

₹ 110/-

2024
FEB



IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

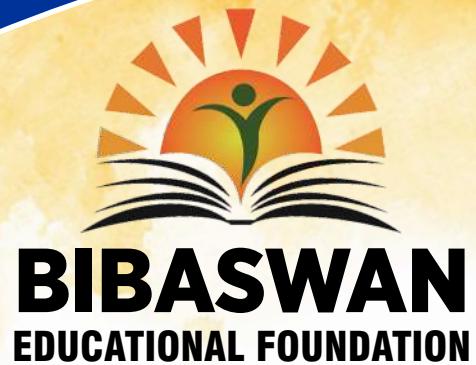
- Sweden set to become NATO member
- India-Maldives Ties: Recent Diplomatic Tussle
- What is Britain's Post Office scandal? Explained
- What ISRO's XPoSat Mission is all about: Explained
- R. Praggnanandhaa becomes India's No.1 Chess player
- Henley Passport Index 2024 released, India stands at 80th rank
- National Sports Awards, Padma Awards & Gallantry Awards Announced
- Munawwar Rana, Prabha Atre, Rashid Khan & Ved Prakash Nanda died
- Taiwan, France, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Chad Republic gets their new Heads
- Divyakriti Singh, first Indian woman to get Arjuna Award for Equestrian Sports

FEATURING:

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



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Burning Issues of the Month

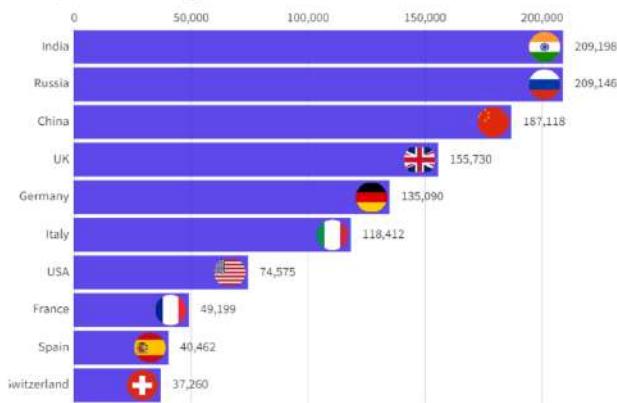
India-Maldives Ties: Recent Diplomatic Tussle



The rapid decline in ties between India and the Maldives, just a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the newly elected Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, should set alarm bells ringing. The trigger came from tweets by three Maldivian Ministers, attacking Mr. Modi for promoting the Lakshadweep islands during his recent sojourn there at a perceived cost to the Maldives and for his close ties with Israel; the Ministers also made derogatory remarks about Indians. The tweets have been deleted, the Ministers suspended, and the Maldivian government has distanced itself from them, but the damage has been done. The respective Ambassadors were summoned.

Tourist arrivals in Maldives in 2023

In 2023, Maldives saw the highest number of tourists from India

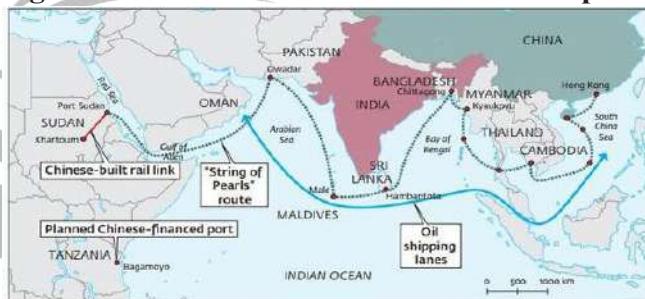


Source: Maldives Tourism Ministry
The Hindu Graphics

India rose as top source market for tourism in Maldives since the Covid-19 pandemic. According to sources

Indians in 2023 accounted for 11.2 per cent of the total tourist arrivals—1.84 million—in the Maldives, with Russia at second place with a share of 11.1 per cent.

Significance of India-Maldives Relationship



India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity and enjoy close, cordial and multi-dimensional relations. India was among the first to recognise Maldives after its independence in 1965 and to establish diplomatic relations with the country. India established its mission at the level of CDA in 1972 and resident High Commissioner in 1980. Maldives opened a full fledged High Commission in New Delhi in November 2004, at that time one of its only four diplomatic missions worldwide.

1. Neighbourhood First Policy

The India-Maldives bilateral partnership is underpinned by geographical proximity, historical, cultural ties and shared values. The Maldives occupies a special place in





the hearts of Indians and in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

2. First Responder:

India always stand by Maldives during the Covid-19 pandemic. The medical and financial assistance from India helped the Maldives overcome the health and economic fallouts of the pandemic.

3. Credit Line

India announced offer of a new Government of India Line of Credit of USD 100 million to finance infrastructure projects in Maldives in order to develop 4,000 social housing units being built in Greater Male under Buyer's Credit financing of Exim Bank of India. These housing units are in line with the Government of Maldives' focus of providing affordable housing for its citizens.

4. Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)

India participated in the virtual "pouring of the first concrete" ceremony of the USD 500 mn Greater Male' Connectivity Project being built under grant and concessional loan support from India. Both countries directed the officials to ensure timely completion of this largest landmark infrastructure project in Maldives - that will enhance mobility between Male', Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi islands, cut down logistics cost and drive people-centric economic growth- which will be a symbol of enduring friendship between the two countries.

5. The Hanimaadhoo International Airport Development project

Maldives welcomed final approval of the Indian side for signing of the Hanimaadhoo Airport Development project EPC contract and expressed happiness that implementation would commence shortly. On 25th September 2022, a contract for the "Hanimaadhoo International Airport Development Project" was signed between Government of Maldives and JMC Projects (India). It is the first ever major infrastructure project to be undertaken outside Greater Male' region and is funded under the USD 800 million concessional Line of Credit (LoC) extended by Government of India to the Maldives. The total contract value is approx USD 136 million.

6. Security Partnership

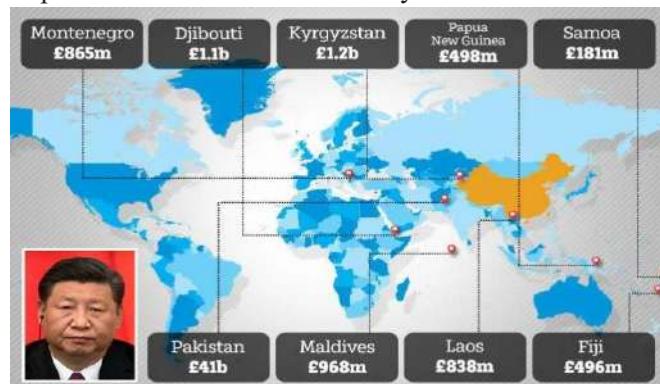
Defence cooperation extends to the areas of Joint Exercises - "Ekuverin", "Dosti", "Ekatha" and "Operation Shield" (begun in 2021). India provides the largest number of training opportunities for Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF), meeting around 70% of their defence training requirements.

Roadmap for Maldives Now

China and the Maldives have upgraded their relationship during newly elected President Mohamed Muizzu's first state visit to Beijing, following a campaign in which he cast China's regional rival India as a threat to its sovereignty. The Maldives signed several new agreements with China – its largest external creditor, including ones on climate, agriculture and infrastructure.

On the other side

World Bank, in a report in October, warned further cosying up to China could spell trouble in the Maldives, since the \$1.37bn it already owes Beijing represents about 20 percent of its public debt. China is the Maldives' biggest bilateral creditor, ahead of Saudi Arabia and India, to which it owes \$124m and \$123m, respectively. India's relations with the Maldives have been strained, especially since Muizzu, who campaigned on an "India Out" platform, took office. He promised to remove a unit of Indian security personnel, deployed to operate three aircraft gifted to the Maldives to patrol its vast maritime territory.



Sri Lanka, another neighbour of India, has also been gravitating towards China. India and China's relations soured in 2020 after clashes between soldiers in the western Himalayas resulted in the deaths of 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops.





What is Britain's Post Office scandal? Explained



One of Britain's biggest miscarriages of justice, the wrongful conviction of hundreds of Post Office workers due to faulty software, has exploded into the public domain following a TV drama, sparking demands for justice. In a more than 20-year scandal, some postal workers were sent to prison and others lost their livelihoods and homes. An independent inquiry as well as a police investigation into the scandal are ongoing, and top business executives and former ministers are in the firing line.

What is the post office scandal?

Hundreds of postal workers at the state-owned Post Office were wrongly prosecuted or convicted between 1999 and 2015 for alleged false accounting, theft and fraud, because of a glitchy software system that incorrectly showed money missing from accounts. Some spent time in jail while others went bankrupt, saw their marriages destroyed and some died before their names were cleared.

Managers at Post Office branches across Britain, called postmasters or postmistresses, are often at the heart of their communities, trusted individuals who handle people's savings and pensions. The Post Office maintained for years that data from the defective Horizon computer accounting system, developed by Japan's Fujitsu and rolled out in 1999, was reliable, while accusing branch managers of theft.

How did the scandal unfold?

The issues with Horizon, where the system would incorrectly show shortfalls in the accounts of individual branches, began to be reported to the Post Office from the early 2000s. Over the next decade, a number of postmasters either found their Post Office contracts terminated, were made bankrupt or were jailed after being found guilty of stealing money. In 2009, trade publication Computer Weekly reported the claims of flaws with Horizon, alongside the postmaster prosecutions. Amid mounting pressure from the media and lawmakers, the Post Office began to investigate the issue, but in 2015, its boss Paula Vennells told a parliamentary committee that there had been no evidence of any miscarriage of justice.

What compensation could victims receive?

The government plans to set aside 1 billion pounds (\$1.28 billion) to compensate the wrongly convicted and others whose lives were destroyed in the scandal. In late 2019, the Post Office agreed to settle claims made by 555 sub-postmasters. However, many of the victims found the amount paid in compensation was outweighed by legal fees. The government says roughly 138 million pounds (\$175 million) have so far been paid out to over 2,700 claimants across three separate Post Office compensation schemes. Still, many postmasters are yet to receive compensation or have their convictions quashed.





Has anyone been held accountable?



No senior Post Office staff have been punished to date. Vennells, who received more than 4.5 million pounds in salary and bonuses during her seven-year tenure, stepped down in 2019 before the Post Office agreed to pay 58 million pounds in a settlement with 555 sub-postmasters. In 2021 she resigned from the boards of two retailers after 39 sub-postmasters had their criminal convictions overturned, saying her past at the Post Office had become a distraction.



Fujitsu, which has continued to win multiple British government contracts, says it is "fully committed" to supporting an ongoing independent public inquiry. It says it has apologised for its role in a scandal that has had a "devastating" impact on people's lives.

Why Now?



The moment of reckoning was a long time in the making, but it was turbocharged by a four-part television docudrama that aired Jan. 1 and fueled public outrage that led to days of bruising headlines about the Post Office and sparked a swift response by lawmakers.

The ITV show, "Mr. Bates vs the Post Office," told the story of branch manager Alan Bates, played by Toby Jones, who has spent nearly two decades trying to expose the scandal and exonerate his peers. Despite hundreds of news stories over the years about court hearings and the continuing public inquiry, the show seen by millions rapidly galvanized support for victims of the injustice. More than 1 million people signed an online petition calling for former Post Office chief executive Paula Vennells to lose her Commander of the Order of the British Empire title she received in 2018. Now she said she would relinquish the honour.

What happens next?



Prime Minister Sunak said his government was considering a move to exonerate wrongfully convicted postmasters, calling the scandal an "appalling miscarriage of justice." Separately, an independent public inquiry led by a former high court judge is gathering evidence from postal workers, the government, the Post Office, Fujitsu and others. The inquiry is expected to conclude later this year.

Criminal cases

24 years
since the first convictions

900+ convictions

93 overturned
by courts on appeal

Financial costs

4,000+ people
seeking compensation

£138 million
paid out so far

£1 billion
set aside by government





What ISRO's XPoSat Mission is all about: Explained

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) welcomed the new year with the launch of its X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat), making India the second nation in the world to launch an advanced astronomy observatory specifically geared to study black holes and neutron stars. The XPoSat mission lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Breaking new ground

XPoSat is India's first dedicated polarimetry mission to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions. The polarimetry mission will help scientists study how the X-rays from celestial sources are polarised, which can reveal details about the structure and conditions of the objects emitting those X-rays. The emission mechanism from various astronomical sources such as blackhole, neutron stars, active galactic nuclei, pulsar wind nebulae etc. originates from complex physical processes and are challenging to understand. While the spectroscopic and timing information by various space based observatories provide a wealth of information, the exact nature of the emission from such sources still poses deeper challenges to astronomers. The polarimetry measurements add two more dimension to our understanding, the degree of polarization and the angle of polarization and thus is an excellent diagnostic tool to understand the emission processes from astronomical sources. The polarimetric observations along with spectroscopic measurements are expected to break the degeneracy of various theoretical models of astronomical emission processes. This would be the major direction of research from XPoSat by Indian science community.

Note: ISRO is the second space agency after NASA to dedicate a spacecraft to study this feature of black holes.

What are black holes?

When the biggest stars run out of fuel and die, they leave behind black holes or neutron stars, by collapsing under their own gravity—a phenomenon that has intrigued scientists for decades. Black holes have the highest

gravitational force in the universe and neutron stars have the highest densities.

XPoSat payloads



1. POLIX

POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) is an X-ray Polarimeter for astronomical observations in the energy band. The payload is being developed by Ramam Research Institute (RRI), Bangalore in collaboration with U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC). POLIX is expected to observe about 40 bright astronomical sources of different categories during the planned lifetime of XPoSat mission of about 5 years. This is the first payload in the medium X-ray energy band dedicated for polarimetry measurements.

2. XSPECT

XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing) is an X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing payload onboard XPoSat, which can provide fast timing and good spectroscopic resolution in soft X-rays. Taking advantage of the long duration observations required by POLIX to measure X-ray polarization, XSPECT can provide long-term monitoring of spectral state changes in continuum emission. XSPECT would observe several types of sources viz X-ray pulsars, blackhole binaries, low-magnetic field neutron star (NS) in LMXBs, AGNs and Magnetars. This payload is being developed by Space Astronomy Group of URSC.





Note: This is only the second mission of its sophisticated class after NASA's 2021 mission named Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer or IXPE. The mission will try to decipher the stellar remnants or corpses of dead stars.

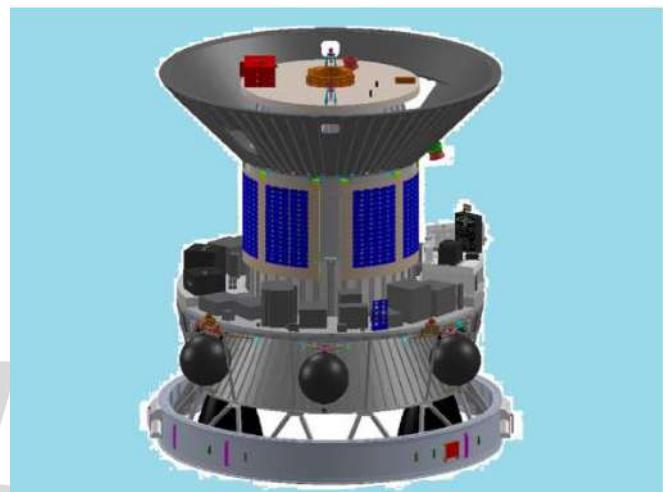
The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which carried the XPoSat, also launched 10 payloads developed by start-ups, educational institutions, and ISRO centres.

These payloads include:

1. Radiation Shielding Experimental Module (RSEM) by TakeMe2Space,
2. Women Engineered Satellite (WESAT) by LBS Institute of Technology for Women,
3. BeliefSa-0 Amateur radio satellite by K.J. Somaiya Institute of Technology,
4. Green Impulse TrAnsmitter (GITA) by Inspecity Space Labs Private Limited,
5. Launching Expeditions for Aspiring Technologies - Technology Demonstrator (LEAP-TD) by Dhruva Space Private Limited,
6. RUDRA 0.3 HPGP by Bellatrix Aerospace Private Limited,
7. ARKA-200 by Bellatrix Aerospace Private Limited,
8. Dust Experiment (DEX) by PRL,
9. ISRO Fuel cell Power System (FCPS) by VSSC,

10. ISRO and Si-based High Energy cell by VSSC, ISRO.

PSLV's POEM



The PSLV's fourth stage, the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) will also see 10 different experiments carried out, which have been developed by several private companies, including Dhruva Space, Bellatrix, K J Somaiya Institute of Technology, K J Somaiya Institute of Technology for Women. Starting the new year with a successful launch, ISRO has several other big projects—including the Gaganyaan mission and the joint mission with NASA dubbed Nisar—lined up for the year ahead.

XPoSat

WORLD'S ONLY SECOND X-RAY POLARIMETRY SATELLITE



APOGEE
PERIGEE
INCLINATION

650 km
650 km
6°

X.com/
ISROSpaceflight

XPoSAT WILL STUDY

- EMISSIONS OF X-RAYS
- STRUCTURES OF MAGNETIC FIELDS OF SOURCES
- NATURE OF EMITTING SOURCES

XPoSAT PAYLOADS



② XPspect ① Polix

POLIX
POLARIMETER INSTRUMENT IN X-RAYS
MEASURES ANGLE & DEGREE OF POLARISATION OF X-RAYS IN 8-30 KeV RANGE

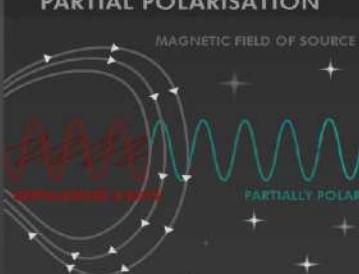
XPspect
X-RAY SPECTROSCOPY AND TIMING
MEASURES SPECTROSCOPIC INFORMATION AND TIMING OF SOFT X-RAYS (0.8-15 KeV)

X-RAY SOURCES

- PULSARS
- BLACK HOLES BINARIES
- GALACTIC NUCLEI
- SUPERNOVAE REMANENTS

X-RAYS ARE EMITTED BY EXTREMELY HEATED SUBSTANCES

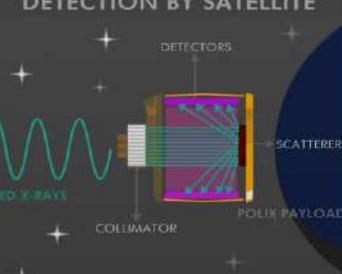
PARTIAL POLARISATION



MAGNETIC FIELD OF SOURCE
PARTIALLY POLARIZED X-RAYS

STRONG MAGNETIC FIELD OF THE SOURCE PARTIALLY POLARIZES THE EMITTED X-RAYS

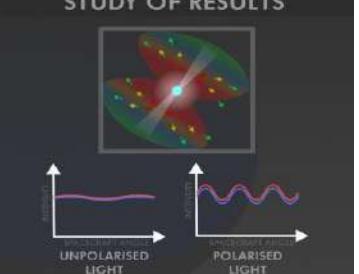
DETECTION BY SATELLITE



DETECTORS
COLLIMATOR
SCATTERER
POLIX PAYLOAD

AMOUNT AND DIRECTION OF POLARIZATION IS MEASURED TO STUDY THE SOURCE'S MAGNETIC FIELD AND STRUCTURE

STUDY OF RESULTS



THE INTENSITY OF SOURCE CHANGES WITH SPACECRAFT'S ORIENTATION, GIVING THE MEASURE OF POLARIZED LIGHT.

ABOVE: UNDERSTANDING UNPOLARISED LIGHT
BELOW: UNDERSTANDING POLARISED LIGHT





Padma Awards 2024 Announced

Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines / fields of activities. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.



These Awards are conferred by the President of India usually around March / April every year. For the year 2024, the President has approved conferment of 132 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases. The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Awards. 30 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 8 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 9 Posthumous awardees.

Among the Padma awardees, 34 are unsung heroes including India's first woman elephant mahout Parbati Baruah, famous as "Hasti Kanya", tribal environmentalist Chami Murmu, social worker Sangthankima who runs Mizoram's largest orphanage and plastic surgeon Prema Dhanraj.

Padma Vibhushan (5)

S. No.	Name	Field
1	Ms. Vyjayantimala Bali	Art
2	Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi	Art

3	Shri M Venkaiah Naidu	Public Affairs
4	Shri Bindeshwar Pathak (Posthumous)	Social Work
5	Ms. Padma Subrahmanyam	Art

Padma Bhushan (17)

S. No	Name	Field
1	Ms. M Fathima Beevi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs
2	Shri Hormusji N Cama	Literature & Education - Journalism
3	Shri Mithun Chakraborty	Art
4	Shri Sitaram Jindal	Trade & Industry
5	Shri Young Liu	Trade & Industry
6	Shri Ashwin Balachand Mehta	Medicine
7	Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee (Posthumous)	Public Affairs
8	Shri Ram Naik	Public Affairs
9	Shri Tejas Madhusudan Patel	Medicine
10	Shri Olanchery Rajagopal	Public Affairs
11	Shri Dattatray Ambadas Mayaloo alias Rajdutt	Art
12	Shri Togdan Rinpoche (Posthumous)	Others - Spiritualism
13	Shri Pyarelal Sharma	Art
14	Shri Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur	Medicine
15	Ms. Usha Uthup	Art
16	Shri Vijaykanth (Posthumous)	Art
17	Shri Kundan Vyas	Literature & Education - Journalism



**Padma Shri (110)**

S. No .	Name	Field
1	Shri Khalil Ahamed	Art
2	Shri Badrappan M	Art
3	Shri Kaluram Bamaniya	Art
4	Ms. Rezwana Choudhury Bannya	Art
5	Ms. Naseem Bano	Art
6	Shri Ramlal Bareth	Art
7	Ms. Gita Roy Barman	Art
8	Ms. Parbati Baruah	Social Work
9	Shri Sarbeswar Basumatary	Others - Agriculture
10	Shri Som Datt Battu	Art
11	Ms. Takdira Begum	Art
12	Shri Sathyanarayana Beleri	Others - Agriculture
13	Shri Drona Bhuyan	Art
14	Shri Ashok Kumar Biswas	Art
15	Shri Rohan Machanda Bopanna	Sports
16	Ms. Smriti Rekha Chakma	Art
17	Shri Narayan Chakraborty	Science & Engineering
18	Shri A Velu Ananda Chari	Art
19	Shri Ram Chet Chaudhary	Science & Engineering
20	Ms. K Chellammal	Others - Agriculture
21	Ms. Joshna Chinappa	Sports
22	Ms. Charlotte Chopin	Others - Yoga
23	Shri Raghuveer Choudhary	Literature & Education
24	Shri Joe D Cruz	Literature & Education
25	Shri Ghulam Nabi Dar	Art
26	Shri Chitta Ranjan Debbarma	Others - Spiritualism
27	Shri Uday Vishwanath Deshpande	Sports
28	Ms. Prema Dhanraj	Medicine

29	Shri Radha Krishan Dhiman	Medicine
30	Shri Manohar Krishana Dole	Medicine
31	Shri Pierre Sylvain Filliozat	Literature & Education
32	Shri Mahabir Singh Guddu	Art
33	Ms. Anupama Hoskere	Art
34	Shri Yazdi Maneksha Italia	Medicine
35	Shri Rajaram Jain	Literature & Education
36	Shri Jankilal	Art
37	Shri Ratan Kahar	Art
38	Shri Yashwant Singh Kathoch	Literature & Education
39	Shri Zahir I Kazi	Literature & Education
40	Shri Gaurav Khanna	Sports
41	Shri Surendra Kishore	Literature & Education - Journalism
42	Shri Dasari Kondappa	Art
43	Shri Sridhar Makam Krishnamurthy	Literature & Education
44	Ms. Yanung Jamoh Lego	Others - Agriculture
45	Shri Jordan Lepcha	Art
46	Shri Satendra Singh Lohia	Sports
47	Shri Binod Maharana	Art
48	Ms. Purnima Mahato	Sports
49	Ms. Uma Maheshwari D	Art
50	Shri Dukhu Majhi	Social Work
51	Shri Ram Kumar Mallick	Art
52	Shri Hemchand Manjhi	Medicine
53	Shri Chandrashekhar Mahadeorao Meshram	Medicine
54	Shri Surendra Mohan Mishra (Posthumous)	Art
55	Shri Ali Mohammed & Shri Ghani Mohammed* (Duo)	Art
56	Ms. Kalpana Morparia	Trade & Industry
57	Ms. Chami Murmu	Social Work
58	Shri Sasindran Muthuvel	Public Affairs





59	Ms. G Nachiyar	Medicine
60	Ms. Kiran Nadar	Art
61	Shri Pakaravur Chithran Namboodiripad (Posthumous)	Literature & Education
62	Shri Narayanan E P	Art
63	Shri Shailesh Nayak	Science & Engineering
64	Shri Harish Nayak (Posthumous)	Literature & Education
65	Shri Fred Negril	Literature & Education
66	Shri Hari Om	Science & Engineering
67	Shri Bhagabat Padhan	Art
68	Shri Sanatan Rudra Pal	Art
69	Shri Shankar Baba Pundlikrao Papalkar	Social Work
70	Shri Radhe Shyam Pareek	Medicine
71	Shri Dayal Mavjibhai Parmar	Medicine
72	Shri Binod Kumar Pasayat	Art
73	Ms. Silbi Passah	Art
74	Ms. Shanti Devi Paswan & Shri Shivan Paswan* (Duo)	Art
75	Shri Sanjay Anant Patil	Others - Agriculture
76	Shri Muni Narayana Prasad	Literature & Education
77	Shri K S Rajanna	Social Work
78	Shri Chandrashekhar Channapatna Rajannachar	Medicine
79	Shri Bhagwatilal Rajpurohit	Literature & Education
80	Shri Romalo Ram	Art
81	Shri Navjivan Rastogi	Literature & Education
82	Ms. Nirmal Rishi	Art
83	Shri Pran Sabharwal	Art
84	Shri Gaddam Sammaiah	Art
85	Shri Sangthankima	Social Work

86	Shri Machihan Sasa	Art
87	Shri Omprakash Sharma	Art
88	Shri Eklavya Sharma	Science & Engineering
89	Shri Ram Chander Sihag	Science & Engineering
90	Shri Harbinder Singh	Sports
91	Shri Gurvinder Singh	Social Work
92	Shri Godawari Singh	Art
93	Shri Ravi Prakash Singh	Science & Engineering
94	Shri Seshampatti T Sivalingam	Art
95	Shri Somanna	Social Work
96	Shri Kethavath Somlal	Literature & Education
97	Ms. Shashi Soni	Trade & Industry
98	Ms. Urmila Srivastava	Art
99	Shri Nepal Chandra Sutradhar (Posthumous)	Art
100	Shri Gopinath Swain	Art
101	Shri Laxman Bhatt Tailang	Art
102	Ms. Maya Tandon	Social Work
103	Ms. Aswathi Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi Thampuratty	Literature & Education
104	Shri Jagdish Labhshanker Trivedi	Art
105	Ms. Sano Vamuzo	Social Work
106	Shri Balakrishnan Sadanam Puthiya Veetil	Art
107	Shri Kurella Vittalacharya	Literature & Education
108	Shri Kiran Vyas	Others - Yoga
109	Shri Jageshwar Yadav	Social Work
110	Shri Babu Ram Yadav	Art





Gallantry Awards 2024 Announced

President Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 80 Armed Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous. These include six Kirti Chakras, including three posthumous, 16 Shaurya Chakras, including two posthumous, 53 Sena Medals, including seven posthumous, one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).



The President also approved 311 defence decorations for Armed Forces and other personnel. These include 31 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, two Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 59 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 10 Yudh Seva Medals, and 130 Vishisht Seva Medals, among others.

President Murmu has approved 84 Mentioned-in-Despatches to the Armed Forces personnel, including 10 posthumous. These include 68 from the Army - 34 for Operation Rakshak, 16 for Operation Snow Leopard, seven for Operation Meghdoot, three for Operation Sahayta, two for Operation Sidhra, three for Operation CAS Evacuation, and three for Misc Operation. It also includes 16 from the Indian Air Force - 15 for Operation Kaveri, and one for Misc Operation.

President has also approved the President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal to six Indian Coast Guard personnel.

Here is the list of KIRTI CHAKRA & SHAURYA CHAKRA Awardees 2024

KIRTI CHAKRA

Sr. No.	Name	Armed Force
1	MAJOR DIGVIJAY SINGH RAWAT	ARMY
2	MAJOR DEEPENDRA VIKRAM BASNET	ARMY
3	CAPTAIN ANSHUMAN SINGH (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
4	HAVILDAR PAWAN KUMAR YADAV	ARMY
5	HAVILDAR ABDUL MAJID (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
6	SEPOY PAWAN KUMAR (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY

SHAURYA CHAKRA

Sr. No	Name	Armed Force
1	MAJOR MANEO FRANCIS PF	ARMY
2	MAJOR AMANDEEP JAKHAR	ARMY
3	CAPTAIN MV PRANJAL (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
4	CAPTAIN AKSHAT UPADHYAY	ARMY
5	NAIB SUBEDAR BARIA SANJAY KUMAR BHAMAR SINH	ARMY
6	HAVILDAR SANJAY KUMAR	ARMY
7	RIFLEMAN ALOK RAO (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
8	SHRI PARSHOTAM KUMAR (CIVILIAN)	ARMY
9	LIEUTENANT BIMAL RANJAN BEHERA	NAVY
10	WING COMMANDER SHAILESH SINGH	AIR FORCE
11	FLIGHT LIEUTENANT HRISHIKESH JAYAN KARUTHEDATH	AIR FORCE
12	ASSISTANT COMMANDANT BIBHOR KUMAR SINGH	CRPF
13	MOHAN LAL	J&K POLICE
14	SUB INSPECTOR AMIT RAINA	J&K POLICE
15	SUB INSPECTOR FAROZ AHMAD DAR	J&K POLICE
16	CONSTABLE VARUN SINGH	J&K POLICE





Ayodhya Ram Mandir inauguration & its Key Features

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the 'Pran Pratishtha' rituals as the Ram Mandir was inaugurated in Ayodhya. PM Modi performed the 'Pran Pratishtha' in the 84-second 'muhurta' and before that, he partook in rituals with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwant by his side. The consecration ceremony was held after the first phase of the temple's construction, made possible by a Supreme Court judgment in 2019 on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit. The Hindu litigants argued that the Babri Mosque was constructed at the site of a temple marking the birthplace of Lord Ram. In 1992, the 16th-century mosque was demolished by "kar sevaks".



The key features of Ram Mandir:

- ❖ The grand Ram temple is dedicated to Lord Ram, who was believed to be born in Ayodhya.
- ❖ The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust is responsible for the construction of the Ram Temple.
- ❖ The chief architect of the temple was Chandrakant Sompura, assisted by his two sons, Nikhil Sompura and Ashish Sompura, who are also architects
- ❖ Constructed in the traditional Nagara style, the temple's length is 380 feet, width 250 feet and height 161 feet.
- ❖ It is supported by a total of 392 pillars and 44 doors.
- ❖ The main entrance leading to the Ram temple in Ayodhya is adorned with ornate statues of elephants, lions, Lord Hanuman, and 'Garuda'.
- ❖ The Garbhagriha, or inner sanctum, of the temple, is where the deity will be enshrined. This sanctum sanctorum will house the idol depicting the child form of Lord Ram (Ram Lalla), while the first floor will feature a Shri Ram Darbar.
- ❖ The main entrance to the temple is situated on the eastern side, which can be approached by ascending 32 stairs through the Singh Dwar.
- ❖ There are a total of five mandaps (halls) in the temple -- Nritya Mandap, Rang Mandap, Sabha Mandap, Prathana Mandap and Kirtan Mandap.
- ❖ At the four corners of the compound, there are four Mandirs - dedicated to Surya Dev, Devi Bhagwati, Ganesh Bhagwan and Bhagwan Shiv. In the northern arm is a Mandir of Maa Annapurna and in the southern arm is a Mandir of Hanuman ji.
- ❖ In the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir complex, there are proposed Mandirs dedicated to Maharshi Valmiki, Maharshi Vashishtha, Maharshi Vishwamitra, Maharshi Agastya, Nishad Raj, Mata Shabri, and the revered consort of the Devi Ahilya.
- ❖ There is a historical well (Sita koop) near the temple, dating back to the ancient era.
- ❖ In the southwestern part of the temple complex, at Kuber Tila, an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva has been restored, along with the installation of a statue of Jatayu.
- ❖ The Parkota (Rectangular compound wall) with a length of 732 meters and a width of 14 feet, surrounds the Mandir.
- ❖ The foundation of the Ram Temple has been constructed with a 14-metre-thick layer of roller-compacted concrete (RCC), giving it the appearance of artificial rock.
- ❖ No Steel or Iron was used anywhere during the construction.
- ❖ For protection against ground moisture, a 21-foot-high plinth has been constructed using granite.
- ❖ Bansi Paharpur Pink Sandstone from Rajasthan's Bharatpur district have been used in the main temple structure.
- ❖ The temple complex has a sewage treatment plant, water treatment plant, water supply for fire safety and an independent power station.
- ❖ The mandir is being constructed entirely using Bharat's traditional and indigenous technology. It is being constructed with particular emphasis on environmental-water conservation with 70% of the 70-acre area being left green.
- ❖ Construction Company: Larsen and Toubro (L&T)
- ❖ Project Management Company: Tata Consulting Engineers Limited (TCEL)
- ❖ Bhoomi Pujan: 5th August 2020
- ❖ Proposed Date of Inauguration: 22nd January 2024
- ❖ Sculptors: Arun Yogiraj (Mysore), Ganesh Bhatt and Satyanarayan Pandey





Recent Appointments

Jindal Stainless elevates whole time director Tarun Khulbe as CEO



Jindal Stainless Ltd has elevated Whole Time Director Tarun Khulbe as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He has been serving as the Whole Time Director of the company since May 2018. He will continue to hold the post besides that of the CEO. Khulbe has around 35 years of industry experience in business development, supply chain management, people practices and IT enablement. Khulbe joined JSL as a general manager for the cold rolling mills at Hisar, Haryana, in October 2004. Part of O P Jindal Group, Jindal Stainless is India's largest stainless steel manufacturer.

PepsiCo India appoints marketing chief Jagruti Kotecha as new CEO



PepsiCo India appointed Jagruti Kotecha as its chief executive officer (CEO), saying he will take over from Ahmed El Sheikh, who held the position for seven years. Kotecha is the company's chief marketing officer in Africa, Middle East, and South Asia (AMESA). He will assume the CEO's role in March 2024. Sheikh will become the CEO for the Middle East business unit.

PepsiCo:

- Founded: 1898
- Headquarters: New York, U.S.
- Chairman & CEO: Ramon Laguarta

Japanese Communist Party & Japan Airlines appoints its first-ever female chairperson



The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) decided to appoint incumbent policy chief Tomoko Tamura as the new chairperson, marking the first female head in the party's century-long history. Kazuo Shii, 69, had served as the chairperson since 2006 and is expected to transition to the role of chairman of the party's Central Committee, filling a vacancy that has existed since the retirement of Tetsuzo Fuwa. The 58-year-old Tamura, a native of Nagano prefecture, entered politics after working as a parliamentary secretary and secured her first election victory in the 2010 House of Councillors contest. On the other hand the Japan Airlines has named its first female president, a former cabin attendant who rose through the ranks to senior management, taking a deeply symbolic step in a country struggling to close a vast gender gap at work.

Japan

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

Vice Admiral N Pramod takes charge as Director General Naval Operations



Vice Admiral AN Pramod assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO). An alumnus of the 38th Integrated Cadet Course, Naval





Academy, Goa, he was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 July 1990. The Flag Officer is a CAT 'A' Sea King Air Operations Officer and a Communication & Electronics Warfare Specialist. He has also been the member of Indian Strategic & Operational Council (INSOC) and Tactical Audit Group (TAG) from 2016-19 and 2006-09 respectively.
Note: Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty took over as Commandant, Indian Naval Academy.

Denmark's King Frederik X takes the throne after queen steps down



Denmark's King Frederik X has ascended the throne, succeeding his mother, Queen Margrethe II, who has formally abdicated after 52 years as monarch. Margrethe, 83, stunned the nation on New Year's Eve when she announced she became the first Danish monarch in nearly 900 years to voluntarily relinquish the throne. The succession was formalised the moment she signed the declaration of her abdication during a meeting of the Council of State at Parliament. Denmark, one of the oldest monarchies in the world, does not have a coronation.

Denmark:

- Capital: Copenhagen
- Official languages: Danish, Faroese, Greenlandic
- Government: Monarchy, Parliamentary system
- Continent: Europe

Taiwan Elects Pro-Sovereignty William Lai in Historic Election



Taiwanese voters have chosen pro-sovereignty candidate William Lai as their president in a historic election. Beijing's communist government reviles Mr Lai's pro-sovereignty Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) which has governed Taiwan for eight years. Lai, the current vice president, secured an unprecedented third consecutive term for the DPP by defeating his conservative rival, Hou Yu-ih of the Kuomintang (KMT), by over 900,000 votes. Mr Lai's 40% of the vote put him comfortably ahead of Hou Yu-ih from the main opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party. Since 2000, Taiwan has alternated between the DPP and the KMT which is friendlier to Beijing.

Taiwan:

- Capital: Taipei City
- Currency: New Taiwan dollar

RBI deputy governor Michael Patra gets another 1-year extension



The Centre has extended the tenure of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor Michael Patra by another year. The extension takes effect from January 15 this year. Patra is in charge of the all-important monetary policy department and a member of the rate-setting panel. Patra was first appointed as the RBI deputy governor in January 2020 for three years. Last year, the government extended his term by one year. He worked in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as Senior Adviser to the Executive Director (India) from December 2008 to June 2012.

RBI:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Deputy Governors:

1. Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao
2. Shri Swaminathan J
3. Shri T. Rabi Sankar
4. Dr. M.D. Patra





US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy renamed country representative on WHO board



Indian-American Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has been named again to serve as the US's representative on the executive board of the World Health Organization (WHO) by President Joe Biden. The 46-year-old's nomination was re-sent as his confirmation to the position had been pending in the Senate since October 2022. He will serve in his new position alongside his continued duties as the country's Surgeon General. In March 2021, he was confirmed by the US Senate to serve as the 21st Surgeon General of the US and had previously served on the same post under then President Barack Obama.

Note: As the Nation's Doctor, the Surgeon General's mission is to help lay the foundation for a healthier country, relying on the best scientific information available to provide clear, consistent, and equitable guidance and resources for the public.

Former Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay wins parliamentary elections in Bhutan



Former Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's People's Democratic Party (PDP) has won most seats in Bhutan's parliamentary elections and will form a new government. Bhutan Broadcasting Service reported that the PDP had won 30 of the 47 National Assembly seats to return to power and the Bhutan Tendrel Party has secured 17 seats. Tobgay, 58, is expected to become Prime Minister for the second time.

Bhutan:

- Capital: Thimphu
- Currency: Ngultrum (BTN)

Gabriel Attal named next Prime Minister of France



Gabriel Attal has been named next Prime Minister of France, as Emmanuel Macron aims to revive his presidency with a new government. Gabriel Attal is currently working as an education minister. At 34, he is the youngest Prime Minister in modern French history, outranking even Socialist Laurent Fabius who was 37 when he was appointed by François Mitterrand in 1984. Mr Attal replaces Élisabeth Borne, who resigned after 20 months in office.

France:

- Capital: Paris
- President: Emmanuel Macron
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR), CFP franc (XPF)

Hockey India Appoint Herman Kruis As High Performance Director



Hockey India (HI) announced the appointment of Herman Kruis as the new high performance director with the Dutchman serving in the position till September. He will oversee the national junior and senior programmes of HI, including the coaches education pathway among other tasks. Kruis, who is from the Netherlands, has over two decades of coaching experience, and was earlier appointed as coach of Indian men and junior women's teams to oversee their preparations for the FIH Men's Junior World Cup and FIH Women's Junior World Cup respectively. He was also the head coach for the Netherlands indoor women's hockey team from 2006 to 2008 and he was also the head coach for the Netherlands outdoor team from 2008 to 2010.





Sheikh Hasina re-elected as Bangladesh's Prime Minister for a fourth term



PM Sheikh Hasina has won an overwhelming majority in Bangladesh's parliamentary election, giving her party — the Awami League — a fourth consecutive term. After an election campaign fraught with violence and a boycott from the main opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), it is confirmed as per several media reports that Hasina's party has won 216 seats out of 299. Independent candidates took 52 parliamentary seats, while the Jatiya Party — the third largest in the country — took 11. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Hasina was re-elected to parliament from the Gopalganj-3 constituency. The win also means the 76-year-old has become the country's longest-serving leader.

Bangladesh:

- Capital: Dhaka
- President: Mohammed Shahabuddin
- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina

IOA appoints Raghuram Iyer as its CEO after meticulous selection process



The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced Raghuram Iyer as the Chief Executive Officer. Iyer has a fair amount of experience in sports management as he served as the CEO of the Indian Premier League franchises Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Super Giants and Rising Pune Supergiant.

Indian Olympic Association:

- Created: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- President: P. T. Usha

Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey assumes charge of BIMSTEC Secretary General



Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, a senior diplomat of India, assumed the position of Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Dhaka. Pandey, succeeded Tenzin Lekphell of Bhutan, is the 4th SG of BIMSTEC and will remain in office for a period of three years. A career diplomat, Ambassador Pandey joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1990. Prior to taking over as SG, he served as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva.

BIMSTEC:

- Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Membership: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- Chairmanship: Thailand (since March 2022)

PhonePe appoints Ritesh Pai as CEO of its global payments biz



Digital payments major PhonePe announced the appointment of Ritesh Pai as CEO of its International Payments business. Pai earlier worked at President-Products and Solutions at TerraPay and was responsible for launching and implementing payment products and solutions globally. Prior to that, he served as the senior group president and chief digital officer at Yes Bank. This appointment comes on the back of PhonePe appointing Chief Executives for each of its different business verticals in November last year. Hemant Gala was made the CEO of the lending





business. Vishal Gupta was appointed the Chief Executive of insurance, Vivek Lohcheb became the CEO for e-commerce app Pincode and Ujjwal Jain became the Chief Executive of PhonePe's wealth offerings Share.Market.

PhonePe:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Salarpuria Softzone, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Founder: Sameer Nigam
- Co-Founder & CEO: Rahul Chari

Sanjiv Aggarwal appointed as NIIFL's CEO and MD



National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) announced that its board of directors has appointed Sanjiv Aggarwal as chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD) of the company. Aggarwal has significant experience in the infrastructure and energy sectors. He joined Actis, a leading global investor in sustainable infrastructure, in 2008, where he became a partner in 2010. He has recently been responsible for Actis' energy investments in Asia, including India. Before joining Actis, Aggarwal worked with Citigroup and ANZ Investment Bank in the Indian energy and infrastructure sectors. Aggarwal's appointment will be effective in February 2024. He succeeds Rajiv Dhar, who has served as interim CEO & MD since May 2023.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund:

- Founded: February 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, India

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi assumes role of vice chief of Navy

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Navy. Prior to taking charge as the vice chief, Vice Admiral Tripathi was serving as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western

Naval Command. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, he was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1985.



A Communication and electronic warfare specialist, he served on frontline warships of the Navy as signal communication officer and electronic warfare officer. Vice Admiral Tripathi commanded Indian naval ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul.

Karan Adani appointed as managing director of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone



Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has elevated its CEO Karan Adani to the role of Managing Director, a position which was held by Chairman of Adani group Gautam Adani. Gautam Adani has been re-designated as executive chairman of APSEZ. The company has also approved the appointment of Ashwani Gupta, former global Chief Operating Officer at Nissan Motors, as the new Chief Executive Officer of APSEZ. Beginning his career with the Adani Group in 2009 at Mundra Port, he took over as CEO in 2016, after which the APSEZ portfolio rapidly expanded with the addition of four ports and terminals in India, one in Sri Lanka and one in Israel.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna Appointed As NALSA Executive Chairperson

Supreme Court judge, Justice BR Gavai has been nominated by the National Legal Services Authority as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee. The Department of Justice issued a notification to this effect on December 29, 2023. The





post was earlier held by the Supreme Court's senior-most puisne judge, Justice Sanjiv Khanna.



National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987. This organization plays a pivotal role in providing free legal services to the weaker sections of society and aims to organize Lok Adalats for the amicable settlement of disputes. NALSA is headed by the Chief Justice of India, serving as the Patron-in-Chief, along with a senior judge of the Supreme Court who acts as the Executive Chairman. This dual leadership structure ensures a comprehensive and balanced approach to its functioning.

Puneet Chhatwal Appointed Chairman of FAITH



The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH), announced the appointment of Puneet Chhatwal as its chairman. Chhatwal will be taking over from Nakul Anand, the former executive director at ITC Hotels. Chhatwal is the managing director and chief executive officer at Indian Hotels Company Limited. He will also continue as the president of the Hotel Association of India (HAI), a position he was re-elected to in 2022. Several national tourism and hotel associations like HAI, the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India, and The Federation of Hotels & Restaurant Associations of India are members of FAITH.

Randhir Jaiswal succeeds Arindam Bagchi as new MEA spokesperson



Senior diplomat Randhir Jaiswal assumed charge as the new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) succeeding Arindam Bagchi. Bagchi has been appointed India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other international organisations in Geneva. Jaiswal, a 1998 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, was serving as India's consul general in New York in his previous posting. In his over two decades of service, Jaiswal served in Cuba, South Africa, Portugal and at India's permanent mission to the UN in New York.

Chadian Opposition Leader Succes Masra Appointed Transitional PM



Chad's transitional government has appointed former opposition leader Succes Masra, who recently returned to the country following exile, as prime minister. This move comes after months of political unrest and opposition protests against the military rulers who assumed power in April 2021 after the death of longtime leader Idriss Deby Itno. Succes Masra, the president of The Transformers party, emerged as a prominent figure in opposition to the military rulers who took control of Chad last year. His strong opposition to the regime, which came to power after Deby's death, reflects the broader sentiment against the military's involvement in governance. Masra's return from exile marks a pivotal moment in Chad's political landscape, signaling a potential shift towards civilian governance.





Kia India Appoints Gwanggu Lee as New MD and CEO



Kia India announced it has appointed Gwanggu Lee as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO). Lee will be replacing Tae Jin Park, who has been the India head of the South Korean carmaker for the last four years. Lee has held leadership positions in various capacities in both developed and developing economies, including roles in the US, Canada, Italy, Mexico, Kia Headquarters in Central and South America, and Kia Europe Headquarters in Germany.

Kia:

- Owner: Hyundai Motor Company
- Founded: 11 December 1944, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul, South Korea
- Subsidiaries: Kia Canada, Kia Motors India, Kia Motors Australia
- Founder: Kim Cheol-ho
- Headquarters: Seoul, South Korea

Anish Dayal Singh Appointed Director General of CRPF; Rahul Rasgotra as New Head of ITBP; Nina Singh to Lead CISF



Anish Dayal Singh has been appointed as the Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Earlier he was heading Indo-Tibetan Border Police

(ITBP). Mr Singh is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Manipur cadre. Senior IPS officer Rahul Rasgotra has been appointed as the Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). Mr. Rasgotra is a 1989-batch IPS officer of Manipur cadre. Rahul Rasgotra, at present a special director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB). Senior IPS officer Nina Singh has been appointed as the chief of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Nina Singh, 1989-batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre is currently working as Special Director General, CISF. Vivek Srivastava, a 1989-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, will be Director General, Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards. He has been appointed to the post till June 30, 2025, i.e. the date of his superannuation.

K'taka HC Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale to be appointed SC judge



The Central government approved the appointment of the Chief Justice of Karnataka HC Justice Prasanna B Varale, as Judge of the Supreme Court. Once he takes oath, the apex court will attain its full strength of 34 judges, including the Chief Justice of India Justice Varale will become the third sitting SC judge from a Scheduled Caste community. Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale was born in Nipani, Karnataka, on June 23, 1962. He graduated in Arts and Law from Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. He became an advocate in 1985. Justice Varale was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court in July 2008 and was made a permanent judge three years later. He served as a judge in the Bombay High Court for 14 years until being appointed as Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court in October 2022. Justice Varale is well-known for proactively initiating suo moto cases in the public interest.





National News

ANUBHAV Awards Scheme, 2024

The ANUBHAV Awards Scheme, initiated by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW), is an innovative platform for recognizing the contributions made by retired officials to nation-building during their tenure in government service. Launched in 2015 under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the scheme is a step towards documenting India's administrative history through written narratives by retired Central Government employees.

Key Features:

- Objective: To acknowledge and honour the valuable contributions and experiences of retired government employees.
- Eligibility: Retiring Central Government employees/pensioners can participate by submitting their 'Anubhav' write-ups 8 months before retirement and up to 1 year after their retirement.

PM to inaugurate Boeing's largest facility outside US in B'luru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the largest Boeing facility outside of United States in Karnataka's capital city, Bengaluru. The new state-of-the-art Boeing India Engineering and Technology Centre (BIETC) campus has been built at the Aerospace Park in Devanahalli, near the Bengaluru Airport. Built with an investment of ₹1,600 crore, the 43-acre campus is Boeing's largest such investment outside the US. PM Modi will also launch the Boeing Sukanya programme, which aims to support the entry of more girl children from across India into the country's growing aviation sector. The programme will provide opportunities for girls and women to learn critical skills in the science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) fields and train for jobs in the aviation sector.

Boeing:

The Boeing Company is an American multinational corporation that designs, manufactures, and sells airplanes, rotorcraft, rockets, satellites, telecommunications equipment, and missiles worldwide.

- Founded: July 15, 1916
- Founder: William E. Boeing
- Headquarters: Virginia, United States
- President and CEO: Dave Calhoun
- Chairman: Larry Kellner

PM Modi launches new rooftop solar power scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana', a government scheme under which one crore households will get rooftop solar power systems. This isn't the first scheme for promoting the installation of rooftop solar power systems, though. In 2014, the government launched the Rooftop Solar Programme that aimed to achieve a cumulative installed capacity of 40,000 megawatts (MW) or 40 gigawatts (GW) by 2022 — watt is a unit of power and is calculated as the amount of energy used over time, specifically one Joule per second. However, this target couldn't be achieved. As a result, the government extended the deadline from 2022 to 2026. The Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana seems to be a new attempt to help reach the target of 40 GW rooftop solar capacity.

Centre's new guidelines bar coaching centres from enrolling students below 16 years of age

Ministry of Education has issued 'Regulation of Coaching Centers 2024' Guidelines, saying that no coaching center shall enroll students below 16 years of age. The Guidelines stressed that student enrolment should be done only after secondary school examination. Coaching Centres have been directed not to make misleading promises or guarantee of rank or good marks to parents and students. Education Ministry said, these guidelines prioritize mental well-being, fair practices, and inclusivity. The guidelines stress the need for State and UT governments to regulate these centers and refer to legal actions, such as the PIL in the Supreme Court and letters sent to states and UTs. Fair and reasonable fee, a proper grievance redressal system and infrastructure requirements are some of the rules coaching centres must follow.





Recent Cabinet Approvals at a glance

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approves various MoUs amongst 5 nations in order to promote exchange of information and cooperation in respective areas.

1. India and Netherlands on cooperation in the field of Medical products Regulation
2. India and Dominican Republic on cooperation in the field of Medical Products Regulation
3. India and Kenya on cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation
4. India and Ecuador on cooperation in the field of Medical Products Regulation
5. India and the European Commission on Working Arrangements on Semiconductors Ecosystems under the framework of EU-India Trade and Technology Council

Heads at a glance

- Netherland's PM: Mark Rutte
- Dominican Republic PM: Roosevelt Skerrit
- Kenya President: William Ruto
- Ecuador President: Daniel Noboa
- European Council President: Charles Michel

Cabinet gives go-ahead for two CIL power projects worth Rs 21,547 cr

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the proposal for equity investment by two Coal India (CIL) subsidiaries for setting up two pithead thermal power plants (TPPs) of 2,260 megawatts (MW). The total equity investment approved by the CCEA for both the power plants is ₹5,607 crore and the cumulative project cost is ₹21,547 crore. The approval has been accorded for South Eastern Coalfields (SECL) for setting-up a 660 MW TPP through JV of coal miner and Madhya Pradesh Power Generation Company (MPPGCL). The second project is by Mahanadi Coalfields (MCL) for setting-up a 1,600 MW TPP through Mahanadi Basin Powe (MBPL), a subsidiary of MCL.

What is Equity Investment?

An equity investment is money that is invested in a company by purchasing shares of that company in the stock market. These shares are typically traded on a stock exchange.

Coal India (CIL)

- Industry: Mining, Refinery
- Founded: 1975

- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- Chairman & MD: PM Prasad

Tamil Nadu adopts Bill to make Tamil paper compulsory for State government jobs.

Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a bill , making the Tamil paper compulsory for candidates to pass competitive exams for posts in the state government. The bill was tabled to amend the Tamil Nadu Government Servants Act 2016. As per the changes, even if a candidate was qualified and acquired the job, he or she should pass in Tamil paper within two years of acquiring the job.

