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2024
MARCH



IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

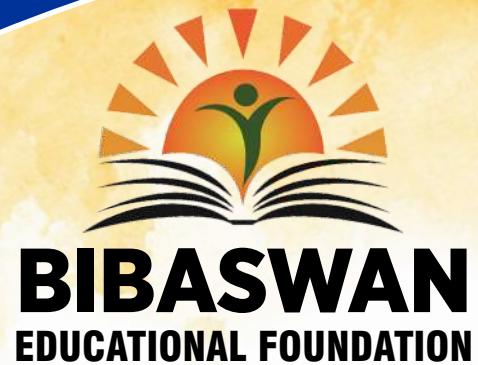
- Bharat Ratna 2024 Announced
- Uttarakhand UCC Bill Explained
- Union Budget 2024-25 Highlights
- Why are farmers protesting? Explained
- PM Modi Inaugurates First Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi
- India won women's Badminton Asia Team Championships title
- Malaysia, El Salvador, Comoros & Yemen gets their new head
- Jain monk Acharya Vidyasagar & Cricketer Dattajirao Gaekwad Died
- Dadasaheb Phalke Awards, Bafta Awards & Filmfare Awards Conferred
- Global Corruption, Logistics Performance & Brand Guardianship Indexes released

FEATURING:

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



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+91-9641592339

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Burning Issues of the Month

Union Budget 2024-25 Highlights

HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERIM BUDGET 2024



No Change In Income Tax Slabs

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting Interim Budget 2024 on 1 February 2024, kept the tax slab rates unchanged for both new and old income tax regimes.

The average time for processing income tax returns has reduced from 93 days in 2013-2014 to 10 days in the current financial year.

New regime tax slabs

- ✓ No tax would be levied for income up to ₹3 lakh per year.
- ✓ Income between ₹3-6 lakh would be taxed at 5 per cent (tax rebate under Section 87A is available)
- ✓ Income between ₹6-9 lakh would be taxed at 10 per cent (tax rebate under Section 87A on income up to ₹7 lakh is available)
- ✓ Income between ₹9-12 lakh at 15 per cent
- ✓ Income between ₹12-15 lakh at 20 per cent
- ✓ Income of ₹15 lakh and above will be taxed at 30 per cent.
- ✓ The tax rates in the new tax regime are the same for all categories of Individuals, i.e. Individuals, Senior citizens, and Super senior citizens.

Old regime tax slabs

- ✓ Income up to ₹2.5 is exempt from taxation under the old tax regime.
- ✓ Income between Rs 2.5 to Rs 5 lakh would be taxed at 5 per cent.
- ✓ Income between Rs 5 to Rs 10 lakh would be taxed at 20 per cent.
- ✓ Income of Rs 10 lakh and above will be taxed at 30 per cent.

Allocation for some ministries in Budget 2024-25

India's capital spending for 2024-25 has been raised 11 per cent to ₹11.11 lakh crore, or 3.4 per cent of GDP.

As per the Interim Budget documents, the defence ministry has been given the highest allocation.

Here are allocations for specific ministries:

- ✓ Defence Ministry: ₹6.1 lakh crore
- ✓ Ministry of road transport and highways: ₹2.78 lakh crore
- ✓ Ministry of railways: ₹2.55 lakh crore
- ✓ Ministry of consumer affairs, food & public distribution: ₹2.13 lakh crore
- ✓ Ministry of home affairs: ₹2.03 lakh crore
- ✓ Ministry of rural development: ₹1.77 lakh crore
- ✓ Ministry of chemicals and fertilizers: ₹1.68 lakh crore
- ✓ Ministry of communications: ₹1.37 lakh crore
- ✓ Ministry of agriculture and farmer's welfare: 1.27 lakh crore

How much money has been allocated by government for major schemes in Budget 2024-25:

- ✓ The government has allocated 786 000 crore for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 7,500 crore for Ayushman Bharat- PMJAY and 6,200 crore for Production Linked Incentive Scheme in the interim Budget.
- ✓ It also allocated 6,903 crore for Modified Programme for Development of Semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem and 8,500 crore for Solar Power (Grid)

Lakhpatti Didi scheme: Enhancing target to 3 crore from 2 crore

In her 2024 budget speech, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the government plans to increase the Lakhpatti Didi target from 2 crore to 3 crore. The term 'Lakhpatti Didis' refers to women members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) who harness their entrepreneurial skills and earn a sustainable income of at least Rs 1 lakh per year per household. The scheme,





aimed at economic independence and women empowerment.

Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the scheme, which aims to encourage women to start micro-enterprises, during his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2023.

Key budget announcements on women:

- ✓ The other budget announcements in Nirmala Sitharaman's speech included extending healthcare insurance cover under Ayushman Bharat scheme to all anganwadi and ASHA workers.
- ✓ Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is the largest publicly funded health insurance scheme in the world that provides coverage of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
- ✓ On empowering women, the minister said, "Female enrolment in higher education up by 28% in 10 years, in STEM courses, girls & women make 43% of enrolment, one of the highest in the world. All these steps are reflected in the increasing participation of women in the workforce. Making triple talaq illegal, reservation of 1/3 seats for women in Parliament and state assemblies, over 70 % houses under PM Awas Yojana to women have increased their dignity."

Govt to set up 21 lakh crore corpus for tech-savvy youth

- ✓ The government will set up a corpus of 21 lakh crore with 50-year interest free loans to back innovation.
- ✓ Interest free loans will provide long term financing at low or nil interest rates for the private sector.
- ✓ The priority for the government is to provide ample training and empower the Indian MSMEs to compete globally and to meet their needs, the government will help the MSMEs innovate and grow at scale.

What is interim budget or vote on account:

A vote on account, also known as interim Budget, essentially means that the government seeks the approval of Parliament for meeting expenditure for the first four months of the fiscal year (April-March) — paying salaries, ongoing programmes in various sectors etc — with no changes in the taxation structure, until a new government takes over and presents a full Budget that is revised for the full fiscal.

Govt to withdraw old direct tax demands, 1 crore taxpayers to benefit

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, during the Union Budget 2024-25, announced that the government will withdraw certain old direct tax demands that will benefit one crore taxpayers.
- ✓ There are some old disputed tax demands — some of them dating back to 1962 — causing anxiety to the honest tax payers
- ✓ She stated that outstanding direct tax demands of up to 25,000 from 1962 to FY2009-10 and demands of up to 10,000 from FY2010-11 to FY2014-15 will be withdrawn.

Whom will this help?

This will essentially help those people who have been filing their taxes in recent years, but the income tax department has not issued them refunds because of pending older demands. With the government withdrawing these demands, the taxpayers can file returns and get whatever refunds are due to them.

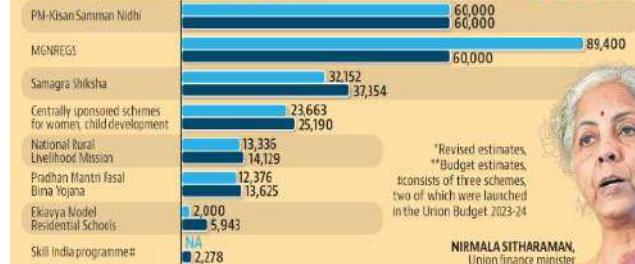
What part of the govt's income comes from income tax?

The filing of Income-tax Returns (ITRs) recorded a surge for the assessment year 2023-2024, with record 8.18 crore ITRs filed up to December 31, 2023 as against 7.51 crore ITRs filed up to December 31, 2022. This is a 9 per cent increase from the total ITRs filed for AY 2022-23.

Welfare push

Allocations for existing schemes for these sections of the society are likely to see an enhancement while new schemes may be announced.

The Centre's expenditure on key welfare schemes (₹ crore)



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN,
Union finance minister

The interim Budget 2024 showed that most of the government financial resources come from borrowings. But the second biggest contributor — or the top income generator — is the revenues from income tax. The Budget documents suggest that income tax revenues will account for 19 per cent of all government resources in FY25. Corporate tax will account for 17 per cent, GST for 18 per cent and borrowings for 28 per cent.





300 units free energy to 1 cr houses through rooftop solarisation

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said one crore households will be enabled to get 300 units of free electricity every month through rooftop solarisation.

The government will provide viability gap funding for 1 GW of offshore wind energy. India has set a target of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. She said the viability gap funding will also be provided for harnessing offshore wind energy capacity of 1 GW to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

Here is all you need to know about the scheme:

1. The plan comes under the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana, and will benefit around 10 million (one crore) households by allowing them to sell their surplus electricity (to DISCOMS).
2. It is estimated that the project will help these households save between ₹15,000 and ₹18,000 annually.
3. The state-run Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited is the designated nodal agency for the project.
4. Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana is aimed at providing electricity to low and middle-income families through rooftop solar installations.
5. Under rooftop installation, solar photovoltaic (PV) panels are fixed atop a building, home, or a residential property.

Other Housing schemes:

- ✓ Government will launch a scheme to help deserving sections of the middle class “living in rented houses, or slums, or chawls and unauthorized colonies” to buy or build their own houses.
- ✓ PM Awas Yojana (Grameen)— Two crore more houses will be taken up in the next five years to meet the requirement arising from increase in the number of families.

40,000 rail bogeys will be converted to Vande Bharat standards

- ✓ In a move to modernize the Indian Railways, the Centre announced an ambitious programme to upgrade 40,000 standard rail coaches to Vande Bharat standards.

- ✓ This would be done to enhance the safety, convenience and comfort of passengers.
- ✓ The projected contracts will likely be worth ₹4,000 crore annually for the next few years.

- ✓ The three major economic corridor programmes, identified under PM Gati Shakti for enabling multi-modal connectivity, will be implemented. These are as follows:

1. Energy, mineral and cement corridors
 2. Port connectivity corridors
 3. High traffic density corridors
- ✓ These corridors are expected to significantly decongest high-traffic routes, enhancing the efficiency of passenger train operations, leading to safer and faster journeys.
 - ✓ Economic programmes, alongside the dedicated freight corridors, are envisioned to catalyse GDP growth and reduce logistics costs, as highlighted by Sitharaman.

Govt to boost cervical cancer vaccination for girls aged 9-14 yrs

- ✓ The government will encourage vaccination against cervical cancer for girls aged between nine and 14 years.
- ✓ The vaccination programme will involve the administration of the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine.
- ✓ Cervical cancer ranks as the second most frequent cancer among women in India.
- ✓ The National Technical Advisory Group for Immunization (NTAGI) in 2022 recommended HPV vaccination for girls aged nine to 14 as a part of the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).
- ✓ The newly designed U-Win platform for managing immunisation and intensified efforts of Mission Indradhanush will also be rolled out expeditiously throughout the country.
- ✓ Upgradation of Anganwadi centres under ‘Saksham Anganwadi’ and Poshan 2.0 will be expedited to improve nutrition delivery, early childhood care, and development.

WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER?

- ✓ Cervical cancer originates in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus which is connected to the vagina. It often develops gradually and may not show apparent symptoms in the early stages.





- ✓ It is caused by the Human Papillomavirus, commonly known as HPV, which is the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection (STI) globally.
- ✓ While many types of HPV are harmless and do not cause any symptoms, others can lead to health problems such as genital warts and various forms of cancer including cervical cancer.
- ✓ In India, 'Cervavac' is the first indigenous HPV vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer and other HPV-associated cancers.

Agriculture and related sectors

- ✓ Application of nano-liquid DAP (di-ammonium phosphate), a key fertiliser, will be expanded to all agro-climatic zones
- ✓ A strategy will be formulated to achieve 'atmanirbharta' for oil seeds. Focussed oil seeds: mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, and sunflower.
- ✓ A comprehensive programme for supporting dairy farmers will be formulated. The success of existing schemes such Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Livestock Mission, and Infrastructure Development Funds for dairy processing and animal husbandry will act as guiding light for such a programme.
- ✓ Five integrated aquaparks will be setup

Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) will be stepped up to:

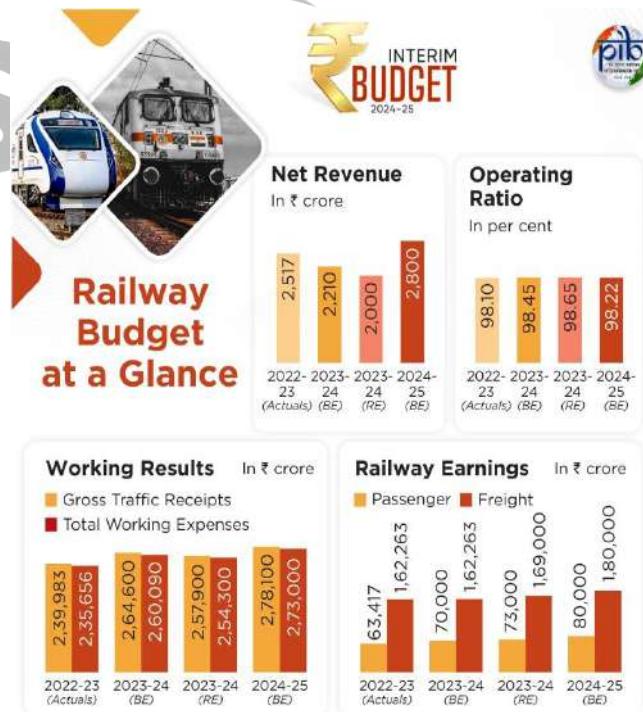
- (1) enhance aquaculture productivity from existing 3 to 5 tons per hectare,
- (2) double exports to ` 1 lakh crore and
- (3) generate 55 lakh employment opportunities in near future.”

Environment and Green Energy

- ✓ In a move to steer India towards a greener future, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a comprehensive plan aimed at achieving the nation's ambitious Net Zero target by 2070 in Budget 2024.
- ✓ The finance minister has allocated significant resources to bolster the green energy sector, with a focus on harnessing India's vast offshore wind energy potential. A notable initiative includes

viability gap funding for the development of 1 gigawatt (GW) of offshore wind energy, which is expected to play a crucial role in diversifying India's renewable energy portfolio and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

- ✓ Another key component of the strategy is the ambitious goal to set up coal gasification and liquefaction projects capable of processing 100 metric tonnes by 2030.
- ✓ Financial assistance will be provided for procurement of biomass aggregation machinery.
- ✓ Phased mandatory blending of compressed biogas (CBG) in compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport and piped natural gas (PNG) for domestic purposes will be mandated.
- ✓ Electric Vehicle Ecosystem— Support to manufacturing and charging infrastructure.
- ✓ Greater adoption of e-buses for public transport networks will be encouraged through payment security mechanism.
- ✓ For promoting green growth, a new scheme of bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry will be launched.
- ✓ Blue Economy 2.0— A scheme for restoration and adaptation measures, and coastal aquaculture and mariculture with integrated and multi-sectoral approach will be launch.



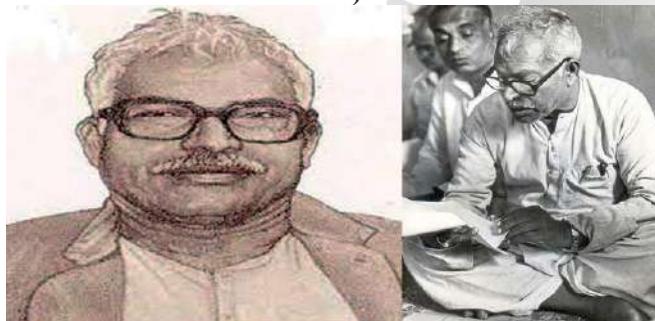


Bharat Ratna and its latest awardees

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, alongside agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan, will be awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour. This year's five recipients surpass the four awarded in 1999, marking the highest number of Bharat Ratnas awarded in a single year. Praising Rao for his liberalisation policies that transformed the economy, Singh for his advocacy for farmers' rights, and Swaminathan for his globally recognized contributions to agriculture, Modi commended their invaluable service to the nation. Among the recipients, four will receive the honour posthumously, while Advani, aged 96, is the sole living recipient.

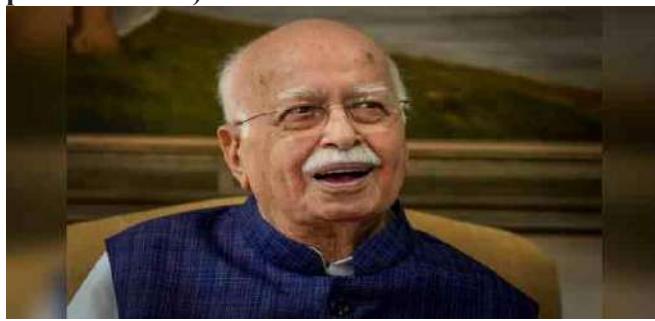
Here is the list of Bharat Ratna awardees this year

1. Kapoori Thakur (Posthumous) (politician and former Bihar chief minister):



Kapoori Thakur, a well-known socialist leader from Bihar and former chief minister of the state, will be posthumously honoured with India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna. Fondly referred to as 'Jan Nayak' (people's leader), Thakur will become the 49th recipient of this prestigious award.

2. Lal Krishna Advani (politician and former deputy prime minister):



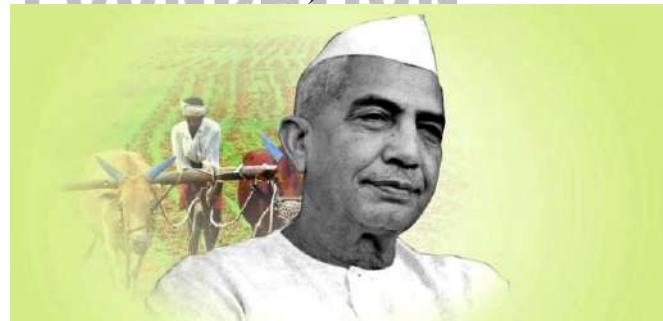
Advani has held the position of president of the Bharatiya Janata Party for the longest duration since its establishment in 1980. Over the course of nearly three decades in parliament, he served as both the home minister and deputy Prime Minister under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee from 1999 to 2004. On February 3, PM Modi disclosed that Advani would be bestowed with India's highest civilian honour.

3. Pamulaparthi Venkata Narasimha Rao (Posthumous) (former Prime Minister of India):



In honouring Rao, who passed away in 2004, PM Modi expressed admiration for his multifaceted service to the nation as a revered scholar and statesman. Modi highlighted Rao's notable contributions not only as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh but also as a Union minister and longstanding legislator in both the Parliament and the state assembly. Rao, a respected Telugu leader, served a full five-year term as prime minister from 1991 to 1996 and is widely lauded for his pivotal role in introducing economic reforms.

4. Chaudhary Charan Singh (Posthumous) (former Prime Minister of India):



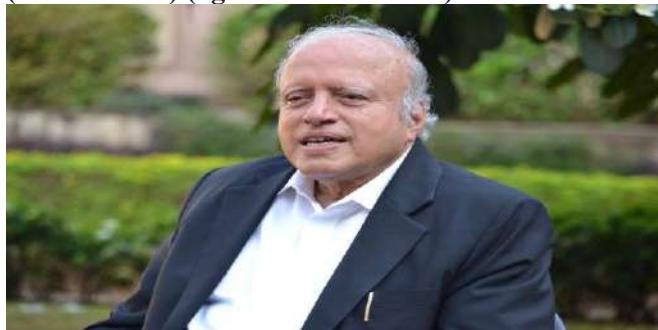
Singh, a prominent Jat leader hailing from western Uttar Pradesh, served as prime minister during 1979-80 and played a pivotal role in spearheading anti-Congress politics during an era when the party held dominant influence. Modi expressed gratitude for the opportunity





to honour Singh with the Bharat Ratna, attributing it to his unparalleled contributions to the nation.

5. Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan (Posthumous) (agriculture scientist):



Modi expressed immense delight in his government's decision to bestow the Bharat Ratna upon Swaminathan, acknowledging his significant contributions to agriculture and the welfare of farmers. Modi praised Swaminathan's visionary guidance, which revolutionised Indian agriculture, ensuring both food security and prosperity for the nation. Modi emphasised his close relationship with Swaminathan, valuing his wisdom and contributions. The renowned agronomist passed away last year.

A history of astute choices

Along with recognising the contribution of the recipient, the Padma and Bharat Ratna awards have always been tools for political messaging — and the Narendra Modi government has been particularly astute in making its choices. Before the announcement of these five Bharat Ratnas, the Modi government has conferred the honour on five others over its two terms in power. They are educationist, freedom fighter, and once-Congress president Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former President and Congress leader Pranab Mukherjee, the legendary Assamese musician Bhupen Hazarika, and RSS leader Nanaji Deshmukh.

Bharat Ratna

The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order", without distinction of race, occupation, position or gender. The award was originally limited to achievements in the arts, literature, science, and public services, but the Government of India expanded the criteria to include "any field of human endeavor" in December 2011. The

recommendations for the award are made by the Prime Minister to the President. The recipients receive a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a peepal leaf-shaped medallion with no monetary grant associated with the award.

Interesting facts about the BHARAT RATNA

Among awards given so far only 2 awards were given to foreign citizen- Nelson Mandela (1990), Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan (1987).

Privileges of a Bharat Ratna are :

- Free first class flight journey anywhere in India.
- Free first class train journey.
- Pension equal to or 50% of Prime Minister of India's salary.
- Can attend the Parliament meetings and sessions.
- Precedence at par with Cabinet Rank.
- Eligible for Z category protection, if needed.
- Special Guest in Republic Day and Independence Day.
- Status equal to VVIP.

The only incident in the history of Bharat Ratna that an award was withdrawn. Subhas Chandra Bose was awarded with Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1992. But due to controversy (as there is no evidence of his death) the award was withdrawn.

The first people to receive Bharat Ratna are Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, C.V.Raman and C. Rajagopalachari

The first person to receive it posthumously was Lal Bahadur Shashtri.

As India's first education minister, Abdul Kalam Azad, refused the Bharat Ratna arguing that those who selected awardees should not themselves be recipients. Was posthumously awarded in 1992.

Sachin Tendulkar youngest living receiver (at age 40)

Dr. Keshav Karve oldest living receiver (at age 100)

Madan Mohan Malviya oldest receiver (after death, at age 153)

Rajiv Gandhi youngest receiver (after death, at age 47)



Why protesting farmers are marching to the Parliament? Explained



Hundreds of farmers are marching towards the Parliament in a bid to press for a resolution to their long-standing demands related to land acquisition. Many protests are underway in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, where the Jai Jawan Jai Kisan organisation, the All India Kisan Sabha, and the Bharatiya Kisan Parishad are staging protests. These organisations, held a mahapanchayat, where they decided to march on the Parliament in a bid to force the government to resolve their issues in a time-bound manner.

WHY ARE FARMERS PROTESTING?

1. The protesting farmers have two main demands, namely, compensation for land acquired by various authorities for developmental projects, and reservation of 10 per cent of residential plots on developed lands for their families.
2. Secondly Farmers are seeking guarantees, backed by law, of more state support or a minimum purchase price for crops. The government announces support prices for more than 20 crops each year to set a benchmark, but state agencies buy only rice and wheat at the support level, benefiting around just 7% of farmers who raise those crops.

On the land front, the farmers claim that the acquisition of land for development is making them landless: they argue that the current rate which they receive as compensation is inadequate. As per report, the Noida Authority, the Greater Noida Authority, and the Yamuna Authority grants farmers, 5, 6, and 7 per cent of total acquired land, which farmers deem to be insufficient. In addition, the farmers are also demanding additional monetary compensation for land acquired earlier, alleging that they have lost on money for land acquired years ago at cheaper rates.

While on the Crop Front, the farmers claim that State agencies buy the two staples at government-fixed minimum support prices to build reserves to run the world's biggest food welfare programme that entitles 800 million Indians to free rice and wheat. This costs the government \$24.7 billion annually - its largest outgoing subsidy. Farm policy experts argue that buying all farm produce at state-set minimum support prices is economically unviable.

DO FARMERS HAVE OTHER DEMANDS?

- ✓ They are also demanding pensions and have asked the government to waive their debts.
- ✓ Farmers have said that those who sell fake seeds, pesticides and fertilisers should be penalised.
- ✓ They want the government to double the number of work days under rural employment guarantee scheme to 200.
- ✓ The protesters also want India to withdraw from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and scrap all free trade agreements.
- ✓ They also want the government to honour a promise to double their incomes, complaining that costs of cultivation have jumped over the past few years while incomes have stagnated, making farming a loss-making enterprise.
- ✓ Farmers also insist that the government ensure at least 50% profit over their overall cost of production.
- ✓ Further, the protesting farmers have been demanding jobs and medical facilities for their families, something they claim has not been resolved yet.
- ✓ They have further asked the government take action against a federal minister whose son was arrested during the 2021 protest on accusations he ran over and killed four protesting farmers.





Uttarakhand UCC Bill: What changes in marriage, divorce, guardianship, and adoption?



The Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2024 proposes some significant changes on marriage, adoption, and related aspects. Here's how the existing position changes.

What are the existing laws on marriage and divorce?

They are governed by the secular Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, and personal laws that include the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the Indian Christian Marriages Act, 1872, the Indian Divorce Act, 1869, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, and uncodified (Shariat) and codified Muslim law through the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, and the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.

And what are the existing laws on parent-child relations?

- Parent-child relations are regulated by laws on guardianship. While natural guardianship is governed by personal laws, court-appointed guardianship is covered by the secular Guardians and Wards Act (GWA), 1890.
- All personal laws on guardianship follow the archaic common law principle wherein the father is deemed the guardian of the child, and has the right to take decisions in relation to the child and the child's property.

- The mother is the custodian of the child, and is thus relegated to the role of a caretaker. Further, all personal laws treat children born out of wedlock as "illegitimate", and deny them certain rights, such as those pertaining to inheritance.
- While the Supreme Court has attempted to correct this discrimination by stating that the mother can be appointed the guardian of the child if the father fails at discharging his functions as a guardian, and has granted inheritance rights in ancestral property to children born out of void and voidable marriages, these developments are limited to Hindu law.
- As far as adoption is concerned, Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs can adopt under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA), 1956, and everyone irrespective of religion can adopt under the secular Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015.

What is the framework on registration of marriages proposed by the Uttarakhand UCC Bill?

- The Bill has made the registration of marriage and a decree of divorce compulsory with retrospective application.
- While there is no requirement of notice and objection for registration of marriage, upon registration, the Register of Marriages is open to public inspection. Although this may have been introduced with an intent to prevent bigamy and





- fraudulent marriages, it will likely disproportionately affect inter-caste and inter-faith couples by making them vulnerable to surveillance.
- Under the Bill, while an unregistered marriage remains valid, the failure to register a marriage after issue of notice by the sub-registrar attracts a fine of Rs 25,000. Thus, the Bill uses a penal mechanism to nudge people towards compulsory registration of marriages.
 - In case of non-registration for live-in relationships, the punishment includes imprisonment.

Main features in the UCC Bill with regard to personal law and customs around marriage and divorce:

- Marriages may be solemnised through any ceremonies or rituals applicable to the parties to the marriage.
- Prohibition on bigamy has been extended to all communities.
- Enforcement of any customs imposing conditions on remarriage between divorced spouses is criminalised.
- Extrajudicial modes of divorce through modes not prescribed under the Code have been penalised. Local customs such as customary divorce deed or panchayat divorce are punishable under the Code.
- Divorce in the form of talaq-us-sunnat (pronouncement of divorce by the husband during the period between menstruation followed by sexual abstinence), talaq-i-biddat (triple talaq), khula (divorce on the instance of the wife), maba'arat (divorce by mutual consent), zihar (availability of judicial divorce to wife if husband compares her to any woman within prohibited degrees of relationship) are all punishable with imprisonment.
- Mehr and dower have been acknowledged as payable in addition to any maintenance payable under the provisions of the Bill.

What actions has the Code criminalised?

- Several penal provisions have been introduced throughout the scheme of the Code. The government recently stressed on the spirit of decriminalisation through the Jan Vishwas Act, 2024.
- As noted above, the non-registration of live-in relationships has been criminalised.

- Child marriage and marrying within prohibited degrees of relationship have also been criminalised.
- Dissolution of marriage through modes other than the judicial mode of divorce prescribed under the Code is punishable with imprisonment as well as fine.
- Compelling, abetting, or inducing any person to observe any condition for remarrying is also punishable with imprisonment up to three years.

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

All sections of the society irrespective of their religion shall be treated equally according to a National Civil Code - the Uniform Civil Code.

THEY COVER AREAS LIKE

- Marriage
- Divorce
- Maintenance
- Inheritance
- Adoption
- Succession of Property

It is based on the premise that there is necessarily no connection between religion and personal law in a civilized society.

"UCC refers to a common set of laws governing civil rights of every citizen." Article 44 of Directive Principles sets duty of state for implementing UCC.

TIMELINE

- 1954: Passage of Special Marriage Act provides permission of civil marriage above any religious personal law.
- 1956: Hindu code bill passed dividing personal laws in - Common Indian Citizen - Muslim Community.
- 1986: Rajiv Gandhi government's law in Shah Bano case widens the difference in civil rights.
- 2003: Then President Dr. Abdul Kalam supported UCC.
- 2015: Supreme court asserted the need of UCC.
- 2016: The dialogue for UCC was started by the Law Commission in the year 2016

What are some of the concerns around criminalisation?

- The Bill relies on criminalisation for enforcement. This is likely to disproportionately impact minority communities, as several religious and customary practices of religious minorities have been outlawed.
- Further, the surveillance regime enabled by the Bill can be misused to harass inter-faith and inter-caste couples.





What is the new Public Examinations Bill? Explained



The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minister Jitendra Singh and passed. The bill aims to prevent 'unfair means' in order to 'bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examinations system'.

The meaning of 'unfair means'

The Section 3 of the bill lists 15 actions that amount to using unfair means in public examinations 'for monetary or wrongful gain'.

The acts include:

- ✓ Leakage of question paper or answer key or part thereof and colluding in such leakage.
- ✓ Accessing or taking possession of question paper or an optical mark recognition response sheet without authority.
- ✓ Tampering with answer sheets including optical mark recognition response sheets.
- ✓ Providing solution to one or more questions by any unauthorised person during a public examination.
- ✓ Directly or indirectly assisting the candidate in a public examination.
- ✓ Tampering with any document necessary for short-listing of candidates or finalising the merit or rank of a candidate.
- ✓ Tampering with the computer network or a computer resource or a computer system.

- ✓ Creation of fake website and conducting fake examination.
- ✓ Issuance of fake admit cards or offer letters to cheat or for monetary gain as illegal acts.

Exams which are considered 'public examinations'

Under Section 2(k), a 'public examination' is defined as any exam conducted by a 'public examination authority' listed in the bill, or any other authority as notified by the central government.

The bill lists five public examination authorities including:

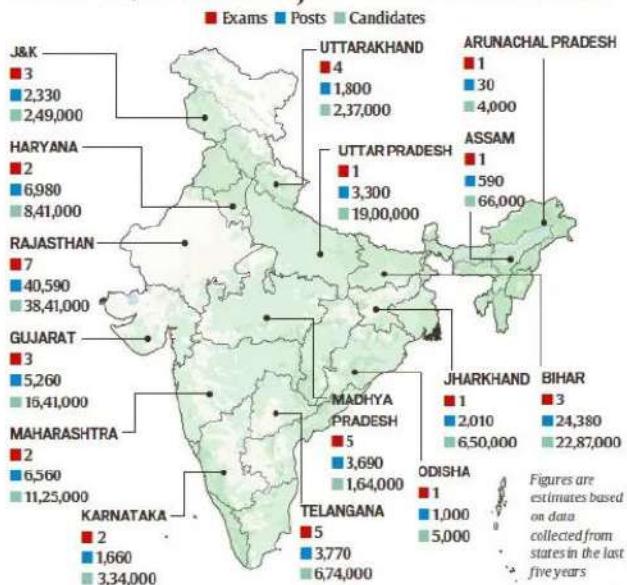
1. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which conducts the civil services examination, combined defence services examinations, combined medical services examination, engineering services examination.
2. The Staff Selection Commission (SSC), which recruits for Group C (non-technical) and Group B (non-gazetted) jobs in the central government.
3. The Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), which recruit Groups C and D staff in the Indian Railways.
4. The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), which hires at all levels for nationalised banks and regional rural banks.
5. National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the JEE (Main), NEET-UG, UGC-NET, the Common University Entrance Test (CUET).





6. Note: Other than these, all the ministries and departments of the central government recruiting staff also count under the new law.

15 states, leaks in 41 job-recruitment exams



Punishment under the new law

- ✓ The Section 9 of the bill states that all offences shall be cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable, which means that an arrest can be made without a warrant and bail will not be a matter of right, rather a magistrate will determine whether the accused is fit to be released on bail.
- ✓ Punishment for anyone or people resorting to 'unfair means and offences' can be three to five years in prison, and a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh.
- ✓ The Section 10(1) of the bill states that if the convict fails to pay the fine, an 'additional punishment of imprisonment' shall be imposed.
- ✓ Under Section 10(2), a service provider who is engaged to provide 'support of any computer resource or any material, by whatever name it may be called' for the conduct of the examination can be fined up to Rs 1 crore, along with other penalties.
- ✓ The bill states harsher punishment in cases of organised paper leaks, where 'organised crime' is defined as unlawful activity by a group of people colluding in a conspiracy "to pursue or promote a shared interest for wrongful gain in respect of a public examination".

- ✓ The Section 11(1) states the punishment for organised crime will be imprisonment for a term no less than five years but which may extend to ten years and a fine which shall not be less than Rs 1 crore.

Need to bring the bill

- ✓ In the recent years across the country, there have been a large number of cases about question paper leaks.
- ✓ At least 48 instances of paper leaks in 16 states over the last five years, in which the process of hiring for government jobs was disrupted.
- ✓ The move came against the backdrop of cancellation of a series of competitive tests such as the teacher recruitment exam in Rajasthan, Common Eligibility Test (CET) for Group-D posts in Haryana, recruitment exam for junior clerks in Gujarat and constable recruitment examination in Bihar following question paper leaks.
- ✓ The bill also proposes a high-level national technical committee on public examinations that will make recommendations to make the computerised examination process more secure.
- ✓ The objective of the bill is to bring in greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examination systems and to reassure the youth that their sincere and genuine efforts will be fairly rewarded, and their future is safe.

The anti-cheating bill: All you need to know

What does the Bill aim to do?

To bring in more transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examination system, to reassess candidates' efforts will be fairly rewarded, to deter people from using unfair practices to adversely impact public exams.

Which recent exams have been hobbled by cheating or paper leaks?

A raft of examinations last year were cancelled following question paper leaks. For instance, the teacher recruitment exam in Rajasthan, Common Eligibility Test (CET) for Group-D posts in Haryana, the recruitment exam for junior clerks in Gujarat and constable recruitment examination in Bihar.

Which exams does the Bill cover?

All central exams conducted by a bunch of agencies, including Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), National Testing Agency (NTA), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

Does it cover school-level exams?

No. The Bill does not mention any examinations conducted at the school level.

Who can be punished under it?

The Bill provides punishment for three groups: people, organised groups and institutions.

Can students be charged?

No. Bona fide candidates or students as defined in the Bill are left out of the legislation's purview.

What are the punishments it prescribes?

All offences to be cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable. The punishment includes jail for 3-10 years and a fine of upto Rs 10 lakh.

An organised paper leak is an unlawful activity committed to cheat in a public exam. The punishment is jail for 3-10 yrs and minimum fine of Rs 1 cr.



Recent Appointments

Pakistan's major parties agree to form coalition govt



Two major Pakistan political parties had reached a formal agreement to form a coalition government, ending days of intense negotiations after an inconclusive national election did not return a clear majority. The agreement between Bhutto Zardari's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of three-time Premier Nawaz Sharif ends days of uncertainty and negotiations. Bhutto Zardari confirmed that former premier Shehzad Sharif would be the coalition's candidate for prime minister. While his father Asif Ali Zardari will be the alliance's candidate for the country's president. PML-N is the largest party with 79 seats and PPP is second with 54. They, along with four other smaller parties, have a comfortable majority in the legislature of 264 seats.

IRCTC announces appointment of Sanjay Jain as CMD with immediate effect



Railway PSU IRCTC announced the appointment of Sanjay Kumar Jain as its Chairman and Managing Director with immediate effect. Prior to this role, Jain was Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) of Northern Railway, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC).

IRCTC:

- Founded: 27 September 1999
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman & MD: Sanjay Kumar Jain

ICAI elects new President, Vice President



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) elected Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as their new President. The baton has been passed from Aniket S. Talati to CA Ranjeet. He has assumed charge as the 72nd President of ICAI. He is also a Company Secretary and DISA from ICAI. He was elected to the 23rd, 24th and 25th Central Council of ICAI three times in a row. Agarwal was serving as the Central Council Member since 2016 and then as Vice President in 2023-24. He also Chairs the ICAI research wing Accounting Research Foundation (ICAI ARF), Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) India. He is also the Director on the Board of the Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (IIPI). Additionally, Charanjit Singh Nanda has been elected as Vice President for the Year 2024-25. Earlier, Nanda was appointed as Central Council Member of ICAI India. He also served as the chairman for Digital Accounting & Assurance Board, Committee on Financial Markets and Investors' Protection and vice chairman for Board of Internal Audit and Management Accounting of ICAI India. Additionally, he was also the chairman for Committee on Information Technology of SAFA.

ICAI:

- Formation: 1 July 1949
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Secretary: Jai Kumar Batra





Nayib Bukele Secures Reelection As El Salvador President



Nayib Bukele, the incumbent President of El Salvador, secured a thumping victory for a second consecutive term in elections in the Central American country.

Who is Nayib Bukele?

Born on July 24, 1981, Bukele is often called the 'world's coolest dictator', a tag which he has received from his followers on social media. A former publicist, Bukele earlier served as the Mayor of San Salvador from May 2015 to April 2018. He came into the limelight around the world in 2019 when his party, New Ideas, came to power trouncing traditional parties -- Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA).

Tarun Chhabra appointed new Nokia India head



The head of mobile networks and senior vice president at Nokia, Tarun Chhabra, has been appointed as the company's new India head in an organisational restructuring. Chhabra succeeds Sanjay Malik, who was the senior vice president. Malik will continue in the company until March 31, 2024.

Nokia:

- Founded: 12 May 1865
- Founders: Fredrik Idestam, Leo Mechelin, Eduard Polón
- Headquarters: Espoo, Finland
- Chairman: Sari Baldauf
- President & CEO: Pekka Lundmark

Yemen appoints Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as country's new Prime Minister



Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, Yemen's foreign minister, has been appointed as the country's new Prime Minister. Yemen, a nation in the Arabian Peninsula, is experiencing increased tensions as a result of a wave of Red Sea attacks on ships by Houthi rebels, which have triggered retaliatory strikes by the United States and the United Kingdom recently. Bin Mubarak has notably replaced Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed amid the escalation of tensions in the Red Sea.

Yemen:

- Capital: Sanaa
- Currency: Yemeni rial

Asian Development Bank appoints Mio Oka as country director for India



Asian Development Bank (ADB) appointed Mio Oka as its country director for India. He will succeed Takeo Konishi who has been promoted as ADB Director General for South Asia at the Manila headquarters. Oka will take charge of steering ADB operations in India and fostering relations with the government and the country's other development partners.

Asian Development Bank:

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





Uttarakhand High Court gets first woman Chief Justice as Ritu Bahri takes charge



Justice Ritu Bahri was sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. She became the second woman to hold such a position amongst the 25 high courts in the country. Last year, Sunita Aggarwal, a judge of the Allahabad High Court, was appointed Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. The Uttarakhand Governor, Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh, administered the oath of office to Justice Bahri. Prior to her appointment as the Chief Justice of Uttarakhand, Justice Bahri served as a judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court from 2010.

Uttarakhand:

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

ACC Approves Key Appointments in Ministries



The Appointment Committee of the Union Cabinet has approved the appointment of several senior officers to the post of Secretaries under different Ministries.

Apurva Chandra	Department of Health and Family Welfare.
Sanjay Jaju	Information and Broadcasting
Raj Kumar Goyal	Department of Border Management in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Niten Chandra	Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare in the Ministry of Defence.
K. Moses Chalai	Inter State Council Secretariat in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
Anil Malik	Ministry of Women and Child Development
Sumita Dawra	Ministry of Labour and Employment
Vijay Kumar	Inland Waterways Authority of India
Ashish Kumar Bhutani	Ministry of Cooperation.
Pawan Kumar	Chief Adviser (Cost) in Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance

AU Small Finance Bank Appoints HR Khan as Non-Executive Chairman



Private sector lender AU Small Finance Bank informed exchanges that it has appointed Harun Rashid Khan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as non-executive chairman following approval from the shareholders. Khan will take charge from Raj Verma, whose tenure as Part-time Chairman ended on January 29, 2024. Khan is a former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

AU Small Finance Bank:

- Headquarters: Jaipur
- Founder: Sanjay Agarwal
- Subsidiary: Index Money Limited
- Founded: 1996

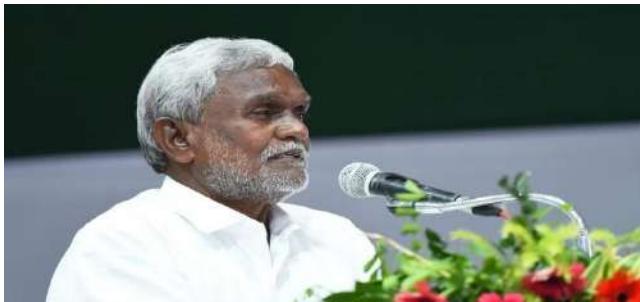
Champai Soren: The next Chief Minister of Jharkhand

Jharkhand Transport Minister Champai Soren's appointment was finalised by the Governor following





Hemant Soren's resignation and arrest, the senior JMM leader took oath as the new Chief Minister.



The 67-year-old tribal leader sworn in as the 12th chief minister of the state. He is the sixth CM from the Jharkhand's Kolhan region which comprises East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts. A veteran of the Jharkhand statehood movement, Champai Soren one of the senior-most leaders in JMM and has held several key portfolios such as welfare and transport.

BCCI secy Shah reappointed as ACC chairman for third successive year



Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council for a third consecutive term. Shah's extension was proposed by the Sri Lanka Cricket president Shammi Silva for the second time and the nomination was unanimously backed by all the members of the ACC at its annual general meeting in Bali. Shah initially assumed the role in January 2021, succeeding Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan.

BCCI:

- Founded: 1 December 1928
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- President: Roger Binny
- CEO: Hemang Amin
- Vice president: Rajeev Shukla
- Secretary: Jay Shah
- Men's coach: Rahul Dravid
- Women's coach: Amol Mazumdar

Govt appoints 3 full-time, 1 part-time member of 16th Finance Commission



The government appointed three full-time and one part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission which was constituted on December 31, 2023. The full-time members appointed include Ajay Narayan Jha, a former member of 15th Finance Commission and former secretary of Expenditure, Annie George Mathew, former special secretary of Expenditure, and Niranjan Rajadhyaksha, executive director of Artha Global. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic advisor of State Bank of India has been appointed as the part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission. The government had appointed former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya as the chairman of the panel and bureaucrat Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey was named its secretary. The Finance Commission is a constitutionally mandated body established once every five years to devise a formula for distributing net tax proceeds between the Centre and the states as well as among states and local bodies. Currently, India shares 41 per cent of federal taxes with states as recommended by the 15th panel.

Sultan Ibrahim sworn in as Malaysia's 17th king



The billionaire sultan who rules Malaysia's Johor state was sworn in as the nation's new king under a unique rotating monarchy system. Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, 65, took his oath of office at the palace and signed the instrument of the proclamation of office in a ceremony witnessed by other royal families, Prime





Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Cabinet members. One of the richest men in the country, Sultan Ibrahim has an extensive business empire ranging from real estate to telecoms and power plants.

Malaysia:

- Capital: Kuala Lumpur
- Prime Minister: Anwar Ibrahim
- Currency: Malaysian ringgit

AZALI Assoumani re-elected as President of the Comoros



Azali Assoumani was re-elected as Comoros President for fourth term, earlier this month. Assoumani, 65, a former military officer who came to power in a 1999 coup, has now served two non-consecutive terms as president, from 2002 to 2006 and from 2016 to the present. Notably, Assoumani is also the Chairperson of the African Union.

Note: PM Modi affirmed hope that the two countries will continue to work to strengthen the India-Comoros partnership, the India-Africa partnership and the 'Vision Sagar'. Security and Growth for All in the

Region (SAGAR) is India's policy or doctrine of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. The policy was first announced by PM Modi on March 12, 2015.

Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar CM for 9th time



Nitish Kumar took oath as Bihar CM for a record ninth time with the support of the BJP. This came after Kumar submitted his resignation as the leader of the 'Mahagathbandhan' that included Indian National Congress and Lalu Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). Nitish had left an alliance with BJP in 2022 to join hands with the Opposition. Nitish Kumar became the CM for the first time in 2000. At that time, he was against RJD and his campaign was based on opposing Lalu. In 2013, Nitish broke away from the NDA and came with RJD in 2015 election.

Bihar:

- Capital: Patna
- Governor: Rajendra Arlekar

"People Who Are Crazy Enough To Think They Can Change The World, Are The Ones Who Do."

"Failure Will Never Overtake Me If My Determination To Succeed Is Strong Enough."





National News

Govt hikes death compensation of fishermen to Rs 5 lakh

Union government has increased the compensation of fishermen in the event of death in mishap from one lakh rupees to five lakh rupees. It was announced at the inaugural program of 13th Indian Fisheries & Aquaculture Forum at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre at New Town Kolkata. The theme of the two day conference is Fostering Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals. Government will also introduce credit card for fishermen like Kishan Credit Card.

Agra's Jama Masjid metro station renamed

The Uttar Pradesh metro has renamed the Jama Masjid station in Agra to Mankameshwar Mandir, barely months before the next general elections. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had instructed the Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) to change the name during an Agra visit last year. Following orders received from the state, the signage of the Jama Masjid Metro Station has been switched to Mankameshwar Metro Station. This is the sixth metro station on the 13-station corridor — running from the Taj Mahal East Gate to the Sikandra monument. The Jama Masjid station was the third and final underground metro station on the priority corridor of six stations from the Taj Mahal to the Jama Masjid.

Uttar Pradesh:

- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Deputy chief minister: Keshav Prasad Maurya, Brajesh Pathak

Karnataka govt passes Bill to set age limit for sale of cigarettes to 21

The Karnataka government presented the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Bill, 2024 which increased the age limit of sale of cigarettes from 18 years to 21 years. Earlier, the age limit for sale of cigarettes was fixed at 18 years, now the age limit has been increased to 21 years. Also, cigarettes cannot be sold within 100 meters of schools. There are small

traders who also sell groceries. A fine of 10,000 will be a problem. So we have limited it to one thousand. Unauthorized operation of hookah bar shall be punishable with imprisonment not less than one year and extending to three years and a fine of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. There is a possibility to impose fines along with jail term if violation is reported.

Karnataka:

- Capital: Bangalore
- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister: Siddaramaiah

Centre decides to continue Women's safety scheme till 2025-26

The government decided to continue the umbrella scheme on 'Safety of Women' at a total cost of ₹ 1,179. 72 crore during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Out of the total project outlay of ₹ 1,179. 72 crore, a total of ₹ 885. 49 crore will be provided by the MHA from its own budget and ₹ 294. 23 crore will be funded from Nirbhaya Fund. The objectives of these projects include strengthening mechanisms in states and Union Territories for ensuring timely intervention and investigation in case of crime against women and higher efficiency in investigation and crime prevention in such matters. The Government of India has proposed to continue the a number of projects under the Umbrella Scheme for "Safety of Women". These are: Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 2. 0; Upgradation of Central Forensic Sciences laboratories, including setting up of National Forensic Data Centre; Strengthening of DNA Analysis, Cyber Forensic capacities in State Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs). The projects include Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children; Capacity building and training of investigators and prosecutors in handling sexual assault cases against women and children; and Women Help Desk & Anti-human Trafficking Units.

TN govt announce chemical free programme to improve soil quality

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam announced a flagship programme -





Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kappom Scheme, aimed at preserving the soil fertility of cultivation lands in a comprehensive manner. This programme will be implemented at a cost of Rs. 206 crore. This scheme has been devised recognising the imperative to shift towards sustainable and chemical-free agricultural practices for the well-being of the society. This scheme aims to preserve soil fertility through the promotion of Green Manure usage among farmers. In the initial phase, slated for the year 2024-2025, an allocation of Rs. 20 crore has been earmarked for the distribution of Green Manure Seeds to cover 2 lakh acres benefitting 2 lakh farmers. As the livestock population is declining, vermicompost, which is obtained by composting cow dung and farm waste, is gaining importance. To produce vermicompost and to improve soil fertility, 10,000 farmers will be provided two vermicompost beds each for a total outlay of Rs. 6 crore. Additionally, a sum of Rs. 5 crore will be allocated for setting up of permanent vermicompost pits. As part of this initiative, 2 lakh Soil Health Cards will be distributed and farmers will be advised on ways to improve the soil health. Thus, to reduce the chemical "fertilizers usage and to maintain soil fertility an allocation of Rs. 6.27 crore will be made from both State and Union Government funds. Rs. 7.50 crore will be allocated for the distribution of 5 lakh litres of liquid biofertilizers to cover an area of 10 lakh, benefitting two lakh farmers.

Tamil Nadu

- Capital: Chennai
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin

PM Modi to inaugurate world's highest railway bridge in Jammu

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu to inaugurate several development programmes worth over Rs 32,000 crore. He will also lay the foundation stone of infra projects worth Rs 13,375 crore.

The world's highest railway bridge

PM Modi will inaugurate the world's highest railway bridge over Chenab. Located 359 metres above the Chenab's riverbed, the 1.3 km-long rail bridge is 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower. It is a part of the 111-km Katra-Banihal stretch, which forms a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line

(USBRL) Project. The railway bridge will connect Bakkal and Kauri villages in the Reasi district of southern Jammu. It will connect Kashmir valley with Katra in Jammu, reducing the journey time from Katra to Srinagar by five hours. PM Modi will also flag off the first electric train in the valley and also a train service between Sangaldan station and Baramulla station.

PM Modi to Inaugurate Five New AIIMS and Advance Health Facilities Worth Over 11,391 Crore

Under the goal of 'Ayushman Bharat, Viksit Bharat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate five new AIIMS to the nation on 25th of this month from Gujarat. They are AIIMS Rajkot in Gujarat, AIIMS Mangalagiri in Andhra Pradesh, AIIMS Bathinda in Punjab, AIIMS Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh and AIIMS Kalyani in West Bengal. The Prime Minister will also inaugurate various medical colleges and nursing colleges across the country. All these health projects with a total cost of over 11 thousand 391 crore rupees will bring a wave of healthcare advancements and transform India's healthcare landscape.

