Ans: (D)

Exp: M.S Dhoni holds the record for the highest career runs as a wicketkeeper in T20 International with 1617 runs.

Ishan Kishan now (2022) has the highest individual score (89) by an Indian keeper in T20 Internationals.

Rishabh Pant holds the record for the highest score by an Indian wicketkeeper in T20 international match with a score of 65(not out) against west indies in 2019.

125. Indian star female cricketer Deepti Sharma has been appointed as DSP in UP Police. In context to the same tell us, who of the following is the only Indian spinner to take six wickets in Women's One Day International Cricket?

- (A) Poonam Yadav (B) Deepti Sharma
(C) Shafali Verma (D) Smriti Mandhana

Ans: (B)

Exp: Deepti Sharma is the only Indian spinner to take six wickets in Women's One Day International Cricket.

Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut were the Indian women's cricket openers who scored 320 in 45.3 overs to become the world's first pair to achieve a 300-run opening wicket partnership in one-day internationals (ODIs).

Deepti Sharma is a right-arm off-break bowler. Her 188 runs are the second-highest score in women's one-day international.

126. With whom has the Election Commission started the "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" campaign?

- (A) Ministry of Home Affairs
(B) Ministry of Education
(C) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
(D) Ministry of External Affairs

Ans: (B)

Exp: In view of the Lok Sabha elections, to increase the inclination towards voting among the youth who are voting for the first time, the Election Commission in collaboration with the Education

Ministry has started the campaign 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye'.

Under this, a campaign is being run in higher educational institutions between 28 February and 6 March.

The commission was established in 1950 and originally only had one Chief Election Commissioner.

Two additional Commissioners were appointed to the commission for the first time on 16 October 1989 (on the eve of the 1989 General Election), but they had a very short tenure, ending on 1 January 1990.

127. With which country has the Ministry of AYUSH signed an agreement to promote Ayurveda?

- (A) Cambodia (B) Nepal
(C) Thailand (D) Brazil

Ans: (C)

Exp: The National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur under the Ministry of AYUSH and the Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine of Thailand have signed an MoU for cooperation in Ayurveda and Thai traditional medicine.

This agreement was reached during the 10th meeting of the India-Thailand Joint Commission held at Hyderabad House, New Delhi.

128. Who was recently appointed as the Chairperson of Lokpal by President Draupadi Murmu?

- (A) Pinaki Chandra Ghosh
(B) Kapil Sibal
(C) Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar
(D) Prashant Bhushan

Ans: (C)

Exp: President Draupadi Murmu has appointed former SC judge Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar as the Chairperson of Lokpal.

This post was vacant for the last two years.

The previous Chairman Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh completed his tenure on May 27, 2022.

Justice Khanwilkar served as a judge of the Supreme Court from 13 May 2016 to 29 July 2022.

129. When and till when is the 'Annual Financial Literacy' week being organized by RBI?

- (A) 26 February to 29 February
(B) 26 February to 1 March
(C) 27 February to 2 March
(D) 28 February to 3 March



Ans: (B)

Exp: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is promoting financial literacy among the youth through its annual Financial Literacy Week (FLW) campaign held from February 26 to March 1, 2024.

This year's theme is "Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart".

Presently the Governor of RBI is Shaktikanta Das.

130. When is National Science Day celebrated every year?

(A) 25 February (B) 26 February

(C) 27 February (D) 28 February

Ans: (D)

Exp: National Science Day is celebrated every year on 28 February in India. This day is celebrated all over India to give importance to the remarkable work done by Indian scientist Chandrashekhar Venkata Raman in the field of science.

The theme of National Science Day 2024 is 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat'.

The first National Science Day was celebrated on 28 February 1987.

131. What did SBI Researchers report about India's poverty rate for the year 2022-23?

(A) Increased to 15%

(B) Remained constant at 10%

(C) Declined to 4.5-5%

(D) Rose to 20%

Ans: (C)

Exp: India's headline poverty rate stood between 4.5 and 5 percent in 2022-23, according to a recent study released by the State Bank of India (SBI). Rural poverty declined to 7.2 percent in 2022-23 from 25.7 percent in 2011-12, while urban poverty declined to 4.6 percent from 13.7 percent during the same period.

This significant decline in rural poverty indicates the impact of government programs targeting those at the bottom of the pyramid.

The SBI report estimated the new poverty line at Rs 1,622 for rural areas and Rs 1,929 for urban areas, based on the recommendations of an expert group.

Earlier, a World Bank paper had shown that India's poverty rate had declined to 11.6 percent for rural areas and 6.3 percent for urban areas in 2018-19.

132. Who won the 7th edition of the Romain Rolland Book Prize for the Bengali translation of "Stalin's Couch", a French novel about the Soviet ruler's final years?

(A) Amitav Ghosh

(B) Arundhati Roy

(C) Jhumpa Lahiri

(D) Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee

Ans: (D)

Exp: Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee won the 7th edition of the Romain Rolland Book Prize for the Bengali translation of "Stalin's Couch", a French novel about the Soviet ruler's final years.

Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee's Bengali translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat's 'Le Divan de Staline' titled 'Staliner Divan' has won the Romain Rolland Book Prize.

Established in 2017, the Romain Rolland Book Prize recognizes the finest translation of a French title into any Indian language, including English, with the aim of promoting Francophone literature among Indian readers.

Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee's translation was published by New Bharat Sahitya Kutir, Kolkata.

This is the second time a Bengali title has received the award, with the first being the translation of Kamel Daoud's 'Meursault, contre-enquête' as 'Myorso Birudhyo Saksho' by Trinanjan Chakraborty, published in 2022 by Patra Bharati.

133. How many artists were selected for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2022 & 2023?

(A) 33

(B) 47

(C) 59

(D) 92

Ans: (D)

Exp: 92 artists were selected for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2022 & 2023.

The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi unanimously elected six eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows (Akademi Ratna) during its meeting held on February 21 and 22, 2024.

The Fellowship of the Akademi is a prestigious and rare honor restricted to 40 individuals at any given time.

Additionally, the General Council selected ninety-two artists from various fields such as

Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/ Theatre, Puppetry, and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the years 2022 & 2023.

134. Which state's government announced the decision to abandon the Pharma City project, initially proposed, in favor of building 10 'Pharma Villages'?

(A) Telangana (B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Maharashtra (D) Karnataka

Ans: (A)

Exp: Telangana's government announced the decision to abandon the Pharma City project, initially proposed, in favor of building 10 'Pharma Villages'.

The Congress-led government in Telangana announced its decision to abandon the Hyderabad Pharma City project, initially proposed by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) regime.

Instead, the government plans to build 10 'Pharma Villages' across the state, with Vikarabad, Medak, and Nalgonda identified as the first locations.

The Pharma City project aimed to cover a vast 10,000-acre area and was projected to be the largest pharma manufacturing cluster.

Industries and IT Minister, D. Sridhar Babu, cited multiple challenges hindering the Pharma City project's progress, including environmental concerns, conflicts with farmers, and legal issues related to land procurement.

135. Which country will repeal a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations, despite warnings from researchers and campaigners?

(A) Canada (B) New Zealand
(C) Australia (D) Sweden

Ans: (B)

Exp: New Zealand will repeal a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations, despite warnings from researchers and campaigners.

New Zealand announced the repeal of a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations.

The law, set to take effect from July, aimed to implement the toughest anti-tobacco rules

globally, including banning sales to individuals born after Jan. 1, 2009, reducing nicotine content in tobacco products, and significantly decreasing the number of tobacco retailers.

The repeal will be enacted by the new coalition government elected in October, without seeking public comment, as a matter of urgency.

136. India's first indigenous green hydrogen inland waterway ship was launched in which state?

(A) Gujarat (B) Maharashtra
(C) Bihar (D) Tamil Nadu

Ans: (D)

Exp: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.

It has been designed and developed by Cochin Shipyard.

The length of this ship is 24 meters and it has seating space for 50 passengers.

Chidambaranar Port has become the country's first green hydrogen hub port.

Green Hydrogen is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.

The carbon intensity ultimately depends on the carbon neutrality of the source of electricity (i.e., the more renewable energy there is in the electricity fuel mix, the "greener" the hydrogen produced).

137. Which Indian was awarded honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III?

(A) Gautam Adani (B) Sunil Bharti Mittal
(C) Mukesh Ambani (D) Uday Kotak

Ans: (B)

Exp: Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III.

This prestigious honor was given to him "for strengthening trade relations between the UK and India."

Before this, Ratan Tata, Ravi Shankar and Jamshed Irani have also received this honour.

George V awarded a knighthood to Rabindranath Tagore in 1915.

Rabindranath Tagore had renounced the British knighthood in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.



- 138.** Who has Lucknow Super Giants appointed as its vice-captain before IPL 2024?
(A) Nicholas Pooran **(B)** Ravi Bishnoi
(C) Krunal Pandya **(D)** Avesh Khan
Ans: (A)
Exp: Lucknow Super Giants has appointed Nicholas Pooran as its vice-captain before IPL 2024. Before this, Krunal Pandya was the vice-captain of the team. Team captain KL Rahul handed over the vice-captain's jersey with number 29 to Puran in an event. Trinidadian cricketer Pooran is a prominent player in the T20 format at the global level.
- 139.** How many crores of rupees have been approved for 'PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana'?
(A) 50,000 crores **(B)** 40,000 crores
(C) 60,000 crores **(D)** 75,000 crores
Ans: (D)
Exp: The Union Cabinet under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi has approved Rs 75,000 crore for "PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana". Under this scheme, one crore families will get 300 units of free electricity. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced this scheme during the interim budget of 2024-25. This scheme has been started to promote roof top solar systems in the country.
- 140.** Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Independent Director of PayU Payments Private Limited?
(A) Soni Chatterjee
(B) Vijay Shekhar
(C) Renu Sood Karnad
(D) Nikhil Kamat
Ans: (C)
Exp: PayU Payments Pvt Ltd (PayU), the fintech arm of global consumer internet group Prosus, has appointed HDFC Bank director Renu Sud Karnad as chairman and independent director of the company.
- 141.** What will be the capacity of world's largest grain storage scheme launched recently?
(A) 700 Lakh Tonne
(B) 400 Lakh Tonne
(C) 800 Lakh Tonne
(D) 900 Lakh Tonne
Ans: (A)
Exp: PM Modi launched world's largest grain storage scheme PM Modi informed that that 700 lakh tonne storage capacity will be created in the next five years, with an investment of ₹1.25 lakh crore. Under the scheme, thousands of warehouses and godowns will be constructed across the country. Modi inaugurated 11 godowns set up by 11 primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) across 11 states.
- 142.** By which year the Coal Ministry has set a target of producing 1.5 billion tonnes under the Coal Logistics Scheme?
(A) 2028 **(B)** 2030
(C) 2032 **(D)** 2027
Ans: (B)
Exp: Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi launched Coal Logistics Plan and Policy Integrated Coal Logistics Plan aims for advanced, resilient coal logistics by 2030, enhancing Aatmanirbhar Bharat's vision with reduced coal imports. Ministry of Coal targets 1.5 bn tonnes production by 2030, doubling output to bolster India's energy security. Action plan developed for nationwide coal logistics infrastructure development, supporting accelerated coal sector demand and supply.
- 143.** The recently launched book "Basic Structure and Republic" has been authored by whom?
(A) Bandaru Dattatreya
(B) Vaishnav Bandaru
(C) Vasantha Dattatreya
(D) P S Sreedharan Pillai
Ans: (D)
Exp: Goa Governor's book 'Basic Structure and Republic' released. Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai's book 'Basic Structure and Republic' was released by the Archbishop of Changanacherry (Kerala), Mar Joseph Perumthottam. The first copy of the book was received by Shirodkar, which was presented by Mar Joseph Perumthottam. The first lady of Goa Rita Shreedharan Pillai also graced the occasion.



144. Oil India Limited is hosting its first-ever global partner roadshow in which city?

- (A) Dubai (B) Surgut
(C) Abu Dhabi (D) Baghdad

Ans: (C)

Exp: OIL is hosting its first-ever global partner roadshow, themed, "Confluence: Where Energy and Opportunity Converge," in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Event aims to streamline the partner onboarding process and strengthen relationships with companies to explore new business opportunities.

Company has set production targets of 4 million metric tonnes of oil and 5 billion cubic meters of gas annually by 2026.

145. Zero Discrimination Day 2024 has been observed on which day of March 2024?

- (A) 01 March (B) 02 March
(C) 03 March (D) 04 March

Ans: (A)

Exp: March 01 marked Zero Discrimination Day, a day dedicated to advocating for the right of every individual to live a life free from discrimination and prejudice.

This global observance, initiated by UNAIDS. It aims to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of discrimination and the importance of promoting equality, compassion, and respect for all.

Zero Discrimination Day was first celebrated in 2014 following the launch of the Zero Discrimination Campaign by UNAIDS on World AIDS Day in December 2013.

"To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights", the theme for Zero Discrimination Day 2024 emphasizes the critical link between health and human rights.

146. Which country has recently declared a health emergency due to rapidly increasing cases of dengue fever?

- (A) Peru (B) Chile
(C) Argentina (D) Colombia

Ans: (A)

Exp: South American country Peru has declared a health emergency in view of the rapidly increasing cases of dengue fever.

A health emergency has been declared in 20 of Peru's 25 regions. Peru is a country in western South America.

Its capital is 'Lima'.

Dengue is caused by the Dengue virus.

The dengue virus is transmitted by female mosquitoes called – *Aedes aegypti*.

These dengue mosquitos are found everywhere (Both inside and outside the house) and generally bite during the daytime.

These mosquitos are found to be at the peak of their activeness at dawn and dusk.

The symptoms of the disease can develop only after 6 to 10 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Symptoms include high fever, headache, rash and muscle, and joint pain.

147. What is the theme of the World Wildlife Day 2024?

- (A) Forests and Livelihood: People and their occupation
(B) Connecting People and Planet: The preserving of the flora and fauna
(C) Forests and Livelihoods: Conserving Wild Life one life at a time
(D) Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation

Ans: (D)

Exp: World Wildlife Day-March 3

This is one of the most crucial days observed by the United Nations.

On December 20, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed March 3, as World Wildlife Day.

This day is dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.

According to the UN, between 200 and 350 million people live within or adjacent to forested areas around the world.

Roughly 28% of the world's land surface is currently being managed by indigenous peoples theme - "Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation"

148. After the discovery of new moons around Uranus, what has been its total number of moons?

- (A) 28 (B) 25
(C) 23 (D) 27

Ans: (A)



Exp: New moons discovered around Uranus and Neptune

The solar system has three new moons, one orbiting Uranus and two orbiting Neptune.

These moons were spotted several years ago and recently confirmed by the International Astronomical Union's (IAU) Minor Planet Center.

This brings Uranus' total moon count to 28. Neptune now has 16 known moons.

149. Which payment service has recently got final approval from RBI to operate as payment gateway?

- (A) Amazon Pay (B) BharatPe
(C) Google Pay (D) Razorpay

Ans: (A)

Exp: Amazon Pay gets final approval from RBI to operate as payment gateway.

Amazon Pay has received a payment aggregator license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

This month, two fintech startups, Decentro and Juspay, and enterprise software-as-a-service (SaaS) firm Zoho have received final authorisation from the RBI for payment aggregator (PA) licences.

Zomato and fintech firms Stripe and Tata Pay were among the companies to have bagged the licence in January.

150. The country's first semiconductor fab has been approved by the Union Cabinet, it will be built by which company?

- (A) Aditya Birla Group (B) Adani Group
(C) Reliance Group (D) Tata Group

Ans: (D)

Exp: Cabinet approves India's first semiconductor fab by Tata Group.

The Union Cabinet approved the country's first semiconductor fab to be made by the Tata Group in collaboration with Powerchip Taiwan.

The semiconductor fab will come up in Dholera with a capacity of 50,000 wafers per month.

A net investment of Rs 27,000 crore will go into the fab. 48 million chips per day will be produced from the unit, once the full capacity is reached.

151. Odisha government hiked monthly remuneration of anganwadi workers from Rs 7500 to how much?

- (A) 9000 (B) 12000
(C) 10000 (D) 11000

Ans: (C)

Exp: The monthly salary of Anganwadi workers has been raised from Rs 7,500 to Rs 10,000, and that of Mini Anganwadi workers from Rs 5,378 to Rs 7,250 and Anganwadi Sahayikas from Rs 3,750 to Rs 5,000

At least 1,48,000 Anganwadi workers, Mini Anganwadi workers, and Anganwadi Sahayikas will benefit from the decision which will cost the state exchequer an additional Rs 350 crore annually.

152. India's economic growth has upgraded to how much percent in the third quarter of 2023-24?

- (A) 7.2% (B) 8.4%
(C) 8.9% (D) 7.8%

Ans: (B)

Exp: India's economic growth has upgraded to 8.4% in the third quarter of 2023-24.

The National Statistics Office has given India's GDP growth estimates for this year to 7.6% from 7.3% estimated in early January, even as it scaled down its 7.2% growth estimate for 2022-23 to 7%.

The NSO, in its advance estimate, said that the Gross Value Added in the economy is estimated to rise 6.9% this year

153. Along with India which two other countries have participated in first 'Blue Talks' meeting on Ocean?

- (A) Spain and Puerto Rico
(B) France and Costa Rica
(C) Italy and Egypt
(D) Germany and Cuba

Ans: (B)

Exp: Earth Sciences co-chairs the 1st 'Blue Talks' meeting on Ocean.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), hosted the 1st 'Blue Talks' meeting in New Delhi.

The meeting was co-partnered by the Embassy of France and the Embassy of Costa Rica in India.

The core aim of the 1st Blue Talks meeting was to exchange good practices and successful experiences on topics related to the governance and health of the ocean.



154. Which state government has decided to establish a State Water Informatics Centre?

- (A) Jharkhand (B) Bihar
(C) Odisha (D) Maharashtra

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Odisha government decided to establish a State Water Informatics Centre (SWIC) for the coordination, collection, and dissemination of water resources data.

The state Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved a total of eight proposals, including the establishment of the SWIC.

This will be done with the support and guidance of the National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC).

155. What is the one-time budgetary support of India for establishment of International Big Cat Alliance till 2027-28?

- (A) Rs 175 crore (B) Rs 200 crore
(C) Rs 150 crore (D) Rs 100 crore

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Cabinet approved the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance with headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs 150 crore till 2027-28.

The Alliance ensures sustainable use of natural resources and mitigates challenges emanating from climate change.

Seven big cats Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah are found in India.

156. What is the name of Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri's debut book released recently?

- (A) Rising Moon
(B) Chasing the Wind
(C) Swallowing the Sun
(D) Dancing with Stars

Ans: (C)

Exp: Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, Former Assistant Secretary General of the UN, launched her debut book "Swallowing the Sun" in Mumbai.

The novel is set during the time of independence and draws inspiration from her parents and her roots in Maharashtra.

It emphasizes women empowerment through the protagonist and is influenced by various Abhangas from Maharashtrian saints and poets.