PM Modi inaugurates India's longest sea bridge

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), marking a momentous milestone in India's infrastructure development and opening of the long-awaited sea bridge. The bridge, officially named "Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewari-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu", shortened to "Atal Setu", upon opening, will stand as India's longest sea bridge and the 12th longest sea bridge in the world.

Features:

- The Atal Setu in Mumbai is a 21.8-km-long six-lane bridge, that has 16.5 km length over the sea and about 5.5 km on land.
- Being dubbed India's longest sea bridge, it was constructed at a cost of 217,840 crore, using 1,77,903 metric tonnes of steel along with 5,04,253 metric tones of cement.

KALIA scholarship scheme modified to bring in more students

The Odisha government has modified the guidelines for the KALIA scholarship scheme to accommodate more students pursuing technical and professional courses in private institutes within Odisha as well as premier institutes outside the state. As per the modified guidelines, students enrolled in technical and professional courses at private institutes in the state having All India Survey on Higher Education code are covered under KALIA scholarship. Besides, those taking admission in technical and professional courses in premier institutes like NIT, IIT, IIM, AIIMS, ICAR, IARI, IISER, NISER, IVRI, CIFE and NDRI





both inside and outside the state are included under the scheme. In addition to the existing courses, PG and PhD courses (professional/technical) too are included under the scheme. It will be maximum two years for PG and four years for PhD courses. The PhD courses must be related to the eligible post-graduation courses only in government institutions in the state.

Note: Earlier, it was provided to farmer's children enrolled only in government institutions within the state.

Odisha

- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Bird: Indian roller
- Districts: 30 (3 divisions)
- Flower: Asoka

Government approves PRITHVI VIGYAN scheme to understand Earth Systems and science of Climate Change

The government has decided to implement the overarching scheme PRITHvi VIgyan (PRITHVI) for 4,797 crore rupees. The scheme encompasses five ongoing sub-schemes namely Atmosphere and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS), Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART), Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER), Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE) and Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT). The Prithvi Scheme is aimed at the augmentation and sustenance of long-term observations of the atmosphere, ocean, geosphere, cryosphere, and solid earth to record the vital signs of the Earth System and change.

Ministry of Education launches PRERANA, an experiential learning programme for developing leadership qualities in students

The Government has launched PRERANA, an experiential learning programme for developing leadership qualities in students. Prerana is driven by a strong commitment to integrate principles of the Indian education system and the philosophy of value-based education which is a cornerstone of the National Education Policy 2020. It is a week-long residential programme for selected students of classes 9th to 12th. A batch of 20 selected students (10 boys and 10

girls) will attend the programme, every week from various parts of the country. The programme will run from a Vernacular School, established in 1888, in Vadnagar, Gujarat. The curriculum of Prerana School was prepared by IIT Gandhi Nagar. It is rooted in nine value-based themes - Swabhiman and Vinay, Shaurya and Sahas, Parishram and Samarpan, Karuna and Sewa, Vividhta and Ekta, Satyanishtha and Shuchita, Navachar and Jigyasa, Shraddha aur Vishwas, and Swatantrata and Kartavya. The programme will inspire the youth and foster respect for Bharat's unity in diversity, embodying the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Ministry of Education:

- Minister responsible: Dharmendra Pradhan
- Ministry executive: Sh. K Sanjay Murthy

PM Vishwakarma Yojana scheme launched in J&K

In a significant step towards empowering the craftsman community of state, Jammu and Kashmir became the first UT of country to implement prestigious PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY) with the start of training for first batch of 30 trainees (Viswakarmas) in Darzi Craft at ITI Shopian. The scheme will be operationalised in all districts of J&K soon.

Background:

PMVY is an ambitious initiative of Central Government in September 2023 by the PM, Narendra Modi. The scheme aims for recognition of artisans and crafts of people through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card as well basic training of five to seven days and advanced training of 15 days or more, with a stipend of Rs. 500 per day. The scheme will also provide modern toolkit of Rs 15000 free of cost to trained Vishwakarmas besides linkage with credit based soft loans and marketing support for expansion of their business will also be provided under the Yojana.

Indian Navy unveils new design of Admirals' Epaulettes

The Indian Navy unveiled the new design of Admirals' Epaulettes. The Indian Navy said that the Octagon in the new design, drawn from the Naval Ensign and inspired from Rajmudra of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is a true reflection of the rich





maritime heritage. In the new design, the Golden Navy button reiterates the resolve to do away with the slavery mindset. The Octagon represents the eight cardinal directions that indicate an all-round long-term vision. The Sword emphasizes the essence of the Navy to be the cutting edge of National power. The Telescope symbolizes a long-term vision, foresight, and a weather eye in an ever-changing world.

India elected as First Vice Chair of COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

India has been elected as the First Vice Chair of the Food and Agriculture Organization FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. India's role in this crucial Sub-Committee as the representative of

Global South would give much-needed balance and perspective to the global narratives concerning fisheries governance and management. India will serve as member of a FAO Fisheries Bureau on 'Capture Fisheries' for the first time in 57 years. India is one of the top fishing nations with over 28 million inland and marine fishers.

Food and Agriculture Organization:

- Formation: 16 October 1945
- Founded at: Canada
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Director-General: Qu Dongyu
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council

01 FEB



EDITION: 47th

INDIAN COAST GUARD DAY

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

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

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

Note

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

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

02 FEB



EDITION: 27th
INCEPTION: 1997
2024 THEME: Wetlands and human wellbeing

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

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

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

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

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

"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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International Events

Sweden set to become NATO member

Turkey's parliament ratifies Sweden's NATO membership bid, clearing the biggest remaining hurdle to expanding the Western military alliance after 20 months of delay. Turkey's general assembly, where President Tayyip Erdogan's ruling alliance holds a majority, voted 287-55 to approve the application that Sweden first made in 2022. All NATO members need to approve applications from countries seeking to join the alliance. Sweden's membership would make the entire Baltic coastline NATO territory - with the exception of the Russian coast and that of its enclave Kaliningrad. This would, for example, make the Baltic States easier to defend in the event of a Russian attack. Troops and equipment could be transported much more easily by ship via Sweden to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

NATO:

- Formation: 4 April 1949
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg

British lawmakers pass PM's Rwanda bill

The British parliament has approved a controversial bill to allow the country to send refugees arriving in the UK to Rwanda, in east Africa, as the government overcame rebels in its own party and defied critics who warn the bill breaches international law. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government won the vote in parliament by a majority of 320 to 276. The victory was a huge relief for Sunak as his own Conservative MPs had rebelled by backing amendments to strengthen the bill. The amendments were defeated, causing concern that these MPs would also rebel on the main bill. The Rwanda Safety Bill is supposed to end legal challenges that have thus far prevented Britain from sending refugees to Rwanda, after the two countries struck a deal back in 2022. The deal came after a dramatic increase in refugees arriving in Britain via small boats arranged by human trafficking gangs. The UK wants to send people arriving illegally in Britain to Rwanda where they will remain while their asylum claims are processed. If they are successful, they will be able to return to the UK. If

they are unsuccessful, they will be able to stay in Rwanda or seek asylum elsewhere.

Rwanda

- Capital: Kigali
- President: Paul Kagame
- Prime minister: Édouard Ngirente
- Currency: Rwandan Franc

BRICS Welcomes Five New Members, Signaling Global Shift

The upcoming BRICS summit in Russia this October is set to undergo a significant transformation as it expands its membership to include five new nations alongside the original founding five – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. This expansion, featuring Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, signifies a notable shift in the global landscape, characterized by increasing multipolarity and assertive middle powers challenging the established Western-led order. Notably, Argentina, under its new President Javier Milei, has decided to withdraw from its planned entry into the expanding BRICS club of nations. The last expansion of the BRICS took place in 2010 when South Africa joined, adding an "S" to the acronym a year after the bloc's inception.

Niger suspends all cooperation with International Organisation of Francophone Nations

Niger, a landlocked country in West Africa, has suspended all cooperation with the International Organisation of Francophone Nations (OIF) as it progressively severs ties with former colonial ruler France. The military seized power in a coup in July which was strongly condemned by France and other Western allies. It soon kicked out French troops which had been helping to fight a decade-old armed rebellion in the West African country.

International Organisation of Francophone:

The organisation's stated mission is to promote the French language, support peace and democracy, and encourage education and development in Francophone countries around the world, many of which are former French colonies.





Banking & Economy

Intel launches enterprise GenAI software firm with Arun Subramaniyan as CEO

Chip giant Intel has announced a new enterprise-focused generative AI (GenAI) software company called Articul8 with global investment firm DigitalBridge Group. Articul8 is an independent company offering enterprise customers a full-stack, vertically-optimised and secure GenAI software platform. Arun Subramaniyan, formerly vice president and general manager in Intel's Data Center and AI Group, has assumed leadership of Articul8 as its CEO.

Intel:

- Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States
- Founders: Gordon Moore, Robert Noyce
- CEO: Patrick P. Gelsinger
- Subsidiaries: Mobileye, Intel Israel, Intel Ireland, Habana Labs Ltd.
- CFO: David Zinsner
- CTO: Greg Lavender

AM/NS to build world's largest single location integrated steel plant in Gujarat

Lakshmi Mittal announced that ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) is building the world's largest single location integrated steel plant at Gujarat's Hazira. Mittal, the executive chairman of global steel major ArcelorMittal which operates the JV in India with Japan's Nippon, said the plant will have a capacity of producing 24 million tonne of crude steel, and should be ready by 2029. The company has signed an agreement for the second phase of the plant with the Gujarat government at the event. The first phase of the steel manufacturing site will be completed by 2026 whereas the second phase, marked by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), will be completed by 2029. Once operational, the expanded manufacturing facility will produce around 24 million tonnes (MT) of steel, making it the world's largest steel manufacturing site.

CCI clears merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank with AU Small Finance Bank

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank with AU Small Finance Bank, as per an exchange filing. In October last year, the board of directors of AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) and that of Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB) approved an all-stock merger of AU SFB and Fincare SFB. As per the terms of scheme of amalgamation, Fincare Business Services, promoter of Fincare SFB, shall infuse Rs 700 crore into Fincare SFB prior to the completion of the merger. The lender further said the scheme remains subject to the Reserve Bank of India's approval.

AU Small Finance Bank:

- Founded: 1996
- Chairman: Raj Vikash Verma
- MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal

DGCA slaps Rs 1.10 crore penalty on Air India for safety violations

Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.10 crore on Air India for safety violations amid a series of incidents of flight irregularities. Pursuant to the receipt of a voluntary safety report from an airline employee alleging safety violations of flights operated by Air India on certain long range terrain critical routes, DGCA conducted a comprehensive investigation into the alleged violations. Recently, IndiGo was fined Rs 1.20 crore as the passengers of one of its flights came out on the tarmac and started eating food. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia strongly reacted to the incident and said it was unacceptable. Earlier this month, DGCA had issued show cause notices to Air India and SpiceJet for not deploying pilots trained to operate in low visibility conditions, following diversions of various flights amid dense fog at the Delhi airport in late December.

DGCA:

- Minister: Jyotiraditya Scindia
- Deputy Ministers: V.K. Singh
- Director General: Vikram Dev Dutt





Everything you've ever wanted to know about an Interim Budget

An Interim Budget is similar to a Union Budget in that the ruling government tables in Parliament the estimates of its expenditure, revenue, fiscal deficit, and financial performance and projections for the upcoming financial year. Although major tax proposals are not made, the ruling government can tweak some taxes. This had happened in the interim budget ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections when the income tax deduction limit was raised by the government to give salaried professionals some relief. The government, however, does not make any major policy announcements during the Interim Budget which could financially burden the next government that will present the full Union Budget. According to the Election Commission's Code of Conduct, the ruling government cannot include any major scheme in the Interim Budget as it could influence voters. The government also does not present the Economic Survey along with the Interim Budget which is done a day before the presentation of the main budget.

Need:

An Interim Budget is presented by a government in its last year in office ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. The need for an interim budget arises because fresh approval is required from the Parliament to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India to run the government as the existing 2023-24 Budget is valid only till March 31 this year. Since the Lok Sabha elections will be held in April-May this year, funds will be required to run the country till the new government takes over after the elections. The interim budget is a practical arrangement that enables the government to fill this gap. The full Union Budget is presented by the newly-elected government after the Lok Sabha polls.

UP govt okays Rs 2,940 cr for expansion of YEIDA, UPSIDA, UPEIDA

The Uttar Pradesh government approved Rs 2,940 crore in funds for industrial bodies YEIDA, UPSIDA and UPEIDA. The funds are for expansion of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), the UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) and UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA). Earlier newly formed Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority has been earlier

granted Rs 3,000 crore for land acquisition. In the financial year 2023-24, Rs 8,000 crore was set aside for industrial expansion in the state. Of the remaining Rs 5,000 crore, Rs 1,000 crore has been approved for UPEIDA, Rs 1,500 crore for YEIDA and Rs 440 crore for UPSIDA. So far, a total of Rs 7,042.67 crore has been approved for the expansion of all industrial development authorities.

Uttar Pradesh

- Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow
- Bird: Sarus crane
- Districts: 75

IREDA ropes in Indian Overseas Bank for co-lending to green projects

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Overseas Bank for co-lending and loan syndication in financing renewable energy projects across the nation. The partnership aims to streamline loan syndication and underwriting processes, management of trust and retention account (TRA) for IREDA borrowers, and work towards fixed interest rates over a 3 to 4-year period for IREDA borrowings. IREDA is well-positioned to fund large-scale renewable energy projects, aligning with the Prime Minister's COP26 announcement of achieving a 500 GW Non-Fossil-based electricity generation capacity by 2030. This collaboration with Indian Overseas Bank builds upon IREDA's successful partnerships with other prominent financial institutions, including Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Union Bank of India, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited and Bank of Maharashtra.

Indian Overseas Bank

- CEO: Ajay Kumar Srivastava
- Headquarters: Chennai
- Founder: M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar
- Founded: 10 February 1937
- Tagline: Good people to grow with

Karnataka Bank & Clix Capital Enter Into A Co-Lending Partnership

Karnataka Bank (KBL), a leading private sector bank and Clix Capital, one of India's fastest growing new-age NBFCs, have entered into a strategic digital co-lending partnership through YubiCo.Lend platform.





This partnership is focused on providing loans to the Indian MSME sector, which is one of the biggest contributors to India's GDP and employment growth.

Karnataka Bank:

- Founded: 18 February 1924
- Headquarters: Mangalore, Karnataka, India
- Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer: Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma

Websites of top crypto exchanges like Binance, Kucoin blocked in India

The websites of some top global cryptocurrency exchanges like Binance, Kucoin, OKX, among others, were blocked in India. This comes after the government sent show-cause notices to these crypto exchanges for not complying with the country's money laundering laws. On December 28 last year, a show-cause notice was sent to Binance, Kucoin, Houbi, Kraken, Gate.io, Bittrex, Bitstamp, MEXC Global, and Bitfinex for operating illegally in India. The notice was issued because these companies failed to register and follow local tax rules, reports Moneycontrol. As a result, the finance ministry directed the information technology ministry to block their URLs.

SBI launches green rupee term-deposit scheme

Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) launched a green rupee term-deposit scheme with an aim to finance environment-friendly projects. The scheme is open to all individuals including non-resident Indians and offers investors the flexibility to choose from three distinct tenors: 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days. Currently, the scheme is available through the branch network and it will soon be made available through digital channels such as Yono and online banking.

What is Green Deposit?

Green deposit means an interest-bearing deposit, received by the regulated entities (RE) for a fixed period the proceeds of which are earmarked for being allocated towards green finance as per RBI's notification dated April 11, 2023.

Are Green Deposits covered under the DICGC?

The deposits raised under the framework are covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

RBI imposes Rs 2.49 crore penalty on 3 banks including Punjab & Sind

The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling Rs 2.49 crore on three banks, including Dhanlaxmi Bank and Punjab and Sind Bank, for contravention of regulatory norms. A penalty of Rs 1.20 crore has been slapped on Dhanlaxmi Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances Statutory and Other Restrictions', KYC and certain norms related to interest rate on deposits. Further, a fine of Rs 1 crore has been imposed on Punjab and Sind Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances Statutory and Other Restrictions'. The central bank has also imposed a penalty of Rs 29.55 lakh on ESAF Small Finance Bank for non-compliance with the directions issued by it on 'Customer Service in Banks'.

Punjab and Sind Bank:

- Founded: 24 June 1908
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- MD & CEO: Swarup Kumar Saha

World Bank keeps India's FY25 GDP growth estimate unchanged at 6.4%

The World Bank kept its FY25 economic growth projection for India unchanged at 6.4 per cent, mainly on account of strong domestic demand, rising public infrastructure spending and strong private-sector credit growth. The Washington-based organisation forecast that the world economy will expand 2.4 per cent this year. That would be down from 2.6 per cent growth in 2023, 3 per cent in 2022 and 6.2 per cent in 2021, which reflected the robust recovery from the pandemic recession of 2020.

RBI turns down Federal Bank MD & CEO extension request for one year

The Reserve Bank of India has turned down a proposal from Federal Bank seeking an extension of its MD & CEO Shyam Srinivasan for one year. Srinivasan, who took charge of the Aluva-based private sector lender in 2010, was eligible to continue for one more year. According to RBI norms, a CEO can continue in a bank for 15 years, in case the person is not a promoter. His current term expires on September 22 this year.



**Federal Bank :**

- Founded: 23 April 1931 (as Travancore Federal Bank), 2 December 1949 (as Federal Bank)
- Founder: K. P. Hormis
- Headquarters: Aluva, Kochi, Kerala, India

RBI permits ICICI Pru Mutual Fund to acquire 10% stake in Federal, RBL Bank

Federal Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has accorded approval to ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd (ICICI AMC) for acquiring up to 9.95 per cent stake in the bank. The approval granted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is subject to the compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949,

"The Best Way To Get Started Is To Quit Talking And Begin Doing."

RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023. Meanwhile, RBI also accorded approval to ICICI AMC to acquire 9.95 per cent stake in RBL Bank and Equitas Small Finance Bank.

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund:

- Founded: 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, India
- MD & CEO: Mr. Nimesh Shah

"You Learn More From Failure Than From Success. Don't Let It Stop You. Failure Builds Character."

04 FEB



WORLD CANCER DAY

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

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

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

Organisation Involved
Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

06 FEB



International Day of ZERO TOLERANCE for FEMALE GENITAL

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

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

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

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

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

Organisation Involved
UNGA

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



MoU's Signed

Karnataka signs MoUs worth Rs 23,000 cr at WEF meet

Karnataka successfully signed eight MoUs worth Rs 23,000 crore with global companies. Noteworthy agreements include Web Werks' Rs 20,000 crore investment for a hyper-scale data centre and Microsoft's commitment to digital skilling interventions. The Hitachi signed an MoU to "stimulate" economic growth in Karnataka, particularly focusing on rural areas. Further, MoUs have been signed by five companies across sectors of digital healthcare, smart city infrastructure, renewable energy and data centres worth Rs 3000 crore.

Karnataka:

- Formation: 1 November 1956
- Capital: Bangalore
- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister: Siddaramaiah

Wabtec wins \$157 mn order for train braking system from Siemens India

Wabtec Corporation has got a \$157 million (Rs 1,300 crore) order to supply brake systems to Siemens India that is manufacturing 9000 horsepower (hp) locomotives for the Railways. The order will enhance operating performance, efficiency, and safety with advanced technology for a new range of 1,200 electric locomotives, said the American company. Wabtec will supply Siemens with brake systems from its plant in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, for 11 years and maintenance for 35 years. Siemens will assemble the locomotives at the Indian Railways factory in Dahod, Gujarat.

Cabinet okays pact with EU on chip technology

The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Centre and the European Commission on Working Arrangements on Semiconductors Ecosystems, its supply chain and innovation under the framework of EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC). The MoU, signed on November 21, 2023, intends to strengthen cooperation between India and European Union (EU) towards enhancement of semiconductor technology for the advancement of Industries and digital technologies.

The MoU comes into effect from the date of signature and may continue until both sides confirm that the objectives of this instrument have been achieved or until one side discontinues its participation in this instrument.

Note: The agreement covers both G2G (government to government) and B2B (business to business) bilateral cooperation.

European Commission

- Jurisdiction: European Union
- Responsible to: European Parliament
- President: Ursula von der Leyen
- Vice President: Josep Borrell

Google inks agreement with NPCI to expand UPI for international payments

Google Pay and NPCI International Payments inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an aim to expand the scope of UPI payments outside India. This will enable Indian travellers to transact digitally outside the country while also establishing systems similar to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in other countries. The development aims at simplifying cross-border digital payments by using the UPI rails to enable remittances between countries. Bhutan, Nepal, the United Arab Emirates, and Canada have also accepted UPI as a payment mechanism. Banks, namely Axis Bank, DBS Bank India, ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, and State Bank of India (SBI), provide this functionality through their respective apps.

National Payments Corporation of India:

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe

IREDA, Indian Overseas Bank partner to co-finance renewable energy projects

State-owned IREDA announced a partnership with Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) to co-finance renewable energy projects in India. The agreement sets the stage for co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of renewable energy projects across the nation. This collaboration builds upon IREDA's successful partnerships with other prominent financial





institutions, including Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Union Bank of India, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited and Bank of Maharashtra. IREDA, under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, is a non-banking financial institution engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects related to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman & MD: Pradip Kumar Das
- CFO: Bijay Kumar Mohanty

India signs an agreement to acquire five lithium mines in Argentina

The Centre signed an agreement to acquire five lithium brine blocks for exploration and development in Argentina. The agreement was signed between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) and Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN), a state-owned mining and energy company in the Argentine province of Catamarca. This is the first ever lithium exploration and mining project by a state-owned company. KABIL will start exploration and development of five lithium brine blocks — Cortadera-I, Cortadera-VII, Cortadera-VIII, Cateo-2022-01810132 and Cortadera-VI — covering an area of about 15,703 hectares in the Catamarca province.

Argentina:

- Capital: Buenos Aires
- President: Javier Milei
- Currency: Argentine peso

Indian Bank inks pact with FPL Tech to launch co-branded credit card

Public sector Indian Bank has partnered with FPL Technologies, to launch the Indian Bank One Co-branded Credit Card. Leveraging the Visa and RuPay platforms, the cards would be issued by Indian Bank and managed by FPL Technologies.

Indian Bank:

- Founded: 15 August 1907
- Founder: S. Rm. M. Ramaswami Chettiar
- Headquarters: Chennai, India

- MD & CEO: Shanti Lal Jain

Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit concludes in Gandhinagar; MoUs worth over 26 lakh crore rupees signed during summit

In this 10th edition of the Vibrant Summit, MoUs were signed for investments worth 26.33 lakh crore rupees in 41,299 projects in the year 2024. The Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit which was postponed in 2022 had witnessed MoUs worth over 18 lakh crore rupees, therefore the total MoUs signed after the 9th edition are worth over 45 lakh crore rupees. A large part of the MoUs were in the green energy space. The theme of this year's three-day summit is 'Gateway to the Future' and includes the participation of 34 partner countries and 16 partner organisations.

India, UAE Seal Four MOUs at Gujarat Summit

At the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, India exchanged four MOUs with the UAE. As per Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Vinay Mohan Kwatra, the MoUs are related to Investment cooperation in innovative healthcare, renewable energy, food parks and logistics cooperation. This time the highest 35 countries have participated in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit as partner countries. India and the Czech Republic agreed to build a strategic partnership in fields such as research and technology at the Summit.

UAE:

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

Vitol Inks 10-Year LNG Supply Deal with Gail India

Vitol Asia Pte Ltd has signed a long-term deal to supply GAIL (India) Limited with approximately one million metric tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) per annum for 10 years beginning in 2026. Under the agreement, Vitol will deliver LNG from its global LNG portfolio to GAIL in India on a pan-India basis.

GAIL (India) Limited :

- Founded: 1984
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India





➤ Chairman & MD: Sandeep Kumar Gupta

Vietnam's VinFast, TN govt join hands to set up \$2 bn EV facility in India

Vietnam's leading electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer VinFast and the Tamil Nadu state government announced a partnership to build a \$2 billion EV facility in the country, with an intended commitment of \$500 million for the first phase of the project, spanning five years from the commencement date. The establishment of VinFast's integrated EV facility in Tamil Nadu is anticipated to generate approximately 3,000-3,500 employment opportunities locally. Situated in Thoothukudi, the VinFast Tamil Nadu project aims to evolve into a first-class electric vehicle production hub in the region, with an annual capacity of up to 150,000 units.

Cabinet approves MoU between Isro, MRIC on joint small satellite

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) concerning cooperation on the development of a joint small satellite. The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was apprised of the agreement signed between the entities in the two countries at Port Louis, Mauritius, on November 01, 2023. According to an official release, the MoU will help to establish a framework for cooperation between Isro and MRIC on the development of a joint satellite as well as for cooperation on the use of the MRIC's Ground Station. The estimated cost for the realisation of the joint satellite is Rs 20 crore, which the government of India will bear.

Spirit Aeronautical, Garuda Aerospace ink collaborative agreement

Weaponised drone maker - rotary and fixed wing drones- Spirit Aeronautical Systems S.A., of Greece and India's Garuda Aerospace S.A., makers of drones for civil use have inked an agreement for business collaboration. The core objectives of this partnership include expanding market reach, fostering innovation, and facilitating the exchange of technology, experience, and best practices. As per the agreement,

both the companies will act as a reseller for each other's products; transfer technology; share experience and others.

Defence Ministry signs two contracts worth over eight hundred crore rupees for procurement of military equipments

The Defence Ministry signed two contracts worth 802 crores for procurement of military equipment in New Delhi. These contracts include procurement of 697 Bogie Open Military Wagons at a cost of 473 crore rupees with Jupiter Wagons Limited and procurement of 56 Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment (MMME) at a cost of 329 crore rupees with Bharat Earth Movers Limited. Bogie Open Military wagons are specialist wagons used by the Indian Army for mobilisation of the Army units. The wagons are used to transport light vehicles, Artillery Guns and Engineering Equipment from their peacetime locations to operational areas.

NHAI signs MoU with NRSC for Development and Reporting of "Green Cover Index" for National Highways of India

NHAI signed a MoU with NRSC on 3 January 2024 to develop and report National Highways in India's "Green Cover Index". This agreement has been signed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) with the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) for three years. National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) functions under the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). At present, monitoring of plantations depends on on-site visits by field personnel. Subsequently, enhancing the data collection at the original location and plantation management and monitoring will be done by NRSC. NRSC will use high-resolution satellite imagery. This is referred to as the "green cover index". This innovative approach promises a robust and reliable system. It provides a cost-effective solution, saving time in estimating the density of greenery along National Highways. It will also facilitate targeted programs in areas that need more green cover.

Medtronic and Cardiac Design Labs Collaborate to Launch Indigenously Developed Advanced Heart Rhythm Monitoring Technology in India





India Medtronic Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Medtronic plc, announced a strategic collaboration with Cardiac Design Labs (CDL) to launch, scale up, and expand access to CDL's novel diagnostic technology, Padma Rhythms®, an external loop recorder (ELR) patch designed for comprehensive, long-term heart monitoring and diagnosis. As part of the collaboration, Medtronic will become the exclusive distributor of Padma Rhythms in India, while both Medtronic and CDL will jointly develop training and education programs to expand the reach of ELR technology across the country.

MoU signed between QCI and KVIC in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Quality Council of India (QCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the quality of Khadi products, empower artisans and offer quality products under the 'Made in India' banner for Khadi at Kochrab Ashram in Ahmedabad. The collaboration between the two organizations is aimed at creating 'World Class Khadi Products' as per the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. As per the MoU, the Quality Council of India will assist KVIC in various activities including training to enhance the quality of Khadi and Village Industries products, improve their productivity and marketability both domestically and internationally.

Cabinet agreement may grant 12-month residency to Indian students in Italy

The Union Cabinet has provided ex-post facto approval to the Ministry of External Affairs' proposal to sign and ratify the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy. This agreement aims to strengthen ties between both cultures and promote mobility among students, skilled workers, business professionals, and young talent. This also includes a 12-month residency that may be granted to Indian students in Italy for work experience.

Tripartite peace accord to be inked between Centre, Assam Government and ULFA

A tripartite accord will be signed between the Centre, Assam Government and United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA). It is intended to bring lasting peace

in the North East region. The accord will take care of a host of long-standing political, economic, and social issues concerning Assam, besides providing cultural safeguards and land rights to the indigenous people. The ULFA was formed in 1979 with the demand for a "sovereign Assam". Since then, it has been involved in subversive activities that led to the central government declaring it a banned outfit in 1990.

Assam:

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

Reliance Jio to partner with IIT-B for Bharat GPT

Reliance Jio, the country's largest telco is working with Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay to launch a 'Bharat GPT' programme. The company, a unit of Reliance Industries, is also "comprehensively thinking" to launch an operating system for televisions GPT and LLM-based solutions are for key business verticals like telecom and retail. A year ago, the Bharat GPT consortium was established with the aim of delivering India-centric multimodal and multilingual models in a unique Public-Private Partnership initiative led by IIT Bombay. The consortium comprises other academic institutes such as IIT Madras, IIT Mandi, IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Kanpur and IIM Indore.

Reliance Jio:

- Chairman: Akash Ambani
- Managing Director: Sandip Das

Adani Green completes joint venture agreement with TotalEnergies Renewables

Adani Green Energy Ltd has completed a joint venture agreement with TotalEnergies Renewables Singapore Pte Limited where the latter has acquired a 50 per cent stake in Adani Renewable Energy Nine Limited for \$300 million. ARE9L houses a 1,050 MW project portfolio. The total comprises a mix of already operational (300 MW), under construction (500 MW) and under development assets (250 MW) with a blend of both solar and wind power projects in India. TotalEnergies has also infused Rs 4,013 crore in Adani Green Energy Twenty-Three Limited. A JV was announced between AGEL and TotalEnergies in September 2023.





Awards & Recognitions

Aitana Bonmatí and Lionel Messi crowned at The Best FIFA Football Awards 2023

The Best FIFA Football Awards 2023™ ceremony, held in London, crowned Aitana Bonmatí and Lionel Messi as the outstanding players since the last edition, alongside recognising the outstanding performances of coaches, goalkeepers, and more across the men's and women's game.

The winners of The Best FIFA Football Awards 2023 are:

- The Best FIFA Women's Player: Aitana Bonmatí (Spain / FC Barcelona)
- The Best FIFA Men's Player: Lionel Messi (Argentina / Paris Saint-Germain / Club Internacional de Fútbol Miami)
- The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper: Mary Earps (England / Manchester United)
- The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper: Ederson (Brazil / Manchester City FC)
- The Best FIFA Women's Coach: Sarina Wiegman (Netherlands / England Women's National Team)
- The Best FIFA Men's Coach: Pep Guardiola (Spain / Manchester City FC)
- The FIFA Puskás Award: Guilherme Madruga (Brazil / Botafogo Futebol Clube)
- The FIFA Special Award: Marta
- The FIFA Fair Play Award: Brazil men's national team
- The FIFA Fan Award: Hugo Daniel "Toto" Iniguez

Late Kapoori Thakur to be bestowed Bharat Ratna

In a politically significant move, the government announced the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, for socialist icon and former Chief Minister of Bihar, late Kapoori Thakur. He will be the 49th recipient and 15th to be accorded posthumously. This announcement has been made on the eve of 100th birth celebration of Late Thakur. He was born in 1924 in one of the most backward sections of society — the Nai Samaj. He was chief minister of Bihar for two terms — first for about six months in 1970 as the leader of the Socialist Party, and then again for just short of two years between June 1977 and April 1979

as head of the Janata Party government. He is better known for consolidating the backward castes into a potent bloc and pushing for sub-divisions within the OBC quota for the upliftment of the most backward groups.

Note: The Bharat Ratna was announced after five years. In 2019, former President Pranab Mukherjee, Jana Sangh stalwart Nanaji Deshmukh, and artiste Bhupen Hazarika won the award.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024

For the year 2024, 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh, in the Institutional category, has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 for its excellent work in Disaster Management. The Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management. The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

BCCI Awards 2023: Gill named cricketer of the year

Former India all-rounder and head coach Ravi Shastri will be honoured with BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award. Shubman Gill will be presented with Cricketer of the Year award following a memorable 12 months when he became the fastest to cross the 2000-run mark in ODIs and also scored five hundreds in the format. The BCCI awards will be held for the first time since 2019. Shastri, 61, represented India in 80 Tests and 150 ODIs. After retirement, he made a name for himself in the broadcasting world. He also donned the coaching hat twice for the national team, first as a team director from 2014 to 2016 before returning to the team as head coach with captain Virat Kohli until the T20 World Cup in 2021.





President Droupadi Murmu to confer Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2024

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2024 to nineteen exceptional children in New Delhi. The award will be conferred upon 19 children selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in the field of Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Social Service and Sports. There are nine boys and ten girls among the awardees belonging to 18 States and UTs including two Aspirational Districts. The awards are conferred upon the children in the age group 5 to 18 years. Each awardee of PMRBP is given a medal and a Certificate.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:

The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar formerly called the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement, is India's highest civilian honour for children, awarded annually by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Bangalore & Delhi Airports jointly bagged best airport award for the year at 4th edition of "Wings India Awards" in Civil Aviation Sector

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia has presented the Wings India Awards 2024 at an event held in Hyderabad. Bangalore and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the best airport award for the year at the 4th edition of "Wings India Awards" in the Civil Aviation Sector. Vistara bagged the Best Airline of the Year award. The Air India has been recognised for International Connectivity while Alliance Air got recognition for Regional Connectivity. Air India Express was declared a Sustainability Champion. GMR Group has been honoured as the Best Aviation Service Provider while Skyways Air Services for cargo services, Indian Oil Skytanking Pvt. Ltd for Fuel Services, GMR for Aero Academy. Besides these, several other organisations were recognised by the Wings India for their excellence in different categories of civil aviation.

REC wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY 2022-23

REC Limited, a Maharatna Public Sector Unit and a leading NBFC under the Ministry of Power, has been awarded 'Plaque' under the 'Financial Services Sector

(Other than Banking and Insurance)' category at the ICAI Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the financial year 2022-23. This is the only award bestowed by the ICAI under this category and the selection has been made based on the company's accounting practices, disclosure policies, presentation of financial statements, other information contained in the Annual Report. Recently, REC was recognized for its exceptional performance in risk management and bestowed with the 'Golden Peacock Award' by the Institute of Directors (IOD). Additionally, the company was conferred the 'Best Central PSU' Award in the Financial Services category at the Dun & Bradstreet PSU Awards 2023.

President Droupadi Murmu presents Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023: Indore and Surat adjudged cleanest cities in the country

Indore and Surat received the cleanest cities award of the country in the Cleanliness Survey-2023, in the category of more than one lakh population. Indore has received this award for the 7th consecutive time. Navi Mumbai got the third position in the same category. Sasvad in Maharashtra, Patan in Chhattisgarh, and Lonavala in Maharashtra bagged the top three positions in the cleanest cities in the category of population of below one lakh population. Meanwhile, Maharashtra got the first prize for cleanliness in the state category, Madhya Pradesh got second and Chhattisgarh got the award of third cleanest state. Varanasi and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh clinched the top spots as the Cleanest Ganga Towns. While Telangana bags rich haul of awards at Swachh Survekshan and Garbage Free City (GFC) Star Rating.

Divyakriti Singh becomes first Indian woman to get Arjuna Award for equestrian sports

Jaipur's Divyakriti Singh has made history by becoming the first Indian woman to receive the prestigious Arjuna Award in Equestrian. The 23-year-old, an alumna of The Palace School in Jaipur, clinched a gold medal in team dressage at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. This victory not only showcased her exceptional skills but also contributed to India's historic gold after 41 years in equestrian. Acknowledged as the No.1 in Asia and No.14 in the world in the Global Dressage Rankings by the International Equestrian Federation



**Equestrian Federation of India:**

- Founded: 14 March 1967
- Secretary: Col. Jaiveer Singh

Christopher Nolan wins his first Golden Globe, Cillian Murphy wins Best Actor

The Golden Globe Awards 2024 has officially begun. Hosted by stand-up comedian and actor Jo Koy, the 81st Golden Globe Awards is taking place at The Beverly Hilton. Robert Downey Jr bagged the Best Supporting Actor for Oppenheimer while Christopher Nolan won the Best Director for the same film.

Check out the list of winners:

- Best Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama: Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer
- Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy: Emma Stone, Poor Things
- Best Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture: Robert Downey Jr., Oppenheimer
- Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture: Da'Vine Joy Randolph, The Holdovers
- Best TV Series- Comedy or Musical: The Bear
- Best TV Series - Limited, Anthology or TV Movie: Beef (Netflix)
- Best Actor in a TV Series (Drama): Kieran Culkin, Succession
- Best Actress in a TV Series (Drama): Sarah Snook, Succession
- Best Actor in a TV Series (Musical or Comedy): Jeremy Allen White — The Bear
- Best Actress in a TV Series (Musical or Comedy): Ayo Edebiri — The Bear
- Best Actor in a TV Series (Limited, Anthology or TV Movie): Steven Yeun — Beef
- Best Actress in a TV Series (Limited, Anthology or TV Movie): Ali Wong — Beef
- Best Supporting Actor on Television: Matthew Macfadyen, Succession
- Best Supporting Actress on Television: Elizabeth Debicki — The Crown
- Cinematic and Box Office Achievement: Barbie
- Best Motion Picture (Animated): The Boy and the Heron
- Best Motion Picture - Non-English Language: Anatomy of a Fall- WINNER
- Best Director: Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer- WINNER
- Best Screenplay: Anatomy of a Fall — Justine Triet, Arthur Harari

- Best Original Score: Ludwig Göransson, Oppenheimer
- Best Original Song: What Was I Made For? by Billie Eilish and Finneas (from Barbie)

Iga Swiatek honored as Best Polish Athlete of the Year for 2nd year in a row

Tennis world No.1 Iga Swiatek won the award of Poland's Sportsperson of the Year for 2023. The Sportsperson of the Year is considered to be one of the most prestigious sport prizes in Poland. The prestigious award ceremony was organized by Poland's oldest sports newspaper, Przeglad Sportowy, which recognizes the achievements and contributions of Polish sportspeople across various disciplines. Swiatek's victory was widely expected as the 22-year-old won six titles in 2023.

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' 2023

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023. Odisha Mining Corporate Limited has been awarded in the category of Encouragement to Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility. Jain Deemed to be University, Bengaluru has been awarded for the identification and nurturing of budding and young talent. Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd (OMC) will be conferred with Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023 for 'Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility', Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. The awardees will receive their awards from President Droupadi Murmu at a specially organised function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 9th of this month. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to corporate entities, Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development. Notably, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Bhubaneswar, which is known for its state-of-the-art sports infrastructure and grooming Olympians such as Dutee Chand, CA Bhavani Devi, Shivpal Singh, Amit Rohidas, was conferred with Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2022. Idco, another State PSU, had received the 2017 edition of the award for promoting and strengthening sports infrastructure in Odisha.





Sports

Satwik-Chirag pair regains world no. 1 ranking

Riding on a stellar show in the last two weeks, India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty reclaimed the top spot in the BWF men's doubles rankings. The Asian Games champions reached the world no. 1 ranking for a second time after successive runner-up finishes in the Malaysia Open super 1000 and India Open super 750 badminton tournaments. The Indian duo had achieved its numero uno status for the first time after claiming the historic gold medal at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou last year. Among other Indians, HS Prannoy moved a place to reach world no 8, while Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and Priyanshu Rajawat stayed at 19th, 25th and 30th spots respectively.

Badminton World Federation:

- Formation: 1934
- Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- President: Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen

Wrestling: Ravi Dahiya wins bronze at Grand Prix De France

Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya, who missed the entire 2023 international season due to injuries, marked his return with a bronze medal at the Grand Prix De France Henri Deglane wrestling tournament in Nice, France. The Indian wrestler won his 61kg freestyle bronze medal against Kairat Amirtayev of Kazakhstan. However, the Indian suffered a defeat against Arman Eloyan of France in the semi-final and was pulled into the bronze medal bout.

Grand Prix de France Henri Deglane 2024

The Grand Prix of France 2024 and Henri Deglane Grand Prix 2024 will be a wrestling event held in Nice, France. It is held in the memory of 1924 Olympic Gold medalist Henri Deglane.

Top 5 in Medal Table

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Georgia	8	7	7	22
2	USA	6	5	7	18
3	France	4	4	6	14
4	Brazil	3	0	0	3
5	Germany	1	2	2	5

TATA grab IPL title rights until 2028

In a major development for the Indian Premier League (IPL), The Tata Group has successfully retained the title rights for the IPL until 2028. The agreement involves a commitment to contribute Rs 500 crore per season. According to the rules in the Invitation To Tender (ITT) document, Tata could have retained the title rights to the IPL if they had matched the highest offer made by any other entity. The Tata Group matched the offer made by Aditya Birla Group of Rs 2500 crore valuation. The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) made the decision to hand Tata Group the title rights. Tata has been the title sponsor of the IPL since 2022 when they took the rights from Vivo. Their earlier deal saw Tata Group contributing Rs 365 crore per season, with Vivo covering the remaining value as the group had earlier sub-licensed the rights. Vivo had sealed the title rights in 2018 for an initially planned five-year period, committing to pay Rs 2199 crore. However, the deal ran for six years instead of five due to the pandemic.

Tata Group:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman Emeritus: Ratan Tata
- Chairman & Managing Director: Natarajan Chandrasekaran

Arthur, Bradburn, Puttick resign from their roles in Pakistan cricket board

The Pakistan Cricket Board has confirmed that foreign coaches Mickey Arthur, Grant Bradburn and Andrew Puttick have resigned from their respective roles with the national team as well as with the board. The development came after the trio were assigned duties at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore following a change in their portfolios post the 50-overs World Cup in India. All three, along with bowling coach Morne Morkel, comprised the main support staff of the Pakistan team until the World Cup. But Pakistan's failure to advance to the knockouts saw PCB managing committee chairman Zaka Ashraf reassigning them to the NCA, to which the trio refused and instead went on vacations to their respective homes.



**Pakistan cricket board:**

- Chairman: Zaka Ashraf
- Director: Mohammad Hafeez

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa surpasses Viswanathan Anand to become India's number one Chess player

India Chess Wizard Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa defeated World Chess Champion Ding Liren in the Tata Steel Masters in Wijk aan Zee, in the Netherlands. As a result of this victory, Praggnanandhaa became only the second Indian after Vishwanathan Anand to defeat a reigning champion. He also overtook Anand to become India's new number one Chess player in terms of FIDE live ratings.

International Chess Federation(FIDE):

- Formation: July 20, 1924
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- President: Arkady Dvorkovich
- Deputy President: Viswanathan Anand

India's Yogesh Singh wins gold medal in men's 25m standard pistol event at Asian Shooting Championships, Jakarta

In Shooting, India's Yogesh Singh won a gold medal in the men's 25m standard pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Mongolian shooter Davaakhuu Enkhtaivan claimed the silver medal with the same score. The Indian shooter, however, finished ahead as he shot 17Xs as opposed to Enkhtaivan's seven. Kazakhstan's Nikita Chiryukin, who beat India's Vijayveer Sidhu to the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol gold medal, claimed the bronze with 568. In women's event, the Indian trio of Shreyasi, Manisha Keer and Bhavya Tripathi, however, won the silver medal in the women's trap team event with a total of 328, finishing behind China and ahead of Kazakhstan.

President Droupadi Murmu presents National Sports and Adventure Awards 2023 at Rashtrapati Bhavan

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Sports and Adventure Awards 2023 at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Cricketer Mohammed Shami, Chess player R Vaishali, Archers Ojas Pravin Deotale

and Aditi Gopichand Swami, Golfer Diksha Dagar and Kabaddi players Pawan Kumar and Ritu Negi received the Arjuna Award. Besides, Hockey players Krishan Bahadur Pathak and P Sushila Chanu, Kho-Kho player Nasreen, Lawn Bowls player Pinki, Shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh and Esha Singh, Squash player Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu, Table Tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee, Wrestler Sunil Kumar and Antim, Wushu player N Roshibina Devi, Blind Cricketer Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy, Para Archer Sheetal Devi and Para Canoeing player Prachi Yadav were among those received the Arjuna Awards. Dronacharya Awards were given to Wrestling coach Lalit Kumar, Chess coach R. B. Ramesh, Para Athletics coach Mahaveer Prasad Saini, Hockey coach Shivendra Singh and others. Dhyan Chand Awards for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games were given to Manjusha Kanwar for Badminton, Vineet Kumar Sharma for Hockey and Kavitha Selvaraj for Kabaddi. During the function, Jain Deemed to be University and Bengaluru and Odisha Mining Corporation Limited got Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar.

South Africa wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen retires from Test cricket

South Africa wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen has retired from Test cricket. Heinrich Klaasen, one of the finest middle-order batters in ODI cricket, has played only 4 Tests over 4 years. His most recent assignment in whites for India came when he kept wickets for South Africa in a home Test against the West Indies in March 2023. Klaasen is a seasoned first-class player, having played 85 games and scoring 5347 runs at a stellar average of 46. He hit 12 hundreds and 24 fifties in his career.

Note: Klaasen's retirement comes days after their former captain Dean Elgar brought down the curtains on his celebrated Test career. Elgar led South Africa in his farewell Test against India in Cape Town.

Poland's Szymon Marciniak Named World's Best Referee of 2023

Poland's Szymon Marciniak was named the 2023 Male World Best Referee by the International Federation of Football Historians and Statistics (IFFHS). The 42-year-old Pole won the award with 175 points, followed by Italy's Daniele Orsotto with 95 and





France's Clement Turpin with 64 points. Marciniaik also won the 2022 award following his performance officiating in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Final. In 2023, he refereed the UEFA Champions League final between Manchester City and Inter Milan in Istanbul.

IFFHS:

- Formation: 1984
- Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland
- Chairman: Saleh Irfan Bahwini

Australian batter David Warner announces retirement from One Day International cricket

Australian batter David Warner has announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs). The 2 time ODI World Cup Winner had previously announced that he would be ending his Test career after Australia's upcoming Test against Pakistan in Sydney. Warner is Australia's sixth-highest run scorer in the ODI format and is only second to former captain Ricky Ponting's tally for most Centuries for Australia in ODIs.

Australia:

- Capital: Canberra
- Governor-General: David Hurley

10 FEB



NATIONAL DE-WORMING DAY

INCEPTION: 2015
2024 THEME:
Eliminate STH: Invest in a healthier future for children

National Deworming Day is a groundbreaking initiative focused on reducing the threat of parasitic worm infections, a widespread health issue affecting over 241 million children in India alone.

Motto
The objective of National Deworming Day is to deworm all preschool and school-age children (enrolled and non-enrolled) between the ages of 1-19 years through the platform of schools and Anganwadi Centers in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life.

Ministry Involved
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Note

- India has the highest burden of soil-transmitted helminths--parasitic worms--in the world.
- According to the 2012 report 'Children in India', published by MOSPI 48% of children under the age of five years are stunted and 19.8% are wasted.

- Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese
- Currency: Australian dollar

India's Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest player to hold number one spot in men's doubles tennis

Indian tennis sensation Rohan Bopanna became the oldest player to hold the No. 1 men's doubles ranking. The 43-year-old Ace player, alongside Australia's Matthew Ebden defeated the Argentine pair Máximo González and Andrés Molteni in straight sets in the 2024 Australian Open quarter-finals. The second-seeded Indo-Australian duo will face the unseeded Tomas Machac and Zhizhen Zhang in the Australian Open semi-finals. After becoming the World No. 1, Bopanna said that his achievement will inspire the people all over the world, being 40 and above in a different way. Bopanna had made his debut more than 20 years ago. He will be 43 years and 330 days old at the end of the tournament on Sunday. According to the International Tennis Federation, the previous oldest men's doubles No 1, Mike Bryan, was 41 years and 76 days old when his streak ended in 2019.

11 FEB



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

THEME:
Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth.

Importance
On 22 December 2015, the UN General Assembly decided to establish an annual International Day to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology & marks 11 Feb as the same.

Motto
To ensure full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.

Note

- According to UNESCO data (2014 - 2016), only around 30 per cent of all female students select STEM-related fields in higher education.
- The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration institutions and civil society partners.
- This Day is an opportunity to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.





Science & Technology

Indian Army indigenously develops secure mobile ecosystem SAMBHAV

In line with the ethos of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the Indian Army has indigenously developed an "end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem" to provide secure communication with instant connectivity on the move. The ecosystem -- SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version) -- operates on the state-of-the-art contemporary 5G technology and will represent a "significant leap forward in India's defence capability". SAMBHAV will have multi-layered encryption with a pan-India secure ecosystem. It will ride on a commercial network with inherent security.

Adani Group unveils first indigenously-manufactured Drishti 10 UAV for Navy

Indian Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar unveiled the first indigenously-manufactured Drishti 10 'Starliner' unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for his force, manufactured by Adani Defence and Aerospace. The state-of-the-art UAV, which has an endurance of 36 hours, is an advanced Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 450 kg payload capacity. It is the only all-weather military platform with STANAG 4671 certification, and clear to fly in both segregated and unsegregated airspace. This medium-altitude, high-endurance UAV has been manufactured in India with over 60 per cent indigenous content.

Adani Group

- Subsidiaries: Adani Enterprises, Adani Power, Adani Ports & SEZ, etc.
- Founder & CEO: Gautam Adani
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad
- Founded: 1988

ISRO tests fuel cell to potentially power space missions

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully demonstrated a fuel cell that uses hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity and releases heat and water as byproducts. The fuel cell, sent to space on the fourth stage of the PSLV on January 1, generated 180W power during the short

duration test. These cells are ideal for human space missions because the heat and water generated as byproducts are also essential, meaning a single system can meet multiple requirements of the mission.

ISRO:

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

Pakistan to go in for J-31 Chinese stealth fighters.

Pakistan is in talks with China to acquire the J-31 stealth fighter aircraft, which bears similarities to American-made F-35 and F-22 jets. If acquired, these new fighters could replace older F-16s in Pakistan's fleet. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) already operates Chinese-made JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, jointly manufactured in Pakistan. It also acquired 25 J-10C Vigorous Dragon aircraft in 2022 to counter India's purchase of 36 French Rafale jets. The potential addition of the J-31 stealth fighter would further strengthen PAF's capabilities.

Details of the J-31 Aircraft:

- The J-31 is still under development by China and not yet inducted into the Chinese air force.
- It is designed as a smaller stealth fighter, possibly for naval operations on aircraft carriers.
- While issues have plagued some Chinese-made aircraft models, China continues production to compete with the US and showcase its aviation prowess.

Impact on Regional Power Dynamics"

Acquiring advanced J-31 stealth fighters may help Pakistan compensate for uncertainty over future US military assistance. It would qualitatively boost PAF capabilities despite not drastically altering numerical strength relative to India. India is also trying to modernize its air fleet with more 4th and 5th generation fighters. The J-31 purchase, along with other Chinese jets, signals Pakistan's pursuit of long-term air power by reducing reliance on US supplies. Nonetheless, as of 2024, India maintains an advantage in terms of indigenous stealth fighter development.

SpaceX launches 1st batch of satellites for mobile phone connectivity anywhere on Earth





Elon Musk-run aerospace company SpaceX has launched the first batch satellites to connect mobile phone users anywhere on the planet. Six of the 21 new Starlink satellites just launched support the company's new 'Direct to Cell' service announced in 2022. The six Starlink satellites on this mission with 'Direct to Cell' capability will further global connectivity and help to eliminate dead zones. They'll enable SpaceX to test it with ordinary 4G LTE-compatible phones on T-Mobile in the US, before the text messaging service goes live in multiple countries this year. SpaceX will then add voice and data (and IoT devices) later in 2025 as more D2C satellites come online. Starlink satellites with Direct to Cell capabilities enable ubiquitous access to texting, calling, and browsing wherever you may be on land, lakes, or coastal waters. Direct to Cell will also connect IoT devices with common LTE standards, according to the company.

Indian Navy Commissions INS Imphal, 1st Warship to Be Named After Northeast City

The Indian Navy commissioned INS Imphal, an indigenously-built stealth-guided missile destroyer, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The warship is all set to join the Western Naval Command. It had been delivered to the Navy on 20 October after completing a thorough trial programme both at harbour and at sea.

INS Imphal

1. INS Imphal is a vessel with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors. These include surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship missiles, and torpedoes.
2. It measures 163 metres in length, weighs 7,400 tonnes and has 75 percent indigenous content, and is one of the most potent warships to have been constructed in the country.
3. Imphal is equipped with a modern surveillance radar, which enables the gunnery weapon systems of the ship to acquire target data.
4. It is also equipped with BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles and can achieve speeds of over 30 knots or 56 km per hour.
5. The warship was constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

Russia commissions 3 new warships into its navy

Russian President Vladimir Putin attended a flag-raising ceremony for three new warships that are set to join the country's navy. The Admiral Golovko frigate will join Russia's Northern Fleet, while the Naro-Fominsk small-rocket ship and the Lev Chernavin minesweeper will serve in the country's Baltic Fleet. The Admiral Golovko, a serial-produced frigate, is armed with Kalibr cruise missiles and was created with some of the most advanced technologies. The Naro-Fominsk small rocket ship, which the president called as one of the most successful projects of its class, is able to carry out strikes with long-range cruise missiles. While the Lev Chernavin was a modern minesweeper with a unique hull.

