2024
MAY

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IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

- Know about Baltimore Bridge collapse
- Hurun Index, Forbes List & WADA Report released
- MS Dhoni completes 300 dismissals in T20 cricket
- 10 countries including Maldives gets their new heads
- Rohit Sharma first Indian to hit 500 sixes in T20 cricket
- Agni-Prime Missile Successfully Flight-Tested In Odisha
- World's Oldest Man, Juan Vicente Perez Mora dies at 114
- India became 4th largest military spender in 2023: SIPRI
- Israel's Iron Dome and Arrow missile defences Explained
- Ratan Tata Receives Prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award

FEATURING:

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

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Burning Issues of the Month

History of Iran-Israel Rivalry, Proxy Wars Explained

Iran launched hundreds of drones as well as cruise missiles towards Israel in its first direct attack on the Jewish state in response to the strike in Iranian diplomatic building in Syrian capital of Damascus on April 1, which killed a senior member of the Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards, and eight other officers. The strikes have caused "minor damage" to the Nevatim airbase in the south of Israel. Only a few missiles fell in the territory of the state of Israel with slight damage to a military base in the south, with only slight damage to the infrastructure.

The war is Gaza, which Israel invade after an attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023, has flared up tensions within the Middle East, opening confrontation fronts with Syria and Lebanon, and drawing long-range fire at Israeli targets from as far away as Yemen and Iraq. Drones were also reportedly launched against Israel by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group.

Israel -Iran Rivalry:
Iran blames Israel for the April 1 airstrike on Iran's consulate in Damascus that killed members of its IRS. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied being behind the attack. When Iran was ruled by the Pahlavi dynasty for more than half a century, Iranian-Israeli bilateral relations were far from hostile. In fact, Iran was the first Muslim country to recognise the new state of Israel. Palestinians called the international acceptance to the creation of Israel in 1948 as a "catastrophe" that forced dispossession and displacement of more than 70,000 Palestinians. Israel was quick to establish ties with non-Arab states, including military cooperation with Iran. The relations between the two countries soured during the 1979 Islamic Revolution when Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was ousted, and the new supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, adopted a policy of standing up to "arrogant" world powers. During his regime, the US became known in Iran as the "Great Satan," and Israel as the "Little Satan". But a hostile rivalry ensued after Iran built up and funded proxy militias and other groups in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen. The Iranian nuclear programme, which has been a primary focus of Israel, was attacked by US' Struxnet computer virus in 2000s to target centrifuges enriching uranium as claimed by Iran. Sabotage attacks continued into the 2020s, as Israel sought to damage Iranian nuclear facilities. Nuclear scientists were also targeted. US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement in 2018 was seen as a blow to Tehran and a victory for Israel.

Proxy Wars:
Iran has supported the outfits and groups that attack Israel and the US. Hezbollah in Lebanon, formed in the 1980s to fight Israel's occupation in southern Lebanon, has the backing of Iran. Hezbollah has been sending rockets into northern Israel since the beginning of the Gaza war. Iran also supports Hamas, the armed Palestinian group that led the October 7 attack on southern Israel. The current war has killed more than 33,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, over the past six months. Iran has also provided support to Houthi rebels in Yemen, who fired ballistic missiles at Israeli resort town on the Red Sea. Iran also backs the Syrian regime of President Bashar Assad, and Israel says Tehran uses Syrian territory to ship missiles and other weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel has carried out numerous airstrikes in Syria to stop that flow of weapons, and said the Iranian general killed in the consulate strike in Damascus was a key figure in that logistical chain.

India's Stance:
India has adopted a neutral stance on the conflict between Iran and Israel, emphasizing the importance of peace and stability in the region. Despite its neutral stance, India maintains a strategic partnership with Israel, characterized by significant military and economic ties, including a substantial trade volume of around $7.5 billion.

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What are Israel's Iron Dome and Arrow missile defences: Explained

Israel used a multi-layered defence shield to block Iran's mass drone and missile attack on Israeli territory overnight. Its defensive array includes short-range Iron Dome and long-range Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 missiles. Israel has been honing its air defences since coming under Iraqi Scud salvoes in the 1991 Gulf war.

ARROW

The Arrow or Hetz is a family of anti-ballistic missiles designed to fulfill an Israeli requirement for a missile defense system that would be more effective against ballistic missiles than the MIM-104 Patriot surface-to-air missile. The long-range Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 system, developed by Israel with an Iranian missile threat in mind, is designed to intercept ballistic missiles outside the earth's atmosphere, using a detachable warhead that collides with the target. It operates at an altitude that allows for the safe dispersal of any non-conventional warheads. State-owned Israel Aerospace Industries is the project's main contractor, while Boeing is involved in producing the interceptors.

- Designer: Israel Aerospace Industries
- Designed: 1994–present
- Manufacturer: Israel Aerospace Industries, Boeing Defense, Space & Security
- Unit cost: US$3 million
- Produced 2000–present

On Oct 31, Israel's military said it had used the Arrow aerial defence system for the first time since the Oct 7 outbreak of the war with Hamas to intercept a surface-to-surface missile in the Red Sea fired towards its territory. On Sept. 28, Germany signed a letter of commitment with Israel to buy the Arrow-3 missile defence system for nearly 4 billion euros ($4.2 billion).

David's Sling

Formerly known as Magic Wand, it is an Israel Defense Forces military system jointly developed by the Israeli defense contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and the American defense contractor Raytheon, that became operational in 2017. It is designed to intercept enemy planes, drones, tactical ballistic missiles, medium- to long-range rockets and cruise missiles, fired at ranges from 40 to 300 km. David's Sling is intended to replace the MIM-23 Hawk and MIM-104 Patriot in the Israeli arsenal.

- Designer & Manufacturer: Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Raytheon Missiles & Defense
- Designed: 2009–present
- Unit cost: US$1 million
- Produced: 2017–present

Iron Dome

Iron Dome is an Israeli mobile all-weather air defense system, developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries. The system is designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells fired from distances of 4 to 70 kilometres away and whose trajectory would take them to an Israeli populated area. Each truck-towed unit fires radar-guided missiles to blow up short-range threats like rockets, mortars and drones in mid-air.

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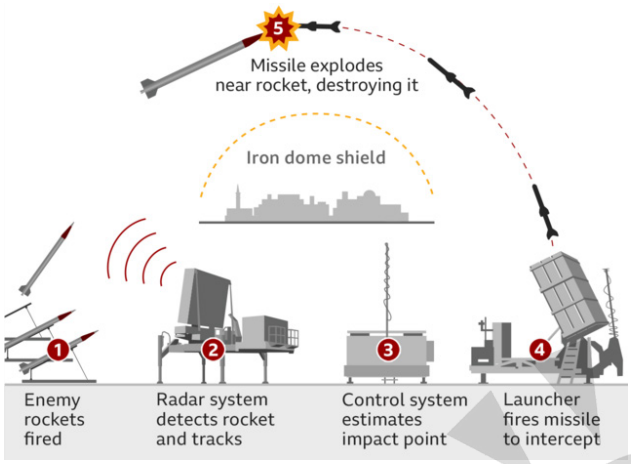
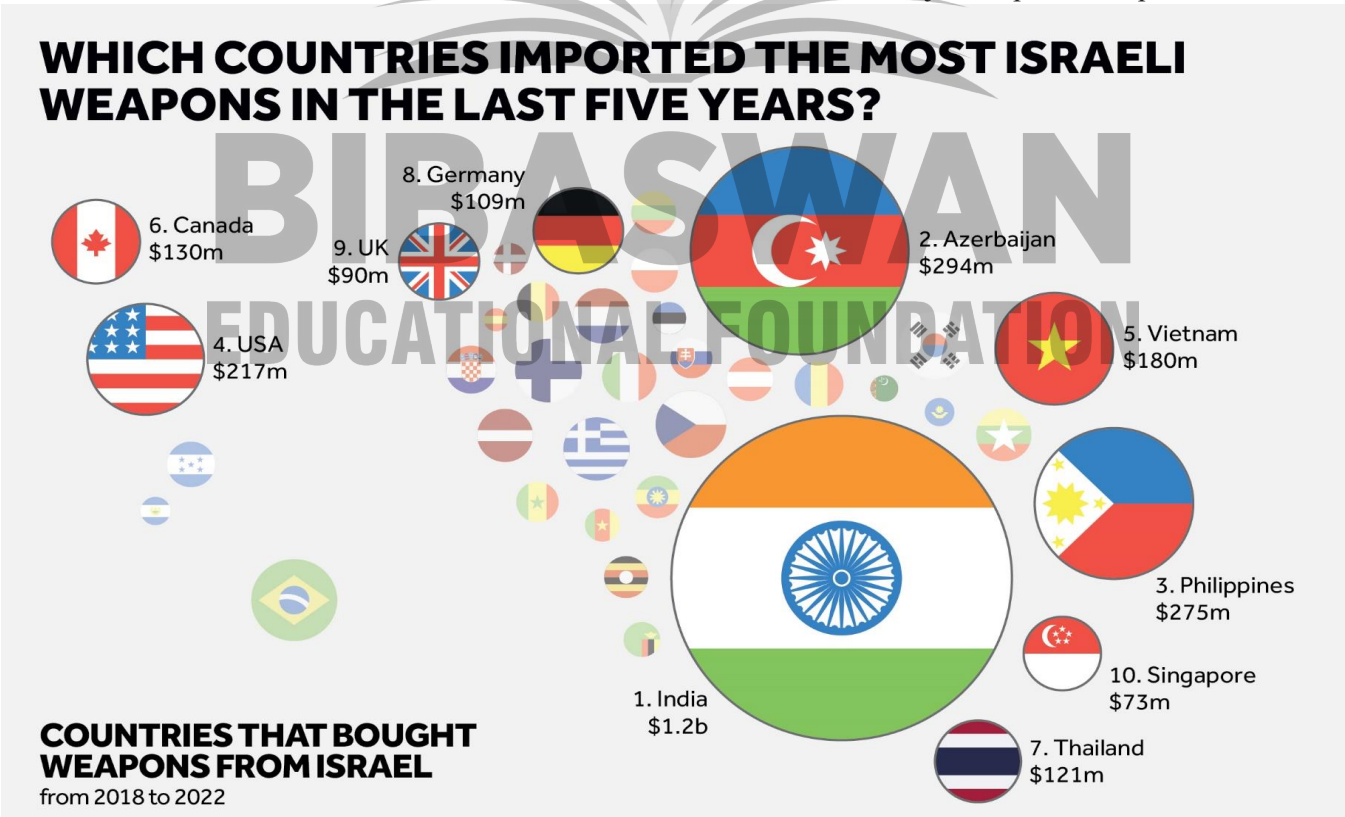
- Designer & Manufacturer: Rafael Advanced Defense Systems & Israel Aerospace Industries
- Designed: 2005
- Unit cost: $50 million per battery
- Produced: 2011–present



Rafael says it delivered two Iron Dome batteries to the US Army in 2020. From 2011 to 2021, the United States contributed a total of US$1.6 billion to the Iron Dome defense system, with another US$1 billion approved by the US Congress in 2022. Ukraine is seeking a supply as well in its war with Russia, though Israel has so far only provided Kyiv with humanitarian support and civil defences. A naval version of the Iron Dome to protect ships and sea-based assets was deployed in 2017. The system quickly determines whether a rocket is on course to hit a populated area; if not, the rocket is ignored and allowed to land harmlessly.

Laser-based system

Israel's interception systems cost between tens of thousands and millions of dollars to shoot down incoming threats. Israel is developing a laser-based system to neutralise enemy rockets and drones at an estimated cost of just $2 per interception.



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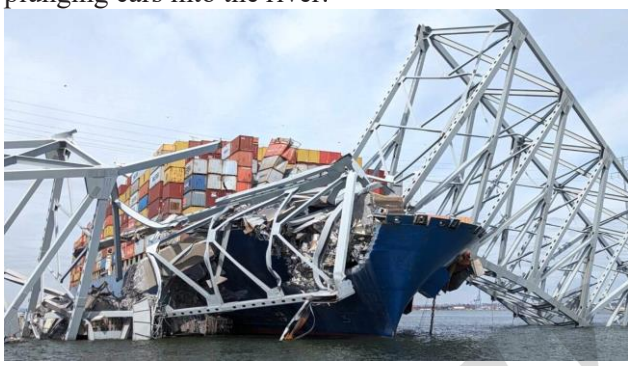
Why did the Baltimore bridge collapse and what do we know about the ship? Explained

Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed after a container ship smashed into the four-lane span, plunging cars into the river.



What happened in Baltimore?
A container ship named the Dali was sailing down the Patapsco River when it struck a pylon of the bridge, crumpling almost the entire structure into the water. There was no indication of terrorism.

Are there any casualties?
A construction crew was fixing potholes on the bridge and eight people fell into the river where water temperatures were 47 F (8 C). At least two people were rescued — one was taken to the hospital and was later discharged, While Six people, who were believed to be part of a road construction crew, are presumed dead after Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed.

Here's what you should know about the historic bridge:

How old? The Francis Scott Key Bridge, also referred to as just the Key Bridge, opened to traffic in March 1977 and is the final link in the Baltimore Beltway. It crosses over the 50-foot-deep Patapsco River, where former US attorney Francis Scott Key found inspiration to write the lyrics to the Star Spangled Banner.

How long? The bridge was 1.6 miles long when standing.

Traffic volume: More than 30,000 people commuted daily on the bridge.

How much did it cost? The bridge cost $60.3 million to build. Since its collapse, President Joe Biden said he's committed to helping rebuild the bridge as soon as possible.

About the port: Baltimore ranks as the ninth biggest US port for international cargo. It handled a record 52.3 million tons, valued at $80.8 billion, in 2023. The port supports 15,330 direct jobs and 139,180 jobs in related services.

About the ship: The bridge collapsed after a container vessel called Dali collided with one of its supports. Dali is operated by Singapore-based Synergy Group but had been chartered to carry cargo by Danish shipping giant Maersk. The ship is about 984 feet long, that's the length of almost three football fields.

What do we know about the bridge that collapsed?
The Francis Scott Key Bridge was one of three ways to cross the Baltimore Harbor and handled 31,000 cars per day or 11.3 million vehicles a year. It is four lanes wide and sits 185 feet (56 meters) above the river. It opened in 1977 and crosses the Patapsco River, where US national anthem author Francis Scott Key wrote the "Star Spangled Banner" in 1814 after witnessing the British defeat at the Battle of Baltimore and the British bombing of Fort McHenry.

How will the bridge collapse impact the Baltimore port?
Traffic was suspended at the port after the collision. It is one of the smallest container ports on the Northeastern seaboard, handling about a tenth of the volume that passes through the Port of New York and New Jersey. The flow of containers to Baltimore can likely be redistributed to bigger ports. However, there could be major disruptions in shipping cars, coal and sugar. It is the busiest US port for car shipments, handling at least 750,000 vehicles in 2023, according to data from the Maryland Port Administration. In 2023, the port was the second busiest for coal exports. It is also the largest US port by volume for handling farm and construction machinery, as well as agricultural products such as sugar and salt.

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Recent Appointments

Indonesia officially declares Prabowo Subianto as President

Indonesia's electoral commission formally declared Prabowo Subianto president-elect, after the country's highest court rejected challenges to his landslide victory lodged by two losing presidential candidates. Subianto, who is currently defense minister, won the election with 58. 6 per cent of the votes, or more than 96 million ballots, more than twice the amount received by either of the other two candidates. But his rivals alleged that his victory had depended on large-scale fraud and widespread state interference. Subianto will take office in October, succeeding the popular Joko Widodo, the country's first president from outside the Jakarta elite. The General Election Commission certified the election results on March 20, but the formal declaration ceremony was put on hold following legal challenges from rival candidates, former Jakarta Gov Anies Baswedan and former Central Java Gov Ganjar Pranowo, who sought to annul the result and demand a revote.

Indonesia

- Capital: Jakarta
- Official language: Indonesian
- Currency: Indonesian Rupiah

Papua New Guinea Appoints First Defence Adviser to India

Papa New Guinea has appointed Col Edison Napyo as its first Defence Advisor to India, marking a significant diplomatic move. Col Napyo will serve as a crucial link between the Papa New Guinean Government and Military in their interactions with India. This appointment strengthens the ties between the two nations and enhances cooperation in defense matters.

Papua New Guinea:

- Capital: Port Moresby
- Monarch: Charles III
- Governor-General: Bob Dadae
- Prime Minister: James Marape

Naima Khatoon becomes first female VC of AMU in over 100 yrs

Naima Khatoon has been appointed as Aligarh Muslim University's Vice Chancellor for the next 5 years. She is the first woman to hold post in over 100 years. Before Khatoon, the only woman to have held a top post at AMU was Begum Sultan Jahan who was appointed the Chancellor in 1920. Khatoon was appointed after receiving approval from President Droupadi Murmu, who is Visitor to the Aligarh Muslim University. AMU completed 100 years as a university in September 2020, becoming one of the oldest universities in India.

India's Gita Sabharwal appointed UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia

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UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the United Nations resident coordinator in Indonesia. Previously, Sabharwal served as the UN resident coordinator in Thailand and as peacebuilding and development adviser for the United Nations in Sri Lanka. Before joining the UN, Sabharwal was The Asia Foundation's deputy country representative for the Maldives and Sri Lanka and held positions as the poverty and policy adviser for the United Kingdom's Department for International Development in India and Vietnam. The UN resident coordinator is the highest-ranking representative of the UN Development System at the country level. Resident coordinators lead UN country teams and coordinate UN support to countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Citroen India ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador

French automaker Citroen, a Stellantis brand, has signed in popular Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador. Dhoni made his debut as captain for Team India in 2007. Over the years, he has won many accolades and has received various awards and honors, including the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, ICC ODI Player of the Year, and many others.

Citroen:

- Founded: 1919
- Founder: André Citroën
- Headquarters; France
- CEO Citroën: Thierry Koskas

President Mohamed Muizzu's party wins Maldives Parliamentary election

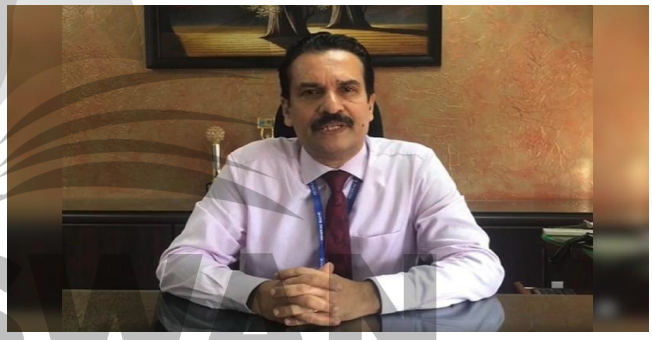
Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu's People's National Congress won the parliamentary election. It won 66 of the first 86 seats declared according to the Elections Commission of Maldives results.

The election was seen as a litmus test for the pro-China leader whose policies are being closely watched by both India and China amidst regional power dynamics. This result will enable President Muizzu, seen as anti-India, to push policies through the parliament.

Maldives:

- Capital: Malé
- Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa

RBI approves appointment of Ajith Kumar KK as Dhanlaxmi Bank's MD & CEO



Dhanlaxmi Bank said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the appointment of Ajith Kumar K. K as the managing director & CEO of the bank for a period of 3 three years. Presently, he is the chief human resources officer in Federal Bank Limited in the cadre of President. He is also director of Federal Operations & Services Limited, wholly-owned subsidiary of Federal Bank Limited, on account of his employment.

Dhanlaxmi Bank:

- Founded: 14 November 1927
- Headquarters: Kerala, India

Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG)

Senior IPS officer Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the Director-General of National Security Guard

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(NSG), the country's counter-terrorism force. Prabhat, a 1992 batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, is presently working as Additional Director General in CRPF. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) chief Daljit Singh Chawdhary was holding the additional charge of the NSG. The ACC has also approved the appointment of Intelligence Bureau Additional Director Sapna Tewari as the Special Director in the agency.

National Security Guard:

- Formed: 16 October 1984
- Minister: Amit Shah
- Director General: Daljit Singh Chaudhary

Intel announces Santosh Viswanathan as India region head

Computer chip maker Intel announced Santosh Viswanathan will head the India region business as its Managing Director (MD). Viswanathan has been with Intel for about 21 years. In March this year, Intel announced India as a separate region within its SMG (Sales, Marketing and Communications Group) organisation, to capitalise on the country's rapid growth and business opportunities. Viswanathan took charge as Vice President and Managing Director for the Indian market in July 2022. Now Intel has carved out India as a separate region. The company also announced the appointment of Hans Chuang as General Manager (GM) of SMG Asia Pacific and Japan (APJ).

Intel :

- Founded: July 18, 1968
- Headquarters: California, U. S.
- Chairman: Frank D. Yeary
- CEO: Pat Gelsinger

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi Appointed As Next Chief of Naval Staff

Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has been appointed as the next Chief of the Indian Navy. He will succeed Admiral R Hari Kumar who is retiring on 30th of this month. Prior to taking over as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Mr Tripathi has served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. He commanded the Indian naval ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul. Vice Admiral Tripathi is a recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Nausena Medal for devotion to duty.

Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Appointed As New Prime Minister Of Kuwait

Kuwait's Emir has appointed Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah as the new prime minister of Kuwait. This decision follows the resignation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The new prime minister Sheikh Ahmad is a Kuwaiti economist and has served as Minister of Finance and Communications from 1999 to 2005, before serving as Minister of Health, Minister of oil and Minister of Information from 2006 to 2011.

Kuwait:

- Capital: Kuwait City
- Currency: Kuwaiti dinar

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Bramha Kumar appointed as India's next Ambassador to Zimbabwe

Minstry of External Affairs (MEA) Joint Secretary Bramha Kumar has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Zimbabwe. Bramha Kumar, a 2005 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is expected to take up the assignment shortly. He will replace Vijay Khanduja, who was appointed the ambassador on November 9, 2020. Khanduja had earlier worked in various capacities serving as Director (UN Economic & Social) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, since 2017.

Zimbabwe

- Capital: Harare
- Currency: United States Dollar
- President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

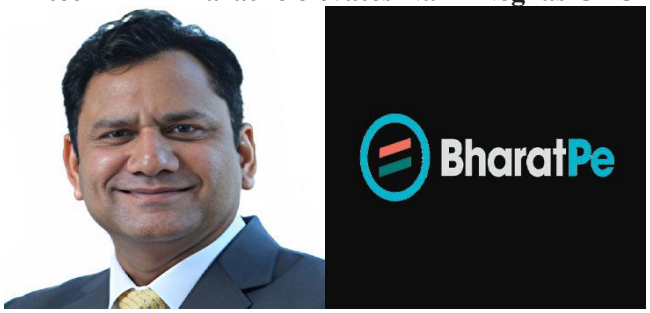
Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong to step down; Lawrence Wong to take charge

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will step down form his position after a two-decade long leadership. The planned succession will introduce Lawrence Wong as his successor. Wong, serving as the finance minister and deputy prime minister, enjoys unanimous backing from the ruling party's lawmakers.

Singapore

- Capital: Singapore
- President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- Chief Justice: Sundaresh Menon
- Currency: Singapore dollar

Fintech firm BharatPe elevates Nalin Negi as CEO



Fintech giant BharatPe has elevated Nalin Negi as its chief executive officer, more than a year after he took over as interim CEO and CFO after Sameer Suhail stepped down in January 2023. Negi, who joined BharatPe in 2022, was instrumental in driving the company's significant growth and strategic advancements across key business segments.

BharatPe

- Founders: Ashneer Grover, Shashvat Nakrani
- Parent: Resilient Innovations Private Limited
- Founded: April 2018
- Headquarters: New Delhi

Kristalina Georgieva elected to serve as IMF Managing Director for another five years

The International Monetary Fund's executive board selected Bulgarian economist Kristalina Georgieva to serve as managing director for a second five-year term. European Union finance ministers last month endorsed Georgieva for a second term at the helm of the lender of last resort, virtually assuring her approval. Georgieva is the second woman to head the IMF and the first person from an emerging market economy. She is the IMF's 12th managing director since its founding in 1944.

IMF:

- Formation: 27 December 1945
- Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva
- First Deputy Managing Director: Gita Gopinath
- Chief Economist: Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas

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Ankur Kumar appointed CEO of Essar Power's renewable division

Essar Power has announced the appointment of Ankur Kumar as the Chief Executive Officer of its Renewables Business Divison. Previously serving as the CEO at ACME Solar Holdings Pvt. Ltd. Essar Power has a power generating capacity of 1285 MW across three plants, in India and Canada. Essar has invested about USD 4. 2 billion in the power portfolio, which includes USD 1. 5 billion of equity.

Essar Group

- Founded: 1969
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Shashi Ruia
- Vice-Chairman: Ravi Ruia
- Group CEO: Prashant Ruia

Lindy Cameron, UK's chief of cyber security, is named new envoy to India

The United Kingdom has appointed Lindy Cameron as the first woman British High Commissioner to India. While Cameron is UK's first woman envoy to India, Delhi has had three women envoys in London since the 1950s. Cameron, who has been serving as the Chief Executive of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre since 2020, has been working with the British government since 1998.

United Kingdom

- Capital: London
- Monarch: Charles III
- Prime minister: Rishi Sunak
- Currency: Pound sterling

NSE's Ashish Chauhan, Zoho's Sridhar Vembu Appointed UGC Members For Three Years

The University Grants Commission (UGC), under the Ministry of Education, has appointed Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD and CEO of National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Sridhar Vembu, CEO of Zoho Corporation as members of the Commission for three years. Two other members appointed for the three-year term are professor (retd) Sachidananda Mohanty, former VC, Central University of Odisha and professor Shashikala Gulabrao Wanjari, VC, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in July 2022 appointed Ashish Chauhan as MD and CEO of NSE for five years. Ashish Chauhan earlier worked at BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) as CEO. Under his tenure, the BSE got listed in 2016. Meanwhile, Vembu is the Co-founder and CEO of Chennai-based Zoho Corporation.

University Grants Commission (India):

- Formation: 28 December 1956
- Founder: Maulana Azad
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman: Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar

Jagjit Pavadia is re-elected to the INCB

India Secures Key UN Positions, including International Narcotics Control Board. India's nominee Jagit Pavadia has been re-elected to the

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International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the term 2025-2030, securing the highest number of votes in the elections conducted by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Jagjit Pavadia has been a member of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) since 2015. She was re-elected by the Council for a five-year term from 2020 to 2025 in May 2019. Pavadia served as the president of the Board for 2021-2022.

International Narcotics Control Board:

- The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) was established in 1968 to serve as an independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions.
- The INCB comprises 13 members elected by the Economic and Social Council, serving in their capacity rather than as government representatives.
- Among the members, three with medical, pharmacological, or pharmaceutical expertise are elected from a list of nominees by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Additionally, 10 members are elected from a list of nominees by governments.

Simon Harris becomes Ireland's youngest-ever Prime Minister

Ireland's parliament has elected Simon Harris as the country's new and youngest-ever prime minister, to succeed Leo Varadkar following his surprising resignation last month. A county councillor at the age of 22, he was elected to parliament as a 24-year-old in 2011. At the time he was the youngest member of parliament and was nicknamed "Baby of the Dail" (Irish parliament). He was appointed health minister in 2016 aged just 29 and higher education minister in 2020. Before Harris, Varadkar was the country's youngest-ever leader when first elected at age 38, as well as Ireland's first openly gay prime minister.

Ireland:

Ireland is the second-largest island of the British Isles, the third-largest in Europe, and the twentieth-largest in the world

Dimitar Glavchev sworn in as interim prime minister of Bulgaria

Bulgaria's parliament formally approved an interim government to run the EU member country until snap parliamentary and regular European Parliament elections on June 9. Dimitar Glavchev, 60, was sworn in as interim prime minister at the National Assembly.

Bulgaria

- Capital: Sofia
- President: Rumen Radev
- Currency: Lev (BGN)

PCB appoints Azhar Mahmood as head coach

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced the appointment of former fast bowler Azhar Mahmood as the head coach of the men's national cricket team for the upcoming five-match T20I series against New Zealand. He has previously served as Pakistan's bowling coach and is currently the bowling coach for the reigning Pakistan Super League champions, Islamabad United. Wahab Riaz has been assigned the role of the manager for the senior team, and Mohammad Yousuf will serve as the batting coach. Saeed Ajmal, the spin bowling coach on previous tours of Australia and New Zealand, will continue in the same role.

PCB:

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- Founded: 1 May 1949
- Headquarters: Gaddafi Stadium, Ferozepur Road
- Location: Lahore, Pakistan
- Chairman: Mohsin Raza Naqvi
- Women's coach: Mohtashim Rasheed (interim)

Centre appoints Manoj Panda as member of 16th Finance Commission

The government has appointed Manoj Panda, former director at the Institute of Economic Growth as the full time member of the 16th Finance Commission.
Panda replaces Niranjan Rajadhyaksha, Executive Director, Artha Global in the Commission, who quit as a member citing "unforeseen personal circumstances". The other full-time members of the Commission include Ajay Narayan Jha, member of 15th FC and former secretary of Expenditure and Annie George Mathew, former special secretary of Expenditure. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic advisor of State Bank of India was appointed as the part-time member of the Commission.

Finance Commission:

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.

Air India appoints Jayaraj Shanmugam as head of global airport operations

Tata-Group owned Air India announced the appointment of Jayaraj Shanmugam as head of global airport operations. Shanmugam joins Air India from Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), where he served as the chief operating officer, overseeing the operationalisation of the new Terminal 2.

Air India:

- Founded: 15 October 1932
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana, India
- Chairman: N. Chandrasekaran
- CEO & MD: Campbell Wilson
- Founder: J. R. D. Tata

Edtech firm Aakash Educational Services appoints Deepak Mehrotra as new CEO

Edtech firm Byju's group firm Aakash Educational Services Ltd has appointed Deepak Mehrotra as its managing director and chief executive officer. The position of CEO at Aakash has been lying vacant after Abhishek Maheshwari resigned from the company in September 2023. Prior to joining AESL, he was the Managing Director at Ashirvad pipes. He has also worked at Pearson India, Bharti Airtel, Coca-Cola, and Asian Paints.

Srinivas Pallia: Wipro's New MD and CEO

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Wipro has announced the appointment of Srinivas Pallia as its new Managing Director and CEO, succeeding Thierry Delaporte who has resigned from the post. Most recently, he served as the CEO for Americas 1. Srinivas Pallia also serves on the Wipro Executive Board. He joined Wipro in 1992 and has held many leadership positions, including President of Wipro's Consumer Business Unit and Global head of Business Application Services.

Wipro:

- Founded: 29 December 1945
- Founder: M. H. Hasham Premji
- Headquarters: Sarjapur Road, Bangalore, India
- Executive Chairman: Rishad Premji

Peter Pellegrini Wins Slovakia Presidential Elections

Populist Peter Pellegrini has been elected president of Slovakia, succeeding the liberal Zuzana Caputova.
Mr Pellegrini, 48, defeated the pro-Western Ivan Korčok, a former diplomat, with 53% of the vote.

Slovakia:

- Capital: Bratislava
- President: Zuzana Čaputová
- Prime Minister: Robert Fico
- Currency: Euro

Meenesh Shah elected chairman of NCDFI

The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI), in its Board elections unanimously elected Dr. Meenesh Shah as the Chairman. Prior to this, NCDFI in its General Body meeting elected eight directors on the Board unopposed. This included Dr Meenesh Shah, Jharkhand Milk Federation, Dr. Mangal Jit Rai, Sikkim Milk Union, Shamalbhai B. Patel, Gujarat Milk Federation, Randhir Singh, Haryana Milk Federation, K. S. Mani, Kerala Milk Federation, Balachandra L. Jarakiholi, Karnataka Milk Federation, Narinder Singh Shergill, Punjab Milk Federation and Sameer Kumar Parida, West Assam Milk Union.

NCDFI:

NCDFI is a national-level apex dairy cooperative registered on December 7, 1970 and is governed under the provisions of the Multi State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023. It has 20 Regular Members, 14 Associate Members and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) as its Institutional Member.

Swiggy appoints Titan's Suparna Mitra as independent director

Food and delivery major Swiggy has appointed Suparna Mitra as an Independent Director to its board. Mitra, CEO of Titan Company Ltd's Watches and Wearables Division, brings over 30 years of experience in lifestyle and retail. She joins three other independent directors on Swiggy's board. Swiggy's list of independent directors includes Anand Kripalu - MD and Global CEO at EPL Ltd and Chairperson of the Swiggy board, Shailesh Haribhakti - Chairman of Shailesh Haribhakti & Associates, and Sahil Barua - Managing Director and CEO at Delhivery. Mitra's appointment to Swiggy's board comes after Tractor And Farm Equipment Ltd (TAFE) chairperson Mallika Srinivasan stepped down as an independent director in February this year.

Swiggy

- CEO: Sriharsha Majety
- Founded: August 2014
- Subsidiaries: InsanelyGood & Dineout

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Krafton India CEO appointed Vice President of Indian Digital Gaming Society

The Indian Digital Gaming Society (IDGS), a non-profit organisation, has appointed BGMI developer Krafton India CEO Sean Hyunil Sohn as its Vice President (VP). As VP, Sohn will play a crucial role in shaping the future of digital gaming in India. The Indian Digital Gaming Society (IDGS) is a non-profit association formed to be the apex body of the Indian Gaming Industry. IDGS's primary goal is to provide a platform for collaboration, advocacy, and innovation by bringing together stakeholders from across the gaming ecosystem.

- President: RAJAN NAVANI

Tata International Appoints Rajeev Singhal as MD

Tata International, the global trading and distribution arm of the Tata group, has appointed Rajeev Singhal as its managing director. Singhal succeeds Anand Sen who superannuated on March 31. Singhal was previously executive director and chief operating officer (COO) at Tata International.

Tata Group:

- Subsidiaries: Tata Motors, Tata Steel Ltd
- Founder: Jamsetji Tata
- Parent organization: Tata Sons
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1868

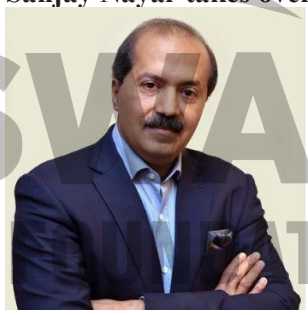
IIT-Kanpur Alumnus Sandeep Jain Steps Into FISME Presidency

Sandeep Jain, an alumnus of IIT-Kanpur and an auto-component manufacturer, has been elected as the President of the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) for the term 2024-25. His appointment was unanimously approved during a meeting of the Central Executive Committee held in New Delhi, marking a significant transition from his prior role as the Vice President of FISME. Jain succeeds Prashant Patel, a manufacturer of Dyes and Chemicals with operations in Ahmedabad and Surat.

FISME:

- Founded: 1995
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- President: Animesh Saxena

Sanjay Nayar takes over as Assocham President



Former KKR India Chief Executive Sanjay Nayar, a well-known name in the global financial markets, has assumed charge as President of industry chamber Assocham. He has replaced Ajay Singh, Co-Founder of low-cost airline SpiceJet, who has completed his tenure at the apex industry chamber.

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India:

- Formation: 1920
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Secretary General: Deepak Sood
- President: Ajay Singh

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Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi Takes Oath As Egypt's President For 3rd Term

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was sworn in for his third term as President. He is set to remain president until 2030.

Egypt:

- Capital: Cairo
- President: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- Prime Minister: Moustafa Madbouly
- Currency: Egyptian pound

Joyshree Das Verma takes over as FICCI Ladies Organisation president

Joyshree Das Verma took over as the 41st National president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber of South East Asia for 2024-25. She has been appointed by Israel as its Honorary Consul for Northeast India. Under the theme 'Collective Vision, Collaborative Action for the year 2024-25, FLO's endeavour is to build a strong, inclusive community dedicated to sustainable progress, fostering individual growth, and inspiring impactful change.

FLO:

FLO was established in 1983. FLO is the women wing of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). An all India forum for women, FLO has its headquarters in New Delhi, with 18 chapters covering different geographical regions of India.

Democratic Republic Of Congo Appoints Judith Suminwa Tuluka As African Nation's First Woman Prime Minister

The Democratic Republic of Congo appointed Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the African nation's first woman Prime Minister. An economist, she takes over as prime minister from Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde, following Tshisekedi's sweeping re-election as president

Democratic Republic Of Congo:

- Capital: Kinshasa
- President: Félix Tshisekedi
- Currency: Congolese franc

Yariv Levin becomes the acting Prime Minister of Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office says the Israeli leader will undergo surgery for a hernia. Yariv Levin will take charge as a acting prime minister. Yariv Gideon Levin is an Israeli lawyer and politician who serves as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice.

Israel :

- Capital: Jerusalem
- President: Isaac Herzog
- Currency: New shekel

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Senior IPS officer Sadanand Vasant Date takes over as NIA chief

Senior IPS officer Sadanand Vasant Date Sadanand Vasant Date, who bravely fought terrorists during the 26/11 Mumbai attack, took over the reins of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Date, a 1990 batch Indian Police Service officer of Maharashtra cadre, succeeded Dinkar Guptatakes over as NIA chief. Date has served two tenures in the Indian government — in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as Deputy Inspector General and in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) as Inspector General. Date was awarded the President's Police Medal for gallantry in 2008 for his role in combating the terrorists who had launched the dastardly attacks on Mumbai in November 2008. The NIA, which is functioning as the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency of the country, was formed in the aftermath of the 2008 terror attacks. Date also received the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2007 and President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2014.

Nidhu Saxena named MD & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra

Bank of Maharashtra announced the appointment of Nidhu Saxena, Executive Director, Union Bank of India as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO). The appointment is for a period of three years. Nidhu Saxena will be replacing AS Rajeev upon his selection as Vigilance Commissioner in CVC.

Bank of Maharashtra:

- Founded: 16 September 1935
- MD & CEO: A. S. Rajeev
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra India

Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh appointed co-chair of FIH Athletes Committee

Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will co-chair the FIH Athletes Committee along with Chile's Camila Caram, the International Hockey Federation has announced. While Caram has been assigned Athletes Committee Representative in the Executive Board, PR Sreejesh will lead the planning and meetings along with Caram in their roles as co-chairs. The FIH Athletes Committee serves as a consultative body and makes recommendations to the FIH Executive Board, FIH Committees, Advisory Panels and other bodies.

Hockey India:

- Coach: Craig Fulton
- President: Dilip Tirkey
- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Secretary: Bhola Nath Singh

India's Disaster Management Authority head appointed UN Asst Secretary-General

Kamal Kishore, the head of India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), has been appointed UN Assistant Secretary-General with the disaster risk reduction portfolio. In addition to his rank as an Assistant Secretary-General, Kishore will also be the Secreary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction heading the UN Office for

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Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). He succeeds Mami Mizutori of Japan. Kishore, who as the head of NDMA has the rank of secretary to the government, joined the organisation in 2015.

UNDP:

- Founded: 22 November 1965, United States
- Headquarters: New York

Bassirou Diomaye Faye Named As Senegal's Next President

In Senegal, little known opposition leader Bassirou Diomaye Faye has been named as the country's next president. It was Senegal's fourth democratic transfer of power since gaining independence from France in 1960.

Senegal:

- Capital: Dakar
- President: Bassirou Diomaye Faye
- Prime Minister: Sidiki Kaba

Govt approves appointments of new NIA, NDRF, BPRD chiefs

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointments of new chiefs for the National Investigation Agency (NIA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD). Maharashtra cadre officer Sadanand Vasant Date has been appointed the new NIA chief, Piyush Anand the NDRF DG and Rajeev Kumar Sharma as the director general of BPRD. The three officers will take charge on March 31 upon the superannuation of the three current chiefs— Dinkar Gupta of NIA, Atul Karwal of NDRF and Balaji Srivastava of the BPRD. Apart from the three appointments, the ACC also approved the proposal of the Home Ministry to repatriate 1989 batch officer PV Ramashastri to his parent cadre - Uttar Pradesh. Ramashastri is currently the special DG (operations) in the BSF.

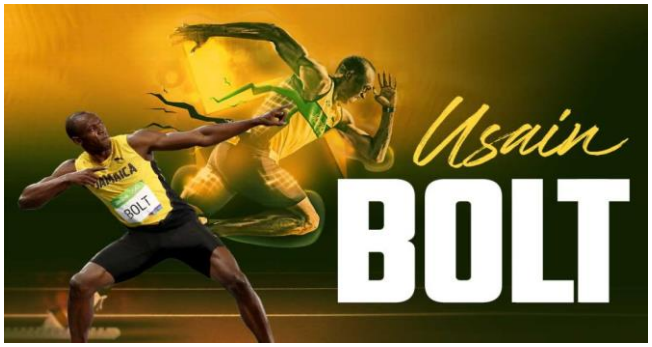
Government approves one-year extension to RBI Deputy Governor Rabi Sankar

The government has extended the term of RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar for a period of one year. He was appointed as the RBI Deputy Governor in May, 2021 for a period of three years.He had joined the RBI in 1990 and worked in various positions at the central bank. He was Executive Director of the Reserve Bank before being elevated to the post of deputy governor.

RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors: Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao, Shri Swaminathan J, Shri T. Rabi Sankar, Dr. M.D. Patra

Usain Bolt named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador



The International Cricket Council (ICC) have announced Olympic legend Usain Bolt as an

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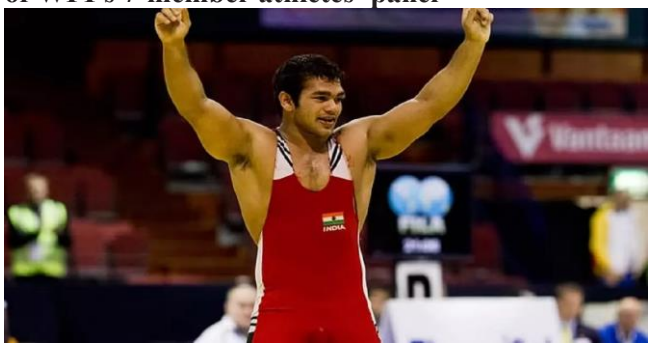
ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which will be played in the West Indies and USA from 1-29 June 2024. Bolt created history at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio when he achieved the 'Triple-Triple', three gold medals at three consecutive Olympic Games. ICC named Sana Mir, who represented Pakistan in 226 international games, 137 of them as skipper, as the ambassador of the Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier. As a veteran of Pakistan cricket, Sana featured in a number of ICC tournaments for her country, including the qualifying events.

Swami Gautamanada takes over as 17th President of Ramakrishna Mission

Swami Gautamananda took over as the 17th President of the Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, founded by Swami Vivekananda and headquartered at Belur in West Bengal's Howrah district. Swami Gautamananda succeeds his predecessor and the 16th President of the Mission, Swami Smarananda, who passed away on March 26 in Kolkata aged 95. Soon after the demise of Swami Smarananda, the name of Swami Gautamananda was named the acting President. Before taking over as the acting President, he handled the daily affairs of the Chennai unit of Ramakrishna Mission as the senior-most trustee and Vice President.

Former wrestler Narsingh Yadav elected chairman of WFI's 7-member athletes' panel



Former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Narsingh Pancham Yadav was elected chairman of the Wrestling Federation of India's Athletes' Commission completing a process that was mandated by the sport's world governing body. A total of eight candidates were in fray for the seven positions and after polling, conducted on ballot paper, seven members got elected. They then chose Narsingh as chairman of the commission. The other elected members of the Athletes Commission were Sahil (Delhi), Smitha AS (Kerala), Bharti Bhaghei (UP), Khushboo S Pawar (Gujarat), Nikki (Haryana), and Sweta Dubey (Bengal). United World Wrestling (UWW), the international body for the sport, while lifting the suspension of WFI had stated that the move was subject to the Sanjay Singh-led national federation constituting an athletes' commission to resolve the grievances of the wrestlers.

Wrestling Federation of India

- Sport: Wrestling
- Founded: 27 January 1967
- Affiliation: United World Wrestling (UWW)
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Secretary: V.N. Prasood

"There is a powerful driving force inside every human being that, once unleashed, can make any vision, dream, or desire a reality."

"Keep on going, and the chances are that you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I never heard of anyone ever stumbling on something sitting down."

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National News

UP now has the most GI-tagged items in the country

Six more products from Uttar Pradesh have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These include the famous 'Tirangi Barfi' of Kashi, a tricoloured sweet that was sold to prove a point by freedom fighters during the Quit India Movement. The GI Registry awarded the certification to the Banaras Tirangi Barfi and the five other Uttar Pradesh products. With these six new additions, Uttar Pradesh retains its position as the state with the most GI-tagged products in India, reaching a total of 75. Tamil Nadu follows behind with 58 GI products. The other products that received the certification in Uttar Pradesh include Banaras Metal Casting Craft, Lakhimpur Kheri Tharu Embroidery, Bareilly Cane and Bamboo Craft, Bareilly Zardozi Craft, and Pilkhuwa Hand Block Print Textile. In 2008-09, the state had only one GI product, the 'Allahabad Surkha Amrood'.

Geographical Indication:
A geographical indication (GI) is a designation applied to products originating from a specific geographical area, indicating that the qualities or reputation of the products are inherently linked to that particular origin.

Bundelkhand Wheat Variety Gets GI Tag

The Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh has received its first Geographical Indication (GI) tag for a farm produce. The indigenous farm produce wheat, popularly known as Kathiya Gehu (wheat), has been conferred the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. After a long process of two years the GI tag vide certificate number 585 was issued on March 30, 2024.

Kathiya Wheat:
Technically classified as "Triticum Durum," Kathiya wheat is renowned for its hardness, earning it names like Durum wheat, Dalia, pasta wheat, or macaroni wheat. Despite constituting only a small fraction (5-8%) of total wheat production, it holds significant cultural and nutritional value.

Six traditional crafts of Assam get GI tags

Six traditional items from Assam, including Assamese Dhol and Jaapi, have received prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tags, granted by the Government of India's Geographical Indication Registry. Products receiving GI tags include iconic Assam Bihu Dhol, Assam Jaapi, Sarthebari Metal Craft, Panimeteka craft (water hyacinth), Mising taat (handloom) and Asharikandi's exquisite terracotta works. The GI tag system started in India in 2003 during the NDA's rule. It is a process to identify a product as originating from a particular place and possessing certain qualities, characteristics or reputation that are due to that place of origin. It serves as a trademark in the international market. Earlier this month, Assam's famous Majuli Masks or Majuli manuscript paintings were awarded the GI tag. This is a part of Assam's neo-Vaishnavite tradition practiced in the state since the 16th century, according to experts.

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

India Approves Highest-Ever Export Quota For Essential Commodities To Maldives

Amid the row with the Maldives, India has allowed for the export of certain quantities of essential commodities for 2024–25 under a unique bilateral mechanism, at the request of the Maldives government. Notably, the quantities approved by India are the highest since this arrangement came into effect in 1981. The quota for river sand and stone aggregates, crucial items for the booming construction industry in the Maldives, has been increased by 25 percent to 1,000,000 metric tonnes. There has also been an increase of 5 percent in the quotas for eggs, potatoes, onions, sugar, rice, wheat flour, and dal (pulses). Moreover, last year as well, India continued to export rice, sugar, and onions to the Maldives despite a worldwide ban on the export of these items from India.

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Maldives:
- Capital: Malé
- Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa
- President: Mohamed Muizzu

Sitars, tanpuras made in Maharashtra's Miraj town get awarded with GI tags

The sitars and tanpuras of Miraj, a small town in Maharashtra's Sangli district known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, have been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags. These instruments made in Miraj are much in demand among some of the prominent artistes, including those renowned in the field of classical music as well as film industry, the makers claim. The GI tag denotes the product comes from a particular geographical area, and often enhances its commercial value. The tradition of making sitars and tanpuras in Miraj goes back more than 300 years, with over seven generations of craftsmen having worked towards making these string instruments. The sitars and tanpuras made in Miraj have a high demand, which cannot be met due to the limited resources available locally.

Adani Green Energy becomes India's first company with 10,000 MW renewable energy capacity

Adani Green Energy Ltd has commissioned 2,000 MW of solar capacity at the giant Khavda solar park in Gujarat that has made it the first company in India with over 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity. The company now has an operating portfolio of 10,934 MW, largest in India. It has brought 2,848 MW renewables capacity on stream in FY24, according to a company statement. AGEL's operational portfolio consists of 7,393 MW solar, 1,401 MW wind and 2,140 MW wind-solar hybrid capacity.

Adani Green Energy:
- Founded: 2015
- Founder: Gautam Adani
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Managing Director and CEO: Vneet S. Jain

Adani group begins operations of its copper unit plant at Mundra, Gujarat

Billionaire Gautam Adani-led group announced the start of the first phase of the world's largest single-location copper manufacturing plant at Mundra in Gujarat, which will help cut India's dependence on imports and aid energy transition. The first phase of the facility that will produce 0. 5 million tonnes a year of refined copper has started operations and full-scale 1 million tonnes capacity is expected by FY29 (March 2029). India joins China and other nations that are rapidly expanding production of copper, a metal crucial for transition away from fossil fuels. Technologies critical to the energy transition like electric vehicles (EVs), charging infrastructure, solar photovoltaics (PV), wind and batteries, all require copper.

Adani group:
- Founded: 20 July 1988
- Founder: Gautam Adani
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman: Gautam Adanis

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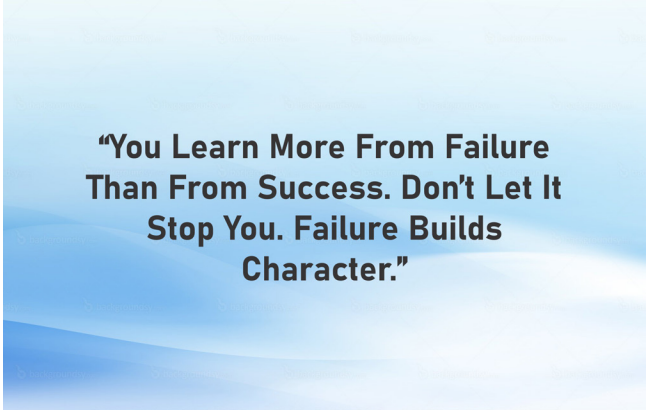

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International Events

UAE: Masdar to host World Future Energy Summit

Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC - Masdar, the UAE's clean energy powerhouse, is gearing up to host the World Future Energy Summit (WFES). This summit serves as a pivotal global event focusing on future energy, clean technology, and sustainability, featuring various discussions, forums, and activations. Masdar will also host the annual Green Hydrogen Summit, aiming to expedite the development of the global green hydrogen economy.

Masdar:
Masdar also known as the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, is an Emirati state-owned renewable energy company.

- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Chairman: Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber
- Chief Executive Officer: Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi

Florida Passes Law Banning Social Media for Minors Under 14

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed legislation that prohibits people under 14 years old from having social-media accounts, regardless of parental consent, one of the most restrictive laws aimed at curbing social-media access for minors. Under the new law, social-media companies are required to close accounts believed to be used by minors under 14. The platforms must also cancel accounts at the request of parents or minors, and all information from the accounts must be deleted. The law is set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2025. Minors who are 14- or 15-years old can obtain a social-media account with parental consent, according to the new law. Accounts already belonging to teens of that age must be deleted if a parent or guardian hasn't consented.

"You Are Never Too Old To Set Another Goal Or To Dream A New Dream."

Florida:
Florida is a state in the Southeastern region of the United States.

- Capital: Tallahassee
- Governor: Ron DeSantis
- Lieutenant Governor: Jeanette Nuñez

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi inaugurates $514 million hydropower project in Sri Lanka

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated a USD 514 million hydropower project in the southeastern region of Sri Lanka which was partly funded by Tehran and was long-delayed due to international sanctions on the oil-rich nation. The UMODP project costing USD 514 million was kicked off with USD 50 million provided by Iran. The Sri Lankan government and Farab Energy and Water Projects (Farab Company) of Iran agreed in April 2008 to implement the project. The total contract sum amounted to USD 514 million and the Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) funded USD 50 million until 2013. However, due to international sanctions imposed on Iran later that year, Tehran was unable to continue providing funds for the project.

List of Institutions and their GDP Projections for India recently

Institution/ Organisation	GDP % for FY24	GDP % for FY25
UNCTAD	6.5	-
IMF	6.8	6.5
Moody's	6.1	-
ADB	6.7	7
World Bank	7.5	6.6
Morgan Stanley	7.9	6.8

"Things Work Out Best For Those Who Make The Best Of How Things Work Out."

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Banking & Economy

PayU gets RBI's in-principle approval to operate as payment aggregator

Prosus-backed fintech PayU received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payment aggregator. Once the company receives the final nod from the RBI, it will join the ranks of other companies such as Razorpay, Cashfree Payments, CCAvenue, Digio, Decentro, among others. In January last year, the banking regulator had asked the fintech company to reapply for a payment aggregator licence. The company's complex corporate structure was one reason why the RBI asked it to reapply for the licence. Along similar lines, in August last year, the company sold part of its financial technology business to Israel's Rapyd for $610 million. The deal allowed Rapyd, a fintech-as-a-service provider, to acquire PayU's Global Payments Organisation (GPO). However, the deal excluded PayU's India, Turkey, and Southeast Asia operations.

PayU:

- Founded: 2002
- CEO: Anirban Mukherjee

BharatPe launches India's first all-in-one payment device

Indian fintech firm BharatPe has introduced BharatPe One, an innovative all-in-one payment device that integrates a POS system, QR code scanner, and speaker. The BharatPe One is India's first such comprehensive payment device, designed to enhance the transaction process for merchants and customers alike. BharatPe One boasts a high-definition touchscreen display, 4G and Wi-Fi connectivity, and runs on the latest Android operating system. It offers real-time transaction updates and instant voice payment confirmations, providing a seamless and efficient user experience. BharatPe One caters specifically to offline merchants, aiming to simplify their day-to-day transactions and enhance customer interactions. BharatPe plans to roll out BharatPe One in over 100 cities initially and aims to expand to around 450 cities within the next six months.

BharatPe:

- Founded: 2018
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Founder: Ashneer Grover, Shashvat Nakrani, Bhavik Koladiya
- Chairman: Rajnish Kumar

Razorpay launches UPI Switch in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank

Razorpay has launched its own UPI infrastructure, UPI Switch, a next-generation cloud-based innovation, in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank. The solution is designed to handle up to 10,000 transactions per second (TPS) and enables faster access to UPI innovations for businesses. UPI (Unified Payments Interface) is India's preferred payment method, representing 70% of digital transactions. Razorpay's UPI Switch provides a holistic infrastructure that enhances businesses' experience with its range of features. It excels in dispute resolution, resolving issues 7x faster, within 24 hours, than the industry average of 7 days. Moreover, it can process refunds instantly compared to the industry standard of up to 3 days, ensuring a seamless customer experience. Razorpay UPI Switch will be the foundational platform that will drive all future UPI innovations along with powering current Razorpay UPI innovations such as Turbo UPI, and TPAP solutions.