Industrialist Anand Mahindra praised Lakshmi Puri's talent and congratulated her on the successful book launch.

The launch event highlighted the thematic richness of "Swallowing the Sun" and celebrated the author's literary achievement.

157. Which ministry has organized the Poshan Utsav event in February 2024?

- (A) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(B) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
(C) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
(D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Ans: (A)

Exp: Ministry of Women and Child Development organized 'Poshan Utsav.'

The event aimed to promote good nutrition behavior and highlighted India's ongoing efforts to combat malnutrition by promoting good nutrition practices.

It was graced by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, and Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

The 'Poshan Utsav Book' seeks to revive ancient nutrition traditions and facilitate knowledge exchange, while the Cartoon Coalition aims to convey essential messages on nutrition in an entertaining and relatable manner for positive behavior change among children.

158. Who is the author of the book "Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay: The Art of Freedom"?

- (A) Ramachandra Guha (B) Udayan Mitra
(C) Patrick Olivelle (D) Nico Slate

Ans: (D)

Exp: The author of the book "Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay: The Art of Freedom" is Nico Slate.

Nico Slate is a Professor of History and Head of the Department of History at Carnegie Mellon University.

He specializes in the transnational history of social movements in the United States and South Asia, focusing on struggles against racism and imperialism.



Slate has authored four books, including "Colored Cosmopolitanism" and "Gandhi's Search for the Perfect Diet".

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was an Indian social reformer and freedom activist, known for her significant contributions to the Indian independence movement.

159. Which festival showcased cultural diversity and talent in Jammu recently in 2024?

(A) Shikara Festival (B) Tawi Festival
(C) Saffron Festival (D) Gurez Festival

Ans: (B)

Exp: The festival set to showcase cultural diversity and talent in Jammu is called the 'Tawi Festival'. It aims to celebrate the local culture and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scheduled to start from March 1, the four-day festival will highlight the vibrant traditions unique to the Jammu region.

The festival will include various activities such as seminars, workshops, folk music performances, street theatre, and classical and folk dances.

Main Festivals in Jammu and Kashmir - Tulip Festival, Shikara Festival, Saffron Festival, Baisakhi, Hemis Festival, Gurez Festival.

160. Recently inaugurated ICG JT has been constructed by which Port Authority?

(A) Deendayal Port Authority
(B) Paradip Port Authority
(C) Mumbai Port Trust
(D) Cochin Port Authority

Ans: (A)

Exp: Shri Ajay Bhatt inaugurates ICG Jetty at Vadinaar, Dwaraka

Raksha Rajya Mantri, Shri Ajay Bhatt inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard Jetty Vadinar on 01 Mar 2024, marking a significant step towards augmenting infrastructure development in the strategically important Indian Coast Guard Region(North-West).

The jetty construction was undertaken by Deendayal Port Authority(DPA) as a deposit work for Rs 74 Crores.

161. Who has been appointed as new director general of National Security Guard?

(A) Jyoti Krishan Dutt
(B) Daljit Singh Chaudhary

(C) Rajan K Medhekar
(D) Sudhir Pratap Singh

Ans: (B)

Exp: IPS Daljit Singh Chaudhary appointed as new director general of NSG.

Daljit Singh Chaudhary, IPS officer of the 1990 batch, appointed as the DG of National Security Guard (NSG) alongside his current role as DG of SSB.

NSG, India's counter-terrorism force known as "black cats", handles anti-terrorism and hijacking incidents.

He took additional charge of NSG after M A Ganapathy's retirement, for three months or until a regular successor is appointed.

162. Who has taken charge as Director (Operations) of NTPC Limited?

(A) Dillip Kumar Patel (B) Jitendra Tanna
(C) Ravindra Kumar (D) Piyush Singh

Ans: (C)

Exp: Shri Ravindra Kumar took charge as Director (Operations) of NTPC.

Shri Ravindra Kumar, with over 34 years at NTPC, has vast experience in Commissioning, O&M, Engineering, and Project Management.

Played a pivotal role in the Maitree supercritical power project, Bangladesh, as CTO.

Served as CEO of Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, accelerating construction and erection activities.

163. Which country has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia?

(A) El Salvador (B) Guatemala
(C) Costa Rica (D) Nicaragua

Ans: (D)

Exp: Nicaragua becomes first Spanish nation to recognise Indian pharma.

Nicaragua has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia.

This development follows the signing of a MoU on Pharmacopoeia Cooperation between the governments of India and Nicaragua.

The ceremony saw the signing of the MoU by Dr Sumit Seth, the Indian Ambassador to Nicaragua, and Dr Martha Reyes, Nicaragua's Minister of Health.



164. Brian Mulroney, who has passed away recently, was former Prime Minister of which country?

- (A) Canada (B) Australia
(C) Japan (D) Austria

Ans: (A)

Exp: Brian Mulroney, former Canadian Prime Minister, passes away at 84.

Canada's 18th Prime Minister Brian Mulroney passed away on Thursday at the age of 84.

Mulroney led his party to a sweeping win in the 1984 Federal elections, capturing 211 out of 282 seats in the House of Commons.

Mulroney was PM for nearly nine years, after assuming the office in on September 17, 1984 and demitting it in June 25, 1993.

165. In which state L&T has commissioned first indigenously manufactured hydrogen electrolyser?

- (A) Maharashtra (B) Rajasthan
(C) Gujarat (D) Telangana

Ans: (C)

Exp: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has commissioned its first domestically manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant in Hazira, Gujarat.

This marks the entry of L&T Electrolysers Limited into domestic electrolyser manufacturing.

Boasts a robust power capacity of 1 MW, with the potential for expansion up to 2 MW.

Capable of producing 200 Nm³/Hr of hydrogen, showcasing its efficiency and productivity.

L&T Electrolysers secures a substantial allocation of 300 MW/annum capacity under the prestigious Production Linked Incentive (PLI) initiative of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

166. Who has become the first woman sniper of Border Security Force (BSF)?

- (A) Shaliza Dhama (B) Shiva Chauhan
(C) Deepika Mishra (D) Suman Kumari

Ans: (D)

Exp: Border Security Force (BSF) sub-inspector Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force.

Suman recently completed an eight-week sniper course at the Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT), Indore and achieved 'Instructor Grade'.

Suman is a resident of Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh.

She joined BSF in the year 2021.

BSF is the only CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) to have a Full-fledged Water Wing, Air Wing, and even an Artillery Regiment of its own.

It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of India.

BSF has been termed as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories.

It is headquartered in New Delhi.

167. The Zoological Survey of India has named a new marine species of ruby red-spotted head-shield sea slug after whom?

- (A) Draupadi Murmu (B) Narendra Modi
(C) Arun Jaitley (D) Sushma Swaraj

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Zoological Survey of India has named a new marine species of ruby red-spotted head-shield sea slug after Indian President Draupadi Murmu.

This species belonging to the Melanochlamys genus was discovered from Digha on the West Bengal coast and Udaipur on the Odisha coast.

The new species of head-shield sea slug, which is found nowhere else in the world, has been named 'Melanochlamys droupadi'.

168. Who recently inaugurated the ASTDS tug named 'Ocean Grace'?

- (A) Rajnath Singh (B) Amit Shah
(C) Anurag Thakur (D) Sarbananda Sonowal

Ans: (D)

Exp: Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal recently inaugurated a 60T Bollard Pull Tug and Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) named 'Ocean Grace'.

Ocean Grace is a made-in-India ASTDS tug built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.

It has been developed under the Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP).

The goal of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) is to convert at least 50% of all tugs into Green Tugs by 2030 and to have Green Tugs operating at all major ports.

169. Where did Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launch the AYUSH-ICMR Advanced Centre?



- (A) Ahmedabad (B) New Delhi
(C) Kolkata (D) Chennai

Ans: (B)

Exp: Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched the AYUSH-ICMR Advanced Center for Integrated Health Research at AIIMS in New Delhi.

It aims to provide holistic health care to patients by using both traditional Indian knowledge and modern medicine together.

These centers will be set up at various AIIMS locations such as AIIMS Delhi, AIIMS Jodhpur, AIIMS Nagpur and AIIMS Rishikesh.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research.

In 1911, the Government of India set up the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) with the specific objective of sponsoring and coordinating medical research in the country.

It was redesignated as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 1949, considerably expanded scope of functions.

170. Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' has recently conducted between India and which country?

- (A) Sri Lanka (B) Indonesia
(C) Malaysia (D) Japan

Ans: (C)

Exp: Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' was recently conducted between the Indian and Malaysian navies off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

It is a joint naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy.

This was the third edition of this exercise.

The exercise aims to strengthen bonds and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Royal Malaysian Navy.

171. Global Resources Outlook Report 2024 has recently released by which organisation?

- (A) UNEP (B) World Bank
(C) NITI Aayog (D) IMF

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Global Resources Outlook 2024 report was launched during the Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

This is the flagship report of the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

UNEP is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations.

United Nations Environment Assembly is the governing body of the UN Environment Programme.

It is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.

The Assembly is made up of the 193 UN Member States and convenes every two years to advance global environmental governance.

It was created in June 2012, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as RIO+20.

172. The recently launched "Aditi Scheme" is related to which area?

- (A) Health sector (B) Space Technology
(C) Defense sector (D) Education sector

Ans: (C)

Exp: Defense Minister Rajnath Singh launched "ADITI scheme" to promote innovations in critical and strategic defense technologies during DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi.

Under the scheme, start-ups will be eligible to receive grant assistance of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development and innovation efforts in defense technology.

Rs 750 crore has been allocated under this scheme for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.

173. In March 2024, which state government has passed a resolution to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state?

- (A) Manipur (B) Mizoram
(C) Meghalaya (D) Nagaland

Ans: (A)

Exp: Manipur passed a resolution urging the central government to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state.

The assembly had in 2022 adopted a resolution to implement NRC in the state.

Speaker Th Satyabrata reaffirms previous resolution.

CM N Biren Singh launched the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the assembly, transforming it into a digital and paperless house.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the register containing names of Indian CITIZENS. The only time that a National Register of Citizens (NRC) was prepared was in 1951 when after conduct of the Census of 1951, the NRC was prepared by recording particulars of all the persons enumerated during that Census.

174. The RBI has approved the appointment of whom as the part-time chairman of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank?

(A) A Niranjana (B) S.R. Ashok
(C) Ezhil Jothi (D) S Ravindran

Ans: (D)

Exp: The RBI has approved the appointment of S Ravindran as the part-time chairman of Tuticorin-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank.

He has extensive work experience of 29 years at the Securities and Exchange Board of India, where he served as the executive director.

The approval is subject to Ravindran, stepping down from his directorships in Shriram Finance and Bandhan AMC, before assuming charge

175. A 21-foot statue of which Rajput king has unveiled in Hyderabad?

(A) Raja Man Singh (B) Maharana Pratap
(C) Rana Sanga (D) Prithviraj Chauhan

Ans: (B)

Exp: 21-ft Maharana Pratap Statue unveiled In Hyderabad, Telangana

A 21-foot statue of Rajput king Maharana Pratap was installed and unveiled at the 'Maharana Pratap Chowk' at Begum Bazaar

The statue was installed by the Maharana Pratap Jagruti Manch, which claims that it is also the first of its kind in all of South India.

The man behind this initiative and execution is Thakur Surender Singh, a youth leader from the Rajput community.

176. The Indian slave dynasty lasted from 1206 to 1290. The slave dynasty was the first Muslim dynasty to rule India. who founded the slave dynasty?

(A) Sultan Qutbuddin Aibak
(B) Tughlaq dynasty
(C) Lodhi dynasty
(D) Khilji dynasty

Ans: (A)

Exp: It is said that Muhammad Ghori did not have a natural heir to the throne and he the habit of loving his slaves like his own children. Thus, after the death of Ghori, one of the ablest slaves by the name of Qutub-ud-din Aibak descended the throne. The history of the slave dynasty begins with the rule of Qutub-ud-din Aibak. Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Shams-ud-din Iltutmush and Ghiyas-ud-din Balban were the three great Sultans of the era.

177. Vikramashila University was founded by which Pala king?

(A) Dharmapala (B) Mihira Bhoja
(C) Rajendra Chola (D) Pulakeshin I

Ans: (A)

Exp: Vikramashila was founded by Pala king Dharmapala in the late 8th or early 9th century.

It is one of the top center of education not only for Indians but also for foreigners.

It prospered for about four centuries before it was destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji along with the other major centres of Buddhism in India around 119.

178. The Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty was ruled much of Northern India from the mid-8th to the 11th century. They ruled first at Ujjain and later at Kannauj. who was the ruler of this dynasty?

(A) Chola (B) Rashtrakuta
(C) Bappa rawal (D) Mihira Bhoja

Ans: (D)

Exp: Mihira Bhoja (836–885 CE) or Bhoja I was a ruler of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty of India. He was succeeded his father Ramabhadra. Bhoja was a devotee of Vishnu and adopted the title of adivaraha which is inscribed on some of his coins. One of the outstanding political figures of India in ninth century, he ranks with Dhruva Dharavarsha and Dharmapala as a great general and empire builder.

179. The period between _____ in India's history is known as the Delhi Sultanate period.

(A) 1206 AD and 1526 AD
(B) 745 AD and 1245 AD
(C) 1105 AD and 1445 AD
(D) 1456 AD and 1675 AD

Ans: (A)

Exp: Period between 1206-1526 is considered as Delhi Sultanate. The kingdoms of Delhi Sultanate are as follow

(a) Slave dynasty 1206 – 1290



- (b) Khilji dynasty 1290 – 1320
- (c) Tughlaq dynasty 1321 - 1413
- (d) Sayyid dynasty 1414 - 1450
- (e) Lodhi dynasty 1451 - 1526

180. Veer Kunwar Singh Jayanti is celebrated in which state in order to recognise the achievements of Kunwar Singh during the Indian rebellion of 1857.
- (A) Uttarakhand
 - (B) Bihar
 - (C) Uttar Pradesh
 - (D) Himachal Pradesh

Ans: (B)

- Exp:** Kunwar Singh was a notable leader during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. He belonged to a royal house of Jagdispur, Bihar. At the age of 80, he led a select band of armed soldiers against the troops under the command of the British East India Company.

181. In which of the following places was the rule of the Wadiyar dynasty?
- (A) Patna
 - (B) Mysore
 - (C) Jabalpur
 - (D) Guwahati

Ans: (B)

- Exp:** The Wadiyar dynasty is an Indian Hindu dynasty that ruled the Kingdom of Mysore from 1399 to 1947. The dynasty was established in 1399 by Yaduraya Wodeyar. He ruled Mysore under the Vijayanagara Empire until 1423. After Yaduraya Wodeyar, the Mysore kingdom was succeeded by the Wadiyar rulers. The kingdom remained fairly small during this early period and was a part of the Vijayanagara Empire.

182. In 1564 during the defending the Garh Kantaga while fighting with Mughal forces who died what is the name of the queen?
- (A) Rani Avantibai
 - (B) Rani Durgavati
 - (C) Rani Rudrabara
 - (D) Rani Ahilyabai

Ans: (B)

- Exp:** Rani Durgavati was the ruling Queen of Gondwana from 1550 until 1564. In 1542, she was married to Dalpat Shah, the eldest son of king Sangram Shah of Gondwana kingdom.

183. The Somnath temple located in Prabhas Patan near Junagadh in Saurashtra on the western coast of Gujarat, India is believed to be the first among the twelve jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva. In 1026 AD,

who attacked and looted the famous Somnath temple?

- (A) Muhammad Ghauri
- (B) Mahmood Ghazni
- (C) Genghis Khan
- (D) Nadir Shah

Ans: (B)

- Exp:** Mahmud of Ghazni was the first independent ruler of the Ghaznavid dynasty, ruling from 999 to 1030. In 1025 Mahmud raided Gujarat, plundering the Somnath temple and breaking its jyotirlinga. He took away a booty of 2 million dinars.

184. The Indian National Association also known as Indian Association was the first avowed nationalist organization founded in British India by Surendranath Banerjee and who?

- (A) V. K. Chiplunkar
- (B) Anand Mohan Bose
- (C) Shishir Kumar Ghosh
- (D) Badruddin Tyabji

Ans: (B)

- Exp:** The objectives of this Association were "promoting by every legitimate means the political, intellectual and material advancement of the people". The Association attracted educated Indians and civic leaders from all parts of the country, and became an important forum for India's aspirations for independence. It later merged with the Indian National Congress. Indian National Association was the first declared Nationalist Organization founded in British India by Surendranath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose in 1876. It was originally established as Bharat Sabha and held its first annual conference in Calcutta. It merged in INC in 1885.

185. Which two Indus sites found in Afghanistan?

- (A) Lothal and Daimabad
- (B) Shatughai and Dainabad
- (C) Shatughai and Mundigaq
- (D) Mundigaq and Daimabad

Ans: (C)

- Exp:** Shortugai (Shortughai) was an Indus Valley Civilization trading colony established around 2000 BC on the Oxus river (Amu Darya) near the lapis lazuli mines in northern Afghanistan. It is considered to be the northernmost settlement of the Indus Valley Civilization. Mundigaq is an archaeological site in Kandahar province in Afghanistan. It is situated approximately 55 km



northwest of Kandahar near Shāh Maqsūd, on the upper drainage of the Kushk-i Nakhud River.

186. The invasion of Delhi by Timur marks the end of the Tughlaq Empire in which year?
 (A) 1645 (B) 1398
 (C) 1452 (D) 1215

Ans: (B)

Exp: In 1398, Timur invaded northern India, attacking the Delhi Sultanate ruled by Sultan Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud Shah Tughluq of the Tughlaq dynasty. After crossing the Indus River on 30 September 1398, he sacked Tulamba (It is a small Town in Punjab) and massacred its inhabitants. He conquered one kingdom after another. In course of a fight, his one leg was wounded and his leg remain limp for the rest of his life. Timur has stated, "My object in the invasion of Hindustan is to lead an expedition against the infidels, to convert them to the true faith of Islam and purify the land itself from the filth, infidelity and polytheism.

187. Who built 'Alai Darwaza' or 'Kushk-e-Shikar'?
 (A) Jalal-ud-din Khilji
 (B) Allauddin Khilji
 (C) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
 (D) Nasiruddin Mahmud

Ans: (B)

Exp: In the court of Alauddin, eminent Khusras and high-class scholars such as Hasan Nizami were patronized. In the field of architecture, Alauddin Khilji built the circular 'Alai Darwaza' or 'Kushk-e-Shikar'. The 'Alai Darwaza' made by him is considered to be a masterpiece of early Turkish art. It built the fort of Siri, the Thousand Pillar Palace.

188. The Partition of Bengal made by who in 1905.
 (A) Lord Curzon (B) Lord Hardinge
 (C) Richard Wellesley (D) Warren Hastings

Ans: (A)

Exp: Partition of Bengal, (1905), division of Bengal carried out by the British viceroy in India, Lord Curzon, despite strong Indian nationalist opposition. It began a transformation of the Indian National Congress from a middle-class pressure group into a nationwide mass movement. Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa had formed a single province of British India since 1765. By 1900 the province

had grown too large to handle under a single administration.