Russian Armed Forces

- Founded: 1721 (Imperial Russian Army)
- Supreme Commander-in-Chief: Vladimir Putin
- Minister of Defence: Sergei Shoigu
- Chief of the General Staff: Valery Gerasimov
- Budget: US\$86.4 billion (2023)(ranked 3rd)

China successfully launches a Long March-11 carrier rocket into space

China successfully launched a Long March-11 carrier rocket into space, sending three satellites into planned orbit. The Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center launched the rocket from waters off the coast of Yangjiang, south China's Guangdong Province. It was the 503rd mission of the Long March carrier rocket series. The satellites, Shiyan-24C, will be mainly used for space science and technology experiments.

Features:

- Developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology, the Shiyan 24C satellites are tasked with carrying out space technology tests.
- The Long March 11 rocket model is built by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology in Beijing and has a length of 20.8 meters, a diameter of 2 meters and a liftoff weight of 58 metric tons. It is capable of sending satellites to low-Earth orbit or sun-synchronous orbit.
- Both the academies are subsidiaries of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, the nation's major space contractor.





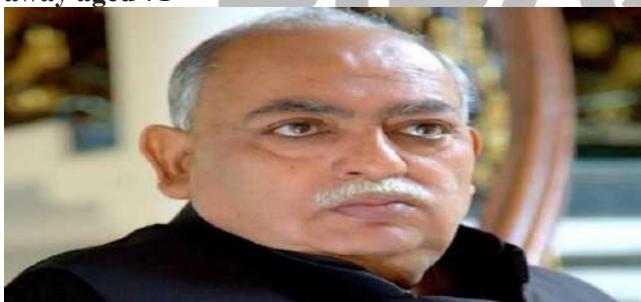
Obituary

Former world pole vault champion Shawn Barber passes away



Shawn Barber, the Canadian record holder and 2015 world champion in pole vault, has died at the age of 29. Barber claimed gold at the 2015 Pan American Games and weeks later, the then 21-year-old upset a field including silver medallist Raphael Holzdeppe of Germany and favourite Renaud Lavillenie, who won bronze, in capturing the world title in Beijing. Barber's best jump of 6.0 metres set on Jan. 15, 2016 is still the Canadian record. He also competed at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Barber first competed in pole vault at the age of seven, shattering the U.S. high school record by more than a foot before winning back-to-back NCAA indoor titles for the University of Akron in 2014 and '15 and then the 2015 NCAA outdoor title.

Renowned urdu poet Munawwar Rana passes away aged 71



Renowned Urdu poet Munawwar Rana passed away at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, after a cardiac arrest. He was 71 years old. Munawwar Rana was born in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh. He was widely recognised for his contribution to Urdu literature and poetry. His most popular poem was 'Maa,' which celebrated the virtues of a mother in traditional ghazal form. He received several honours for his work in the form of literature

including the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 2014 for his poetry book 'Shahdaba'.

Other awards are the:

Ameer Khusro Award, Ghalib Award, Dr Zakir Hussain Award, Mir Taqi Mir Award and The Saraswati Samaj Award.

Brahmavar: Yakshagana artiste B Narayana Kunder passes away



B Narayana Kunder (68), a resident of Brahmavara Bykadi, passed away at his residence. The deceased was an employee of Syndicate Bank. He had retired from bank service after working in Barkur and Brahmavar branches. Kunder had formed an amateur Yakshagana troupe locally and had excelled in playing the role of Mahishasura as a Yakshagana artiste besides being a patron of the art form. He was the former president of Baikadiamogaweera Grama Sabha. Kunder was also the former member of Baikadi Yuvakamandal. He had engaged himself in deity activities of the local Baikadi temple.

Renowned classical singer Prabha Atre, doyen of Kirana Gharana, dies at 92



Renowned classical singer Dr Prabha Atre passed away in Pune at the age of 92. Atre, who represented the Kirana Gharana of the Hindustani classical music, had been honoured with all three of Padma awards by the Indian government. She was awarded the Padma





Vibhushan, the nation's second-highest civilian honour, in January 2022. She was earlier honoured with the Padma Shri award in 1990 and the Padma Bhushan in 2002. She was also awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1991.

Music maestro Rashid Khan passes away after prolonged battle with cancer



The celebrated music maestro Ustad Rashid Khan, undergoing treatment for prostate cancer in Kolkata passed away. He was 55-year-old. Born in Uttar Pradesh's Badayun Rashid Khan, who is also the nephew of Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan, received his initial training from his maternal grand-uncle Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan (1909–1993). His musical talents were first recognized by his uncle, Ghulam Mustafa Khan, who provided initial training in Mumbai. However, the primary training was received from Nissar Hussain Khan, initially at his residence in Badayun.

Franz Beckenbauer football player passed away at 78 in Germany



Franz Beckenbauer, widely regarded among the greatest football player of all time, has died at the age of 78 in Germany. Known in football-obsessed Germany as "the Kaiser" meaning "the Emperor", Beckenbauer played a central role in some of the country's greatest sporting achievements. He collected 103 caps for West Germany, winning the 1972 European championship and then the World Cup on home soil. Franz Beckenbauer's Bayern Munich team

was the best club side in the world during the mid-1970s, winning three successive European Cups and three successive Bundesliga titles, and Beckenbauer himself was twice named European Footballer of the year.

Brazilian football legend Mario Zagallo dies at 92



Brazilian football legend Mario Zagallo aged 92 died on 5th Jan 2024. Mr Zagallo won two World Cups as a player, one as a coach and another as an assistant coach for Brazil. He became the first person ever to win the World Cup both as a player and manager, back in 1970, and has been revered among Brazilian football fans for generations.

Brazil:

- Capital: Brasília
- President: Lula da Silva
- Currency: Real

Prominent Indian-American Legal Scholar Ved Prakash Nanda Passes Away



In a profound loss to the legal community, Padma Bhushan awardee Professor Ved Prakash Nanda, a stalwart in the field of international law and education, breathed his last on January 2, 2024. Recognised globally for his exceptional contributions, Prof. Nanda's impact on legal education resonated across borders. A distinguished Indian-American, Professor Ved Prakash Nanda received the prestigious Padma Bhushan award in Literature and Education on March 20, 2018. As a professor of International Law at the University of Denver, Colorado, he carved a





significant niche in academia. His illustrious career included roles such as the Past President of the World Jurist Association, Honorary President of the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law, and advisory positions in esteemed institutions like the American Society of International Law and the United States Institute of Human Rights. In February 2004, Nanda received the "Gandhi, King, Ikeda Award for Community Peace Building" from Soka Gakkai International and Morehouse College. In 1990, he was honored with the "World Legal Scholar" award by the World Jurist Association in Beijing, China.

Note: He served as the Sangchalak of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), America Zone.

Architect of modern EU Jacques Delors died



Jacques Delors, a former head of the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union (EU), and a key figure in establishing the euro currency, has passed away. A Socialist, Delors had a high-profile political career in France, serving as Finance Minister under President Francois Mitterrand from 1981 to 1984. From 1985 to 1995, he led the European Commission during a transformative decade for the bloc. He served three terms as European Commission president, longer than anyone else. Delors had also served as French finance minister from 1981–84.

DMDK founder and actor Vijayakanth died



DMDK founder-leader Vijayakanth passed away in Chennai. He was 71. Fondly referred to as "Captain" owing to his on-screen portrayal of military characters. He featured in 154 movies before venturing into politics. Vijayakanth founded the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) in 2005. The DMDK made its electoral debut in the 2006 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections. In the 2011 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections, the Captain's party scripted history, winning more seats than the DMK in 2011 and emerged as the principal Opposition Party that year. Vijayakanth served as the leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly from 2011-2016.

Renowned sculptor Dr Uttam R. Pacharne died



Renowned sculptor and former Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi Dr Uttam R. Pacharne passed away following a brief illness. Born on June 2, 1956 at Chakhalewadi village in Ahmednagar, Pacharne topped the Art Teacher's course Diploma in Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya, Pune, in 1976, and then did his course in Sculpture & Modelling from the prestigious Sir J. J. School of Art in Mumbai. He bagged the National Lalit Kala Akademi Award and Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar (1985), Junior National Award in memory of the late PM Indira Gandhi (1986), medals, honours and other accolades during his career of over four decades. He was appointed Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi (2018) for a 3-year term, was the President of Bombay Art Society and other bodies in various capacities.

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





Miscellaneous Events

L'Oreal heir Francoise Meyers becomes first woman with \$100 bn fortune

Francoise Bettencourt Meyers became the first woman to amass a \$100 billion fortune, marking another milestone for the heiress and for France's expanding fashion and cosmetics industries. Her wealth jumped to \$100.2 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Despite the gain, Bettencourt Meyers' fortune is still significantly less than that of French compatriot Bernard Arnault, founder of luxury goods purveyor LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE, who was second in the global ranking with \$179.4 billion.

French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne resigns

France's Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne is to leave office after less than two years in the job. Her resignation comes with President Emmanuel Macron widely expected to reshuffle his top team ahead of European elections due later this year. Ms Borne will remain in post until a new prime minister takes over. She was France's second female prime minister and longest serving, outlasting Édith Cresson who served in the role under François Mitterrand from 1991-92.

France:

- Capital: Paris
- President: Emmanuel Macron
- Currency: Euro (€), CFP franc (XPF)

Henley Passport Index 2024

The Henley Passport Index 2024, highlighting the "power" of passports of 199 countries. The index, which ranks countries based on the number of destinations that allow visa-free entry to their passport, was topped by France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore and Spain. Passports of all these countries have visa-free access to 194 destinations, three more than last year. Japan and Singapore have continued to top the list for five years now. South Korea, Sweden and Finland rose one spot to take joint second place, with access to 193 countries. Austria, Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands shared third place, allowing travel to 192 places. The UK and US

passports ranked fourth and seventh, respectively, with access to 191 and 188 destinations.

World's most powerful passports: Where does India stand?

According to the latest ranking, India stands at the 80th rank in the list of most powerful passports. Its passport has visa-free access to 62 nations, including Angola, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Djibouti, El Salvador, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Qatar and Zimbabwe. India shares the rank with Uzbekistan. In 2023, too, India's passport was ranked at the 80th spot, up five places from 2022. However, the number of visa-free destinations has jumped from 57 to 62 this year.

In a first, India overtakes Hong Kong as world's fourth-largest stock mkt

India's stock market capitalization has overtaken Hong Kong's for the first time as the South Asian nation's growth prospects and policy reforms make it an investor darling while global capital pours out of China. The combined value of shares listed on Indian exchanges reached \$4.33 trillion, versus \$4.29 trillion for Hong Kong, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That makes India the fourth-biggest equity market globally. Its value crossed \$4 trillion for the first time on Dec. 5, with about half of that coming in the past four years. Equities in India have been booming, thanks to a rapidly growing retail investor base and strong corporate earnings. The world's most populous country has positioned itself as an alternative to China, attracting fresh capital from global investors and companies alike, thanks to its stable political setup and a consumption-driven economy that remains among the fastest-growing of major nations.

Hong Kong:

Hong Kong officially the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China is a city and a special administrative region in China.

- Chief Executive: John Lee
- Chief Secretary: Eric Chan
- Council President: Andrew Leung





Zaka Ashraf Steps Down As Chairman Of Pakistan Cricket Board Management Committee

Zaka Ashraf, who had served as the Chairperson of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee, announced his resignation. A member of the PCB's Board of Governors since July 6, 2023, Ashraf assumed the role of chairperson after replacing Najam Sethi. His resignation was tendered during a management committee meeting at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore, where he submitted it to the Patron Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, as per a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) statement. Ashraf's administration was previously granted a three-month extension by the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, extending his initial four-month term. However, following the World Cup, Ashraf was tasked with conducting elections for the PCB chairman and finalizing the Board of Governors "at the earliest."

India ranked 35th for leveraging future possibilities; UK on top

India has been ranked 35th on a global index of countries best placed for leveraging future possibilities while the UK topped the list released. The Future Possibilities Index (FPI), a flagship global future trends study released by Newsweek Vantage and Horizon Group on sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, has Denmark, the US, the Netherlands and Germany in the top five after the UK. Among large emerging markets, China is placed highest at 19th this year, followed by Brazil at 30th, India (35th) and South Africa (50th). The study compared the factors that will help governments, investors and other private sector stakeholders leverage six global, transformational trends for growth and wellbeing across 70 countries.

upGrad's KnowledgeHut CEO Subramanyam Reddy quits

Subramanyam Reddy, who is the founder and chief executive of upGrad-owned edtech company Knowledgehut, has resigned from his position after serving nearly 13 years at the company. As per sources, Reddy submitted his resignation last month and is currently on a notice period. The other two co-founders of Knowledgehut include Madhavarapu

Nagaraju and Manjunath V. While Nagaraju already quit the company ahead of the acquisition by upGrad in August 2021, Manjunath is currently leading the company's business strategy and marketing.

KnowledgeHut

- Founder: Subramanyam Reddy
- Parent organization: upGrad
- CEO: Subramanyam Reddy
- Founded: 2011

Hyderabad pips NCR as India's second-costliest city, Ahmedabad most reasonable

Hyderabad has pipped Delhi NCR as India's second most expensive residential market, according to Knight Frank India's proprietary Affordability Index. While Mumbai is still India's most unaffordable city, Ahmedabad and Kolkata are some of the most affordable spaces. The Knight Frank Affordability Index indicates the proportion of income that a household requires to fund the monthly instalment (EMI) of a housing unit in a particular city. Thus, the Knight Frank Affordability Index level of 40 per cent for a city implies that on an average, households in that city need to spend 40 per cent of their income to fund the EMI of a housing loan for a unit. An EMI/Income ratio of over 50 per cent is considered unaffordable as it is the limit beyond which banks rarely underwrite a mortgage.

MPhil not a recognised degree anymore: UGC

University Grant Commission has issued a notification, alerting students against pursuing an MPhil degree as it is no longer recognised. The commission has also warned universities against offering the programme and admissions for the 2023-24 academic year are prohibited. However, the MPhil degree awarded till the date of notification of new regulations, issued in 2022, will remain valid.

UGC:

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





Defence Exercise of the Month

Desert Knight

Exercise Desert Knight 2024

Exercise Desert Knight 2024

India, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) carried out a mega air exercise over the Arabian Sea against the backdrop of the rising global concerns over Houthi militants targeting several commercial vessels in the strategic waterways in the region. The exercise 'Desert Knight' featured several frontline aerial assets and combat jets of the air forces of the three countries. The Indian Air Force (IAF) component at the drills consisted of Su-30 MKI, MiG-29 and Jaguar fighter jets besides AWACS (airborne early warning and control aircraft, C-130-J transport plane and air-to-air refuelling aircraft. The exercise took place in the Indian FIR (Flight Information Regions) and with IAF aircraft operated from several bases in India. All airspace worldwide is divided into FIRs and each of them is managed by a controlling authority responsible for ensuring that air traffic services are provided to aircraft flying within it. The exercise came amid increasing attacks on commercial vessels by Houthi militants in the Red Sea. The trilateral exercise came days before India's Republic Day celebrations where two Rafale fighter jets and an Airbus A330 multi-role tanker transport aircraft of the French air force will also feature.

Note: French President Emmanuel Macron will be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 that would make him the sixth leader from France to grace the prestigious annual event.

Exercise Cyclone

The Indian Army contingent comprising 25 personnel reached Egypt to take part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise will be conducted at Anshas, Egypt. The first edition of the exercise was conducted last year in

India. The Indian contingent is being represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and Egyptian contingent comprising 25 personnel is being represented by Egyptian Commando Squadron and Egyptian Airborne Platoon. Aim of the Exercise is to acquaint both the sides with each other's operating procedures in the backdrop of Special Operations in desert/ semi desert terrain under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter. Exercise CYCLONE is designed to develop bilateral military cooperation and strengthen bond between two armies through conduct of discussions and rehearsal of tactical military drills.



The Exercise will involve planning and execution of special operations in sub conventional domain and conducted in three phases. While the first phase will include Military Exhibitions and Tactical Interactions, second phase will focus on training on Improvised Explosive Device (IED), counter IED and Combat First Aid. The third and final phase will encompass Joint Tactical Exercise based on Fighting in Built-up Area and Hostage Rescue Scenarios. The Exercise will provide an opportunity to both the contingents to strengthen their bond and share best practices. It will also act as a platform to achieve shared security objectives and foster bilateral relations between two friendly nations.

Exercise Khanjar

The 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. It is an annual event conducted alternatively in both the countries. The Indian Army contingent comprising 20 personnel is being represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and the Kyrgyzstan contingent comprising 20





personnel is represented by Scorpion Brigade. Aim of the exercise is to exchange experiences and best practices in Counter Terrorism and Special Forces Operations in Built-up Area and Mountainous Terrain under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.



The exercise will emphasise on developing Special Forces skills, advanced techniques of insertion and extraction. The exercise will provide an opportunity for both the sides to fortify defence ties while addressing common concerns of international terrorism and extremism. The exercise will also accord opportunity to showcase capabilities of cutting edge indigenous defence equipment besides achieving shared security objectives and foster bilateral relations.

Exercise Sea Dragon-24

Indian Navy Reached Guam To Participate In Ex. Sea Dragon 2024



An Indian Navy P-8I aircraft arrived in Guam, United States to participate in the fourth edition of the Anti-

“Fake It Until You Make It! Act As If You Had All The Confidence You Require Until It Becomes Your Reality.”

Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise, Ex Sea Dragon 24, organised by the US Navy. The exercise aims to enhance synergy and interoperability amongst participating navies from US, Australia, South Korea and Japan through professional interactions on ground and in air. Apart from the Indian Navy's P8I, other aircraft in attendance include the US Navy's P8A, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force's P1, Royal Canadian Air Force's CP-140, and Republic of Korea's P3C.

Desert Cyclone

Exercise 'Desert Cyclone' 2024

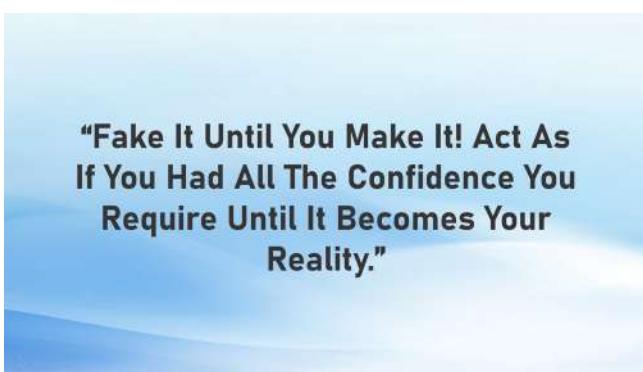


The Joint Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024' between India and UAE will begin in Rajasthan. The fortnight-long drill is aimed at enhancing interoperability by learning and sharing best practices in urban operations. The first-ever India-UAE Joint Air Forces exercise took place in September 2008 at the Al-Dhafra base in Abu Dhabi.

UAE:

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

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





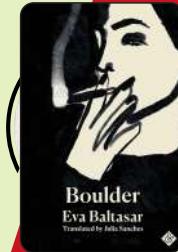
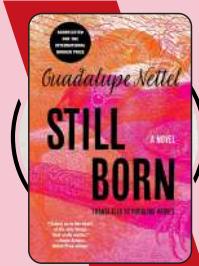
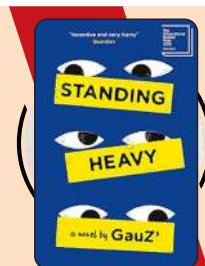
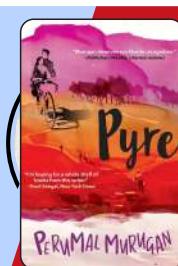
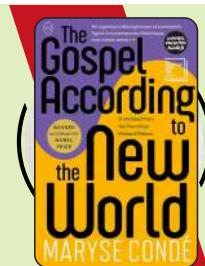
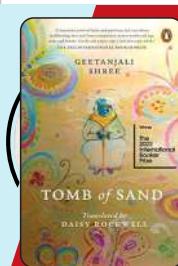
Important Days of the Month

Day	Observed/Celebrated As	Theme/Importance
01-Feb	Indian Coast Guard Day	To mark the inception of interim Indian Coast guard on 1 February 1977
02-Feb	World Wetlands Day	Wetlands Restoration
04-Feb	World Cancer Day	Uniting our voices and taking action
06-Feb	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation	Accelerating Investment to End FGM
10-Feb	National De-worming Day	Krimi se chhutkara, sehatmand bhavishya hamara
11-Feb	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	To recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology
13-Feb	National Women's Day	To mark the birth anniversary of India's first women governor Sarojini Naidu.
13-Feb	World Radio Day	Radio and Peace
20-Feb	World Day of Social Justice	To promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment
21-Feb	International Mother Language Day	To promote the awareness of language and cultural diversity all across the world
24-Feb	Central Excise Day	To mark the establishment of the Central Excise and Salt Act on 24th of February in the year 1944.
27-Feb	World NGO Day	To celebrate, commemorate and collaborate with the various NGOs around the world.
28-Feb	National Science Day	Global Science for Global Wellbeing





Books & Authors

**Book:** Time Shelter**Author:** Georgi Gospodinov**About:** The novel follows an unnamed narrator and Gaustine, a psychiatrist who creates a clinic for people with Alzheimer's disease in Zürich.**Book:** Boulder (translated by Julia Sanches)**Author:** Eva Baltasar**About:** A novel that lionizes the desire to be alone even as it recognizes the beauty and grace found within a family.**Book:** Still Born**Author:** Guadalupe Nettel**About:** It is the story of two friends who make diametrically opposite choices in life but neither of whom have ever built their future around the prospect of a family.**Book:** Ninth Building**Author:** Zou Jingzhi**About:** Ninth Building is a fascinating collection of vignettes drawn from author's experience growing up during the Cultural Revolution.**Book:** Standing Heavy**Author:** Gauz (translated by Frank Wynne)**About:** It's the story of Ivorian security guards working in Paris over several decades in the late 20th century, up to the early 2000s.**Book:** Pyre (translated by Aniruddhan Vasudevan)**Author:** Perumal Murugan**About:** A devastating tale of innocent young love pitted against chilling savagery, Pyre conjures a terrifying vision of intolerance.**Book:** The Gospel According to the New World**Author:** Maryse Condé**About:** Set in Martinique, the novel follows the journey of a miracle baby, named Pascal, rumored to be the child of God in search of his origins and mission.**Book:** Tomb of Sand (translated by Daisy Rockwell)**Author:** Geetanjali Shree**About:** It is an immersive novel that delves into the complexities of human relationships and the lingering influence of the past on the present.**Book:** Whale**Author:** Cheon Myeong-Kwan**About:** Whale is an adventure-satire of epic proportions, which sheds new light on the changes Korea experienced in its rapid transition from pre-modern to post-modern society.**Book:** Study for Obedience**Author:** Sarah Bernstein**About:** The novel tells of an unnamed narrator who moves to a secluded area of an unnamed northern country to care for her older brother.



Current Affairs Based GS Question Bank(500+ Que)

Statement Based Questions

- 1.** Recently, the External Affairs minister of India has visited Russia for a Bilateral Meeting.

Consider the following statements regarding Indo-Russia Relations -

- (1) Both countries regularly conduct the Tri-Services exercise 'INDRA'.
- (2) Russia was India's second largest arms supplier after Israel in the periods between 2013-17 and 2018-22.
- (3) In 2015, India and Russia concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for 200 Ka-226T helicopters.

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's total bilateral trade with Russia stood at ~USD 13 Billion in 2021-22 and USD 8.14 Billion in 2020-21.

Russia is India's seventh biggest trading partner, up from 25th position in 2021.

Both countries regularly conduct the Tri-Services exercise 'INDRA'.

The joint military programmes between India and Russia include:

BrahMos cruise missile programme

5th generation fighter jet programme

Sukhoi Su-30MKI programme

In 2015, India and Russia concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for 200 Ka-226T helicopters estimated to cost over USD 1 billion.

The Kamov-226T is meant to replace the ageing and obsolete Cheetah and Chetak fleets of the Indian Army and the Air Force.

- 2.** The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) recently got a new logo ahead of the commencement of its 150th year of providing weather and climate services to the country.

Consider the following statements regarding the SAFAR system -

- (1) It is a very advanced air quality and weather forecast system.
- (2) It was developed indigenously by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.
- (3) It will not measure the sun's UV - Index.

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: System of Air Quality Forecasting And Research (SAFAR):

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has introduced the System of Air Quality Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) to provide location-specific information on air quality in near real-time and its forecast 1-3 days in advance in major metropolitan cities such as Delhi and Pune.

This system benefits the general population by increasing awareness of climate-related events and forecasting adverse environmental effects.

The system is indigenously developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and is operationalized by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

It monitors all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction, UV radiation, and solar radiation.

Pollutants monitored by the SAFAR system are PM2.5, PM10, Ozone, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Sulfur Dioxide (SO2), Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, and Mercury.

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.





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.

4. Mudiyettu is a ritual theater and dance drama of Kerala that enacts the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika.

Consider the following statements regarding festivals and fairs in India -

- (1) The highlight of the Pooram festival held at Trichur in Kerala is the parade of magnificently decorated elephants.
- (2) Karthigai is a festival of lights held on Kartik Poornima in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and parts of Kerala.
- (3) The famous Pushkar fair is held in the Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp: Thrissur Pooram is a temple festival that is celebrated on the day when the moon rises with the pooram star in the Malayalam Calendar.

Karthigai Deepam Festival is celebrated in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and parts of Kerala. It is celebrated on the Purnima of the Tamil month of Karthigai. Like Diwali, it is also a festival of lights.

Pushkar fair is held in the Pushkar tehsil in the Ajmer district of Rajasthan. It is also known as the camel festival.

5. Scientists have discovered an ancient underwater mountain range hidden within the world's strongest ocean current, the Antarctic Circumpolar Current.

Consider the following statements regarding Antarctic Circumpolar Current -

- (1) The ACC flows from west to east around Antarctica, connecting the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans.
- (2) It is widest of all ocean currents with a width of about 1250 kilometers.
- (3) It is the only current that flows completely around the globe.

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 ACC flows from west to east around Antarctica, connecting the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans. It is the only current that flows completely around the globe.

It is exceptionally wide, with a width of about 1250 kilometers, making it the widest of all ocean currents.

It plays a crucial role in global ocean circulation and climate regulation. It redistributes heat and influences the global climate system.

The ACC is also known as the West Wind Drift because it is primarily driven by the strong westerly winds that circle Antarctica in the Southern Hemisphere.

It forms the Antarctic Convergence, where the cold Antarctic waters meet the warmer waters of the subantarctic, creating a zone of upwelling nutrients and high biological productivity.

The Indian cabinet has approved the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between India's Prasar Bharati and Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) in November 2023. Consider the following statements regarding Prasar Bharati -

- (1) Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous body.
- (2) It was established under the Prasar Bharati Act in 1997.
- (3) It comprises Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio.

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:

Prasar Bharati is India's largest statutory autonomous public broadcasting agency.

It was set up in 1997 by an Act of Parliament. It comprises Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio, which were earlier part of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Its primary function is to organize and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanced development of broadcasting on radio and television.

7.

India and UAE will hold 'Desert Cyclone 2024' joint military exercise in Rajasthan from 2nd January to 15th January, 2024.





Consider the following statements -

(1) Ekuverin is a Joint Military Training Exercise between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

(2) DOSTI is a joint Coast Guard/Naval exercise between these two countries.

(3) Operation Cactus was an Indian military operation carried out during the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

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

Ans:

Exp: Ekuverin is a Joint Military Training Exercise between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). DOSTI is a joint Coast Guard/Naval exercise between these two countries.

Operation Cactus was an Indian military operation carried out during the 1988 Maldives coup d'état attempt.

8.

For Huntington's disease clues, scientists are looking in fruit flies.

Consider the following statements regarding Huntington's Disease -

(1) Huntington's disease is a severe neurodegenerative disorder affecting the central nervous system.

(2) It is caused by a mutation in the HTT gene, producing a faulty huntingtin (Htt) protein.

(3) Mutant Htt proteins are cleaved into toxic fragments, disrupting various cellular processes.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

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

Ans:

Exp:

Huntington's disease is a severe neurodegenerative disorder affecting the central nervous system.

It is caused by a mutation in the HTT gene, producing a faulty huntingtin (Htt) protein.

Mutant Htt proteins are cleaved into toxic fragments, disrupting various cellular processes.

The HTT gene codes for the huntingtin protein crucial for nerve cell functioning.

Mutations in the HTT gene result in an expanded polyglutamine tract in the Htt protein, leading to misfolding and dysfunction.

The severity of Huntington's disease correlates with the length of the expanded polyglutamine tract.

The Ministry of Mines has entered into a draft exploration agreement with Argentinian miner CAMYEN for development of five-odd lithium blocks.

Consider the following statements regarding Lithium -

(1) Lithium is an alkali mineral, also called 'white gold'.

(2) Lithium is found naturally in various minerals, including spodumene, petalite, and lepidolite.

(3) In 2022, China was the world leader in terms of lithium mine production.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

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

Ans:

Exp:

Lithium is an alkali mineral, also called 'white gold'. It is soft, silvery-white metal, the lightest metal of the periodic table.

Major Properties: High Reactivity, Low Density, Excellent Electrochemical Properties

Occurrence and Top Producers:

Lithium is found naturally in various minerals, including spodumene, petalite, and lepidolite.

It is extracted from these minerals and refined into lithium metal or its compounds.

The top producers of lithium are Australia, Chile, China, and Argentina.

In 2022, Australia was the world leader in terms of lithium mine production. Chile and China ranked second and third.

Recently, a massive lithium deposit beneath California's Salton Sea (US), holding an estimated 18 million tons of lithium, was discovered.

2024 has been designated as the 'Year of Human Resource Development and Discipline' for IREDA.

Consider the following statements regarding IRENA -

(1) It is an intergovernmental organisation, it was officially founded in Bonn, Germany, in January 2009.

(2) Currently it has 167 members, India is the 77th Founding Member of IRENA.





(3) It has its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
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: IRENA is an intergovernmental organisation, it was officially founded in Bonn, Germany, in January 2009.

Currently it has 167 members, India is the 77th Founding Member of IRENA.

It has its headquarters in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Major Functions:

It supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, a centre of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy.

11. An acid attack survivor has approached the Delhi High Court seeking additional compensation from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

Consider the following statements -

- (1) PMNRF was instituted in 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- (2) The fund consists entirely of public contributions and does not get any budgetary support.
- (3) The fund is currently used to provide support to people affected by natural and man-made disasters.

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: PMNRF was instituted in 1948 by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, to assist displaced persons from Pakistan. The fund is currently used to provide support to people affected by natural and man-made disasters.

This includes natural disasters like floods, cyclones, and earthquakes, and man-made disasters like major accidents, acid attacks, and riots.

The fund consists entirely of public contributions and does not get any budgetary support.

The corpus of the fund is invested with banks in fixed deposits. Disbursements are made with the approval of the Prime Minister.

All donations towards the PMNRF are notified for 100% deduction from taxable income under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Kyrgyzstan has officially declared the Snow Leopard as its national symbol.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Scientific name of Snow Leopard is Panthera uncia.

(2) India is a part to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2000.

(3) In 2019, First National Protocol was also launched on Snow Leopard Population Assessment.

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: Snow Leopard

Scientific Name: Panthera uncia

They have a vast but fragmented distribution across the mountainous landscape of central Asia.

The Government of India has identified the snow leopard as a flagship species for the high-altitude Himalayas.

India is also party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013.

HimalSanrakshak: It is a community volunteer programme, to protect snow leopards, launched in October 2020.

In 2019, First National Protocol was also launched on Snow Leopard Population Assessment which has been very useful for monitoring populations.

The Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to Rani Velu Nachiyar (3rd Jan 1730 – 25th Dec 1796) on her birth anniversary.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Rani Velu Nachiyar, also known as Veeramangai, was the princess of the Ramnad Kingdom.

(2) She is revered as the first queen to fight against the British colonial power in India.

- (3) She ruled until 1800.





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: Rani Velu Nachiyar, also known as Veeramangai, was the princess of the Ramnad Kingdom of Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu. She is revered as the first queen to fight against the British colonial power in India. She was a scholar in languages like French, English, and Urdu. Nachiyar became queen of the Sivaganga estate (present-day Tamil Nadu) in 1780 after her husband Muthuvaduganathaperiya Udayathevar's death. She ruled until 1790. She went on to produce the first human bomb as well as establish the first army of trained women soldiers in the late 1700s.

14. Recently, the Prime Minister of India paid tributes to Savitribai Phule on her birth anniversary (3rd January 1831).

Consider the following statements regarding Savitri Bai Phule -

- (1) In 1852, Savitribai started the Mahila Seva Mandal.
- (2) Her husband Jyotirao Phule initiated the first Satyashodhak marriage—a marriage without a dowry.
- (3) She published Kavya Phule in 1854 and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892.

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: In 1852, Savitribai started the Mahila Seva Mandal to raise awareness about women's rights.

She published Kavya Phule in 1854 and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892.

In her poem, Go, Get Education, she urges the oppressed communities to get an education and break free from the chains of oppression.

She simultaneously campaigned against child marriage, while supporting widow remarriage.

She initiated the first Satyashodhak marriage—a marriage without a dowry, Brahmin priests or Brahminical rituals in 1873.

15. More than 1 crore people have been screened for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission.

Consider the following statements in the context interventions being undertaken under Anaemia Mukt Bharat Strategy -

- (1) It provides prophylactic calcium supplementation for pre-school children, adolescents and pregnant women.
- (2) It runs a campaign for delayed cord clamping at the time of child-birth.
- (3) It provides for periodic deworming to children and adolescents.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

(C)

Not Prophylactic calcium supplementation but Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation is provided to children, adolescents and women of reproductive age and pregnant women irrespective of anemia.

Appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) with emphasis on adequate and age-appropriate complementary foods for children 6 months and above.

Increase intake of iron-rich, protein-rich and vitamin C-rich foods through dietary diversification/quantity/frequency and food fortification

Promoting practice of delayed cord clamping (by at least 3 minutes or until cord pulsations cease) in all health facility deliveries followed by early initiation of breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth.

Bi-annual mass deworming for children in the age groups between 1-19 years is carried out every year under National Deworming Day (NDD) programme.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has witnessed a significant increase in Monkeypox(mpox) cases.

With reference to Monkeypox, consider the following statements:

- (1) Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease.
- (2) It occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa.
- (3) Monkeys are the natural hosts of the virus.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

(B)

Ans:





Exp: Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease (a disease that is transmitted from infected animals to humans) that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions. The natural host of the virus remains undefined. But the disease has been reported in many animals.

17. Recently, the Marapi volcano erupted, ejecting ash up to 3,000 meters (9,840 feet) into the air. Consider the following statements -
 (1) The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian territory.
 (2) Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
 (3) The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (A)

Exp: Barren Island is located in the Andaman Sea, about 140 km from Port Blair.

Barren Island volcano is the only active volcano located in the Indian territory, Andaman Islands. It is along a volcanic arc connecting Sumatra and Myanmar.

The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 2017.

18. In an initiative to combat the rising threat of methane emissions, the World Bank has announced plans to launch a series of country-led programs.

Consider the following statements regarding Global Warming Potential -

- (1) GWP is a measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere.
 (2) Global Warming Potential is measured in 100 years usually.
 (3) Carbon dioxide has lower GWPs compare to other greenhouse gases, such as methane and nitrous oxide.

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: GWP is a measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere over a

specific time period, usually 100 years, compared to carbon dioxide (CO₂).

It is used to evaluate the potential impact of different greenhouse gases on global warming. The GWP allows for the comparison of the warming effects of various gases based on their ability to absorb and retain heat in the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide is the reference gas with a GWP of 1. Other greenhouse gases, such as methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), have higher GWPs because they are more effective at trapping heat.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides GWP values for different gases. It's important to note that GWP values can vary depending on the time horizon chosen for the comparison.

Maharashtra's indigenous Warlis teach a lesson about peaceful coexistence with leopards.

Consider the following statements regarding Sanjay Gandhi National Park -

- (1) Mithi River flows through the national park.
 (2) It was formerly known as Borivali National Park.
 (3) The 2400-year-old Kanheri caves lies within the park.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Dahisar river flows through the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and becomes a recreational center during monsoons.

It is located in the state of Maharashtra which was formerly known as Borivali National Park. The 2400-year-old Kanheri caves are sculpted out of the rocky cliff which lies within the park.

ISRO is set to perform a crucial manoeuvre to bind Aditya-L1, aiming to place it into orbit around the Lagrangian point (L1).

Consider the following statements -

- (1) It is the first Indian space mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona.
 (2) It will be launched into the L2 orbit after that it will placed to L1.
 (3) It has seven payloads.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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





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

Exp: Aditya-L1 is the first space based observatory class Indian solar mission to study the Sun from a substantial distance of 1.5 million kilometers. It will take approximately 125 days to reach the L1 point.

Aditya-L1 is also ISRO's second astronomy observatory-class mission after AstroSat (2015).

The mission's journey is notably shorter than India's previous Mars orbiter mission, Mangalyaan.

It has seven payloads.

21. Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR) in West Bengal witnessed the return of a tiger for the second time in two years after a 23-year absence.

Consider the following statements regarding Buxa National Tiger reserve -

- (1) It lies in the Alipurduar sub-division of the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.
- (2) The Sinchula hill range lies all along the northern side of Buxa Tiger Reserve.
- (3) Its northern boundary runs along the international border with Bangladesh.

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: Buxa Tiger Reserve lies in the Alipurduar sub-division of the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.

Its northern boundary runs along the international border with Bhutan.

The Sinchula hill range lies all along the northern side of BTR, and the eastern boundary touches that of Assam State.

It got its name from Buxa Fort, which is located on the Sinchula Range at an altitude of 867 meters.

The fragile "Terai Eco-System" constitutes a part of this reserve.

It serves as an international corridor for elephant migration between India and Bhutan.

Two rivers, namely the River Raidak and the River Jayanti, flow through the forest of Buxa.

22. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), India's top consumer watchdog, has recently notified guidelines for prevention and regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023.

Consider the following statements on the Consumer Protection Act 1986 -

- (1) There is two-tier quasi-judicial machinery.
- (2) It only applies to goods.
- (3) It is regarded as the 'Magna Carta' in the field of consumer protection.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Consumer Protection Act, 1986, known as COPRA, is regarded as the 'Magna Carta' in the field of consumer protection.

It helps in checking unfair trade practices, 'defects in goods' and 'deficiencies in services'.

Under COPRA, three-tier quasi-judicial machinery at the district, state and national levels was set up for redressal of consumer disputes.

The act provides a platform for a consumer where they can file their complaint, and the forum takes action against the concerned supplier and compensation is granted to the consumer.

This Protection Act covers all goods and services of all public, private, or cooperative sectors, except those exempted by the central government.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has recently unveiled its annual report titled "Crime in India for 2022".

Consider the following statements -

- (1) National Crime Records Bureau was set up in 1992.
- (2) NCRB is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India.
- (3) Ramphal Pawar is the current Director of the NCRB.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is an Indian government body that collects and analyses crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).

NCRB is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India and has its





headquarters in New Delhi. Ramphal Pawar is the current Director of the NCRB (IPS).

The NCRB was established in 1986 to serve as a storehouse of information on crime and offenders to aid detectives in tying crimes to their perpetrators.

- 24.** Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched a nationwide public awareness campaign on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation awareness program.

Consider the following statements about the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) -

- (1) It is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- (2) It has been registered as an independent society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp: Functions of BPPI(Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India) are -

Co-ordinate marketing of the generic drugs through the Jan Aushadhi stores.

Co-ordinate supply of medicines in the State from their own plants, other Pharma PSUs(Public sector under undertaking) of Central & State Governments and Private Sector.

Coordinate with Hospitals in preparation of formula.

Monitor proper running of Jan Aushadhi stores with the help of other CPSU(Central Public sector under undertaking).

Provide medicines as per rates decided in the joint Forum/Core Committee.

Monitor activities of the Jan Aushadhi stores in the areas allocated to them.

- 25.** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has recently submitted three nominations from India for the Wetland City Accreditation (WCA).

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Under Ramsar Convention, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to protect and conserve all the wetlands in the territory of India.

(2) The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were framed by the Government of India based in the recommendation of Ramsar Convention.

(3) The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 also encompass the drainage area or catchment regions of the wetlands as determined by the authority.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

(C)

Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar and is one of the oldest inter-governmental accord for preserving the ecological character of wetlands.

Article 4 of the Ramsar Convention states that "Each Contracting Party shall promote the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl by establishing nature reserves on wetlands, whether they are included in the List or not, and provide adequately for their wandering." It is not mandatory on the part of the Government of India to protect and conserve all the wetlands in the territory of India.

As per Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, a "wetland" means an area or of marsh, fen, peatland or water that is static or flowing. The depth of it at low tide does not exceed six metres and includes all inland waters such as lakes, reservoir etc estuaries and manmade wetland and the zone of direct influence on wetlands that is to say the drainage area or catchment region of the wetlands as determined by the authority.

The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 was notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forest to ensure better conservation and management and to prevent degradation of existing wetlands in India. However, it was not framed on the basis of recommendation of Ramsar Convention.

Ahead of Odisha State Pollution Control Board's (OSPCB) hearing on Environment Clearance of Mali Parbat Bauxite Mining Lease, local people have started protests demanding permanent cancellation of the lease. Which of the following minerals are found in a natural way in the State of Chhattisgarh?

- (1) Bauxite, (2) Dolomite, (3) Iron ore, (4) Tin





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

Ans:

Exp: Important minerals with which the name of the State is intimately associated are Diamond, Coal, Iron Ore, Limestone, Dolomite, Bauxite and Tin Ore. Tin Ore is being produced only in Chhattisgarh amongst Indian States. Precious metals like Gold and Atomic minerals also occur in the State.

27.

The Jain community has been protesting over demands related to two holy sites — Sammed Shikhar on Parasnath hill in Jharkhand and Shatrunjaya hill in Palitana of Gujarat.

With reference to the history of ancient India, which of the following was/were common to both Buddhism and Jainism?

- (1) Avoidance of extremities of penance and enjoyment
 (2) Indifference to the authority of the Vedas
 (3) Denial of efficacy of rituals
 (A) Only (1) and (2) (B) Only (2) and (3)
 (C) Only (3) and (1) (D) All are correct

Ans:

Exp:

Buddhism advocated a middle path that is the avoidance of extremities of penance and enjoyment. On the other hand, Jainism advocated extreme penance and asceticism. Buddhism and Jainism rejected the notion of grand rituals along with the authority of the Vedas and the priestly class. Buddhism and Jainism believe in the concept of reincarnation, which is the rebirth of the soul in a new body after the death of the previous body.

28.

Recently, a meeting was held between the finance minister and the heads of banks to discuss various reforms in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

Which of the following grants/grant direct credit assistance to rural households?

- (1) Regional Rural Banks
 (2) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
 (3) Land Development Banks

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

(A)

Exp: Mission of RRBs is to fulfil the credit needs of the relatively unserved sections in the rural areas, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and socio-economically weaker sections.

Shareholding pattern of RRBs among the three sponsoring entities is 50: 35: 15 among the central government, sponsoring bank and state government, respectively. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development provides refinance support for building rural infrastructure and not directly finance rural households. The principal borrower is enrolled as 'A' class member and others who have an interest in the mortgaged property are admitted as 'B' class members. Thus, they also grant direct credit assistance to rural households.

Recently, a study has been published, which has raised scepticism about the efficiency of restoring coastal habitats to offset carbon emissions.

Consider the following statements regarding Carbon tax -

- (1) Carbon tax is based on the polluter pay principle.
 (2) Carbon tax is Pigovian tax.
 (3) Finland is the first country to impose.
 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

Exp:

It is a form of Pollution Tax. It levies a fee on the production, distribution or use of fossil fuels based on how much carbon their combustion emits. The Government will set a price per ton on carbon. It gets translated into Tax on the following.

Tax on electricity

Tax on Natural Gas or Oil

The Carbon tax will not be the same for different fuels because the carbon content is not the same in all the fuels. The amount of carbon dioxide released is directly proportional to the fuel's carbon content.

Due to the imposition of the carbon tax, it will make fuels more expensive. This will encourage utilities, businesses and individuals to -

Fuel consumption will be reduced.

Increase energy efficiency





Alternative renewable sources of energy will become more competitive.

All the above will lead to lowering the emission of greenhouse gases.

India imposed a Carbon tax of Rs 50 per ton of coal produced and imported, in 2010.

In 2014, it was increased to Rs 100.

In 2015 it was further increased to Rs 200.

Currently, the carbon tax is Rs 400 per ton.

As of 2019, 25 countries have implemented a carbon tax.

- 30.** Recently, the Ministry of Education informed Lok Sabha that less than 10% of schools are equipped with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools or Digital Tools, in at least 10 states of India.

Consider the following statements regarding Constitutional Provisions for Right to Education -

- (1) Originally Part IV of Indian Constitution, Article 45 and Article 39 (f) of DPSP.
- (2) The 84th Constitutional Amendment in 2002, provided Right to Education as a fundamental right.
- (3) It provided for a follow-up legislation Right to Education Act 2009.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp: Originally Part IV of Indian Constitution, Article 45 and Article 39 (f) of DPSP (Directive Principles of State Policy), had a provision for state funded as well as equitable and accessible education. The 86th Constitutional Amendment in 2002, provided Right to Education as a fundamental right in Part-III of the Constitution. It inserted Article 21A which made Right to Education a fundamental right for children between 6-14 years. It provided for a follow-up legislation Right to Education Act 2009.

- 31.** Recently, the Ministry of Culture has shed light on the Adopt A Heritage program 2.0.

Consider the following statements regarding the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage -

- (1) It is a non-profit charitable organisation registered under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860.

(2) In 2007, the United Nations awarded INTACH a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

(3) It has pioneered the conservation and preservation of not just our natural and built heritage but intangible heritage as well.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage is a non-profit charitable organisation registered under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860.

It was founded in 1984 in New Delhi with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India.

It has pioneered the conservation and preservation of not just our natural and built heritage but intangible heritage as well.

In 2007, the United Nations awarded INTACH a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Recently, the Ministry of Cooperation has introduced Model Bye laws aimed at revitalizing Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

Consider the following statements -

With reference to "Urban Cooperative Banks" in India, consider the following statements -

- (1) They are supervised and regulated by local boards set up by the State Governments.
- (2) They can issue equity shares and preference shares.

(3) They were brought under the purview of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 through an Amendment in 1966.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Co-operative banks are financial entities which belong to its members, who are at the same time the owners and the customers of their bank. They are established by State laws.

Co-operative banks in India are registered under the Cooperative Societies Act. They are also regulated by the RBI and governed by Banking Regulations Act, 1949 and Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.

Ans:

Exp:

32.

Ans:

Exp:





Urban Co-operative Banks (UCB) are regulated and supervised by State Registrars of Co-operative Societies (RCS) in case of single-state co-operative banks and Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies (CRCS) in case of multi-state co-operative banks and by the RBI.

The banking related functions such as issue of license to start new banks/branches, matters relating to interest rates, loan policies, investments and prudential exposure norms are regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 after an amendment in 1966.

The UCBs could raise share capital by issue of equity to persons within their area of operation enrolled as members and also through additional equity shares to the existing members.

- 33.** Every year, the United Nations celebrates 5th December as World Soil Day.

Which of the following statements regarding laterite soils of India are correct?

- (1) They are generally red in colour.
- (2) They are rich in nitrogen and potash.
- (3) Tapioca and cashew nuts grow well on these soils.

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: Laterite soils are red in colour due to little clay and more gravel of red sand-stones.

Chemical composition of Laterite – Lateritic Soils

Laterite soils are rich in bauxite or ferric oxides. They are very poor in lime, magnesia, potash and nitrogen.

Sometimes, the phosphate content may be high in the form of iron phosphate.

In wetter places, there may be a higher content of humus.

A continuous stretch of laterite soil is found on the summits of Western Ghats at 1000 to 1500 m above mean sea level, Eastern Ghats, the Rajmahal Hills, Vindhyan, Satpuras and Malwa Plateau.

When manured and irrigated, some laterites are suitable for growing plantation crops like tea, coffee, rubber, cinchona, coconut, arecanut, etc.

34.

Recently, a bill seeking to establish a Central Tribal University in Telangana was passed by the Lok Sabha.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) In most cases, the President of the India is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities in that state.
- (2) Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, the President of India shall be the Visitor of a central university.
- (3) Union government forms committees to appoint Vice Chancellor.

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: State Universities -

In most cases, the Governor of the state is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities in that state. While as Governor he functions with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, as Chancellor he acts independently of the Council of Ministers and takes his own decisions on all University matters.

Central Universities -

Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, and other statutes, the President of India shall be the Visitor of a central university.

With their role limited to presiding over convocations, Chancellors in central universities are titular heads, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as Visitor.

The Vice Chancellor too are appointed by the Visitor from panels of names picked by search and selection committees formed by the Union government.

35.

The Union World Conference on Lung Health in 2023 heralded an optimistic turn in the fight against tuberculosis (TB) with the unveiling of four new improved drug regimens.

Consider the following statements regarding Tuberculosis -

- (1) Tuberculosis is an infection caused by bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
- (2) India launched the Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY), a Direct Benefit transfer scheme for TB patients.
- (3) The symptoms of active TB of the lung are coughing, sometimes with sputum or blood, chest pains.





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: Tuberculosis is an infection caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It can practically affect any organ of the body. The most common ones are lungs, pleura (lining around the lungs), lymph nodes, intestines, spine, and brain.

It is an airborne infection that spreads through close contact with the infected, especially in densely populated spaces with poor ventilation. Common symptoms of active lung TB are cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.

36. Recently, India has announced a USD 250 million line of credit to Kenya.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The bones of one of the earliest human ancestors ever found were discovered in Kenya's Turkana Basin.
- (2) Kenya is located in Southern-most Africa.
- (3) UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.

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: Kenya is located in East Africa. Its terrain rises from a low coastal plain on the Indian Ocean to mountains and plateaus at its center.

Kenya's location between the Indian Ocean and Lake Victoria means that people from all over Africa and the Middle East have traveled and traded across it for centuries.

This has created a diverse culture with many ethnic groups and languages.

The bones of one of the earliest human ancestors ever found were discovered in Kenya's Turkana Basin.

Lake Turkana, the world's largest desert lake, is part of the Omo-Turkana basin, which stretches into four countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.

UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.

37. Annually, 9th November is celebrated as Uttarakhand State Foundation Day.

Consider the following statements regarding Uttarakhand -

- (1) India's first Earthquake Warning System successfully installed in Uttarakhand.
- (2) Uttarakhand falls under Seismic Zone – I.
- (3) Uttarakhand Himalayas lie approximately between the Ravi in the west and the Kali in the east.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

(A)

An Earthquake Warning System (EWS) was successfully installed in Uttarakhand, Dehradun in the first week of July 2015. With this, Uttarakhand became first Indian state to install a system that can detect earthquakes and disseminate warnings. According to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Uttarakhand falls under Seismic Zone –V, which is a zone of high seismic activity with magnitude of 6.9 or greater on Richter scale. The Himachal and Uttarakhand Himalayas lie approximately between the Ravi in the west and the Kali (a tributary of Ghaghara) in the east. It is drained by two major river systems of India, i.e. the Indus and the Ganga.

38. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has proposed an initiative to implement Aadhaar authentication for inmates and visitors in around 1,300 jails across the nation.

Consider the following statements regarding Aadhaar Card -

- (1) Aadhaar metadata cannot be stored for more than three months.
- (2) State cannot enter into any contract with private corporations for sharing of Aadhaar data.
- (3) Aadhaar is mandatory for getting benefits funded out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

(C)

Recently the Supreme Court has said that the Aadhaar authentication data can't be retained beyond 6 months.

The Supreme Court judgement read that "The part of the provision which enables body corporate and individuals also to seek authentication, that too on the basis of a contract between the individual and such body corporate





or person, would impinge upon the right to privacy of such individuals. This part of the section, thus, is declared unconstitutional."

IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) has clarified that Aadhaar is not required to buy an insurance policy.

Even in the 2018 judgment, the Supreme Court held that Aadhar is not mandatory to purchase insurance products.

The Supreme Court ruled that any welfare scheme, driving funds out of the Consolidated Fund of India, would require Aadhar to deliver the benefits to the intended beneficiaries.

