

JANUARY - 2024



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS



1. What is the name of China's cutting-edge ocean drilling vessel designed to penetrate the Earth's crust and reach the mantle for the first time in human history?

- A. Mengxiang ☒
- B. Tianqi
- C. Shuijing
- D. Yueliang



- ✓ China has introduced a revolutionary new ocean drilling vessel called the 'Mengxiang', designed to penetrate the Earth's crust and reach the mantle for the first time in human history. If successful, the Mengxiang's planned drilling to breach the Mohorovicic discontinuity (Moho) over 7,000 metres beneath the ocean floor would open the door to unprecedented scientific exploration and discovery within the planet. China's Mengxiang is an enormous, specially-equipped ship capable of withstanding extreme conditions.

2. Who is the first woman officer to be appointed as Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?

- A. Shubhra Singh
- B. Nina Singh ☒
- C. Binita Thakur
- D. Roli Singh



- ✓ Senior IPS officer Nina Singh has taken charge as Director General of the CISF in a first for the 1.65 lakh strong force tasked with securing vital infrastructure. A Rajasthan cadre officer of the 1989 batch, she has served in diverse policing roles.

3. Who is the inspiration behind the new design of Indian Navy Admirals' Epaulettes announced recently?

- A. Maharana Pratap
- B. Shivaji ☒
- C. Maharaja Ranjit Singh
- D. Chandragupta Maurya



- ✓ Unveiled on Navy Day 2023, the Indian Navy's new shoulder rank insignias (epaulettes) for senior leadership draw design elements from the Naval Ensign and legendary Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Features like the golden button and octagon shape reflect indigenization efforts and long-term strategic vision respectively. The insignia artfully integrates symbols of the sword, telescope, and 'Rajmudra' seal used by Shivaji in special decrees, blending India's rich maritime heritage with its glorious history.

4. Which city in Maharashtra has been selected by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as the venue to host the National Youth Festival 2024?

- A. Nagpur
- B. Mumbai
- C. Nasik ☒
- D. Pune



- ✓ The city of Nashik in Maharashtra has been selected by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India to host the National Youth Festival (NYF) 2024. As per recent announcements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the 5-day youth festival in Nashik on January 12, which will see participation of around 7,500 youths from across India. NYF is held every year to celebrate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on January 12.

5. David Warner, who has retired from one-day international (ODI) and Test cricket, is a player from which country?

- A. Australia ☒
- B. New Zealand
- C. England
- D. South Africa



- ✓ Australian opener David Warner has retired from one-day international (ODI) and Test cricket to spend more time with his family. He plans to play his 112th and final Test against Pakistan but will not participate in ODIs. Warner has had a successful ODI career, scoring 22 centuries and 6,932 runs at an average of 45.30 in 161 matches. He was a key part of the Australian team that won the ICC Cricket World Cup in India last year.

6. The Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Technology for Women (LBSITW), which was recently in news for launching its nanosatellite called WESAT, is located in which city?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Pune
- C. Thiruvananthapuram ☒
- D. Mangalore



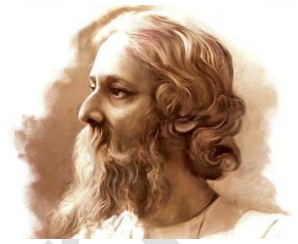
- ✓ On January 1, 2024, a nanosatellite called WESAT (Women Engineered SATellite) was launched by students of Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Technology for Women in Thiruvananthapuram. The satellite was launched as secondary payload aboard an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) mission, specifically the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C58/XPoSat mission.
- ✓ WESAT is a 1.4-kg satellite designed and developed entirely by women, making it the first Indian satellite with this distinction. The purpose of WESAT is to study ultraviolet radiation and its



impact. The satellite project was led by Lizy Abraham, an Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator, with technical assistance from ISRO.

7. Who is the author of song “Banglar Mati Banglar Jal”, recently declared as State Song of West Bengal?

- A. Rabindranath Tagore ☒
- B. Nazrul Islam
- C. Nabagopal Mitra
- D. Sarojini Naidu



- ✓ The West Bengal government has declared Rabindranath Tagore’s song “Banglar Mati Banglar Jal” as the State Song. The song has an approximate playing time of 1 minute and 59 seconds. The notification mandates that the State Song must be played with due respect at the beginning of all state government functions, and the National Anthem must be played at the conclusion of these functions.

8. In comparison to the typical day-night cycle on Earth, how long is the daylight period experienced by astronauts on the International Space Station?