Razorpay:

Razorpay has been leading UPI innovation since 2017, starting with enabling payment acceptance, introducing the UPI Autopay feature, to enabling credit card payments on UPI, and credit lines on UPI. Recently, Razorpay also launched 'Turbo UPI', a fast one-step UPI payment solution in India.

- Founders: Harshil Mathur, Shashank Kumar
- CEO: Harshil Mathur

Irdai removes age limit of 65 yrs for buying health insurance policies

With a view to widen the market and foster adequate protection from healthcare expenses, insurance regulator IRDAI has removed the age limit of 65 years for individuals buying health insurance policies. By abolishing the maximum age restriction on purchasing health insurance plans, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) aims to

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foster a more inclusive and accessible healthcare ecosystem, ensuring adequate protection against unforeseen medical expenses. As per the earlier guidelines, individuals were allowed to purchase a new insurance policy only till the age of 65. However, with the recent amendment, which has been effective from April 1, anyone, regardless of age, is eligible to buy a new health insurance policy.

Adani family invests ₹8,339 cr in Ambuja Cements

Billionaire Gautam Adani's family infused an additional Rs 8,339 crore in Ambuja Cements, raising its stake in the company to 70. 3 per cent, to help the cement maker's manufacturing capacity. The Adani family previously invested Rs 5,000 crore in the company on October 18, 2022, and Rs 6,661 crore on March 28, 2024. With the latest investment, it has completed Rs 20,000 crore planned infusion. The latest infusion raises the Adani family stake in Ambuja Cement by 3. 6 per cent to 70. 3 per cent. In all, its holding in Ambuja Cement has increased from 63. 2 per cent to 70. 3 per cent.

Ambuja Cements:

- Founded: 1983
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Gautam Adani
- Founder: Suresh Kumar Neotia
- Whole-time Director & CEO: Ajay Kapur

RBI puts several constraints on the Mumbai-based Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank.

In a significant move, the RBI has placed several constraints on the Mumbai-based Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank. The customers of the bank are now limited to a maximum withdrawal of Rs 15,000 from their accounts.

Note: DICGC Act ensures that each depositor is insured up to Rs 5 lakh, covering both the principal and interest amounts across all account types within the same bank. Eligible depositors can claim their insurance up to Rs 5 lakh by submitting their willingness to the DICGC, as per the regulations.

DICGC

- Chairperson: Michael Patra
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1978

BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover set to launch app for medical loans 'ZeroPe'

BharatPe co-founder and former MD Ashneer Grover is set to launch a new app called 'ZeroPe' that will provide loans for healthcare. ZeroPe is presently in the testing phase and has been developed by Third Unicorn, which was founded by Grover after his exit from BharatPe. The app will provide instant pre-approved medical loans of up to ₹ 5 lakh to users to cover their medical expenses. The company has partnered with Delhi-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Mukut Finvest to provide instant loans.

RBI imposes monetary penalty on IDFC First Bank, LIC Housing Finance

Reserve Bank of India has imposed monetary penalty of Rs 1 crore on private sector lender IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by regulator on Loans and Advances. The bank had sanctioned term loans to a public sector undertaking for infrastructure projects without due diligence on the viability and bankability of the projects to ensure revenue streams from the projects were sufficient for repaying debt. The repayment / servicing of the said term loans was made out of budgetary resources. In Another regulatory action, RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 49. 70 lakh on LIC Housing Finance Ltd for non-compliance with certain provisions of Fair Practices Code.

IDFC First Bank:

- Founded: October 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan

LIC Housing Finance:

- Founded: 19 June 1989
- Headquarters: Mumbai, India
- MD & CEO: Tribhuwan Adhikary

RBI To Allow To Deposit Cash Through Cash Deposit Machines Using UPI

Reserve Bank of India will soon allow to deposit cash through Cash Deposit Machines using UPI. Till now UPI is mainly used for money withdrawal or Money transfer. This measure will further enhance customer convenience and make the currency handling process at banks more efficient. RBI has also proposed to

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permit the use of third-party UPI apps for making UPI payments from Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) wallets. This will further enhance customer convenience and boost the adoption of digital payments for small-value transactions. RBI is making Central Bank Digital Currency, CBDC-Retail, accessible to non-bank payment system operators. This will also facilitate testing of the resiliency of the CBDC platform to handle multi-channel transactions. RBI will also launch a mobile app for accessing the Retail Direct portal. This will be of greater convenience to retail investors and deepen the G-sec market. Mr. Das said, with a view to facilitate wider non-resident participation in Sovereign Green Bonds, a scheme for investment and trading in these Bonds in the IFSC will be notified shortly.

RBI Projects Consumer Price Index Inflation For This Fiscal At 4. 5%

The Reserve Bank of India has said, the Consumer Price Index inflation for 2024- 25 is projected at 4. 5 per cent. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das while announcing the bi- monthly monetary policy said, the CPI inflation had peaked at 7. 8 per cent in April 2022. He added, that even though Inflation has come down significantly it remains above the 4 per cent target given by the Government. The Governor added real GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected at 7. 0 percent with Quarter 1 at 7. 1 percent; Quarter 2 at 6. 9 percent; Quarter 3 at 7. 0 percent; and Quarter 4 also at 7. 0 percent. The apex bank has kept the repo rate unchanged for the seventh time in a row. The Governor informed that, India's Foreign Exchange Reserves reached an all-time high of 645. 6 billion dollars as of March 29th this year.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6. 5%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das announced the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) decision on key interest rates. This marks the first RBI MPC announcement in the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25). The central bank has kept the repo rate unchanged for the last six consecutive MPC meetings. The repo rate currently is at 6. 5 per cent. RBI MPC started its three-day meeting on April 3. Repo rate is the rate at which the central bank lends short-term funds to banks.

RBI :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Established: 1 April 1935
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors: Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao, Shri Swaminathan J, Shri T. Rabi Sankar, Dr. M. D. Patra

HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education

HDFC Bank has decided to sell its 100 per cent stake in HDFC Education and Development Services Private Ltd. The transaction will be undertaken through the Swiss challenge method. HDFC Bank will finalise the purchaser on the basis of the completion of the Swiss challenge process, it said, adding that after which the bank and successful bidder would enter into definitive documentation for the purposes. HDFC Education is engaged in providing services to three education schools. Previously, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had granted approval to HDFC Bank to maintain its ownership in HDFC Edu for two years subsequent to the merger between Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC Ltd) and HDFC Bank.

HDFC Bank:

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Atanu Chakraborty
- CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

IT Dept slaps ₹564. 44 crore penalty on Bank of India

The Income Tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 564. 44 crore on Bank of India. The bank is in the process of filing an appeal before the Commissioner of Income Tax, National Faceless Appeal Centre (NFAC) against the order. Looking to the precedence/orders of appellate authorities, the bank believes that it has adequate factual and legal grounds to reasonably substantiate its position in the matter.

Bank of India:

- Founded: 7 September 1906
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Rajneesh Karnatak

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MoU's Signed

Air India & Japan's ANA Sign Codeshare Agreement That Will Allow Passengers To Travel To Multiple Destinations On A Single Ticket

Air India has joined forces with Japan's largest airline, All Nippon Airways (ANA) to sign a codeshare agreement. This strategic move between the two airlines will allow passengers to travel to multiple destinations on a single ticket. This will help them seamlessly combine flights between the two countries and make travel much easier. This agreement will come into effect from May 23. As per reports, Air India will affix its 'AI' designator code on ANA flights connecting Tokyo Haneda with Delhi and Tokyo Narita with Mumbai. Similarly, ANA will be allowed to include its 'NH' designator code on Air India's flights linking Tokyo Narita with Delhi. Furthermore, if you're a Gold or Platinum member with Air India, you will be able to enjoy premium services on both airlines. These include lounge access and priority boarding privileges. Bookings for these jointly operated flights are now open on websites and apps of both airlines.

What Is Codeshare & How It Helps Customers & Airlines?

Codesharing is a common practice in the aviation sector. It is a business arrangement in which two or more airlines publish and market the same flight under their own airline designator and flight number. It helps airlines to cut down costs and allows both carriers to get access to new routes. A codeshare agreement is a key feature of major airline alliances these days, especially between international air carriers. From the customer's perspective, this agreement helps them navigate connecting flights seamlessly. They are able to plan and synchronise their travel itineraries by combining flights under a single ticket.

Happiest Minds Technologies to acquire Macmillan Learning India

Happiest Minds Technologies has executed share purchase agreement to acquire 100% equity interest in Macmillan Learning India. Macmillan Learning India will become a wholly owned subsidiary of the company. The cost of acquisition is Rs 4. 5 crore. Macmillan Learning India is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Macmillan group, USA. The subsidiary provides software development services to the Macmillan group and has been working as an "Offshore Development Centre. Happiest Minds enables digital transformation for enterprises and technology providers by delivering "seamless customer experiences, business efficiency and actionable insights. "It is headquartered in Bengaluru, with operations in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and the Middle East.

Tesla inks semiconductor deal with Tata electronics for global operations

Tesla has struck a strategic deal with Tata Electronics to acquire semiconductor chips for its global operations. This agreement is noteworthy as it positions Tata Electronics as a dependable supplier for prominent global clients aiming to establish a crucial segment of their semiconductor value chain in India.

Background:

Last month, the Indian government approved an Electric Vehicle (EV) policy aimed at positioning the country as a global manufacturing hub for EVs. The policy mandates a minimum investment of Rs 4,150 crore with no maximum investment limit aimed at attracting investments from reputable global EV manufacturers.

Tesla Inc.

- Formerly: Tesla Motors
- Founded: July 1, 2003
- Headquarters: Texas, U. S.
- CEO: Elon Musk
- Chairperson: Robyn Denholm
- Subsidiaries: Tesla Automation & Tesla Energy

PayU partners PayPal to improve cross-border payments for Indian merchants

Leading online payment solutions provider PayU announced its partnership with the US-based fintech company PayPal to enhance the cross-border payment experience for Indian merchants. Through this partnership, the company will leverage the PayPal ISU 2. 0 Checkout to offer customers a more personalised and inclusive payment experience.

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PayU
- CEO: Laurent le Moal
- Parent organization: Naspers
- Founded: 2002

India secures second overseas port: Sittwe agreement approved by MEA

The Ministry of External Affairs has approved India Ports Global (IPGL) 's proposal to take over the entire operation of the Sittwe port, located on the Kaladan River in the Rakhine province of Myanmar. Thus, the Sittwe port of Myanmar became the second international port after the Shahid Beheshti Port, Chabahar of Iran to come under the control of India Ports Global Limited. India Ports Global Limited is a subsidiary of Sagarmala Development Company Limited, which is under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Sittwe Port of Myanmar:

Sittwe Port development in the Rakhine Province of Myanmar is part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project signed between India and Myanmar. The multimodal transit connectivity on the Kaladan River will connect the Sittwe port in Myanmar with the state of Mizoram in India. The port was built with a grant of $ 500 million from India to Myanmar. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal formally inaugurated the project on 9 May 2023. He received the first Indian cargo ship, which sailed from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata to the Sittwe Port.

J&K Bank partners with Paymart to launch Virtual ATM Facility

J&K Bank announced its partnership with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to launch a Virtual ATM (VATM) facility. This innovative service enables cardless cash withdrawals for customers through local retailers, particularly benefiting areas like Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh where accessibility to traditional ATMs may be limited.

J&K Bank:
- Founded: 1 October 1938
- Founder: Mahraja Hari Singh
- Headquarters: Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India
- MD & CEO: Baldev Prakash

China and Thailand join hands for space programme

China and Thailand signed initial pacts to co-operate on peaceful use of outer space and international lunar research stations. The countries aim to form a joint working group on space exploration and applications, encompassing data exchanges and personnel training, according to the memorandums of understanding. They also agreed to co-operate on plans for appraising, engineering and managing lunar research stations. In 2023, China selected a space weather monitor developed by Thailand for its Chang'e-7 lunar probe mission, the agency added. To be launched around 2026, the Chang'e-7 mission will explore resources on the moon's south pole, looking to sustain long-term human habitation. China aims to land astronauts on the moon by 2030.

China:
- Capital:Beijing
- President: Xi Jinping
- Currency: Renminbi

Thailand:
- Capital: Bangkok
- Prime Minister: Srettha Thavisin
- Currency: Thai baht

World Bank, S. Korea to boost ties on digital ID systems for developing nations

The World Bank has been exploring exemplary global digital ID cases worldwide to help developing countries adopt reliable digital authentication services. Korea is one of the leading examples it looks to. The Korean government has been endeavoring to expand mobile ID, with KOMSCO designated as the institution responsible for planning and implementing the overall project. The service began with the introduction of the mobile public officer ID in 2020, followed by the mobile driver's license in 2022 and the mobile veteran's certification in 2023. Next year, the government plans to issue mobile national ID for all citizens aged 17 and above. Korea's mobile ID has adopted the blockchain-based decentralized identity system, which boasts superior security compared with traditional centralized identity system. It is known to be better at preventing personal information leakage and identity theft, and also protecting personal right with strengthened ownership for users' private information.

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South Korea
- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: South Korean won
- Prime minister: Han Duck-soo

CCI clears Axis Bank's proposed acquisition of stake in Max Life Insurance

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) said that it has approved the transaction involving Axis Bank's additional 6 per cent stake buy in Max Life Insurance, a private life insurer. The deal, valued at ₹1,612 crore, had received IRDAI nod in February this year. Axis Bank's Board had in August last year approved the proposal to infuse ₹1,612 crore in Max Life, resulting in the bank's direct stake in Max Life increasing to 16. 22 per cent and the collective stake of Axis Entities rising to 19. 02 per cent. Post this additional 6 per cent acquisition by Axis Bank, the stake of Max Financial Services Ltd (MFSL) in Max Life would come down from 87 per cent to 81 per cent.

Axis Bank:
- Founded: 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Chairperson: Shri Rakesh Makhija

Fostering Space Collaboration: SIA-India and ABRASAT Partnership

SIA-India, India's leading space association, and ABRASAT, Brazil's prominent Satellite Communications Association, have forged a partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration aims to enhance cooperation and progress in the space sector of both countries. The MoU signifies the mutual commitment of both associations to strengthen their strategic collaboration in space.

Brazil:
- Capital: Brasília
- President: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
- Currency: Real

Kotak Mahindra Bank acquires 100% stake in Sonata Finance

Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the successful acquisition of Sonata Finance Private Limited ("Sonata"). This acquisition, finalized for a total consideration of approximately Rs. 537 crore, marks Kotak Mahindra Bank's full ownership of Sonata.

Background:

Earlier in February 2024, Kotak Mahindra Bank decided to give up its majority stake in the general insurance business. The 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 ₹5,560 crore, in a single tranche. In November 2023, the private lender had announced the sale of a 51 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to Zurich Insurance for ₹4,051 crore through a combination of fresh capital infusion and share purchase. This was supposed to be followed by a 19 per cent stake sale within a period of three years.

Kotak Mahindra Bank:
- Founded: 1985
- Founders: Uday Kotak
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- non-executive director: Uday Kotak
- MD & CEO: Dipak Gupta

Reliance buys 26% stake in Adani Power's unit

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has bought a 26 per cent stake in a Madhya Pradesh power project of Gautam Adani, and signed a pact to use the plant's 500 MW of electricity for captive use. This is the first business collaboration between the two billionaires. RIL entered into an investment agreement with Mahan Energen, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Power, where 50 million equity shares are to be allotted to RIL. It is India's Electricity Rules, 2005, that has prompted RIL to pick a stake in Adani Power's unit.

Reliance:
- Founded: 1958
- Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & Managing Director: Mukesh Ambani

Adani Ports acquires 95% stake in Gopalpur Port

Adani Ports has acquired a 95% stake in Odisha's Gopalpur Ports for an enterprise value of Rs 3,080 crore. This move is aimed at strengthening Adani Ports' presence on the east coast of India. The deal involves acquiring a 56% stake from Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) and a 39% stake from

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Orissa Stevedores, two existing shareholders of Gopalpur Ports. Gopalpur Ports, located in Odisha, handles a diverse range of dry bulk cargo, including iron ore, coal, limestone, ilmenite, and alumina. This acquisition is expected to complement Adani Ports' existing operations and contribute to its goal of achieving cargo volume parity between the east and west coasts of India.

Adani Ports & SEZ:

- Founded: 26 May 1998
- Founder: Gautam Adani
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman & MD: Gautam Adani
- CEO: Karan Adani

IOCL, Panasonic to form joint venture to make lithium-ion cells

State-run Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) has announced it will form a joint venture with Japan's Panasonic Energy to manufacture cylindrical lithium-ion cells in India. The development comes as lithium-ion cell manufacturing in India is gaining momentum with robust demand from both electric vehicles and battery energy storage systems (BESS). Panasonic Energy Co Ltd, established in April 2022 as part of the Panasonic Group's switch to an operating company system, provides battery technology-based products and solutions globally.

IOCL:

- Founded: 30 June 1959
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India (headquarters), Mumbai, Maharashtra, India (registered office)
- Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

KABIL inks pact with CSIR-NGRI to bolster critical mineral projects

Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) to foster a long-term collaboration in the field of geophysical investigations to bolster its ongoing projects and activities in critical and strategic minerals. The collaboration will focus on geophysical, geochemical, and geological surveys, data analysis, interpretation and modelling, scientific knowledge sharing, technical support, and advisory services.

KABIL:

KABIL is a joint venture company of three public sector undertakings -- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL), under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines. The company has stepped up the exploration of critical minerals such as lithium, chromium, nickel, graphite, cobalt, titanium, and rare earth elements (REE). Currently, the extraction of these minerals is dominated by a few countries such as China, which makes the supply chain vulnerable to geopolitical uncertainties.

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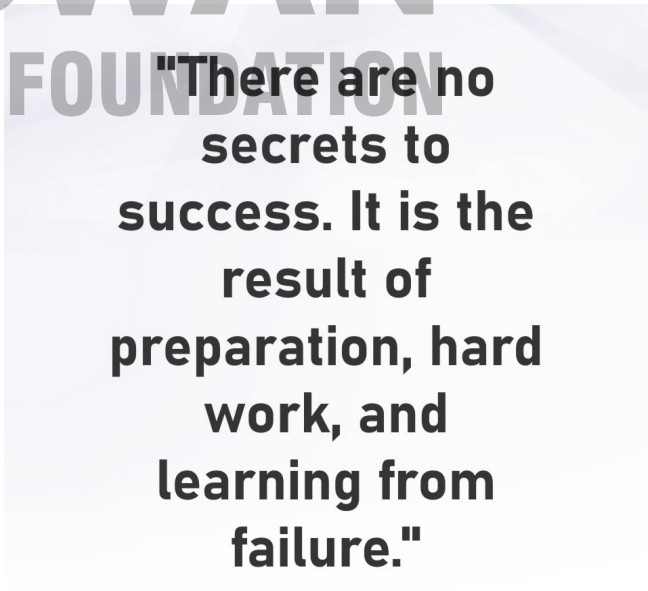

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Awards & Recognitions

Kate Middleton receives new honour from King Charles

In recognition of her growing role within the royal family, King Charles bestowed a new title upon Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales. She will now also be known as The Royal Companion of The Order of the Companions of Honour. The princess is now one of a select group to hold the title, including JK Rowling and Sir Elton John. She was given the honour as part of a St George's Day tradition and was not the only royal to be given a new title. Prince William was also honoured by being appointed the Great Master of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath. Meanwhile, the Queen consort, Camilla, was made a Grand Master and First or Principal Dame Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Ratan Tata Receives Prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021

Renowned industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was honored with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021. The Founder of KIIT and KISS, Achyuta Samanta presented the award. Ratan Tata, usually reticent about accepting accolades, agreed to accept this award following a personal request from Achyuta Samanta, recognizing the importance of the KISS humanitarian honour. The award was announced in 2021, but Tata was unable to receive the award then because of the COVID pandemic. Initiated in 2008 by Achyuta Samanta, the KISS Humanitarian Award is the highest honour of KIIT and KISS dedicated to recognizing individuals and organizations that embody the spirit of humanitarian work worldwide.

Renowned Bangladeshi Singer Rezwana Choudhury Bannya Receives Prestigious Padma Shri Award

Renowned Bangladeshi singer Rezwana Choudhury Bannya received the prestigious Padma Shri Award. Rezwana Choudhury Bannya received the award for her contribution in the field of Art. An accomplished professional singer from Bangladesh, she is a devoted practitioner of Rabindra Sangeet. She sang "Vaishnav Jan To" to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Bannya is currently Professor and founding chair of the Department of Dance at the University of Dhaka. She runs 'Shurer Dhara', a prestigious music school in Dhaka with a focus on Rabindra Sangeet. She has written books on Rabindra Sangeet as well. She is an alumni of Vishwa Bharati, Shantiniketan.

Mexico-based Indian scientist leading fight against wheat diseases receives Padma Shri

Ravi Prakash Singh, the Mexico-based scientist who received the Padma Shri award, has been hailed for his achievement in making wheat strains resistant to rust diseases, protecting the supply of the foodgrain that is an essential element in diets around the world. Singh, who is the head of Global Wheat Improvement at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), is originally from Varanasi. Singh has contributed to the development of 649 wheat varieties released in 48 countries, working closely with scientists at national wheat programs in the Global South. He received the 2021 Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI) Lifetime Achievement Award. That led to the creation of the BGRI and an international cooperative effort to stop the rust known as Ug99. He received the Parvasi Bharatiya Sammelan Award in 2021.

President Droupadi Murmu To Confer Padma Awards

President Droupadi Murmu will present the Padma Awards at the Civil Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. President Murmu will confer Padma Vibhushan on former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, and Bharatnatyam dancer Dr Padma Subrahmanyam. The Padma Vibhushan award will be given to Bindeshwar Pathak posthumously. Actor Mithun Chakraborty and singer Usha Uthup will receive the Padma Bhushan award.
The other Padma Bhushan awardees include philanthropist Dr Sitaram Jindal, cardiologist Dr Tejas Madhusudan Patel and former Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik.

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PADMA AWARDS:

Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, is announced every year except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997. The award is given in three categories, namely,Padma Vibhushan for exceptional and distinguished service; Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order; and Padma Shri for distinguished service.

WHO DECIDES:

All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year. The Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members. The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.

BLR Airport Named 'Best Regional Airport In India And South Asia

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (BLR Airport) has soared to new heights, clinching the prestigious title of "Best Regional Airport in India and South Asia" at the esteemed 2024 Skytrax World Airport Awards. This recognition, based on extensive passenger satisfaction surveys, solidifies BLR Airport's dedication to exceptional customer service. Moreover, BLR Airport's Terminal 2 achieved the second position as the "World's Best New Airport Terminal" among terminals inaugurated within the 18 months preceding the 2024 World Airport Awards. Since its inauguration in 2023, Terminal 2 has garnered additional acclaim, including the UNESCO Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airport distinction, along with a Special Prize for its interior design, LEED platinum certification, and more.

Amitabh Bachchan, A. R. Rahman to be conferred Mangeshkar family awards

Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan shall be conferred the 'Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar', while music maestro A. R. Rahman shall be bestowed the 'Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award. The award is given by the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratisthan, Pune, nurtured by the eminent Mangeshkar family, and shall be given away to Bachchan on his 82nd death anniversary, along with a musical tribute. Earlier, the inaugural award was given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi (2022), followed by veteran singer Asha Bhosale (2023), for their path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary contributions to the country, its people and society. Besides Bachchan and Rahman, the other prominent awardees in different categories are: 'Ghalib' as Best Marathi Play of the Year, NGO Deepstambh Foundation Manobal of Jalgaon, litterateur Manjiri Phadke, comedian Ashok Saraf, actress Padmini Kolhapure, singer Roopkumar Rathod, journalist S. B. Torsekar, actor Atul Parchure, producer-actor Randeep Hooda.

Prestigious John Dirks Gairdner global health award for Dr Gagandeep Kang

Dr Gagandeep Kang, Director of Global Health at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has been selected for the prestigious John Dirks Award in global health. It is the most well-recognised global health award. The John Dirks Award in global health is awarded by the Gairdner Foundation in Canada. She is the first Indian woman to get this award and says it is a huge honour for all the work that she and her colleagues did while at Christian Medical College, Vellore. The focus of Dr Kang's work has been on childhood diarrhoea disease and comprehensive studies, including the work on vaccines. She also became the first Indian woman to be elected Fellow of the Royal Society.

Chandrayaan 3 team of ISRO receives John L Jack Swigert Jr Award

India's premier national space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation. This award is given by the US-based non-profit organisation Space Foundation to honour a space agency, company, or consortium of organisations in the realm of space exploration and discovery. The Indian Consul General of India in Houston, D C Manjunath, received the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award on behalf of the ISRO's Chandrayaan -3 team.

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John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award :

The John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award was instituted by the Space Foundation in 2004 in memory of John L "Jack" Swigert, Junior. In 2023 NASA's James Webb Space Telescope Team was honoured with the Jack Swigert award.

SJVN receives 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024

SJVN Limited was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution. SJVN has received two prestigious awards at the CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024 instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council. SJVN has been awarded the 'Achievement Award for Social Development and Creating Impact' and 'CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy'.

SJVN Limited:

SJVN was earlier known as 'Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam'. SJVN is an Indian public sector undertaking involved in hydropower generation and transmission. SJVN has India's largest 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Himachal Pradesh.

- Founded: 1988
- Headquarters: Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD: Nand Lal Sharma

Gymshark founder awarded by Prince William among Forbes' youngest billionaires in world rich list

Gymshark founder Ben Francis is the only British entrepreneur to make Forbes' youngest billionaires rich list with a whopping $1. 3billion fortune. The 31-year-old was awarded an 'Member of the Order of the British Empire' by Prince William last May. Ben Francis is one of 25 young billionaires to make the list. Together, they are worth a staggering $110 billion and are all 33 or younger. Other self-made billionaires include Snapchat founder Evan Spiegel ($3. 1billion) and Oculus VR tycoon Palmer Luckey ($2. 3billion). The youngest billionaire around the globe is 19-year-old Livia Voigt whose grandfather cofounded electrical equipment producer WEG.

Top 5 youngest billionaires as per Forbes rich list are:

1. Evan Spiegel (33) - Snap Inc - $3. 1billion
2. John Collison (33) - Stripe - $7. 2billion
3. Shunsaku Sagami (33) - M&A Brokerage - $1. 9billion
4. Jonathan Kwok (32) - Real Estate - $2. 4billion
5. Mark Mateschitz (31) - Red Bull - $39. 6billion

Allu Arjun's wax statue at Madame Tussauds Dubai unveiled

Actor Allu Arjun got his own wax statue at Madame Tussauds in Dubai. The wax statue is dressed in his iconic red jacket from Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo while pulling off the 'thaggede le' gesture from Pushpa. Allu was last seen in the 2021 film Pushpa: The Rise. The film saw him play the titular Pushpa Raj, a daily wage worker who rises in ranks and turns into a red sandalwood smuggler. The film directed by Sukumar also starred Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil.

Novak Djokovic, Aitana Bonmati win top honours at Laureus Sports Awards

World no. 1 Serbian tennis great Novak Djokovic was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year at a ceremony held in Madrid to tie another all-time record, with his fifth Laureus Award (he won in 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2019). The 36-year-old ended the year by winning a record seventh ATP Finals title and by claiming Year-End No. 1 for a record eighth time. The Serb is now on a record-equalling 24 Grand Slams. Spanish footballer Aitana Bonmati won the Laureus Sportswoman of the Year and in doing so became the first footballer to win the prestigious Award. The English midfielder Jude Bellingham won the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award – the first footballer to do so – after an electrifying start to his time with Real Madrid. Former World No. 1 tennis player Carlos Alcaraz presented Bellington the award which the Spaniard won last year.

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

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

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Sports

India clinch 10 medals at USA pickleball meet

Stavya Bhasin, Dhiren Patel and Hemal Jain won a gold each in their respective categories as India returned with 10 medals from the US Open Pickleball Championship. Overall, India won three gold, three silver and four bronze medals in the tournament held in Florida from April 14-20. Bhasin won the gold in junior singles, Patel finished first in the men's singles 5. 0 and Jain grabbed the top prize in the men's singles 3. 5 category. Bhasin also won a silver in men's doubles 5. 0 and a bronze each in the junior men's doubles and junior mixed doubles to have a haul of four medals. Ronav Motiani returned with two silver medals -- one each in men's doubles 5. 0 and junior singles -- as well as a bronze in the junior men's doubles category. In men's singles 5. 0, Himanshu Dewaskar's bronze took India's medals tally into double digits. Both Harsh Mehta and Aman Bhatia finished fifth in men's pro doubles.

Pickleball:

Pickleball is a paddle sport played on a court similar to badminton, using a solid paddle and a plastic ball with holes. Players volley the ball over the net, aiming to score points by landing it within the opposing court.

Verstappen claims maiden Shanghai Grand Prix win

Max Verstappen overcame two Safety Car interruptions to claim a maiden Chinese Grand Prix victory ahead of Lando Norris. With his fourth Grand Prix victory of the season, Verstappen now boasts a total of 58 career wins. More importantly, he has extended his lead over Perez in the Drivers' Championship to a substantial 25 points, while Red Bull has pulled a massive 44 points ahead of Ferrari in the Constructors' Standings.

Chinese GP result: Top 5

1) Max Verstappen, Red Bull
2) Lando Norris, McLaren
3) Sergio Perez, Red Bull
4) Charles Leclerc, Ferrari
5) Carlos Sainz, Ferrari

India's 17-Year-Old D Gukesh Wins Candidates Chess Tournament

In Chess, 17-year-old Indian prodigy, Dommaraju Gukesh made history as the youngest-ever player to win the FIDE Candidates tournament in Toronto. The Chennai-based teen bettered Kasparov's record by quite a distance as the Russian great was 22 when he qualified in 1984 to clash with compatriot Anatoly Karpov. Gukesh also won a cash award of 88,500 Euros (approx Rs 78. 5 lakh). The total prize fund of the Candidates was 5,00,000 Euros. He became only the second Indian after the great Viswanathan Anand to win the prestigious tournament. Five-time world champion Anand's triumph came in 2014. In the other games of the day, Praggnanandhaa defeated Nijat Abasov while Vidit Gujrathi agreed to a draw against Alireza after barely five minutes at the board. In the women's Candidates event, Chinese player Tan Zhongyi was crowned the winner.

Pat Cummins, Nat Sciver-Brunt named as Wisden's Leading Cricketers in the World

Pat Cummins and Nat Sciver-Brunt have been named as the Leading Cricketers in the World in the 2024 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. He is the first Australian man to be named as Wisden's Leading Cricketer since Michael Clarke in 2012, and succeeds his England counterpart Ben Stokes, who had claimed the honour three times in four years, in 2020, 2021 and 2023. Sciver-Brunt, meanwhile, has been recognised as the pre-eminent women's cricketer of the moment, particularly in light of her starring role in the Women's Ashes, in which she produced back-to-back ODI centuries to take the multi-format series to the wire.

Rohit Sharma becomes first Indian to hit 500 sixes in T20 cricket

Former MI captain Rohit Sharma became the first Indian player to reach the milestone of 500 sixes in T20 cricket. This historic achievement was reached during Rohit's stellar performance in the Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Chennai Super

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Kings at the Wankhede Stadium. Rohit Sharma is the 5th player overall to attain the milestone of 500 sixes. The highest number of sixes in T20 cricket is by West Indies legend Chris Gayle (1,056 sixes), followed by WI all-rounder Kieron Pollard (860 sixes), Andre Russell (678 sixes) and Colin Munro (548 sixes).

China take three golds at Badminton Asia Championships

Chinese shuttlers wrapped up their 2024 Badminton Asia Championships in Ningbo with three golds, three silvers and seven bronze medals. In an all-Chinese women's singles final, Olympic champion Chen Yufei lost to Wang Zhiyi, who claimed her first Asian title in Manila in 2022. The men's singles title went to third-seeded Jonatan Christie of Indonesia, who beat China's Li Shifeng, while South Korea's Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee clinched the women's doubles title by defeating China's Zhang Shuxian and Zheng Yu.

Badminton Asia Championships 2024

- Edition: 41st
- Total prize money: US$450,000
- Location: Ningbo, China

Champions 2024

- Men's singles: Jonatan Christie
- Women's singles: Wang Zhiyi
- Men's doubles: Liang Weikeng & Wang Chang
- Women's doubles: Baek Ha-na & Lee So-hee
- Mixed doubles: Feng Yanzhe & Huang Dongping

IWF World Cup: Ecuador's Dajomes Barrera tops women's 81kg

Ecuadorian weightlifter Neisi Patricia Dajomes Barrera clinched the title in the women's 81kg category at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup. Dajomes Barrera lifted 123kg in the snatch and 146kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 269kg, winning golds for the snatch and total. The Ecuadorian won the women's 76kg gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics before moving up to the 81kg category, as the 76kg division will not feature at this summer's Paris Olympic Games. Eileen Cikamatana of Australia won bronze in the clean and jerk with 149kg. While China's Wang Zhouyu lifted 120kg in the snatch and 147kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 267kg to win silvers in all three categories.

Indian Shuttlers Anupama Upadhyaya, M Tharun Clinch Their Singles Titles At Kazakhstan International Badminton Challenge Tournament

Indian shuttlers Anupama Upadhyaya and M. Tharun have clinched Women's and Men's singles titles, at Kazakhstan International Badminton Challenge tournament in Astana. Anupama defeated Isharani Baruah in an all-Indian women's singles final. In the Men's final, Tharun beat eighth-seeded Malaysian Soong Joo Ven. However, in mixed doubles, Sanjai Srivatsa Dhanraj and Maneesha K pair lost to Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien in the summit clash.

Mirabai Chanu Becomes The Only Indian Weightlifter To Qualify For Paris Olympics

Tokyo Olympics medallist Mirabai Chanu became the only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics this year after competing successfully at the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand. The 29-year-old Olympic silver medalist finished third in Group B of the women's 49kg (and 11th overall) at the event to book her berth at the 2024 Paris Games. Chanu lifted a total of 184kg at the World Cup, which is the final and a compulsory qualifier for Paris 2024. The 2017 world champion is ranked second in the women's 49kg Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR) currently, behind China's Jiang Huihua.

Hardik Singh and Salima Tete named 2023 Player of the Year at Hockey India awards

Hockey India announced the sixth Hockey India Awards 2023 in New Delhi. Salima Tete and Hardik Singh were named the women's and men's player of the year, respectively. Hockey India started the annual Hockey India Awards in 2014 to honour India's best hockey players, former players and officials.

Winner of the Hockey India Annual Awards 2023 :

- Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award- Ashok Kumar
- Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year - PR Sreejesh
- Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year - Harmanpreet Singh
- Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year - Hardik Singh

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- Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year - Abhishek
- Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women – Under 21) - Deepika Soreng
- Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men – Under 21) - Araijeet Singh Hundal
- Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year (Women) - Salima Tete
- Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year (Men) - Hardik Singh

MS Dhoni becomes first wicketkeeper to complete 300 dismissals in T20 cricket

Former CSK captain MS Dhoni became the first wicketkeeper to complete 300 dismissals in T20 cricket. Dhoni achieved the feat after taking DC opener Prithvi Shaw's catch in their PL 2024 match in Visakhapatnam.

Most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in T20s

- 300 - MS Dhoni
- 274 - Kamran Akmal
- 274 - Dinesh Karthik
- 270 - Quinton de Kock
- 209 - Jos Buttler

Rohan Bopanna With His Australian Partner Matthew Ebden Creates History In Men's Doubles Final At Miami Open

Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden clinched a historic victory in the men's doubles final at the Miami Open. The duo defeated Croatia's Ivan Dodic and American Austin Krajicek. The 44-year-old Bopanna became the oldest man to win an ATP Masters 1000 title and the second Indian to reach the finals of all nine ATP Masters 1000 events. With this win, he also regained the top spot in the ATP rankings.

2024 Miami Open:

- Edition: 39th
- Location: Miami Gardens, Florida, United States
- Men's singles: Jannik Sinner (Italy)
- Women's singles: Danielle Collins (United States)
- Men's doubles: Rohan Bopanna (India) / Matthew Ebden (Australia)
- Women's doubles: Sofia Kenin (United States) / Bethanie Mattek-Sands (United States)

Australian Grand Prix: Carlos Sainz storms to victory

Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz raced to his first victory of the season with an impressive display during Australian Grand Prix, taking advantage of technical trouble for Max Verstappen in the opening laps that forced the reigning world champion to retire. Bidding for a record-equalling 10th victory in a row, Verstappen capitalised on his pole position advantage as the race got underway but soon reported issues behind the wheel, with a compromised second lap opening the door for Sainz to make a move for the lead.

Top 5 in Australian Grand Prix 2024

1.	Carlos SAINZ	Ferrari
2.	Charles LECLERC	Ferrari
3.	Lando NORRIS	McLaren
4.	Oscar PIASTRI	McLaren
5.	Sergio PEREZ	Red Bull Racing

Sri Lanka To Host Women's Asia Cup; while 2025 European Artistic Gymnastics Championships moved from Israel

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced the upcoming Women's Asia Cup 2024, scheduled to take place in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, from July 19th to July 28th, 2024. The tournament will feature eight teams, one more than the previous edition in 2022. The semifinalists of the Women's Premier Cup 2024 - UAE, Malaysia, Nepal, and Thailand, will join India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. The tournament will also feature all female referees and umpires, following the successful implementation of the same in the previous edition. On the other hand the European Gymnastics (EG) has decided to cancel the hosting of the championships in Tel Aviv, scheduled for May next year, due to the current security situation in Israel. Several international sporting events have moved out of the region since the conflict began on Oct. 7, including home matches of the Israel and Palestine soccer teams, and the European Water Polo Championships of 2024.

Asian Cricket Council (ACC)

- President: Jay Shah
- Headquarters: Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Founded: 19 September 1983
- Parent organization: International Cricket Council

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Science & Technology

North Korea conducts test on new 'super-large warhead'

North Korea has conducted a test on a "super-large warhead" designed for a strategic cruise missile, adding that it also launched a new type of anti-aircraft missile. The Administration has conducted a power test of a super-large warhead designed for 'Hwasal-1 Ra-3' strategic cruise missile. North Korea also carried out a test launch of a "Pyoljji-1-2", which state media said was a "new-type anti-aircraft missile". Cruise missiles are among a growing collection of North Korean weapons designed to overwhelm regional missile defences. They supplement the North's vast arsenal of ballistic missiles, including intercontinental variants, which are said to be aimed at the continental United States. Since its second nuclear test in 2009, Pyongyang has been under heavy international sanctions, but the development of its nuclear and weapons programmes has continued unabated.

North Korea

- Capital: Pyongyang
- Currency: North Korean Won
- Official language: Korean
- Supreme leader: Kim Jong Un

Hi-tech submersible platform inaugurated at Navy hub in Kerala

The Ministry of Defence has inaugurated the Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) at Kulamavu in Idukki, Kerala. The facility was inaugurated at the underwater Acoustic Research Facility. This platform will be suitable for survey, sampling, and data collection of air, surface, mid-water, and reservoir floor parameters using modern scientific instrumentation. The SPACE, set up by the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO, has been designed as a premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems destined for the Indian Navy onboard various platforms including ships, submarines and helicopters. "SPACE will consist of two distinct assemblages – a platform which floats on the water surface, and a submersible platform which can be lowered to any depth upto 100 m using winch systems. Upon completion of operations, the submersible platform can be winched up and docked with the floating platform. SPACE will mainly be utilised for evaluation of the complete sonar system, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers.

IIT Madras launches India's 1st mobile medical devices calibration facility

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has launched India's First 'medical devices calibration facility on wheels'. This has been developed by IIT Madras under its 'Anaivarukkum IITM' (IITM for all) Initiatives. Maintenance and quality assurance of life-saving medical devices are of paramount importance for healthcare delivery. Calibration is crucial as it ensures the accuracy of medical instruments for precise disease diagnosis and effectiveness. This mobile facility will ensure pervasive quality healthcare irrespective of geographical locations across the country.

SpaceX rocket deploys Tata's indigenous military-grade satellite into orbit

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), a subsidiary of Tata Sons, successfully launched the country's first-ever military-grade geospatial satellite built entirely by the private sector. Named TSAT-1A, the sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite was launched in collaboration with Satellogic. The launch took place from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, courtesy of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. Manufactured at its Vemagal facility in Karnataka, the TSAT-1A was part of the payload aboard the Bandwagon-1 mission. Weighing less than 50 kg, TSAT-1A now orbits the Earth in low-earth orbit, poised to deliver high-resolution imagery with remarkable precision, less than one metre per pixel. Once operational, TSAT-1A is expected to cater primarily to the government and armed forces, offering high-resolution military-grade imagery. Currently, India possesses a limited number of military spy satellites developed by ISRO. TASL intends to establish a constellation of similar satellites in the future, with its manufacturing facility primed to

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produce up to 25 low earth orbit (LEO) satellites annually.

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairman: Banmali Agarwal
- CEO & MD: Sukaran Singh
- Parent: Tata Sons (100%)
- Subsidiaries: Tata Power SED

Droupadi Murmu launches India's first gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay

President Droupadi Murmu launched the country's first home-grown anti-cancer CAR-T cell therapy NexCAR19 at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay. The NexCAR19 CAR-T therapy is developed by Prof. Rahul Purwar, Department of Bio-sciences and Bio-engineering along with his team at IIT Bombay, at the startup ImmunoACT which he co-founded with his students, and with doctors at Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai. A CAR T-cell therapy involves modifying a patient's T cells (a type of immune system cell) in the laboratory and using them to attack and destroy cancer cells. The 'NexCAR19 CAR T-cell therapy' is the country's first 'Made in India' CAR T-cell therapy which is expected to bring down the cost of treatment significantly.

Note: There are 2 types of vaccines that prevent cancer approved by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

1. **HPV vaccine.** The vaccine protects against the human papillomavirus (HPV). If this virus stays in the body for a long time, it can cause some types of cancer. The FDA has approved HPV vaccines to prevent: Cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers
2. **Hepatitis B vaccine.** This vaccine protects against the hepatitis B virus (HBV). This virus can cause liver cancer.

Agni-Prime Missile Has Been Successfully Flight-Tested In Odisha

Agni-Prime Missile has been successfully flight-tested in Odisha. The flight-test was conducted by Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. Agni-Prime is a new missile that looks similar to Agni-III but has reduced weight by half. It is designed to replace older generation missiles like Prithvi-II (350 km), Agni-II (2,000 km), Agni-III (3,000 km), and Agni-4 (4,000 km) ballistic missiles. Agni-Prime has many upgrades like new propulsion systems, composite rocket motor casings, and advanced navigation and guidance systems. The main goal of developing Agni-P is to achieve maximum manoeuvrability against missile defence systems and higher accuracy for precision strikes, making it more difficult for enemy forces to defend against. Agni-P and Agni-V will strengthen India's deterrence against countries such as China and Pakistan. While Agni-V can strike all of China, Agni-P has been developed to counter Pakistan's forces.

Agni-Prime:

Agni-P, also known as Agni-Prime, is a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) developed by DRDO. It is equipped with nuclear capabilities and is considered the successor to Agni-I and Agni-II missiles in the SFC's operational service. Agni-Prime has a strike range of 1,000 to 2,000 km and incorporates technological advances from Agni-IV and Agni-V. Agni-Prime is a two-stage, solid-fueled, surface-to-surface missile that is road-mobile and transported via truck. The missile is launched using a canister, similar to the country's first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), Agni-V, with a strike range of over 5,000 km. Agni-Prime is a ballistic missile with dual navigation and guidance systems.

NASA names firms to develop rover for first crewed Moon mission since 1972

NASA has awarded contracts to three companies to develop vehicles for the first crewed missions to the Moon in more than five decades. Intuitive Machines, Lunar Outpost and Venturi Astrolab – based in Texas, Colorado and California, respectively – were chosen to create designs for the lunar rover under a contract worth up to $4. 6bn. NASA plans to pick one of the companies to carry out a test run for their Lunar Terrain Vehicle before the arrival of the crew for the Artemis 5 mission scheduled for 2029. The Artemis missions, named after the sister of Apollo in Greek mythology, aim to return humans to the Moon for the first time since Apollo 17 in 1972. Under the programme, NASA plans to establish the first long-term presence on the Moon and lay the groundwork for future missions to Mars. Artemis 3, the first crewed mission, is scheduled to land in 2026.

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NASA:
- Formed: July 29, 1958
- Headquarters: Washington, D. C.
- Administrator: Bill Nelson
- Deputy Administrator: Pamela Melroy

Bharat Biotech Begins Clinical Trials Of TB Vaccine On Adults In India

Bharat Biotech International Ltd has started clinical trials of the Tuberculosis vaccine Mtbvac on adults in India. This is the first vaccine against Tuberculosis derived from a human source by the Spanish biopharmaceutical company, Biofabri. The Mtbvac is being developed for two purposes; firstly, as a more effective and potentially longer-lasting vaccine than BCG (Bacillus Calmette Guérin) for newborns and secondly, for the prevention of TB in adults and adolescents, for whom there is currently no effective vaccine. The trials are carried out by Bharat Biotech in close collaboration with Biofabri. It is a giant step to test in adults and adolescents in the country where 28 percent of the world's TB cases accumulate. TB remains one of the world's leading infectious causes of death, especially in India.

Bharat Biotech
- Headquarters: Hyderabad
- Chairman & MD: Krishna Ella
- Industry: Biotechnology
- Founded: 1996
- Subsidiaries: Chiron Behring Vaccines

International Astronomical Union approves Chandrayaan-3 landing site name 'Shiva Shakti'

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has given its stamp of approval to the name 'Shiva Shakti' for the landing site of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission. According to the Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature by the IAU, the name 'Shiva Shakti' is derived from Indian mythology, symbolising the duality of nature with the masculine aspect represented by Shiva and the feminine aspect by Shakti. The name Shiv Shakti was given to Vikram Lander's landing site on 26 August 2023 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Additionally, he declared August 23 as "National Space Day" in India, commemorating the day of Vikram Lander's touchdown on the Moon. On August 24, 2023, India became the first country to land a spacecraft near the moon's south pole as the Chandrayaan-3 overcame numerous challenges before its historic touchdown on the lunar surface. Last week, ISRO was honoured with the prestigious Aviation Week Laureates Award for its successful Chandrayaan-3 mission.

IAU:
- Formation: 28 July 1919
- Founded: Brussels, Belgium
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- President: Debra Meloy Elmegreen
- General Secretary: Piero Benvenuti

S. Korea, Japan to cooperate in developing satellite navigation system

South Korea and Japan will cooperate in the development and operations of regional satellite navigation systems in East Asia. The two countries signed a memorandum of cooperation to develop and operate their satellite systems in the region. Officials from the two sides held their first technical working meeting in Seoul as they discussed the progress of Japan's Quasi-Zenith Satellite System and the Korean Positioning System.

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

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

DRDO develops India's lightest bulletproof jacket

The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has recently developed the lightest bulletproof jacket in India, weighing just 9.7 kg. This jacket, named Bhabha Kavach', is designed to provide protection against 7.62mm bullets and is named after nuclear physicist Homi Bhabha. Its unit, Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, the DRDO has created the jacket for protection against 7.62 x 54 R API (Level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition. The bulletproof jacket can stop six bullets.

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More details about the bullet proof jacket:
The front Hard Armour Panel (HAP) of the jacket defeats multiple hits (06 shots) of 7.62 x 54 R API (Sniper rounds) in both ICW (In-conjunction with) and Standalone design. The ergonomically designed front HAP is made up of monolithic ceramic plate with polymer backing which enhances the wearability and comfort during the operation. The areal density of ICW Hard Armour Panel (HAP) and standalone HAP is less than 40 kg/m2 and 43 kg/m2 respectively.

South Korea launches Earth observation nanosatellite

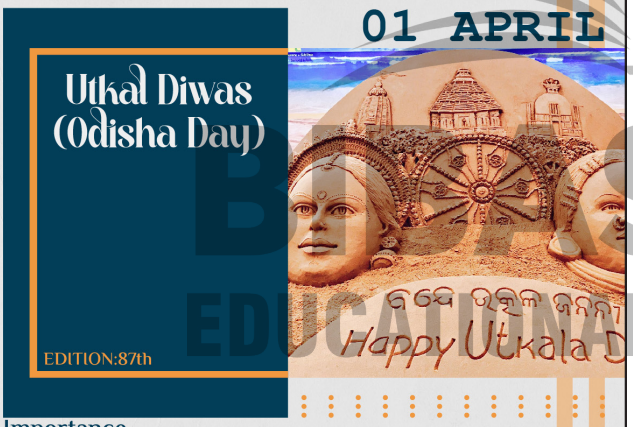
The South Korea has launched a nanosatellite into orbit as part of its project to create a constellation of satellites by 2027. The satellite "Neonsat-1", is scheduled to be deployed in space at an altitude of 520 kilometers, was launched aboard Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from a spaceport in Mahia city, New Zealand. The "NEONSAT-1" is an abbreviation for the New Earth Observation Satellite Constellation from Space for National Safety. The Korea Advanced Institute of Science developed it and Technology, weighs less than 100 kilograms, and has an accuracy of up to one meter. The satellite is the first of 11 nanosatellites that form a constellation of satellites to monitor and take pictures of the Korean Peninsula and its surrounding areas, pointing out that South Korea plans to launch five more nanosatellites into space in June 2026, and another five in September 2027.

South Korea
- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: South Korean won
- Prime minister: Han Duck-soo

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

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

01 APRIL



Importance
To embark the formation of the state(Odisha) as a separate state out of Bihar and Odisha province on 1 April 1936.

Quick Facts
- After losing its political identity completely in 1568 following the defeat and demise of the last king Mukunda Dev, efforts resulted in the formation of a politically separate state under British rule on a linguistic basis on 1 April 1936.
- Odisha is the third state in India in terms of tribal population.
- Odisha Day is also called Orissa Foundation Day and Vishuva Milan.
- Cuttack was the capital of the state since 1135 till 1948, after which Bhubaneshwar took the mantle.

02 APRIL

Importance
On this day United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day (A/RES/62/139) in 2008 to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.

Motto
To put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and others living with autism face every day.

Note
Autism Awareness Day recognizes people on the autism spectrum, as well as the researching and fundraising initiatives which promote inclusivity.

What is Autism?
Autism is a neurological developmental disability that hampers normal brain development, affecting communication, social interaction, cognition, and behavior.

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Obituary

Kenya's military chief passes away

Kenya's military chief Gen. Francis Ogolla died in a helicopter crash west of the country. The helicopter was carrying 11 people, including Gen. Ogolla, when it crashed and caught fire in a remote area near the border with Uganda, killing nine people onboard. Gen. Ogolla, 61, was on a tour of the country's troubled western region that has seen frequent attacks by local bandits. He was appointed Kenya's Chief of Defense Forces in April last year after Gen. Robert Kibochi retired.

Kenya:

- Capital: Nairobi
- Currency: Kenyan Shilling
- President: William Ruto

Former England Test Batsman Raman Subba Row Passes Away At 92

Raman Subba Row, former England opener passed away at the age of 92. At the time of his death, he was England's oldest living men's Test cricketer. Subba Row played first-class cricket for Cambridge University and then joined the powerful Surrey side of the 1950s that won seven successive County Championships. After retiring to pursue a business career, he was the manager of England's tour of India and Sri Lanka in 1981. Subba Row also served five years as chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, the forerunner of the ECB, from 1985-90. He later became one of the International Cricket Council's first match referees, overseeing 160 fixtures.

Famous YouTuber Abhradeep Saha popular as Angry Rantman, dies at 27

Sports YouTuber Abhradeep Saha, popularly known as Angry Rantman passed away at the age of 27 after a multi-organ failure in Bengaluru. Abhradeep Saha hails from Kolkata. Angry Rantman is a passionate football fan and is known in virtual football communities for his hilarious rants, which have earned him a dedicated fan base. Abhradeep Saha, a social media sensation and YouTuber popularly known as Angry Rantman, has been entertaining people with his content for a long time. He is a passionate football fan and is well-known in virtual football communities for his hilarious rants, which have earned him a dedicated fan base. In his various videos, he can be seen talking about football, cricket and cinema. His insightful reviews have always struck a chord with netizens. He has more than 120K followers on Instagram and over 428K subscribers on YouTube. The old-school YouTuber began his content creation journey in 2017.

Noted Carnatic musician K. G. Jayan passes away

Noted Carnatic musician K. G. Jayan died at Thripunitura in Ernakulam district of Kerala. He was 90. Popular Malayalam actor Manoj K. Jayan is his son. Born to the late Gopalan Thanthrikal and late Narayani Amma in Kottayam on November 21, 1934,

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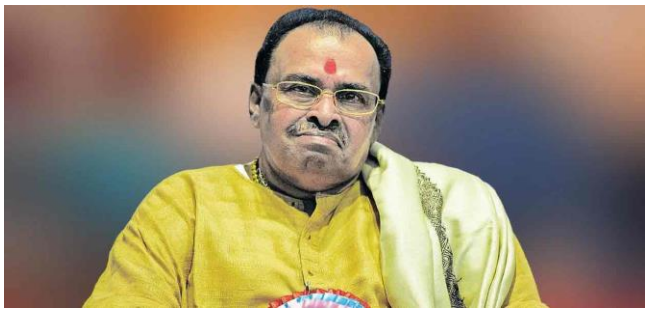


Jayan and his brother K. G. Vijayan were known as the 'Jaya-Vijaya' duo in the world of music. Jayan won the Padma Shri in 2019. His other accolades include Sangeetha Nataka Akademi award in 1991 and Harivarasanam award in 2013.

Indian Air Force's oldest pilot Dalip Singh Majithia passes away at 103

The oldest living pilot of the Indian Air Force, Squadron Leader Dalip Singh Majithia, died at the age of 103 in Uttarakhand. Born on July 27, 1920 at Shimla, Squadron Leader Majithia joined the Indian Air Force (IAF) volunteer reserve in 1940 during World War-II, following in the footsteps of his uncle Surjeet Singh Majithia (grandfather of Akali politician Bikramjit Singh Majithia). His father Kirpal Singh Majithia was a prominent figure in Punjab during the British rule as was his grandfather Sundar Singh Majithia who was associated with the Chief Khalsa Diwan and one of the founders of Khalsa College Amritsar. After completing his tenure in Australia, Dalip Singh Majithia retired from the Indian Air Force on March 18, 1947, and settled down at his family's estate at Sardarnagar, near Gorakhpur, in Uttar Pradesh.

Veteran Kannada actor, director, and producer Dwarakish died

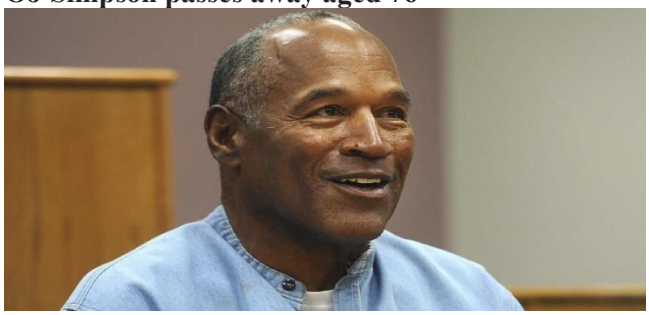
Senior Kannada actor, director, and producer Dwarakish (81) passed away at his residence in Electronic City. Dwarakish made his debut as a comedy actor in Kannada cinema in 1964.