- 39.** The recent collision between two passenger trains in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district drew attention to the absence of the Traffic Collision Avoidance Systems (TCAS).

Consider the following communication technologies -

- (1) Closed-circuit Television
- (2) Radio Frequency Identification
- (3) Wireless Local Area Network

Which of the above are considered Short-Range devices/technologies?

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

Ans:

Exp: Short Range Devices (SRD) are radio devices that offer a low risk of interference with other radio services, usually because of their transmitted power, and hence their range is low. Closed-circuit television (CCTV): CCTV (closed-circuit television) is a TV system in which signals are not publicly distributed but are monitored, primarily for surveillance and security purposes.

Wireless Local Area Networks: A wireless local area network (WLAN) is a wireless distribution method for two or more devices.

Radio Frequency Identification: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is a technology that uses radio waves to passively identify a tagged object.

- 40.** The Prime Minister of India has extended New Year greetings on the occasion of Gujarati New Year.

Consider the following statements regarding Gujarat -

- (1) Rivers - Luni, Sabarmati, Mahi, Narmada, Godavari

- (2) Mountain ranges - Garda hills, Barda hills, Gir range, Rajpipla hills

- (3) Arts and crafts - Bandhani or tie-and-dye fabric, Woven Patola fabric, Soof embroidery

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

C

Mountain ranges - Garda hills, Barda hills, Gir range, Rajpipla hills, Chhota Udaipur hills, Black hills, Mandav hills

Arts and crafts - Bandhani or tie-and-dye fabric, Woven Patola fabric, Rich embroidery by Rabari tribals, Soof embroidery

Rivers - Luni, Sabarmati, Mahi, Narmada, Tapti, Banas, Saraswati, Damanganga

The Prime Minister of India paid tributes to tribal leader Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary(15th November 1875).

Consider the following statements regarding Birsa Munda -

- (1) He is Remembered as 'Bhagwan' (God) and 'Dharati Aba' (Father of the earth) by followers.
- (2) He led the British Rebellion aimed to freedom of India.

- (3) Birth anniversary celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

A

The Prime Minister of India paid tributes to tribal leader Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary(15th November 1875) belonging to the Munda tribe in the Chotanagpur Plateau area. He led the Munda Rebellion aimed to establish Munda Raj, or self-rule, and restore the tribal rights over their land and forest.

The Ulgulan movement aimed at establishing Munda Raj by driving out the British.

Birth anniversary celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, acknowledging tribal contributions.

He is Remembered as 'Bhagwan' (God) and 'Dharati Aba' (Father of the earth) by followers.

For the first time in the country that a GPS tracker has been put on a prisoner in Jammu and Kashmir.





In which of the following areas can GPS technology be used?

- (1) Mobile phone operations
- (2) Banking operations
- (3) Controlling the power grids

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: (A)

Exp: GPS is a satellite navigation system, used to determine the ground position of an object.

Cell towers use it to route your phone calls, ATMs and cash registers use it for your transactions, electrical grids use it to send power to your house, and stock exchanges use it to regulate the trades that go into your stock portfolio or investment fund.

It is a US owned utility that provides users with positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services.

It is a network of 24 satellites which provides service to civilian and military users.

43. In October 2023, India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) recorded an annual inflation rate of - 0.52%, down from -0.26% in September 2023.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The wholesale price index is a measure of inflation on an economy-wide scale.
- (2) The consumer price index is the retail price average of a basket of goods and services directly consumed by the people.
- (3) GDP deflators which distinguish between personal growth in income and price rise.

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: Wholesale price index (WPI):

It indicates the change in the general price level. A wholesale price index (WPI) measures and tracks the changes in the price of goods before they reach consumers (goods that are sold in bulk and traded between entities or businesses (rather than consumers)).

Wholesale price indexes (WPIs) are one indicator of a country's level of inflation.

Consumer price index (CPI):

It is also known as the cost of living index measures the average change in retail prices.

The Consumer Price Index measures the average change in prices over time that consumers pay for a basket of goods and services.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

Gross domestic product (GDP) represents the total output of good and services within the boundary of a country.

The GDP deflator, also called implicit price deflator, is a measure of inflation.

Recently, there has been renewed interest in the Ben Gurion Canal Project bypassing the Suez Canal.

Consider the following statements regarding -

- (1) The Suez Canal was completely built by 1869.
- (2) The Suez Canal is not an open cut, it has six lock system.
- (3) It provides Europe with a new gateway to the Indian Ocean.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

(A)

Suez Canal is a sea-level waterway that runs across the Egyptian Isthmus of Suez to connect the Red sea and Mediterranean sea.

The Suez Canal was completely built by 1869. The Suez Canal is an open cut, without locks. Hence, the third statement is incorrect and hence the correct answer.

The Canal is responsible for providing Europe with a new gateway to the Indian Ocean, as well as the Western Pacific Oceans.

The 6th High-Level Meeting of the India-Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Energy Dialogue brought together key representatives at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna, Austria.

Consider the following statements in context to OPEC -

- (1) It is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference.
- (2) Iran and Venezuela are the founder members of the OPEC.

(3) Its headquarters is located in Vienna, Austria. 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 Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

It was later joined by other members such as Qatar (1961), Indonesia (1962), Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Ecuador (1973), Gabon (1975), Angola (2007), Equatorial Guinea (2017) and Congo (2018).

OPEC had its headquarter in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first five years of its existence. This was moved to Vienna, Austria, on September 1, 1965.

- 46.** Recently, FATF (Financial Action Task Force) has released a report titled—"Crowdfunding for Terrorism Financing".

Consider the following statements regarding FATF -

- (1) Apart from the 35 nations, European Commission and OPEC are also the members of FATF.
- (2) India, Pakistan and China are the members of FATF.
- (3) FATF shares its headquarters with the World Economic Forum.

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
48.

Ans: (D)

Exp: In response to mounting concern over money laundering, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) was established by the G-7 Summit that was held in Paris in 1989.

The FATF currently comprises 35 member nations and 2 regional organisations, European Commission and the Gulf Co-operation Council. India and China are members of FATF but Pakistan is not. The FATF shares its headquarters with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

- 47.** National Press Day, marked on 16th November. Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Press Council of India is a statutory body in India that governs the conduct of the print media.

(2) The Press Council is a quasi-judicial body which acts as a watchdog of the press.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

(B)

The Press Council of India is a statutory body in India that governs the conduct of the print media. Presently, the Council functions under the Press Council Act 1978 which arose from the recommendations of the Second Press Commission of India (1978).

The Press Council is a quasi-judicial body which acts as a watchdog of the press. It adjudicates the complaints against and by the press for violation of ethics and for violation of the freedom of the press respectively.

The Council's actions may not be questioned unless it is proved to be in violation of the constitution, which makes it an exceedingly powerful body.

The Press Council is headed by a Chairman: usually, a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The Council is founded by revenue collected by it as fees levied on the registered newspapers in the country on the basis of their circulation. No fee is levied on newspapers with a circulation of less than 5000 copies. The deficit is made good by grants by the Central Government, through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Euclid mission by the European Space Agency (ESA) launched in July 2023.

Consider the following statements regarding Nebular theory of Laplace?

- (1) The sun was surrounded by solar nebula containing mostly the hydrogen and silicon.
- (2) The collision of particle led to formation of a disk-shaped cloud and planets were formed through the process of accretion.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Nebular Hypothesis considered that the planets were formed out of a cloud of material associated with a youthful sun, which was slowly rotating. Later in 1950, Otto Schmidt in Russia and Carl Weizsäcker in Germany





somewhat revised the ‘nebular hypothesis’, though differing in details.

1. They considered that the sun was surrounded by solar nebula containing mostly the hydrogen and helium along with what may be termed as dust.

2. The friction and collision of particles led to formation of a disk-shaped cloud and the planets were formed through the process of accretion.

- 49.** Mount Etna has been erupting frequently since February 2023.

Consider the following statements regarding Mount Etna -

(1) It is located between the cities of Messina and Catania.

(2) It is the most active stratovolcano in the world.

(3) It was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2013.

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: Mount Etna is an active volcano on the east coast of Sicily in Italy.

It is located between the cities of Messina and Catania.

It is the most active stratovolcano in the world.

Mount Etna is the highest active volcano in Europe, its topmost elevation being about 10,900 feet (3,320 metres).

It is the highest Mediterranean island mountain. Three observatories have been set up on its slopes located at Catania, Casa Etna, and Cantoniera.

It was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2013.

The current eruption of Mount Etna began on 16 February 2021.

- 50.** Recently, the Ministry of Science and Technology has announced ‘Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar’ (RVP) at par with the Padma and other national awards.

Consider the following statements regarding Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar -

- (1) These awards are given once in three years.
(2) The awards can also be given to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).

- (3) The awards will be announced on National Technology Day.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Vigyan Ratna category of the award will be given for the lifetime achievement of scientists. These awards are given annually.

The awards can also be given to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs). The awards is announced on National Technology Day, May 11.

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has upheld crucial provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Consider the following statements regarding Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 -

(1) The code created new uniform procedures to resolve insolvency and bankruptcy disputes.

(2) The code aims to resolve insolvencies in a strict time-bound manner.

(3) The evaluation and viability determination must be completed within 90 days.

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 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 replaced all the existing laws and created a uniform procedure to resolve insolvency and bankruptcy disputes.

It allows creditors to assess the viability of a debtor as a business decision. Further, the creditors can agree with the plan for its revival or suggest for a speedy liquidation.

The Code creates a new institutional framework. This framework facilitated a formal and time-bound insolvency resolution process and liquidation.

The code aims to resolve insolvencies in a strict time-bound manner – the evaluation and viability determination must be completed within 180 days.

Moratorium period of 180 days (extendable up to 270 days) for the Company. For startups and small companies, the resolution time period is 90 days which can be extended by 45 days.





- 52.** Researchers have devised a groundbreaking method using AI-driven chemistry to produce oxygen from Martian meteorites.

Consider the following statements regarding oxygen -

- (1) It reacts with non-metals to form oxides, which are basic nature.
- (2) Ozone is an allotrope of Oxygen.
- (3) It is slightly heavier than air.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp: Oxygen reacts with metals to form oxides.

Ozone also is known as Trixygen which is a triatomic molecule consisting of three oxygen.

Oxygen is insoluble in acidic pyrogallol.

Oxygen is denser than air.

Ozone is created by the action of daylight on oxygen.

Ozone at a ground level is considered a pollutant.

- 53.** The Prime Minister has paid tribute to Rani Lakshmi Bai on her birth anniversary on 19th November.

Consider the following statements regarding Rani Lakshmi Bai -

- (1) Jhansi was annexed by the British under Doctrine of Lapse.
- (2) The Rani of Jhansi or Manikarnika was born in present day Gwalior of Madhya Pradesh.
- (3) She was one of the leading figures of the Indian Revolt of 1857.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp:

Lakshmi Bai or Rani of Jhansi or Manikarnika has played a major role against the British in the Indian revolt of 1857.

She was born on November 19, 1828, in Benaras of Uttar Pradesh (present-day Varanasi).

She has died in Gwalior of Madhya Pradesh and her burial was at Phool bagh (Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh).

As Lakshmi Bai and Gangadhar Rao had no natural heir (as he died) so they adopted Damodhar Rao as their heir.

But according to the Doctrine of Lapse by Lord Dalhousie, the adopted heir was not recognized,

so he annexed Jhansi under the Doctrine of Lapse.

She was one of the leading figures of the Indian Revolt of 1857.

Rani Lakshmi Bai fought bravely against the British to save her empire from annexation. She died fighting on the battlefield on 17th June 1858.

Recently, the Prime Minister has paid tributes to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary on 19th November.

Consider the following statements regarding Indira Gandhi -

- (1) Indira Gandhi was also known as the Iron Lady of India.
- (2) She was assassinated in retaliation for imposing emergency in 1975.
- (3) She was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1984.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp: Indira Gandhi, also known as the Iron Lady of India, was the third and the only female Prime Minister of India, who served from 1966 to 1977 and from 1980 to 1984.

She was the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India.

She led India to victory in the 1971 war against Pakistan, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.

She imposed a state of emergency in 1975, suspending civil liberties and democratic rights. She was assassinated in retaliation for the Operation Blue Star, a military action against the Sikh militants in the Golden Temple.

She was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, posthumously in 1984.

Recently, Cyclone Midhili underwent a downgrade from a "deep depression" to a "depression" as confirmed by the IMD.

Consider the following statements about Cyclones -

- (1) Cyclone is a chain of events that ends with the formation of a very low-pressure system with very high-speed winds revolving around it.





(2) It is called a 'hurricane' in the Philippines and Japan. In American continent it is called a 'typhoon'

(3) The centre of a cyclone is a calm area. It is called the 'eye' of the storm.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (A)

Exp: A cyclone is a large air mass that rotates around a strong centre of low atmospheric pressure.

Cyclones rotate clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere and anti-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.

Cyclones are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area.

Factors like wind speed, wind direction, temperature and humidity contribute to the development of cyclones.

Cyclone is a chain of events that ends with the formation of a very low-pressure system with very high-speed winds revolving around it.

The centre of a cyclone is a calm area. It is called the eye of the storm. A large cyclone is a violently rotating mass of air in the atmosphere, 10 to 15 km high.

A cyclone is known by different names in different parts of the world. It is called a 'hurricane' in the American continent. In the Philippines and Japan, it is called a 'typhoon'.

56. Recently, the President of India attended the session of the 36th Annual Conference and Literary Festival of All India Santali Writers' Association at Baripada, Odisha.

Consider the following statements -

(1) Santali language is a Munda language spoken primarily in the east-central Indian states.

(2) In 2003, the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act added Santhali to Schedule VIII.

(3) Santhals are the largest scheduled tribe in the Rajasthan state of India in terms of population.

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: President appreciated writers and researchers who are contributing to the Santhali language and literature.

Santali language is a Munda language spoken primarily in the east-central Indian states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Orissa.

The Santhali language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in 2003.

Santhali literature, historically oral, saw notable contributions from Pandit Raghunath Murmu, who created the Ol Chiki script, also known as Ol Cemet.

In 2003, the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act added Santhali to Schedule VIII to the Constitution of India, which lists the official languages of India, along with the Bodo, Dogri and Maithili languages.

According to the 2011 Census of India, there are over 70 lakh people who speak Santali across the country.

But their geographic distribution is not limited to India — the community is also spread across Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

Santhals are the largest scheduled tribe in the Jharkhand state of India in terms of population and are also found in the states of Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal.

Recently, the Geographical Indication (GI) Registry, has awarded the GI tag to the Department of Industries & Commerce, Ladakh, for 'Ladakh Sea Buckthorn'.

Consider the following statements -

(1) Geographical indications of Goods Registration and Protection Act was enacted in 2004.

(2) Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India in 2004-05

(3) GI tags were awarded to Adilabad Dokra in 2016-17 from Telangana.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp: A GI tag is a sign used on products that have a particular geographical origin and possess origin-based qualities and reputation within the region.

Foodstuffs, handicrafts, industrial products, etc. come under this category.

A GI tag is given as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.





GI tags are issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

A GI tag comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.

Darjeeling tea was the first product that got a GI tag for 2004-05 in India.

In 2018, Adilabad dokra and Warangal Dhurries of Telangana got the GI tag. Hence Statement C is incorrect.

Adilabad Dokra is an ancient bell metal craft, while Warangal Dhurries is a popular traditional cotton rug. **59.**

The Dokra bell is manufactured by the Ojha community(Ojjis in Telangana). It is a tribal metal craft practiced in Jainoor Mandal, Adilabad District of Telangana.

The Warangal Dhurries is made by the Dhurrie community.

The GI applications for Adilabad Dokra and Warangal Dhurries were filed in the GI registry on 6 March 2015.

- 58.** The recent meeting of the UNCCD shed light on the far-reaching consequences of sand and dust storms.

What is/are the importance/importances of the 'United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification'?

- It aims to promote effective action through innovative national programmes and supportive international partnerships.
- It has a special/particular focus on South Asia and North Africa regions, and its Secretariat facilitates the allocation of major portions of financial resources to these regions.
- It is committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (A)

Exp: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

It was established in 1994.

It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.

This convention aims to promote effective action through innovative local programmes and supportive international partnerships.

There is no such provision that the secretariat facilitates the allocation of the major portion of financial resources to the South Asia and North Africa regions.

Eclipses are astronomical phenomena that occur when the sun, the moon, and the earth lie in a straight line.

Consider the following statements -

(1) The moon's orbit around the earth is tilted by about 23.5 degrees to the earth's orbit around the sun.

(2) An annular eclipse happens when the moon is farthest from Earth.

(3) The moon's shadow has two parts: a central region (umbra) and an outer region (penumbra). Which of the above is/are correct?

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

(C)

The moon's orbit around the earth is tilted by about 5 degrees to the earth's orbit around the sun.

This means that the moon is usually too high or too low to cast a shadow on the Earth (solar eclipse) or to enter the Earth's shadow (lunar eclipse).

A solar eclipse is a phenomenon that happens when the moon comes in the way of the sun's light. The moon's shadow casts itself on Earth, blocking out the sun's light (as seen from Earth). The moon's shadow has two parts: a central region (umbra) and an outer region (penumbra). Depending upon which part of the shadow passes over the Earth, one of three types of solar eclipses could be observed:

Total Solar Eclipse- The entire central portion of the sun is blocked out by the moon.

Partial Solar Eclipse- Only part of the sun's surface is blocked out.

Annular Solar Eclipse- The sun is covered in such a way that only a small ring-like sliver of light is seen from the sun's disc. This ring is known as the ring of fire.





- 60.** According to recent researchers, gamma-ray burst (GRB) induced a notable disruption in the ionosphere of Earth.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Gamma-ray bursts are short-lived explosions of gamma rays, the most energetic form of light.
- (2) Gamma-Ray Bursts are the most powerful class of explosions in the universe.
- (3) When a massive star collapses, it creates a black hole.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp: Gamma-ray bursts are short-lived explosions of gamma rays, the most energetic form of light.

Lasting from a few milliseconds to several hours, they shine hundreds of times brighter than a typical supernova and about a million trillion times as bright as the Sun.

Observed in distant galaxies, they are the brightest electromagnetic events known to exist in the universe.

- 61.** India recently concluded its second 'Voice of the Global South Summit' (VOGSS), held virtually.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Carl Oglesby used the term "global south" in 1969.
- (2) The Brandt Line is a visual depiction of the East-West divide proposed by former German Chancellor Willy Brandt.
- (3) Australia and New Zealand, both in the southern hemisphere, are not in the Global South.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp: The Global South, often misconceived as a purely geographical concept, encompasses diverse countries, drawing upon geopolitical, historical, and developmental factors.

While it is not solely defined by location, it broadly represents nations facing developmental challenges.

Many countries included in the Global South are in the northern hemisphere, such as India, China and all of those in the northern half of Africa.

Whereas, Australia and New Zealand, both in the southern hemisphere, are not in the Global South.

Brandt Line: The line was proposed by former German Chancellor Willy Brandt in the 1980s as a visual depiction of the north-south divide based upon per-capita GDP.

This line symbolizes the global economic divide, zigzagging across continents, encompassing parts of Africa, the Middle East, India, and China, excluding Australia and New Zealand.

G-77: In 1964, the Group of 77 (G-77) countries came into existence when they signed a Joint Declaration during the first session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva.

Gujarat recently declared the black-spotted croaker (Protonibea Diacanthus), locally known as the Ghol fish, as the state fish.

Consider the following statements and select the correct option from the following:

- (1) Fishing activity is well developed in warm tropical waters.
- (2) Mixing of warm and cold currents brings plant nutrients for fish.
- (3) Inland fisheries are more significant than other types in India.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Most of the fishing grounds occur in areas where the continental shelf is wide.

Fishing activity is well developed in warm tropical waters since the availability of nutrients. Mixing of warm and cold currents brings plant nutrients for fish.

Marine fisheries are more significant than other types in India.

Fish Production -

China ranks 1st in fish production in the World. India ranks 2nd in fish production.

Recently, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled significant measures aimed at revolutionizing the laws of the game.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Australia is the only country to win the ICC Cricket World Cup three consecutive times.





(2) India won the ICC Cricket World Cup for the first time in 1983.

(3) Sachin Tendulkar has scored the most runs in a World Cup in World Cup history with 765 runs.

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: Australia is the only country which has won the ICC Cricket World Cup four times in 1987, 1999, 2003 and 2007 and won three times consecutively. Indian have also won the ICC Cricket World Cup 1983 and 2011. Virat Kohli scored a staggering 765 runs in this World Cup, thus becoming the first to cross 700 runs in one edition of the World Cup.

64. Recently, Comedian Vir Das made history as the first Indian to win an International Emmy Award.

Consider the following statements regarding Emmy Awards -

(1) Conceived in 1948, the inaugural Emmy Awards ceremony took place on January 25, 1949.

(2) Prachi Desai became the first Indian woman filmmaker to win the International Emmy Directorate Award.

(3) The awards are chosen by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

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: Conceived in 1948, the inaugural Emmy Awards ceremony took place on January 25, 1949.

Six awards were presented, including recognitions for the Most Outstanding Television Personality and Most Popular Television Program.

Producer and filmmaker Ekta Kapoor became the first Indian woman filmmaker to win the International Emmy Directorate Award, which is given to individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to international television.

The Emmy award is an annual award honouring the best in U.S. prime time TV programs.

The awards are chosen by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

65.

Recently, the UIDAI has revealed that there was significant outage in Aadhaar authentication services in 2023.

Consider the following statements -

(1) UIDAI is a statutory body under the ministry of Home affairs.

(2) UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication and security of identity information.

(3) Aadhaar number is a proof of identity which does not confer right of citizenship of India to an individual.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans:

Exp:

Prior to its establishment as a statutory authority, UIDAI was functioning as an attached office of the then Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog). Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle, developing the policy, procedure and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and perform authentication and also required to ensure the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals. Normal Process for Enrolment is conducted by Enrolment Agencies working on behalf of Registrars. One of the following three approaches of enrolment may be adopted by the EAs to enroll a resident.

Introducer based Enrolment In the absence of valid Proof of Identity (PoI) and valid Proof of Address (PoA), an introducer's service can be leveraged. An introducer is a person identified and notified by the Registrar or the Regional Offices of the Authority and should have a valid Aadhaar number. Any individual, irrespective of age and gender, who is a resident of India, may voluntarily enrol to obtain Aadhaar number. Here resident means an individual who has resided in India for a period or periods amounting in all to one hundred and eighty-two days or more in the twelve months immediately preceding the date of application for enrolment. The Aadhaar number is a proof of identity, however, it does not confer any right of





citizenship or domicile in respect of an Aadhaar number holder.

- 66.** Recently, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered a case against a Khalistani Terrorist and Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) founder over the Air India threat.

Consider the following statements regarding National Investigation Agency -

- (1) National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India.
- (2) The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- (3) A State Government may request the Central Government to hand over the investigation of a case to the NIA.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (D)

Exp: National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India. It acts as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency. The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.

The Agency has been empowered to conduct investigation and prosecution of offences under the Acts specified in the Schedule of the NIA Act. A State Government may request the Central Government to hand over the investigation of a case to the NIA, provided the case has been registered for the offences as contained in the schedule to the NIA Act.

Central Government can also order NIA to take over investigation of any scheduled offense anywhere in India. Officers of the NIA who are drawn from the Indian Revenue Service, Indian Police Service, state police, Income Tax as well as officers from the Central Armed Police Forces, have all powers, privileges and liabilities which the police officers have in connection with investigation of any offense.

- 67.** The 16th World Wushu Championships recently concluded in Fort Worth, Texas, USA.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Wushu is a martial art that originated in China.

- (2) Musti yundha is a martial art of the oldest city of India "Gorakhpur".

- (3) Musti yundha is unarmed martial art.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Wushu is a martial art that originated in China and encompasses various forms and styles. It's a disciplined and highly stylized form of combat and self-defense.

Musti Yundha is unarmed martial art of the oldest city of India "Varanasi". Techniques used in this martial art are punches, kicks, knees and elbow strikes. The martial art is related to other forms of martial arts found in other parts of the Indian cultural sphere including Muay Thai in Thailand, Muay Lao in Laos, Pradal Serey in Cambodia and Lethwei in Myanmar.

Justice M. Fathima Beevi, the first female Judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court of India, passed away.

Consider the following statements regarding Justice M Fathima Beevi -

- (1) She was the first Muslim woman to be appointed to the higher judiciary.

- (2) She served as a member of the National Human Rights Commission.

- (3) She also served as the governor of Karnataka.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Justice M. Fathima Beevi, the first female Judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court of India, passed away.

She was also the first Muslim woman to be appointed to the higher judiciary in the country. She served as a member of the National Human Rights Commission and then as Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Recently, researchers have achieved a significant breakthrough in disease study through the creation of a two-dimensional (2D) protein monolayer using lysozyme molecules.

Consider the following statements -





- (1) Lysosomes have numerous hydrolytic enzymes.
 - (2) Lysosomes are formed by the process of packaging in the endoplasmic reticulum.
 - (3) The hydrolytic enzymes of lysosomes are active under acidic pH.
- 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:** Lysosomes are formed by the process of packaging in the endoplasmic reticulum.

Lysozyme is a naturally occurring enzyme found in various bodily secretions like tears, saliva, mucus. It plays a crucial role in the body's defense system against bacteria.

This enzyme works by breaking down the cell walls of certain bacteria, essentially disrupting their structure and leading to their destruction. It is also the principal component of airway fluid, serving as a model protein in investigating diseases like Amyloidosis, which trigger multi-organ dysfunction.

70.

Recently, the Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to Lachit Borphukan on Lachit Diwas (24th November annually).

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Lachit Borphukan was a commander and councillor in the Ahom Kingdom.
 - (2) The Ahom Dynasty was founded in 1228 in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley.
 - (3) In 1815, the Ahom Dynasty engaged in its first significant conflict with the Mughal Empire.
- 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:** Lachit Borphukan was a commander and councillor in the Ahom Kingdom.

The Ahom Kingdom resisted the invasion of the Mughal Empire several times and reigned in present-day Assam for over 600 years.

The Ahom Dynasty was founded in 1228 in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley.

The first King of the Ahom Kingdom was Chaolung Sukaphaa, who crossed the Patkai mountainous region to reach the Brahmaputra valley.

In 1615, the Ahom Dynasty engaged in its first significant conflict with the Mughal Empire.

The Mughals conquered the Ahom capital of Garhgaon in 1662 but were defeated in later battles.

Finally, during the battle of Saraighat in 1671, the Ahoms led by Lachit Borphukan successfully defeated the Mughals.

Recently, the President of India greeted the citizens on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti. Consider the following statements about Guru Nanak Dev -

- (1) Guru Nanak believed in one God who was formless and omnipresent.
- (2) He rejected the path of renunciation and accepted the authority of the Vedas.
- (3) He was the contemporary of Mughal emperor Babur.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Guru Nanak's birth anniversary is celebrated as Guru Nanak Gurpurab by Sikhs all over the world.

Guru Nanak introduced the institution of Guru ka langar where everybody partakes of a meal as equals.

Guru Nanak was the first guru and founder of monotheistic religion, Sikhism.

Guru Nanak believed in one God who was formless and omnipresent.

He emphasized the equality of women and rejected the path of renunciation and authority of the Vedas.

He was the contemporary of Mughal emperor Babur.

Guru Nanak was against caste-based distinctions.

The current Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, has been appointed as the Vice-Chair of the United Nations Panel of External Auditors for the year 2024.

Consider the following statements regarding the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) -

- (1) The CAG enjoys the same status as that of Chief Election Commissioner of India, but





higher than the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha according to the order of precedence.

(2) The conditions of service of persons serving in the Indian Audit and Accounts Department are prescribed by the CAG after consultation with the president.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.

Provisions -

He can be removed by the president only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution.

His salary and other service conditions are determined by the Parliament.

His salary is equal to that of a judge of the Supreme Court.

The conditions of service of persons serving in the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and the administrative powers of the CAG are prescribed by the president after consultation with the CAG.

The administrative expenses of the office of the CAG, including all salaries, allowances and pensions of persons serving in that office are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.

73.

India paid homage to the victims who lost their lives in the tragic acts of terrorism carried out 15 years back on 26th November, 2008 in Mumbai.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) Coastal security was given high priority, and it is with the Navy/Coast Guard/marine police.
- (2) The National Intelligence Grid has been constituted to create an appropriate database of security-related information.
- (3) National Security Guard have been created to ensure rapid response to terror attacks.

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: In the wake of the terror attack, several steps were initiated to streamline the security set-up. Coastal security was given high priority, and it is with the Navy/Coast Guard/marine police.

A specialised agency to deal with terrorist offences, the National Investigation Agency, was set up and has been functioning from January 2009.

The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has been constituted to create an appropriate database of security-related information.

Four new operational hubs for the National Security Guard have been created to ensure rapid response to terror attacks.

The Multi-Agency Centre, which functions under the Intelligence Bureau, was further strengthened and its activities expanded.

The Navy constituted a Joint Operations Centre to keep vigil over India's extended coastline.

74.

Irish author Paul Lynch wins the 2023 Booker Prize for his novel 'Prophet Song'.

Consider the following statements -

- (1) The Booker Prize is the leading literary award in the English-speaking world.
- (2) Each year, the prize is awarded to the best-sustained work published in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- (3) It was founded in the UK in 1955.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

The Booker Prize is the world's leading literary award for a single work of fiction.

Founded in the UK in 1969, it was initially awarded to Commonwealth writers and now spans the globe, and it is open to anyone regardless of origin.

Each year, the Booker Prize is awarded to what is, in the opinion of our judges, the best sustained work of fiction written in English and published in the UK and Ireland.

The winning book is a work that not only speaks to our current times, but also one that will endure and join the pantheon of great literature.

75.

Recently, a mysterious influenza-like illness termed as Walking Pneumonia has gripped school children in China.





Consider the following statements regarding Pneumonia -

- (1) Pneumonia is caused by bacteria such as *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Salmonella typhi*.
- (2) The disease affects the alveoli of the lungs.
- (3) The symptoms of pneumonia include fever, chills, cough and headache.

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: Pneumonia is a bacterial disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* or *Haemophilus influenzae*. Pneumonia is characterized with accumulation of fluid or pus in the lungs. The pus develops as a result of inflammatory responses against pathogens that attack and destroy the alveoli in the lungs. This results in difficulty in breathing and other symptoms such as cough, fever, chills etc.

Pneumonia spreads by droplet infection. A healthy person acquires the infection by inhaling the droplets released by an infected person through coughing or sneezing. Sharing of objects with an infected person can also lead to disease transmission as these objects will have deposits of the released droplets.

Salmonella typhi is a bacterium that causes typhoid fever in humans. This disease is characterized by sustained fever, weakness, stomach pain, constipation, loss of appetite etc. It spreads through contaminated food and water.

76. 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 2

Ans: (C)

Exp: *Raj Singh, vish viriksh* was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. Sarat Chandra wrote novel *Srikanta, Devdas*.

77. 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)

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.

78. 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 Mahabhishekramana.

79. Consider the following statements Regarding to Raja Ram Mohan Roy:

1. Roy was employed in the East Indian Company from 1803 to 1815.
2. He founded the Brahmo Samaj in 1828 along with Debendranath Tagore.

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: Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahmo Samaj in 1828 along with Debendranath Tagore. Brahmoism began as a monotheistic reformist movement of Hinduism.

80. Consider the following statements:





Prime Minister. It was set up on 6 August 1952 to strengthen and mobilize the effort and resources of the nation in support of the Five-Year Plans made by Planning Commission, to promote common economic policies in all vital spheres and to ensure the balanced and rapid development in all parts of the country. The Council comprises the Prime Minister, the Union Cabinet Ministers, Chief Ministers of all States or their substitutes, representatives of the Union Territories and the members of the NITI Aayog (erstwhile Planning Commission).

85. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. The weight of the column of air at a given place and time is called air pressure or atmospheric pressure.
- II. Atmospheric pressure is measured as force per unit area and the unit used for measuring pressure is called millibar.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (C)

Exp: The atmosphere is held on the earth by the gravitational pull of the earth. A column of air exerts weight in terms of pressure on the surface of the earth. The weight of the column of air at a given place and time is called air pressure or atmospheric pressure. Atmospheric pressure is measured by an instrument called barometer. Nowadays, Fortin's barometer and Aneroid barometer I are commonly used for measuring air pressure. Atmospheric pressure is measured as force per unit area. The unit used for measuring pressure is called millibar. Its abbreviation is 'mb'. One millibar is equal to the force of one gram per square centimeter approximately.

86. Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Air pressure decreases with the decrease in altitude.
- II. There is an inverse relationship between air temperature and air pressure.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (A)

Exp: The columnar distribution of atmospheric pressure is known as vertical distribution of pressure. Air pressure decreases with increase in altitude but it does not always decrease at the same rate. Dense components of the atmosphere are found in its lowest parts near the mean sea level. The temperature of the air, amount of water vapour present in the air and gravitational pull of the earth determines the air pressure of a given place and at a given time. Since these factors are variable with change in height, there is a variation in the rate of decrease in air pressure with an increase in altitude.

The pressure and temperature of any gas, including air, are directly proportional, according to Gay-Lussac's law.

Which of the following statements is true?

- I. Earth's rotation generates Centrifugal force
- II. State Governments have the power to grant mining leases of minor minerals, but the powers regarding the formation of rules related to the grant of minor minerals lie with the Central Government.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (A)

Exp: The earth's rotation generates centrifugal force. This results in the deflection of air from its original place, causing a decrease in pressure. It is believed that the low-pressure belts of the sub-Polar Regions and the high-pressure belts of the sub-tropical regions are created as a result of the earth's rotation. The earth's rotation also causes convergence and divergence of moving air. Areas of convergence experience low pressure while those of divergence have high pressure.

Short title, extent and commencement.—

- (1) This Act may be called the Mines and Minerals
1. [(Development and Regulation)] Act, 1957.
- (2) It extends to the whole of India.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date2 as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.
2. Declaration as to the expediency of Union control.—It is hereby declared that it is expedient in the public interest that the Union should take under its control the regulation of





mines and the development of minerals to the extent hereinafter provided.

- 88.** Which of the following statements is true?
I. Area under rice cultivation is the highest.
II. Area of cotton cultivation is more than that of sugarcane in India
 Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans. (A)

Exp: The cash crops — cotton and sugarcane — are showing a divergent trend. Sugarcane acreage is up, while the area under cotton is down by 11.3 per cent over corresponding period last year. The lower area in cotton is mainly on account of dip in Punjab's acreage, where the sowing is down 26 per cent.

Rice production in India is an important part of the national economy.

Major cropping areas in India. Rice shaded in light jade green indicates the most important and extensive growing areas in the east of the country.

Mature Rice, Thrissur, Kerala, India.

India is one of the world's largest producers of rice, including white rice and brown rice, grown mostly in the eastern and southern parts of the country. The Production increased from 53.6 million tons in FY 1980 to 74.6 million tons in year 1990, a 39 percent increase over the decade. By year 1992, rice production had reached 181.9 kg per person, second in the world only to China with its 182 kg. Since 1950 the increase has been more than 350 percent. Most of this increase was the result of an increase in yields; the number of hectares did not increase during this period.

- 89.** Which of the following statements is true?
I. The word 'Denisovan' is also known as an early human species.
II. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
 Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans. (C)

Exp: The Denisovans or Denisova hominins are an extinct species or subspecies of archaic human that ranged across Asia during the Lower and Middle Paleolithic (potentially surviving as late as 30,000–14,500 years ago in New Guinea).

Denisovans are known from few remains, and, consequently, most of what is known about them comes from DNA evidence.

The first scientific description of the Asiatic lion was published in 1826 by the Austrian zoologist Johann N. Meyer who named it Felis leo persicus. Until the 19th century, it occurred in Saudi Arabia, eastern Turkey, Iran, Mesopotamia, and from east of the Indus River to Bengal and Narmada River in Central India. Since the turn of the 20th century, it is restricted to the Gir Forest National Park and surrounding areas.

Which of the following statements is true?

- I.** One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.
II. Valley of Flowers National Park National Parks lies completely in the temperate alpine zone.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (B)

Exp: The greater one-horned rhino (or "Indian rhino") is the largest of the rhino species. Once widespread across the entire northern part of the Indian sub-continent, rhino populations plummeted as they were hunted for sport or killed as agricultural pests. This pushed the species very close to extinction and by the start of the 20th century, around 200 wild greater one-horned rhinos remained.

The recovery of the greater one-horned rhino is among the greatest conservation success stories in Asia. Thanks to strict protection and management from Indian and Nepalese wildlife authorities, the greater one-horned rhino was brought back from the brink. Today populations have increased to around 3,500 rhinos in northeastern India and the Terai grasslands of Nepal.

The Valley of Flowers national park located in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand and is known for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers and the variety of flora. Situated approximately 3255m above sea level, this splendid park is spread across 87.5 sq. km of land.

The valley has three sub-alpine between 3,200m and 3,500m which is the limit for trees,





lower alpine between 3,500m and 3,700m, and higher alpine above 3,700m.

Ans. (A)

Exp: The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country, based on a detailed study and deliberations on innovation and entrepreneurial needs of India in the years ahead. AIM is also envisaged as an umbrella innovation organization that would play an instrumental role in alignment of innovation policies between central, state and sectoral innovation schemes incentivizing the establishment and promotion of an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship at various levels - higher secondary schools, science, engineering and higher academic institutions, and SME/MSME industry, corporate and NGO levels.

Summer Solstice will be observed on 21 June 2019 & it will be the day with the longest period of daylight in India. Google Doodle marks the beginning of Summer Season, today. Many of us already know the scientific reason but those who don't know, here is the complete explanation why June 21 is known as Summer Solstice, often known as the longest day of the year in India. On June 21st, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the sun. The rays of the sun fall directly on the Tropic of Cancer.

92. Which of the following statements is true?

 - I. Water reservoirs are common to the places known as Aliyar, Isapur and Kangsabati.
 - II. The Earth's surface would have the low temperature on cloudy nights.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (A)

Ans. (A)
Exp: A reservoir is, most commonly, an enlarged natural or artificial lake, pond or impoundment created using a dam or lock to store water.

Low, thick clouds primarily reflect solar radiation and cool the surface of the Earth. High, thin clouds primarily transmit incoming solar radiation; at the same time, they trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation emitted by the Earth and radiate it back downward, thereby warming the surface of the Earth.

Ans. (B)
Exp: India had the highest export volume of rice worldwide, at 9.8 million metric tons as of 2018/2019. Thailand was the second largest rice exporter, with about 7.56 million metric tons of rice worldwide in that year. The global rice supply amounted to over 700 million metric tons of milled equivalent each year. The production of milled rice was projected to increase to over 496 million metric tons worldwide in 2020. Among the many varieties of rice, Pak Basmati rice had the highest export price and India 25% rice the lowest average export price per ton in 2019.

94. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

 - I. The provision to safeguard the autonomy of the Supreme Court of India While appointing the Supreme Court Judges, the President of India has to consult the Chief Justice of India.
 - II. The salaries of the Judges are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India to which the legislature does not have to vote.

Select the correct option.

This fund was constituted under Article 266 (1) of the Constitution of India. All revenues





received by the government by way of direct taxes and indirect taxes, money borrowed and receipts from loans given by the government flow into the Consolidated Fund of India.

A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed under the Constitution only on grounds of proven misconduct or incapacity and by an order of the President of India, after a notice signed by at least 100 members of the Lok Sabha or 50 members of the Rajya Sabha is passed by a two-third majority in each House of the Parliament.

The Union Cabinet and Parliament have almost no role to play in the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court or High Courts.

- 95.** Which of the following statement(s) is/are true?

I. The main advantage of the parliamentary form of government is that the executive remains responsible to the legislature.

II. The writ habeas corpus can be issued in when procedure established by law is contravened.

Select the correct option

Ans (C)

Ans. (C)
Exp: The Constitution of India states that the Executive branch of the State (Council of Ministers) shall be collectively responsible to the Legislature (House of the People). This implies that Parliament should oversee the work of the government and hold it responsible for its actions and omissions.

A writ of habeas corpus is a court order demanding that a public official (such as a warden) deliver an imprisoned individual to the court and show a valid reason for that person's detention. The procedure provides a means for prison inmates, or others acting on their behalf, to dispute the legal basis for confinement.

Often, the court holds a hearing on the matter, during which the inmate and the government can both present evidence about whether there is a lawful basis for jailing the person. The court may also issue and enforce subpoenas in order to obtain additional evidence.

96. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

- I.** Special powers have been conferred on the Rajya Sabha by the Constitution of India to pass a resolution empowering the Parliament to make laws in the State List and to create one or more All India Services.

- ## **II. Directive Principles of State Policy**

Select the correct option.

Ans. (C)

Exp: Rajya Sabha being a federal chamber enjoys certain special powers under the Constitution. All the subjects/areas regarding legislation have been divided into three Lists – Union List, State List and concurrent List. Union and State Lists are mutually exclusive – one cannot legislate on a matter placed in the sphere of the other. However, if Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members present and voting saying that it is “necessary or expedient in the national interest” that Parliament should make a law on a matter enumerated in the State List, Parliament becomes empowered to make a law on the subject specified in the resolution, for the whole or any part of the territory of India. Such a resolution remains in force for a maximum period of one year but this period can be extended by one year at a time by passing a similar resolution further.

The Directive Principles of State Policy of India (DPSP) are the guidelines principles given to the federal institutes governing the State of India, to be kept in citation while framing laws and policies. These provisions, contained in Part IV (Article 36–51) of the Constitution of India, are not enforceable by any court, but the principles laid down there in are considered in the governance of the country, making it the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws to establish a just society in the country. The principles have been inspired by the Directive Principles given in the Constitution of Ireland which are related to social justice, economic welfare, foreign policy, and legal and administrative matters.

97. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true? (The Parliament of India exercises control over the functions of the Council of Ministers through).





- I. Adjournment motion
 II. Question hour
 Select the correct option.
 (A) Only I (B) Only II
 (C) Both I & II (D) Neither I nor II

Ans. (C)

Exp: Question Hour is the first hour of a sitting session of India's Lok Sabha devoted to questions that Members of Parliament raise about any aspect of administrative activity. The concerned Minister is obliged to answer to the Parliament, either orally or in writing, depending on the type of question raised.

It could be done using a motion to adjourn.

A time for another meeting could be set using the motion to fix the time to which to adjourn. This motion establishes an adjourned meeting.

To adjourn to another time or place defines suspended proceedings until a later stated time or place.

98. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

- I. Writ of Habeas Corpus is very powerful safeguard against executive only.
 II. Writ of Habeas Corpus is nature of calling concerned authority to produce the imprisoned before the executive.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (D)

Exp: A writ of habeas corpus is a court order demanding that a public official (such as a warden) deliver an imprisoned individual to the court and show a valid reason for that person's detention. The procedure provides a means for prison inmates, or others acting on their behalf, to dispute the legal basis for confinement. Habeas corpus has deep roots in English common law.

Often, the court holds a hearing on the matter, during which the inmate and the government can both present evidence about whether there is a lawful basis for jailing the person. The court may also issue and enforce subpoenas in order to obtain additional evidence.

99. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true? (the Thirteenth Finance Commission)

- I. A design for the Goods and Services Tax, and a compensation package linked to adherence to the proposed design.

- II. A design for the creation of lakhs of jobs in the next ten years in consonance with India's demographic dividend.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (A)

Exp: The Thirteenth Finance Commission of India was constituted by the President of India under the chairmanship of Vijay L. Kelkar on 13 November 2007.

The Finance Commission was established by the President of India in 1951 under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution. It was formed to define the financial relations between the central government of India and the individual state governments. This Commission designs for the Goods and Services Tax, and a compensation package linked to adherence to the proposed design.

100. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

- I. Writ mandamus is available against Government.
 II. Writ mandamus is available against inferior courts.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (C)

Exp: A writ of mandamus is a court order issued by a judge at a petitioner's request compelling someone to execute a duty that they are legally obligated to complete. A writ can also be issued when the authority of a higher court is required to order a lower court or government agency to complete a duty to uphold the law or to correct an abuse of discretion. The writ of mandamus can be used to order a task to be completed, or in other cases, it may require an activity to be ceased.

101. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true? (if a Money Bill is substantially amended by the Rajya Sabha)

- I. The Lok Sabha cannot consider the Bill further.





French nobleman and chemist who was central to the 18th-century chemical revolution and who had a large influence on both the history of chemistry and the history of biology. He is widely considered in popular literature as the "father of modern chemistry".

Ans. (B)

Exp: Methanol (CH_3OH), also called methyl alcohol, wood alcohol, or wood spirit, the simplest of a long series of organic compounds called alcohols, consisting of a methyl group (CH_3) linked with a hydroxy group (OH). Methanol was formerly produced by the destructive distillation of wood. The modern method of preparing methanol is based on the direct combination of carbon monoxide gas and hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst.

Aspirin, also known as acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), is a medication used to reduce pain, fever, or inflammation. Specific inflammatory conditions which aspirin is used to treat include Kawasaki disease, pericarditis, and rheumatic fever. Aspirin given shortly after a heart attack decreases the risk of death. Aspirin is also used long-term to help prevent further heart attacks, ischaemic strokes, and blood clots in people at high risk.

Ans. (A)

Exp: Iron. Usually, electromagnets are made from ferromagnetic metals like iron. A piece of iron can be used as a core and a roll of copper wire can be used to insulate the core.

Potassium dichromate-sulphuric acid is used in Breath Analyzers. When the drunken driver of the vehicle breathes out near the analyzer, the alcohol (ethanol) is oxidized by potassium dichromate and it forms acetic acid.

Ans. (A)

Exp: The process which converts glucose into ethyl alcohol with the liberation of carbon dioxide is known as alcoholic fermentation. It is carried out by anaerobic fungus such as yeast. The process occurs in the presence of enzyme zymase which is present in yeast. This method is used in the preparation of alcohol by fermentation of sugars.

$$\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + \text{Zymase} \rightarrow 2 \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH} + 2 \text{CO}_2$$

Fractional distillation is the separation of a mixture into its component parts, or fractions. Chemical compounds are separated by heating them to a temperature at which one or more fractions of the mixture will vaporize. It uses distillation to fractionate.

- 108.** Which of the following statements is/are true?

 - I.** German silver does not contain silver.
 - II.** zinc oxide is called philosophers wool.

Select the correct option.

(A)

Ans. (C) German Silver is an alloy of copper, zinc, and nickel, sometimes also containing lead and tin. It does not contain silver metal and is extensively used because of its hardness and resistance to corrosion.

The philosopher's wool is a chemical compound which is also known as the zinc oxide or ZnO. In the ancient times people used to burn zinc metal for religious rituals and the ZnO was produced as the combustion residual substance.

This ZnO residual has a wool like texture that's why people named it as the "philosopher's wool".





Ans. (C)

Exp: Hydrochloric acid has a distinctive pungent smell. It is classified as strongly acidic and can attack the skin over a wide composition range, since the hydrogen chloride completely dissociates in an aqueous solution.

When water freezes its density decreases. Water at ordinary temperatures contracts and increases in density as it is cooled, like most substances. But at about 4°C it reaches a maximum density and then decreases in density as it approaches the freezing point.

Ans. (A)

Exp: Cadmium rods are inserted in nuclear reactor to absorb the extra nucleons and keep the nuclear reaction ratio of 1:1, also keep the reaction stable. Cadmium has a high thermal neutron absorption cross section. Therefore, cadmium rods will absorb neutrons, making them unavailable to cause fission.

Xenon is a chemical element with the symbol Xe and atomic number 54. It is a colorless, dense, odorless noble gas found in Earth's atmosphere in trace amounts. Although generally unreactive, xenon can undergo a few chemical reactions such as the formation of xenon hexafluoroplatinate, the first noble gas compound to be synthesized. Xenon is used in flash lamps and arc lamps, and as a general anesthetic.

- 111.** Which of the following statements is/are true?
I. In known elements, the maximum number is of Metals.

- ## **II. Rubies and Sapphires chemically known as Aluminium oxide.**

Select the correct option.

Ans. (C)

Exp: A metal is a material that, when freshly prepared, polished, or fractured, shows a lustrous appearance, and conducts electricity and heat relatively well. Metals are typically malleable (they can be hammered into thin sheets) or ductile (can be drawn into wires). A metal may be a chemical element such as iron; an alloy such as stainless steel; or a molecular compound such as polymeric sulfur nitride.

Aluminium oxide or aluminum oxide is a chemical compound of aluminium and oxygen with the chemical formula Al_2O_3 . It is the most commonly occurring of several aluminium oxides, and specifically identified as aluminium oxide. It is commonly called alumina and may also be called aloxide, or alundum depending on particular forms or applications.

- 112.** Which of the following statements is/are true?

 - I.** The monomer of polythene is ethylene.
 - II.** The credit for the discovery of transuranic element goes to Seaborg.

Select the correct option.

Ans.

Exp: Ethylene (IUPAC name: ethene) is a hydrocarbon which has the formula C₂H₄ or H₂C=CH₂. It is a colorless flammable gas with a faint "sweet and musky" odour when pure. It is the simplest alkene (a hydrocarbon with carbon-carbon double bonds).

Ethylene is widely used in the chemical industry,

Glenn Theodore Seaborg was an American chemist whose involvement in the synthesis, discovery and investigation of ten transuranium elements earned him a share of the 1951 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. His work in this area also led to his development of the actinide concept and the arrangement of the actinide series in the periodic table of the elements.



Ans. (C)

Exp: Hydrogen gas is used for making vegetables and vanaspathi from vegetable oils. It is colourless, odourless, tasteless, flammable gaseous substance, it is added to oils to make them more solid or spreadable.

Natural rubber is an addition polymer that is obtained as a milky white fluid known as latex from a tropical rubber tree. Natural rubber is from the monomer isoprene (2-methyl-1,3-butadiene), which is a conjugated diene hydrocarbon as mentioned above.

Ans. (B)

Exp: African populations of *Homo erectus* are likely to be the direct ancestors to several human species, such as *H. heidelbergensis* and *H. antecessor*, and the former is generally considered to have been the direct ancestor to Neanderthals, Denisovans, and ultimately modern humans.

Ans. (A)

Exp: Edward Jenner, was an English physician who was a contributor to the development of the smallpox vaccine. The practice of vaccination was popularized by Jenner, and since then has been used ubiquitously to prevent several diseases. The terms vaccine and vaccination are derived from Variolae vaccinae (smallpox of the cow), the term

devised by Jenner to denote cowpox. He used it in 1798 in the long title of his Inquiry into the Variolae vaccinae known as the Cow Pox, in which he described the protective effect of cowpox against smallpox.

Dolly was a female domestic sheep, and the first mammal cloned from an adult somatic cell, using the process of nuclear transfer.

Ans. (C)

Exp: When the familiar antigens are detected, B-lymphocytes produce antibodies to attack them. Vaccines prevent diseases that can be dangerous, or even deadly. Vaccines greatly reduce the risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease.

Rhizopus is a genus of common saprophytic fungi on plants and specialized parasites on animals. They are found in a wide variety of organic substances, including "mature fruits and vegetables", jellies, syrups, leather, bread, peanuts, and tobacco.

117. Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

 - I. Antibiotics are chemical substances derived from microbes like Fungi, Bacteria.
 - II. Bio-technologically synthesized vitamin B12 is used to cure Pernicious anaemia.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (C)
Exp: Antibiotics are chemicals that kill or inhibit the growth of bacteria and are used to treat bacterial infections. They are produced in nature by soil bacteria and fungi. This gives the microbe an advantage when competing for food and water and other limited resources in a particular habitat, as the antibiotic kills off their competition. Antibiotics take advantage of the difference between the structure of the bacterial cell and the host's cell.





Vitamin B12 deficiency anemia, of which pernicious anemia (PA) is a type is a disease in which not enough red blood cells are produced due to a deficiency of vitamin B12. The most common initial symptom is feeling tired. Other symptoms may include shortness of breath, pale skin, chest pain, numbness in the hands and feet, poor balance, a smooth red tongue, poor reflexes, depression and confusion. Without treatment some of these problems may become permanent. Pernicious anemia refers to anemia that results from lack of intrinsic factor. Lack of intrinsic factor is most commonly due to an autoimmune attack on the cells that create it in the stomach.

Ans. (B)

Exp: Gene therapy involves altering the genes inside your body's cells in an effort to treat or stop disease.

Gene therapy replaces a faulty gene or adds a new gene in an attempt to cure disease or improve your body's ability to fight disease. Gene therapy holds promise for treating a wide range of diseases, such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, heart disease, diabetes, hemophilia and AIDS.

- 119.** Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

 - I.** Bio-chips will be useful in Navy, Medicine.
 - II.** In Germ line gene therapy Egg and sperm of the parents are changed.

Select the correct option.