Tripura CM launches Rs 5 lakh health insurance scheme

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha launched a universal health insurance scheme under which 4.15 lakh families in the northeastern state will get an insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh. Under the Chief Minister's Jan Arogya Yojana (CM-JAY) 4.15 lakh families including government employees who are not covered under PM-JAY will get the benefit of health insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh each. Under the scheme, each enrolled family will get health insurance of Rs 5 lakh annually. The scheme is designed in such a way that the patient's family will get free medicine for 15 days even after discharge from government or private hospitals and the entire process will be cashless. Tripura is the first northeastern state to have introduced universal health insurance coverage for all.

Tripura:

- Capital: Agartala
- Governor: Indrasena Reddy
- Chief minister: Manik Saha





'SWATI' portal launched for women in science

A single online portal on Indian women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine (STEMM) was launched which could help in policy-making to address the challenges of gender gap in sciences. The "Science for Women- A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal is a complete interactive database and the first-of-its-kind in India which is developed, hosted and maintained by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR). The portal was launched by Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government Prof Ajay Kumar Sood at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

Parliament passes two Constitution Order Amendment Bills to modify SC and ST lists in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha

Parliament has passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024. The Upper House has already cleared it. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is intended to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes regarding Andhra Pradesh to include Bondo Porja, Khond Porja and Konda Savaras communities in the list of ST. While the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024 proposes to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in relation to Odisha. Under it, four communities of primitive tribes - Pauri Bhuyan, Chukta Bhunjia, Bondo and Mankidia and 46 others who have not been included in the ST list due to phonetic variations or spelling mistakes will be the part of ST list. The Government is committed to the protection of tribal and the upliftment of the poor. He hit out at the Congress for not taking steps to bring these tribes to the ST list. The Government has come out with the PM-JANMAN scheme, with a budgetary allocation of 24 thousand crore rupees for the tribal community.

Union Minister Arjun Munda launches LMS, Krishi Rakshak Portal & helpline, SARTHI initiative under PMFBY

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Arjun Munda launched LMS, Krishi Rakshak Portal and helpline and SARTHI initiative under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana, PMFBY in New Delhi. These initiatives insured farmers will be benefitted and their risk will be also reduced. The Krishi Rakshak Portal and Helpline is an integrated grievance redressal mechanism having a digital portal and a call centre has been developed to enable farmers to lodge their grievances, concerns and queries. The innovative SARTHI (Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance) platform harnesses technology to provide a broad spectrum of insurance products, offering coverage for health, life, property, agriculture tools, motor assets and disaster risks. The Learning Management System (LMS) is designed to revolutionize the training and knowledge-sharing landscape for stakeholders in implementing key agricultural schemes across the country. Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shobha Karandlaje and Kailash Chaudhary were also present at the event.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy lays foundation stone for country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy in Hyderabad

Union Culture Minister, G Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone for the country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad. The museum will have information about writing, scripts and languages using all multimedia install. The Archaeological Survey of India is establishing the museum and about one lakh ancient inscriptions of various languages and periods of time will be placed in it.

Telangana:

- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief minister: Anumula Revanth Reddy

'TG' to replace 'TS' as Telangana abbreviation

The Telangana government decided to change the state's abbreviation to 'TG' from the present 'TS'. The decision was taken at the state Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. After the formation of Telangana in 2014, the then TRS government had opted for TS as the state abbreviation. Following the Cabinet decision, vehicle registration numbers will now have 'TG' as prefix. The state will





also adopt a new state anthem - "Jaya Jaya Ho Telangana", it was decided in the key meeting ahead of the state's budget session. The new anthem was composed by Andre Sri, an award-winning Indian poet and lyricist. According to the decision, Telangana Talli, the symbolic mother goddess of the state, will also be launched in a new look.

Tamil Nadu makes record with 16 Ramsar Sites, adding two new Sanctuary

The Longwood Shola, known to the local Badagas in the Nilgiris as 'dodda solai' or 'big forest', was declared as Ramsar wetland along with four other sites in India, including the Karaivetti bird sanctuary in Ariyalur district. With this, Tamil Nadu now has 16 Ramsar wetlands, the highest in the country. Ramsar status is an international recognition for conservation and wise use of wetlands. Spread across 116 hectares, the Longwood Shola has been a source of water and firewood for several villages around Kotagiri town. In a first in Tamil Nadu and second in India, the site had bagged the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy accreditation in August 2022. It is the only shola (evergreen forest of indigenous trees) pocket located in an urban area in the Nilgiris.



01 FEB

EDITION: 47th

INDIAN COAST GUARD DAY

Importance
To mark the inception of interim Indian Coast guard on 1 February 1977 to prevent sea-borne smuggling of goods.

This day is an opportune moment to reaffirm their resolute commitment and selfless service for safeguarding maritime interests of our nation.
The ICG in its present shape was formally inaugurated on 18th August 1978.

Fact
India's 7516.60 kilometer coastline encompasses various states and some of the busiest trade routes kilometer coastline.

Note
There are 9 Indian states and 4 Union Territories situated on the coast.
These include Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.

Home to several species of flora and fauna, this shola is a critical factor in balancing the fragile ecosystem of the Nilgiris. It is also home to around 170 rare and endangered species of birds, making it an ideal spot for birdwatching. According to various sources, 14 of the 170 bird species are endemic to western ghats.

Tamil Nadu Launches 'Kalaignar Sports Kit' Initiative

Sports minister Udhayanidhi Stalin announced that Tamil Nadu is set to launch the Kalaignar sports kit scheme. Under the scheme, similar to the free schoolbooks scheme, state government will provide free sports kits to students in all the 12,000 village panchayats. This was the first time that Tamil Nadu had secured a place among the top three in Khelo India games.

Tamil Nadu:

- Capital: Chennai
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Language: Tamil



02 FEB

EDITION: 27th

INCEPTION: 1997

2024 THEME: Wetlands and human wellbeing

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

Importance
To mark the date of the adoption of Ramsar Convention on wetland on February 02, 1971, in the city of Ramsar, Iran.

It aims at drawing attention to the relevance of promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in such an important ecosystem.

Fact
India currently has 27 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), with a surface area of 1,056,871 hectares.

Note
Vembanad Lake also known as Vembanad Kayal or Vembanad Kol wetland is the largest wetland in India.





International Events

Philippines becomes first Asian country to ratify ILO convention

The Philippines has been the first Asian country to ratify a convention to end workplace violence and harassment. According to the ILO, the Philippines deposited the instrument of ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190) with ILO Deputy Director-General Celeste Drake. By depositing the instrument of ratification, the Philippines becomes the 38th country in the world and the first Asian country to ratify Convention No. 190. Convention No. 190 is the first international labor standard to address violence and harassment in the world of work comprehensively. Under the convention, members are mandated to adopt, in consultation with representative employers' and workers' organizations, inclusive, gender-responsive strategies for preventing and eradicating workplace violence and harassment.

Philippines

- Capital: Manila
- Official languages: Filipino, English
- Currency: Philippine peso
- President: Bongbong Marcos

ILO

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded: 1919
- Director-general: Gilbert Houngbo

Hungary buys Swedish fighter jets before NATO accession vote

Hungary has signed an agreement to buy four new Gripen fighter jets from Sweden ahead of the Hungarian parliament's vote on Sweden's NATO accession. The leaders also disclosed modifications to the existing contract regarding the rental of Gripen fighter jets and their support systems in Hungary. A new contract has also been signed for logistical services related to the Gripens, including training programs. Their defense cooperation comes at a crucial time as Sweden seeks to join the transatlantic alliance, abandoning its long-standing policy of neutrality in the wake of the Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict, which started two years ago. The Hungarian parliament will convene to ratify Sweden's NATO

membership after a prolonged delay due to debates within the parliamentary group of Orban's Fidesz party regarding Sweden's criticisms about the rule of law in Hungary.

Hungary

- Capital: Budapest
- Prime minister: Viktor Orbán
- Official language: Hungarian
- Currency: Forint

GMBF Global to host Mahabiz 2024 in Dubai

The Gulf Maharashtra Business Forum (GMBF) Global is preparing to host Mahabiz 2024 in Dubai. With the theme "Connect with Opportunities to Progress," the event aims to bring together over 700 entrepreneurs and business leaders from India, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa to encourage collaboration and uncover new business prospects. The recent signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the UAE adds significance to Mahabiz 2024, providing expanded opportunities for collaboration and trade between the two nations. Serving as a platform for local and global businesses, including Indian organizations, Mahabiz 2024 aims to forge meaningful partnerships and drive progress in the global landscape.

PM Modi inaugurates 'Bharat Mart' in UAE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Bharat Mart', a warehousing facility for Indian MSMEs, in Dubai. This comes as the Prime Minister is currently on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The complex will span over 1 lakh square metres and will serve as a multipurpose facility.

What is Bharat Mart?

Bharat Mart, which is expected to be operational next year, is a warehousing facility aimed at enabling Indian companies to trade in Dubai. The purpose of Bharat Mart is to offer a unified platform for exporters to showcase their varied range of products under a single roof. The complex will be located in the Jebel Ali Free Trade Zone in Dubai. Jebel Ali Free Zone is DP World's flagship free zone and the largest customs bonded zone in the Middle East.





Japan slips to world's 4th-largest economy, behind US, China, and Germany

Japan has slipped to the world's fourth-largest economy as government data released showed it fell behind the size of Germany's in 2023. The numbers highlight how the Japanese economy has gradually lost its competitiveness and productivity while the population shrinks as Japanese people age and have fewer children. Japan fell from the second-ranked economy behind the US to the third-largest in 2010 as China's economy grew. The International Monetary Fund had forecast Japan's fall to fourth. The comparisons among nations' economies look at nominal GDP, which doesn't reflect some different national conditions, and is in dollar terms. Japan's nominal GDP totalled USD 4.2 trillion last year, or about 591 trillion yen. Germany's, announced last month, was USD 4.4 trillion, or USD 4.5 trillion, depending on the currency conversion. Real gross domestic product is a measure of the value of a nation's products and services. The annual rate measures what would have happened if the quarterly rate lasted a year.

Japan:

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

PM Modi Inaugurates First Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi

In a historic moment for the Indian community in the Middle East, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi, marking the first traditional Hindu stone temple in the Middle East. The Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) temple, also the largest in the region, stands as a symbol of religious freedom and deepening ties between India and the United Arab Emirates. The magnificent 108 foot tall pink sandstone temple, spread across 27 acres, embodies the spirit of inclusion with its seven 'Shikhars', representing each Emirate. The pathway leading to the temple is adorned with six trees imported from the Czech Republic. Along this path, three water bodies have been meticulously crafted, symbolically representing the sacred rivers of ancient India - Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati. The temple's design transcends its physical structure.

UAE:

- Capital: Abu Dhabi
- President: Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- Currency: UAE dirham

India's UPI services to be launched in Sri Lanka and Mauritius

India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services will be launched in Sri Lanka and Mauritius and RuPay card services in Mauritius. The launch will enable availability of UPI settlement services for Indian nationals travelling to Sri Lanka and Mauritius as well as for Mauritian nationals travelling to India. The extension of RuPay card services in Mauritius will enable Mauritian banks to issue cards based on RuPay mechanism in Mauritius and facilitate usage of RuPay Card for settlements both in India and Mauritius. Payments through India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will now be accepted in seven countries after its launch in Sri Lanka and Mauritius. After the announcement, MyGovIndia, a citizen engagement platform of the Government of India, shared a world map, highlighting the countries where Indians can use UPI to make payments. France, UAE, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Bhutan, and Nepal are the countries that accept UPI payments, according to the government. Notably, Bhutan was the first country to enable UPI transactions through the BHIM app. The UPI digital payment app was virtually launched on July 13, 2021, by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Bhutanese counterpart Lyonpo Namgay Tshering. India formally launched the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris. Making the announcement, the Indian Embassy in France termed it as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of taking UPI, global. The UPI was formally launched at the Republic Day reception held in France. Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI is an instant real-time payment system to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones. It powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing, and merchant payments into one hood.





Banking & Economy

Zurich Insurance to acquire 70% stake in Kotak General for Rs 5,560 crore

Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank announced that Zurich Insurance will acquire a 70 per cent stake in the bank's general insurance arm, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance, for Rs 5,560 crore, in a single tranche. In November 2023, the bank had announced the sale of a 51 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to Zurich Insurance for Rs 4,051 crore, followed by a 19 per cent stake sale within a period of three years.

Kotak Mahindra Bank

- CEO: Ashok Vaswani
- Founder: Uday Kotak
- Founded: 21 November 1985
- Headquarters: Mumbai

ADB approves \$23 mn loan to boost fintech education, research in Gujarat

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 23 million loan to enhance access to quality fintech education, research, and innovation at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in India. GIFT is a state-owned enterprise established to promote and cultivate fintech ecosystems and financial services in India. It is the country's first international financial services centre and has become a fast-growing area for helping and developing local startups.

India contributes 1 million US Dollars to Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund

India has contributed 1 million US Dollars to the Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund established by India, Brazil, and South Africa, IBSA. The fund is aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger. India is committed to supporting the IBSA Fund as it has made a positive impact on the lives of millions across the Global South and has strengthened the spirit of South-South cooperation. The focus of India's G20 Presidency was the development of the people, by the people, and for the people. The IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) was established jointly by grouping in March 2004 and it

became operational in 2006. The purpose of the fund is to identify replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to developing countries on a demand-driven basis. IBSA Fund-supported projects help partner countries in the Global South to achieve their national priorities, as well as all other internationally agreed development goals.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6. 5 percent

Reserve Bank of India has kept repo rate unchanged at 6. 5 percent for the sixth time in a row. The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) voted by 5:1 majority to keep the repo rate unchanged in its last meeting of the current financial year as retail inflation continues to be above its target of 4 percent. The repo rate is the interest rate at which banks draw funds from RBI to overcome short-term liquidity mismatches. The Standing Deposit Facility rate remains at 6. 25 percent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6. 75 percent. The RBI Governor has projected the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index at 5. 4 percent in the current fiscal and 4. 5 percent during the next financial year. The RBI Governor highlighted that domestic economic activity remains strong and real GDP growth is 7. 3 % for the year 2023-24.

RBI:

- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors: Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao, Shri Swaminathan J, Shri T. Rabi Sankar, Dr. M. D. Patra

RBI approves HDFC Bank Group's proposal to acquire 9. 5% in IndusInd Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the application of HDFC Bank Group to acquire an "aggregate holding" of up to 9. 5 per cent of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in IndusInd Bank Limited, according to a regulatory filing by IndusInd Bank with the BSE. The approval has been granted following the application submitted by HDFC Bank Group to the RBI. On January 25, RBI allowed Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to acquire up to 9. 99 per cent stake in HDFC Bank Ltd.





MoU's Signed

Oil India signs MoU with The Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore

Oil India Limited (OIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), a public sector company, to explore opportunities in the domain of green hydrogen, including green ammonia, green methanol and other derivatives. The two companies will also collaborate in decarbonising initiatives like carbon dioxide sequestration, and partner in any other potential avenues for decarbonisation/clean energy transition/green fuels/renewable energy etc., which may present synergy between the parties and serve common business interests, according to an OIL statement.

Oil India:

- Founded: 18 February 1959
- Headquarters: Duliajan (headquarters)
- Chairman & MD: Dr. Ranjit Rath000

Goa, MakeMyTrip ink pact to promote state's culture, sustainable tourism

The Goa government and online travel firm MakeMyTrip signed an agreement to promote the state's cultural heritage and culinary traditions to make it into a year-round destination, moving beyond the sun, sand and beaches, according to a statement. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a public-private partnership, MakeMyTrip will highlight the state's inland cultural richness and culinary traditions, which usually take a back seat to popular coastal attractions by curating a cultural map of Goa, pushing various initiatives to promote the multi-faceted state.

MakeMyTrip:

- Founded: 2000
- Founder: Deep Kalra
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India
- Chairman: Deep Kalra
- CEO: Rajesh Magow

Wipro announces collab with Intel Foundry for chip design innovation

IT services major Wipro announced an expanded collaboration with Intel Foundry in a bid to accelerate chip design innovation. Wipro will work with Intel Foundry to accelerate the development of Intel's most advanced process nodes, including the Intel18A process node. The collaboration comes amid rising demand for artificial intelligence chip manufacturing. While Wipro will support the partnership with design services, Intel Foundry is trusted with the manufacturing process.

Background:

Notably, chip manufacturing is a key plank of the Narendra Modi government's business agenda as India aims to become a global player in the field and grab a share from China and Taiwan. For this goal, the Centre has also offered \$10 billion in incentives to the industry to start local chip manufacturing. In January, Taiwan's Foxconn announced partnership with tech firm HCL Group for a semiconductor assembly and testing facility in India. Tata Group, Reliance Industries are also among leading companies, exploring opportunities in the field.

Wipro

- Founder: M. H. Hasham Premji
- Owner: Azim Premji
- CEO: Thierry Delaporte
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

IEPFA and DBS Bank ink MoU to spread awareness on investment and fraudulent schemes

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and Singapore-headquartered DBS Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to spread awareness on investment and fraudulent schemes. Under the MoU, DBS Bank aims to support IEPFA's investor awareness activities by disseminating safety messages via its various digital platforms. Leveraging DBS Bank's extensive network of branches and ATMs in 19 States, as well as its digital infrastructure, will significantly increase the reach of IEPFA's investor awareness and protection messages to end users. Previously, IEPFA had also signed MoUs with the Bank of Baroda and ICICI Bank for similar activities.





Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with edX for free online courses

The government of Andhra Pradesh signed MoU with the edX, a leading global E-learning platform that conducts Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The MoU enables 12 lakh students in Andhra Pradesh pick and pursue their chosen verticals from more than 2,000 modern and emerging courses free of cost, the state government. Following the MoU, students would be able to learn locally unavailable courses like AI (Artificial Intelligence), Machine learning, Data sciences, Real estate management, cyber forensic, stock exchange, wealth and risk management and other modern verticals.

Andhra Pradesh:

- Capital: Amaravati
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

India, Taiwan sign migration agreement to strengthen bilateral cooperation

India and Taiwan signed a migration and mobility agreement that will facilitate the employment of Indian workers in diverse sectors in the self-ruled island, a move that is seen as reflective of the renewed momentum in the cooperation between the two sides. Taiwan's current source countries for migrant workers are Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Taiwan is affected by an ageing population and low birth rate, and that is why it is looking at the migrant labour force.

Taiwan :

- Capital: Taipei
- President: Tsai Ing-wen
- Vice President: Lai Ching-te
- Currency: New Taiwan dollar

India, Colombia sign MoU in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions

India and Colombia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation. India Stack Solutions are DPIS developed and implemented by India at population scale to provide access and delivery of public services.

Colombia:

- Capital: Bogotá
- Currency: Colombian Peso
- President: Gustavo Petro

PayU partners with NPCI to offer credit line on UPI for merchants

Online payments solution company PayU announced the acceptance of 'Credit Lines on UPI' feature on its platform, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The integration enables PayU's merchants to accept digital payments via credit line. In 2017, the company had entered the consumer credit segment with the development of LazyPay, an alternate lending platform which offers credit solutions at point-of-sale. In August last year, PayU had reached an agreement with Rapyd, a fintech-as-a-service provider, to sell its Global Payments Organisation (GPO) for a total cash consideration of \$610 million to enable PayU to focus on the large payments and fintech opportunity in India.

PayU:

- Founded: 2002
- Founder: Jose Velez, Martin Schrimpf, Arjan Bakker, Grzegorz Brochocki, Nitin Gupta, Shailaz Nag
- CEO: Anirban Mukherjee
- Parent: Naspers

Central banks of India, Nepal sign agreement to link UPI-NPI

State-owned Central banks of India and Nepal signed terms of reference for the integration of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Payments Interface (NPI). The integration is aimed at facilitating cross-border remittances between India and Nepal by enabling users of the two systems to make instant, low-cost fund transfers. The collaboration between India and Nepal in linking their fast payment systems through the UPI-NPI linkage will further deepen financial connectivity and reinforce the enduring historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two countries. Based on the terms of reference exchanged between the RBI and NRB, the necessary systems will be put in place for the interlinking of UPI and Nepal's NPI.



**Nepal:**

- Capital: Kathmandu
- President: Ram Chandra Poudel
- Vice President: Ram Sahaya Yadav
- Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal
- Currency: Nepalese rupee

REC Limited and Damodar Valley Corporation sign agreements worth ₹ 588 crores

State-owned REC signed agreements to provide Rs 588 crore finance facilities to Damodar Valley Corporation for development of tubed coal mines in the Damodar Valley region. The agreements aim to strengthen the cooperation between REC and DVC for the development of tubed coal mines, and include a term loan agreement, an escrow agreement, and hypothecation deeds.

REC Limited:

- Founded: 25 July 1969
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CMD: Vivek Kumar Dewangan

MoD signs contract worth Rs. 1,752 Cr with AWEIL

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Advanced Weapon Equipment India Ltd. (AWEIL), Kanpur for manufacturing & supply of a total of 463 indigenously manufactured 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Guns (SRCG) for the Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard at a total cost of Rs. 1752.13 crores, with Indigenous Content (IC) of more than 85%. The SRCG will enhance the capability of Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard to accurately engage small targets that pose a threat to ships in an asymmetric environment, both by day and night. This contract will also open up a large avenue in defence manufacturing for over 125 Indian Vendors and DPSUs for over a period of 5 years.

AWEIL:

Advanced Weapon Equipment India Ltd. is an Indian state-owned defence company, headquartered in Kanpur, India established in 2021 as part of the restructuring and corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board into seven different Public Sector Undertakings. AWEIL primarily manufactures Small arms and artillery guns for the use of the Indian Armed Forces, foreign militaries and domestic civilian use.

Cochin International Airport and BPCL Collaborate for World's First Green Hydrogen Plant

The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala has entered into an MOU with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to set up a green hydrogen plant in its premises to produce 1000 KW of power. The project is said to be the first Green Hydrogen plant in an airport in the world. The project is expected to be completed early next year, and the initial output will be utilized for powering vehicles within the airport. The Cochin International Airport is in the forefront of deploying green energy and is the world's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy. It has a cumulative installed capacity of 50 MW producing two lakh units of power per day through big solar power plants and a hydel station.

BPCL:

- Founded: 1976
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & MD: G Krishnakumar

India, UAE sign bilateral investment agreement during PM Modi's visit

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a key bilateral investment treaty along with key agreements spanning a slew of fintech and digital infrastructure projects announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to the Gulf nation. India signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the country in February 2022, which went into effect in May 2022. The UAE has become India's second-largest export destination, and the third-largest trading partner with total trade touching \$85 billion. Both sides also signed an Intergovernmental Framework Agreement on the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC). India and the United Arab Emirates signed an agreement on a trade corridor that aims to connect Europe with India through parts of the Middle East by sea and rail, an ambitious plan backed by the U. S. and the European Union.

Fintech focus:

Both sides also inked an agreement on the interlinking of national instant payment platforms. As a result, India's United Payment Interface will be linked with the UAE's Aani, a platform operated by Al Etihad





Payments, a subsidiary of the country's central bank. Similarly, an agreement on inter-linking domestic debit/credit cards of both nations was signed which will see RuPay (India) linked with JAYWAN (UAE). The move is set to enhance the universal acceptance of RuPay across the UAE. An MoU on cooperation in Digital Infrastructure Projects promises to create a framework for wide-ranging cooperation, including investment cooperation, in the digital infrastructure sector and also facilitate the sharing of technical knowledge, skills, and expertise. The PM also inaugurated the country's first Hindu mandir in Abu Dhabi, constructed by the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha.

Defence Ministry Signs 2,269 Crore Rupees Contract with BEL for 11 Shakti EW Systems for Indian Navy

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for procurement of 11 Shakti Electronic Warfare Systems for Indian Navy. The contract is worth more than two thousand 269 crore rupees. The Shakti EW System is indigenously designed, developed and manufactured. It is capable of accurately intercepting electronic emissions and implement counter measures in dense electromagnetic environment. According to the Defence Ministry, the Shakti EW System will be installed on-board capital warships of Indian Navy.

BEL:

- Founded: 1954
- Headquarters: Bangalore, India
- Officiating Chairman & Managing Director: Bhanu Prakash Srivastava

Dubai to have world's first air taxi, agreements inked at World Government Summit 2024

In a pathbreaking move set to revolutionize urban transportation, Dubai has inked agreements at the World Government Summit 2024 to launch the world's first air taxi service. The agreements pave the way for Dubai to pioneer the deployment of a city-wide electric aerial taxi service and vertiport network. At the heart of the initiative lies the Joby Aviation S4, an innovative aircraft designed to comfortably accommodate four passengers along with a pilot. Sporting six propellers and powered by four battery packs, the S4 boasts a maximum range of 161 km and

a top speed of 321 km per hour. The air-taxi network will commence its operations in 2026, marking a significant milestone in Dubai's quest to redefine urban mobility.

UAE:

- Capital: Abu Dhabi
- Largest city: Dubai
- President: Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- Currency: UAE dirham

AIIMS New Delhi Signs Collaboration Agreement with University of Liverpool for Cancer Research

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi has signed a Collaboration Agreement with University of Liverpool for 'AIIMS Liverpool Collaborative Centre for Translational Research in Head and Neck Cancer - ALHNS'. The ALHNS will build upon the pre-existing collaboration and links between the Liverpool Head and Neck Centre (LNHC), University of Liverpool and the Head and Neck Cancer Unit at AIIMS.

WDRA and PSB sign a Memorandum of Understanding

In a move to support farmers and traders with low-interest rate loans, the Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) and Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The primary objective of the MoU is to raise awareness about funding against electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs). The NWR system enables farmers to store the produce safely and scientifically at warehouses near their farms. It also allows farmers to receive loans from banks using the issued NWRs against their deposited stock. The e-NWR is a digital receipt that is issued by the regulatory body, WRDA. The eNWR can be used by farmers to finance and trade in settlements without physically exchanging goods. The MoU, therefore, will further enhance agricultural pledge finance in India through outreach activities. Under this partnership, PSB will offer loans against e-NWRs with no requirement for collateral and "attractive interest rates". Farmers can avail loans of up to Rs 75 lakh, while borrowers from other categories can





access loans of up to Rs 5 crore under the agriculture sector.

Punjab & Sind Bank:

- Founded: 1908
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Non-Exe Chairman: Charan Singh
- MD & CEO: Swarup Kumar Saha

ADB And Government Of India Sign \$200 Million Loan For Brahmaputra River Project

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk management along the 650 kilometers (km) long main stem of the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India. The project builds on the success and lessons from the ADB-financed Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (2010–2020) and similar investments in Bangladesh and will continue to tackle recurrent flooding and continual riverbank erosion of the Brahmaputra River. The project will apply a holistic, integrated, and risk-informed approach to scale up investment in flood and riverbank erosion risk management and its long-term planning, while intensifying support for climate and disaster resilience and food security. By optimizing co-benefits and empowering women through disaster-resilient economic activities, the project will benefit about 1 million people and increase crop production over 50,000 hectares. By stabilizing 60 km of banks, installing 32 km of pro-siltation measures, and building 4 km of climate-resilient flood embankments in five high-priority districts (Dibrugarh, Goalpara , Kamrup Rural, Morigaon, and Tinsukia), the project will secure living spaces, support livelihoods, create employment opportunities, and ultimately enhance the navigability of the river.

Centre to sign pact with TERI for institute for energy transition

The Union Power Ministry to sign a memorandum of agreement with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for setting up an institute for energy transition at TERI campus in Hyderabad. In India, 44 per cent of the country's power generation capacity is from non-fossil sources. In actual physical terms, about 180,000 plus megawatts is the non-fossil capacity. The nuclear capacity is just about 7,800 megawatts. The

remaining is totally renewable. That constitutes 44 per cent of the established capacity, 427,000 megawatts out of which 180,000 MW is renewable. India by 2030, that it would have 40 percent of our power generation capacity as renewables. India in COP26 that by 2030 to have 50 per cent of capacity from non-fossil sources, mostly renewables. India's per capita emission is among the lowest in the world.

TERI:

- Founded: 1974, Mithapur
- Director General: Dr Vibha Dhawan
- Subsidiary: Ongc Teri Biotech Limited

Microsoft partners with India's Sarvam AI

Microsoft will support the development of voice-based generative artificial intelligence (AI) applications through a partnership with Indian startup Sarvam AI. The partnership was announced during CEO Satya Nadella's three-day visit as the company pushes for wider adoption of its products by consumers in India, the fastest-growing major economy. Nadella had announced an initiative to provide 2 million Indians with AI skilling opportunities by 2025. Sarvam AI is building genAI models targeting Indic languages and context, and will now create its solutions on Microsoft's cloud services including Azure OpenAI Service. The startup - whose founders earlier developed AI models at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras-based research group AI4Bharat - has raised \$41 million in a series A funding from Lightspeed Venture Partners, Peak XV Partners and Khosla Ventures.

Microsoft:

- Founded: 1975
- Founders: Bill Gates & Paul Allen
- Headquarters: Washington, U. S.
- Chairman & CEO: Satya Nadella

SBI ties up with Flywire to make payments easier for foreign students

Country's largest lender SBI tied up with Flywire for easing payments for Indian students studying abroad. Under the partnership, Flywire's technology will be integrated directly into the bank's platform, offering Indian students an advanced digital checkout experience for their international educational payments. Flywire is an easy-to-use payment solution that provides international payers with a streamlined





payment experience. The company is headquartered in Boston and has offices around the globe.

SBI:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- CFO: Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti

Fintech platform Juspay acquires LotusPay

Payments infrastructure company Juspay has acquired recurring payments solution provider LotusPay. Juspay, which provides payment solutions for companies in various sectors, said that the acquisition strengthens its offerings to the BFSI segment and merchants. The financial specifics of the transaction were not revealed by the companies. Founded in 2016 by Atma Krishna and backed by Y Combinator, LotusPay offers recurring payment solutions via National Automated Clearing House (NACH) Debit and provides cloud-based software for merchants and banks. Juspay will integrate LotusPay NACH into some of its products, and continue offering it as a standalone service. Juspay claims to process over 100 million transactions daily. LotusPay serves banks, NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) including HDB Financial Services, InCred Finance, and IIFL Samasta Finance, and technology companies like StashFin, Pine Labs, and Kissht.

Petronet to sign LNG deal with Qatar for supplies past 2028

India's Petronet LNG will sign a deal with Qatar to extend its long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from the country to beyond 2028. Under the existing deal that expires in 2028, Petronet LNG imports 7.5 million metric tons per year of LNG from Qatar priced at a slope of 12.67 per cent of the current Brent crude oil futures prices and a fixed charge of 52 cents per million British thermal units (mmBtu). In the renewed deal, the fixed charge for Qatari LNG will not be there.

Vietnam and Philippines agrees to boost cooperation among their coastguards

Vietnam and the Philippines have agreed to boost cooperation among their coastguards and to prevent untoward incidents in the South China Sea. This was announced during a state visit to Hanoi by Philippines

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The two memoranda of understanding on security covered "incident prevention in the South China Sea" and "maritime cooperation" among coastguards.

Rolls-Royce Inks Pact With Azad Engineering For Making Complex Defence Aero-Engine Components In India

Rolls-Royce has announced the signing of a long-term agreement with Azad Engineering to manufacture and supply complex components for defence aircraft engines. Through this strategic partnership, Hyderabad-based Azad Engineering will join the global supply chain for complex category components for Rolls-Royce's technologically advanced aero engines.

Rolls-Royce Limited:

Rolls-Royce Limited was a British luxury car and later an aero-engine manufacturing business.

- Founded: 1906 (as a private company), 1971 (as a state-owned company)
- Founders: Charles Rolls, Henry Royce
- Headquarters: Derby, United Kingdom

India-France defence industrial roadmap; Tata, Airbus sign helicopter deal

India and France unveiled ambitious defence industrial roadmap to co-develop critical military hardware, firmed up a space situational awareness programme even as the Tata Group and Airbus announced to jointly build H125 helicopters following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. The two sides inked a total of nine agreements that would provide for cooperation in a large number of areas including defence-space partnership, satellite launches boosting engagement in the healthcare sector and scientific research. The pacts included the defence industrial roadmap and the Tata-Airbus deal. The two sides also announced operationalisation of India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) at Eiffel Tower. Under the deal, Airbus Helicopters will be partnering with the Tata Group to establish a Final Assembly Line (FAL) for H125 helicopters in India. The FAL will produce the helicopters from its civil range for India and export to some of the neighbouring countries.





Awards & Recognitions

Dadasaheb Phalke Awards 2024

The coveted Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards were held in Mumbai. The highlight was Shah Rukh Khan winning the Best Actor award for his film Jawan, whereas Rani Mukerji won Best Actress for Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway.

Dadasaheb Phalke Awards 2024 full winners list:

- Best Film: Jawan
- Best Film (Critics): 12th Fail
- Best Actor: Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan)
- Best Actress (Critics): Kareena Kapoor (Jaane Jaan)
- Best Actress: Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway)
- Best Director (Critics): Atlee (Jawan)
- Best Director: Sandeep Reddy Vanga (Animal)
- Best Actor (Critics): Vicky Kaushal (Sam Bahadur)
- Best Music Director: Anirudh Ravichander (Jawan)
- Best Playback Singer (Male): Varun Jain and Sachin Jigar (Tere Vaste from Zara Hatke Zara Bachke)
- Best Playback Singer (Female): Shilpa Rao (Besharam Rang from Pathaan)
- Best Actor in a Negative Role: Bobby Deol (Animal)
- Best Actor in a Comic Role: Ayushmann Khurranna (Dream Girl 2)
- Best Actress in a Comic Role: Sanya Malhotra (Kathal)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Anil Kapoor (Animal)
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Dimple Kapadia (Pathaan)
- Most Promising Actor: Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
- Most Promising Actress: Adah Sharma (The Kerala Story)
- Most Versatile Actress: Nayanthara
- Best Lyricist: Javed Akhtar (Nikle The Kabhi Hum Ghar Se from Dunki)
- Best Short Film: Good morning
- Best International Feature Film: Oppenheimer
- Best Cinematographer: Gnana Shekar VS (IB71)

-
- Best Actress in a Television Series: Rupali Ganguly (Anupamaa)
 - Best Actor in a Television Series: Neil Bhatt (Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein)
-

Shashi Tharoor awarded top French honour for deepening India-France ties

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor was conferred the top French civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur' at a ceremony in New Delhi. Tharoor was given the honour, also called 'Knight of the Legion of Honour' by Gérard Larcher, Chairman of the French Senate, on behalf of the President of the French Republic for his efforts to deepen the ties between India-France.

What is the Legion of Honour award?

The Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour) was instituted in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte and is given by the French Republic to people for their services to the country, regardless of their nationality. The Legion of Honour award is divided into five degrees – Knight, Officer, Commander, Grand Officer and Grand Cross, with the Grand Cross being the highest rank. Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour' by French President Emmanuel Macron during his visit to France last year.

France

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

Bafta Awards 2024: The complete list of winners

The Bafta Film Awards, the most coveted honours in the British movie industry, have been handed out in London.

The full list of winners is below.

- Best film: Oppenheimer
- Leading actress: Emma Stone - Poor Things
- Leading actor: Cillian Murphy - Oppenheimer
- Supporting actress: Da'Vine Joy Randolph - The Holdovers
- Supporting actor: Robert Downey Jr - Oppenheimer
- Director: Oppenheimer - Christopher Nolan





- EE Bafta rising star award (voted for by the public): Mia McKenna-Bruce
- Outstanding British film: The Zone of Interest
- Film not in the English language: The Zone of Interest
- Animated film: The Boy and the Heron
- Documentary: 20 Days In Mariupol
- Original screenplay: Anatomy of a Fall
- Adapted screenplay: American Fiction
- Outstanding debut by a British writer, director or producer: Earth Mama
- Original score: Oppenheimer
- Make-up and hair: Poor Things
- Costume design: Poor Things
- Production design: Poor Things
- Sound: The Zone of Interest
- Cinematography: Oppenheimer
- Editing: Oppenheimer
- Casting: The Holdovers
- Special visual effects: Poor Things
- British short animation: Crab Day
- British short film: Jellyfish and Lobster
- Bafta Fellowship: Samantha Morton
- Outstanding British contribution to cinema: June Givanni

The top films

- 7 wins - Oppenheimer
 5 - Poor Things
 3 - The Zone of Interest
 2 - The Holdovers

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar presents Assam government's highest civilian awards

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar visited Guwahati in Assam on a day-long tour to present the Assam government's highest civilian awards - Assam Baibhav, Assam Saurabh, and Assam Gaurav to the winners. State government has decided to confer the awards to 22 individuals selected from diverse sectors, for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields. Assam government is set to present the Assam Baibhav, the state's premier civilian honor, to Ranjan Gogoi, Member of Parliament and former Chief Justice of India. The Assam Saurav will be awarded to four individuals including Dr. Kishan Chand Nauriyal, Elvis Ali Hazarika, Hima Das, and Nadiram Deuri, while Assam Gaurav will be awarded to 17 people including Ranjit Kumar Gogoi, Parvati Barua, Debojit Changmai, Drono Bhuyan, Neelan Dutta, Anupama Deka, Soumyadeep Dutta, Basanta Chiring

Phukan, Manendra Deka, Meenakshi Chetia, Pakhila Lethtepi, Tenzing Bodosa, Nirmal Dey, Jecin Kumbang Pao, Mary Hassa, Upendra Rabha and Rahul Gupta.

Assam:

- Capital: Dispur
- Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria
- Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Neeraj Chopra Honoured At Jungfrau's Ice Palace In Switzerland

Olympic and World champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfraujoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland. Chopra donated one of his javelins to the tourist attraction and it has been placed alongside the plaque. He joins stars such as Roger Federer, and golfer Rory McIlroy, who also have such commemorative plaques at the Ice Palace. The Wall of Fame at Jungfraujoch serves as a testament to the spirit of accomplishment and dedication. He had earlier gifted a javelin to the Olympic Museum in Switzerland.

Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band Shakti bags Grammy award

Prominent Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band Shakti bagged the prestigious Grammy award. They clinched the award in Best Global Music Album category for their latest album This Moment. The album This Moment was released in June last year. The album consisted of eight songs by John McLaughlin, Zakir Khan, Shankar Mahadevan, V Selvaganesh and Ganesh Rajagopalan. Meanwhile, Zakir Hussain also bagged the Grammy in Best Global Music Performance category for his contribution to Pashto alongside Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer, featuring Rakesh Chaurasia. Moreover, Veteran Indian classical flute artist Rakesh Chaurasia managed to win dual Grammy for his collaborative album As We Speak in the Best Contemporary Instrumental and Best Global Music Performance categories. The 66th Annual Grammy Awards 2024 are being held at Crypto. com Ar ena in Los Angeles. Taylor Swift won album of the year for Midnights, making her the first person to win that category four times. "What Was I Made For?" from Barbie, written by Billie Eilish O'Connell and Finneas





O'Connell, was named song of the year. Victoria Monét was named best new artist.

Ranbir Kapoor wins Best Actor award at Filmfare 2024, Alia Bhatt named Best Actress

Ranbir Kapoor has won Best Actor award at Filmfare Awards "2024 for 'Animal', while Alia Bhatt has been named Best Actress for Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. It's Ranbir's fourth Best Actor Filmfare award. Meanwhile, Alia equalled Nutan and Kaol's record with her fifth Best Actress Filmfare award. Further Vidhu Vinod Chopra-directorial 12th Fail won the Best Film award.

Here's the complete list of winners of the 69th Filmfare Awards, 2024:

Category	Winner
Best Film	12th Fail
Best Director	Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Film (Critics')	Joram (Devashish Makhija)
Best Actor (Critics')	Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
Best Actress (Critics')	Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs. Norway), Shefali Shah (Three of Us)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Vicky Kaushal (Dunki)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Shabana Azmi (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Lyrics	Amitabh Bhattacharya ("Tere Vaaste" – Zara Hatke Zara Bachke)
Best Music Album	Animal (Pritam, Vishal Mishra, Manan Bhardwaj, Shreyas Puranik, Jaani,

Best Playback Singer (Male)	Bhupinder Babbal, et al.) Bhupinder Babbal (Arjan Vailly – Animal)
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Shilpa Rao (Besharam Rang – Pathaan)
Best Story	Amit Rai (OMG 2), Devashish Makhija (Joram)
Best Screenplay	Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Dialogue	Ishita Moitra (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Background Score	Harshavardhan Rameshwar (Animal)
Best Cinematography	Avinash Arun Dhaware (Three of Us)
Best Production Design	Subrata Chakraborty, Amit Ray (Sam Bahadur)
Best Costume Design	Sachin Lovelekar, Divyya Gambhir, Nidhhi Gambhir (Sam Bahadur)
Best Sound Design	Kunal Sharma (Mpse) (Sam Bahadur) Sync Cinema (Animal)
Best Editing	Jaskunwar Singh Kohli-Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Action	Spiro Razatos, Anil Arasu, Craig Macrae, Yannick Ben, Kecha Khamphakdee, Sunil Rodrigues (Jawan) Red Chillies VFX (Jawan) Ganesh Acharya ("What Jhumka?" – Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Best Debut Director	Tarun Dubeja (Dhak Dhak)
Best Debut Male	Aditya Rawal (Faraaz)
Best Debut Female	Alizeh Agnihotri (Farrey)
Lifetime Achievement Award	David Dhawan

"Knowing Is Not Enough; We Must Apply. Wishing Is Not Enough; We Must Do."

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





Sports

Janneke Schopman resigns as chief coach of Indian women's hockey team

Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman resigned days after creating a furore by claiming that she was not valued and respected enough by the national federation. The Dutch coach had taken over the reins of the women's team in 2021 from Sjoerd Marine, who had led the side to a historic fourth position at the Tokyo Olympics. Schopman's contract was to end in August this year after the Paris Olympics but following her recent critical comments, it was expected that she won't continue. Hockey India (HI) informed that the 46-year-old coach tendered her resignation to Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey after the conclusion of team's outing in the home leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League in Odisha.

International Hockey Federation (FIH)

- CEO: Thierry Weil
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- President: Tayyab Ikram
- Founded: 7 January 1924

Indian quarter-miler Anjali Devi banned for four years for a doping violation

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has banned Anjali Devi, the country's fastest quarter-miler last year, for four years for failing a dope test in June 2023. She tested positive for GW1516, which is prohibited at all times under metabolic modulators on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Prohibited List. Incidentally, the US Anti-Doping Agency's website mentions that GW1516 was pulled from clinical trials when it was found to cause cancer, which meant that it had not undergone human studies and was not safe to use. Anjali, competing for Haryana, had clocked a stunning 51. 48s to win the gold at the Inter-State Nationals in Bhubaneswar in June and had qualified for the Asian Games.

NADA:

- Formation: 24 November 2005
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman: Minister of Sports (India) (Anurag Thakur)

Asian Track Cycling Championship: India creates history by clinching Gold in Junior Women's Team Sprint Event

In the Asian Track Cycling Championship, India created history by clinching Gold in the Junior Women's Team Sprint Event at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi. The women's junior team, comprising Sarita Kumari, Niya Sebastian, Zaina Mohammed Ali Pirkhan, and Sabina Kumari outpaced South Korea with an impressive timing of 33. 383 seconds to win the gold. In the men's junior team event, India's Narayan Mahto, Syed Khalid Baghi, and Mayanglambam Wattaba Meitei won the silver medal. In the para-team sprint event, Arshad Shaikh, Jalaluddin Ansari, and Basavaraj Horaddi also won silver, adding to India's medal total in the para-cycling team event. In the team pursuit event, the junior women's team consisting of Harshita Jakhar, Suhani Kumari, Dhanyadha JP, and Bhumika took home the Bronze medal, while South Korea and Kazakhstan won the Gold and Silver respectively. India won four medals on the opening day, including one gold, two silver, and one bronze, demonstrating the strength and tenacity of its cycling contingent.

Indian women beat Thailand to clinch maiden Badminton Asia Team Championships title

In Badminton, the Indian Women's Team has won their first-ever Asia Team Championships title at Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam, Malaysia. In the final match, India clinched the gold medal by defeating Thailand 3-2, with youngster Anmol Kharb's exceptional performance in the title decider game. Anmol Kharb hails from Faridabad, Haryana. Last season, Anmol Kharb reached the pre-quarters of the Asian Championships in Indonesia. She also secured the U-17 title at the Sub-Junior Nationals at Hyderabad. The 17-year-old sensation, who is currently No. 1 in the BAI (Badminton Association of India) Rankings, is focused on her U-19 career, with her eyes set on the senior level in the years to come.

2024 Badminton Asia Team Championships:

- Edition: 5
- Venue: Setia City Convention Centre
- Location: Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia





- Champions
- Men's teams: China
- Women's teams: India

R Ashwin becomes fastest Indian bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket

Veteran spinner R Ashwin became the fastest Indian bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket as he took only 98 Tests to reach the landmark. He reached the milestone of 500 wickets during the India vs England 3rd Test in Rajkot. Zak Crawley was R Ashwin's 500th wicket in Test cricket. Also, Ashwin is the only Indian bowler after legend Anil Kumble to take 500 wickets in Test cricket. Anil Kumble is the leading wicket-taker for India in Test cricket history with 619 scalps to his name.

Second fastest to 500 Test wickets:

37-year-old Ashwin is only the second bowler after Sri Lanka's Muthiah Muralidaran to reach 500 wickets in less than 100 Tests. Murali reached 500 wickets in only 87 matches. Ashwin, the fastest Indian to reach 50, 100, 150, 200, 350, 400 and 450 Test wickets, is the fastest in the world to reach 250 and 300 Test wickets.

Most wickets in the history of Test cricket:

Muthiah Muralidaran is the highest wicket-taker in the history of red-ball cricket. In 133 matches, Muralidaran took 800 wickets. Muralidaran is followed by Shane Warne, James Anderson, Anil Kumble and Stuart Broad among others.

Ivory Coast beat Nigeria to win third AFCON title

Simon Adingra set up two goals as host country Ivory Coast came from behind to beat Nigeria 2-1 to win the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) title. It's Ivory Coast's third title after wins in 1992 and 2015, both won on penalties. The Africa Cup of Nations commonly referred to as the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations for sponsorship reasons, or simply AFCON or CAN, is the main international men's association football competition in Africa. It is sanctioned by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), and was first held in 1957. Since 1968, it has been held every two years, switching to odd-numbered years in 2013.

Africa Cup of Nations:

- Founded: 1957
- Region: Africa
- Current champions: Ivory Coast (3rd title)

- Most successful team: Egypt (7 titles)

Tennis: Sumit Nagal lifts Chennai Open ATP Challenger trophy beating Luca Nardi of Italy in men's singles final

In the Tennis Chennai Open ATP Challenger finale, India's top-ranked Sumit Nagal emerged victorious and wins his 5th Challenger Title. He defeated Luca Nardi of Italy in the title clash by 6-1 and 6-4. With this, he enters the Top 100 in next week's ATP Rankings. The second-seeded Nagal will be the first Indian man since Prajnesh Gunneswaran in 2019 to breach the top-100 barrier. The Chennai Open is the first in a series of ATP Challenger 100 events to be held in India.

Chennai Open Challenger Doubles champion:

- Saketh Myneni, India
- Ramkumar Ramanathan, India

BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships: Host India wins overall trophy, team Thailand comes second

The first BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 concluded with Team India taking the overall trophy with 360 points. The Indian swimmers who won a total of 19 Gold medals also took the men's and women's champion trophies and the Men and Women's diving teams also winning Diving champions trophies. Trophies for Best Swimmer Male were given to India's Harsh Saroha for winning 3 Gold Medals and Best Swimmer Female to Thailand's Maria Anedelko for winning 3 Gold and 1 Silver. Team Thailand meanwhile won the Men and Women's Water Polo Championship trophies. The competitions, which were being hosted for participants of the 20 and under age category had events in Swimming, Water Polo and Diving. A total of 43 events took place across 3 aquatics disciplines, with 9 trophies including overall champions being given out. Over 268 athletes from various member countries participated in the event.

Five Indian chess players among top 10 in junior world rankings

For the first time in the history, young Indian chess players occupied five slots -- including the top spot -- in the junior world rankings. The honours go to Grandmasters (GM) the top-ranked R.





Praggnanandhaa (Elo rating 2747), D. Gukesh (2743) ranked third, Nihal Sarin (2693) ranked sixth, Raunak Sadhwani (2654) ranked seventh and Leon Luke Meondonca (2631) ranked tenth as per International Chess Federation or FIDE's latest ranking list.

New York to host FIFA World Cup 2026

The New York will host the FIFA World Cup final in 2026 after beating out contenders in Dallas and Los Angeles for the honor of holding the world's most-viewed sporting event. The decisive game will take place across the Hudson River at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium, FIFA. The US is co-hosting the 2026 World Cup with Canada and Mexico, and the tournament will begin June 11 with a match at Mexico City's Estadio Azteca. The next day, Canada will hold its first game, with Toronto's BMO Field as the venue, while the US team debuts at SoFi Stadium near Los Angeles.

FIFA:

- Founded: 21 May 1904
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland
- President: Gianni Infantino
- Secretary General: Fatma Samoura

ICC lifts suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket after two-months

International Cricket Council (ICC) has lifted the suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket with immediate effect. Sri Lanka Cricket has been reinstated as a member of the International Cricket Council after a

two-month suspension. On 10 November 2023, Sri Lanka Cricket was suspended for violation of responsibilities as an ICC Member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government interference in the governance, regulation, and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka.

ICC:

- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Subsidiary: Asian Cricket Council
- Founded: 15 June 1909
- CEO: Geoff Allardice
- Chairman: Greg Barclay

Australian Open: Jannik Sinner defeats Daniil Medvedev in Men's Singles final to win his 1st grand slam title

Italy's Jannik Sinner defeated Russia's Daniil Medvedev in the men's singles final of the Australian Open in Melbourne. With his win, Sinner became the first Italian man to win a Slam since Adriano Panatta in 1976.

2024 Australian Open Champions:

- Men's singles: Jannik Sinner (Italy)
- Women's singles: Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
- Men's doubles: Rohan Bopanna (India) / Matthew Ebden (Australia)
- Women's doubles: Hsieh Su-wei (China) / Elise Mertens (Belgium)
- Mixed doubles: Hsieh Su-wei (China) / Jan Zieliński (Poland)

"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."