After having a successful run as an actor, he ventured into production and direction of films. He debuted as a producer with Dr Rajkumar's famous movie Mayor Mutthanna in 1969.

England and Kent legend Derek Underwood dies aged 78

Former England spinner Derek Underwood, affectionately known as "Deadly" for his unparalleled skill on the cricket field, has died aged 78. With an illustrious career, he stood as the sixth-highest wicket-taker for England in Test cricket, amassing 297 dismissals in 86 appearances, alongside 32 in one-day internationals. He was appointed an MBE in 1981 for his services to cricket and later served as President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

OJ Simpson passes away aged 76



OJ Simpson, a former United States football star acquitted of murder in a widely watched trial in the 1990s, has died at age 76. Known by the nickname "The Juice", Simpson was a star running back at the

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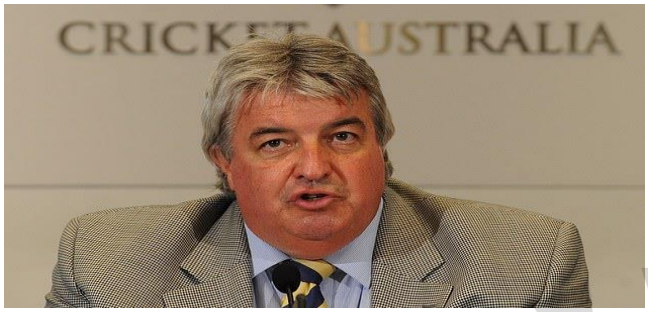
University of Southern California. He won the Heisman Trophy — the top honour in American college football — in 1968 before making the jump to the National Football League (NFL) a year later as the Buffalo Bills' number-one draft pick.

Ex-Cricket Australia chairman Jack Clarke dies

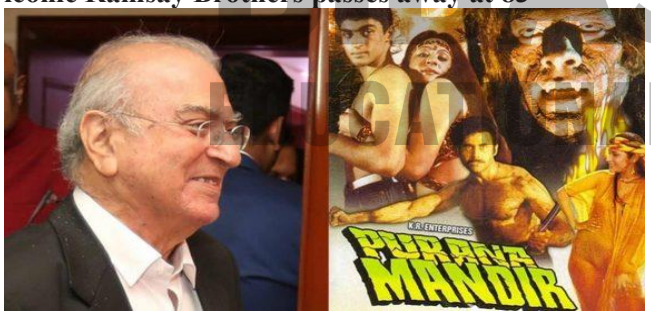


Former Cricket Australia (CA) chairman Jack Clarke has passed away at the age of 70 in Adelaide. Clarke joined the CA Board as a director in 1999 and served as its Chairman from 2008 to 2011. He also spent 21 years as a director at the South Australia Cricket Association (SACA) and was made an Honorary Life Member of the SACA in 2012.

Australia

- Capital: Canberra
- Monarch: Charles III
- Governor-General: David Hurley
- Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese

Veteran cinematographer Gangu Ramsay of the iconic Ramsay Brothers passes away at 83



The Indian film industry mourns the loss of Gangu Ramsay, an iconic cinematographer, filmmaker and producer who left an indelible mark on Bollywood. The second eldest son of FU Ramsay, Gangu passed away at the age of 83 after a prolonged illness. Gangu Ramsay's creative genius shone through his contributions to over 50 iconic films produced under the Ramsay Brothers' banner. His work on classic hits like Veerana, Purana Mandir, Bandh Darwaza, Do Gaz Zameen Ke Niche and Samri, among others, showcased his mastery of the craft.

Tamil Actor Visheshwara Rao Passes Away at 64

Actor Visheshwara Rao, known for playing supporting roles in Tamil films, passed away due to complications from cancer at a private hospital in Chennai. The actor was 64. Visheshwara Rao started his career as a child artiste at the age of six. He found popularity for playing the role of Laila's innocent father in Suriya's Pithamagan. The jail scene from the film with Laila's popular dialogue 'Loosa Pa Nee' is the most well-known scene of the actor. He is also known for his brief role in Madhavan's Evano Oruvan as the annoying shop owner. He has also played a comedian in many Telugu films and has acted in about 300 films in his long career. He was also part of TV serials in supporting roles. Potti Pleader, Bhakta Potana, Andala Ramudu, and Sisindri Chittibabu are some of the films from his formative acting career.

World's Oldest Man, Juan Vicente Perez Mora From Venezuela Dies At 114

Venezuelan Juan Vicente Perez Mora, certified in 2022 by Guinness World Records as the oldest man in the world, died at the age of 114. Perez was officially confirmed as the oldest man alive on February 4, 2022, when he was 112 years and 253 days old, according to Guinness. A father of 11, as of 2022 he

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had 41 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren. The farmer known as Tio Vicente was born in the town of El Cobre, in the Andean state of Tachira on May 27, 1909, and was the ninth of 10 children. Perez went on to become a sheriff and was responsible for resolving land and family disputes, while still working in agriculture. Earlier, Maria Branyas Morera celebrated her 117th birthday and with this, she added her name to the Guinness World Records (GWR) list. Born in 1907, she is now the world's oldest living person who has survived World War I, World War II, the Spanish Flu pandemic, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barbara Rush, Golden Globe-Winning Actress, Dies At 97

Veteran Hollywood actor Barbara Rush died in Los Angeles. The Golden Globe-winning actor was 97. Rush was known for her roles in 'It Came from Outer Space' and 'Peyton Place'. Rush won a Golden Globe Award in 1954 for the most promising newcomer in 'It Came from Outer Space'.

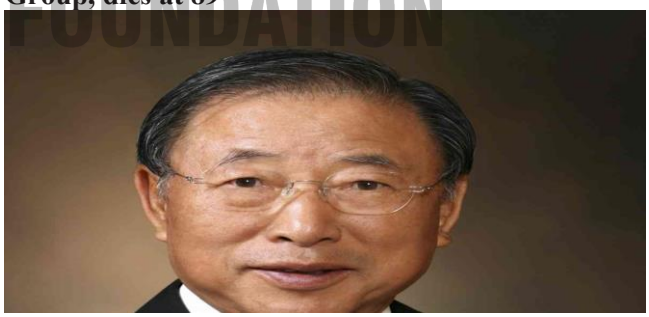
Oscar-Winning Actor Louis Gossett Jr. Passes Away At 87

Louis Gossett Jr. , the first Black man to win the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, has passed away at the age of 87. Gossett Jr. had a remarkable career spanning nearly seven decades. His most notable achievement was winning the Best Supporting Actor Oscar in 1983 for his role as a Marine drill instructor in the film "An Officer and a Gentleman. " He also won an Emmy in 1977 for his performance in the critically acclaimed miniseries "Roots," based on Alex Haley's novel. Gossett Jr. was not only the first Black Best Supporting Actor Oscar winner but also the first Black actor to win an Academy Award overall since Sidney Poitier's honor in 1953.

Tamil Actor Daniel Balaji Dies at 48

Tamil actor Daniel Balaji passed away. He was 48. Daniel Balaji made his acting debut in the Tamil industry with the 2022 film April Madhathil. However, he became popular with Gautham Menon and Suriya-Jyotika's Kaakha Kaakha. He later appeared in several other Tamil movies including Vidhi Madhi Ultaa and Polladhavan. He also starred in Thalapathy Vijay's Bairavaa, Dhanush's Vada Chennai, and Vijay's Bigil. Apart from being a popular name in the Tamil film industry, Balaji also worked in a few Malayalam, Telugu and Kannada movies.

Cho Suck-rai, honorary chairman of Hyosung Group, dies at 89



Hyosung Group Honorary Chairman Cho Suck-rai died of a chronic illness. He was 89. It has been seven years since he stepped down from the top management position in 2017 due to his advanced age and health. Cho played a pivotal role in shaping South

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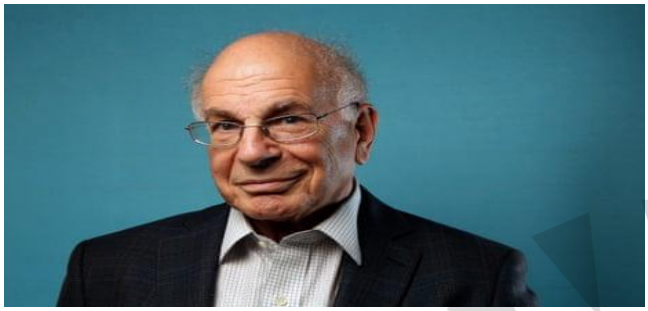
Korea's heavy chemical industry and establishing Hyosung as a global business entity.

Hyosung:

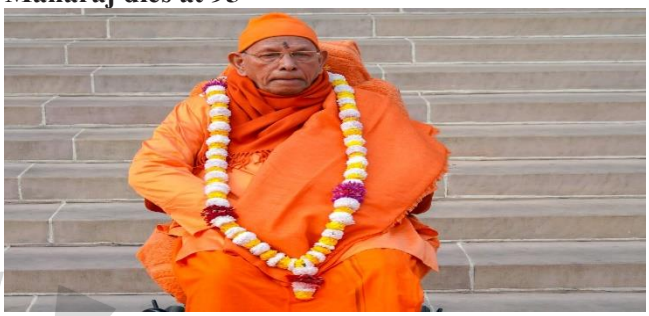
- Founded: 1966
- Headquarters: Seoul, South Korea
- CEO and Chairman: Cho Hyun-joon

Nobel-winning economist Daniel Kahneman dies at 90

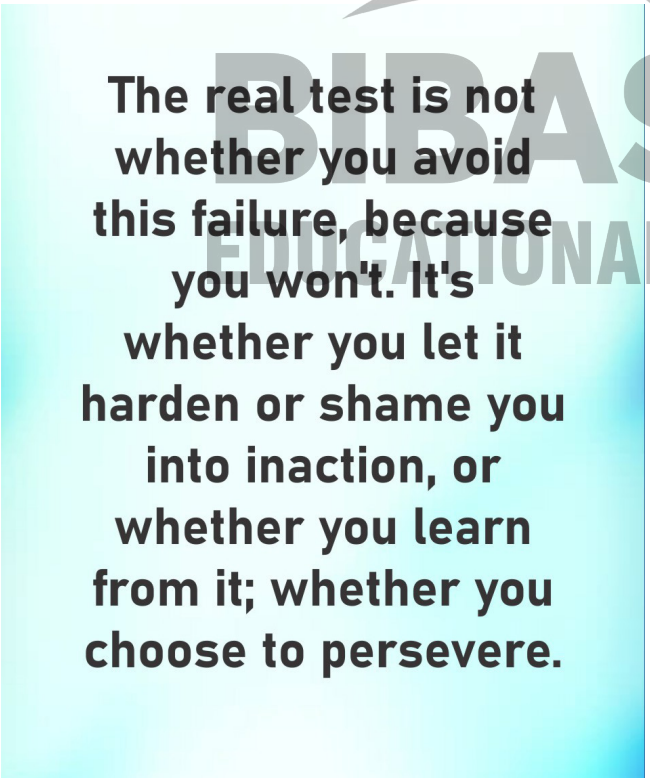


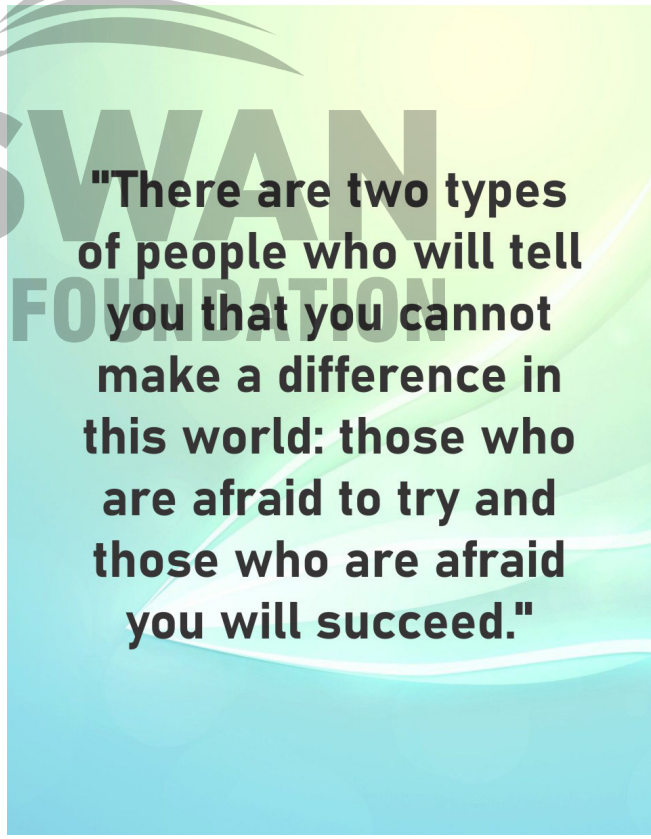
Daniel Kahneman, an Israeli-American cognitive psychologist and Nobel laureate in economics, has died at the age of 90. Kahneman was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2002 for integrating psychological research insights into economic science, particularly focusing on human judgment and decision-making in uncertain situations. Kahneman was a fellow of the Center for the Study of Rationality at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a member of the university's Department of Psychology, and a professor and researcher at several leading North American universities.

Ramakrishna Mission chief Swami Smarananda Maharaj dies at 95



The president of Ramakrishna Math and Mission Swami Smarananda Maharaj passed away at the age of 95. Swami Smarananda Maharaj took charge as the 16th president of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission after the death of Swami Atmasthananda. Swami Smarananda was born in 1929 in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, and he joined the Ramakrishna Mission at the age of 22 in 1952.





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Miscellaneous Events

India 4th largest military spender in 2023: SIPRI

With military expenditure worth $83. 6 billion in 2023, India was the fourth largest spender globally in 2023, the latest report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) states. This was a result of growing personnel and operations costs that comprised about 80 per cent of the total military budget. The latest data showed that the United States, China and Russia remained the top three military spenders globally followed by India and Saudi Arabia. According to the report, Indian spending was up by 4. 2 per cent from 2022 and by 44 per cent from 2014. It said the growth in spending is because of rising personnel and operations costs, and this aligns with the government's priority to strengthen the operational readiness of the armed forces amid ongoing tensions with China and Pakistan. It said that capital outlays to fund military procurement remained relatively stable at around 22 per cent of the budget in 2023, of which 75 per cent went towards equipment produced domestically.

As per the report:

The five biggest spenders in 2023 –the United States, China, Russia, India and Saudi Arabia—together accounted for 61 per cent of world military spending. The US spending was $916 billion and the Chinese spending was an estimated $296 billion. Russia's military spending grew by 24 per cent in 2023 to an estimated $109 billion. Ukraine became the eighth largest military spender in 2023, increasing its spending by 51%.

SIPRI:

- Headquarters: Solna
- Founded: 6 May 1966
- Director: Dan Smith
- Chair: Stefan Löfven

Byju's CEO Arjun Mohan quits, company to consolidate biz in 3 units

Byju's has announced changes in its leadership structure with CEO Arjun Mohan stepping down from his position having taken it up just six months ago. Byju Raveendran will resume his responsibilities in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the company, while Mohan will transition to an advisory role outside the company. The company will now consolidate its businesses into three main divisions: The Learning App, Online Classes & Tuition Centres, and Test-prep.

Byju's

- Founded: 2011
- Founders: Byju Raveendran & Divya Gokulnath
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- CEO: Byju Raveendran
- Subsidiaries: WhiteHat Jr, Scholr, Aakash Institute, Toppr, GradeUp, etc,

Top 10 global unicorns of 2024: Hurun Global Unicorn Index

Global Unicorn Index 2024 TOP 10

	Rank Change	Unicorn	Valuation ($bn)	Change ($bn)	Country	Sector
1-	0	ByteDance	220	20	China	Social Media
2-	0	SpaceX	180	43	USA	Aerospace
3*	14	OpenAI	100	80	USA	AI
4↓	-1	Ant Group	80	-40	China	FinTech
5↓	-1	Shein	65	0	China	E-Commerce
6↓	-1	Stripe	61	11	USA	FinTech
7-	0	Databricks	43	12	USA	Big Data
8*	8	Canva	39	18	Australia	SaaS
9*	8	Binance	34	14	Malta	Blockchain
10↓	-4	WeBank	33	0	China	FinTech

In 2024, the global unicorn landscape witnessed significant developments and challenges, as outlined in the Hurun Global Unicorn Index. While the United States maintained its lead with 703 unicorns and China followed with 340, India ranked third with 67 unicorns. However, India experienced a notable decline in unicorn creation for the first time since 2017, attributed primarily to a lack of investment despite robust stock market performance.

India 2nd Highest in Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C in the World

India accounted for the second-highest number of cases of hepatitis B and C in 2022 after China, with 35 million infections, according to a report by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that can cause a range of

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health problems and can be fatal. According to the WHO's 2024 Global Hepatitis Report released, 254 million people lived with hepatitis B and 50 million with hepatitis C in 2022 globally. India, which was second only to China in the viral hepatitis burden, registered 29. 8 million hepatitis B cases in 2022 while the number of hepatitis C infections stood at 5. 5 million. China registered 8. 3 crore cases of hepatitis B and C, representing 27. 5 per cent of the total disease burden. The report said that with a total of 35 million cases, India accounted for 11. 6 per cent of the total disease burden globally that year.

Paytm Payments Bank CEO Surinder Chawla resigns

Paytm Payments Bank's managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) Surinder Chawla has resigned from the company, according to a regulatory filing by Paytm brand owner One97 Communications. Chawla will be relieved from his duties from June 16, 2024.

Paytm Payments Bank:

- Founded: 28 November 2017
- Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- Headquarters: Noida, India

Mark Zuckerberg wealthier than Elon Musk, a first since 2020

Mark Zuckerberg pushed Elon Musk to fourth, and became the third-richest person in the world, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Musk's wealth has shrunk by $48. 4 billion this year, while Zuckerberg has added $58. 9 billion to his fortune as Meta Platforms Inc. climbs to fresh highs, including a new record. It's the first time Zuckerberg has broken into the top three on Bloomberg's ranking of the richest people since Nov. 16, 2020, when he was worth $105. 6 billion and Musk's fortune was $102. 1 billion. Musk now has a net worth of $180. 6 billion; Zuckerberg's is $186. 9 billion. Bernard Arnault, the chairman of luxury giant LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton, and Amazon. com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos hold the first two spots on Bloomberg's wealth ranking with fortunes of $223. 4 billion and $207. 3 billion, respectively.

Swiggy Instamart VP & Head SCM Karan Arora steps down

Swiggy Instamart's vice president and head of supply chain management (SCM), Karan Arora, announced his departure from the company after a three-and-a-half year tenure with the firm. Bhupesh Pangti, who has been with the company since 2021, will take over Arora's responsibilities as VP of supply chain. Meanwhile, Arora will join forces with Karthik Gurumurthy, the former head of Swiggy Instamart, who left in November last year to establish Convenio. Arora will serve as the co-founder of Convenio, an offline retail startup that mirrors Swiggy's business model.

Ex-PM Manmohan Singh retires from Rajya Sabha after 33 years

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the first PM outside the Nehru-Gandhi family to complete 10 years, or two full terms, in office, will finish a remarkable political innings in the Rajya Sabha spanning 33 years. The architect of India's economic liberalisation and the force behind the 2008 Indo-US nuclear agreement, Singh headed a government that transformed the social welfare framework with a bouquet of rights-based legislation and ushered in a slew of reforms including Direct Benefit Transfer and launched Aadhaar. Singh, 91, was the third PM from the Rajya Sabha after Indira Gandhi (in her first term) and Inder Kumar Gujral. Singh entered the Upper House in October 1991, four months after he became the Union finance minister in June 1991. He represented Assam for five terms in the Upper House and shifted to Rajasthan in 2019.

Forbes richest list 2024: Mukesh Ambani tops in India

On the 2024 Forbes' 2024 list of the World's Billionaires, 200 Indians featured- up from 169 last year. The combined wealth of these Indians is a record total of $954 billion—up 41% from $675 billion last year. Mukesh Ambani retained his position as the ninth richest person in the world is both India's and Asia's richest person. The richest woman in India remains Savitri Jindal who is now the fourth richest in India, up from sixth a year ago. She has a net worth of $33. 5 billion.

Here are India's 10 richest people:

1. Mukesh Ambani- net worth $116 billion
2. Gautam Adani- net worth $84 billion

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3. Shiva Nadar- net worth $36. 9 billion
4. Savitri Jindal- net worth $33. 5 billion
5. Dilip Shanghvi- net worth $26. 7 billion
6. Cyrus Poonawalla- net worth $21. 3 billion
7. Kushal Pal Singh- net worth $20. 9 billion
8. Kumar Birla - net worth $19. 7 billion
9. Radhakishan Damani- net worth $17. 6 billion
10. Lakshmi Mittal- net worth $16. 4 billion

Mumbai overtakes Beijing as Asia's billionaire capital

Even as confidence in the Indian economy grew to record levels, India has had a strong year adding almost 100 billionaires this year as compared to last year, according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2024. According to the report, Mumbai has overtaken Beijing to become Asia's billionaire capital and Top-3 cities globally. The number of billionaires in Mumbai is now 92, compared with 91 in Beijing, according to the report.

India's Performance:

India added the second-highest number of new billionaires (94) after the US (109). With 271 billionaires, India is now the third-ranked country globally, surpassing Germany. Mumbai overtook Beijing to become Asia's billionaire capital for the first time. Indian billionaires' cumulative wealth reached US$1 trillion, surpassing China's average wealth per billionaire (US$3. 2 billion vs US$3. 8 billion).

Sakshi Malik becomes first Indian wrestler to feature in Time's 100 list

Wrestler Sakshi Malik, who along with Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia was the face of the wrestlers' protest in India, has managed to feature in Time Magazine's 100. This year's TIME's list features the inclusion of 51 women, showcasing the diverse achievements and contributions of female leaders across various domains. Sakshi is the first Indian wrestler to be named in Time's 100 list. Other Indians to feature in the list include actress Alia Bhatt, Indo-British actor Dev Patel, and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella.

Why was Sakshi named in Time's 100 List?

Brij Bhushan has named Sakshi, an Olympic bronze medallist from Rio 2016, in the list for spearheading the relentless fight against alleged sexual harassment of female wrestlers. The fight led by Sakshi, Vinesh, and Bajrang, and supported by many at different times throughout 2023, became the focal point of discussion at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

Mary Kom steps down as Chef-de-Mission for upcoming Paris Olympics

Six-time world champion boxer M C Mary Kom stepped down as India's chef-de-mission for the upcoming Paris Olympics. Her decision comes weeks after the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chose the boxing legend for the post. The IOA, on March 21, announced contingent officials for the Paris Olympics, which begin on July 26. While Mary was chosen as the chef de mission, winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan was named her deputy. Chef de Mission is the most important administrative member of a contingent for a multi-discipline event.

India tops list of doping offenders in 2022: WADA anti-doping report

India has emerged as the country with the highest percentage of doping offenders, according to the 2022 testing figures released by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The report revealed that out of 4,064 samples collected from Indian athletes (including urine, blood, and athlete biological passports), 127 individuals tested positive for banned substances, constituting 3. 26 per cent of the sample size. WADA report also found a 6. 4 per cent increase in the total number of samples analysed and reported in its Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS) in 2022, compared to the previous year. India also topped the list for the highest percentage of failed EPO-Receptor Agonists (ERA) tests conducted per laboratory (blood), with 11 cases or 1. 8 per cent of adverse analytical findings (AAFs).

Top 5 Nations in the list

1 India
2 South Africa
3 Bangkok
4 USA
5 Qatar

WADA

- Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- President: Witold Bańka
- Founded: 10 November 1999

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Defence Exercise of the Month

Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)

The US Navy, the US Marine Corps, and the Sri Lankan Navy will conduct a bilateral maritime joint exercise, including anti-terrorism manoeuvres. The joint exercise called the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) gets underway two days before the proposed visit of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi to the island nation to inaugurate an Iranian-funded hydropower project. CARAT Sri Lanka will feature the expertise of the US Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team (FAST), a US Marine Corps unit specialised in security and anti-terrorism for naval assets, engaging alongside their Sri Lanka Navy Marine counterparts on a full spectrum of naval capabilities. The CARAT Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise underscores the strong partnership and shared commitment of the United States and Sri Lanka to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Exercise Poorvi Lehar

Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast. The exercise aimed at validation of procedures towards assessment of the Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region. The exercise witnessed participation of Ships, Submarines, aircraft and Special Forces. It was conducted in multiple phases including combat training in a realistic scenario during the Tactical Phase and the successful conduct of various firings during the Weapon Phase towards reaffirming the Indian Navy's capability to deliver ordnance on target. With the operation of aircraft from diverse locations, a near continuous Maritime Domain Awareness was maintained throughout the Area of operations. In addition to the participation of assets from Eastern Naval Command, the exercise also witnessed the participation of assets from Indian Air Force, Andaman and Nicobar Command and Coast Guard indicating a very high degree of interoperability amongst the Services.

DUSTLIK

The Indian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan will engage in joint training drills with the aim of enhancing cooperation and establishing a foundation for future joint military work. The Indian Army announced the fifth round of the India-Uzbekistan Dustlik joint military exercise will kick off in Termez district, Uzbekistan. The inaugural exercise was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019.

Uzbekistan:

- Capital: Tashkent
- President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- Prime Minister: Abdulla Aripov
- Currency: Uzbek sum

Gagan Shakti

The Indian Air Force is conducting its biggest exercise 'Gagan Shakti' at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district. In the exercise, all the major fighter aircraft and modern helicopters of the Air Force are demonstrating their striking capabilities. The exercise is being conducted at various locations across the country, including the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer. Many fighter planes and helicopters including Tejas, Rafale, Sukhoi 30, Jaguar, Globemaster, Chinook, Apache, and Prachanda will participate in the exercise. It was last held in 2018, during which the IAF completed over 11,000 sorties during the two-phase air manoeuvres.

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Important Days of the Month

Day	Observed/Celebrated As	Motto/Importance
1 May	International Labour Day	To honour the contributions of the labourers or working class people.
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the face of the Environmental Crisis
4 May	Coal Miners Day	To highlight the toughest profession and the people working in coal mines.
5 May	World Asthma Day	It aims to educate people on how best to get control over this respiratory problem and other allergic diseases.
7 May	World Athletics Day	To popularize sports among the youth
8 May	World Red Cross Day	To mark the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross and International Committee
8 May	World Thalassemia Day	Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All
12 May	International Nurses Day	Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care.
15 May	International Day of Families	Demographic Trends and Families
17 May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	The whole world needs digital innovation. Together, we can make it happen.
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day	To alarm the world against the HIV infections
21 May	National Anti-Terrorism Day	To mark the death anniversary of former PM, Rajiv Gandhi
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity	Be part of the Plan
31 May	World No Tobacco Day	Protecting children from tobacco industry interference

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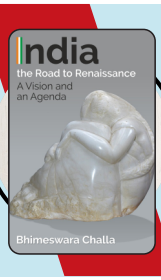
Books & Authors



Book: India- the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda

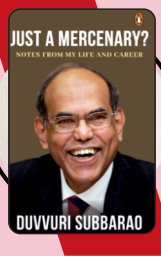
Author: Bhimeswara Chall

About: In this book the author brings a unique perspective to the table, offering a compelling and ambitious vision for India's path to renaissance.

Book: Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI

Author: Madhumita Murgia

About: The book explores the impact of artificial intelligence on human society.



Book: Just a Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career

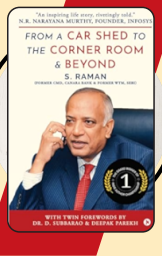
Author: Duvvuri Subbarao

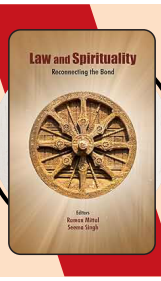
About: This book offers a candid and insightful exploration of the challenges that author faced on the complex relationship between the government and the central bank.

Book: From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond

Author: S. Raman

About: The book explores the intricate dance between personal integrity, professional challenges, and systemic issues in the financial world.





Book: The Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond

Author: Raman Mittal & Seema Singh

About: The book's primary focus lies in uncovering the profound spiritual underpinnings that have long shaped the development of the legal system.

Book: Phool Bahadur

Author: Jayanath Patil

About: This book revolves around the ambitious Mukhtar Samlal, and explores the exploitative relationships between a Nawab, a courtesan, and a circle officer.

Book: Knife

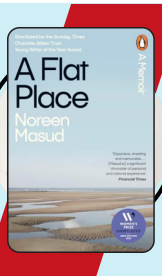
Author: Salman Rushdie

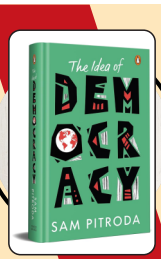
About: The book serves as a powerful testament to author's unwavering commitment to free speech, a core value that has defined his life and literary career.

Book: A Flat Place

Author: Noreen Masud

About: This book is a marvellous mixture of exquisite landscape evocation and a deeply personal exploration of complex post-traumatic stress disorder.





Book: The Idea of Democracy

Author: Sam Pitroda

About: This book explores the current state of democracy and its potential challenges in countries like India and the United States.

Book: Doppelganger: A Trip Into the Mirror World

Author: Naomi Klein

About: This book examines the current climate of political polarization and conspiracy thinking for whom the author is often confused.

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Current Affairs Based GS Question Bank(500+ Que)

Statement Based Questions

1. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has decided to delist 18 "centrally protected monuments".
Consider the following statements -
(1) The India Gate is the national monument of India was inspired by the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.
(2) The monument or archaeological site should be less than 100 years old, to be declared Monuments of National Importance.
(3) Amar Jawan Jyoti was added to the India Gate in 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: **(A)**

Exp: The India Gate is the national monument of India is situated in New Delhi.
India Gate is a monument designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens is built in 1931 was inspired by the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.
The monument or archaeological site should not be less than 100 years old.
Amar Jawan Jyoti was added to the India Gate in 1972 in the honor of soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.

2. Recently, India commemorated the centenary of Vaikom satyagraha, a pivotal movement in India's history that challenged untouchability and caste oppression.
In the contexts of Indian history, which of the following statement/s is/are correct regarding Vaikom Satyagraha?
(1) It was a satyagraha against untouchability and caste discrimination.
(2) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar also participated in this Satyagraha.
(3) The heart of this protest was at the Vaikom Mahadev temple, where a board denied the entry of lower caste people.
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: Vaikom Satyagraha (1924-1925)
It was a Satyagraha in Travancore, Kerala against untouchability in Hindu society.
It was not a part of political freedom.
The heart of this protest was at the Vaikom Mahadev temple, where the upper caste was permitted to use a public road around it but the others were not.
At the Vaikom Mahadev Temple, there was a board that denied the entry of lower caste people.
The Satyagraha aimed at securing the freedom to all sections of society through the public roads and leading to the Sri Mahadeva Temple at Vaikom, and allow everyone to enter the temple.
Leaders related to Vaikom satyagraha
T.K Madhavan
M. K Gandhi
Periyar E. V. Ramasamy
K. Kelppan
Mannathu Padmanabhan

3. The Supreme Court of India has placed a temporary hold on the central government's notification establishing a Fact Check Unit (FCU).
Consider the following statements regarding constitutional provisions related to retired judges in india-
(1) Article 124(7): It prohibits a retired judge of the Supreme Court from practising before any court or authority in India.
(2) Article 128: The Chief Justice of India, with the President's consent, may request a retired Judge of the Supreme Court, Federal Court, or High Court appointment to sit and act as a Supreme Court Judge.
(3) Article 220: It bars High Court judges from pleading before "any authority in India except the Supreme Court and the other High Courts."
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: Constitutional Provisions Related to Retired Judges in india -
Article 124(7): It prohibits a retired judge of the Supreme Court from practising before any court or authority in India.
This restriction is aimed at maintaining the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

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However, the Constitution does not explicitly prohibit retired judges from accepting post-retirement assignments or appointments.
Article 128:
The Chief Justice of India, with the President's consent, may request a retired Judge of the Supreme Court, Federal Court, or High Court qualified for Supreme Court appointment to sit and act as a Supreme Court Judge.
Article 220:
It bars High Court judges from pleading before "any authority in India except the Supreme Court and the other High Courts."

4. Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced an active space science programme, the Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START), 2024.
With reference to International Space Station (ISS), consider the following statements -
(1) The ISS was taken into space piece-by-piece and gradually built-in orbit.
(2) The ISS tends to sink from its orbit at a height of about 250 miles above the Earth.
(3) Due to its enormous weight and the ensuing drag, the ISS tending to shift from its orbit.
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 ISS is the most complex international scientific and engineering project in history and the largest structure humans have ever put into space.
This high-flying satellite is a laboratory for new technologies and an observation platform for astronomical, environmental and geological research.
The International Space Station was taken into space piece-by-piece and gradually built in orbit. It consists of modules and connecting nodes that contain living quarters and laboratories, as well as exterior trusses that provide structural support, and solar panels that provide power.
Due to its enormous weight and the ensuing drag, the ISS tends to sink from its orbit at a height of about 250 miles above the Earth. It has to be pushed up to its original line of motion every now and then.

5. Recently, there has been a noticeable surge in interest in the Havana Syndrome, particularly concerning its occurrence among US diplomats.
Consider the following statements -
(1) Havana Syndrome is a widely recognized condition caused by excessive sun exposure and dehydration in tropical climates.
(2) The first case of Havana Syndrome was experienced in the US.
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: Havana Syndrome refers to a set of unexplained health symptoms experienced by U.S. and Canadian diplomats, as well as some intelligence personnel, primarily based in Havana, Cuba, and other locations. These symptoms include various neurological and sensory issues such as headaches, dizziness, hearing loss, cognitive difficulties, and other ailments. The exact cause of Havana Syndrome is still under investigation.

6. Recently, India and Romania have signed the Defense Cooperation Agreement, aiming to set up and expand Military Cooperation between both countries.
Which of the following countries share borders with Moldova?
(1) Ukraine
(2) Romania
(3) Belarus
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: Located in Eastern Europe, Moldova is bordered on the west and southwest by Romania and on the north, south, and east by Ukraine. Most of its territory lies between the area of two main rivers, the Nistru and the Prut. While BELARUS lies in the north of Ukraine.

7. Recently, hundreds of houses have been flooded in several coastal areas of Kerala due to high sea waves named Kallakkadal.
Consider the following statements regarding Kallakkadal -
(1) Kallakkadal refers to coastal flooding caused by swell waves during the pre-monsoon season.

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(2) It is caused by waves formed by ocean swells.
(3) Kallakkadal occurs without precursors or any kind of local wind activity.
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: Kallakkadal refers to coastal flooding caused by swell waves during the pre-monsoon season (April-May) and sometimes during post monsoon along the southwest coast of India.
The term Kallakkadal, used by local fishermen, is a combination of two Malayalam words, including Kallan and Kadal. "Kallan means thief and Kadal means sea, meaning "ocean that arrives as a thief.
It is caused by waves formed by ocean swells, which originate from distant storms such as hurricanes or prolonged periods of intense gale winds (usually in the southern part of the Indian Ocean).
These storms transfer significant energy from the air into the water, resulting in the formation of extremely high waves.
These waves can travel vast distances from the storm center until they reach the shoreline.
Kallakkadal occurs without precursors or any kind of local wind activity and as a result, it has been very difficult for the coastal population to get an advance warning.
However, early warning systems like the Swell Surge Forecast System —launched by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in 2020 gives forewarning seven days in advance.

8. The Allahabad High Court (HC) has struck down the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004, as unconstitutional.
Consider the following statements -
(1) Article 29 says education of minorities, protection of interests of minorities.
(2) Article 30 says right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.
(3) Article 45 says State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years
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: Constitutional Provisions Regarding Education in India -
The State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years - Article 45
The 86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002, provided the Right to Education as a fundamental right in Part III of the Constitution and made education a fundamental right for children between the ages of six and fourteen. - Article 21A
Promotion of education and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other weaker sections of the people. - Article 46
Freedom to attend religious education in certain educational institutions established under an endowment or trust and administered by the state. - Article 28
Education of minorities, protection of interests of minorities - Article 29
Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions - Article 30
Parents and guardians must provide educational opportunities for their children between the ages of 6 and 14. - Article 51A(k)

9. Climate change is impacting aardvarks' in Africa.
Consider the following statements regarding Sahara Desert -
(1) It has an area of 10.95 million km2
(2) A large part of Tunisia is covered by Sahara desert
(3) The Sahara desert comprises elevated plateaus and rocky surfaces too.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Sahara desert is the world's largest desert.
It has an area of around 9.2 million square km.
The Sahara desert touches eleven countries: Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Western Sahara.
A large part of Tunisia is covered by Sahara desert.

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The Sahara desert is covered with gravel plains and elevated plateaus and rocky surfaces too. These rocky surfaces are more than 2500 m high at some places.

10. The Steel Ministry is developing a comprehensive green steel policy, encompassing the manufacturing process, required skill set, and funding support, as part of a complete decarbonization strategy.
Consider the following statements -
(1) MMTC Limited is India's largest international trading organization.
(2) Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited has been set up by MMTC jointly with the Government of Orissa.
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: MMTC Limited (Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India) is the largest international trading company in India and has been in existence for almost five decades. Its vast international trade network, which includes a wholly owned subsidiary in Singapore covers almost all countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, America etc. giving MMTC global market coverage. Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) is a company promoted by MMTC Ltd, Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa limited.

11. Recently, India launched a new database (Unite Aware platform) to record crimes against UN peacekeepers and monitor progress in holding perpetrators accountable.
With reference to the "United Nations Credentials Committee", consider the following statements -
(1) It is a committee set up by the UN Security Council and works under its supervision.
(2) It traditionally meets in March, June and September every year
(3) It assesses the credentials of all UN members before submitting a report to the General Assembly for approval.
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: A United Nations Credentials Committee is appointed at the beginning of each regular session of the General Assembly. It consists of nine members, who are appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President.
The Credentials Committee functions under the auspices of the UN General Assembly.
A Credentials Committee is appointed at the beginning of each regular session of the General Assembly. Usually, the committee meets in November, brings the report to the General Assembly in December for adoption.
The Committee is mandated to examine the credentials of representatives of Member States and to report to the General Assembly thereon (Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).

12. Recently, forest officials learnt that the bark of an Indian laurel tree or Indian Silver Oak (Ficus microcarpa) stores water, particularly in the summer, as claimed by the Konda Reddi tribe.
Consider the following statements regarding Konda Reddy Tribe -
(1) It is one of the most backward tribal groups in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
(2) Their mother tongue is Telugu with a unique accent.
(3) Konda Reddis have also been recognized as Primitive Tribal Group.
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: Konda Reddy Tribe is one of the most backward tribal groups in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
They inhabit on both the banks of the Godavari River (East and West Godavari districts), in the hilly-forest region of Khammam (Telangana) and Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh).
They live in the interior forest areas largely cut-off from the mainstream. Traditionally, they were shifting cultivators and recently, some of them have adopted settled agriculture and horticulture.
Collection of non timber forest products and basket-making supplement the sources of their livelihood.
Their mother tongue is Telugu with a unique accent.

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Konda Reddis have also been recognized as Primitive Tribal Group (now Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups)
The Konda Reddis are known for their eco-friendly practices such as use of household articles made of bamboo, bottle gourd, and seed.

13. Recently, Kodaikanal Solar Observatory celebrated its 125th birth anniversary.
Consider the following statements regarding Kodaikanal Solar Observatory -
(1) It was established in 1899.
(2) It is on the southern tip of the Cardamom Hills.
(3) The Evershed effect was first detected at this observatory in January 1909.
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 Kodaikanal Solar Observatory is a solar observatory owned and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics. It was established in 1899.
It is on the southern tip of the Palani Hills.
The Evershed effect (apparent radial flow of gas observed in the penumbra (outer region) of sunspots on the Sun) was first detected at this observatory in January 1909.
Cause of Establishment: The establishment of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO) in India, was motivated by the need to understand the link between solar activity and monsoons.

14. The southern states of India, particularly Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, are facing a severe water crisis.
Consider the following statements -
(1) About 70% of India's water usage comes from groundwater.
(2) According to the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) Act, groundwater is considered to be a private resource.
(3) There is no single law that governs groundwater management at the national level.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: India extracts more groundwater than China and the US combined. India is the world's largest user of groundwater, accounting for one-fourth of global groundwater extraction. About 70% of India's water usage comes from groundwater.
There is no single law that governs groundwater management at the national level in India.
The legal and regulatory frameworks for groundwater in India are based on a number of different laws, including the Indian Easements Act, 1882, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and the Model Groundwater Bill, 2017.
However, these laws are not comprehensive and do not provide a unified framework for groundwater management.
This lack of a single national law on groundwater management has made it difficult to develop and implement effective groundwater management policies. It has also made it difficult to enforce groundwater regulations.
Further, the Constitution of India does not explicitly mention groundwater, but it does guarantee the right to water as a fundamental right.
According to the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) Act, groundwater is considered to be a public resource. This means that the CGWA has the authority to regulate and control the use and development of groundwater in India.

15. Recently, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in parts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for another six months.
With reference to Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) consider the following statements -
(1) It grants the armed forces extraordinary powers and legal immunity to bring back order in disturbed areas.
(2) It gives power to armed forces to arrest anyone even without a warrant.
(3) This act can be applied in the state only after the consent of that state government.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) grants the armed forces extraordinary powers

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and legal immunity to bring back order in disturbed areas.
It gives power to armed forces to fire upon anyone who is acting against law and order, arrest anyone without a warrant, stop and search any vehicle or vessel, and prohibit a gathering of five or more people.
This act gives powers to the central government to unilaterally take the decision to impose AFSPA which means the consent of the state government is not important.

16. The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has recently uncovered the oldest-known dead galaxy.
Consider the following statements -
(1) Galaxies are gravitationally bound systems.
(2) Milky Way is a Spiral Galaxy.
(3) Generally, elliptical galaxies are younger than the spiral galaxies.
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 galaxy is a gravitationally bound system of stars, stellar remnants, interstellar gas, dust and dark matter.
There are three general types: elliptical, spiral, and irregular.
Spiral galaxies are thought to evolve into elliptical galaxies as the spirals get older. Milky way is a spiral galaxy.

17. The 22nd Foundation Day of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency was recently celebrated.
Consider the following statements regarding State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2023 -
(1) Two states, Assam and Uttar Pradesh are in the 'Achiever' category,
(2) Three states, Goa, Jharkhand, and Tamil Nadu, are in the 'Contender' category.
(3) Maharashtra and Haryana most improved states, with score increases of 18.5 and 17 points, respectively.
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: State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2023 -
It is the 5th edition of the index, developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, in association with the Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE).
Front runner (>=60):
Seven states in 'Front runner' category in SEEI 2023: Karnataka (score 86.5), Andhra Pradesh (83.25), Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Telangana.
Achiever (50-59.75):
Two states, Assam and Uttar Pradesh are in the 'Achiever' category,
Contender (30-49.75):
Three states, Goa, Jharkhand, and Tamil Nadu, are in the 'Contender' category.
Aspirant (<30):
Maharashtra and Haryana most improved states, with score increases of 18.5 and 17 points, respectively.

18. Recently, the President of India presented Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) Fellowships and Awards for the years 2022 and 2023 in New Delhi.
Consider the following statements -
(1) Sangeet Natak Akademi, the apex body in the field of performing arts in the country, was formed in 1953.
(2) Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar Karaikudi was the first to receive the Sahitya Natak Akademi award.
(3) Dr Rajendra was appointed as its first Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi.
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: Sangeet Natak Akademi
Sangeet Natak Akademi, the apex body in the field of performing arts in the country, was formed in 1953.
It was set up for the preservation and promotion of the vast intangible heritage of India's diverse culture expressed in forms of music, dance, and drama.
The management of the Akademi vests in its General Council.
Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar Karaikudi was the first to receive the Sahitya Natak Akademi award.
Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar is an award given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance & Drama.

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The Sangeet Natak Academy was established on 31 May 1952 by a resolution of the Ministry of Human Resource development.
The Akademi was officially inaugurated on 28 January 1953 by the first President of India Rajendra Prasad and PV Rajmannar was appointed as its first Chairman.

19. Recently, the President of India, paid floral tributes to Dr. Zakir Hussain, former President of India on his birth anniversary.
Consider the following statements -
(1) Dr Zakir Husain, the first Muslim to hold the position of President of India in 1967.
(2) He was also appointed governor of Bihar state in 1957.
(3) During 1956–58, he served on the executive board of World Bank.
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: Dr. Zakir Husain (08 Feb 1897- 03 May 1969) was an Indian statesman, and the first Muslim to hold the position of President of India in 1967.
He was also appointed governor of Bihar state in 1957 and was elected vice-president of India in 1962.
He helped found the Muslim National University in Aligarh (later moved to New Delhi) and served as its vice-chancellor from 1926 to 1948.
At Mahatma Gandhi's invitation, he also became chairman of the National Committee on Basic Education, established in 1937 to design a Gandhian syllabus for schools.
During 1956–58, he served on the executive board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

20. Congress MP demands White Paper on Manipur violence in Lok Sabha.
Consider the following statements -
(1) The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the Question Hour.
(2) Under Question Hour, MPs can raise matters without any prior notice.
(3) Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation.
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: Question Hour:
Definition: The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the Question Hour. However, in 2014 the Question Hour was shifted in the Rajya Sabha from 11 am to 12 noon.
During this one hour, Members of Parliament (MPs) ask questions to ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.
The questions can also be asked to the private members (MPs who are not ministers).
Zero Hour:
Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation. It is not mentioned in the parliamentary rules book.
Under this, MPs can raise matters without any prior notice.
The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (i.e. regular business of the House) is taken up.

21. The recent turmoil in the Red Sea has sent ripples through India's oil import dynamics.
Consider the following statements regarding Major Oil Suppliers -
(1) Russia is currently India's largest supplier of oil in January, 2024.
(2) Iraq is the second-largest source of crude supplier to India in January, 2024.
(3) US is the third-largest source of crude supplier to India in January, 2024.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Russia: Russia is currently India's largest supplier of oil. Russian oil imports to India surged to 1.53 million barrels per day (bpd) in January, 2024.
India capitalised on discounted Russian offers following Western sanctions on Russia (due to Russia-Ukraine Conflict), displacing traditional suppliers.
The Urals crude oil grade of Russia has become a cornerstone of India's energy diversification efforts.

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Ira: Iraq is the second-largest source of crude supplier to India, with imports reaching 1.19 million bpd in January 2024, the highest since April 2022.
India's efforts to diversify oil procurement channels aim to mitigate geopolitical risks and ensure a stable energy supply.
Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia is India's third-largest oil supplier and exported approximately 690,172 bpd of crude oil to India in January, 2024 maintaining its position as a key player in India's energy security landscape.
UAE: Oil imports from the UAE surged by 81% in January, 2024 reaching around 326,500 bpd.
Abu Dhabi is India's fourth-largest supplier of crude oil.

22. Recently, the borders between Israel and Lebanon have been under intensified attack by Hezbollah.
Consider the following statements -
(1) The border between Israel and Lebanon, known as the "Blue Line".
(2) The border between these countries set up by USA in 2000.
(3) It's not an official international border but a demarcation line.
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 border between Israel and Lebanon, known as the "Blue Line," was set by the United Nations in 2000 after Israel withdrew its military from southern Lebanon.
It's not an official international border but a demarcation line.
Originally, it was the boundary established by Britain and France in the 1920s, between Lebanon, Syria and Palestine.
Hezbollah is a Shia Islamist political party and militant group based in Lebanon. It emerged in the 1980s as a response to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. It is also designated as a terrorist organisation by several countries, including the United States and Israel.

23. Recently, Kerala has launched a government-owned OTT platform called CSpace.
Consider the following statements -
(1) People in Kerala practise different religions such as Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism.
(2) Kerala has been an attractive destination for international travellers and traders since antiquity.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) **(B)** Both (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Kerala is a state on India's Malabar coast known for its palm-lined beaches and backwaters.
It has been an attractive destination for international travellers and traders since antiquity.
People in Kerala practice different religions such as Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism.
This is because of the influence of these travellers that the people in Kerala adopted their religion.
This is possible due to diversity.
Diversity is the coexistence of different people, plants, animals, etc.

24. The Union Cabinet extended the subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2-kg cylinder under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).
Consider the following statements -
(1) In May 2016, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy introduced the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana'
(2) This aimed to replace traditional cooking fuels like firewood and coal, which had negative impacts.
(3) Phase-I Achievements: Target of 8 crore connections achieved by September 2019.
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: In May 2016, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas introduced the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY) to provide clean cooking fuel like LPG to rural and deprived households.
This aimed to replace traditional cooking fuels like firewood and coal, which had negative impacts on the health of rural women and the environment.

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Under Ujjwala 2.0 (Phase-2 of PMUY), a special provision has been made for Migrant Families to avail of new connections using Self-Declaration instead of Proof of Address (PoA) and Ration Card (RC).
Phase-I Achievements: Target of 8 crore connections achieved by September 2019.
Phase-2 (Ujjwala 2.0): Launched in August 2021, the target of 1 crore additional connections achieved in January 2022.

25. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintains its focus on curbing inflation by keeping the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% in February 2024 to align inflation with the 4% target.
Consider the following statements -
(1) Market Stabilisation Scheme instrument for monetary management was introduced in 2004.
(2) Cash Reserve Ratio is the average daily balance that a bank is required to maintain with the Reserve Bank.
(3) Repo Rate is the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank absorbs liquidity.
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: Repo Rate:
The interest rate at which the Reserve Bank provides overnight liquidity to banks against the collateral of government and other approved securities under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).
Reverse Repo Rate:
The interest rate at which the Reserve Bank absorbs liquidity, on an overnight basis, from banks against the collateral of eligible government securities under the LAF.
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):
The average daily balance that a bank is required to maintain with the Reserve Bank as a share of such per cent of its Net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) that the Reserve Bank may notify from time to time in the Gazette of India.
Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS):
This instrument for monetary management was introduced in 2004.
Surplus liquidity of a more enduring nature arising from large capital inflows is absorbed through sale of short-dated government securities and treasury bills.
The cash so mobilised is held in a separate government account with the RBI.

26. Recently, Parliament passed two bills that aim to modify the lists of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India -
(1) PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.
(2) A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
(3) There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.
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: Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are centrally recognized special category from among the Scheduled Tribe.
It was constituted during the 4th five year plan on the basis of the report of the Dhebar commission (1960-61).
Such groups were identified by one or more of the following features:
Pre-agricultural level of technology,
Low level of literacy,
Economic backwardness,
A declining or stagnant population.
There are total 75 tribal groups have been categorized categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s.
PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands.
Konda reddy of Khammam district of Telangana and Irular of Tamil Nadu are in the list of PVTGs.

27. In 2021, the SMILE scheme, aimed at advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat was initiated.
In India, Legal Services Authorities provide free legal services to which of the following type of citizens?
(1) Person with an annual income of less than Rs 1,00,000

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(2) Member of Other Backward Classes (OBC) with an annual income of less than Rs 3,00,000
(3) Transgender with an annual income of less than Rs 2,00,000
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 Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 states that those persons who have an annual income of less than the amount prescribed by the respective State Government or if the case is before any court other than the Supreme Court and less than Rs 5 Lakhs. If the case is before the Supreme Court, are eligible for free legal aid
For most of the States NALSA covers Persons whose annual income does not exceed Rs 1 lakh. For Delhi, there is mention of the Income ceiling for transgender in the NALSA Portal, which is Rs 2 lakh.
There is no such provision of free legal aid specifically for OBC.
The free Legal Aid is not available for free for all senior citizens.

28. Recently, researchers have shed light on a survival strategy employed by reptiles known as brumation.
Consider the following events.
1 - First reptiles
2 - First insects
3 - Shelled animals
4 - First mammals
Arrange the above events in chronological order of their origin on the earth and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
(A) 2, 1, 3, 4 **(B)** 2, 3, 1, 4
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4 **(D)** 2, 4, 1, 3

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Shelled animals (543–488 million years ago)
The first invertebrates developed in the oceans. They were soft-bodied animals with a shell or carapace, such as these trilobites.
The fossil remains of some of the first animals with shells, ocean-dwelling creatures that measure a few centimetres in length and date to about 520 million years ago.
First insects (416–359 million years ago)
Insects appeared on the continents, which were covered in giant ferns.
The first amphibians, such as the ichthyostega, also moved out of the water.
First reptiles (359–299 million years ago)
Reptiles made their appearance in immense swamps and coniferous forests. Certain insects, such as the dragonfly, develop wings.
First mammals (251–200 million years ago)
Dinosaurs make their appearance.
Mammals also started to appear, but most of them were no larger than mice.
The small mammals benefited from the disappearance of the dinosaurs. They grew larger and diversified during Paleogenic (66–23 million years ago).

29. Recently, the maiden joint military exercise 'Sada Tanseeq' between the Indian Army and the Royal Saudi Land Force concluded.
Consider the following Military Operations -
(1) Operation Polo (1948) – Indian armed forces ended the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad.
(2) Operation Woodrose (1961) – the operation by the Military of India that led to the capture of Goa, Daman and Diu and Anjidiv Islands.
(3) Operation Meghdoot (1984) — Indian military's capture of the majority of Siachen Glacier.
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: Operation Polo (1948) – Indian armed forces ended the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad and led to the incorporation of the princely state of Hyderabad in Southern India, into the Indian Union.
Operation Vijay (1961) – the operation by the Military of India that led to the capture of Goa, Daman and Diu and Anjidiv Islands from the Portuguese colonial holding in 1961.
Operation Meghdoot (1984) — Indian military's capture of the majority of Siachen Glacier.

30. Recently, the Prime Minister of India addressed a programme on the 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayananda Saraswati.
Consider the following statements regarding Swami Dayananda Saraswati -
(1) Dayanand's reform envisaged a social order, where different castes performed functions suitable to their status determined by merit.

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(2) Dayanand's 'robust Vedic counterpart' challenged the masculine West that had enslaved the Aryavarta.
(3) The first Arya Samaj Unit was formally set up by Swami Dayanand Saraswati at Mumbai in 1875.
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: Swami Dayananda Saraswati was against the caste system in India and believed that idolatry, untouchability and caste system were against the values enshrined in the Vedas.
He wanted to establish a caste free society.
After the completion of his education, his mission was to spread the true Hindu culture and Religion, for which he relied solely on the Vedas.
He thus founded the "Arya Samaj" at Bombay on 10th April, 1875.
Accepting Vedas as the absolute truth, he propounded 'Back to the Vedas' as his strategy for Hindu Revivalism.
He opposed child marriage and polygamy, and had faith in female education.
Using his robust "Vedic Counterpart", he challenged the masculine West.