Ans. (B)

Ans: (D)
Exp: Germline gene therapy, which involves modifying the genes in egg or sperm cells, which will then pass any genetic changes to future generations. Experimenting with this type of therapy, scientists injected fragments of DNA into fertilized mouse eggs. The mice grew into adults and their offspring had the new gene.

Biochips are essentially miniaturized laboratories that can perform hundreds or thousands of

simultaneous biochemical reactions. Biochips enable researchers to quickly screen large numbers of biological analytes for a variety of purposes, from disease diagnosis to detection of bioterrorism agents. Digital microfluidic biochips have become one of the most promising technologies in many biomedical fields.

- 120.** Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

 - I.** In the green plants heterotrophic nutrition.
 - II.** Pituitary gland is the smallest gland present in the body.

Select the correct option.

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

Ans. (B)

Ques. (2)
Exp: There are two modes of nutrition in living beings.
Autotrophic nutrition- Autotrophic nutrition means that simple inorganic substances are taken in and used to synthesise organic molecules. Energy is needed to achieve this. Plants are examples of autotrophic nutrition since they make food with the help of sunlight, nitrogen, water and other nutrients from the environment.

Heterotrophic nutrition- Heterotrophic nutrition is the mode of nutrition in which organisms depend upon other organisms to survive. All animals and non-green plants are heterotrophic. Heterotrophic organisms have to acquire and take in all the organic substances they need to survive. Except green plants, all other options are heterotrophic.

The smallest gland in the human body is the pituitary gland, which is found in the middle of human brain.

- 121.** Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

 - I. Liver bile juice secreted in human body.
 - II. A fern is a member of a group of vascular plants.

Sel

Ans. (C)

Exp: Bile, or gall, is a dark-green-to-yellowish-brown fluid produced by the liver of most vertebrates that aids the digestion of lipids in the small intestine. In humans, bile is produced continuously by the liver (liver bile) and stored and concentrated in the gallbladder. After eating, this stored bile is discharged into the duodenum.





A fern (Polypodiopsida or Polypodiophyta) is a member of a group of vascular plants (plants with xylem and phloem) that reproduce via spores and have neither seeds nor flowers. They differ from mosses by being vascular, i.e., having specialized tissues that conduct water and nutrients and in having life cycles in which the sporophyte is the dominant phase. Ferns have complex leaves called megaphylls, that are more complex than the microphylls of clubmosses. Most ferns are leptosporangiate ferns. They produce coiled fiddleheads that uncoil and expand into fronds.

Ans. (A)

Exp: Methane is produced in the rumen and hindgut of animals by a group of Archaea known collectively as methanogens, which belong to the phylum Euryarcheota. Among livestock methane production is greatest in ruminants as methanogens are able to produce methane freely through the normal process of feed digestion

- 123.** Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?
I. Neisseria bacteria spread Meningitis.
II. ATP in biology is the energy currency of cells.
Select the correct option.
(A) Only I **(B)** Only II
(C) Both I & II **(D)** Neither I nor II

Ans. (B)

Exp: Adenosine triphosphate (ATP), energy-carrying molecule found in the cells of all living things. ATP captures chemical energy obtained from the breakdown of food molecules and releases it to fuel other cellular processes. Cells require chemical energy for three general types of tasks: to drive metabolic reactions that would not occur automatically; to transport needed substances across membranes; and to do mechanical work, such as moving muscles. ATP is not a storage molecule for chemical energy; that is the job of carbohydrates, such as glycogen, and fats. When energy is needed by the cell, it is converted from

storage molecules into ATP. ATP then serves as a shuttle, delivering energy to places within the cell where energy-consuming activities are taking place.

Ans. (C)

Exp: A wisdom tooth or third molar is one of the three molars per quadrant of the human dentition. It is the most posterior of the three. The age at which wisdom teeth come through is variable, but generally occurs between late teens and early twenties. Most adults have four wisdom teeth, one in each of the four but it is possible to have none, fewer, or more, in which case the extras are called supernumerary teeth. Wisdom teeth may get impacted against other teeth if there is not enough space for them to come through normally. While the impaction does not cause movement of other teeth, it can cause tooth decay if oral hygiene becomes more difficult.

Ans. (A)

Exp: Phytotron is enclosed green house or laboratory where plants are grown under strict controlled environmental, conditions to study interaction of plant and environment.

These glucose molecules are stored in the liver and muscles to be used for fuel, especially during physical activity. Carbohydrates improve athletic performance by delaying fatigue and allowing an athlete to compete at higher levels for longer.





Match The Following

- 1.** 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
Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit - First Woman President of UN General Assembly

- 2.** 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.

- 3.**

Match the following lakes -

(A) West Bengal	1- Santragachhi Lake
(B) Uttar Pradesh	2- Red Hills Lake
(C) Telangana	3- Laknavaram Lake
(D) Tamil Nadu	4- Ramgarh Tal Lake

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

(A)

West Bengal - Santragachhi Lake

Uttar Pradesh - Ramgarh Tal Lake

Telangana - Laknavaram Lake

Tamil Nadu - Red Hills Lake

- 4.**

Match the following books and their authors -

(A) Kamayani	1- Jay Shankar Prasad
(B) Dharmatma Gokhale	2- M.K Gandhi
(C) The Guide	3- R.K Narayan

Options

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

(A)

Kamayani - Jay Shankar Prasad

Dharmatma Gokhale - M.K Gandhi

The Guide - R.K Narayan

- 5.**

Match the following UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India with their designation year -

(A) Ajanta Caves	1- 1983
(B) Sun Temple	2- 1986
(C) Kaziranga National Park	3- 1985
(D) Churches and Convents of Goa	4- 1984

Options

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

(A)





- Exp:** Ajanta Caves - 1983
Sun Temple - 1984
Kaziranga National Park - 1985
Churches and Convents of Goa - 1986

- 6.** Match the following Books and their Authors -

(A) As the Wheel Turns	1- Ranjit Pratap
(B) Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani	2- Shri Rishi Raj
(C) Monsoon	3- Abhay K

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: As the Wheel Turns - Ranjit Pratap
Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani - Shri Rishi Raj
Monsoon - Abhay K

- 7.** Match the following Folk Dances of India -

(A) Assam	1- Bagurumba
(B) Bihar	2- Panwariya
(C) Gujarat	3- Gugga
(D) Haryana	4- Bhavai

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: Assam – Bagurumba
Bihar – Panwariya
Gujarat – Bhavai
Haryana – Gugga

- 8.** Match the following Bird Sanctuary of India -

(A) Haryana	1- Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary
(B) Karnataka	2- Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary
(C) Maharashtra	3- Mayani Bird Sanctuary

Options

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

Ans: (A)

Exp: Haryana - Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary
Karnataka - Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary

Maharashtra - Mayani Bird Sanctuary

- 9.** Match the following Satellites Launched by ISRO -

(A) Bhaskara-I	1- The First Experimental Remote Sensing Satellite built in India.
(B) KALPANA-1	2- It was earlier known as METSAT.
(C) Astrosat	3- It is an earth observation satellites, launched on 2007.
(D) Cartosat-2	4- It is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory.

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
(E)

Ans:

Exp: Bhaskara-I - The First Experimental Remote Sensing Satellite built in India.

KALPANA-1 - It was earlier known as METSAT.

AstroSat - It is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory.

Cartosat-2 - It is an earth observation satellites, launched on 2007.

- 10.**

- Match the following Waterfalls in World -

(A) Jog waterfalls	1- Colorado
(B) Comet falls	2- Karnataka
(C) Hanging lake waterfall	3- Washington

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
(E)

Ans:

Exp: Jog waterfalls - Karnataka

Comet falls - Washington

Hanging lake waterfall - Colorado

- 11.**

- Match the following Governors-General of India with their related events -

(A) Lord Amherst	1- The mutiny of Barrackpore in 1824
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(B) Lord Hastings	2- Concluded the treaty of Amritsar
(C) Lord Minto I	3- Abolition of Peshwaship
(D) Sir George Barlow	4- The Mutiny of Vellore took place in 1806

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans: **(D)****Exp:** Lord Amherst - The mutiny of Barrackpore in 1824

Lord Hastings - Abolition of Peshwaship

Lord Minto I - Concluded the treaty of Amritsar

Sir George Barlow - The Mutiny of Vellore took place in 1806

12. Match the following -

(A) Rani Gaidinliu	1- was founder of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
(B) Kartar Singh Sarabha	2- associated with Lahore conspiracy
(C) Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi	3- was Naga spiritual and political leader

Options

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

Ans: **(C)****Exp:** Rani Gaidinliu - was Naga spiritual and political leader

Kartar Singh Sarabha - associated with Lahore conspiracy

Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi - was founder of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

13. Match the following -

(A) Lakshadweep	1- Kadmat beach
(B) Kerala	2- Ghoghla beach
(C) Karnataka	3- Kasarkod beach
(D) Diu and Daman	4- Kappad beach

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

Ans: **(D)** a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4**Exp:**Lakshadweep - Kadmat beach
 Kerala - Kappad beach
 Karnataka - Kasarkod beach
 Diu and Daman - Ghoghla beach**14.**

Match the following National Parks in India -

- (A) Jharkhand 1- Betla National Park
 (B) Kerala 2- Murlen National Park
 (C) Nagaland 3- Ntangki National Park

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:** Jharkhand - Betla National Park
 Kerala - Murlen National Park
 Nagaland - Ntangki National Park**15.**

Match the following Gardens in India -

(A) Sim's Park	1- Coonoor
(B) The Royal Botanical Garden	2- Gandhinagar
(C) Sarita Udyan	3- Howrah
(D) Pinjore Garden	4- Panchkula

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:**Exp:** Sim's Park - Coonoor

The Royal Botanical Garden - Howrah

Sarita Udyan - Gandhinagar

Pinjore Garden - Panchkula

16.

Match the following Sanctuaries in India -

(A) Patna Bird Sanctuary	1- Uttar Pradesh
(B) Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary	2- Bihar
(C) Asan Barrage Bird Sanctuary	3- Uttarakhand

Options

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

Ans:**(A)**



Exp: Patna Bird Sanctuary - Uttar Pradesh
Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary - Bihar
Asan Barrage Bird Sanctuary - Uttarakhand

17. Match the following World Organisations and Their Headquarters -

(A) World Health Organisation	1- Geneva
(B) International Monetary Fund	2- London
(C) Commonwealth	3- Washington
(D) World Trade Organisation	4- Geneva

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:

Exp: World Health Organisation - Geneva
International Monetary Fund - Washington
Commonwealth - London
World Trade Organisation - Geneva

18. Match the following Inventions and Their Inventors -

(A) Microphone	1- David Hughes
(B) Safety Lamp	2- Sir Humphrey
(C) Tank	3- Sir Ernest Swington

Options

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

Ans:

Exp: Microphone - David Hughes
Safety Lamp - Sir Humphrey
Tank - Sir Ernest Swington

19. Match the following First in India -

(A) First Indian Pilot	1- J.R.D. Tata
(B) First Indian to win Nobel Prize	2- W.C. Banerjee
(C) First president of Indian National Congress	3- Rabindranath Tagore
(D) First Muslim President of Indian National Congress	4- Badruddin Tayyabji

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
- (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:

Exp: First Indian Pilot - J.R.D. Tata

First Indian to win Nobel Prize - Rabindranath Tagore

First president of Indian National Congress - W.C. Banerjee

First Muslim President of Indian National Congress - Badruddin Tayyabji

20.

Match the following Stadiums in India -

(A) Apca-Vdca Stadium	1- Visakhapatnam
(B) Indira Gandhi Stadium	2- Vijayawada
(C) Barkatullah Khan Stadium	3- Cricket

Options

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

Ans:

Exp: Apca-Vdca Stadium - Visakhapatnam
Indira Gandhi Stadium - Vijayawada
Barkatullah Khan Stadium - Cricket

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:

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

22.

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

23. Match the following animal names with their Scientific Names -

(A) Dog	1- Canis lupus
(B) Bear	2- Chiroptera
(C) Bat	3- Ursidae carnivora
(D) Cheetah	4- Acinonyx jubatus

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:** Dog - Canis lupus
Bear - Ursidae carnivora
Bat - Chiroptera
Cheetah - Acinonyx jubatus

24. Match the following International Organization with their reports -

(A) UNEP	1- Actions on Air Quality
(B) UNESCO	2- World Wildlife Crime Report
(C) UNODC	3- Global Education Monitoring Report

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:** UNEP - Actions on Air Quality
UNESCO - Global Education Monitoring Report
UNODC - World Wildlife Crime Report

25. Match the following government schemes -

(A) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan	1- October 2014
---------------------------	-----------------

(B) Namami Gange	2- August 2020
(C) National Bal Swachhta	3- November 2014
(D) National Digital Health Mission	4- June 2014

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:**Exp:** Swachh Bharat Abhiyan - October 2014

Namami Gange - June 2014

National Bal Swachhta - November 2014

National Digital Health Mission - August 2020

26.

- Match the following lakes -

(A) Sardar Sarovar Lake	1- Gujarat
(B) Nagarjuna Sagar Lake	2- Telangana
(C) Loktak Lake	3- Manipur

Options

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

Ans:**Exp:** Sardar Sarovar Lake - Gujarat

Nagarjuna Sagar Lake - Telangana

Loktak Lake - Manipur

27.

- Match the following -

(A) Indira Sagar lake	1- Madhya Pradesh
(B) Pangong Lake	2- Andhra Pradesh
(C) Pulicat Lake	3- Ladakh
(D) Loktak Lake	4- Manipur

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:**Exp:** Indira Sagar lake - Madhya Pradesh

Pangong Lake - Ladakh

Pulicat Lake - Andhra Pradesh

Loktak Lake - Manipur

28.

- Match the following Mountain Passes of India -

(A) Banihal Pass	1- It is in Jammu & Kashmir
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(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

29. Match the following Environmental Conventions and their established year -

- (A) Bonn Convention 1- 1979
 (B) Vienna Convention 2- 1987
 (C) Montreal Protocol 3- 1985
 (D) Kyoto Protocol 4- 1997

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: Bonn Convention - 1979
Vienna Convention - 1985
Montreal Protocol - 1987
Kyoto Protocol - 1997

30. Match the following Bank Name and their Year of Establishment -

- (A) Bank of India 1- 1906
 (B) Central Bank of India 2- 1911
 (C) Canara Bank 3- 1906

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: Bank of India - 1906
Central Bank of India - 1911
Canara Bank - 1906

31. 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

(C)

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

32. 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

(A)

First Woman Chief Minister of State - Sucheta Kripalani

First Woman Union Minister - Rajkumari Amrita Kaur

First Woman President of INC - Annie Besant

33. Match the following neighbouring countries with the Indian State/UTs which share Border -

(A) Myanmar	1- Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur
(B) China	2- Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh & Assam
(C) Bhutan	3- Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim
(D) Bangladesh	4- Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Assam

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4





- (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:

Exp: Myanmar - Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur
 China - Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim
 Bhutan - Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh & Assam
 Bangladesh - Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Assam

34. Match the following Elephant Reserves In India

(A) Odisha	1- Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve
(B) Assam	2- Sonitpur Elephant Reserve
(C) Nagaland	3- Intanki Elephant Reserve

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: Odisha - Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve
 Assam - Sonitpur Elephant Reserve
 Nagaland - Intanki Elephant Reserve

35. Match the following Important Inventions & Discoveries -

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| (A) Hydrogen | 1- Henry Cavendish |
| (B) Microscope | 2- Zacharis Janssen |
| (C) Refrigerator | 3- Chester Carlson |
| (D) Xerox Machine | 4- William Cullen |

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: Hydrogen - Henry Cavendish
 Microscope - Zacharis Janssen
 Refrigerator - William Cullen
 Xerox Machine - Chester Carlson

36. Match the following Women Empowerment Schemes -

(A) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme	1- 2015
(B) Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)	2- 2017
(C) Mahila E-Haat	3- 2016

Options

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

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

Ans:

Exp: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme - 2015
 Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK) - 2017
 Mahila E-Haat - 2016

37. Match the following Indian Nobel Prize Winners

(A) Har Gobind Khorana	1- Medicine
(B) Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar	2- Literature
(C) Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	3- Chemistry
(D) Rudyard Kipling	4- Physics

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:

Exp: Har Gobind Khorana - Medicine
 Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar - Physics
 Venkatraman Ramakrishnan - Chemistry
 Rudyard Kipling - Literature

38. Match the following Famous Personalities & their Nicknames -

(A) Andhra Kesari	1- T Prakasam
(B) Bengal Kesari	2- Ashutosh Mukherji
(C) Bihar Kesri	3- Dr Srikrishna Singh

Options

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

Ans:

Exp: Andhra Kesari - T Prakasam
 Bengal Kesari - Ashutosh Mukherji
 Bihar Kesri - Dr Srikrishna Singh

39. Match the following -

(A) Indira Sagar lake	1- Madhya Pradesh
(B) Pangong Lake	2- Gujarat
(C) Pulicat Lake	3- Andhra Pradesh
(D) Sardar Sarovar Lake	4- Ladakh

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: Indira Sagar lake - Madhya Pradesh
 Pangong Lake - Ladakh
 Pulicat Lake - Andhra Pradesh
 Sardar Sarovar Lake - Gujarat

40. Match the following -

(A) Father of Economics	1- Adam Smith
(B) Father of Modern Computer	2- Alan Turing
(C) Father of Relativity	3- Albert Einstein

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 Economics - Adam Smith
 Father of Modern Computer - Alan Turing
 Father of Relativity - Albert Einstein

41. 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

42. 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

43.

Match the following cities on river banks -

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (A) Kurnool | 1- Tungabhadra |
| (B) Cuttack | 2- Mahanadi |
| (C) Dibrugarh | 3- Satluj |
| (D) Ferozpur | 4- Brahmaputra |

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2
 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:

Exp:

Kurnool - Tungabhadra
Cuttack - Mahanadi
Dibrugarh - Brahmaputra
Ferozpur - Satluj

44. Match the following Biosphere Reserves in India -

(A) Simlipal Biosphere Reserve	1- Odisha
(B) Achanakmar - Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve	2- Chhattisgarh
(C) Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve	3- Kerala and Tamil Nadu

Options

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

Ans:

Exp:

Simlipal Biosphere Reserve - Odisha
Achanakmar - Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve - Chhattisgarh
Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve - Kerala and Tamil Nadu

45. Match the following Acts and their passed year -

(A) Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act	1- 2016
(B) Child Marriage Restraint Act	2- 1856
(C) Hindu Widow Remarriage Act	3- 1929
(D) Code on Social Security	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: (D)

Exp: Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act - 2016
 Child Marriage Restraint Act - 1929
 Hindu Widow Remarriage Act - 1856
 Code on Social Security - 2020

46. Match the following Sources of Indian Constitution -

(A) Method of election of the president	1- Ireland
(B) Impeachment of the president	2- USA
(C) Procedure for amendment in the Indian Constitution	3- South Africa

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)

Method of election of the president - Ireland
 Impeachment of the president - USA
 Procedure for amendment in the Indian Constitution - South Africa

47. Match the following constitutional committees and their heads -

(A) Drafting Committee	1- B. R. Ambedkar
(B) Union Power Committee	2- Jawaharlal Nehru
(C) Provincial Constitution Committee	3- Rajendra Prasad
(D) Rules of Procedure Committee	4- Vallabhbhai Patel

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: Drafting Committee – B. R. Ambedkar
 Union Power Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru
 Provincial Constitution Committee – Vallabhbhai Patel

Rules of Procedure Committee – Rajendra Prasad

48. Match the following borrowed constitutional provisions from different countries -

(A) Australia	1- Concurrent list
(B) Japan	2- Procedure Established by law
(C) US	3- Independence of judiciary

Options

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

Ans:
Exp:

Australia - Concurrent list

Japan - Procedure Established by law

US - Independence of judiciary

49. Match the following Mughal Emperors -

(A) Shah Alam II	1- 1760 to 1806
(B) Furrukhsiyar	2- 1806 to 1837
(C) Bahadur Shah I	3- 1707 to 1712
(D) Akbar Shah II	4- 1713 to 1719

Options-

- (A) a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2 (B) a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 (C) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3 (D) a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4

Ans:
Exp:

Shah Alam II - 1760 to 1806

Furrukhsiyar - 1713 to 1719

Bahadur Shah I - 1707 to 1712

Akbar Shah II - 1806 to 1837

50.

Match the following Governors-General of India

(A) 1823 to 1828	1- Lord Amherst
(B) 1813 to 1823	2- Lord Hastings
(C) 1807 to 1813	3- Lord Minto I

Options

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

Ans:
Exp:

1823 to 1828 - Lord Amherst

1813 to 1823 - Lord Hastings

1807 to 1813 - Lord Minto I





Multiple Choice Question

- 1.** Ayodhya Airport to be renamed as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport. In context to the same tell us, How many International airports are there in India?

(A) 34 (B) 38
 (C) 42 (D) 45

Ans: (A)

Exp: There are a total of 34 International Airports in India. The total number of domestic and international airports in India 2023-24 counts to 487 airports or airstrips. Out of which AAI manages a total of 137 airports which include 34 International airports (3 Civil Enclaves), and 10 Customs airports (4 Civil Enclaves), and 103 Domestic airports (23-24 Civil Enclaves).

- 2.** ISRO launched FEAST software and book to boost structural engineering. In context to the same tell us, in which year INCOSPAR became ISRO?

(A) 1978 (B) 1969
 (C) 1956 (D) 1944

Ans: (B)

Exp: ISRO stands for Indian Space Research Organisation.

ISRO is the space agency under the Department of Space of Government of India, headquartered in the city of Bengaluru, Karnataka. It was established by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962 under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Eminent scientist Dr Vikram Sarabhai had a big role in this development.

The INCOSPAR became ISRO in 1969.

ISRO Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

- 3.** Reliance Jio, IIT Bombay to launch Bharat GPT, to bring OS for smart TVs. In context to technology tell us, The Free Software Foundation was formed in which year?

(A) 1990 (B) 1995
 (C) 1985 (D) 2000

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Free Software Foundation (FSF), established on October 4, 1985, by Richard Stallman is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the free software movement.

The Free Software Foundation (FSF) curates a catalog of "high priority projects" aimed at

directing the free software community's attention to critical needs.

- 4.** Adani Total Gas and Flipkart sign MoU for supply chain decarbonisation. In context to the same tell us, Carbon is unique among the elements because -

(A) It can form long chains and branched structures
 (B) It can only bond with hydrogen
 (C) It can form compounds with metals only
 (D) It can exhibit only one valency

Ans: (A)

Carbon is the only one that can form stable linkages to itself as well as to other atoms such as hydrogen and oxygen. This unique ability allows for the formation of carbon frameworks such as long chains, branched chains, rings, spheres and tubes.

- 5.** IndusInd Bank launched 'eSvarna', first RuPay corporate credit card. In context to Banking and Financial Awareness tell us, which section of the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881, provides for Protest?

(A) Section 99 (B) Section 100
 (C) Section 101 (D) Section 102

Ans: (B)

Section 100 of the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881 provides for Protest.

It states that—When a promissory note or bill of exchange has been dishonoured by non-acceptance or non-payment, the holder may, within a reasonable time, cause such dishonour to be noted and certified by a notary public. Such certificate is called a protest.

- NASA redirects OSIRIS-REx from Bennu to study Apophis, a celestial body. In context to the same tell us, Asteroids are found between the orbits of -

(A) Saturn and Jupiter (B) Mars and Jupiter
 (C) Earth and Mars (D) Saturn and Uranus
(B)

Apart from the stars, planets, and satellites, numerous tiny bodies also move around the sun. These bodies are called asteroids.





They are found between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

Asteroid Belt is occupied by numerous irregularly shaped bodies called asteroids or minor planets.

Four largest asteroids - Ceres, Vesta, Pallas, Hygiea

Ans:

Exp:

7. China has introduced revolutionary drilling vessel "Mengxiang" to probe Earth's mantle. In context to the same tell us, What is the major driving force of the tectonic plates?

- (A) Thermal conduction
- (B) Thermal convection
- (C) Coreolis effect
- (D) None of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: The motion of tectonic plates is driven by convection in the mantle.

In simple terms, convection is the idea that dense, cold things sink, and buoyant, warm things rise.

In the earth the cold sinking things are slabs (subducting plates) and the warm things are plumes, or just rising material from deeper in the mantle.

8. Core Sector Output Growth Hits Six-Month Low at 7.8% in November. In context to the same tell us, When we produce a good by exploiting natural resources, it is called -

- (A) Primary sector
- (B) Service sector
- (C) Public sector
- (D) Tertiary sector

Ans: (A)

Exp: The primary sector includes all those activities the end purpose of which consists in exploiting natural resources: agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining, deposits. Examples of primary sector activities include agriculture, logging, fishing, and mining. Because the tertiary sector depends on artificial/manufactured resources and the secondary sector depends on natural resources, the primary sector provides the foundation for almost all economic activity.

9. 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 |
| (C) | |

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.

10.

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 |
| (D) | |

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.

Ans:

Exp:

11.

Talented Indian squash player Anahat Singh won the Girls Under-19 title in the 2023 Scottish Junior Open Squash held in Edinburgh. In context to the same tell us, In a doubles game of squash each game is played to _____ points.

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (A) 15 | (B) 12 |
| (C) 09 | (D) 11 |
| (D) | |

Squash was invented in England in the early 19th century.

A squash court is typically a rectangular surface (9.75mx6.4m in dimension for singles and 13.72mx7.62m for doubles) enclosed by four walls.

A typical squash match is a best of five games, meaning the first to win three games wins the match.





- (B)** Ministry of Agriculture
(C) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices
(D) None of the above

Ans:**(A)**

Exp: "Agricultural Marketing and Farm Friendly Reforms Index" is released by NITI Aayog. 'Maharashtra' ranks first in the index released for the year 2019.

In this index Gujarat is second and Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are at third and fourth place respectively.

NITI Aayog started this index in the year 2016.

NITI Aayog was formed in place of the Planning Commission.

NITI Aayog was established on 1 January 2015 and is headquartered in New Delhi.

18.

Sudhansh Pant has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan. In context to the same tell us, The Chief Secretary is 'chosen' by whom?

- (A)** Governor **(B)** Chief Justice
(C) Chief Minister **(D)** President

Ans:**(C)**

Exp: The Chief Secretary is 'chosen' by the Chief Minister.

As the appointment of Chief Secretary is an executive action of the Chief Minister, it is taken in the name of the Governor of the State.

Chief Secretary is the highest administrative position in states.

The Chief Secretary of state acts as an ex officio secretary to the Council of Ministers.

There is no fixed tenure for the post of Chief Secretary.

The Administrative Reforms Commission, in its report on State Administration in 1969, had recommended that a Chief Secretary should have a minimum tenure of three to four years.

19.

Ravindra Kumar Tyagi has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Grid Corporation. In context to the same tell us, Tarapur's nuclear power plant has _____.

- (A)** Pressurized water reactor
(B) Boiling water reactor
(C) Sodium graphite reactor
(D) Rapid breeder reactor

Ans:**(B)****Exp:**

Tarapur Atomic Power station is located in Tarapur, Maharashtra.

It was the first commercial atomic power station of India commissioned on 28th October 1969.

It was commissioned under 123 agreements signed between India, the United States and International Atomic Energy Agency.

The station is operated by the National power corporation of India.

Tarapur Atomic Power Station is a BWR (Boiling Water Reactor).

Recently, India began its four-year term as a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission. In context to the same tell us, India was a member of the Statistical Commission last in which year?

- (A)** 2010 **(B)** 2007
(C) 2001 **(D)** 2004

Exp:

About United Nations Statistical Commission was established in 1947(HQ: New York) and is the highest body of the global statistical system. It brings together the Chief Statisticians from member states from around the world.

The term of office of members is four years. India was a member of the Statistical Commission last in 2004 and the country is returning to the UN agency after a gap of two decades.

21.

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi officially assumed the role of Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff. In context to the same tell us, What is the name of the coastal security exercise which involved all the coastal Maritime agencies?

- (A)** Sagar Raksha **(B)** Sagar Suraksha
(C) Sagar Kavach **(D)** Bharatmala

Exp:

A two-day comprehensive Coastal Security Exercise Sagar Kavach 02/23 involving all maritime security agencies was conducted by the Indian Navy in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and the UT of Puducherry from 11-12 Oct 2023.

22.

Uttar Pradesh State Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra inaugurated 'Rahat Vani Kendra'(RVC), an observatory for early disaster warning. In context to the same tell us, in which year The Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act?





- (A) 2002
(C) 2006

- (B) 2005
(D) 2008

Ans: (B)

Exp: On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

- 23.** Supreme Court judge, Justice BR Gavai has been nominated as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee by NALSA. In context to the same tell us, under which article of the Constitution of India provides that State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity?
- (A) Article 39A (B) Article 14
(C) Article 22 (D) Article 35A

Ans:

Exp: Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides that State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disability. Articles 14 and 22(1) also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before law and a legal system which promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity to all.

- 24.** Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification. In context to the same tell us, Which one among the following States is the leading producer of petroleum (crude) in India?
- (A) Assam (B) Gujarat
(C) Maharashtra (D) Andhra Pradesh

Ans:

Exp: Oil & Gas Production Scenario in India (2015-16)-
Rajasthan has a share of about 23.29% in crude oil production in the country. Followed by Gujarat (12.5%) & Assam (12.1%). Assam is the highest natural gas-producing state with a production of 8.3 MMSMCD.

25.

The Ministry of Tourism has included Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme. In context to the same tell us, The Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary (DWS) is located in which state?

- (A) Assam (B) Kerala
(C) Bihar (D) Odisha

Ans:
Exp:

The Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary (DWS) is located in Baragarh district, Odisha and covers an area of 346.91 square kilometers. This sanctuary is not only famous for the sylvan beauty with magnificent waterfalls but is also very rich in wildlife. The dry deciduous forests with varied flora and fauna attract the tourists of Odisha and neighbouring states. It is home to Indian leopard, Indian elephant, sambar, chital, gaur, etc.

26.

India won three gold, five silver and one bronze medal on the last day of the IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023. In context to the same tell us, who of the following is not related to Boxing?

- (A) Lovlina Borgohain
(B) Laishram Sarita Devi
(C) Akhil Kumar
(D) Yogeshwar Dutt

Ans:

Exp:

Ans:
Exp: Yogeshwar Dutt is an Indian freestyle wrestler. At the 2012 Summer Olympics, he won the bronze medal in the 60 kg category. He was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2013. He won gold medals at the 2010 and the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Lovlina Borgohain is an Indian boxer. She won a bronze medal at the 2020 Olympic Games in the women's welterweight event, becoming only the third Indian boxer to win a medal at the Olympics.

Laishram Sarita Devi is an Indian boxer from Manipur. In 2009, she was awarded Arjuna award by the government of India for her achievements.

Akhil Kumar is an Indian boxer who has won several international and national boxing awards. He practices an "open guarded" boxing style. In 2005, the Indian government gave him the Arjuna Award for his achievements in international boxing.





- 27.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort. In context to the same tell us, which among the following literator was in the court of Bundela ruler Chhatrasal and also in the court of Shivaji, and Aurangzeb?

(A) Keshav Das (B) Padmakar
 (C) Bhushan (D) Balikrishna Sharma

Ans: (C)

Exp: Bhushan

He was in the court of Shivaji, Aurangzeb, and Bundela ruler Chhatrasal.

Creations/Literature - Chhatrasal Dashak, Shiva Bhushan, Shiva Bavani, Bhushan Ullas, Bhushan Hazara, Dushan Ullas.

Kavi Bhushan was an Indian poet in the courts of the Bundeli king Chhatrasal and the Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

He mainly wrote in Brajbhasha interspersed with words from Sanskrit, Arabic, and Persian languages. He was a scholar poet of Anupras and Shlesh Alankar.

Bhushan's original name is unknown. Kavi Bhushan was a title given to him by the Rudra Pratap of Chitrakoot.

- 28.** World Soil Day is celebrated every year on 5 December. In context to the same tell us, Which soil type is having highest Phosphorus fixing capacity?

(A) Alluvial soil (B) Black soil
 (C) Laterite soil (D) Red soil

Ans:

Exp: Red soils are formed mainly by alfisols soil order.

Red soils are having high Phosphorus fixing capacity because of the presence of Kaolinite clay mineral.

These soils are lightly textured with porous and friable structure and there is an absence of lime Kankar and free carbonates.

This soil is also known as the omnibus group. The presence of ferric oxides makes the colour of soil red.

They have neutral to acidic reaction and are deficient in nitrogen humus, phosphoric acid and lime.

Crops suitable: wheat, cotton, pulses, tobacco, millets, orchards, potato and oilseeds.

- 29.** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated a museum in the West Bengal Assembly. In context to West Bengal tell us, who was the first Chief Minister of West Bengal after West Bengal was formed as an Indian State?

(A) Prafulla Chandra Ghosh
 (B) Bidhan Chandra Roy
 (C) Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee
 (D) Prafulla Chandra Sen

Ans: (A)

Exp: Since then West Bengal has had eight chief ministers, starting with Prafulla Chandra Ghosh of the Indian National Congress (INC) party as the premier. Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy in 1948 became the first formal Chief Minister of West Bengal.

- 30.** Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the 84th Grandmaster of India. In context to the same tell us, Who became the youngest chess grandmaster in the world?

(A) Humpy Koneru (B) Magnus Carlsen
 (C) Anish Giri (D) Richárd Rapport
 (B)

Ans:

Exp: At the age of 13 years, 4 months and 26 days, Magnus Carlsen became the youngest chess grandmaster in the world.

- 31.** The BCCI has banned Odisha cricketer Sumit Sharma for two years. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following drugs is not banned by the international Olympic Committee?

(A) Cocaine (B) Marijuana
 (C) Alcohol (D) Ephedrine
 (C)

Ans:

Exp: A drug encompasses a substance that changes the body's function.

A drug is a chemical substance that, when absorbed

into the body, can alter normal bodily function. This includes the substances that stimulate hormone secretion.

Doping is defined by the International Olympics Committee (IOC) as:

the use of any method or substance that might harm the athlete, in a quest to gain an unfair advantage, over his or her fellow competitors. In 1992, the IOC introduced a system known now as Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) to allow the use of certain drugs for medical use.









It was used to host the events of the indoor game in the 1982 Asian Games.

- 38.** National Bharat Ratna Dr Paying tribute to BR Ambedkar on his 68th Mahaparinirvan Day. In context to the same tell us, 'Statue of Equality', the largest statue of B R Ambedkar outside India, has unveiled in which country?

(A) UK (B) USA
(C) Germany (D) France

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Statue of Equality has inaugurated by the Ambedkar International Center in Maryland, a state in the United States.

It will be the tallest statue of Ambedkar outside India. This statue is a replica of the world's largest Ambedkar statue, located in Hyderabad and which stands 125 feet tall. It was crafted by Ram Sutar, who also created Sardar Patel's 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat.

- 39.** Bihar government will sponsor 'Patna Pirates' team of Pro Kabaddi League. In context to the same tell us, in the kabaddi game, how many players stand each side when the game starts?

(A) 8 players (B) 5 players
(C) 7 players (D) 6 players

Ans: (C)

Exp: Kabaddi is a popular contact sport in Southern Asia that first originated in Ancient India.

It is played across the country and is the official game in the states of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

In the kabaddi game, each side has 7 players when the game starts.

There will be 5 substitutes for each side as well. The games in Kabaddi are 40 minutes long.

Each side gets alternating turns to send any one player to the opponent's side.

This player is called the raider and each player on the opposing team is called a defender.

- 40.** IES officer Jitesh John has taken charge as the Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. In context to the same tell us, The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India is a _____.

(A) Service provider
(B) Non banking financial company
(C) Asset management corporation
(D) Regulator

Ans: (D)

Exp:

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) was established on 1st October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

As the body is created by an act of the parliament, it is a statutory body.

It is a unique regulator: regulates a profession as well as processes.

41.

France became first EU country to issue Digital Schengen Visas. In context to the same tell us, What was the rank of Indian passport in the Henley Passport Index 2023?

(A) 77th Rank (B) 80th Rank
(C) 85th Rank (D) 87th Rank

Ans: (B)

Exp: India has climbed seven places on Henley Passport Index 2023 to 80th rank from 87 last year though the number of countries allowed visa-free access to Indian passport holders remain unchanged.

42.

Kyrgyzstan declared Snow Leopard as National symbol. In context to the same tell us, What is the capital of Kyrgyzstan?

(A) Bishkek (B) Tashkent
(C) Dushanbe (D) Almaty

Ans: (A)

Exp: Bishkek formerly Pishpek and Frunze, is the capital and largest city of Kyrgyzstan. Bishkek is also the administrative centre of the Chüy Region.

43.

UP distributed loans over Rs 6 lakh crore to boost MSME sector. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is a micro-finance programme?

(A) Local village bank
(B) Purvanchal Bank
(C) Self help group
(D) Utkal Gramin Bank
(C)

Ans: (C)
Exp: Self Help Groups (SHGs) are small groups of poor people. The members of an SHG face similar problems. They help each other, to solve their problems.

SHGs promote small savings among their members. The savings are kept with the bank. This is the common fund in the name of the SHG. The SHG gives small loans to its members from its common fund





SHG is an informal group registered under any Societies Act.

- 44.** IPS Utkal Ranjan Sahoo took additional charge of Rajasthan DGP. In context to the same tell us, who is the current DGP of Maharashtra?

(A) Rashmi Shukla (B) Anand Mohan
(C) Ashok Juneja (D) Vikash Sahay

Ans: (A)

Exp: Rashmi Shukla is currently the DGP of Sashastra Seema Bal. She is due to retire in June 2024 but now she will get a stipulated two-year term.

- 45.** Felix Tshisekedi elected as President of Democratic Republic of Congo. In context to the same tell us, which nation does not share a border with the Democratic Republic of Congo?

(A) Sudan (B) Zambia
(C) Angola (D) Uganda

Ans: (A)

Exp: Sudan does not share a border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Democratic Republic of Congo is the second-largest country of Africa, which is bordered by Republic of Congo to the northwest; Central African Republic to the north; South Sudan to the north-east; Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania to the east; Zambia to the south and south-east; Angola to the south-west and South Atlantic Ocean and Cabinda Province exclave of Angola to the west.

- 46.** The Government of India has decided to map and document all the villages under the Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar (MGMD) programme. In context to the same tell us, Which Ministry is associated with the 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar'?

(A) Ministry of Culture
(B) Ministry of Finance
(C) Ministry of Corporate
(D) Ministry of Health

Ans: (A)

Exp: Union Home Minister has inaugurate a distinctive program called "Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar" as a significant component of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. This initiative falls under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping and is spearheaded by the Ministry of Culture. The main objective of the project is to culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages, spanning 29 states and

7 union territories, on a comprehensive virtual platform.

Mount Marapi, located in West Sumatra, Indonesia, recently erupted. In context to the same tell us, What are Stratovolcanoes also called?

(A) Shield volcanoes
(B) Composite volcanoes
(C) Super volcanoes
(D) Cones volcanoes
(B)

Ans:
Exp: Stratovolcanoes, also known as composite cone volcanoes, erupt viscous lava that forms a steep-sided, triangular-shaped structure.

Time Magazine has named OpenAI founder Sam Altman as 'CEO of the Year'. In context to the same tell us, who was named as the '2022 person of the year by Time magazine'?

(A) Narendra Modi
(B) Joe Biden
(C) Volodymyr Zelensky
(D) Vladimir Putin
(C)

Ans:
Exp: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky was named as the 2022 person of the year by Time magazine. The Times cited that the President has put up a feisty resistance against the Russian invasion for nearly a year now. Zelensky shares the 2022 title with the spirit of Ukraine. When Russia declared war against its neighbour, Zelensky announced his decision to stay in Kyiv and rally his country.

Akshata Krishnamurthy has become the first Indian to operate a Mars rover. In context to the same tell us, when NASA had launched its first mission to Sun?

(A) 2016 (B) 2017
(C) 2018 (D) 2019
(C)

Ans:
Exp: The Parker Solar Probe (previously Solar Probe, Solar Probe Plus or Solar Probe+) is a NASA space probe launched in 2018 with the mission of making observations of the outer corona of the Sun.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President Anumula Revanth Reddy has taken oath as the Chief Minister of the state. In context

50.





to the same tell us, which committee was appointed to look into forming of Telangana as a new state ?

- (A) Chidambaram Committee
- (B) Srikrishna Committee
- (C) Duggal Committee
- (D) None Of The Above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Telangana, as a geographical and political entity, was born on June 2, 2014, as the 29th and the youngest state in the Union of India.

The Committee headed by the former Chief Justice, B. N Srikrishna was formed to look into the proposed state of Telangana. It was known as the Srikrishna committee or the Committee for Consultations on the Situation in Andhra Pradesh (CCSAP).

The committee was constituted by the Government of India on 3 February 2010 and submitted its report on 30 December 2010 to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

51. Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader Lalduhoma took oath as the Chief Minister of Mizoram. In context to the same tell us, Chief Minister is appointed under which article of the Constitution of India?
- (A) Article 164
 - (B) Article 154
 - (C) Article 153
 - (D) Article 163

Ans: (A)

Exp: Article 164 of the Indian Constitution The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor.

The other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister, and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.

The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the State.

52. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit. In context to summits and conference tell us, which country has chaired the first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022?
- (A) India
 - (B) China
 - (C) Brazil
 - (D) Russia

Ans: (B)

Exp: The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held virtually on January 18-19, 2022.

China has taken on the rotating chairmanship of BRICS in 2022.

Program and priorities for the year were discussed during the meeting.

India's BRICS Sherpa was Mr Sanjay Bhattacharyya.

Google's parent company Alphabet has launched its advanced AI model Gemini AI. In context to the same tell us, which of the following languages is suitable for artificial intelligence?

- (A) Fortran
- (B) Basic
- (C) Prolog
- (D) 'C#'

(C)

Prolog is a general-purpose programming language associated with artificial intelligence and computational linguistics.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has announced the monetary policy. In context to the same tell us, what is the primary purpose of the RBI monetary policy?

- (A) Wealth
- (B) Exchange Rate
- (C) Income Equality
- (D) Price Stability

(D)

Monetary policy refers to the policy of the central bank with regard to the use of monetary instruments under its control to achieve the goals specified in the Act.

The primary objective of monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

Price stability is a necessary precondition to sustainable growth.

RBI Act, 1934 was amended in May 2016 to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation-targeting framework.

The chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar's statue was unveiled at the Jaipur Wax Museum. In context to the same tell us, When was Dr Ambedkar given Bharat Ratna?

- (A) 1985
- (B) 1980
- (C) 1990
- (D) 1973

(C)

Bharat Ratna was given to Dr Ambedkar by the government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh in 1990.

Scientist Dr Hemachandran Ravikumar awarded Karmaveer Chakra Medal. In context to the





same tell us, who was awarded 2019 Karmaveer Chakra by iCONGO and United Nations?

- (A) Rahul Adhikari (B) Gaurav Gaur
- (C) Hari Pado Biswas (D) Santosh Pawa

Ans: (A)

Exp: 2019 Gold-Medalist from Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R) & founder of International Changemaker Olympiad Rahul Adhikari, was conferred with 2019 Karmaveer Chakra Award REX Karmaveer Global Fellowship at the REX CONCLIVE held in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The award was given for his contribution in the education sector.

57. FICCI recognized Syngenta Foundation for Farmer Income Enhancement. In context to FICCI tell us, which of the following is correct about FICCI?

- (A) It is a pressure group that works for the protection of commerce and industry interest
- (B) It is a workers union that demands higher wages
- (C) It is a federation working for improving centre-state relations
- (D) It is a forum for contractors

Ans: (A)

Exp: FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) is a pressure group that works for the protection of commerce and industry interest.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is an association of business organizations in India. FICCI was established in 1927.

It is headquartered in New Delhi.

FICCI is the largest, oldest, and apex business organization in India.

It serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies.

58. WHO report - India accounted for 66% malaria cases in South-East Asia. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is the vector of Malaria?

- (A) Aedes Mosquito
- (B) Anopheles Mosquito
- (C) Sand Fly
- (D) Fleas

Ans: (B)

Exp:

Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease that is transmitted by the infected female Anopheles mosquito.

Malaria is an infectious disease that is caused by 5 species of Plasmodium which are Plasmodium ovale, Plasmodium vivax, Plasmodium falciparum, Plasmodium malariae, and Plasmodium knowlesi (Rarely).

Its main symptoms include headache, fever, fatigue, vomiting and in severe cases seizures, yellow skin, coma, and even death.

59.

Damodar Rajanarayana has been appointed as Telangana's Health Minister. In context to the same tell us, who was the first health minister of independent India?

- (A) Sucheta Kripalani
- (B) Amrit Kaur
- (C) Hansa Jivraj Mehta
- (D) Renuka Ray

(B)

Rajkumari Dame Bibiji Amrit Kaur was an Indian activist and politician. Following her long-lasting association with the Indian independence movement, she was appointed the first Health Minister of India in 1947 and remained in office until 1957. Kaur was also a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, the body that framed the Constitution of India.

Ans:
Exp:

60.

Vishnu Deo Sai is the new Chhattisgarh Chief Minister. In context to the same tell us, The State Council is responsible to whom?

- (A) Governor
- (B) Legislative Council
- (C) State Legislature
- (D) Legislative Assembly

(D)

A/c Article 164 the council of ministers is collectively responsible to the state's legislative assembly. This means that all ministers have shared responsibility for all their actions of omission and commission before the legislative assembly.

Ans:
Exp:

61.

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 12 Goods and Services Tax (GST) service centers in Gujarat. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is the main motive of the government





behind the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax?

- (A) To bring tax uniformity in the country
- (B) To increase government revenue
- (C) To replace all the indirect tax
- (D) All of the above

Ans: (B)

Exp: Government wants to bring tax uniformity in the country and remove the tradition of tax upon tax system.

101st Constitutional Amendment is done to pass the GST bill.

Cooking gas, Liquor, Petrol, air fuel, natural gas and diesel are not covered under the GST. State government can impose tax on these goods as per their wish.

62. Recently, Indian Coast Guard's ship Sangram was decommissioned. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following Indian Naval Ships was handed over to the Diu Administration in January 2022?

- (A) INS Vikrant
- (B) INS Kora
- (C) INS Khukri
- (D) INS Kirpan

Ans: (C)

Exp: INS Khukri was handed over to the Diu Administration on 26 January 2022.

It was the lead ship of the Indian Navy's Khukri class corvettes and an indigenous surface-to-surface missile-fitted vessel.

Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, the ship was commissioned on 23 August 1989 in Mumbai.

After more than 32 glorious years of service to the nation, the ship was decommissioned on 23 December 2021.

63. The Central Government has recently appointed senior IAS officer Hitesh Kumar S Makwana as the Surveyor General of India. In context to the same tell us, In 1815, who among the following was appointed as the first Surveyor General of India?

- (A) Henry Walpole
- (B) Max Muller
- (C) John Marshall
- (D) Colin Mackenzie

Ans:

Exp: In 1815, Colin Mackenzie was appointed as the first Surveyor General of India. He held this post from 1815 to 1821.

The Surveyor General of India is the Head of Department of Survey of India, a Department

under the Ministry of Science and Technology of Government of India.

Colin Mackenzie was appointed Surveyor General of Madras Presidency in 1810 but these posts were abolished in 1815.

64. India recently successfully test-fired its surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) 'Pralay'. In context to the same tell us, which among the following is a surface-to-surface missile of India?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (A) Agni V | (B) Javelin |
| (C) AIM-120 | (D) Spike |
| (A) | |

Among the surface-to-surface missiles developed by India, the most prominent one is the Agni series.

The Agni missiles are a family of medium to intercontinental range ballistic missiles developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India.

The Agni series includes missiles such as Agni-I, Agni-II, Agni-III, Agni-IV, and Agni-V, with varying ranges and capabilities.

These missiles are designed to be launched from land-based platforms and can deliver conventional or nuclear warheads to targets located on land.

65. The Central Government has appointed V Chandrashekhar as Joint Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation. In context to the same tell us, which committee recommended to establish the Central Bureau of Investigation?

- (A) Santhanam Committee
- (B) Rajmanna Committee
- (C) Punchhi Committee
- (D) None of these

(A)

The CBI was established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs and later transferred to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, currently functioning as an attached office.

Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.

The CBI operates under the DSPE Act, 1946.

It is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body.





Exp: The first Indian Sports team to set foot in Australia/New Zealand (1926), Europe (1928) and Japan/USA (1932)

72. The 9th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 will be held in Faridabad. In context to the same tell us, The 5th edition of Indian International Science Festival (IISF) 2019' was held in which city?

(A) Kolkata (B) Chandigarh
(C) Hyderabad (D) Delhi

Ans: (A)

Ques: The 5th edition of 'Indian International Science Festival (IISF) 2019' was held in Kolkata. It was organized by the Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha)

To commemorate the essence of Vedic and modern science, in IISF 2019 cultural activities like plays, musical yoga, Nukkad Natak, dance, and recital performances were showcased based on the theme "ancient to modern".

73. The 9th edition of the joint military exercise "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being organized in Pune. In context to the same tell us, What is the name of bilateral exercise between India and Bangladesh?

Ans: (B) **Exp:** Indo-Bangladesh joint exercise is organised on annual basis, alternate by India and Bangladesh on reciprocity basis under the exercise name SAMPRITI. First Exercise SAMPRITI was held at Jorhat, India in the year 2009. A total of 10 Editions of joint exercise between two nations have been conducted till 2022.

74. The second edition of 'Voice of Global South Summit' will be hosted by India. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is/are the author(s) of "The Political Economy of International Relations(1987)"?

(A) EH Carr (B) John Mearshimer
(C) Robert G Gilpin (D) Hans Morgenthau

Ans: (C)
Exp: Robert G. Gilpin is the author of the book "The Political Economy of International Relations(1987)".

In order to establish an unprecedented institutional framework following the end of World War II, the United States, which was at the time by far the most powerful country in terms of both economic might and military might, collaborated with the remaining capitalist democracies.

Indian Railways is going to start 'Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train' in collaboration with IRCTC. In context to railway tell us, which of the following is the longest Railway tunnel in the world?

(A) Seikan Tunnel (B) Yulhyeon Tunnel
(C) Channel Tunnel (D) Gotthard Base
Tunnel

(D)

With its 57 km, the Gotthard base tunnel is the longest railway tunnel in the world, and the core of the new transalpine railway axis AlpTransit. The twin single track high speed rail tunnels run between Erstfeld and Bodio in Switzerland.

- 321 Vizag Flight "Angels" of Indian Navy celebrates 51st Anniversary. In context to the same tell us, which ship of the Indian Navy participated in second gulf of guinea anti-piracy patrol exercise?

(A) INS Arihant (B) INS Vikrant
 (C) INS Vikramaditya (D) INS Sumedha

(D) INS Sumedha is on an Extended Range Operational Deployment and is currently operating in the Atlantic Ocean along the West Coast of Africa.

During this period, INS Sumedha operated in the Gulf of Guinea undertaking a 31 days anti-piracy patrol.

This is the second such patrol being undertaken by the Indian Navy in this crucial maritime region.

“MSME PAVILION” opened at the 42nd India International Trade Fair. In context to the same tell us, The National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises meets once every months in a year.

(A) 6 **(B)** 3
(C) 2 **(D)** 9
(A)









Exp: BHIM is developed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), a not-for-profit company for providing retail payment systems in the country under guidance from Reserve Bank of India.

84. World Day of Healing from Child Abuse 2023 has been observed on 18th November. In context to important days tell us, when is the Africa Industrialization Day celebrated?

(A) 17 November (B) 18 November
(C) 19 November (D) 20 November

Ans: (D)

Exp: Africa Industrialization Day is celebrated on November 20 each year.

It is also an occasion to draw worldwide media attention to the problems of industrialization in Africa.

Africa Industrialization Day is celebrated on November 20 each year.

It is a time when governments in many African countries examine ways to stimulate Africa's industrialization process.

It is also an occasion to draw worldwide media attention to the problems of industrialization in Africa.

The theme for 2023 is "Imperatives for sustainable industrial development in Africa".

85. Indian Army celebrated the 243th Corps of Engineers Day. In context to the same tell us, what is the name of the Nuclear-Powered Submarine of India?

(A) INS Kalvari (B) INS Arihant
(C) INS Chakra (D) INS Shishumar

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Arihant-class is a class of Indian nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines being built for the Indian Navy. India has about 14 conventional submarines, of which only seven are working, and only one nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arihant.

86. World Children's Day 2023 has been observed on 20th November. In context to Jawaharlal Nehru tell us, when did Jawaharlal Nehru first time meet Mahatma Gandhi?

(A) 1913 (B) 1914
(C) 1915 (D) 1916

Ans: (D)

Exp: Jawaharlal Nehru in 1916 met first time Mahatma Gandhi and was immensely inspired by him. Gandhiji's plan of action in any field attracted Nehru to a great deal. The Satyagraha movement against the Rowlatt Act fascinated Jawaharlal Nehru greatly and he was keen to join the movement with great deal of enthusiasm.