"Leaders Concentrate Single-Mindedly On One Thing- The Most Important Thing, And They Stay At It Until It's Complete."





Science & Technology

GSLV-F14 carrying INSAT-3DS scheduled for launch from Satish Dhawan Space Centre

The GSLV-F14 carrying INSAT-3DS is scheduled for launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The GSLV-F14 is the 16th flight of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV, and the 10th flight with the indigenous cryo stage. This is the seventh operational flight of GSLV with an indigenous cryogenic stage and it will place INSAT-3DS satellite in a geosynchronous transfer orbit. INSAT-3DS satellite is a follow-on mission of the third generation meteorological satellite from geostationary orbit. The satellite is an exclusive mission designed for enhanced meteorological observations, monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning. INSAT-3DS Satellite will be augmenting meteorological services along with the presently operational INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR in-orbit satellites. The GSLV, which will carry the INSAT-3DS, has been termed as the “naughty boy” of India's space facility by a former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as the rocket has a failure rate of 40 percent, not performing in six out of its total 15 flights.

ISRO:

- Formed: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Somanath

Russia uses Zircon hypersonic missile for first time

A preliminary analysis concluded that Russia hit Kyiv with the hypersonic Zircon missile, its first use in the nearly two-year-old war, the head of a Kyiv research institute, presenting a new challenge to Ukraine's air defences. The Zircon has a range of 1,000 km (625 miles) and travels at nine times the speed of sound, according to Russia. Military analysts have said its hypersonic speed could mean greatly reduced reaction time for air defences and a capability to attack large, deep and hardened targets.

Russia:

- Capital: Moscow
- President: Vladimir Putin
- Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin
- Currency: Ruble

Precision approach radar, underwater harbour defence and surveillance system inaugurated in Andaman and Nicobar command

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral R. Hari Kumar inaugurated a Precision Approach Radar (PAR) at INS Utkrosh in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which will enable “highly accurate horizontal and vertical guidance to land an aircraft safely in low visibility conditions, such as heavy rain and fog”. He also inaugurated the IUHDSS (Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System) at Naval Jetty, Port Blair. The IUHDSS is capable of detecting, identifying & tracking surface and under water targets in vicinity of naval jetty thereby enhancing security of Port Blair harbour.

Andaman and Nicobar:

- Capital: Port Blair
- Lieutenant governor: Devendra Kumar Joshi
- Chief secretary: Keshav Chandra

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to commission INS Sandhayak

The Indian Navy is all set to commission its latest survey vessel Sandhayak in Vizag and the ship is expected to boost the force's surveillance apparatus in the strategic waterways. The event will mark the formal induction into the Navy of the first of four survey vessel (large) ships under construction at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. The primary role of the ship would be to carry out full scale hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, navigational channels, coastal areas and deep seas, with an aim to enable safe marine navigation. In its secondary role, the ship will be capable of undertaking a range of naval operations. Sandhayak is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment including deep and shallow water multibeam echo-sounders, autonomous underwater vehicle, remotely operated vehicle, data acquisition and processing system and satellite-based positioning systems. The ship, re-incarnated in its present avatar from erstwhile Sandhayak which was decommissioned in June 2021, is propelled by two diesel engines and is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 18 knots. Measuring 110 metres in length,





displacing 3400 tons and with 80 per cent indigenous content, Sandhayak is a true testament of India's growing shipbuilding prowess in pursuit of the national vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. The ship was built at GRSE Kolkata.

Marut Drones delivers India's first mineral exploration drones to NMDC

Marut Drones, India's leading drone manufacturer provided drones to National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) to pioneer drone-based mineral exploration in the country. NMDC procured two customised Octacopter drones from Marut Drones. Marut Drones' Mineral Exploration Drone is packed with cutting-edge features, including advanced sensors such as Magnetometer, Hyperspectral, and Lidar, enhancing its capabilities for accurate exploration and mapping. Its innovative coaxial design not only ensures stability but also facilitates precise manoeuvrability, a crucial aspect for effective mineral exploration. The drones' aim to make the magnetic survey not only five times faster but also ten times more cost-effective.



04 FEB

WORLD CANCER DAY

2024 THEME: Close the Care Gap
The theme seeks to counter the negative attitude and fatalistic belief that nothing can be done about cancer, and instead promotes how our personal actions can be powerful and impactful.

Importance
To mark the establishment of World Cancer Day on 4 February 2000 at the World Cancer Summit in Paris.

Motto
To raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment.

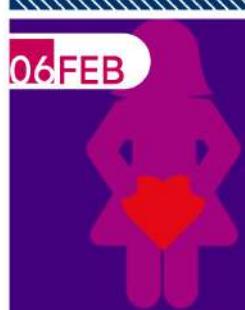
Organisation Involved
Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

Iran launches three satellites into space

Iran said that it successfully launched three satellites into space with a rocket that had multiple failures in the past, the latest for a program that the West says improves Tehran's ballistic missiles. The launch comes as heightened tensions grip the wider West Asia over Israel's continued war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip, sparking fears of a regional conflict. The launched satellites named Mahda, Kayhan-2 and Hatef-1. It described the Mahda as a research satellite, while the Kayhan and the Hatef were nano satellites focused on global positioning and communication respectively. Iran's Information and Communications Technology Minister Isa Zarepour said the Mahda had already sent signals back to Earth.

Iran:

- Capital: Tehran
- President: Ebrahim Raisi
- Currency: Iranian rial



06 FEB

International Day of ZERO TOLERANCE for FEMALE GENITAL

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

EDITION: 21st
INCEPTION: 2003
2024 THEME:
Partnership with men & boys to transform social and gender norms to end FGM.

What is Female genital mutilation (FGM)?
It comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights, the health and the integrity of girls and women.

Importance
On February 6, 2003, Stella Obasanjo, the First Lady of Nigeria and spokesperson for the Campaign Against Female Genital Mutilation, made the official declaration on "Zero Tolerance to FGM" in Africa.

Motto
To amplify and direct the efforts on the elimination of female genital mutilation.

Organisation Involved
UNGA

Note
In 2012, the UN General Assembly designated February 6th as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.



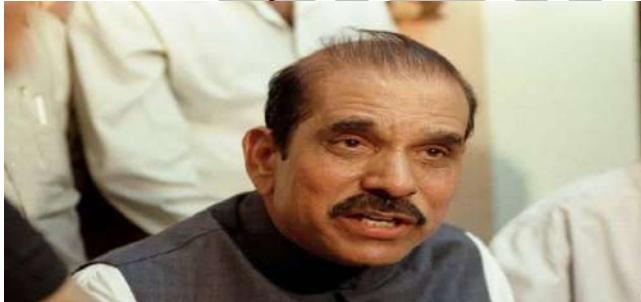
Obituary

Doctor Who and James Bond actor Pamela Salem passes away



James Bond actress Pamela Salem has died at the age of 80. Throughout her career, Salem starred in James Bond film Never Say Never Again as well as popular TV shows Eastenders and Doctor Who. The actress starred as Toos in The Robots of Death storyline in Doctor Who in 1977, before returning to the show as Professor Rachel Jensen in Remembrance of the Daleks in 1988. In the late 1980s, she featured in 37 EastEnders episodes as Joanne. She would also go on to star in hit shows such as ER and The West Wing. Salem was also known to younger audiences at the time with her role in the children's TV show Into The Labyrinth.

Former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi died



Former Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi passed away due to age-related health complications. He was 86. Manohar Joshi was a veteran leader who had served as Lok Sabha speaker and Maharashtra chief minister. In his long public life, Mr. Joshi endeared himself to people, earned admiration for his sharp wit and intellect and was loved by leaders cutting across party-line. Joshi's political career began with his involvement in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Sangh (RSS) and later became a member of the Shiv Sena. In the 1980s, Joshi emerged as a key leader within the Shiv Sena, known for his organisational skills and grassroots connect. Manohar Joshi's most significant political milestone came in 1995 when he was appointed as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He succeeded Sharad Pawar of the Indian National Congress, marking the first time the Shiv Sena had assumed power in the state. He was also elected as a Member of Parliament and was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 2002 to 2004 when the Vajpayee government was in power.

Ameen Sayani, iconic radio presenter and golden voice of 'Geetmala', dies at 91



Iconic radio host Ameen Sayani has died at the age of 91 after suffering a heart attack. Born on December 21, 1932 in Mumbai, Ameen Sayani was a household name for generations, captivating audiences with his melodious voice and engaging style. He began his career as an English-language broadcaster, and transitioned to Hindi after India's independence. Sayani achieved immense popularity through his radio program 'Geetmala', which played a pivotal role in popularising radio listening in India. Sayani's career spanned over six decades, producing and presenting over 54,000 radio programs and 19,000 voice-overs for advertisements and jingles. He also dabbled in acting, appearing in various films in small roles, often portraying an announcer.

German World Cup-winning defender Andreas Brehme dies aged 63

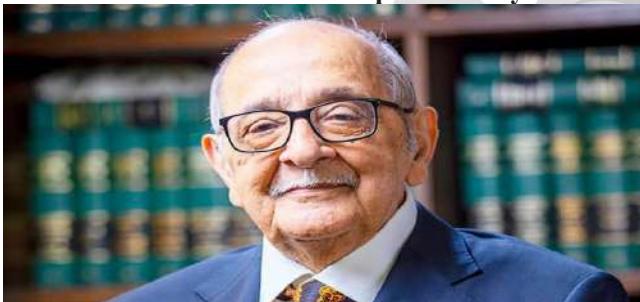
Former Germany defender Andreas Brehme, who scored the winning goal in the 1990 World Cup final,





has died aged 63. Brehme converted a late penalty in the final of the 1990 tournament to secure victory against Argentina in Rome. He earned 86 caps, including eight goals, for his country and won league titles while at Kaiserslautern, Bayern Munich and Inter Milan. Brehme played for Kaiserslautern from 1981-86 and 1993-98. He won the Bundesliga title in 1998 and German Cup in 1996 during his time at the club, with whom he also had a spell as manager from 2000-02.

Eminent Jurist Fali Nariman passes away

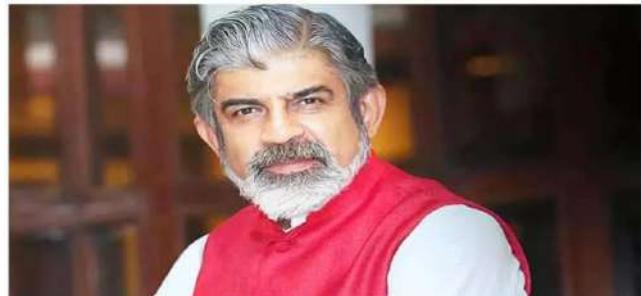


Eminent jurist and senior Supreme Court advocate Fali Nariman died. He was 95. The noted jurist was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1991 and Padma Vibhushan in 2007. Fali Nariman started his practice as lawyer at the Bombay High Court and later moved to Delhi. He was appointed the Solicitor General of India in 1972, but he resigned in 1975 to protest then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's decision to declare Emergency. The veteran advocate was also the President of the Bar Association from 1991 to 2010. In his long career, Fali Nariman argued several landmark cases, including the National Judicial Appointments Commission case, which was struck down by the Supreme Court.

Actor Rituraj Singh Passes Away At 59

Renowned actor Rituraj Singh, who was last seen playing a key role in the hit daily soap Anupamaa, passed away after suffering a massive cardiac arrest.

The actor was 59 when he breathed his last.



Not just in television shows, but Singh had also been a popular face in films and web shows. Singh was recently seen essaying the role of the strict hotel owner Yashpal in the daily soap Anupamaa, headlined by Rupali Ganguly. Besides, he was also seen in Sidharth Malhotra and Vivek Oberoi's web series, Indian Police Force. Singh shot to fame after he played the host in the 1993 show Tol Mol Ke Bol. Post that, he went on to star in some hit television shows including Rishtey, Kutumb, Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii, CID, Adaalat, Diya Aur Baati Hum, and Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai.

Jain monk Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj died



Renowned Jain monk Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj died at Chandragiri Teerth in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district after undertaking 'sallekhna'. He was 77. 'Sallekhna' is a Jain religious practice involving voluntary fasting unto death for spiritual purification. Maharaj was staying on the teerth in Dongargarh for the last six months and was unwell for the past few days. For the last three days, he was observing 'sallekhna', a religious practice of voluntarily fasting to death, and had quit intake of food and liquids.

Who was Jain muni Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj?

Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj was the most renowned saint in the Digambar Jain community. He was widely recognised for his outstanding scholarly pursuits and profound spiritual wisdom. Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj was born on October 10, 1946, in





Karnataka's Sadalga. He embraced spirituality from a young age. At the age of 22 in 1968, Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Maharaj was initiated as a Digambara monk by Acharya Gyansagar Ji Maharaj. In 1972, he was elevated to the Acharya status in 1972. He was also known for his command over Sanskrit, Prakrit, and other languages. He authored several insightful commentaries, poems, and spiritual treatises.

'Udaan' Actor Kavita Chaudhary passes away at 67



Kavita Chaudhary, famous for her portrayal of an IPS officer in the popular TV series 'Udaan' from 1989 and her role as Lalita-ji in iconic Surf advertisements of the '90s, has passed away due to cardiac arrest in Amritsar. Kavita rose to fame after appearing in numerous television shows on Doordarshan during the 1980s and 1990s. Her notable works include roles in shows like "Your Honour," "Apradhi Kaun!," and "IPS Diaries."

Dattajirao Gaekwad, India's longest-living Test cricketer passes away aged 95



India's longest-living Test cricketer and former captain Dattajirao Krishnarao Gaekwad passed away in Baroda. He was 95. Gaekwad made his India debut during the tour to England in 1952 and subsequently featured in 10 more Tests for the country, his last appearance coming against Pakistan in Chennai in 1961. After a brief stint in the side in the 1952-53 season, Gaekwad returned as skipper of the national side during its tour to England six years later, in 1959.

Chile's ex-President Sebastian Pinera dies in helicopter crash



Chilean ex-President Sebastian Pinera died in a helicopter crash. The helicopter carrying Pinera, 74, and three others plunged into a lake in southern Chile. Pinera, also a successful businessman, oversaw quick economic growth and a steep fall in unemployment during his first 2010 to 2014 presidency, at a time when many of Chile's trade partners and neighbours were facing sharply slower growth. His second presidency from 2018 to 2022 was marked by violent protests against inequality that led to accusations of human rights violations and ended with the government promising to draft a new constitution. Pinera was the owner of the fifth largest fortune in Chile, estimated at some \$3bn.

Known for his role as 'Rocky', actor Carl Weathers passes away at 76



Hollywood actor Carl Weathers, known for his role in 'Rocky' opposite Sylvester Stallone passed away at the age of 76. Born on January 14, 1948, in New Orleans, Weathers appeared in more than 75 films and TV shows during his 50-year screen career. He Grefe Karga, the head of the Bounty Hunters Guild, in nine episodes of the Disney+ Star Wars series The Mandalorian over its three seasons. He is best known for playing Apollo Creed, the heavyweight champion of the world who gave journeyman Philly boxer Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) a shot at the title in 1976's 'Rocky.'





Miscellaneous Events

OpenAI Founding Member Andrej Karpathy Quits Company

Andrej Karpathy, an artificial intelligence researcher and one of the founding members of OpenAI departed the Microsoft-backed company. The news marks a significant departure from OpenAI, one of the top labs competing to develop increasingly capable artificial intelligence. Karpathy, who joined OpenAI in his second stint last year, was previously a senior director for AI at Tesla where he played a key role in developing the electric car maker's artificial intelligence and driver assistant technology.

Microsoft:

- Founded: April 4, 1975
- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen
- Headquarters: Washington, U. S.
- Chairman & CEO: Satya Nadella
- Vice Chairman & President: Brad Smith
- Technical adviser: Bill Gates

Ex-Brazil striker Diego Souza announces retirement

Former Brazil international striker Diego Souza has announced his retirement from professional football, drawing the curtains on a remarkable career that spanned over 20 years. Souza began his career at Fluminense in 2003 and also had spells at Benfica, Flamengo and Metalist Kharkiv, among other clubs. He was capped seven times for Brazil's national team and scored two goals. Brazilian professional footballer who played as a forward for Vasco da Gama, Grêmio, Sport Recife, and many other clubs.

India ranks 38 out of 139 countries on World Bank's Logistics Performance Index Report 2023

According to the World Bank's 'Logistics Performance Index Report (2023): Connecting to Compete 2023', India ranks 38 out of 139 countries. India's rank has improved by six places from 44 in 2018 and sixteen places from 54 in 2014. An Inter-Ministerial team has been formed to enhance logistics, focusing on targeted action plans across six LPI parameters. The National Committee for Trade Facilitation (NCTF) oversees this effort, identifying 27 action points in the National

Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) 2020-23. The Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and the National Logistics Policy in 2021 and 2022, aiming to boost efficiency and reduce costs. Digital reforms, such as the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) and the Logistics Data Bank, play a crucial role. Additional measures include railway track electrification, reduced release times by the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), and the launch of NLP Marine for port-related logistics. These initiatives reflect a concerted effort to create an environment conducive to efficient logistics, enhancing India's global competitiveness.

Logistics Jump

India jumped six places on the World Bank Logistics Index

Soft and hard infra helps improve performance	Technology also a factor	Better dwell times than some advanced countries
Singapore	Rank	2018
1	LPI Rank	44 ▲ 38
Finland	2	Customs
Germany	3	Infrastructure
Canada	7	International shipments
France	13	Logistics quality and competence
United States	17	Tracking and tracing
China	19	Timeliness
United Kingdom	19	52 ▲ 35
Malaysia	26	2023 rank is grouped rank out of 139 countries, 2018 rank considered 160 countries
Thailand	34	Source: World Bank, LPI 2023
India	38	
Saudi Arabia	38	

Top 3:

1. Canada
2. Central African Republic
3. Chile

Mukesh Ambani top placed Indian, No. 2 globally in Brand Guardianship Index

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani has been ranked first among all Indians and second globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024 compiled by Brand Finance. The chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd overtakes the likes of Microsoft's Satya Nadella, and Google's Sundar Pichai to be ranked No. 2 globally only behind Tencent's Huateng Ma. According to the publication, the Brand Guardianship Index is a global recognition of CEOs, who are building business value in a sustainable manner, by





balancing the needs of all stakeholders - employees, investors, and the wider society. Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran is ranked at No. 5, up from No. 8 in the 2023 ranking. He is followed by Anish Shah of Mahindra & Mahindra at No. 6 and Infosys' Salil Parekh at No. 16. In the 2023 ranking as well Ambani was placed at No. 2 position globally. This year he was ranked No. 1 in Brand Guardianship Index 2024 among the 'Diversified' conglomerates. Ambani was ranked ahead of global majors like Satya Nadella of Microsoft, Google's Sundar Pichai, Apple's Tim Cook and Tesla's Elon Musk. Jio had topped India's strong brands in Brand Finance's 2023 rankings as well.

India ranks 93 among 180 countries in Global Corruption Index



More than two-thirds of the 180 listed countries received a score below 50 on the scale, indicating a prevalence of corruption. The CPI ranks countries based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption, which range from zero (extremely corrupt) to 100 (very clean). This was revealed by the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

Least corrupt countries in the world

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 2023

Top rankers			India and its neighbouring countries		
Country	Rank 2023 (Score)	Rank 2022 (Score)	Country	Rank 2023 (Score)	Rank 2022 (Score)
Denmark	1 (90)	1 (90)	India	93 (39)	85 (40)
Finland	2 (87)	2 (87)	China	76 (42)	65 (45)
New Zealand	3 (85)	2 (87)	Pakistan	133 (29)	140 (27)

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

Denmark tops the index for the sixth year in a row, with a score of 90, owing to its "well-functioning justice systems". Finland and New Zealand are in second and third place, with scores of 87 and 85 respectively. This year's top ten countries are Norway (84), Singapore (83), Sweden (82), Switzerland (82), the Netherlands (79), Germany (78), and Luxembourg (78).

Most corrupt countries in the world

Taking the bottom spots in the CPI are Somalia (11), Venezuela (13), Syria (13), South Sudan (13), and Yemen (16). These countries are all affected by protracted crises, primarily armed conflicts. Nicaragua (17), North Korea (17), Haiti (17), Equatorial Guinea (17), Turkmenistan (18), and Libya (18) are the subsequent lowest performers on the index.

Where does India stand?

In the CPI, India secured the 93rd position with a score of 39, according to the Transparency International report. India's overall score remained relatively stable, as it was 40 in 2022, securing the 85th position. Meanwhile, Pakistan, with a score of 29, and Sri Lanka (34) grappled with their respective debt burdens and ensuing political instability. Among India's neighbours, Afghanistan and Myanmar scored 20, China scored 42, Japan scored 73, and Bangladesh scored 24.

Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal exits board

Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal has stepped down from the board of the Walmart-owned e-commerce firm he founded with Sachin Bansal sixteen years ago, capping the end of an era. Binny's decision to step down comes months after he sold his remaining stake in the firm and at a time when he is starting up again, in the e-commerce space. His other co-founder Sachin Bansal exited Flipkart a few years ago and is now building a fintech venture Navi.

Flipkart:

- Founded: 2007
- Founder: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India (operational HQ), Singapore (legal domicile)
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy

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





Defence Exercise of the Month

Dosti-16



Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16. This year marked a significant development with Bangladesh participating as an observer, indicating a widening scope for the exercise and underlining the growing importance of maritime collaboration in tackling evolving challenges. Dosti exercises, which began in 1991 between India and Maldives, aim to enhance mutual operational capabilities and promote cooperation in maritime emergencies. Sri Lanka's inclusion in 2012 broadened the exercise's focus, emphasizing collaborative efforts in sea accident management, pollution control, and coast guard protocols.

Vayu Shakti 2024



The Indian Air Force will conduct the mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at the Pokharan Range in Jaisalmer. During the exercise, the Air Force will demonstrate its air fighting and operational capabilities by focusing on interoperability and maneuvering. Several indigenous manufactured and designed aircraft and helicopters like Tejas, Prachand, and Dhruv will take part in the exercise. Air to air and surface-to-air missile systems including MICA, R-73, SAMAR, and Akash will also

demonstrate fire power. According to the Indian Air Force, 77 fighter aircraft including Rafale, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, Sukhoi 30 MKI, 41 Helicopters including MI 17, Apache and five transport aircraft including C130 and C17 will participate in the Vayu Shakti 2024.

SADA TANSEEQ



The planned military exercise between India and Saudi Arabia will be equally beneficial for the both the nations as it aims to enhance learning and sharing best practices. The first edition of the India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' will be held in Rajasthan. The joint exercise will focus on counter terrorism operations under United Nations Mandate.

The Countries Set To Dominate Drone Warfare

Total forecast purchases of weaponized military drones up to 2028





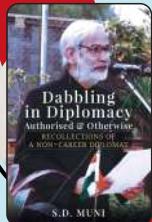
Important Days of the Month

Day	Observed/Celebrated As	Motto/Importance
01-Mar	Zero Discrimination Day	To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights
03- Mar	World Wildlife Day	Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation
04- Mar	National Safety Day	Focus on Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence.
08- Mar	International Women's Day	Inspire Inclusion
10- Mar	CISF Raising Day	To mark the establishment of CISF on 10 March 1969
14- Mar	International Day of Action for Rivers	Water For All
15- Mar	World Consumer Rights Day	Fair and responsible AI for consumers
18- Mar	Ordnance Factory Day	To mark the establishment of India's oldest Ordnance Factory at Cossipore of Kolkata on 18th March 1802.
20- Mar	International Day of Happiness	Mindful • Grateful • Kind
21- Mar	International Day of Forests	Forests and Innovation
22- Mar	World Water Day	Water for Peace
23- Mar	World Meteorological Day	At the frontline of climate action
24- Mar	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day	Yes! We can end TB!
27- Mar	World Theatre Day	To generate awareness about the importance of theatre arts





Books & Authors



Book: Dabbling in Diplomacy

Author: Prof. S.D. Muni

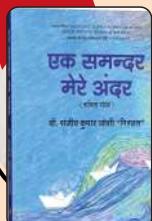
About: This book offers an unparalleled glimpse into the intricate web of South Asian geopolitics through the lens of an academic deeply entrenched in the region's affairs.



Book: Maha Swaapnikudu

Author: P. Vikram

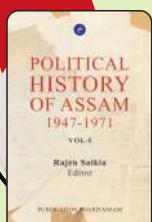
About: This book depicts N. Chandrababu Naidu's instrumental role in the elevation of Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee, H.D. Deve Gowda, and I.K. Gujral.



Book: Ek Samandar, Mere Andar

Author: Sanjeev Joshi

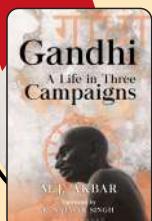
About: This book highlights the lesser-known creative side of BrahMos Aerospace Deputy CEO Sanjeev Joshi, deeply involved in the defense sector.



Book: Political History of Assam (1947-1971)

Author: Dr. Rajen Saikia

About: This book is an attempt to bring forward a comprehensive and unbiased account of the state's political history.



Book: Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns

Author: M.J. Akbar & K. Natwar Singh

About: The book delves into the life and struggles of Mahatma Gandhi, particularly focusing on his pivotal mass campaigns he led.

Book: Sanskriti ke Ayaam

Author: Manorama Mishra

About: This book is a triangular structure woven around culture, traditions, and folk prosperity, compiling three independent chapters.



Book: Four Stars of Destiny

Author: General Manoj Mukund Naravane

About: The book delves into the diverse experiences that have shaped Gen MM Naravane's character, spanning from his childhood to his illustrious years in the armed services.



Book: The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma

Author: Madhav Godbole

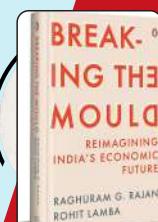
About: This book delves into the complexities of the issue, emphasizing the missed opportunities for resolution and the imperative for a modern and equitable solution.



Book: Breaking the Mould

Author: Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba

About: This book adopts a balanced approach, offering praise for successful endeavors within the Indian establishment while candidly addressing its weaknesses.



Book: Zeba: An Accidental Superhero

Author: Huma Qureshi

About: The narrative of the book weaves around a make-believe kingdom and an evil king, with a central focus on a character named Zeba.





Current Affairs Based GS Question Bank(500+ Que)

Statement Based General Awareness

- 1.** Martyrs' Day, also known as Shaheed Diwas, is observed on 30th January each year.

Consider the following statements -

(1) Martyrs' Day is observed on 30th January to mark the death anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose.

(2) 19 May is celebrated as 'Language Martyrs Day',

(3) 21 October is celebrated as 'Police Martyrs' Day'.

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: Martyrs' Day is observed on 30th January to mark the death anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi ji.

It also marks the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948 by Nathuram Godse.

Martyrs' Day, also known as Sarvodaya Day, is celebrated on various days like 30 January, 23 March, 19 May, 21 October, 17 November, and 19th November to honor the people who have sacrificed their lives for the nation.

23 March is the death anniversary of Bhagat, Sukhdev, and Rajguru, 19 May is celebrated as 'Language Martyrs Day'.

21 October is celebrated as 'Police Martyrs' Day' (Police Commemoration Day).

17 November is the death anniversary of Lal Lajpat Rai.

19 November is the birthday of Rani Lakshmi Bai.

- 2.** Recently, a wildlife photographer captured a rare golden tiger in Kaziranga National Park (KNP).

Consider the following statements regarding Kaziranga National Park -

(1) The national park was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985.

(2) The national park is home to around 1/3rd one-horned rhinoceros population of the whole world.

(3) The park was declared as a reserved forest by Lord Curzon.

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 Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in Assam was declared as a reserved forest in 1905 by Lord Curzon.

It was declared as a national park in the year 1968 by the state government, and in 1974 it was officially designated as a national park by the central government.

The national park was designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.

Diphlu and Dhansiri Rivers cross KNP and the river Brahmaputra forms its boundary in the north.

National Highway 37 also passes through the KNP.

The KNP is home to around 2/3rd one-horned rhinoceros population of the whole world.

Other than Rhino, animals like tigers, elephants, swamp deers, wild water buffalos are also found here.

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana'.

Consider the following statements -

(1) Total rooftop solar installed capacity is around 11.08 GW as of December 2023.

(2) Gujarat tops in the list of total installed rooftop solar with 2.8 GW.

(3) In terms of total solar capacity, Gujarat is at the top with 18.7 GW.

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) India's Current Solar Capacity:

Rooftop Solar Capacity: Total rooftop solar installed capacity is around 11.08 GW as of December 2023.

Gujarat tops the list with 2.8 GW, followed by Maharashtra by 1.7 GW.

Total Installed Capacity: According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy solar power installed capacity in India has reached around 73.31 GW as of December 2023.





In terms of total solar capacity, Rajasthan is at the top with 18.7 GW. Gujarat is at the second position with 10.5 GW.

When it comes to rooftop solar capacity, Gujarat tops the list with 2.8 GW, followed by Maharashtra by 1.7 GW.

- 4.** The 6th edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) is currently underway, happening from 19th January to 31st January 2024.

Consider the following statements in respect of the Laureus World Sports Award which was instituted in the year 2000 -

- (1) American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner of this award.
- (2) The award was received mostly by 'Formula One' players so far.
- (3) Roger Federer received this award maximum number of times compared to others.

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 Laureus World Sports Awards is the premier global sporting awards. First held in 2000, the annual event honours the greatest and most inspirational sporting triumphs of the year and showcases the work of Laureus Sport for Good.

American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner of this award.

The award has been received mostly by Men's Football Team (6 times) players so far.

Roger Federer (5 times) has received this award, the maximum number of times compared to others followed by Usain Bolt (4 times) and Novak Djokovic (4 times).

- 5.** Recently, SEBI has extended more months to provide additional disclosures by the Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

Consider the following statements -

- (1) It was established as a statutory body for regulating the securities market.
- (2) Commodities derivative markets is also regulated by SEBI.

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:

Initially SEBI was a non-statutory body without any statutory power. However, in 1992, the SEBI was given additional statutory power by the Government of India through an amendment to the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

In April 1988 the SEBI was constituted as the regulator of capital markets in India under a resolution of the Government of India.

In 2015, the Forward Market Commission was merged with SEBI.

With this, the regulation of commodity derivatives market has shifted to SEBI under Securities Contracts Regulation Act (SCRA) 1956.

6.

Scientists have developed a process to produce commodity chemicals in a much less hazardous way than was previously possible.

Consider the following statements regarding Chlorine and other gases -

- (1) Chlorine is a choking agent.
- (2) It is greenish-yellow clouds of gas cause shortness of breath and sometimes death.
- (3) Sarin gas was originally developed in 1938 in Germany as a pesticide.

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

(D)

Chlorine is a choking agent.

It is greenish-yellow clouds of gas cause shortness of breath and sometimes death.

Sarin gas was originally developed in 1938 in Germany as a pesticide.

7.

As part of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) initiative, students immersed themselves in sustainable living during the Auroville Exposure Tour.

Which of the following statements about 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme is/are correct?

- (1) It was announced in the year 2014.
- (2) Its aim is to create an environment which promotes learning between the States by sharing best practices and experiences.

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

(C)

Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat Scheme -





The “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Ekta Diwas (31st October 2015) on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel draws inspiration from the life of India's freedom fighter.

The scheme was launched to celebrate the cultural vibrancy of India while establishing a strong mechanism to inculcate nationalism and cultural awareness among the citizens of our nation.

The key aim is to promote the Indian ideology of “Unity in Diversity” in India.

It aims to build the interest of people in their neighboring states and UTs, and also encourage them to promote their culture

- 8.** The National Board for Wildlife meeting in New Delhi witnessed the release of the report on the Status of Snow Leopards in India.

Consider the following statements regarding National Board for Wildlife -

- (1) The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is the apex body in India for all wildlife-related matters.
- (2) It is a statutory body constituted under Section 5A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (3) The NBWL is chaired by the Vice President and comprises 50 members.

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
- 10.**

Ans: (B)

Exp: The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is the apex body in India for all wildlife-related matters.

It is a statutory body constituted under Section 5A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

It advises the government on policy matters concerned with wildlife conservation and preservation, and approves projects in and around national parks and other protected areas. The NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises 47 members, including three Members of Parliament, five NGOs, and 10 eminent ecologists, conservationists, and environmentalists.

Recently, the military regimes in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger announced their immediate withdrawal from the West African bloc.

Consider the following statements regarding Sahel Region -

- (1) Sahel is a semiarid region of western and north-central Africa.
- (2) United Nations (UN) limits the Sahel to ten (10) countries.
- (3) It forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara (desert) to the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south.

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: Sahel is a semiarid region of western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan.

It forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara (desert) to the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south.

It is one of the world's richest, gifted with vast energy and mineral resources such as oil, gold and uranium.

However, political instability hinders development progress.

United Nations (UN) limits the Sahel to ten (10) countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Chad.

Recently, The World Health Organisation (WHO) awarded countries for progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fats for the first time.

Consider the following statements regarding Fats -

- (1) Fats are needed for the formation of cell membranes.
- (2) Fats help the body to absorb calcium from food.
- (3) Body cannot release energy in fats as quickly as the energy in carbohydrates.

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: Fats are needed for the formation of cell membranes.





Carbohydrates closer to exercise are best as they can provide immediate glucose, versus fats which take longer to metabolize.

The body needs vitamin D to absorb calcium. Without enough vitamin D, sufficient amounts of the hormone calcitriol (known as "active vitamin D") cannot be manufactured.

Repair after injury may occur by regeneration of cells or tissues that restore normal tissue structure, or by healing, which leads to the formation of a scar.

- 11.** Recently, The Indian gray wolf has recently been sighted in the confines of National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS) in Uttar Pradesh.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) 'Operation Bhediya' carried out between 1997 and 2000.
- (2) National Chambal Sanctuary, is also known as the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary.
- (3) NCS is located on the Banas River.

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: Recently, The Indian gray wolf has recently been sighted in the confines of National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS) in Uttar Pradesh.

The last sightings were reported during 'Operation Bhediya' carried out between 1997 and 2000 to map the canines' footprint in Chambal.

Scientific Name: Canis lupus pallipes

National Chambal Sanctuary, is also known as the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary.

NCS is located on the Chambal River near the tri-point of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

- 12.** Recently, the International Energy Agency (IEA) unveiled key insights into India's energy future with its report "Electricity 2024."

Consider the following statements regarding International Energy Agency -

- (1) The IEA was created in 1974.
- (2) The IEA Headquartered in London, UK.
- (3) A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD.

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 IEA was created in 1974 by member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to help industrialized countries respond to major 1973-1974 oil crisis.

Since then, its work has expanded to cover energy security, economic development, and clean energy.

The IEA is an autonomous forum that provides analysis, data, and policy recommendations to help countries provide secure and sustainable energy.

The IEA has four main areas of focus: energy security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide.

Headquartered in Paris, France.

The IEA family is made up of 31 member countries, 13 association countries including India, and 4 accession countries.

A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD.

13.

Scientists Find Key to Surviving Climate Change Buried Within a 2,500-Year-Old Indian City.

Consider the following statements regarding Global Climate Change Alliance -

- (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.

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.

- 14.** Recently, over 200 Gentoo penguins have been found dead in the Falkland Islands, Antarctica due to the spread of the H5N1 Avian Influenza Virus.

Consider the following statements about Bird Flu -

- (1) Bird Flu is caused by avian influenza bacteria.
- (2) Bird Flu was observed in Hong Kong in 1997.
- (3) There are 16 hemagglutinin (H1 to H16) and 9 neuraminidase types (N1 to N9) identified till date.

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:

Bird flu is an infection caused by avian influenza viruses, which are of different types A, B and C. Type A avian influenza viruses are the most frequently associated with avian influenza epidemics and pandemics.

There are 16 hemagglutinin (H1 to H16) and 9 neuraminidase types (N1 to N9) identified till date.

There are various modes of transmission of human influenza including inhalation, direct or indirect contact etc. can have manifestations ranging from mild to severe or fatal disease.

Avian influenza A (H5N1) results in a high death rate amongst infants and young children.

The first outbreak of human infection by avian influenza viruses (H5N1) was observed in 1997 in Hong Kong. Since then a large number of outbreaks have been reported in different parts of the world.

- 15.** Recently, the Ministry of Coal (MoC) launched the C-CARES web portal of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO).

Consider the following statements -

(1) In India, several coal-fired thermal power plants employ seawater for cooling the condenser system.

(2) Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station is the second largest thermal power plant in India.

(3) Mundra Thermal Power Plant is a coal-based thermal plant with a capacity of 4,620MW.

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:

In India, several coal-fired thermal power plants employ seawater for a variety of functions, including cooling the condenser system. Seawater is a frequent supply of cooling water for power plants near the coast. It should be noted, however, that not all power plants use seawater; others may rely on freshwater sources. Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station is the biggest thermal power plant in India and the 9th largest coal-fired thermal power station in the world.

It is located in the Singrauli district of the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

Vindhyachal super thermal power station is owned by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and is a 4,760MW coal-fired power station.

Mundra Thermal Power Station is the second largest thermal power plant in India.

It is located in Shiracha, Kutch district of the Indian state of Gujarat.

Mundra Thermal Power Plant is a coal-based thermal plant with a power generating capacity of 4,620MW.

This is the first supercritical thermal project in the world to be registered as a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

India will also be part of the world's largest radio telescope project called the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO).

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Radio waves are EM (Electromagnetic) waves.

- (2) It has wavelengths between 1 millimeter and 100 kilometers.

- (3) Radio telescopes can be used in the daytime only.





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: A radio telescope is a specialized type of antenna and receiver system used to detect and collect radio waves emitted by celestial objects.

Radio waves are EM (Electromagnetic) waves that have wavelengths between 1 millimeter and 100 kilometers.

Unlike optical telescopes, radio telescopes can be used in the daytime as well as at night.

Applications: Radio telescopes are used to study a wide range of astronomical phenomena, including:

The formation and evolution of stars and galaxies

Black holes and other active galactic nuclei

The interstellar medium

Planets and moons in our solar system

The search for extraterrestrial life

17. Recently, India and Pakistan have exchanged lists of their respective nuclear installations and facilities.

Consider the following statements regarding Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations and Facilities -

(1) The Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities was signed on 31st December, 1988.

(2) The treaty came into force on 27th January, 1991.

(3) The first consecutive exchange of such lists having taken place on 27th January, 1991.

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 Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities was signed on 31st December, 1988, by the then Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi.

The treaty came into force on 27th January, 1991.

The recent one is the 33rd consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on 01st January, 1992.

While other factors might have played a role, the direct trigger for the negotiation and signing of

the agreement was the tension generated by the 1986-87 Brasstacks exercise by the Indian Army.

Operation Brasstacks was a military exercise conducted in the Indian state of Rajasthan, near the Pakistan border.

18. Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Kochi-Lakshadweep islands submarine optical fiber connection (KLI-SOFC) project.

Consider the following statements -

(1) India's smallest Union Territory Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands.

(2) The capital is Silvassa and it is also the principal town of the UT.

(3) The name Lakshadweep in Malayalam and Sanskrit means 'a hundred thousand islands'.

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)

India's smallest Union Territory Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km.

The capital is Kavaratti and it is also the principal town of the UT.

All Islands are 220 to 440 km away from the coastal city of Kochi in Kerala, in the emerald Arabian Sea.

The name Lakshadweep in Malayalam and Sanskrit means 'a hundred thousand islands'.

Lakshadweep has a tropical climate and it has an average temperature of 27° C – 32° C.

As the climate is equitable during monsoons, ship-based tourism is closed.

It is directly under the control of the Centre through an administrator.

The entire indigenous population has been classified as Scheduled Tribes because of their economic and social backwardness.

According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list (modification orders), 1956, there are no Scheduled Castes in this Union Territory.

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism studied high-frequency plasma waves in Mars' upper atmosphere.

Consider the following statements -





(1) Magnetosphere is the cavity in which the Earth lies and stays protected from the wrath of the Sun.

(2) Earth's magnetic field is generated by the motion of molten iron in its outer core.

(3) An anemometer is a scientific instrument used to measure the strength and direction of magnetic fields.

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: Magnetosphere is the cavity in which the Earth lies and stays protected from the wrath of the Sun.

It is formed by the interaction between Earth's magnetic field and the solar wind, which is a continuous stream of charged particles, mainly electrons and protons, flowing from the Sun.

Earth's magnetic field is generated by the motion of molten iron in its outer core.

A magnetometer is a scientific instrument used to measure the strength and direction of magnetic fields.

It can be used to study the Earth's magnetic field, as well as magnetic fields of other celestial bodies, such as planets, moons, stars, and galaxies.

Magnetometers work based on the principles of electromagnetic induction or magnetoresistance.

20. Recently, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrated its 77th Foundation Day on 6th January 2024.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) It was established by the BIS Act, 1986.
- (2) It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (3) A new BIS Act 2016 has been brought into force with effect from October 2017.

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: BIS has been established for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

It was established by the BIS Act, 1986 which came into effect in December 1986. It

works under the aegis of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. A new BIS Act 2016 has been brought into force with effect from October 2017.

The Act establishes the BIS as the National Standards Body of India.

21. State Bank of India, the largest lender, successfully raises \$250 million via green bonds.

Consider the following statements regarding green bonds -

- (1) Green Bond investment is only for climate friendly projects.
- (2) Green Bonds are Financial Market Innovation.
- (3) Green Bonds are fixed interest loan is short date maturities.

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: Green Bond is a debt instrument issued by an issuer for raising funds from instruments.

It was first issued in 2007 by the World Bank and European Investment Bank.

It is a financial market innovation and can only be invested in climate-friendly projects.

In January 2016, the Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI) of India published its official green bond guidelines and requirements for Indian issuers.

In India, Green Bonds witnessed a 30% year-on-year increase in 2016 making its seventh-largest green bond globally.

Green Bonds are long-term debt instruments.

2023 emerges as the warmest year on record, surpassing the 2016 record.

Consider the following statements about the El-Nino phenomenon -

- (1) El-Nino is one of the coolest ocean currents appearing along the Peru coast, generally in December.
- (2) It is a complex weather system that appears once every four to seven years intervals.
- (3) It is characterized by the high pressure of air in the western part of the Pacific and low pressure of air in the eastern part of the Pacific.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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





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

Exp: (C)

El Nino meaning 'child christ' is a warm ocean current appearing along the Peru coast, generally in December.

It happens at 4 to 7 years intervals.

El Nino is characterized by the high pressure of air in the western part of the Pacific and low pressure of air in the eastern part of the Pacific.

- 23.** The recent floods in the Mulugu district of Telangana has led to a fresh discovery of paleolithic quartzite tools.

Consider the following statements about the Stone Age in India:

(1) Different periods are identified on the basis of the type and technology of stone tools.

(2) There are no regional variations in the type and technology of tools in different periods.

(3) Stone Age cultures of different periods evolved uniformly in a near unilinear fashion all over the subcontinent.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

(C) Only (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: The stone age is a period defined by the use of tools by a human.

The stone age is divided into 3 parts namely Paleolithic (Old Stone Age), Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) and Neolithic(New Stone Age).

Paleolithic Age: Paleolithic Age was developed in the Pleistocene period.

Robert Bruce Foote was the first person to discover a Paleolithic Stone in India in 1863.

The stone age is a period defined by the use of tools by a human.

The stone age is divided into 3 parts namely Paleolithic (Old Stone Age), Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) and Neolithic(New Stone Age).

Paleolithic Age: Paleolithic Age was developed in the Pleistocene period.

Robert Bruce Foote was the first person to discover a Paleolithic Stone in India in 1863.

- 24.** The Government of India is planning to end the Free Movement Regime along the international border with Myanmar.

Consider the following statements -

(1) The Free Movement Regime (FMR) implemented in 2018.

(2) It allows people residing on either side of the India-Myanmar border to venture 50 km into each other's territory without visa.

(3) The border between India and Myanmar runs for 1,643 km in the 4 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

(A)

The Free Movement Regime (FMR), implemented in 2018, allows people residing on either side of the India-Myanmar border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without visa.

They can cross over, on production of a border pass with one-year validity and can stay up to two weeks.

The border between India and Myanmar runs for 1,643 km in the 4 states of Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.

ISRO has successfully tested a 100 W class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC) based Power System.

Consider the following statements -

(1) A fuel cell is an electromagnetic device.

(2) It converts the chemical energy of a fuel directly into electricity.

(3) Alkaline Fuel Cells use a liquid electrolyte made of potassium hydroxide.

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)

A fuel cell is an electrochemical device that converts the chemical energy of a fuel (like hydrogen) and an oxidant (like oxygen) directly into electricity.

Unlike batteries, which store chemical energy that gets converted to electrical energy, fuel cells continuously produce electricity as long as they are supplied with fuel and oxidant.

Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cells: They use a thin, solid polymer membrane as the electrolyte and are well-suited for portable applications.

Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFCs): SOFCs use a ceramic electrolyte that can operate at high temperatures. They are highly efficient but are more expensive and complex than PEMFCs.





Alkaline Fuel Cells (AFCs): AFCs use a liquid electrolyte made of potassium hydroxide (KOH). They are less efficient than PEMFCs and SOFCs but are less expensive and can be more tolerant of impurities in the fuel.

- 26.** The Saffron fields of Kashmir are facing a severe crisis due to the encroachment of cement factories.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) It is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level.
- (2) India is the largest producer of saffron in the world.

(3) Kashmir Saffron has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

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: Kashmir saffron, which is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir, has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

The spice is grown in some regions of Kashmir, including Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar.

Iran is the largest producer of saffron and India is a close competitor.

With the GI tag, Kashmir saffron would gain more prominence in the export market.

It is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m AMSL (above mean sea level), which adds to its uniqueness and differentiates it from other saffron varieties available the world over.

Saffron cultivation is believed to have been introduced in Kashmir by Central Asian immigrants around 1st Century BCE.

In ancient Sanskrit literature, saffron is referred to as 'bahukam'.

India is the second largest producer with saffron grown chiefly in the Kashmir valley. However, domestic output meets just a fraction of a country's total demand with most requirements fulfilled through imports.

Recently, the Climate Trends and Respirer Living Sciences revealed that the majority of cities are far from the clean air targets of the India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Consider the following statements regarding National Clean Air Programme -

- (1) It was launched by the Central Pollution Control Board in January 2019.
- (2) The NCAP's goal is to reduce average particulate matter.
- (3) It covers 131 non-attainment cities which were identified by the Central Pollution Control Board.

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: National Clean Air Programme -

It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019.

It is the first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.

The NCAP's goal is to reduce average particulate matter (PM) concentrations by 40% by 2026 in 131 cities. Initially aimed for a 20-40% reduction by 2024, the target was later extended to 2026.

It covers 131 non-attainment cities which were identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Non-attainment cities are those that have fallen short of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for over five years.

Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj introduced "Gram Manchitra," a Geographic Information System (GIS) app.

Consider the following statements about Global Positioning Systems (GPS) -

- (1) The position of an object can be exactly determined by a single satellite.
- (2) Atomic clocks are fixed in satellites to calculate the positioning of the satellite to aid in determining travel times.
- (3) Absolute positioning, where an accuracy of 1 cm to 5 cm is needed, depends upon the health of the satellite

Which of the above is/are correct?

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





- Ans:** (C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above
Exp: (C)

Characteristics of GPS -
For a stationary objects minimum, 3 satellites are required.
For moving objects minimum, 4 satellites are required.
The position of the observer (moving person or vehicle) on the ground is determined by an orbiting satellite
Atomic clocks are fixed in satellites to calculate the positioning of the satellite to aid in determining travel times.
Absolute positioning, where accuracy of 1 cm to 5 cm is needed, depends upon the health of the satellite.

- 29.** India has been recognized as the pioneer lead country for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Green Voyage2050 Project. Which of the following Initiatives is related to Reduce Emissions in India -
(1) International Solar Alliance
(2) National Action Plan on Climate Change
(3) National Clean Air Programme
(A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)
Exp: Initiatives to Reduce Emissions in India -
Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission norms.
UJALA scheme
International Solar Alliance
National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)
Ethanol Blending in India by 2025
India Updated its NDC
National Clean Air Programme -
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 131 cities.

- 30.** Recently, training launch of Short-Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni-1' was carried out successfully from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
With reference to Agni-IV Missile, which of the following statements is/are correct?
(1) It is a surface-to-surface missile.
(2) It is fuelled by liquid propellant only.

- (3) It can deliver one-tonne nuclear warheads about 7500 km away.

Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) (B) Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)
Exp: Agni-IV Missile -
It is a nuclear-capable long-range ballistic missile with a strike range of 4,000 km.
It is a two-stage solid propellant missile.
It is a surface-to-surface missile.
It is 20 meters long with a weight of 17 tonnes.
It is fourth in the Agni series of missiles.
It can deliver one-tonne nuclear warheads.

Recently, The Supreme Court gave its verdict on the Union government's 2019 move to amend Article 370 of the Constitution.

Consider the following statements -
(1) Article 35A was empowered the Jammu and Kashmir state's legislature to define 'permanent residents' of the state.
(2) Article 35A was added to the Constitution through a Presidential order in 1951.
(3) It is the first time that Article 370 has been used to amend Article 367.

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: Article 35 A of the Indian Constitution is an article that empowers the Jammu and Kashmir state's legislature to define 'permanent residents' of the state and provide special rights and privileges to those permanent residents.
It was added to the Constitution through a Presidential order.

Article 35 A was added to the Constitution through a Presidential order in 1954 instead of 1951.

The government of India has withdrawn the special status of Jammu & Kashmir by invoking Article 370 which had been seen as firewalling the autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) order, 2019, has extended all provisions of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir, including the chapter on Fundamental Rights.

This is the first time that Article 370 has been used to amend Article 367 (which deals with





Interpretation) in respect of Jammu and Kashmir and this amendment has then been used to amend Article 370 itself.

- 32.** Recently, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has signed a Memorandum of Common Purpose (MoCP) with the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI).

Consider the following statements regarding Mississippi River -

- (1) The Missouri river is the longest tributary of the Mississippi River.
- (2) It originates from the Rocky Mountains of western Montana.
- (3) The Missouri river is the longest river in South America.

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 Missouri river is the longest tributary of the Mississippi River.

The Missouri river is the longest river in North America.

It originates from the Rocky Mountains of western Montana, U.S.A and meets with Mississippi River at St. Louis, U.S.A.

Actually, Missouri is the world's 15th-longest river. But when combined with the Mississippi River, it forms the world's 4th longest river system.