189. The Harappan civilization was located in which river valley.
 (A) Krishna (B) Indus
 (C) Godavari (D) Ganga

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Harappan civilization was located in the Indus River valley. Its two large cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, were located in present-day Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh provinces, respectively. Its extent reached as far south as the Gulf of Khambhat and as Far East as the Yamuna (Jumna) River. Harappa is an archaeological site in Punjab, Pakistan, about 24 km (15 mi) west of Sahiwal.

190. "Go back to Vedas." This slogan given by
 (A) Ramakrishna Paramah-amsa
 (B) Vivekananda
 (C) Jyotiba Phule
 (D) Daynand Saraswati

Ans: (D)

Exp: Swami Dayanand Saraswati gave the slogan 'Go back to Vedas'. He was the founder of Arya Samaj, a Hindu reform movement of the Vedic tradition.

191. Who introduced the Pitts Bill in India?

- (A) Clive (B) Hastings
 (C) Wellesley (D) Cornwallis

Ans: (B)

Exp: The East India Company Act, also known as Pitt's India Act, was an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain intended to address the shortcomings of the Regulating Act of 1773 by bringing the East India Company's rule in India under the control of the British Government. Named for British prime minister William Pitt the Younger, the act provided for the appointment of a Board of Control, and provided for a joint government of British India by the Company and the Crown with the government holding the ultimate authority. A six-member board of controllers was set up for political activities and Court of directors for financial/ commercial activities.

192. The first Indian selected for Indian Civil Service was:

- (A) Surendra Nath Banerji
 (B) Satyendranath Tagore



- (C) Lala Lajpat Rai
(D) (C) R. Das

Ans: (B)

Exp: Satyendranath Tagore was the first Indian to join the Indian Civil Service. He was an author, song composer, and linguist, and made a significant contribution towards the emancipation of women in Indian society during the British Raj. He was the second eldest brother of Rabindranath Tagore, the only Indian to get a Nobel Prize in Literature.

193. The Harappan Civilisation was discovered in which year?

- (A) 1935 (B) 1942
(C) 1901 (D) 1921

Ans: (D)

Exp: The civilization was first identified in 1921 at Harappa in the Punjab region and then in 1922 at Mohenjo-daro (Mohenjodaro), near the Indus River in the Sindh (Sind) region. Both sites are in present-day Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh provinces, respectively. The ruins of Mohenjo-daro were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1980. It was discovered by Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni.

194. In the Western India which dynasty came after The Chalukya dynasty?

- (A) Cholas (B) Kakatiyas
(C) Pallavas (D) Rashtrakutas

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Pallava dynasty was a South Indian dynasty that existed from 275 CE to 897 CE. Throughout their reign they were in constant conflict with both Chalukyas of Badami. Pallava King Narsimhavaraman-I invaded the Chalukya kingdom and defeated Pulkeshin-II (Chalukya Dynasty).

195. What name did the Arabs give Multan?

- (A) City of beauty (B) City of wealth
(C) City of gold (D) Pink city

Ans: (C)

Exp: Multan is a city in Punjab, Pakistan. Multan is also known as the city of Saints. Located on the banks of the Chenab River, Multan is Pakistan's 7th largest city, and is the major cultural and economic centre of southern Punjab. Multan was one of the most important trading centres of medieval Islamic India, and attracted a multitude of Sufi mystics in the 11th and 12th centuries,

earning the city the nickname City of Saints. The Arabs named Multan the city of gold.

196. Construction of the Qutb Minar was completed by which famous ruler?

- (A) Qutub-ud-din Aibak (B) Iltutmish
(C) Babur (D) Alauddin Khilji

Ans: (B)

Exp: Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki was a sufi saint after whom this minaret was named. Qutubuddin Aibak started construction of the Qutb Minar's first storey in 1199. Aibak's successor and son-in-law Shamsuddin Iltutmish completed a further three storeys. Firoz Shah Tughlaq replaced the damaged storey, and added one more.

197. Which one of the following was the book written by Amoghvarsha, the Rashtrakuta King?

- (A) Adipurana
(B) Ganitasara Samgraha
(C) Saktayana
(D) Kavirajamarga

Ans: (D)

Exp: Kavirajamarga is the earliest available work on rhetoric, poetics and grammar in the Kannada language. It was inspired by or written in part by the famous Rashtrakuta King Amoghavarsha I, and some historians claim it is based partly on the Sanskrit text Kavyadarsha. Some historians believe Kavirajamarga may have been co-authored by a poet in the king's court, the Kannada language theorist Sri Vijaya.

198. Who built the Kailasanatha Temple at Ellora?

- (A) Rajendra I
(B) Mahendra Varman I
(C) Krishna I
(D) Govinda I

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Kailash temple was built by Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna I. This temple is famous worldwide for the largest statue made of a single stone rock. The temple is located in cave 16 of Ellora.

Ellora has three types of caves -

1. Mahayani Buddhist Caves
2. Mythological Hindu Caves
3. Digambar Jain Caves

Only one of these caves is 12 storeyed, which is called 'Kailash Temple'.



199. Acharya Vinoba Bhave started the Individual Satyagraha in 1940 from?
 (A) Nadiad in Gujarat
 (B) Pavnar in Maharashtra
 (C) Adyar in Tamil Nadu
 (D) Guntur in Andhra Pradesh

Ans: (B)

Exp: The historical village Pavnar, situated 70 km south-west of Nagpur and 10kms north-east of Wardha, on the banks of Dham River was named after the legendary Rajput ruler Pavan. Major attractions of Pavnar are Gandhi Kuti and the Paramdham Ashram of Acharya Vinoba Bhave (Vinoba Ashram), the great social reformer and campaigner.

200. The Swadeshi Movement was launched.
 (A) as a protest against division of Bengal.
 (B) with a view to improve the economic condition of the people by encouraging consumption of Indian goods.
 (C) as a protest against the massacre of Indian people at Jallianwala Bagh.
 (D) due to the failure of the British Government to introduce responsible Government in India.

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Swadeshi movement started with the partition of Bengal by the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon in 1905 and continued up to 1911. Swadeshi, as a strategy, was a key focus of Mahatma Gandhi, who described it as the soul of Swaraj (self rule).

201. Which State in India has the largest coastline?
 (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Andhra Pradesh
 (C) Gujarat (D) West Bengal

Ans: (C)

Exp: Gujarat has the longest mainland coastline in India. The total length of India's coastline is 7516.6 kilometers. The Arabian Sea gives the state of Gujarat its extensive coastline. Andhra Pradesh has the second longest mainland coastline with a total length of 974 kilometers.

202. A refinery is a production facility composed of a group of chemical engineering unit processes and unit operations refining certain materials or converting raw material into products of value. The refineries are Mathura, Digboi and Panipat are set up by.
 (A) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
 (B) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

- (C) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
 (D) Crude Distillation unit of Madras Refineries Ltd.

Ans: (A)

Exp: The refineries are Mathura, Digboi and Panipat are set up by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

203. What is the predominant type of Indian agriculture?

- (A) Commercial agriculture
 (B) Extensive agriculture
 (C) plantation agriculture
 (D) subsistence agriculture

Ans: (D)

Exp: Subsistence agriculture occurs when farmers grow food crops to meet the needs of themselves and their families. In subsistence agriculture, farm output is targeted to survival and is mostly for local requirements with little or no surplus. Planting decisions are made principally with an eye toward what the family will need during the coming year

204. Jog falls in Karnataka is located over which river?

- (A) Kaveri (B) Godavari
 (C) Sharavati (D) Krishna

Ans: (C)

Exp: Sharavati is a river which originates and flows entirely within the state of Karnataka in India. It is one of the few westward flowing rivers of India and a major part of the river basin lies in the Western Ghats. The famous Jog Falls, located about 24 km from Sagara, are formed by this river. The river itself and the region around it are rich in biodiversity and are home to many rare species of flora and fauna. Jog Falls is the highest waterfall in India if the single drop water fall and the volume of water are considered for height. Otherwise, it is the third highest waterfall in India. The first highest is Kunchikal Falls about 455 meters (1493 ft), and the second highest is Barkana Falls about 259 meters (850 ft); all three are located in Shivamogga district.

205. The Radcliffe line is a boundary between

- (A) India and Pakistan
 (B) India and China
 (C) India and Myanmar
 (D) India and Afghanistan

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Radcliffe Line was the boundary demarcation line between the Indian and Pakistani portions of



the Punjab and Bengal provinces of British India. It was named after its architect, Sir Cyril Radcliffe, who, as the joint chairman of the two boundary commissions for the two provinces, received the responsibility to equitably divide 175,000 square miles (450,000 km²) of territory with 88 million people. The demarcation line was published on 17 August 1947 upon the Partition of India. Today its western side still serves as the Indo-Pakistani border and the eastern side serves as the India-Bangladesh border.

206. Which of the following has a potential for the harnessing of tidal energy in India?
 (A) Gulf of Cambay (B) Gulf of Mannar
 (C) Backwaters of Kerala (D) Chilka lake

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Gulf of Khambhat, also known as the Gulf of Cambay, is a bay on the Arabian Sea coast of India, bordering the state of Gujarat. The Gulf of Khambhat is about 200 km (120 mi) long, about 20 km (12 mi) wide in the north and up to 70 km (43 mi) wide in the south. Major rivers draining Gujarat are the Narmada, Tapti, Mahi and Sabarmati that form estuaries in the gulf.

207. The typical area of salt forest in the Indian peninsular upland occurs
 (A) on the western ghats
 (B) between the Tapti and the Narmada
 (C) to the north-east of the Godavari
 (D) on the Malwa plateau

Ans: (D)

Exp: The typical area of sal forest in the Indian peninsular upland occurs on the Malwa plateau.

208. The only state in India that produces saffron is
 (A) Assam
 (B) Himachal Pradesh
 (C) Jammu and Kashmir
 (D) Meghalaya

Ans: (C)

Exp: Jammu and Kashmir is the only state in India producing saffron.

209. Which one of the following areas of India is covered by tropical evergreen forest?
 (A) Semi-arid areas of Gujarat
 (B) Eastern Ghats
 (C) Western Ghats
 (D) Madhya Pradesh

Ans: (C)

Exp: Tropical Evergreen Forests. The tropical evergreen forests usually occur in areas receiving more than 200 cm of rainfall and having a temperature of 15 to 30 degrees Celsius. They occupy about seven per cent of the earth's land surface and harbours more than half of the world's plants and animals.

210. The zonal soil type of peninsular India belongs to.
 (A) red soils (B) yellow soils
 (C) black soils (D) older alluvium

Ans: (A)

Exp: Red soil is a type of soil that develops in a warm, temperate, moist climate under deciduous or mixed forest, having thin organic and organic-mineral layers overlying a yellowish-brown leached layer resting on an illuvium red layer.

211. Which of the following State is surrounded by Bangladesh from three sides?

(A) Nagaland (B) Assam
 (C) Arunachal Pradesh (D) Tripura

Ans: (D)

Exp: Tripura is a state in northeastern India. The third-smallest state in the country, it covers 10,491 km² (4,051 sq mi) and is bordered by Bangladesh to the north, south, and west, and the Indian states of Assam and Mizoram to the east. In 2011 the state had 3,671,032 residents, constituting 0.3% of the country's population. The area of modern Tripura—ruled for several centuries by the Manikya dynasty—was part of an independent princely state under the protectorate of the British Empire.

212. The Final Boundary between the Earth and the outer space is called _____.
 (A) Magnetosphere (B) Ionosphere
 (C) Mesopause (D) Magnetopause

Ans: (D)

Exp: The magnetopause is the abrupt boundary between a magnetosphere and the surrounding plasma. For planetary science, the magnetopause is the boundary between the planet's magnetic field and the solar wind. The location of the magnetopause is determined by the balance between the pressure of the dynamic planetary magnetic field and the dynamic pressure of the solar wind.



- 213.** The northern boundary of the peninsular plateau of India runs parallel to the Ganga and the Yamuna from Rajmahal hills to a point near
(A) Allahabad (B) Delhi
(C) Gwalior (D) Jaipur
Ans: (B)
Exp: The northern boundary of the peninsula plateau of India runs parallel to the Gange and the Yamuna from Rajmahal hills to a point near Delhi.
- 214.** Which of the following food grain crops occupies the largest part of the cropped area in India?
(A) Barley and maize (B) Jowar and bajra
(C) Rice (D) Wheat
Ans: (C)
Exp: Rice is the most cultivated crop in India. India is the world's second-largest producer of rice, behind China. Rice was cultivated on an area of around 32.5 million hectares during the fiscal year 2002-2003.
- 215.** Which one of the following clouds does look like cotton wool?
(A) Cirrus (B) Altostratus
(C) Cumulus (D) Nimbostratus
Ans: (B)
Exp: Normally, found between 4 and 8 km altitude, cumulus cloud looks like cotton wool.
- 216.** The oldest rocks in India are reported from
(A) Dharwar region, Karnataka
(B) Aravalli range, Rajasthan
(C) Vindhyan range, Madhya Pradesh
(D) Siwalik range, Punjab
Ans: (B)
Exp: The Aravalli Range (also spelled Aravali) is a mountain range in Northwestern India, running approximately 692 km (430 mi) in a south-west direction, starting near Delhi, passing through southern Haryana and Rajasthan, and ending in Gujarat. The highest peak is Guru Shikhar at 1,722 metres (5,650 ft). The Aravalli Range, an eroded stub of ancient mountains, is the oldest range of fold mountains in India.
- 217.** Which of the following groups of rivers originate from the Himachal mountains?
(A) Beas, Ravi, and Chenab
(B) Ravi, Chenab, and Jhelum
(C) Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi
(D) Sutlej, Ravi, and Jhelum
Ans: (A)
Exp: The state of Himachal Pradesh is spread over an area 55,673 km². Groups of rivers originate from the Himachal mountains are Beas, Ravi and Chenab.
- 218.** Which atomic power station in India is built completely indigenously?
(A) Kalpakkam (B) Narora
(C) Rawat Bhata (D) Tarapore
Ans: (A)
Exp: Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) located at Kalpakkam about 80 kilometres (50 mi) south of Chennai, India, is a comprehensive nuclear power production,
- 219.** The oldest oil field in India is the _____ field, in _____.
(A) Anleshwar, Gujarat
(B) Bombay High, Maharashtra
(C) Nawagam, Gujarat
(D) Digboi, Assam
Ans: (D)
Exp: Digboi is a town and a town area committee in Tinsukia district in the north-eastern part of the state of Assam, India. Crude oil was discovered here in late 19th century and first oil well was dug in 1866. Digboi is known as the Oil City of Assam where the first oil well in Asia was drilled. The first refinery was started here as early as 1901. Digboi has the oldest oil well in operation. Digboi has the distinction of being India's oldest continuously producing oilfield. Digboi refinery, now a division of Indian Oil Corporation, had a capacity of about 0.65 million tonnes per year as of 2003. Digboi is now Headquarter of Assam Oil Division of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
- 220.** The dwarf camels, known as Alpacas, Vicunas and Llamas are found in which region?
(A) Tibet (B) Qatar
(C) Myanmar (D) Cyprus
Ans: (A)
Exp: The dwarf camels, known as Alpacas, Vicunas and Llamas are found in Tibet region
- 221.** The difference between the diameter of the Earth at the poles and at equator is how many miles?
(A) 27 miles (B) 35 miles
(C) 40 miles (D) 55 miles



Ans: (A)

Exp: Because of this, the diameter of the Earth at the equator is about 43 kilometers (27 mi) larger than the pole-to-pole diameter. As a result, the latest measurements indicate that the Earth has an equatorial diameter of 12,756 km (7926 mi), and a polar diameter of 12713.6 km (7899.86 mi).

222. "Limnology" is a study of _____.

- (A) Limestone
- (B) Lignite of brown coal
- (C) Lakes and ponds
- (D) Laterites

Ans: (C)

Exp: "Fish in the Zone" introduces readers to limnology, a branch of science that studies freshwater bodies, such as lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

223. The wettest place in the world is Cherrapunji (Assam). The Hottest place is....?

- (A) Azizia (Libya)
- (B) Ramagundam (India)
- (C) Stewart Island (New Zealand)
- (D) Kandy (Sri Lanka)

Ans: (A)

Exp: The title of "world's hottest place" is bestowed El Azizia, Libya.

224. The term 'transhumance' means

- (A) The practice of moving to a new clearing in the forest every few years
- (B) The seasonal movement of people along with their cattle in the mountains
- (C) Moving over to another neighboring country
- (D) Moving from place to place in search of work

Ans: (B)

Exp: Seasonal movement of livestock (such as sheep) between mountain and lowland pastures either under the care of herders or in company with the owners.

225. World's largest solar power plant is located in _____.

- (A) Kalahari Desert, Africa
- (B) Sahara Desert, Libya
- (C) Thar Desert India
- (D) Mojava Desert USA

Ans: (D)

Exp: Solar Energy Generating Systems is currently the largest operational solar power plant in the world.

It is located in the Mojave Desert of California, US!

226. At how many populations constitute the Municipality Council?

- (A) 100
- (B) 10000
- (C) 50000
- (D) 100000

Ans: (D)

Exp: In India, a municipal council, municipality, Nagar Palika, Nagar Palika Parishad is an urban local body that administers a city of population 100,000 or more. However, there are exceptions to that, as previously Nagar Palikas were constituted in urban centers with populations.

227. In India, all the union Minister are appointed by _____.

- (A) The home Minister
- (B) The president
- (C) Governor
- (D) The Prime Minister

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Prime Minister is appointed by the President, who also appoints other ministers on the advice of Prime Minister. The Council is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

228. What is the full form of IAS?

- (A) Indian Airport Safety
- (B) Indian Administrative Service
- (C) Intelligence Association for safety
- (D) None of these

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Indian Administrative Service is the top and most prestigious administrative civil service of Government of India.

229. In India, a full-term member of Rajya Sabha is elected for how many years?

- (A) 4
- (B) 5
- (C) 6
- (D) None of these

Ans: (C)

Exp: Rajya Sabha (Council of States) or the upper house is a permanent body not subject to dissolution. One third of the members retire every second year, and are replaced by newly elected members. Each member is elected for a term of six years.

230. Election Commissioner of India is related to which part of the constitution?

- (A) Part XV
- (B) Part XVII



(C) Part XIV (D) Part XVI

Ans: (A)

Exp: Part XV of the Constitution of India consists of Articles on Elections. Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.

231. Which one of the following Act exercised the most profound influence on the Indian Constitution?

- (A) The GoI Act, 1935
 (B) The GoI Act, 1919
 (C) The GoI Act, 1909
 (D) The GoI Act, 1858

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Government of India Act, 1935, exercised the most profound influence in framing the Indian Constitution.

232. Impeachment proceedings against the President of India can be initiated _____.

- (A) Lok Sabha
 (B) Rajya Sabha
 (C) Supreme Court
 (D) In either of the Parliament

Ans: (D)

Exp: The president may also be removed before the expiry of the term through impeachment for violating the Constitution of India by the Parliament of India. The process may start in either of the two houses of the parliament.