87. Africa Industrialization Day 2023 has been observed on 20th November. In context to Africa tell us, Which country in Africa has the longest coastline?

(A) Mozambique (B) South Africa
(C) Madagascar (D) Somalia

Ans:

Exp:

Somalia has the longest coastline in Africa (approximately 3 000 km) and claims ocean territory stretching about 120 km off shore.

88. UP has won the "best state" award for inland fisheries. In context to the same tell us, Rearing and breeding of fish in ponds, tanks, and artificial reservoirs is known as _____

(A) Fishing (B) Ponding
(C) Aquaculture (D) Pisciculture
(D)

Ans:

Exp:

Rearing and breeding of fish in ponds, tanks, and artificial reservoirs is known as pisciculture.

It is also called fish farming.

It is usually raised for food purposes.

Whereas Aquaculture is the rearing of fish and another aquatic organisms.

89. Virat Kohli named the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 Player of the Tournament. In context to the same tell us, who scored the first century in the history of the Cricket World Cup?

(A) Vivian Richards (B) Clive Lloyd
(C) Sunil Gavaskar (D) Dennis Amiss
(D)

Ans:

Exp:

The first century in the championship was scored by Dennis Amiss of England when he made 137 against India in the 1975 World Cup.

90. India beat Kuwait 1-0 In FIFA World Cup 2nd round Qualifiers. In context to the same tell us, How many times has Messi won the FIFA World Cup?

(A) 1 (B) 2
(C) 3 (D) 4
(A)

Ans:





Exp: Pankaj Arjan Advani is an Indian billiards and snooker player. In recognition of his achievements, the Government of India has bestowed several awards upon Advani: the Arjuna Award in 2004, Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna in 2006, Padma Shri in 2009, and Padma Bhushan in 2018.

97. AIM, NITI Aayog launches Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion. In context to the same tell us, When was NITI Aayog established?
**(A) 01 January 2015 (B) 25 January 2016
(C) 14 May 2014 (D) 01 July 2015**

Ans: (A)

Exp: NITI Aayog established on 1 January 2015. Its full form is National institution for Transforming India.

98. Deepti Babuta became first woman to bag Dhahan Prize for Punjabi literature. In context to the same tell us, Kesra Ram has won the 2021 "Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature" for which of his anthology of short stories?
**(A) Rani Tatt (B) Jakari
(C) Zanani Paud (D) None of the above**

Ans: (C)

Exp: For his compilation of short stories, 'Zanani Paud,' Kesra Ram of Haryana's Sirsa has won the 2020 Dhahan Prize for Punjabi literature (Female flower).

The award, which includes a cash prize of \$25,000 and two \$10,000 CDN finalist prizes, is granted annually to the greatest fiction novel published in either Gurmukhi or Shahmukhi scripts.

'Panni Di Kandh' (Wall of Water), short stories by Zubair Ahmad of Lahore, won the finalist prize, as well as a monetary reward of \$10,000.

99. Vinay Tonse appointed as SBI MD for two years. In context to the same tell us, Which among the following is the oldest joint stock bank in India?
**(A) Allahabad Bank (B) Bank of Baroda
(C) Yes Bank (D) Punjab National Bank**

Ans: (A)

Exp: Joint stock banks are those banks that issue shares to the public and are owned by them.

Allahabad Bank, which is the oldest joint stock bank in India, established in 1865.

Bank of Baroda, was established in 1908, which makes it younger than Allahabad Bank.

Yes Bank, is a private sector bank and was founded in 2004, which makes it much younger than Allahabad Bank.

Punjab National Bank, was established in 1894, which is only one year younger than Allahabad Bank. PNB is a state-owned bank and not a joint stock bank.

100. Indian Navy, DRDO trial tested first indigenous Naval Anti-Ship Missile. In context to the same tell us, Zorawar light tank project is a collaborative initiative between DRDO and _ ?
**(A) ISRO (B) Indian Army
(C) Larsen and Toubro (D) BHEL**

**Ans:
Exp:**

Indian authorities have opted to maintain the use of the American Cummins engine for the entire Zorawar light tank project. Originally, the project was intended to incorporate a German engine, but it encountered delays due to a lack of German export control clearances known as BAFA clearance. As a result, the decision was made to proceed with the American engine. Zorawar light tank is a cooperative initiative between DRDO and the commercial company Larsen and Toubro.

101. SEBI Chairperson has launched IRRA platform to enhance investor risk reduction. In context to the same tell us, SEBI's 'Skin in the game rule' is applicable to which of the following financial intermediaries?
**(A) Merchant bankers (B) Mutual funds
(C) Financial Advisors (D) Brokerages**

Ans:

Exp:

A rule known as "skin in the game" denotes a mutual fund scheme's or fund house's readiness to match their interests with those of the investors.

The recent decision by SEBI is based on the idea that a mutual fund scheme will act more favourably towards investors if it holds a larger share in those schemes.

102. Kerala's responsible tourism mission earned global recognition from UNWTO. In context to the same tell us, when did India join UNWTO?

**(A) 1975 (B) 1984
(C) 1962 (D) 1988**



**Ans:** (A)

Exp: India joined UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organisation) in 1975, and it represents the South Asia Region. The Ministry of Tourism, on behalf of India, engages in negotiation with UNWTO. India was elected to the Executive Council of UNWTO in October 2009 (the Executive Council is the governing body of the UNWTO).

103. Israel has officially designated Lashkar-e-Taiba as a terrorist organization. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is not a terrorist organisation?

- (A) ISIS
- (B) Al-Qaeda
- (C) Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- (D) Boko Haram

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, previously known as the Organization of The Islamic Conference is an international organisation of Muslim countries.

Al-Qaeda - Founded by Abdullah Azzam, Osama Bin Laden, as well as other militants.
ISIS - Known officially as ISIS or ISIL which stands for Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (the Levant/Syria), the group controls part of northern Iraq and parts of Western Syria.

Boko Haram - It is an Islamist based militant group in Nigeria, and is affiliated to and receives funding from Al-Qaeda.

104. President of India has launched the "New Education for New India" campaign by Brahma Kumaris, Sambalpur, Odisha. In context to the same tell us, global spiritual organization "Brahma Kumaris" was founded by whom?

- (A) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
- (B) Prajapita Brahma Baba
- (C) Dayananda Saraswati
- (D) Swami Vivekananda

Ans: (B)

Exp: Brahma Kumaris, founded in 1937 by Prajapita Brahma Baba, is a global spiritual organization with a profound focus on personal transformation and the renewal of the world. With its headquarters nestled in Mount Abu, India, the Brahma Kumaris holds non-governmental status across various international spheres.

105.

Cyclone 'Michaung' To Hit Bay Of Bengal, The Fourth Storm This Year. In context to the same tell us, Temperate cyclones are also termed as -

- (A) Extra-Tropical Cyclones
- (B) Wave Cyclones
- (C) Depressions
- (D) All the above

Ans:**Exp:**

Temperate cyclones are also termed as Extra-Tropical Cyclone, Wave Cyclones, simply Depressions, Low or Troughs. These may be circular, elliptical or V-shaped.

106.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan: Dept. of Social Justice & ISCON sign MoU. In context to the same tell us, Who conducted the National Survey on Extent & Pattern of Substance Use In India?

- (A) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- (B) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- (C) Ministry of Women & Child Development
- (D) Narcotics Control Bureau

(A)

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has conducted a "National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India" through the NDDTC of AIIMS, New Delhi during 2018 which provides data at the National level as well as at the State level. The Survey was conducted by a team of NDDTC led by Dr Atul Ambekar.

Ans:**Exp:**

Kargil Brigade organized Yom-e-Fateh Platinum Jubilee celebration. In context to the same tell us, in which year the road between Kargil and Skardu was closed?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (A) 1947 | (B) 1948 |
| (C) 1945 | (D) 1949 |

(D)

Pakistan's town of Skardu can supply arms to the troops easily and there was a road between it and Kargil. The road was closed in 1949.

107.

Global Professional Accountants Convention inaugurated at Gandhinagar. In context to the same tell us, Long term assets without any physical existence but, possessing a value are called -

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| (A) Intangible assets | (B) Fixed assets |
| (C) Current assets | (D) Investments |
| (A) | |

Ans:



Exp: The long term assets that have no physical existence but are rights that have value is known as Intangible assets. An intangible asset is an asset that is not physical in nature. Goodwill, brand recognition and intellectual property, such as patents, trademarks, and copyrights, are all intangible assets.

- 109.** Martyrdom Day of Guru Teg Bahadur has been observed on 24th November. In context to the same tell us, Who among the following is the sixth Guru of Sikhism?

(A) Guru Ram Das (B) Guru Hargobind
(C) Guru Angad (D) Guru Teg Bahadur

Ans: (B)

Exp: Guru Hargobind -

Guru Hargobind was the sixth of ten Gurus of the Sikh religion.

He became a guru at the age of 11 after the death of his father Guru Arjan Dev

Guru Hargobind is credited with developing a strong Sikh army. This brought him into direct conflict with the Mughals.

He constructed the Akal Takht, the highest seat temporal seat of the Sikhs. Spiritual and temporal matters related to the Sikh community are resolved at Akal Takht.

He sent his followers to various places across India to spread the word of Guru Nanak, the first Guru of Sikhs.

- 110.** ADB granted \$6.5 million for clean cooking in rural India. In context to International Economy tell us, Who issues the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) in the following?

(A) World Bank
(B) World Trade Organization
(C) International Monetary Fund
(D) Asian Development Bank

Ans: (C)

Exp: The International Monetary Fund issues paper currency or SDR (Special Drawing Right) to member countries.

- 111.** NHPC conferred with "ET HR WORLD EX Awards". In context to power projects in India tell us, which of the following atomic power plants has largest installed capacity?

(A) Kaiga (B) Narora
(C) Tarapur (D) Kakrapar

Ans: (C)

Exp: Tarapur -

It is located near Boiser in the Thane District of Maharashtra. It was the first commercial nuclear power station built in India. It is operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India. It has an installed capacity of 1.4GW.

Kaiga -

It is located in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. It provides power to five states (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Pondicherry). It is operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India. Capacity- 880 MW.

Narora -

It is located in Narora, Bulandshahar District in Uttar Pradesh, India. It houses two reactors, each a pressurized heavy-water reactor (PHWR) capable of producing 220 MW of electricity.

Kakrapar -

It is located near Surat, Gujarat. Capacity-1034 MW.

- 112.**

India becomes Chair of International Sugar Organisation. In context to the same tell us, which state is the highest producer of Sugar in India?

(A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Bihar
(C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Haryana

Ans: (A)

On 21 May 2023, Uttar Pradesh's Sugarcane Development and Sugar Mills Minister Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary informed that Uttar Pradesh has once again become India's top sugar producing state. The state has surpassed Maharashtra in sugar production.

- 113.**

Vijayawada Railway Station gets Platinum Certification from IGBC. In context to the same tell us, in which state is Vijayawada Railway Station located?

(A) Tamil Nadu (B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Karnataka (D) Telangana

Ans: (B)

Vijayawada Junction Railway Station is an Indian Railways station in Vijayawada of Andhra Pradesh, categorized as a Non-Suburban Grade-2 station in Vijayawada railway division. In September, 2023 It has been awarded Platinum Rating Certificate for its Environmental projects from IGBC (Indian Green Building Council)





- 114.** ‘Odh’ bags best film award at ‘75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow’ in IFFI. In context to the same tell us, A total of how many films screened under different sections at the 51st edition of IFFI?

(A) 137 Films (B) 224 Films
 (C) 187 Films (D) 203 Films

Ans: (B)

Exp: The 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has announced the slate of 12 foreign films that will be screened under the Kaleidoscope section of the upcoming movie gala. Every year, the Kaleidoscope section showcases handpicked films, representing the best of the world cinema. A total of 224 films will be screened under different sections at the 51st edition of IFFI.

- 115.** International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women has been observed on 25th November. In context to women empowerment tell us, The All India Women's Conference(AIWC) was started in 1927 to:

(A) Promote women's education
 (B) Increase women's share in the legislature
 (C) Enhance women's employment
 (D) Campaign for women's voting right

Ans: (A)

Exp: The All India Women's Conference(AIWC) was started in 1927. It is a non-governmental organisation based in Delhi. It was started to promote women's education. Founded by Margaret Cousins. The all India women's conference is considered the oldest women's groups in India. It has branches throughout the country. The first meeting of AIWC was held in Pune. Maharani Chinnabai was appointed as the first president of the All India women's conference. Roshni is the journal associated with the all India women's conference.

- 116.** International Energy Agency forecasts 75% Oil and Gas cut by 2050 to meet 1.5°C target. In context to the same tell us, who is the current Executive Director of IEA (International Energy Agency)?

(A) La Francesco (B) Tedros Adhanom
 (C) Dr Fatih Birol (D) Joan Groizard

Ans: (C)
Exp:

Dr Fatih Birol has served as Executive Director of the International Energy Agency since 2015. Prior to joining the IEA as a junior analyst in 1995, Birol worked at the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna.

117.

Irish author Paul Lynch wins 2023 Booker Prize. In context to Writers Award tell us, Which of the following is highest literary Award of Odisha?

(A) Sarala Samman Award
 (B) Atibadi Jagannath Das Award
 (C) Kalinga Literary Award
 (D) None of the above
 (B)

Ans:

Exp:

Atibadi Jagannath Das Award is the highest literary award in Odisha which has been given by Odisha Sahitya Acadamy since 1993.

The award is given to an Odia language literature for a lifetime contribution to Odia literature.

The award is considered to be the most respectable honour to any literature by the Acadamy.

The first award was given to Odia poet Radha Mohan Gadnayak in the year 1993.

Eminent writer Ramachandra Behera was Awarded the 2021 Atibadi Jagannath Das Puraskar for his lifetime contribution to Odia Literature here on 28 July 2021.

118.

Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh is poised to become the home of the country's largest tiger reserve. In context to the same tell us, Which Tiger Reserve is located in Karnataka?

(A) Nagarhole Tiger Reserve
 (B) Nameri Tiger Reserve
 (C) Kawal Tiger Reserve
 (D) Anamalai Tiger Reserve
 (A)

Nagarhole National Park, also known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park, is a wildlife reserve in the South Indian state of Karnataka. Part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the park is backed by the Brahmagiri Mountains and filled with sandalwood and teak trees. The Kabini River winds through jungle landscapes, home to tigers, Asian elephants and a variety of birds.





119. Robert Shetkintong Appointed as the Next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is capital of Mozambique?

- (A) Maputo (B) Luanda
 (C) Lusaka (D) Pemba

Ans: (A)

Exp: Maputo, port city and capital of Mozambique. It lies along the north bank of Espírito Santo Estuary of Delagoa Bay, an inlet of the Indian Ocean.

120. The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the Varanasi's second floating CNG Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU) station at Ravidas Ghat. In context to the same tell us, Which gas is mainly present in CNG?

- (A) Neon (B) Methane
 (C) Dihydrogen (D) Petroleum

Ans: (B)

Exp: Compressed natural gas, CNG, is natural gas under pressure which remains clear, odorless, and non-corrosive.

CNG can be used as a cheaper, greener, and more efficient alternative to the traditional petrol and diesel fuels for vehicles.

CNG is comprised mostly of methane gas which, produces engine power when mixed with air and fed into your engine's combustion chamber.

Composition: Apart from methane the other components present in CNG are ethane, propane, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, hydrogen, sulfide, and traces of water.

The primary source of obtaining CNG is from oil wells, bed methane wells, coal wells, and even natural gas wells.

121. SEBI will implement same-day settlement of trades by March 2024. In context to the same tell us, who currently holds the position of SEBI Chief?

- (A) Madhabi Puri Buch (B) Soma Mondal
 (C) Roshni Nadar (D) Chitra Ramkrishna

Ans: (A)

Exp: Madhabi Puri Buch is the chairperson of the securities regulatory body Securities and Exchange Board of India. She is the first woman chairperson to lead SEBI. Since April 2017, she has been functioning closely as a whole time

member of SEBI with the former chairperson Ajay Tyagi.

122. Angkor Wat has recently earned the prestigious title of the 8th wonder of the world, surpassing Italy's Pompeii. In context to the same tell us, who originally constructed Angkor Wat in the 12th century?

- (A) King Suryavarman I
 (B) King Suryavarman II
 (C) King Jayavarman VII
 (D) Norodom Sihanouk

Ans: (B)

Exp: Angkor Wat is an expansive temple complex that spans approximately 500 acres and serves as the largest religious monument in the world. Originally constructed in the 12th century by King Suryavarman II, the temple was dedicated to the Hindu deity Vishnu. Over time, it transformed into a major Buddhist temple, reflecting the transition from Hinduism to Buddhism. The site is renowned for its statue of eight-armed Vishnu, revered as a protecting deity by the locals.

123. Colonel Sunita BS has become the first woman to assume the role of Commanding Officer at the Armed Forces Transfusion Centre. In context to the same tell us, who was the first Indian woman to fly an aircraft?

- (A) Asima Chatterjee (B) Anandibai Joshi
 (C) Sarla Thakral (D) Shila Dawre
 (C)

Ans: (C)
Exp: In 1936, Sarla Thakral became the first female to fly an aircraft. She got her aviation pilot license at the young age of 21 in 1936.

124. Indian Immunologicals launched the 'Mabella' Measles and Rubella Vaccine for children. In context to the same tell us, which of the following is NOT a complication of measles -

- (A) Laryngitis
 (B) Conjunctivitis
 (C) Atrial Septal Defect
 (D) Encephalitis
 (C)

Ans: (C)
Exp: Measles is a highly contagious acute viral infection.

Caused by an RNA virus called a paramyxovirus.





Atrial septal defect (ASD): When there is a hole in the wall between the atria. The defect is known as the Atrial septal defect.

- 125.** The Union Government has recently rebrand the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir' with the tagline 'Arogyam Parmam'. In context to the same tell us, Which of the following is not covered under AB-PMJAY?
- (A) Cancer treatment (B) Organ transplant
 (C) Neurosurgery (D) Cosmetic surgery

Ans:

Exp: Cosmetic surgery is where a person chooses to have an operation, or invasive medical procedure, to change their physical appearance for cosmetic rather than medical reasons. Non-surgical cosmetic procedures, such as Botox and dermal fillers - typically used to relax or fill crease lines - do not involve surgery.

- 126.** Which space agency has launched OSIRIS-APEX mission to study 'God of Chaos' asteroid?
- (A) NASA (B) Roscosmos
 (C) ISRO (D) JAXA

Ans:

Exp: (A)
 NASA relaunches OSIRIS-APEX mission to study 'God of Chaos' asteroid Apophis approaching Earth's orbit. The spacecraft, returning from deep space, aims to understand the potential effects of Apophis's close flyby in 2029. Apophis, known for its 370-yard size, will be just 20,000 miles from Earth, closer than some man-made satellites, on April 13, 2029.

- 127.** Which company has built Missile Cum Ammunition Barges "LSAM 10", inducted recently in Indian Navy?
- (A) SECON Private Limited
 (B) Sinmec Engineering Services
 (C) C2C Engineering
 (D) Econs Private Limited

Ans:

Exp: (A)
 Indian Navy inducted LSAM 10, the fourth of eight Missile Cum Ammunition Barges. It was built by MSME Shipyard, M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd. It was inducted at Naval Dockyards, Mumbai. The barges aim to boost the Navy's operational commitments by aiding in the transportation and

shift of ammunition to ships at jetties and outer harbors.

- 128.** Paramilitary Forces has launched which app for secure official Commute?

- (A) ASIGMA App (B) Troop App
 (C) Sanchar App (D) Sandes App

Ans:**Exp:**

Para-military forces shift to "Sandes App" for official communication, document sharing, and prioritizing data security.

Developed by NIC, "Sandes" is an open-source messaging platform, that ensures end-to-end encryption and privacy.

Personnel were advised to transition from WhatsApp, ensuring secure communication within paramilitary organizations.

- 129.** Which armed force has unveiled new Admirals' Epaulets design inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Rajmudra?

- (A) Indian Airforce (B) Indian Navy
 (C) Indian Army (D) Indian Coast Guard

Ans:**Exp:**

The Indian Navy unveiled new Admirals' Epaulets design inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Rajmudra.

It symbolizes India's maritime heritage, PM Modi's vision, and strengthens Indian identity. Notable elements include the Octagon indicating all-around vision, Sword depicting Naval power, and Telescope emphasizing foresight.

- 130.** Who has been appointed to Central Board of Film Certification Panel?

- (A) Vidya Balan (B) Waman Kendre
 (C) Vivek Agnihotri (D) Akkala Sudhakar

Ans:**Exp:**

Acclaimed Hyderabad builder Akkala Sudhakar appointed to the Central Board of Film Certification Advisory Panel.

With extensive cinematic knowledge, Sudhakar addresses expected impact on Indian film industry, pledging to uphold standards for its growth.

His appointment reflects talented Hyderabad film community, fostering anticipation for his positive contributions to the film sector.





131. The Centre appointed who as the first woman Director General of Central Industrial Security Force?

- (A) Nina Singh (B) Punita Arora
(C) Madhuri Kanitkar (D) Sheila Mathai

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Centre appointed Nina Singh as the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), making her the first woman to head this elite force.

IPS officer Rahul Rasgotra has been appointed as the Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

Ex ITBP chief Anish Dayal Singh has been appointed as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

132. Who has clinched the Miss Maharashtra 2023 title?

- (A) Deepali Tiwari (B) Samiksha Mhatre
(C) Ketki Raut (D) Akshata Rakshe

Ans: (C)

Exp: Ketki Raut was crowned as Miss Maharashtra 2023, and Dr Shaliga Bhatnagar secured the Mrs Maharashtra 2023 title, along with the Beauty with Purpose award.

The third edition of Miss and Mrs. Maharashtra beauty pageant was concluded in Bandra, Mumbai, organized by Amisha Chaudhary.

The jury comprised diverse field personalities, including actresses, titleholders, and media entrepreneurs.

133. Who has been honored with the "Man of the Year-2023" award by India's Home Minister?

- (A) Mr L P Hemanth K Srinivasulu
(B) Mr Aditya Khurana
(C) Mr Gautam Shantilal Adani
(D) Mr Subha Rajan Indian

Ans: (A)

Exp: Mr L P Hemanth K Srinivasulu has been honored with the "Man of the Year-2023" award by India's Home Minister, for his significant contributions to trade diplomacy and global economic relations.

He is the Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Council.

He has held pivotal roles in various multinational corporations, successfully navigating the challenges of international trade.

134. The sixth Central Advisory Board meeting on Disability (DAIC) was held under whose leadership?

- (A) Dr Virendra Kumar (B) Dr A S Narayanan
(C) Dr Abdul Mabood (D) Dr Amarjit Singh

Ans:

Exp: 6th Central Advisory Board Meeting on Disability held at DAIC, New Delhi, led by Dr Virendra Kumar.

The vision to enable PwDs to become taxpayers gained prominence, highlighting a commitment to inclusivity and equitable society.

Board called for swift RPWD Act enforcement, notification of State Rules, and establishment of State Advisory Boards and District-level Committees.

135. The recently launched book "The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma" has been authored by whom?

- (A) Rajiv Mehrishi (B) Madhav Godbole
(C) Anil Goswami (D) Gopal Krishna Pillai

(B)

A recent publication, titled "The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution," authored by Madhav Godbole delves into the complexities of the issue, emphasizing the missed opportunities for resolution and the imperative for a modern and equitable solution.

The book underscores the possibility of preventing the Babri Masjid's demolition, citing instances where timely intervention by leaders such as Rajiv Gandhi, VP Singh, and PV Narasimha Rao could have averted the hardening of political positions.

136. Which space agency will launch military's X-37B robot spaceplane?

- (A) SpaceX (B) Lockheed Martin
(C) Blue Moon (D) Sierra Nevada

(A)

SpaceX set to launch the military's X-37B robot spaceplane on its seventh mission using the Falcon Heavy rocket.

Launch, scheduled from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, marks the first time the X-37B will ride atop a rocket capable of reaching a higher orbit.





The Boeing-built X-37B, resembling a miniature space shuttle, will deploy payloads and conduct experiments on extended orbital missions.

- 137.** What is the primary goal of ISRO's plan to launch 50 satellites in the next five years?
- (A) Enhancing telecommunications infrastructure
 (B) Strengthening national security through geo-intelligence gathering
 (C) Enabling global positioning and navigation services
 (D) To carry out scientific experiments to study the upper atmosphere

Ans:

Exp: The primary goal of ISRO's plan to launch 50 satellites in the next five years is to strengthen national security through geo-intelligence gathering.

ISRO Chairman S Somanath announced plans to launch 50 satellites in the next five years.

The primary goal is to strengthen national security through geo-intelligence gathering.

This initiative includes creating a layer of satellites in different orbits with the capability to track troop movements and capture images of extensive areas.

- 138.** What is the primary purpose of China's Mengxiang deep-sea mining ship?
- (A) Exploration of Earth's mantle
 (B) Scientific research in the Arctic
 (C) Deep-sea mining and resource exploration
 (D) Renewable energy development

Ans:

Exp: The primary purpose of China's Mengxiang deep-sea mining ship is Deep-sea mining and resource exploration.

Mengxiang is a state-of-the-art ocean drilling vessel developed by China.

Its primary goal is to explore the mysteries of the Earth's mantle and potential deep-sea resources. Mengxiang has the world's deepest drilling depth and advanced drilling systems.

The vessel's main feature is its unparalleled drilling capacity, reaching up to 11,000 meters below the sea surface, making it suitable for deep-sea mining and exploration.

- 139.** Who has launched the new CA India logo at the Global Professional Accountants Convention (GloPAC)?

- (A) Piyush Goyal (B) Praful Pansheriya
 (C) Jagdeep Dhankhar (D) Aniket Talati
 (C)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) revealed its new CA India logo at the Global Professional Accountants Convention (GloPAC) in Gandhinagar.

The new logo features the letters 'CA' in blue with an upside-down tricolour tick mark on a white background.

The new logo was launched at GloPAC by the Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar.

- 140.** What is the name of 7th 250 Men Ferrycraft delivered recently to Indian Navy?

- (A) Manoram (B) Vihar
 (C) Arighat (D) Manjula
 (D)

Seven 250 Men Ferry Crafts have been commissioned under India's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative.

Of these, the last boat, "Manjula" (Yard 786), was handed over to the Indian Navy on December 29, 2023.

The Ferry crafts are developed by Shalimar Works Ltd, Kolkata.

It will provide efficient transportation of personnel and supplies between Indian Naval Ports and anchored vessels.

- 141.** Recently, where has the new advanced design and test facility of HAL's Aero Engine Research & Development center has been inaugurated?

- (A) Bengaluru (B) Chennai
 (C) Kochi (D) Hyderabad
 (A)

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurated a new advanced design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru.

The high-tech facility will house special machinery and setups for testing various engines including the strategic Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine (HTFE) and Hindustan Turbo Shaft Engine (HTSE).





- 142.** Who has assumed charge as Director General of fire service & civil defence?
(A) Sukant Vatsa **(B)** Vinay Kaushal
(C) Astik Sinha **(D)** Vivek Srivastava
- Ans:** **(D)**
Exp: ACC sanctions the appointment of Vivek Srivastava, Director General of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards.
A 1989-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, Srivastava's tenure extends till June 30, 2025.
Currently serving as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau, Srivastava brings a wealth of experience to his new role in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 143.** Who has been appointed as the ex-officio Chancellor of Pondicherry University after modification in Pondicherry University Act 1985?
(A) Narendra Modi **(B)** Jagdeep Dhankhar
(C) Droupadi Murmu **(D)** Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Ans:** **(B)**
Exp: The Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, has been appointed as the ex-officio Chancellor of Pondicherry University. This appointment is a result of a modification to Statute 1(1) of the Pondicherry University Act 1985.
Effective from December 5, Dhankhar's new role was announced in the official gazette by the Government of India.
- 144.** IPS Utkal Ranjan Sahoo has recently taken additional charge as Director General of Police of which state?
(A) Uttarakhand **(B)** Mizoram
(C) Rajasthan **(D)** Tamil Nadu
- Ans:** **(C)**
Exp: IPS officer Utkal Ranjan Sahoo has assumed the additional charge of Rajasthan Director-General of Police (DGP), following the voluntary retirement of the previous DGP, Umesh Mishra. A 1988 batch officer, Sahoo previously served as the Director General and Commandant General of Home Guards in Rajasthan.
Originally from Odisha, Sahoo was promoted to DG rank in June 2020.
- 145.** P Indira Devi has been conferred with the title of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE) fellow in 2023. why?
(A) For her contribution to space research
(B) Her outstanding achievements in agricultural economics and rural development
(C) For her leadership in environmental conservation
(D) For successful implementation of economic policies in Kerala
- Ans:** **(B)**
Exp: P Indira Devi, ICAR Emeritus professor at Kerala Agricultural University, has been conferred the title of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE) Fellow 2023. She is the first person from Kerala to receive this honor.
This prestigious title recognizes her significant contributions to agricultural economics and rural development.
With a background in academic and administrative roles, including as the Director of the Kerala State Farmer Welfare Board and Director of Research at KAU, she has contributed significantly to the sector.
- 146.** Indian Space Research Organisation has recently launched maiden X-ray Polarimeter Satellite to probe -
(A) Galaxies **(B)** Quasars
(C) Nebulas **(D)** Black Holes
- Ans:** **(D)**
Exp: ISRO successfully launched X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) aboard PSLV-C58 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Marks India's first dedicated scientific mission to study cosmic X-ray polarization, focusing on black holes and neutron stars.
XPoSat's mission life is estimated at five years. India becomes the second nation globally with a dedicated astronomy observatory for this purpose.
- 147.** Recently, who has been awarded the Guard of Honor on concluding his tenure as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff?
(A) Sanjay Jasjit Singh **(B)** G Ashok Kumar
(C) Swaraj Parkash **(D)** Madhvendra Singh
- Ans:** **(A)**





Exp: Vice Admiral SJ Singh received Guard of Honour in Delhi as he concludes his tenure as Vice Chief of Naval Staff.

He Set to Lead as Western Navy Commander. He lays a wreath at the National War Memorial. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi appointed as the next Vice Chief of the Indian Navy.

- 148.** India has conducted "Desert Cyclone 2024" military exercise with UAE in which state?
(A) Uttar Pradesh **(B)** Rajasthan
(C) Maharashtra **(D)** Tamil Nadu

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Military Exercise scheduled from Jan 2 to Jan 15 in Rajasthan.

Bilateral defense collaboration includes production and development of defense equipment, joint armed forces exercises, information sharing on strategy and doctrines, and technical cooperation.

The first-ever India-UAE Joint Air Forces exercise occurred in September 2008 at Al-Dhafra base in Abu Dhabi.

- 149.** Felix Tshisekedi has been elected as President of which country?
(A) Brazzaville **(B)** Cameroon
(C) Congo **(D)** Gabon

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: Felix Tshisekedi won re-election as Congo's President with more than 70% of the vote.

The results faced opposition demands for a re-vote due to logistical issues, questioning the validity of the results.

Violence erupted as opposition supporters protested, leading to clashes.

Tshisekedi is a member of the Luba ethnic group.

He represents the Union for Democracy and Social Progress party.

- 150.** Who has been appointed as Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission by the Centre?
(A) Dr Arvind Panagariya
(B) Dr Ushma Nath
(C) Dr M Govinda Rao
(D) Dr Abhijit Sen

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Dr. Arvind Panagariya was appointed as Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission by the Centre.

IAS officer Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey will be the secretary of the Commission

The Commission will recommend tax distribution between Union and States, and suggest measures to boost State's Consolidated Fund for Panchayats and Municipalities

- 151.** RK Tyagi has recently assumed the role of Chief Managing Director of Power Grid by succeeding whom?

- (A)** Abhay Choudhary **(B)** Yatindra Dwivedi
(C) K Sreekant **(D)** Dilip Kankariya

(C)

RK Tyagi takes charge as Chairman & Managing Director of Power Grid Corporation of India.

With over 33 years in the power sector, Tyagi succeeds K Sreekant, who led the organization since 2019.

Tyagi, an Electrical Engineer and Fulbright Scholar, brings vast experience in various power sector domains.

- 152.** Who has been taken charge as 34th General Officer Commanding of Chetak Corps?

- (A)** Dinesh Singh Rana **(B)** Anindya Sengupta
(C) Nagendra Singh **(D)** Mukesh Chadha

(C)

Lt General Nagendra Singh takes charge as 34th General Officer Commanding of Chetak Corps. He brings vast operational experience and replaces Lt. General Sanjiv Rai after his successful tenure.

General Officer emphasizes maintaining high professional standards and Indian Army values in Chetak Corps.

- 153.** Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Prof. B R Kamboj has received the prestigious MS Swaminathan Award for his contributions in which field?

- (A)** Agronomy **(B)** Geology
(C) Zootechnics **(D)** Entomology

(A)

Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Prof BR Kamboj, received the prestigious MS Swaminathan Award for his exceptional contributions to agronomy.





The award ceremony took place at the International Conference on 'One Health One World,' held at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agricultural University at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

- 154.** Which state government has recently ban agri land purchase by 'outsiders'?
- (A) Meghalaya (B) Kerala
 (C) Uttarakhand (D) Haryana

Ans: (C)

Exp: Uttarakhand government has banned the purchase of agricultural land by non-residents until a committee delivers its report on new land laws.

As part of the ban, 'outsiders' aren't permitted to buy land intended for agricultural or horticulture uses.

The move aims to respect and uphold the sentiments of the people of Uttarakhand.

- 155.** Which country has recently taken over the chairmanship of BRICS 2024?
- (A) Egypt (B) Ethiopia
 (C) Russia (D) China

Ans: (C)

Exp: Russia assumed 2024 BRICS chairmanship with a focus on global development, security, & expansion, welcoming Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE into the group. Key domains for the BRICS partnership include political and security cooperation, economic, and cultural exchanges. Putin emphasized Russia's intention to explore inclusion of a new category of partner countries within BRICS.

- 156.** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated Startup Expo in which city?
- (A) Kathua (B) Gurugram
 (C) Noida (D) Bangalore

Ans: (A)

Exp: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated a Startup Expo in Kathua, featuring 25 startups and six women entrepreneurs. The event's theme is "Emerging Startup Trends in North India", aiming to highlight northern startup innovation.

Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh praised the exponential startup

growth in India, from roughly 350 in 2014 to over 1 lakh.

Recently PM Modi has inaugurated a submarine optical fiber connection, it connects Kochi to which city?

- (A) Port Blair (B) Silvassa
 (C) Kavaratti (D) Minicoy Island
 (C)

The PM launched and initiated development projects over Rs 1150 crores in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep

A submarine optical fiber connection and a solar power plant have been inaugurated.

Kavaratti, Lakshadweep's capital, will be connected along with the islands of Agatti, Amini, Kadmat, Chetlet, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Androth, Kiltan, Bangaram and Bitra.

He introduced Functional Household Tap Connections in all Agatti and Minicoy Islands homes and a Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination plant at Kadmat.

The Prime Minister took part in the women's meet titled "Women Power with Modi" organised by the BJP at Thekkinkadu Maidan.

Which company has become first EV Company in India to get Production Linked Incentive approval?

- (A) Ather Energy (B) Tata Motors
 (C) Electrotherm (D) Ola Electric
 (D)

Ola Electric became the first Indian electric scooter company eligible for the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, with potential benefits of INR 15,000-18,000 per unit.

Ola Electric made significant moves towards its initial public offering, filing its draft red herring prospectus with the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Who has been nominated as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee?

- (A) Justice Surya Kant
 (B) Justice BR Gavai
 (C) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
 (D) Justice Kishan Kaul
 (B)

157.

Ans:
Exp:

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- (A) Justice Surya Kant
 (B) Justice BR Gavai
 (C) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
 (D) Justice Kishan Kaul
 (B)



Exp: National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) nominated Justice BR Gavai as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee. Succeeds Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the Chairperson of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee. Justice Sanjiv Khanna was previously the senior-most puisne judge and currently serves as the Executive Chairperson of NALSA.

- 160.** Who has taken charge of Western Naval Command?

(A) G Ashok Kumar (B) Swaraj Parkash
(C) Sanjay Jasjit Singh (D) Madhvendra Singh

Ans: (C)

Exp: Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh assumed the role of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command (WNC).

Before this, Singh served as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff, boasting a versatile naval career of about 38 years.

Singh has held notable positions such as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff, Flag Officer Sea Training, Western Fleet Commander, and more.

- 161.** IFS Randhir Jaiswal has assumed the position of Spokesperson for which ministry?

(A) Ministry of Home Affairs
(B) Ministry of External Affairs
(C) Ministry of Defence
(D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Ans: (B)

Exp: Randhir Jaiswal, a Senior Indian Foreign Service officer, assumed the position of Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs.

A seasoned 1998 batch IFS officer, Jaiswal replaced Arindam Bagchi in this capacity.

The new MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal previously served as consul general in New York in July 2020.

- 162.** What was the year-on-year growth in UPI transaction value in December 2023?

(A) 42% (B) 54%
(C) 24% (D) 19%

Ans: (A)

Exp: UPI transaction value increased by 42% year-on-year to Rs 18 lakh crore in December 2023 with volume up 54% to 1202 crore.

Average daily UPI transactions hit 40 crore, stepping towards the NPCI's target of 100 crore in three years.

Fastag transactions also grew in December, with volume rising 13% YoY to 34.8 crore, and the value up 19% to Rs 5,861 crore.

Rani Velu Nachiyar, whose 294th birth anniversary has been observed on 3rd January 2024, belongs to which present Indian state?

(A) Tamil Nadu (B) Maharashtra
(C) Kerala (D) Telangana

Ans:

3rd January: 294th birth anniversary of Rani Velu Nachiyar

Queen Rani Velu Nachiyar of Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu, known as "Veeramangai", was the first Indian queen to confront the East India Company.

She trained in combat, mastered several languages, and led after her husband was killed in battle against the East India Company.

With Hyder Ali's support and a broader coalition, she fought the British after eight years of strategic planning.

What role does Canara Bank's Cybersecurity Wing aim to play in combating online threats?

(A) Enhancing UPI payments
(B) Increasing operational costs
(C) Enhancing customer trust
(D) Reducing digital user growth

Ans:

Canara Bank will be creating a dedicated cybersecurity wing aiming to prevent online fraud and enhance customer security.

The bank's new initiative leverages AI technologies in predicting loan defaults, improving customer experience, and identifying transactional anomalies.

Digital transactions have significantly increased which symbolizes the need for security against cyber-attacks.

Canara Bank's Cybersecurity Wing aims to enhance customer trust in combating online threats.

Who will co-chair 7th meeting of India-Nepal Joint Commission?

(A) Narendra Modi (B) Amit Shah
(C) Nitin Gadkari (D) S Jaishankar



**Ans:** (D)**Exp:** External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar is set to visit Nepal for two days, co-chairing the 7th India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting.

The meeting will focus on narrowing the trade deficit, enhancing cross-border infrastructure, and concluding prior development projects.

The meeting affirms Nepal's stature as a priority partner under India's Neighbourhood First policy.

- 166.** Actress Rupika Grover, who has crowned Mrs India 2023, hails from which state/UT?

(A) Jammu & Kashmir (B) Delhi
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Bihar

Ans: (A)**Exp:** Rupika Grover, a 55-year-old model and actress from Jammu, became the eldest winner of the Mrs. India One in a Million 2023.

Holding a legal background, Rupika has actively advocated for women's rights and animal welfare and has also starred alongside Bollywood legends.

Rupika also clinched several sub-titles such as "Bold and Beautiful Classic," "Fit Classic," and "Talented Classic."

- 167.** Khanij Bidesh India Limited to invest Rs 211 Crore for Lithium exploration in which country?

(A) Chile (B) Argentina
(C) Spain (D) United States

Ans: (B)**Exp:** The investment will support exploration activities for five lithium blocks in Argentina. KABIL is a joint venture of NALCO, MECL, and Hindustan Copper Ltd. Discussions for lithium cooperation included visits to Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina, with subsequent talks with Australia and Russia. Argentina, along with Chile and Bolivia, forms the world's 'lithium triangle.'

- 168.** Which state government has collaborated with Adani Group for Data Centre and Aerospace Park?

(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) Hyderabad
(C) Rajasthan (D) Telangana

Ans: (D)**Exp:** Adani Group, led by CEO Karan Adani and Adani Aerospace CEO Asish Rajvansh, collaborates with Telangana's CM Reddy.

Telangana government assures necessary amenities, infrastructure, and subsidies to support Adani's initiatives, fostering industrial growth and generating employment.

Adani Group representatives express commitment to continue existing projects and establish new industries.

- 169.** All India Conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police 2023 concluded in which city?

(A) Jaipur (B) Gurugram
(C) New Delhi (D) Chennai

Ans:**Exp:** PM Narendra Modi will attend the All India Conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police 2023, taking place on the at Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.

The three-day conference will discuss policing and internal security issues such as cybercrime, technology in policing, counter-terrorism, left-wing extremism, prison reforms, and the road map for new criminal laws.

- 170.** Name the Prime Minister of Czech Republic who will be chief guest at Vibrant Gujarat summit?

(A) Andrej Babiš (B) Adamová Pavel
(C) Petr Fiala (D) Vít Rakušan

Ans:**Exp:** Czech Republic's Prime Minister Petr Fiala is set to be the Guest of Honour at the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit from January 10-12.

The summit will focus on fostering partnerships, reflecting evolving diplomatic priorities.

The participation of 28 countries and 14 organizations confirms the event's global reach. The theme of the summit is 'Gateway to the Future.'

- 171.** Which neighbouring country will sell 10,000 MW electricity to India for next 10 years?

(A) Myanmar (B) Nepal
(C) Bangladesh (D) Sri Lanka

Ans:**Exp:** Kathmandu and New Delhi signed a long-term agreement for Nepal to export 10,000 megawatts of electricity to India over the next ten years.



This agreement is aimed to promote power trade between government and private entities in both nations.

As part of Nepal's broader energy development strategy, the country plans to produce 28,000 MW of electricity in the next 12 years,

- 172.** Which company has signed an agreement with RVNL to finance multi-modal?

(A) Redington (B) NTPC Limited
(C) REC limited (D) Power Grid

Ans: (C)

Exp: RECL collaborates with RVNL in a significant MoU for financing infrastructure projects.

The MoU involves an investment of up to Rs 35,000 Crores over the next 5 years for executing multi-modal logistics hub projects, rail infrastructure, road, port, and metro projects.

CMD, REC: Shri VK Dewangan

Director - Finance, RVNL: Shri Sanjeeb Kumar

- 173.** What is the theme of World Braille Day 2024?

(A) Reaching blind and visually impaired persons
(B) Braille is knowledge, and knowledge is power
(C) Rights of People With Disabilities
(D) Empowering Through Inclusion and Diversity

Ans: (D)

Exp: Global commemoration on January 4th acknowledges Braille as a crucial communication medium for the blind.

Louis Braille's birthday is marked on this day, The UN General Assembly proclaimed January 4, World Braille Day in November 2018.

The first Braille system was published in 1829. World Braille Day 2024's theme is "Empowering Through Inclusion and Diversity".

- 174.** Which wildlife sanctuary was recently included in the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme?

(A) Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
(B) Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary
(C) Debrigardh Wildlife Sanctuary
(D) Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Ministry of Tourism has included Debrigardh Wildlife Sanctuary in the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme.

Swadesh Darshan Program was started in the year 2015 by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, which is a 100% centrally funded scheme.

Debrigardh Wildlife Sanctuary is located near Hirakud Dam (Mahanadi River) in Bargarh district of Odisha.

- 175.**

In which city did the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh inaugurate the five-day winter carnival?

(A) Manali (B) Kasol
(C) Shimla (D) Baddi

Ans: (A)

Exp: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated the five-day winter carnival in Manali.

He also inaugurated the cultural program at Manu Rangashala, the stage of the five-day festival.

There will be presentations of 25 cultural groups from different states in the carnival.

- 176.**

Who was appointed as Governor General of India in 1772 AD to 1785 AD?

(A) Warren Hastings
(B) Robert Clive
(C) Lord William Bentinck
(D) Charles Canning

Ans: (A)

Exp: Warren Hasting was appointed as Governor General of India in 1772 AD to 1785 AD India's first newspaper 'The Bengal Gazette' was published in his reign.

- 177.**

Who wrote the book The First Indian War of Independence?

(A) Annie Besant (B) Ashok Mehta
(C) W C Bonnerjee (D) V. D Savarkar

Ans: (D)

Exp: In India, the term First War of Independence was first popularized by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in his 1909 book The History of the War of Indian Independence, which was originally written in Marathi.

- 178.**

Samudragupta period was.

(A) 335 - 380 AD (B) 330 - 380 AD
(C) 325 - 380 AD (D) 315 - 380 AD

Ans: (A)

Exp: Samudragupta (reigned 335-380) is the second ruler of the Gupta Dynasty, who ushered in the





Golden Age in India. He was a benevolent ruler, a great warrior and a patron of arts. Samudragupta, son of Chandragupta, was the greatest king of Gupta dynasty. Samudragupta also known as the 'Napoleon of India' for his conquests, he was also a man of many talents.

- 179.** Bimbisara belongs to which dynasty?
(A) Magadha (B) Kamboja
(C) Avadh (D) Gandhara

Ans: (A)

Q: The Haryanka dynasty is the second ruling dynasty of Magadha, an empire of ancient India, which succeeded in the mythological Barhadratha dynasty. Initially, the capital was Rajagriha. Later, it was shifted to Pataliputra, near the present-day Patna in India during the reign of Udayin. Thus Bimbisara is considered the main founder of the dynasty.

- 180.** Which one of the following began with the Dandi March?

 - (A) Home rule Movement
 - (B) Non-Cooperation Movement
 - (C) Civil disobedience Movement
 - (D) Quit India Movement

Ans: (C)

Ans. (C)
Exp: The Civil Disobedience Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi when British Government not given positive response on Gandhi's eleven demands. Hence, Mahatma Gandhi had decided to make salt the central formula for Civil Disobedience Movement.

- 181.** Which monk influenced Ashoka to embrace Buddhism?
(A) Vishnu Gupta (B) Upa Gupta
(C) Brahma Gupta (D) Brihadratha

Ans: (B)

Exp: Upagupta was a Buddhist saint and dharma master from Northwest India. He was the spiritual teacher of the Mauryan emperor Ashoka. In Myanmar he is known as Shin Upagutta.

- 182.** Who founded the Lodi dynasty?
(A) Ibrahim Lodi (B) Sikandar Lodi
(C) Bahlol Lodi (D) Khizr Khan

Ans: (C)

Exp: Lodi dynasty, (1451–1526) was the last ruling family of the Delhi sultanate of India. The first Lodī ruler was Bahlol Lodi (reigned 1451–89), the

most powerful of the Punjab chiefs, who replaced the last king of the Sayyid dynasty in 1451. Bahlol 's second son, Sikandar (reigned 1489–1517), continued his father's expansion policy. Bahlol Khan Lodi (r. 1451–1489) was the nephew and son-in-law of Malik Sultan Shah Lodi.

183. Which Governor General is associated with Doctrine of Lapse?
(A) Lord Ripon (B) Lord Dalhousie
(C) Lord Bentinck (D) Lord Curzon

Ans: (B)

Ans. (D)
Exp: The doctrine of lapse was an annexation policy applied by the British East India Company in India until 1858 by Lord Dalhousie, governor-general of India (1848–56), to deal with questions of succession to Hindu Indian states. According to Hindu law, an individual or a ruler without natural heirs could adopt a person who would then have all the personal and political rights of a son. Dalhousie asserted the paramount power's right of approving such adoptions and of acting at discretion in their absence in the case of dependent states.

- 184.** Who among the following British persons admitted the Revolt of 1857 as a national revolt?

 - (A) Lord Dalhousie
 - (B) Lord Canning
 - (C) Lord Ellenborough
 - (D) Benziman Disraeli

Ans:

Exp: Benjamin Disraeli was a British politician of the Conservative Party who twice served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Benjamin Disraeli was leader of Conservative Party and opposition leader in the House of Commons. He described the revolt of 1857 as 'a national rising'.

- 185.** Maurya Period was from:
(A) 320 BC - 185 BC
(B) 322 BC - 187 BC
(C) 315 BC - 185 BC
(D) 310 BC - 185 BC

Ans: (B)

Ques: Chandragupta Maurya is the founder of Maurya empire. Art, Culture and Religiously flourished in this empire. Maurya Period from 322 BCE to 187 BCE. Iron Age was the start of this great empire and covered the almost whole Indian subcontinent geographically. Chanakya was the renowned guru



**Ans: (C)**

Exp: Kushinagar is a pilgrimage town in the Kushinagar district of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Buddhists believe Gautama Buddha attained Parinirvana after his death. Lumbini is a Buddhist pilgrimage site in the Rupandehi District of Province No. 5 in Nepal. It is the place where, according to Buddhist tradition, Queen Mahamayadevi gave birth to Siddhartha Gautama in 563 BCE.

192. Who was the Editor of 'Young India' and 'Harijan'?

(A) Nehru
(B) Ambedkar
(C) Mahatma Gandhi
(D) Subash Chandra Bose

Ans: (C)

Exp: Young India was a weekly paper or journal in English published by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi from 1919 to 1931. In 1933 Gandhiji started publishing a weekly newspaper, Harijan, in English. Harijan, which means "People of God", which lasted until 1948. During this time Gandhi also published Harijan Bandu in Gujarati, and Harijan Sevak in Hindi.

193. Nanda dynasty, family that ruled Magadha, in northern India, between c 343 - 321 BCE. The Nanda dynasty preceded by the dynasty of the Mauryas, what was the name of last Nanda ruler?

(A) Govishanaka (B) Pandugati
(C) Dhananand (D) Kaivarta

Ans: (C)

Exp: The conquest of the Nanda Empire under Dhana Nanda by a force under Chandragupta Maurya in the 4th century won. Dhana Nanda (died 321 BCE) was the last ruler of the Nanda dynasty. Chanakya, a Brahmin who was insulted by him, vowed to overthrow him, and raised an army that invaded the Nanda capital Pataliputra and killed him. Chanakya then installed his own protege Chandragupta Maurya on the throne.

194. The Treaty of Seringapatam (also called Srirangapatnam or Srirangapatna), signed 18 March 1792, ended the Third Anglo-Mysore War. The treaty of Srirangapatna was signed between Tipu Sultan and who?

(A) Robert Clive (B) Cornwallis
(C) Warren Hastings (D) Dalhousie

Ans: (B)

Exp: There was the third Indo Mysore war which was fought between the Nizams of Hyderabad, Tipu Sultan of Hyderabad and the East India Company headed by Lord Cornwallis. The East India Company was empowered to rule upon Mysore and Hyderabad after the defeat in the third Indo Mysore war. According to Srirangapatna treaty, Tupu had given the entire land which belongs to them and some of the land was surrendered to the East India Company under the leadership of Lord Cornwallis.

195. Which of the following attended all the Three Round Table Conferences?

(A) B. R. Ambedkar (B) M.M. Malavia
(C) Vallabhbhai Patel (D) Gandhiji

Ans: (A)

Exp: The third and last session assembled on November 17, 1932. Only 46 delegates in total took part in this conference. The INC and the Labour Party decided not to attend it. (The INC wasn't invited). Indian princely states were represented by princes and divans. British Indians were represented by the Aga Khan (Muslims), Depressed classes women, Europeans, Anglo-Indians and labour groups. B. R. Ambedkar attended all the Three Round Table Conferences.

196. The depletion in Ozone layer is caused by

(A) Nitrous oxide (B) Carbon dioxide
(C) Chlorofluorocarbons (D) Methane

Ans: (C)

Exp: The ozone layer is a region of Earth's stratosphere that absorbs most of the Sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The depletion in Ozone layer is caused by Chlorofluorocarbons.

197. One of the leading producers of asbestos in the world is :

(A) Australia (B) Russia
(C) Canada (D) Armenia

Ans: (B)

Exp: Russia is the leading producer of Asbestos. Asbestos is a term used to refer to six naturally occurring silicate minerals. All are composed of long and thin fibrous crystals, each fiber being composed of many microscopic 'fibrils' that can be





released into the atmosphere by abrasion and other processes. Asbestos is an excellent electrical insulator and is highly heat-resistant, so for many years it was used as a building material. However, it is now a well-known health and safety hazard and the use of asbestos as a building material is illegal in many countries. Inhalation of asbestos fibres can lead to various serious lung conditions including asbestosis and cancer.

- 198.** The Peninsular India comprises the diverse topological and climatic patterns of South India. The Peninsula is in shape of a vast inverted triangle bounded on the west by the Arabian Sea, on the east by the Bay of Bengal and on the north by the Vindhya and Satpura ranges. The highest peak in Peninsular India, the direction of prevailing summer monsoonal wind is?
- (A) From South-East (B) From West
 (C) From North (D) From South

Ans: (B)

Exp: The southwest monsoon arrives in two branches: the Bay of Bengal branch and the Arabian Sea branch. The latter extends towards a low-pressure area over the Thar Desert and is roughly three times stronger than the Bay of Bengal branch.