31. Recently, Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced his intention to resign, once a transitional presidential council is created.
Consider the following statements regarding Haiti -
(1) It is located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean.
(2) It occupies the western one-third of the island of Hispaniola.
(3) It is the world's second independent Black-led republic.
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: Haiti is located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean.
It occupies the western one-third of the island of Hispaniola, sharing a border with the Dominican Republic on the eastern side.
Haiti is also neighbored by Jamaica to the west and Cuba to the northwest.
Official Languages: French, Haitian Creole.
Major Mountain Ranges: Massif de la Selle, Massif du Nord.
It is the world's first independent Black-led republic.
The nation underwent about two centuries of Spanish colonial rule and more than a century of French rule.

32. Recently, Riken Yamamoto was declared the winner of the prestigious 2024 Pritzker Prize.
Consider the following statements -
(1) The Pritzker Prize is given for its outstanding contribution to the field of Civil Engineering.
(2) It is also known as the Noble Prize of Architecture.
(3) B V Doshi is the only Indian Architect who won Pritzker Prize in 2018.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Pritzker Prize is given for its outstanding contribution to the field of Architecture it is also known as the Noble Prize of Architecture.
It was initiated by Jay A Pritzker with his wife Cindy in 1979 residents of Chicago are known for their support in educational, medical, and cultural activities.
The award was sponsored by Hyatt Foundation.
The Pritzker Architecture Prize is said to be awarded irrespective of nationality, race, creed, or ideology.
Laureates of the Pritzker Architecture Prize receive a $100,000 grant, a formal citation certificate, and a bronze medallion.
The designs on the medal are inspired by the work of architect Louis Sullivan.
B. V. Doshi is the only Indian Architect who won Pritzker Prize in 2018, he built many famous buildings like IIM Banglore, IIM Udaipur, National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi.

33. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved a Rs 15,000 crore project to design and develop India's fifth-generation fighter multirole jet, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
Consider the following statements regarding Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas -

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(1) The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme was started by the Government of India in 1984.
(2) Manufactured by: Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)
(3) It replaced the ageing Mig 21 fighter planes.
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 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme was started by the Government of India in 1984 when they established the ADA to manage the LCA programme.
It replaced the ageing Mig 21 fighter planes.
Designed by:
ADA under the Department of Defence Research and Development.
Manufactured by:
State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

34. The first council meeting of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) took place recently in Washington DC, US.
Consider the following statements about biodiversity -
(1) It refers to the total number of individuals of a particular species found in the given area
(2) It refer to the different kind of species of flora and fauna present in the given area
(3) It is maximum in forests
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: Biodiversity cannot refer to only fauna because animals depend on the flora for food.
Animals need a producer in the ecosystem to survive.
The total number of individuals of a particular species in a given area is called species population.
Only one species does not show any diversity in that area.
Biodiversity refers to the different kinds of species of flora and fauna present in the given area.
The term 'biodiversity' was given by Edward Wilson.
Ecologists believe that communities with more species tend to be more stable than those with less species.
Forests are hotspots for biodiversity. They are biodiversity-rich areas that are also the most threatened due to high levels of exploitation and human intervention.

35. National NREGA Jan Sunwai Highlights Modi Government's Neglect of Rural Workers.
Consider the following statements with respect to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005:
(1) It promises 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every adult member in rural areas.
(2) Only rural Below Poverty Line families are eligible for the benefits under the Act.
(3) It provides for the voluntary unskilled manual wage works.
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 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 is not restricted to rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. It is open to all rural households willing to do unskilled manual work.
MGNREGA promises 100 days (not 200 days) of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
As mentioned above, MGNREGA does indeed provide for voluntary unskilled manual wage work.

36. Recently, the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare launched the first phase of the Bi-annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic filariasis (LF) elimination.
Consider the following statements regarding Lymphatic Filariasis -
(1) Lymphatic filariasis is caused by infection with Bacteria classified as nematodes.
(2) Wuchereria bancrofti is responsible for 90% of the cases.

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(3) Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease(NTD).
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: Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease(NTD) caused by infection with filarial parasites transmitted through mosquitoes.
In 2021, approximately 882.5 million people in 44 countries lived in areas requiring preventive chemotherapy to halt the spread of infection.
LF is a serious public health problem in India. Currently, there are 345 lymphatic filariasis endemic districts in 20 states and union territories of the country.
The infection starts in childhood and accumulates through adulthood, resulting in irreversible chronic disease conditions.
The disease inflicts stigma, mental suffering, social deprivation and economic loss and is a major cause of poverty in the affected communities.
Lymphatic filariasis is caused by infection with parasites classified as nematodes (roundworms) of the family Filariodidea. There are 3 types of these thread-like filarial worms:
Wuchereria bancrofti (responsible for 90% of the cases)
Brugia malayi (causes most of the remainder of the cases)
Brugia timori (which also causes the disease)

37. Iran, Russia, and China began a joint naval drill in the Gulf of Oman.
Consider the following statements about Strait of Hormuz -
(1) It is sandwiched between Iran and Oman
(2) It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean
(3) About 50% of the world's petroleum passes through the strait
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: Strait of Hormuz
It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean and is one of the world's most strategically important choke points (between Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman).
About 20% of the world's petroleum (about 35% of the petroleum traded by sea) passes through the strait, making it a highly important strategic location for international trade.

38. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting launched the Prasar Bharti - Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD).
Consider the following statements regarding Prasar Bharti -
(1) Prasar Bharati is a constitutional body that comprises both All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan.
(2) It is established under the Prasar Bharati Act and came into existence in 1997.
(3) The present CEO of Prasad Bharti is Ramoji Rao.
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: Prasar Bharati is an autonomous body that comprises both All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan.
Prasar Bharati is the Public Service Broadcaster of the country.
It is a statutory autonomous body established under the Prasar Bharati Act and came into existence in 1997.
The present CEO of Prasad Bharti is Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Prasad Bharti is headquartered in New Delhi.
The present Minister of Information and Broadcasting is Anurag Singh Thakur.

39. The Supreme Court expressed inclination towards approving the establishment of a Tiger Safari at Pakhrau, Uttarakhand in the buffer area of Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR).
Consider the following statements regarding Corbett Tiger Reserve -
(1) It is located in the Almora district of Uttarakhand.
(2) The national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park.
(3) Ramganga, Sonanadi, Mandal, Palain and Kosi are the major rivers flowing through the Reserve.

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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: Corbett Tiger Reserve is located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The Project Tiger was launched in 1973 in Corbett National Park (first National Park of India), which is part of Corbett Tiger Reserve.
The national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.
The core area forms the Corbett National Park while the buffer contains reserve forests as well as the Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
The entire area of the reserve is mountainous and falls in the Shivalik and Outer Himalaya geological provinces.
Ramganga, Sonanadi, Mandal, Palain and Kosi are the major rivers flowing through the Reserve.

40. Recently, the Minister of Defence of India unveiled a statue of the late General Bipin Rawat (1958-2021) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
Consider the following statements regarding Chief of Defence Staff -
(1) The post of CDS was created in 2019 on the recommendation of a committee headed by Lt General DB Shekatkar.
(2) Its creation was recommended in 2001 by a Group of Ministers.
(3) General Bipin Rawat was the first CDS in the country and was appointed on December 31, 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

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Chief of Defence Staff creation was recommended in 2001 by a Group of Ministers (GoM) that was tasked with studying the Kargil Review Committee (1999) report.
After the GoM recommendations, in preparation for the post of CDS, the government created the Integrated Defence Staff in 2002, which was to eventually serve as the CDS's Secretariat.
In 2012, the Naresh Chandra Committee recommended the appointment of a Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee as a midway to eliminate apprehensions over the CDS.
Finally, the post of CDS was created in 2019 on the recommendations of a committee of defence experts headed by Lt General DB Shekatkar.
General Bipin Rawat was the first CDS in the country and was appointed on December 31, 2019.

41. 'Digital India' future skills summit to unveil 20 strategic collaborations.
The fundamental object of Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following?
(1) People's participation in development
(2) Political accountability
(3) Democratic decentralisation
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 Panchayati Raj institutions are meant to promote grass-root democracy and development.
Its aim is to evolve a system of democratic decentralization and people's participation with a view to ensure rapid, speedy socio-economic progress and provide adequate justice.
Political accountability can be achieved in any system with democratic rule.
A committee constituted in 1957 by the National Development Council which was headed by Balwant Rai Mehta suggested a three-tier PRIs, namely, Grama Panchayats at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and Zilla Parishad at the district level.

42. Recently, the National Conference on APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card was held in New Delhi.
Which of the following provisions of the Constitution does India have a bearing on Education?
(1) Directive Principles of State Policy
(2) Rural and Urban Local Bodies
(3) Fifth Schedule
(4) Sixth Schedule
(5) Seventh Schedule
(A) 1 and 2 only **(B)** 3, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2 and 5 only **(D)** 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: **(D)**

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Exp: Article 45- Provides for early childhood care and education below the age of six years.
Under Schedule 11 of the constitution, the Panchayati raj institutions have allowed 29 subjects to work in their local areas. Education is one of them. Similarly, Schedule 12 of the constitution provides for 18 subjects and education is included here also.
The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the administration and management of Scheduled areas and Scheduled tribes where tribal communities are in majority.
According to the Sixth Schedule Autonomous District Councils (ADC) were established in four northeastern states, namely Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
These councils within their respective districts, shall have power to make laws with respect to education, primary and secondary and vocational training.
The seventh schedule of the constitution deals with the distribution of powers among states and centres via three lists i.e State List, Center List and Concurrent List.

43. Farmers from Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh are demanding legal guarantees for the Minimum Support Price (MSP).
Consider the following statements -
(1) MSP is computed on the basis of the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
(2) Minimum support prices are currently announced for 25 commodities including seven kinds of cereal.
(3) MSP for food grains is always kept necessarily higher than the market price of the grains.
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: Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
Minimum support prices are currently announced for 25 commodities.
It includes -
Seven kinds of cereal (paddy, wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, maize and ragi)
Five pulses (gram, arhar/tur, moong, urad and lentil)
Eight oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, toria, soyabean, sunflower seed, sesamum, safflower seed, and niger seed)
Copra, raw cotton, raw jute, sugarcane and Virginia flu cured (VFC) tobacco.
Procurement prices were always kept lower than Market Prices.
So preference of farmer was to sell in this manner – 1st: Market, 2nd: Government at Procurement Price, 3rd: Government at MSP.

44. Supreme Court declares electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional.
Consider the following statements regarding Electoral Bonds -
(1) The EBS was first announced in the 2017 Budget Session.
(2) Electoral bonds are issued by the RBI and its designated branches.
(3) The denominations are as Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.
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: Electoral bonds, the scheme introduced in 2018 allowing anonymous funding to political parties. These bonds function as financial instruments, akin to promissory notes or bearer bonds, specifically designed for contributions to political parties.
The EBS was first announced in the 2017 Budget Session.
It was later notified in January 2018 as a source of political funding through amendments to the Finance Act of 2017, the Representation of the People Act of 1951, the Income Tax Act of 1961, and the Companies Act of 2013, to enable the Electoral Bonds Scheme.
Electoral bonds are issued by the State Bank of India (SBI) and its designated branches and are sold in multiple denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.

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Donors can purchase electoral bonds through a Know Your Customer (KYC)- compliant account and subsequently transfer the funds to political parties.

45. Recently, a new study has showed that since 2007, unprecedented Marine Heatwave (MHW) events have occurred over the Arctic Ocean.
Which of the following statements is/are correct about the deposits of 'methane hydrate'?
(1) Global warming might trigger the release of methane gas from these deposits.
(2) Large deposits of 'methane hydrate' are found in Arctic Tundra and under the sea floor.
(3) Methane in atmosphere oxidizes to carbon dioxide after a decade or two.
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: Methane hydrate is a crystalline solid that consists of a methane molecule surrounded by a cage of interlocking water molecules. It is an "ice" that only occurs naturally in subsurface deposits where temperature and pressure conditions are favourable for its formation.
Regions with suitable temperature and pressure conditions for the formation and stability of methane hydrate– sediment and sedimentary rock units below the Arctic permafrost; sedimentary deposits along continental margins; deep-water sediments of inland lakes and seas; and, under Antarctic ice.
Methane hydrates, the sensitive sediments, can rapidly dissociate with an increase in temperature or a decrease in pressure. The dissociation produces free methane and water, which can be triggered by global warming.
Methane is removed from the atmosphere in about 9 to 12-year period by oxidation reaction where it is converted into Carbon Dioxide.

46. Recently, the Union Minister for Steel, virtually inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in the Stainless Steel Sector.
Consider the following heavy industries:
(1) Fertilizer plants
(2) Oil refineries
(3) Steel plants
Green hydrogen is expected to play a significant role in decarbonizing how many of the above industries?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** All of the above

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Green Hydrogen:
Green hydrogen is expected to play a significant role in decarbonizing all three of the mentioned heavy industries: fertilizer plants, oil refineries, and steel plants.
Fertilizer plants:
Green hydrogen can be used as a clean source of energy to produce hydrogen-rich fertilizers, such as ammonia. The traditional method of producing ammonia involves using natural gas as a feedstock, which generates significant carbon emissions.
By utilizing green hydrogen, which is produced through electrolysis using renewable energy sources, the production process can be decarbonized.
Oil refineries:
Green hydrogen can be used in oil refineries to replace or reduce the use of hydrogen produced from fossil fuels.
Hydrogen is a critical component in refining petroleum products, and its production is energy-intensive and often involves emitting greenhouse gases.
By transitioning to green hydrogen, oil refineries can significantly reduce their carbon footprint.
Steel plants:
Green hydrogen can be utilized as a clean energy source in the steel industry.
Steel production is currently a carbon-intensive process, primarily relying on the use of coal (via the blast furnace route) or natural gas (via the direct reduction route).
By using green hydrogen as a reducing agent, carbon emissions can be greatly reduced or even eliminated during the steelmaking process.

47. Recently, the International Narcotics Control Board in its 2023 Annual Report, highlighted that online Drug Trafficking has increased.
Consider the following statements regarding International Narcotics Control Board -
(1) It was established in 1954.
(2) Its secretariat is located in Vienna, Austria.

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(3) India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), cooperates with the INCB.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is the independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions.
It was established in 1968 in accordance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.
Its secretariat is located in Vienna, Austria.
India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), cooperates with the INCB.
Narcotics Control Bureau was constituted by the Government of India in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
It is the apex coordinating agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on Article 47 of the Indian Constitution which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.

48. The protocol for the establishment of JETCO between India and the Dominican Republic was signed at Santo Domingo.
Consider the following statements -
(1) It is a country of the South America.
(2) Dominican Republic borders Haiti from the east.
(3) It lies in Mediterranean Sea.
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: Dominican Republic is a country of the West Indies that occupies the eastern two-thirds of Hispaniola, the second largest island of the Greater Antilles chain in the Caribbean Sea.
India's exports to the Dominican Republic are small but growing. Bilateral two way trade stands at around USD 120 million.
Haiti is a mountainous country that lies in Caribbean Sea. Dominican Republic borders Haiti from the east.

49. A new report by TRAFFIC and World Wide Fund for Nature-India revealed that 1,203 pangolins were poached for illegal wildlife trade in India from 2018-2022.
Consider the following animals -
1- Hedgehog, 2- Marmot, 3- Pangolin
To reduce the chance of being captured by predators which of the above organisms rolls up/roll up and protects/ protects its/their vulnerable parts?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (2) and (1)
(C) Only (3) and (2) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Hedgehog are small mammals with short limbs and a body low to the ground. Their most distinctive characteristic is the thousands of stiff, sharp spines — harder and sharper than those of a porcupine — that cover the animal's back and sides, like a pincushion filled with needles. If attacked they will curl into a prickly and unappetizing ball that deters most predators.
Marmot are any of 14 species of giant ground squirrels found primarily in North America and Eurasia. Marmots are well suited for life in cold environments and have small fur-covered ears, short, stocky legs, and strong claws for digging. Due to the absence of scales or spines, they do not roll up and protect their vulnerable parts.
Pangolin are also called scaly anteaters because of their preferred diet, pangolins are the most trafficked mammal in the world.
If touched or grabbed it will roll up completely into a ball, while the sharp scales on the tail can be used to lash out.

50. India and the US jointly proposed to list Makki, a top LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba) Militant, under the UN Security Council's Al-Qaeda and ISIL Sanctions Committee.
Consider the following statements regarding UNSC 1267 committee -
(1) It was first set up in 1999.
(2) It comprises only permanent members of the UNSC.
(3) The 1267 list of terrorists is a global list, with a UNSC stamp.
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: **(C)**

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Exp: UNSC 1267 committee was first set up in 1999, and strengthened after the September, 2001 attacks. It is now known as the Da'esh and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee. It comprises all permanent and non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The 1267 list of terrorists is a global list, with a UNSC stamp. It is full of Pakistani nationals and residents. It is one of the most important and active UN subsidiary bodies working on efforts to combat terrorism, particularly in relation to Al Qaeda and the Islamic State group. It discusses UN efforts to limit the movement of terrorists, especially those related to travel bans, the freezing of assets and arms embargoes for terrorism.

51. Consider the following statements regarding Summer Solstice -
(1) Solstice is a Latin word that means 'stalled sun'.
(2) Summer Solstice is a natural phenomenon that occurs twice in a year.
(3) Summer Solstice is the longest day and shortest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
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: **(C)**

Exp: Solstice is a Latin word that means 'stalled sun'. It is a natural phenomenon that occurs twice every year, once in the summer and again during winter, in each hemisphere of the earth - Summer and Winter Solstice. It is the longest day and shortest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. During this, countries in the Northern Hemisphere are nearest to the Sun and the Sun shines overhead on the Tropic of Cancer (23.5° North).

52. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding railway property, passenger areas, and the well-being of travellers.
Consider the following statements -
(1) Operation "Nanhe Faristey": Reuniting lost children with their families.
(2) Operation "NARCOS": Arresting individuals and seizing narcotics.
(3) Operation "Yatri Suraksha": Providing assistance to elderly, sick, or injured passengers during rail travels.
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: RPF made certain commendable achievements under several operations run by it for the safety, security and comfort of passengers, like:
Operation "Nanhe Faristey": Reuniting lost children with their families.
Operation "Jeevan Raksha": Saving the lives of passengers from accidents on platforms and railway tracks.
Meri Saheli Initiative: Providing security assurance to lady passengers, with legal action taken against violators.
Crackdown on Touts (Operation "Uplabdh"): Arresting individuals and seizing future reserved railway tickets worth Rs. 44.46 lakhs.
Operation "NARCOS": Arresting individuals and seizing narcotics.
Operation "Yatri Suraksha": Arresting criminals involved in offences against railway passengers.
Operation Seva: Providing assistance to elderly, sick, or injured passengers during rail travels.

53. Recently, Kosovo achieved a significant milestone after facing delays in Schengen approval.
Consider the following statements -
(1) The Schengen Agreement is a treaty signed in 1985.
(2) The treaty was signed by 5 member states (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands).
(3) The agreement aims to create a free-trade area in Europe.
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 Schengen Agreement is a treaty signed in 1985 by five member states (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) of the European Economic Community.
The agreement aims to create a border-free area in Europe that allows the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital called the

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Schengen Area, where internal border checks are largely abolished.
All EU member states without opt-outs must join Schengen upon meeting technical requirements.
Non-EU countries like Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Iceland are part of Schengen through special association agreements.
Over time, the Schengen area has grown to encompass 27 countries, spanning over 4 million square kilometres and hosting nearly 420 million inhabitants.

54. Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and Gulzar will be awarded by 58th Jnanpith Award.
Consider the following statements -
(1) Rambhadracharya received the Padma Vibhushan in 2015.
(2) In poetry, Gulzar invented a new genre 'Sangam'.
(3) Gulzar received the Sahitya Akademi Award 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

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Gulzar (Sampuran Singh Kalra) was born on 18th August 1934, in the village of Dina, Jhelum district of undivided India.
Gulzar received the Sahitya Akademi Award (2002) for Urdu, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2013), the Padma Bhushan (2004), and the National Film Awards for his works.
In poetry, he invented a new genre 'Triveni' which is a non-mukaffa poem of three lines.

55. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation recently organised a National Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission.
Consider the following statements regarding Jal Jeevan Mission -
(1) It aims to provide 25 litres of tapped water per person per day to all households by 2024.
(2) Goa has become the first 'Har Ghar Jal State' to provide 100% household tap connections in rural areas.
(3) The Jal Shakti Ministry is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme.
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: Jal Jeevan Mission
It rains to provide piped drinking water to all rural households by 2024.
It aims to provide 55 litres of tapped water per person per day to all households by 2024. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
Goa has become the first 'Har Ghar Jal State' to provide 100% household tap connections in rural areas.
The Jal Shakti Ministry is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme.
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages a supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
Every village will prepare a Village Action Plan (VAP) which will have three components:
Water source & its maintenance
Water supply
Greywater (domestic wastewater) management.

56. Recently, researchers have unveiled the regenerative potential of stem cells in menstrual blood, stemming from studies conducted roughly two decades ago.
Consider the following statements -
(1) Genetic changes can be introduced in the cells that produce eggs or sperms of a prospective parent.
(2) A person's genome can't be edited at any stage of birth.
(3) Human induced pluripotent stem cells can be injected into the embryo of a pig.
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: Germline gene therapy
Under this therapy, required DNA is transferred into the cells that produce reproductive cells, eggs or sperm, in the body.
It allows for the correction of disease-causing gene variants that are certain to be passed down from generation to generation.
Scientists in the US have repaired a disease-causing mutation in the DNA of early-stage human embryos and said that taking a step closer to engineering babies free of inherited disorders.

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Scientists are developing gene therapies - treatments involving genome editing - to prevent and treat diseases in humans.
Human-induced pluripotent stem cells -
The researchers tried combining human induced pluripotent stem cells with pig embryos.
Many of the embryos were much smaller than normal and seemed to grow more slowly.
Hence, so far there has not been a success in growing human organs in pigs.
But this experiment shows that human-induced pluripotent cells can be injected into pigs embryo.

57. The 14th Meeting of CoP to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS 14) has been concluded in Uzbekistan.
Consider the following statements regarding Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals -
(1) It is an intergovernmental treaty under the UNEP.
(2) It was signed in 1979 and in force since 1983.
(3) India is not a member of Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.
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: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals is an intergovernmental treaty under the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)- popularly known as Bonn Convention.
It was signed in 1979 and in force since 1983.
As of 1st March 2022, the CMS has 133 Parties.
India has also been a party to CMS since 1983.
It aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.
It lays the legal foundation to conduct conservation measures on a global scale.
India has signed a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CMS on conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008), and Raptors (2016).

58. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti, is celebrated on 19th February every year.
Consider the following statements about the defence policy of Shivaji -
(1) Forts were the vital components in his defence system.
(2) Three men of equal rank were placed in charge of each fort to guard against treachery.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Both (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Shivaji was a military genius and his army was well organised.
Shivaji gave utmost attention to his army and training of its personnel.
In the beginning, the backbone of his army was the infantry.
But as his campaigns extended into the plains, his cavalry grew in size and importance.
Shivaji took great care in the maintenance and security of his forts as forts were the vital components in his defence system.
Retired captains holding a high reputation were put in charge of guarding the forts.
The forts were carefully supervised, Mavali soldiers and gunners were appointed there.
Three men of equal rank were placed in charge of each fort to guard against treachery.
By the end of his reign, Shivaji had about 240 forts.
Shivaji also built a powerful navy for guarding the Maratha ports and collecting taxes from the incoming and outgoing ships.

59. Recently, the Indian Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal district, Uttar Pradesh.
Consider the following statements regarding Temple Architecture -
(1) The Lakshmana temple of Khajuraho, dedicated to Lord Sheshnag.
(2) It was built in 954 by the Chandela king, Dhanga.
(3) Kandariya Mahadeo temple at Khajuraho is the epitome of temple architecture in Central India.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Lakshmana temple of Khajuraho, dedicated to Vishnu, was built in 954 by the Chandela

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king, Dhanga. It is a nagara temple placed on a high platform accessed by stairs.
Kandariya Mahadeo temple at Khajuraho is the epitome of temple architecture in Central India.

60. The recent Global Pulses Conference was recently jointly organised by the NAFED and the Global Pulse Confederation.
With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements -
(1) Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crops.
(2) Green-gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
(3) In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.
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: Pulses are grown in all three seasons – Kharif, Rabi, and Zaid.
Gram is the most dominant pulse but only with a share of around 40 percent in the total production followed by Tur/Arhar at 15 to 20 percent and Urad/Black Matpe and Moong at around 8-10 percent each.
The production of pulses for both Rabi and Kharif seasons has increased in the last three decades.

61. Recently, the Prime Minister of India extended his wishes to the people of Mizoram on its Statehood Day (20th February).
Consider the following statements -
(1) Mizoram has been designated as a "tribal area" under the Sixth Schedule.
(2) The formalization of Mizoram State took place on 20th February 1960.
(3) The Mizo Hills area became the Lushai Hills district within Assam.
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: Recently, the Prime Minister of India extended his wishes to the people of Mizoram on its 38th Statehood Day (20th February).
The Mizo Hills area became the Lushai Hills district within Assam at the time of independence. Further, in 1954 it was renamed the Mizo Hills District of Assam.
Mizoram was granted the status of a Union Territory in 1972 after signing an accord with the moderates of the Mizo National Front (MNF).
The Union Territory of Mizoram was conferred the status of a full state in 1986 after the signing of the Mizoram Peace Accord between the Central government and the MNF.
The formalization of Mizoram State took place on 20th February 1987 after the 53rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution, 1986.
Mizoram has been designated as a "tribal area" under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (Article 244(2)).

62. Recently, the Prime Minister of India extended his wishes to the people of Arunachal Pradesh on Statehood Day.
Consider the following statements -
(1) In 1914, the Shimla Treaty established the boundary between Tibet and NEFA.
(2) Before 1962, Arunachal Pradesh was under Mizoram's constitutional jurisdiction.
(3) Arunachal Pradesh attained full statehood on 20th February 1987.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: The modern history of Arunachal Pradesh commences with British control initiated through the Treaty of Yandaboo (after the First Anglo-Burmese War) in 1826, evolving into the establishment of the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) by 1838.
In 1914, the Shimla Treaty established the boundary between Tibet and NEFA, recognized by China, Tibet, and British rulers.
Before 1962, Arunachal Pradesh was under Assam's constitutional jurisdiction, later transitioning into a Union Territory under separate administration due to its strategic significance.
Arunachal Pradesh attained full statehood on 20th February 1987 becoming the 24th state of the Indian Union through the 55th constitutional amendment in alignment with the national policy of granting tribal regions distinct state identities.

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63. Recently, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has released the 'Annual NeSDA Way Forward Report 2023'.
Which of the following is/are the aim/aims of "Digital India" Plan of the Government of India?
(1) Formation of India's own Internet companies like China did.
(2) Establish a policy framework to encourage overseas multinational corporations that collect Big Data to build their large data centers within our national geographical boundaries.
(3) Connect many of our villages to the Internet and bring Wi-Fi to many of our schools, public places and major tourist centers.
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: The aim of the 'Digital India' plan of the Government of India is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The main objectives of this initiative are:
To provide digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen.
To enable digital empowerment of citizens.
To provide digital services and governance on demand.
To promote digital literacy and digital skills for all.
Instead, the plan focuses on expanding digital access and infrastructure in India, with an emphasis on connecting villages and providing Wi-Fi in schools, public places, and tourist centers.

64. Badwater Basin in Death Valley received more than double its average annual precipitation since August 2023.
Consider the following statements regarding Death Valley -
(1) The Death Valley is located in southeastern California.
(2) It is the lowest point in the Southern American continent.
(3) It is also the hottest and driest part of the continent.
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 temperature was recorded at the USA National Weather Service's automated weather station at Furnace Creek on 16th August 2020.
The Death Valley in southeastern California is the lowest point in the North American continent, and is a National Park. It is also the hottest and driest part of the continent.

65. Recently, the central government announced an 8% increase in the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane.
With reference to the current trends in the cultivation of sugarcane in India, consider the following statements -
(1) A substantial saving in seed material is made when 'bud chip settlings' are raised in a nursery and transplanted in the main field.
(2) When direct planting of setts is done, the germination percentage is better with single-budded setts as compared to setts with many buds.
(3) Sugarcane can be cultivated using settlings prepared from tissue culture.
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: Transplanting sugarcane single-bud/ bud-chip settlings can save seed cane requirement up to 80 percent besides providing healthy plants and good field establishment.
It is less expensive and labour saving in comparison with conventional sett planting.
When direct planting of setts is done, the germination percentage is better with many buds setts as compared to setts with single-budded.
If bad weather conditions prevail when setts are directly planted, large setts have better survival as compared to single-budded ones.
Tissue culture or vegetative propagation can be used to germinate and grow these settlings which can be transplanted in the field later.

66. In recent years, there has been growing discussion and analysis surrounding the integrity and dependability of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used during elections in India.
Consider the following statements -

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(1) EVMs were first used on pilot basis in Thrissur Assembly Constituency of Kerala.
(2) VVPATS were used first in by-elections for Khonsa Assembly Constituency of Arunachal Pradesh.
(3) EVMs are manufactured by Electronics Corporation of India Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited.
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: EVMs was First introduced in Indian elections between 1998 and 2001, in a phased manner.
The EVMs were first used in 1982 in the by-election to North Paravur Assembly Constituency in Kerala.
Electronic voting machines have been used in all general elections in India since 2014.
The Electronic Voting Machines EVMs are manufactured jointly by Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore and Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad.

67. Tropical glacier loss in East Africa: recent areal extents on Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya, and in the Rwenzori Range from high-resolution remote sensing data.
Consider the following statements regarding Lake Tanganyika -
(1) It is the second largest lake in eastern Africa.
(2) It is the longest freshwater lake in the world.
(3) It is the deepest after Lake Baikal in Russia.
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: Lake Tanganyika is the second largest lake in eastern Africa. It covers about 12,700 square miles,
It is the longest freshwater lake in the world and the second deepest after Lake Baikal in Russia.
The lake is shared among four countries namely Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tanzania and Zambia
It is situated on the line dividing the floral regions of eastern and western Africa, and oil palms, which are characteristic of the flora of western Africa, grow along the lake's shores.
The largest rivers discharging into the lake are the Malagarasi, the Ruzizi, and the Kalambo. Its outlet is the Lukuga River, which flows into the Lualaba River.

68. Recently concerns have been raised about the misuse of Interpol's notice system, especially the issuance of blue corner notices, which are less scrutinised than their red corner notices.
Consider the following statements regarding INTERPOL -
(1) The INTERPOL is an intergovernmental organization of police force.
(2) It is headquartered in Paris, France
(3) It has 194 member countries.
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 International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is an intergovernmental organization that helps coordinate the police force of 194 member countries.
Each of the member countries hosts an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB). This connects their national law enforcement with other countries and with the General Secretariat.
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is designated as the National Central Bureau of India.
The General Secretariat provides a range of expertise and services to the member countries.
It is headquartered in Lyon, France

69. JananiSurakshaYojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission.
The endeavour of Janani Suraksha Yojana Programme is -
(1) To promote institutional deliveries
(2) To provide monetary assistance to the mother to meet the cost of delivery
(3) To provide for wage loss due to pregnancy and confinement
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: Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) -
It is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) being implemented with the objective of reducing

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maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women.
JSY is a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme and it integrates cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care.
The Yojana has identified ASHA, the accredited social health activist as an effective link between the Government and the poor pregnant women.

70. Kittur to host national launch of 'I too am Rani Chennamma' campaign on February 21.
Consider the following statements regarding Rani Chennamma -
(1) Rani Channamma was the first Indian Woman ruler to lead an armed rebellion against the British East India Company.
(2) Her princely state Kitturu was annexed by Lord Dalhousie by using policy doctrine of lapse.
(3) Before his death in 1824, Shivalingarudra adopted a child, Shivalingappa, as the successor.
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: Rani Chennamma led the Kitturu Rebellion (1824) against the British East India Company. Rani Chennamma queen of Kitturu was one such warrior who led a war against British forces in the early part of 19th Century when not many rulers were familiar with the evil designs of the British. She was the first Indian ruler to lead an armed rebellion against the British East India Company.
The princely state of Kitturu was taken over by the British East India Company in 1824 by imposing the 'doctrine of lapse', even before it was officially articulated by Lord Dalhousie.
Before his death in 1824, Shivalingarudra adopted a child, Shivalingappa, as the successor. However, the British East India Company refused to recognise Shivalingappa as the successor of the kingdom under the 'Doctrine of Lapse'.
Under the doctrine, any princely state without a natural heir would collapse and would be annexed by the Company.

71. Recently, the NITI Aayog has released a position paper titled F"Senior Care Reforms in India: Reimagining the Senior Care Paradigm".
Consider the following statements -
(1) NITI Aayog was established on 1 January 2015.
(2) It comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
(3) Its full-form is National Institution for Transforming India.
Which of the above is/are correct?
(A) Only (1) and (3) **(B)** Only (1) and (2)
(C) Only (2) and (3) **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet passed on January 1, 2015. It was a replacement for the Planning Commission of India instituted in 1950.
It comes under the Ministry of Planning. The current Minister of state for planning is Rao Inderjit Singh.
NITI Aayog is the premier policy Think Tank of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. While designing strategic and long term policies and programs for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.
On 7 June 2018, the Prime Minister approved the reconstitution of NITI Aayog to include Ex-officio members and Special Invitees consisting of Experts and Specialists with domain knowledge.
There will be a maximum of five Ex-Officio members and three Special Invitees from the Union council of ministers nominated by the Prime minister.

72. India is set to revolutionise its nuclear energy sector by inviting private companies to invest approximately USD 26 billion.
Consider the following statements regarding India's Energy Goals -
(1) Net zero emissions: India aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
(2) Green hydrogen: India aims to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
(3) CO_2 emissions: India aims to reduce CO_2 emissions by 1 billion tons by 2025.

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

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: India's Energy Goals -
Net zero emissions: India aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
Renewable energy: India aims to get 50% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030.
Non-fossil fuel energy: India aims to achieve a non-fossil fuel energy capacity of 500 GW by 2030.
Green hydrogen: India aims to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
CO2 emissions: India aims to reduce CO2 emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030.

73. The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' will conclude at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
Consider the following statements regarding Exercise Kavach -
(1) It is a joint military exercise involving the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force only.
(2) It is a joint military exercise involving the Indian Army, the Indian Navy, the Indian Air Force and also the Indian Coast Guard.
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: Exercise Kavach is a Joint Military exercise involving assets of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, and Indian Coast Guard.
The exercise was conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
Andaman and Nicobar Command is the only Joint Forces Command of the country.
It aims to fine-tune joint war-fighting capabilities of the tri-services and SOPs towards enhancing operational synergy.
It will also help in executing multi-domain, high-intensity offensive and defensive manoeuvres in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

74. Recently discovered species of marine amphipod in Chilika Lake has been named after Odisha's native language, Odia.
Consider the following statements regarding Chilika Lake -
(1) Chilika is Asia's largest and world's second largest lagoon.
(2) In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance.
(3) Major attraction at Chilika is humpbacked dolphin.
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: Chilika is Asia's largest and world's second largest lagoon.
It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds on the Indian sub-continent and is home to a number of threatened species of plants and animals.
In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
Major attraction at Chilika is Irrawaddy dolphins which are often spotted off Satpada Island.
The large Nalabana Island (Forest of Reeds) covering about 16 sq km in the lagoon area was declared a bird sanctuary in 1987.
Kalijai Temple - Located on an island in the Chilika Lake.

75. Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to freedom fighter Veer Savarkar on his Punya tithi (26th February).
Consider the following statements -
(1) Veer Savarkar born on 28th May, 1883 in Bhagur, a village near Nashik in Maharashtra.
(2) He was arrested in 1909 on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the Swadeshi movement.
(3) He founded a secret society called Abhinav Bharat Society.
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: Birth: Born on 28th May,1883 in Bhagur, a village near Nashik in Maharashtra.
Related Organisations and Work:
Founded a secret society called Abhinav Bharat Society.
He was the president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943.

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The famous book includes 'The History of the War of Indian Independence' and 'Hindutva: who is Hindu?'.
Trial and Sentences:
He was arrested in 1909 on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the Morley-Minto reform (Indian Councils Act 1909).
Arrested in 1910 for his connections with the revolutionary group India House.

76. Consider the following statements:
1. The famous Ganesh temple of Mamallapuram was constructed by Pulakeshin II.
2. The 15 types of slaves alleged by Narada have been mentioned by Vigyaneshwara in Mitakshara.
Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Ganesh Ratha Temple is a beautiful temple in Mahabalipuram constructed by the Pallavas

77. Consider the following statements:
1. Shahjahan transferred the Mughal Capital from Agra to Delhi.
2. The Taj-Mahal was built by Jahangir.
3. Shahjahan went to Kabul with fifty thousand army for the purpose of suppressing Afghans.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 1 and 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: An immense mausoleum of white marble, built in Agra between 1631 and 1648 by order of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favourite wife, the Taj Mahal is the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage.

78. Consider the following statements:
1. Akbar had imposed ban on sati tradition on the funeral pyre of her husband burned the widow.
2. Akbar discouraged child marriage and encouraged widow marriage in Hindus.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Akbar had imposed ban on sati tradition on the funeral pyre of her husband burned the widow. Akbar discouraged child marriage and encouraged widow marriage in Hindus.

79. Consider the following statements:
1. Dyer was responsible for the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre.
2. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Brigadier-general Dyer was responsible for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar (in the province of Punjab). The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919.

80. Consider the following statements:
1. Raj Singh, vish viriksh was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.
2. Sarat Chandra wrote novel Srikanta, Devdas.
Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Raj Singh, vish viriksh was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.Sarat Chandra wrote novel Srikanta, Devdas.

81. Consider the following statements:
1. Sikandar Lodi established the Agra city.
2. The founder of the Lodi dynasty was Bahlol Lodi.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(C)**

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Exp: The Lodi dynasty was an Afghan dynasty that ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1451 to 1526. It was the last dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate, and was founded by Bahlul Khan Lodi when he replaced the Sayyid dynasty. and Sikandar Lodi established the Agra city.

82. Consider the following statements:
1. The Harappan culture was distinguished by its system of town planning.
2. The Indus people were the earliest people to produce cotton.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: The Harappa villages, mostly situated near the flood plains, produced sufficient foodgrains. The Indus people were the earliest people to produce cotton. The Harappan culture was distinguished by its system of town planning.

83. Consider the following statements:
1. Rigveda is the oldest religious text in the world. It contains 1028 hymns and is classified into 10 mandalas.
2. Yajur Veda deals with charms, spells and magic and is a good source to study the Kingdom of Magadha.
Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Rig Veda was composed during the Early Vedic Age. The other three were written in the Later Vedic Age. Atharva Veda deals with charms, spells and magic and is a good source to study the Kingdom of Magadha.

84. Consider the following statements:
1. Suddhodhana was the chief of the Sakya clan. Due to this, Buddha was also known as 'Sakyamuni'.
2. Gautama Buddha left his home at the age of 29 to become an ascetic. This event is called Nirvana.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Buddha was the son of Suddhodhana and Mahamaya. Suddhodhana was the chief of the Sakya clan. Due to this, Buddha was also known as 'Sakyamuni'. He left his home at the age of 29 to become an ascetic. This event is called Mahabhishkramana.

85. Consider the following statements:
1. Length of 1-degree latitude is 110.569 km on Equator.
2. This length is 111.7 km on the poles.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Each degree of latitude is approximately 69 miles (111 kilometers) apart. The range varies (due to the earth's slightly ellipsoid shape) from 68.703 miles (110.567 km) at the equator to 69.407 (111.699 km) at the poles.

86. Consider the following statements:
1. Earth rotates 15 degrees in one hour.
2. Earth revolves from west to east.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: 360 degrees in a full rotation, divided by 24 hours is 15 degrees an hour. 60 minutes in an hour divided by fifteen degrees an hour is four minutes.
When viewed above the North Pole, the Earth rotates counter clockwise, from west to east. This is also called a prograde rotation. Because of this direction of rotation, we see the sun rising every day in the east and setting in the west.

87. Consider the following statements:
1. India's standard Meridian line 82 (1/20) east longitudes have been considered. This passes through Allahabad (Prayagraj).
2. India's total Longitude expansion is approximately 300.
3. India's standard time is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich standard time.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 1 and 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: 82˚ 30' East longitude is taken as the Standard Time Meridian of India or reference letters longitude for IST, as it passes through the middle of India (from Mirzapur, near Allahabad). Indian Standard Meridian (82˚30'E meridian) passes through UP, MP, Chhatisgarh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

The country is situated north of the equator between 8°04' to 37°06' north latitude and 68°07' to 97°25' east longitude. (30 longitude APPROX.)

India Standard Time (IST) is 5:30 hours (5 hours 30 minutes) ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. Indian Standard Time was adopted on 1 September 1947.

88. Consider the following Correct statements about Ozone Layer

1. A layer of 3 is spread like an invisible canopy over the earth's atmosphere to a variable extent.
2. Highest concentration is found between 15-35 km in stratosphere
3. It is also found in troposphere
4. It helps in keeping troposphere warm and regulates the jet stream which is found at the lower part of the stratosphere.

(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4 **(B)** 1 and 4
(C) 1, 2 and 4 **(D)** 1, 3 and 4

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The ozone layer is mainly found in the lower portion of the stratosphere that absorbs most of the Sun's ultraviolet radiation. It contains high concentration of ozone (O3) in relation to other parts of the atmosphere, Ozone layer, also called ozonosphere, region of the upper atmosphere, between roughly 15 and 35 km (9 and 22 miles) above Earth's surface, containing relatively high concentrations of ozone molecules (O3).

89. Regarding "carbon credits" which one of the following statements is not correct?

1. The carbon credit system was ratified in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol.
2. Carbon credits are awarded to countries or groups that have reduced greenhouse gases below their emission quota.
3.The goal of the carbon credit system is to limit the increase of carbon.
4. Carbon credits are traded at a price fixed from time to time by the United Nations Environment Programme.

(A) 1 and 4 **(B)** Only 2
(C) 2 and 3 **(D)** only 4

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: A carbon credit is a permit that allows the company that holds it to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases. One credit permits the emission of a mass equal to one ton of carbon dioxide. The carbon credit is one half of a so-called "cap-and-trade" program. When you buy a carbon credit for $11, you are guaranteed a reduction of one metric ton of carbon dioxide in return. This way a project is allowed to sell certified carbon credits only if the additional money definitely reduces emissions by the promised amount.

90. Consider the following statements.

1. The international political response to climate change began with the adoption of the UNFCCC in 1997.
2. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) sets out a framework for action aimed at stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases to avoid "dangerous anthropogenic interference" with the climate system.
3. The UNFCCC entered into force in 1998, and now has 192 parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 and 4 **(B)** Only 2
(C) 2 and 3 **(D)** only 3

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is an international environmental treaty adopted on 9 May 1992 and opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992. It then entered into force on 21 March 1994, after a sufficient number of countries had ratified it.

91. Consider the following correct statements.

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1. Kharif crops, which are also known as monsoon crops, are the crops which are grown during the monsoon or rainy season (June to October).
2. The major Kharif crop in India is wheat, followed by barley, mustard, sesame and peas.

(A) only 1 **(B)** Only 2
(C) both 1 and 2 **(D)** none of these

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Kharif crops are the crops which are sown at the beginning of the rainy season, between April and May. Kharif crops depend on the rainfall patterns. The timing and quantity of rainwater are the two important factors that decide the output of Kharif crops. The main Kharif crops grown in India include paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, cotton, sugarcane, groundnut, pulses etc.

92. Consider the following correct statements.
1. Mumbai Port Trust, abbreviated as JNPT, also known as Nhava Sheva, is the largest container port in India.
2. Government of India plans to modernise all ports and has approved a project called Sagarmala.

(A) only 1 **(B)** Only 2
(C) both 1 and 2 **(D)** none of these

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Jawaharlal Nehru Port, abbreviated as JNPT, also known as Nhava Sheva, is the largest container port in India. The Sagarmala is a series of projects to leverage the country's coastline and inland waterways to drive industrial development.

93. Consider the following correct statements.
1. Jim Corbett National Park is the oldest national park in India and was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.
2. Kanhna national park was the first to come under the Project Tiger initiative.
3. Sundarbans National Park is densely covered by mangrove forests, and is one of the largest reserves for the Bengal tiger.

(A) only 1 **(B)** Only 2
(C) both 1,2 and 3 **(D)** none of these

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Jim Corbett National Park is a forested wildlife sanctuary in northern India's Uttarakhand State. Rich in flora and fauna, it's known for its Bengal tigers. It was the first national park to come under the Project Tiger initiative.

94. Consider the following statements:
1. The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950.
2. The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Election Commission of India is an autonomous and quasi-judicial institution that was formed to elect representatives from various and independent institutions in India, independently and impartially in India. The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950. The Commission currently consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. It was a single-member body with only the Chief Election Commissioner from when it first formed in 1950 and until October 15, 1989.

95. Consider the following statements:
1. The idea of incorporation of the Concurrent List in the Indian Constitution has been borrowed from the Constitution of Australia.
2. The first country to introduce the institution of Ombudsman (Lokpal) was Sweden.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The idea of incorporation of the Concurrent List in the Indian Constitution has been borrowed from the Constitution of Australia. Sweden was the first country to set the institution of ombudsman in 1809.

96. Consider the following statements:
1. The Chief Justice of Hon'ble Supreme Court acts as President of India in absence of both President and Vice president.
2. In case of absence of chief justice, the senior-most judge of Supreme Court acts as President.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The President (Discharge of Functions) Act, 1969 of India provides that the Chief Justice of India (CJI) (or senior most judge of SC in absence of CJI) shall act as the President of India in the event of the offices of both the President and the Vice President being vacant.

97. Consider the following statements:
1. Planning in India derives its objectives from the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
2. Article 45 mandates the State to provide for early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of 10 years.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Article 45 in the Constitution of India was set up as an act. The state shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.

98. Consider the following statements:
1. The Comptroller and Auditor General can be removed from his Office before the expiry of his term by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament.
2. The salary and allowances of the Comptroller and Auditor General are determined by the Parliament.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Comptroller and Auditor General can be removed from his Office before the expiry of his term by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament and salary and allowances of the Comptroller and Auditor General are determined by the Parliament.

99. Consider the following statements:
1. Solicitor General of India is the Highest Legal Officer of Union Government.
2. The Finance Commission consists of five number of Members and his term is also 5 years.
Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The Attorney General is the chief legal advisor to Government of India. He is a primary lawyer in the Supreme Court. He is appointed by the President of India on the advice of Union Cabinet.

100. Consider the following statements:
1. The Constitution of 1950 envisaged a Supreme Court with one Chief Justice and 7 puisne Judges.
2. The number of SC judges was increased by the Parliament and currently, there are 34 judges including the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: As the work of the Court increased and cases began to accumulate, Parliament increased the number of judges (including the Chief Justice) from the original 8 in 1950 to 11 in 1956, 14 in 1960, 18 in 1978, 26 in 1986, 31 in 2009, to 34 in 2019.

101. Consider the following statements:
1. Supreme Court and high court judges are not appointed to various posts in tribunals and commissions, after their retirement.
2. President can remove a judge when parliament approves with a majority of the total membership of each house in favour of impeachment.
Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: A Person who has retired as a judge of the supreme court is debarred from practicing in any court of law or before any other authority in India. However, Supreme Court and high court

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judges are appointed to various posts in tribunals and commissions, after their retirement. Article 124(4) of the constitution, President can remove a judge on proved misbehaviour or incapacity when parliament approves with a majority of the total membership of each house in favour of impeachment and not less than two thirds of the members of each house present.

102. Consider the following statements:
1. Parliament or State Legislature can declare a seat vacant if the member is absent from the session for a period of 120 days without permission.
2. The total members in the Legislative Council should not be less than (According Article 171).
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Parliament or State Legislature can declare a seat vacant if the member is absent from the session for a period of 60 days without permission.
The size of the State Legislative Council cannot be more than one third of the membership of the State Legislative Assembly. However, its size cannot be less than 40 members

103. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Imperfect competition refers to any economic market that does not meet the rigorous standards of a hypothetical perfectly or purely competitive market.
II. Macroeconomics is the social science that studies the implications of human action.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Imperfect competition refers to any economic market that does not meet the rigorous standards of a hypothetical perfectly or purely competitive market.
In this environment, companies sell different products and services, set their own individual prices, fight for market share and are often protected by barriers to entry and exit.
Imperfect competition is common and can be found in the following types of market structures: monopolies, oligopolies, monopolistic competition, monopsonies, and oligopsonies.
Microeconomics is the social science that studies the implications of human action, specifically about how those decisions affect the utilization and distribution of scarce resources. Microeconomics shows how and why different goods have different values, how individuals make more efficient or more productive decisions, and how individual's best coordinate and cooperate with one another. Generally speaking, microeconomics is considered a more complete, advanced, and settled science than macroeconomics.

104. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Budget Line is the name given to the graph that shows all the combinations of two commodities that a consumer can afford at given market prices and within the particular income level in economic terms.
II. Intermediate goods, producer goods or semi-finished products are goods.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Budget line is to the graph that shows all the combinations of two commodities that a consumer can afford at given market prices and within the particular income level in economic terms. It is also called Budget constraint.
Intermediate goods, producer goods or semi-finished products are goods, such as partly finished goods, used as inputs in the production of other goods including final goods. A firm may make and then use intermediate goods, or make and then sell, or buy then use them. In the production process, intermediate goods either become part of the final product, or are changed beyond recognition in the process. This means intermediate goods are resold among industries.

105. Which of the following statements is true?
I. A stock is a debt instrument in which an investor loans money to an entity.
II. Gottfried Haberler economist gave the theory of Opportunity Cost.
Select the correct option.

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(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Individuals, businesses and governments use common types of debt instruments, such as loans, bonds and debentures, to raise capital or generate investment income. Debt instruments essentially act as an IOU between the issuer and the purchaser.
Elaborating upon the opportunity cost, Haberler writes that "the marginal cost of a given quantity X of a commodity A must be regarded as that quantity of commodity B which must be foregone in order that X, instead of (X-1) units of A can be produced.

106. Which of the following statements is true?
I. The law of demand states that a higher price leads to a lower quantity.
II. A savings account is a basic type of bank account that allows you to deposit money.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The law of demand states that a higher price leads to a lower quantity demanded and that a lower price leads to a higher quantity demanded.
Demand curves and demand schedules are tools used to summarize the relationship between quantity demanded and price.
A savings account is a basic type of bank account that allows you to deposit money, keep it safe, and withdraw funds, all while earning interest. Savings accounts offered by most banks, credit unions, and other financial institution.

107. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) is an economic theory that compares different countries' currencies through a "basket of goods" approach.
II. A direct tax (VAT) is a consumption tax placed on a product whenever value is added at each stage of the supply chain.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Purchasing power parity (PPP) is a popular metric used by macroeconomic analysts that compares different countries' currencies through a "basket of goods" approach.
Purchasing power parity (PPP) allows for economists to compare economic productivity and standards of living between countries.
Some countries adjust their gross domestic product (GDP) figures to reflect PPP.
A value-added tax, or VAT, is added to a product at every point on the supply chain where value is added.
Advocates of VATs claim that they raise government revenues without punishing success or wealth, while critics say that VATs place an increased economic strain on lower-income taxpayers and bureaucratic burdens on businesses.

108. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Shankar-6 is a variety of cotton.
II. Export of services is an Invisible Export.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Two Gujarat-based entrepreneurs are planning to set up a commodity-specific special economic zone — one of its kind in the country. It will be a textile SEZ which will be different from the rest on one count: the SEZ will only have units which manufacture end-products using Shankar 6 cotton.
Any export that does not have a tangible physical presence (e.g. expertise, insurance underwriting). Here, Invisible Export means export of Services.

109. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Money can be transferred using mobile phones through the service called IMPS.
II. 'Amber lox' is the term related Agricultural Subsidies.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) is an instant payment inter-bank electronic funds transfer system in India. IMPS offer an inter-bank electronic fund transfer service through mobile

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phones. Unlike RTGS, the service is available 24x7 throughout the year including bank holidays. NEFT is also made available 24x7 from Dec 2019. It is managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and is built upon the existing National Financial Switch network.

Amber's industry-leading, plug and play technology can quickly be installed to monitor grain assets remotely, be it bins, bags or barges. For the core farm application - aeration automation is applied to make storage investments perform at peak efficiency. Growers are able to execute on targets for temperature and moisture management.

110. Which of the following statements is true?

I. The Balance of Payments (BOP) is an overall statement of a state's economic transactions.

II. Globalization is the shift towards a more united and interdependent world economy.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Globalization is the shift towards a more united and interdependent world economy. Globalization of markets means the merging of distinctively separate national markets into a global marketplace wherein the tastes and preferences converge into a global norm. Globalization of production means referring to sources of various goods and services from across the world to take benefit of differences in cost or quality of the factors of production such as land, human labor, energy, capital, etc.

The Balance of Payments (BOP) is an overall statement of a country's economic transactions with the rest of the world over a specific period of time, generally a year. The statement indicates the receiving's from the world and the payments made to the world in the current and capital accounts. The current account of BoP includes a nation's net-trade in goods and services, its net transfer payments and its net earnings on the cross-border investments. The capital account of BoP consists of the import and export of capital and foreign aid of the nation. This statement is based on the principle of accounting. It can be compared to the balance sheet of a company. Hence, it can turn out to be positive or negative.

111. Which of the following statements is true?

I. EXIM Policy is the export-import policy of the government that is announced every five years.

II. The three major international economic institutions are WTO, IMF, World Bank.

Select the correct option.

(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: EXIM Policy is the export-import policy of the government that is announced every five years. This policy consists of general provisions regarding exports and imports, promotional measures, duty exemption schemes, export promotion schemes, special economic zone programs and other details for different sectors.

Every country indulges in export and import to capitalize on the growing international trade. This makes it imperative to have certain institutions that can govern these foreign trades. These institutions govern foreign trade practices and ensure a level field to all the countries and promote economic cooperation. The three major international economic institutions are WTO, IMF, World Bank and UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

112. Consider the following statements.

1. The value of 'g' (acceleration due to gravity) is maximum at Equator.

2. According to the force of gravity, the attraction force acting between two particles is (directly) proportional to the product of the codes of those particles and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.

Which is/are correct statement?

(A) Only 1 **(B)** Only 2
(C) both 1 and 2 **(D)** None of these

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: The value of 'g' is at the maximum poles because the gravitational pull at the poles is maximum and the value of 'g' decreases when the poles move towards the equator.

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113. Consider the following statements.
1. Dilatometer is used to measure change in volume of substances.
2. The power of electric circuit is measured with a wattmeter.
3. Nephelometer is used to measure the scattering of light by particles suspended in a liquid.
Which is/are correct statement?
(A) Only 1 **(B)** both 1 and 2
(C) both 1 and 3 **(D)** None of these
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: A dilatometer is a scientific instrument that measures volume changes caused by a physical or chemical process.
The wattmeter is an instrument for measuring the electric power (or the supply rate of electrical energy) in watts of any given circuit. Electromagnetic wattmeters are used for measurement of utility frequency and audio frequency power.
A nephelometer is an instrument for measuring the concentration of suspended particulates in a liquid or gas colloid.