- A. 12 hours
- B. 45 minutes ☒
- C. 1 hour
- D. 3 hours



- ✓ Astronauts on the International Space Station experience 45 minutes of daylight followed by 45 minutes of darkness in each orbit. This is significantly different from the typical 12-hour day-night cycle on Earth. Thus, the crew at International Space Station witnesses 16 New Year countdowns in a row.

9. What is the daily payment limit for UPI transactions set by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) starting from January 1, 2024?

- A. Rs. 10,000
- B. Rs. 50,000
- C. Rs. 1 lakh ☒
- D. Rs. 5 lakh



- ✓ The NPCI has set the daily payment limit for UPI transactions to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh starting from January 1, 2024. However, RBI raised the transaction limit for UPI payments to hospitals and educational institutions to Rs 5 lakh on December 8, 2023, to broaden the use of UPI payments.



10. Margrethe II, who recently announced to abdicate the throne, is Queen of which country?

- A. Sweden
- B. Norway
- C. Denmark ☒
- D. Netherlands



- ✓ Queen Margrethe II, who recently announced her abdication after 52 years on the throne, is the Queen of Denmark. This decision was made official during her New Year's speech on the anniversary of her own accession to the throne, where she expressed her desire to pass on the responsibilities of the crown to her son, Crown Prince Frederik.

11. The recently renamed Maa Manikeswari University is located in which state of India?

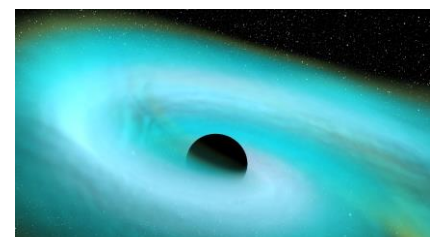
- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. West Bengal
- C. Odisha ☒
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ The recently renamed Maa Manikeswari University is located in the state of Odisha, India. Formerly known as Kalahandi University, it was renamed after Maa Manikeswari, the presiding deity of Kalahandi district. The university has been functioning since September 1, 2020, and the name change was officially announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on November 1, during the foundation day of Kalahandi district.

12. Which are the primary objects of study for the recently launched XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) by ISRO?

- A. Exoplanets
- B. Neutron stars and Blackholes ☒
- C. Distant stars and Solar system
- D. Asteroids



- ✓ The primary objectives of the recently launched XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) by ISRO are to investigate the polarization of intense X-Ray sources and study the enigmatic world of black holes. This satellite is India's first dedicated scientific satellite for conducting research in space-based polarization measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources.
- ✓ It carries two scientific payloads: POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) for measuring polarimetry parameters in the medium X-ray energy range of 8-30 keV photons and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing) for providing spectroscopic information in the energy range of 0.8-15 keV. These instruments will help in gaining a deeper understanding of X-ray sources in space, including neutron stars and black holes.

13. India's longest sea bridge, recently making headlines, connects which two locations?

- A. Bandra and Worli
- B. Sewri and Chirle ☒
- C. Thane and Virar
- D. Vallarpadam and Kochi



- ✓ The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), India's longest sea bridge, is set to be inaugurated on 12th January. This engineering marvel spans 22 kilometers, connecting Sewri in south Mumbai to Chirle in the distant outskirts of Navi Mumbai, crossing over Thane Creek. The project, initially planned to take 4.5 years, faced an eight-month delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The MTHL aims to significantly reduce the travel time between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.

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1. The Kharsawan Massacre, that was recently in news, happened in which current state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Jharkhand ☒
- C. Bihar
- D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ On January 1, 1948, the town of Kharsawan in present-day Jharkhand witnessed a massacre of Adivasis by the police. This happened during a protest against the merger of the princely state of Kharsawan into Odisha state. The protesters and locals had gathered there in thousands to hear a speech by Jai Prakash Singh Munda. However, he could not make it to the venue and the restive crowd was fired upon by the police, killing hundreds. The massacre is seen as reminiscent of the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy.

2. Who has been recently appointed as the new Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy?

- A. Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani
- B. Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh ☒
- C. Vice Admiral S. R. Sarma
- D. Vice Admiral G. S. Pabby



- ✓ Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh has taken over as the new Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy from Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani. The Chief of Materiel is the head of the Materials Branch of the Navy, dealing with logistics and maintenance.

3. Recently, which oceanographic research vessel of the Indian Navy has embarked on the Sagar Maitri Mission-4 to Oman?

- A. INS Makar
- B. INS Sandhayak
- C. INS Sagardhwani ☒
- D. INS Dhruv



- ✓ INS Sagardhwani, an oceanographic research vessel of the Indian Navy, has embarked on the Sagar Maitri Mission-4 to Oman. The goal of the mission is to establish long-term scientific partnerships and collaboration with Indian Ocean Rim countries for ocean research and development. It will also showcase India's capabilities in marine science and technology.