233. Which one of the following was elected President of India unopposed?

- (A) Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
 (B) Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
 (C) Giani Zail Singh
 (D) Shankar Dayal Sharma

Ans: (B)

Exp: Elected to Parliament in 1977 as a candidate of the Janata Party, Reddy was unanimously elected Speaker of the Sixth Lok Sabha and three months later was elected unopposed as President of India. As president, Reddy worked with Prime Ministers Morarji Desai, Charan Singh and Indira Gandhi.

234. The idea of a single citizenship is borrowed from which country's constitution?

- (A) USA (B) Ireland

(C) France

(D) Britain

Ans: (D)

Exp: The idea of a single citizenship is borrowed from Britain constitution.

235. Who described the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) as the 'Novel Feature of the Indian Constitution'?

- (A) Mahatma Gandhi
 (B) Jawahar Lal Nehru
 (C) B R Ambedkar
 (D) Jayaprakash Narayan

Ans: (C)

Exp: Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) are mentioned in the Part 4 of the Indian constitution from article 36 to 51. DPSPs are taken from the Constitution of the Ireland. Dr. B R Ambedkar described these principles as 'novel features' of the Constitution.

236. Which Article Empower for the separation of Judiciary from the Executive?

- (A) Article 51 (B) Article 48
 (C) Article 47 (D) Article 50

Ans: (D)

Exp: Article 50: This article puts an obligation over the State to separate the judiciary from the executive. But, since this falls under the Directive Principles of State Policy, it is not enforceable.

237. Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added in 1992 by which amendment in constitution of India?

- (A) 71st (B) 92nd
 (C) 21st (D) 72nd

Ans: (A)

Exp: 71st constitution amendment, in which the eighth schedule of the constitution was amended to include Konkani, Mithi (Manipuri) and Nepali languages.

238. The prime minister who called father of economic reforms in India?

- (A) Manmohan Singh (B) Indira Gandhi
 (C) I. K. Gujral (D) Narasimha Rao

Ans: (D)

Exp: Rao, who held the Industries portfolio, was personally responsible for the dismantling of the Licence Raj, as this came under the purview of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. He is



often referred to as the "Father of Indian Economic Reforms".

239. With which constitutional amendment were the members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry included in the Electoral College for the President?
 (A) 84th Amendment (2001)
 (B) 55th Amendment (1986)
 (C) 70th Amendment (1992)
 (D) 91st Amendment (2003)

Ans: (C)

Exp: With the 70th Amendment (1992), the National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Pondicherry were included in the electoral college for the presidential election.

240. Under which Article has the State been directed to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India?
 (A) Art 45 (B) Art 44
 (C) Art 40 (D) Art 48

Ans: (B)

Exp: Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is defined in our Constitution under Article 44 of Directive Principles of State Policy. It states that it is the duty of the state to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India.

241. Which Committee recommended for the inclusion of The Fundamental Duties into the Constitution?
 (A) Hanumant Rao Committee
 (B) Goiporia Committee
 (C) Bimal Jalan committee
 (D) Sardar Swaran Singh

Ans: (D)

Exp: Fundamental duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976 on the recommendations of the Swarn Singh Committee.

242. The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the _____.
 (A) President
 (B) Prime Minister
 (C) Chief justice of High Court

(D) Chief Minister

Ans: (D)

Exp: The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.

243. To whom will the State Council of Ministers collectively be responsible?

(A) Legislative Assembly of the State

(B) Vidhan Parishad

(C) Governor

(D) Chief Minister

Ans: (A)

Exp: The state Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Legislative Assembly of the State. Every State has a Legislative Assembly and certain States have an upper House also called State Legislative Council.

244. 'Education' which was initially a state subject was moved by which amendment in the concurrent list?

(A) 24th Amendment

(B) 25th Amendment

(C) 42nd Amendment

(D) 44th, Amendment

Ans: (C)

Exp: Through the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 Five subjects were transferred from State to Concurrent List. They are:
 Education
 Forests
 Weights & Measures
 Protection of Wild Animals and Birds
 Administration of Justice:

245. In which year was Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founded?

(A) 1949

(B) 1999

(C) 1972

(D) 1997

Ans: (B)

Exp: The NCP was formed on 25 May 1999, by Sharad Pawar, P. A. Sangma, and Tariq Anwar after they were expelled from the Indian National Congress (INC) on 20 May 1999, for disputing the right of Italian-born Sonia Gandhi to lead the party. At the time of formation of the NCP, the Indian Congress (Socialist) party merged with the new party. Despite the NCP being founded on opposition



to the leadership of Sonia Gandhi, the party joined the Congress led UPA to form government of Maharashtra in 1999. In 2004, the party joined UPA to form the Indian Government led by Manmohan Singh.

246. The Directive Principles of State Policy of India (DPSP) are the guidelines or 15 principles given to the federal institutes governing the state of India to be kept in citation while framing laws and policies. Which of the following is not included in the Directive Principles of State Policy?

(A) Prohibition of Liquor
(B) Right to Work
(C) Equal Wage for Equal Work
(D) Right to Information

Ans: (D)

Exp: Right to Information Act 2005 mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information. It is an initiative taken by Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions to provide a- RTI Portal Gateway to the citizens for quick search of information on the details of first Appellate Authorities, PIOs etc. amongst others, besides access to RTI related information disclosures published on the web by various Public Authorities under the government of India as well as the State Governments.

247. In common law, a writ is a formal written order issued by a body with administrative or judicial jurisdiction. What is the literal meaning of the term “Quo-Warranto”?

(A) We command
(B) To forbid
(C) By what authority (or) warrant
(D) None of these

Ans: (C)

Exp: Quo warranto means “by what warrant”? This writ is issued to enquire into legality of the claim of a person or public office. It restrains the person or authority to act in an office which he / she is not entitled to; and thus stops usurpation of public office by anyone. This writ is applicable to the public offices only and not to private offices.

248. Part IV of constitution of India deals with which of the following?
(A) The Union

(B) The States
(C) Fundamental Rights
(D) Directive Principles of State Policy

Ans: (D)

Exp: The Directive Principles of State Policy of India (DPSP) are the guidelines or 15 principles given to the federal institutes governing the state of India, to be kept in citation while framing laws and policies. These provisions, contained in Part IV (Article 36–51) of the Constitution of India, are not enforceable by any court, but the principles laid down there in are considered in the governance of the country, making it the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws to establish a just society in the country.

249. Which article of Indian constitution deals with constitutional amendments?

(A) Article 332
(B) Article 386
(C) Article 368
(D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: Article 368 mentions the Procedure for amendment and the types of amendments. Article 368 mentions about amendment by Special Majority and amendment by Special Majority with consent of States.

There are 3 types of amendments in the Indian Constitution.

1. Simple Majority
2. Special Majority
3. Special Majority of Parliament and Consent of States.

250. In which Constitutional Amendment Act, Goa was made a full-fledged State with a State assembly?

(A) 43rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1977.
(B) 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978.
(C) 56th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1987.
(D) 57th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1987.

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Government of India have proposed to constitute the territories comprised in the Goa District of the Union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu as the State of Goa and the territories comprised in the Daman and Diu districts of that Union territory as a new Union territory of Daman and Diu. In this context, it is proposed that the Legislative Assembly of the new State of Goa shall consist of forty members. The existing Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of



Goa, Daman and Diu has thirty elected members and three nominated members. It is intended to make this Assembly with the exclusion of two members representing Daman and Diu Districts, the provisional Legislative Assembly for the new State of Goa until elections are held on the expiry of the five-year term of the existing Assembly. It is, therefore, proposed to provide that the Legislative Assembly of the new State of Goa shall consist of not less than 30 members.

251. Which of the following is not included in the assets of a commercial bank in India?
- (A) Advances
(B) Deposits
(C) Investments
(D) Money at call and short notice

Ans: (B)

Exp: Commercial banks are authorized to provide a variety of financial services which includes loans, savings accounts, etc. In this article, we will talk about various functions that a commercial bank performs.

Accepting Deposits- Commercial banks accept deposits from people, businesses, and other entities in the form of:

Savings deposits – The commercial bank accepts small deposits, from households or persons, in order to encourage savings in the economy.

Time deposits – The bank accepts deposits for a fixed time and carries a higher rate of interest as compared to savings deposits.

Current deposits – These accounts do not offer any interest. Further, most current accounts offer overdrafts up to a pre-specified limit. The bank, therefore, undertakes the obligation of paying all cheques against deposits subject to the availability of sufficient funds in the account.

2. Lending of Funds

Another important activity is lending funds to customers in the form of loans and advances, cash credit, overdraft and discounting of bills, etc.

Bank as an Agent

A bank acts as an agent to its customers for various services like:

Collecting bills, draft, cheques, etc.

Paying the insurance premium, rent, loan instalments, etc.

General Utility Services

There are several general utility services that commercial banks offer like:

Issuing traveller cheques.

Offering locker facilities for keeping valuables in safe custody.

252. Which of the following is issued by registered foreign portfolio investors to overseas investors who want to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly?
- (A) Certificate of Deposit
(B) Commercial Paper
(C) Promissory Note
(D) Participatory Note

Ans: (D)

Exp: Participatory notes are often referred to as PNs or P-Notes. These are financial instruments used by investors and edge funds to invest in the Indian securities, and no registration is required with the SEBI, the market watchdog in India. Investments flowing in through PNs are considered as offshore derivative investments (ODIs). Deutsche Bank and Citigroup are the leading issuers of participatory notes.

253. Which one of the following is not the most likely measure the Government/RBI takes to stop the slide of Indian rupee?

- (A) Curbing imports of non-essential goods and promoting exports.
(B) Encouraging Indian borrowers to issue rupee-denominated Masala Bonds.
(C) Easing conditions relating to external commercial borrowing.
(D) Following an expansionary monetary policy.

Ans: (D)

Exp: Monetary policy is the policy adopted by the monetary authority of a country that controls either the interest rate payable on very short-term borrowing or the money supply, often targeting inflation or the interest rate to ensure price stability and general trust in the currency.

Unlike fiscal policy, which relies on taxation, government spending, and government borrowing, as tools for a government to manage cyclic financial swings such as recessions, monetary policy aims to manipulate the money supply, like 'printing' more money or decreasing the money supply by changing interest rates or removing excess reserves.

254. The money multiplier in an economy increases with which one of the following?



- (A) Increase in the cash reserve ratio.
- (B) Increase in the banking habit of the population.
- (C) Increase in the statutory liquidity ratio.
- (D) Increase in the population of the country.

Ans: (B)

Exp: Money Multiplier and Reserve Ratio. The Money Multiplier refers to how an initial deposit can lead to a bigger final increase in the total money supply. This bank loan will, in turn, be re-deposited in banks allowing a further increase in bank lending and a further increase in the money supply

255. In a given year in India, official poverty lines are higher in some states than in others because.
- (A) poverty rates vary from State to State.
 - (B) price levels vary from State to State.
 - (C) Gross State Product varies from State to State.
 - (D) quality of public distribution varies from State to State.

Ans: (B)

Exp: A common method used to estimate poverty in India is based on the income or consumption levels and if the income or consumption falls below a given minimum level, then the household is said to be Below the Poverty Line (BPL). Poverty Line Calculation: Poverty estimation in India is now carried out by NITI Aayog's task force through the calculation of poverty line based on the data captured by the National Sample Survey Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).

256. Which one of the following links all the ATMs in India?
- (A) Indian banks' Association
 - (B) National Securities Depository Limited
 - (C) National Payments Corporation of India
 - (D) Reserve Bank of India

Ans: (C)

Exp: The National Payments Corporation of India is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. Founded in 2008, the NPCI is a not-for-profit organization registered under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, established by Reserve Bank of India & IBA. The organization is owned by a consortium of major banks, and has been promoted by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India. The NPCI was

incorporated in December 2008 and the Certificate of Commencement of Business was issued in April 2009.

257. Which one of the following statements correctly describes the meaning of legal tender money?

- (A) The money which is tendered in courts of law to defray the fee of legal cases.
- (B) The money which a creditor is under compulsion to accept in settlement of his claims.
- (C) The bank money in the form of cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, etc.
- (D) The metallic money in circulation in a country.

Ans: (B)

Exp: Legal tender is a form of money that courts of law are required to recognize as satisfactory payment for any monetary debt. Each jurisdiction determines what is legal tender, but essentially it is anything which when offered ("tendered") in payment of a debt extinguishes the debt. There is no obligation on the creditor to accept the tendered payment, but the act of tendering the payment in legal tender discharges the debt. The creditor is not obligated to give change.

Some jurisdictions allow contract law to overrule the status of legal tender, allowing for example merchants to specify that they will not accept cash payments. Coins and banknotes are usually defined as legal tender in many countries, but personal cheques, credit cards, and similar non-cash methods of payment are usually not. Some jurisdictions may include a specific foreign currency as legal tender, at times as its exclusive legal tender or concurrently with its domestic currency.

258. If a commodity is provided free to the public by the Government, then.

- (A) The opportunity cost is zero.
- (B) The opportunity cost is ignored.
- (C) The opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the tax-paying public.
- (D) The opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the Government.

Ans: (D)

Exp: Opportunity Cost = Return of Most Lucrative Option – Return of Chosen Option. If the government is investing in the priority sector, somebody has to bear the cost, and it is usually the taxpaying public itself.



259. Increase in absolute and per capita real GNP do not connote a higher level of economic development, if

- (A) Industrial output fails to keep pace with agricultural output.
- (B) Agricultural output fails to keep pace with industrial output.
- (C) Poverty and unemployment increase.
- (D) Imports grow faster than exports.

Ans: (C)

Exp: Economic development is not possible with increase in per capita income, by which there is an increase in the productivity of the labour and production. Increase in per capita income is not possible with increase in poverty and unemployment. Increase in poverty and unemployment creates economic class divide; unequal distribution of wealth and resources.

260. Despite being a high saving economy, capital formation may not result in significant increase in output due to-

- (A) Weak administrative machinery
- (B) Illiteracy
- (C) High population density
- (D) High capital-output ratio

Ans: (D)

Exp: The relationship between capital and output can be expressed by Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR). ICOR shows how certain amount of capital is being used to produce a single unit of production. Higher Capital Output Ratio indicates that the economy is inefficient in making best use of capital. It is difficult for that country to produce without higher amount of capital.

261. Which of the following is a most likely consequence of implementing the 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)'?

- (A) Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
- (B) Digital currency will totally replace the physical currency in about two decades.
- (C) FDI inflows will drastically increase.
- (D) Direct transfer of subsidies to poor people will become very effective.

Ans: (A)

Exp: Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India facilitating inter-

bank transactions. The interface is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India and works by instantly transferring funds between two bank accounts on a mobile platform. Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.

262. In terms of economy, the visit by foreign nationals to witness the XIX Common Wealth Games in India amounted to-

- (A) Export
- (B) Import
- (C) Production
- (D) Consumption

Ans: (A)

Exp: An export in international trade is a good or service produced in one country that is sold into another country. The seller of such goods and services is an exporter; the foreign buyer is an importer.

Export of goods often requires the involvement of customer's authorities. From the buyer's point of view an export is an import.

263. What is "base effect"?

- (A) It is the impact of drastic deficiency in supply due to failure of crops.
- (B) It is the impact of the surge in demand due to rapid economic growth.
- (C) It is the impact of the price levels of previous year on the calculation of inflation rate.
- (D) None of them.

Ans: (C)

Exp: The base effect relates to inflation in the corresponding period of the previous year, if the inflation rate was too low in the corresponding period of the previous year, even a smaller rise in the Price Index will arithmetically give a high rate of inflation now. On the other hand, if the price index had risen at a high rate in the corresponding period of the previous year and recorded high inflation rate, a similar absolute increase in the price index now will show a lower inflation rate now.

An illustration of the base effect would be like: Price Index 100 goes to 150, and then to 200. The initial increase of 50, gives the percentage increase as 50% but the subsequent increase of 50 gives the percentage increase as 33.33%. This happens arithmetically as the base on which the percentage is calculated has increased from 100 to 150.



264. In India, which of the following have the highest share in the disbursement of credit to agriculture and allied activities?

- (A) Commercial Banks
- (B) Cooperative Banks
- (C) Regional Rural Banks
- (D) Microfinance Institutions

Ans: (A)

Exp: A commercial bank is a type of bank that provides services such as accepting deposits, making business loans, and offering basic investment products that is operated as a business for profit. It can also refer to a bank, or a division of a large bank, which deals with corporations or large/middle-sized business to differentiate it from a retail bank and an investment bank. Commercial banks accept various types of deposits from public especially from its clients, including saving account deposits, recurring account deposits, and fixed deposits. These deposits are returned whenever the customer demands it or after a certain time period.

265. Economic growth is usually coupled with-

- (A) Deflation
- (B) Inflation
- (C) Stagflation
- (D) Hyperinflation

Ans: (B)

Exp: In economics, inflation is a sustained increase in the general price level of goods and services in an economy over a period of time. When the general price level rises, each unit of currency buys fewer goods and services; consequently, inflation reflects a reduction in the purchasing power per unit of money – a loss of real value in the medium of exchange and unit of account within the economy. The opposite of inflation is deflation, a sustained decrease in the general price level of goods and services. The common measure of inflation is the inflation rate, the annualized percentage change in a general price index, usually the consumer price index, over time. Economists generally believe that very high rates of inflation and hyperinflation are caused by an excessive growth of the money supply.

266. The lowering of Bank Rate by the Reserve Bank of India leads to-

- (A) More liquidity in the market.
- (B) Less liquidity in the market.
- (C) No change in the liquidity in the market.

(D) Mobilization of more deposits by commercial banks.

Ans: (A)

Exp: Bank rate, also known as discount rate in American English, is the rate of interest which a central bank charges on its loans and advances to a commercial bank. The bank rate is known by a number of different terms depending on the country, and has changed over time in some countries as the mechanisms used to manage the rate have changed.

Whenever a bank has a shortage of funds, they can typically borrow from the central bank based on the monetary policy of the country.

The borrowing is commonly done via repos: the repo rate is the rate at which the central bank lends short-term money to the banks against securities. It is more applicable when there is a liquidity crunch in the market.

267. Which one of the following is not a feature of “Value Added Tax”?

- (A) It is a multi-point destination-based system of taxation.
- (B) It is a tax levied on value addition at each stage of transaction in the production- distribution chain.
- (C) It is a tax on the final consumption of goods or services and must ultimately be borne by the consumer.
- (D) It is basically a subject of the Central Government and the State Governments are only a facilitator for its successful implementation.

Ans: (C)

Exp: A value-added tax (VAT), known in some countries as a goods and services tax (GST), is a type of tax that is assessed incrementally. It is levied on the price of a product or service at each stage of production, distribution or sale to the end consumer, except where a business is the end consumer which will reclaim this input value. It is similar to and is often compared to a sales tax.