114. Consider the following statements.
1. An electric heater coil is made of tungsten.
2. The material used for making fuse element has a low melting point such as tin, lead, or zinc.
3. An ammeter (from Ampere Meter) is used to measure the current in a circuit.
Which is/are correct statement?
(A) Only 1 **(B)** both 1 and 2
(C) both 1 and 3
(D) All of these above
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: A tungsten wire not used in an electric heater. The wire used in heating elements is typically an alloy of nickel and chromium called nichrome. It resists heat and oxidation and serves as a heating element in products such as toasters and hair dryers.

115. Consider the following statements.
1. Mercury is commonly used as a thermometric fluid rather than water because specific heat of mercury is more than water.
2. The optical fiber works on the principle of total internal reflection.
Which is/are correct statement?
(A) Only 1 **(B)** Only 2
(C) 1 and 2 **(D)** None of these
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Thermometric liquids are used in thermometers to measure temperature. Mercury and alcohol are common thermometric liquids.
The optical fibre is a device which works on the principle of total internal reflection by which light signals can be transmitted from one place to another with a negligible loss of energy.

116. Consider the following statements.
1. Light from the star Alpha Centauri, which is nearest to the earth after the sun, reaches the earth in 42 second.
2. The light from the sun takes about 8 minutes to reach the Earth after it has been emitted from the sun's surface.
Which is/are correct statement?
(A) Only 1 **(B)** Only 2
(C) 1 and 2 **(D)** None of these
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: The nearest stars to Earth are in the Alpha Centauri triple-star system, about 4.37 light-years away. One of these stars, Proxima Centauri, is slightly closer, at 4.24 light-years.

117. Consider the following statements.
1. Stars appears to move from east to west because the earth rotates from east to west.
2. Planets do not twinkle because they are very far away from the earth resulting in decrease in intensity of light.
Which is/are correct statement?
(A) Only 1 **(B)** Only 2
(C) 1 and 2 **(D)** None of these
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Planets do not twinkle because, they are nearer to earth and hence we receive a greater amount of light and, therefore minor variations in the intensity are not noticeable.
The stars appear to move from east to west because of the rotation of the earth. The earth rotates from west to east, around its axis. Hence, stars appear to move from east to west.

118. Consider the following statements.
1. Isotopes elements are those whose atomic numbers are different but have the same mass number.

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2. The atomic mass is the sum of the number of protons and neutrons and the atomic number is equal to the number of protons.
Which is/are correct statement?
(A) Only 1 **(B)** Only 2
(C) 1 and 2 **(D)** None of these

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: sambharik are those elements which have a different atomic number but the same mass number and it is differs in the chemical property but has the same physical property.
Add the mass of protons and neutrons to calculate the atomic mass of a single atom of an element. The number of protons and the number of neutrons together determine the mass number of an element: mass amount = protons + neutrons.

119. Which of the following statement (s) is true?
I. Newton is the SI unit of Force
II. Kinetic energy is vector quantity.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The newton (symbol: N) is the SI unit of force. It is named after Sir Isaac Newton because of his work on classical mechanics. A newton is how much force is required to make a mass of one kilogram accelerate at a rate of one metre per second squared. 1N= 1kg. m/s2
1 N is the force of Earth's gravity on an apple with a mass of about 102 g.
On the Earth's surface, a mass of 1 kg pushes on its support with an average force of 9.8 N.
Kinetic energy must always be either zero or a positive value. While velocity can have a positive or negative value, velocity squared is always positive. Kinetic energy is not a vector.

120. Which of the following statement (s) is true?
I. Movement of a fan is an example of a non-uniform accelerated motion.
II. Glass is a bad thermal conductor.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Glass is a very poor heat conductor. It has one of the lowest possible heat conduction a solid (without air trapped in it) can possibly have, this is mostly due to its lack of ordered crystal structure. Since it's an insulator, the electronic contribution to the thermal conductivity is very small. However photons can still carry heat, but unlike diamond which has a well ordered crystal structure, glass lacks such a structure. This favors anharmonic processes, i.e. phonon-phonon interactions such as umklapp processes which severely limit the thermal conductivity.
Non- uniform acceleration the change in velocity is not constant as in uniform acceleration.
Freely falling body has a uniform acceleration of 9.8 m/s. The movement of a fan just after it is started is also an example of uniform acceleration and so is motion of a ball rolling down an inclined plane.
The velocity of a roller coaster changes randomly and hence is a perfect example of on-uniform accelerated motion.

121. Consider the following statements.
1. Chlorine is the most electronegative element and extremely reactive metal, as it reacts with all other elements, except for argon, neon, and helium.
2. Electronegative indebtedness moves from bottom to top in groups, and from left to right in the period.
Which is/are correct statement?
(A) Only I **(B)** Only 2
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** None of these

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Fluorine has the highest electronegativity, Chlorine has the highest electron affinity While francium is one of the least electronegative. Electronegative indebtedness moves from bottom to top in groups, and from left to right in the period.

122. Consider the following statements.
1. Lead chloride (HgCl2) is a highly toxic compound that volatizes used as a antiseptic and disinfectant.
2. lead (tetraethyl lead) is used as an antiknock agent in gasoline and jet fuels.
Which is/are correct statement?
(A) Only I **(B)** Only 2
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** None of these

Ans: **(B)**

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Exp: Mercury chloride (HgCl2) is a highly toxic compound. It is corrosive to mucous membranes and used as a antiseptic and disinfectant.

123. Consider the following statements.
1. Cements harden because of hydration, chemical reactions that occur independently of the mixture's water content.
2. Cement is manufactured through a closely controlled chemical combination of calcium, silicon, aluminum, iron and other ingredients.
Which is/are correct statement?
(A) Only I **(B)** Only 2
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** None of these

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Cement is mainly a mixture of calcium silicate and aluminate compounds, which are composed of calcium oxide, silica, aluminum oxide and iron oxide. To make cement, a mixture of limestone and clay is burnt at high temperature in a furnace and then the resulting clinker is mixed with gypsum and ground finely. The product obtained is called Ordinary Portland Cement (SPOC).
Cement hardens when it comes into contact with water. This hardening is a process of crystallization. Crystals form (after a certain length of time which is known as the initial set time) and interlock with each other.

124. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Propanone is aldehyde.
II. Ethyl Acetate has a very strong aroma of the fruit.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Propionaldehyde or propanal is the organic compound with the formula CH3CH2CHO. It is a saturated 3-carbon aldehyde and is a structural isomer of acetone. It is a colorless liquid with a slightly irritating, fruity odor.
Ethyl acetate is one of the simplest carboxylate esters. (Former Molecule of the Week methyl formate is the simplest.) The colorless liquid has a sweet, fruity odor that most people find pleasant.

125. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Iron is part of body.
II. Buckminsterfullerene is an allotrope of Carbon.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: A fullerene is an allotrope of carbon whose molecule consists of carbon atoms connected by single and double bonds so as to form a closed or partially closed mesh, with fused rings of five to seven atoms. The molecule may be a hollow sphere, ellipsoid, tube, or many other shapes and sizes. Graphene (isolated atomic layers of graphite), which is a flat mesh of regular hexagonal rings, can be seen as an extreme member of the family. Fullerenes with a closed mesh topology are informally denoted by their empirical formula Cn, often written Cn, where n is the number of carbon atoms.
Iron is a mineral that our bodies need for many functions. For example, iron is part of hemoglobin, a protein which carries oxygen from our lungs throughout our bodies. It helps our muscles store and use oxygen. Iron is also part of many other proteins and enzymes.

126. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Formic acid (HCO2H), also called methanoic acid.
II. Aldehyde, any of a class of organic compounds.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Formic acid (HCO2H), also called methanoic acid, the simplest of the carboxylic acids, used in processing textiles and leather. Formic acid was first isolated from certain ants and was named after the Latin formica, meaning "ant." It is made by the action of sulfuric acid upon sodium formate, which is produced from carbon monoxide and sodium hydroxide.
Aldehyde, any of a class of organic compounds, in which a carbon atom shares a double bond with an oxygen atom, a single bond with a hydrogen atom, and a single bond with another atom or group of atoms (designated R in general chemical formulas and structure diagrams). The double bond between carbon and oxygen is characteristic

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of all aldehydes and is known as the carbonyl group.

127. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Decantation is the process of separation of liquid from solid.
II. Rusting is an zine oxide.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Decantation is the process of separation of liquid from solid and other immiscible (non-mixing) liquids, by removing the liquid layer at the top from the layer of solid or liquid below. The process can be carried out by tilting the mixture after pouring out the top layer. This process can also be used to separate two liquids that do not mix with each other for e.g., oil and water.
Rust is an iron oxide, a usually red oxide formed by the redox reaction of iron and oxygen in the presence of water or air moisture. Several forms of rust are distinguishable both visually and by spectroscopy, and form under different circumstances.

128. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Oxidation process by which electric current is passed through a substance to effect a chemical change.
II. precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapour.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: In meteorology, precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapour that falls under gravity from clouds. The main forms of precipitation include drizzle, rain, sleet, snow, ice pellets, graupel and hail. Precipitation occurs when a portion of the atmosphere becomes saturated with water vapor (reaching 100% relative humidity), so that the water condenses and "precipitates".
Electrolysis, process by which electric current is passed through a substance to effect a chemical change. The chemical change is one in which the substance loses or gains an electron (oxidation or reduction). The process is carried out in an electrolytic cell, an apparatus consisting of positive and negative electrodes held apart and dipped into a solution containing positively and negatively charged ions. The substance to be transformed may form the electrode,

129. Which of the following statements is true?
I. Redox reactions are oxidation-reduction chemical reactions.
II. Salt (NaCl), sodium chloride, mineral substance of great importance to human and animal health.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Redox reactions are oxidation-reduction chemical reactions in which the reactants undergo a change in their oxidation states. The term 'redox' is a short form of reduction-oxidation. All the redox reactions can be broken down into two different processes – a reduction process and an oxidation process.
The oxidation and reduction reactions always occur simultaneously, such class of chemical reactions was named as the redox reaction or Oxidation-Reduction Reaction. The substance getting reduced in a chemical reaction is known as the oxidizing agent, while a substance that is getting oxidized is known as the reducing agent.
A redox reaction can be defined as a chemical reaction in which electrons are transferred between two reactants participating in it. This transfer of electrons can be identified by observing the changes in the oxidation states of the reacting species.
Salt (NaCl), sodium chloride, mineral substance of great importance to human and animal health, as well as to industry. The mineral form halite, or rock salt, is sometimes called common salt to distinguish it from a class of chemical compounds called salts.

130. Consider the following statements:
1. Cutting and peeling of onions bring tears to the eyes because of the presence of amino acid in the cell.
2. The antimalarial drug quinine is made from cinchona.

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Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Quinine, drug obtained from cinchona bark that is used chiefly in the treatment of malaria, an infection caused by the protozoan parasite Plasmodium, which is transmitted to humans by the bite of various species of mosquitoes.
Cutting and peeling of onions bring tears to the eyes because of the presence of amino acid in the cell.

131. Consider the following statements:
1. The genetically engineered 'golden rice' is rich in beta-carotene and iron.
2. A micronutrient manganese present in the soil for various crops.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Golden Rice is rice that has been genetically engineered to produce high levels of beta-carotene.
Micronutrients are essential for plant growth and play an important role in balanced crop nutrition. They include boron B., copper (Cu), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), molybdenum (Mo), zinc (Zn), nickel (Ni) and chloride (Cl).

132. Consider the following statements:
1. The term biology was first used by Lamarck and Trevirenus.
2. Hippocrates are called the father of medical science.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: In 1802 Lamarck published Hydrogeologie with Trevirenus and became the first one to use the term biology.
Hippocrates became known as the founder of medicine and was regarded as the greatest physician of his time.

133. Consider the following statements:
1. Dolly Clone was an example of a chicken.
2. A snake is a animal with cold blood.
Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Snake animals belong to class reptiles. The group also includes crocodiles, lizards and turtles. Reptiles are cold-blooded animals that reduce their body temperature by lying in the sun or crawling in the shade.
Dolly was a female domestic sheep, and the first mammal cloned from an adult somatic cell, using the process of nuclear transfer.

134. Consider the following statements:
1. Presence of large amounts of nutrients in waters also causes excessive growth of planktonic algae.
2. Mollusca are the second largest animal phylum.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Presence of large amounts of nutrients in water causes excessive growth of planktonic (free-floating) algae, called an algal bloom which imparts a distinct colour to the water bodies.
The phylum Mollusca is the second-largest animal phylum, with over 100,000 species. The molluscs include many familiar animals, including clams, snails, slugs, and squid,

135. Consider the following statements:
1. The amount of light entering the eye is regulated by pupil.
2. Convex lens are used for the correction of astigmatism.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The colored part of the eye which helps regulate the amount of light entering the eye. When there is bright light, the iris closes the pupil to let in less light. And when there is low light, the iris opens up the pupil to let in more light. Focuses light rays onto the retina.

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Match The Following

1. Match the following committees with their purpose -

(a) Janakiramanan Committee	1- Securities Transactions
(b) K. Santhanam Committee	2- Centre-State relations
(c) Vasudev Committee	3- NBFC sector reforms
(d) Punchhi Commission	4- Establishment of CBI

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: Janakiramanan Committee - Securities Transactions
K. Santhanam Committee - Establishment of CBI
Vasudev Committee - NBFC sector reforms
Punchhi Commission - Centre-State relations

2. Match the following Mausoleum Place -

(a) Shakti Sthal	1- Indira Gandhi
(b) Abhay Ghat	2- Chaudhary Charan Singh
(c) Kisan Ghat	3- Morarji Desai

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: Shakti Sthal - Indira Gandhi
Abhay Ghat - Morarji Desai
Kisan Ghat - Chaudhary Charan Singh

3. Match the following Books and authors -

(a) Kamasutra	1- Vatsayana
(b) Prashnottarmalika	2- Bhasa
(c) Swapanvasdattam	3- Amoghavarsha
(d) Buddha charita	4- Asvaghosa

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: Kamasutra – Vatsayana
Prashnottarmalika – Amoghavarsha
Swapanvasdattam – Bhasa
Buddha charita – Asvaghosa

4. Match the following Father of Various Fields in India -

(a) Father of Gold Revolution	1- Nirpakh Tutaj
(b) Father of Yellow Revolution	2- Sam Pitroda
(c) Father of Red Revolution	3- Vishal Tewari

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: Father of Gold Revolution - Nirpakh Tutaj
Father of Yellow Revolution - Sam Pitroda
Father of Red Revolution - Vishal Tewari

5. Match the following First Female Personalities in the World -

(a) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf	1- The First duly elected Woman President of an African Country
(b) Anousheh Ansari	2- The first woman to step onto the land of Antarctica
(c) Caroline Mikkelsen	3- First Female Space Tourist in the World
(d) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit	4- First Woman President of UN General Assembly

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: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - The First duly elected Woman President of an African Country
Anousheh Ansari - First Female Space Tourist in the World
Caroline Mikkelsen - The first woman to step onto the land of Antarctica

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Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit - First Woman President of UN General Assembly

6. Match the following Scientific Instruments and their usage -

(a) Carburetor	1- Used for charging air with petrol vapors in an internal combustion engine.
(b) Chronometer	2- Determines longitude of a vessel at sea.
(c) Commutator	3- Used in generators to reverse the direction of electric current.

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: Carburetor - Used for charging air with petrol vapors in an internal combustion engine.
Chronometer - Determines longitude of a vessel at sea.
Commutator - Used in generators to reverse the direction of electric current.

7. The Largest Deserts in the World -
Name - Place and Country
(a) Registan Desert 1- Afghanistan
(b) Simpson Desert 2- Australia
(c) Atacama Desert 3- Angola and Namibia
(d) Namib Desert 4- Chile and Peru
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: Name - Place and Country
Registan Desert - Afghanistan
Simpson Desert - Australia
Atacama Desert - Chile and Peru
Namib Desert - Angola and Namibia

8. Match the following Scientific Instruments and their Uses -

(a) Endoscope	1- To examine internal parts of the body
(b) Fathometer	2- Measures depth of the ocean
(c) Flux meter	3- Measures magnetic flux

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: Endoscope - To examine internal parts of the body
Fathometer - Measures depth of the ocean
Flux meter - Measures magnetic flux

9. Match the following name of female personalities and their roles -

(a) Junko Tabei	1- First Woman in the World to climb Mt. Everest
(b) Valentina Tereshkova	2- First Woman in the World as Cosmonaut in Space
(c) Eileen Collins	3- The First Muslim Woman to receive Nobel Prize
(d) Shirin Ebadi	4- First Female in the World as the commander of a Space Shuttle

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: Junko Tabei - First Woman in the World to climb Mt. Everest
Valentina Tereshkova - First Woman in the World as Cosmonaut in Space
Eileen Collins - First Female in the World as the commander of a Space Shuttle
Shirin Ebadi - The First Muslim Woman to receive Nobel Prize

10. Match the following Exercise Name and their Participant Nations -
(a) Garuda Shakti 1- India & Indonesia
(b) Shakti Exercise 2- India & France
(c) Dharma Guardian 3- India & Japan
Options
(A) a-1, b-2, c-3
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1
(C) a-3, b-2, c-1

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(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Garuda Shakti - India & Indonesia
Shakti Exercise - India & France
Dharma Guardian - India & Japan

11. Match the following awards name and their establishment year -

(a) Jnanpith Award	1- Started in 1961
(b) Saraswati Samman	2- Started in 1983
(c) Moorti Devi Award	3- Started in 1991
(d) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize	4- Started in 1958

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: Jnanpith Award - Started in 1961
Saraswati Samman - Started in 1991
Moorti Devi Award - Started in 1983
Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize - Started in 1958

12. Match the following Chemical Name and their Chemical Formulae -
(a) Caffeine 1- C8H10N4O2
(b) Calcium Carbide 2- CaC2
(c) Calcium Carbonate 3- CaCO3
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)**

13. Match the following river bank cities -
(a) Karwar 1- Kali
(b) Bagalkot 2- Sharavathi
(c) Honnavar 3- Ghataprabha
(d) Gwalior 4- Chambal
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: Karwar - Kali
Bagalkot - Ghataprabha
Honnavar - Sharavathi
Gwalior - Chambal

14. Match the following Nutrients and Deficiency Diseases -
(a) Phosphorous 1- Hypophosphatemia
(b) Iodine 2- Cretinism
(c) Protein 3- Kwashiorkor
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: Phosphorous - Hypophosphatemia
Iodine - Cretinism
Protein - Kwashiorkor

15. Match the following UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India and their notification year -
(a) Santiniketan 1- 2023
(b) Dholavira 2- 2021
(c) Jaipur City 3- 1986
(d) Fatehpur Sikri 4- 2020
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: Santiniketan - 2023
Dholavira - 2021
Jaipur City - 2020
Fatehpur Sikri - 1986

16. Match the following Historical Monuments in India -
(a) Pathar Ki Masjid 1- Bihar
(b) Khirki Masjid 2- Delhi
(c) Kanheri Fort 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: **(A)**

Exp: Pathar Ki Masjid - Bihar
Khirki Masjid - Delhi
Kanheri Fort - Maharashtra

17. Match the following Father of Various Fields -

(a) Father of Sociology	1- Auguste Comte

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(b) Father of Electricity	2- Benjamin Franklin
(c) Father of Biodiversity	3- Edward Teller
(d) Father of Hydrogen Bomb	4- Edward O Wilson

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: Father of Sociology - Auguste Comte
Father of Electricity - Benjamin Franklin
Father of Biodiversity - Edward O Wilson
Father of Hydrogen Bomb - Edward Teller

18. Match the following Sports and Their Terminology -
(a) Badminton 1- Fore Hand
(b) Basketball 2- Personal Fouls
(c) Boxing 3- Roughhousing
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: Badminton - Fore Hand
Basketball - Personal Fouls
Boxing - Roughhousing

19. Match the following Military Exercises -

(a) 1- Bongosagar	1- A- India and Russia
(b) 2- LAMITIYE	2- B- India and Seychelles
(c) 3- Indra Navy	3- C- India and Nepal
(d) 4- Surya Kiran	4- D- India and Bangladesh

Options-
(A) 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C
(B) 1-B, 2-D, 3-A, 4-C
(C) 1-B, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C
(D) 1-D, 2-A, 3-B, 4-C

Ans: **(A)**
Exp: 1- Bongosagar - A- India and Bangladesh
2- LAMITIYE - B- India and Seychelles
3- Indra Navy - C- India and Russia
4- Surya Kiran - D- India and Nepal

20. Match the following Father of Various Fields -

(a) Father of Railways	1- George Stephenson
(b) Father of Genetics	2- Gregor Mendel
(c) Father of Homeopathy	3- Heinemann

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: Father of Railways - George Stephenson
Father of Genetics - Gregor Mendel
Father of Homeopathy - Heinemann

21. Match the following oceans with its greatest known depth -
(a) Pacific Ocean 1- Mariana Trench
(b) Atlantic Ocean 2- South Sandwich Trench
(c) Indian Ocean 3- Java Trench
(d) Southern Ocean 4- Puerto Rico Trench
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: Pacific Ocean - Mariana Trench
Atlantic Ocean - Puerto Rico Trench
Indian Ocean - Java Trench
Southern Ocean - South Sandwich Trench

22. Match the following Famous Places in India -
(a) Tea Board 1- Kolkata
(b) Tobacco Board 2- Guntur
(c) Spice Board 3- Kochin
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: Tea Board - Kolkata
Tobacco Board - Guntur
Spice Board - Kochin

23. Match the following type of diseases and their examples -

(a) Topographical Classification	1- Ear-Nose-Throat

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(b) Physiological Classification	2- Plague
(c) Epidemiological Classification	3- Diabetes
(d) Pathological Classification	4- Cancer

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: Topographical Classification - Ear-Nose-Throat
Physiological Classification - Diabetes
Epidemiological Classification - Plague
Pathological Classification - Cancer

24. Match the following books and authors: -

(a) Anurag Mathur	1- The Inscrutable Americans
(b) Aravind Adiga	2- Last Man in Tower
(c) Arfea Tehsin	3- The Elephant Bird

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: Anurag Mathur - The Inscrutable Americans
Aravind Adiga - Last Man in Tower
Arfea Tehsin - The Elephant Bird

25. Match the following Top Ranking countries in their respective fields -

(a) The largest producer of hashish	1- Afghanistan
(b) The country has the longest border	2- Switzerland
(c) The country has longest railway tunnel	3- Canada
(d) The country has largest forex reserves	4- China

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: The largest producer of hashish - Afghanistan
The country has the longest border - Canada
The country has longest railway tunnel - Switzerland
The country has largest forex reserves - China

26. Match the following -
(a) Calcium 1- Ostopenia
(b) Magnesium 2- Headaches
(c) Sodium 3- Insulin Resistance
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: Calcium - Ostopenia
Magnesium - Insulin Resistance
Sodium – Headaches

27. Match the following important days -

(a) 17 April	1- World Haemophilia Day
(b) 5 June	2- National Sports Day
(c) 6 July	3- World Zoonoses Day
(d) 29 August	4- World Environment 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: **(A)**

Exp: 17 April - World Haemophilia Day
5 June - World Environment Day
6 July - World Zoonoses Day
29 August - National Sports Day

28. Match the following books and authors -
(a) Girish Karnad 1- Tughlaq
(b) Goethe 2- Faust
(c) Gopinath Mohanty 3- Paraja
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: Girish Karnad - Tughlaq
Goethe - Faust
Gopinath Mohanty - Paraja

29. Match the following commissions with their year of establishment -

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(a) Election Commission	1- 1950
(b) Law Commission	2- 1834
(c) Chief Labour Commissioner	3- 1951
(d) Finance Commission	4- 1945

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: Election Commission - 1950
Law Commission - 1834
Chief Labour Commissioner - 1945
Finance Commission - 1951

30. Match the following books and their Book Name Accolade -

(a) The Netanyahus	1- Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (2022)
(b) Tomb of Sand	2- The International Booker Prize (2022)
(c) The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida	3- Booker Prize (2022)

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 Netanyahus - Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (2022)
Tomb of Sand - The International Booker Prize (2022)
The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida - Booker Prize (2022)

31. Match the following Articles related to Elections

(a) 326	1- Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.
(b) 327	2- Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
(c) 328	3- Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.
(d) 329	4- Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.

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-2, c-3, d-4

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: 326 - Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.
327 - Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
328 - Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.
329 - Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.

32. Match the following Indian Cities on River Banks -

(a) Gangakhed	1- Godavari
(b) Agra	2- Yamuna
(c) Ahmedabad	3- Sabarmati

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: Gangakhed - Godavari
Agra - Yamuna
Ahmedabad - Sabarmati

33. Match the following -

List I	List II
(a) Word wrap	1- automatically moves a word to the next line if it does not fit in the current line
(b) Client	2- interleaved execution of two or more programs by the same computer
(c) Multitasking	3- an application receiving data
(d) Landscape	4- orientation of worksheet

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: Word wrap - automatically moves a word to the next line if it does not fit in the current line

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Client - an application receiving data
Multitasking - interleaved execution of two or more programs by the same computer
Landscape - orientation of worksheet

34. Match the following States And Their Dance Forms -

(a) Ghoomar 1- Rajasthan
(b) Chhau 2- Mayurbhanj
(c) Bihu 3- Assam

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: Ghoomar - Rajasthan
Chhau - Mayurbhanj
Bihu - Assam

35. Match the following states and their highest peak -

(a) Tamil Nadu 1- Doddabetta
(b) Telangana 2- Laxmidevipalli
(c) Tripura 3- Amsot Peak
(d) Uttar Pradesh 4- Betalongchhip

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: Tamil Nadu - Doddabetta
Telangana - Laxmidevipalli
Tripura - Betalongchhip
Uttar Pradesh - Amsot Peak

36. Match the following -

(a) Thillai Nataraja Temple	1- Tamil Nadu
(b) Tirupati Balaji	2- Andhra Pradesh
(c) Virupaksha Temple	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: Thillai Nataraja Temple - Tamil Nadu
Tirupati Balaji - Andhra Pradesh
Virupaksha Temple - Karnataka

37. Match the following Regions and their countries -

(a) Catalonia 1- Spain
(b) Crimea 2- Ethiopia
(c) Mindanao 3- Philippines
(d) Oromia 4- Ukraine

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: Catalonia — Spain
Crimea — Ukraine
Mindanao — Philippines
Oromia — Ethiopia

38. Match the following Mountain Passes of India -

(a) Banihal Pass	1- It is in Jammu & Kashmir
(b) Bara-Lacha Pass	2- It is also in Himachal Pradesh
(c) Mana Pass	3- It is in Uttarakhand

Options
(A) a-1, b-2, c-3
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1
(C) a-3, b-2, c-1
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Banihal Pass: It is in Jammu & Kashmir
Bara-Lacha Pass: It is also in Himachal Pradesh
Mana Pass: It is in Uttarakhand

39. Match the following Tiger Reserves in India -

(a) Madhya Pradesh	1- Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve
(b) Maharashtra	2- Satkosia Tiger Reserve
(c) Mizoram	3- Dampa Tiger Reserve
(d) Odisha	4- Sahyadri 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: **(A)**
Exp: Madhya Pradesh - Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve

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Maharashtra - Sahyadri Tiger reserve
Mizoram - Dampa Tiger Reserve
Odisha - Satkosia Tiger Reserve

40. Match the following Sobriquets & Famous Places in India -
(a) City of Kings 1- Gwalior
(b) Blue Mountains 2- Nilgiri
(c) HITECH City 3- Hyderabad
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: City of Kings - Gwalior
Blue Mountains - Nilgiri
HITECH City - Hyderabad

41. Match the following Bird Sanctuaries in India -

(a) Mizoram	1- Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary
(b) Odisha	2- Chilika Lake
(c) Punjab	3- Keoladeo National Park
(d) Rajasthan	4- Harike bird sanctuary

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: Mizoram - Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary
Odisha - Chilika Lake
Punjab - Harike bird sanctuary
Rajasthan - Keoladeo National Park

42. Match the following Highest Mountain Peaks State-wise -
(a) Goa 1- Sosogad
(b) Gujarat 2- Girnar
(c) Haryana 3- Karoh
Options
(A) a-1, b-2, c-3
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1
(C) a-3, b-2, c-1
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Goa - Sosogad
Gujarat - Girnar
Haryana - Karoh

43. Match the following supercomputers with their associated countries -
(a) Fugaku 1- Japan
(b) Sierra 2- Italy
(c) Tianhe 3- 2A - China
(d) HPC5 4- U S
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: Fugaku - Japan
Sierra - U S
Tianhe - 2A - China
HPC5 - Italy

44. Match the following tiger reserves -
(a) Bandipur 1- Karnataka
(b) Jim Corbett 2- Uttarakhand
(c) Kanha 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: Bandipur - Karnataka
Jim Corbett - Uttarakhand
Kanha - Madhya Pradesh

45. Match the following Gardens with their locations -
(a) Brindhavan Garden 1- Mysore
(b) Chambal Garden 2- Srinagar
(c) Chashme Shahi 3- Kota
(d) Hanging Garden 4- Mumbai
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: Brindhavan Garden - Mysore
Chambal Garden - Kota
Chashme Shahi - Srinagar
Hanging Garden - Mumbai

46. Match the following rivers with their ending point: -
(a) Nile 1- Mediterranean Sea

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(b) Amazon 2- Atlantic Ocean
(c) Yangtze 3- East China Sea
Options
(A) a-1, b-2, c-3
(B) a-2, b-3, c-1
(C) a-3, b-2, c-1
(D) a-1, b-3, c-2

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Nile - Mediterranean Sea
Amazon - Atlantic Ocean
Yangtze - East China Sea

47. Match the following -

(a) First Indian to get Nobel Prize in Physics	1- C.V. Raman
(b) First Indian to receive Bharat Ratna award	2- Dr. Radhakrishnan
(c) First Indian to cross English Channel	3- Sri Shankar Kurup
(d) First person to receive Gyanpith award	4- Mihir Sen

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: First Indian to get Nobel Prize in Physics - C.V. Raman
First Indian to receive Bharat Ratna award - Dr. Radhakrishnan
First Indian to cross English Channel - Mihir Sen
First person to receive Gyanpith award - Sri Shankar Kurup

48. Match the following -

(a) First Woman Chief Minister of State	1- Sucheta Kripalani
(b) First Woman Union Minister	2- Rajkumari Amrita Kaur
(c) First Woman President of INC	3- Annie Besant

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 Woman Chief Minister of State - Sucheta Kripalani
First Woman Union Minister - Rajkumari Amrita Kaur
First Woman President of INC - Annie Besant

49. Match the following Dams in India -
(a) Tehri Dam 1- Uttarakhand
(b) Hirakud Dam 2- Odisha
(c) Kallanai Dam 3- Kerala
(d) Cheruthoni Dam 4- Tamil Nadu
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: Tehri Dam - Uttarakhand
Hirakud Dam - Odisha
Kallanai Dam - Tamil Nadu
Cheruthoni Dam - Kerala

50. Match the following International Organizations and Their Headquarters -

(a) North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	1- Brussels, Belgium
(b) Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	2- The Hague, The Netherlands
(c) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	3- Vienna, Austria

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: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) - Brussels, Belgium
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons - The Hague, The Netherlands
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) - Vienna, Austria

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Multiple Choice Questions

1. India achieved 1 billion tonnes coal production for the first time. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following type of coal is the best quality coal?

(A) Lignite **(B)** Bituminous
(C) Peat **(D)** Anthracite

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Coal is a sedimentary, organic rock which is flammable.
Coal is composed primarily of carbon along with other elements such as hydrogen, sulphur, oxygen, and nitrogen. Coal is mostly used for power generation and metallurgy.
Higher quality coal produces less smoke, burns longer, and provides more energy than lower quality coal.
Anthracite- It is the best quality coal. It contains about 80 to 90 percent carbon. It is hard coal. In India, it is mainly found in the district of Reasi in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Hence option 4 is correct.
Bituminous- It is the most widely available coal in India. It is of medium quality. It contains about 40 to 75 percent carbon. In India, much of the coal comes under this category.
Lignite- It is of low quality. It is brown in colour. It contains about 30 to 40 percent coal.
Peat- It is the middle stage in the process of coal formation. It contains less than 40 percent carbon. It has more impurities. The parts of the wood are remarkably present in it.

2. March 2024 witnessed the 2nd highest GST collection ever at Rs 1.78 lakh crore, with an 11.5% year-on-year growth. In context to the same tell us, The idea of a nationwide GST in India was first proposed by which of the following?

(A) Basel Committee
(B) The Kelkar Task Force
(C) Rekhi Committee
(D) C. Rangarajan Committee

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: The idea of a nationwide GST in India was first proposed by the Kelkar Task Force on Indirect Taxes in 2000.
The objective was to replace the prevailing complex and fragmented tax structure with a unified system that would simplify compliance, reduce tax cascading, and promote economic integration.
The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers prepared a design and roadmap, releasing the first discussion paper in 2009.
The Constitution Amendment Bill was introduced in 2011 but faced challenges regarding compensation to states and other issues.
After years of deliberation and negotiations between the Central and State Governments, the Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014, was introduced in Parliament.
The bill aimed to amend the Constitution to enable the implementation of GST.

3. HAL successfully delivered two Dornier 228 aircraft to the Guyana Defence Force. In context to the same tell us, Rafale aircraft is manufacture Dassault company located in _____.

(A) Germany **(B)** USA
(C) France **(D)** England

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Rafale aircraft is manufacture Dassault company located in France.
The Rafale is referred to as an "omnirole" aircraft by Dassault.
Introduced in 2001, the Rafale is a French twin-engine and multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation being produced for both the French Air Force and for carrier-based operations in the French Navy.
Rafale is a fourth-generation jet with both twin-generation engines and Delta-wing.
This fighter jet also carries semi-stealth capabilities that can execute nuclear attacks.

4. Joyshree Das Verma appointed as FICCI Ladies Organisation president. In context to the same tell us, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was established in which year?

(A) 1936 **(B)** 1927
(C) 1945 **(D)** 1925

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is a non-profit

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trade organization and lobbying organization located in India.
In 1927, Indian businessmen Mr. G D Birla and Purshottamdas Thakurdas launched the company on Mahatma Gandhi's recommendation.
It is India's largest, most influential, and oldest commercial organization.
It is a non-governmental, non-profit organization. Members of FICCI come from the private and public sectors, as well as SMEs and multinational enterprises.
The chamber has around 250,000 indirect members through a variety of regional chambers of commerce.
It focuses on firm development, advertising, and networking in a given industry.

5. REC has won "SKOCH ESG Award 2024" in "Renewable Energy Category". In context to Renewable Energy tell us, which gas is the major component of biogas?
(A) Methane **(B)** CNG
(C) Hydrogen **(D)** None of the above
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Biogas is primarily composed of methane gas, which is the major component of biogas.
Methane gas makes up about 50-75% of biogas, while the remaining 25-50% is made up of carbon dioxide, water vapor, and trace amounts of other gases.
Biogas is a gaseous renewable energy source.
Anaerobic digestion using methanogens or anaerobic organisms in a bioreactor, biodigester, or anaerobic digester produces biogas.
The main components of the gas are methane (CH4) and carbon dioxide (CO2), with trace amounts of moisture, siloxanes, and hydrogen sulfide (H2S).

6. HAL-Cochin Shipyard Ltd signed contract for Indian Navy's NGMV project. In context to the same tell us, which is the largest Shipyard in India?
(A) Cochin Shipyard **(B)** Hindustan Shipyard
(C) Goa Shipyard **(D)** Naval Shipyard
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: India's largest commercial shipbuilder is Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL).
It is the largest shipbuilding and maintenance facility in India.
It is located in the port-city of Kochi, in the state of Kerala, India.
Cochin Shipyard was incorporated in 1972 as a Government of India company.
MV Rani Padmini in 1981 was the first ship to roll out of this shipyard.
Currently, the yard is building the warship INS Vikrant the first aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy to be designed and built in India.

7. Celebration of serving food to four billion people at UN Headquarters. In context to the same tell us, who is the permanent representative of India in the United Nations?
(A) Ruchira Kamboj
(B) Arindam Bagchi
(C) Taranjit Singh Sandhu
(D) Vinay Mohan Kwatra
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Ruchira Kamboj is an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1987 batch, who currently serves as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations since August 2022.

8. Government permits export of Kalanamak Rice. In context to the same tell us, when was the Geographical Indication (GI) tag given to the kalanamak rice?
(A) 2017 **(B)** 2016
(C) 2012 **(D)** 2020
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Kalanamak rice was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in 2012 by the Government of India. A geographical area was defined where Kalanamak rice can be produced. Kalanamak rice grown only in this area can be labelled as Kalanamak rice.

9. Luís Montenegro Sworn as Prime Minister of Portugal. In context to the same tell us, what is the capital of Portugal?
(A) Porto **(B)** Madrid
(C) Lisbon **(D)** Barcelona
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Lisbon is the capital city of Portugal and is a vibrant and historic city that offers a rich cultural heritage. Lisbon is home to several iconic landmarks, such as the Belem Tower, the Jeronimos Monastery, and the Sao Jorge Castle, which are must-see attractions for visitors.

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10. 1st batch of 64 Indian workers from Haryana & UP leave for Israel. In context to the same tell us, which language is officially spoken in Israel?

(A) Arabic **(B)** Hebrew
(C) Amharic **(D)** Hausa

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Hebrew is a Northwest Semitic language within the Afroasiatic language family. A regional dialect of the Canaanite languages, it was natively spoken by the Israelites and remained in regular use as a first language until after 200 CE and as the liturgical language of Judaism and Samaritanism. Afroasiatic languages includes such languages as Arabic, Hebrew, Amharic, and Hausa.

11. High Court orders government to release Loktantra Prahari Samman Rashi. In context to the same tell us, in which year was Himachal Pradesh 'Loktantra Prahari Samman Rashi' implemented?

(A) 2021 **(B)** 2020
(C) 2019 **(D)** 2018

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The former BJP government had made the Himachal Pradesh Loktantra Prahari Samman Rashi Scheme in 2019.
To give legal recognition to the scheme, Himachal Pradesh Loktantra Prahari Samman Act was passed in 2021.
This 'Loktantra Prahari Samman Rashi' scheme was implemented on 6 May 2021.
After this, this amount started being given to the eligible persons.
The members of the applicant association were receiving this amount till February 2023.
But its availability stopped from March 2023.

12. India aims to increase its nuclear power production from the current level of over 8,000 MW to 1 lakh MW by 2047. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is NOT a commonly used fuel for nuclear power plants?

(A) Pu - 236 **(B)** U - 238
(C) Pu - 244 **(D)** U - 235

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Pu - 236 is an isotope of plutonium
Uranium-238 is the most common isotope of uranium found in nature, with a relative abundance of 99%. Unlike uranium-235, it is non-fissile, which means it cannot sustain a chain reaction in a thermal-neutron reactor.
Plutonium-244 is the most stable isotope of plutonium
Plutonium has several industrial uses, particularly in the nuclear industry. Plutonium-239 is primarily used as a fuel to power nuclear reactors.

13. The Manohar International Airport, Mopa, became the 14th airport in India to launch the Digi Yatra system, which makes the travelling experience more seamless and convenient. In context to the same tell us, when was the DigiYatra system launched in India?

(A) November 2023 **(B)** January 2020
(C) August 2021 **(D)** December 2022

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the DigiYatra system simultaneously on 1 December 2022 at the Indira Gandhi Airport in New Delhi, Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore, and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi.

14. SJVN partners with IIT-Patna to improve tunneling project performance. In context to the same tell us, in which state is Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station located?

(A) Haryana **(B)** Uttar Pradesh
(C) Jharkhand **(D)** Himachal Pradesh

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: The Nathpa Jhakri Dam is a concrete gravity dam on the Sutlej river in Himachal Pradesh, India. The primary purpose of the dam is hydroelectric power production and it supplies a 1,500 megawatts (2,000,000 hp) underground power station with water.

15. Australian Navy Chief Vice Admiral Mark Hammond arrived in New Delhi on April 2, 2024 on his five-day official visit to India. In context to the same tell us, in which year was the first MILAN exercise organized?

(A) 1999 **(B)** 1995
(C) 1990 **(D)** 1992

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Australian Navy Chief Vice Admiral Mark Hammond arrived in New Delhi on April 2, 2024 on his five-day official visit to India.

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During this visit, he held bilateral talks with Indian Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar in New Delhi.
The Australian Navy Chief is in New Delhi during his visit to India from 02 to 06 April 2024.
MILAN 24 is the 12th edition of the biennial multilateral naval exercise held off Visakhapatnam under the auspices of the Eastern Naval Command. It was organized in the first week of March 2024.
The central objective of MILAN 24 is to enhance professional interaction between friendly navies and to gain experience in multilateral large force operations at sea.
The MILAN exercise began in 1995 with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The navies of Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated in this first edition.

16. Army Medical Corps celebrated its 260th raising day on 3 April. In context to the same tell us, in which year was the 'Army Medical Corps' (AMC) established?
(A) 1764 **(B)** 1802
(C) 1920 **(D)** 1688
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The AMC, originally known as the Indian Medical Service, was founded in India in 1764 during the British colonial era. With the motto of 'Sarve Santu Niramaya' (let all be free from disease) through selfless service.

17. Former Judge Waziri to head the committee on protecting Delhi forest. In context to the same tell us, who is also called as the green judge of Delhi?
(A) Former Judge Najmi Waziri
(B) Former Judge Yogesh Khanna
(C) Former Judge Satish Chandra Sharma
(D) Former Judge Siddharth Mridul
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Justice Waziri is known as the "Green Judge" because of orders passed by him to increase the green cover in the city. According to one estimate, over one lakh trees were planted across the capital through orders passed by Justice Waziri.

18. As per the WADA, India top dope offending country in world. In context to the same tell us, who is the President of the World Anti-Doping Agency?
(A) Piotr Gliński **(B)** Witold Bańka
(C) Adam Korol **(D)** Tomasz Lipiec
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee based in Canada to promote, coordinate, and monitor the fight against drugs in sports. Effective January 2020, Witold Bańka commenced in his role as President of WADA.

19. RBI Monetary Policy 2024-25: Repo Rate unchanged, Economy to grow by 7%. In context to the same tell us, who is the chairman of the Monetary Policy Committee of RBI?
(A) Nirmala Sitharaman **(B)** Gita Gopinath
(C) Shaktikanta Das **(D)** Viral Acharya
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Shaktikanta Das is serving as the current & 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He was earlier a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission and India's Sherpa to the G20. Das is a retired 1980 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Tamil Nadu cadre.

20. ICG Samudra Paheredar & Vietnam Coast Guard's Marine pollution training. In context to the same tell us, where is the permanent base of the Indian Coast Guard marine pollution control vessel Samudra Paheredar?
(A) Karwar **(B)** Port Blair
(C) Kolkata **(D)** Visakhapatnam
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The Indian Coast Guard's first indigenously built marine pollution control vessel, Samudra Prahari, was commissioned in 2010 and is permanently stationed on the west coast of the country in Mumbai. ICG Samudra Paheredar was commissioned at Surat in 2012 and is stationed in Visakhapatnam.

21. India abstained on vote calling for Gaza ceasefire at UNHRC. In context to the same tell us, from which country Israel annexed the Gaza Strip?
(A) Egypt **(B)** Jordan
(C) Syria **(D)** Saudi Arabia
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The Gaza Strip was allotted to the Arab state envisioned by the United Nations Partition Plan

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of 1947, but no Arab state formed as a result of the 1947 partition plan. As a result of the 1949 Armistice Agreements, the Gaza Strip became occupied by Egypt.

22. GI Tag registration in India crosses 600, UP tops the List. In context to the same tell us, where is the office of the Geographical Indications Registry, which grants GI tags to products?
(A) Bengaluru **(B)** Chennai
(C) Kolkata **(D)** Ahmedabad
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Controller General of Patents, Designs, and TradeMarks is the Registrar of Geographical Indications. The Geographical Indications Registry is in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The first product to be given a GI tag was Darjeeling tea in 2003.

23. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 24 has been observed recently. In context to the same tell us, in which year was the first "International Sports Day for Development and Peace" celebrated?
(A) 2014 **(B)** 2012
(C) 2010 **(D)** 2016
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The first official celebration of this day took place on April 6, 2014. To raise awareness of this potential, 6 April was declared by the UNGA as the IDSDP.

24. India to continue supply of essential commodities to Maldives. In context to the same tell us, what is the maritime boundary which separates Maldives from India?
(A) Nine Degree Channel
(B) Ten Degree Channel
(C) Duncan Passage
(D) Eight degree channels
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The maritime boundary between the Maldives and India runs through the Eight Degree Channel. It separates the islands of Minicoy and Maldives. It is so named as it lies on the 8-degree line of Latitude, north of the equator.

25. Bilquis Mir, the first Indian Woman Jury member at the Paris Olympics. In context to the same tell us, Bilquis Mir belongs to which sport?
(A) Boxing **(B)** Archery
(C) Canoeist **(D)** Judo
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Bilquis Mir is a former canoeist and has represented India in various international competitions.She was also the coach of the Indian women's canoeing team. She is now a qualified jury member in the Canoeing and Kayaking events.

26. CCS approved development of AMCA, India's fifth-gen fighter. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is the India's first self-made fighter jet?
(A) LCA Tejas
(B) MiG-21
(C) Dassault Rafale
(D) Dassault Mirage 2000
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The first Indian-designed fighter jet, the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, has been officially declared fit to fly, years after it was first conceived.
The first indigenously-built Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was handed over by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar to the Indian Air Force on 17 January 201**5.**
It marked the beginning of a 4.5th generation aircraft, being built at indigenously in India.
The entire project of LCA Tejas was taken care of by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) jointly.

27. World's largest literary festival Sahityotsav to be held in Delhi. In context to the same tell us, Who was the first person from Bihar to receive the Jnanpith Puraskar?
(A) Phanishwar Nath Renu
(B) Dr Ramdhari Singh Dinkar
(C) Dr Rajendra Prasad
(D) None of the above
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Dr. Ramdhari Singh Dinkar was the first person from Bihar to receive the Jnanpith Puraskar for 'Urvashi' in 1972.
He was an Indian Hindi poet, patriot, and essayist.
He is also the recipient of awards such as the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1959, Padma Bhushan in 1959, and more.

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The Jnanpith Award is an annual Indian literary award presented to an author by Bharatiya Jnanpith for his outstanding contribution to literature.

28. Razorpay launches country's first UPI-Led QR stack for enterprises. In context to Digital Banking tell us, An eCheque is a payment made directly from bank account, if the account is not backed by -

(A) Smart card
(B) Both debit and credit card
(C) Debit card
(D) Credit card

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: A debit card is a payment card that is linked to a bank account. When you use a debit card, the money is deducted directly from your bank account. Debit cards can be used to make purchases in stores, online, and at ATMs.
Credit cards, on the other hand, are not linked to a bank account. When you use a credit card, you are borrowing money from the credit card company. You must repay the borrowed money, plus interest, over time.
Smart cards can be used for a variety of purposes, including payments, identification, and access control. However, smart cards are not typically used for direct payments from bank accounts.

29. SECL's gevra mine to become the largest Coal Mine in Asia. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is a metallic mineral?

(A) Sandstone **(B)** Bauxite
(C) Mica **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Bauxite is a sedimentary rock that has a relatively high content of aluminium. It is the smallest source in the world of iron and gallium. In lustre, bauxite appears dull and is reddish-brown, white, or tan in colour. Bauxite was discovered by the French geologist Pierre Berthier in 1821, near the village of Les Baux in Provence, southern France.
The largest bauxite producer in Australia, followed by China. Increased recycling of aluminium, which has the benefit of reducing the expense of electrical energy in the manufacture of aluminium, would greatly increase the stocks of bauxite in the world.

30. Govt approves Rs 10,037 crore UNNATI scheme for Northeast industrial development. In context to the same tell us, which state holds the most North-eastern position among the states in Northeast region of India?

(A) Assam
(B) Sikkim
(C) Arunachal Pradesh
(D) Nagaland

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Arunachal Pradesh is the area-wise largest state in the northeast region.
It covers an area of 83,743 square km.
Arunachal Pradesh was established on 20th February 1987.
Until Till1972, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA).
Capital: Itanagar
North East India comprises seven states commonly known as the "Seven Sisters".
They are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

31. Bharatgas has introduced "Pure for Sure" to ensure transparency and trust in LPG delivery. In context to the same tell us, Liquefied petroleum gas consists of -

(A) Hexane and benzene
(B) Nitrogen and ethane
(C) Propane and butane
(D) Nonane and octane

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The petroleum gas liquefied under pressure is called liquefied petroleum gas(LPG).
Liquefied petroleum gas consists of propane and butane.
Liquefied petroleum gas is used as fuel for home and industry.
The chemical which is added to liquefied petroleum gas(LPG) to detect leakage is ethyl mercaptan.
Liquefied petroleum gas used for domestic applications in cylinders under relatively low pressures.
Liquefied petroleum gas can be stored nearly indefinitely without degradation.
The molecular formula of butane is C_4H_{10}.
The molecular formula of propane is C_3H_8.

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32. RBI targeted inflation at 4% for sustainable economic growth. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is true with respect to Inflationary Gap?
(A) It leads to wage inflation
(B) It leads to demand-pull Inflation
(C) It leads to hyperinflation
(D) It leads to cost-push inflation
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Inflation refers to the rise in the prices of most goods and services of daily or common use. Inflation measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time.
An inflationary gap is a type of economic gap where a country's real gross domestic product (GDP) is higher than its potential gross domestic product (GDP).
This means that the citizens of the country are demanding more goods and services than the businesses can provide.
When an inflationary gap occurs, the economy is out of equilibrium level, and the price level of goods and services will rise to make up for the increased demand and insufficient supply, and that rise in prices is called demand-pull inflation.
Inflationary gaps occur when aggregate demand is higher than the projected demand, which can be caused by two different things:
A rise in aggregate demand.
A fall in aggregate supply.
Inflationary gaps can be managed in two main ways to bring higher price levels into market equilibrium:
Fiscal policy: Fiscal policies are policies enacted by the government to control the money supply.
Monetary policy: Monetary policies are policies enacted by the central bank to control the money supply.

33. NASA's PACE satellite successfully launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is NOT a solution for global warming?
(A) Using compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs
(B) Planting more trees
(C) Reducing fossil fuel consumption
(D) Deforestation
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Deforestation is not a solution for global warming.
In fact, it is a major contributor to the problem.
Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and contributes to global warming.
When trees are cut down, they release this carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere, further exacerbating the issue.
Therefore, deforestation directly increases the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, making it a worsening factor for global warming rather than a solution.

34. NADA organized a conference on anti-doping in the lead-up to the Paris Olympics 2024. In context to the same tell us, NADA stands for -
(A) National Anti Drug Agency
(B) National Anti Doping Agency
(C) National Anti Drug Academy
(D) National Anti Doping Academy
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) -
It was set up as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 on November 24, 2005, with a mandate Dope-free sports in India.
The primary objectives are to implement anti-doping rules as per the WADA code, regulate dope control programme, promote education and research and creating awareness about doping and its ill effects.
The National Anti-Doping Agency [NADA] was established by the Government of India, with the objective of acting as the independent Anti-Doping Organization for India having a vision of dope free sports.

35. SEBI banned 10 guest experts from the securities market for allegedly manipulating stocks. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is a long term source of finance?
(A) Commercial Paper (CP)
(B) Factoring
(C) External Commercial Borrowings (ECB)
(D) Line of Credit (LOC)
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: An external commercial borrowing (ECB) is an instrument used in India to facilitate Indian companies to raise money outside the country in foreign currency.
The government of India permits Indian corporates to raise money via ECB for expansion

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of existing capacity as well as for fresh investments.
ECBs allow corporates to borrow a large volume of funds for a relatively long term.

36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Haryana section of Dwarka Expressway. In context to the same tell us, which among the following highway connects Sikkim with rest of India?
(A) National Highway 10
(B) National Highway 32A
(C) National Highway 28
(D) National Highway 26A
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: National Highway 10 (NH 10) (old NH 31A) is a national highway in North East India that connects Indo/Bangladesh border via Siliguri to Gangtok. It passes through the Indian states of West Bengal and Sikkim.The highway is being maintained by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) from Rangpo to Ranipool (28 Km) in the state of Sikkim.

37. Academy Awards 2024 (96th Academy Awards) has been announced. In context to the same, name the first actor to win the Oscar Awards.
(A) Emil Jannings
(B) Lionel Barrymore
(C) Warner Baxter
(D) Charlie Chaplin
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Emil Jannings was the first actor to win the Oscar Awards.
He won the award for the movie- The Last Command and The Way of All Flesh.
First Best Actress - Janet Gaynor
First Best Outstanding Picture - Wings
These awards are presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
The first Oscars honored the best films of 1927 and 1928.
Douglas Fairbanks presented the award. He was the President of Academy.
The awards were awarded in 12 categories.

38. The finale of the 71st Miss World was organized in India after 27 years. In context to the same tell us, whoi is the first Asian woman to win the miss world title?
(A) Aishwarya Rai
(B) Diana Hayden
(C) Reita Faria
(D) Yukta Mookhay
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Reita Faria is the first Asian woman to win the miss world title.
She won the miss world title in 1966.
Aishwarya Rai won the miss world title in 1994.
Diana Hayden won the miss world title in 1997.
Yukta Mookhey won the miss world title in 1999.
Priyanka Chopra won the miss world title in 2000.
Manushi Chhillar won the miss world title in 2017.

39. Asif Ali Zardari has been sworn in as the 14th President of Pakistan, this is his second term. In context to polity tell us, Purna Swaraj was accepted by Congress under the Chairmanship of -
(A) Mahatma Gandhi
(B) Jawaharlal Nehru
(C) Motilal Nehru
(D) None of the above
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Purna Swaraj was accepted by Congress under the Chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru in the year 1929.
On 31 December 1929 Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted the flag of India on the banks of the Ravi river, in Lahore, modern-day Pakistan, and demanded Purna Swaraj.
On 26 January 1930, the Congress Party declared that 26 January would be celebrated as Independence Day.

40. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Sela Tunnel as part of his one-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh. In context to the same tell us, India's longest highway tunnel is the -
(A) Jawahar Tunnel
(B) Atul tunnel
(C) Rohtang Tunnel
(D) Dr Syama Road Tunnel
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Dr Syama Road Tunnel in Jammu is the longest highway tunnel in India.
This tunnel was earlier known as Chenani Nashri Tunnel.

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It is the nine km long tunnel that connects Udhampur to Ramban in Jammu.
It cuts down 31 km of travel distance and reduces the travel time between the two points by about two hours, in addition to substantial savings in fuel cost.
It is the first tunnel in India to be equipped with an "integrated tunnel control system" through which ventilation, fire control, signals, communication, and electrical systems would be automatically controlled.
Around 124 cameras are installed inside the tunnel for traffic surveillance and the operators at the main control center.