- 33.** India stands on the brink of eliminating visceral leishmaniasis, commonly known as kala azar.

Consider the following statements about 'Kala-Azar' -

- (1) It is also known as Lutaneous Leishmaniasis.
- (2) It is caused by Bacterium parasite.
- (3) In India, Leishmania donovani is the only parasite causing the disease.

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: Kala-Azar is a slow progressing indigenous disease.

It is caused by Protozoan parasite.

In India, Leishmania donovani is the only parasite causing the disease.

The parasite primarily infects reticuloendothelial system.

Kala-Azar is a parasitic disease caused by Leishmania Donovani.

It is also known as Dum dum Fever or Black fever.

Leptomonas Seymouri is a new parasite that is known to cause it.

Its symptoms include ulcers, fever, low RBC count, anaemia, etc.

Recently, the President of India presided over a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan to bestow the prestigious National Sports and Adventure Awards 2023.

Consider the following Dronacharya Award -

- (1) India's highest sports honor for coaches, instituted in 1985.

- (2) Named after Dronacharya, Arjuna's coach in Mahabharata.

- (3) First woman awardee: Athletics coach Varun Agarwal in 2002.

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
(B)

Dronacharya Award:

India's highest sports honor for coaches, instituted in 1985.

Named after Dronacharya, Arjuna's coach in Mahabharata.

Awardees receive a bronze statue of Dronacharya, a certificate, and a cash prize.

First woman awardee: Athletics coach Renu Kohli in 2002.

A recent study has shed light on the presence of over 100 active permafrost structures in the Jhelum basin of the Kashmir Himalayas.

Consider the following statements regarding Jhelum river and fluvial landform -

- (1) Jhelum flows in the valley of Kashmir in its youth stage.

- (2) Meander is a typical feature associated with the youth stage in the evolution of fluvial landform.

- (3) Meander is a typical feature associated with the mature stage in the evolution of fluvial landform.

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)





Exp: The Jhelum is an important tributary of the Indus.

The Jhelum is a spring at Verinag situated at the foot of the Pir Panjal in the south-eastern part of the valley of Kashmir.

It flows with the youth stage in Srinagar and the Wular lake before entering Pakistan through a deep narrow gorge.

Jhelum in the valley of Kashmir is still in its youth stage and yet forms meander a typical feature associated with the mature stage in the evolution of fluvial landform.

Though meanders are formed in the mature stage only it can also be seen youth stage.

It can happen due to rejuvenation.

This phenomenon is seen in river Jhelum in J&K.

36. Hindustani classical singer Ustad Rashid Khan dies at 55.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The sound of Shehnai is similar to nadaswaram.
- (2) Nadaswaram is a South Indian musical instrument.
- (3) Ustad Bismillah Khan is famous for playing Nadaswaram.

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: Shehnai is made of wood, with a double reed at one end and a metal or wooden flared bell at the other end. It is one of the nine instruments found in the royal court. The shehnai is similar to South India's nadaswaram.

The Nadaswaram (nāḍhasvaram) is a double reed wind instrument from South India. It is used as a traditional classical instrument in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Kerala and in the North and East of Sri Lanka. This instrument is "among the world's loudest non-brass acoustic instruments".

Ustad Bismillah Khan, often referred to by the title Ustad, was an Indian musician credited with popularizing the shehnai, a reeded woodwind instrument. He played it with such expressive virtuosity that he became a leading Hindustani classical music artist.

NTPC has become the sole PSU in India to win two silver awards at the prestigious Brandon Hall Group's Excellence in Technology Awards 2023.

Consider the following statements regarding REC -

- (1) REC is a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), incorporated in 1969.
- (2) It comes under the purview of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- (3) REC also assists the Ministry of Power in monitoring the Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

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)

REC is a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), incorporated in 1969, focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India.

It comes under the purview of the Ministry of Power.

It has been appointed as a Nodal Agency for Government of India's flagship schemes as following:

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGAYA)

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)

National Electricity Fund (NEF)

REC also assists the Ministry of Power in monitoring the Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

38.

Recently, the Financial Stability Board (FSB)'s latest report on crypto-asset intermediaries sought measures to enhance cross-border cooperation.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The FSB is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system.
- (2) FSB was established in 2002 under the aegis of G20.

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: The FSB is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system.

FSB was established in 2009 under the aegis of G20.

India is an active Member of the FSB having three seats in its Plenary represented by Secretary of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

- 39.** Web browsers are our digital passports to the vast universe of the internet, making it easy for us to explore and access web pages with just a click.

Following are some statements regarding most of the web browsers. Choose the correct statements -

- (1) They have a home page
- (2) They do not have the ability to store users' favourite pages
- (3) They have hyperlinks to allow users to navigate

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: A browser is a software program that is used to explore, retrieve, and display the information available on the World Wide Web.

A web browser is a client program, it runs on a user's computer or mobile device and contacts the webserver for the information requested by the user.

The web server sends the data back to the browser that displays the results on internet-supported devices.

Home button -

It provides users the option to bring up the predefined home page of the website

Bookmarks -

It allows the users to select a particular website to save it for the later retrieval of information, which is predefined by the users.

Hyperlink -

It is an item like a word or button that points to another location.

When it is clicked on a link, the link takes us to the target of the link, which may be a webpage, document, or other online content.

Web browsing history -

It refers to the list of web pages a user has visited, as well as associated metadata such as page title and time of visit.

It is usually stored locally by web browsers in order to provide the user with a history list to go back to previously visited pages.

ब्रूक्सार्क -

The National Energy Conservation Day has been observed on 14th December.

Consider the following statements regarding Bureau of Energy Efficiency -

- (1) It gives financial assistance to institutions for promoting efficient use of energy.
- (2) It is a statutory body under Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- (3) It works under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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 Government of India set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

The mission of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles, within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.

It promotes use of energy efficient processes, equipment, devices and systems and undertakes measures against the wasteful use of electricity. It also gives financial assistance to institutions for promoting efficient use of energy and its conservation.

It works under Ministry of Power.

Gautam Adani's copper plant to boost India's metal production by 80%, may also increase strain on global ore supply.

Consider the following concern about copper smelting plants -

- (1) They may release lethal quantities of carbon monoxide into environment.
- (2) The copper slag can cause the leaching of some heavy metals into environment.
- (3) They may release Sulphur dioxide as a pollutant.





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: Smelting is the process of applying heat to ore in order to extract a base metal.

Copper smelting plants separate elemental copper from copper concentrates through multiple sulphide oxidizing stages.

Most copper ores are sulphur-based and smelting releases sulphur dioxide, an air pollutant known to have many harmful effects.

The carbon (or carbon monoxide derived from it) removes oxygen from the ore, leaving the elemental metal.

The carbon thus oxidizes in two stages, producing first carbon monoxide and then carbon dioxide.

This slag may leach heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium, lead or mercury depending on the composition of the ore) into groundwater reservoirs. Water which has a high heavy metal content is very toxic to humans.

42. According to a 2019 Greenpeace study, India is the largest emitter of SO₂ in the world.

Consider the following statements regarding Sulfur Dioxide:

- (1) India is the largest emitter of Sulfur dioxide pollution.
- (2) Largest source of SO₂ in atmosphere is burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (B)

Exp: Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter emitted from combustion of fossil fuels have, historically, been the main components of air pollution in many parts of the world.

A Greenpeace report from 2019 had found that India was the largest emitter of SO₂ in the world due to burning of coal.

The EPA states that largest source of SO₂ in atmosphere is burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities.

Short-term exposure to SO₂ can harm respiratory system, making breathing more difficult.

SO₂ emissions in the air can also lead to formation of other sulphur oxides (SO_x), which can react with other compounds in the atmosphere and form particulate matter.

The Rajya Sabha recently approved the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Bill, 2023.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The CEC and ECs will be appointed by the Chief Justice of India.
- (2) There are just five Articles (324-329) in Part X (Elections) of the Constitution.
- (3) The Election Commission of India provides election symbols for newly registered parties.

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 CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha.

There are just five Articles (324-329) in Part XV (Elections) of the Constitution.

The Constitution does not lay down a specific legislative process for the appointment of the CEC and ECs.

The Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.

The Election Commission of India provides election symbols for newly registered parties.

Operation Storm Makers II, orchestrated by Interpol, has illuminated the expanding network of fraud schemes associated with human trafficking.

With reference to Interpol consider the following statements -

- (1) It is the organization that enables member countries to share and access data on crimes and criminals.
- (2) National Central Bureau of the Interpol sits in the Home Ministry in India.
- (3) A Red Notice of Interpol it is an international arrest warrant.

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 Interpol, or International Criminal Police Organization is an organisation that enables member countries to share and access data on crimes and criminals.

Interpol has a National Central Bureau (NCB) in each member country, which is the central point of contact for both the general secretariat and the other NCBs around the world. Each NCB is run by police officials of that country, and usually sits in the government ministry responsible for policing. (Home Ministry in India)

A red Notice issue by Interpol is only an international wanted persons' notice and it is not an international arrest warrant.

- 45.** Vera Molnar, Pioneer of Computer Art, Dies at 99.

Consider the following statements regarding the functions of an operating system in a computer -

- (1) It controls hardware access
(2) It manages files and folders
(3) It provides a user interface

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: OS allows the computer to manage its own resource such as memory, keyboard and printer. OS provides the user an easy to work user interface, so the user doesn't have to learn a different UI every time.

OS provides a platform on top of which application programs can run.

- 46.** Recently, the Prime Minister of India has celebrated 2 years of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
(2) The temple stands on the western bank of the holy river Ganga.
(3) As a record 12.9 crore devotees visited the shrine in past two years.

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:

Kashi Vishwanath Corridor connects the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple and the ghats along the river Ganga.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple stands on the western bank of the holy river Ganga and is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva temples.

Kashi Vishwanath Dham has become one of the top pilgrimage spots in India as a record 12.9 crore devotees visited the shrine in two years.

47.

Nasa gets Plutonium-238: The radioactive material will go to space.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Plutonium was first produced and isolated at the Berkeley Radiation Laboratory.
(2) Plutonium-137 could undergo fission and be used as fuel for an atomic bomb.
(3) Plutonium production was essential for the Manhattan Project.

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:

Plutonium, a radioactive element, was first produced and isolated at the Berkeley Radiation Laboratory by Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Joseph W. Kennedy, Edwin M. McMillan, and Arthur C. Wahl in 1940.

They produced it by bombarding uranium-238 with deuterium nuclei (alpha particles).

Plutonium production was essential for the Manhattan Project (a top-secret program to make the first atomic bombs during World War II).

Its basic chemistry is closely related to uranium. Plutonium-239, an isotope of plutonium, could undergo fission and be used as fuel for an atomic bomb.

Plutonium is also a key material in the development of nuclear power.

Recently, a new study has highlighted that Indian Monsoon has undergone significant alterations due to Global Warming.

Consider the following statements regarding Indian Ocean Dipole -

- (1) IOD phenomenon is characterized by a difference in sea surface temperature between





tropical Western Indian Ocean and tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean.

(2) An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Nino's impact on the monsoon.

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: The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is an atmosphereocean coupled phenomenon in the tropical Indian Ocean (like the El Nino is in the tropical Pacific), characterised by a difference in Sea-Surface Temperatures (SST).

Also known as the Indian Nino, it is an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and colder than the eastern part of the Indian Ocean.

The IOD is one aspect of the general cycle of global climate, interacting with similar phenomena like the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the Pacific Ocean. An IOD can either aggravate or weaken the impact of El Nino on Indian monsoon. If there is a positive IOD, it can bring good rains to India despite of an El Nino year.

49. 140 MW solar plants, 2.73 lakh Solar Pumps installed under PM KUSUM.

Consider the following statements regarding Solar Schemes -

- (1) National Solar Mission was launched in 2010.
- (2) The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India.
- (3) Surya Mitra Scheme is a scheme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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 Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, also known as National Solar Mission, is one of the eight key National Mission which comprises India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

It was launched on 30th June 2008 and was approved in 2010 focusing on developing the solar energy capacity of India.

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government. Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has a power trading license.

Surya Mitra Scheme is a scheme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The programme aims to develop the skills of youth, considering the opportunities for employment in the growing Solar Energy Power project's installation, operation & maintenance in India and abroad.

India and Oman begun talks on Free Trade Pact. In context to the same consider the following statements -

- (1) Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is a treaty under the world Trade Organization that was negotiated during the Doha Round negotiations.
- (2) The agreement is centered around the need to eliminate 'trade distorting' agricultural subsidies.

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: Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) was negotiated during the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and entered into force with the establishment of the WTO on January 1, 1995.

It is to establish a fair, transparent and market oriented agricultural trading system and bring agricultural subsidies/domestic support under international disciplines.

51. India called for Paris Agreement implementation in COP 28 summit.

Consider the following statements regarding Paris Agreement -

- (1) The agreement has been signed by more than 190 countries (as of March 2017).
- (2) The agreement went into effect on 4 November 2016.
- (3) The Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) pledged during the 2015 Climate Change Conference has been withdrawn in the Paris Agreement.

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: Paris Agreement on Climate Change





It is an environmental agreement to address climate change and its negative impacts.

Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015, to combat climate change.

The main aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The agreement went into effect on 4 November 2016.

The agreement has been signed by 190 countries (as of March 2017).

As of now, the agreement has been signed by 197 countries.

The Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) pledged during the 2015 Climate Change Conference has NOT been withdrawn in the Paris Agreement.

Both USA and China joined the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in April 2016 but later in 2017 US announced the withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change formally.

- 52.** Shannan, which shares borders with Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, is traversed by the Brahmaputra River.

Consider the following statements regarding Brahmaputra River -

- It flows eastwards parallel to the Himalayas.
- Most of its courses lies outside India.
- It enters India in Sikkim where it is called the Dibang.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- Only (1) and (3)
- Only (1) and (2)
- Only (2) and (3)
- None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Brahmaputra originates under the name of Siang or Dihang, from the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range near the Mansarovar lake.

It enters India west of Sadiya town in Arunachal Pradesh with the name Dihang.

Tributaries:

Dibang, Lohit, Siang, Burhi Dihing, Tista, and Dhansari.

It is known as Tsangpo in Tibet and Yarlung Zangbo in China.

The river crosses Assam below Dhubri and enters Bangladesh where the river is known as Jamuna and it flows for 337 km.

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB) in Gujarat. Consider the following statements regarding Diamond Industry in India -

- In 2022, India ranks first among the top exporters in cut & polished diamonds.
- India accounting for over 90% of polished diamond manufacturing globally.
- According to Indian Minerals Yearbook 2019. Central Indian tract of Madhya Pradesh, comprising Panna belt.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- Only (1) and (3)
- Only (1) and (2)
- Only (2) and (3)
- All of the above

(D)

Diamond Industry in India: India is the world's largest cutting and polishing center for diamonds, accounting for over 90% of polished diamond manufacturing globally.

According to Indian Minerals Yearbook 2019, diamond fields of India are grouped into four regions:

Central Indian tract of Madhya Pradesh, comprising Panna belt.

South Indian tract of Andhra Pradesh, comprising parts of Anantapur, Kadapa, Guntur, Krishna, Mahabubnagar and Kurnool districts.

Behradin-Kodavali area in Raipur district and Tokapal, Dugopal, etc. areas in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.

Eastern Indian tract mostly of Odisha, lying between Mahanadi and Godavari valleys.

In 2022, India ranks first among the top exporters in cut & polished diamonds.

Recently, India and Oman have adopted the India Oman Joint Vision Partnership For the Future.

Consider the following statements -

- The largest desert in Oman is the Rub' al Khali or the "Empty Quarter".
- Al Hajar is the highest mountain in Oman.
- Saudi Arabia bordering Oman to the west and southwest.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- Only (1) and (3)
- Only (1) and (2)
- Only (2) and (3)
- None of the above





Ans: (A)

Exp: Oman -

Border Countries:

United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the northwest.

Saudi Arabia to the west and southwest.

Yemen to the southwest.

River:

Oman doesn't have perennial rivers; however, during seasonal rains, wadis (seasonal riverbeds) flow with water.

The most notable is Wadi Bani Khalid, known for its natural pools and stunning scenery.

Highest Mountain:

Jebel Shams, situated within the Al Hajar mountain range, is the highest mountain in Oman.

- 55.** India's secured 7th position in recently released Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024.

In the context of India's preparation for Climate-Smart Agriculture, consider the following statements -

(1) The 'Climate-Smart Village' approach in India is a part of a project led by the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), an international research programme.

(2) The project of CCAFS is carried out under Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) headquartered in France.

(3) The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India is one of the CGIAR's research centres.

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: The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) envisions the Climate-Smart Village project to not only be long-term, but also participatory and relevant to the local context. Women farmers are encouraged to weigh in on all the discussions and take the lead in prioritizing what activities should be implemented in their villages. This is to make sure the climate-smart farming practices stick on long after the project has been phased out.

CGIAR to play a major role in bringing to scale practices, technologies and institutions that

enable agriculture to meet triple goals of food security, adaptation and mitigation.

CGIAR Climate Change Contact Points at each CGIAR Research Center, will help ensure CCAFS is appropriately linked to all Centers and CRPs.

ICRISAT is one of the very few CGIAR Centers to have a structured and executed outreach and scaling program. The breadth of ICRISAT's partnerships shows that currently about half of our partnership funding went to CGIAR Centers, and the other half to non-governmental organizations, the private sector, universities and national partners.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) annual coal market report predicts a significant shift in the trajectory of global coal demand, hinting at a structural decline by 2026.

Consider the following statements -

(1) Coal sector was nationalized by the Government of India under Indira Gandhi.

(2) Now, coal blocks are allocated on lottery basis.

(3) Till recently, India imported coal to meet the shortages of domestic supply, but now India is self-sufficient in coal production.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Coal sector was nationalised under Indira Gandhi Government in 1972 in two phases.

The coal Blocks are allocated through auctions and not on lottery basis.

The coal sector is the monopolistic sector in India.

India holds 5th biggest coal reserves in the world but due to incapacity of coal production by monopolistic firms, it imports coals to meet the shortages of domestic supply.

But, still the country is not self-sufficient of coal production.

Recently, the government introduced the Telecommunications Bill 2023 in the Lok Sabha.

Consider the following statements regarding Telecom Sector in India -

- (1) The Telecom industry in India is the second largest in the world.

56.

Ans:

Exp:

Coal sector was nationalised under Indira Gandhi Government in 1972 in two phases.

The coal Blocks are allocated through auctions and not on lottery basis.

The coal sector is the monopolistic sector in India.

India holds 5th biggest coal reserves in the world but due to incapacity of coal production by monopolistic firms, it imports coals to meet the shortages of domestic supply.

But, still the country is not self-sufficient of coal production.

57.





- (2) It is also the 4th largest sector in terms of FDI inflows, contributing 6% of total FDI inflow.
 (3) India has an overall tele-density of 84.69%. 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:** The Telecom industry in India is the second largest in the world with a subscriber base of 1.179 Billion as of August 2023 (wireless + wireline subscribers).

It is also the 4th largest sector in terms of FDI inflows, contributing 6% of total FDI inflow. India has an overall tele-density of 84.69%. Tele-density denotes the number of telephones per 100 population, and is an important indicator of telecom penetration.

The average monthly data consumption per wireless data subscriber has also increased to 17.36 GB in March 2023 from 61.66 MB in March 2014.

- 58.** Recently, the Madras High Court convicted the Tamil Nadu Minister in a disproportionate asset case.

Which of the following are the discretionary powers given to the Governor of a State?

- (1) Sending a report to the President of India for imposing the President's rule
 - (2) Appointing the Ministers
 - (3) Reserving certain bills passed by the State Legislature for consideration of the President of India
- (A) Only (1) and (3) (B) Only (1) and (2)
 (C) Only (2) and (3) (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)**Exp:** The Governor performs the same duties as the President, but for the State.

He/She can withhold his assent to a bill and send it to the President for his approval. He/She can reserve certain bills passed by the State Legislature for consideration of the President of India.

He/She can override the advice of the council of ministers if specifically permitted by the President during emergency rule per Article 353.

Article 356 also states that the President can invoke President rule in a state on the report of the governor.

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) has launched three subschemes under the RAMP programme, aimed at bolstering the MSME sector in India.

Consider the following statements about the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

- (1) The MSMEs comprise a dynamic sector of the Indian economy providing large employment opportunities.

- (2) MSMEs require low capital cost and help industrialization of backward regions.

- (3) MSMEs contribute enormously to socio-economic development.

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:**

MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise) term was introduced by the Government of India in agreement with the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006. MSMEs employ about 12 crore people, making them the second-largest source of jobs after agriculture.

MSMEs are an important sector of the Indian economy and have contributed immensely to the country's socio-economic development.

MSMEs not only play a crucial role in providing large employment opportunities at comparatively lower capital cost than large industries but also help in industrialization of rural & backward areas.

It helps in reducing regional imbalances, assuring more equitable distribution of national income and wealth.

Recently, the Government of India highlighted the substantial strides made by ISRO in integrating AI and Machine Learning.

Consider the following statements regarding ISRO's Future Endeavors -

- (1) Bharatiya Antariksh Station (India's Space Station): The first module, capable of conducting experiments with robots, will launch by 2028.

- (2) Gaganyaan: Gaganyaan mission aims to send humans to space and return them safely to Earth.

- (3) SPADEX Experiment: It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory being jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.





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: ISRO's Future Endeavors:

Chandrayaan-4 Mission: Planned by ISRO to bring back samples from the Moon within four years.

Bharatiya Antariksh Station (India's Space Station): The first module, capable of conducting experiments with robots, will launch by 2028.

SPADEX Experiment: Demonstrates autonomous docking capability between two spacecraft.

Involves launching connected satellites that separate, travel a distance, and then reconnect.

NISAR: NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory being jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.

Gaganyaan: Gaganyaan mission aims to send humans to space and return them safely to Earth. The mission will consist of two unmanned flights and one manned flight, using the GSLV Mk III launch vehicle and a human-rated orbital module.

61. Recently, EU members have agreed to implement a minimum tax rate of 15% on big businesses in accordance with Pillar 2 of the global tax agreement framed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2021.

Consider the following statements regarding Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development -

- (1) The OECD is an intergovernmental defence organisation.
- (2) It is headquartered in Paris, France.
- (3) India is not a member, but a key economic partner.

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: The OECD is an intergovernmental economic organisation, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

Founded: 1961.

Headquarters: Paris, France.

Total Members: 36.

India is not a member, but a key economic partner. ओईसीडी एक अंतर सरकारी आर्थिक संगठन है, जिसकी

Recently, the Union Finance Minister moved the Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2022, and Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2022, in the Rajya Sabha.

Which of the following are the methods of Parliamentary control over public finance in India?

- (1) Placing Annual Financial Statement before the Parliament.
 - (2) Provisions of supplementary grants and vote-on account.
 - (3) Introducing Finance Bill in the Parliament.
- 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:

Article 266: All revenues and receipts of government to go to a 'Consolidated Fund' and moneys can be withdrawn from the 'Fund' only in accordance with laws passed by Parliament.

Article 112: President to place Annual Financial Statement before Parliament every financial year. Charged and voted estimates of expenditure to be shown separately. Expenditure on revenue account to be shown as distinct from other expenditure.

Finance Bill is introduced at the time of presentation of Annual Financial Statement in fulfilment of the requirement of Article 110 of Constitution detailing the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of taxes proposed in the budget.

Article 114: Withdrawal of moneys from the Consolidated Fund only after passing of the Appropriation Bill.

Article 115: Provision of supplementary, additional or excess grants.

Article 116: Provision of vote on account, vote on credit and exceptional grants.

Ayush Ministry is currently running a Central Sector Scheme titled AYURSWASTHYA Yojana.

Which of the following schemes related to AYUSH is matched correctly?





- (1) National Ayush Mission - It addresses the gaps in health services through supporting the efforts of State/UT Governments.
- (2) Ayush Wellness Centers - It establish a holistic wellness model based on AYUSH principles.
- (3) ACCR Portal and Ayush Sanjivani App - It was jointly launched by the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- 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:** National Ayush Mission: The Mission addresses the gaps in health services through supporting the efforts of State/UT Governments for providing AYUSH health services/education in the country, particularly in vulnerable and far-flung areas.

New Portals on Ayush Sector: CTRI (Clinical Trial Registry of India), RMIS (Research Management Information System), SAHI (Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints), AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository), and e-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession) have been launched.

AYUSH Entrepreneurship Programme: It was jointly organized by the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for promoting the AYUSH sector in the country under different Schemes of the Ministry of MSME.

Ayush Wellness Centers: AWC are launched to establish a holistic wellness model based on AYUSH principles and practices focusing on preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative healthcare by integration with the existing public health care system.

ACCR Portal and Ayush Sanjivani App: It is conceptualized and developed by the Ministry of Ayush as a platform to support both Ayush practitioners and the public.

- 64.** Raimati Ghiuria, a tribal farmer from Odisha's Koraput district, has preserved 30 varieties of millets and trained hundreds of women in cultivating rare millets.

Consider the following statements regarding Millets -

(1) Year 2023 was declared as the International Year of Millets (IYM) by UN General Assembly.

(2) Millets require little water and can grow in poor soils without any synthetic fertilizers.

(3) Uttar Pradesh ranks first in terms of millets production in the country.

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:** Recently, Government announced to declare year 2018 as "National Year of Millets". This decision has been taken following a request by Karnataka, which is the country's leader in the millet sector. Karnataka ranks first in the millets production and is the third largest producer of organic foods in the country. Millets, when grown under traditional methods, are highly pest resistant crops. Millets require little water and can grow in poor soils without any synthetic fertilizers.

The NHRC has responded to a petition, directing the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and six state governments to provide information on victims affected by Salwa Judum.

Consider the following statements regarding National Human Right Commission -

- (1) It is a statutory body which was established on 12 October 1993.
 (2) It was established in accordance with the Paris Principles.
 (3) Chairperson of NHRC must be a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- 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:** National Human Right Commission (NHRC) It is a statutory body which was established on 12 October 1993.

Its headquarter is in New Delhi.

The statute under which it is established is the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993 as amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006.

It was established in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Composition

65.



Multi-member body with a Chairman and seven other members.

The Chairperson and the members of the NHRC are appointed for 5 years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

NHRC consists of a Chairperson, who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.

- 66.** Recently, the Sahitya Akademi announced the Sahitya Akademi Award 2023.

Consider the following statements regarding Sahitya Akademi Award -

- (1) It undertakes literary activities only with respect to the 22 official languages.
- (2) Shashi Tharoor is one of the recipients of this award.
- (3) The Award is in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and an amount of 1 Lakh.

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:

Sahitya Akademy award is the Literary honor, which is conferred by India's National Akademy of Letters.

Shashi Tharoor won the Sahitya Akademy award in 2019 for his book 'An Era of Darkness - The British Empire In India (2016)'.

The Sahitya Akademi Award was established and first awarded in the year 1954.

Sahitya Akademi annually to writers of the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the 24 listed languages(22 languages as listed under the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and 2 other languages recognized by the Sahitya Akademi).

Sahitya Akademi was designed by the Bharat Ratna recipient, renowned Indian filmmaker, Satyajit Ray.

The Award is in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and an amount of 1 Lakh.

- 67.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released its 'State of the Economy' Bulletin, providing crucial insights into the economic landscape.

With reference to India, consider the following statements:

(1) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India is available on a monthly basis only.

(2) As compared to Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI(IW)), the WPI gives less weight to food articles.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Wholesale price indexes (WPIs) are reported monthly in order to show the average price changes of goods.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food, and medical care.

It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.

The Union government is planning to revive tax remission benefits on sugar exports, which were placed in the 'restricted' category in mid-2022.

Consider the following statements -

(1) India is the highest producer of sugarcane in the world.

(2) In 2022-2023 season, a total of 107.29 lakh tonnes of sugar has been produced in Uttar Pradesh.

(3) Sugarcane is a weight-losing crop.

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)

India is the second-highest producer of sugarcane in the world after Brazil.

The sugar industry is broadly distributed over two major areas of production: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Punjab in the north and Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh in the south.

In the current season 2022-2023, a total of 107.29 lakh tonnes of sugar has been produced in Uttar Pradesh, while Maharashtra produced 105.30 lakh tonnes.

Sugarcane is a weight-losing crop. The ratio of sugar to sugarcane varies between 9 to 12 percent depending on its variety.

Its sucrose content begins to dry during haulage after it has been harvested from the field. Better

Ans:

Exp:

68.

Ans:

Exp:





recovery of sugar is dependent upon its being crushed within 24 hours of its harvesting.

- 69.** Civil Court Can't Grant Injunction On Matters Where NGT Takes Or May Take Action On 'Substantial Question Relating To Environment'. The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 was enacted in consonance with which of the following provisions of the Constitution of India?

- (1) Right to healthy environment, construed as a part of Right to life under Article 21
- (2) Provision of grants for raising the level of administration in the Scheduled Areas for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes under Article 275(1)
- (3) On 18th October 2010, Justice Lokeshwar Singh Panta became its first Chairman.

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 National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 was enacted in consonance with the Right to a healthy environment, construed as a part of the Right to life under Art. 21.

It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision of (Constitution of India/Part III) Article 21 Protection of life and personal liberty, which assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment.

The Chairperson of the NGT is a retired Judge of the Supreme Court, headquartered in New Delhi.

On 18th October 2010, Justice Lokeshwar Singh Panta became its first Chairman.

- 70.** A total of 504 members of the Kudumbashree Mission, participated in a Chavittunatakam performance to set a world record.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Kudumbashree was established in 1997 in Kerala.
- (2) Kudumbashree meaning 'prosperity of the family' in the Malayalam language.
- (3) Saras Mela has been organized with the aim of empowering MSMEs.

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:

Kudumbashree was established in 1997 in Kerala, aiming at eradicating poverty and empowering women following the recommendations of a government-appointed task force.

The mission was launched with the support of the Government of India and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development).

Kudumbashree meaning 'prosperity of the family' in the Malayalam language and therefore focuses on poverty alleviation and women empowerment, promoting democratic leadership and provides support structures within the "Kudumbashree family."

Chavittunatakam is a drama form that has a great following in the coastal districts of central Kerala.

The Kudumbashree performance also won the World Talent Record.

It was organized as part of the campaign to popularize the ongoing National Saras Mela 2023.

Saras Mela has been organized with the aim of empowering women and giving market to the goods produced by Self Help Groups.

71.

The Indian government informed the Rajya Sabha that there are 10 black tigers (melanistic tigers) in India.

Consider the following statements regarding Similipal Biosphere Reserve -

- (1) Similipal Tiger Reserve was designated in 1956.
- (2) It was declared a biosphere reserve by the Government of India in June, 1994.
- (3) It has been part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserve since 2020.

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

(B)

Similipal derives its name from 'Simul' (silk cotton) tree.

It was formally designated a tiger reserve in 1956 and brought under Project Tiger in the year 1973.

It was declared a biosphere reserve by the Government of India in June, 1994.

It has been part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserve since 2009.





It is part of the Similipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Reserve popularly known as Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve, which includes 3 protected areas i.e. Similipal Tiger Reserve, Hadagarh Wildlife sanctuary and Kuldiha wildlife sanctuary.

- 72.** Recently, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had officially announced the increase in tiger population in Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR).

Consider the following statements regarding National Tiger Conservation Authority -

- (1) National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a constitutional body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- (2) It was established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- (3) It was constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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 Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

It was established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

It was constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.

- 73.** Residents protest move to notify Pong wetland eco-sensitive zone.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Pong Dam Lake also known as Maharana Pratap Sagar is a manmade reservoir.
- (2) The Pong Dam is the highest earth-fill dam in India.
- (3) In 2000, the entire reservoir was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary.

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 Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary is located around the Pong Dam Lake(also known as Maharana Pratap Sagar), a manmade reservoir

formed due to the construction of the Pong Dam on the Beas River.

The Pong Dam is the highest earth-fill dam in India and was constructed in 1975. In 1983, the entire reservoir was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Himachal Pradesh government.

In 1994, the Government of India declared it a "wetland of national importance". Pong Dam Lake was declared as a Ramsar Site in 2002.

The sanctuary area is covered with tropical and subtropical forests.

In November 2023, there was an increase in participatory note investments, reaching a total of Rs 1.31 lakh crore -

Consider the following statements about Participatory notes:

- (1) Participatory notes are financial instruments issued by the RBI to overseas investors.
- (2) They do not disclose or reveal the identity of the investor.
- (3) SBI and PNB are among the biggest issuers of these instruments.

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
(B)

Ans: Participatory Notes (P-Notes) are instruments used by foreign funds and investors not registered with the SEBI to invest in Indian securities. They are generally issued overseas by associates of India based foreign brokerages (FPIs) and domestic institutional investors. Technically, P-Notes are Offshore Derivative Instruments (ODIs) issued by FPIs and their subaccounts against underlying Indian securities (like shares).

A major defect of the P-Notes as instruments to make investment in Indian shares is that it hides the identity of the investor.

Citigroup and Deutsche Bank are among the biggest issuers of these instruments.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs), issue the financial instruments to investors in other countries who want to invest in Indian securities.

Pantoea Tagorei: Visva-Bharati discovered new bacteria, named it after Rabindranath Tagore.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Bacteria are the unicellular organisms and larger than the viruses.





- (2) Bacteria like viruses have the nucleus.
 (3) They have well developed cell structure.
 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: Bacteria are small single-celled organisms. Bacteria are found almost everywhere on Earth and are vital to the planet's ecosystems. Some species can live under extreme conditions of temperature and pressure. The human body is full of bacteria, and in fact is estimated to contain more bacterial cells than human cells. Bacteria are Larger in size than the viruses. Bacteria do not have the nucleus so their chromosomes are free inside the cell. They have well organized cell structure which is composed of cell organelles such as cell wall, cell membrane and cytoplasm. Bacterias are generally harmful but some of them may be usefuls.

76. Which of the following statements is/are true?

- I.** Rajendra Prasad (3 December 1884 – 28 February 1963) was the first President of India.
II. Prasad was imprisoned by British authorities during the Salt Satyagraha of 1932 and the Quit India movement of 1932.

Select the correct option

- (A) Only I** **(B) Only II**
(C) Both I & II **(D) Neither I nor II**

Ans. (A)

Exp: Rajendra Prasad (3 December 1884 – 28 February 1963) was the first President of India, in office from 1950 to 1962. He was an Indian political leader and lawyer by training. Prasad joined the Indian National Congress during the Indian Independence Movement and became a major leader from the region of Bihar. A supporter of Mahatma Gandhi, Prasad was imprisoned by British authorities during the Salt Satyagraha of 1931 and the Quit India movement of 1942. After the 1946 elections, Prasad served as Minister of Food and Agriculture in the central government.

77. Which of the following statements is true?

- I.** The word Ramcharitmanas literally means "Lake of the deeds of Rama".
II. Tulsidas was a great scholar of Sanskrit.

Select the correct option

- (A) Only I** **(B) Only II**

- (C) Both I & II** **(D) Neither I nor II**

Ans. (C)

Exp: Ramcharitmanas, is an epic poem in the Awadhi language, composed by the 16th century Indian bhakti poet Goswami Tulsidas (1532–1623). The word Ramcharitmanas literally means "Lake of the deeds of Rama. It is considered one of the greatest works of Hindi literature. Tulsidas (the Sanskrit name of Tulsidas can be transliterated in two ways. Tulsidas was a great scholar of Sanskrit.

78.

Which of the following statements is true?

- I.** Mahmud of Ghazni (2 November 971 – 30 April 1030) was the first independent ruler of the Ghaznavid dynasty.

- II.** Mahmud was the son of Sebuktigin, a Turkish slave.

Select the correct option

- (A) Only I** **(B) Only II**
(C) Both I & II **(D) Neither I nor II**

Ans. (C)

Exp: Mahmud of Ghazni (Nov. 2, 971–April 30, 1030), the first ruler in history to assume the title of "sultan," founded the Ghaznavid Empire. His title signified that the Muslim Caliph remained the religious leader of the empire despite being the political leader of a vast swath of land, encompassing much of what is now Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and northern India. To conquer and annex Peshawar and Punjab, Mahmud of Ghazni defeated Hindushahis.

79. Which of the following statements is true?

- I.** Indian literature is the earliest known works Rig Vedas.

- II.** These mantras are sung at the time of Yajna, Ritual and Havan. It has a compilation of useful mantras of the inauguration of Yagyanushthan.

Select the correct option

- (A) Only I** **(B) Only II**
(C) Both I & II **(D) Neither I nor II**

Ans. (A)

Exp: The Rigveda is an ancient Indian collection of Vedic Sanskrit hymns. It is one of the four sacred canonical texts of Hinduism known as the Vedas. The Rigveda is the oldest known Vedic Sanskrit text. Its early layers are one of the oldest extant texts in any Indo-European language. These mantras are sung at the time of Yajna, Ritual and





Havan. It has a compilation of useful mantras of the inauguration of Yagyanushthan. Most of its mantras are available in Agveda, some mantras are also free. There are basically 75 mantras in the Samaveda and the rest are taken from the Aged.

Ans. (B)

Exp: The Swaraj Party was established as the Congress-Khilafat Swaraj Party. It was established by Motilal Nehru and Chittaranjandas. It was a political party formed in India in January 1923 after the Gaya annual conference in December 1922 of the National Congress.

Das and Nehru thought of contesting elections to enter the legislative council with a view to obstructing a foreign government. Many candidates of the Swaraj Party got elected to the central legislative assembly and provincial legislative council in the 1923 elections. In these legislatures, they strongly opposed the unjust government policies.

As a result of the Bengal Partition, the Swaraj Party won the most seats during elections to the Bengal Legislative Council in 1923. The party disintegrated after the death of C. R. Das

Ans. (C)

Exp: The Vedic literature includes the four Vedas and their codes, Brahmins, Aranyakas, Upanishads and Vedangas. The number of Vedas is four - Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda.

are the first authentic texts in the world. The Vedas have been called Apaurusheya. The Vedas have been dubbed "Shruti" because of the verbal memorization of the disciples by the Guru.

Ans. (B)
Exp: Ropar is a city and a municipal council in Rupnagar district in the Indian state of Punjab. The town lies on the Sutlej River near the head of the great Sirhind Canal, about 20 miles (32 km) northwest of Chandigarh. It was the first to be excavated after India achieved independence.

Ans. (C)
Exp: Barren Island is situated in the Andaman Sea, and lies about 138 km (86 mi) northeast of the territory's capital, Port Blair. It is the only active Volcano along the chain from Sumatra to Myanmar and also the only active volcano in India. Barren Island is a part of the Indian Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and is well known as a Submarine emergent Volcano, which lies above the subduction zone of India and Burmese plate.

The first recorded eruption of the volcano dates back to 1787. Since then, the volcano has erupted more than ten times, with the most recent one being in 2017. After the first recorded eruption in 1787, further eruptions were recorded in 1789, 1795, 1803–04, and 1852. After nearly one and half century of





dormancy, the island had another eruption in 1991 that lasted six months and caused considerable damage.

The 1991 eruption was particularly harmful to the island's fauna.

84. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.
- II. The term "two-state solution" is related to Israel

Select the correct option.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| (A) Only I | (B) Only II |
| (C) Both I & II | (D) Neither I nor II |

Ans. (C)

Exp: Coral reefs include a wide range of diversity with 32 of the 34 animal phyla present, in contrast to only 9 phyla represented in tropical rainforest.

The two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, west of the Jordan River. The boundary between the two states is still subject to dispute and negotiation, with Palestinian and Arab leadership insisting on the "1967 borders", which is not accepted by Israel. The territory of the former Mandate Palestine (including Jerusalem) which did not form part of the Palestinian State would continue to be part of Israel.

85. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Bengaluru lies on a longitude closest to that of Delhi.
- II. Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary located in Manipur.

Select the correct option.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| (A) Only I | (B) Only II |
| (C) Both I & II | (D) Neither I nor II |

Ans. (A)

Exp: Bangalore is the city which lies on the longitude near to the Delhi because the longitude of Nagpur, Hyderabad, and Pune is too far from the Delhi.

Pakhui is a Wildlife Sanctuary and a dedicated Tiger Reserve (also known as the Pakke Tiger Reserve) in the district of East Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh, India. It has an area of over 860 square kilometres and is bordered by the Kameng River and Pakke River, which are important sources of water for the animals and the

irrigation of the vegetation. The Pakhui reserve is neighbour to the Nameri Tiger reserve in Assam,

86. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Rajasthan States has explored the possibility of constructing an artificial inland port to be connected to the sea by a long navigational channel.

- II. Secondary Wave surface seismic waves that cause horizontal shifting of the Earth during an earthquake.

Select the correct option.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| (A) Only I | (B) Only II |
| (C) Both I & II | (D) Neither I nor II |

Ans. (A)

Exp: The state government is exploring ways to develop an artificial inland port in Jalore by bringing in Arabian Sea water into Rajasthan through Gujarat. If implemented, Rajasthan will become accessible by water transport and will be able to shed the tag of a landlocked state.

Secondary waves (S-waves) are shear waves that are transverse in nature. S-waves can travel only through solids, as fluids (liquids and gases) do not support shear stresses. S-waves are slower than P-waves, and speeds are typically around 60% of that of P-waves in any given material.

87. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Inner Core is the densest layer of earth's interior.

- II. Continental crust is less dense than the oceanic crust.

Select the correct option.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| (A) Only I | (B) Only II |
| (C) Both I & II | (D) Neither I nor II |

Ans. (C)

Exp: Earth's interior layers are ordered by density. The densest layer is the solid metal inner core, the mantle is of intermediate density, and the least dense layer is the lithosphere, particularly the continental lithosphere. The origin of these layers and how scientists know about them is fascinating. Different layers of the Earth are made of materials with different physical properties. One of the most important physical properties that cause the formation of layers in the Earth is density. Density is defined as the mass per unit volume of a substance, so you can think of it as how heavy that material is. Layers that are less dense, such as the crust, float on layers that





are denser, such as the mantle. Both oceanic crust and continental crust are less dense than the mantle, but oceanic crust is denser than continental crust. This is partly why the continents are at a higher elevation than the ocean floor.

Ans. (D)

Exp: The gravitational force is a force that attracts any two objects with mass. We call the gravitational force attractive because it always tries to pull masses together, it never pushes them apart. In fact, every object, including you, is pulling on every other object in the entire universe! This is called Newton's Universal Law of Gravitation. Admittedly, you don't have a very large mass and so, you're not pulling on those other objects much. And objects that are really far apart from each other don't pull on each other noticeably either. But the force is there and we can calculate it.

F is the force of gravity (measured in Newtons, N).

G is the gravitational constant of the universe and is always the same number.

M is the mass of one object (measured in kilograms, kg).

m is the mass of the other object (measured in kilograms, kg).

Ans. (C)

Exp: The thickness of the crust varies under the oceanic and continental areas. Oceanic crust is thinner as compared to the continental crust. The mean thickness of oceanic crust is 5 km whereas that of

the continental is around 30 km. The continental crust is thicker in the areas of major mountain systems.

Which of the following statements is true?

- I. The body waves (p and s waves) follow the Snell's law when they pass from one medium to another and hence deflect from the path.
 - II. Secondary waves do not pass through liquid medium (outer core).

Select the correct option.

Ans. (C)

Exp: The layering of Earth has been inferred indirectly using the time of travel of refracted and reflected seismic waves created by earthquakes. The changes in seismic velocity between different layers causes refraction owing to Snell's law, like light bending as it passes through a prism.

Secondary waves (S-waves) are shear waves that are transverse in nature. S-waves can travel only through solids, as fluids (liquids and gases) do not support shear stresses. S wave shadow zone form the boundary of outer core as it is in liquid state.

Ans. (A)
Exp: A lithosphere is the rigid, outermost shell of a terrestrial-type planet, or natural satellite, that is defined by its rigid mechanical properties. On Earth, it is composed of the crust and the portion of the upper mantle that behaves elastically on time scales of thousands of years or greater. The outermost shell of a rocky planet, the crust, is defined on the basis of its chemistry and mineralogy. The layer under the lithosphere is known as the asthenosphere.

Earth's lithosphere includes the crust and the uppermost mantle, which constitute the hard and rigid outer layer of the Earth. The lithosphere is subdivided into tectonic plates. The uppermost part of the lithosphere that chemically reacts to the atmosphere,





hydrosphere, and biosphere through the soil forming process is called the pedosphere. The lithosphere is underlain by the asthenosphere which is the weaker, hotter, and deeper part of the upper mantle.

Ans. (B)

Exp: Nebular Hypothesis considered that the planets were formed out of a cloud of material associated with a youthful sun, which was slowly rotating. Later in 1950, Otto Schmidt in Russia and Carl Weizsäcker in Germany somewhat revised the ‘nebular hypothesis’, though differing in details.

1. They considered that the sun was surrounded by solar nebula containing mostly the hydrogen and helium along with what may be termed as dust.
2. The friction and collision of particles led to formation of a disk-shaped cloud and the planets were formed through the process of accretion.

(A) Ans. (A)

Exp: Our Solar system consists of eight planets. Our solar system consists of the sun (the star), 8 planets, 63 moons, millions of smaller bodies like asteroids and comets and huge quantity of dust-grains and gases. Out of the eight planets, Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are called as the inner planets as they lie between the sun and the belt of asteroids the other four planets are called the outer planets. Alternatively, the first four are called Terrestrial, meaning earth-like as they are made up of rock and metals, and have relatively high densities. The rest four are called

Jovian or Gas Giant planets. Jovian means Jupiter-like.

Most of them are much larger than the terrestrial planets and have thick atmosphere, mostly of helium and hydrogen.

- (i) The terrestrial planets were formed in the close vicinity of the parent star where it was too warm for gases to condense to solid particles. Jovian planets were formed at quite a distant location.
 - (ii) The solar wind was most intense nearer the sun; so, it blew off lots of gas and dust from the terrestrial planets. The solar winds were not all that intense to cause similar removal of gases from the Jovian planets.
 - (iii) The terrestrial planets are smaller and their lower gravity could not hold the escaping gases.

Consider the following statements:

1. Sunil Arora is the chief election commissioner of India.
 2. The tenure of chief election commissioner is 6 years or up to 65 years of age.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Ans. (B)

Exp: The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

- Regarding the governor's qualification, consider the following statements:

1. He is a citizen of India and has completed 30 years of age.
 2. He is not in the position of any government benefit that is considered unfit for the presidential post.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

Ans. (A)

Exp: Article 157 and Article 158 of the Constitution of India specify eligibility requirements for the post of governor. They are as follows:

A governor must:

- be a citizen of India.
 - be at least 35 years of age.









human oral cavity and nasopharynx. Most *Neisseria* are members of the normal microflora of the human body and are generally non-pathogenic. However, *N. meningitidis* and *N. gonorrhoeae* are important pathogens like gonorrhea.

- 110.** Which of the following statements is/are correct?
I. Wisdom teeth are 3rd molar teeth.
II. Biochemistry is the study of chemical reactions in relation to life activities.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I and II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: (C)

Exp: A wisdom tooth or third molar is one of the four molars per human dentition. It is the furthest among the three. The age at which wisdom teeth come through is variable, but usually occurs between the late teens and early twenties. Most adults have four wisdom teeth, one in each of the four, but it is possible that there may be none, more or less, in which case the extras are called supernumerary teeth. Wisdom teeth may be impacted against other teeth if there is not enough space for them to come through normally. While the impact does not cause movement of other teeth, it can cause tooth decay if oral hygiene becomes more difficult.

Biochemistry, sometimes called organic chemistry, is the study of chemical processes within and related to living organisms. Biochemical processes give rise to the complexity of life.

- 111.** Which of the following statements is/are correct?

 - I. Phytotron is a facility for growing plants under controlled conditions.
 - II. The major food fuel during long-term exercise is carbohydrate.

Select the correct option.

Ans: (A)

Ans: (A)

Exp: The phytotron is surrounded by a greenhouse or laboratory, where plants are grown under strictly controlled environmental conditions to study the interaction between plants and the environment.

These glucose molecules are stored in the liver and muscles, used for fuel, especially during physical activity. Carbohydrates improve athletic

- performance by reducing fatigue and allowing an athlete to compete for longer periods of time.

- 112.** Consider the following statements.

 1. Nuclear sizes are expressed in a unit called "Fermi" which is a unit of length equal to $(10)^{-15}$ metre.
 2. Mica is used in electrical equipment because mica is a good conductor of heat but an electrical insulator.

Which is/are not correct statement?

- (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2
(C) 1 and 2 (D) None of these
(E)

(B) mica is unusual in that it is a good electrical insulator at the same time as being a good thermal conductor. The leading use of block mica is as an electrical insulator in electronic equipment.

Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Credit rationing is the limiting by lenders of the supply of additional credit to borrowers.
 - II. Governments create debt by issuing government bonds and bills.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
 (C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

(A) Credit rationing is the limiting by lenders of the supply of additional credit to borrowers who demand funds, even if the latter are willing to pay higher interest rates. It is an example of market imperfection, or market failure, as the price mechanism fails to bring about equilibrium in the market. It should not be confused with cases where credit is simply "too expensive" for some borrowers, that is, situations where the interest rate is deemed too high.

- Which of the following statements is true?

- I.** 'Ricket' is a disease associated with the deficiency of Vitamin (D).
 - II.** Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta was an Italian physicist, chemist, and pioneer of electricity and power.

Select the correct option.

- (A) Only I (B) Only II
 (C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II
 (C)

Rickets is a bone disorder caused by a deficiency of vitamin D, calcium, or phosphate Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta was an





Italian physicist, chemist, and pioneer of electricity and power who is credited as the inventor of the electric battery and the discoverer of methane. He invented the Voltaic pile in 1799, and reported the results of his experiments in 1800 in a two-part letter to the President of the Royal Society.

115. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Nitric acid acids is present in ant bites.
 - II. Calcium carbonate is a dietary supplement.
- Select the correct option.
- (A) Only I (B) Only II
 (C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans.

Exp: An ant is known as formica in Latin. Thus, the acid found in the red ant's body is known as formic acid.

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

Calcium carbonate is one of the most popular chemicals. It is also found in many forms such as marble, limestone, etc. Although they are available in various forms, they are chemically similar and only differ physically. They are also referred to as calcite.

Calcium carbonate is a non-toxic and odourless compound commonly found as a white mineral which occurs naturally in chalks, limestones and marbles.

"Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit."

10 FEB

INCEPTION: 2015
2024 THEME:
 Eliminate STH: Invest in a healthier future for children

NATIONAL DE-WORMING DAY

National Deworming Day is a groundbreaking initiative focused on reducing the threat of parasitic worm infections, a widespread health issue affecting over 241 million children in India alone.