- 199.** Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is an irregularly periodic variation in winds and sea surface temperatures over the tropical eastern Pacific Ocean, affecting the climate of much of the tropics and subtropics. The warming phase of the sea temperature is known as El Niño and the cooling phase La Niña. Southern Oscillation was discovered by whom?
- (A) Sir Gilbert Walker (B) Flohn
 (C) Sir Palker (D) Sir Thomson

Ans: (A)

Exp: Two giants of 20th-century meteorology, Gilbert Walker and Jacob Bjerknes, are usually given credit for discovering the El Niño-Southern Oscillation phenomenon. During the early 1920s, Walker empirically identified a periodic variation in atmospheric pressure over the Indo-Pacific which he christened the "Southern Oscillation."

- 200.** Which months are known for retreating monsoons.
- (A) April and May
 (B) June and August
 (C) October and November

- (D) March and April

Ans: (C)

Exp: The monsoons withdraw from the extreme northwest end of the country in September from the peninsula by October and from the extreme southeastern tip by December. It starts with the beginning of the withdrawal of southwest monsoon [middle of September – November] and lasts till early January.

- 201.** Sedimentary rocks are deposited in layers as
- (A) Disintegration (B) Bedding
 (C) strata (D) none of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: Sedimentary rocks are types of rock that are formed by the accumulation or deposition of small particles and subsequent cementation of mineral or organic particles on the floor of ocean or other bodies of water at the Earth's surface. Sedimentation is the collective name for processes that cause these particles to settle in place. In geology and related fields, a stratum (plural: strata) is a layer of sedimentary rock or soil, or igneous rock that was formed at the Earth's surface, with internally consistent characteristics that distinguish it from other layers.

- 202.** Dynamic metamorphism occurs due to _____.

- (A) Wind
 (B) Water
 (C) Heat
 (D) high Pressure and high temperature

Ans: (D)

Exp: Metamorphism is the change of minerals or geologic texture in pre-existing rocks, without the protolith melting into liquid magma. The change occurs primarily due to heat, pressure, and the introduction of chemically active fluids. There are several different types of metamorphism, including dynamic, contact, regional, and retrogressive metamorphism that form and shape rocks. Dynamic metamorphism involves high shear stress, high pressure, high strain, high fluid partial pressure and variable temperature.

- 203.** The processes which include geological phenomena and processes that originate externally to the Earth's surface are called as _____.

- (A) Endogenic processes
 (B) Exogenic processes
 (C) Biological process





(D) None of these

Ans: (B)

Exp: Exogenic processes include geological phenomena and processes that originate externally to the Earth's surface. They are genetically related to the atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere, and therefore to processes of weathering, erosion, transportation, deposition, denudation etc. Exogenic factors and processes could also have sources outside the Earth, for instance under the influence of the Sun, Moon etc.

204. The scientific study of soil is

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| (A) Pedology | (B) Earth Study |
| (C) Soil Science | (D) Soil Chemistry |

Ans: (A)

Exp: Pedology is the study of soils in their natural environment. It is one of two main branches of soil science, the other being edaphology. Pedology deals with pedogenesis, soil morphology, and soil classification, while edaphology studies the way soils influence plants, fungi, and other living things.

205. Red soil is a type of soil that develops in a warm, temperate, moist climate under deciduous or mixed forest, having thin organic and organic-mineral layers overlying a yellowish-brown leached layer resting on an illuvium red layer. Red

- Soil look yellow when?
- (A) It occurs in a iron oxide form.
 - (B) It occurs in a loosed form.
 - (C) It occurs in a composed form.
 - (D) It occurs in a hydrated form.

Ans: (D)

Exp: This soil, also known as the omnibus group and have been developed over Archaean granite, gneiss and other crystalline rocks the sedimentaries of the Cuddapah and Vindhyan basins and mixed Dharwarian group of rocks. Their colour is mainly due to ferric oxides occurring as thin coatings on the soil particles while the iron oxide occurs as haematite or as hydrous ferric oxide the color is red and when it occurs in the hydrate form as limonite the soil gets a yellow colour. Ordinarily the surface soils are red while the horizon below gets yellowish colour.

206. What is Latent Heat.

- (A) Energy in a form of heat needed to convert the water into gaseous form

(B) Energy in a form of heat needed to convert the gaseous into water form

- (C) Amount of heat present in the environment
- (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: Latent heat is the heat energy per mass unit required for a phase change to occur. Normally when heat energy is added to or removed from an object, the temperature of the object changes; however, during phase changes, the temperature of an object stays constant. The temperature remains the same because energy is required for an object to change phases. So when you add heat to a liquid, you are actually causing the molecules to vibrate. The latent heat is the energy required to change the molecular movement. Each substance has a unique latent heat value.

207. Igneous rock (derived from the Latin word ignis meaning fire), or magmatic rock, is one of the three main rock types, the others being sedimentary and metamorphic. Which these are example of Igneous rock.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Granites | 2. Basalt |
| 3. Marble | 4. Sandstones |
| (A) 1 and 2 only | (B) 2 and 3 only |
| (C) 1 and 3 only | (D) All of the above |

Ans: (A)

Exp: Igneous rocks form from the cooling of magma – molten materials in the earth's crust. Granite is a common type of felsic intrusive igneous rock that is granular and phaneritic in texture. Granites can be predominantly white, pink, or gray in color, depending on their mineralogy. Basalt is a mafic extrusive igneous rock formed from the rapid cooling of magnesium-rich and iron-rich lava exposed at or very near the surface of a terrestrial planet or a moon. More than 90% of all volcanic rock on Earth is basalt.

208. Which of the following option is correct?

- (A) Mahadeo hills are in the west of Maikala hills.
- (B) Mahadeo hills are the part of Karnataka Plateau.
- (C) Mahadeo hills are in the east of Chhotanagpur Plateau.
- (D) Mahadeo hills are the part of Aravalli ranges.

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Mahadeo Hills are a range of hills in Madhya Pradesh state of central India. The hills are situated





in the northern section of the Satpura Range. They are situated to the west of Maikal Hills.

Ans: (D)

Exp: Canada is the country that has the most natural lakes, with some estimates going over 2 million. Most of Canada's lakes were formed by glaciers.

- 210.** Which river is also known by the name ‘Sorrow of Bengal’ as it gets flooded often-causing damage?
(A) Damodar (B) Kamodar
(C) Yamuna (D) Jhutta

Ans: (A)

Exp: Damodar River is a river flowing across the Indian states of Jharkhand and West Bengal. Rich in mineral resources, the valley is home to large-scale mining and industrial activity. Earlier known as the Sorrow of Bengal because of its ravaging floods in the plains of West Bengal, the Damodar and its tributaries have been somewhat tamed with the construction of several dams. It is the most polluted river of India (by 2003). It has a number of tributaries and subtributaries, such as Barakar, Konar, Bokaro, Haharo, Jamunia, Ghari, Guaia, Khadia and Bhera.

Ans: (C)

Exp: A renewable resource is one that can be used repeatedly and does not run out because it is naturally replaced. A renewable resource, essentially, has an endless supply such as solar energy, wind energy, and geothermal pressure. Other resources are considered renewable even though some time or effort must go into their renewal (e.g., wood, oxygen, leather, and fish). Timber is a renewable resource because of the regrowth of forests. Unlike other products, such as iron ore for steel, timber requires considerably less energy in the conversion of raw products to usable ones and in the remanufacture of material.

- 212.** Soil erosion can be prevented by
(A) Increasing bird population
(B) Afforestation

- (C) Removal of vegetation
 - (D) Overgrazing

Ans: (B)

Exp: Afforestation is the process of establishing a forest on land that has not been a forest for a long time by planting trees or their seeds. Soil erosion is when the soil is blown away by the wind or washed away by the rain. Roots of trees or plants hold the soil. Thus, when more trees are planted their roots do not allow the soil to be blown or washed away and prevent soil erosion.

- 213.** Natural sources of air pollution are
(A) Forest fires
(B) Volcanic eruptions
(C) Dust storm
(D) Smoke from burning dry leaves

Ans: (C)

Exp: Some of the natural sources of air pollution are organic compounds from plants, sea salt, suspended soils and dusts (e.g. from the Sahara). Other natural sources are released during catastrophes such as volcanic eruptions and forest fires.

But natural events such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, wildfires, and dust storms can affect air quality, too. These natural events produce particulate matter, or airborne particles of dust and soot, which can cause health problems when we breathe them.

- 214.** The 'graded profile' of a river course is a
(A) smooth curve in the upper course
(B) smooth curve in the middle course
(C) smooth curve in the lower course
(D) smooth curve from source to mouth

Ans: (D)

Exp: The course of a river from its source to its mouth is normally divided into 3 sections, namely upper, middle and lower courses. Action of the river on its valley from source to mouth in relation to the features developed by it is seen in the river valley profile, known as graded profile. Throughout the long profile of a river, deposition and erosion are balanced meaning that, given enough time, the river's long profile would become a smooth, concave, graded profile from its source to mouth.

- 215.** Sinkhole is a phenomenon of ____ topography.
(A) Desert (B) Tundra
(C) Karst (D) Plain



**Ans: (C)**

Exp: Karst is a topography formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum. It is characterized by underground drainage systems with sinkholes and caves. It has also been documented for more weathering-resistant rocks, such as quartzite, given the right conditions.

- 216.** The Attorney General of India has the right of audience in.

(A) Supreme Court
(B) Any Session Court
(C) Any Court law within India
(D) Any High Court

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Attorney General has the right of audience in all Courts in India as well as the right to participate in the proceedings of the Parliament, though not to vote. He is the Indian government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India.

- 217.** The Ninth Schedule to the Indian Constitution was added by-

(A) First Amendment
(B) Eighth Amendment
(C) Ninth Amendment
(D) Forty Second Amendment

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951, enacted in 1951, made several changes to the Fundamental Rights provisions of the Indian constitution. It provided against abuse of freedom of speech and expression, validation of zamindari abolition laws, and clarified that the right to equality does not bar the enactment of laws which provide "special consideration" for weaker sections of society. Once a law is enacted and included in the Ninth Schedule, it gets protection under Article 31-B (validation of certain Acts and Regulations) and is not subject to judicial scrutiny. The Ninth Schedule (Article 31-B) was introduced by the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to keep certain laws particularly those on land reforms beyond the scope of judicial review. Over the years 284 laws were included in it and about 30 of them are under challenge.

- 218.** Who is the first law officer of the country?

(A) Chief Justice of India

(B) Attorney General**(C) Law Minister****(D) Solicitor General****Ans: (B)**

Exp: The Attorney General for India is the Indian government's chief legal advisor, and is primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. He can be said to be the advocate from government's side. He is appointed by the President of India on advice of Union Cabinet under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and holds office during the pleasure of the President.

- 219.** Which article of the Indian Constitution directs the state government to organize village Panchayat

(A) Article 51 A (B) Article 40
(C) Article 37 (D) Article 31

Ans: (B)

Exp: Article 40 of the Constitution, which establishes one of the Directive Principles of State Policy, stipulates that the granting of necessary powers and authority to enable the Gram Panchayat to be organized and to act as units of self-government States will take steps for

- 220.** Comptroller auditor general of India appointed by which of these?

(A) Prime Minister (B) Lok Sabha
(C) President (D) Finance Minister

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is appointed by the President of India following a recommendation by the Prime Minister. On appointment, he has to make an oath or affirmation before the President of India.

- 221.** The discretionary powers of a Governor are limited in-

(A) Appointment of Chief Minister
(B) Dismissal of the Ministry
(C) Dissolution of the Legislative Assembly
(D) Assent to Bills

Ans: (D)

Exp: The Governors and Lieutenant Governors/Administrators of the states and union territories of India have similar powers and functions at the state level as that of the President of India at Union level. Governors exist in the states while lieutenant governors exist in union territories and in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. When no party gets





a clear majority, the governor has discretion to choose a candidate for chief minister who will put together a majority coalition as soon as possible. He can impose president's rule. He can withhold his assent to a bill and send it to the president for his approval.

Ans: (C)

Exp: Representative We have a Quasi Federal Parliamentary Republic Democracy in India. Quasi Federal means a system with federal government but unitary spirit. Examples of countries with Quasi Federal system are Canada, Germany. This means the power on different subjects are distributed between Centre (Defense) and State (Forests) governments. The unique feature being that some subjects are both in jurisdiction of State and Centre and are a part of concurrent list. (Eg: Tax, Roads).

223. The Directive Principles of State Policy has been adopted from which Constitution?

 - (A) U.S. Constitution
 - (B) British Constitution
 - (C) Irish Constitution
 - (D) French Constitution

Ans: (C)

Exp: Directive principles are the prominent and unique characteristic of Indian constitution influenced by the Irish Constitution of 1937; the Constitutional fathers of the Indian Constitution incorporated these Principles from Articles 36-51 in Chapter IV of the Constitution. These Principles are like the instrument of instructions or directions to the future legislature and executives to show in what manner they are to exercise their powers.

- 224.** Voting is:

 - (A) The unit of area who constitute a unit for electing representative.
 - (B) The process by which voters exercise their right to vote.
 - (C) The process of selecting representatives.
 - (D) Universal adult franchise.

Ans: (C)

Exp: The 2019 Indian general election was held in seven phases from 11 April to 19 May 2019 to constitute

the 17th Lok Sabha. The votes were counted and the result declared on 23 May. About 911 million people were eligible to vote, and voter turnout was over 67 per cent – the highest ever, as well as the highest ever participation by women voters.

- 225.** Which of the following amendment Act makes the right to education as the fundamental right to all the children under the age of 6-14 years by inserting Article 21A to the constitution.

- (A) 87th amendment, 2003
- (B) 86th amendment, 2002
- (C) 88th Amendment, 2003
- (D) 89th Amendment, 2003

Ans: (B)
Exp: The 86th amendment to constitution of India in 2002, provided right to education as a fundamental right in part-III of the Constitution.

A new article 21A was inserted which made right to education a fundamental right for children between 6-14 years.

No child is liable to pay any kind of fee/Capitation fee/ Charges.

Change in DPSP

Substitution of new article gor art 45: “The state shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education to children belowthe age of 6 years”.

- 226.** What is the plural voting system?

(A) All the citizen's caste three votes each.
(B) Eligible voter exercises one vote and some voters with specific qualifications cast more than one vote.
(C) Only the higher official's caste more than one votes.
(D) Candidates themselves caste more than one vote.

Ans: (P)

Ans. (D)

Exp: Plural voting is the practice whereby one person might be able to vote multiple times in an election. This was a common aspect of the franchise for elections held in the 1800s where the right to vote was linked to the ownership of property; an elector could vote in as many districts as the elector owned property. This was the prevalent system in Britain before 1948 when certain electors could vote in more than one constituency.

- 227.** Which of the following is not a Union Territory?





- (A) Lakshadweep
- (B) Puducherry
- (C) Nagaland
- (D) Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Ans: (C)

Exp: Nagaland is a state in north eastern India. It is bordered by the state of Assam to the west, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam to the north, Myanmar to the east, and Manipur to the south. The state capital is Kohima, and the largest city is Dimapur. It has an area of 16,579 square kilometres (6,401 sq mi) with a population of 1,980,602 per the 2011 Census of India, making it one of the smallest states of India. Nagaland is one of three states in India where the population is mostly Christian.

- 228.** Where do we find the ideas of Indian Democracy?
- (A) Part II
 - (B) Part I
 - (C) The Preamble
 - (D) Part IV

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Preamble to the Constitution of India is 'Declaration of Independence' statement & a brief introductory that sets out the guiding principles & purpose of the document as well as Indian democracy. It describes the state as a "sovereign democratic republic". The first part of the preamble "We, the people of India" and, its last part "give to ourselves this Constitution" clearly indicate the democratic spirit.

- 229.** Chairman of the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) of Parliament is appointed by which of these?
- (A) Chairman of Rajya Sabha
 - (B) President
 - (C) Prime Minister of India
 - (D) Speaker of Lok Sabha

Ans: (D)

Exp: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a committee of selected members of parliament, constituted by the Parliament of India, for the purpose of auditing the revenue and the expenditure of the Government of India. They check that parliament exercises over the executive stems from the basic principle that parliament embodies the will of the people. This committee along with the Estimates committee (EC) and Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) are the three financial standing committees of the

Parliament of India. The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

- 230.** Where the Presiding officer is not the member of that house?

- (A) Lok Sabha
- (B) Rajya Sabha
- (C) Vidhan Sabha
- (D) Vidhan Parishad

Ans: (B)

Exp: Rajya Sabha, is the presiding officer, not a member of that house.

The Rajya Sabha or Council of States is the upper house of the Parliament of India. Membership of Rajya Sabha is limited by the Constitution to a maximum of 250 members, and current laws have provision for 245 members. The Vice-President of India (currently, Hamid Ansari) is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, who presides over its sessions.

- 231.** "Residuary powers" under the Indian Constitution means:

- (A) the powers relating to International Affairs.
- (B) the powers, which have not been specifically enumerated in the Union List.
- (C) the powers relating to Internal Emergency.
- (D) the powers, which can be exercised both by the Union Government and the States.

Ans: (D)

Exp: Residuary powers are those powers which can be made by the parliament only. It is different from 3 lists, union list, state list, and concurrent list. These powers are neither under the legislative powers of the State nor the Union. Parliament has exclusive power to make any law with respect to any matter not enumerated in the Concurrent List or State List. Such power shall include the power of making any law imposing a tax not mentioned in either of those Lists.

- 232.** How many total members can be nominated by president in both houses of parliament.

- (A) 14
- (B) 10
- (C) 12
- (D) 16

Ans: (A)

Exp: The President of India can nominate no more than two members from Anglo-Indian community to the Lok Sabha if he or she feels that the





community is not adequately represented. The President can nominate 12 members to the Rajya Sabha who have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of literature, science, art and social service.

- 233.** A Presidential Ordinance can remain in force
 (A) For Three months (B) For six months
 (C) For nine months (D) Indefinitely

Ans: (B)

Exp: Ordinances are laws that are promulgated by the President of India (Indian Parliament) on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet, which will have the same effect as an Act of Parliament. They can only be issued when Parliament is not in session.

- 234.** The speaker of the Lok-Sabha has to address his/her letter of resignation to.
 (A) Prime Minister of India
 (B) President of India
 (C) Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha
 (D) Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Ans: (C)

Exp: The Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha is the vice-presiding officer of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament of India. S/He acts as the presiding officer in case of leave or absence caused by death or illness of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. It is by convention that position of Deputy Speaker is offered to opposition party in India. He decides whether a bill is a money bill or a non-money bill. S/He maintains discipline and decorum in the house and can punish a member for unruly behaviour by suspending him/her.

- 235.** Supreme Court of India was established on the recommendation of-
 (A) Pits India Act of 1784
 (B) Regulating act of 1773
 (C) Charter act of 1793
 (D) Charter act of 1813

Ans: (B)

Exp: The Regulating Act of 1773 recognized the political functions of the company, as it first emphasized the order of Parliament as a government. This was the British government's first attempt to centralize the administrative system in India.

The four main salient features or provisions of the Regulating Act of 1773 are as follows:

- The Act nominated the Governor General of Bengal and formed an executive council of 4 members to assist him. And thus, Lord Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of Bengal.

- The act prohibited the servants or workers of the East India Company from engaging in any kind of private trade or offering bribes to the natives.

- It was under this Act, that a Supreme Court at Fort William was established with British judges using the British legal system.

- The Act limited the company's dividend to 6 percent until it repaid a loan of £ 1.5 million and limited the Court of Directors to a 4-year term.

236. In India, monetary policy of the Reserve Bank of India is aimed?

- (A) Increase the pace of economic growth
- (B) Managing the quantity of money
- (C) Update stock markets
- (D) Both A & B

Ans: (D)

Exp: Monetary policy also known as the credit policy, is the policy which is purely managed by our Central bank of India (Reserve Bank of India) to control the money supply in the economy & amount of credit in the economy. Monetary policy is governed by RBI.

237. What do you understand by Open market operations?

- (A) Sale of government securities
- (B) Purchase of government securities
- (C) These securities carry our by commercial banks
- (D) All of above

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. When the RBI wants to increase the money supply in the economy, it purchases the government securities from the market and it sells government securities to suck out liquidity from the system. RBI carries out the OMO through commercial banks and does not directly deal with the public. OMO is one of the tools that RBI uses to smoothen the liquidity conditions through the year and minimize its impact on the interest rate and inflation rate levels.





- 238.** What do you understand from the Microeconomics?
(A) Effect Decisions
(B) Effect many factors
(C) Effect single factors
(D) None

Ans: (C)

Exp: Microeconomics is the study of individuals, households and firms' behavior in decision making and allocation of resources. It generally applies to markets of goods and services and deals with individual and economic issues. In other words, Microeconomic study deals with what choices people make, what factors influence their choices and how their decisions affect the goods markets by affecting the price, the supply and demand.

- 239.** Service tax is categorized under?
(A) Indirect Tax **(B)** Direct Tax
(C) Both of them **(D)** None

Ans: (A)

Exp: Service tax is a tax levied by the government on service providers on certain service transactions, but is actually borne by the customers. It is categorized under Indirect Tax and came into existence under the Finance Act, 1994.

- 240.** The Finance Commission was established in 1951 by the President of India, who was the first Chairman.
(A) Y. B Chavan **(B)** K.C. Pant
(C) K. C. Neogy **(D)** A.M Khusro

Ans: (C)

Exp: The First Finance Commission of India was appointed in 1951, for the period 1952-57 by the President of India and was chaired by K. C. Neogy.

- 241.** How many types of goods in Indian economy?
(A) Veblen **(B)** Giffen
(C) Normal **(D)** All of above

Ans: (D)

Exp: A giffen goods is an Inferior goods (a goods that people buy more of when their income goes down) with the unique characteristic that an increase in price actually increases the quantity of the good that is demanded.

A Veblen goods is when demand rises as price rises. People think more expensive goods are better quality, and so people buy more.

Normal goods are the quantity demanded of such commodities increases when the consumer's income increases and Decreases when the consumer's income decreases. Such goods are called normal goods.

- 242.** What are method to measure National Income?
(A) Product **(B)** Production
(C) Manufacturing **(D)** All

Ans: (A)

Exp: There are three type of method to measure National Income. In Product Method we add the values of output produced or services rendered by the different sectors of the economy during the year in order to calculate the National Income. In, income Method we add all the incomes from employment and ownership of assets before taxation received from all the production activities in an economy.

In Expenditure Method measures the total domestic expenditure of the economy. It consists of two elements, Consumption expenditure and Investment expenditure.

- 243.** What are the different constituents of GDP?
(A) Wages and salaries **(B)** Rent
(C) Interest **(D)** All

Ans: (D)

Exp: The total value of goods produced and services rendered within a country during a year is its Gross Domestic Product.

Further, GDP is calculated at market price and is defined as GDP at market prices. Different constituents of GDP are: Wages and salaries
Rent

Interest
Undistributed profits
Mixed-income
Direct taxes
Dividend
Depreciation

- 244.** The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India or the CAG is an authority, established by which article of the Constitution of India?
(A) Article 148 **(B)** Article 149





(C) Article 147

(D) Article 148 (A)

Ans: (A)

Exp: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India or the CAG is an authority, established by Article 148 of the Constitution of India, which audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government. All the Union and State government departments are subject to the audit of the CAG, including commercial and non-commercial government institutions, autonomous bodies financed from Union or State revenues and companies where equity participation by the government is in excess of 51%. These audits are reviewed by the Public Accounts Committees of the Parliament of India and State legislative bodies. The CAG also controls the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

245. If there is a lack of money supply in comparison to the supply of goods and services, then what would be the possible consequence?

(A) Hyperinflation
(C) Deflation(B) Inflation
(D) Devaluation**Ans:** (C)

Exp: Deflation is the decline in the prices for goods and services that occur when the rate of inflation falls below 0%. It will take place naturally, if and when the money supply of an economy is limited. It indicates deteriorating conditions. It is normally linked with significant unemployment and low productivity levels of goods and services.

246. Which of the following economic activities employs the maximum number of people in India?

(A) Tourism
(C) Mining(B) Agriculture
(D) Manufacturing**Ans:** (B)

Exp: More than half of the workers in the country are working in the primary sector, mainly in agriculture, producing only a quarter of the GDP. In contrast to this, the secondary and tertiary sectors produce three-fourth of the product whereas they employ less than half the people.

247. A sustained rise in the general price level in an economy is known as?

(A) Disinflation

(B) Deflation

(C) Inflation

(D) Stagflation

Ans: (C)

Exp: Inflation is a quantitative measure of the rate at which the average price level of a basket of selected goods and services in an economy increases over a period of time. It is the constant rise in the general level of prices where a unit of currency buys less than it did in prior periods. Often expressed as a percentage, inflation indicates a decrease in the purchasing power of a nation's currency.

248. The Banking Regulation Act was passed in India in which year?

(A) 1965
(C) 1949(B) 1974
(D) 1951**Ans:** (C)

Exp: The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 is a legislation in India that regulates all banking firms in India. Passed as the Banking Companies Act 1949, it came into force from 16 March 1949 and changed to Banking Regulation Act 1949 from 1 March 1966.

249. When a government's total expenditures exceed the revenue that it generates, excluding money from borrowings the situation is known as?

(A) Current Account Deficit
(B) Fiscal Deficit
(C) Budgetary Deficit
(D) Revenue Deficit**Ans:** (B)

Exp: A fiscal deficit is a shortfall in a government's income compared with its spending. A fiscal deficit is calculated as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), or simply as total dollars spent in excess of income. In either case, the income figure includes only taxes and other revenues and excludes money borrowed to make up the shortfall.

250. A risk arising on chances of a government failing to make debt repayments or not honouring a loan agreement is known as what kind of risk?

(A) Investment Risk
(C) Sovereign Risk(B) Market Risk
(D) Inflation Risk**Ans:** (C)

Exp: 'Sovereign risk' refers to the risk that a government may default on its debt obligations. In general, when governments have bonds that are





due to mature, they don't have sufficient tax receipts on hand to repay all the debt, so they re-enter the market to raise further money via a bond issuance.

- 251.** What does the Lorenz Curve indicate?
(A) Relationship between the price of a certain commodity and its demand
(B) Income distribution
(C) Rate of employment
(D) Taxable income elasticity

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Lorenz curve is a graphical representation of the distribution of income or of wealth. It was developed by Max O. It is often used to represent income distribution, where it shows for the bottom x% of households, what percentage (y%) of the total income they have.

- 252.** A situation where the expenditure of the government exceeds its revenue is known as?
(A) Default Financing **(B)** Deficit Revenue
(C) Budget Deficit **(D)** Fiscal Deficit

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: A budget deficit is when spending exceeds income. The term applies to governments, although individuals, companies, and other organizations can run deficits.

- 253.** An economic condition when there is one buyer and many sellers is known as?
(A) Monopoly
(B) Oligopoly
(C) Monopsony
(D) Perfect Competition

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: A monopsony is a market condition in which there is only one buyer, the monopsonist. Like a monopoly, a monopsony also has imperfect market conditions. The difference between a monopoly and monopsony is primarily in the difference between the controlling entities. A single buyer dominates a monopsonized market while an individual seller controls a monopolized market. Monopsonists are common to areas where they supply most or all of the region's jobs.

- 254.** What do we understand by 'Intermediate Goods'?
(A) Fixed assets used by manufacturers
(B) Goods Price Without GST

- (C)** Goods in transit before reaching the consumers
(D) Goods sold between industries for the resale or production of other goods

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Intermediate goods are items that we use to create another product. In other words, they are inputs in other products or the ingredients of finished goods. Suppliers of intermediate goods sell them to, for example, manufacturers for the inclusion in their final products.

- 255.** A tax is levy placed on a firm's profit by the government, what type of tax is this?
(A) VAT **(B)** Service
(C) Corporate tax **(D)** Company tax

Ans: **(C)**

Exp: A corporate tax is a levy placed on a firm's profit by the government. The money collected from corporate taxes is used for a nation's source of income. A firm's operating earnings are calculated by deducting expenses including the cost of goods sold (COGS) and depreciation from revenues. Then, tax rates are applied to generate a legal obligation the business owes the government.

- 256.** An individual, investor or business misses out on when choosing one alternative over another this situation is known as?
(A) Opportunity Cost **(B)** Individual Cost
(C) Maximum Cost **(D)** None

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: Opportunity costs represent the benefits an individual, investor or business misses out on when choosing one alternative over another. While financial reports do not show opportunity cost, business owners can use it to make educated decisions when they have multiple options before them. Bottlenecks are often a cause of opportunity costs.

- 257.** The possibility of an investor experiencing losses due to factors that affect the overall performance of the financial markets in which he or she is involved, what type of risk is this?
(A) Commodity risk **(B)** Market Risk
(C) Operational **(D)** None

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Market risk is the risk that the value of an investment will decrease due to changes in market factors. These factors will have an impact on the





overall performance on the financial markets and can only be reduced by diversification into assets that are not correlated with the market – such as certain alternative asset classes. Market risk is sometimes called “systematic risk” because it relates to factors, such as a recession, that impact the entire market.

- 258.** The interest rate charged by banks on short-term loans to their largest, most secure and most creditworthy customers are known as?
- Variable Rate
 - Prime Lending Rate
 - Discount Rate
 - Amortised Rate

Ans: (B)

Exp: A prime rate or prime lending rate is an interest rate used by banks, usually the interest rate at which banks lend to customers with good credit. Some variable interest rates may be expressed as a percentage above or below prime rate.

- 259.** Which theory is used to make long-run predictions about exchange rates in a flexible exchange rate system?
- Balance of Payment Theory
 - Interest Rate Approach
 - Portfolio Balance Approach
 - Purchasing Power Parity Theory

Ans: (D)

Exp: Purchasing power parity (PPP) is an economic theory that allows the comparison of the purchasing power of various world currencies to one another. It is a theoretical exchange rate that allows you to buy the same amount of goods and services in every country. The purchasing power parity calculation tells you how much things would cost if all countries used the U.S. dollar.

- 260.** The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana ensures old age protection for unorganized workers whose monthly income is less than or equal to?
- ₹ 10,000
 - ₹ 12,000
 - ₹ 15,000
 - ₹ 20,000

Ans: (C)

Exp: Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan for unorganized sector workers in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This mega pension scheme ensures old age protection for unorganized Workers, whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less.

- 261.** which of the following is not a scalar quantity?
- Mass
 - Force
 - Temperature
 - Volume

Ans: (B)

Exp: The quantity is either a vector or a scalar. These two categories can be distinguished from one another by their distinct definitions: Scalars are quantities that are fully described by a magnitude (or numerical value) alone. Vectors are quantities that are fully described by both a magnitude and a direction.

Examples of scalar quantities include time, volume, speed, mass, temperature, distance, energy, work. Example of vector quantities include acceleration, velocity, momentum, force.

- 262.** Which of the following examples are not true about Newton's Third Law?
- Rock climbers pulling their vertical rope downwards so as to push themselves upwards.
 - A swimmer pushes against the water, while the water pushes back on the swimmer.
 - The flight of the bird
 - Riding a bicycle

Ans: (D)

Exp: Examples of Newton's Third Law:

1. A propulsion of fish through water is an example of action-reaction pair. A fish makes use of its fins to push water backwards. This push serves to accelerate the fish forwards. The size of the force on the water equals the size of the force on the fish; the direction of the force on the water (backwards) is opposite the direction of the force on the fish (forwards).
2. The flight of the bird is an example of action-reaction pair. The wings of the bird push the air downwards. The air pushes the air upwards.
3. A swimmer pushes against the water, while the water pushes back on the swimmer.
4. Lift is created by helicopters by pushing the air down, thereby creating an upward reaction force.
5. Rock climbers pulling their vertical rope downwards so as to push themselves upwards.

- 263.** Which of the following units is NOT used for measuring length?
- Astronomical Unit
 - Light year
 - Parsec
 - slug

Ans: (D)





Exp: A slug is defined as the mass that is accelerated by 1 ft/s² when a force of one pound (lbf) is exerted on it.

Astronomical units are usually used to measure distances within our Solar System.

The light-year is a unit of length used to express astronomical distances and measures about 9.46 trillion kilometres or 5.88 trillion miles.

Parsec is a unit of length used to measure the large distances to astronomical objects outside the Solar System. One parsec is approximately equal to 31 trillion kilometres, equates to about 3.3 light-years.

264. 1 nautical mile is equivalent to which of the following?
 (A) 1.44×1000 m (B) 1.852×100 m
 (C) 1.852×1000 m (D) 1.44×100 m

Ans: (C)

Exp: Today the international nautical mile is defined as exactly 1852 metres (about 1.15 miles).

265. Knots is a unit of _____?
 (A) Speed (B) Distance
 (C) Depth (D) Acceleration

Ans: (A)

Exp: The knot is a unit of speed equal to one nautical mile per hour (1.852 km/h). The ISO standard symbol for the knot is kn. The knot is a non-SI unit. The knot is used in meteorology, and in maritime and air navigation. A vessel travelling at 1 knot along a meridian travel approximately one minute of geographic latitude in one hour.

266. Charles's law is based on
 (A) Solid (B) Liquid
 (C) Gas (D) None of the above

Ans: (C)

Exp: The physical principle known as Charles' law states that the volume of a gas equals a constant value multiplied by its temperature as measured on the Kelvin scale (zero Kelvin corresponds to - 273.15 degrees Celsius).

267. Which of the following is part of the Classical Physics?
 (A) Optics (B) Thermodynamic
 (C) Both A and B (D) None of these

Ans: (C)

Exp: In classical physics, energy and matter are considered separate entities. Acoustics, optics,

classical mechanics, and electromagnetics are traditionally branches within classical physics.

Optics is the branch of physics that studies the behaviour and properties of light, including its interactions with matter and the construction of instruments that use or detect it. Optics usually describes the behaviour of visible, ultraviolet, and infrared light.

Thermodynamics is a branch of physics that deals with heat, work, and temperature, and their relation to energy, radiation, and properties of matter.

268. The Atomic clock is based on the periodic vibrations produced in the atom of which element?
 (A) Hydrogen (B) Rubidium
 (C) Cesium (D) Barium
 (C)

Ans: (C)
Exp: The Atomic clock is based on the periodic vibrations produced in cesium atom. The atomic clock is also called as Cesium clock. Caesium is a chemical element with the symbol Cs and atomic number 55. It is liquid at or near room temperature. Caesium has physical and chemical properties similar to those of rubidium and potassium. It is the least electronegative element, with a value of 0.79 on the Pauling scale.

269. An atom with more neutrons than protons is called?
 (A) Compound (B) Element
 (C) Isotope (D) None of the above
 (C)

Ans: (C)
Exp: Isotopes are atoms of the same element that have different numbers of neutrons but the same number of protons and electrons. example, carbon-12, carbon-13, and carbon-14 are three isotopes of the element carbon with mass numbers 12, 13, and 14, respectively.

270. When all the forces and torques are balanced in a mechanical body it is said to be in.
 (A) Equilibrium (B) Static
 (C) Buoyancy (D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: A torque is a vector quantity which means that it has both a magnitude (size) and a direction associated with it. If the size and direction of the torques acting on an object are exactly balanced, then there is no net torque acting on the object and the object is said to be in equilibrium.





- 271.** The tidal waves on sea is mainly due to.
(A) Gravitational Effect of Moon on Earth.
(B) Gravitational Effect of Sun on Earth
(C) Gravitational Effect of Earth on Moon
(D) None of the above

Ans: (A)

Exp: The rise & fall of sea water due to gravity is termed as tide. It is combined effect of gravitational forces of moon and sun. As moon is closer to Earth than Sun its gravitational pull is more as compared to that of Sun.

- 272.** Which of the following are Polar vectors?
(A) Displacement **(B)** Force
(C) Both A and B **(D)** None

Ans: (C)

Exp: Polar vectors describe translation motion and have starting point. The direction of polar vector remains unchanged irrespective of the coordinate system chosen. Displacement, force, etc are polar vectors

- 273.** A ball pen function on the principle of
(A) Viscosity
(B) Capillarity
(C) Gravity
(D) Atmospheric pressure

Ans: (B)

Exp: The ball pen works on the principle of capillary action and surface tension. Pen is fitted with a tiny ball bearing in its tip. Explanation: Capillary action means that an ink is pulled due to the thin length of the capillary as a part of fluid moves out. When we move the pen on a piece of paper.

- 274.** Work done is defined as the dot product of which of the following vectors?
(A) Force and instantaneous velocity
(B) Force and displacement
(C) Force and acceleration
(D) Force and area

Ans: (B)

Exp: Work done is defined as the dot product of Force vector and displacement vector. $W = F \cdot S$ Work done is a scalar quantity. Note: Instantaneous power is defined as the dot product of Force vector and instantaneous velocity.

- 275.** Which of the following is not an example of conservation of mechanical energy?
(A) Vibrations of a simple pendulum

- (B)** Motion of a small spherical ball over a watch glass
(C) Vibrations of an elastic spring
(D) None of the above

Ans: (D)

Exp: According to the principle of conservation of mechanical energy, the mechanical energy of an isolated system remains constant in time, as long as the system is free of friction and other non-conservative forces. In any real situation, frictional forces and other non-conservative forces are present, but in many cases their effects on the system are so small that the principle of conservation of mechanical energy can be used as a fair approximation. Though energy cannot be created or destroyed in an isolated system, it can be converted to another form of energy.

- 276.** The acceleration due to gravity on any planet does not depend on which of the following?
(A) Radius of the planet
(B) Mass of the planet
(C) Density of the planet
(D) Mass of the object

Ans: (D)

Exp: The acceleration which is gained by an object because of gravitational force is called its acceleration due to gravity. Its SI unit is m/s². Acceleration due to gravity is a vector, which means it has both a magnitude and a direction. The acceleration due to gravity at the surface of Earth is represented by the letter g. It has a standard value defined as 9.80665 m/s² (32.1740 ft/s²). However, the actual acceleration of a body in free fall varies with location.

- 277.** The three famous law of Kepler is related to
(A) Optics
(B) Speed
(C) Oscillations
(D) Planetary Motion

Ans: (D)

Exp: In astronomy, Kepler's laws of planetary motion are three scientific laws describing the motion of planets around the Sun, published by Johannes Kepler between 1609 and 1619. These improved the heliocentric theory of Nicolaus Copernicus, replacing its circular orbits and epicycles with elliptical trajectories, and explaining how planetary velocities vary.





light strikes a metal or a cathode surface. For emissions of electrons frequency of incident light is required to be greater than a minimum value called Threshold Frequency. Thus, show particle nature of light.

The photoelectric effect is the emission of electrons or other free carriers when electromagnetic radiation, like light, hits a material. Electrons emitted in this manner can be called photoelectrons. This phenomenon is commonly studied in electronic physics and in fields of chemistry such as quantum chemistry and electrochemistry.

- 284.** The laws which govern the motion of planets are called?

(A) Newton's Laws (B) Kepler's Laws
(C) Avogadro's Laws (D) De Morgan's Laws

Ans: (B)

Exp: Kepler's laws of planetary motion are three scientific laws describing the motion of planets around the Sun, published by Johannes Kepler between 1609 and 1619. These improved the heliocentric theory of Nicolaus Copernicus, replacing its circular orbits and epicycles with elliptical trajectories, and explaining how planetary velocities vary. The laws state that:

- 285.** The temperature at which a solid melt to become a liquid at the atmospheric pressure is called its _____.

(A) Crystallization (B) Melting point
(C) Evaporation (D) Galvanization

Ans: (B)

Exp: Pure, crystalline solids have a characteristic melting point, the temperature at which the solid melts to become a liquid. The transition between the solid and the liquid is so sharp for small samples of a pure substance that melting points can be measured to 0.1°C.

- 286.** Age of fossil may be found out by determining the ratio of two isotopes of carbon. The isotopes are.

(A) C-12 and C-13 (B) C-13 and C-14
(C) C-12 and C-14 (D) C-12 and carbon black

Ans: (C)

Exp: A fossil is any preserved remains, impression, or trace of any once-living thing from a past geological age. Examples include bones, shells, exoskeletons, stone imprints of animals or

microbes, objects preserved in amber, hair, petrified wood, oil, coal, and DNA remnants. The totality of fossils is known as the fossil record.

Paleontology is the study of fossils: their age, method of formation, and evolutionary significance.

Carbon-12 and carbon-14 are two isotopes of the element carbon. The difference between carbon-12 and carbon-14 is the number of neutrons in each of their atoms. Atoms of both isotopes of carbon contain 6 protons. Atoms of carbon-12 have 6 neutrons, while atoms of carbon-14 contain 8 neutrons.

- 287.** Which one among the following nontoxic gases helps in formation of enzymes which ripen fruit?

(A) Acetylene (B) Ethane
(C) Methane (D) Carbon dioxide

Ans: (A)

Exp: An asphyxiant gas is a nontoxic or minimally toxic gas which reduces or displaces the normal oxygen concentration in breathing air. Breathing of oxygen-depleted air can lead to death by asphyxiation (suffocation). Because asphyxiant gases are relatively inert and odorless, their presence in high concentration may not be noticed, except in the case of carbon dioxide (hypercapnia).

Toxic gases, by contrast, cause death by other mechanisms, such as competing with oxygen on the cellular level (e.g. carbon monoxide) or directly damaging the respiratory system (e.g. phosgene). Far smaller quantities of these are deadly.

Ethylene boost production of various enzymes which helps in development and growth of fruit. These include hydrolases to help break down chemicals inside the fruits, amylase to accelerate hydrolysis of starch into sugar, pectinase to catalyze digestion of pectin (the glue between cells), and so on.

- 288.** Vermicompost is an/a

(A) Inorganic fertilizer
(B) Toxic substance
(C) Organic bio fertilizer
(D) Synthetic fertilizer

Ans: (C)

Exp: Vermicompost (vermi-compost, vermiculture) is the product of the decomposition process using





various species of worms, usually red wiggler, white worms, and other earthworms, to create a mixture of decomposing vegetable or food waste, bedding materials, and vermicast.

Vermicast (also called worm castings, worm humus, worm manure, or worm faeces) is the end-product of the breakdown of organic matter by earthworms. These castings have been shown to contain reduced levels of contaminants and a higher saturation of nutrients than the organic materials before vermicomposting.

Organic fertilizers are fertilizers derived from animal matter, animal excreta (manure), human excreta, and vegetable matter (e.g. compost and crop residues). Naturally occurring organic fertilizers include animal wastes from meat processing, peat, manure, slurry, and guano.

In contrast, the majority of fertilizers used in commercial farming are extracted from minerals (e.g., phosphate rock) or produced industrially (e.g., ammonia).

- 289.** When you pull out the plug connected to an electrical appliance, you often observe a spark. To which property of the appliance is this related?
(A) Resistance **(B)** Inductance
(C) Capacitance **(D)** Wattage

Ans: (C)

Exp: Capacitance is the ratio of the change in electric charge of a system, to the corresponding change in its electric potential. There are two closely related notions of capacitance: self capacitance and mutual capacitance. Any object that can be electrically charged exhibits self capacitance. A material with a large self capacitance holds more electric charge at a given voltage than one with low capacitance. The notion of mutual capacitance is particularly important for understanding the operations of the capacitor, one of the three elementary linear electronic components (along with resistors and inductors).

The capacitance is a function only of the geometry of the design (e.g. area of the plates and the distance between them) and the permittivity of the dielectric material between the plates of the capacitor. The SI unit of capacitance is the farad, named after the English physicist Michael Faraday.

- 290.** The focal length of a convex lens is-
(A) The same for all colors

- (B)** Shorter for blue light than for red
(C) Shorter for red light than for blue
(D) Maximum for yellow light

Ans: (B)

Exp: The focal length of an optical system is a measure of how strongly the system converges or diverges light; it is the inverse of the system's optical power. A positive focal length indicates that a system converges light, while a negative focal length indicates that the system diverges light. A system with a shorter focal length bends the rays more sharply, bringing them to a focus in a shorter distance or diverging them more quickly.

A convex lens is a converging lens. When parallel rays of light pass through a convex lens the refracted rays converge at one point called the principal focus. The distance between the principal focus and the center of the lens is called the focal length.

Focal length (shown in red) is the distance between the center of a convex lens or a concave mirror and the focal point of the lens or mirror the point where parallel rays of light meet, or converge.

- 291.** The macro nutrients provided by inorganic fertilizer are-
(A) Carbon, iron and boron
(B) Magnesium, manganese and Sulphur
(C) Magnesium, zinc and iron
(D) Nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium

Ans:

Exp: Inorganic fertilizer, also known as mineral or commercial fertilizer, is fertilizer mined from mineral deposits or manufactured from synthetic compounds. Both organic fertilizer (composed of natural ingredients of plant or animal origin) and inorganic fertilizer provide nutrients to assist with plant growth and improve plant yield.

Magnesium is a mineral found in the earth, sea, plants, animals and humAn**s:** About 60% of the magnesium in your body is found in bone, while the rest is in muscles, soft tissues and fluids, including blood. In fact, every cell in your body contains it and needs it to function.

Manganese is a mineral that is found in several foods including nuts, legumes, seeds, tea, whole grains, and leafy green vegetables. It is considered an essential nutrient, because the body requires it to function properly. People use manganese as





medicine. Manganese is taken by mouth for manganese deficiency.

Sulfur (in British English, sulphur) is a chemical element with the symbol S and atomic number 16. It is abundant, multivalent, and nonmetallic. Under normal conditions, sulphur atoms form cyclic octatomic molecules with a chemical formula S₈. Elemental sulfur is a bright yellow, crystalline solid at room temperature.

- 292.** Which one among the following statement about an atom is not correct?
- (A) Atoms always combine to form molecules.
 (B) Atoms are the basic units from which molecules and ions are formed.
 (C) Atoms are always neutral in nature.
 (D) Atoms aggregate in large numbers to form the matter that we can see, feel and touch.

Ans: (D)

Exp: An atom is the smallest constituent unit of ordinary matter that constitutes a chemical element. Every solid, liquid, gas, and plasma is composed of neutral or ionized atoms. Atoms are extremely small; typical sizes are around 100 picometers (1×10^{-10} m, a ten-millionth of a millimeter, or 1/254,000,000 of an inch).

Atoms are the basic units from which molecules and ions are formed. A molecule is comprised of two or more chemically bonded atoms. The atoms may be of the same type of element, or they may be different. Atoms can readily gain or lose electrons. If electrons are lost or gained by a neutral atom, a charged particle is formed called as an ion.

- 293.** Which one of the following reactions is the main cause of the energy radiation from the Sun?

(A) Fusion reaction (B) Fission reaction
 (C) Chemical reaction (D) Diffusion reaction

Ans: (A)

Exp: Fusion reaction is the main cause of the energy radiation from the sun. Fusion powers stars and produces virtually all elements in a process called nucleosynthesis. The Sun is a main-sequence star, and, as such, generates its energy by nuclear fusion of hydrogen nuclei into helium.

In nuclear physics, nuclear fusion is a reaction in which two or more atomic nuclei are combined to form one or more different atomic nuclei and

subatomic particles (neutrons or protons). The difference in mass between the reactants and products is manifested as either the release or absorption of energy.

- 294.** The law enforcement agencies use a chemical test to approximate a person's blood alcohol level. The person underpinning the test blows into the mouthpiece of a bag containing sodium dichromate solution in acidic medium. A chemical reaction with ethanol changes the colour of the solution from.

(A) Orange to green
 (B) Orange to colourless
 (C) Yellow to orange
 (D) Colourless to orange

Ans: (A)

Exp: On reaction with ethanol the colour of the solution changes from, orange to green.

- 295.** Contact lenses are made from

(A) Polyvinyl chloride (B) Polystyrene
 (C) Lucite (D) Teflon

Ans: (C)

Exp: Lucite, also called Plexiglas, British Perspex, trademark name of polymethyl methacrylate, a synthetic organic compound of high molecular weight made by combination of many simple molecules of the ester methyl methacrylate (monomer) into long chains (polymer); this process (polymerization) may be effected by light or heat, although chemical catalysts are usually employed in manufacture of the commercial product. The material has high dimensional stability and good resistance to weathering and to shock; it is colourless and highly transparent, but can be tinted or rendered opaque by the addition of other substances. It is usually fabricated by molding into solid articles or casting into sheets.

- 296.** Which one of the following is not needed in a nuclear fission reactor?

(A) Moderator (B) Coolant
 (C) Accelerator (D) Control device

Ans: (C)

Exp: A nuclear reactor, formerly known as an atomic pile, is a device used to initiate and control a self-sustained nuclear chain reaction. Nuclear reactors are used at nuclear power plants for electricity generation and in nuclear marine propulsion. Heat from nuclear fission is passed to a working fluid





(water or gas), which in turn runs through steam turbines. These either drive a ship's propellers or turn electrical generators' shafts. Nuclear generated steam in principle can be used for industrial process heat or for district heating.

- 297.** When items or jewellery made of metals such as copper or nickel are placed in a solution having a salt of gold, a thin film of gold is deposited by.
(A) Cooling to below 0°C
(B) Heating above 100°C
(C) Passing an electric current
(D) Just keeping it for 10 min

Ans: (C)

Exp: The process of depositing a thin layer of one metal over the surface of other metal by the process of electrolysis is known as electroplating. Hence, when items or jewellery made of metals such as copper or nickel are placed in a solution having a salt of gold, a thin film of gold is deposited by passing an electric current.

- 298.** Heavy water implies-
(A) water which is used in heavy industries such as thermal power plants.
(B) Water which contains SO_4^{2-} and Cl^- of calcium and magnesium.
(C) deuterated water.
(D) Water which has maximum density.

Ans: (C)

Exp: Heavy water is a form of water that contains a larger than normal amount of the hydrogen isotope deuterium (2 H or D, also known as heavy hydrogen), rather than the common hydrogen-1 isotope (1 H or H, also called protium) that makes up most of the hydrogen in normal water. The presence of deuterium gives the water different nuclear properties, and the increase of mass gives it slightly different physical and chemical properties when compared to normal water. Deuterium is a hydrogen isotope with a nucleus containing a neutron and a proton; the nucleus of a protium (normal hydrogen) atom consists of just a proton. The additional neutron makes a deuterium atom roughly twice as heavy as a protium atom.

- 299.** Renewable energy can be obtained from.
(A) Fossils
(B) Radioactive elements

- (C)** Biomass
(D) Natural gas

Ans: (C)

Exp: Renewable energy is energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. Renewable energy often provides energy in four important areas: electricity generation, air and water heating/cooling, transportation, and rural (off-grid) energy services.

Biomass is plant or animal material used for energy production (electricity or heat), or in various industrial processes as raw substance for a range of products. It can be purposely grown energy crops (e.g. miscanthus, switchgrass), wood or forest residues, waste from food crops (wheat straw, bagasse), horticulture (yard waste), food processing (corn cobs), animal farming (manure, rich in nitrogen and phosphorus), or human waste from sewage plants. Burning plant-derived biomass releases CO₂. However, it has still been classified as a renewable energy source in the EU and UN legal frameworks because of photosynthesis cycles the CO₂ back into new crops.

- 300.** Which one among the following is a sin smelling agent added to LPG cylinder to help the detection of gas leakage?

- (A)** Ethanol **(B)** Ethanethiol
(C) Methane **(D)** Chloroform

Ans:

Exp: Ethanethiol, commonly known as ethyl mercaptan and stench, is a clear liquid with a distinct odor. It is an organosulfur compound with the formula CH₃CH₂SH. Abbreviated EtSH, it consists of an ethyl group (Et), CH₃CH₂, attached to a thiol group, SH. Its structure parallels that of ethanol, but with sulfur in place of oxygen. The odor of EtSH is bad.

Ethanethiol is more volatile than ethanol due to a diminished ability to engage in hydrogen bonding. Ethanethiol is toxic. It occurs naturally as a minor component of petroleum, and may be added to otherwise odorless gaseous products such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to help warn of gas leaks. At these concentrations, ethanethiol is not harmful.

- 301.** A body is charged negatively. It implies that.





- (C) Mitochondrion (D) Ribosome

Ans: (C)

Exp: Eukaryotic cells contain mitochondria, which occupy up to 25 percent of the volume of the cytoplasm. These complex organelles are the main sites of ATP production during aerobic metabolism.

307. Which disease is caused due to deficiency of iron in human diet?

- (A) Goitre (B) Scurvy
(C) Anaemia (D) Rickets

Ans: (C)

Exp: Iron deficiency anemia is a common type of anemia — a condition in which blood lacks adequate healthy red blood cells. Red blood cells carry oxygen to the body's tissues. As the name implies, iron deficiency anemia is due to insufficient iron.

308. Collar bone is known as—

- (A) scapula (B) coracoid
(C) patella (D) clavicle

Ans: (D)

Exp: The clavicle, or collarbone, is a long bone that serves as a strut between the shoulder blade and the sternum (breastbone). There are two clavicles, one on the left and one on the right. The clavicle is the only long bone in the body that lies horizontally. Together with the shoulder blade, it makes up the shoulder girdle. It is a touchable bone, and in people who have less fat in this region, the location of the bone is clearly visible, as it creates a bulge in the skin.