There are two main methods of calculating VAT: the credit-invoice or invoice-based method, and the subtraction or accounts-based method. Using the credit-invoice method, sales transactions are taxed, with the customer informed of the VAT on the transaction, and businesses may receive a credit for VAT paid on input materials and services. The credit-invoice method is the most widely employed method, used by all national



VATs except for Japan. Using the subtraction method, at the end of a reporting period, a business calculates the value of all taxable sales then subtracts the sum of all taxable purchases and the VAT rate is applied to the difference.

268. A “closed economy” is an economy in which
 (A) The money supply is fully controlled
 (B) Deficit financing takes place
 (C) Only exports take place
 (D) Neither exports nor imports take place

Ans: (D)

Exp: A closed economy is completely self-sufficient, with no imports or exports from international trade.

The need for raw materials produced elsewhere that play a vital role as inputs to final goods makes closed economies inefficient.

A government may close off a specific industry from international competition through the use of quotas, subsidies, and tariffs.

In reality, there are no nations that have economies that are completely closed.

269. The basic aim of Lead Bank Scheme is that:
 (A) Big banks should try to open offices in each district.
 (B) There should be stiff competition among the various nationalized banks.
 (C) Individual banks should adopt particular districts for intensive development.
 (D) All the banks should make intensive efforts to mobilize deposits.

Ans: (C)

Exp: The basic aim of Lead Bank Scheme is that there should be stiff competition among the various nationalized banks and big banks should try to open offices in each district.

270. The balance of payments of a country is a systematic record of-
 (A) All import and transactions of a during a given period normally a year.
 (B) Goods exported from a country during a year.
 (C) Economic transaction between the governments of one country to another.
 (D) Capital movements from one country to another.

Ans: (A)

Exp: The balance of payments of a country is a systematic record of. The balance of payments

(BOP) of a country is the record of all economic transactions between the residents of a country and the rest of the world in a particular period (over a quarter of a year or more commonly over a year).

271. An increase in the Bank Rate generally indicates that the:

- (A) market rate of interest is likely to fall.
 (B) Central Bank is no longer making loans to commercial banks.
 (C) Central Bank is following an easy money policy.
 (D) Central Bank is following a tight money policy.

Ans: (D)

Exp: Bank rate refers to rate at which the Central bank lends money to its clients for long term. An increase in this rate means that the Central bank is following a tight monetary policy as increase in rates will lead to decrease in money supply thereby leading to decrease in inflation and reduction in investment.

272. In India, deficit financing is used for raising resources for-

- (A) economic development
 (B) redemption of public debt
 (C) adjusting the balance of payments
 (D) reducing the foreign debt

Ans: (A)

Exp: Deficit financing is a necessary evil in a welfare state as the states often fail to generate tax revenue which is sufficient enough to take care of the expenditure of the state. The basic intention behind deficit financing is to provide the necessary impetus to economic growth by artificial means.

273. Disguised unemployment generally means
 (A) large number of people remain unemployed.
 (B) alternative employment is not available.
 (C) marginal productivity of labour is zero.
 (D) productivity of workers is low.

Ans: (C)

Exp: Disguised unemployment exists where part of the labor force is either left without work or is working in a redundant manner where worker productivity is essentially zero. It is unemployment that does not affect aggregate output. An economy demonstrates disguised



unemployment when productivity is low and too many workers are filling too few jobs.

Disguised unemployment exists frequently in developing countries whose large populations create a surplus in the labor force. It can be characterized by low productivity and frequently accompanies informal labor markets and agricultural labor markets, which can absorb substantial quantities of labor.

274. Priority Sector Lending by banks in India constitutes the lending to:

- (A) agriculture
- (B) micro and small enterprises
- (C) weaker sections
- (D) All of the above

Ans: (D)

Exp: Priority Sector Lending is an important role given by the (RBI) to the banks for providing a specified portion of the bank lending to few specific sectors like agriculture and allied activities, micro and small enterprises, poor people for housing, students for education and other low-income groups and weaker sections. This is essentially meant for an all-round development of the economy as opposed to focusing only on the financial sector. The broad categories of priority sector for all scheduled commercial banks are as under:

(i) Agriculture and Allied Activities (Direct and Indirect finance): Direct finance to agriculture shall include short, medium and long term loans given for agriculture and allied activities directly to individual farmers, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) or Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) of individual farmers without limit and to others (such as corporate, partnership firms and institutions) up to Rs. 20 lakh, for taking up agriculture/allied activities.

275. Which one of the following is likely to be the most inflationary in its effect?

- (A) Repayment of public debt.
- (B) Borrowing from the public to finance a budget deficit.
- (C) Borrowing from banks to finance a budget deficit.
- (D) Creating new money to finance a budget deficit.

Ans: (D)

Exp: When the government finances its deficit by issuing new printed money which the public adds

to its holdings of nominal balances to maintain the real value of money balances constant, we say the government is financing itself through the inflation tax. Note that monetary base is the amount of the high-powered money.

276. In electromagnetic induction, the induced charge does not depend on –

- (A) Change in flux
- (B) time of change of magnetic flux
- (C) Resistance of Coil
- (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Prove that induced charge does not depend on rate of change of flux.

277. White light is made up of seven colors. What is the method of separating the colors?

- (A) By passing it through a prism
- (B) By filtration
- (C) Can't be separated
- (D) Both (A) and (B)

Ans: (A)

Exp: Different colors of different wavelength experience different degree of deviation and hence when put through refraction, white light splits into its constituent colors. This is how when passing through a prism, dispersion of light (white light) happens wherein it splits into its seven-constituent colour.

278. Which of the following is not a vector quantity?

- (A) speed
- (B) velocity
- (C) torque
- (D) displacement

Ans: (A)

Exp: A vector quantity is a quantity which has both magnitude and direction. Here in the given options, speed is a scalar quantity but not the vector quantity.

279. The temperature which has the same reading on both Fahrenheit and Celsius scales is

- (A) 0°
- (B) -40°
- (C) 4°
- (D) 140°

Ans: (B)

Exp: Negative forty degrees is the temperature where the Fahrenheit and Celsius scales correspond with one another ($-40^{\circ}\text{F} = -40^{\circ}\text{C}$).

280. Kilowatt hour is the unit of-

- (A) Energy
- (B) Power
- (C) Force
- (D) Momentum



Ans: (A)

Exp: The kilowatt-hour is a unit of energy equal to 3600 kilojoules. The kilowatt-hour is commonly used as a billing unit for energy delivered to consumers by electric utilities. The kilowatt-hour is a composite unit of energy equal to one kilowatt (kW) of power sustained for one hour. Expressed in the standard unit of energy in the International System of Units (SI), the joule (symbol J), it is equal to 3600 kilojoules.

281. The which part of the eye having the largest refractive index is :

- (A) Cornea (B) Aqueous humor
(C) Lens (D) Vitreous humor

Ans: (C)

Exp: The part of the eye having the largest refractive index is lens. The lens is a transparent, biconvex structure. It is located directly behind the iris (the colored part of the eye) and the pupil. Its function is to focus light on the retina.

282. Conversion of heat into electrical is achieved by using:

- (A) Ammeter (B) Hydrometer
(C) Voltmeter (D) Thermocouple

Ans: (D)

Exp: A thermocouple is a temperature-measuring device consisting of two dissimilar conductors that contact each other at one or more spots, where a temperature differential is experienced by the different conductors (or semiconductors).

283. Ball pen functions on the principle of-

- (A) Viscosity (B) Boyles Law
(C) Gravitational force (D) Surface tension

Ans: (D)

Exp: Ball pen functions on the principle of surface tension. Pen is fitted with a tiny ball bearing in its tip. As the pen moves along the paper, the ball rotates picking up ink from the ink cartridge and leaving it on the paper.

284. A man cannot see clearly beyond 10 meters. The disease he suffers from:

- (A) Far sight (B) Myopia
(C) Cataract (D) Hyper metopic

Ans: (B)

Exp: Near sightedness (myopia) is a common vision condition in which you can see objects near to you clearly, but objects farther away are blurry. It

occurs when the shape of your eye causes light rays to bend (refract) incorrectly, focusing images in front of your retina instead of on your retina.

285. When milk is churned the cream separates from it due to which doctrine:

- (A) Frictional force (B) Centrifugal force
(C) Gravitational force (D) Viscous forces

Ans: (B)

Exp: Centrifugal force, a fictitious force, peculiar to a particle moving on a circular path, that has the same magnitude and dimensions as the force that keeps the particle on its circular path (the centripetal force) but points in the opposite direction. A stone whirling in a horizontal plane on the end of a string tied to a post on the ground is continuously changing the direction of its velocity and, therefore, has an acceleration toward the post.

286. Moving electric charge produces:

- (A) magnetic field (B) Sound waves
(C) Light rays (D) Heat waves

Ans: (A)

Exp: A charged particle moving without acceleration produces an electric as well as a magnetic field. It produces an electric field because it's a charge particle. All of a sudden when it starts moving, it starts producing a magnetic field.

287. The S.I. Unit of electric charge is:

- (A) ampere (B) Coulomb
(C) e.s.u (D) Kelvin

Ans: (B)

Exp: Coulomb, unit of electric charge in the metre-kilogram-second-ampere system, the basis of the SI system of physical units. It is abbreviated as C. The coulomb is defined as the quantity of electricity transported in one second by a current of one ampere. Named for the 18th–19th-century French physicist Charles-Augustin de Coulomb, it is approximately equivalent to 6.24×10^{18} electrons.

288. Light beam which is highly directional is called:

- (A) eraser (B) Grazer
(C) Maser (D) laser

Ans: (D)

Exp: Laser, a device that stimulates atoms or molecules to emit light at particular wavelengths and amplifies that light, typically producing a very

narrow beam of radiation. The emission generally covers an extremely limited range of visible, infrared, or ultraviolet wavelengths. Many different types of lasers have been developed, with highly varied characteristics. Laser is an acronym for "light amplification by the stimulated emission of radiation."

The laser is an outgrowth of a suggestion made by Albert Einstein in 1916 that under the proper circumstances atoms could release excess energy as light—either spontaneously or when stimulated by light.

289. What is the fuel in the Sun?

- (A) Helium (B) Hydrogen
(C) Oxygen (D) Carbon dioxide

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Sun currently fuses about 600 million tons of hydrogen into helium every second, converting 4 million tons of matter into energy every second as a result. This energy, which can take between 10,000 and 170,000 years to escape from its core, is the source of the Sun's light and heat.

290. What are the nuclei of different atoms containing same number of neutrons known as?

- (A) Isobars (B) Isotopes
(C) Isotones (D) Isomers

Ans: (C)

Exp: Isotone, any of two or more species of atoms or nuclei that have the same number of neutrons. Thus, chlorine-37 and potassium-39 are isotones, because the nucleus of this species of chlorine consists of 17 protons and 20 neutrons, whereas the nucleus of this species of potassium contains 19 protons and 20 neutrons.

291. What is the ratio of the change in collector current to the change in base current at a constant collector-emitter voltage, when the common emitter transistor is in active state, known as?

- (A) Input resistance
(B) Output resistance
(C) Current amplification factor
(D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: The ratio of change in collector current (ΔI_C) to the change in emitter current (ΔI_E) when collector voltage VCB is kept constant, is called as Current amplification factor. It is denoted by α .

$\alpha = \Delta I_C / \Delta I_E$ at constant VCB

292. Which of these diodes is used to detect optical signals?

- (A) Photodiode
(B) Light emitting diode
(C) Photovoltaic diode
(D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: A photodiode is a semiconductor device that converts light into an electrical current. The current is generated when photons are absorbed in the photodiode. Photodiodes may contain optical filters, built-in lenses, and may have large or small surface areas. Photodiodes usually have a slower response time as their surface area increases. The common, traditional solar cell used to generate electric solar power is a large area photodiode. Photodiodes are used in consumer electronics devices such as compact disc players, smoke detectors, medical devices and the receivers for infrared remote-control devices used to control equipment from televisions to air conditioners.

293. Sound of frequency below 20 Hz are called—

- (A) Audio sounds (B) Infrasound
(C) Ultrasonic (D) Supersonics

Ans: (B)

Exp: The term "infrasound" applied to sound refers to sound waves below the frequencies of audible sound, and nominally includes anything under 20 Hz. Sources of infrasound in nature include volcanoes, avalanches, earthquakes and meteorites.

294. A man wearing spectacles, when working with a microscope—

- (A) Cannot see anything through the microscope.
(B) Should keep on wearing spectacles.
(C) Should take off his spectacles.
(D) May work with or without spectacles.

Ans: (C)

Exp: If you wear eyeglasses, you may wonder whether you should keep them on or take them off while viewing samples through the microscope. If the glasses merely adjust for near-sightedness or farsightedness, or old age, then there is no need to wear glasses. You may find it more comfortable to do this if the eyepieces have rubber eye shields which help block out light from your peripheral vision.



295. The spread in colors in a rainbow on sky is primarily due to-
- (A) Dispersion of sunlight
(B) Reflection of sunlight
(C) Refraction of sunlight
(D) Total internal reflection of sunlight

Ans: (A)

Exp: The sunlight splits into seven colors namely violet, indigo, blue, green, orange, and red. The prism splits the white light into seven different colors. This splitting of white light into many colors is called as a dispersion of light. This shows that the sunlight consists of several colors.

296. Ability of the eye to see objects at all distances is called—

(A) Binocular vision (B) Myopia
(C) Hypermetropia (D) Accommodation

Ans: (D)

Exp: Accommodation of an eye: While seeing at distant object, eye lens is thinner and its focal length is more (about 2.5 cm). While looking at near objects, eye lens assumes a more round shape, and its focal length decreases and nearby objects are clearly focused at the retina.

297. Mach number is used in connection with the speed of—

(A) Sound (B) Aircraft
(C) Spacecraft (D) Ships

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Mach number is the ratio of flow velocity after a certain limit of the sounds speed. In simple words it is the ratio of the speed of a body to the speed of sound in the surrounding medium. The formula of Mach Number is:

$$M = u/c$$

Where,

The Mach number is M

Based on the limits the local flow velocity is u

The speed of sound in that medium is c

To explain it simply, the speed of sound can be equated to Mach 1 speed. Thus, Mach 0.75 will be 75% of the speed of sound that is also called subsonic and Mach 1.65 will be 65% faster than the speed of light which is also called supersonic.

298. The layer of atmosphere used for radio wave transmission is-

(A) Chromospheres (B) Troposphere
(C) Ionosphere (D) Stratosphere

Ans: (C)

Exp: The ionosphere is the ionized part of Earth's upper atmosphere, from about 60 km to 1,000 km altitude, a region that includes the thermosphere and parts of the mesosphere and exosphere. The ionosphere is ionized by solar radiation. It plays an important role in atmospheric electricity and forms the inner edge of the magnetosphere. It has practical importance because, among other functions, it influences radio propagation to distant places on the Earth. The region below the ionosphere is called neutral atmosphere, or neutrosphere. Geophysical, the state of the ionosphere plasma may be described by four parameters: electron density, electron and ion temperature and, since several species of ions are present, ionic composition. Radio propagation depends uniquely on electron density.

299. Negative feedback in amplifiers

(A) Increases bandwidth and decreases noise
(B) Decreases bandwidth and decreases noise
(C) increases bandwidth and increases noise
(D) Decreases bandwidth and increases noise

Ans: (A)

Exp: Advantages and disadvantages of negative feedback amplifier.

The negative feedback reduces noise.

It has highly stabilized gain.

It can control step response of amplifier.

It has less harmonic distortion.

It has less amplitude distortion.

It has less phase distortion.

Input and output impedances can be modified as desired.

It can increase or decrease output impedances.

300. Water cannot be used to extinguish fire caused by electric current because.

(A) It may cause electrocution
(B) It may cause hydrolysis
(C) It may cause electrolysis
(D) It may spoil the wiring

Ans: (A)

Exp: Water is not used for extinguishing fires caused due to electrical faults because water is good conductor of electricity. If water is poured on an electrical fire, the water could conduct electricity causing the person trying to extinguish the fire to experience an electric shock.



301. Which of the following is used to remove ink and rust stains on cloth?

- (A) Oxalic acid (B) Alcohol
(C) Ether (D) Kerosene oil

Ans: (A)

Exp: Oxalic acid is an organic compound with the formula $C_2H_2O_4$. It is a white crystalline solid that forms a colorless solution in water. Its condensed formula is $HOOC-COOH$, reflecting its classification as the simplest dicarboxylic acid. Its acid strength is much greater than that of acetic acid.

Oxalic acid's main applications include cleaning or bleaching, especially for the removal of rust (iron complexing agent). Its utility in rust removal agents is due to its forming a stable, water-soluble salt with ferric iron, ferrioxalate ion.

302. Two elements which can form a large number of compounds are.

- (A) Carbon and Hydrogen
(B) Carbon and Nitrogen
(C) Carbon and Oxygen
(D) Carbon and Sulphur

Ans: (A)

Exp: Carbon is a chemical element with the symbol C and atomic number 6. It is nonmetallic and tetravalent—making four electrons available to form covalent chemical bonds. It belongs to group 14 of the periodic table.

Hydrogen is the chemical element with the symbol H and atomic number 1. With a standard atomic weight of 1.008, hydrogen is the lightest element in the periodic table. Hydrogen is the most abundant chemical substance in the Universe, constituting roughly 75% of all baryonic mass.

303. An inert gas mixed with oxygen given to patients suffering from restricted breathing is-

- (A) Helium (B) Krypton
(C) Radon (D) Argon

Ans: (A)

Exp: Helium is a chemical element with the symbol He and atomic number 2. It is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas group in the periodic table. Its boiling point is the lowest among all the elements. Helium is the second lightest and second most abundant element in the observable universe (hydrogen is the lightest and most abundant). Helium is used as a shielding gas in arc welding

processes on materials that at welding temperatures are contaminated and weakened by air or nitrogen.

304. An example of major air pollutant is-

- (A) Oxygen
(B) Carbon monoxide
(C) Helium
(D) Carbon dioxide

Ans: (B)

Exp: Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless flammable gas that is slightly less dense than air. It is toxic to animals that use hemoglobin as an oxygen carrier (both invertebrate and vertebrate) when encountered in concentrations above about 35 ppm, although it is also produced in normal animal metabolism in low quantities, and is thought to have some normal biological functions. In the atmosphere, it is spatially variable and short lived, having a role in the formation of ground-level ozone.

305. What is the average amount of salt (NaCl) in the body of an adult human?

- (A) 1 kilogram (B) 500 grams
(C) 250 grams (D) none

Ans: (C)

Exp: The average adult human body contains about 250 grams of salt, which is just over half a pound.

306. Gold dissolves in-

- (A) Hydrochloric acid (B) Nitric acid
(C) Aquaregia (D) Acetic acid

Ans: (C)

Exp: Aqua regia is a mixture of hydrochloric acid (HCl) and nitric acid (HNO₃) at a ratio of either 3:1 or 4:1. The name aqua regia was coined by alchemists because of its ability to dissolve gold—the "king of metals".