Motto

The objective of National Deworming Day is to deworm all preschool and school-age children (enrolled and non-enrolled) between the ages of 1-19 years through the platform of schools and Anganwadi Centers in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life.

Ministry Involved

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Note

- India has the highest burden of soil-transmitted helminths--parasitic worms--in the world.
- According to the 2012 report 'Children in India', published by MOSPI 48% of children under the age of five years are stunted and 19.8% are wasted.

11 FEB

THEME:
 Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

Importance

On 22 December 2015, the UN General Assembly decided to establish an annual International Day to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology & marks 11 Feb as the same.

Motto

To ensure full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.

Note

- According to UNESCO data (2014 - 2016), only around 30 per cent of all female students select STEM-related fields in higher education.
- The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration institutions and civil society partners.
- This Day is an opportunity to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.





Match The Following

- 1.** 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
Corynebacterium
vaccine
Coxiella burnetii
vaccine
Hib (type B)

Tetanus DPT vaccine
Diphtheria
Q fever
Hib vaccine

- Dhanush - 350 to 600 Km

- Match the following -

- (a) Operation Black Tornado 1- 2008
- (b) Operation Calm Down 2- 2016
- (c) Operation Sahaog 3- 2018

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 Black Tornado - 2008
Operation Calm Down - 2016
Operation Sahaog - 2018

- 2.** In context to the same, match the following compounds with their formulas-

- (a) Ascorbic acid 1- C₆H₈O₆
 - (b) Benzoic acid 2- C₇H₆O₂
 - (c) Resorcinol 3- C₆H₆O₂
- 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: Ascorbic acid 176.12 g/mol C₆H₈O₆
Benzoic acid 122.12 g/mol C₇H₆O₂
Resorcinol 110.1 g/mol C₆H₆O₂

- Match the following Indian National Movements -

- (a) Ghadar Movement 1- 1913
- (b) Home Rule Movement 2- 1917
- (c) Champaran Satyagraha 3- 1916
- (d) Ahmedabad Mill Strike 4- 1918

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: Ghadar Movement - 1913
Home Rule Movement - 1916
Champaran Satyagraha - 1917
Ahmedabad Mill Strike - 1918

- 3.** Match the following missiles of India with their range -

- (a) Brahmos 1- 290 Km
 - (b) Nirbhay 2- 350 to 600 Km
 - (c) Trishul 3- 0.5 Km to 9 Km
 - (d) Dhanush 4- 1000 to 1500 Km
- 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: Brahmos - 290 Km
Nirbhay - 1000 to 1500 Km
Trishul - 0.5 Km to 9 Km

- Match the following -

(a) First to pass the examination of the Indian Medical Service (IMS)	1- Surjo Kumar Chakroborty
(b) First Indian to be appointed as the deputy director-general of programmes (DDP) of WHO	2- Dr Soumya Swaminathan
(c) First Indian to get Nobel Prize in Physics	3- C V Raman

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: First to pass the examination of the Indian Medical Service (IMS) - Surjo Kumar Chakraborty

First Indian to be appointed as the deputy director-general of programmes (DDP) of WHO - Dr Soumya Swaminathan

First Indian to get Nobel Prize in Physics - C V Raman

7. Match the following -

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Bharatnatyam | 1- Tamil Nadu |
| (b) Kathak | 2- Uttar Pradesh |
| (c) Kathakali | 3- Andhra Pradesh |
| (d) Kuchipudi | 4- Kerala |

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: Bharatnatyam - Tamil Nadu
 Kathak - Uttar Pradesh
 Kathakali - Kerala
 Kuchipudi - Andhra Pradesh

8. Match the following -

(a) First British Governor General of India	1- Lord William Bentinck
(b) First British Viceroy of India	2- Lord Canning
(c) First Governor General of free India	3- Lord Mountbatten

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: First British Governor General of India-Lord William Bentinck
 First British Viceroy of India-Lord Canning
 First Governor General of free India-Lord Mountbatten

9. Match the following -

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| (a) Rock Garden | 1- Darjeeling |
| (b) Sarita Udyan | 2- Srinagar |
| (c) Shalimar Bagh | 3- Gandhinagar |

- (d) Sim's Park 4- Coonoor

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

(D)

Rock Garden - Darjeeling
 Sarita Udyan - Gandhinagar
 Shalimar Bagh - Srinagar
 Sim's Park - Coonoor

10.

Match the following -

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Nomadic Elephant | 1- India & Mongolia |
| (b) Garuda Shakti | 2- India & Indonesia |
| (c) Shakti Exercise | 3- India & France |

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

(A)

Nomadic Elephant - India & Mongolia
 Garuda Shakti - India & Indonesia
 Shakti Exercise - India & France

11.

Match the following -

(a) Bagha Jatin	1- He was related to Howrah-Shibpur Conspiracy case
(b) Kartar Singh Sarabha	2- He was the leader of the Mulshi Satyagraha
(c) Basawon Singh (Sinha)	3- He was related to Lahore conspiracy case
(d) Senapati Bapat	4- He was related to Lahore conspiracy

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

(A)

Bagha Jatin - He was related to Howrah-Shibpur Conspiracy case
 Kartar Singh Sarabha - He was related to Lahore conspiracy

Basawon Singh (Sinha) - He was related to Lahore conspiracy case

Senapati Bapat - He was the leader of the Mulshi Satyagraha





- 12.** Match the following UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India -

(a) Santiniketan	1- West Bengal
(b) The Historic City	2- Gujarat
(c) Monuments of Buddha	3- Madhya Pradesh

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:** Santiniketan - West Bengal
 The Historic City - Gujarat
 Monuments of Buddha - Madhya Pradesh

- 13.** Match the following states with their formation date -

(a) Mizoram	1- 20 February 1987
(b) Nagaland	2- 01 April 1936
(c) Odisha	3- 01 December 1963
(d) Punjab	4- 01 November 1966

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:** Mizoram - 20 February 1987
 Nagaland - 1 December 1963
 Odisha - 01 April 1936
 Punjab - 01 November - 1966

- 14.** Match the following -

(a) Lamberts Cosine Law	1- Kelvin Planck Statement
(b) Law of Conservation of Mass	2- Fouriers Law
(c) Hubbles Law	3- Bells Theorem

- (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:** Lamberts Cosine Law Kelvin Planck Statement
 Law Of Conservation Of Mass Fouriers Law
 Hubbles Law Bells Theorem

- 15.** Match the following phobias -

(a) Fear or hatred of books	1- Bibliophobia
(b) Fear of death	2- Thanatophobia
(c) An extreme fear of wind or drafts	3- Logophobia
(d) An obsessive fear of words	4- Anemophobia

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:**Exp:** Fear or hatred of books - Bibliophobia
 Fear of death - Thanatophobia

An extreme fear of wind or drafts -
 Anemophobia
 An obsessive fear of words - Logophobia

- 16.** Match the following rivers and their Outflow -

(a) Nyabarongo	1- Mediterranean
(b) Amazon	2- Atlantic Ocean
(c) Mississippi	3- Gulf of Mexico

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:**Exp:** Nyabarongo - Mediterranean
 Amazon - Atlantic Ocean
 Mississippi - Gulf of Mexico

- 17.** Match the following Father's of Various Fields -

(a) Father of Modern Geology	1- James Hutton
(b) Father of the American Constitution	2- James Madison
(c) Father of Geography	3- John Amos Comenius
(d) Father of Modern Education	4- James Rennell

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:**Exp:** Father of Modern Geology - James Hutton



Father of the American Constitution - James Madison
 Father of Geography - James Rennell
 Father of Modern Education - John Amos Comenius

- 18.** Match the following Waterfalls in India -
 (a) Meenmutty Falls 1- Kerala
 (b) Thalaiyar Falls 2- Tamil Nadu
 (c) Barkana Falls 3- Karnataka

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: Meenmutty Falls - Kerala
 Thalaiyar Falls - Tamil Nadu
 Barkana Falls - Karnataka

- 19.** Match the following -

(a) Kandla port	1- It has been renamed as Deendayal Port from 25th September 2017
(b) Mormugao port	2- It is the location of sea port called New Mangalore Port
(c) Panambur port	3- It is the foremost iron ore exporting port
(d) Paradip port	4- It is an artificial & deep water port.

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: Kandla port - It has been renamed as Deendayal Port from 25th September 2017
 Mormugao port - It is the foremost iron ore exporting port
 Panambur port - It is the location of sea port called New Mangalore Port
 Paradip port – It is an artificial & deep water port.

- 20.** Match the following Mountain Peaks -

- (a) Anamudi 1- Kerala
 (b) Dhupgarh 2- Madhya Pradesh
 (c) Kalsubai 3- Maharashtra

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:

Exp: Anamudi - Kerala
 Dhupgarh - Madhya Pradesh
 Kalsubai - Maharashtra

- 21.** Match the following books and authors -

(a) The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida	1- Shehan Karunatilaka
(b) Treacle Walker	2- Alan Garner
(c) Small Things in Life	3- Elizabeth Strouth
(d) Oh William!	4- Claire Keegan

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:

Exp: The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida - Shehan Karunatilaka
 Treacle Walker - Alan Garner
 Small Things in Life - Claire Keegan
 Oh William! - Elizabeth Strouth

- 22.** Match the following Index and their publishers -

(a) Global Competitive Index	1- World Economic Forum
(b) Global Liveability Index	2- The Economist Intelligence Unit
(c) Corruption Perception Index	3- Transparency International

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:

Exp: Global Competitive Index - World Economic Forum
 Global Liveability Index - The Economist Intelligence Unit
 Corruption Perception Index - Transparency International





23. Match the following Schemes with their launched year -

(a) Swachh Bharat Mission -	1- 2014
(b) Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana -	2- 2016
(c) PM-KISAN -	3- 2019
(d) Ujjwala Yojana -	4- 2015

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: Swachh Bharat Mission - 2014
Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana - 2015
PM-KISAN - 2019
Ujjwala Yojana - 2016

24. Match the following lakes with their locations -

(a) Lake Tanganyika	1- Africa
(b) Lake Baikal	2- Russia
(c) Great Bear Lake	3- Canada

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

Lake Tanganyika - Africa

Lake Baikal - Russia

Great Bear Lake - Canada

Ans: (A)

25. Match the following Oceans and their Place of greatest known depth -

(a) Pacific Ocean	1- Mariana Trench
(b) Atlantic Ocean	2- Java Trench
(c) Indian Ocean	3- Puerto Rico Trench
(d) Arctic Ocean	4- Arctic Basin

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: Pacific Ocean - Mariana Trench
Atlantic Ocean - Puerto Rico Trench
Indian Ocean - Java Trench
Arctic Ocean - Arctic Basin

26.

Match the following lakes -

- (a) Kolleru Lake
- (b) Wular Lake
- (c) Vembanad Lake

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:

Kolleru Lake – Andhra Pradesh

Wular Lake – Jammu Kashmir

Vembanad Lake – Kerala

27.

Match the following UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India and their recognition year -

(a) Dholavira	1- 2021
(b) Nalanda	2- 2007
(c) Western Ghats	3- 2012
(d) Red Fort	4- 2016

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:

Dholavira - 2021

Nalanda - 2016

Western Ghats - 2012

Red Fort - 2007

28.

Match the following -

(a) Subodh Roy	1- Involvement in the Tebhaga Movement
(b) Pritilata Waddedar	2- Pahartali European Club attack
(c) Ubaidullah Sindhi	3- Engagement in Silk Letter 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:

Subodh Roy - Involvement in the Tebhaga Movement

Pritilata Waddedar - Pahartali European Club attack

Ubaidullah Sindhi - Engagement in Silk Letter Conspiracy





29. Match the following Indian National Congress Sessions and Their Presidents -

(a) 1898, Madras Sessions	1- Ananda Mohan Bose
(b) 1900, Lahore Sessions	2- Rash Behari Ghosh
(c) 1903, Madras Sessions	3- Lal Mohan Ghosh
(d) 1907, Surat Sessions	4- N G Chandavarkar

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: 1898, Madras Sessions - Ananda Mohan Bose
1900, Lahore Sessions - N G Chandavarkar
1903, Madras Sessions - Lal Mohan Ghosh
1907, Surat Sessions - Rash Behari Ghosh

30. 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

31. Match the following Important Days in December 2023 -

(a) December 02	1- World Computer Literacy Day
(b) December 07	2- National Consumer Rights Day
(c) December 16	3- International Tea Day
(d) December 24	4- International Civil Aviation Day

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:

Exp:

December 02 - World Computer Literacy Day
December 07 - International Civil Aviation Day
December 16 - International Tea Day
December 24 - National Consumer Rights Day

32.

Match the following Tunnels and their length in India -

(a) Sangaldan Railway Tunnel	1- 7.1 km
(b) Atal Tunnel	2- 9.02 km
(c) Tunnel T-49	3- 12.7 km

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:

Exp:

Sangaldan Railway Tunnel - 7.1 km
Atal Tunnel - 9.02 km

Tunnel T-49 - 12.7 km

Match the following "First in World" -

(a) First Space Tourist	1- Dennis Tito
(b) First Person to Draw the Map of Earth	2- Captain Mathew Web
(c) First Person to Swim Across English channel	3- Anaximander
(d) First Person Perform the Heart Transplantation	4- Dr Christian Bernard

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:

Exp:

First Space Tourist - Dennis Tito

First Person to Draw the Map of Earth - Anaximander

First Person to Swim Across English channel - Captain Mathew Web

First Person Perform the Heart Transplantation - Dr Christian Bernard

34.

Match the following Waterfalls in India -

(a) Kune Falls 1- Maharashtra





- (b) Soochipara Falls 2- Kerala
 (c) Magod Falls 3- Karnataka
 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:** Kune Falls - Maharashtra
 Soochipara Falls - Kerala
 Magod Falls - Karnataka

- 35.**
- Match the following Observances: -

(a) 4th January	1- World Braille Day
(b) 21st March	2- World Down Syndrome Day
(c) 2nd April	3- Human Rights Day
(d) 10th December	4- World Autism Day

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:** 4th January: World Braille Day
 21st March: World Down Syndrome Day
 2nd April: World Autism Day
 10th December: Human Rights Day

- 36.**
- Match the following schemes with their launch year -

(a) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme	1- 2003
(b) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana	2- 2016
(c) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna	3- 2015

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: (D)**Exp:** Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme - 2003
 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana - 2015

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna - 2016

37.

Match the following Military Operations -

- (a) Golden Temple Raid III 1- 1992
 (b) Operation Sarp Vinash 2- 2003
 (c) Operation Black Tornado 3- 1990
 (d) Operation All Out 4- 2008

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:** Golden Temple Raid III - 1992
 Operation Sarp Vinash - 2003
 Operation Black Tornado - 2008
 Operation All Out - 1990**38.**

Match the following Miss World from India -

- (a) Diana Hayden 1- 1997
 (b) Yukta Mookhey 2- 1999
 (c) Priyanka Chopra 3- 2000

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:** Diana Hayden - 1997
 Yukta Mookhey - 1999
 Priyanka Chopra - 2000**39.**

Match the following -

(a) Gujarat	1- Saputara Lake, Bor talav, Dharoi Dam
(b) Haryana	2- Futala Lake, Tansa Lake, Tulsi Lake
(c)	3- Damdama Lake, Karna Lake, Sannihit Sarovar
(d)	4- Bahour Lake, Ousteri Puducherry Lake, Velrampet Lake

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:** Gujarat - Saputara Lake, Bor talav, Dharoi Dam
 Haryana - Damdama Lake, Karna Lake, Sannihit Sarovar

Maharashtra - Futala Lake, Tansa Lake, Tulsi Lake





Puducherry - Bahour Lake, Ousteri Lake, Velrampet Lake

- 40.** Match the following UNESCO World Heritage Sites -

- (a) Humayun's Tomb 1- 1993
 - (b) Western Ghats 2- 2012
 - (c) Dholavira 3- 2021
- 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: Humayun's Tomb - 1993
Western Ghats - 2012
Dholavira - 2021

- 41.** Match the following Sports Cups and Trophies -

- (a) Basketball 1- Basalat Jha Trophy
 - (b) Chess 2- Agha Khan Cup
 - (c) Hockey 3- Naidu Trophy
 - (d) Polo 4- Ezar Cup
- 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: Basketball - Basalat Jha Trophy
Chess - Naidu Trophy
Hockey - Agha Khan Cup
Polo - Ezar Cup

- 42.** Match the following -

- (a) Rohtang Pass 1- Himachal Pradesh
 - (b) Mana Pass 2- Uttarakhand
 - (c) Goecha La 3- Sikkim
- 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: Rohtang Pass - Himachal Pradesh
Mana Pass - Uttarakhand
Goecha La - Sikkim

- 43.** Match the following Indian Cities on River Banks -

- (a) Etawah 1- Yamuna
- (b) Bangalore 2- Vrishabhavathi
- (c) Farrukhabad 3- Teesta

(d) Rangpo 4- Ganges
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: Etawah – Yamuna
Bangalore – Vrishabhavathi
Farrukhabad – Ganges
Rangpo – Teesta

- 44.** Match the following Military Exercises of India -

- (a) SIMBEX 1- India & Singapore
 - (b) Shakti Exercise 2- India & France
 - (c) CORPAT 3- India & Thailand
- 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: SIMBEX - India & Singapore
Shakti Exercise - India & France
CORPAT - India & Thailand

- 45.** Match the following High Courts with their chief justice -

(a) Allahabad High Court	1- Govind Mathur
(b) Andhra Pradesh High Court	2- Pradeep Nandrajog
(c) Bombay High Court	3- J K Maheshwari
(d) Calcutta High Court	4- T B Radhakrishnan

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: Allahabad High Court - Govind Mathur
Andhra Pradesh High Court - J K Maheshwari
Bombay High Court - Pradeep Nandrajog
Calcutta High Court - T B Radhakrishnan

- 46.** Match the following schemes with their launch year -





(a) Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme	1- 2003
(b) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana	2- 2015
(c) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna	3- 2016

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)

47. Match the following Mughal period authors and their works –

Author - Works

(a) Gulbadan Begam	1- Humayun Nama
(b) Abul Fazl	2- Shah Jahan Namah
(c) Jahangir	3- Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri
(d) Inayat Khan	4- Ain-i-Akbari

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: Author - Works

Gulbadan Begam - Humayun Nama

Abul Fazl - Ain-i-Akbari

Jahangir - Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri

Inayat Khan - Shah Jahan Namah

48. Match the following -

(a) The highest Human Development Index	1- Norway
(b) The largest Democracy	2- India
(c) The least corrupt country	3- Denmark

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: The highest Human Development Index - Norway
 The largest Democracy - India
 The least corrupt country - Denmark

49. Match the following states with their tiger reserves:-

(a) Andhra Pradesh	1- Srisailam Tiger Reserve
(b) Bihar	2- Achanakmar Tiger Reserve
(c) Chhattisgarh	3- Valmiki National Park
(d) Jharkhand	4- Palamau Tiger Reserve

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:
Exp:

Andhra Pradesh - Srisailam Tiger Reserve

Bihar - Valmiki National Park

Chhattisgarh - Achanakmar Tiger Reserve

Jharkhand - Palamau Tiger Reserve

50. Match the following temples with their locations:-

(a) Brihadeeswara Temple	1- Tamil Nadu
(b) Chennakesava Temple	2- Karnataka
(c) Durgiana Temple	3- Punjab

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:
Exp:

Brihadeeswara Temple - Tamil Nadu

Chennakesava Temple - Karnataka

Durgiana Temple - Punjab

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





Multiple Choice Question

- 1.** President Draupadi Murmu has nominated Satnam Singh Sandhu for the Rajya Sabha. In context to the same tell us, A maximum of how many members can be nominated by the President of India to become the member of the Rajya Sabha?

(A) 12 (B) 25
(C) 18 (D) 10

Ans: (A)

Exp: A maximum of 12 members can be nominated by the President of India to become a member of the Rajya Sabha.

The Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the Indian Parliament and represents the states and union territories of India.

The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected or nominated for a term of six years.

The nominated members of the Rajya Sabha are usually experts in various fields and have the same powers and privileges as the elected members.

- 2.** NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has entered into an agreement with the Government of Maharashtra for the development of green hydrogen. In context to the same tell us, what is the capacity of India's first pure green hydrogen plant commissioned in Jorhat?

(A) 10 kg per day (B) 15 kg per day
(C) 20 kg per day (D) 25 kg per day

Ans: (A)

Exp: India's first pure green hydrogen plant was commissioned in Jorhat.

The green hydrogen plant was commissioned in 3 months at the Jorhat Pump Station.

It is an initiative of Oil India Limited (OIL).

It has a capacity of 10 kg per day.

Green Hydrogen - It is produced by electrolysis of H₂O using renewable energy sources like Solar, Wind, etc.

Brown Hydrogen - It is produced using coal.

Grey Hydrogen - It is produced using natural gas when the emission is released.

Blue Hydrogen - It is produced using natural gas when the emission is captured.

- 3.** AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

laid the foundation of the first Yoga and Naturopathy hospital in the Northeast. In context to Northeast tell us, In which of the following North Eastern states is the first ever specialised 'Ginger' Processing Plant being revived in December 2020?

(A) Mizoram (B) Sikkim
(C) Assam (D) Meghalaya

Ans: (D)

Exp: In Meghalaya, the first-ever specialized 'Ginger' Processing Plant was revived in December 2020. North East's first-ever specialized "Ginger" Processing Plant at district Ri-Bhoui in Meghalaya is being revived and is likely to become functional at the beginning of 2021.

The only ginger processing plant of North-East India was established around 2004 but has remained non-functional for many years.

The North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) has undertaken the responsibility of reviving it and initiated steps to operationalize the closed plant through PPP mode.

The plant located at the Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP), Raja Bhagan, Byrnihat Hatt will not only process ginger but also help in preparing products such as waxed ginger, ginger paste, ginger powder, ginger flakes, ginger oil, among others.

4. Netherlands women's hockey team has won the FIH Hockey 5S Women's World Cup title. In context to the same tell us, Who is the first Indian to win the FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) Player of the Year award 2019?

(A) Dhyan Chand (B) Manpreet Singh
(C) Ajit Pal Singh (D) Bharat Chetri

Ans: (B)

Exp: The first Indian to win the FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) Player of the Year award 2019 is Manpreet Singh. Manpreet Singh Pawar is an Indian field hockey player. He led the Indian field hockey team to the bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. He plays as a halfback. He first played for India in 2011 at the age of 19. He represented India at the 2012 Summer Olympics and was named Asia's Junior Player of the Year in 2014.





5. Divyansh Singh Panwar sets world record in 10m air rifle at ISSF World Cup 2024. In context to the same tell us, at the ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo India won how many gold medals?

(A) 3 (B) 4
(C) 5 (D) 6

Ans:

Exp: India has taken first place in the medal standing in International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo.

The Indian team finished on the top of the medals tally with a total of seven medals comprising of four gold, two silver, and one bronze.

Norway, who won six medals- three gold, one silver and two bronze claimed second spot on the medals tally.

6. President of India to address the 31st Foundation Day event of National Commission for Women. In context to the same tell us, The National Commission for Women was _____.

(A) An amendment in the Constitution of India
(B) A decision of the Union Cabinet
(C) An Act passed by the Parliament
(D) An order of the President of India

Ans:

Exp: National Commission for Women:

It is also one of the significant statutory bodies established by the Government of India.

It was established in 1992 under the provisions of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

National Commission for Women also takes the initiatives for the overall development of the women community in the whole country.

7. India's recent economic growth has been robust, with an estimated 6.9% expansion in FY 2022/23. In context to the same tell us, In India, which of the following types of unemployment was generated due to the slowdown of economic growth during the pandemic?

(A) Underemployment
(B) Structural unemployment
(C) Economic unemployment
(D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp: Structural unemployment is caused by a mismatch in the skills held by those looking for

work and the skills demanded by those seeking workers.

Structural unemployment occurs because workers lack the requisite job skills or live too far from regions where jobs are available and cannot move closer.

Structural unemployment is long-lasting unemployment that comes about due to shifts in an economy.

For example, people who made and sold typewriters didn't lose their jobs to automation, they lost their jobs to people who made and sold a more efficient form of the typewriter – i.e. computers.

India has proposed the 'Maratha Military Landscapes' as its nomination for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2024-25 cycle. In context to the same tell us, which of the following sites is declared as a world heritage site by UNESCO, which is in Himachal Pradesh?

(A) Rani ki vav
(B) Great Himalayan National Park
(C) Historic city of Ahmedabad
(D) Sundarbans National Park

Ans:

Exp: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).

The headquarter of UNESCO is in Paris, France.

Rani Ki Vav, Patan, Gujarat

The Historic City of Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh

Sundarbans National Park, West Bengal

Former Railway Board Chief Anil Lahoti appointed as TRAI Chairman. In context to the same tell us, When was the Railway Board formed?

(A) 1901 (B) 1906
(C) 1899 (D) 1904

Ans:

Exp: Railway Board has been constituted for controlling the Administration of Railways in India.

The Railway Board is an apex body of the ministry of the railway.





Exp: Indian Coast Guard was set up on 18 August 1978. It protects the India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law.

The Indian Coast Guard's motto is "वयम रक्षामः" (Vayam Rakshamah), which means "We Protect". The mission of Coast Guard is to safety and protection of fisherman, people, coastal boundaries of the country.

It works with Indian Navy, Department of Fisheries and Department of Revenue.

- 15.** Recently, the Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following Airport become 1st airport in India to be run entirely on hydro and solar energy?

- (A) Chennai International Airport, Tamil Nadu
- (B) Dabolim Airport, Goa
- (C) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai
- (D) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi

Ans: (D)

Exp: Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has become the first airport in the country to run entirely on hydro and solar power from June 2022.

This is part of the airport's goal to achieve the 'Net Zero Carbon Emissions Airport' target by the year 2030.

In 2015, the Cochin International Airport in Kerala became the first airport in the world to run solely using solar energy.

- 16.** Champai Soren was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Jharkhand. In context to the same tell us, who is the current governor of the state?

- (A) Ramesh Bais
- (B) Pon Radhakrishnan
- (C) CP Radhakrishnan
- (D) Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Ans: (C)

Exp: CP Radhakrishnan is an Indian politician who is the 10th and current Governor of Jharkhand since 2023. He was the member of Bharatiya Janata Party and was elected to the Lok Sabha twice from Coimbatore. He was also the former state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Tamil Nadu.

17. Recently, Uttarakhand Police has launched a self-balancing electric scooter. In context to the same tell us, Which city in Uttarakhand is known as 'City of Lakes'?

- (A) Nainital
- (B) Bhimtal
- (C) Haldwani
- (D) Srinagar

Ans:

Exp: Nainital is a district of Uttarakhand and a part of the Kumaon region.

It is also known as the City of Lakes.

It is a judicial capital of Uttarakhand as the High court of the being located here.

The Nainital Yacht club, situated along the, is the highest yacht club in India.

There are seven lakes in and around Nainital, these are Bhimtal, Sattal, Naukuchiatal, Khurpatal, Malwatal, Harishtal, and Lokhamtal, Bhimtal is the biggest one.

18. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also made an announcement regarding 'Lakhpati Didi Scheme' in the interim budget. In context to the same tell us, which of the following deal(s) with the taxation and expenditure decisions of the Government?

- (A) Monetary Policy
- (B) Labour Market Policies
- (C) Trade Policy
- (D) Fiscal Policy

Ans:

Exp: Fiscal Policy deals with the taxation and expenditure decisions of the Government.

Monetary policy and fiscal policy are two different tools that have an impact on the economic activity of a country.

Monetary policies are formed and managed by the central banks of a country and such a policy is concerned with the management of money supply and interest rates in an economy.

Fiscal policy is related to the way a government is managing the aspects of spending and taxation.

19. Dehradun: Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai submits final UCC report to Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami. In context to the same tell us, The purpose of Uniform Civil Code incorporated in Article 44 of Indian Constitution is for:

- (A) National Security
- (B) Cultural Integration





- (C) National Unity
 (D) Welfare of Minorities

Ans:**(A)**

Exp: This Uniform Civil Code (UCC) comes under Article 44 of the Indian constitution which refers to directive principles of state policy. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) states that the state shall undertake to offer a unified set of laws to its citizens within the Indian boundaries.

20.

The 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) will be organized in Lucknow. In context to the same tell us, Administrative Staff College (ASC) was established in _____, at _____.

- (A) 1961, Pune (B) 1963, Mumbai
 (C) 1961, Mumbai (D) 1963, Pune

Ans:**(B)**

Exp: Administrative Staff College of India(ASCI) is situated in Hyderabad. It was established in 1956 at the initiative of the government and the corporate sector and has pioneered post-experience management education in India. ASCI equips corporate managers, administrators, entrepreneurs and academicians with the skills to synthesize managerial theory and practice.

21.

PM Modi to lay foundation stone of Talabira Thermal Power Project. In context to the same tell us, which of the following parts of thermal power plants is associated with the ash handling subsystem?

- (A) Superheater
 (B) Ball mill
 (C) Alternator
 (D) Electrostatic precipitator

Ans:**(D)****Exp:** Concept:

A large quantity of ash is produced in steam power plants using coal.

Ash produced is about 10 to 20% of the total coal burnt in the furnace.

Handling of ash in the thermal power plant is done by using ash precipitators or Electrostatic precipitators.

Ash Precipitators:

The exhaust gases leaving the boiler contain particles of solid matter in suspension smoke, fly ash, dust soot, and smoke.

Fuel dust is greater than pulverized fuel.

Removal of dust from the exhaust gases is very important. Basically, gas-cleaning devices are called dust collectors.

India's UPI officially launched at Eiffel Tower in Paris. In context to the same tell us, In which year was the Eiffel Tower built, to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the French Revolution?

- (A) 1889 (B) 1884

- (C) 1882 (D) 1880

(A)

The Eiffel Tower is a monument located in Paris, France.

It was built to celebrate the centennial of the French Revolution.

Tower is named after the engineer Gustave Eiffel.

Construction begins in 1887 and completed in 1889.

Architect: Stephen Sauvestre.

The Eiffel Tower was the world's tallest structure when completed in 1889.

Agni Chopra set record with four centuries in debut Ranji Trophy. In context to the same tell us, In which of the following year the famous Ranji Trophy in Cricket was started?

- (A) 1934 (B) 1933

- (C) 1936 (D) 1935

(A)

The Ranji Trophy is a Domestic Class National level Cricket tournament. This is one of the oldest cricket tournament in India that was started in 1934.

In this tournament many of the multiple teams representing the Regional and State cricket associations. The tournament currently consists of 38 teams, with all 28 states in India and four of the nine union territories having at least one representation from their territory.

The trophy is named after the first Indian cricketer who played international cricket Ranjit Singh Ji after that it was known as 'Ranji Trophy'.

22.**Ans:****Exp:****23.****Ans:****Exp:**



- 24.** World Wetlands Day 2024 celebrated at Sirpur lake in Indore. In context to the same tell us, what is correct about 'Renuka Wetland'?

- (A) India's largest wetland site
- (B) India's smallest wetland site
- (C) India's first artificial wetland site
- (D) Wetland included in India's first Ramsar site

Ans:**Exp:** Renuka Wetland:-

It is a Ramsar site located in the Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh, India.

It is a natural wetland with freshwater springs and inland subterranean karst formations, fed by a small stream flowing from the lower Himalayan slopes to the Giri river.

Renuka Wetland is India's smallest wetland site. It covers an area of only 20 hectares (49 acres).

The lake is home to at least 443 species of fauna and 19 species of ichthyofauna representative of lacustrine ecosystems, as well as a variety of flora.

- 25.** Lal Krishna Advani to be honoured with Bharat Ratna. In context to the same tell us, what is the name of the book written by L K Advani?

- (A) Ignited mind: Unleashing the Power within India
- (B) Adha Likha Dastavez
- (C) A prisoner's Scrap Book
- (D) India in 21st Century

Ans:**Exp:** (C)

A Prisoner's Scrap - Book is an account of the unfolding of events of the Emergency (1975 - 77) as seen from a prison house. It is written by Lal Krishna Advani, an Indian politician and a former president of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

- 26.** Amit Shah chaired National PACS mega conclave for Jan Aushadhi. In context to the same tell us, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana is implemented by which of the following ministries?

- (A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (B) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (C) Ministry of AYUSH
- (D) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Ans:**Exp:** (D)

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched in 2016 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of

Chemicals and Fertilizers, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendras known as Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAKs).

The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, is the implementing agency of PMBJP.

Indian government greenlights Prithvi Vigyan Scheme with Rs 4797 crore. In context to the same tell us, Under the Ministry of Science and Technology, The Survey of India (SOI) was set up in:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (A) 1757 | (B) 1767 |
| (C) 1777 | (D) 1787 |

Ans:**Exp:**

Survey of India, The National Survey and Mapping Organization of the country under the Department of Science & Technology, is the oldest scientific department of the government of India. It was set up in 1767 and has evolved rich traditions over the years.

Sheikh Hasina wins 5th Term as Bangladesh Prime Minister in election. In context to the same tell us, which Indian state shares smallest border between India and Bangladesh?

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| (A) Assam | (B) Meghalaya |
| (C) Tripura | (D) Mizoram |

Ans:**Exp:**

Indian states that share borders with Bangladesh are: Assam, West Bengal, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura.

Assam Indian state shares smallest border between India and Bangladesh. Its length is 263 km.

West Bengal Indian state shares longest border between India and Bangladesh. Its length is 2216.70 km.

Indra Mani Pandey assumed role of BIMSTEC Secretary General. In context to the same tell us, which of the following sets of nations are members of the BIMSTEC Initiative?

- (A) Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar
- (B) Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka
- (C) Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and Maldives





The President places all such reports before the Parliament, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken on the recommendations made by the Commission.

35. PM Modi has greeted people on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas. In context to the same tell us, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was first introduced in which year? 38.

Ans: (C)

Exp: Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was first introduced in 2003 by the then Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on January 9, 1915.

36. World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10 January all over the world. In context to the same tell us, Which language after Hindi is the most spoken language from India on a global platform? 39.

(A) Bengali (B) Tamil
(C) Urdu (D) Telugu

Ans: (A)

Exp: Bengali is the language of Kolkata, the Andaman Islands, fabulous sweets, and 130-odd million Bangladeshis. It is the most spoken language after Hindi in the world from India.

37. Indian fintech giant PhonePe has appointed Ritesh Pai as the new CEO. In context to the same tell us, What does FSDC Stands for?

(A) Financial Stability and Development Council
(B) Financial Security and Development Corporation
(C) Financial Stability and Development Convention
(D) Financial Security Development Council

Ans. (A)

Ans. (A) **Exp:** The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) has been constituted vide GOI notification dated December 30, 2010. 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.

- Sri Lankan Education Minister Dr Sushil Premajayantha has said that a new campus of IIT Madras will be started in Kandy, Sri Lanka. In context to the same tell us, which is the first IIT in abroad in UAE?

(A) IIT Delhi (B) IIT Madras
(C) IIT Kanpur (D) IIT Dhanbad
(A)

(11) The first overseas campus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi) to establish in UAE's capital Abu Dhabi. The Centre had announced to establish an overseas campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi, UAE, under the India-UAE trade agreement on 18th February 2022.

- French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed Gabriel Attal as the next Prime Minister of France. In context to the same tell us, The famous slogan of the French Revolution was:

- (A) No Taxation without Representation
- (B) E Pluribus Unum
- (C) Liberty, Equality, Fraternity
- (D) Give me liberty or give me death

(C) The people of France overthrew their ancient government in 1789. They took as their slogan the famous phrase "Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité"—Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. Equality, or doing away with privilege, was the most important part of the slogan to the French revolutionists.

- Justice Navrang Lal Tibrewal passed away. In context to the same tell us, he was the acting governor of which state?

(A) Tamil Nadu (B) Telangana
(C) Rajasthan (D) Maharashtra

(C) Navrang Lal Tibrewal, born on 17th January 1937, is an esteemed Indian judge and former acting Governor of Rajasthan.

Beginning his legal career in Jhunjhunu district in 1965, he climbed the professional ladder becoming a high court judge in 1990, later,





- 47.** Wipro CEO Thierry Delaporte emerged as the highest paid CEO in India. In context to the same tell us, who is the founder of WIPRO?

(A) Azim Premji (B) Narayana Murthi
(C) Ratan Tata (D) Sundar Pichai

Ans: (A)

Exp: The founder of WIPRO is Azim Premji. It was founded on 29 December 1945.

The headquarters of WIPRO is Bengaluru, India. Thierry Delaporte is the current CEO of WIPRO.

- 48.** China starts up world's first fourth-generation nuclear reactor. In context to the same tell us, what was the name of India's and Asia's first nuclear reactor?

(A) Zerlina (B) Cirus
(C) Apsara (D) Purnima

Ans: (C)

Exp: India's and Asia's first nuclear reactor, Apsara was inaugurated by Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru on 20 January 1957.

The reactor was designed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) and built with assistance from the United Kingdom, which also provided the initial fuel supply consisting of 80 per cent enriched uranium.

The Apsara Reactor was permanently shutdown in 2010.

- 49.** Amit Shah chairs Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Patna. In context to the same tell us, what is the period of vice-chairman of Zonal Council?

(A) One year (B) Two year
(C) Three year (D) Four year

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Zonal Councils are the statutory bodies.

They are established by an Act of the Parliament, i.e. States Re-organisation Act of 1956.

It divided the country into five zones i.e. Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern and provided a zonal council for each zone.

The Home Minister of the Central government is the common chairman of the five zonal councils. Each chief minister of the concerned council acts as a vice-chairman of the council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time.

The main aim is to promote cooperation and coordination between states, union territories and the Centre.

The President will grace the 45th convocation of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith at Varanasi. In context to the same tell us, who among the following is the founder of Kashi Vidyapeeth?

(A) Acharya Narendra Dev
(B) Babu Shiv Prasad Gupta
(C) Mahatma Gandhi
(D) Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya

Ans: (B)

Exp: Babu Shiv Prasad Gupta and Bhagwan Das established the university in Varanasi, on 10 February 1921, during the non-cooperation movement of the freedom struggle. Originally named Kashi Vidyapith, the university was renamed Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith in 1995. It was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi. Bhajan Lal Sharma has been elected the new Chief Minister of Rajasthan. In context to history of Rajasthan tell us, who among the following established Mewar Kingdom in Rajasthan?

(A) Nagaditya (B) Shiladitya
(C) Bappa Rawal (D) Mahdenra II
(C)

Ans:
Exp: Mewar or Mewad is a region in the south-central part of Rajasthan state of India. It was established by Bappa Rawal. The bardic chronicles describe him as a member of the Guhila clan of Rajputs, and some of these consider him as the founder of the Guhila dynasty.

Indian Armed Forces contingent has reached Hanoi for the joint military exercise 'VINBAX-2023'. In context to the same tell us, which of the following have recently conducted a bilateral drill involving B-52H bombers?

(A) South Korea-USA
(B) USA-India
(C) France-Israel
(D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp: (A)
B-52H strategic bomber is a long-range, supersonic, jet-powered strategic heavy bomber capable of carrying nuclear arsenals. It was recently used during the bilateral air drills between South Korea and the United States. In recent weeks, North Korea has tested an





underwater nuclear-capable drone and an intercontinental ballistic missile.

- 53.** The Parliament of Poland has elected Donald Tusk as Prime Minister. In context to the same tell us, Warsaw is the capital of Poland and is located on the River?

(A) Kitakami (B) Vistula
(C) Oder (D) Warta

Ans: (B)

Exp: Warsaw is the capital of Poland and is located on Vistula river

Warsaw is the Largest city of Poland.

Vistula is Poland's longest River. Its about 1,047 km of Length

Vistula River begins from the south Poland with white little Vistula and black little Vistula.

Kitakami is the River of Japan. The River starts from mount nanashiruge north of Iwate and flows south between Ou mountains and kitakami mountains and separates into two channels.

Oder River arises in Czech Republic and flows through Poland.

- 54.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. In context to the same tell us, which country is the chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) in 2022?

(A) Australia (B) Canada
(C) India (D) France

Ans:

Exp: India assumed the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) from the outgoing chair France. GPAI is an association of 25 member countries, including the US, the UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Singapore. India joined GPAI in 2020 as a founding member.

- 55.** "Shar Amartala Torgya" Festival is an annual festival celebrated in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. In context to the same tell us, which of the following festivals is associated with Arunachal Pradesh?

(A) Pongal (B) Ugadi
(C) Wangala (D) Solung

Ans: (D)

Exp: Solung Festival is a harvest festival celebrated by the Adi tribe in the Indian state of Arunachal

Pradesh. The festival usually falls in the first week of September and is celebrated for five to ten days.

During the Solung festival, people offer prayers to the gods and goddesses of the Adi pantheon for a good harvest, prosperity, and well-being. They also offer sacrifices of animals, mostly of Mithuns (a type of bovine found in the Northeastern region of India), and feast on the meat.

National Youth Day is celebrated all over India on 12 January every year. In context to the same tell us, What was Swami Vivekananda's original name?

(A) Bhupedranath Datta
(B) Rajendranath Datta
(C) Narendranath Datta
(D) Ramakrishna Dutta

(C)

Swami Vivekananda, born as Narendranath Datta was an Indian Hindu monk, philosopher, author, religious teacher, and the chief disciple of the Indian mystic Ramakrishna.

56.

Ans:

Exp:

57.

Ans:

Exp:

DRDO has successfully test fired the new generation Akash (AKASH-NG) missile. In context to the same tell us, Akash Missile is a type of -

(A) surface-to-air
(B) surface-to-surface
(C) Air-to-air
(D) air-to-surface

(A)

Akash Missile was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in India.

Type: Medium-range surface-to-air missile.

Purpose: Designed for intercepting and destroying aerial threats, including enemy aircraft and drones.

Range and Altitude: Engagement range is approximately 25 kilometers.

Noteworthy capability to engage multiple targets simultaneously.

Enhances effectiveness in defending against multiple aerial threats.

58.

Varanasi and Prayagraj of Uttar Pradesh have been selected as the cleanest Ganga cities. In





context to the same tell us, which river known as the Ganga of South India?

- (A) Kaveri River (B) Godavari River
- (C) Krishna River (D) Narmada River

Ans: (B)

Exp: Godavari river rises from Trimbakeshwar in the Nashik district of Maharashtra.

It is also known as the Ganga of South India.

It is the second-longest river in India.

Dams on the Godavari river are - Polavaram Dam (Andhra Pradesh), Pochampad Dam (Telangana).

Tributaries of Godavari river are - Indravati (Chattisgarh) Painganga. Venganga.

59.

IndusInd Bank Launches 'Samman RuPay Credit Card' for Government Employees. In context to the same tell us, which among the following is the oldest joint stock bank in India?

- (A) Allahabad Bank (B) Bank of Baroda
- (C) Yes Bank (D) Punjab National Bank

Ans: (A)

Exp: Joint stock banks are those banks that issue shares to the public and are owned by them.

Allahabad Bank, which is the oldest joint stock bank in India, established in 1865.

Bank of Baroda, was established in 1908, which makes it younger than Allahabad Bank.

Yes Bank, is a private sector bank and was founded in 2004, which makes it much younger than Allahabad Bank.

Punjab National Bank, was established in 1894, which is only one year younger than Allahabad Bank. PNB is a state-owned bank and not a joint stock bank.

60.

PM Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge built on the sea in Mumbai. In context to the same tell us, which is the longest river bridge of India?

- (A) Mahatma Gandhi Setu
- (B) Bhupen Hazarika Bridge
- (C) Vikramshila Setu
- (D) Vembanad Rail Bridge

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, officially known as Bhupen Hazarika Bridge, is a beam bridge in India, connecting the northeast states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The bridge spans the Lohit River, a major tributary of the

Brahmaputra, connecting the village of Dhola in the south to the village of Sadiya to the north, both in Tinsukia district of Assam. The bridge is the first permanent road connection between the northern Assam and eastern Arunachal Pradesh. At 9.15 kilometres (5.69 mi) in length, it is the longest bridge in India over water.

Sri Lanka will get 337 million US dollars assistance from IMF to stabilize the economy. In context to the same tell us, when did the IMF start functioning?

- (A) 1945 (B) 1946
- (C) 1947 (D) 1948
- (C)

International Monetary Fund (IMF) -

The formation of the IMF was initiated in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference.

The IMF officially began operating on March 1, 1947, when the first 29 countries signed its Articles of Agreement.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., IMF focuses on fostering global monetary cooperation, securing financial stability, facilitating and promoting international trade, employment, and economic growth around the world.

The IMF is a specialized agency of the United Nations.

The IMF became operational on 27th December 1945 with 29 member countries that agreed to bind to this treaty.

It began its financial operations on 1st March 1947.

Countries were not eligible for membership in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) unless they were members of the IMF.

Indian T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav has scored 2000 runs in T20 International. In context to the same tell us, which of the following country has not won a single title of ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup?

- (A) Australia (B) Pakistan
- (C) England (D) Sri Lanka
- (A)

Australia has not won a single ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup so far while this country has

61.

Ans:

Exp:

Ans:

Exp:

62.

Ans:

Ans:

Exp:





Valluvar's contribution to politics is applicable to the present democratic governance for the welfare of all the people.

- 69.** BCCI has nominated Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami for the Arjuna Award. In context to the same tell us, who among the following was the first cricket player to win Arjun Award?
- (A) C K Nayudu
 - (B) Salim Durani
 - (C) Ajit Wadekar
 - (D) Ramakant Achrekar

Ans: (B)

Exp: Salim Durani is an Afghanistan born former Indian cricket player.

He was an all-rounder test player who played for the Indian team from 1963 to 1970.

He had also played a character in the movie Charitra.

He was awarded Arjuna award and became the first cricketer to be honoured with it.

He was also awarded CK Nayudu lifetime achievement award in 2011 by BCCI.

- 70.** World's first Methane powered rocket "Zhuque 2" launched by China. In context to the same tell us, what is the main component of biogas and natural gas?
- (A) Ethane
 - (B) Propane
 - (C) Methane
 - (D) Butane

Ans: (C)

Exp: Biogas contains methane as the main component, carbon dioxide and a variety of impurities.

Before upgrading the biogas purification is often required.

Biogas can be purified and used to produce natural gas, Bio-CNG, LBG.

- 71.** Fast Attack Craft INS Tarmugli was commissioned by the Indian Navy. In context to the same tell us, which submarine of the Indian Navy was leased from Russia and subsequently commissioned as INS Chakra?
- (A) Akula-class
 - (B) Kilo-class
 - (C) Foxtrot-class
 - (D) Charlie-class

Ans: (D)

Exp: The Soviet-origin K-43 was a Charlie-class nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine operated by the Indian Navy as Chakra. The

Project 670 Skat submarine (NATO classification Charlie class) was a nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine built for the Soviet Navy and later operated by the Russian Navy. All Charlie I/II-class submarines are decommissioned. One Charlie-class submarine was used for testing an Oniks missile.

72.

SBI to sign 70 million euro LoC with KfW for solar projects. In context to the same tell us, In which city in Rajasthan are two 1800 MW solar parks being built?

- (A) Jodhpur and barmer
- (B) Jaisalmer and Bikaner
- (C) Jaipur and Bikaner
- (D) Jaisalmer and Barmer

(B)

In the state of Rajasthan, Jaisalmer and Bikaner will each get two new solar farms with an 1800 MW capacity.

Through Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam, an 800 MW solar park with Jaisalmer would be created in the first phase.

Rajasthan Solar Park Development, a division of Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation, would construct a 1000 MW solar park in Bikaner.

Both parks will be built in accordance with Central Government Scheme Mode 8.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Central Government has given its approval for this.

Rijul Maini, a medical student from Michigan (US), won the title of Miss India USA 2023. In context to the same tell us, who was the first Indian woman to win the Miss World title?

- (A) Aishwarya Rai
- (B) Sushmita Sen
- (C) Reita Faria
- (D) Diya Mirza

(C)

Reita Faria was the first Indian woman to win the Miss World title.

She was won the Miss World title in 1966.

She is an Indian physician, a former model, and she is related to Mumbai city.

She is the first Asian woman to win the event (Miss world).

She is also the first Miss World winner to be qualified as a physician.





- 74.** BCCI has decided to retire the iconic number 7 jersey worn by former captain MS Dhoni. In context to the same tell us, which of the following tournament has not won by the Indian team under the captaincy of MS Dhoni?
- (A) ICC World Twenty20, 2007
 (B) Asia Cups in 2010 and 2016
 (C) ICC Cricket World Cup, 2011
 (D) ICC Champions Trophy 2017

Ans: (D)**Exp:** The 2007 ICC World Twenty20 was the inaugural Twenty20 International cricket world championship, contested in South Africa from 11 to 24 September 2007.

India has won seven consecutive Asia Cup titles. They won in 1984, 1988, 1990-1991, 1995, 2010, 2016 and 2018.

The 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup was the tenth Cricket World Cup. India won the tournament, defeating Sri Lanka by 6 wickets in the final at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

The final of the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy was played on 18 June 2017 between Pakistan and India at The Oval in London. Pakistan won by 180 runs. India came into the tournament as defending champions.

- 75.** Antim Panghal named UWW Rising Star of the Year. In context to the same tell us, who is the first Indian Woman wrestler to win an individual medal at the Olympic Games?
- (A) Kavita Dalal (B) Geeta Phogat
 (C) Sakshi Malik (D) Babita Phogat

Ans: (C)**Exp:** Sakshi Malik became the first Indian woman to win an individual Olympic medal in Wrestling. She won the Bronze medal in Women's 58 kg freestyle wrestling in the 2016 Summer Olympics held in Rio.

Saina Nehwal was the first Indian to win a medal in Badminton at the Olympics, by winning the Bronze medal at the London Olympics 2012 on 4 August 2012.

India's first woman to win an Olympic medal – Karnam Malleswari – Weightlifting.

- 76.** The Ministry of Defence signed a Rs 5,336.25 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for 10-year Electronic Fuze procurement. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is included in 'Navratna'?

- (A) Coal India
 (B) Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited
 (C) Bharat electronics limited
 (D) Gas Authority Of India Limited

(C)

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company with about nine factories and several regional offices in India.

It is owned by the Indian Government and primarily manufactures advanced electronic products for the Indian Armed Forces.

BEL is one of nine PSUs under the Ministry of Defence of India.

It has been granted Navratna status by the Government of India.

Starting with the manufacture of a few communication equipments's in 1956, BEL started producing receiving valves in 1961, germanium semiconductors in 1962 and radio transmitters for AIR in 1964.