4. Who has been recently appointed as the Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission?

- A. Viral Acharya
- B. Jagdish Bhagwati
- C. Arvind Panagariya ☒
- D. Amit Mitra





- ✓ Dr. Arvind Panagariya has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Finance Commission of India. The Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives recommendations on center-state financial relations. Dr. Panagariya is an eminent economist who has served as the first Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog. He will now head the 16th Finance Commission, which will suggest the tax devolution formula between the centre and states for 5 years starting 2026-27.

5. What is the name of the scheme established by the Supreme Court of India to ensure the safety of witnesses facing threats?

- A. Safety Assurance Scheme  
B. Witness Protection Scheme ☒  
C. Witness Security Programme  
D. Judicial Witness Guard



- ✓ The Supreme Court of India has drawn up a nationwide Witness Protection Scheme to provide security to witnesses facing threats. This became necessary as witnesses often turn hostile during trials due to harassment or lack of protection. The scheme provides for threat assessment of witnesses and protective measures based on three categories of threat perception.

6. Where is the National Fisheries Development Board establishing an Eri silk spinning plant?

- A. Guwahati, Assam  
B. Mushalpur, Assam ☒  
C. Shillong, Meghalaya  
D. Imphal, Manipur



- ✓ The National Fisheries Development Board is establishing an Eri silk spinning plant at Mushalpur, Baksa district in Assam. This ₹15 crore project, part of the blue revolution scheme, will provide direct employment to 375 individuals and benefit 25,000 households engaged in silk production.

7. Since which year, India and Pakistan exchange list of their nuclear installations and facilities in first week of January?

- A. 1988  
B. 1992 ☒  
C. 1995  
D. 1998

1992

- ✓ India and Pakistan recently continued their long-standing practice of exchanging lists of their nuclear installations and facilities, a procedure they have followed since January 1, 1992. This exchange, which is the 33<sup>rd</sup> consecutive one, is mandated by the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations and Facilities. The agreement, signed in 1988 and effective from 1991, requires both countries to annually inform each other about their nuclear installations and facilities every January 1st.

8. What is the primary objective of the North-East Venture Fund set up by NEDFi?

- A. To provide financial assistance for large infrastructure projects only.
- B. To invest in real estate development across India.
- C. To support and invest in startup ventures in the North-East region of India. ☒
- D. To provide consultancy services to state governments in the North-East.

- ✓ **North-East Venture Fund (NEVF), established by NEDFi (North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.), is aimed at encouraging and collaborating with startup ventures in the North-East region of India.**
- ✓ **With a commitment of ₹100 crore to the fund, contributed by the ministry, NEDFi, and SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India), NEVF focuses on fostering entrepreneurship and business initiatives in the region. This initiative aligns with NEDFi's broader role in providing financial assistance and advisory services for various enterprises and projects in India's North-East.**

9. What is the name of government scheme with the primary aim of providing financial assistance to tuberculosis (TB) patients for their nutritional needs?

- A. TB Poshan Yojana
- B. Nikshay Poshan Yojana ☒
- C. TB-DBT
- D. Akshay Poshan



- ✓ **Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) was introduced by the government in April 2018 with the primary aim of providing financial assistance to tuberculosis (TB) patients for their nutritional needs. Recognizing undernutrition as a significant risk factor for TB, the scheme offers ₹500 per month as direct benefit transfer (DBT) to TB patients. This monetary support is intended to help patients purchase food and maintain a nutritious diet throughout the duration of their TB treatment.**

10. Who heads the committee set up to examine the issue of holding simultaneous elections in India?

- A. Laxmikant Bajpai
- B. Baburam Nishad
- C. Vijaypal Singh Tomar
- D. Ramnath Kovind ☒



- ✓ **A high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind was set up last year to examine the issue of holding simultaneous elections in India. Simultaneous elections refer to holding elections to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies together. This would streamline the election process and reduce expenditure. The committee headed by Kovind has initiated consultations on this idea, which has been gaining support. The government is working on a roadmap to enable synchronized two-phase Lok Sabha and assembly polls from 2024 onwards.**

11. Which state is host of the India-UAE joint military exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024'?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. West Bengal
- C. Rajasthan ☒
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ Rajasthan will host the India-UAE joint military exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024'. The inaugural edition of this bilateral drill will be conducted from January 2nd to January 15th, 2024 in Rajasthan. The aim is to enhance interoperability between the Indian Army and UAE forces by exchanging best practices in areas like urban operations. This comes under expanding defense ties between the two nations who are strategic partners.