307. Which halide is used in making sensitive emulsion on photographic film?

- (A) Sodium chloride (B) Silver bromide
(C) Silver Iodide (D) Silver chloride

Ans: (B)

Exp: Silver bromide (AgBr), a soft, pale-yellow, water-insoluble salt well known (along with other silver halides) for its unusual sensitivity to light. This property has allowed silver halides to become the basis of modern photographic materials. AgBr is widely used in photographic films.



308. Among the following the hardest metal is-

- (A) Gold (B) Iron
(C) Platinum (D) Tungsten

Ans: (D)

Exp: Tungsten is a greyish-white lustrous metal, which is a solid at room temperature. Tungsten has the highest melting point and lowest vapor pressure of all metals, and at temperatures over 1650°C has the highest tensile strength. It has excellent corrosion resistance.

309. The element used in the manufacture of safety matches is-

- (A) Phosphorous (B) Magnesium
(C) Silicon (D) Sulphur

Ans: (A)

Exp: Phosphorus is a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15. Elemental phosphorus exists in two major forms, white phosphorus and red phosphorus, but because it is highly reactive, phosphorus is never found as a free element on Earth. It has a concentration in the Earth's crust of about one gram per kilogram (compare copper at about 0.06 grams). In minerals, phosphorus generally occurs as phosphate. Phosphorus is an essential plant nutrient (often the limiting nutrient), and the bulk of all phosphorus production is in concentrated phosphoric acids for agriculture fertilisers, containing as much as 70% to 75% P₂O₅.

310. The material used in solar cells contains-

- (A) Tin (B) Silicon
(C) Cesium (D) Thallium

Ans: (B)

Exp: Silicon the most prevalent bulk material for solar cells is crystalline silicon, also known as "solar grade silicon". Silicon is a chemical element with the symbol Si and atomic number 14. It is a hard, brittle crystalline solid with a blue-grey metallic luster, and is a tetravalent metalloid and semiconductor. It is a member of group 14 in the periodic table: carbon is above it; and germanium, tin, and lead are below it.

311. Quartz is a crystalline form of-

- (A) Alumina (B) Glass
(C) Silica (D) Limestone

Ans: (C)

Exp: Silica, also called silicon dioxide, compound of the two most abundant elements in Earth's crust,

silicon and oxygen, SiO₂. The mass of Earth's crust is 59 percent silica, the main constituent of more than 95 percent of the known rocks. Silica has three main crystalline varieties: quartz (by far the most abundant), tridymite, and cristobalite. Other varieties include coesite, keatite, and lechatelierite.

312. When lime juice is dropped on baking soda brisk effervescence takes place because the gas evolved is-

- (A) Hydrogen (B) Oxygen
(C) Carbon dioxide (D) All of above

Ans: (C)

Exp: Carbon dioxide (chemical formula CO₂) is a colorless gas with a density about 60% higher than that of dry air. Carbon dioxide consists of a carbon atom covalently double bonded to two oxygen atoms. It occurs naturally in Earth's atmosphere as a trace gas. The current concentration is about 0.04% (412 ppm) by volume, having risen from pre-industrial levels of 280 ppm. Natural sources include volcanoes, hot springs and geysers, and it is freed from carbonate rocks by dissolution in water and acids. Because carbon dioxide is soluble in water, it occurs naturally in groundwater, rivers and lakes, ice caps, glaciers and seawater.

313. Which of the following is a super cooled liquid?

- (A) Ice cream (B) Ammonia
(C) Glass (D) Wood

Ans: (C)

Exp: Glass is a state of matter. It is a solid produced by cooling molten material so that the internal arrangement of atoms, or molecules, remains in a random or disordered state, similar to the arrangement in a liquid. Such a solid is said to be amorphous or glassy. Ordinary solids, by contrast, have regular crystalline structures. Many materials can be made to exist as glasses. Hard candies, for example, consist primarily of sugar in the glassy state. What the term "glass" means to most people, however, is a product made from silica (SiO₂). The common form of silica is sand, but it also occurs in nature in a crystalline form known as quartz.

314. Which one of the following elements is least likely to be found in commercial fertilizers?

- (A) Nitrogen (B) Phosphorous
(C) Potassium (D) Silicon



Ans: (D)

Exp: Silicon is a chemical element with the symbol Si and atomic number 14. It is a hard, brittle crystalline solid with a blue-grey metallic luster, and is a tetravalent metalloid and semiconductor. It is a member of group 14 in the periodic table: carbon is above it; and germanium, tin, and lead are below it. It is relatively unreactive. Because of its high chemical affinity for oxygen, it was not until 1823 that Jöns Jakob Berzelius was first able to prepare it and characterize it in pure form.

315. In the electroplating of gold, the electrolyte used is?

- (A) Gold chloride
(B) Gold nitrate
(C) Gold sulphate
(D) Potassium aurocyanide

Ans: (C)

Exp: Gold Sulfate is a moderately water and acid soluble Gold source for uses compatible with sulfates. Sulfate compounds are salts or esters of sulfuric acid formed by replacing one or both of the hydrogen with a metal. ... Gold Sulfate is generally immediately available in most volumes.

316. The metal extracted from Bauxite is-

- (A) Silver (B) Copper
(C) Manganese (D) Aluminum

Ans: (D)

Exp: Aluminum is a chemical element with the symbol Al and atomic number 13. It is a silvery-white, soft, non-magnetic and ductile metal in the boron group. By mass, aluminum makes up about 8% of the Earth's crust, where it is the third most abundant element and also the most abundant metal. Occurrence of aluminum decreases in the Earth's mantle below, however. The chief ore of aluminum is bauxite. Aluminum metal is highly reactive, such that native specimens are rare and limited to extreme reducing environments. Instead, it is found combined in over 270 different minerals.

317. The metal chiefly used for galvanizing iron is-

- (A) Zinc (B) Mercury
(C) Cadmium (D) Tin

Ans: (A)

Exp: Galvanization is the process of applying a protective zinc coating to steel or iron in order to prevent premature rust and corrosion. The

corrosion of zinc is very slow, which gives it an extended life while it protects the base metal. Due to the alloying of the Zinc to the iron, cathodic protection occurs.

318. Which among the following elements is abundant on the lunar surface and holds the potential to put an end to the energy crisis of the earth?

- (A) Helium-I (B) Helium-II
(C) Helium-III (D) Helium-IV

Ans: (C)

Exp: Helium-3, stable isotope of helium with two protons and one neutron (common helium-4 having two protons and two neutrons). Other than protium (ordinary hydrogen), helium-3 is the only stable isotope of any element with more protons than neutrons. Helium-3 was discovered in 1939.

319. The atomic number of four elements P, Q, R, S are 6, 8, 10 and 12 respectively. The two elements which can react to form ionic compounds are:

- (A) P and S (B) Q and R
(C) P and R (D) Q and S

Ans: (D)

Exp: Q atom's electronic configuration is 2,4,2 and S atom is 2,4,6. Therefore Q has 2 electrons in its outer most shell, so it will lose 2 electrons to S and both will attain inert gas configuration.

320. Which of the following statement is true about ionic compounds?

- (A) Ionic compounds conduct electricity when dissolved in water.
(B) Ionic compounds are not soluble in water.
(C) Ionic compounds are crystalline solids.
(D) Only A and C

Ans: (D)

Exp: Ionic compounds conduct electricity when dissolved in water or melted. They are soluble in water and are also crystalline solids. Ionic compounds conduct electricity when molten (liquid) or in aqueous solution (dissolved in water), because their ions are free to move from place to place. Ionic compounds cannot conduct electricity when solid, as their ions are held in fixed positions and cannot move.

321. The solution of one of the following compounds will conduct electricity. This compound is:

- (A) CCl_4 (B) HCl
(C) CaCl_2 (D) CH_3Cl



Ans: (C)

Exp: CaCl_2 form ionic bond and so will conduct electricity.

322. Which of the following property is not of ionic compound?

- (A) Solubility in water
- (B) High melting and boiling points
- (C) Electrical conductivity in solid state
- (D) Electrical conductivity in molten state

Ans: (B)

Exp: Ionic compounds are soluble in water, conduct electricity in solid and molten state. As metals are giant lattice structures, the number of electrostatic forces to be broken is extremely large, and so metals have high melting and boiling points. This means that the melting point and boiling point of metals are more similar to those for ionic compounds than for covalent substances.

323. Which of the following compounds is not ionic in nature?

- (A) Lithium Chloride
- (B) Ammonium Chloride
- (C) Calcium Chloride
- (D) Carbon tetrachloride

Ans: (D)

Exp: Carbon tetrachloride all forms ionic bond. Carbon Tetrachloride is a clear, colorless, volatile and very stable chlorinated hydrocarbon. Carbon Tetrachloride is used as a solvent for oils and fats, as a refrigerant and as a dry-cleaning agent. Inhalation of its vapors can depress central nervous system activity and cause degeneration of the liver and kidneys.

324. Ionic compound are soluble in:

- (A) Ether
- (B) Alcohol
- (C) Kerosene
- (D) Water

Ans: (D)

Exp: Ionic compounds are soluble in water but insoluble in organic solvents like ether, acetone, alcohol, kerosene oil etc. Ionic compounds are soluble in polar solvents and insoluble in non-polar solvents. Polar solvents like water decrease the electrostatic forces of attraction, resulting in free ions in aqueous solution. Hence, ionic compounds dissolve in, polar solvents.

325. What is an ionic bond?

(A) Ionic bond is formed by sharing of electrons between two atoms.

(B) It is a bond formed by the transfer of electrons from one atom to another.

(C) Both A and B are correct

(D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Ionic bond, also called electrovalent bond, type of linkage formed from the electrostatic attraction between oppositely charged ions in a chemical compound. Such a bond forms when the valence (outermost) electrons of one atom are transferred permanently to another atom. The atom that loses the electrons becomes a positively charged ion (cation), while the one that gains them becomes a negatively charged ion (anion).

326. Octopus is:

- (A) an arthropod
- (B) an echinoderm
- (C) a hemichordate
- (D) a mollusk

Ans: (D)

Exp: The octopus is a soft-bodied, eight-limbed mollusc of the order Octopoda. Around 300 species are recognised and the order is grouped within the class Cephalopoda with squids,

327. The hormone insulin is a:

- (A) Glycolipid
- (B) Fatty acid
- (C) Peptide
- (D) Sterol

Ans: (C)

Exp: Peptides are short chains of between two and fifty amino acids, linked by peptide bonds. Chains of less than ten or fifteen amino acids are called oligopeptides, and include dipeptides, tripeptides, and tetrapeptides.

A polypeptide is a longer, continuous, and unbranched peptide chain of up to fifty amino acids. Hence, peptides fall under the broad chemical classes of biological oligomers and polymers, alongside nucleic acids, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, and others.

328. In which organ of the human body, are the lymphocyte cells formed?

- (A) Liver
- (B) Long bone
- (C) Pancreas
- (D) Spleen

Ans: (B)

Exp: Lymphocytes are the cells that determine the specificity of the immune response to infectious microorganisms and other foreign substances. In humans' lymphocytes make up 25 to 33% of the



total number of leukocytes. They are found in central lymphoid organs and tissues such as the spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes and large bones.

329. Pneumoconiosis affects the workers who work mainly in:

(A) Tanneries
(B) Coalmining industry
(C) Distilleries
(D) Glass industry

Ans: (B)

Exp: Pneumoconiosis is one of a group of interstitial lung disease caused by breathing in certain kinds of dust particles that damage your lungs. Because you are likely to encounter these dusts only in the workplace, pneumoconiosis is called an occupational lung disease. Pneumoconiosis usually take years to develop. Because your lungs can't get rid of all these dust particles, they cause inflammation in your lungs that can eventually lead to scar tissue.

330. The cells that are responsible for the production of antibodies are.

(A) White blood cells (B) Red blood cells
(C) Platelets (D) Plasma

Ans: (A)

Exp: White blood cells (WBCs), also called leukocytes or leucocytes, are the cells of the immune system that are involved in protecting the body against both infectious disease and foreign invaders. All white blood cells are produced and derived from multipotent cells in the bone marrow known as hematopoietic stem cells. Leukocytes are found throughout the body, including the blood and lymphatic system.

All white blood cells have nuclei, which distinguishes them from the other blood cells, the anucleated red blood cells (RBCs) and platelets.

332. There is immunity gained by the body after the first attack of the disease.

(A) Acquired immunity
(B) Natural immunity
(C) Passive immunity
(D) Artificial immunity

Ans: (A)

Exp: The adaptive immune system, also referred as the acquired immune system, is a subsystem of the immune system that is composed of specialized, systemic cells and processes that eliminates pathogens by preventing their growth. The

acquired immune system is one of the two main immunity strategies found in vertebrates.

332. Typhoid is transmitted through

(A) Touch (B) Air
(C) Personal contact (D) Water and food

Ans: (D)

Exp: The typhoid bacillus is transmitted by consumption of contaminated food or water. Occasionally, direct faecal-oral transmission may occur. Shellfish taken from sewage-polluted areas are an important source of infection; transmission also occurs through eating raw fruit and vegetables fertilized by human excreta and through ingestion of contaminated milk and milk products. Flies may cause human infection through transfer of the infectious agents to foods. Pollution of water sources may produce epidemics of typhoid fever when large numbers of people use the same source of drinking-water.

333. Drugs used to relieve pain.

(A) Antipyretics (B) Analgesics
(C) Anti-inflammatory (D) Antibiotics

Ans: (B)

Exp: Analgesics are medicines that are used to relieve pain. They are also known as painkillers or pain relievers. Technically, the term analgesic refers to a medication that provides relief from pain without putting you to sleep or making you lose consciousness.

334. Mode of transmission of typhoid fever.

(A) Respiratory (B) Intravenous
(C) Droplet (D) Oro facial

Ans: (D)

Exp: Anatomy Of or affecting both the mouth and face.

335. Route of transmission of Hepatitis-B:

(A) fecal-oral
(B) Potential (parental)
(C) Contaminated water
(D) Oral

Ans: (B)

Exp: Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. When the liver is inflamed or damaged, its function can be affected. Heavy alcohol use, toxins, some medications, and certain medical conditions can all cause hepatitis. However, hepatitis is often caused by a virus. In the United States, the most



common hepatitis viruses are hepatitis A virus, hepatitis B virus, and hepatitis C virus.

336. Toxoid serum is used in the treatment of-

- (A) Small pox (B) Malaria
(C) Diphtheria (D) Leprosy

Ans: (C)

Exp: Diphtheria is an infection caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. They usually start two to five days after exposure. Symptoms often come on fairly gradually, beginning with a sore throat and fever. In severe cases, a grey or white patch develops in the throat. This can block the airway and create a barking cough as in croup.

337. The transportation of oxygen to the cells in the body is performed by-

- (A) Hemoglobin (B) Hormones
(C) Vitamins (D) Insulin

Ans: (A)

Exp: Hemoglobin abbreviated Hb or Hgb is the iron-containing oxygen-transport metalloprotein in the red blood cells of almost all vertebrates as well as the tissues of some invertebrates. Hemoglobin in blood carries oxygen from the lungs or gills to the rest of the body (i.e. the tissues).

338. The gastric juice in the stomach contains.

- (A) Tannic acid (B) Nitric acid
(C) Hydrochloric acid (D) Sulphuric acid

Ans: (C)

Exp: gastric juice Fluid comprising a mixture of substances, including pepsin and hydrochloric acid, secreted by glands of the stomach. Its principal function is to break down proteins into polypeptides during digestion.

339. Ticks and mites are actually:

- (A) Arachnids (B) Crustaceans
(C) Insects (D) Myriapods

Ans: (A)

Exp: Arachnida is a class of joint-legged invertebrate animals (arthropods), in the subphylum Chelicerata. Spiders are the largest order in the class, which also includes scorpions, ticks, mites, harvestmen, and solifuges. In 2019, a molecular phylogenetic study also placed horseshoe crabs in Arachnida.

340. Monotremes are unique mammals because they-

- (A) lay eggs

- (B) secrete milk in a pouch
(C) give birth to live young
(D) possess hair

Ans: (A)

Exp: In some ways, monotremes are very primitive for mammals because, like reptiles and birds, they lay eggs rather than having live birth. Like other mammals, however, monotremes have a single bone in their lower jaw, three middle ear bones, high metabolic rates, hair, and they produce milk to nourish the young.

341. Which one of the following is not a digestive enzyme?

- (A) Pepsin (B) Renin
(C) Insulin (D) Amylopsin

Ans: (C)

Exp: Insulin is a peptide hormone produced by beta cells of the pancreatic islets; it is considered to be the main anabolic hormone of the body. It regulates the metabolism of carbohydrates, fats and protein by promoting the absorption of glucose from the blood into liver, fat and skeletal muscle cells.

342. In a human body the longest bone is in the-

- (A) vertebral column (B) thigh
(C) rib cage (D) arm

Ans: (B)

Exp: The femur, or thigh bone, is the proximal bone of the hindlimb in tetrapod vertebrates. The head of the femur articulates with the acetabulum in the pelvic bone forming the hip joint, while the distal part of the femur articulates with the tibia and kneecap, forming the knee joint.

343. Dinosaurs were:

- (A) mammals that became extinct
(B) large herbivorous creatures which gave rise to hippopotamus species
(C) egg-laying mammals
(D) reptiles that became extinct

Ans: (D)

Exp: Dinosaurs are a diverse group of reptiles of the clade Dinosauria. They first appeared during the Triassic period, between 243 and 233.23 million years ago, although the exact origin and timing of the evolution of dinosaurs is the subject of active research. They became the dominant terrestrial vertebrates after the Triassic–Jurassic extinction event 201.3 million years ago.



344. Sweat glands in mammals are primarily concerned with-

- (A) removal of excess salts
- (B) excretion of nitrogenous wastes
- (C) thermoregulation
- (D) sex-attraction

Ans: (C)

Exp: Sweating is primarily a means of thermoregulation. which is achieved by the water-rich secretion of the sweat glands. Thus, sweating allows the body to regulate its temperature.

345. The vitamin that helps to prevent infections in the human body is.

- (A) vitamin A
- (B) vitamin B
- (C) vitamin C
- (D) vitamin D

Ans: (C)

Exp: Vitamin C is an essential nutrient for humans and certain other animal species. Vitamin C is found in high concentrations in immune cells and is consumed during infections.

346. The normal cholesterol level in human blood is.

- (A) 80 - 120 mg/dl
- (B) 120- 140 mg/dl
- (C) 140 - 180 mg/dl
- (D) 180 - 200 mg/dl

Ans: (D)

Exp: Total cholesterol levels less than 200 milligrams per deciliter (mg/dL) are considered desirable for adults. A reading between 200 and 239 mg/dL is considered high. LDL cholesterol levels should be less than 100 mg/dL.