309. Which of the following contains blood with the highest oxygen content?

- (A) Right atrium (B) Jugular vein
(C) Pulmonary artery (D) Left ventricle

Ans: (D)

Exp: The left ventricle is one of four chambers of the heart. It is located in the bottom left portion of the heart below the left atrium, separated by the mitral valve. As the heart contracts, blood eventually flows back into the left atrium, and then through the mitral valve, whereupon it next enters the left ventricle. From there, blood is pumped out through the aortic valve into the aortic arch and onward to the rest of the body. The left ventricle is the thickest of the heart's chambers and is responsible for pumping oxygenated blood to

tissues all over the body. By contrast, the right ventricle solely pumps blood to the lungs.

310. Cellular respiration is a set of metabolic reactions and processes that take place in the cells of organisms to convert chemical energy from oxygen molecules. The energy released during cellular respiration is stored in _____.

- (A) ATP (B) glucose
(C) lungs (D) ileum

Ans: (A)

Exp: Cellular respiration is a set of metabolic reactions and processes that take place in the cells of organisms to convert chemical energy from oxygen molecules or nutrients into adenosine triphosphate (ATP), and then release waste products. The reactions involved in respiration are catabolic reactions, which break large molecules into smaller ones, releasing energy because weak high-energy bonds, in particular in molecular oxygen, are replaced by stronger bonds in the products. Respiration is one of the key ways a cell releases chemical energy to fuel cellular activity.

311. Which of the following is true?

- (A) Heart purifies blood
(B) Heart separates excretory wastes from blood
(C) Heart circulates blood
(D) Heart supplies oxygen to blood

Ans: (C)

Exp: The heart acts as a pump. It is divided into a right and left portion. The right portion receives blood (which is impure) from the body and pumps the same to the lungs for purification (oxygenation). The impure blood enters the heart from two large veins called the superior and inferior vena cava. The blood from these veins enters the right upper chamber known as the Right Atrium. This chamber also receives impure blood from the heart veins through the coronary sinus. The right atrium pumps this blood into the Right Ventricle or the right lower chamber through the Tricuspid Valve.

- 312 BCG vaccination (Bacillus Calmette Guérin) is injected to get immunity from—

- (A) Polio (B) Cholera
(C) Small pox (D) Tuberculosis

Ans: (D)

Exp: Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine is a vaccine primarily used against tuberculosis (TB). In countries where tuberculosis or leprosy is





common, one dose is recommended in healthy babies as close to the time of birth as possible. In areas where tuberculosis is not common, only children at high risk are typically immunized, while suspected cases of tuberculosis are individually tested for and treated. Adults who do not have tuberculosis and have not been previously immunized but are frequently exposed may be immunized as well. BCG also has some effectiveness against Buruli ulcer infection and other nontuberculous mycobacteria infections. Additionally it is sometimes used as part of the treatment of bladder cancer.

313. _____ is associated with transport of water in plants.

(A) Xylem (B) Phloem
(C) Chloroplast (D) Aerenchyma

Ans: (A)

Exp: Xylem is one of the two types of transport tissue in vascular plants, phloem being the other. The basic function of xylem is to transport water from roots to stems and leaves, but it also transports nutrients. The word "xylem" is derived from the Greek word, meaning "wood"; the best-known xylem tissue is wood, though it is found throughout a plant. The term was introduced by Carl Nägeli in 1858.

Ans: (A)

Exp: Wool fibre is chiefly composed of the animal protein keratin. Protein substances are more vulnerable to chemical damage and unfavorable environmental conditions than the cellulose material forming the plant fibres.

- 315.** Which of these are water-soluble vitamins?
(A) A, B and C (B) A, C and D
(C) B and C (D) A, B, C and D

Ans: (C)

Exp: The water-soluble vitamins include ascorbic acid (vitamin C), thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B6 (pyridoxine, pyridoxal, and pyridoxamine), folacin, vitamin B12, biotin, and pantothenic acid.

- 316.** Which one of the following fungi is commonly known as ‘bread mould’?

(A) Aspergillus (B) Penicillium
(C) Synchytrium (D) Rhizopus

Ans: (D)

Exp: Rhizopus stolonifer is commonly known as black bread mold. It is a member of Zygomycota and considered the most important species in the genus Rhizopus. It is one of the most common fungi in the world and has a global distribution although it is most commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions. It is a common agent of decomposition of stored foods. Like other members of the genus Rhizopus, *R. stolonifer* grows rapidly mostly in indoor environments.

- 317.** Which of the following prevents bleeding of gums?
(A) Ascorbic acid (B) Vitamin B
(C) Nicotinic acid (D) Thiamine

Ans: (A)

Exp: Vitamin C, also known as ascorbic acid and ascorbate, is a vitamin found in various foods and sold as a dietary supplement. It is used to prevent and treat scurvy. Vitamin C is an essential nutrient involved in the repair of tissue and the enzymatic production of certain neurotransmitters. It is required for the functioning of several enzymes and is important for immune system function. It also functions as an antioxidant.

- 318.** Which of the following does act both as an exocrine gland and as an endocrine gland?

(A) Adrenal
(C) Testis

Ans: (B)

Exp: The liver and pancreas are both exocrine and endocrine glands; they are exocrine glands because they secrete products bile and pancreatic juice into the gastrointestinal tract through a series of ducts, and endocrine because they secrete other substances directly into the bloodstream.

- 319.** In which vertebrate, oxygenated and deoxygenated blood gets mixed?

Ans: (B)

Exp: The mixing of oxygenated and deoxygenated blood takes place in amphibians and most of the reptiles because their heart is generally 2 or 3 chambered and do not prevent the mixing of oxygenated and deoxygenated blood. Humans have a 4 chambered heart.





- 320.** The main difference between the living and nonliving is?
(A) in the growth
(B) in the size
(C) in the movement
(D) in the presence of protoplasm

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Protoplasm is the living part of a cell that is surrounded by a plasma membrane. In some definitions, it is a general term for the cytoplasm but for others, it also includes the nucleoplasm. For Sharp (1921), "According to the older usage the extra-nuclear portion of the protoplast was called protoplasm but the nucleus also is composed of protoplasm or living substance in its broader sense.

- 321.** Which of the following branches of science is concerned with the study of the relationship of plants to their environment?
(A) Cytology **(B)** Ecology
(C) Morphology **(D)** Physiology

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Ecology is a branch of biology concerning interactions among organisms and their biophysical environment, which includes both biotic and abiotic components. Topics of interest include the biodiversity, distribution, biomass, and populations of organisms, as well as cooperation and competition within and between species. Ecosystems are dynamically interacting systems of organisms, the communities they make up, and the non-living components of their environment.

- 322.** How many pairs of legs does the cockroach have?
(A) Three pairs of walking legs
(B) Two pairs of walking legs
(C) Four pairs of walking legs
(D) One pair of walking legs

Ans: **(A)**

Exp: It includes three pairs of legs cockroaches have six legs total and two pairs of wings. Additionally,

there is a plate behind the head called the pronotum. It is important because that is where many species have differentiating markings.

- 323.** A plant cell is distinguished from an animal cell by the presence of—
(A) Nucleus **(B)** cell wall
(C) Cell membrane **(D)** Mitochondria

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Lifeless, permeable and thick walls are found outside the cell membrane in bacterial and plant cells, it is called cell wall. In plant cell, it remains outside the cell membrane but in bacteria under slime layer. Some low-grade unicellular plants, germ cells and animal cells of plants do not have cell walls.

- 324.** The division of nucleus is called—
(A) Heterosis **(B)** Mitosis
(C) Meiosis **(D)** Karyokinesis

Ans: **(D)**

Exp: Mitosis is a process of nuclear division in eukaryotic cells that occurs when a parent cell divides to produce two identical daughter cells. During cell division, mitosis refers specifically to the separation of the duplicated genetic material carried in the nucleus.

- 325.** The type of relationship in which one organism benefits while another has no effect is known?
(A) Symbiosis **(B)** Commensalism
(C) Mutualism **(D)** Parasitism

Ans: **(B)**

Exp: Commensalism, in biology, a relationship between individuals of two species in which one species obtains food or other benefits from the other without either harming or benefiting the latter. The commensal—the species that benefits from the association—may obtain nutrients, shelter, support, or locomotion from the host species, which is unaffected. The commensal relation is often between a larger host and a smaller commensal.

"Leaders Think And Talk About The Solutions. Followers Think And Talk About The Problems."

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





Quick Bytes

- Union Ayush Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Lays Foundation Stone For Groundbreaking ‘Ayush Diksha’ Centre In Bhubaneswar
- Indian Army Launches Operation Sarvashakti To Eliminate Terrorists
- RBI Approves Praveen Achuthan Kutty As DCB Bank MD & CEO
- Sony Terminates \$10 Billion Merger Deal With Zee Entertainment
- Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya Claims Bronze At France’s Grand Prix
- SpaceX Launches Ax-3 Mission To ISS With First Turkish Astronaut Onboard
- Central Government Launches ‘Anuvadini’ App For Multilingual Education
- Cabo Verde Achieves Malaria-Free Certification By WHO
- Switzerland-India Free Trade Agreement Concluded After 16-Year Negotiation Saga
- YES BANK Achieves Milestone As First Indian Bank On RXIL’s ITFS Platform
- AIIB Invests \$58.4 Million In India’s Largest Renewable Energy InvIT
- PM Modi Launches Sunrise Scheme To Install Solar Panels In 10 Million Households
- BCCI Awards 2023, Shubman Gill & Ravi Shastri To Be Honoured
- Amit Shah Unveils ‘Assam’s Braveheart Lachit Barphukan’ Book In Delhi
- Kachchhi Kharek Gem From Kutch Receives GI Tag
- Carlos Sainz makes history at 61: wins fourth Dakar Rally Title.
- V Muraleedharan represent India at G-77 third summit in Uganda.
- India secures first vice chair position in FAO COFI Sub-Committee.
- Jharkhand inaugurated centralised Akshayapatra Kitchen for midday meals
- Hrithik Roshan: brand ambassador for RuPay prime volleyball league 3.
- PM Launches Khelo India Youth Games 2023 In Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- PM Initiates 8 AMRUT Projects Worth Rs. 2,000 Crores In Solapur, Maharashtra
- UNDP And EU Allocate \$420,000+ For Deforestation, Food Security, Climate Change To Papua New Guinea
- Himachal Pradesh Launches ‘My School-My Pride’ For Education Transformation
- India Launches “Alliance For Global Good-Gender Equity And Equality” At World Economic Forum
- Bengaluru, Delhi Airports Get Best Airport Award At Wings India
- Skyways Air Services Wins Best Cargo Services Award At Wings India Awards
- PepsiCo India Appoints Marketing Chief Jagrut Kotecha As New CEO
- National Farmers Society, IndiaAI, Wadhwanai Foundation Signs MoU For AI-Driven Agriculture
- “Conversations With Aurangzeb”: A Novel By Charu Nivedita
- Google Pay India inks MoU with NPCI to expand UPI.
- SCOPE Award 2024: SJVN, PFC, BHEL, NLC, REC, and RailTel won award.
- Adani’s Rs 62,400 Cr investment for Data Centres and Renewable Energy.
- Real Madrid’s dominant 4-1 victory over Barcelona in Spanish Super Cup
- Djokovic named Balkan athlete of the year for a record eighth time.
- NSE retains position as the world's largest exchange in 2023.
- Padmanabhaswamy to gift traditional Onavillu Bow to Ayodhya Ram Temple
- The Government of India includes Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages under the New Education Policy.
- Global Firepower Rankings 2024: India secured 4th strongest military.
- TCS ranked 2nd in world's most valuable IT services brands.
- MeitY Secretary Launches India’s First Graphene Centre And IoT CoE In Kerala
- Tallest Ambedkar Statue Unveiled In Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- ICICI Bank Canada Launches ‘Money2India (Canada)’ Mobile Banking App
- Indian Army, MeitY Collaborate For Enhanced Defense Technology
- Apple Surpasses Samsung As Top Smartphone Maker For The First Time Since 2010
- Adani Group Announces Rs 50,000 Crore Investment For 1 GW Data Centre In Maharashtra





- Assam Govt Unveils Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan
- Senior IPS Officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary Appointed Director General Of Sashastra Seema Bal
- Assam Govt To Honor Ex-CJI Ranjan Gogoi With 'Assam Baibhav' Award
- Gianni Infantino Honored With Sports Personality Award In Dubai
- Foxconn And HCL Group Forge Partnership For Chip Packaging Unit In India
- L&T Secures 'Mega Order' For Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Electrification Project
- TCS Ranked Second Most Valuable IT Brand In Global List
- Chhattisgarh Launches Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024
- Rohit Sharma Tops List Of Batters With Most Hundreds In T20
- Asian Shooting Championship 2024, Jakarta: Yogesh Bags Dual Gold, Lakshay Takes Bronze
- Indian Space Research Organisation's development, the second-generation 'Distress Alert Transmitter' (DAT-SG), is a remarkable advancement in satellite communication and navigation capabilities.
- IIT Madras and Altair Collaborate to Launch eMobility Simulation Lab
- Varanasi: first city in India to develop 3D urban spatial digital twin
- Maharashtra inks MoUs worth Rs 4 lakh crore at World Economic Forum.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar unveils 'Fertilising the Future': Bharat's Fertilizer
- KVIC launched 'Sanatan Khadi Vastra' for "Republic Day".
- Shantanu Jha assumed as chief staff officer at eastern naval command.
- MeitY Secretary, Shri S Krishnan, inaugurates "Centre of Excellence in Intelligent IoT Sensors" and "India Innovation Centre for Graphene" in Kochi
- Janhavi Hirudkar triumphs in U-16 National Cross Country Championship
- The Ministry of Home Affairs in India has revoked the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020, registration of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) in New Delhi, alleging violations.
- India To Host Year-Long 'Ramayan' Festival From Delhi
- Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty Assumes Role As Commandant, Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala
- LIC Overtakes SBI To Become The Most Valuable PSU
- The startup ecosystem in India witnessed a significant boost as Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu emerged as the best-performing states in the Startup Ranking for 2022.
- US Leads 2024 Military Rankings, India Fourth, Bhutan Ranks Lowest
- World Economic Forum And Telangana Government Collaborate To Establish C4IR In Hyderabad
- IndoSpace Signs Rs 2000 Cr Deal With Tamil Nadu Govt
- The Book "An Uncommon Love: The Early Life Of Sudha And Narayana Murthy" Released
- Praggnanandhaa Surpasses Viswanathan Anand To Become India's No.1 Chess Player
- INOX inks MoU with Maharashtra for \$3 Billion Green Ammonia Plant.
- Yes Bank partners with Veefin to launch SmartFin for digital supply.
- REC Limited received prestigious ICAI award for financial reporting.
- Malayalam Music director K J Joy passed away at 77.
- CDS Gen Anil Chauhan inaugurates CAPSTER - 09: Focus on AI in warfare.
- Oldest Olympian and Former Hockey Player, Ajit Singh Gill, dies at 95.
- PM Modi To Inaugurate NACIN Campus In Andhra Pradesh
- Reformist Arevalo Sworn In As Guatemala President
- Switzerland To Host Ukraine Peace Summit On Zelenskiy's Request
- Kerala Launches Operation AMRITH To Combat AMR
- In a historic move, the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) joined forces for the maiden bilateral exercise named 'Ex-Ayutthaya'
- Yes Bank Introduces Veefin's SmartFin For Digital Supply Chain Finance
- India Secures Lithium Blocks In Argentina To Address ₹24,000 Crore Import Dependency
- VICE ADMIRAL AN PRAMOD APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL NAVAL OPERATIONS
- US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner Of Miss America 2024





- Deepa Bhandare Makes History As First Female To Receive VSI Award
- ICC Players Of The Month For December 2023, Pat Cummins And Deepti Sharma
- Malayalam Music Director K J Joy Passes Away
- Sunil Dahiya as next director of Engineering Projects (India) Limited.
- NHAI implements 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative for seamless toll
- M.J. Akbar and Natwar Singh launch "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaign".
- Harith Noah creates history as the first Indian to secure a stage victory at the prestigious Dakar Rally.
- Sharmistha Mukherjee presents 'Pranab My Father' book to PM Modi.
- Indian Army launched Operation Sarvashakti in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Army signed agreement for cancer treatment to ECHS beneficiaries.
- Ajay Bhatt flags off indigenous Astra Missile for IAF delivery.
- 'Bhishm,' a 25T Bollard Pull Tug, launched in 'Make in India' triumph
- Central Government approves Ritu Goswami as Director (Technical) at Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) Limited.
- Manoj Kumar, CMD & Executive Director of Western Coalfields Limited (Vekoli), received the prestigious "IMMA Lifetime Achievement Award."
- Himalayan Wolf has been assessed for the first time on the IUCN Red List, categorizing it as "Vulnerable."
- J P Nadda, the President of BJP, inaugurates the Namo NavMatdatta registration portal in New Delhi.
- The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, under the theme 'Rebuilding Trust,' to be attended by Smriti Irani, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Hardeep Puri.
- Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu formally asks India to withdraw military personnel by March 15.
- Dr. V.K. Saraswat inaugurated the first National Highway Steel Slag Road section on NH-66 Mumbai-Goa.
- Shaun Marsh, the Australian cricketer, officially retires from professional cricket.
- Denmark's King Frederik X Ascends As Queen Margrethe II Steps Down After 52 Years
- Taiwan Elects Pro-Sovereignty William Lai In Historic Election, Further Straining China Ties
- Maharashtra's Pench Tiger Reserve Achieves Milestone As India's First Dark Sky Park
- Union Minister of State for Defence, Ajay Bhatt, marked a historic moment on January 14, by flagging off the indigenously developed Astra air-to-air missiles.
- India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, has recently approved a groundbreaking scheme aimed at providing insurance cover to casual workers employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to release ₹540 crore, the inaugural tranche of funding, for pucca homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) on January 15.
- A Book Named "Gandhi A Life In Three Campaigns" Launched By M.J. Akbar
- Madhya Pradesh Clinches Overall Championship In Inaugural Diu Beach Games 2024
- Classical Singer Prabha Atre Passes Away At 91
- Renowned Urdu Poet Munawwar Rana Passes Away At 71
- Denmark's crown Prince Frederik to become the New King
- Indra Mani Pandey assumed role of BIMSTEC Secretary General
- WHO launched medicine codes for Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani Systems
- Security agreement signed between Ukraine and Britain
- State of Emergency declared in Papua New Guinea
- South Korea passed bill prohibiting Dog meat consumption and sale
- SBI unveils green rupee term deposit to boost eco-friendly initiatives
- PM Modi and President Al Nahyan sealed deals with strategic MoUs
- Denmark announced alliance on green fuels in India
- Eros Investments unveiled plans for INR 16,000 Cr 'Immerso AI Park'
- Sheetal Devi, the world's first armless woman archer won Arjuna Award
- Shirshendu Mukhopadhyaya honored with Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2023
- Fresh Oil Discovery In Krishna-Godavari Basin By ONGC





- Maharashtra Government Declares New Atpadi Conservation Reserve In Sangli District
- Shanghai's NDB Commits \$500 Million Loan For Gujarat's Infrastructure Development
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a significant milestone with the successful flight test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile.
- In a significant step towards modernization and operational efficiency, the Indian Army has declared 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption."
- Joint Exercise 'Sahyog Kajin' Between Indian And Japanese Coast Guards
- NPCI Launches UPI-PayNow Linkage For Cross-Border Remittances Between India And Singapore
- Government Approves 1-Year Extension For RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra
- Tata Consumer Products Acquires 100% Stake In Capital Foods For ₹5,100 Crore
- 'Yuva Nidhi' Scheme Launched For Jobless Youth In Shivamogga, Karnataka
- NICMAR Hyderabad Achieves Platinum Certification Under IGBC Green Campus Rating
- Savita Kanswal Posthumously Honored With Tenzing Norgay Award
- Manish Jain's Appointment As Country Managing Director For Experian India
- IIT Madras To Establish New Campus In Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Security Agreement Signed Between Ukraine And Britain In Kyiv
- New Zealand's veteran pace bowler Tim Southee has created history by becoming the first bowler to take 150 wickets in T20 Internationals.
- Mitsubishi Heavy Launches H-IIA Rocket Carrying Japan's Spy Satellite
- Meghalaya's Byrnihat India's most polluted city In 2023
- Singapore's airport earns the title Of world's best airport in 2023.
- IMF approved \$700 million loan as part of Pakistan bailout.
- Rural Ministry partners with SBI for SHG loans.
- Upal Kundu takes charge as chief of staff, southern naval command
- Varanasi and Prayagraj, clinch top positions as the Cleanest Ganga Towns in the Swachh Survekshan 2023 Awards organized by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.
- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announces the inauguration of five new airports in Uttar Pradesh within a month, boosting the state's total to 19.
- Sarbananda Sonowal to lay the foundation stone of the permanent campus for the Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy and Integrated Ayush Wellness Centre at Azara, Guwahati
- IIT Delhi develops 'Work4Food,' ensuring government-mandated minimum wage compensations for delivery workers.
- Maheshwar Rao appointed as managing director of Bangalore Metro.
- Hyundai and IIT Madras to establish a 'Hydrogen Innovation Valley'.
- Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates Malkangiri Airport In Odisha
- Simmtech To Set Up Semiconductor Plant In Sanand, Gujarat
- Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023: Indore And Surat Share Cleanest City Title
- Rear Admiral Upal Kundu Takes Charge As Chief Of Staff, Southern Naval Command
- Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav Launched A Book Titled 'Modi: Energising A Green Future'
- Aman Sherawat Secures 57kg Gold In 2024 Zagreb Open Singles
- Rhythm Sangwan Clinches 16th Olympic Quota For 2024 Paris Games
- China Deploys 'Einstein Probe,' A Lotus-Shaped Satellite, To Monitor Cosmic Turbulence
- India to chair, host UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in 2024
- Global unemployment set to reach 5.2% in 2024: ILO reports
- SBI, DAY-NRLM to facilitate Enterprise Financing for rural SHG women
- PM to inaugurate 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra
- CNN-News18 Indian of The Year 2023: Shah Rukh Khan won the award.
- Begumpet airport in Hyderabad is gearing up for Wings India 2024, scheduled from January 18-21, 2024.
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) signed a four-year media rights agreement with Viacom18, spanning from 2023 to 2027.
- Experian, the credit bureau, has appointed Manish Jain as its new Managing Director for India.





- In the latest ICC Men's Test rankings, India's Virat Kohli climbed 3 spots to secure the 6th rank in batting.
- New Republic Day Pact Allows States One Tableau Every Three Years
- Chhattisgarh Launches "Ramlala Darshan" Scheme: Free Pilgrimage To Ayodhya Dham
- Maharashtra Creates New Safe Haven For Endangered Canids And Diverse Wildlife
- Indian Navy Gets First India-Made Long Endurance Drishti 10 Starliner Drone
- Street Vendors Get A Boost: PAiSA Dashboard & PM SVANidhi Portal Launched
- Maldives And China Sign 20 Agreements For Diverse Cooperation
- Scientists From Mauritius And Bangladesh Join India's 43rd Antarctic Expedition
- Senthil Pandian C Appointed As India's WTO Ambassador
- Tshering Tobgay Re-Elected As Bhutan's Prime Minister
- Divyakriti Singh Becomes 1st Indian Woman Arjuna Awardee For Equestrian Sports
- India surpassed Taiwan in MSCI EM Index, ranks second after China.
- U.P. govt to install solar rooftops on 25000 Varanasi households.
- Mamata Banerjee launched Gangasagar Mela at Outram Ghat.
- Obama, Mulaney, Burnett Triumph at 75th Creative Arts Emmy Awards.
- DRDO launched 'Ugram' - indigenous assault rifle for armed forces.
- Microsoft launched AI Odyssey to skill 100,000 developers in India.
- INS Kabra arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka, strengthening bilateral ties.
- Ujjain Unveils India's First Hygienic Food Street 'Prasadam'
- Gabriel Attal Becomes France's Youngest-Ever Prime Minister At 34
- U.S. Designates Countries Including China, North Korea, Pakistan For Religious Freedom Violations
- Indian Navy's P-8I Aircraft Reaches Guam For Exercise Sea Dragon 24
- IndusInd Bank Introduces 'Samman RuPay Credit Card' For Government Employees
- LIC Approves Acquisition Of 10% Stake In NHB-Promoted Company
- PFC Secures RBI Approval For IFSC Finance Company In GIFT City
- India To Chair UNESCO's World Heritage Committee And Host 46th Session In 2024
- Piyush Goyal Inaugurates Indus Food 2024 In Greater Noida
- PM Modi Inaugurates Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show In Gandhinagar
- Gensol Engineering Allocates Rs 2,000 Crore For Gujarat EV Plant
- Singapore's Changi Airport Earns The Title Of World's Best Airport For 2023
- Samir Kumar Sinha Assumes Role As DG (Acquisition) In Defence Ministry
- Alexander Zverev-Led Germany Defeats Swiatek's Poland In United Cup
- German Actor Christian Oliver Dies In Plane Crash
- Maestro Ustad Rashid Khan Passes Away At 55
- Red Ant Chutney Of Odisha Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag
- First Meeting Of Inland Waterways Development Council Held In Kolkata
- Mamata Banerjee Launches 'Yogyasree' For SC/ST Students In West Bengal
- Government To Invest 60,000 Cr In River Cruise Tourism And Green Vessels
- Microsoft's 'AI Odyssey' To Upskill 100,000 Indian Developers: Boosting AI Talent In India
- Denmark Launches Green Fuels Alliance India To Drive Sustainable Energy Collaboration At GIM 2024
- PhonePe Appoints Ritesh Pai As CEO For International Payments Division
- Franz Beckenbauer, World Cup-Winning German And Bayern Munich Great, Dies Aged 78
- U.S. Launches Peregrine-1 Lander To Moon In Historic Lunar Mission
- PM Modi launched 'Swachh Mandir' campaign for clean pilgrimage sites
- IITs collaborated with NSDC to offer degrees to tier-2&3 students
- India launched 'Heal in India, Heal by India' initiative.
- Aruna Nayar, a 1987 IRPS officer, assumes role of Secretary of Railway Board.
- Adani Group committed Rs 42,700 crore investment in Tamil Nadu
- Mohammed Shami set to receive prestigious Arjuna Award 2023.
- Tamil Nadu inks \$4.4 billion investment deals with Tata, Pegatron.





- Bangladesh Election 2024: Sheikh Hasina Secures Fifth Term Amid Opposition Boycott
- Vietnam Invests \$2 Billion In Tamil Nadu EV Facility
- Chennai Tops As Best City For Indian Women
- Cabinet Greenlights India-Guyana MoU For Hydrocarbon Sector Collaboration
- Ashwani Gupta Appointed As CEO Of Adani Ports And Special Economic Zone
- India and Mauritius collaborate on Rs 20 crore small satellite project
- Rajiv Shah appointed as 'Class C' director on board of Federal Reserve
- MV Vasiliiy begins 43rd Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica.
- External Affairs Minister to attend 19th NAM Summit in Uganda.
- Ministry Of Youth Affairs & Sports Declares 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' 2023
- ICC Rule Changes In Cricket: Stumping Replays Limited; Concussion Substitute And BCCI's Decision
- Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane's Book "Four Stars Of Destiny" launched
- Eros Investments unveiled plans for INR 16,000 Cr 'Immerso AI Park'.
- Swedish Scientists Create 'E-Soil' That Accelerates Plant Growth
- Indra Mani Pandey assumed role of BIMSTEC Secretary General.
- Germany clinched United Cup title after Zverev's Epic comeback.
- Suchetha Satish set world record for singing in most languages.
- British Sikh 'Polar Preet' claimed fastest Solo Ski across Antarctica.
- Bureau of Indian Standards commemorates its 76th Foundation Day with door-to-door campaign "Quality Connect".
- India's real GDP is expected to grow 7% in 2022-23, as per the First Advance Estimates of National Income released by National Statistical Office (NSO).
- India to host the 'Voice of the Global South Summit'
- India and Saudi Arabia strengthen ties with bilateral haj agreement.
- Rashmi Shukla, an IPS officer from the 1988 batch, has been appointed as the first woman Director General of Police in Maharashtra, succeeding Rajnish Seth.
- ISRO to launch Space Kidz India satellite made by 750 school girls studying in government schools. Presidents of Guyana and Suriname will attend Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention.
- PM Narendra Modi will flag off the world's longest river cruise, 'Ganga Vilas', from Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi to Dibrugarh via Bangladesh.
- Reserve Bank of India has selected six entities for 'Test Phase' under regulatory sandbox for theme 'Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds'.
- SEBI allows Government to re-classify its IDBI Bank stake as 'public' for ease of divestment
- SEBI imposes ₹2 lakh fine on MCX for violating norms in awarding software deal to London firm
- Taliban announced to sign oil extraction deal at Amu Darya basin, with a Chinese firm.
- Jio Platforms signs agreement to Be Manchester City's Network Partner in India
- Ayodhya Airport Renamed As 'Maharishi Valmiki International Airport'; Gains International Status
- Assam Government Initiates 'Gunotsav 2024'
- India Plans 'Bharat Park' Trade Zone In UAE For Global Showcase
- The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released its first advance estimates projecting a robust 7.3% growth for India's GDP in the fiscal year 2023-24.
- The United States of America declares January 5 as National Bird Day to raise awareness of the significance of birds to our ecosystem.
- On January 6, 2024, the world will observe the World Day of War Orphans, a day dedicated to highlighting the struggles and needs of the most vulnerable victims of war – the children.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the MoU signed between India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) has welcomed Sanjiv Aggarwal as its new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director.
- Senior IAS Officer Vikas Sheel Appointed Executive Director, Asian Development Bank
- Raghuram Iyer Appointed As CEO Of Indian Olympic Association
- SEBI Names G Ram Mohan Rao As Executive Director For 3 Years
- 68 Rajya Sabha Members, Including Notables Like Manmohan Singh And Jaya Bachchan, Set To Retire In 2024





- Punjab has become the first in India to meticulously map all 784 accident black spots using the Mappls App, a cutting-edge navigation system developed by MapMyIndia.
- Adidas To Set Up Its First Asia GCC Outside China In Tamil Nadu
- The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, proudly presents Prerana: An Experiential Learning program.
- PM Modi Launched PRITHVI VIGYAN Scheme Worth Nearly 4,800 Crore Rupees
- Anurag Thakur Attends Youth Dialogue Program On Theme 'My Bharat Mera Yuva Bharat'
- India and Nepal solidified their commitment to a long-term energy partnership with the signing of an agreement for the export of 10,000 MW of power to India over the next 10 years.
- REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years
- Shashi Singh Appointed As New President Of All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA).
- P Santhosh, Chief General Manager at Canara Bank, has been appointed as the Managing Director of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) with effect from January 5, succeeding Natarajan Sundar, who resigned from the post.
- Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, AVSM, NM, officially took over as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, succeeding in a distinguished naval career.
- Bengali Writer Shirshendu Mukhopadhyaya Receives 2023 Kuvempu Award
- Hero MotoCorp's Facility Wins CII National Award For Water Management
- Prof. Adrian Cruise Receives 'Order Of The British Empire' For Space Science Leadership
- 10th Century Kadamba Inscription Written In Kannada, Sanskrit Found In Goa
- Union Cabinet approves National Green Hydrogen Mission with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore.
- Union Cabinet approves naming of Greenfield International Airport at Goa's Mopa after Manohar Parrikar.
- Cabinet approves Rs 2,500-cr scheme to raise infrastructure of DoorDarshan and All India Radio.
- The Government approves Rs 28.11 crore to extend the interest-free loan to tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh.
- PM Narendra Modi will chair the second National Conference of Chief Secretaries in Delhi.
- India-France will discuss bilateral and global issues at the 36th India-France strategic dialogue.
- U.S. FDA approves Aurobindo subsidiary's cancer drug copy
- Ireland hits Facebook parent Meta with €390 million in fines for online privacy violations.
- Britain's power grid hits record 88% zero-carbon power generation, delivers the cleanest energy on record to households and businesses.
- Lionel Messi was chosen as the best player for 2022 by International Football Federation History and Statistics (IFFHS)
- Cape Verde becomes first country to name stadium after Pele
- West Bengal achieved Geographical Indication (GI) tags for various products in the National GI Drive Mission.
- Government Readies 15,000 Crore Plan for Greener Ferries and Boats
- Andhra Pradesh extended enrollment in Pravasandhra Bharosa Bima Scheme
- Kyrgyzstan declared Snow Leopard as National symbol.
- Sukhvinder Singh inaugurated the Nation's first-ever Report and Meeting Management Portal in Himachal Pradesh.
- REC limited and RVNL sign MoU to finance multi-modal.
- NHAI and NRSC, under ISRO, sign a 3-year MoU to create and report a "Green Cover Index" for the extensive National Highways network.
- CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy distributes enhanced YSR Pension Kanuka of Rs 3,000 per month.
- KAMIL to invest ₹211 Crore for Lithium exploration in Argentina.
- J&K Government approved the formation of a draft committee to propose the establishment of a madrasa board.
- LEAP-TD mission, launched on January 1 via ISRO's PSLV-C58, integrated a derivative of Dhruva Space's P-30 nanosatellite platform for in-orbit scientific experiments.
- Denmark's Queen Margrethe II To Step Down After 52 Years On Throne
- France Takes Digital Leap With Online Schengen Visas For Paris Olympics
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Rs 400 crore Demonstration Fast Reactor Fuel





- Reprocessing Plant (DFRP) at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, to the nation.
- Gujarat Government Inks Agreements Worth \$86 Billion Ahead Of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit
 - Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh Assumes Command Of Western Naval Command
 - Ind-Ra Raises India's FY'24 Growth Forecast To 6.7%: Factors And Challenges
 - PNB Housing Finance's NCD Ratings Upgraded By India Ratings To IND AA+ With Stable Outlook
 - Vodafone Idea Director P Balaji Moves To Air India
 - World Braille Day, annually observed on January 4, is a profound tribute to Louis Braille, the visionary mind behind the transformative braille system.
 - Czech PM To Be Chief Guest At Vibrant Gujarat Summit. The 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit (VGGS) is set to take place in Gandhinagar from January 10 to 12, 2024. The theme for this edition is "Gateway to the Future."
 - Nadia Calvino Appointed As New President Of The European Investment Bank
 - Puneet Chhatwal Appointed Chairman Of Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH)
 - Randhir Jaiswal Takes Over As MEA Spokesperson From Arindam Bagchi
 - Adani Ports Elevates Karan Adani To MD, Appoints Ashwani Gupta As CEO
 - Justice Sanjiv Khanna Appointed As National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Executive Chairperson.
 - Prof. B.R. Kamboj, the Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, has been bestowed with the prestigious M.S. Swaminathan Award.
 - Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Launches Book On "Ram Mandir Rashtra Mandir Ak Sajhi Virast"
 - ISRO's Satellite Set For Launch Aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 Rocket
 - Pradip Kumar Das, CMD of IREDA, has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Human Resource Development and Discipline'.
 - Guyana's President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, US-based businessman Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, and DSB Group CEO Piyush Gupta are among 21 recipients of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC).
 - RBI announced that SBI, ICICI and HDFC Bank continue to be Systemically Important.
 - Google challenges CCI ruling in Android case before National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
 - Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has been sworn in as the 39th president of Brazil.
 - Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan announces parallel government with full Cabinet.
 - Vaidehi Chaudhari wins ITF women's tournament singles in Gwalior after beating top seed Ksenia Laskutova.
 - L'Oreal heiress Francoise Bettencourt Meyers becomes the world's first woman to hold a \$100 billion fortune.
 - Reliance industries first in India to receive ISCC-Plus certification.
 - Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated five-day winter carnival in Manali
 - Pinki named ambassador for 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign.
 - Binny Bansal, the co-founder of Flipkart, has announced the launch of his new startup called 'OppDoor'
 - National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) nominated Justice BR Gavai as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.
 - Russian President Vladimir Putin officially marked the commencement of Russia's 2024 BRICS Chairmanship.
 - IMF To Release \$700 Million Bailout Tranche To Pakistan In January
 - CM Yogi Adityanath Inaugurates UP's First Floating Restaurant In Prayagraj
 - Jharkhand Reduces Age Limit For Old-Age Pensions To 50
 - Tata Pay Secures RBI Payment Aggregator License For E-Commerce Transactions
 - Ola Electric Becomes First Indian EV Company To Get PLI Nod
 - India Unveils 'National Single Window System' By TCS To Simplify Medical Device Imports
 - Rajasthan Seeks Integration Of Chiranjeevi Scheme With Ayushman Bharat
 - Hyderabad, Bengaluru Airports Score High In Global On-Time Ranking





- France And Germany To Provide 100 Million Euros For AMRUT Mission Financing
- Kia India Appoints Gwanggu Lee As New MD And CEO
- NIVEA India Appoints Geetika Mehta As New Managing Director
- Chadian Opposition Leader Succes Masra Appointed Transitional PM
- Padma Bhushan Awardee Prof Ved Prakash Nanda Passes Away
- Jammu And Kashmir Becomes First UT To Implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana
- India will sign a "Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement" (MMPA) with Austria.
- Anil Kumar Lahoti takes over charge of new Chairman & CEO of Railway Board
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Amazon collaborate for future engineer program.
- Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das launched central bank's medium-term strategy framework titled 'Utkarsh 2.0' .
- CMIE Report: Unemployment rate rises to 8.3% in Dec., highest in 16 months.
- India's forex reserves dropped by USD 691 million to USD 562.808 billion: RBI Data.
- Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took office for a third term as President of Brazil
- Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal inaugurates Pokhara Regional International Airport
- BCCI has re-introduced Yo-Yo test and Dexa scan results as criteria for selection of players.
- UP Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra granted an unprecedented third service extension until June 2024.
- Kerala launched K-Smart: local bodies go digital, service at fingertip
- Dr. Arvind Panagariya was appointed as Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission by the Centre.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik initiated the Bhubaneswar metro rail, a ₹6,255 crore project linking Bhubaneswar and Cuttack in 4 years.
- Gujarat achieved Guinness Record with mass Surya Namaskar at 108 locations simultaneously on New Year's Day.
- Union Health Secretary Sudhansh Pant Appointed Rajasthan Chief Secretary.
- Vice Admiral SJ Singh received Guard of Honour in Delhi as he concludes his tenure as Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
- RK Tyagi takes charge as Chairman & Managing Director of Power Grid Corporation of India.
- ISRO successfully launched X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) aboard PSLV-C58 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- India and UAE set to conduct 'Desert Cyclone 2024' military exercise.
- Centre designates 'Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, J&K (TeH)' as an 'Unlawful Association' under the UAPA.
- Felix Tshisekedi Named President Of The Democratic Republic Of Congo
- BRICS Group To Double In 2024 After Saudi, Iran, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia Join Rank
- RBI Significantly Raises Bulk Deposit Limit For Large UCBs To ₹1 Crore And Above
- ITC Collaborates With Microsoft And Skymet To Shield Tobacco Farmers From Climate Challenges
- Vivek Srivastava Named DG Of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards
- Rashmi Govil To Be Next Director (HR) Of IOC
- Dong Jun Named As China's New Defense Minister
- David Warner Retires From One-Day Cricket Ahead Of Test Farewell
- World Rapid Chess C'ship: Koneru Humpy Wins Silver In Women's Event
- Indian Teenager Anahat Singh Bags Girls' U-19 2023 Scottish Junior Open Title At Edinburgh
- President Draupadi Murmu Gives Assent To Three Criminal Code
- Angola Announces Departure From OPEC
- In a groundbreaking move, Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, is set to establish the country's first AI city in Lucknow.
- The Bihar Police has announced the implementation of 'Mission Investigation@75 Days,' aiming to streamline and expedite the criminal justice process in the state.
- Vasudev Devnani Elected As The Speaker Of Rajasthan Assembly
- RBI Grants Approval For Satish Kumar Kalra As MD & CEO Of Slice-Backed North East SFB
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given its nod to the appointment of Pramod Agrawal, the former Chief of Coal India,





- as the Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). ➤ Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) received a contract worth Rs 678 crore from the Uttar Pradesh Government for UP Dial 112 project.
- South Africa's Dean Elgar Announces Retirement From International Cricket ➤ Sarbananda Sonowal and CM Pema Khandu laid foundation for capacity development at the North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR).
- Raghuram Rajan's New Book 'Breaking The Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future,' Released ➤ MHA Declares Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam Faction) Unlawful Under UAPA
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Releases Collected Works Of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya ➤ China successfully launched the Long March-11 carrier rocket into space, placing three satellites in the planned orbit.
- Gwalior Achieves Guinness Record With 'Largest Tabla Ensemble' At Tansen Festival ➤ Pakistan Successfully Tests Advanced Rocket System Fatah-II
- Health Minister Launched 'MedTech Mitra' To Advance Health Solution. ➤ CEBR Forecasts India As Third-Largest Economy By 2032, Global Economic Leader By Century's End
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cemented his dominance in the digital realm, becoming the first world leader to surpass the 2 crore subscriber mark on YouTube. ➤ RBI Unveils Forex Correspondent Scheme To Enhance Foreign Exchange Services
- Minister for Transport for Karnataka, Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated the initiative under the brand name "Namma Cargo," introducing cargo services on KSRTC route buses. ➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval for the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd with its banking subsidiary, IDFC First Bank.
- Coca-Cola Scores A Victory Lap: Secures 8-Year Partnership With ICC As Global Cricket Partner ➤ Bank of Baroda disclosed its intention to divest its entire 100 percent stake in Bank of Baroda (New Zealand).
- Santosh Jha Assumes Role As India's New Envoy To Sri Lanka ➤ Israel Grants Intel \$3.2 Billion For \$25 Billion Chip Plant Amid Ongoing Conflict
- Vita Dani Makes History As First Indian On ITTF Governing Board ➤ India, Russia Sign Deals For Kudankulam Nuclear Plant Units
- Sony Sports Ropes In Kartik Aaryan As Brand Ambassador For Football ➤ RBI Approves CS Rajan As The Chairman Of Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Oxford Dictionary: Rising to the top spot for Oxford is "Rizz", a slang term referring to one's natural charm, charisma, and ability to attract romantic partners. ➤ Indian Wrestler Pooja Dhanda Suspended For One Year Due To Whereabouts Failures
- isva-Bharati Researchers Discover Bacteria Named After Rabindranath Tagore ➤ Reliance Jio And IIT Bombay Collaborate For Bharat GPT Program And Smart TV Operating System
- RITES Ltd has signed a pact with NEEPCO to cooperate on consultancy services aimed at strengthening logistical infrastructure at North East hydropower stations. ➤ Tamil Superstar And Politician Vijayakanth Passes Away At 71
- The operational ban on Tokyo Electric Power's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant, the world's largest atomic power station, has been lifted by Japan's nuclear power regulator. ➤ Parasite Actor Lee Sun-Kyun Passed Away At 48
- Yogesh Choudhary and Deepankar Mech were declared Female and Male Champions, respectively, at the Shillong Armfight-All India Championship 2023. ➤ Suriya acquired ownership of Chennai in Indian Street Premier League.
- Central government and ADB secured a \$100m loan aimed at upgrading urban services and tourism in Tripura. ➤ LIC appoints S Sunder Krishnan as chief risk officer succeeding Pratap
- SAMARTH-curated training programs launched on iGOT Karmayogi platform. ➤ Vedanta, led by Anil Agarwal, completes the acquisition of Meenakshi Energy, making it a wholly-owned subsidiary.





- Gujarat has emerged as the nation's petrochemical powerhouse, boasting the world's largest grassroots oil refinery and a state-of-the-art petrochemical complex.
- Argentina Rejects BRICS Membership Under President Javier Milei
- Lt. Governor Inaugurated CRC Samba-Jammu For Person With Disabilities
- The Gujarat government, in collaboration with Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL), is set to make waves in the tourism industry by introducing India's first submarine tourism venture.
- Defence Secretary Opens HAL's Aero Engine R&D Facility In Bengaluru
- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar Appointed As Ex-Officio Chancellor Of Pondicherry University
- A Book Titled "The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma" Authored By Madhav Godbole
- Ex-Cricketer Ambati Rayudu Joins Jagan Mohan Reddy's Party
- Jammu And Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act Amended To Incorporate OBC Reservation
- Uttar Pradesh To Implement Green Hydrogen Policy To Promote Clean Energy
- Praja Palana Program Launched By Telangana Govt To Address Citizens' Needs
- India Makes First-Ever Rupee Payment for the Purchase of Crude Oil from UAE
- Tata Power has emerged victorious in the bid for the Bikaner-III Neemrana-II Transmission project, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established by PFC Consulting, a subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation.
- Government To Market FCI Rice As Bharat Brand
- Nina Singh First Woman CISF Chief Rahul Rasgotra ITBP Chief
- Mr L P Hemanth K Srinivasulu Receives 'Man Of The Year 2023' Award From Home Minister Shri Amit Shah
- Wolfgang Schaeuble, German Political Giant, Passes Away At 81
- Founding Father Of EU's Single Currency Project Jacques Delors Dies Aged 98
- DGFT, under the commerce ministry, to sign agreements with global e-comm platforms like Walmart for 'Districts as Export Hubs' Initiative"
- Para-military forces shift to 'Sandes App' for official communication, document sharing, and prioritizing data security.
- NASA Launched mission 'God of Chaos' asteroid threatening Earth
- IIT Guwahati collaborated with Assam govt's Arohan Scheme over STEM

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

**"There are no
secrets to
success. It is the
result of
preparation, hard
work, and
learning from
failure."**





Infographics

Who Has Won the Asian Cup?

Number of title wins at the AFC Asian Cup since 1956



Source: Asian Football Confederation



The Cities With the Slowest Traffic

Average travel time per 10 km in 2023, by city*

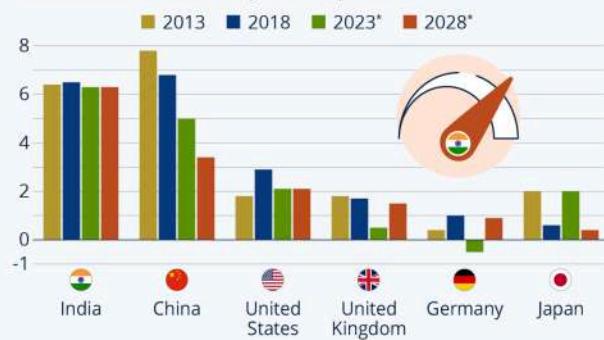


* Based on trip data from drivers within a 5-km radius from the city center in 387 cities across 55 countries.

Source: TomTom Traffic Index

India Set to Cement Role as New GDP Growth Champion

Estimated real GDP growth of the world's largest economies in selected years (in percent)

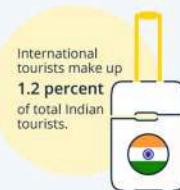


* Projections for 2023 and 2028 as of Oct. 2023

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook

The Top Destinations of Indian Tourists

Countries with the highest number of inbound tourists from India in 2022 (in million)



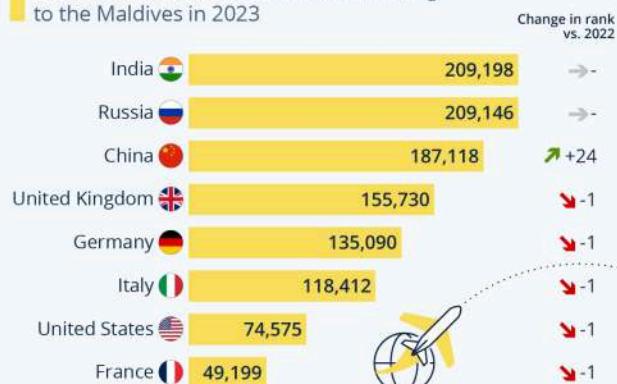
Sources: Bureau of Immigration, Government of India





The Most Important Markets for the Maldives Tourism Industry

Countries with the most tourists traveling to the Maldives in 2023



Source: Maldives Ministry of Tourism

Where Boeing's 737 Max 9 Is in Operation

Number of Boeing 737 Max 9 aircraft in operation as of January 2024, by airline



List may not be exhaustive.

Source: Skift

The World's Most-Sanctioned Countries

Number of currently active sanctions by target country



Data current as of December 15, 2023
Source: Castellum.AI

The World's Highest-Paid Female Athletes

Female athletes with the highest total earnings in 2023*



* Includes estimates of on-the-field earnings (e.g. salaries, prize money) as well as off-the-field earnings (e.g. endorsements, licensing)

Source: Forbes





The Most Devalued Currencies of 2023

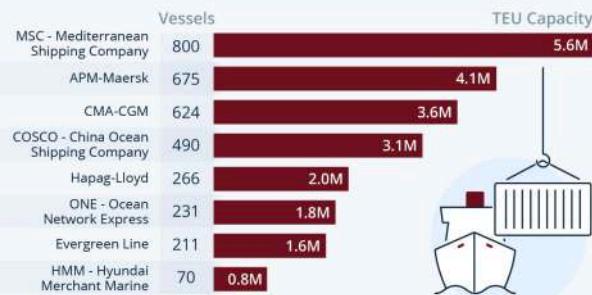
Percentage change against the U.S. dollar of the most devalued currencies in 2023



Source: Bloomberg

The World's Largest Container Shipping Companies

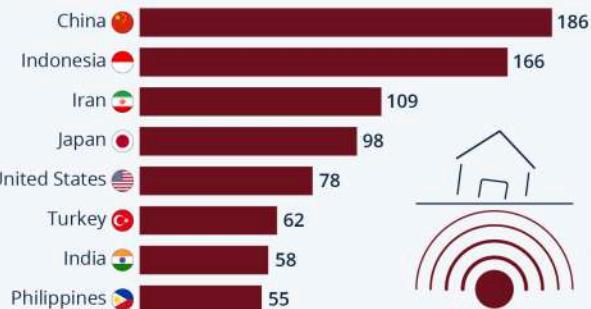
Container shipping companies by fleet size and TEU capacity (as of Jan. 3, 2024)*



* TEU - Twenty-foot equivalent unit or standard 6.1 meter long shipping container
Source: Alphaliner

The Countries Hit by the Most Earthquakes

Countries with the highest number of major earthquakes between 1990 and 2024



As of Jan. 2, 2024. Earthquakes with at least \$1M in damages, 10 deaths, a magnitude of 7.5 or a tsunami (one criteria min.)
Source: NOAA



2023 in Google Searches

Search terms with the biggest worldwide volume increases on Google in 2023 compared to 2022

News

- 1 War in Israel and Gaza
- 2 Titanic submarine
- 3 Turkey earthquake

People

- 1 Damar Hamlin
- 2 Jeremy Renner
- 3 Andrew Tate



Musicians

- 1 Shakira
- 2 Jason Aldean
- 3 Joe Jonas

Movies

- 1 Barbie
- 2 Oppenheimer
- 3 Jawan

Athletes

- 1 Damar Hamlin
- 2 Kylian Mbappé
- 3 Travis Kelce

Passings

- 1 Matthew Perry
- 2 Tina Turner
- 3 Sinéad O'Connor

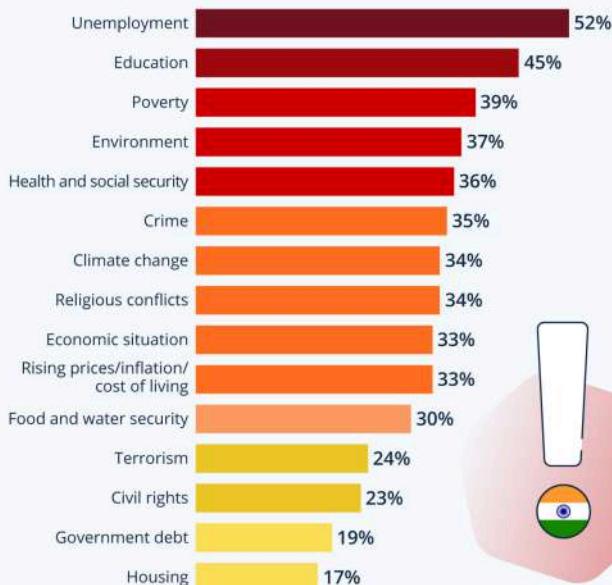
Source: Google Trends





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



24,192 respondents (18-54 y/o) surveyed Oct. 2022-Sep. 2023.

Source: Statista Consumer Insights

The Countries Trusting the Government Most and Least

Share of people in selected countries who said they trusted their national government in 2023 (in percent)



Around 1,150 respondents surveyed per country Nov. 3-22, 2023.
Source: 2024 Edelman Trust Barometer

Where NATO Defense Expenditure Stands

Estimated military spending of NATO countries in 2014 and 2023 (in billion constant 2015 U.S. dollars) and share of GDP



NATO member Iceland has no armed forces. Estimates as of mid-year
Source: NATO





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