The India-Korea Electronic Origin Data Exchange System was launched for swift clearance of goods under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following water bodies exists in the east of South Korea?

- (A) Sea of Japan (B) Yellow Sea
 (C) South China Sea (D) East China Sea

(A)

Sea of Japan lies in the east of the Korean peninsula, it separates Korea from Japan. Yellow sea lies in the west and South China sea in South-West.

The terms 'WannaCry, Petya and EternalBlue' recently mentioned in the news are related to -

- (A) Exoplanets (B) Cryptocurrency
 (C) Cyber attacks (D) Mini satellites

(C)

The terms 'WannaCry, Petya and EternalBlue' are all related to Cyber attacks.

Wannacry ransomware locks user's devices and prevents them from accessing data and software until a certain ransom is paid to its creator.

Petya spreads rapidly through networks that use Microsoft Windows.

EternalBlue is the name given to a software vulnerability in Microsoft's Windows operating system.

Ans:**Exp:****77.****Ans:****Exp:****78.****Ans:****Exp:**



handed over to National Capital Region Transport Corporation on 7 May 2022.

100 percent of these state-of-the-art RRTS trainsets are being manufactured in the country at the Alstom's factory in Savli, Gujarat.

The full corridor of the RRTS corridor will be commissioned by 2025.

- 89.** In the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) organized for the first time, Haryana state topped the medal table. In context to the same tell us, with reference to Khelo India Youth Games, which statement is not correct?

- (A) 2nd edition held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- (B) The first edition was held in New Delhi in 2018.
- (C) 3rd edition played in Guwahati, Assam in the year 2020
- (D) Haryana government will organise the 2021 edition of the Khelo India Youth Games in February 2022.

Ans: (A)

Exp: 2nd edition of the Khelo India Youth Games was held at Pune, Maharashtra.

Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG), formerly Khelo India School Games (KISG), are the annual national level multidisciplinary grassroot games in India.

On 27 February 2019, PM Narendra Modi launched the Khelo India App at the Indian Youth Parliament in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi to promote sports and fitness.

The first edition of Khelo India Youth Games was held in New Delhi in 2018.

3rd edition played in Guwahati, Assam in the year 2020.

4th edition was held in Panchkula, Haryana. It was supposed to happen in 2021 but due to COVID-19 it took place in 2022.

- 90.** Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur has signed a MoU with the Indian Navy. In context to the same tell us, Operation Maitri was the relief operation in which country by the IAF in the aftermath of the 2015?

- (A) Sri Lanka (B) Bhutan
- (C) Afghanistan (D) Nepal

Ans: (D)

Exp: Operation Maitri -

It is an earthquake's rescue and relief operation organized by the government of India and the

Indian Armed Forces during the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi launched the National Geology Data Repository Portal. In context to Geology tell us, what is the source of energy for the Earth's internal heat engine?

- (A) Solar energy (B) Ocean tides
- (C) Volcanoes (D) Radioactivity
- (D)

The heat flow from Earth's interior towards the top is believed to be in the terawatt range. It comes from two primary sources in nearly equal amounts: radiogenic heat created by the radioactivity of isotopes in the mantle and crust and primordial heat leftover from Earth's birth.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju flagged off India's first winter scientific expedition to the Arctic region. In context to the same tell us, what is the zone between the arctic circle and north pole called?

- (A) Torrid zone
- (B) North temperate zone
- (C) Frigid zone
- (D) South temperate zone
- (C)

In the Southern Hemisphere, the frigid zone is the area located between the South Pole and Antarctic Circle.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the frigid zone is the area located between the North Pole and the Arctic circle.

The Frigid zones are located near the poles.

91.

Ans:

Exp:

92.

Ans:

Exp:

93.

IAS Poonam Khetrapal Singh has been awarded Bhutan's prestigious National Order of Merit Gold Medal. In context to the same tell us, when is National Day of the Kingdom of Bhutan celebrated?

- (A) 17 December (B) 18 December
- (C) 19 December (D) 20 December
- (A)

National Day of the Kingdom of Bhutan is celebrated on 17 December every year.

Thimphu Tshechu is one of the biggest festivals in Bhutan.

The national flower of Bhutan is the Himalayan blue poppy (*Meconopsis gakyidiana*).





- 94.** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has announced the National Sports Awards 2023. In context to sports tell us, who won the final match of the fifth edition of Tennis Premier League (TPL) 2023?

- (A) Bengal Wizards
- (B) Bengaluru SG Mavericks
- (C) Punjab Patriots
- (D) Delhi Binny's Brigade

Ans: (B)

Exp: Bengaluru SG Mavericks secured victory against Bengal Wizards in the TPL final with a score of 41-28.

- 95.** HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue. In context to the same tell us, Guarantee to an exporter that the importer of his goods will pay immediately for the goods ordered by him, is known as -

- (A) laissezfaire
- (B) Inflation
- (C) Letter of Credit (L/C)
- (D) None of the Above

Ans: (C)

Exp: A guarantee to an exporter that the importer of his goods will pay immediately for the goods ordered by him, is known as Letter of Credit (L/C).

It is also known as 'Documentary Credits.'

It is the most commonly accepted instrument of settling international trade payments.

- 96.** Manipur Initiates "SAANS" Campaign to Counteract Pneumonia. In context to the same tell us, Pneumonia affects, which of the following part of the human body?

- (A) Kidney
- (B) Lungs
- (C) Liver
- (D) Heart

Ans: (B)

Exp: Pneumonia is a form of acute respiratory infection that affects the lungs.

The lungs are made up of small sacs called alveoli, which fill with air when a healthy person breathes.

When a person has pneumonia, the alveoli fill with pus and fluid, making breathing painful and limiting oxygen intake.

- 97.** Pramod Sharma Appointed as Director (Works) of NCSRCL. In context to the same tell us, NCSRCL is owned by which ministry?

- (A) Ministry of Railway
- (B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (C) Ministry of Social Justice
- (D) Ministry of Labour

Ans:

Exp:

The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited was incorporated in 2016 to manage the High Speed Rail Corridor in India. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India. NCSRCL was formed under the Companies Act, 2013.

98.

Leif Erikson Lunar Prize awarded to ISRO for Chandrayaan-3 achievement. In context to the same tell us, Kulasekarapattinam, associated with ISRO's second spaceport, is located in which state?

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Tamil Nadu
- (C) Andhra Pradesh
- (D) Karnataka

Ans:

Exp:

The second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has came up in about two years at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.

It is dedicated exclusively for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) developed by the private sector. About 2,000 acres has been acquired and handed over to ISRO.

Paradip Port set new record by handling 100 Mn Tons of cargo in 262 days. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is a correct sequence of seaports of India from "North to South"?

- (A) Cochin - Paradip - Calicut - Mangalore
- (B) Calicut - Paradip - Cochin - Mangalore
- (C) Paradip - Cochin - Calicut - Mangalore
- (D) Paradip - Mangalore - Calicut - Cochin

Ans:

Exp:

The Correct Sequence is Paradip - Mangalore - Calicut - Cochin.

Paradip Port -

Paradip Port is a natural, deep-water port on the East coast of India in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha.

It is situated at the confluence of the Mahanadi river and the Bay of Bengal.

Mangalore Port -





New Mangalore Port is a deep-water, all-weather port at Panambur, Mangalore in Karnataka state in India.

It is the deepest inner harbour on the west coast. Calicut port is in Kerala.

Cochin Port -

Cochin Port or Kochi Port is a major port on the Arabian Sea - Laccadive Sea – Indian Ocean sea-route

The port lies on two islands in the Lake of Kochi: Willingdon Island and Vallarpadam, towards the Fort Kochi river mouth opening onto the Laccadive Sea.

- 100.** Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana won Nagesh Trophy. In context to the same tell us, Bandodkar Trophy is associated with which sport?

- (A) Hockey
- (B) Cricket
- (C) Football
- (D) Badminton

Ans:

Exp: 'Bandodkar Gold Trophy' is associated with the sports of Football.

The Bandodkar Gold Cup was made of pure gold weighing several kilos.

The trophy was instituted in 1970, by then Chief Minister, the late Dayanand Bandodkar.

The Bandodkar Gold Cup was one of the top football tournaments in business in that era.

The tournament was disbanded in 1994, only to be revived some years back by the Association.

- 101.** Women's Rights Champion Dr. Mohini Giri Passes Away at 86. In context to the same tell us, name the online platform launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to support women entrepreneurs?

- (A) Digital India
- (B) Mahila E-haat
- (C) One Stop Centre Scheme
- (D) None of the above

Ans:

Exp: Mahila E-haat scheme was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development on 7 March, 2016 to support women entrepreneurs. It is basically a direct online marketing platform.

- 102.** NASA tested innovative 3D-printed rotating detonation rocket engine. In context to the same tell us, Thrust generation in the rocket propulsion is based on the following -

- (A) Newton second law of motion
- (B) Buoyance force
- (C) Pascal's law
- (D) Newton third law of motion

Ans:

Exp:

Newton's third law of motion:

The third law states that "For every action, there is an equal but opposite reaction".

Example: Thrust generation in the rocket propulsion.

When burn-out fuel mixture is thrown in the back direction with high velocity then in the reaction a forward thrust is generated which pushes the rocket in a forward direction.

Sukrita Paul Kumar won 6th Rabindranath Tagore literary prize. In context to the same tell us, Who among the following won the '3rd Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize' for his novel 'The City and The Sea' in December 2020?

- (A) Raj Kamal Jha
- (B) Shekhar Gupta
- (C) Siddhartha Sarma
- (D) Rajdeep Sardesai

Ans:

Exp:

Raj Kamal Jha is a newspaper editor and novelist in India.

He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of The Indian Express.

He was honoured with the 3rd Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize' for his novel 'The City and The Sea' in December 2020.

In September 2021, he was honoured with the Editor of The Year award by the India Chapter of the International Advertising Association.

He was honoured with the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book for his work 'The Blue Bedspread' in 2000.

He was awarded JCB Prize for Literature for his novel The City and The Sea in 2019.

104.

First-ever kidney transplant successfully conducted at SKIMS in J-K. In context to the same tell us, The kidneys in human beings are a part of the -

- (A) Nutrition system
- (B) Respiration system
- (C) Excretion system
- (D) Transportation system

Ans:

Exp:

Kidneys in human beings are a part of the system for excretion.





- 115.** The south-western African country Angola has decided to withdraw from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. In context to the same tell us, India is not a member of which one of the following organisations?

(A) BIMSTEC (B) OPEC
 (C) BRICS (D) G-20

Ans: (B)

Exp: OPEC- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

Founded: September 1960, Baghdad, Iraq

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Founder Members of the Organization: Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela

currently, the Organization has a total of 13 Member Countries.

Member Countries: Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.

India is not a member of OPEC.

- 116.** \$100m project by centre and ADB to revitalize Tripura's tourism. In context to the same tell us, On which day of the year 1966, Asian Development Bank was established?

(A) 19 December (B) 01 January
 (C) 01 April (D) 24 September

Ans: (A)

Exp: ADB was established on 19 December, 1966 on the recommendations of the economic commission for Asia and Pacific Region (ECAFE).

- 117.** NLC donated 4.30 crore to CM relief fund for flood relief in Tamilnadu. In context to the same tell us, NLC India Limited was founded in which year?

(A) 1956 (B) 1945
 (C) 1966 (D) 1978

Ans: (A)

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

Headquarters: Neyveli

Founder: Government of India

Founded: 1956

Owner: Ministry of Coal, Government of India

- 118.** PM Modi to chair third National Conference of Chief Secretaries. In context to the same tell us,

Which one of the following is not the functions of Chief Secretary?

- (A) He works as the secretary to the cabinet.
 (B) He acts as the ex-officio secretary to the Council of Ministers.
 (C) He works as the secretary to the Chief Minister.
 (D) He works as a Head of The Cabinet Secretariat Department

C)

Powers and Functions Chief Secretary -

The powers and functions of the Chief Secretary are mentioned in the 'Rules of Business' framed by a state government. He also derives some of his powers and functions from conventions.

As an Advisor to the Chief Minister: The Chief Secretary acts as the principal advisor to the Chief Minister on all matters of state administration. The Chief Minister consults the Chief Secretary on all policy issues related to the governance of the state. He explains to the Chief Minister the administrative implications of the proposals forwarded by the state ministers. He also acts as a link between the Chief Minister and other secretaries of the state government.

- 119.**

Indian Navy commissioned stealth guided missile destroyer "INS Imphal". In context to the same tell us, The Indian Navy launched its third guided missile destroyer, _____, as part of its Project 15B in April 2019.

- (A) INS Shaurya (B) INS Ganga
 (C) INS Sarita (D) INS Imphal
 (D)

Ans:

Exp: The Indian Navy launched its third guided missile destroyer 'INS Imphal' as part of its Project 15B on 20 April 2019.

The Navy had launched INS Vishakhapatnam, the first Project 15B ship, in April 2015, while the second ship, INS Mormugao, was launched in September 2016.

The INS Imphal was designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design.

- 120.**

Kerala most preferred state to work in India: India Skills Report 2024. In context to the same tell us, when was the 'Make in India' initiative formally introduced by Prime Minister Modi?

- (A) August 15, 2014 (B) September 25, 2014
 (C) October 2, 2014 (D) None of the above

(B)





Exp: Make in India was started by the Government of India on 25 September 2014 to focus on manufacturing goods in India by domestic and foreign companies. To accelerate the development of the economy, promote industrialization and entrepreneurship, and generate employment.

India's exports are less than its imports.

Make in India believes that one of the most important things to promote entrepreneurship; ease of doing business.

Many initiatives have already been initiated to ease the business environment.

It aims to de-license and de-regulate the industry throughout the business cycle.

- 121.** Ahead of Ram Temple inauguration, Ayodhya railway station renamed. In context to the same tell us, Which Indian railway station has been renamed after the First Indian RBI Governor CD Deshmukh?

- (A) Churchgate Railway Station
- (B) Thane Railway Station
- (C) Wadsa Railway Station
- (D) Palghar Railway Station

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Churchgate railway station in Mumbai is renamed as "Chintamanrao Deshmukh station", named after the first governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) CD Deshmukh.

- 122.** PNB gets board approval to raise Rs 7,500 crore through QIP or FPO. In context to the same tell us, The prime objective of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) is _____.

- (A) To create employment
- (B) To enhance production, productivity and profitability of farmers
- (C) To supply farming materials
- (D) To increase production

Ans: (B)

Exp: Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) have helped the farmers to enhance their economic strength and market linkages for improving their income.

The prime objective of FPO is to enhance the production, productivity, and profitability of farmers.

FPOs are voluntary organizations that are controlled by their farmer members who

participate actively in setting their policies and decision-making processes.

President Murmu to attend Karbi Youth Festival-2024 on Jan 17. In context to the same tell us, In which state Karbi Youth Festival is celebrated?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (A) Kerala | (B) Odisha |
| (C) Assam | (D) Bihar |

Ans:

Exp:

Karbi Youth Festival is an annual festival celebrated by the Karbi People living in East and West Karbi Anglong district and other districts in the Northeast Indian state of Assam, with occasional participation from other tribes and states of Northeastern India. It is considered the oldest ethnic festival in India.

Leader Vijayakanth passed away following illness. In context to the same tell us, he was the founder of which of the following political party?

- (A) All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
- (B) Communist Party of India
- (C) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
- (D) Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam

(D)
Narayanan Vijayaraj Alagarswami (25 August 1952 – 28 December 2023), better known by his stage name Vijayakanth, was an Indian politician and actor who worked predominantly in Tamil cinema.

Vijayakanth was the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 2011 to 2016.

He was the founder and president of the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMKD) Political party and served as a MLA twice representing the constituency of Virudhachalam and Rishivandiyam respectively from 2006 to 2016.

LIC appoints PC Paikray as Chief Risk Officer, Ratnakar Patnaik as Chief Investment Officer. In context to the same tell us, which of the following regulatory bodies regulates the insurance sector in India?

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (A) TRAI | (B) NABARD |
| (C) FSSAI | (D) IRDAI |

Ans:





Exp: IRDAI regulatory bodies regulate the insurance sector in India.

The full form of IRDAI is the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India. It is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. And is tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.

Founded: 1999

Sector: Insurance

Headquarters: Hyderabad

Chairperson: Subhash Chandra Khuntia

126. At what percentage has RBI kept the repo rate unchanged for the sixth consecutive time?

- (A) 6.00% (B) 6.25%
(C) 6.50% (D) 6.75%

Ans: (C)

Exp: RBI did not make any change in the repo rate for the sixth consecutive time.

All 6 members of the RBI MPC voted unanimously to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.

Whereas the real GDP growth estimate for FY24 was maintained at 6.5%.

Inflation projection for FY24 has also been retained at 5.4%.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das revealed the decisions taken in the MPC meeting.

127. Which country will host the 7th 'Indian Ocean Conference'?

- (A) India (B) Maldives
(C) Thailand (D) Australia

Ans: (D)

Exp: India's Foreign Minister Dr S Jaishankar will address the inaugural session of the 7th Indian Ocean Conference in Perth, Australia.

Ministers from more than 22 countries and senior officials from 16 countries and 6 multilateral organizations will participate in this conference.

The theme of this conference is "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".

128. Who has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Tata Digital, the e-commerce unit of Tata Group?

- (A) Naveen Tahiliani (B) Prateek Pal
(C) S Mukhopadhyay (D) Rana Kapoor

Ans: (A)

Exp: Naveen Tahilyani has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Tata Digital, the e-commerce unit of the Tata Group.

Naveen will replace Prateek Pal.

Tahilyani is currently the CEO and MD of Tata AIA Life Insurance Company.

Naveen will assume his post on 19 February 2024.

Tata Neu was launched on 7 April 2022, during which the servers were overloaded.

129. Who has launched Vidyanjali Scholarship Program recently?

- (A) S Jaishankar
(B) Piyush Goyal
(C) Dharmendra Pradhan
(D) Smriti Irani
(C)

Ans: Exp: Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme.

Under this program, help will be provided to those students who do not have enough money to get good education.

Vidyanjali Scholarship Program is in line with the National Education Policy 2020.

Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students -

The Scheme is in operational since 2008. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the meritorious students having family income of less than Rs 4.5 lakh per annum, to meet a part of their day-to-day expenses while pursuing higher studies.

130. Which portal has been recently launched by Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda?

- (A) 'Sarathi' portal (B) 'Sathi' portal
(C) 'Rakshak' portal (D) 'Srijan' portal

(A)

Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda has recently launched 'SARATHI Portal' for insurance products including Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

'Krishi Rakshak Portal' and helpline number 14447 were also launched to resolve complaints related to crop insurance.

131. Who has won the National Wrestling Championship in 74kg category?

- (A) Naveen Malik (B) Bajrang Punia





- Ans:** (C) Ravi Kumar Dahiya (D) Vinesh Phogat
Exp: (A)

Naveen Malik, Commonwealth Games gold medallist, emerged victorious in the men's freestyle 74kg category at the National wrestling championships. Malik faced a tough challenge from Yash Tushir, a former World junior bronze medallist, but managed to secure a narrow 5-4 victory. Despite injuring his right ankle early in the contest, Tushir put up a strong fight.

- 132.** The Jielong-3 rocket has been developed by which country, which has launched nine satellites recently?

- (A) Russia (B) China
 (C) Japan (D) Israel

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Jielong-3 rocket, developed by China, successfully launches nine satellites into orbit from a floating barge off the coast of Yangjiang. President Xi Jinping's push for expansion in the commercial space sector underscores the significance of building satellite networks for communication, remote sensing, and navigation. The rocket's ability to carry 1,500kg payloads to a 500km orbit.

- 133.** The 17th edition of Staff Talks between the India and which country's Navy to strengthen maritime cooperation?

- (A) Japan (B) Russia
 (C) China (D) France

Ans: (D)

Exp: The 17th Staff Talks between the Indian and French Navies were held to strengthen maritime cooperation.

The talks were co-chaired by senior representatives from both navies and focused on operational, training, and Subject Matter Expert exchanges.

Both sides acknowledged the growing cooperation between two navies and agreed to enhance collaboration & interoperability in the maritime domain.

- 134.** Who has won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award?

- (A) Robert Capa (B) Nima Sarikhani
 (C) Diane Arbus (D) Yousef Karsh

Ans: (B)

Exp: Picture of sleeping polar bear won Wildlife Photography Award.

Nima Sarikhani has won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award.

Sarikhani spent three days searching for polar bears on Norwegian islands.

The winning image titled 'Ice Bed' depicts a polar bear peacefully sleeping on ice.

The annual competition is organized by the Natural History Museum, showcasing stunning wildlife photography.

Farooq Nazki, the veteran journalist and poet, dies at 83. When was he awarded by the Sahitya Akademi award?

- (A) 1999 (B) 1991
 (C) 1995 (D) 1994
 (C)

Farooq Nazki, the veteran journalist and poet, dies at 83 in Katra Hospital.

Nazki served as media advisor to Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. Nazki held several important positions in All India Radio Kashmir and Doordarshan

Nazki was awarded the Sahitya Akademi award 1995 in Kashmiri for his poetry book "Naar Hyutun Kanzal Wanans" (Fire in the eyelashes).

Along with India, which country has been declared as joint winners of SAFF U-19 Women's Championship?

- (A) Bangladesh (B) Bhutan
 (C) Maldives (D) Nepal

(A) India and Bangladesh Declared Joint Winners of SAFF U-19 Women's Championship After Toss Controversy.

Match Ended 1-1, Penalty Shootout Tied 11-11, Leading to Confusion and Protest.

AIFF Accepts Decision to Declare Both Teams Joint Winners Due to Tournament Rules Misunderstanding.

India won comfortably against Bhutan (10-0) and Nepal (4-0) but lost to Bangladesh

Who has won the Sportstar Aces Award for Sportstar of the Year (Male)?

- (A) Chirag Shetty (B) Virat Kohli
 (C) Neeraj Chopra (D) PV Sindhu
 (C)





- Exp:** Sportstar Aces Awards 2024 - Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won the Sportstar Aces Award for Sportstar of the Year (Male)
Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports) - Hardik Singh, Mohammed Shami
Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports) - Vandana Katariya
Sportsman of the Year (Individual) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty
Sportswoman of the Year (Individual) Rameshbabu Vaishali, Sift Kaur Samra
Sheetal Devi won Sportstar of the Year (Female) at Sportstar Aces Awards 2024.
Coach of the Year - Rahul Dravid
Young Achiever of the Year (Male) - Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar
Young Achiever of the Year (Female) - Tilottama Sen
Lifetime Achievement Award - Chandu Borde, Karnam Malleswari
National Team of the Year - India Men's Cricket Team
Ace of Aces Award - Rohan Bopanna

- 138.** The Jawaharlal Nehru University has appointed whom as the new Dean of its School of International Studies?

- (A) Basharat Peer (B) Amitabh Mattoo
(C) Ananya Vajpeyi (D) Vishal Bhardwaj

Ans:**Exp:**

The Jawaharlal Nehru University has appointed Professor Amitabh Mattoo as the new Dean of its prestigious School of International Studies. Before being made Dean, Mr Mattoo was Chair of the Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament at SIS. Also a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu, Mr Mattoo is the only Padma Shri awardee currently on the rolls of JNU.

- 139.** In which field, Pyarelal Sharma has been honoured with Lakshminarayana International Award?

- (A) Music (B) Arts
(C) Literature (D) Science

Ans:**Exp:**

Music composer Pyarelal Sharma has been honoured with the Lakshminarayana International Award for his contribution to art.

Pyarelal, 83, was announced as a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honour, on the eve of Republic Day 2024.

The Lakshminarayana International Award was presented to the industry veteran by musicians L Subramaniam and Kavita Krishnamurti.

- 140.** Who of the following will not be awarded by Bharat Ratna for 2024?

- (A) Dr MS Swaminathan
(B) PV Narasimha Rao
(C) Chaudhary Charan Singh
(D) H D Deve Gowda

Ans:**Exp:**

The Bharat Ratna for 2024 will be awarded to: Father of the Green Revolution Dr MS Swaminathan

Former PM PV Narasimha Rao
Former PM Chaudhary Charan Singh
Former Deputy PM Lal Krishna Advani
Former CM Bihar Karpoori Thakur

The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India.

Instituted in 1954, it is conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order."

Bharat Ratna recipients rank 7th in the Indian order of precedence.

- 141.** Recently, RBI has imposed penalty of how much on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank?

- (A) 32 lakh (B) 78 lakh
(C) 99 lakh (D) 63 lakh

Ans:**Exp:**

The compliance on the review report of the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) dated March 31, 2021, and March 31, 2022.

It had offered interest rates on deposits for various durations higher than that offered by SBI in non-compliance with the SAF directions.

This penalty has been imposed under sections 47A(1)(C) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

- 142.** Which company will be the official sponsor of Chennai Super Kings?

- (A) Emirates (B) Etihad
(C) Qatar Airways (D) Air Arabia
(B)





Exp: Gulf carrier Etihad Airways agreed with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to become its official sponsor.

The partnership will cover CSK's events and platforms, while its players' jerseys will display the Etihad logo.

Etihad announces Bollywood star Katrina Kaif as its brand ambassador.

Etihad Airways Chief Revenue Officer - Arik De

143. With whom has the Maharashtra government signed an agreement for the use of AI in sectors like health and education?

- (A) Google
- (B) Tesla
- (C) Microsoft
- (D) Meta

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with Google to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for solutions in sectors like health, education and agriculture.

The MoU was signed at Google's Pune office in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

144. Where will the World Government Summit 2024 be organized?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) London
- (C) Dubai
- (D) Paris

Ans: (C)

Exp: The World Government Summit 2024 will be organized in Dubai between 12-14 February. Heads or representatives of more than 25 countries around the world will participate in this conference.

This year India, Turkey and Qatar have been invited as guest countries.

PM Modi will participate in this conference from India's side.

This year's theme is 'Shaping Future Governments'.

145. Which country has been chosen as the guest of honor at New Delhi World Book Fair?

- (A) Bahrain
- (B) Kuwait
- (C) Saudi Arabia
- (D) Oman

Ans: (C)

Exp: The World Book Fair in New Delhi began on 10th February, organized by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The theme for this year's fair is 'Multi-Lingual India, A Living Tradition.'

Saudi Arabia has been chosen as the guest of honor, highlighting the fair's international focus on promoting diverse cultures and literature.

146. What is the primary focus of the maiden Joint Cooperation Committee meeting between India and Rwanda held in Feb 2024?

- (A) Economic Cooperation
- (B) Cultural Exchange
- (C) Defence Cooperation
- (D) Environmental Sustainability

Ans: (C)

Exp: Defence Cooperation is the primary focus of the maiden Joint Cooperation Committee meeting between India and Rwanda held in Feb 2024. India and Rwanda held their first Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, on February 8, 2024.

The meeting aimed to discuss opportunities for enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries.

Detailed discussions were conducted on various aspects, including training cooperation, joint military exercises, and defence industrial cooperation.

The Indian delegation highlighted the growing capabilities of Indian defence manufacturers and their potential to export to friendly nations.

Rwanda expressed keen interest in strengthening training cooperation and collaborating with the Indian defence industry.

Bilateral relations between India and Rwanda have been cordial and have seen steady growth over the years.

147. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research celebrated its Foundation Day on which day of February 2024?

- (A) 09 February
- (B) 12 February
- (C) 11 February
- (D) 10 February

Ans: (D)

Exp: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research celebrated its Foundation Day on 10th February.





The CSIR is a leading scientific and technology research organization that offers specialized sci-tech services directly to industry and others.

Parent institution: Ministry of Science and Technology

Director General: N. Kalaiselvi

- 148.** Which Northeastern state becomes first to restore Old Pension Scheme in Feb 2024?

(A) Meghalaya (B) Sikkim
(C) Nagaland (D) Tripura

Ans: (B)

Exp: Sikkim government, led by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, announced the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for state government employees appointed on or after April 1, 2006. This decision makes Sikkim the first state in Northeast India to restore the OPS.

The move aims to bring employees appointed after April 1, 2006, under the provisions of Sikkim Services (Pension) Rules, 1990, similar to those appointed before March 31, 2006.

The official notification confirming this decision was signed by the Secretary to the Government of Sikkim, Rimzing Chewang Bhutia.

OPS is a defined pension scheme offering retirees half of their last drawn salary as a pension.

Dearness Relief (DR) under OPS is revised semi-annually, mirroring the adjustments made for serving employees' Dearness Allowance (DA).

- 149.** What is the motive of NASA's PACE satellite that has launched recently?

(A) To study solar system
(B) To study weather patterns
(C) To study black holes
(D) To study climate change

Ans: (D)

Exp: NASA's PACE Satellite launched to study climate change

NASA's PACE satellite successfully launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral.

The satellite will spend at least three years studying the oceans from 420 miles (676 kilometers) up, as well as the atmosphere.

PACE will provide valuable data for understanding climate change and its impacts on the planet.

150.

Where has the sports minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Nutritional Supplements Testing for Sportspersons (CoE-NSTS)?

(A) New Delhi (B) Gandhinagar
(C) Gurugram (D) Bangalore

Ans: (B)

Exp: Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Center of Excellence for Nutritional Supplements Testing at the National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Thakur emphasized the importance of fair play, integrity, and the role of NADA in strengthening India's anti-doping framework.

CoE-NSTS will test supplements for athletes to ensure they are dope free.

NADA organized a conference on anti-doping in the lead-up to the Paris Olympics 2024.

India's two leading sportspersons – para athlete Ranjeet Bhati, who competed at the Tokyo Paralympics in F57 category, and men's number one judoka in 60kg, Mohsin Gulab Ali, have been banned for four years each by NADA's anti-doping disciplinary panel after finding them guilty of consuming performance-enhancing drugs.

151. In which region did UPSC inaugurated a dedicated exam center?

(A) Kargil (B) Sonamarg
(C) Leh (D) Srinagar

Ans: (A)

Exp: UPSC established a dedicated examination center in Kargil, responding to the demands of UPSC aspirants in the Frontier District.

The new center will be operational for the upcoming Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination.

This move is aimed at addressing the challenges faced by aspirants in remote areas and providing them with a fair platform to pursue their dreams of civil service.

Constitutional Provisions regarding UPSC - Article 315: Constitution of Public Service Commissions (PSC) for the Union and for the States of India.

Article 316: Appointment and term of office of members of UPSC as well as SPSC.

Article 317: Removal and suspension of a member of both the UPSC or SPSC.





Article 318: Power to make regulations for the conditions of service of members and staff of the Commission.

Article 319: Prohibition of holding the office by members of Commission upon ceasing to be such members.

Article 320: States the functions of Public Service Commissions.

Article 321: Power to extend the functions of Public Service Commissions.

Article 322: Expenses of Public Service Commissions.

Article 323: Reports of Public Service Commissions.

(C) PM Nishadraj Boat Subsidy Scheme
(D) PM Kisan Credit Cards (Aquaculture & Fisheries)

(A) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana for micro and small enterprises in fisheries approved.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund extended for 3 years up to 2025-26 with a fund size of Rs 7,522.48 crore and budget support of Rs 939.48 crore.

It aims to boost fisheries infrastructure development, leveraging financial resources and encouraging private sector investment.

- 152.** Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Fit India Movement?

(A) Sushil Chandra
(B) Narendra Kumar Yadav
(C) Govind Mishra
(D) Pramod Chandra Mody

Ans: (B)

Exp: Narendra Kumar Yadav, an IRS officer, has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Fit India Movement.

Yadav is a fervent fitness enthusiast and certified fitness trainer and nutritionist.

Through his new role, Yadav aims to amplify the message of health and fitness, inspire individuals across the nation to prioritize their physical and mental well-being.

- 153.** Ajay Kumar Choudhary has been appointed as non-executive chairman of NPCI for how many years from 2024?

(A) Three (B) Five
(C) One (D) Eight

Ans: (A)

Exp: Ajay Kumar Choudhary has been appointed as non-executive chairman of NPCI for three years from February 8, 2024.

Choudhary succeeded Biswamohan Mahapatra, who held the position since 2018.

Choudhary has over three decades of experience at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), specializing in banking regulation, supervision, and fintech.

- 154.** In February 2024, Cabinet has approved which scheme for MSMEs in fisheries?

(A) PM Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana
(B) PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. has signed an MoU with which Enterprise Incubation Centre recently for the incubation of start-ups?

(A) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
(B) Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow
(C) Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta
(D) Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode

(B) Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., a PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, signed an MoU with IIM Lucknow Enterprise Incubation Centre (IIML EIC) for incubating startups.

The MoU was signed on February 6, 2024, by Balmer Lawrie's Directors and the Managing Director of IIML EIC.

Balmer Lawrie launched its startup fund in May 2017 as part of the 'Startup India' initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016.

The collaboration aims to promote innovation by creating a conducive ecosystem for the growth of startups.

IIML EIC has a structured framework including accelerator programs, seed capital, mentoring, and training to support startups.

In which two countries has UPI payment system been launched recently?

(A) Brazil and Argentina
(B) Japan and South Korea
(C) France and Italy
(D) Sri Lanka and Mauritius

(D) The scope of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services is gradually increasing.

Ans:
Exp:

(A)

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Ans:
Exp:

(A)

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(B) Japan and South Korea
(C) France and Italy
(D) Sri Lanka and Mauritius

(D) The scope of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services is gradually increasing.





Now the names of Sri Lanka and Mauritius have also been added to this list.

NPCI launched UPI services in the year 2016.

UPI system is a mobile application based system which provides the facility of payment from bank accounts.

Recently this facility was also launched in France.

- 157.** Who recently won the singles title of Chennai Open Tennis Tournament?

(A) Andy Murray (B) Sumit Nagal
(C) Rohan Bopanna (D) Luca Nardi

Ans: (B)

Exp: India's top singles player Sumit Nagal won the singles title of Chennai Open tennis tournament. In the final he defeated Luca Nardi of Italy to win his fifth Challenger level singles title. He won his first Challenger at the Bengaluru Open in 2017 and won the Buenos Aires Challenger title a few years later.

- 158.** In which city was 'Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra' established?

(A) Chennai (B) Visakhapatnam
(C) Hyderabad (D) Bhubaneswar

Ans: (C)

Exp: The first regional center of its kind was established in Hyderabad by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, which will be known as "Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra". Former Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu and Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurated it on 12 February.

Along with this, the foundation stone of "Bharat Kala Mandapam Auditorium" was also laid.

- 159.** With whom has IREDA signed an agreement for innovation and research in the renewable energy sector?

(A) IIT Varanasi (B) IIT Delhi
(C) IIT Bhubaneswar (D) IIT Mumbai

Ans: (C)

Exp: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector. IREDA, an Indian public sector enterprise, was established in 1987.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited is an Indian public sector enterprise

which provides financial assistance and other services to projects related to renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.

Which country won the title of ICC Under-19 World Cup 2024?

- (A) Sri Lanka (B) Australia
(C) India (D) South Africa
(B)

Defending champion Australia won the title by defeating India in the final of ICC Under-19 World Cup 2024.

This is the fourth time that Australia has won this title.

This is the third consecutive time that Australia defeated India in the final.

The most runs in the tournament were scored by India's Uday Saharan (397 runs) and the most wickets were taken by South Africa's Kwena Mafaka (21 wickets).

Alexander Stubb has been elected as Prime Minister of which country?

- (A) Norway (B) Sweden
(C) Iceland (D) Finland
(D)

Former Prime Minister of Finland Alexander Stubb has registered a historic victory in the presidential elections held in the country.

National Coalition Party candidate Stubb got 51.6 percent of the votes, while Haavisto got 48.4 percent of the votes.

Stubb served as the country's Prime Minister in 2014–2015.

Finland is a Northern European country, bordering Sweden, Norway and Russia.

The capital of Finland is Helsinki.

Who has become the first Sri Lankan cricketer to score a double century in ODI?

- (A) Angelo Mathews
(B) Pathum Nissanka
(C) Kusal Mendis
(D) Avishka Fernando
(B)

Pathum Nissanka has created history by becoming the first Sri Lankan cricketer to score a double century in One Day International.

Nissanka played a brilliant inning of 210* runs in 139 balls.





Nissanka broke Sanath Jayasuriya's previous record of 189 runs.

Jayasuriya played this innings against India in Sharjah in 2000.

- 163.** The 2024 KPP Nambiar Award has been awarded to whom by Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Kerala?

- (A) Sivan Kailasavadivoo
- (B) S Somanath
- (C) P Veeramuthuvel
- (D) Nambi Narayanan

Ans:

Exp: Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Kerala section awarded the 2024 KPP Nambiar Award to ISRO Chairman S Somanath. Somanath has played a key role in ISRO's lunar exploration program, Chandrayaan-3.

The annual award is instituted to honour individuals or groups in Kerala, for their significant contributions to the IEEE vision of advancing technology for humanity.

- 164.** What is the name of the entrepreneurship program initiated by the Meghalaya government in February, 2024?

- (A) CM-Innovate
- (B) CM-Empower
- (C) CM-Elevate
- (D) CM-Enrich

Ans:

Exp: The entrepreneurship program initiated by the Meghalaya government is called CM-Elevate. Under this program, the Meghalaya government aims to support over 20,000 entrepreneurs in the state.

The program offers financial assistance and support to entrepreneurs for various business ventures.

CM-Elevate aims to create a culture of entrepreneurship and empower the youth to capitalize on opportunities within the state.

The government has earmarked Rs. 300 crore for this scheme, demonstrating its commitment to promoting entrepreneurship and job creation in the private sector.

Through CM-Elevate, the government seeks to reduce dependency on government jobs and encourage youth participation in private sector development.

165. Which national waterway is involved in the trial movement of vessels between Maia Port in India and Sultanganj Port in Bangladesh?

- (A) NW-1
- (B) NW-2
- (C) NW-3
- (D) NW-4

(B)

The trial movement of vessels between Maia Port in India and Sultanganj Port in Bangladesh involves National Waterway 2 (NW-2).

NW-2 runs from Dhubri in Assam to Sadiya, covering a significant stretch of the Brahmaputra River.

The waterway route from Maia to Dhubri via Aricha will reduce the distance by about 930 kilometers compared to the existing route.

This initiative aligns with the Act East Policy of the Indian government and aims to boost trade and connectivity between India and Bangladesh. The trial movement signifies efforts to explore direct shipping links between the two countries, as agreed during the state visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in 2022.

- 166.** In which city did Defence Minister unveiled the statue General Bipin Rawat?

- (A) Dehradun
- (B) Meerut
- (C) Indore
- (D) Chandigarh

(A)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh revealed a life-size statue of the late General Bipin Rawat at TonsBridge School in Dehradun.

General Rawat served as the 57th Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee as well as 26th Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army.

He served as the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) from January 2020 until his death in a helicopter crash in December 2021.

Prior to taking over as the CDS, he served as the 57th Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (Chairman COSC) of the Indian Armed Forces as well as 26th Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army.

- 167.** What initiative was launched by Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya at AIIMS, New Delhi in Feb 2024?

- (A) AIIMS-SBI Smart Health Card
- (B) AIIMS-SBI Smart Payment Card
- (C) AIIMS-SBI Digital Health Wallet
- (D) AIIMS-SBI Cashless Transaction Card

(B)





Exp: AIIMS-SBI Smart Payment Card has been launched for cashless transactions at AIIMS, New Delhi.

The card issued free of cost to all patients, linked to patient's Unique Hospital Identification number and Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID.

The card aims to provide ease and safety for patients and their caretakers, eliminating the need to carry cash to the hospital.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the SBI-AIIMS Smart card system was formalized during the launch event, marking a significant milestone in healthcare digitization and patient welfare initiatives.

168. What is the interest rate has been declared by EPFO for FY 2023-24?

- (A) 8.10% (B) 8.15%
- (C) 8.20% (D) 8.25%

Ans: (D)

Exp: 8.25% is the interest rate declared by EPFO for FY 2023-24.

EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation) has raised the interest rate on provident fund deposit to 8.25% for the financial year 2023-24.

This marks a 3-year high compared to the previous rates of 8.15% in the preceding year and 8.10% in 2021-22.

The decision was made by the central board of trustees of EPFO, headed by the Minister of Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav, during the 235th board meeting.

The proposed interest rate awaits official notification after approval from the Ministry of Finance.

169. Which institution did AIIMS New Delhi sign a collaboration agreement with for cancer research?

- (A) University of Manchester
- (B) University of Liverpool
- (C) University of Cambridge
- (D) University of Oxford

Ans: (B)

Exp: The University of Liverpool and AIIMS New Delhi signed a collaboration agreement for cancer research.

AIIMS New Delhi has signed a Collaboration Agreement with the University of Liverpool to establish the 'AIIMS Liverpool Collaborative Centre for Translational Research in Head and Neck Cancer - ALHNS'.

The collaboration aims to enhance research in head and neck cancer by leveraging the expertise of both institutions.

The agreement builds upon existing collaboration between the Liverpool Head and Neck Centre (LNHC), University of Liverpool, and the Head and Neck Cancer Unit at AIIMS. The initiative was inaugurated in the presence of Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.

170.

Who has become Tamil Nadu's first transwoman Travelling Ticket Examiner?

- (A) Sindhu Ganapathy (B) Naaz Joshi
- (C) Anjali Ameer (D) Nitasha Biswas

Ans:

Exp:

Sindhu Ganapathy, Tamil Nadu's first trans train ticket examiner, is hopeful for a brighter future for the transgender community through education and perseverance.

Despite facing challenges, she received support from the Southern Railway Mazdoor Union, motivating her to excel in her work.

After an accident injured her hand, Sindhu transitioned to a non-technical role.

171.

In which city world's first air taxi service will launch in 2026?

- (A) Abu Dhabi (B) Dubai
- (C) Doha (D) Sharjah

(B)

Dubai has signed agreements to launch the world's first air taxi service in 2026.

The air taxis will be electric-powered, have a range of 161 km, and a top speed of 321 km/h. The air taxi network will aim to reduce noise levels, operating emissions, and enhance passenger convenience.

Dubai has inked this agreements at the World Government Summit 2024 to launch this initiative.

172.

Which Government agency has launched GROW Initiative for Agroforestry in Wastelands?

- (A) National Academy of Agriculture



- (B) NITI Aayog
 (C) Ministry of Forests & Climate Change
 (D) Centre for Civil Society

Ans: (B)

Exp: NITI Aayog's GROW initiative aims to transform India's wastelands through agroforestry, using remote sensing and GIS technologies to identify suitable areas. The GROW report and portal provide state & district-wise data on agroforestry potential, including Agroforestry Suitability Index (ASI) for prioritization. Agroforestry has the potential to reduce wood imports, mitigate climate change.

173. PM Modi has inaugurated Hindu Temple "BAPS Mandir" in which country?

- (A) Saudi Arabia (B) Qatar
 (C) UAE (D) Bahrain

Ans: (C)

Exp: Prime Minister Modi has inaugurated UAE's historic BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Abu Dhabi on February 14. BAPS (Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha) is a socio-spiritual Hindu faith founded in 18th century by Bhagwan Swaminarayan and formally established in 1907 by Shastriji Maharaj.

BAPS is based on the Vedas and focuses on practical spirituality to address societal challenges. It seeks to promote spiritual growth, community service & global harmony through its activities.

174. International Darwin Day has been observed on which day of February to commemorate the birth anniversary of Charles Darwin?

- (A) 10 February (B) 11 February
 (C) 12 February (D) 13 February

Ans: (C)

Exp: 12 February is celebrated as Darwin Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of the father of evolutionary biology, Charles Darwin. This day highlights Darwin's contribution to evolutionary and plant science. Darwin published his work on evolution by natural selection as a book (On the Origin of Species). In 2015, 'Origin of Species' was voted the most influential academic book in history.

175. Recently Dattajiro Krishnarao Gaekwad passed away, he was associated with which sport?

- (A) Cricket (B) Football
 (C) Hockey (D) Badminton
 (A)

India's oldest Test cricketer and former captain Dattajirao Gaekwad died due to age-related ailments.

Gaekwad, who was the father of former India opener and national coach Aunshuman Gaekwad, was 95.

He appeared in 11 Test matches, toured England in 1952 and 1959 and West Indies in 1952.

He was distantly related to Baroda royal family and served as the Deputy comptroller to the Baroda state.

176. Which army was defeated by Mahmud of Ghazni to conquer Peshawar and Punjab?

- (A) Ghurids (B) Arabs
 (C) Karkotakas (D) Hindushahis

Ans: (D)

Exp: Battle of Peshawar, was fought on 27 November 1001 between the Ghaznavid army of Sultan Mahmud bin Sebuktigin (Mahmud of Ghazni) and the Hindu Shahi army of Jayapala, near Peshawar. Jayapala was defeated and captured, and as a result of the humiliation of the defeat, he later immolated himself in a funeral pyre.

177. The Mongol Empire existed during the 13th and 14th centuries, and was the largest contiguous land empire in history the Mongol Empire eventually stretched from Eastern Europe and parts of Central Europe to the Sea of Japan, who was the founder of Mongol Empire?

- (A) Kublai Khan (B) Genghis Khan
 (C) Mongke Khan (D) None

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Mongol Empire was a vast empire during the 13th and 14th centuries. This empire began with the unification of the nomadic tribes of Mongolia by Genghis Khan. Beginning in Central Asia, this state eventually spread from Europe in the east to the Sea of Japan in the west and from Siberia in the north to the Indian subcontinent in the south. The Mongol rulers were Buddhists at first, but later gradually came into contact with the Turks and embraced Islam.





- 178.** Which king is referred to as Devanampiya Piyadassi (Beloved of the Gods) in the inscriptions?

(A) Asoka
(B) Harsha
(C) Bindusara
(D) Chandragupta Maurya

Ans. (A)

Exp: Ashoka, also known as Ashoka the Great, was an Indian emperor of the Maurya Dynasty, who ruled almost all of the Indian subcontinent from c. 268 to 232 BCE. The grandson of the founder of the Maurya Dynasty, Chandragupta Maurya, Ashoka promoted the spread of Buddhism across ancient Asia. Considered by many to be one of India's greatest emperors, Ashoka expanded Chandragupta's empire to reign over a realm stretching from present-day Afghanistan in the west to Bangladesh in the east.

- 179.** The Edicts of Ashoka are a collection of more than thirty inscriptions on the pillars, as well as boulders and cave walls, attributed to Emperor Ashoka of the Mauryan Empire who reigned from 268 BCE to 232 BCE. The Asoka Edicts were deciphered first by:

(A) Sir John Marshall
(B) Sir William Jones
(C) Charles Wilkins
(D) James Prinsep

Ans. (D)

Exp: James Prinsep antiquary and colonial administrator in India, the first European scholar to decipher the edicts of the ancient Indian emperor Ashoka. Prinsep was appointed to the Calcutta (Kolkata) mint in 1819 but he left the post to become assay master (1820–30) at the Benares (Varanasi) mint. He was the founding editor of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and is best remembered for deciphering the Kharosthi and Brahmi scripts of ancient India.

- 180.** The Pala Empire was an imperial power during the Late Classical period on the Indian subcontinent, which originated in the region of Bengal. It is named after its ruling dynasty; whose rulers bore names ending with the suffix of Pala ("protector" in Sanskrit). They were followers of the Mahayana and Tantric schools of Buddhism. The first ruler of Pala dynasty was?

(A) Bhaskaravarman

(B) Dharmapala

(C) Gopala

(D) None of the above

Ans. (C)

Exp: Pala dynasty, ruling dynasty in Bihar and Bengal, India, from the 8th to the 12th century. Its founder, Gopala, was a local chieftain who rose to power in the mid-8th century during a period of anarchy. His successor, Dharmapala (reigned c 770–810), greatly expanded the kingdom and for a while was in control of Kannauj. Ramapala (reigned c. 1077–1120), the last important Pala king, did much to strengthen the dynasty in Bengal and expanded its power in Assam and Orissa.

- 181.** Members of the Arya Samaj believe in one God and reject the worship of idols. Who started Arya Samaj?

(A) Swami Vivekananda
(B) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(C) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
(D) Swami Dayanand Saraswati

Ans. (D)

Exp: Arya Samaj is a Hindu reform movement founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1875 in Bombay with the inspiration of Swami Virjanand of Mathura. This movement was started to reform Hinduism in response to Western influences. The Aryans believed in pure Vedic tradition and rejected idol worship, avatarism, sacrifice, false rituals and superstitions. In this, untouchability and caste discrimination were opposed and women and Shudras were also given the right to wear Yagyopaveet and read the Vedas. The book titled Satyarth Prakash composed by Swami Dayanand Saraswati is the original book of Arya Samaj. The motto of the Arya Samaj is: Krishnamanta Vishvamaryam, which means - Make the world Arya.

- 182.** The Second Battle of Panipat was fought on 5 November 1556 and it was fought between?

(A) Babur and Lodi
(B) Akbar and Hemu
(C) Mughal and British
(D) Akbar and Lodi

Ans. (B)

Exp: Akbar the Great, was the third Mughal emperor, who reigned from 1556 to 1605. Akbar succeeded his father, Humayun, under a regent, Bairam





Khan, who helped the young emperor expand and consolidate Mughal domains in India. Hemu known as Hemu Vikramaditya and Hemchandra Vikramaditya (died 5 November 1556) was a Hindu king. He fought Afghan rebels across North India from the Punjab to Bengal and the Mughal forces of Humayun and Akbar in Agra and Delhi, winning 22 battles for Adil Shah. Hemu was wounded by a arrow and captured unconscious during the Second Battle of Panipat.

- 183.** Sarvodaya is a Sanskrit term meaning 'universal uplift' or 'progress of all'. The term was used by Mahatma Gandhi as the title of his 1908 translation of John Ruskin's tract on political economy, and Gandhi came to use the term for the ideal of his own political philosophy. The Sarvodaya Movement was initiated by?
- (A) Mahatma Gandhi
 - (B) J P Narayan
 - (C) Vinoba Bhave
 - (D) Bhagat Singh

Ans. (C)

Exp: Vinayak Narahari "Vinoba" Bhave was an Indian advocate of nonviolence and human rights. Sarvodaya means "the welfare of all." Sarvodaya movement is the movement which aims at rural reconstruction and uplifting the people of rural India by peaceful and co-operative means. Sarvodaya stresses on coexistence and mutual love. After Gandhi, It was subsequently adopted by Acharya Vinoba Bhave. He developed it taking into consideration of Indian social systems and conditions.