41. The scope of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services is gradually increasing. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is a most likely consequence of implementing the 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)'?
(A) FDI inflows will drastically increase.
(B) Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
(C) Direct transfer of subsidies to poor people will become very effective.
(D) Digital currency will totally replace the physical currency in about two decades.

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: The most likely consequence of implementing the 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)' is Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
UPI allows you to pay directly from your bank account to different merchants without the hassle of typing your card details, or net banking/wallet password.
UPI is a payment system that allows money transfers between any two bank accounts by using a smartphone.
Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones.

42. India's top singles player Sumit Nagal won the singles title of Chennai Open tennis tournament. In context to the same tell us, Tennis can be played to the best of _____ or _____ sets.
(A) 3; 5 **(B)** 5; 7
(C) 1; 3 **(D)** 3; 7

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: There are two main ways of scoring a set.
Advantage Set
In an advantage set, a player or team needs to win six games, by two, to win the set.
This means that there is no tiebreak game played at 6-6.
The set continues until one player/team wins by two games.
Tiebreak Set
In a tiebreak set, a player or team needs to win six games wins a set.
If the score gets to 5-5 (5-all), one player must win the next two games to win the set.
If the score reaches 6-6 (6-all) in the set, a tiebreak game is played.
Thus, Tennis can be played to the best of three or five sets.
Tennis is an Olympic sport and is played at all levels of society and at all ages.

43. 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". In context to the same tell us, The Sangeet Natak Akademi was set up in the year _____.
(A) 1952 **(B)** 1950
(C) 1953 **(D)** 1951

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Sangeet Natak Akademi
Sangeet Natak Akademi, the apex body in the field of performing arts in the country, was formed in 1953.
It was set up for the preservation and promotion of the vast intangible heritage of India's diverse culture expressed in forms of music, dance, and drama.
The management of the Akademi vests in its General Council.
Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar Karaikudi was the first to receive the Sahitya Natak Akademi award.
Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar is an award given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance & Drama.
The Sangeet Natak Academy was established on 31 May 1952 by a resolution of the Ministry of Human Resource development.
The Akademi was officially inaugurated on 28 January 1953 by the first President of India

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Rajendra Prasad and PV Rajmannar was appointed as its first Chairman.

44. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar. In context to the same tell us, Who is the current Chairman and Managing Director of IREDA?
(A) Sandhya Shukla
(B) Supratim Bandyopadhyay
(C) Mukhmeet S. Bhatia
(D) Pradip Kumar Das
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has been conferred with the "Green Urja Award" by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).
It has been awarded for being the 'Leading Public Institution in Financing Institution for Renewable Energy' for 2021.
The award was received by Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), IREDA.
IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

45. Defending champion Australia won the title by defeating India in the final of ICC Under-19 World Cup 2024. In context to the same tell us, ICC under 19 Cricket World Cup is held after every _____ years.
(A) 2 **(B)** 3
(C) 4 **(D)** 5
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup is organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
The first contest organized in 1988 and it was not staged again until 1998 AD.
Since then, the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup has been held as a biennial event.
The 2020 Under-19 Cricket World Cup was organized in South Africa.
The final was played between India and Bangladesh which Bangladesh won after defeating India.
This was Bangladesh's first ICC Under-19 World Cup victory.

46. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. In context to the same tell us, Which is the following power plant free from environmental pollution
(A) Diesel **(B)** Nuclear
(C) Hydroelectric **(D)** Steam
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Hydroelectric Power Plant -
The electricity produced from the kinetic energy of flowing water is called hydroelectricity and a plant that generates electricity on a large scale from flowing water is called a hydroelectric power plant.
The requirements for a hydroelectric power plant are a strong, fast flow of water and a significant drop down in which the water can fall.
The Hydroelectric power plant uses the hydropower system to generate electricity i.e. it does not require fuel to generate electricity.
In a Solar Power Plant, the energy of the sunlight is used to generate electricity.
In a Thermal or Steam Power Plant, the energy of the fossil fuels such as coal, diesel etc is used to generate electricity.
In a Nuclear Power Plant, nuclear fuel such as uranium is used to generate electricity.

47. National Women's Day is celebrated every year on 13 February in India. In context to the same tell us, the day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of whom?
(A) Sarojini Naidu **(B)** Padmaja Naidu
(C) Annie Besant **(D)** Kasturba Gandhi
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: National Women's Day is celebrated every year on 13 February in India. This day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu. This time the 145th birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu is being celebrated. Sarojini Naidu is known as 'Nightingale of India'.

48. The Education Ministry signed an agreement with FIFA to promote the game of football at the school. In context to the same tell us, The famous football player Pele belonged to which of the following country?
(A) Portugal **(B)** Argentina
(C) Brazil **(D)** France
Ans: **(C)**

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Exp: Brazilian football legend Pele, who won a record three World Cups passed away at the age of 82 on 28th December 2022.
Pelé was born in 1940 in Tres Carcass, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
He was the only player to win the World Cup three times.
He was named Fifa's Player of the Century in 2000.
He is credited with scoring a world record of 1,281 goals in 1,363 appearances.

49. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the statue of India's first Chief of Defense Staff, late General Bipin Rawat, in Dehradun. In context to the same tell us, Gen Bipin Rawat was the _____ Chief of Army Staff.
(A) 25th **(B)** 26th
(C) 27th **(D)** 28th
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Gen. Bipin Rawat was the 27th Chief of Army Staff (COAS).
Gen. Bipin Rawat succeded over Gen. Dalbir Singh Suhag on 17th December 2016 as the Chief of Army Staff.
He became Vice-Chief of Army Staff before becoming Chief of Army Staff.
He was the fourth officer of the Gorkha Regiment to become Chief Of Army Staff (COAS).
Gen. Bipin Rawat served as the 27th chief of Army Staff till 31st December 2019.
He was commissioned to the 5th battalion of the 11 Gorkha Rifles on 16th December 1978.
He served his country from 16th December 1978 to 8th December 2021.

50. National Productivity Day is celebrated every year in India to commemorate the establishment of the National Productivity Council (NPC). In context to the same tell us, National Productivity Council (NPC) is an autonomous organisation functioning under which Union Ministry?
(A) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
(B) Ministry of Human Resources and Development
(C) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
(D) Ministry of MSME
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: National Productivity Council (NPC) is a national level autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, to promote productivity culture in India.
Recently, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal chaired the 49th Governing Council Meeting of National Productivity Council (NPC).

51. Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Fly91, a regional airline service between Goa and Lakshadweep. In context to same tell us, which of the following is the international air carrier of India and handles foreign traffic, which includes both cargo and passenger services?
(A) Air India **(B)** Pawan Hans
(C) Dove Airlines **(D)** Taj Air
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The national airline of India, Air India, has its main office in New Delhi.
Talace Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, is the owner of it.
102 local and foreign destinations are served by the fleet of Airbus and Boeing aircraft operated by Air India.
The airline's hub and numerous focal cities around India are located at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.
With an 18.6% market share, Air India is the biggest foreign airline operating from India.
On July 11, 2014, the airline joined Star Alliance as its 27th member.
J. R. D. Tata established the airline Tata Airlines in 1932.

52. PM Modi laid the foundation stone of Tata-Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp's chip fabrication unit in Dholera Rajasthan. In context to the same tell us, The following property of semiconductors cannot be determined from Hall effect:
(A) Semiconductor is n–type or p–type
(B) The carrier concentration
(C) The mobility of semiconductor
(D) The atomic concentration of semiconductor
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The Hall Effect is basically the production of voltage (known as hall voltage) across a

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conductor transverse to an electric current and to an applied magnetic field perpendicular to the current.
Application of the Hall Effect -
To determine the type of semiconductor
To calculate the carrier concentration
To determine mobility (hall mobility)
To Measure magnetic flux density

53. According to SIPRI, India is the world's top arms importer between 2019-2023. In context to defence tell us, Which of the following is the highest rank in the Indian Army?
(A) Captain **(B)** Field Marshal
(C) Brigadier **(D)** General Major
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Field Marshal is a five–star general officer rank and the highest attainable rank in the Indian Army.
Field Marshal is ranked immediately above general, but not exercised in the regular army structure. It is a largely ceremonial or wartime rank, having been awarded only twice.

54. India has recently signed the protocol for the establishment of Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) with the Dominican Republic. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following countries share a land border with Haiti?
(A) Jamaica
(B) Cuba
(C) Dominican Republic
(D) Puerto Rico
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, Haiti occupies the western one-third of the island of Hispaniola.
The Dominican Republic borders Haiti on the eastern side of the island.
Haiti's closest neighbors include Jamaica to the west and Cuba to the northwest, but they don't share a border with Haiti.
Haiti means "land of the mountains" in the Indigenous, or native, Taíno language.
The country's highest peak, Pic la Selle, is part of the Massif de la Selle range located in southeastern Haiti and reaches nearly 9,000 feet (2,715 meters).

55. Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated a loan assistance program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras. In context to the same tell us, Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojna (PMJAY) has been renamed as:
(A) Pradhan Mantri Aushadhi Pariyojna
(B) Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Vikas Yojna
(C) Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana
(D) Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Aushadhi Vikas Yojna
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJPK)
It is launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
The Scheme aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to people through special Kendras known as Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendra.
It was launched in 2008, under the name "Jan Aushadhi Medical Store" and later on re-launched in the year 2015 as 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana' (PMJAY).
In 2016, it was again renamed "Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana" (PMBJP).

56. Odisha state government has decided to provide interest free loans up to Rs 1 lakh under 'Swayam' scheme. In context to the same tell us, Government of Maharashtra's Sumatibai Sukalikar Udyogini Mahila Sakshamikaran Yojana is related to -
(A) Interest subvention to eligible women Self Helf Groups
(B) Loan facilities to women entrepreneurs to buy land
(C) Tax waivers for women entrepreneurs in Mumbai and Nagpur
(D) Loan with 4% interest to women Self Help Groups in Maharashtra
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Sumatibai Sukalikar Udyogini Mahila Sakshamikaran Yojana is an Interest subvention scheme to eligible women Self-help group.
This scheme is under the National rural livelihood mission.
National rural livelihood mission (NRLM) -

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This mission is under the rural development ministry of the central government to bring 1 woman from each household to self-help group. It has been renamed now as Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojna: national rural livelihood mission. (DAY-NRLM)
Startup village programme run UNDER DAY-NRLM.

57. Joseph and Hunter win ICC Player of the Month awards for January. In context to the same tell us, the first edition of cricket world cup was held in which year in England?
(A) 1975 **(B)** 1985
(C) 1970 **(D)** 1980
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The Cricket World Cup is a one-day international (ODI) cricket tournament held every four years.
The International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport's governing body, hosts the event every four years, with preliminary qualification stages leading up to a finals competition.
First edition: 1975 - Held in England
Latest edition: 2019 - Held in England & Wales
Current champion - England (1st title)
Most successful - Australia (5 titles)
Most runs - (India) Sachin Tendulkar (2,278)
Most wickets - (Australia) Glenn McGrath (71)

58. Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora announced that 'Kaji Nemu' has been recognized as the state fruit of Assam. In context to the same tell us, which state is called the Fruit Basket of India?
(A) Jammu and Kashmir
(B) Kerala
(C) Himachal Pradesh
(D) Bihar
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: When referring to a city or state in India we often refer by its nickname rather than its actual name such as Fruit basket of India, Spice garden of India and so on.
With the fertile lands, sweeping monsoons, and glorious sunshine, India have earned this mighty country the moniker 'fruit basket of the world' due to the long list of bright and colourful exotic fruits that flourish in this environment.
Supplies of pear, almond, citrus, raisins, apple, peach plum, walnut, grapes, mango and a few more make Himachal Pradesh the "Fruit Bowl of India."
Apple is the state fruit of Himachal Pradesh.

59. The Indian government is going to establish its naval base on Agatti and Minicoy islands of Lakshadweep. In context to the same tell us, which is the India's biggest naval base build under project 'Sea Bird'?
(A) National Defence Academy
(B) INS Utkarsh
(C) INS Vajrakosh
(D) INS Kadamba (Karwar)
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: INS Kadamba (Karwar) is India's biggest naval base build under project 'Sea Bird'.
INS Kadamba is located near Karwar in Karnataka.
The first phase of construction of the base which was code-named as Project Seabird was completed in 2005.
INS Utkrosh is a naval air station that comes under the joint-services Andaman and Nicobar Command.

60. United World Wrestling has recently lifted the suspension of Wrestling Federation of India. In context to the same tell us, Indian Style Wrestling Association of India was formed in which year?
(A) 1942 **(B)** 1958
(C) 1964 **(D)** 1978
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Indian Style Wrestling Association of India (ISWAI) has officially been recognised as a National Sports Federation (NSF) by the Sports Ministry.
It is now eligible to receive fund and support from the government.
The ISWAI was formed in 1958 and has been in existence for about 60 years.
Indian Style Wrestling is a traditional indigenous sport that is played on mud.

61. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Gyanesh Kumar have been selected as the new Election Commissioners. In context to the same tell us, under which article President appoints Chief Election Commissioner?
(A) Article 324 **(B)** Article 322
(C) Article 323 **(D)** Article 321

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Ans: **(A)**

Exp: According to Article 324 of the Constitution of India, President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.
There are 3 Election Commissioners in India.
Election Commission of India is a constitutional body formed by the Constitution of India.
Though it is a multi-member body holding the 3 members which include a Chief Election Commissioner and two election commissioners.
They are appointed by the President of India.
They are appointed for 6 years or can work till the age of 65, whichever comes first.

62. After the recent induction of 10 new Vande Bharat trains in Ahmedabad, a total of 102 Vande Bharat trains are now running across India. In context to the same tell us, Vande Bharat Express is also known as -
(A) Tejas Express
(B) Train 18
(C) Bharat Darshan Train
(D) Punj Takht Train

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Vande Bharat Express, also known as Train 18.
It is an Indian higher-speed intercity electric multiple units.
It was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, Chennai under the Indian government's Make in India initiative over a span of 18 months.

63. The committee formed for 'One Nation One Election' submitted its report to President Draupadi Murmu. In context to the same tell us, who was the first Indian woman to hold a cabinet post in pre-independent India?
(A) Sarojini Naidu
(B) Annie Besant
(C) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
(D) Aruna Asaf Ali

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was the first Indian woman to hold a cabinet post in pre-independent India In 1937.
Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was an Indian diplomat and politician.
She holds the record as the first female president of the United Nations General Assembly.
In 1946, she was elected to the Constituent Assembly from the United Provinces.
She served as Governor of Maharashtra from 1962 to 1964.
Notable works: The Evolution of India (1958) and The Scope of Happiness: A Personal Memoir (1979).

64. The Gujarat government, in partnership with Mazgaon Dock Limited, is set to pioneer India's first-ever submarine tourism project at Dwarka. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following submarines of Indian Navy's Kalvari class has commenced its sea trials in February 2022?
(A) Vela **(B)** Karanj
(C) Vagir **(D)** Khanderi

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The fifth submarine of Project 75, Yard 11879, the Indian Navy's Kalvari class commenced its sea trials on 1 Feb'22.
The submarine was launched in Nov 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
The submarine would be named Vagir, after commissioning.
It is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in the year 2022 after the completion of other trials.

65. Argentina Rejects BRICS Membership under President Javier Milei. In context to the same tell us, The 15th summit of the BRICS group was held under the chairmanship of which country?
(A) Brazil **(B)** India
(C) China **(D)** South Africa

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: The 15th summit of the BRICS grouping of the world's major emerging economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - was held in Johannesburg from August 22 to 24, hosted by South Africa. This was the first in-person BRICS summit after three consecutive years of virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first BRISK summit was organized in the year 2009. Brazil, Russia, India and China are its founding members.

66. Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with BPCL for the Green Hydrogen Project. In context to the same tell us,

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Indian Oil Corporation's first "Green Hydrogen" plant has been built at -
(A) Paradip Refinery **(B)** Mathura Refinery
(C) Jamnagar Refinery **(D)** Haldia Refinery

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: At its Mathura refinery, India's largest oil company, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), has constructed the country's first "green hydrogen" plant.
It aspires to get ready for a future that meets the rising demand for oil as well as renewable energy sources.
The strategic growth plan that the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has created aims to keep a laser-like focus on its core fuel marketing and refining activities.
Over the next ten years, it will also be making greater strides in petrochemicals, hydrogen, and electric transportation.

67. The Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium has been renamed after former first-class cricketer Niranjan Shah. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is the largest Cricket Stadium in the World?
(A) Eden Gardens **(B)** Lord's
(C) Motera Stadium **(D)** Sharjah

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Narendra Modi Stadium (NMS), also known as Motera Stadium, is an international cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. It is the largest stadium in the world, with a seating capacity of 132,000 spectators.

68. Senior BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav was unanimously elected Speaker of Bihar Assembly. In context to the same tell us, Who is the first woman Speaker of a State Assembly?
(A) Reddy Shanthi
(B) Pamula Pushpa Sreevani
(C) Viswasarayi Kalavathi
(D) Shanno Devi

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Shanno Devi (born 1 June 1901) was an Indian politician who was the first woman speaker of a State Assembly in India.
Shanno Devi was the speaker of the Haryana Legislative Assembly from 6 December 1966 to 17 March 1967 and the deputy speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly from 19 March 1962 to 31 October 1966.
Shanthi Reddy is an Indian politician from Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh.
She is currently (2022) serving as the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Pathapatnam constituency of Srikakulam district on behalf of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).
Pamula Pushpa Sreevani is an Indian politician who served as the 11th deputy Chief Minister and Minister of the Tribal Welfare Department of Andhra Pradesh from 8 June 2019 to 7 April 2022.
Viswasarayi Kalavathi is an Indian politician and She was elected to the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from Palakonda as a member of the YSR Congress Party.

69. Union Minister Rajiv Chandrashekhar inaugurated the Digital India FutureSkills Summit 2024. In context to the same tell us, Digital India scheme was launched in which of the following years?
(A) 2012 **(B)** 2019
(C) 2015 **(D)** 2010

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Digital India is a program launched by the union government with the aim to transform India into a digitally empowered knowledge economy.
The main objective of the Digital India scheme is to increase the internet and broadband connection in rural areas.
It was launched on 1st July 2015.
Launched by Indian prime minister Narendra Modi.
Power to empower is the Motto of the Digital India scheme.

70. Indian Railway Traffic Service officer Sanjay Kumar Jain took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of IRCTC. In context to the same tell us, Where was the first-ever Amrit Bharat Express inauguration held?
(A) Ayodhya **(B)** Kolkata
(C) Mumbai **(D)** New Delhi

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Ayodhya Dham railway station. The Prime Minister also flagged off two Amrit Bharat Express trains from the redeveloped station.

71. Modi to lay foundation stone for Rs 1756 Cr, Barsingsar Solar Plant. In context to the same

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tell us, Which of the following is NOT one of the fields of application of photoelectric cell?
(A) Street lightning
(B) Reproduction of light in motion picture
(C) Burglar arms
(D) Counting machines

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: The photoelectric cells work on the principle of the photoelectric effect
Photoelectric cells convert light energy into electrical energy.
Applications of photoelectric cells -
Photoelectric cells are used in TV cameras for telecasting scenes.
Reproduction of sound along with pictures in cinema.
Used in counting devices.
Used in burglar alarm and in fire alarm.
Used to measure the temperature of stars.
Used to switch on and off the street lighting system automatically.
Used in photometry to compare the illuminating power of two sources.

72. Haryana CM Khattar launches 'Van Mitra' scheme. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following vegetation is considered as 'Vegetation of High altitude'?
(A) Montane forests
(B) Mangrove forests
(C) Tropical thorn forests and scrubs
(D) Tropical rain forests

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Montane forests
The vegetation of high altitudes is Montane Forests.
In mountainous areas, the decrease in temperature with increasing altitude leads to the corresponding change in natural vegetation.
These forests cover mostly the southern slopes of the Himalayas, places having high altitudes in southern and north-east India.
At higher elevations, temperate grasslands are common.
At high altitudes, generally more than 3,600 metres above sea-level, temperate forests and grasslands give way to the Alpine vegetation.
Silver fir, junipers, pines, and birches are the common trees of these forests.
However, they get progressively stunted as they approach the snow-line.
Ultimately though shrubs and scrubs, they merge into the Alpine grasslands.
As such, there is a succession of natural vegetation belts in the same order as we see from the tropical to the tundra region.
The common animals found in these forests are Kashmir stag, spotted dear, wild sheep, jackrabbit, Tibetan antelope, yak, snow leopard etc.

73. Indian Coast Guard ship 'Varaha' makes port call in Mozambique. In context to the same tell us, which Indian Navy Ship (INS) was decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on 28 May 2022?
(A) INS Gomati **(B)** INS Khukri
(C) INS Delhi **(D)** INS Godavari

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: INS Gomati was decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on 28 May 2022.
INS Gomati derives her name from the river Gomti and was commissioned on 16 April 1988.
It was also the oldest warrior of the Western Fleet when decommissioned.
For its contribution to national maritime security, it was twice awarded the coveted Unit Citation, once in 2007-08 and again in 2019-20.
The ship was built by Mazagon Dock Ltd in Mumbai and has an indigenous content of 72%.
Gomati was decommissioned on 28 May 2022 after 34 years of service.

74. 6 operational AIIMS to be dedicated to the nation by PM Modi. In context to the same tell us, The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bilaspur, is located in which of the following states?
(A) Gujarat **(B)** Uttar Pradesh
(C) Himachal Pradesh **(D)** Telangana

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: A public institution of national significance is the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Bilaspur.
The hospital and medical school are located in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, India.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the institute's foundation stone on October 4, 2017.
The first day of operation was October 5, 2022.
A collection of independent, state-run, public medical institutes in higher education is known

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as the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
The Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is in charge of it.
The first institute, AIIMS New Delhi, was founded in 1956 and was directed by Jawaharlal Nehru.
Twenty institutes are functioning as of January 2023, and four more are anticipated to open by 2025.

75. Kaji Nemu received the status of State Fruit of Assam. In context to the same tell us, which of the following statements is correctly matched?
(A) Andhra Pradesh - Mango
(B) Kerala - Jackfruit
(C) Tripura - Orange
(D) Chhattisgarh – Sakhua

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Mango is popularly referred to as the king of fruits, the mango is also regarded as the state fruit of Andhra Pradesh.
State Fruit of Kerala is Jackfruit.
The famed Queen Pineapple, which is also the state fruit of Tripura is a much revered crop of the farmers. Tripura, is one of the largest pineapple growing states of India.
Sakhua is the national fruit of chattisgarh.
Jackfruit is the national fruit of Kerala.

76. 'CAA-2019' mobile app for making application under Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 has become operational. In context to the same tell us, who among the following is not a citizen of India according to Indian Constitution?
(A) A person who has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of any foreign State
(B) A person either of whose parents was born in the territory of India
(C) A person who has been ordinarily resident in the territory of India for not less than five years immediately preceding such commencement
(D) A person who was born in the territory of India

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Article 9 of the Indian Constitution prohibits dual citizenship to Indians voluntarily acquiring citizenship of a foreign state.
An Indian applying for foreign citizenship on any grounds will lose Indian citizenship by default.
Citizenship can be acquired in 5 ways as per the Citizenship Act 1955 of India.
Citizenship by Birth
Citizenship by Descent
Citizenship by Registration
Citizenship by Naturalisation
Citizenship by Incorporation of Territory
Citizenship can be terminated in 3 ways as per the Citizenship Act 1955 of India.
Voluntary Renunciation
By Termination
Deprivation by Government

77. Recently, 16th March has been marked as the death anniversary of Ganesh Damodar Savarkar. In context to the same tell us, which of the following society was organized by VD Savarkar?
(A) Abhinav Bharat **(B)** Anushilan Samiti
(C) India House **(D)** Ghadar Movement

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: 'Abhinav Bharat' was organized by V.D. Savarkar.
It was a secret society founded by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and his brother Ganesh Damodar Savarkar in 1904.
Initially founded at Nasik as Mitra Mela, the society was associated with several revolutionaries and political activists with branches in various parts of India and London.

78. Navneet Kumar Sehgal took charge as new Prasar Bharati Chairman. In context to the same tell us, what is 'Prasar Bharati'?
(A) A private company owning TV channels
(B) A telecom company owning a large mobile network
(C) An advertising and public relation wing of the central govt.
(D) An autonomous body for public radio and TV broadcasting

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Prasar Bharati is India's largest public broadcasting agency.
It is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament and comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and All India

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Radio, which were earlier media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
The Parliament of India passed the Prasar Bharati Act to grant this autonomy in 1990, but it was not enacted until 15 September 1997.
The Prasar Bharti board Chairperson's position remains vacant since Dr A Surya Prakash demitted office in February 2020.
Therefore, 'Prasar Bharati' is an autonomous body for public radio and TV broadcasting.

79. Pandavula Gutta designated exclusive Geo-heritage site. In context to the same tell us, it is located in which state?
(A) Andhra Pradesh **(B)** Tamil Nadu
(C) Telangana **(D)** Maharashtra
Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Pandavula Gutta is older than the Himalayan hills and is identified as the one and only Geo-heritage site at Pandavula Gutta in Telangana.
As part of the ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Telangana, took a significant step forward in raising awareness about our rich geo-heritage by organizing a Geo-heritage walk at the esteemed Pandavula Gutta.
These cave paintings offer a rare glimpse into the prehistoric man's rock art identified on walls and ceilings of caves, rock shelters, and isolated boulders. The rock art paintings depict wildlife like Bison, Antelope, Tiger, Leopard, etc.

80. Lok Sabha election date 2024 announced by Election Commission. In context to the same tell us, which article defines the composition of the House of the People or Lok Sabha?
(A) Article 73 **(B)** Article 81
(C) Article 42 **(D)** Article 96
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Previously The maximum strength of Lok Sabha as envisaged by the Constitution was 552.
Article 81 of the Constitution defines the composition of the House of the People or Lok Sabha.
In 2022:
The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is fixed at 550 out of which 530 members are to be the representatives of the states and 20 of the UTs.
At present,
the strength of the House is 523 members.
19 members representatives of Union Territories
Earlier, the President also nominated two members from the Anglo-Indian community, but by the 95th Amendment Act, 2009, this provision was valid till 2020 only.

81. ISRO's meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS is set for launch on February 17. In context to the same tell us, Geostationary satellite rotates -
(A) At any height above the Poles
(B) At a fixed height
(C) At the height depending on mass
(D) None of the above
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: A geostationary satellite is an earth-orbiting satellite that revolves around the earth at the same time as the earth rotates along its axis. Due to the same time of the revolution, it appears stationary from the Earth, and hence it is called geostationary.
The time period of the satellite: It is the time taken by the satellite to complete one revolution around the Earth.
Consider a satellite orbiting the earth at a height h from the surface of the earth of radius R.
The circumference of orbit of satellite = $2\pi(R+h)$

82. Reliance became 1st Indian stock to cross Rs 20 lakh cr Market Cap. In context to economics tell us, Which of the following is not true about Barter system?
(A) Availability of money as a medium of exchange
(B) Double coincidence of want
(C) Presence of goods for exchange
(D) None of the above
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Barter system is a system of exchange where goods or services are directly exchanged for other goods or services without using money as a medium of exchange. In other words, it is a system of direct exchange of goods and services. It requires double coincidence of wants.
Barter system was the earliest form of trade and was widely used before the invention of money.

83. The 14th Global Investment Immigration Summit was organized in New Delhi. In context to the same tell us, Where was the Global Investors Summit-2023 held in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Bhopal **(B)** Gwalior

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(C) Ujjain **(D)** Indore

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Global Investors' Summit in Indore, Madhya Pradesh in January 2023.
This summit showcased the diverse investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh.
During the two-day summit, 19 different sector-specific sessions were organized with industry captains of different fields, industrialists, senior officials of the concerned ministries of the Government Of India invited to these sessions.

84. IIT Roorkee & EIL collaborate to drive research and innovation. In context to the same tell us, Shifting Agriculture is also known as Jhum in which state?
(A) Maharashtra **(B)** Assam
(C) Rajasthan **(D)** Uttar Pradesh

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Shifting agriculture or Jhum cultivation is widely practiced in Assam, especially in the hilly areas.
It involves clearing a patch of land, burning the vegetation, and then sowing crops.
After a few years, the land is left fallow and the farmers move on to a new patch of land.
This practice has been criticized for its environmental impact and the loss of forest cover.

85. World Human Spirit Day is observed on 17 February each year. In context to the same tell us, the day was first established in 2003 by whom?
(A) Chris Rea **(B)** Ian Prowse
(C) Susan Cadogan **(D)** Michael Levy

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: World Human Spirit Day is observed on 17 February each year.
It is a day to reflect on the human spirit and reconnect with our sense of awe and purpose.
The holiday was first established in 2003 by Michael Levy.
The significance is evident in the way it encourages mindfulness and meditation.
It is a day to recognize our humanity and to connect with our spiritual selves.

86. Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Hindu pilgrimage site 'Shri Kalki Dham Temple' in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh. In context to the same tell us, Hindu Pilgrimage centre Sabarimala is located in which state?
(A) Maharashtra **(B)** Kerala
(C) Telangana **(D)** Tamil Nadu

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Hindu Pilgrimage center Sabarimala is located at the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Western Ghat mountain ranges of Pathanamthitta district, Perunad, Kerala.
It is one of the world's largest annual pilgrimages with over 40-50 million devotees visiting each year.

87. Indian women's team performed brilliantly and won the gold medal in the Badminton Asia Team Championship. In context to the same tell us, In badminton each game consist of how many points?
(A) 15 **(B)** 11
(C) 21 **(D)** 20

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Modern Badminton-
It is played as a single or doubles event and mix-doubles.
It is played with the help of a racquet and a shuttle.
The winner is chosen by points and the number of sets won.
Scoring System-
A match consists of the best of 3 games of 21 points.
Every time there is a serve – there is a point scored.
The side winning a rally adds a point to its score.
At 20 all, the side which gains a 2 point lead first, wins that game.
At 29 all, the side scoring the 30th point, wins that game.
The side winning a game serves first in the next game.

88. Famous Jain saint Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj passed away at Chandragiri Tirtha in Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh. With reference to religious history of India, the book, "Uttaradhyayana Sutra" belongs to which religion?
(A) Buddhism **(B)** Ajivikas
(C) Jainism **(D)** None of the above

Ans: **(C)**

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Exp: The Uttaradhyayana Sutra is one of the most important sacred books of the Shvetambar Jains, who venerate its antiquity and authority.
From the style of its illustrations, this manuscript copy is dated to the early 16th century.
The main text is written in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit script accompanied by a Sanskrit commentary in smaller 'Nagari characters.
The Uttaradhyayana Sutra, one of the four 'Mulasutras' of the Jain canon, is a work in 36 chapters, each a sermon on aspects of Jain doctrine and discipline.
It is believed by orthodox Jains to contain the actual words of Mahavira.

89. The Jnanpith Selection Committee has nominated famous Gulzar and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya for the 58th Jnanpith Award. In context to the same tell us, 'Jnanpith award', the highest literary award in India, is sponsored by whom?
(A) Bharatiya Jnanpith
(B) Government of India
(C) Government of Maharashtra
(D) Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Jnanpith Award has achieved the recognition of the highest literary award of the country.
The Jnanpith Award was instituted in 1961, and the first award was given in 1965.
The Award is open only to Indian citizens and is given annually.
The prize carries a cash award of Rs. 11 lakhs, a citation, and a bronze replica of Vagdevi (Saraswati), the goddess of learning.
It is sponsored by the cultural organization Bharatiya Jnanpith.
In 2019, author Amitav Ghosh was felicitated with the 54th Jnanpith Award. He became the first English language writer to become a Jnanpith laureate.

90. 'PM Vishwakarma Yojana' is a central sector scheme launched by the Ministry of MSME. In context to the same tell us, which of the following states runs the 'Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana' (VSSY)?
(A) Maharashtra **(B)** Tamil Nadu
(C) Kerala **(D)** Uttar Pradesh
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: On the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on 17 September 2021 distributed tool kits to 21,000 beneficiaries under 'Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana' (VSSY).
Under VSSY, youths are imparted training in traditional work like carpentry, tailoring, blacksmith, goldsmith, pottery shop, and running sweat meat shop.
UP government is also organising a 'Vikas Utsav' to commemorate PM Modi's leadership for 20 years of service in power.

91. UAE's non-oil trade hit a record $952.93 billion in 2023. In context to the same tell us, Which amongst the following now decide the oil-prices in India?
(A) Minister of Finance
(B) Respective State Governments
(C) Ministry of Petroleum
(D) Oil Companies
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Petroleum prices in India are determined by the oil companies.
Earlier it was determined by the Ministry of Petroleum but now the Oil Companies decide prices on a daily basis and a fluctuation in prices can be seen every day.
The prices of petrol and diesel are not determined on the basis of actual cost incurred by the public sector refiners such as HPCL, Indian Oil, and BPCL on refining, crude oil sourcing, and marketing but are decided on a formula called trade parity price (TPP).
By this mechanism, it is assumed that 80% of diesel and petrol is imported into India and 20% is exported so the prices are determined on the basis of prices of these fuels in the international market.

92. India sends assistance to cholera-hit Zambia. In context to the same tell us, Cholera disease is caused by _____.
(A) Bacteria **(B)** Fungus
(C) Protozoa **(D)** Virus
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Cholera:
It is a life-threatening infectious disease and a public health hazard.
This disease was first discovered in the US during the 1800s.

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Cholera is an acute, diarrheal illness caused by infection of the intestine with the bacterium Vibrio cholerae.
The infection is often mild or without symptoms, but sometimes can be severe.
A person may get cholera by drinking water or eating food contaminated with the cholera bacterium.
The disease can spread rapidly in areas with inadequate treatment of sewage and drinking water.
Currently, there are three WHO pre-qualified oral cholera vaccines (OCV), Dukoral, Shanchol, and Euvichol-Plus.

93. Uttarakhand CM launches 'Himalayan Basket'. In context to Himalaya tell us, The Himalayas belong to which of the following categories of mountains?
(A) Plateau Mountain
(B) Fold Mountain
(C) Fault-block Mountain
(D) Dome Mountain
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Fold mountains are the most common type of mountain in the world.
The rugged, soaring heights of the Himalayas, Andes, and Alps are all active fold mountains.
Earth's hard outer layer is called the crust. It is made up of large interlocking slabs called tectonic plates.
Fold mountains are created where two or more of Earth's tectonic plates are pushed together.
At these boundaries, rocks and debris are warped and folded into hills, mountains, and entire mountain ranges.
The Himalayas stretch through the borders of China, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Pakistan.

94. A book titled "Dabbling in Diplomacy" by Prof S D Muni. In context to books and authors tell us, Which of the following book is the autobiography of Dalai Lama?
(A) Touch Play
(B) Freedom in Exile
(C) Playing It My Way
(D) Red Sari
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Freedom in Exile is the autobiography of Dalai Lama.
Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, identifies as a straightforward Buddhist monk.
He is Tibet's spiritual head. He was born in Taktser, Amdo, northern Tibet, on July 6, 1935, into a farming family in a tiny village.
The infant, then known as Lhamo Dhondup, was acknowledged as the 13th Dalai Lama Thubten Gyatso's reincarnation when he was two years old.
The Dalai Lamas are thought to be embodiments of Tibet's patron saint, Avalokiteshvara, also known as Chenrezig, the Bodhisattva of Compassion.

95. MP Cabinet Approves 50 Pc Discount In Motor Vehicle Tax At 'Ujjain Vikramotsav Trade Fair 2024'. In context to the same tell us, Simhastha is held in Ujjain after how many years?
(A) 07 **(B)** 10
(C) 12 **(D)** 05
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Simhastha is a Hindu religious Mela held in Ujjain after every 12 years.
Traditionally, four fairs are widely recognized as the Kumbh Melas: the Haridwar Kumbh Mela, the Prayagraj Kumbh Mela, the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhastha and the Ujjain Simhastha.
These four fairs are held periodically at one of the following places by rotation.

96. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will officially inaugurate the 12th edition of MILAN 2024. In context to the same tell us, The military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' involves the participation of troops from which pair of countries?
(A) India and United Arab Emirates
(B) India and Saudi Arabia
(C) Saudi Arabia and Yemen
(D) Iran and Pakistan
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' commences in Rajasthan.
The inaugural edition of India-Saudi Arabia Joint Military Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' commenced today at Mahajan, Rajasthan.
The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 29th January to 10th February 2024.
Aim of the Exercise is to train troops of both sides for Joint Operations in Semi Desert terrain

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under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

97. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Re-elected to Rajya Sabha Unopposed from Odisha. In context to the same tell us, Term of Rajya Sabha members is -

(A) 2 Years **(B)** 5 Years
(C) 6 Years **(D)** 8 Years

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The tenure of a member of the Rajya Sabha is 6 years.
Rajya Sabha or The Council of States or the Upper house.
Rajya Sabha is a permanent body i.e. it is not subject to dissolution.
One-third of the members retire every second year and are replaced by newly elected members.
The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
Article 80 of the Constitution lays down the maximum strength of Rajya Sabha as 250, out of which 12 members are nominated by President.
The present strength of the Rajya Sabha is 245 (233 + 12 nominated by the President).

98. The central Mediterranean country Malta has recently become a new member of the International Solar Alliance. In context to the same tell us, International Solar Alliance was established to promote the solar energy. Its headquarters is established at :

(A) Gurgaon **(B)** Bengaluru
(C) Dubai **(D)** Nairobi

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
The primary objective of the alliance is to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
The initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Africa Summit and a meeting of member countries ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 201**5.**
The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016, and 200 countries have joined.
The ISA is headquartered in Gurugram India

99. India won a total of four medals including three gold and one silver medal in the Asian Indoor Athletics Championship. In context to the same tell us, The first-ever Asian Games were held in which city?

(A) New Delhi **(B)** Calcutta
(C) Bombay **(D)** Chennai

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The first-ever Asian Games were held in New Delhi.
After the Second World War, many Asian countries gained independence and Guru Dutt Sondhi, a member of the Indian International Olympic Committee, proposed the idea of the Asian Games as a sporting event, where all Asian nations can be represented.
The first-ever Asian Games were held in New Delhi in 1951.
Only players from countries of the continent of Asia participate in the Asian Games.
The Asian Games are regulated under the supervision of the International Olympic Council.
In 2018, the Asian Games were held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
The next season of the Asian Games will be held in 2022 in a city called Hangzhou in China.
The Asian Games will be held in Nagoya Province, Japan in the year 2026.

100. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the country's first Skill India Center (SIC) in Sambalpur, Odisha. In context to the same tell us, When was the flagship scheme of Skill India Mission launched in India?

(A) 2010 **(B)** 2019
(C) 2008 **(D)** 2015

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: In 2015 the flagship scheme of Skill India Mission was launched in India.
Skill India is an initiative launched by the government in 2015 to train over 40 crore Indians in different industry-related jobs.
The vision is to create an empowered workforce by 2022 with the help of various schemes and training courses.

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The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is deemed as Skill India's flagship skill development scheme. Its objective is to enable youth to take up training to secure a better livelihood.
Assessment and training fees under this scheme are covered by the Government, and individuals with prior experience can get certified.

101. Swedish photographer Alex Dawson has been named as Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024. In context to award and honors tell us, Which one of the following books was declared winner of the 2021 International Booker Prize?
(A) At Night All Blood is Black
(B) The Dangers of Smoking in Bed
(C) When We Cease to Understand the World
(D) The War of the Poor
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: David Diop won International Booker 2021.
David Diop has become the first French novelist to win the International Booker prize for translated fiction At Night All Blood Is Black, which is his first novel translated into English.
Diop, the author of two novels, and his translator Anna Moschovakis split the £50,000 annual prize, which goes to the best author and translator of a work translated into English.
The International Booker Prize has been awarded since 2005.

102. Government approves Umbrella Scheme on "Safety of Women". In context to the same tell us, Which of the following act is made to prohibit the practice of dowry?
(A) Dowry Prohibition Act, 1971
(B) Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
(C) Dowry Prohibition Act, 1951
(D) Dowry Prohibition Act, 1967
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 consolidated the anti-dowry laws which had been passed on certain states.
This Act may be called the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.
This legislation provides for a penalty in section 3 if any person gives, takes or abets giving or receiving of dowry.
The punishment could be imprisonment for minimum 5 years and a fine more than Rs 15,000 or the value of the dowry received, whichever is higher.

103. Modi Govt hikes FRP for sugarcane by 8% to Rs 340. In context to the same tell us, Which is the main cash crop of Bihar?
(A) Rubber **(B)** Sugarcane
(C) Tea **(D)** None of the above
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Bihar lies in the river plains of the basin of the river Ganga.
It is endowed with fertile alluvial soil groundwater resources.
This makes the agriculture of Bihar rich and diverse.
Rice, wheat, and maize are the major cereal crops.
Arhar, urad, moong, gram, pea, lentils, and khesari are some of the pulses cultivated in Bihar.
Bihar is the largest producer of vegetables, which is dominated by potatoes, onion, eggplant, and cauliflower.
In fruit cultivation, it is the largest producer of lychee and the third-largest producer of pineapple, as well as a major producer of mango, banana, and guava.
Sugar cane and jute are two other major cash crops of Bihar.
Sugar cane production in Bihar in 2019-20 is 122 Million tonnes.

104. The largest tribal festivals, Sammakka-Sarakka Medaram Jathara. In context to the same tell us, The custom of Dapa is famous among which tribe?
(A) Bhil **(B)** Gond
(C) Korku **(D)** None of the above
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The custom of Dapa is famous among the Bhil tribe.
In this custom, the marriage is fixed by the Panchayat.
The groom side has to pay compulsory to the bride's family.
This price includes 1000- 50000 cash, Silver jewelry, Goat, and Grains.
Bhil is the largest tribe found in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

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It is the second-largest tribe in India.
It is found in the western part of Madhya Pradesh.
Major regions: Jhabua, Dhar, Barwani, Burhanpur, Khargone, Neemuch, Ratlam, etc.

105. The world's second-largest road network is found in India. In context to the same tell us, What is the rank of India's road system in the world?
(A) 5th **(B)** 4th
(C) 2nd **(D)** 6th
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: India has a road network of over 4,689,842 kilometers (2,914,133 mi) in 2013, the second largest road network in the world.
At 0.66 km of roads per square kilometer of land, the quantitative density of India's road network is similar to that of the United States (0.65) and far higher than that of China (0.16) or Brazil (0.20).
The roads are primarily made of bitumen, with some Indian National Highways having concrete roads.
The concept of expressway roads is also catching up in India, and the Mumbai-Pune expressway and Delhi Gurgaon expressway are the finest examples.

106. President Draupadi Murmu has appointed AS Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission. In context to the same tell us, The Central Vigilance Commission was established on the recommendation of which one of the following Committees?
(A) Santhanam Committee
(B) Dinesh Goswami Committee
(C) Tarkunde Committee
(D) Narasimham Committee
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government.
It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government under the recommendation of Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962-64).
Thus, originally the CVC was neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.
The CVC is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson) and not more than two vigilance commissioners.
They are appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal.
It is on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime minister as its head, the Union minister of home affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
They hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier

107. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G) has launched India's largest drone pilot training organization. In context to the same tell us, what is the name of first Indian Institute of Technology which was formally inaugurated in 1951?
(A) IIT Kanpur **(B)** IIT Madras
(C) IIT Delhi **(D)** IIT Kharagpur
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the first of the IITs to be established in India.
It was formally inaugurated in the year 1951.
It is located in West Bengal.
Parliament of India declared the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur as an Institute of National Importance in 1956.
IIT Kharagpur was awarded the status of Institute of Eminence by the government of India in 2019.

108. Former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi passed away at the age of 86. In context to the same tell us, he was the former chief minister of which state?
(A) Uttar Pradesh **(B)** Maharashtra
(C) Rajasthan **(D)** Uttarakhand
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra and former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi passed away at the age of 86. Manohar Joshi served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra from 1995 to 1999 and Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 2002 to 2004. Joshi became the first non - Congress Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

109. A three-day International Geeta Mahotsav will be organized in Colombo, the capital of Sri

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Lanka. In context to the same tell us, The Gita Jayanti festival is celebrated on _____

(A) Anant Chaturdashi **(B)** Sohna Amavas
(C) Shukla Ekadashi **(D)** Sohna Purnima

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: About Gita Jayanti -
It is the Birthday of The Bhagwad Gita, the sacred text of Hindu Religion. Gita Jayanti is celebrated on the Shukla Ekadashi, that is the 11th day of the Waxing Moon of Margashirsha month of the Hindu calendar and the day when Lord Sri Krishna told the Gita to Arjuna
It is believed that the "Bhagwad Gita" was revealed to Arjuna by Krishna Himself in the Battlefield of Kurukshetra, Haryana.
The Bhagwad Gita is written by Guru Ved Vyas on the banks of the Saraswati river in Kurukshetra. This book was written in the Sanskrit language around the 2nd Century BCE. This book is the most sacred book of the Hindu Religion. The Bhagwad Geeta gives us the ultimate philosophy every human being can adapt to relieve himself of the fate of Birth and Death.

110. Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first Indian bowler to take 100 wickets against England in Test cricket. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following cricketer is known for the record of "Most International Wickets"?

(A) Muttiah Muralitharan
(B) Sachin Tendulkar
(C) Kapil Dev
(D) Wasim Akram

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Muttiah Muralitharan has the record of taking the highest Test match wickets in the world.
Muttiah Muralitharan played from Sri Lanka and took 800 wickets in Test Matches.
Anil Kumble took the highest wickets in Test matches from India.
He took 619 test wickets.
Shane Warne is the second leading wicket-taker in test Matches he took 708 wickets in Test matches.

111. PM inaugurates KAPS-3 & KAPS-4 reactors at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station in Gujarat. In context to the same tell us, which one of the following is a nuclear research reactor operated by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre?

(A) Shiva **(B)** Narayana
(C) Dhruva **(D)** Vishnu

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Dhruva is the largest research reactor is the Dhruva at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai.
Dhruva and CIRUS are the two weapons-grade plutonium-producing reactors that are crucial to the Indian strategic program.
DHRUVA Reactor at BARC was designed, constructed, and commissioned by Indian Engineers and scientists.
Natural U is the fuel used and heavy water as moderator and coolant, Dhruva enabled India to attain self-sufficiency in the production of radioisotopes.
Dhruva is a 100MW (thermal) research reactor with metallic natural uranium as fuel, heavy water as moderator, coolant, and reflector, giving a maximum thermal neutron flux of 1.8×1014n/cm2/s.
Since its first criticality on 8th August 1985, several experimental facilities have been added which have proven to be highly attractive for universities and industrial researchers for their scientific merits in various fields.

112. 11th Int Puppet Festival in Chandigarh showcases global puppetry art. In context to the same tell us, In which of the following states of India is the 'Ambubachi Mela' held every year?

(A) Kerala **(B)** Gujarat
(C) Sikkim **(D)** Assam

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Ambubachi Mela is one of the biggest congregations in eastern India. It is the most important festival of the Kamakhya temple and is celebrated in the month of June every year.
It is more of a ritual of austerities, a festival celebrated with Shakti rites. The belief is that Kamakhya embodies the mother cult, the Shakti.

113. Nepal celebrates National Democracy Day, marking the end of the Rana regime in 1951. In context to the same tell us, in which year did Nepal become a federal democratic republic?

(A) 2006 **(B)** 2008
(C) 2010 **(D)** 2014

Ans: **(B)**

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Exp: In 2001, the then king Birendra was assassinated and King Gyanendra came to power.
He dismissed the elected government and took all control in his hands.
Consequently, a popular struggle took place in 2006 led by the major political parties of Nepal.
The main demand was the restoration of popular control with establishment of democratic government formed according to the guidelines of newly appointed constituent assembly.
The Constituent Assembly election was held on April 10, 2008.
On May 28, 2008, the newly elected Constituent Assembly declared Nepal a Federal Democratic Republic, abolishing the 240-year-old monarchy.

114. Greece legalizes same-sex marriage, becoming the first majority Orthodox Christian country to do so. In context to the same tell us, Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was struck down for unreasonably restricting the choice of the LGBT community in the case of _____.
(A) Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India
(B) State of Madras v. V.G. Row
(C) National Council for Civil Liberties v. Union of India
(D) Lchhu Devi v. Union of India.
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code -
It was struck down for unreasonably restricting the choice of the LGBT community in the case of Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India.
In 2009, before the Delhi High Court, the Naz Foundation (India) Trust ("Naz") challenged the constitutionality of Section 377 for violating Articles 14, 15, 19 and 21 of the Constitution.
The court ruled that punishing sexual activity between two consenting adults under Section 377 violates the right to equality, privacy and personal liberty of such persons.
This decision was appealed before the Supreme Court and in 2013, the Court reversed the Naz verdict in Suresh Kumar Koushal & Anr v Naz Foundation & Ors ("Koushal"). It held that only the Parliament could decriminalize homosexuality.
Five individuals from the LGBTQ communities (Navtej Singh Johar, Ritu Dalmia, Ayesha Kapur, Aman Nath and Sunil Mehra) filed a new writ petition challenging the constitutionality of Section 377.

115. Central University of Bihar achieves Category-1 status from UGC, marking 1st in the state. In context to the same tell us, which of the following universities is NOT an Institute of Eminence in India?
(A) University of Delhi
(B) Jamia Millia Islamia
(C) O.P. Jindal Global University
(D) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Institutes of Eminence (IoE) scheme was launched by the Government of India in 2017.
The scheme aims to create world-class universities in India that can compete with the best universities in the world.
The IoEs are granted more autonomy and funding than other universities.
They are also allowed to set their own fees and offer courses that are not available in other universities.
The following universities are Institutes of Eminence in India -
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
University of Delhi
Banaras Hindu University
Manipal Academy of Higher Education
Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani
O.P. Jindal Global University
Shiv Nadar University

116. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated "Sudarshan Setu", India's longest cable-stayed bridge over the Arabian Sea in Gujarat. In context to the same tell us, The Setu Bharatam Programme of the Government of India is a programme for -
(A) Building bridges across major rivers for transport of goods
(B) Building bridges for safe and seamless travel on national highways
(C) Building roads to connect coastal areas
(D) Training of highway engineers at the entry level and service level
Ans: **(B)**

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Exp: Setu Bharatam programme is for building bridges for safe and seamless travel on National Highways.
Setu Bharatam programme was aimed to make all National Highways free of railway level crossings by 2019.
208 Railway Over Bridges (ROB)/Railway Under Bridges (RUB) has been built at the level crossings
The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has also established an Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS). The aim is to carry out conditions survey and inventorization of all bridges on National Highways in India by using Mobile Inspection Units

117. The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized in Rajasthan. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following was the first Aircraft inducted by the Indian Air Force in 1932?
(A) Havilland Tiger Moth
(B) Westland Wapiti
(C) Supermarine spitfire
(D) Fairchild Packet
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The first aircraft inducted by the Indian Air Force in 1932 was the Westland Wapiti.
The Westland Wapiti was a British two-seat general-purpose military single-engine biplane.
It served as the primary aircraft of the Indian Air Force during its initial years.
The aircraft was used for various purposes including reconnaissance, bombing, and troop transport.
The induction of the Westland Wapiti marked the beginning of the Indian Air Force's journey as an independent air arm.

118. 'Oppenheimer' movie won three awards at the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards. In context to the same tell us, the film was directed by whom?
(A) Christopher Nolan **(B)** Cillian Murphy
(C) Jonathan Nolan **(D)** Christian Bale
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: 'Oppenheimer' directed by Christopher Nolan won three awards at the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards. The Best Male Actor award was given to Cillian Murphy for his brilliant performance in Oppenheimer. Robert Downey Jr. received the award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role. Oppenheimer also received the Best Film Artists Award. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was given to veteran singer and actress Barbra Streisand.

119. SAFF Under-16 Women's Championship will be organized in Nepal from March 1-**10.** In context to the same tell us, SAFF Women's Championship is held in how many years?
(A) One years **(B)** Two years
(C) Three years **(D)** Four years
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: SAFF Under-16 Women's Championship will be organized in Nepal from March 1-10. For this, a 23-member Indian team has been announced. India was the winner of the SAFF Under-15 format in 2018 and 2019. This is the first time that the SAFF Under-16 Women's Championship is being organized. It is held every two years. India Won all the edition of the 2019 tournament.

120. The Indian government has established a commission of inquiry, led by former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Ajai Lamba, to investigate the recent series of violent incidents in Manipur. In context to violence and crime tell us, POCSO Act of 2012 was enacted to deal with which of the following Offences?
(A) Election Disputes
(B) Child Sexual Abuse
(C) Land Disputes
(D) Economic Offences
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, (POCSO Act) and its corresponding rules were enacted with the objective of protecting children from a slew of sexual offences and introducing child-friendly judicial mechanisms for dealing with such offences.
Child sexual abuse laws in India have been enacted as part of the child protection policies of India.
The Parliament of India passed the 'Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Bill (POCSO), 2011' regarding child sexual abuse on 22 May 2012 into an Act.
The rules formulated by the government in accordance with the law have also been notified

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in November 2012 and the law has become ready for implementation.
There have been many calls for more stringent laws.

121. The names of 4 astronauts have been announced for India's ambitious space mission Gaganyaan Mission. In context to the same tell us, India's first human space mission "Gaganyaan" will be launched in which year?
(A) 2024 **(B)** 2025
(C) 2026 **(D)** 2027
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: India's first human space mission "Gaganyaan" will be launched in 2024.
The Indian Space Research Organisation or ISRO's first test flight for its ambitious Gaganyaan mission was launched in October from its Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota.
The maiden Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) to demonstrate the Crew Escape System (CES) performance successfully touched down in the seawater of Bay Bengal.

122. Mobile World Congress 2024 is being organized in Barcelona, Spain from 26 to 29 February. In context to the same tell us, Mobile World Congress 2022 was organized at _____.
(A) Los Angeles **(B)** London
(C) Dubai **(D)** Barcelona
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Mobile World Congress 2022 is going to be organized in Barcelona.
The Global System for Mobile Communications Association(GSMA) has organized the 2022 Mobile World Congress (MWC), which took place in Barcelona, Spain from 28 February to 3 March.
The focus on 5G and maximizing its potential for benefiting countries and economies is the centrepiece of MWC this year which is taking place amid an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

123. Namibian cricketer John Nicol Loftie-Eaton has created cricket history by scoring the fastest century in T20 International cricket. In context to the same tell us, Who has become the first bowler in T20 history to bowl 500 dot balls?
(A) Avesh Khan
(B) Mohammed Shami
(C) Jasprit Bumrah
(D) Bhuvneshwar Kumar
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Bhuvneshwar Kumar has become the first bowler in T20 history to bowl 500 dot balls.
He achieved the feat in a match against England.
He has a comprehensive lead in the dot balls tally in T20Is with Samuel Badree (383), Tim Southee (368) and Mitchell Starc (354) below him.
Bhuvneshwar gave India a perfect start defending 171.