347. Which of the following are warm blooded animals?

- (A) Whales
- (B) Whale Sharks
- (C) Alytes
- (D) Draco

Ans: (A)

Exp: Warm-blooded creatures, like mammals and birds, try to keep the inside of their bodies at a constant temperature. To generate heat warm-blooded animals, convert the food that they eat into energy. They have to eat a lot of food, compared with cold-blooded animals, to maintain a constant body temperature. Examples of warm-blooded animals include: mammals, cats, dogs, humans, giraffes, elephants, bears, beavers,

chickens, monkeys, whales, deer, cows, wolf, birds, etc. Cold Blooded animals use external means to control their body temperature. These ectothermic methods include basking in the sun, hiding in the shade, changes in metabolic rate. Some animals' body temperature even changes with their environment. Animals that fall into this category are: fish, insects, spiders, frogs, snakes, alligators, toads, turtles, sharks, etc.

348. Syrinx is the voice box in.

- (A) Amphibians
- (B) Reptiles
- (C) Birds
- (D) Mammals

Ans: (C)

Exp: At the point where the windpipe divides is situated the bird's sound producing organ, a "voice box" called the syrinx. Humans have no syrinx but a larynx instead. The larynx is a cavity in the throat and contains our vocal chords.

349. The noble gas used for the treatment of cancer is.

- (A) Helium
- (B) Argon
- (C) Krypton
- (D) Radon

Ans: (D)

Exp: Radon was once commonly used to treat cancer. The radiation it gives off kills cancer cells. However, the element must be used with great care because radiation can kill healthy cells as well. In fact, the bad side-effects of radiation therapy are caused by the killing of healthy cells by radiation. Today, radon is not as widely used for the treatment of cancer. Radon is a radioactive element.

350. Which one of the following substances is normally found in urine?

- (A) Blood proteins
- (B) Creatinine
- (C) Red blood cells
- (D) White blood cells

Ans: (B)

Exp: Creatinine is a chemical waste product produced by muscle metabolism. When your kidneys are functioning normally, they filter creatinine and other waste products out of your blood. These waste products are removed from your body through urination. A creatinine urine test measures the amount of creatinine in your urine.



Quick Bytes

- Vaughan Gething Becomes First Black Leader of a European Country
- Election Commission Replaces West Bengal DGP: Appointment Of Sanjay Mukherjee
- YES Bank Partners With Indian Olympic Association For Paris Olympics
- Prabha Varma Bags 33rd Saraswati Samman for 'Roudra Sathwikam'
- India ranked 126th World Happiness Report 2024, same as previous year
- Indian Dancer Dr. Uma Rele honoured with Maharashtra Gaurav Award
- Pankaj Advani joins "Billiards Hall of Fame".
- Kerala poet and litterateur Prabha Varma has bagged the 'Saraswati Samman-2023' for his work 'Roudra Sathwikam'.
- South Korea hosted the summit "Warns of AI Risks To Democracy".
- Former Mizoram chief secretary Lalmalsawma appointed as the Lokayukta.
- Article 23 legislation passed in Hong Kong, expanding government powers to suppress dissent and imposing life sentences for treason or insurrection.
- Deepak Kumar is appointed as the new Home Secretary of UP.
- Sanjay Mukherjee appointed as the new DGP of West Bengal.
- The Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, is making headlines for its in-house restaurant, Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen.
- Election Commission Launches 'Mission 414' Campaign In Himachal Pradesh To Boost Voter Turnout
- Nepal Declares Pokhara as Its Tourism Capital
- The Indian defence industry is expanding its reach to the Caribbean region. The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) plans to purchase two aircraft from India with a loan of \$23.27 million from the Export-Import Bank of India.
- The Indian Army has set up a specialized technology unit called Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG) to research and evaluate next-generation communication technologies.
- India-US Joint Military Exercise "EX TIGER TRIUMPH – 24"
- T M Krishna Awarded Prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi
- Poonawalla Fincorp Appoints Arvind Kapil As MD & CEO
- P&G India appoints Kumar Venkatasubramanian as CEO.
- Uday Bhatia and Manasi Gupta received 'Diana Memorial Award'
- Tom Stafford, commander of Apollo 10 lunar mission, dies at 93.
- C.P. Radhakrishnan given additional charge of Telangana and Puducherry
- T. Armstrong Changsan appointed as India's next envoy to Cuba
- Vinay Kumar appointed as next Ambassador of India to Russia
- J&K government approves 10% reservation for Paharis, new tribes.
- 10th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024' in Seychelles
- Kashmir hosted the first ever "Formula-4" Car race show in Srinagar.
- Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) won the final of India's Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.
- Thodur Madabusi Krishna to be conferred with the 2024 Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Madras Music Academy
- The "Ras Malai" ranks no.2 In the list of '10 Best Cheese Desserts'.
- Centre has extended the ban on the J&K Liberation Front, which is led by imprisoned terror accused Yasin Malik, for another 5 years.
- Sheetal Devi was announced the ECI National Icon in the PwD category.
- Pokhara declared as Nepal's tourism capital
- India ranked 104 in V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) report
- Former Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata received the prestigious PV Narsimha Rao Memorial Award for his philanthropy work in Mumbai.
- The Union Ministry of Public Grievances, and Pensions has launched the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI).
- Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched ETHANOL 100, a new automotive fuel, at IndianOil Outlet.
- Pandavula Gutta is older than the Himalayan hills and is identified as the one and only Geo-heritage site at Pandavula Gutta in Telangana.



- Yoho launched India's first ever fully 'Hands-Free' Sneakers - Blinc
- B Sairam appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of NCL.
- India, ADB sign \$23 million loan for Fintech Ecosystem Development.
- Rabindra Sangeet Singer Sadi Mohammad passes away at 70 in Dhaka.
- Mumbai won the 2024 Ranji Trophy Tournament.
- Fitch Ratings raises India's economic growth forecast to 7% for FY25.
- Rajasthan govt to give free seed kits to boost millets production.
- President Abbas Named Mohammad Mustafa As New Palestinian PM
- Reliance To Buy 13% Of Paramount's Stake In Viacom18 For Rs 4,286 Crore
- India And Singapore Sign Memorandum Of Understanding On Law And Dispute Resolution
- Government Of India And ADB Sign \$23 Million Loan Agreement To Strengthen Fintech Ecosystem In India
- Max Verstappen Triumphs at Saudi Arabian Grand Prix
- Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas, Former Indian Navy Chief, Dies At 90
- The Indian Navy recently took part in a major maritime exercise called Exercise Cutlass Express – 24 (CE-24). This exercise was held in Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 February to 08 March 2024.
- Sidbi Gets \$24.5 Million From GCF For 'Avaana' Fund..
- SBI Partners With Aurionpro For Its Transaction Banking Platform
- Tata Power Solar Completes India's Largest Solar And Battery Energy Storage Systems Project
- India Tops Global Arms Imports, SIPRI Report
- The Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has appointed Mr. Deepak Ballani as its new Director General.
- Google Collaborates With ECI For Voter Information And Combats Misinformation Ahead Of Elections.
- Smt. Droupadi Murmu Conferred Honorary Doctorate By University Of Mauritius
- Mr. Srinivasan Swamy Receives 2024 IAA Golden Compass Award.
- Jamshedpur to host National Para Badminton Championship
- Kempegowda International Airport recognised as best airport at arrival
- DRDO successfully conducts Mission Divyastra (Agni 5).
- Citizenship Act "CAA" implemented ahead of Lok Sabha polls
- Indian Bank appointed Brajesh Kumar Singh as executive director
- MP to observe Hindu calendar year as Gauvansh Raksha Varsh
- Shri AS Rajeev appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in CVC.
- Justice Satyendra Singh appointed as Lokayukta of Madhya Pradesh.
- Kishor Makwana assumes charge of Chairman NCSC.
- Asif Ali Zardari Sworn In As Pakistan's 14th President
- Tamil Nadu Launches 'Neengal Nalama' Scheme To Review Implementation Of Welfare Programs
- Nayab Singh Saini To Succeed Manohar Lal Khattar As Haryana's New Chief Minister
- IndusInd Bank Launches Indus PayWear, An All-In-One Tokenisable Wearable
- Aditya Birla Capital, Aditya Birla Finance Announce A Scheme Of Amalgamation For Creation Of A Large NBFC
- Riken Yamamoto, a Japanese architect from Yokohama, has been named the winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize, widely regarded as the highest honour in the field of architecture.
- Delhi Airport Clinches ACI-ASQ's Best Airport In Asia-Pacific Title For 6th Straight Year
- PM Modi unveiled 125-foot statue of Lachit Borphukan in Assam.
- PM Modi launches "Mahtari Vandan Yojana" in Chhattisgarh.
- Krystyna Pyszkova from Czech Republic won Miss World 2024.
- India: The world's second-largest producer of mobile phones.
- Jal Ministry launches "Jal Shakti Abhiyan : Catch the Rain 2024"
- PM Modi inaugurated longest bi-lane tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh.
- India received 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Global Award.
- Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned before 2024 elections.
- The University Grants Commission's (UGC) Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)



- Centre unveiled a groundbreaking initiative, known as the 'She Research Network in India' (SheRNI).
- North India's First Government Homeopathic College To Be Established In Kathua, J&K.
- Devendra Jhajharia Becomes New President Of Paralympic Committee Of India.
- India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprising Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein have signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- Indian badminton stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have won the BWF French Open men's doubles title, defeating Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan in the final.
- Majuli Mask Making And Manuscript Painting Receive GI Tags.
- Indian Navy commissioned INAS 334 'SEAHAWKS' - First MH 60R Squadron
- Ministry of Cooperation launched National Cooperative Database
- Sea6 Energy opened first Mechanized Seaweed Farm in Lombok, Indonesia
- India And Dominican Republic Sign Protocol To Establish Joint Economic And Trade Committee
- China, Iran, And Russia Stage Joint Naval Drills "Security Belt-2024" In Gulf Of Oman
- Launch Of 'Agray' And 'Akshay' Fifth And Sixth Ship Of ASW SWC (GRSE) Project
- RBI Directs Federal Bank And South Indian Bank To Stop Issuing New Co-Branded Credit Cards
- Bank Of Baroda Launches Bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.40 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the central bank.
- The International Day of Action for Rivers is observed annually on March 14th. This year, on Thursday, March 14, 2024, the theme is "Water for All," emphasizing the fundamental right of every individual to access clean water.
- Prime Minister Modi Launches PM-SURAJ Portal To Empower Marginalized Communities
- India Jumps 14 Ranks On UNDP Gender Inequality Index.
- Government Of India, ADB Sign \$181 Million Loan To Improve Livability And Mobility In Ahmedabad
- Sanjay Kumar Singh Nominated As Next Director (Projects) Of NHPC Limited
- Gyanesh Kumar, Sukhbir Sandhu Appointed As New Election Commissioners
- Renowned Artisan And Padma Awardee Kapildev Prasad Passes Away
- Paul Alexander, The Man In The Iron Lung, Passes Away At 78
- Rachin Ravindra, youngest cricketer to win Sir Richard Hadlee Medal
- President of India has approved the Uttarakhand's UCC Bill
- Assam Government to de-notify Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- USA House passes bill that could ban TikTok nationwide.
- Ahmednagar in Maharashtra renamed as Ahilya Nagar.
- MoD & HAL sealed Rs 8073 Cr deal for 34 ALH Dhruv helicopters
- Ex-DGP Vishwakarma appointed new UP Chief Information Commissioner
- Sudha Murty, ex chaiperson of Infosys, nominated to Rajya Sabha.
- The Nagaland legislative assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution against the central government's decision to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and suspend the Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with Myanmar.
- PM Modi dedicated the Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) Sindri Fertiliser Plant at Sindri, Dhanbad, Jharkhand.
- Dharmendra Pradhan Launches Project ODISERV For Odisha's Graduates.
- The unveiling of a 21-foot statue of Maharana Pratap at the Begum Bazar Maharana Pratap Chowk marked a significant moment for Hyderabad.
- Exercise Samudra Laksamana: Strengthening Indo-Malaysian Maritime Cooperation
- RBI Appoints S. Ravindran As Part-Time Chairman Of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank.
- Financial Intelligence Unit Imposes ₹5.49 Crore Fine On Paytm Payments Bank.
- C-DOT And Qualcomm Sign MoU To Boost Make In India Vision.
- Google Partners With Shakti To Combat Online Misinformation And Deepfakes.
- Anurag Agarwal Appointed As Head Of Parliament Security.



- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Releases Book Titled 'FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023'.
- Veteran Congress Leader And Former UP Governor Aziz Qureshi Passes Away..
- PM and Mauritian PM jointly inaugurate new Airstrip in Mauritius
- MoSPI Signs MoU with ISRO on Urban Frame Survey using Bhuvan.
- Tata Institute claims success in Cancer Treatment - "Rs 100 Tablet"
- The Union Cabinet approved the country's first semiconductor fab to be made by the Tata Group in collaboration with Powerchip Taiwan.
- DRDO successfully flight tests Very Short Range Air Defence System
- Two-child norm for govt jobs in Rajasthan gets Supreme Court nod.
- The World Athletics Council has selected Beijing, China, to host the 2027 World Athletics Championships.
- The monthly salary of Anganwadi workers has been raised from Rs 7,500 to Rs 10,000, and that of Mini Anganwadi workers from Rs 5,378 to Rs 7,250 and Anganwadi Sahayikas from Rs 3,750 to Rs 5,000
- CM Mann opens Punjab's first liver sciences institute in Mohali.
- The government announced a Rs 24,420 crore subsidy on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the kharif season.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with its headquarters based in India.
- PM Modi Launches India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Ferry
- PM Modi & PM Jugnauth Inaugurate Airstrip, Jetty In Agalega Island.
- IPS Officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary Named NSG's New Director General..
- India Post Payments Bank Partners With Hindustan Zinc For CSR Financial Services..
- Brian Mulroney, Former Canadian Prime Minister, Passes Away At 84.
- After 45 years, the Shahpur-Kandi barrage's completion is a major milestone, stopping Ravi River's water flow into Pakistan.
- DGCA Penalizes Air India ₹30 Lakh For 80-Year-Old Passenger's Demise.
- Panama becomes 97th member to ratify the International Solar Alliance.
- Goa has been awarded 'The Best Destination of the Year' by the Pacific Area Travel Writers' Association at the ITB Berlin Convention.
- BAI announced rewards for Asian Games of INR 1.12 crore.
- World's largest literary festival-'Sahityotsav' to be held in Delhi.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal become second Indian to surpass the 700-run mark.
- Sweden officially joined NATO as its 32nd member on March 7, 2024, almost two years after first applying.
- "Sea Defenders-2024" exercise with Indian and USA Coast Guard.
- Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the sixth round of the Prague International Chess Festival 2024 Masters to retain the fourth spot in the tournament.
- PM Modi Encourages Destination Weddings: 'Wed In India' In J&K.
- The three forces of India – Army, Navy, and Air Force – are going to conduct the biggest exercise called 'Bharat-Shakti' at Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank Indonesia (BI) have inked a MoU aimed at bolstering the utilization of local currencies – the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) – for cross-border transactions.
- NLCIL has emerged victorious in securing a 600 MW Solar Power Project tender within the GSECL Khavda Solar Park, initiated by GUVNL through a competitive bidding process.
- Zoya Akhtar, Asma Khan Honored At 'India-UK Achievers' Awards In London
- The Indian Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has greenlit the ambitious IndiaAI mission, allocating a substantial budget of Rs. 10,371.92 crore.
- President Murmu confers Sangeet Natak Academy Awards to 94 artists.
- Yatin Bhaskar wins first prize in National Youth Parliament Festival.
- Razorpay launches country's first UPI-Led QR stack for enterprises.



- Pakistan's Punjab gets first Sikh minister in Ramesh Singh Arora.
- Indian economy will likely grow at 6.8% in FY25: Crisil Report
- India observes National Medicine Day on March 7 every year since 2019.
- NLC Green Energy Limited has won a 600 MW Solar Power Project tender with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited for 600 MW Solar Power Project
- Shri Piyush Goyal, launched the 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway) of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in New Delhi.
- Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has launched a pioneering initiative, the 'Vidhwa Punarvivah Protsahan Yojana' (Widow Remarriage Incentive Scheme).
- Uttar Pradesh Government Announces Electricity Bill Waiver For Farmers..
- Kotak Life Introduces Non-Linked Par Product Kotak G.A.I.N
- Accenture Acquiring Udacity And Launching LearnVantage Platform..
- Goa Airline Fly91 Receives Air Operator Certificate (AOC) From DGCA..
- BHEL Secures Order From NTPC For 1,600 MW Singrauli Thermal Power Project..
- Airbus Collaborates With IIM Mumbai To Elevate Aviation Training Standards.
- Atal Innovation Mission, NITI And Meta Collaborate To Establish Frontier Technology Labs In Schools..
- SpaceX Sends MethaneSAT Satellite Into Orbit To Track Methane Gas
- Jeff Bezos has reclaimed the title of the richest person on earth, surpassing Elon Musk: Bloomberg Billionaires Index
- Massive Ramses II statue uncovered in Minya, Egypt
- Jharkhand government to launch State Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme
- Maltese-flagged vessel CMA CGM Attila, carrying cargo for nuclear use, was intercepted at Mumbai's Nhava Sheva Port.
- Tata Motors to demerge passenger and commercial business.
- RBI bans JM Financial from lending against shares, debentures.
- Department of Higher Education, Assam signed an MOU with Jal Jeevan Mission for the Jal Vidya Programme to educate college students on water quality, wash practices, and the functionality assessment of water schemes.
- Government Raises Minimum Age For Postal Voting To 85 Years..
- South Eastern Coalfield Limited's Gevra Mine Set To Become The Largest Coal Mine In Asia
- India's First Underwater Metro Train Service Launched In Kolkata By PM Modi.
- Hungary Parliament Elects New President: Tamas Sulyok.
- Kerala Welcomes 'Iris' Its First Generative AI Teacher.
- India's first National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC) was officially inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- After JP Morgan, Bloomberg To Include Indian Bonds In EM Index.
- Himachal Pradesh Announces "Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna".
- Tiger Woods Honored With USGA's Prestigious Bob Jones Award.
- Slice Appoints Nayanthara As Brand Ambassador.
- Future Generali India Life Insurance Appoints Alok Rungta As Managing Director & CEO.
- Spain Wins First UEFA Women's Nations League.
- Asian River Rafting Champions Take On The Sutlej River.
- Former WC Bronze Winner Sai Praneeth Announces Retirement From Badminton.
- India's IN-SPACE Inaugurates Satellite & Payload Technical Centre In Ahmedabad.
- Brajesh Mehrotra appointed new chief secretary of Bihar, replacing Amir Subhani who seeks voluntary retirement.
- EC appoints S. Chockalingam as chief electoral officer of Maharashtra.
- RBI to Launch Interoperable Payment System for Internet Banking
- Puneri Paltan won Pro Kabaddi League season 10.
- Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, virtually inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar.
- France Pioneers Constitutional Protection For Abortion Rights.