- 184.** Harijan Sevak Sangh is a non-profit organisation founded by Mahatma Gandhi to eradicate untouchability in India, working for Harijan or Dalit people and upliftment of scheduled castes of India. It is headquartered at Kingsway Camp in Delhi, with branches in 26 states across India. All India Harijan Sangha established in which year?
- (A) 1930
 - (B) 1931
 - (C) 1932
 - (D) 1933

Ans. (C)

Exp: Harijan Sewak Sangh, born out of the historic Poona Pact between Mahatma Gandhi and Babasaheb Ambedkar in 1932, was founded by the Father of the Nation the same year, to lend a

conducive environment for the upliftment of the oppressed classes or 'Harijans' as he called them. But the place that Gandhi personally nurtured to "bring light" into the lives of the people living on the lower strata of the society, has itself, literally "fallen into darkness".

- 185.** The title 'Punjab Kesari' was conferred to?
- (A) Lala Lajpat Rai
 - (B) Sardar Baldev Singh
 - (C) Bhagat Singh
 - (D) Ranjit Singh

Ans. (A)

Exp: Lala Lajpat Rai was an Indian freedom fighter. He played a pivotal role in the Indian Independence movement. He was popularly known as Punjab Kesari. He was also associated with activities of Punjab National Bank and Lakshmi Insurance Company in their early stages in 1894. Lajpat Rai was a veteran leader of the Indian Nationalist Movement, Indian independence movement led by the Indian National Congress, Hindu reform movements and Arya Samaj.

- 186.** Mangal Pandey was a sepoy at which infantry?
- (A) Royal Gorkha Rifle
 - (B) 34th Bengal Native Infantry
 - (C) Sikh Regiment
 - (D) None of above

Ans. (B)

Exp: He was a sepoy (sipahi) in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry (BNI) regiment of the British East India Company. In 1857, the Indian government issued a postage stamp to remember him. His life and actions have also been portrayed in several cinematic productions. Pandey was born in a town near Faizabad in what is now eastern Uttar Pradesh state in northern India, although some give his birth place as a small village near Lalitpur (in present-day southwestern Uttar Pradesh). He was from a high-caste Brahman landowning family that professed strong Hindu beliefs.

- 187.** Who was the founder of Madras?
- (A) Francis Day
 - (B) Lord Dalhousie
 - (C) Sir John Child
 - (D) Robert Clive

Ans. (A)

Exp: Francis Day was an administrator associated with the East India Company. He served as a factor of the Company's factory at Masulipatnam from 1632 to 1639. In 1639, he negotiated the purchase





of a strip of land south of the Dutch factory at Pulicat from the Raja of Chandragiri, where the town of Madras was built. He served as the second Agent of Madras from 1643 to 1644. Along with Andrew Cogan, he is regarded as the founder of Madras.

Ans. (D)

Q: During the time of 6-7th century BC there were total 16 janpads were existing throughout the country.

These were Kasi, Kosala, Anga, Magadha, Vajji, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchala, Machcha, Surasena, Assaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kamboja.

In the Buddhist traditions these kingdoms came to be known as 'Mahajanapadas'

(B) Ans. (B)

Exp: Vaishali was not among the 16 janpadas present during 7th century (B)(C) During the time of 6-7th century (B)C there were total 16 janpads were existing throughout the country. These were Kasi, Kosala, Anga, Magadha, Vajji, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchala, Machcha, Surasena, Assaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kamboja.

Ans. (D)

Exp: Project Tiger was first initiated in the year April 1, 1973, by GOI and is still going on.

During the tiger census of 2006, a new methodology was used extrapolating sitespecific densities of tigers, their

copredators and prey derived from camera trap and sign surveys using GIS.

The government has set up a Tiger Protection Force to combat poachers and funded relocation of villagers to minimize human-tiger conflicts.

- 191.** Name the state of the following which Chandragupta I had got in the dowry from Lichchavi.

(A) Pataliputra (B) Prayag
(C) Saket (D) Ujjain

Ans. (A)

Q: Chandragupta I got Pataliputra in dowry from the Lichhavis. It is not certain how he turned his small ancestral kingdom into an empire, although a widely accepted theory among modern historians is that his marriage to the Lichchhavi princess Kumaradevi helped him extend his political power. Their son Samudragupta further expanded the Gupta empire.

192. The earliest dynasty, known as the "Badami Chalukyas". Who was the founder of the Chalukya dynasty?
(A) Pulaksen First (B) Kirtivarman
(C) Narasimhavarman (D) Mangalsa

Ans. (A)

Exp: Jayasimha was the first ruler of the Chalukyas. Pulakesin I was founded the Badami Chalukyas with his capital at Vatapi. Performed Ashwamedha. Kirtivarman I was Son of Pulakesin I.

193. Encouraged by his early successes, the Sultan of which Delhi Sultanate assumed the title of 'Sikandar II' (mash) and mentioned it on his coins?

 - (A) Allaudin Khilji
 - (B) Jalal-ud-din Khilji
 - (C) Ghiyas ud din Balban
 - (D) Firoz shah Tughlaq

Ans. (A)

Exp: Jalal-ud-din Khalji was the founder and first Sultan of the Khalji dynasty that ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1290 to 1320. Encouraged by his early successes, Alauddin assumed the title of 'Sikandar II' (mash) and mentioned it on his coins. Alauddin accepted the title of 'Yamin-ul-Khilafat-Nasiri-Amir-ul-Mominin', recognizing the authority of the Caliphate, but he did not consider





it necessary to take his post from the Caliph. The Ulema class was also not allowed to interfere in its governance.

- 194.** The Bagh Caves are a group of nine rock-cut monuments, situated among the southern slopes of the Vindhya range in Bagh town of Dhar district in which state?

(A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) Himachal Pradesh
(C) Sikkim
(D) Odisha

Ans. (A)

Q: Bagh caves are situated in state of Madhya Pradesh, Dhar District. Bagh caves are known for rock cut architecture. Mainly inspired from Buddhism.

All of the 9 caves are viharas- the caves used for residence by Buddhist Monks.

- 195.** The Badami Chalukyas first had their capital at where before they moved it to Badami?

(A) Pattadakal (B) Aihole
(C) Hubli (D) Bijapur

Ans. (B)

Exp: Aihole, also referred to as Aivali, Ahivolal or Aryapura, is a historic site of ancient and medieval era Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments in north Karnataka. Aihole is an important archaeological site and recognized as UNESCO World heritage site. 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.

Ans. (A)

Exp: Canada's coastline is the world's longest, measuring 243,042 km (includes the mainland coast and the coasts of offshore islands).

197. Evergreen type forests are found in:
(A) Mediterranean region
(B) Monsoon climatic area
(C) Desert region
(D) Equatorial region

(B) Ans. (B)

Exp: An evergreen forest is a forest made up of evergreen trees. They occur across a wide range of climatic zones, and include trees such as coniferous and holly in cold climates, eucalyptus, Live oak, acacias and banksia in more temperate zones, and rainforest trees in tropical zones.

Monsoon climate, also known as the tropical monsoon climate, is found in the region bounded by the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The region is influenced by the movement of inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) and is hot and humid all around the year because the sun remains overhead.

- 198.** The ash-grey soils of high latitude coniferous forests are known as:

 - (A) Grey-Brown soils
 - (B) Red and Yellow soils
 - (C) Tundra soils
 - (D) Podsol

Ans. (A)

Ans. (A)

Exp: Brown podzolic soils are a subdivision of the Podzolic soils in the British soil classification. Although classed with podzols because they have an iron-rich, or spodic horizon, they are, in fact intermediate between podzols and Brown earths. They are common on hilly land in western Europe, in climates where precipitation of more than about 900mm exceeds evapotranspiration for a large part of the year, and summers are relatively cool.

199. Equinox occurs when the sun is vertically above
(A) Tropic of Capricorn (B) Tropic of Cancer
(C) Poles (D) Equator

Ans. (D)

Exp: An equator is an imaginary line around the middle of a planet or other celestial body. It is halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole, at 0 degrees latitude. An equator divides the planet into a Northern Hemisphere and a Southern Hemisphere. The Earth is widest at its Equator.

Ans (C)

Ans. (C)
Exp: Jayakwadi is one of the largest earthen dams in Asia. Its height is approx 41.30 m and length of 9.998 km (10 km approx) with total storage





Jharkhand. It is the divisional headquarters of North Chotanagpur division. It is famous as a health resort and for Hazaribag Wildlife Sanctuary (17 km from city).

Singhbhum was a district of India during the British Raj, part of the Chota Nagpur Division of the Bengal Presidency. It was located in the present-day Indian state of Jharkhand. Chaibasa was the district headquarters. Located in the southern limit of the Chota Nagpur Plateau, Singhbhum included the Kolhan estate located in its southeastern part.

- 208.** Limestone is a raw material used by which industry?
(A) Aluminium (B) Fertilizers
(C) Cement (D) Petrochemicals

Ans. (C)

Exp: A cement is a binder, a substance used for construction that sets, hardens, and adheres to other materials to bind them together. Cement is seldom used on its own, but rather to bind sand and gravel together. Cement mixed with fine aggregate produces mortar for masonry, or with sand and gravel, produces concrete.

Ans. (A)

Exp: Salal Dam, also known as Salal Hydroelectric Power Station, is a run-of-the-river power project on the Chenab River in the Reasi district of the India Jammu and Kashmir. It was the first hydropower project built by India in Kashmir under the Indus Water Treaty regime, after having reached a bilateral agreement with Pakistan in 1978. The dam silted up in five years,

- 210.** The only zone in the country that produces gold is also rich in iron is-

 - (A) North-eastern zone
 - (B) North-western zone
 - (C) Southern zone
 - (D) None of the above

Ans. (C)

Exp: The only zone in the country that produces gold is also rich in iron is Southern zone.

- 211.** The India's highest annual rainfall is reported at-

- (A) Namchi, Sikkim
 - (B) Churu, Rajasthan
 - (C) Masinram, Meghalaya
 - (D) Chamba, Himachal Pradesh

Ans. (C)

Exp: Mawsynram is a village in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya state in north eastern India, 65 kilometres from Shillong. Mawsynram receives the highest rainfall in India and the World.

- 212.** When does solar eclipse take place?

 - (A) When the sun is between the moon and earth
 - (B) When the earth is between the moon and sun
 - (C) When the moon is between the sun and earth
 - (D) When the moon does not lie on the line joining the sun and earth

Ans.

Ans. (C)
Exp: A solar eclipse occurs when a portion of the Earth is engulfed in a shadow cast by the Moon which fully or partially blocks sunlight. This occurs when the Sun, Moon and Earth are aligned.

213. Strait of Gibraltar connects which of the following?

 - (A) Red Sea-Mediterranean Sea
 - (B) Red Sea-Arabian Sea
 - (C) Atlantic Ocean-Mediterranean Sea
 - (D) Mediterranean Sea-Black Sea

Ans. (C)

Exp: The Strait of Gibraltar, also known as the Straits of Gibraltar, is a narrow strait that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and separates Gibraltar and Peninsular Spain in Europe from Morocco in Africa. The two continents are separated by 14.3 kilometres (8.9 miles; 7.7 nautical miles) of ocean at the Strait's narrowest point. The name comes from the Rock of Gibraltar,

- 214.** The largest solar power plant in India is located at.
(A) Nagercoil (B) Jaisalmer
(C) Madhapur (D) Rann of Kutch

Ans. (C)

Exp: Solar is one of the fastest growing energy sources in the world, and with countries racing to assert their dominance in the burgeoning industry the leading nation is never clear for long. profiles the eight biggest solar power plants in the world. The nations pulling ahead in the sunny sector are China





and the US, which together account for two-thirds of the global growth in solar power.

Ans. (D)

Exp: The state of “Jammu & Kashmir” actually has 3176 km of international border with Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. But, due to border disputes and wars, India lost significant amount of land in Jammu & Kashmir making the International border just 2000 km (1474 with Pakistan and over 650 with China). Bangladesh and India share a 4,096 - kilometer (2,545-mile) long international border, the fifth-longest land border in the world. West Bengal with 2,217 km share longest border with Bangladesh. Other states include 262 km in Assam, 856 km in Tripura, 180 km in Mizoram, 443 km in Meghalaya, and 2,217 km in West Bengal.

- 216.** Judicial review in the Indian Constitution is based on:

 - (A) Rule of Law
 - (B) Due process of Law
 - (C) Procedure established by Law
 - (D) Precedents and Conventions

Ans. (C)

Exp: Judicial Review refers to the power of the judiciary to interpret the constitution and to declare any such law or order of the legislature and executive void, if it finds them in conflict with the Constitution of India. It has the power to reject any law or any of its part which is found to be unconstitutional.

- 217.** The main characteristic of the traditional approach of Political Science was-

 - (A) The Value Free Study
 - (B) Institutional Study
 - (C) Comparative Study
 - (D) Emphasis on Scientific Methodology

Ans. (B)

Exp: Traditional approaches are value based. These approaches put emphasis on values more than facts. Advocates of this approaches believe that the study of political science cannot and should not be purely scientific. They stated that in social

science such as facts values are closely related with each other.

- 218.** The most-short time of all the British constitutional experiments in India is which Act?

(A) Government of India Act, 1919
(B) Indian Council Act, 1909
(C) Pitt's India Act, 1784
(D) Government of India Act, 1935

Ans. (B)

Ans. (D)
Exp: The Indian Councils Act 1909, commonly known as the Morley-Minto or Minto-Morley Reforms, was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that brought about a limited increase in the involvement of Indians in the governance of British India. It was in force for 10 years and the shortest time.

- 219.** On whose advice does the President of the United States appoint judges of the Supreme Court?

(A) with Senate's consent
(B) at his discretion
(C) with consent of the House of Representatives.
(D) None of these

Ans (A)

Ans. (A)
Exp: Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, known as the Appointments Clause, empowers the president to nominate and, with the confirmation (advice and consent) of the United States Senate, to appoint public officials, including justices of the Supreme Court.

- 220.** The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India in:
(A) July, 1948 (B) July, 1950
(C) July, 1947 (D) August, 1947

Ans. (C)

Exp: The National Flag of India is a horizontal rectangular tricolour of India saffron, white and India green; with the Ashoka Chakra, a 24-spoke wheel, in navy blue at its centre. It was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 22 July 1947, and it became the official flag of the Dominion of India on 15 August 1947. The flag was subsequently retained as that of the Republic of India. In India, the term "tricolour" almost always refers to the Indian national flag.





- 221.** By which act, the rule of the company in India was abolished and the Government of England took over the management of Indian territories directly?

(A) Charter Act, 1833
 (B) Government of India Act, 1858
 (C) Indian Council Act, 1861
 (D) Government of India Act, 1935

Ans. (B)

Exp: The 'Revolt of 1857 AD' was an inauspicious important event in Indian history. Although some foreign historians have termed this revolution as a military rebellion, it was the 'first freedom struggle' from the Indian point of view. Therefore, the British Government passed an Act in 1858 AD, which is called 'Indian Administrative Reforms Act'. Through this act, the rule of the company in India was ended and the Government of England took over the management of Indian territories directly.

- 222.** The most important feature of Cabinet system of Government is-

(A) Individual responsibility
 (B) Collective responsibility
 (C) Responsibility to none
 (D) Non-responsibility

Ans. (B)

Exp: A key feature of Cabinet is the concept of collective responsibility, which means that the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the House of People. It is because of collective responsibility; the cabinet government is also known as the responsible government.

- 223.** If there is a deadlock between Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha over an ordinary bill, it will be resolved by-

(A) The President
 (B) The Council of Ministers
 (C) The Joint Session of Parliament
 (D) The Supreme Court

Ans. (C)

Exp: The joint sitting of the Parliament is called by the President (Article 108) and is presided over by the Speaker or, in his absence, by the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha or in his absence, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

- 224.** Which of the following is not the fundamental duty for Indian citizens?

(A) To safe guard public property.
 (B) To protect and improve the natural environment.
 (C) To obey all the women.
 (D) To develop the scientific temper and spirit of enquiry.

Ans. (C)

Exp: It shall be the duty of every citizen of India –

(a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
 (b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
 (c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
 (d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
 (e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.

- 225.** Which of the following was adopted from the Maurya dynasty in the emblem of Government of India?

(A) Four lions
 (B) Chariot wheel
 (C) Horse
 (D) Words 'Satyameva Jayate'

Ans. (A)

Exp: The State Emblem of India, as the national emblem of the Republic of India is called, is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka from 250 BCE at Sarnath, preserved in the Sarnath Museum near Varanasi, India. It has 4 lions which face 4 different directions, namely North, east, south, west.

- 226.** When did Mr. Attlee, Prime Minister of England, announce the transfer of power to the Indians?

(A) February, 1947 (B) August, 1947
 (C) June, 1948 (D) June, 1949

Ans. (C)

Exp: Mr. Attlee, Prime Minister of England, announced the transfer of power to the Indians in June, 1948.





227. The basic feature of a unitary system is
(A) Centralization of powers
(B) Decentralization of powers
(C) Dual citizenship
(D) Unstability

Ans. (A)

Exp: Centralization of power occurs in governments in which power or legal authority is exerted or coordinated by a de facto political executive to which federal states, local authorities, and smaller units are considered subject. In a national context, centralization occurs in the transfer of power to a typically sovereign nation state.

Ans. (B)

Exp: Zero Hour in Parliament starts at 12 noon during which members raise matters of importance, especially those that cannot be delayed. Zero Hour is the Indian innovation in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962. However, it does not find mention in the rules of procedure. During zero hour, questions are asked about issues of public importance without prior permission. These questions are usually directed against individual ministers.

- 229.** Who was the first President of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)?
(A) C.R. Das (B) V.V. Giri
(C) Lala Lajpat Rai (D) Sarojini Naidu

Ans. (C)

Exp: 'Lala Lajpat Rai' is counted among the great revolutionaries of India. Lala Lajpat Rai, who does not care for his life while facing the British power for life, is also called 'Punjab Kesari'. When VP Wadia established the 'Madras Shramik Sangh' in India, it was only with the efforts of Lalaji that the 'Workers Union Act' was passed in 1926. The 'All India Trade Union Congress' (AITUC), established in 1920 AD, then joined about 64 labor unions. With the efforts of M. N. Joshi, Lala Lajpat Rai and Joseph Baptista, the influence of the Left began to increase on the 'All India Trade Union Congress' established in 1920 AD. The first president of AITUC (AITUC) was Lala Lajpat Rai. This

conference was held in 1920 in Bombay. Its vice-president was Joseph Baptista and General Secretary Dewan Chamanlal.

- 230.** Which one of the following is an example of direct democracy in India?

 - (A) Zila Panchayat
 - (B) Gram Sabha
 - (C) Kshetra Panchayat
 - (D) Nagar Panchayat

Ans. (B)

Exp: The Gram Sabha is the fulcrum of the Panchayati Raj and village development. People use the forum of the Gram Sabha to discuss local governance and development, and make need-based plans for the village.

The term Gram Sabha is defined in the Constitution of India under Article 243(b).

Gram Sabha is the primary body of the Panchayati Raj system and by far the largest. It is a permanent body.

Gram Sabha is the Sa

other institutions of the Panchayati Raj like the Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Zilla Parishad are constituted by elected representatives. The decisions taken by the Gram Sabha cannot be annulled by any other body. The power to annul a decision of the Gram Sabha rests with the Gram Sabha only.

231. How many seats should a political party have in order to be recognised as an official opposition Group in the Parliament?

(A) 1/6th of the total strength
(B) 1/10th of the total strength
(C) 1/4th of the total strength
(D) 1/3rd of the total strength

Ans. (B)

Exp: Official Opposition is a term used in Parliament of India and State Legislatures to designate the political party which has secured the second largest number of seats in either upper or lower houses. In order to get formal recognition in either upper or lower houses, the concerned party must have at least 10% of the total strength of the house.[1] A single party has to meet the 10% seat criterion, not an alliance. Many of the Indian state legislatures also follows this 10% rule while the rest of them prefer single largest opposition party according to the rules of their respective houses.





232. Article 14 of the Indian Constitution guarantees Indian citizens:

 - (A) Equality before law.
 - (B) Equal distribution of economic resources.
 - (C) Equality before law and equal protection of the laws.
 - (D) Equal protection of laws.

Ans. (C)

Exp: Article 14 of the Constitution of India. Article 14 of the Constitution of India provides for equality before the law or equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. "The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India."

233. Which of the following is not true regarding the Chief Election Commissioner of India?

(A) President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner of India.

(B) Chief Election Commissioner of India can be by the same process as applicable to judge of Supreme Court.

(C) Other election commissioners can be removed by the president on the recommendation of Chief Election Commission of India.

(D) T. Swaminathan was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India.

Ans. (D)

Exp: Election Commissioners of India are members of Election Commission of India, a body constitutionally empowered to conduct free and fair elections in India to the national and state legislatures. The Election Commissioners are usually retired IAS or IRS officers.

Ans. (B)

Exp: Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.

(1) There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State

- (2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State

(3) Nothing in this article shall prevent Parliament from making any law prescribing, in regard to a class or classes of employment or appointment to an office under the Government of, or any local or other authority within, a State or Union territory, any requirement as to residence within that State or Union territory prior to such employment or appointment.

- 235.** The Estimates Committee consists of member from which of the following?

- (A) Parliament (B) Lok Sabha
(C) Union Territories (D) State Assemblies

Ans. (B)

Exp: The Estimates Committee is a committee of selected members of parliament, constituted by the Parliament of India (the Lok Sabha), for the purpose of scrutinising the functioning of government ministries and departments in terms of expenditure and utilisation of funds. It also suggests alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration. This committee along with the Public Accounts committee (PAC) and Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) are the three financial standing committees of the Parliament of India.

- 236.** The Ayushman Bharat Scheme introduced by the Government of India provides medical coverage of up to which amount?

Ans. (A)

Exp: The Ayushman Bharat Scheme introduced by the Government of India provides medical coverage of up to ₹ 5 lakh family per year. It was launched on 23rd September 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

- 237.** Which one of the following is also regarded as Disguised unemployment?

- (A) Underemployment
 - (B) Frictional unemployment
 - (C) Seasonal unemployment
 - (D) Cyclical unemployment



**Ans. (A)**

Exp: Underemployment is the underuse of a worker because a job does not use the worker's skills, is part-time, or leaves the worker idle. Examples include holding a part-time job despite desiring full-time work, and overqualification, in which the employee has education, experience, or skills beyond the requirements of the job. Underemployment is also regarded as Disguised unemployment as the workers skills are underutilised due to over staffing as seen in agriculture or due to over qualification where an engineer works as an peon. It is an important cause of poverty in India.

- 238.** Which among the following is not an account under Balance of Payment?

(A) Current Account
(B) Capital Account
(C) Official Reserves Account
(D) Unilateral Payments Account

Ans. (C)

Exp: Official Reserves Account is not a separate account under Balance of Payment instead it is a subdivision of the capital account. Official reserve account consists of foreign currencies and securities which are held by the government or by its central bank, and is used to balance the payments from year to year.

- 239.** Which among the following is an example of micro-economic variable?

(A) National Income
(B) Aggregate Supply
(C) Employment
(D) Consumer's Equilibrium

Ans. (D)

Exp: Consumer's equilibrium is an example of micro-economic variable. Micro economic variable studies the behaviour of individuals and firms in making decisions regarding the allocation of scarce resources. Consumer Equilibrium refers to the amount of goods and services consumer can purchase using their present level of income and the current level of prices with maximum satisfaction.

- 240.** An economic system combining private and state enterprise is called as?

(A) Market economy
(B) Centrally planned economy

(C) Private economy
(D) Mixed economy

Ans. (D)

Exp: A mixed economy is variously defined as an economic system blending elements of market economies with elements of planned economies, free markets with state interventionism, or private enterprise with public enterprise.

- 241.** A commercial enterprise that is owned by private investors, shareholders or owners (usually collectively), so what type of organisation is known as?

(A) Solo Proprietorship
(B) Private Enterprise
(C) Corporation
(D) None

Ans. (B)

Exp: A privately owned enterprise is a commercial enterprise that is owned by private investors, shareholders or owners (usually collectively, but they can be owned by a single individual), and is in contrast to state institutions, such as publicly owned enterprises and government agencies. Private enterprises comprise the private sector of an economy.

- 242.** What was the main motive of Third Five Year Plan in India?

(A) Rural development
(B) Agriculture
(C) Financial inclusion
(D) Economic reform

Ans. (D)

Exp: "Economic reform" usually refers to deregulation, or at times to reduction in the size of government, to remove distortions caused by regulations or the presence of government, rather than new or increased regulations or government programs to reduce distortions caused by market failure.

- 243.** Which among the following is not a direct tax?

(A) Income tax	(B) Wealth tax
(C) Corporate tax	(D) None of these

Ans. (D)

Exp: The Direct taxes are those taxes that cannot be transferred or shifted to another person, i.e., individual pays directly to the government. Major types of direct tax are: Income Tax, Corporate





Ans. (B)

Exp: "Taxes on agricultural income" is listed in the state list given in the Seventh Schedule in the Constitution of India. There are three list, state list, union list and concurrent list in the 7th schedule of the Indian constitution. There are 97 items in the union list, 47 items in the concurrent list and 59 items in the state list. These three lists are the division of the legislative section

Ans (B)

Ans. (B)
Exp: India's first official census operation was undertaken in 1881. It has been conducted after every 10 years and it has been conducted 15 times from then. It includes acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population.

- 260.** The Chairmen of public sector banks are selected by the-

 - (A) Banks Board Bureau
 - (B) Reserve Bank of India
 - (C) Union Ministry of Finance
 - (D) Management of concerned bank

Ans. (A)

Exp: Banks Board Bureau (BBB) is an autonomous body of the Government of India tasked to improve the governance of Public Sector Banks, recommend selection of chiefs of government owned banks and financial institutions and to help banks in developing strategies and capital raising plans. In February 2016, the NDA government approved the proposal for setting up BBB and it started functioning from April 2016. The BBB works as step towards governance reforms in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as recommended by P.J. Nayak Committee. Bhanu Pratap Sharma is the new Chairman of the Mumbai based Bureau. It is housed in RBI's Central Office in Mumbai. The BBB was the part of Indra Dhanush Plan of government.

261. Who invented the thermos flask?
(A) Ray Tomlinson
(B) Tim Berners-Lee
(C) William Cullen
(D) James Dewar

Ans. (D)

Exp: Invented in 1892 by Sir James Dewar, a scientist at Oxford University, the "vacuum flask" was not manufactured for commercial use until 1904, when two German glass blowers formed Thermos GmbH. They held a contest to name the "vacuum flask" and a resident of Munich submitted "Thermos", which came from the Greek word "Therme" meaning "hot".

- 262.** An electron and a proton are circulating with same speed in circular paths of equal radius. Which one among the following will happen, if the mass of a proton is about 2,000 times that of an electron?

 - (a) The centripetal force required by the electron is about 2,000 times more than that required by the proton.
 - (b) The centripetal force required by the proton is about 2,000 times more than that required by the electron.
 - (c) No centripetal force is required for any charged particle.
 - (d) Equal centripetal force acts on both the particles as they rotate in the same circular path.

Ans. (B)

Exp: Mass of proton = $2000 \times$ mass of electron radius and speed is the same for both, proton and electron. Centripetal force \propto mass. Since mass of proton is 2000 times that of mass of electron, hence the centripetal force required by proton is about 2000 times more than that required by the electron.

Ans. (B)

Exp: Sodium metals are kept in kerosene oil. Sodium is a very reactive metal. It is kept in kerosene to prevent it from coming in contact with oxygen and moisture. If this happens, it will react with the moisture present in air and form sodium hydroxide which is a highly exothermic reaction.





264. The upper and lower portions in common type of bi-focal lenses are respectively _____.
(A) concave and convex
(B) convex and concave
(C) both concave of different focal lengths
(D) both convex of different focal lengths

Ans. (A)

Exp: Concave lens are used to see the distant objects while convex lens are used to see nearby object, thus upper portion is concave lens while lower portion is convex lens in bi-focal lenses.

- 265.** Tungsten is used for the construction of filament in electric bulb because of its _____.
(A) High melting point
(B) Low specific resistance
(C) High light emitting power
(D) High specific resistance

Ans. (A)

Exp: Tungsten has the highest melting point. Tungsten, or wolfram, is a chemical element with the symbol W and atomic number 74. The name tungsten comes from the former Swedish name for the tungstate mineral scheelite, tungsten which means "heavy stone". Tungsten is a rare metal found naturally on Earth almost exclusively combined with other elements in chemical compounds rather than alone.

- 266.** In the phenomenon of dispersion of light, the light wave of shortest wavelength is
(A) accelerated and refracted the most
(B) slowed down and refracted the most
(C) accelerated and refracted the least
(D) slowed down and refracted the least

Ans. (B)

Exp: Short wavelengths are slowed more sharply upon entering glass from air than are long wavelengths. Red light has the longest wavelength and is bent the least. Violet light has the shortest wavelength and is bent the most.

- 267.** A moderator is a material with a mass not too much more than the mass of a neutron such that, when a neutron collides with it, the neutron will lose energy (slow down). Carbon or Graphite rods are used in atomic reactors as moderators for sustained nuclear chain reaction through nuclear fission process.

In this process

(A) The neutrons are made fast

- (B) The protons are made fast
 - (C) The neutrons are made slow
 - (D) The protons are made slow

Ans. (C)

Exp: Moderators like carbon and Graphite are used for slowing down the neutrons from fission have very high speeds and must be slowed greatly by “moderation” to maintain the chain

Graphite is used as a neutron moderator in nuclear reactors. That is, the carbon nuclides in the graphite absorb the relatively high kinetic energy that most neutrons have when they are emitted from nuclear fission. This slows the neutrons down so they have a higher probability of being absorbed by nuclides which can cause to undergo fission rather than speeding out of the reactor.

- 268.** For a harmonic oscillator, the graph between momentum p and displacement q would come out as.

(A) A straight line (B) A parabola
(C) A circle (D) An ellipse

Ans. (D)

Exp: an ellipse is a plane curve surrounding two focal points, such that for all points on the curve, the sum of the two distances to the focal points is a constant. As such, it generalizes a circle, which is the special type of ellipse in which the two focal points are the same.

- 269.** In step-down transformer, the AC output gives the-

 - (A) Current more than the input current
 - (B) Current less than the input current
 - (C) Current equal to the input current
 - (D) Voltage more than the input voltage

Ans. (D)

Exp: Transformers change the voltage of an alternating current (ac) electrical supply. Sometimes transformers make the output voltage smaller than the input voltage

270. A rectifier is an electronic device used to convert.

 - (A) AC voltage into DC voltage
 - (B) DC voltage into AC voltage
 - (C) Sinusoidal pulse into square pulse
 - (D) None of the above

Ans. (A)

Exp: A rectifier is an electrical device that converts alternating current (AC), which periodically





reverses direction, to direct current (DC), which flows in only one direction. The process is known as rectification, since it "straightens" the direction of current.

- 271.** A device, which is used in our TV set, computer, radio set for storing the electric charge, is.
(A) Resistor **(B)** Inductor
(C) Conductor **(D)** Capacitor

Ans. (D)

Exp: A capacitor is a device that stores electrical energy in an electric field. It is a passive electronic component with two terminals.

The effect of a capacitor is known as capacitance. While some capacitance exists between any two electrical conductors in proximity in a circuit, a capacitor is a component designed to add capacitance to a circuit. The capacitor was originally known as a condenser or condensator. The physical form and construction of practical capacitors vary widely and many types of capacitor are in common use. Most capacitors contain at least two electrical conductors often in the form of metallic plates or surfaces separated by a dielectric medium.

- 272.** The material used in the fabrication of a transistor is –
(A) Aluminum **(B)** Copper
(C) Silicon **(D)** Silver

Ans. (C)

Exp: The fabrication of the transistor is the process of creating the transistor that is used in electrical and electronics circuit. Transistors are made from very pure silicon or germanium, but certain other semiconductor materials can also be used.

- 273.** In which of the following processes is energy released?
(A) Respiration **(B)** Photosynthesis
(C) Ingestion **(D)** Absorption

Ans. (A)

Exp: During cellular respiration, glucose is broken down in the presence of oxygen to produce carbon dioxide and water. The energy released during the reaction is captured by the energy-carrying molecule ATP.

- 274.** “Curie” is the unit of –
(A) Radioactivity **(B)** Temperature
(C) Heat **(D)** Energy

Ans. (A)

Exp: The curie is a unit of ionizing radiation (radioactivity), symbolized Ci and equal to 3.7×10^{10} disintegrations or nuclear transformations per second. This is approximately the amount of radioactivity emitted by one gram (1 g) of radium-226. The unit is named after Pierre Curie a French physicist.

Temperature is a measure of average kinetic energy per molecule in a substance. It is different from heat, although the two quantities are intimately related. Heat is the energy transferred between two objects at different temperatures. The SI unit of temperature as per the International System of Units is Kelvin which is represented by the symbol K

Heat has the unit joule (J) in the International System of Units (SI). However, in many applied fields in engineering the British thermal unit (BTU) and the calorie are often used. The standard unit for the rate of heat transferred is the watt (W), defined as one joule per second.

- 275.** Electric current in a metal wire is due to the flow of –
(A) Electrons **(B)** Protons
(C) Ions **(D)** Holes

Ans. (A)

Exp: where the charge carriers (electrons) are negative, conventional current is in the opposite direction to the overall electron movement. In other conductive materials, the electric current is due to the flow of both positively and negatively charged particles at the same time.

- 276.** When a running car stops suddenly, the passengers tends to lean forward because of –
(A) Centrifugal force **(B)** Inertia of rest
(C) Inertia of motion **(D)** Gravitation force

Ans. (C)

Exp: While sitting in the passenger's position on a motorcycle, the sudden application of brakes by the driver causes the passenger to experience a push in the forward direction. This is because the passenger is in a state of motion in the forward direction and the inertia of motion always opposes the change in the state of motion.

When the passenger of a bus attempts to jump out of the moving bus, the inertia of motion causes him or her to fall down or temporarily lose his/her balance. This is because when the passenger





jumps, the inertia of motion of the body tends to oppose the change in state of the body (it wants to continue in the state of motion of the bus rather than coming to a state of rest).

- 277.** A person is hurt on kicking a stone due to –
(A) Inertia (B) Velocity
(C) Reaction (D) Momentum

Ans. (C)

Ans. (C)
Exp: Newton's third law is: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. The statement means that in every interaction, there is a pair of forces acting on the two interacting objects.

- 278.** The spoon dropped by an astronaut in a satellite will –

 - (A) Fall to the floor
 - (B) Remain stationary
 - (C) Continue to follow the motion of the satellite
 - (D) Move tangentially away

Ans. (C)

Exp: The spoon dropped by an astronaut in a satellite will continue to follow the motion of the satellite. In the context of spaceflight, a satellite is an object that has been intentionally placed into orbit. These objects are called artificial satellites to distinguish them from natural satellites such as Earth's Moon. On 4 October 1957 the Soviet Union launched the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1. Since then, about 8,900 satellites from more than 40 countries have been launched.

- 279.** The sensation of weightlessness in a spacecraft in an orbit is due to the –

(A) Absence of gravity outside.
(B) Acceleration in the orbit which is equal to the acceleration due to gravity outside.
(C) Presence of gravity outside but not inside the spacecraft.
(D) Fact that spacecraft in the orbit has no energy.

Ans. (B)

Exp: The sensation of weightlessness in a spacecraft in an orbit is due to the acceleration in the orbit which is equal to the acceleration due to gravity outside.

Ans. (B)

Exp: The fuel that is used in a nuclear reactor to maintain a nuclear concatenation response is known as Nuclear fuel. These fuels are fissionable, and the most popular nuclear combustibles are radioactive elements such as uranium-235 and plutonium-239.

- 281.** It is difficult to walk on any oily floor because

 - (A) Floor gets spoiled
 - (B) There is more resistance
 - (C) Force of friction is high
 - (D) Force of friction is very less

Ans. (D)

Ans. (D)
Exp: You will find friction everywhere that objects come into contact with each other. The force acts in the opposite direction to the way an object wants to slide. Friction is still there, but the liquid makes the surfaces smoother and the friction a lot less. Less friction means it is harder to stop. It is difficult to walk on oily surface because the surface has less friction. We can walk only if there is more friction. So, we slip easily thus it is hard to walk on an oily floor.

- 282.** The coefficient of static friction is.

(A) Less than the coefficient of kinetic friction.
(B) Greater than the coefficient of limiting friction.
(C) Equal to coefficient of kinetic friction.
(D) Equal to the tangent of the angle of friction.

Ans. (D)

Exp: It is the “The maximum ratio of applied force to normal force with no motion” we all know Frictional force is a force which opposes motion. If we keenly observe, once you apply force to move a body from rest, there exist a point upto which the body resist to move. To move the body the applied force should be greater to overcome this resistance. This maximum resistive force offered by the body against the applied force to continue its state of motion is called Coefficient of Static Friction.

Magnitude of frictional force depends on two factors.

How heavy is the material.

How rough is the surface.

It is a unit less quantity. As it is the ratio of two forces. The respective S.I units get cancelled. This also implies that it is a dimensionless quantity.

- 283.** A compass needle cannot be used to detect





- (A) Magnetic North-South direction
- (B) Polarity of a magnet
- (C) Strength of a magnet
- (D) Direction of magnetic field

Ans. (C)

Exp: A compass is an instrument used for navigation and orientation that shows direction relative to the geographic cardinal directions (or points). Usually, a diagram called a compass rose shows the directions north, south, east, and west on the compass face as abbreviated initials.

- 284.** Indicate the false statement about the resistance of a wire.
- (A) It depends on material of wire
 - (B) It is inversely proportional to the length of wire
 - (C) It is directly proportional to the area of cross-section of wire
 - (D) Resistance of metallic wire increases with increase in temperature.

Ans. (C)

Exp: The resistance of a current carrying conductor is inversely proportional to the area of cross section of the conductor. The reason is because the resistance occurs due to the collision of electrons/charged particles. So, resistance is inversely proportional to area of cross section of the conductor.

- 285.** The ratio of intensity of magnetisation to the magnetisation force is known as.
- (A) flux density
 - (B) susceptibility
 - (C) relative permeability
 - (D) none of the above

Ans. (B)

Exp: This ratio, strictly speaking is the volume susceptibility, because magnetization essentially involves a certain measure of magnetism per unit volume.

- 286.** Water is a good coolant and is used to cool the engines of cars, buses, trucks etc. It is because water has.
- (A) high specific heat
 - (B) low surface tension
 - (C) high boiling point
 - (D) Teflon

Ans. (A)

Exp: Water has the highest heat capacity of all readily available liquids. There may be other chemical compounds with higher heat capacity. The higher

the heat capacity, the more heat a substance will absorb per degree rise in temperature.

Water has a low enough viscosity to be pumped through a cooling system without taking too much energy from an engine. Early cars like the Ford Model T did not have a pump, they depended on the thermosiphon effect.

- 287.** Which one of the following metals is less reactive than hydrogen?
- (A) Barium
 - (B) Copper
 - (C) Lead
 - (D) Magnesium

Ans. (B)

Exp: 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. Non-remnant stars are mainly composed of hydrogen in the plasma state. The most common isotope of hydrogen, termed protium (name rarely used, symbol ${}^1\text{H}$), has one proton and no neutrons. Copper is a chemical element with the symbol Cu (from Latin: cuprum) and atomic number 29. It is a soft, malleable, and ductile metal with very high thermal and electrical conductivity. A freshly exposed surface of pure copper has a pinkish-orange color. Copper is used as a conductor of heat and electricity, as a building material, and as a constituent of various metal alloys, such as sterling silver used in jewelry, cupernickel used to make marine hardware and coins, and constantan used in strain gauges and thermocouples for temperature measurement. Copper is one of the few metals that can occur in nature in a directly usable metallic form (native metals).

- 288.** What is the purpose of adding baking soda to dough?
- (A) To generate moisture
 - (B) To give a good flavor
 - (C) To give good color
 - (D) To generate carbon dioxide

Ans. (D)

Exp: Sodium bicarbonate, commonly known as baking soda (mainly North America) or bicarbonate of soda, is a chemical compound with the formula NaHCO_3 . Baking soda is 100 percent bicarbonate





of soda and it's a prime ingredient in baking powder. It is alkaline in nature and creates carbon dioxide bubbles. Baking soda and baking powder are not interchangeable in recipes.

- 289.** As which one of the following, does carbon occur in its purest form in nature?
(A) Graphite **(B)** Coal
(C) Diamond **(D)** None of these

Ans. (C)

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. Three isotopes occur naturally, ^{12}C and ^{13}C being stable, while ^{14}C is a radionuclide, decaying with a half-life of about 5,730 years. Carbon is one of the few elements known since antiquity. Carbon is the 15th most abundant element in the Earth's crust, and the fourth most abundant element in the universe by mass after hydrogen, helium, and oxygen.

- 290.** What is the Jeweler's rouge?
(A) Ferric oxide **(B)** Ferrous oxide
(C) Ferrous carbonate **(D)** Ferric carbonate

Ans. (A)

Exp: Iron oxide or ferric oxide is the inorganic compound with the formula Fe_2O_3 . It is one of the three main oxides of iron, the other two being iron oxide (FeO), which is rare; and iron oxide (Fe_3O_4), which also occurs naturally as the mineral magnetite. As the mineral known as hematite, Fe_2O_3 is the main source of iron for the steel industry. Fe_2O_3 is readily attacked by acids. Iron oxide is often called rust, and to some extent this label is useful, because rust shares several properties and has a similar composition.

To a chemist, rust is considered an ill-defined material, described as hydrated ferric oxide. A very fine powder of ferric oxide is known as "jeweler's rouge", "red rouge", or simply rouge. It is used to put the final polish on metallic jewelry and lenses, and historically as a cosmetic. Rouge cuts more slowly than some modern polishes, such as cerium oxide, but is still used in optics fabrication and by jewelers for the superior finish it can produce.

- 291.** 'Misch metal' is widely used in the manufacture of which of the following?

- (A)** Material of car brake
(B) Cigarette lighters
(C) Smoke detectors
(D) Emergency lights

Ans. (B)

Exp: Mischmetal is an alloy of rare-earth elements. It is also called cerium mischmetal, or rare-earth mischmetal. A typical composition includes approximately 55% cerium, 25% lanthanum, and 15-18% neodymium with other rare earth metals following. Its most common use is in the pyrophoric ferrocерium "flint" ignition device of many lighters and torches, although an alloy of only rare-earth elements would be too soft to give good sparks.

For this purpose, it is blended with iron oxide and magnesium oxide to form a harder material known as ferrocерium. In chemical formulae it is commonly abbreviated as Mm, example MmNi_5 .

- 292.** Which of the following is responsible for the anomalous behaviour of lithium in the periodic table?
(A) Exceptionally small size of its atom and ion.
(B) High polarising power.
(C) Both A and B
(D) None

Ans. (C)

Exp: Anomalous behaviour of an element refers to the deviation of the properties and behaviour of an element from its usual or normal behaviour.

It is due to the following reasons:

- (i)** Exceptionally small size of its atom and ion.
(ii) High polarizing power.

The anomalous behaviour of lithium is as follows:

Lithium is harder than other metals of the respective group.

It has higher Melting and boiling point than other metals.

It is least reactive.

It is strongest reducing agent.

Unlike other metals LiCl is deliquescent and exist as $\text{LiCl} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Li^+ ion polarizes water molecules readily than other alkali metals of the respective group and hence the lithium salts attracts the water molecules and it exists as water of crystallization ($2\text{H}_2\text{O}$). As





the polarizing power decreases with the increasing size of the ions the other alkali metal ions usually form anhydrous salts.

Lithium does not form ethynide on reacting with Ethyne.

- 293.** Which of the following are the uses of Calcium carbonate?
- As an antacid
 - Mild abrasive in tooth paste
 - As a filler in cosmetics
 - All of the above

Ans. (D)

Exp: Calcium carbonate is one of the most popular chemicals which is first encountered in school classrooms, where the use of chalk (a form of CaCO_3) is found. It is found in the earth's crust. It is also found in many forms such as marble, limestone, etc. Although they are available in various forms they are chemically similar and only differ physically. The list of uses of calcium carbonate is given below.

It plays an important role in construction, be it as a building material (marble) or as an ingredient in cement.

It is used in medicinal industries which manufacture antacids, tablets which are made of base materials etc.

It is used as calcium supplements.

It is used in the manufacture of paints, paper, plastics, etc.

- 294.** Galena is an ore of which of the following metals?
- Tin
 - Copper
 - Lead
 - Gold

Ans. (C)

Exp: Galena, also called lead glance, is the natural mineral form of lead sulfide (PbS). It is the most important ore of lead and an important source of silver.

Galena is one of the most abundant and widely distributed sulfide minerals. It crystallizes in the cubic crystal system often showing octahedral forms. It is often associated with the minerals sphalerite, calcite and fluorite.

Galena is the main ore of lead, used since ancient times. Because of its somewhat low melting point, it was easy to liberate by smelting. It typically forms in low-temperature sedimentary deposits.

- 295.** In a car battery, electrolyte substance used is-
- Hydrochloric acid
 - Sulphuric acid
 - Nitric acid
 - Distilled water

Ans. (B)

Exp: Sulfuric acid (alternative spelling sulphuric acid), also known as oil of vitriol, is a mineral acid composed of the elements sulfur, oxygen and hydrogen, with molecular formula H_2SO_4 . It is a colorless, odorless, and viscous liquid that is soluble in water and is synthesized in reactions that are highly exothermic.

It has a wide range of end applications including in domestic acidic drain cleaners, as an electrolyte in lead-acid batteries, in dehydrating a compound, and in various cleaning agents.

- 296.** Which chemical substance is used for making rat poison?

- Ethyl Alcohol
- Methyl Isocyanate
- Potassium Cyanide
- Ethyl Isocyanide

Ans. (C)

Exp: Potassium cyanide is a compound with the formula KCN . This colorless crystalline salt, similar in appearance to sugar, is highly soluble in water. Most KCN is used in gold mining, organic synthesis, and electroplating. Smaller applications include jewelry for chemical gilding and buffering. Potassium cyanide is highly toxic. The moist solid emits small amounts of hydrogen cyanide due to hydrolysis, which smells like bitter almonds. Not everyone, however, can smell this; the ability to do so is a genetic trait. The taste of potassium cyanide has been described as acrid and bitter, with a burning sensation similar to lye.

- 297.** Which one of the following is used in the manufacture of soaps?

- Vegetable oil
- Mobil oil
- Kerosene oil
- Cutting oil

Ans. (A)

Exp: Vegetable oils, or vegetable fats, are oils extracted from seeds, or less often, from other parts of fruits. Like animal fats, vegetable fats are mixtures of triglycerides. Soybean oil, rapeseed oil, and cocoa butter are examples of fats from seeds. Olive oil, palm oil, and rice bran oil are examples of fats from other parts of fruits. In





common usage, vegetable oil may refer exclusively to vegetable fats which are liquid at room temperature. Vegetable oils are usually edible; non-edible oils derived mainly from petroleum are termed mineral oils.

- 298.** Milk openly placed for some time becomes sour due to –
 (A) Carbonic acid (B) Lactic acid
 (C) Citric acid (D) Acetic acid

Ans. (B)

Exp: Lactic acid is an organic acid. It has a molecular formula $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{COOH}$. It is white in solid state and it is miscible with water. While in liquid state (dissolved state) it is a colorless solution. Production includes both artificial synthesis as well as natural sources. Lactic acid is an alpha-hydroxy acid (AHA) due to the presence of carboxyl group adjacent to the hydroxyl group. It is used as a synthetic intermediate in many organic synthesis industries and in various biochemical industries. The conjugate base of lactic acid is called lactate. Lactic acid is found primarily in sour milk products, such as koumiss, laban, yogurt, kefir, and cottage cheeses.

- 299.** The advantage of detergents over soaps is –
 (A) detergents are soluble in water.
 (B) detergents could not give much lather.
 (C) detergents give lather even with hard water.
 (D) soaps give lather with only soft water.

Ans. (C)

Exp: Detergent cleans more effectively in hard water than soap. Hard water contains calcium and magnesium ions that limit soap's cleaning capabilities. When combined with soap, hard water develops a type of film that leaves a deposit on clothes or skin that does not easily rinse away. Detergent consumes fewer natural resources in the manufacturing process than soap. Detergents are primarily made from synthetic materials while soap is comprised of vegetable oils and fatty acids.

- 300.** The substance most commonly used as a food preservative is –
 (A) Sodium carbonate (B) Tartaric acid
 (C) Lactic acid (D) Sodium salt of benzoic acid

Ans. (D)

Exp: Food preservatives: These are substances, when added to food, are capable of inhibiting, retarding or arresting, the process of fermentation, acidification or other decomposition of food by growth of microbes. Examples include salt, sugar, vinegar, sodium benzoate, salts of sorbic acid and propionic acid etc.

Sodium benzoate is a substance which has the chemical formula $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{COONa}$. It is a widely used food preservative, with an E number of E211. It is the sodium salt of benzoic acid and exists in this form when dissolved in water. It can be produced by reacting sodium hydroxide with benzoic acid.

- 301.** The element which is used for vulcanising rubber –
 (A) Sulphur (B) Bromine
 (C) Silicon (D) Phosphorus

Ans. (A)

Exp: Vulcanization of rubber is a process of improvement of the rubber elasticity and strength by heating it in the presence of sulfur, which results in three-dimensional cross-linking of the chain rubber molecules (polyisoprene) bonded to each other by sulfur atoms.

There are two general types of rubber:
 Natural rubber is produced from latex - milky emulsion drawn from the rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) or some other plants. When coagulated latex transforms into soft, plastic and sticky substance (crude rubber), which is then vulcanized (cured). Natural rubber is composed of polyisoprene molecules.

Synthetic rubbers are Elastomers, elastic properties of which are similar to those of the natural rubber. Synthetic rubber may have chemical composition similar to the natural rubber (synthetic polyisoprene). Other kinds of synthetic rubbers are: polybutadiene, poly(styrene-butadiene-styrene), polychloroprene (Neoprene), polyisobutylene (Butyl rubber), silicone.

- 302.** Which one of the following is used in making pencils?
 (A) Charcoal (B) Bone black
 (C) Black ash (D) Graphite

Ans. (D)

Exp: Graphite, archaically referred to as plumbago, is a crystalline form of the element carbon with its





atoms arranged in a hexagonal structure. It occurs naturally in this form and is the most stable form of carbon under standard conditions. Under high pressures and temperatures it converts to diamond. Graphite is used in pencils and lubricants. It is a good conductor of heat and electricity. Its high conductivity makes it useful in electronic products such as electrodes, batteries, and solar panels. The principal types of natural graphite, each occurring in different types of ore deposits, are Crystalline small flakes of graphite (or flake graphite) occurs as isolated, flat, plate-like particles with hexagonal edges if unbroken. When broken the edges can be irregular or angular.