124. The world's first Vedic clock has been installed in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following Vedas is not a part of Vedatrayi?
(A) Rig Veda **(B)** Atharva Veda
(C) Yajur Veda **(D)** Sama Veda
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: There are four Vedas in total; namely – Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda
Atharva Veda is the youngest of all the four Vedas and was not present when Vedatrayi was introduced. Hence, Atharva Veda is not a part of Vedatrayi.
It is also known as 'the book of magic and charms'.
It dates back to 1000-600 BCE.

125. A regional office of the Central Board of Film Certification will be opened in Chandigarh. In context to the same tell us, Central Board of Film Certification comes under which of the following Ministry of the Government of India?
(A) Ministry of Human Resources Development
(B) Ministry of Tourism and Culture
(C) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
(D) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Central Board of Film Certification is an independent body that provides film certificates and works under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
The films that are screened on television and in cinemas have to be first certified by this board before the public exhibition.

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It was formed on 15th January 1951 under the cinematograph act, 1952 and its headquarters is in Mumbai.
It provides four certificates namely U, U/A, A, and S.

126. Recently, which organisation has released the "Young Global Leaders Community The Class of 2024" report?
(A) World Economic Forum
(B) World Wide Fund for Nature
(C) World Resources Institute
(D) Water Environment Federation

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The World Economic Forum (WEF) announced its 20th edition of Young Global Leaders Community: The Class of 2024 on 4 April 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.
The list includes nearly 90 young people under 40 years of age from diverse fields of politics, business, civil society, the arts, and academia.
This year, five Indians, including the famous film actress Bhumi Pednekar, have been included in the list.
Five Indians, mainly from the fields of Art and culture, Business, and Social entrepreneurship, have been included in this year's list.
Bhumi Pednekar - Art and Culture
Adwaita Nayar - Business
Arjun Bhartia - Business
Priya Aggarwal Hebbar - Business
Sharad Vivek Sagar - Social Entrepreneurs
The World Economic Forum releases the WEF Forum of Young Global Leaders list annually. The first list, released in 2005, included 237 young leaders from 70 countries.

127. "International Conscience Day" has been celebrated on which day of April 2024?
(A) 1st April **(B)** 2nd April
(C) 3rd April **(D)** 5th April

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: 'International Conscience Day' is celebrated every year on 5 April.
This day is celebrated to remind people to introspect, follow their conscience and do the right thing.
The theme of International Day of Conscience this year 2024 is 'Promoting a Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience'.
The inaugural International Day of Conscience was commemorated in 2020.
The first 'International Day of Conscience' was celebrated in 2020 by the United Nations General Assembly.
The concept of a culture of peace emerged from an international congress organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Côte d'Ivoire in July 1989.
Since then, promotion of a culture of peace has been seen as a meaningful objective of the international community.

128. Which intergovernmental organization has celebrated its 75th foundation day on 4 April?
(A) United Nations **(B)** NATO
(C) BRICS **(D)** OPEC

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: NATO is celebrating 75 years of collective defence across Europe and North America.
This event will be held in Brussels. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his counterparts will be present at the event and will witness the 75th anniversary of the alliance.
The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 to ensure collective security against the Soviet Union.
The United States, Canada, and several Western European nations were the founding members.
NATO's primary and military headquarters are located in Brussels, Belgium.
Since its inception, NATO has expanded nine times and most recently, Finland became a member on April 4, 2023, exactly 74 years after its formation.

129. Who launched an upgraded version of the Complaint Redress System (SCORES 2.0) in April 2024?
(A) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
(B) Reserve Bank of India
(C) Securities and Exchange Board of India
(D) State Bank of India

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched an upgraded version of its SEBI Complaint Redress System (SCORES 2.0) on April 1, 2024.

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SCORES 2.0 introduces a number of features aimed at streamlining investor complaint resolution in the securities market.
According to SEBI, the new version of SCORES 2.0 aims to regularize the following system, which mainly includes -
Auto-Routing
Auto-Escalation
Monitoring by Designated Bodies
Missed Deadlines
SEBI is a statutory body formed on April 12, 1992, as per the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, established by Parliament.

130. What is the range of the recently tested new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'?
(A) 2,000 to 2,700 km
(B) 1,500 to 2,300 km
(C) 2,000 to 3,000 km
(D) 1,000 to 2,000 km
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC) have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'.
Agni-P, also known as Agni-Prime, is a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) developed by DRDO.
It is equipped with nuclear capabilities and is considered the successor to Agni-I and Agni-II missiles in the SFC's operational service.
Agni-Prime has a strike range of 1,000 to 2,000 km and incorporates technological advances from Agni-IV and Agni-V.
It is a two-stage, solid-fueled, surface-to-surface missile that is road-mobile and transported via truck.
In the 1980s, India launched the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), led by former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam.
The program aimed to make India self-reliant in missile technology and produced five missiles: Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag, and Akash.

131. India's first gene therapy, called "CAR-T cell therapy developed by Tata Memorial Hospital in a collaboration with whom?
(A) IIT New Delhi **(B)** IIT Kharagpur
(C) IIT Bombay **(D)** IIT Kanpur
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
The President announced the launch of India's first gene therapy, called "CAR-T cell therapy," which is accessible and affordable, providing new hope in the battle against cancer.
India's first CAR-T cell therapy was developed through a collaboration between the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and Tata Memorial Hospital, along with industry partner ImmunoACT.
CAR T-cell therapy is a type of treatment that involves modifying a patient's T cells, which are a type of immune system cell, in a laboratory so that they can recognize and attack cancer cells.

132. According to a Lancet study, which country has the highest life expectancy?
(A) Andorra **(B)** Monaco
(C) Luxembourg **(D)** Montenegro
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: According to a Lancet study, people worldwide are living more than six years longer on average in 2021 than they did in 1990.
The study also showed that life expectancy in India has increased by nearly eight years in the past three decades.
According to a report, there has been progress made in the reduction of deaths from major causes such as diarrhea, lower respiratory infections, stroke, and ischemic heart disease.
This progress has resulted in an increase in life expectancy. However, the gains could have been more significant if not for the Covid-19 pandemic which disrupted the progress.
Between 1990 and 2021, life expectancy increased the most in Eastern sub-Saharan Africa, with an improvement of 10.7 years.

133. Who represented India in the 19th annual meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states?
(A) Ajit Doval **(B)** S Jaishankar
(C) Nripendra Misra **(D)** Rajiv Gauba
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval led the Indian delegation at the meeting of the Secretaries of the Security

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Councils of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
The meeting was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
He also met Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the current Chairman of SCO.
The 19th annual meeting of the secretaries of the security councils of the SCO member states was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 2 to 3 April 2024.
Addressing the meeting, Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev advocated adopting a Cooperation Programme to counter terrorism, separatism, and extremism for 2025-2027 and the SCO Anti-Drug Strategy for 2024-2029.
The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established as a regional organisation on June 15, 2001.
It replaced the Shanghai Five organisation. The founding members of the SCO were China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

134. In which state did R N Ravi has inaugurated the Param Vir Chakra garden showcasing statues of the 21 awardees?
(A) Tamil Nadu **(B)** Kerala
(C) Karnataka **(D)** Punjab
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N. Ravi, inaugurated the Param Vir Chakra garden at Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir in Tambaram, showcasing statues of the 21 awardees.
Ravindra Narayana Ravi is an Indian politician and former bureaucrat serving as the 15th governor of Tamil Nadu.
He also served as the governor of Nagaland and Governor of Meghalaya.

135. Which country has launched eVisa only for Indians, enabling 90-day stays for tourism?
(A) Russia **(B)** China
(C) Thailand **(D)** Japan
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Japan launches eVisa for Indians, enabling 90-day stays for tourism without physical visa stickers, applying via VFS Global.
Applicants receive an electronic visa and must show a digital visa issuance notice with a barcode at airport check-in.
India passport ranking as per the Henley Passport Index 2024, is ranked at the 82nd position, with access to 62 countries.

136. According to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, when does India plan to end the import of Urea?
(A) By the end of January 2026
(B) By the end of December 2025
(C) By the end of October 2029
(D) By the end of November 2030
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: According to the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya, India will stop importing urea by the end of 2025 due to an increase in local production capacity with the commissioning of new fertilizer plants.
India is a big importer of Urea and meets around 30% of its 35 million tonnes of annual urea requirement from imports.
The urea production in the country increased from 225.08 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 284.95 lakh tonnes in 2022-23.
In 2022-23, the total import of Urea was 75.8 lakh tonnes, which is around 30% of the domestic demand.
The main sources of urea imports are Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.
The government has adopted a two-pronged strategy to end the import of urea.
One strategy is to revive the closed fertilizer plants and increase the domestic supply of urea.
The other strategy is encouraging farmers to use alternative fertilizers like nano-liquid urea.

137. Which company has been awarded by the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 in April 2024?
(A) SJVN Limited **(B)** NHPC Limited
(C) Ircon International **(D)** NTPC Limited
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: SJVN Limited was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution.
SJVN has received two prestigious awards at the CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024 instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council.
SJVN has been awarded the 'Achievement Award for Social Development and Creating Impact' and 'CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy'.

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These awards demonstrate SJVN's commitment to driving positive change through innovative and concrete CSR initiatives.
SJVN Limited is a Schedule-'A' Mini Ratna Category-I under the Ministry of Power. It is a public sector undertaking.
SJVN was earlier known as 'Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam'. SJVN is an Indian public sector undertaking involved in hydropower generation and transmission.
SJVN was established on May 24, 1988 as a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

138. With whom has 'Press Trust of India' joined the Third-Party Fact-Checking Programme (3PFC) in April 2024?
(A) Amazon **(B)** Microsoft
(C) Google **(D)** Meta
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Press Trust of India (PTI) has joined META's Third-Party Fact-Checking Programme (3PFC) in India.
PTI has joined Meta's 3PFC programme to identify, review and evaluate content as misinformation on social media.
Established in the year 1947, PTI is one of the oldest and largest news agencies in Asia.
With the partnership with PTI Fact Check, Meta now has 12 fact-checking partners in India. This makes Meta the country with the most third-party fact-checking partners globally.

139. Which Indian Coast Guard ship participated in the joint training with the Vietnamese Coast Guard on tackling marine oil pollution in the high seas?
(A) Samudra Paheredar
(B) Samudra Prahari
(C) Samudra Pavak
(D) Samudra Darbaan
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship Samudra Paheredar arrived in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and conducted joint training with the Vietnamese Coast Guard on tackling marine oil pollution in the high seas.
ICG Samudra Paheredar is the second indigenously built marine pollution control vessel of the Indian Coast Guard.
The Indian Coast Guard's first indigenously built marine pollution control vessel, Samudra Prahari, was commissioned in 2010 and is permanently stationed on the west coast of the country in Mumbai.
ICG Samudra Paheredar was commissioned at Surat in 2012 and is stationed in Visakhapatnam.

140. What is the theme of "National Maritime Day" 2024?
(A) Sustainable Shipping beyond hurdle
(B) Navigating the future: safety first!
(C) Indian Ocean - Ocean of Opportunity
(D) Amrit Kaal in shipping
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: "National Maritime Day" is celebrated every year on 5 April.
Maritime transport has been the cornerstone of global trade since ancient times.
It connects different countries, cultures and economies across vast oceans.
The day commemorates SS Loyalty's 1919 voyage from Mumbai to London.
Whereas the whole world also celebrates "World Maritime Day".
It is celebrated on the last Thursday of September every year.
In 2024 this date will fall on 26 September.
The theme of National Maritime Day in India this year 2024 is "Navigating the Future: Safety First"!
The theme of National Maritime Day 2024 has been announced by the "Union Shipping Ministry".

141. RBI Monetary Policy Committee has kept the key repo rate unchanged at what percent for the seventh consecutive time?
(A) 7.8% **(B)** 5.6%
(C) 8.7% **(D)** 6.5%
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor, Shaktikanta Das, led RBI Monetary Policy Committee, has kept the key repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the seventh consecutive time.
The Governor said that inflation is almost under control in India, and the RBI will follow an accommodative policy to pursue growth.

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The first bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting of fiscal year 2024-25 was held on April 3, 4, and 5, 2024.
The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for June 5 to 7, 2024.

142. According to a recent report of the World Anti-Doping Agency, which country's athletes topped in the world for using banned performance-enhancing drugs?
(A) China **(B)** Russia
(C) India **(D)** Britain

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: According to a report released by World Anti Doping Agency (WADA), India reported the highest number of doping cases in the world in 2022.
In sports, doping refers to the use of banned performance enhancing drugs by the athletes to gain an unfair advantage over its competitors.
In terms of numbers Russia with 85 positive results was in second place behind India.
It was followed by the United States of America in third place with 84 positive samples.
The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established in 1999 as an international independent agency composed and funded by the International Olympic Committee(IOC) and governments of the world.
Its main aim is to fight against the unauthorized use of performance enhancing drugs(Dope) by the athletes in sports.

143. Which 'air defence security system' has been included in the Indian Army in April 2024?
(A) Aerostat Early Warning Radar
(B) SPECTRA S-Band Early Control System
(C) Akashteer Command and Control System
(D) Green Pine Long Air Anti-Ballistic

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Army inducted 'Akashteer Command and Control System' into the Air Defence Corps of the Indian Army to strengthen air defence security.
The Army has prepared this air defence system to meet new challenges.
The first batch of Akashteer was flagged off for air defence control centers from the Ghaziabad facility of Bharat Electronics Limited (BHEL).
It has been developed as part of the Self-reliant India initiative.
The Army has declared the year 2024 as the 'Year of Technical Absorption'.

144. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the committee dealing with the protection of forests in Delhi?
(A) Justice Yogesh Khanna
(B) Justice Satish Sharma
(C) Justice Siddharth Mridul
(D) Justice Najmi Waziri

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: The Delhi High Court has appointed a former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Najmi Waziri as chairman of an internal departmental committee of city officials dealing with the protection of forests in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
The application sought a modification of its December 21, 2023 order.
The Delhi High Court in December last year had ordered the setting up of an internal department on the protection of Delhi's forest.
Justice Waziri of Delhi High Court was famous as the green judge of Delhi.
During his tenure as a judge he passed several orders on increasing the green cover of Delhi.
He issued at least 150 judgments where the funds deposited by defaulting litigants as costs were used to plant trees.
According to the Forest Department of Delhi the total recorded forest area in Delhi is 85 sq. km which is 5.73% of the geographic area Delhi.
The Reserved and Protected Forests constituted 91.76% and 8.24% of the total forest area respectively.

145. On which date recently "Army Medical Corps" (AMC) has celebrate its foundation day?
(A) 03 April **(B)** 04 April
(C) 05 April **(D)** 06 April

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The Army Medical Corps (AMC) marked its 260th Raising Day on April 3, 2024, commemorating a significant milestone in its history.
The Army Medical Corps was established in the year 1764.
For centuries, the Corps has lived up to its motto 'Sarve Santu Niramaya' which means 'Let all be free from disease'.
On this occasion, Army Chief General Manoj Pande and Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal

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VR Chaudhary participated in a programme organized in New Delhi.
This function was organized to mark the Foundation Day. It was also organized to recognize the achievements and celebrate the esprit-d-core of AMC.
The Indian Army Medical Corps came into existence on 3 April 1943 by the amalgamation of the Indian Medical Service, the Indian Medical Department and the Indian Hospital Corps.

146. Which Indian Coast Guard ship has recently rescued 27 Bangladeshi fishermen?
(A) ICGS Amogh **(B)** ICGS Samarth
(C) ICGS Sankalp **(D)** ICGS Vishwast
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: In April 2024, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted a prompt operation and safely rescued 27 Bangladeshi fishermen.
All of them were stranded on their fishing boat in the sea.
Indian Coast Guard ship 'Amogh', while patrolling the India-Bangladesh International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) sighted the Bangladeshi fishing boat (BFB) Sagar II drifting in Indian waters.
After this, a team from an Indian Coast Guard ship was sent there to investigate the matter.
Indian Coast Guard Ship "Amogh" is a Aadesh-class patrol vessel.
Aadesh-class patrol vessels are a series of twenty fast patrol vessels (FPVs) built for the Indian Coast Guard by Cochin Shipyard Limited at its shipyard in Kochi, Kerala.
The ships have been designed by M/s Smart Engineering & Design Solutions (SEDS), Kochi.

147. Which state has the maximum number of products under the Geographical Indication tag as the GI registered products in India has crossed 600 recently?
(A) Assam 74 products
(B) Maharashtra 61 products
(C) Meghalaya 70 products
(D) Uttar Pradesh 69 products
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The number of geographical indications (GI) registered products in India has crossed 600, with Uttar Pradesh leading the list with 69 products.
Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the highest number of products with GI tags from a single geographical location.
Varanasi has 30 certified products like Banaras Thandai, Banaras Shehnai, Banaras Tabla, Banaras Lal Peda, Banaras Mural Painting etc.
Last year, Tamil Nadu was the leading state in GI tag registration.
The Geographical Indications Registry is in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
The first product to be given a GI tag was Darjeeling tea in 2003.

148. On which date of April has recently "International Sports Day for Development and Peace" been celebrated?
(A) 7th April **(B)** 8th April
(C) 6th April **(D)** 5th April
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: "International Day of Sports for Development and Peace" (IDSDP) is celebrated every year on 6 April.
It provides an opportunity to recognize the positive role of sport and physical activity in the lives of communities and people around the world.
The theme of the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace this year 2024 is the global theme "Sport for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies".
Recognizing the immense contribution of sport in promoting peace, development and well-being in the world, the UNGA adopted a resolution in August 2013.
This date was chosen to commemorate the anniversary of the first modern Olympic Games on 6 April 1896.
The first official celebration of this day took place on April 6, 2014.

149. Who is the first Indian woman to be appointed as a Jury in the Paris Olympics?
(A) Niraja Verma
(B) Sunil Singh Salam
(C) Arjun Singh
(D) Bilquis Mir
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Bilquis Mir of Jammu Kashmir has become the first Indian to be appointed a jury member at the

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33rd Summer Olympics to be held in Paris, France, from 26 July -11 August 2024.
She is also the first woman from India to be made a jury member in the Olympics games.
Bilquis Mir was a jury member at the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China, last year.
According to the Indian Olympic Association, former canoeist Bilquis Mir was nominated by the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association to officiate at the Paris Olympics.
She will also be a jury member at the 2024 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from August 23 to 25, 2024.
Both Kayaking and Canoeing are water sports.
Canoeing/Kayaking was introduced as a demonstration sport in the 1924 Paris Olympics.
In the 1936 Berlin Olympics, canoeing/kayaking became a full medal game, but it was only for males.
In the 1948 London Olympics, women athletes were allowed to compete in both canoeing and kayaking events.

150. Where will World's largest digital camera be placed?
(A) Gemini North Telescope
(B) Cerro Tololo Observatory
(C) Observatorio Paranal
(D) Vera C Rubin Observatory
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Scientists are on the verge of exploring the greatest mysteries of the universe using a powerful new tool, the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) camera.
This camera, funded by the US Department of Energy's Office of Science, boasts a record-breaking 3,200 megapixels, designed to capture unprecedented detail of the cosmos and shed light on elusive dark matter and dark energy.
The Vera C Rubin Observatory, located in a remote area of Chile, will soon be equipped with the LSST camera, which provides an unobstructed view of the southern sky.

151. What is the theme of "World Health Day 2024"?
(A) Achieving Health For All
(B) Our planet, our health
(C) Building a healthier world
(D) My Health, My Rights
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: World Health Day is observed annually on 7 April to raise awareness about global health issues and promote healthy living.
This day is celebrated as the anniversary of the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO).
Every year a certain theme is declared to celebrate World Health Day. The theme of this year 2024 is "My Health, My Rights".
World Health Day was started with the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO).
The World Health Organization was established on 7 April 1948.
The Constitution of WHO also came into force on 7 April 1948.
The first World Health Day was indeed celebrated on 7 April 1950.

152. Who has won the women's single badminton title at the 2024 Kazakhstan International Challenge?
(A) Aakarshi Kashyap
(B) Anupama Upadhyaya
(C) Malvika Bansod
(D) Ashmita Chaliha
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Promising young India badminton players Anupama Upadhyaya and M Tharun won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, at the 2024 Kazakhstan International Challenge tournament, held in Uralsk, Kazakhstan.
The final was played on 6 April 2024.
The Kazakhstan International Challenge Tournament was organised by the Kazakhstan National Badminton Federation in Uralsk, Kazakhstan, from 2-6 April 2024.
Nineteen-year-old Anupama Upadhyaya, born in Almora, Uttarakhand, defeated fellow Indian Isharani Baruah 21-15, 21-16 in the final.

153. Who has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the American Surgical Association (ASA) in April 2024?
(A) Dr Kapil Kumar **(B)** Dr Rakesh Mahajan
(C) Dr Raghu Ram **(D)** Dr Ashok Vaid
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: The American Surgical Association (ASA) has honored Dr. Raghu Ram with an Honorary Fellowship on April 5, 2024 in Washington DC.

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Dr Raghu Ram is the third surgeon from South Asia to receive the Honorary Fellowship of ASA, America's oldest and most prestigious surgical organization.
Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti is the founder director of KIMS-Ushalakshmi Center for Breast Diseases in Hyderabad. Dr Raghu Ram is a renowned surgeon in the Asia Pacific region.
Dr Raghu Ram is the third surgeon from South Asia to receive a high honor in the 144 years' history of America's oldest and most prestigious surgical organization.
The 144th Annual Meeting of the American Surgical Association (ASA) is organized by the American Surgical Association (ASA).
The 144th Annual Meeting of ASA was held from April 04 to 06, 2024 at Grand Hyatt Washington, Washington, United States.

154. Where has the Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Center been set up?
(A) Kerala **(B)** Tamil Nadu
(C) Karnataka **(D)** Maharashtra
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, Rakesh Pal, inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre at the ICGS Mandapam near Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu, on 6 April 2024.
The Indian Coast Guard was set up on 1 February 1977 under the Union Ministry of Defence.
Initially, the Indian Navy was responsible for patrolling the high seas to prevent smuggling and other illegal activities.
The government of India set up a Nag committee in 1970 to examine the growing menace of smuggling in the high seas.
The Nag committee recommended the need for a separate marine force to deal with smuggling activities.

155. Who has been elected as chairman of National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd?
(A) Meenesh Shah **(B)** Mangal Jit Rai
(C) Shamalbhai Patel **(D)** Randhir Singh
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI), the national-level apex dairy cooperative, has elected its new Board of Directors.
In the elections held, Dr Meenesh Shah was unanimously chosen as the new Chairman of the organization.
NCDFI is the national-level apex dairy cooperative, registered on December 7, 1970.
It operates under the provisions of the Multi State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023.
The organization has 20 Regular Members, 14 Associate Members, and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) as its Institutional Member.

156. The city of Miraj, which has been granted GI tag for its art of making musical instruments, is located in which state?
(A) Rajasthan **(B)** Maharashtra
(C) Gujarat **(D)** Haryana
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Miraj, a small town in Sangli district of Maharashtra, is known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, especially sitar and tanpura.
The city of Miraj has recently been granted the GI tag.
The GI tag indicates a product coming from a particular geographical region and which enhances its commercial value.

157. Where was the 'Sagar Kavach' exercise organised recently?
(A) Goa **(B)** Odisha
(C) Gujarat **(D)** Lakshadweep
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Recently, a two-day 'Sagar Kavach' exercise was organised in the Lakshadweep Islands. All maritime security agencies including Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Fisheries, Customs and other security agencies participated in the exercise.

158. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Wipro in April 2024?
(A) Srinivas Pallia **(B)** Rishad Premji
(C) Jatin Dalal **(D)** Salil Parekh
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Thierry Delaporte, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the giant tech company Wipro, resigned from his post.

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Following the resignation of Thierry Delaporte from Wipro, the company announced the appointment of Srinivas Pallia as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the company with immediate effect.
The appointment of Srinivas Pallia would be effective from April 7, 2024, for a period of 5 years.

159. Who has won the I-League Championship 2023-24?
(A) Gokulam Kerala FC
(B) Mohammedan Sporting FC
(C) Mumbai City FC
(D) Sreenidi Deccan FC
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Mohammedan Sporting of Kolkata won the I-League 2023-24 by defeating Shillong Lajong Club 2-1 at the SSA Ground in Shillong, Meghalaya.
Since the start of the I-league in 2007-08, Mohammedan Sporting has never been able to win the I-league.
It was the first I-league title for the illustrious Kolkata football club.
Mohammedan Sporting, known as Black and White Brigade, won the trophy with one match left.

160. How deep is a Gigantic Ocean under the Earth discovered recently by Scientists?
(A) 500 KM **(B)** 600 KM
(C) 700 KM **(D)** 800 KM
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: A Gigantic Ocean 700 km under the Earth Discovered by Scientists.
This subterranean reservoir is located 700 kilometers below the surface of the Earth in a rock called ringwoodite.
This discovery was made possible by using a network of 2000 seismographs across the United States.
These devices detected seismic waves produced by over 500 earthquakes, which slowed down upon interacting with moist rock in the Earth's core, indicating the presence of this vast water repository.
The properties of a mineral called ringwoodite have been detailed in a scientific paper published in 2014.

161. In which region did America, Japan, Australia and Philippines launch their first joint naval exercise in April 2024?
(A) East China Sea **(B)** Sea of Japan
(C) Arafura Sea **(D)** South China Sea
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The US, Japan, Australia and the Philippines launched their first joint naval exercise to project power in the South China Sea.
The South China Sea is recognized as one of the most heavily trafficked maritime routes globally, playing a pivotal role as a conduit for international trade and logistics.
There is tension between various countries located in the South China Sea to establish their dominance in this region.
The root of the dispute in this area is the Spratly and Paracel Islands located in the South China Sea, because both these islands are rich in crude oil and natural gas.

162. Who chaired the first tri-service planning conference called "Parivartan Chintan"?
(A) Manoj Pande
(B) Manoj Mukund Naravane
(C) Anil Chauhan
(D) Vivek Ram Chaudhari
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: The first-ever tri-service armed forces planning conference called' Parivartan Chintan' was held in New Delhi on 8 April 2024.
The conference was organised by the Union Ministry of Defence.
The meeting of the chief of the three armed forces, the Army, Navy and Air Force, was held in the background of the attempt in the country to set up a unified, integrated theatre command, combining all the three wings of the armed forces.
The first tri-service planning conference was chaired by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan.
In the military, theatre means a specific geographical location, which could be on land, air or sea. These identified areas are or could become areas of conflict in the future.

163. Peter Pellegrini has been elected as the new president of which country?
(A) Slovakia **(B)** Slovenia
(C) Czechia **(D)** Hungary

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Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Peter Pellegrini, the candidate of the nationalist-left government, has won Slovakia's presidential election, beating liberal, pro-western opposition candidate Ivan Korčok.
Pellegrini will be Slovakia's sixth president since the country gained independence after the split of Czechoslovakia in 1993. He succeeds Zuzana Čaputová, the country's first female head of state.

164. Which famous neurologist has been made a part of Britain's world-class research team in April 2024?
(A) Dr Vivek Kumar
(B) Dr Ashwini Keshavan
(C) Dr Sanjay Saxena
(D) Dr Shamsher Dwivedee

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Indian-origin neurologist Dr Ashwini Keshavan has been made a part of Britain's world-class research team.
This team has been entrusted with the task of conducting research towards detecting dementia through blood tests and collecting more evidence in this direction.
Dementia is a syndrome. It is usually of a chronic nature – leading to a decline in cognitive function, in contrast to the usual results of the biological theory of aging.
It impacts memory, cognitive functions like reasoning and comprehension, spatial awareness, mathematical abilities, learning capacity, language skills, and decision-making processes.
However, consciousness is not affected due to dementia.
Of the total deaths due to this, 65% are women.
Disability-adjusted life years due to dementia are approximately 60% longer in women than in men.

165. In March 2024, which country overtook India by importing the largest amount of crude oil from Russia?
(A) China **(B)** Japan
(C) Australia **(D)** France

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Energy cargo tracker 'Vortexa' released its report in the first week of April 2024.
According to this report, China has overtaken India as the primary importer of Russian crude oil through sea routes.
In March 2024, China imported 1.82 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude oil by sea.
India had been the major importer of seaborne Russian crude oil for about eighteen months.
India has been the primary importer of Urals sour-grade oil from Russia along with other grades such as Varandi, Siberian Light and Sokol from Sakhalin.
Despite pressure from Western countries, the Indian government has continued to buy oil from Russia due to India's significant demand for oil and Moscow's concessional offers.

166. In which country will the Clean Energy Investor Forum be organized by IPEF?
(A) India **(B)** China
(C) Singapore **(D)** Russia

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) will organize the Clean Energy Investor Forum in Singapore.
IPEF was launched in May 2022 and currently has 14 partners.
IPEF Clean Energy Investor Forum is an initiative under IPEF.
India is also included in IPEF.

167. Who will organize "Shakti - Festival of Music and Dance"?
(A) Sangeet Natak Academy
(B) Global Music Institute
(C) Lalit Kala Akademi
(D) Sahitya Akademi

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Sangeet Natak Akademi will organise "Shakti - Festival of Music and Dance" from 9 to 17 April at seven different Shaktipeeths across the country.
"Shakti Utsav" is starting from Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati.
Sangeet Natak Akademi is the National Academy of Performing Arts and an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

168. In which city will the National Women's Hockey League be inaugurated?
(A) Ranchi **(B)** Lucknow

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(C) Varanasi **(D)** Bhopal

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The National Women's Hockey League will be inaugurated on 30 April in Ranchi.
It will be organised from 30 April to 10 May.
While the eight quarterfinalists at the Senior Women's National Championship in Pune - Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Mizoram, Manipur and Odisha - will compete in the first phase of the league.
This league will provide an opportunity to the emerging players in the country to hone their skills.

169. Who launched India's first private sub-meter resolution surveillance satellite?
(A) Stardour Aerospace
(B) Agnikul Cosmos
(C) Dhruv space
(D) Tata Advanced Systems Limited

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) launched India's first privately built sub-meter resolution surveillance satellite TSAT-1A.
TASL, in collaboration with Satellogic, launched the spacecraft on April 7 using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida.
Tata Advanced Systems Limited is an Indian aerospace manufacturing, military engineering and defense technology company.
It is a fully owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, a holding company for the Tata Group.

170. India has acquired the right to operate the overseas Sittwe port, in which country?
(A) Qatar **(B)** Sri Lanka
(C) Iran **(D)** Myanmar

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Sittwe Port located in Myanmar will now be operated by India.
After Iran's Chabahar Port, this is the second foreign port which will be operated by India.
A proposal of India Ports Global (IPGL) to take over the operations of this port located on the Kaladan river has been approved.

171. In which city will the Indian Navy Half Marathon be organized?
(A) Kolkata **(B)** Jaipur
(C) Mumbai **(D)** New Delhi

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Indian Navy has announced the organization of a Half Marathon race in Delhi on 06 October 24.
The main objective of this event is to strengthen the Navy's relations with the civil society and to spread awareness about the important role of the Navy in defence.
The Navy also organises such events every year in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Kochi.

172. Who has been conferred with the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr Award for Space Exploration Award?
(A) Chandrayaan -3 Mission team
(B) Mars Orbiter Mission team
(C) Aditya-L1 Mission team
(D) Gaganyaan 2 Mission team

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: India's premier national space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team has been awarded by the the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
This award is given by the US-based non-profit organisation Space Foundation to honour a space agency, company, or consortium of organisations in the realm of space exploration and discovery.
The John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award was instituted by the Space Foundation in 2004 in memory of John L "Jack" Swigert, Junior.
John L "Jack" Swigert, Junior, was part of NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Apollo 13 Mission to the moon which had been aborted due to a leakage in its Oxygen tank.

173. Which country has issued a new currency called ZiG in April 2024?
(A) Zambia **(B)** Mozambique
(C) Zimbabwe **(D)** Rwanda

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: In April 2024, Zimbabwe issued a new gold-backed currency called ZiG.
Its name ZiG means "Zimbabwe Gold".
This effort of Zimbabwe is to stabilize the economy which has been continuously moving towards crisis for the last 25 years.

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The announcement of the new currency in Zimbabwe comes as the country grapples with the effects of severe drought.
The drought has destroyed half the crop of maize, the country's staple food.
The ZiG will replace the Zimbabwean dollar, which has lost three-quarters of its value so far this year.
March 2024 sees annual inflation spike to 55%, a seven-month peak.
In late 2016, the government introduced a new currency called a bond note, backed by a US dollar credit facility.

174. Who has become the first Indian to won a match in the Masters 1000 tournament on clay courts in April 2024?
(A) R Ramanathan **(B)** Sumit Nagal
(C) Rohan Bopanna **(D)** Niki Kaliyanda
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: India's top (number-1) tennis player Sumit Nagal has reached the second round of the Rolex Monte Carlo Masters.
95th-ranked unseeded Sumit Nagal has now become the third Indian to reach the main draw of the Monte Carlo Masters.
Before Sumit Nagal, Vijay Amritraj in 1977 and Ramesh Krishnan in 1982 had appeared in the main draw of Monte Carlo.

175. Who has recently been appointed as a full member of the 16th Finance Commission?
(A) Arvind Panagariya **(B)** Ajay Narayan Jha
(C) Manoj Panda **(D)** SoumyaKanti Ghosh
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: The government of India has appointed eminent economist Manoj Panda as a member of the 16th Finance Commission.
Manoj Panda will replace Niranjan Rajadhyaksha, who resigned recently due to personal circumstances.
The Sixteenth Finance Commission was constituted on 31 December 2023 by President Murmu under Article 280 of the Constitution.
Article 280 provides that the President must constitute a Finance Commission every five years or sooner thereafter.
According to the Union Ministry of Finance notification, Manoj Panda will remain a member of the 16th Finance Commission until the commission submits the report or the 31st day of October 2025, whichever is earlier.

176. On imprisonment in 1908 by the British, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was sent to -
(A) Andaman and Nicobar
(B) Rangoon
(C) Singapore
(D) Mandalay
Ans. **(D)**
Exp: Tilak was sentenced to a jail term from 1908 to 1914 in Mandalay in Burma. While in prison, Tilak read and wrote extensively and developed his ideas on the Indian nationalism movement.

177. Who said,"A living thing is born" after the League of Nation's Covenant was drafted?
(A) Winston Churchill
(B) Woodrow Wilson
(C) Napoleon Bonaparte
(D) Benito Mussolini
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Woodrow Wilson said, “A living thing is born” after the League of nation’s Covenant was drafted. Woodrow Wilson (28 December 1856 – 3 February 1924) was an American 28th President of the United States from 1913 to 1921.

178. Which among the following Mughal Emperor was illiterate?
(A) Shah Jahan **(B)** Aurangzeb
(C) Akbar **(D)** Babur
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Mohammad Akbar, (born October 15, 1542, Umarkot [now in Sindh province, Pakistan]—died c. October 25, 1605, Agra, India), the greatest of the Mughal emperors of India and he remained illiterate.

179. The founder of the Parsi religion-
(A) Laotse **(B)** Kung-fu-su
(C) Joroster **(D)** Mikado
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: The Parsi religion is the ancient Indo-European religion of Zarathushta the prophet Zoroaster (Zarathrustra in ancient Persian) is regarded as the founder of Zoroastrianism, which is arguably the world's oldest monotheistic faith.

180. Who was the founder of the Sayyid dynasty?

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(A) Khizr Khan **(B)** Mubarak shah
(C) Mohammad shah **(D)** Alam shah

Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The Sayyid Dynasty was founded by Khizr Khan, who was the governor of Multan and Timur's deputy in India. This dynasty ruled for 37 years from 1414 to 1451 AD by four rulers- Khizr Khan, Mubarak, Muhammad Shah, Alam Shah.

181. Who was the founder of Slave dynasty?
(A) Iltutamish
(B) QutubuddinAibak
(C) BakhtiyarKhilji
(D) Balban
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Indian slave dynasty lasted from 1206 to 1290. The slave dynasty was the first Muslim dynasty to rule India. It was founded by Sultan Qutbuddin Aibak.

182. The ruins of the Vijayanagara at Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by
(A) Colonel Colin Mackenzie
(B) Sir John Shore
(C) Andrew Fraser
(D) John Marshall
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The ruins at Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by an engineer and antiquarian named Colonel Colin Mackenzie. An employee of the English East India Company, he prepared the first survey map of the site.

183. With reference to the cultural history of India, the term 'Panchayatan' refers to?
(A) An assembly of village elders
(B) Religious sect
(C) A style of temple construction
(D) An administrative functionary
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Panchayatan is a temple that has a central shrine surrounded by four other shrines. A Panchayatan temple has four subordinate shrines on four corners and the main shrine in the center of the podium, which comprises their base.

184. Kattaiikkattu is the famous folk drama of which state?
(A) Andhra Pradesh **(B)** Bihar
(C) Rajasthan **(D)** Tamil Nadu
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Kattaikkuttu, a folk theatre form in Tamil Nadu, gains new ground, new spectators. Kattaikkuttu, a form of high-energy folk theatre, is rooted in the vast oral performance tradition of rural Tamil Nadu.

185. India's first national news agency was-
(A) The Indian Review
(B) The Free Press of India
(C) The Hindustan Review
(D) The Associated Press of India
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Free Press of India (FPI) was the first news agency in the country to be both owned and managed by Indians. Sadanand said that he had planned its creation in 1923 and that it was actually established in 1925.

186. During the reign of Farrukhsiyar, what was the real name of the famous King Maker Sayyid Brother?
(A) Abdullah Khan-Hussain Khan
(B) Abdullah Khan- Sayyid Khan
(C) Hussein Khan-Mushrif Khan
(D) Zulfiqar Khan-Atga Khan
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The term Sayyid brothers refers to Syed Abdullah Khan and Syed Hassan Khan Barha, who were powerful in the Mughal Empire during the early 18th century.

187. Kushan king was a great patron of art and literature, which of the following were members of his Rajya Sabha?
(A) Ashwagosh, Parsav, Vasumitra Charak
(B) Ashwaghosh Nagarjun, Nagesin Vasumitra
(C) Ashwaghosh, Parsav, Hemchandra, Nagarjuna
(D) Ashwaghosh, Vasumitra, Asang, Hemachandra
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Some scholars are of the view that the Abhidhama Mahavishasa was prepared in the 4th Buddhist council. Some of the scholars in the Court of Kanishka were Parsva, Vasumitra, Asvaghosa, Nagarjuna, Charaka and Mathara. Charaka has been called the Court Physician of Kanishka

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188. Which one of the following power combinations conspired to loot money from the Begums of Oudh?
(A) Warren Hastings & Chet Singh
(B) Hastings & Nawab Wazir
(C) Hastings, Nawab Wazir and Chet Singh
(D) Hastings, Chet Singh and Mir Jafar
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Warren Hastings & Chet Singh combinations conspired to loot money from the Begums of Oudh.

189. Who promoted between the public of the Gurmukhi script?
(A) Guru Angad **(B)** Guru Amar Das
(C) Guru Ramdas **(D)** Guru Arjun Dev
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Guru Angad invented the present form of the Gurmukhi script. It became the medium of writing the Punjabi language in which the hymns of the Gurus are expressed.

190. Where was the second Buddhist music held?
(A) Rajgir **(B)** Vaishali
(C) Pataliputra **(D)** Kundalvan
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Second Buddhist Council was held at Vaisali (or Vaishali), an ancient city in what is now the state of Bihar in northern India, bordering Nepal under the patronage of King Kalasoka while it was presided by Sabakami.

191. Who among of the following started Marathi fortnightly newspaper 'Bahishkrit Bharat'?
(A) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
(B) Vir Savarkar
(C) Vinobha Bhave
(D) Lokmanya Tilak
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Bahishkrit Bharat' was started by Dr.B R. Ambedkar in 1927, his other newspapers are - Mooknayak (1920), Janata (1930) and Prabuddha Bharat (An awakenned India- 1956).

192. Who among the following did not ruled the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) Slave dynasty **(B)** Sayyid dynasty
(C) Khilji dynasty **(D)** Ghori dynasty
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: After Mahmud of Ghazni the next invader in India was Muhammad Ghori. He belonged to the Ghori dynasty which replaced the Ghaznavids in Afghanistan. After the death of Mahmood Ghaznovi, he was the first Turkish who invaded India; ghori dynesty not ruled on delhi saltanat.

193. Where is the tomb of Bahadur Shah Jafar (II), the last Mughal emperor of India?
(A) Rangoon (Yangon), Myanmar
(B) Delhi, India
(C) Aurangabad, India
(D) Kabul, Pakistan
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The location of the grave of Bahadur Shah Zafar (or Mirza Abu Zafar Sirajuddin Muhammad Bahadur Shah Zafar), the last Mughal emperor, at Rangoon in Burma (now Yangon, Myanmar) is in dispute.

194. Among the following, which Mughal Emperor introduced the policy of Sulah-i-kul?
(A) Akbar
(B) Nizamuddin Auliya
(C) Jainul Abidin
(D) Nasiruddin Chiragh
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Sulh-i kul is an Arabic term literally meaning "peace with all," "universal peace," or "absolute peace," drawn from a Sufi mystic principle. As applied by the third Mughal Emperor of India, Akbar (who reigned 1556-1605), it described a peaceful and harmonious relationship among different religions.

195. What are the main sources of our knowledge about the Indus Valley Civilization?
(A) Rigveda
(B) Archaeological excavations
(C) Samaveda
(D) Atharvaveda
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Indus Valley Civilization was an ancient civilization located in what is Pakistan and northwest India today, Archaeological excavations is the main sources of our knowledge about the Indus Valley Civilization.

196. The countries that are members of the European Union, but not members of the euro zone are.

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(A) Luxembourg, Netherlands and Albania
(B) Armenia, Belarus and Portugal
(C) Czech Republic, Malta and Finland
(D) Romania, Sweden and Bulgaria

Ans. **(D)**

Exp: Nine countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) are EU members but do not use the euro. Before joining the eurozone, a state must spend two years in the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM II).

197. The map originated from word 'Mappa', which language is it?
(A) German **(B)** English
(C) Latin **(D)** Hindi

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The word "map" comes from the medieval Latin Mappa mundi, wherein mappa meant napkin or cloth and mundi the world. Thus, "map" became the shortened term referring to a two-dimensional representation of the surface of the world.

198. Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia has not spread to the Mediterranean Sea?
(A) Syria **(B)** Jordan
(C) Lebanon **(D)** Israel

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: The countries surrounding the Mediterranean in clockwise order are Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco; Malta and Cyprus are island countries in the sea.

199. Turkey is located in which of the following?
(A) Black Sea and Caspian Sea
(B) Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
(C) Gulf of Suez and Mediterranean Sea
(D) Gulf of Aqaba and Dead Sea

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Turkey is situated in Western Asia (Anatolian and Armenian highlands) and the Balkans, between Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.

200. Where India is located of the following?
(A) Southwest Asia **(B)** South Asia
(C) Southeast Asia **(D)** Central Asia

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: India is situatied in South- East Asia and is bordered by Afghanistan and Pakistan
to the north-west; China, Bhutan and Nepal to the north; Myanmar to the east; and Bangladesh to the east of West Bengal.

201. The final boundary between the Earth and the outer space is called _____.
(A) Magnetosphere **(B)** Ionosphere
(C) Mesopause **(D)** Magnetopause

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Magnetopause is a boundary line between Earth's magnetic field and solar wind. Solar winds forms the part of outer space whereas Earth's atmosphere exists up to magnetic field of Earth.

202. In which city is the Forest Research Institute of India located?
(A) New Delhi **(B)** Kolkata
(C) Dehradun **(D)** Shimla

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Forest Research Institute (FRI) is an institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and is a premier institution in the field of forestry research in India. It is located at Dehradun in Uttarakhand, and is among the oldest institutions of its kind.

203. Which one among the following cities never get the vertical rays of the Sun all through the year?
(A) Chennai **(B)** Mumbai
(C) Shimla **(D)** Srinagar

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Since Srinagar lies to the north of the Tropic of Cancer, it never gets the vertical rays of the sun.

204. Which Indian state has the largest share of the Wastelands in India?
(A) Rajasthan **(B)** Bihar
(C) Karnataka **(D)** Uttar Pradesh

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Rajasthan has the largest share of the Wastelands in India with 25% of its geographical area being wasteland, accounting for 18% of the wasteland nationally.

205. Which is the highest peak in Andaman and Nicobar is lands?
(A) Mount Koya **(B)** Mount Diavolo

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(C) Saddle Peak **(D)** Mount Thuiller

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Saddle Peak or Saddle Hill is located on North Andaman Island in India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands. At 731 m, it is the highest point of the archipelago in the Bay of Bengal. It is surrounded by Saddle Peak National Park.

206. Bhakra Nangal Project is a joint venture of the Panjab, Haryana and

(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Himachal Pradesh
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Uttarakhand

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Bhakra nangal is a joint venture of the Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan states designed to harness the precious water of the Satluj for the benefit of the concerned states.

207. The Sirhind Project is situated on which river?

(A) River Krishna **(B)** River Ganga
(C) River satluj **(D)** River Ghagra

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Sirhind Canal is a large irrigation canal that carries water from the Sutlej River in Punjab state, India.

208. What are The Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands classified as in India?

(A) Desert **(B)** State
(C) Union territories **(D)** All of the above

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar islands are two major archipelagos of India. They are classified as Union Territories (UTs). The Lakshadweep islands lie in the Arabian Sea off the Kerala Coast and have a total area of 32 km making them the smallest UT in India.

209. Which environmental phenomenon is causing the meltdown of Tibetan plateau that may affect the Indus River in the future?

(A) Climate Change
(B) Drought
(C) Ozone depletion
(D) Greenhouse gas effect

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Climate change will have severe impacts on the Asian monsoon and the Himalayan glaciers. Increased glacial melting in the Himalayas, accompanied by increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns, will have dire consequences, not only for food and water security, but also for the future of energy supplies in the Tibetan Plateau region.

210. To which of the following State the folk-dance 'Yakshagaan' is related?

(A) Andhra Pradesh **(B)** Karnataka
(C) Kerala **(D)** Tamilnadu

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Yakshagana is related to other performance art forms prevalent in other parts of Karnataka and the neighbouring states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

211. Which of the following group of states does Malwa Plateau spread across?

(A) Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab
(B) Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
(C) Sikkim, Bihar and West Bengal
(D) Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: The Malwa Plateau is spread across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The average elevation of the Malwa plateau is 500 metres. Most of the region is drained by the Chambal River and its tributaries; the western part is drained by the upper reaches of the Mahi River.

212. What is the capital of Manipur?

(A) Agartala **(B)** Imphal
(C) Shillong **(D)** Aizwal

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Imphal is the most beautiful capital city in Manipur.

213. Which country is famous for maple syrup

(A) USA
(B) Canada
(C) China
(D) Japan

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Today, after rapid growth in the 1990s, Canada produces more than 80 percent of the world's maple syrup,

214. Identify the correct decreasing order of river basins area in India.

(A) Ganga, Brahmaputra, Indus, Godavari

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(B) Ganga, Indus, Brahmaputra, Krishna
(C) Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Indus
(D) Ganga, Indus, Godavari, Krishna

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Indus.

215. The greatest potential for the generation of tidal power in India is available in the
(A) Malabar Coast **(B)** Konkan Coast
(C) Gujarat Coast **(D)** Coromandel Coast

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: According to the estimates of the Indian government, the country has a potential of 8,000 MW of tidal energy. This includes about 7,000 MW in the Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat, 1,200 MW in the Gulf of Kutch and 100 MW in the Gangetic deltas in the Sunderb ans. region of West Bengal.

216. 'Rule of Law' concept has been taken in the Indian Constitution from?
(A) USA **(B)** England
(C) Switzerland **(D)** Ireland

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Rule of law was adopted from England by our constitutional fathers and many provisions were incorporated in the Indian Constitution. Indian Constitution is considered to be supreme and no one is above Indian Constitution.

217. 74th Amendment of the Constitution is related to-
(A) Rural Local Self-Government
(B) Urban Local Self-Government
(C) Powers of the President
(D) Powers of the Parliament

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: 74th Amendment and Municipalities in India. Constitution (Seventy Forth Amendment) Act, 1992 has introduced a new Part IXA in the Constitution, which deals with Municipalities in an article 243 P to 243 ZG. This amendment, also known as Nagar palika Act, came into force on 1st June 1993.

218. Which Part of the Constitution has the provisions for Panchayai Raj System?
(A) IX **(B)** VI
(C) III **(D)** IV

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Constitution 73rd Amendment and Panchayati Raj in India. The 73rd Amendment 1992 added a new Part IX to the constitution titled "The Panchayats" covering provisions from Article 243 to 243(O); and a new Eleventh Schedule introduced covering 29 subjects within the functions of the Panchayats.

219. The joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha of states is summoned by?
(A) The President
(B) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
(C) The Parliament
(D) The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

Ans: **(A)**

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.

220. Who carries out notification for the election of the Lok Sabha?
(A) Election Commission of India
(B) The President
(C) Home Ministry
(D) Lok Sabha Secretariat

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The Election Commission of India carries out both the notification for elections to Lok Sabha, conducts elections and counting and also declares results. Thereafter when all the results are declared, the President of India notifies formation of Lok Sabha and invites the representative of majority party to form ministry.

221. Which one of the following in not an element of the State?
(A) Population **(B)** Land
(C) Army **(D)** Government

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The state has four essential elements. These are: (1) population, (2) territory, (3) government, (4) sovereignty (or independence). The first two elements constitute the physical or material basis of the state while the last two form its political and spiritual basis.

222. Which of the following grants is raised, when the amount authorized by Appropriation Act to be

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expended for a particular service in the current financial year is found to be insufficient?
(A) Exceptional Grant
(B) Supplementary Grant
(C) Vote of credit
(D) Vote on account
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Supplementary Grant is granted if the amount authorized by the parliament through the appropriation act to be expended for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for the purpose of that year.

223. The term 'secular state' in the context of Indian Constitution refers to:
(A) The state is anti-religious
(B) The state has a religion
(C) The state is irreligious
(D) The state avoids preferential treatment for any particular religion.
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The word Secular has not been defined or explained under the Constitution in 1950 or in 1976 when it was made part of the preamble. A Secular State means that the one that protects all religions equally and does not uphold any religion as the State religion.

224. There is one important ground on which discrimination can be made in Article 16 that does not exist under Article15.What is that ground?
(A) Place of birth **(B)** Residence
(C) Religion **(D)** Caste
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Article 16 assures equality of opportunity in matters of public employment and prevents the State from any sort of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them. The Article 15 states that the state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of race, religion, caste, sex and place of birth.

225. Recently Supreme Court ordered that national anthem should be played in all cinema halls across the country before the screening of a movie. The court's directions came on a PIL filed by.
(A) Kesavananda
(B) Nutan Thakur
(C) Shyam Narayan Chouksey
(D) Archana Masse
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Whenever the Anthem is sung or played, the audience will stand to attention. This Court remarks came on the PIL filed by Shyam Narayan Chouksey.

226. In __ government each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.
(A) Democratic **(B)** Autocratic
(C) Monarchic **(D)** Authoritarian
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: "In a democracy each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value" this statement means in a democratic country all are treated equally with same value given to each individual.

227. Who among the following gave the concept of 'Distributive Justice'?
(A) Aristole **(B)** Plate
(C) Hegel **(D)** Ritchie
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Plato was the legend philosopher, who propagated the concept of social justice. Distributive justice is related to the ownership of the goods in the society. It also relates to the distribution of common advantages and disadvantages among all the people of society.

228. Which Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution includes equal access to shops, bathing, ghats, hotels etc.?
(A) Right to Liberty and Personal Freedom
(B) Right to Freedom of Religion
(C) Right to Equality
(D) Cultural and Educational Rights
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Right to equality is one of the six fundamental rights in the Indian constitution. It includes equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of race, religion, gender, and caste or birth place.

229. Controller and Auditor General of India is appointed for how many years?
(A) 2 **(B)** 3
(C) 5 **(D)** 6
Ans: **(D)**

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Exp: Controller and Auditor General of India is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal and provided with tenure of 6 years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.

230. Who is the custodian of Contingency Fund of India?
(A) The Prime Minister
(B) The President
(C) The Finance Minister
(D) All of the above
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Contingency fund is held by the Finance Secretary on behalf of the President of India and it can be operated by executive action.

231. Who among the following was the first Tribal Speaker of Lok Sabha?
(A) G. V. Mavalankar
(B) G.M.C. Balayogi
(C) Manohar Joshi
(D) P.A. Sangama
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Purno Agitok Sangma was an Indian politician who served as the First Tribal Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1998 and Chief Minister of Meghalaya from 1988 to 1990.

232. Who among the following forms the following committee of the parliament?
1. Public Accounts Committee
2. Estimates Committee
(A) Speaker of the Lok Sabha
(B) Vice-President of India
(C) Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
(D) President of India
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The Public Accounts Committee consists of not more than twenty-two members, fifteen elected by Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament, and not more than seven members of Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament. The members are elected every year from amongst its members of respective houses according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. The chairperson is appointed by the Lok Sabha speaker. The term of office of the members is one year.

233. What is 'zero hour'?
(A) When the proposals of the opposition are raised.
(B) When matters of utmost importance are raised.
(C) Interval between the morning and afternoon sessions.
(D) When a Money Bill is introduced in Lok sabha.
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Zero Hour, the time of a sitting session of India's Lok Sabha immediately following the Question Hour. When matters of utmost importance are raised

234. After the general elections, the Protem Speaker is-
(A) Elected by the Lok Sabha.
(B) Appointed by the President of India.
(C) Appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
(D) The Seniormost member of the Lok Sabha.
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: After a general election and the formation of a new government, a list of senior Lok Sabha members prepared by the Legislative Section is submitted to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who selects a protem speaker. The appointment has to be approved by the President.

235. Which Article empowers the President to impose Financial Emergency?
(A) Article 356 **(B)** Article 364
(C) Article 352 **(D)** Article 360
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Article 360 empowers the president to impose financial emergency in the country. If the president thinks that there is an economic situation with the financial stability or the credit of India is threatened, he can declare a financial emergency. Financial emergency must be approved by the Parliament within two months.

236. Which law states that for every 1% increase in the unemployment rate, a country's GDP will be roughly an additional 2% lower than its potential GDP?
(A) Okun's law **(B)** Phillips curve
(C) Friedman's law **(D)** Marshall's law
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Okun's law can also pertain to how a rise in unemployment affects gross domestic product

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(GDP), where a percentage increase in unemployment causes a 2% fall in GDP. Arthur Okun was a Yale professor and economist who studied the relationship between unemployment and production.

237. In the year 1943, the United States established an International Fund which is known as ___?
(A) White plan **(B)** Keynes plan
(C) Walker plan **(D)** Smith plan
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: In the year 1943, the United States established an International Fund which is known as Keynes plan

238. If the _____ firm has zero costs or only has fixed cost, the quantity supplied in equilibrium is given by the point where the marginal revenue is zero.
(A) Perfect Competition
(B) Monopoly
(C) Oligopoly
(D) Monopolistic Competition
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: the Monopoly firm has zero costs or only has fixed cost, the quantity supplied in equilibrium is given by the point where the marginal revenue is zero

239. What is the full form of IMPS in banking sector?
(A) Intermediate Payment Service
(B) International Payment Service
(C) Initial Payment Service
(D) Immediate Payment Service
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) is an instant payment inter-bank electronic funds transfer system in India. IMPS offers an inter-bank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones.