- Moody's, the global credit rating agency, has raised its GDP forecast for India in 2024 to 6.8%, reflecting a positive economic outlook.
- The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval for the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd. with AU Small Finance Bank, effective from April 1.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken stern action against IIFL Finance by imposing an immediate ban on the approval and disbursement of gold loans.
- In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called "Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)."
- The Bihar government made a significant announcement, appointing senior IAS officer Brajesh Mehrotra as the new chief secretary of the state.
- Sub-Inspector Suman Kumari Makes History As BSF's First Female Sniper.
- The Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi, more widely known as Silver Filigree, has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
- Thailand has replaced its Ambassador to WTO Pimchanok Vonkorporn Pitfield after a strong protest lodged by India on her contentious comment on New Delhi's rice procurement programme.
- The RBI has approved the appointment of S Ravindran as the part-time chairman of Tuticorin-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank.
- Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC), the Umbrella organization for the Urban Cooperative Banks in New Delhi.
- Manipur passed a resolution urging the central government to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state.
- Suman has recently completed an eight-week sniper course at Indore's Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT) to become the first woman sniper of the BSF.
- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH, virtually inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU).
- Indian Navy To Commission New Base INS Jatayu On Minicoy Island..
- Policybazaar Insurance Brokers, PB Fintech's Subsidiary, Receives IRDAI Approval For Composite Insurance Broker License.
- Ecommerce giant Flipkart has made a significant move in the digital payments space by introducing its own UPI services, Flipkart UPI, in partnership with Axis Bank.
- Telangana Government Announces Launch Of Indiramma Housing Scheme.
- Dr Pradeep Mahajan Receives Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024.
- BPCL Teams Up With Neeraj Chopra As Brand Ambassador For 'Speed' Petrol.
- Tuvalu Appoints Feleti Teo As New Prime Minister.
- Iran's venture into space exploration and satellite deployment continues with the launch of the "Pars 1" satellite, facilitated by Russia from the Vostochny Cosmodrome.
- New Species Of Amazon Anaconda Discovered: Eunectes Akiyama.
- Padma Shri Awardee Arun Sharma Breathes His Last At 91.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest cable-stayed bridge, Sudarshan Setu, in Gujarat's Dwarka.
- President Murmu To Launch 'Purple Fest' For Disabled
- Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2024: MoHFW Allows One Donor Gamete For Undergoing Surrogacy
- Dubai Introduces 5-Year Multiple-Entry Visa For Indian Travelers
- Haryana Launches Innovative "Savera" Program For Early Breast Cancer Detection
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has taken a significant stride in bolstering the nation's air defense capabilities with the development of the Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR-2) missile system.
- The 5th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' commenced at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan, India.
- HDFC Bank has secured approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the divestment of a 90% stake in HDFC Credila, its education loan subsidiary.
- Per Capita Monthly Household Consumer Spending More Than Doubled During 2011-12 To 2022-23: HCES Report



- Geeta Batra's Historic Appointment To The World Bank's GEF
- Army Clinches Khelo India Winter Games 2024 Title On Final Day
- Ashwin Surpasses Kumble To Become India's Leading Wicket-Taker In Tests At Home
- The Indian film industry is mourning the loss of acclaimed director Kumar Shahani, who passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata .
- Legendary Ghazal Singer Pankaj Udhas Passes Away
- The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has commissioned India's largest solar-battery energy storage system (BESS) in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.
- Adani Group Launches South Asia's Largest Ammunition And Missiles Complex In U.P.
- NSSO Survey Shows Poverty Down To 5%: NITI Aayog CEO
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma Steps Down From Paytm Payments Bank Board
- Dr. Aditi Sen De Receives 2023 GD Birla Award
- Maryam Nawaz takes oath as first woman CM of Pakistan's Punjab province
- Karnataka Congress MLA Raja Venkatappa Naik Passes Away
- Shafiqur Rahman Barq, India's Oldest MP And Samajwadi Party Leader, Dies At 94
- Government declares 'Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir' as an 'Unlawful'
- Amit Shah inaugurates Swaminarayan Medical College in Gandhinagar
- Former SC judge A M Khanwilkar appointed Lokpal chairperson.
- Government launches 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' campaign
- Firoz Merchant donates ₹2.25 crore to free 900 prisoners in the UAE
- NCP's Praful Patel resigns as Rajya Sabha MP before end of term.
- The Assam Legislative Assembly has passed the Assam Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2024
- Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai's book 'Basic Structure and Republic' was released by the Archbishop of Changanacherry (Kerala), Mar Joseph Perumthottam.
- Reliance Launches "Vantara," A National Initiative For Animal Welfare.
- New Zealand To Repeal Anti-Tobacco Law.
- Lord Buddha Sacred Relics Enshrined In Thailand.
- Uttarakhand To Become Third State Enacting Law Holding Rioters Liable For Damages.
- Telangana Government's Decision To Scrap Hyderabad Pharma City.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) second spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, is set to unveil a groundbreaking innovation in timekeeping with the world's first Vedic Clock.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched its largest military exercise in Europe in decades, Steadfast Defender 2024, in late January 2024.
- Government Forms Expert Committee, Chaired By Finance Secretary T V Somanathan, For Uniform KYC Norms
- The World Gold Council (WGC), representing global gold miners, has named Sachin Jain as its new CEO for India, effective from March.
- C-DOT Wins 3 Awards For Telecom Innovations At 14th Aegis Graham Bell.
- Acharya Lokesh Muni to be Honored as 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'
- The recipient of this year's Romain Rolland Book Prize is Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee for his remarkable translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat's "Le Divan de Staline" into Bengali, titled "Staliner Divan."
- Amazon Pay Receives Final RBI Approval as Payment Aggregator.
- Dvara Money, a leading fintech company, has announced a strategic partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank Limited (Jana SFB).
- Reliance Industries (RIL) has unveiled a significant merger deal with Viacom18 Media and The Walt Disney Company, aimed at forming a joint venture (JV) that will integrate the operations of Viacom18 and Star India.
- A book title "Basic Structure and Republic" Released by Governor P. S. Sreedharan Pillai.
- PayU names Renu Sud Karnad as chairperson and independent director.
- NTPC Green Energy and MAHAGENCO partner for renewable energy parks
- OIL is hosting its first-ever global partner roadshow, themed, "Confluence: Where Energy and Opportunity Converge," in Abu Dhabi, UAE.



Infographics

The World's Best Hospitals in 2024

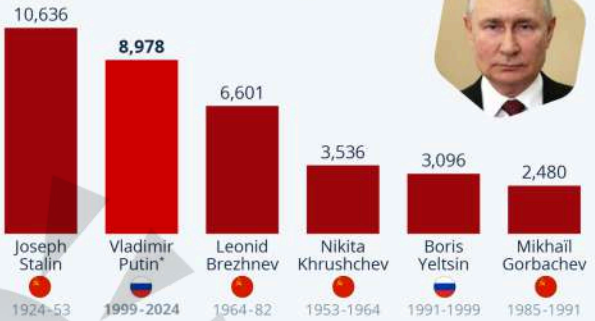
Top 8 hospitals according to peer recommendations, patient experience & medical KPIs



Based on a survey of medical professionals across 30 countries, publicly available hospital quality data and results from patient surveys.
Sources: Statista, Newsweek

Putin Forever?

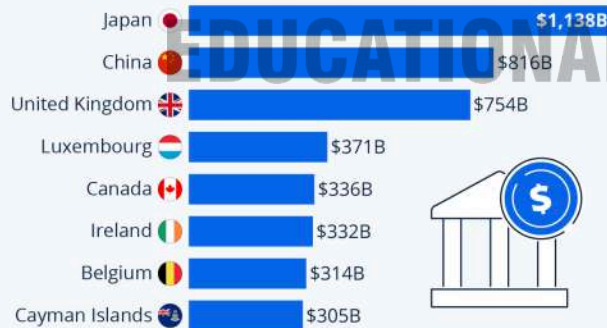
Longest-serving Russian leaders since the start of the 20th century (in days in office)



As of March 15, 2024
* Includes periods as Russian president and prime minister. Between 1993 and Putin's return to the presidency in 2012, terms were limited to 2x4 years/2,920 days.
Photo: Wikipedia
Sources: Washington Post, Statista research

Japan Is the Largest Foreign Holder of U.S. Treasuries

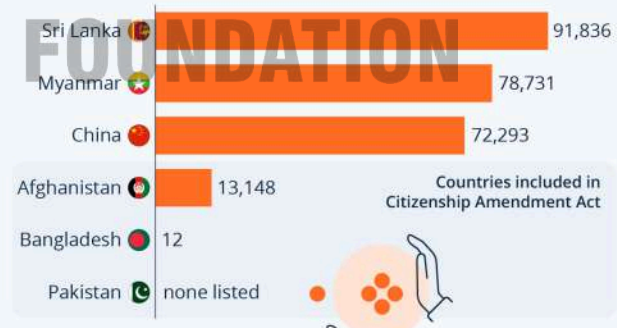
Estimated foreign holdings of U.S. Treasury securities at the end of Dec. 2023



Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury

India Sees Relatively Few Refugees from CAA Countries

Refugee/asylum-seeker populations in India from most common countries and CAA countries of origin

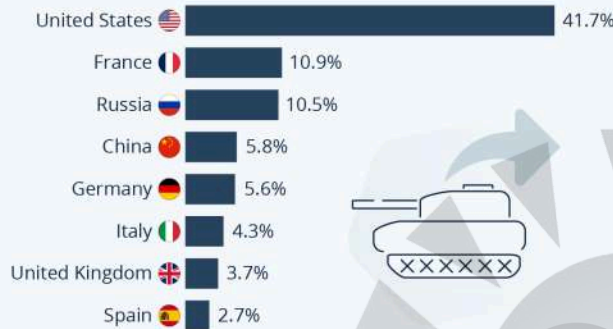


As of mid-2023
Source: UNHCR

Countries included in Citizenship Amendment Act

The World's Biggest Arms Exporters

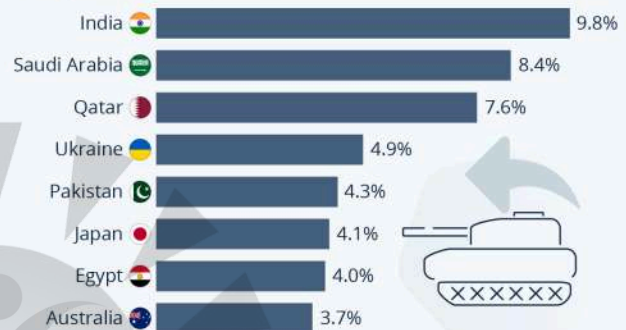
Share of global arms exports from 2019 to 2023, by country



Based on size/value of arms transfer independent of purchase price
Source: SIPRI

The World's Biggest Arms Importers

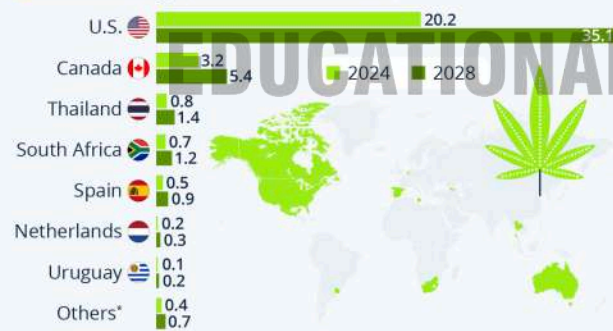
Countries responsible for the biggest shares of global arms imports from 2019-23



Based on size/value of arms transfer independent of purchase price
Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Which Countries Have a Legal Cannabis Market?

Estimated sales of non-medical cannabis in countries where it is legal (in billion U.S. dollars)



* Australia, Georgia, Malta and Mexico
Analysis as of July 2023
Source: Statista Market Insights

The Countries Shutting Down the Internet the Most

Prevalence of internet blocks and shutdowns by country in 2023 (in billion user hours)*



* Includes throttling, full blackouts and partial blocks (for example specific social media)
* numbers of hours of blocks/shutdowns times the users affected
Source: Top10VPN

The Cost of Blocking the Internet

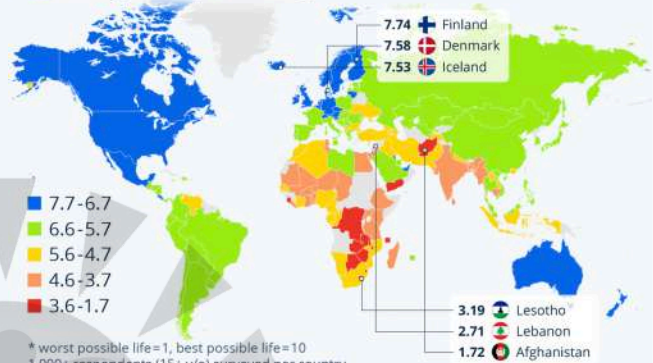
Total economic cost of major internet blocks and shutdowns in 2023, by country (in million U.S. dollars)



Includes throttling, full blackouts and partial blocks (for example specific social media)
Source: Top10VPN

Where People Are (Un)Happiest With Their Lives

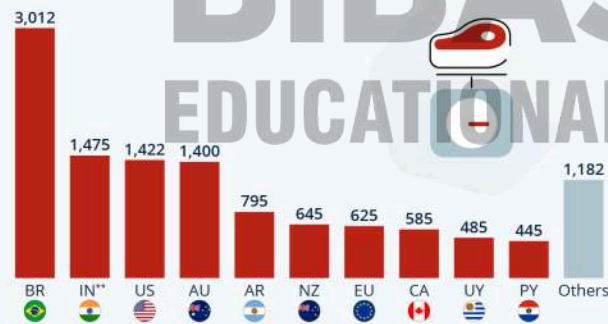
Assessment of own life on a scale of 1 to 10 (average value per country)*



* worst possible life=1, best possible life=10
1,000+ respondents (15+ y/o) surveyed per country
Source: World Happiness Report 2024 | Gallup

The Biggest Exporters of Beef in the World

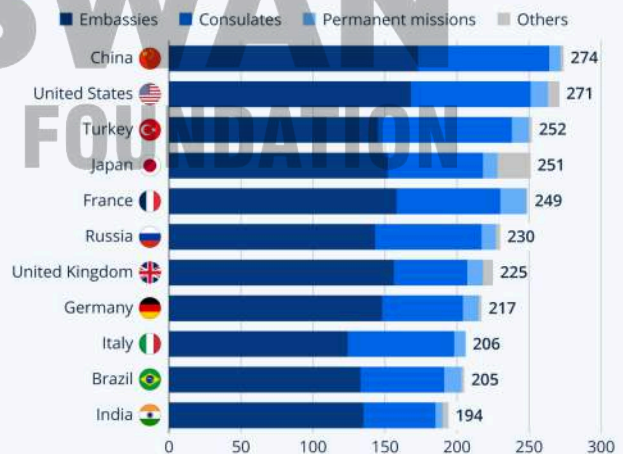
Volume of beef and veal exported in 2023, by country (in thousands of tons)*



* As of April 2023
** Exports "carabeef" or buffalo meat
Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service

China Tops Global Diplomacy Index

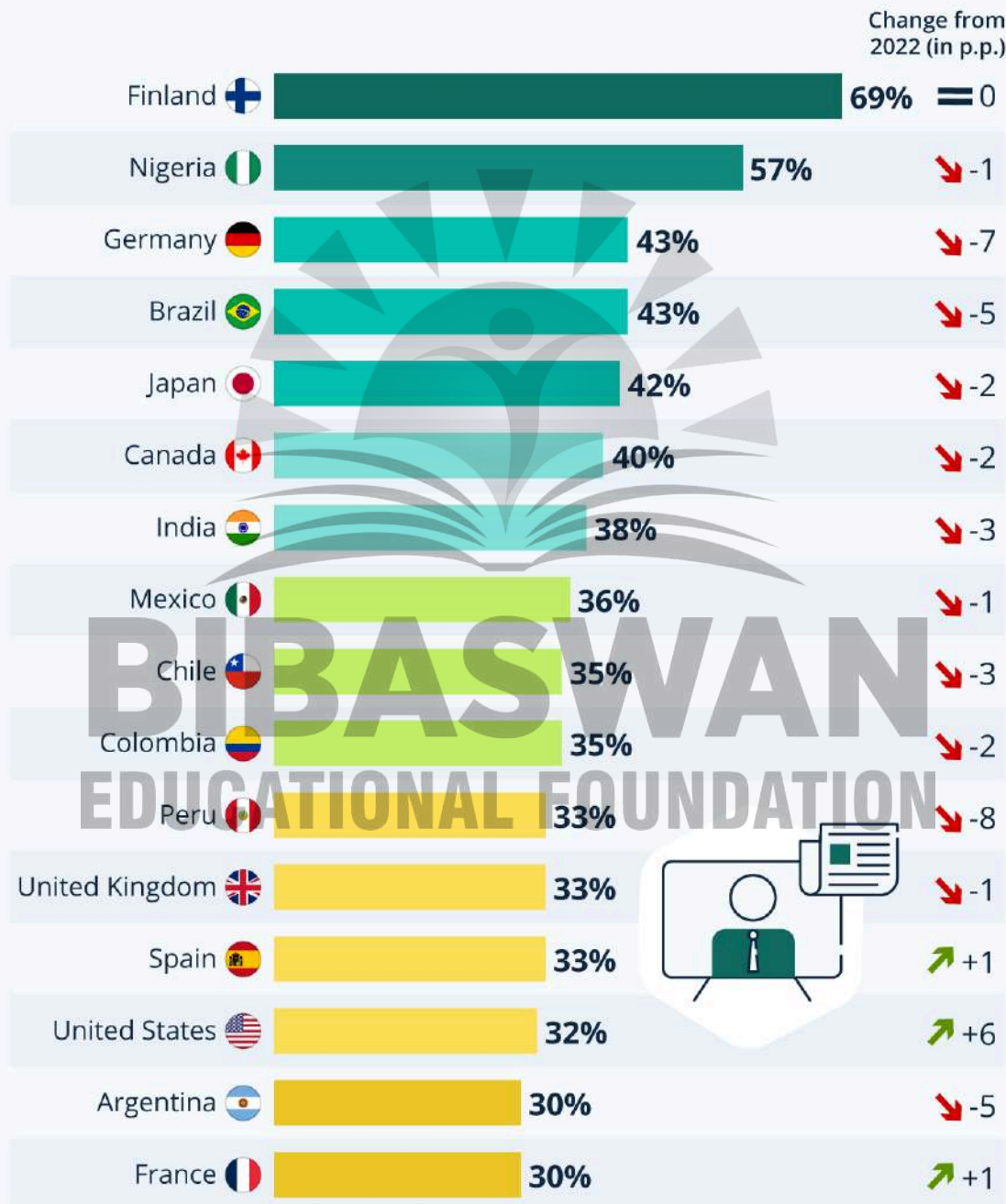
Countries with the most diplomatic posts abroad (2023)



Based on information from 66 countries and territories' foreign ministry websites, plus exchanges with ministries, embassies and consulates. Data collected Jul.-Nov. 2023.
Source: Lowy Institute's Global Diplomacy Index

Where Trust In The News Is Highest & Lowest

Share of respondents in selected countries who agree that "you can trust news most of the time" (2023)



2,000 respondents per country surveyed online Jan.-Feb. 2023
Source: Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2023



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