- 303.** Modern periodic law had been given by?
(A) Moseley (B) Mendeleev
(C) Lother-Mayer (D) Lavoisier

Ans. (A)

Exp: Henry Gwyn Jeffreys Moseley (23 November 1887 – 10 August 1915) was an English physicist, whose contribution to the science of physics was the justification from physical laws of the previous empirical and chemical concept of the atomic number. This stemmed from his development of Moseley's law in X-ray spectra.

Moseley's law advanced atomic physics, nuclear physics and quantum physics by providing the first experimental evidence in favour of Niels Bohr's theory, aside from the hydrogen atom spectrum which the Bohr theory was designed to reproduce.

- 304.** The electron affinity of chlorine is highest than that of fluorine due to—
(A) Its highest reactivity
(B) Bigger size
(C) Difference in their electronic configuration.
(D) Smaller nuclear charge

(B) Ans. (B)

Exp: Electron affinity of fluorine is less than that of chlorine. This is because the size of fluorine atom is very small as compared to chlorine atom and due to its small size there are strong inner repulsions among valence electrons and so the outer electron doesn't feel the attraction from the nucleus. So electron affinity of fluorine is less than that of chlorine.

- 305.** Electron affinity of noble gases is—

- (A) Almost zero (B) Low
(C) High (D) Very high

Ans. (A)

Exp: The electron affinity (Eea) of an atom or molecule is defined as the amount of energy released when an electron is attached to a neutral atom or molecule in the gaseous state to form a negative ion.



Note that this is not the same as the enthalpy change of electron capture ionization, which is defined as negative when energy is released. In other words, this enthalpy change and the electron affinity differ by a negative sign. Over all we can say that electron affinity is a property of an atom or molecule to gain an electron and measure in negative sign of released energy.

Ans. (B)

Ans. (D)
Exp: Linus Carl Pauling was an American chemist, biochemist, chemical engineer, peace activist, author, and educator. He published more than 1,200 papers and books, of which about 850 dealt with scientific topics.

Pauling was one of the founders of the fields of quantum chemistry and molecular biology. His contributions to the theory of the chemical bond include the concept of orbital hybridisation and the first accurate scale of electronegativities of the elements. Pauling also worked on the structures of biological molecules, and showed the importance of the alpha helix and beta sheet in protein secondary structure.

- 307.** The absolute value of charge on electron was determined by-
(A) J.J. Thomson (B) R.A. Millikan
(C) Rutherford (D) Chadwick

Ans. (B)

Ans. (D)
Exp: Robert Andrews Millikan (March 22, 1868 – December 19, 1953) was an American experimental physicist honoured with the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1923 for the measurement of the elementary electric charge and for his work on the photoelectric effect.





Millikan graduated from Oberlin College in 1891 and obtained his doctorate at Columbia University in 1895. In 1896 he became an assistant at the University of Chicago, where he became a full professor in 1910. In 1909 Millikan began a series of experiments to determine the electric charge carried by a single electron. He began by measuring the course of charged water droplets in an electric field.

- 308.** Oxidation-reduction reaction involves.

 - (A) Transfer of neutrons
 - (B) Transfer of protons
 - (C) Transfer of electrons
 - (D) None of above

Ans. (C)

Exp: An oxidation-reduction (redox) reaction is a type of chemical reaction that involves a transfer of electrons between two species. An oxidation-reduction reaction is any chemical reaction in which the oxidation number of a molecule, atom, or ion changes by gaining or losing an electron. Redox reactions are common and vital to some of the basic functions of life, including photosynthesis, respiration, combustion, and corrosion or rusting.

The oxidation state (OS) of an element corresponds to the number of electrons, e^- , that an atom loses, gains, or appears to use when joining with other atoms in compounds. In determining the oxidation state of an atom, there are seven guidelines to follow:

- 309.** Name two elements that find wide application in transistor industry.
(A) Silicon and Germanium
(B) Carbon and Platinum
(C) Iridium and Germanium
(D) Tungsten and Platinum

Ans. (A)

Exp: SiGe, or silicon-germanium, is an alloy with any molar ratio of silicon and germanium, i.e. with a molecular formula of the form $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$. It is commonly used as a semiconductor material in integrated circuits (ICs) for heterojunction bipolar transistors or as a strain-inducing layer for CMOS transistors. IBM introduced the technology into mainstream manufacturing in 1989. This relatively new technology offers opportunities in mixed-signal circuit and analog circuit IC design and manufacture. SiGe is also used as a

thermoelectric material for high temperature applications (>700 K).

- 310.** Gelatin is mostly used in making ice creams in order to-

 - (A) Prevent making a colloid
 - (B) Stabilize the colloid and prevent crystallization.
 - (C) Stabilize mixture
 - (D) Enrich the aroma

Ans. (B)

Exp: Gelatin or gelatin is a translucent, colorless, flavorless food ingredient, derived from collagen taken from animal body parts. It is brittle when dry and gummy when moist. It may also be referred to as hydrolyzed collagen, collagen hydrolysate, gelatine hydrolysate, hydrolyzed gelatine, and collagen peptides after it has undergone hydrolysis. It is commonly used as a gelling agent in food, medications, drug and vitamin capsules, photographic films and papers, and cosmetics.

Ans (B)

Ans. (B)
Exp: *Crotalaria juncea*, known as brown hemp, Indian hemp, Madras hemp, or sunn hemp, is a tropical Asian plant of the legume family (Fabaceae). It is generally considered to have originated in India. It is now widely grown throughout the tropics and subtropics as a source of green manure, fodder and lignified fiber obtained from its stem.

- 312.** Which part of the Central Nervous System controls “reflex Actions”?

 - (A) Mesencephalon
 - (B) Rhombencephalon
 - (C) Medulla oblongata
 - (D) Spinal Chord

Ans. (D)

Ans. (B)
Exp: The reflex actions which are rapid responses or movements to the stimulus are controlled by the spinal cord and not by the brain or muscles.

313. The plant hormone Auxin is basically a _____?
(A) Weak Organic Acid
(B) Weak Inorganic Acid
(C) Weak Organic base
(D) Gaseous compound of carbon





Ans. (A)

Exp: Auxins promote stem elongation, inhibit growth of lateral buds (maintains apical dominance). They are produced in the stem, buds, and root tips. Example: Indole Acetic Acid (IA). Auxin is a plant hormone produced in the stem tip that promotes cell elongation. Auxin moves to the darker side of the plant, causing the cells there to grow larger than corresponding cells on the lighter side of the plant. This produces a curving of the plant stem tip toward the light, a plant movement known as phototropism.

Ans. (A)

Exp: The stapes or stirrup is a bone in the middle ear of humans and other mammals which is involved in the conduction of sound vibrations to the inner ear. This stirrup-shaped bone is connected to the oval window by its annular ligament, which allows the footplate to transmit sound energy through the oval window into the inner ear. The stapes is the smallest and lightest bone in the human body, and is so-called because of its resemblance to a stirrup.

- 315.** What polypeptides make by joining together?

(A) Carbohydrates (B) proteins
(C) vitamins (D) All the above

Ans. (B)

Exp: Polypeptides are chains of amino acids. Proteins are made up of one or more polypeptide molecules. The amino acids are linked covalently by peptide bonds.

316. This hormone is secreted by which endocrine gland?
(A) Thyroid Gland
(B) Pituitary Gland (Hypophysis)
(C) Pancreas
(D) Liver

Ans. (B)

Exp: Anti-diuretic hormone (also called vasopressin) is produced in the hypothalamus and then secreted by the pituitary gland into the bloodstream at the base of the brain. Anti-diuretic hormone is needed to control the fluid balance in the body. It does this

by making the kidneys produce more concentrated urine.

317. A ripe Tomato is Red, Leaves are Green, Flower is Purple, hair is Black. Bring out the pigments responsible for these colors respectively?

(A) Lycopene, Melanin, Chlorophyll, Anthocyanin.

(B) Lycopene, Chlorophyll, Anthocyanin, Melanine.

(C) Anthocyanin, Chlorophyll, Lycopene, Melanin.

(D) Melanin, Anthocyanin, Chlorophyll, Lycopene.

Ans. (B)

Exp: Lycopene is a carotenoid – a natural pigment that gives some vegetables and fruits their red color. It is an antioxidant (a substance that protects against cell damage). Tomatoes provide about 80% of the lycopene in the US diet.

Chlorophyll is a green photosynthetic pigment found in plants, algae, and cyanobacteria. Chlorophyll absorbs mostly in the blue and to a lesser extent red portions of the electromagnetic spectrum, hence its intense green color.

Anthocyanins are a group of naturally occurring pigments that are responsible for the red-blue color of many grains, fruits, and vegetables. Dietary consumption of anthocyanins is high compared with that of other flavonoids because of their wide distribution in plant foods.

Melanin is a broad term for a group of natural pigments found in most organisms. Melanin is produced through a multistage chemical process known as melanogenesis, where the oxidation of the amino acid tyrosine is followed by polymerization.

- 318.** Which among the following makes the Cornea Transplantation easy and used more widely?

(A) Cornea are easily available
(B) Cornea does not link up with blood vessels
(C) Both of the above reasons
(D) None of the above

Ans. (B)

Exp: The normal cornea is devoid of lymphatic and blood vessels, thus suppressing both the afferent (lymphatic) and efferent (vascular) arms of the immune response—





- 333.** The ability of a population to increase under ideal environmental conditions is called.

- (A) Natality
- (B) Carrying capacity
- (C) Biotic potential
- (D) Absolute natality

Ans. (C)

Exp: Biotic potential is the ability of a population of living species to increase under ideal environmental conditions sufficient food supply no predators and a lack of disease

- 334.** How much protein per day does a pregnant woman

Ans. (C)

Exp: Proteins are essential nutrients for the human body. They are one of the building blocks of body tissue and can also serve as a fuel source. As a fuel, proteins provide as much energy density as carbohydrates. The most important aspect and defining characteristic of protein from a nutritional standpoint is its amino acid composition. Proteins are polymer chains made of amino acids linked together by peptide bonds. During human digestion, proteins are broken down in the stomach to smaller polypeptide chains via hydrochloric acid and protease actions. This is crucial for the absorption of the essential amino acids that cannot be biosynthesized by the body.

- 335.** Radioactive cobalt and radium are used for the treatment of diseases.

(A) Sickle cell anemia (B) Cancer
(C) Cholera (D) Hemophilia

Ans (B)

Ans. (B)

Exp: Cobalt therapy is the medical use of gamma rays from the radioisotope cobalt-60 to treat conditions such as cancer. Beginning in the 1950s, cobalt-60 was widely used in external beam radiotherapy (teletherapy) machines, which produced a beam of gamma rays which was directed into the patient's body to kill tumor tissue. Because these "cobalt machines" were expensive and required specialist support, they were often housed in cobalt units. Cobalt therapy was a revolutionary advance in radiotherapy in the post-World War II period but is now being replaced by other technologies such as linear accelerators.

The image consists of a white background with a decorative orange and black striped border at the top. In the upper right corner, there is a portrait painting of Sarojini Naidu, an Indian woman with dark hair and a bindi, resting her chin on her hand. To the left of the portrait is a dark blue rectangular box with a white dashed border. Inside this box, the words "NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" are written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. At the top left of the page, the date "13 FEB" is displayed in a bold, light blue font. Below the date, the name "SAROJINI NAIDU" is written in a large, bold, black font.





Quick Bytes

- India has taken a significant step by opening its space sector to 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) through an amendment in the FDI policy.
- Turkey's First Fifth-Generation Aircraft, KAAN, Completes Maiden Flight.
- The Madhya Pradesh government has announced a groundbreaking initiative – the introduction of a 'bag-less school' policy.
- DRDO To Test Indigenous Laser Weapon DURGA-2.
- In its latest analysis, Morgan Stanley Research projects India's GDP growth for FY25 to moderate to 6.5%, down from the 6.9% projected for FY24.
- Mswipe Technologies, a prominent player in India's digital payments sector, has been awarded a Payment Aggregator (PA) license by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- PayPal Registers With Finance Ministry's Financial Intelligence Unit- India (FIU- IND) Under Anti-Money Laundering Law.
- PhonePe Launches Indus Appstore To Challenge Google And Apple.
- SBM Bank India, a subsidiary of the State Bank of Mauritius, has announced the appointment of Ashish Vijayakar as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank.
- The Arunachal Pradesh government recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to establish the state's first Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF).
- A New Book Titled "Sculpted Stones: Mysteries Of Mamallapuram" Authored By Ashwin Prabhu
- Swedish photographer Alex Dawson has been named as Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024 for his image 'Whale Bones'.
- Reliance Industries is set to launch 'Hanooman', a ChatGPT-style AI.
- Military Exercise - 'Shanti Prayas IV' - kicked off in Nepal.
- Shashi Tharoor was conferred with France's highest civilian honour
- India has contributed 1 million US Dollars to the Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund established by India, Brazil, and South Africa, IBSA
- Malta becomes 119th country to join International Solar Alliance
- Startek honored as one of India's best workplaces in IT
- Kuldeep Tita — the new Chandigarh Mayor declared by Supreme Court
- Japan commits 232.2 billion yen for nine development projects in India
- Prof Aditi Sen De becomes first woman scientist to win G D Birla Award
- PM Modi Launches ₹43,875 Cr Educational And Infra Projects Including 3 IIMs, IITs, 20 KVs, 13 NVs, And AIIMS In Jammu.
- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved a draft bill to extend a 10 percent reservation to the Maratha community in both educational institutions and government employment.
- Multinational Military Exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV' Commences In Kathmandu.
- India Hosts Milan Naval Exercise With Participation Of Nearly 50 Countries..
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) embarks on a comprehensive upgrade project worth Rs 60,000 crore for the Su-30MKI fighter jet fleet.
- HDFC Bank emerges as the most profitable company in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, with a net profit of Rs 44,300 crore.
- Tech Mahindra Buys Orchid Cybertech For ₹24.75 Crores.
- Swedish photographer Alex Dawson has clinched the prestigious title of Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024.
- An eight-year-old chess prodigy from Singapore, Ashwath Kaushik emerged victorious against the seasoned Polish grandmaster Jacek Stopa, securing his place in history as the youngest chess player to defeat a grandmaster.
- Ameen Sayani, Renowned Radio Presenter And Voice Of Geetmala, Passes Away.
- Senior Supreme Court Advocate Fali S Nariman Passes Away At 95.
- Supreme Court directs Rajasthan to pay ₹10 lakh to labourer.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the 'Himalayan Basket'
- Japanese PM Fumio Kishida commits to Ukraine's reconstruction and views it as an investment for the future.





- A book named “Dabbling in Diplomacy: Authorised & Otherwise, Recollections of a Non-Career Diplomat,” written by Professor S.D. Muni.
- PM Modi Launches 100,000sqm Bharat Mart In Dubai For Exports.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted ‘Exercise Vayu Shakti-24’ at the Pokhran range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, presenting a formidable display of its aerial firepower.
- Indian Army’s Rs 57,000 Crore Project To Replace Aging T-72 Tank Fleet.
- Government Raises Authorized Capital Of FCI From ₹10,000 Crore To ₹21,000 Crore..
- A Two-Day INDUS-X Summit In New Delhi: Driving Defence Innovation Between India And The USA.
- IREDA And PNB Collaborate On Renewable Energy Projects.
- The Hon’ble President of India, in a momentous ceremony on Republic Day 2024, bestowed the prestigious ‘Jeevan Raksha Padak’ upon Sh. Shashikant Kumar, a constable of the Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF).
- REC Ltd Receives ‘Innovative Technology Development Award’ At IIT Madras CSR Summit..
- KVS Manian Appointed As Kotak Mahindra Bank’s New JMD.
- Shubman Gill Designated As Punjab ‘State Icon’ For Lok Sabha Polls
- Anupamaa’ Actor Rituraj Singh Passes Away At 59.
- Odisha Govt Introduces ‘Swayam’ Scheme For Youth Empowerment
- Karnataka Leads In EV Infrastructure Development
- Pradeep Kumar Sinha Appointed As Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman Of ICICI Bank
- Gulzar And Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Awarded Prestigious Jnanpith Award 2023
- NASA And JAXA Set To Launch World’s First Wooden Satellite
- India’s First Indigenous Spy Satellite By TASL Set For SpaceX Launch
- Telangana House passes resolution on caste census.
- Jyothi Yarraj wins 60m hurdles gold at Asian Indoor.
- Indian Army launches Women's Skill Development initiative in Manipur
- Dangal actor Suhani Bhatnagar dies at 19.
- India women clinch Badminton Asia Team Championships title.
- Greece became the first majority Orthodox Christian country to legalize same-sex marriage
- Renowned Jain seer Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj passes away.
- Vishnu Deo Sai-led government is preparing to introduce legislation to stop “illegal religious conversion” in the state.
- Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik topped in CM popularity rating.
- Ex-India captain and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) legend MS Dhoni has been chosen to captain the all-time greatest IPL team.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal district.
- ICC imposes over 17-year ban on UK cricketer Rizwan Javed.
- India begins talks with IEA for full membership.
- BSF K9 dog wins first position at All India Police Duty Meet.
- IIT Roorkee & EIL collaborate to drive research and innovation
- Zelensky secures security agreements with Germany, France.
- Panvel gets ₹650 cr for India’s largest training centre.
- The Bihar Forest and Environment Department will organize the three-day Nagi Bird Festival in Jamui
- The Andhra government and edX, an e-learning platform, signed an agreement to offer world-class higher education courses to the youth.
- Under mission "Nanhe Faristey," RPF reunited more than 549 children in need of care and protection with their families.
- India signs MoU with Colombia on sharing India's open-sourced DPIs.
- Prime Minister Modi Virtually Unveils Mahabharata-Inspired Jyotisar Anubhav Kendra.
- The US House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed the Quad bill aimed at enhancing cooperation between the US, Australia, India, and Japan.
- Odisha CM Inaugurates Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Center In Bhubaneswar
- Tourism Minister Reddy Lays Foundation Stone For Komuravelli Railway Station In Siddipet, Telangana





- India Approves Acquisition Of Defence Equipment Worth Rs 84,560 Cr
- The 12th edition of the MILAN naval exercise is poised to set sail in the strategic port city of Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27, marking a significant gathering of naval forces from over 50 countries.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has rolled out a new insurance product named 'Amritbaal'.
- SIDBI Releases Impact Study 'Prabhaav' On Fund Of Funds For Startups
- MSME Minister Narayan Rane Launches Rs 20 Lakh Scheme Under CGTMSE For GST-Exempted Micro Units
- India has cemented its position as the third-largest digitalized nation in the world, trailing only behind the technological powerhouses of the United States of America (USA) and China.
- The Cochin International Airport Ltd, renowned as the world's 1st airport fully powered by solar energy with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) will establish a Green Hydrogen plant within its premises.
- Lebanese Judge Nawaf Salam Elected As ICJ's New President
- ICC Bans UK Cricketer Rizwan Javed For Over 17 Years For Match-Fixing
- India To Initiate Satellite Based Tolling On Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway
- 'Udaan' Actor Kavita Chaudhary Passes Away At 67
- Iconic 'Dum Pukht' Chef Imtiaz Qureshi Passes Away At 93
- DoT Launches 'Sangam: Digital Twin' Initiative For Transformative Infrastructure Planning
- Germany Overtakes Japan As Third-Largest Economy
- Prabowo Subianto Wins Indonesian Presidency: A Decisive Victory
- Major Iron Ore Deposits Uncovered In Rajasthan's Karauli
- Nand Kishore Yadav Elected As Bihar Legislative Assembly Speaker
- Tamil Nadu Assembly Rejects Delimitation And 'One Nation, One Election' Proposals
- PayU Partners With NPCI To Introduce Credit Lines On UPI For Merchants
- Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras Launches "SUFALAM" For Food Entrepreneurs
- Tata Group And Uber Forge Strategic Alliance For Digital Business Growth
- Haryana Launches 'Van Mitra' Scheme To Boost Green Cover
- Nikhil Joshi Appointed As Managing Director Of Boeing Defence India
- Tata Steel Partners With IIT Bhubaneswar REP To Drive Innovation
- RBI And Nepal Rastra Bank Sign Pact For UPI-NPI Linkage
- National Film Awards: Indira Gandhi And Nargis Dutt Names Removed From Categories
- South Indian Bank Wins Best Technology Bank Of The Year Award
- Indian Football Hits A Seven-Year Low, Slides To 117th In FIFA Rankings
- IIT Jammu Develops Sound-Based Anti-Drone System
- Sonowal inaugurates Kalughat Inland Water Transport Terminal.
- IBM CEO Arvind Krishna has joined the Board of Directors of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- I&B Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates BSE EXPO-2024.
- Haryana CM Khattar launches 'Van Mitra' scheme
- Indian Coast Guard ship 'Varaha' makes port call in Mozambique.
- Modi to lay foundation stone for ₹1,756 Cr, Barsingsar Solar Plant
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the AIIMS Rewari
- Special 'Aastha' train to Ayodhya flagged off from Tripura.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi to unveil the imposing 125-foot statue of Bir Lachit Borphukan in Jorhat, Assam.
- ISRO's meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS is set for launch.
- Punjabi University's Department of Computer Science unveils 'PURAN,' an innovative system to improve Gurmukhi script typing online.
- President Droupadi Murmu awards Vishisht Seva Medal to Havildar Varinder Singh of the Sikh Regiment in the Indian Army for his development of a 'Multipurpose Octocopter'.
- PM Narendra Modi and Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prime Minister of Dubai, laid the foundation stone of Bharat Mart





- India's inaugural Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) to operate from AIIMS in Rishikesh.
- The Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force have expressed interest in the domestically designed and developed "Tapas" medium altitude long endurance drone.
- Election Commission bids farewell to Anup Chandra Pandey.
- Grant under "Kanya Sumangala Yojana" to be increased to Rs. 25,000.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Gandhinagar Premier League (GPL) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Dubai Launches World's First Air Taxi Service at World Government Summit 2024
- Trinidad and Tobago Declares National Emergency After Offshore Oil Spill
- Assam Designates Kaji Nemu as the Official State Fruit
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of ₹20-lakh crore.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), a pivotal organization in the field of Chartered Accountancy in India, announced a significant leadership transition. In a recent meeting, the Council of ICAI elected CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as the President and CA.
- Shamar Joseph and Amy Hunter Crowned ICC Players of the Month for January 2024
- India Wins the 9th GovTech Prize for AI-Powered Road Safety Initiative
- NITI Aayog Unveils GROW Initiative for Agroforestry Development to Revitalize India's Wastelands
- Dattajirao Gaekwad, Nation's Oldest Test Cricketer, Passes Away At 95
- The Yogi government in UP is set to sign an MoU with IIT Roorkee for enhanced disaster management.
- PM Narendra Modi unveils 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana'.
- China Opens Qinling Station for Antarctic scientific investigation
- "Maha Swaapnikudu" book launched by Chandrababu Naidu.
- Defence Ministry signs ₹2,269 Cr. contract for 11 shakti EW systems.
- The Odisha government has decided to provide interest-free loans up to Rs 1 lakh to youths of the state.
- Telangana Assembly passes bill banning hookah parlours.
- UWW lifted the suspension imposed on the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on August 23, 2023, with immediate effect.
- India wins 9th GovTech prize for AI-Powered road safety.
- The "International Inclusion Alliance Conference 2024" will take place in New Delhi on February 15th at the Stein Auditorium, Indian Habitat Centre.
- Luxury train "Palace on Wheels" will change its route after 42 years
- UP to collaborate with IIT Roorkee for enhanced disaster management
- China has officially opened the Qinling Station in Antarctica, for scientific exploration and research in the Antarctic region.
- "Maha Swaapnikudu" book launched by Chandrababu Naidu.
- Gupteswar forest designated 4th biodiversity heritage site in Odisha
- NITI Aayog launched GROW Initiative for Agroforestry in Wastelands
- Defence Minister unveiled the statue General Bipin Rawat in Dehradun
- PM Modi to inaugurate UAE's first Hindu Temple "BAPS Mandir"
- AIIMS Delhi, Liverpool University to collaborate for Cancer Research
- Retail inflation eases to a three-month low in January, 2024: MoSPI
- Ahmedabad-based real estate developer Shivalik Group has received SEBI approval for its first AIF - Shivalik Investment Fund.
- India's oldest Test cricketer Dattajirao Gaekwad passed away
- Famous litterateur & Padma Shri awardee Usha Kiran Khan passed away
- Eminent artist A Ramachandran passed away at 89
- Deepika Padukone to present honour at BAFTA Awards
- CSIR-IIIM Srinagar organized World Unani Day 2024 on 13th February
- Education Ministry launched APAAR initiative in remote villages
- Conservative ex-PM Alexander Stubb elected Finland president





- Noida Recognized As “Water Warrior” City
- Renowned Litterateur & Padma Shri Awardee Usha Kiran Khan Passes Away
- World Marathon Record Holder Kelvin Kiptum Dies In Road Accident
- Parliament Passes Historic JK ST Quota Bill, Two Other Reservation Bills
- Former PM Alexander Stubb Wins Finland Presidential Election
- Sangeet Natak Akademi To Establish Cultural Center In Hyderabad
- EPFO Raises Interest Rate On PF Deposits To 8.25%, A Three Year High
- Paytm E-Commerce Rebrands As Pai Platforms, Acquires Bitsila
- The Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, witnessed the launch of the “Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)” Portal.
- Government To Include ASHA And Anganwadi Workers/Helpers In Ayushman Bharat Scheme
- Prama India & C-DAC Forge Partnership For Thermal Camera Technology
- Southern Railway Appoints First Transwoman TTE, Breaks Barriers In Dindigul
- Katrina Kaif Joins Chennai Super Kings As Brand Ambassador For IPL 2024
- Veteran Artist A Ramachandran Passes Away In Delhi
- Meghalaya CM inaugurates "MeghFarm" processing hub.
- ‘SWATI’ (Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation) launched.
- IIT Guwahati inaugurates "SWASTHA" Project for advanced healthcare
- Adani Ports secured top position for climate actions.
- Odisha government hikes MBPY pension amount by Rs 500.
- MoS Health SP Baghel launches Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis elimination.
- Assam cabinet approves bill to ban 'magical healing'.
- Saudi Arabia became guest of honour at New Delhi World Book Fair
- NASA's PACE satellite successfully launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral.
- Chris Gayle, the legendary West Indian batter, will lead the Telangana Tigers in the inaugural edition of the Indian Veteran Premier League (IVPL).
- Ratan Tata's pet project of animals' hospital to come up in Mumbai
- Goa unveiled revenue surplus budget for 2024-25 President Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the ‘Vividdhata ka Amrit Mahotsav’ at Rashtrapati Bhavan, showcasing Northeast India’s cultural richness.
- Embraer, Mahindra Partner On C-390 Millennium Medium Transport Aircraft In India
- 2024 World Governments Summit In Dubai: India, Türkiye, And Qatar Named Guests Of Honor
- Neeraj Chopra Honoured At Jungfrau’s Ice Palace In Switzerland
- ADB And Government Of India Sign \$200 Million Loan For Brahmaputra River Project
- Ajay Kumar Choudhary Appointed Non-Executive Chairman Of NPCI
- IRS Officer Narendra Kumar Yadav Leads The “Fit India” Movement As Brand Ambassador
- Etihad Airways Takes Flight As Official Sponsor Of CSK
- Pathum Nissanka Smashes Sri Lankan Records With Historic Double Century
- Odisha presented the Annual Budget of Rs 2.55 lakh crore for 2024-25.
- West Bengal govt unveils Rs 3.66 lakh crore budget for 2024-25
- MSME Minister launches ‘Smart Cards’ for startups
- Himachal CM unveiled 'Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar' initiatives.
- Jyotiraditya M. Scindia unveils "Airbus's A220" door manufacturing
- Pyarelal Sharma honoured with Lakshminarayana International Award
- Andhra Govt pegs budget outlay for 2024-25 at ₹2.86 lakh crore
- Delhi LG VK Saxena approves DDA budget of Rs 8,811 cr for 2024-25.
- President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate "Aadi Mahotsav" in Delhi
- Uttar Pradesh become first state with 21 airports.
- RBI imposes penalty of 63 lakh on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank
- Tata Trusts To Inaugurate India's First Small Animal Hospital In Mumbai
- Cabinet Approves Telecom Spectrum Auctions: Reserve Price Set At Rs 96,317.65 Crore





- Tata AIA Life Appoints Venkatachalam H As MD And CEO
- Ravi Kumar Jha Named MD & CEO Of LIC Mutual Fund
- Bharat Ratna To Honour PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, And MS Swaminathan
- NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has made a significant discovery—a super-Earth located in a habitable zone, offering tantalizing possibilities for the conditions conducive to life.
- Google Rebrands Its Chatbot, Bard, As Gemini
- China Launches Qinling Station For Antarctic Scientific Study
- BRICS Welcomes New Members: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, Iran, And Ethiopia
- IIT Indore's Ujjain Satellite Campus Secures Central Government Approval
- Preeti Rajak Becomes Indian Army's First Female Subedar
- The prestigious Blavatnik Awards will recognize the exceptional contributions of Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, Tanmay Bharat, and other early career scientists at a black-tie gala in London on February 27.
- Yogi Adityanath inaugurates 'Kisan Mela,' celebrates farmers' progress
- India and Oman sign MoU to strengthen defense cooperation
- Yogi govt to launch Annual Mass Drug Administration campaign.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed strict business restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank, prohibiting new deposits, credit transactions, and account top-ups from February 29th onwards
- The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) has been granted the status of a deemed university by the Ministry of Education, on the advice of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- The All-India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for December 2023 decreased by 0.3 points to 138.8, marking a 0.22% decline compared to the previous month.
- Rhythm Sangwan & Ujjwal Malik secure India's first gold: ISSF Shooting
- WHO has awarded certificates recognizing five countries—Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand—for their advancements in eliminating both industrially produced and naturally occurring trans fatty acids.
- Sultan Ibrahim ascends to the Throne as Malaysia's 17th King
- Kenya discovered coltan deposits within its borders for the first time, presenting a potential economic boost.
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Rashtriya Arogya Mela
- International Energy Agency Electricity 2024 Report. India's electricity demand to grow at 6.5% annually until 2026, surpassing China's growth rate.
- Vice Admiral Lochan Singh Pathania assumed role of Chief Hydrographer
- President Murmu to illuminate Surajkund International Crafts Mela
- Tamil Nadu unveiled the 'Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril' Initiative
- Tamil Nadu makes record with 16 Ramsar Sites, adding two new Sanctuary
- Indian Navy has declared 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians'.
- Mangalore hosts its inaugural Beachside Startup Fest, EMERGE-2024, from February 16th to 18th
- FM Sitharaman Declares Free Cervical Cancer Vaccine For Girls Aged 9-14
- Tamil Nadu Launches 'Kalaignar Sports Kit' Initiative
- On February 2, 2024, the world comes together to celebrate World Wetlands Day, emphasizing the undeniable importance of wetlands to both the environment and human wellbeing.
- Every year, from February 1st to 7th, the world commemorates World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), a time dedicated to fostering mutual understanding, peace, and harmony among people of different faiths.
- Every year on February 2nd, the world marks Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day, dedicated to shedding light on rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a chronic autoimmune disease that significantly impacts the lives of millions globally.
- Jay Shah, the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), was unanimously appointed for a third consecutive term as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).
- Former Railway Board Chief Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) following the vacancy left by PD Vaghela.





- AU Small Finance Bank announced the appointment of Harun Rashid Khan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as its Non-Executive Chairman.
- Tamil Actor Vijay Announced The Formation Of His Political Party, 'Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam.'
- India Launches UPI Payments At Eiffel Tower In Paris
- Uttarakhand Police Adopt Self-Balancing E-Scooters For Smart Patrols.
- Karnataka Clinches Nagesh Trophy Beating Andhra Pradesh
- India-US Seal \$4B MQ-9B Armed Drone Deal
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to conduct Exercise Vayu Shakti-24, a grand display of its aerial might, on 17 February 2024, at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range near Jaisalmer.
- ESAF Small Finance Bank And Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Partner To Offer Life Insurance
- NCPCR Launches GHAR Portal For Child Restoration And Repatriation..
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates CLEA-CASGC 2024 Conference
- Shri Pawan Kumar Assumes Charge As Chief Adviser (Cost) In Ministry Of Finance
- LK Advani To Be Awarded Bharat Ratna, Announced By PM Modi
- Maha Gaurav 2024 Award Presented To Nikhil Wagh By Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar.
- Abhinav Bindra Selected As Torchbearer For The 2024 Paris Olympics
- France Takes Lead As First EU Nation To Offer Digital Visas
- Michelle O'Neill Becomes Northern Ireland's First Minister
- Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit resigned from his post, citing "personal reasons."
- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Chief Minister Assam, laid the foundation stone for the Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy (CRIYN) and a 100-bedded Naturopathy hospital at Dihing Khamtighat in Dibrugarh.
- RBI Data Indicates 97.5% Return Of ₹2,000 Notes To Circulation
- State Govt Imposes Rs 6 Crore Fine On Fertilizer Plant For Ammonia Leak
- Adani Group's \$1.2 Billion Copper Plant Boosts India's Metal Independence For Energy Transition
- Mukesh Ambani Tops Global Brand Guardianship Index 2024
- Apurva Chandra Take Charge As Health Secretary
- Justice Ritu Bahri Becomes Chief Justice Of Uttarakhand High Court
- Ranveer Singh Joins BoAt As A Stakeholder And Brand Ambassador
- Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored With The Shankar Smriti Award
- Jagdeep Dhankhar Released The Book Titled '9 Incredible Years Of Haryana Government'
- Russian Cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko Sets World Record For Most Time In Space
- India's Woman Robot Astronaut "Vyommitra" Will Fly Into Space Ahead Of ISRO's Ambitious "Gaganyaan" Mission
- Rocky Actor Carl Weathers Passed Away At 76
- Namibian President Hage Geingob Passes Away At 82, Undergoing Cancer Treatment
- PM Modi to inaugurate NIT Goa's permanent campus
- Banaras Hindu University launched human DNA Bank
- Sanjay Jaju appointed as Information and Broadcasting Secretary.
- JNU and Odisha collaborate to establish Biju Patnaik Special Centre
- Goa announces free access to the Pertuzumab-Trastuzumab drug
- Pradeep Kumar appointed to permanent judge at Jharkhand High Court
- Michelle O'Neill assumes role of northern ireland's first minister
- Malaysian University seeks to establish campus in Telangana
- Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri honored with the "Shankar Smriti Award"
- Upendra Dwivedi to assume role as Indian Army's vice chief
- Former Chief Justice U.U. Lalit joins K.R. Mangalam University.
- Himachal Pradesh Governor unveils Dr. Ramchandra Tiwari's book. He inaugurated the 15th edition of Dr. Ramchandra Tiwari's two books 'Hindi Ka Gadya-Sahitya' and the third edition of 'Yoga Ke Vividh Aayam'.





- DRDO's "ABHYAS" records successful flight trials
- Baramunda ISBT in Bhubaneswar to be named after BR Ambedkar
- Israel Scientists uncover underwater canyon 'Eratosthenes' near Cyprus
- REC Limited earns best green bond - corporate award 2024
- MRPL and BPCL sign long-term RLNG pact
- Israeli Researchers Uncover Underwater Canyon Near Cyprus
- Bharat Rang Mahotsav, India's Biggest Theatre Festival, Kicks Off In Gujarat
- Jammu And Kashmir Gets \$14 Billion From Interim Budget
- PT Usha Honored With Lifetime Achievement Award By SJFI And DSJA
- Dr. Bina Modi Named 'Outstanding Business Woman Of The Year 2023'
- Rajendra Prasad Gupta Appointed As Rajasthan's New Advocate General
- Yemen Appoints Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak As New Prime Minister
- Isha Foundation's 242ft Adi Shiva Statue Approved Near Jewar Airport
- India To Fence Indo-Myanmar Border For Enhanced Security
- During a day-long visit to Goa, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the integrated Sea Survival Training Centre developed by ONGC in Goa.
- Iran Abolishes Visa Requirements For Indian Tourists From Feb 4, 2024
- Nayib Buake Secures Reelection As El Salvador President
- Uttar Pradesh Government Enhances 'EV Upayog' Portal To Promote Electric Vehicles
- Maharashtra Government Decided To Introduce 'Chief Minister Vayoshaare Yojana'
- Fitch Predicts India's Fiscal Deficit At 5.4%, Exceeds Government Target
- OECD Raises India's Growth Forecast For FY25 To 6.2%
- Banking System Liquidity Deficit Shrinks To ₹1.40 Lakh Crore: RBI Data Analysis
- Justice Vijay Bishnoi Sworn In As Chief Justice Of Gauhati High Court
- ADB Appoints Mio Oka As New Country Director For India
- Maharashtra Proposes 40 Ropeway Projects, Inks MoU With NHAI For Execution
- Sports Minister Anurag Thakur Opens BIMSTEC Aquatic Championships In New Delhi
- Telangana Football Association To Host FIFA World Cup Qualifiers In Hyderabad
- Kyasanur Forest Disease also known as Monkey Fever, has emerged as a significant health concern in Karnataka, India.
- IRCTC Initiates Ramayana Circuit Train To Bolster Tourism
- Divya Kala Mela 2024 Inaugurated In Agartala, Tripura
- Bihar CM Nitish launched Device 'NITISH' for farmers
- Dharmendra Pradhan launches EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme.
- Uttarakhand CM launches "Dhami against drugs campaign"
- Noida recognized as "Water Warrior" city for wastewater treatment
- UAE grants Golden Visa to Super 30 founder Anand Kumar
- February 7 is National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), which was first observed in 1999.
- Tata Digital appoints Naveen Tahilyani as CEO & MD
- CDS Anil Chauhan reveals book "AI and National Security".
- Rajendra Prasad Gupta appointed Rajasthan's new Advocate General
- Rio de Janeiro declares health emergency amid dengue fever surge.
- Country's first copper made Bapu Tower Built in Patna
- Sahitya Akademi awardee Farooq Nazki passes away at 83
- Maharashtra introduces 'Chief Minister Vayoshaare Yojana'
- China's Jielong-3 Rocket launches nine satellites
- The 1st MoU was inked between the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department and the Election Department, aimed at disseminating voter awareness among the masses across the state.
- Union culture minister launches "Digital National Museum of Epigraphy"
- Uttarakhand has marked a significant milestone in India's legislative history by becoming the first state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- India, Saudi Arabia Explore New Avenues Of Defence Cooperation





- RBI Grants Payment Aggregator Licences To Juspay, Zoho, And Decentro
- Tata Group Achieves Historic ₹30 Lakh Crore Market Cap, With TCS Crosses 15 Lakh Crore
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Launches Free Bus Travel For Transgender Community
- Dharmendra Pradhan Launched EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme
- Union Ministers Launch Mobile Health Service 'Kilkari' And Mobile Academy In Maharashtra And Gujarat
- TomTom Traffic Index 2023: London Slowest, Bengaluru Second Most Congested City
- India Ranks 38th Out Of 139 Countries In The World Bank's LPI Report 2023
- India Will Become World's Biggest Oil Demand Growth Driver By 2030: IEA Projections
- NITI Aayog And Kingdom Of The Netherlands Joint Report Release: 'LNG As A Transportation Fuel In Medium And Heavy Commercial Vehicle'
- UAE's ADIA Plans \$4-5 Billion Investment In India Via GIFT City
- Naveen Tahilyani Appointed Tata Digital's New CEO & MD
- Kazakh President Appoints Olzhas Bektenov As Prime Minister
- SCA Stadium Renamed In Honor Of Niranjan Shah Ahead Of India-England Test Match
- Wei Yi Grabs 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament
- Farooq Nazki, Poet And Sahitya Akademi Winner, Passes Away At 83
- Former Chile President Sebastian Pinera Dies In Helicopter Crash
- Picture Of Polar Bear Falling Asleep On Iceberg Wins Top Photography Prize
- In a groundbreaking turn of events, Kenneth Smith, a convicted murderer, has become the first person in the United States to be executed by nitrogen gas.
- ICRA Upgrades FY24 Bank Credit Growth Forecast To 15%: Record Incremental Growth Anticipated
- Air India, a subsidiary of the Tata Group, incurred a hefty fine of Rs 1.1 crore from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the country's aviation regulator, for safety breaches.
- RBI Greenlights LIC's Acquisition Of 9.99% Stake In HDFC Bank
- Cabinet Approves Rs 8,500 Crore Viability Gap Funding Scheme For Coal Gasification
- Krutrim, Ola Founder's AI Start-Up Emerges As India's First AI Unicorn
- Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana: REC Ltd To Spearhead Rooftop Solar Mission With Rs 1.2 Lakh Crore Funding
- India's ACME And IHI Sign Historic Green Ammonia Supply Pact
- Rohan Bopanna: A New Milestone At 43 As The Oldest World No. 1 In Men's Doubles
- IIT Indore's Ujjain satellite campus secured central approval.
- England to host 2027 World Test Championship Final
- IREDA releases vigilance journal 'Pahal'
- Assam partners with Abhinav Bindra to inaugurate sports centre
- NATO commences largest military exercise, "Steadfast Defender 2024"
- Squadron Leader Nikita Malhotra awarded Vayu Sena Medal
- Airbus and Tata to collaborate on helicopter manufacturing facility.
- Gukesh maintains lead with fourth victory at Tata Steel Chess 2024
- IIT Guwahati scholar wins 'Best Product Design' at Vishwakarma Awards
- India, Saudi Arabia To Start Military Exercise SADA TANSEEQ From Jan 29-Feb 10
- IREDA Unveils Its Vigilance Journal 'Pahal'
- On January 28, we celebrate the birth anniversary of Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa, the inaugural Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.
- India, France Ink Deal On Defence Space Agreement
- Netherlands Won FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup
- Australian Open 2024 Winners: Sinner, Sabalenka And Bopanna Shine
- Tanmay Agarwal's Record-Breaking Triple Century Sets The Ranji Trophy
- ISRO's POEM-3 Platform Fulfills All Payload Goals
- Maersk revealed world's largest ship fueled by Methanol
- Alabama conducted first nitrogen gas execution in US
- Women's Hockey star Deep Grace Ekka announced international retirement
- UP CM inaugurated HPCL's biomass-based CBG plant in Budaun





- NCC Directorate Maharashtra wins prestigious PM's Banner
- INS Visakhapatnam to aid MV marlin luanda after houthi missile attack
- Sitharaman only 2nd FM to present budget 6 times in a row
- Zomato received the nod from the RBI for online payment aggregator.
- The Centre had declared the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) as an ‘unlawful association’ in 2014.
- Tata Power installs 1,000 kW bifacial solar project in West Bengal.
- Rana Talwar, first Asian to head a global bank, passes away at 76.
- EAM S. Jaishankar inaugurates IHCL Skill Centre in Ektanagar
- NTPC Limited gets certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India
- Indian Navy warship rescues hijacked Iranian vessel in Gulf of Aden
- Dr. Nitya Anand, developer of contraceptive pill, passed away at 99.
- AZALI Assoumani re-elected as President of the Comoros
- Jatinder Aulakh takes oath Punjab Public Service Commission chairman
- Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar CM for 9th time
- UP Govt. set to launch 1st Water Metro service in Ayodhya.
- Ola launches e-Bike taxi service in Delhi & Hyderabad
- THDCIL Inaugurates India’s Largest Green Hydrogen Pilot Project On 75th Republic Day
- Bhutan’s Tshering Tobgay Embarks On Second Term As Prime Minister After Fourth Free Election
- Odisha Hosts Fourth National Chilika Birds Festival
- Odisha Launches LABHA: A 100% State-Funded MSP Scheme For Tribal Empowerment
- India Nominates ‘Maratha Military Landscapes’ For UNESCO World Heritage List 2024-25
- Bank Of Baroda’s Subsidiary ‘BOB Financial Solutions Limited’ Rebranded As ‘BOBCARD Limited’ With “Credit Reimagined” Tagline
- Toyota Retains Its Position As The World’s Top-Selling Automaker In 2023
- Qatar Secures 15-Year Gas Supply Deal With Bangladesh To Bolster Energy Ties
- Sharat Chauhan Appointed As Puducherry’s New Chief Secretary
- Sonam Maskar Wins Silver In Women’s Air Rifle In Cairo, Egypt
- Indian Boxer Mandeep Jangra Secures U.S Intercontinental Title
- Naorem Roshibina Devi Crowned Female Wushu Athlete Of The Year
- ‘Ek Samandar, Mere Andar,’ Penned By BrahMos Aerospace Deputy CEO Sanjeev Joshi
- Sonam Maskar wins silver In women’s air rifle In Cairo, Egypt
- Sharat Chauhan appointed as Puducherry’s Chief Secretary.
- Elon Musk’s Neuralink implants brain chip in first human.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) have been awarded a significant project to construct a solar power plant in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Vizag’s Dr. Arun Kumar V honored with Vyaghreswarudu Gold Medal
- GAIL secured 10-year LNG deal With UAE
- Hemant Soren arrested, Champai Soren to assume Jharkhand CM
- Gujarat’s Surat Airport declared International Airport
- Military Regimes of Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso Withdraw from ECOWAS
- Punjab Govt Launches ‘Sadak Surakhy Force’ (SSF), First Of Its Kind To Cut Road Deaths
- SARVATRA: Indian Army’s Mobile Bridge System
- IMF Boosts India’s GDP Growth Forecast To 6.7% For Current Fiscal Year
- India Placed 93rd Among 180 Nations In 2023 Corruption Index
- NTPC Green Energy Inks Rs 80,000 Cr MoU With Maharashtra Govt For Green Hydrogen
- ISSF Shooting World Cup: Rhythm Sangwan & Ujjwal Malik Secure India’s First Gold In Cairo
- Divyansh Singh Panwar Clinches ISSF World Cup Gold In 10m Air Rifle Event





Infographics

Producers vs. Consumers: Who Do Ag Subsidies Support?

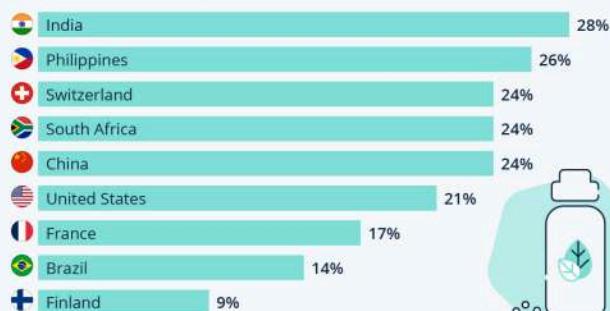
Support of agricultural producers and consumers of agriculture products in selected countries (in billion U.S. dollars)*



* 2022 figures. Transfers and price moderation
Source: OECD

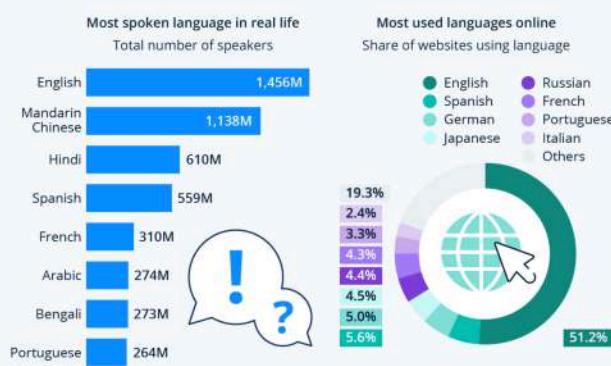
Many Prefer Alternative to Conventional Medicine

Share of respondents from selected countries who prefer alternative healing methods to conventional medicine



1,000-10,000 adults (18-64 y/o) per country surveyed Jan.-Dec. 2023.
SA/CH/PH: Apr. 2022-Mar. 2023
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

The Most Spoken Languages: On the Internet and in Real Life



* Most spoken languages as of 2023, languages used on the internet as of Feb. 2024
Sources: Ethnologue, W3Techs

The World's Oldest Populations

Countries/territories with the highest estimated share of people aged 65 and older*



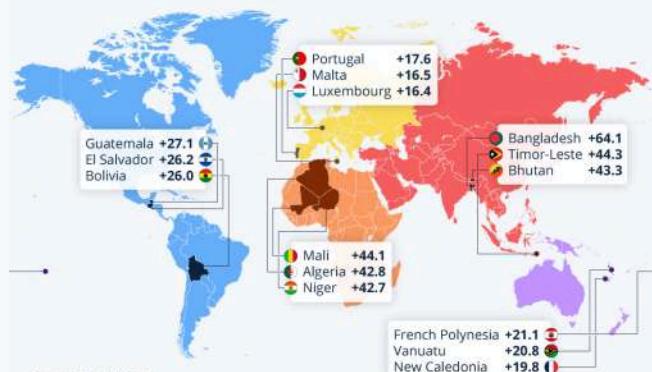
* Only includes countries/territories with a population of more than 1 million people
Source: United Nations Population Division





Where People Are Living Longer Lives

Countries with the biggest increase of life expectancy at birth from 1971 to 2021 per continent (in %)



The Oldest People in the World

Validated age and place of birth of the oldest living people in the world (as of Feb. 5, 2024)

	Female	Male
Maria Branyas Morera	116 years 338 days	
Edie Ceccarelli	116 years 0 days	
Tomiko Itooka	115 years 258 days	
Inah Canabarro Lucas	115 years 242 days	
Juan Vincente Perez Mora	114 years 254 days	
Elizabeth Francis	114 years 195 days	
Ethel Caterham	114 years 168 days	
Okagi Hayashi	114 years 156 days	

Source: Gerontology Research Group

Where Trust in Politics Runs Low

Share of respondents who think that national politicians can't be trusted



1,250 internet users (18-64 y/o) per country surveyed Oct. 2023
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

Where Corruption Is Rampant

Countries and territories ranked on perceived public sector corruption in 2023*



*As perceived by country experts and business people
Source: Transparency International





A New Year Every Two Months?

Major new year's celebrations around the world



Asia's Richest Families

Net worth of the richest families in Asia as of Jan. 19, 2024 (in billion U.S. dollars)



The World's Biggest Democracies

Estimated population of the world biggest democracies in 2024 (in million people)



Where NATO Defense Expenditure Stands

Estimated military spending of NATO countries in 2014 and 2023 (in billion constant 2015 U.S. dollars) and share of GDP



NATO member Iceland has no armed forces. Estimates as of mid-year

Source: NATO





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