12. Which city is the location of recently inaugurated India's first Girls' Military School?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Vrindavan ☒
- C. Gurgaon
- D. Faridabad



- ✓ The first Girls' Military School in India was inaugurated in Vrindavan, Mathura. This inaugural event was jointly conducted by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Samvid Gurukulam Girls Military School, located within the Vatsalya Gram campus and established by Sadhvi Ritambhara, aims to provide education and training to 870 female students. This initiative marks a significant step in extending military education traditionally reserved for male students in India to female students as well.

13. What is the name of Radar that is being developed by India for the Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet fleet?

- A. Trinetra
- B. Virupaksha ☒
- C. Rohini
- D. Swati



- ✓ India is developing an advanced Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar system called 'Virupaaksha' to upgrade its fleet of Su-30MKI fighter jets. Being manufactured indigenously it would be the most capable radar equipping any Sukhoi variant globally. This airborne radar uses electronic instead of mechanical scanning.



14. Which state set a Guinness World Record in 2024 for the most number of people performing Surya Namaskar simultaneously at 108 venues?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat ☒
- C. Karnataka
- D. Rajasthan



- ✓ Gujarat set a Guinness World Record on the first day of 2024 for the largest number of people, exceeding 50,000, performing Surya Namaskar simultaneously at 108 different venues. This feat was recognized as a significant cultural achievement and hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who emphasized the special significance of the number 108 in Indian culture. The event, which culminated in a state-wide competition, saw a major gathering at the iconic Modhera Sun Temple in Mehsana district, overseen by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

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1. When is the 'World Braille Day' observed every year?

- A. January.01
- B. January.02
- C. January.04 ☒
- D. January.06



- ✓ Every year Jan.04 is observed as World Braille Day to raise the importance of Braille, which serves as a communication medium for blind and partially sighted people. The day was first initiated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019 and January is observed as Braille Literacy month. French Educator, who innovated the Braille system Louis Braille was born on January 4, 1809.

2. What was the primary field of Ved Prakash Nanda, who passed away recently?

- A. Agriculture
- B. Environment Protection
- C. International Law ☒
- D. Human Rights



- ✓ Ved Prakash Nanda, who received the Padma Bhushan award on 20 March 2018 in the field of literature and education, passed away on Jan.01, 2024. He was an esteemed professor of International Law at the University of Denver, Colorado. His significant contributions in this field were further recognized through the establishment of the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law at the University of Denver, emphasizing his profound influence and specialization in International Law.

3. Muhammad Yunus, who received Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for pioneering microfinance banking and was recently making news, belongs to which country?

- A. India
- B. Pakistan
- C. Bangladesh ☒
- D. Saudi Arabia



- ✓ Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus received the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize along with Grameen Bank he founded, for contributions to alleviating poverty through pioneering microfinance services. Providing small loans to entrepreneurs lacking access to traditional banking, his microcredit model aided millions. Recently, Yunus faced legal troubles in Bangladesh over alleged violations of labor laws by Grameen Telecom, critics calling it political retribution for his opposition to government policies earlier.

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**4. Which organization issues electoral bonds in India?**

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. SIDBI
- C. NABARD
- D. State Bank of India ☒



- ✓ India's electoral bond scheme sees authorized SBI branches issue these interest-free bearer bonds to protect donor anonymity. As per provisions, only political parties securing over 1% votes can encash them. Recently, the Finance Ministry granted SBI permission for the 30th phase sale of electoral bonds from Jan 2-11, 2023 across 29 branches.

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**5. As per a recent report, what percentage of India's agriculture imports in 2023 comprised of vegetable oils, pulses and fruits?**

- A. 86.4%
- B. 62.1%
- C. 57.8%
- D. 72.1% ☒



- ✓ As India pursues food self-sufficiency, an analysis shows reliance on importing vegetable oils, pulses and dried fruits persist due to domestic supply limitations. For 2023, these three categories dominate agriculture imports, contributing 72.1% of the total import bill as per commerce ministry data. Palm oils alone account for 51.9 percent due to poor oilseed yields constraining India's progress in edible oil security.

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**6. Which state government signed an MoU with Jakson Green for a green hydrogen project?**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Rajasthan ☒
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. West Bengal



- ✓ Jakson Green, engaged in renewable energy solutions, recently signed an MoU with the government of Rajasthan to set up a green hydrogen & green ammonia project. This assumes significance as India targets becoming a global hub for green hydrogen production and export by 2030. Jakson Green is exploring sites in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu too for potential scale up.