240. In which year was the Skill India Mission started?
(A) 2014 **(B)** 2015
(C) 2016 **(D)** 2017
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Skill India campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
on 15 July 2015 to train over 40 crore people in India in different skills by 2022.

241. Shishu, Kishor, and Tarun are the schemes of-
(A) Regional rural banks.
(B) Micro Units development and refinance Agency Limited (MUDRA).
(C) Small Industries Development Bank of India.
(D) Industrial development bank of India.
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Under 'Shishu' Scheme, lons. up to Rs 50,000 will be sanctioned. Under 'Kishor' Scheme, lons. above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 Lakh will be provided. Under 'Tarun' category, loan of above Rs 5 Lakh and up to Rs 10 Lakh will be sanctioned.

242. Which one of the following nations is not a member of the Eurasian Economic Union?
(A) Armania **(B)** Russia
(C) Kazakhstan **(D)** Uzbekistan
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is an economic union of states located in central and northern Asia and Eastern Europe. member of Eurasian Economic Union Armenia Belarus Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Russia. And Uzbekistan is not member of Eurasian Economic union.

243. Suraj Dhara yojana is related to-
(A) Loan related
(B) Exchange of seeds
(C) Vaccination
(D) Insurance related
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Under the Raja Dhara Annapurna Yojana, the Department of Agriculture will provide seeds to farmers at 75 percent subsidy. Small marginal farmers of SC / ST who are unable to purchase seeds of improved varieties of food crops that produce mass production. it is related to Exchange of seeds.

244. Which of the following is called GDP Deflator?
(A) Ratio of nominal to real GDP
(B) Ratio of nominal to real GNP
(C) Ratio of nominal to real CPI
(D) Ratio of real to nominal GNP
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: In economics, the GDP deflator (implicit price deflator) is a measure of the level of prices of all new, domestically produced, final goods and

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services in an economy in a year. It is Ratio of nominal to real GDP.

245. Which organization monitors the banks in actually maintaining cash balance?
(A) State Bank of India
(B) Reserve Bank of India
(C) Rural Bank of India
(D) Bank of India
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the central bank of India, which was established on April 1, 1935, under the Reserve Bank of India Act. Reserve Bank of India monitors the banks in actually maintaining cash balance.

246. Open market operations of a Central Bank are sale and purchase of
(A) Foreign Currencies
(B) Corporate Securities
(C) Trade bills
(D) Government Securities
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Open market operations is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by RBI or the central bank of the country.

247. Telecom gear maker Ericsson has signed a MoU with IIT ____ to jointly work on a programme for 5G technology development in India.
(A) Kanpur **(B)** Roorkee
(C) Delhi **(D)** Madras
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Ericsson and IIT Delhi have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly roll out a '5G for India' programme, the company said in a statement.

248. In which state Indian Navy has unveiled the Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS)?
(A) Andhra Pradesh **(B)** Kerala
(C) Karnataka **(D)** Tamil Nadu
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba unveiled an integrated aviation meteorological system which is expected to bring accuracy in weather monitoring mechanism in the Indian Navy. The Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS) was launched at Rajali Air Station in Tamil Nadu.

249. The head office of Securities & exchange board of India is located at?
(A) Delhi **(B)** Chennai
(C) Mumbai **(D)** Kolkata
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: SEBI has its headquarters at the business district of Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai, and has Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western Regional Offices in New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Ahmedabad respectively.

250. A market in which there are large numbers of sellers of a particular product, but each seller sells somewhat differentiated but close products is termed as.
(A) Perfect Competition
(B) Monopoly
(C) Monopolistic Competition
(D) Oligopoly
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Thus monopolistic competition refers to the market situation in which many firms producing differentiated products (closely related but no identical products) compete with each other for the sale of their products.

251. When was the Prime Minister Skill Development Plan launched?
(A) 21 March, 2015 **(B)** 21 April, 2015
(C) 21 May, 2015 **(D)** 15 July, 2015
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: The National Skill Development Mission launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on July 15, 2015, aims to create convergence across sectors and States in terms of skill training activities.

252. The degree of monopoly power is to be measured in terms of the firm's.
(A) Normal profit
(B) Supernormal profit
(C) Both normal and supernormal profit
(D) Selling price
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Supernormal profit is defined as extra profit above that level of normal profit. Supernormal profit is also known as abnormal profit. Abnormal profit means there is an incentive for other firms to enter the industry.

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253. Effective demand depends on.
(A) capital-output ratio
(B) output-capital ratio
(C) Total expenditure
(D) Supply price
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Effective Demand is "the demand in which the consumer are able and willing to purchase at conceivable price" simply saying if the product price is low more will buy; but if the rates go high then the quantity of the demand goes down. Keynes used two terms: Aggregate Demand Function or Price and Aggregate Supply Function or Price to explain the determination of effective demand.

254. Who propounded the Innovation theory of profits?
(A) J.A. Schumpeter **(B)** P.A. Samuelson
(C) Alfred Marshall **(D)** David Ricardo
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: J.A. Schumpeter's Innovation Theory of Profit. Definition: The Innovation Theory of Profit was proposed by Joseph. A. Schumpeter, who believed that an entrepreneur can earn economic profits by introducing successful innovations

255. Under perfect competition, the industry does not have any excess capacity because each firm produces at the minimum point on its.
(A) long-run marginal cost curve
(B) long-run average cost curve
(C) long-run average variable cost curve
(D) long-run average revenue curve
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Under perfect competition, the firms operate at the minimum point of long-run average cost curve. In this way, the actual long-run output of the firm under monopolistic competition falls short of what is produced under perfect competition which can be considered the socially ideal output. This gives the measure of excess capacity which lies unutilized under imperfect competition.

256. _____are such substance which when placed in a magnetic field acquire a feeble magnetism in the direction of the field.
(A) Diamagnetic substance
(B) Paramagnetic substance
(C) Ferromagnetic substance
(D) All of the above
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: Those substance which when placed in a magnetic field are feebly magnetized in a direction opposite to the magnetizing field are called diamagnetic substances.

257. The force acting on an object does not produce which one of the following effects?
(A) Change in the size of the object
(B) Change in the shape of the object
(C) Change in the temperature of the object
(D) Change in the motion state of the object
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: A force can produce the following effects:
A force can move a stationary object.
A force can stop a moving object.
A force can change the speed of a moving object.
A force can change the direction of a moving object.
A force can change the shape and size of an object.

258. Which one of the following is not the fundamental international system quantity?
(A) Length
(B) Amount of substance
(C) Luminous intensity
(D) Torque
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: International System of Quantities. The International System of Quantities (ISQ) is a system based on seven base quantities: length, mass, time, electric current, thermodynamic temperature, amount of substance, and luminous intensity.

259. The coil wire in the electric room heater or electric cooking heater is called _____.
(A) Circuit **(B)** Element
(C) Filament **(D)** Cells
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: The coil wire in the electric room heater or electric cooking heater is called element circuit.

260. The bending of light when it passes around a corner or a slit is due to _____.
(A) Reflection
(B) Refraction
(C) Diffraction

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(D) Total internal reflection

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Diffraction is the slight bending of light as it passes around the edge of an object. The amount of bending depends on the relative size of the wavelength of light to the size of the opening.

261. The working principle of a washing machine is.
(A) Reverse osmosis **(B)** Diffusion
(C) Centrifugation **(D)** Dialysis

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The working principle of a washing machine is Centrifugation.

262. Which one of the following is a bad Thermal Conductor?
(A) Potassium **(B)** Sodium
(C) Glass **(D)** Silver

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Glass, wood and plastic are all excellent insulators, but not good conductors. It doesn't allow the flow of electrons easily from atom to atom and are bad conductors

263. Who invented first working laser?
(A) Alhazen **(B)** Carl Anderson
(C) T. H. Maiman **(D)** Charles Barkla

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The term "laser" originated as an acronym for "light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation". The first laser was built in 1960 by Theodore H. Maiman at Hughes Research Laboratories, based on theoretical work by Charles Hard Townes and Arthur Leonard Schawlow.

264. Which of the following is not a vector quantity?
(A) Acceleration **(B)** Electric current
(C) Pressure **(D)** Velocity

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: which the quantity and quantity along with the direction to express a physical amount is also described, it is called a vector quantity.

265. When a charged particle moves in a magnetic field, then what is called the force on the particle?
(A) Lorentz force **(B)** Faraday's force
(C) Coulomb's force **(D)** None of these

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: When a charged particle moves in a magnetic field, a force is applied on the particle. This force is called the force of Lorenz

266. The dot product of two vectors A and B is equal to the product of magnitude of A and B and _____?
(A) Cosine of the largest angle between them
(B) Sine of the largest angle between them
(C) Cosine of the smallest angle between them
(D) Sine of the smallest angle between them

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: KE1: KE2 = 4:9
Both body's mass is equal
Lets mass is both body is x
KE = ½ mv2
M= mass V = velocity
Then, KE1 = ½ × x × v2
4 = ½ × x × v2 ----------1
KE2 = ½ × x × V2
9 = ½ × x × V 2 ---------- 2
Then, 2 / 3 =v2/ V2
v2/ V2 = √2 / √3

267. Kaleidoscope was invented by _____.
(A) Ray Tomlinson
(B) Tim Berners-Lee
(C) Alan Blumlein
(D) David Brewster

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: The name is derived from the Greek words kalos ("beautiful"), eïdos ("form"), and skopeïn ("to view"). The kaleidoscope was invented by Sir David Brewster about 1816.

268. What is the principle by which a cooling system (Radiator) in a motor car works?
(A) Conduction only
(B) Onvection only
(C) Adiation only
(D) Both conduction and radiation W

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: By convection a cooling system (Radiator) in a motor car works.

269. The instrument used to study the laws of vibrating string is _____.
(A) Hydrometer
(B) Sonometer
(C) Sphygmomanometer
(D) Electrometer

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Ans: **(B)**
Exp: A Sonometer is a device for demonstrating the relationship between the frequency of the sound produced by a plucked string, and the tension, length and mass per unit length of the string.

270. Teach Text' is a text editor in which of the following operating systems?
(A) Windows **(B)** Google Chrome
(C) UC browser **(D)** Macintosh
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: Edit was included with early versions of the basic system software to demonstrate the use of the Macintosh user interface.

271. Swinging children in seesaw is example of what kind of motion?
(A) Linear motion
(B) Circular motion
(C) Rotational motion
(D) Oscillation motion
Ans: **(D)**
Exp: To move the equilibrium position of a body is called oscillatory motion or compound motion.

272. Which of the following is NOT a conservative force?
(A) Electrostatic force
(B) Magnetic force
(C) Force in an elastic spring
(D) Frictional force
Ans: **(D)**

273. If a ball rolls on the floor, it stops at a distance. This is the example of which force?
(A) Frictional force **(B)** Muscular force
(C) Gravitational force **(D)** Magnetic force
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: When an object is rolled on a surface, the friction force between the object and the surface between the surface is called the lotonic friction force.

274. Rotation of moon around the sun is the example of which type of motion?
(A) Linear motion
(B) Circular motion
(C) Rotational motion
(D) Oscillation motion
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: Satellites (Moon) move in circular orbit around the Earth.

275. The black board seems black because it ____.
(A) Reflects every colour
(B) Does not reflect any colour
(C) Absorbs black colour
(D) Reflects black colour
Ans: **(B)**
Exp: balckbord does not reflect any color.

276. The process of heating the ore above its melting point in excess of air to obtain pure metal known as_____.
(A) Rusting **(B)** Smelting
(C) Roasting **(D)** Calcination
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Roasting is a process of heating of sulphide ore to a high temperature in presence of air. It is a step of the processing of certain ores. More specifically, roasting is a metallurgical process involving gas–solid reactions at elevated temperatures with the goal of purifying the metal components.

277. Non luminous zone is which part of gas flame:
(A) Outer part **(B)** Inner part
(C) Hottest part **(D)** Darkest part
Ans: **(A)**
Exp: The outer zone of a flame is blue: It is a non-luminous zone. In this zone, complete combustion of the fuel takes place because there is plenty of air around it. The outermost zone has the highest temperature in the flame. It is quite thin as compared to middle zone.

278. Which of the following is less harm to catch fire?
(A) Nylon **(B)** Terrycot
(C) Cotton fabric **(D)** Polyester
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Synthetic cloth catches fire of diyas or crackers. It also sticks to the body after burning. Whereas the fire does not spread rapidly in cotton cloth.

279. Carboplatin a cancer drug is a compound of which of the following metals?
(A) Silver **(B)** Radium
(C) Platinum **(D)** Magnesium
Ans: **(C)**
Exp: Two chemotherapy agents contain the heavy metal platinum. Carboplatin and cisplatin are the heavy metal chemotherapy drugs.

280. The most malleable metal is:

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(A) Platinum **(B)** Silver
(C) Lithium **(D)** Gold

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Among all metals, gold is the most malleable. And avoirdupois ounce of pure gold can be compressed into an incredibly thin sheet that covers 300 square feet.

281. What is the chemical formula for Sodium Chloride (Salt)?
(A) NaCl2 **(B)** NaCl
(C) Na2Cl **(D)** Na2C

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Sodium chloride, commonly known as salt, is an ionic compound with the chemical formula NaCl, representing a 1:1 ratio of sodium and chloride ions.

282. Which of the following is a characteristic of an exothermic reaction?
(A) Release of heat
(B) Absorption of heat
(C) Doesn't involve any change in temperature.
(D) All of the above.

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: An exothermic reaction is a chemical reaction that releases energy through light or heat. It is the opposite of an endothermic reaction. Expressed in a chemical equation: reactants → products + energy.

283. The catalyst is the substance that-
(A) Stops chemical reactions
(B) Helps in starting chemical reactions
(C) Changes the speed of chemical reactions
(D) Reduces the speed of chemical reactions

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: A catalyst is a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction, but is not consumed by the reaction; hence a catalyst can be recovered chemically unchanged at the end of the reaction it has been used to speed up, or catalyze.

284. Which method of water purification does not kill microorganism?
(A) Boiling **(B)** Filtration
(C) Chlorination **(D)** UV-irradiation

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: By filtration microorganisms not killed. Many biological fluid, liquid or gases is need to be sterilized (free from microbes) and this cannot be done by heat.

285. Which among the following is used to treat Indigestion?
(A) Antacid **(B)** Antiseptic
(C) Analgesic **(D)** Antibiotic

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The following medications can be used to treat indigestion: Antacids, such as Alka-Seltzer, Maalox, Mylanta, Rolaids, and Riopan, are usually the first drugs recommended to relieve symptoms of indigestion.

286. Aqua-regia used by chemists to separate silver and gold is a mixture of _____.
(A) Conc.HCl and conc. HNO3
(B) Conc.HCl and Conc.H2SO4
(C) conc. HNO3 and Conc.H2SO4
(D) dil.HCl and dil. H2SO4

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Aqua regia is made by combining one part concentrated nitric acid (HNO3) to three parts concentrated hydrochloric acid (HCl).

287. If a refrigerator's door is kept open, then-
(A) Room will be cooled.
(B) Room will be heated.
(C) May get cooled or heated depending upon the weather.
(D) No effect on room.

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: A refrigerator is a heat engine it extracts heat from low temperature reservoir and transfer it to high temperature. If a refrigerator's door is kept open, then room will become hot, because then refrigerator exhaust more heat into the room than earlier.

288. Water is neither acidic nor alkaline because-
(A) It boils at a high temperature.
(B) It cannot donate or accept electrons.
(C) It can dissociate into equal number of hydrogen and hydroxyl ions.
(D) It cannot accept or donate protons.

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: It can be separated into an equal number of hydrogen and hydroxyl ions that is why water is neither acidic nor alkaline.

289. The graphite rods in the nuclear reactor-

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(A) React with uranium to release energy.
(B) Produce neutrons.
(C) Undergo combustion which triggers the nuclear fission.
(D) Convert fast moving neutrons into thermal neutrons.

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: The graphite rods in the nuclear reactor Convert fast moving neutrons into thermal neutrons

290. Pure water does not conduct electricity because it is-
(A) Almost non-ionised
(B) Low boiling
(C) Neutral
(D) Readily decomposed

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Pure is water a good insulator and plain water a good conductor. In distilled water, however, there are no impurities and therefore no ions. There are only neutral molecules, and these neutral molecules don't have any charge. For that reason, distilled water is unable to conduct electricity.

291. Lead painting and lead articles when exposed to atmosphere turn black due to reaction with which of the following?
(A) Carbon dioxide
(B) Hydrogen sulphide
(C) Oxygen
(D) Sulphur dioxide

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Long exposure to atmosphere converts white lead into black PbS due to H2S present in the atmosphere. As a result, statues turn black.
PbO + H2S ------> PbS + H2O

292. Which of the following gases is used in the manufacturing of plastic?
(A) Methane **(B)** Helium
(C) Ethylene **(D)** Butane

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Ethylene is a colorless gas produced in vast quantities by the petrochemical industry. While widely used as an industrial intermediate in the production of plastics and polymers, ethylene is also used to stimulate ripening in fruits and vegetables.

293. Oxidation number of N in N3H is
(A) -3 **(B)** +3
(C) +1/3 **(D)** -1/3

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Since -1 is the total oxidation number between 3 N atoms, the average oxidation number on N will be -1/3. We can use a equation to solve this. Let the average charge on N atom is x. The oxidation number on 3 N atoms will be 3x. H will have +1 oxidation number as discussed above.

294. How many elements are there in the 5th period of modern periodic table?
(A) 2 **(B)** 8
(C) 18 **(D)** 28

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The fifth period contains 18 elements, beginning with rubidium and ending with xenon.

295. Ozone is formed in the upper atmosphere from oxygen by the action of which of the following?
(A) Thermal radiation from sunlight
(B) Cosmic rays
(C) Ultraviolet rays
(D) Infrared rays

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Stratospheric ozone is formed naturally by chemical reactions involving solar ultraviolet radiation (sunlight) and oxygen molecules, which make up 21% of the atmosphere. In the first step, solar ultraviolet radiation breaks apart one oxygen molecule (O2) to produce two oxygen atoms

296. Which of the following corm is formed underground stem?
(A) Onion **(B)** Zinger
(C) Potato **(D)** Crocus

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Underground stems are modified plant structures that derive from stem tissue but exist under the soil surface.
Types include bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers. Examples of plants that develop from corms include gladiolus, crocus, and autumn crocus. A number of underground stems are consumed by people including; onion, potato, ginger, yam.

297. Which of the following is not the type of modification of stem?
(A) Sub-aerial modification

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(B) Underground modification
(C) Aerial modification
(D) Epiphytic modification

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Some of the most important types of modifications of stem are as follows:
I. Underground modifications of Stem
II. Subaerial modifications of Stem
III. Aerial modifications of Stem.

298. Which of the following is called the aerial modification of stem?
(A) Rizome **(B)** Bulb
(C) Stem tendril **(D)** Corm

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: The various aerial modifications are as follows:
1. Stem tendrils 2. Thorns
3. Phylloclades 4. Cladodes or Cladophylls
5. Bulbil 6. Thalamus

299. Which of the following is not the part of flower?
(A) Scion **(B)** Calyx
(C) Androecium **(D)** Gynoecium

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The main parts of a flower are the sepals, the petals, the stamen, and the carpel. Scion is a not part of flower.

300. which one of the following is the monocotyledon plant?
(A) Mustard **(B)** Maize
(C) Pea **(D)** pigeon pea

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Monocotyledons commonly referred to as monocots are flowering plants (angiosperms), the seeds of which typically contain only one embryonic leaf, or cotyledon.
It is include not only major grains (rice, wheat, maize, etc.), but also forage grasses, sugar cane, and the bamboos, turmeric and cardamom, pineapple and onion, garlic.

301. The stones formed in the human kidney are often made.
(A) Calcium oxalate **(B)** Sodium acetate
(C) Magnesium sulphate
(D) Potassium sulphate

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Calcium oxalate are the most common type of kidney stones. They are usually made of calcium and oxalate (a natural chemical found in most foods), but are sometimes made of calcium and phosphate.

302. Which among the following has a segmented body?
(A) Phylum Platyhelminthes
(B) Phylum Annelida
(C) phylum Porifera
(D) Phylum Coelenterata

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Annelids contain largely segmented bodies with each segment containing elements of the different body systems essential for life, such as the nervous system. Earthworms, ringed worms and leeches all fall into the annelida category.

303 Synapse gap is present between which of the following?
(A) Two neurons
(B) Brain and Spinal Cord
(C) Two Kidneys
(D) Chamber of heart

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Information from one neuron flows to another neuron across a synapse. The synapse contains a small gap separating neurons.

304. Which organ has finger like outgrowths which are called as Villi (Singular Villus)?
(A) Large Intestine **(B)** Pancreas
(C) Small Intestine **(D)** Stomach

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Intestinal villi are small, finger-like projections that extend into the lumen of the small intestine. Villi increase the internal surface area of the intestinal walls making available a greater surface area for absorption.

305. Who discovered malaria causing germs?
(A) Christian Bernard
(B) Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran
(C) Dmitry Ivanov sky
(D) Carl land Steiner

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran discovered that malaria was caused by a protozoan parasite.

306. Which one of the following is present in chlorophyll which gives a green colour to plant leaves?

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(A) Calcium **(B)** Magnesium
(C) Iron **(D)** Manganese

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Chlorophyll has magnesium as its central metal ion, and the large organic molecule to which it bonds is known as a porphyrin.

307. Which one of the following animals breathe through the skin?
(A) Fish **(B)** Pigeon
(C) Frog **(D)** Cockroach

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Earthworms and amphibians, such as frogs, breathe through their skin. They belong to a group of animals which live on land and have a skin thin enough for gases to pass through.

308. What is botanical name of Apple?
(A) Pyrus malus **(B)** Pyrus communis
(C) Pisum sativum **(D)**Triticum Aestivum

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: The accepted scientific name is Malus pumila, but is also referred to as Malus domestica, Malus sylvestris, Malus communis, and Pyrus malus.

309. Which enzyme is present in bile juice?
(A) Bilin **(B)** Bilirubin
(C) Bilverdin **(D)** None of these

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Bile juice contains bile salt that helps to emulsify fats, that is they break them down into small globules which are easily digested by the enzyme lipase present in the pancreatic juice.

310. The cavity present in the Graafian follicle is
(A) Amniotic cavity **(B)** Archenteron
(C) Antrum **(D)** Ostium

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Graafian follicle is the mature ovarian follicle in which the oocytes attains its full size. It has a fluid-filled cavity called as antrum. It is filled with follicular fluid which helps in the development of follicular cell.

311. What types of teeth are absent in the Rabbit?
(A) Molar **(B)** Premolars
(C) Canines **(D)** Incisors

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Rabbit is herbivorous animal and depends on cellulose based food. It has no canines in jaw. The dental formula is 2 0 3 3 / 1 0 2 3 for incisors, canine, premolar and molars in each jaw. Thus, the canines are absent.

312. Potato, tomato and brinjal are three different species but all belong to which genus?
(A) Solanum **(B)** Panthera
(C) Felis **(D)** Tigris

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: They belong to the same genus Solanum, but to two different species.

313. Excess of amino acids is broken down to form urea in-
(A) Kidney **(B)** Liver
(C) Spleen **(D)** Rectum

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: In the liver amino acids are convert to form ammonia. Ammonia is toxic and so it is immediately converted to urea for safe excretion.

314. It is not advisable to sleep under a tree at night because of the-
(A) Release of less oxygen
(B) Release of more oxygen
(C) Release of carbon dioxide
(D) Release of Carbon monoxide

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: we should not sleep under a tree at night because at night trees take oxygen and release carbon dioxide.

315. In human body, which one of the following hormones regulates blood calcium and phosphate?
(A) Glucagon
(B) Growth hormone
(C) Parathyroid hormone
(D) Thyroxin

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Parathyroid hormone serves to increase blood concentrations of calcium. Parathyroid hormone preserves blood calcium by several major effects.

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- Santosh Viswanathan Appointed India Region Head of Intel
- Deepika Soreng Honoured with Asunta Lakra Award
- Kaushik Rajashekara Honored with International Fellowship by the Engineering Academy of Japan
- Rohit Sharma becomes 2nd player after MS Dhoni to play 250 matches in IPL
- Keki Mistry appointed as HDFC Life Insurance board's chairman
- Former World No. 1 Kento Momota retired from international badminton
- Kuwait's New Prime Minister: Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
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- Delhi's IGI Airport Ranks Among Top 10 Busiest Airports Globally
- Dharamsala to get India's first 'hybrid pitch'
- Renowned Carnatic Musician K.G. Jayan Passes Away at 90
- J&K High Court quashes man's detention under PSA, 1978
- India to test 130 km strike range Astra Mark-2 missile.
- Vivek Aggarwal (IAS) re-appointed as Director of FIU-India.
- ISRO is set to launch ESA's Solar Study Mission Proba-3.
- Amitabh Bachchan awarded "Lata Mangeshkar Puraskar".
- Bernd Hoelzenbein, 1974 World Cup winner, aged 78, passed away
- Cummins, Nat Sciver named as Wisden Leading Cricketers in the world.
- J&K High Court Upholds Rule of Law, Quashes Detention under Public Safety Act..
- Nigeria Becomes First Country to Roll Out New Meningitis Vaccine
- Madhya Pradesh Leads Implementation of Centre's Green Credit Programme (GCP)
- Saurabh Garg Appointed as Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- SBI Life Launches IdeationX: Pioneering Life Insurance Innovation
- Apple and CleanMax Collaborate to Advance Renewable Energy in India
- Amitabh Bachchan to be Honoured with the Prestigious Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award
- Alia Bhatt Named to TIME's 100 Most Influential People of 2024 List: A Testament to Global Impact
- Pat Cummins and Sciver-Brunt Named Wisden's Top Cricketers
- "Just a Mercenary?": Duvvuri Subbarao's Memoir Unveils the Tensions Between the RBI and the Government
- The book, 'India — the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda' by Bhimeswara Chall
- A penalty of Rs 43.30 lakh has been imposed on Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank for non-compliance with RBI directions.
- Rohit Sharma becomes 2nd player to play 250th game in IPL.
- AFMS & IIT Kanpur collaborated to address health problems of soldiers.
- Skytrax World Airport Awards: Doha's Hamad is world's best airports.
- India to deliver 1st batch of BrahMos missiles to Philippines.
- "Tagore On The Padma Boat" Programme organized in Bangladesh.
- Singapore's PM Lee Hsien Loong to step down on 15 May.
- India clinches 2 silver, 2 bronze medals at Mathematical Olympiad 2024
- Axis Bank & Shoppers Stop launched Axis Bank Shoppers Stop Credit Card
- Dalip Majithia, India's oldest Air Force Pilot passes away at 103.

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- SPACE, a evaluation hub for Indian Navy, set up by DRDO, inaugurated.
- Vels university confers honorary doctorate on Dr Ram Charan.
- Israel Aerospace sets up Indian subsidiary AeroSpace Services India.
- First ever Nuclear Energy Summit 2024 held in Belgium.
- World's first Om-shaped temple inaugurated in Rajasthan.
- Sunil Chhetri is the only Indian footballer to played 150th match.
- First ever India-made swine fever vaccine by IIT Guwahati.
- Bank of Maharashtra appointed Nidhu Saxena as the MD & CEO.
- Nutritional Support to TB patients (Nikshay Poshan Yojana)
- Politician Mukhtar Ansari dies of Cardiac Arrest at 63
- Prominent writer Gurulinga Kapse passed away
- India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film 'IRAH'.
- Vijay Jain bags prestigious "Times Power Icon 2024 Award"
- Daniel Kahneman, Nobel Prize Winner, dies at 90
- A book launched named "From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond".
- National Football League bans Hip-Drop Tackle in 2024
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Acquires Sonata Finance
- Axis Bank Launches Digital US Dollar Fixed Deposits for NRIs at GIFT City
- PR Sreejesh and Camila Caram Appointed Co-Chairs of FIH Athletes Committee
- LIC has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally, according to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024.
- Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani takes oath as judge in J&K
- Saudi Arabia to participate in Miss Universe competition, 1st time.
- Indian Parliamentary Delegation Strengthens Ties with Armenia and IPU
- Bassirou Diomaye Faye Wins Senegal's Presidential Election
- Thailand's Historic Move: Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage
- Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi has taken oath as the new judicial member of the Lokpal (ombudsman).
- Morgan Stanley Raises India GDP Growth Forecast to 6.8%
- Adani Ports Acquires 95% Stake in Gopalpur Port for Rs 3,350 Cr
- CCI Approves Acquisition of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited by Adani Power Limited
- NTPC Secures USD 200 Million Loan from JBIC for Renewable Projects
- IRDAI Identifies LIC, GIC Re, and New India Assurance as D-SIIs
- A book titled "From A Car Shed To The Corner Room & Beyond" by S. Raman
- Scientists uncover Milky Way's ancient building blocks, Shakti & Shiva
- Govind Dholakiya became new chairman of Surat diamond trade centre
- Luis Montenegro Named Portugal's Prime Minister
- Indian Diplomat Abhay Thakur Appointed as Next Envoy to Myanmar
- Neeraj Chopra Named Eveready's New Brand Ambassador
- Hansha Mishra Appointed as Director in UPSC
- RBI Grants Payment Aggregator Licences To Innoviti Payments And Concerto Software
- Michel Talagrand Awarded the 2024 Abel Prize
- IIT Guwahati Transfers Pioneering Swine Fever Vaccine Technology to BioMed Pvt
- Haryana Crowned Champion at Boxing Sub Junior National Championship
- Popular Tamil Actor Lakshmi Narayanan Seshu Passes Away at 60
- Japan's Kaori Sakamoto wins 3rd Straight World Title.
- Bharat Biotech starts clinical trials of Tuberculosis Vaccine "MTBVAC"
- Election Commission launches Saksham App for PwD persons.
- IAU approves 'Shiv Shakti' as name for Chandrayaan-3 landing site.
- Federal Bank Launches 'Flash Pay' In Partnership With NPCI For Contactless Payments
- Modi Government Allocates Rs 6212.03 Crore For Strengthening Regional Rural Banks
- India's GDP To Grow By 6.8% In FY25: S&P Global
- Hurun Research Institute Report: Mumbai Surpasses Beijing As Asia's Billionaire Capital
- 'Phool Bahadur' – The First Magahi Novel in English

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- Indian Scientist Prof Jayant Murthy Honoured with Asteroid Name
- Ferrari's Carlos Sainz clinched victory at the Australian Grand Prix
- Virat Kohli Becomes First Indian to Score 12,000 T20 Runs
- UN Appoints Saudi Arabia To Lead Women's Rights Forum Despite Criticism
- Romania And Bulgaria Partially Join Schengen Travel Zone
- Moushumi Basu Takes Over as New President of JNU Teachers Association
- Rohan Bopanna and Matt Ebden Triumph at Miami Open
- Hardik Singh and Salima Tete Honoured at Hockey India Awards 2023
- Professor Meena Charanda Honoured with 'International Culture Award' 2024
- Vineet Jain Honoured with ENBA Lifetime Achievement Award 2023
- Microsoft And OpenAI Unveil $100 Billion 'Stargate' AI Supercomputer
- 6 traditional products and crafts of Assam, including Bihu Dhol, Jaapi and Sarthebari bell metal craft, have been accorded GI tags.
- Sita Ram Meena appointed India's next envoy to Niger
- Arnab Banerjee elected as the new ATMA Chairman.
- Vinay Kumar wins gold at para powerlifting World Cup in Egypt.
- Pakistan Cricket Board reappoints Babar Azam as captain.
- Tripura's Rignai Pachra textile, Tripureswari temple's Pera got GI tag
- Simon Harris set to become Ireland's youngest PM.
- Dr. Manmohan Singh to Retire from Rajya Sabha
- Tata International Appoints Rajeev Singhal as MD
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has roped in popular actor Ayushmann Khurrana to encourage the youth to exercise their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections..
- Adani Green Energy Ltd Surpasses 10,000 MW Operating Portfolio: Leading India's Renewable Energy Sector
- CCI Approval: Axis Bank's Stake Acquisition In Max Life Insurance
- Dr. Karthik Kommuri Honoured at National Fame Awards 2024
- The indigenous wheat variety from the Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh, locally known as Kathiya Gehu, has been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag..
- Korea's KSTAR 'Artificial Sun' hits new fusion record At 100 Million°C
- India Mozambique Tanzania Tri Lateral Exercise "IMT TRILAT- 2024"
- R.N. Ravi unveiled "Param Vir Chakra" garden in Chennai.
- World's oldest man, Juan Vicente Perez Mora, dies at 114.
- Japan launches eVisa for Indians, enabling 90-day stays for tourism without physical visa stickers, applying via VFS Global.
- Lt Gen JS Sidana is New Director General of EME
- Sanjay Nayar Appointed as New ASSOCHAM President
- Santosh Kumar Jha Appointed as New CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation
- Merger Announcement: AU Small Finance Bank and Fincare Small Finance Bank
- World Bank Raises India's Growth Projection: FY24 GDP at 7.5%
- Paradip Port Emerges as India's Top Cargo-Handling Port in 2023-24
- IOCL and Panasonic Partner for Lithium-ion Cell Manufacturing in India
- 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' Norm Implemented
- El-Sisi sworn in for third term as Egyptian president.
- Barbara Rush, Award-Winning TV and Film Actress, passed away at 97
- Atul Mehra joins Axis Capital as managing director & CEO.
- ICG vessel "Samudra Paheredar" visits Vietnam for ASEAN Mission.
- Judith Suminwa Tuluka appointed Congo's first female Prime Minister.
- Vineet Jain wins "ENBA Lifetime Achievement Award 2023"
- REC wins "SKOCH ESG Award 2024" in "Renewable Energy Category"
- HAL made two "Dornier 228 Planes" delivered to Guyana.
- Joyshree Das Verma appointed as FICCI Ladies Organisation president.
- Only Mizo top grade artist of Akashvani Vanhlupuii Passes away at 77
- "Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI" book by Madhumita Murgia.

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- Tripura: Matabari Pera Prasad, Rignai Pachara Textiles Get GI Tag
- Ms Sheyphali Sharan Takes Charge as Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau
- Vedanta's BALCO: First Indian Company Certified with ASI Performance Standard
- India, Maldives & Sri Lanka's 'Dosti-16' Held in Maldives
- IAF's 10-day mega exercise 'Gagan Shakti' begins from April 1-10
- Novak Djokovic Becomes the Oldest World No. 1 in ATP Rankings History
- Meenesh Shah Elected as Chairman of NCDFI
- RBI Projects CPI Inflation at 4.5% for FY25
- Enhancing Air Defence Capabilities: Indian Army Inducts Akashteer System
- SJVN Awarded for Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility
- Former Judge Najmi Waziri to Head Committee for Delhi Forest Protection
- Bilquis Mir: The First Indian Woman on the Paris Olympics Jury
- C-CAMP launches "OptiDrop" for Advanced Cell Studies.
- SC imposes interim stay on Allahabad HC order on UP Madarsa Board.
- IFFCO signed an MoU with ACME to buy 2 lakh tonne ammonia.
- GAIL wins 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award for Barauni – Guwahati pipeline.
- Rakesh Mohan Appointed to World Bank Economic Advisory Panel
- DRDO successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime
- Tamil Actor Visheshwara Rao Passes Away at 64
- Manohar International Airport in Goa Launches Digi Yatra System
- BALCO, first Indian company to be certified with ASI Performance.
- Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument made largest 3D map of universe
- Army inducted "Akashteer" system to enhance air defence postue
- Global Life Expectancy rises up 6.2 years despite COVID-19: Lancet
- Mirabai Chanu, Only Indian Weightlifter To Qualify For Paris Olympics
- Neeraj Sharma receives "Medal of Honour" at Consular Day 2024
- SpaceX successfully launched Tata and Satellogic's TSAT-1A satellite.
- Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital wins 'Best Scientific Poster Award' 2024.
- Indian-American golfer Akshay Bhatia wins the Valero Texas Open.
- Indian Army gets portable Igla-S Air defence system from Russia.
- Sumit Nagal, 1st male Indian singles player to win Masters 1000 match
- Air India appoints Jayaraj Shanmugam as global airport operations head
- Aleksei Navalny and Yulia Navalnaya Honoured with Freedom Prize
- Legendary Cinematographer Gangu Ramsay Passes Away at 83
- Briton, nicknamed 'Hardest Geezer', becomes first person to run length of Africa
- Peter Pellegrini Wins Slovakia Presidential Elections: Pro-Russia Stance Solidified
- U.S. and Britain Forge Alliance to Enhance AI Safety
- Innovative Election Initiative: Punjab Launches 'Booth Raabta' Website
- Wipro Appoints New CEO: Srinivas Pallia
- GAIL Wins 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award for Barauni – Guwahati Pipeline
- SIDBI Partners with KarmaLife to Offer Micro Loans for Gig Workers
- Sagar Kavach 2024: Coastal Security Exercise in Lakshadweep Islands
- Sam Pitroda's New Book 'The Idea of Democracy'
- India Tops WADA's Doping Offenders List in 2022
- Miraj's Sitars and Tanpuras Awarded Geographical Indication Tags
- John Tinniswood, the 114-Year-Old Named World's Oldest Living Man
- Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins F1 Japanese Grand Prix 2024.
- J&K Bank partnered with Paymart to launch Virtual ATM Facility
- Meenesh Shah elected chairman of NCDFI
- Yulia Navalnaya to receive German democracy prize.
- 'Zero orbital debris' : ISRO achieves 'zero orbital debris' milestone
- Mary Kom steps down as Chef-de-Mission for Paris Olympics

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- Justice Aniruddha Bose to head National Judicial Academy
- The book "The Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond" launched.
- Anurag Kumar (IPS) appointed as Joint Director in CBI.
- Vandita Kaul appointed as Secretary of Department of Posts.
- Kannada poet Mamta G Sagar wins international literature prize.
- Tamil actor and politician Arulmani dies due to heart attack at 65.
- Moody's estimates India's GDP to be 6.1 percent in 2024.
- Arvind Kumar appointed as Director (Refineries) Of Indian Oil.
- PhonePe partners with eSewa, HAN Pokhara to promote UPI in Nepal
- IIT Bombay ranks 45th in QS World University Rankings 2024.
- Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024: India ranks third with 67 unicorns.
- Harendra Singh reappointed India women's hockey team coach.
- KABIL and CSIR-IMMT sign MoU for Critical Minerals.
- Asian Development Bank raises India's GDP growth to 7% for FY25
- Ms. Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to the International Narcotics Control.
- Gopi Thotakura: First Indian Pilot to Embark on Space Tourism with Blue Origin
- Russia's Successful Angara-A5 Rocket Test Launch
- Adani Green Energy Builds World's Largest Renewable Energy Park in Khavda, Gujarat
- Ashneer Grover Ventures into Fintech with ZeroPe Medical Loan App
- Moody's Analytics Forecasts India's Economy to Grow by 6.1% in 2024
- Sachidananda Mohanty Appointed as Member, University Grants Commission (UGC)
- Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni Honored with American President's Volunteer Award 2024
- Prestigious John Dirks Gairdner Global Health Award for Dr. Gagandeep Kang
- India Overtakes China in Digital Services Exports: Key Findings from WTO Report
- World Cybercrime Index Unveiled: Russia and Ukraine Top List
- Indian Army Conducts Anti-Tank Guided Missile Training Exercise in Sikkim
- UK's First Woman High Commissioner to India: Lindy Cameron
- Sushil Sharma Appointed CMD of SJVN Limited
- Former Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj to Head US-India Tax Forum
- PhonePe Partners with eSewa, HAN Pokhara to Promote UPI in Nepal
- Asian Wrestling Championship: Udit Bags Silver, Abhimanyu and Vicky Claim Bronze Each
- JNU Tops QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024: A Landmark Achievement for India
- Former NFL Star O.J. Simpson Dies of Cancer at Age 76
- HPCA Stadium becomes first Indian venue with hybrid pitch technology.
- India and Mauritius sign protocol to amend tax treaty.
- England's spin legend Derek Underwood passed away at the age of 78.
- First-ever PSUs' club 'SCOPE - Social Interaction Centre' inaugurated
- Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to Step Down, Hands Over Power to Deputy Lawrence Wong
- Chitrakoot's Stunning Glass Skywalk Bridge in Uttar Pradesh
- Longte Festival Celebrated by Arunachal Pradesh's Nyishi Tribe
- Kristalina Georgieva Re-appointed as IMF Managing Director
- The Book Titled "The Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond" Released
- IMGC and Bank of India Partner to Offer Mortgage Guarantee-Backed Home Loans
- LIC Increases Equity Stake in Hindustan Unilever by Over 5%
- Kannada Poet Mamta G. Sagar Honored with Prestigious World Literary Prize
- Nepali Cricketer Dipendra Singh Airee Joins Elite Club with Six Sixes in an Over
- Rohit Sharma Achieves Historic Milestone, Becomes First Indian to Hit 500 T20 Sixes
- Legendary English Cricketer Derek Underwood Passes Away at 78
- India-Kazakhstan to Enhance Counter-Terror Cooperation in Response to Moscow Attacks
- KABIL and CSIR-IMMT Forge Alliance for Critical Minerals Advancement

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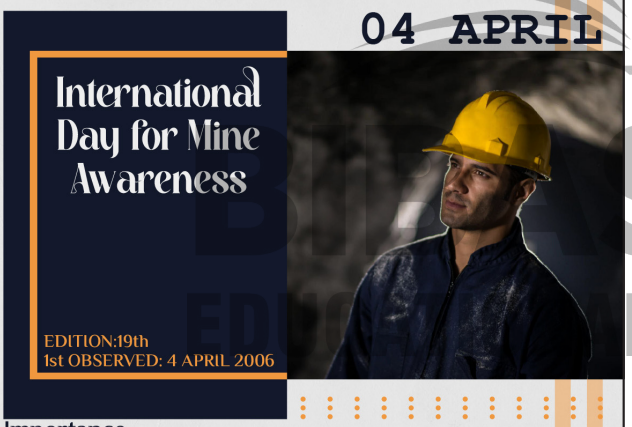
- India Invokes Peace Clause for Fifth Consecutive Time at WTO
- India Ranks Second in Hepatitis B and C Cases Worldwide
- ICICI Lombard Partners with Policybazaar to Expand Insurance Distribution
- HDFC Bank Becomes First Private Bank to Open Branch in Lakshadweep
- NTPC Limited to Launch New Edition of Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GEM)
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Organizes 'Shakti – A Festival of Music and Dance' in Shaktipeeths
- Harendra Singh Appointed as Coach of Indian Women's Hockey Team Until 2028 Olympics
- Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital Wins 'Best Scientific Poster Award' 2024
- British physicist Peter Higgs Passes Away at the age of 94
- Simon Harris Becomes Ireland's Youngest Prime Minister
- Zimbabwe Introduces ZiG: A New Gold-Backed Currency
- Air India Appoints Jayaraj Shanmugam as Head of Global Airport Operations
- ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Mission Awarded the Prestigious John L. "Jack" Swigert, Jr. Award
- GUJCOST Designated as Nodal Centre for ISRO's START Programme
- Sri Lankan Star Kamindu Mendis and England's Maia Bouchier Crowned ICC Players of the Month
- R.M. Veerappan, the most trusted lieutenant of late MGR, Passes away
- Siddharth Rajsekar announced the release of book 'I Can Coach'.
- Sushil Sharma appointed as Chairman & Managing Director of SJVN
- Nilgiri and Mahoba lead in Jal Jeevan Mission Success.
- USISPF appoints Tarun Bajaj as chairman of US-India Tax Forum.
- Paytm Payments Bank MD and CEO Surinder Chawla resigns.
- King Charles III receives first UK banknotes with his portrait.

04 APRIL



Importance
The General Assembly on 8 December, 2005 declared that each year on 4 April would be officially proclaimed and observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Motto
To spread awareness about the threat caused by landmines to the safety, health and lives of civilian populations and encourages state Governments to develop mine clearing programmes.

Note
In April 2015, the UN Secretary-General designated actor Daniel Craig as the first UN Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards.

05 APRIL

Importance
On this day, the steamship Savannah leaving from Savannah Georgia (May 22nd 1819) doing the first ever transoceanic voyage all under steam powered engines.

Motto
To spread awareness in supporting safe and environmentally sound commerce between the continents across the world.

Awards Conferred during the National Maritime Day
NMD Varuna Award, NMD Award of Excellence & Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Maritime Education and Training'.

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Infographics

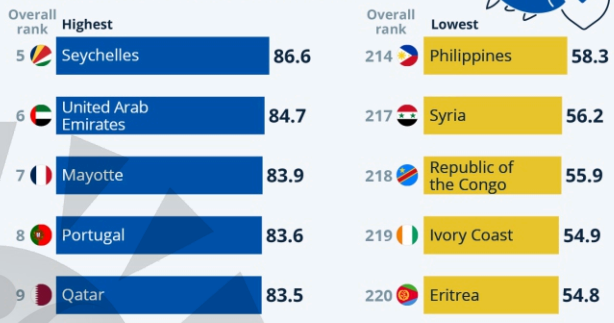
Where Highly Educated Migrants Come From

Most common birth countries of highly educated* migrants residing in OECD nations

* Having received vocational or academic training
As of 2015/16 - latest available
Sources: OECD, World Bank

Where Oceans Are Healthy – And Where They Aren't

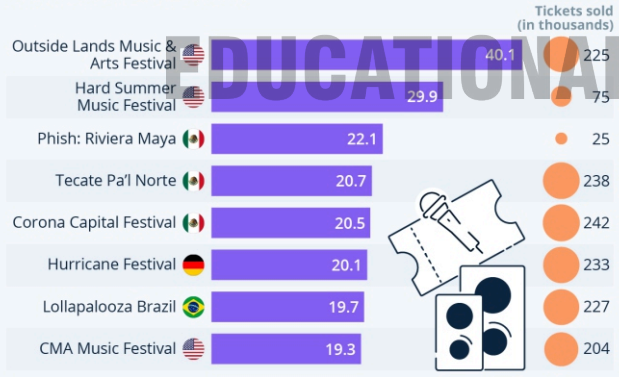
Countries/regions with the highest/lowest scores on the 2023 Ocean Health Index*



* Only countries with more than 100,000 residents displayed.
Index is based on a review of existing studies
Source: Ocean Health Index

The World's Most Successful Music Festivals

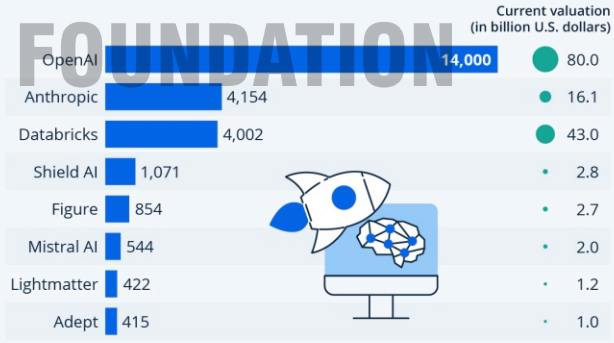
Highest-grossing festivals worldwide in 2023 (in million U.S. dollars)



Source: Pollstar

The 14-Billion-Dollar Bet on OpenAI

Top 8 AI startups worldwide according to capital invested as of Mar. 25, 2024 (in million U.S. dollars)



Source: CB Insights

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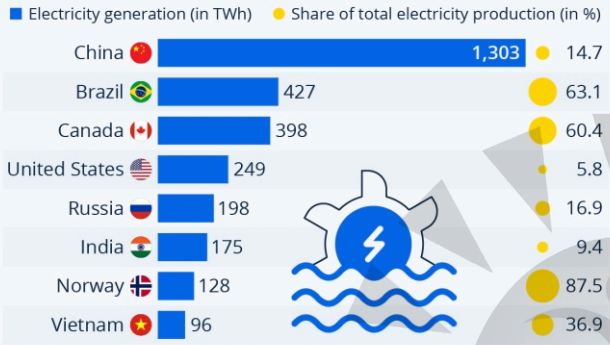
The World's Biggest Hydro Powers

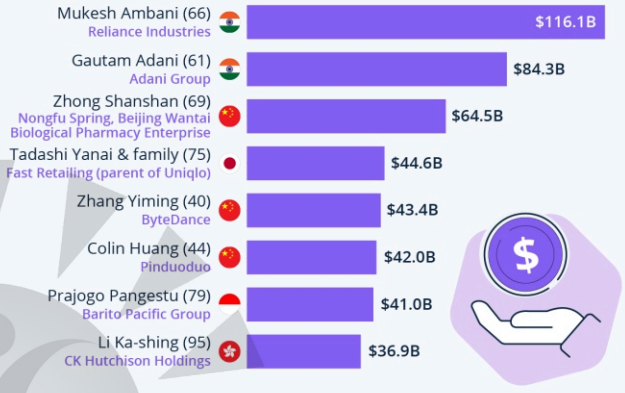
Countries with the highest electricity generation from hydro power in 2022 (in terawatt hours)



Source: Ember

Asia's Richest Billionaires

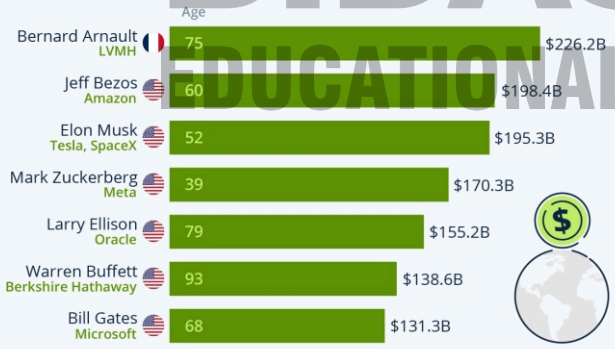
Net worth of the richest people in Asia*



* Net worths based on stock prices and exchange rates from April 2, 2024.
Source: Forbes' Real-time Billionaires List

The World's Richest People in 2024

Net worth of the world's richest people*



* Net worths based on stock prices and exchange rates from April 1, 2024.
Source: Forbes

Asia's Best Restaurants in 2024

Ranks and locations of Asia's best restaurants by 50 Best in 2024

Source: 50 Best by William Reed Business Media

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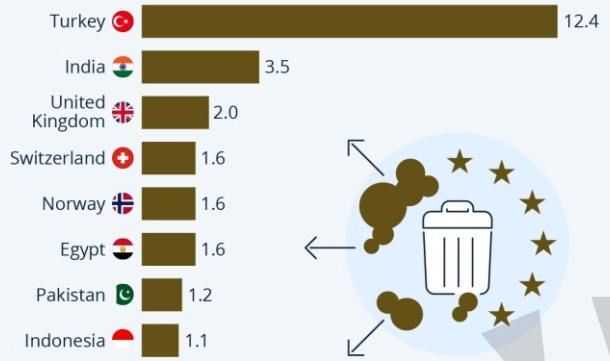
Where the EU Exports Its Waste

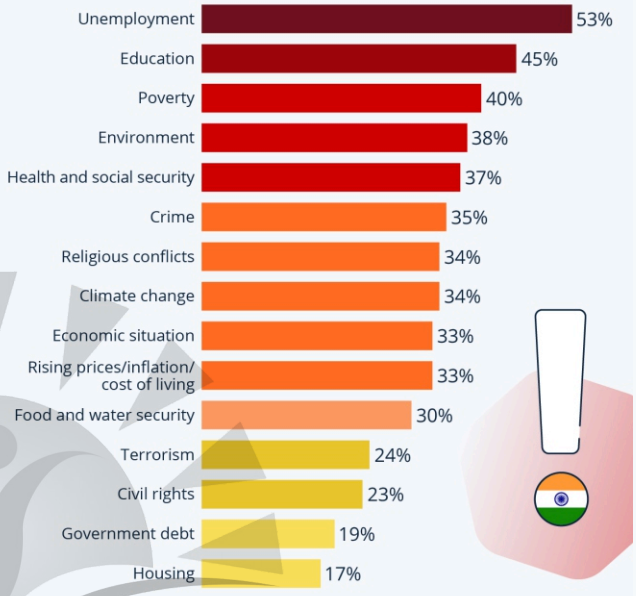
Main destinations for waste from the European Union in 2022 (in million tonnes)



Source: Eurostat

Ahead of India's Election, What Do People Care About?

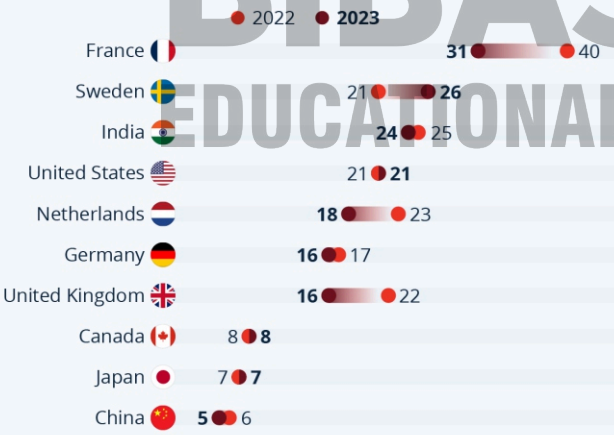
Share of Indian respondents who identified the following issues as among the most important in their country



24,201 respondents (18-54 y/o) surveyed Jan. 2023-Dec. 2023
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

Where People See a Terrorism Threat

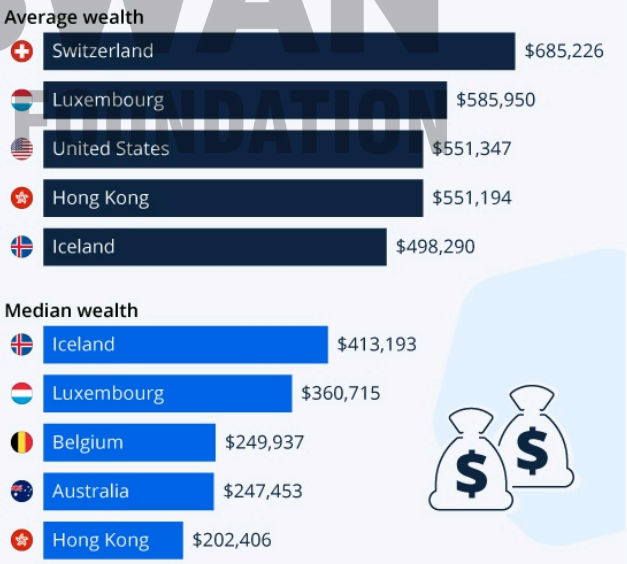
Share of respondents who think that terrorism is one of the biggest challenges in their country (in percent)



12,100-60,300 respondents (18-64 y/o) surveyed Jan.-Dec. 2022 (or closest possible)/Jan.-Dec. 2023
Source: Statista Consumer Insights

Which Countries Are Really the Richest?

Countries with the biggest average and median wealth per capita (2022)



Source: Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report

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