7. What is the name of the mission launched by the Health Ministry to screen people for sickle cell disease?

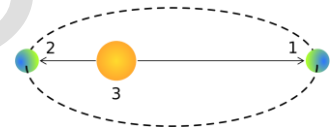
- A. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Mission
- B. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission ☒
- C. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Eradication Mission
- D. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Control Mission



- ✓ The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission was launched by the Health Ministry on 1st July 2023 at Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh to screen people across India for sickle cell disease. It aims to screen 7 crore people over 3 years, focusing on tribal populations and other high prevalence areas across 17 states. The mission provides screening, prevention and management of sickle cell anemia. Its goal is to eliminate the disease in India through early detection and intervention.

8. What is the astronomical term for the point when the Earth is closest to the Sun?

- A. Solstice
- B. Equinox
- C. Perihelion ☒
- D. Aphelion



- ✓ Perihelion refers to the point in Earth's elliptical orbit when it is closest to the Sun. In 2024, this event known as Perihelion Day will occur on January 3 when Earth comes within 91.4 million miles of the Sun. It occurs around two weeks after the December solstice each year. The opposite point when Earth is farthest from the Sun is called Aphelion which will occur on July 6, 2024.

9. Which animal has recently been declared the national symbol of Kyrgyzstan?

- A. Snow leopard ☒
- B. Yak
- C. Eagle
- D. Horse



- ✓ Kyrgyzstan has declared the snow leopard as its new national symbol. Snow leopards inhabit the Tian Shan Mountain range in the country. They feature in Kyrgyz folklore and are seen as a symbol of greatness, nobility and resilience. Conservation of the endangered species will be promoted under the new status.

10. What is the name of the new frog species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh named after the Patkai hills?

- A. *Arunchalops patkaiensis*
- B. *Gracixalus patkaiensis* ☒
- C. *Rana patkaiensis*
- D. *Kaloula patkaiensis*



- ✓ A new species of see-through green frog named *Gracixalus patkaiensis* has been discovered in the biodiverse Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh. The tiny 2.2 cm frog inhabits dense undergrowth in evergreen forests at the foothills of the Patkai range, and has a distinct insect-like call. It has been named after the Patkai hills of the Eastern Himalayas.

11. The Asanur Pipeline Terminal, recently commissioned by Indian Oil Corporation is located in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Kerala
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) has commissioned the Asanur Pipeline Terminal in Tamil Nadu to cater to the growing energy demand in the state. Built at a cost of ₹456 crore, it will serve 8 districts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry by transporting petroleum products through a pipeline network. It will reduce pressure on existing terminals in Chennai.

12. Which UT has become the first Union Territory to implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana?

- A. Ladakh
- B. Jammu & Kashmir ☒
- C. Puducherry
- D. Lakshadweep



- ✓ Jammu & Kashmir has become the first Union Territory to roll out the PM Vishwakarma Yojana skill training program for craftsmen and artisans. 30 trainees have enrolled in the first batch focused on tailoring and dress design at the ITI center in Shopian. Implementation aims to foster local businesses and self-employment.

13. What is the primary purpose of the 'National Single Window System (NSWS)' launched by CDSCO?

- A. Digital Health Records Management
- B. Streamlining Medical Device Import ☒
- C. Medical Research Funding
- D. Public Health Surveillance



- ✓ The 'National Single Window System (NSWS)' launched by India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is primarily designed to streamline the import of medical devices. Developed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) through Invest India, this unified portal aims to create a centralized platform for investors, thus enhancing the ease of doing business. The NSWS serves as a one-stop-shop for all approvals related to the import of medical devices, facilitating applications for certificates of registration, manufacturing licenses, and import licenses.

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1. Who is the author of recently released the book titled “Why Bharat Matters”?

- A. Amit Shah
- B. Nirmala Sitharaman
- C. S Jaishankar ☒
- D. Rajnath Singh



- ✓ **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar released his new book “Why Bharat Matters” at an event in New Delhi. The book examines India’s transformation in foreign policy over the past decade under PM Narendra Modi. It also juxtaposes India’s evolution with the Ramayana. S Jaishankar outlined how the year 2024 will be turbulent due to geopolitics but India can face challenges given its strength.**

2. What is the name of female cheetah that recently gave birth to three cubs in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh?

- A. Aaradhya
- B. Aadya
- C. Veni
- D. Aasha ☒



- ✓ **‘Aasha’ the female cheetah named by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave birth to a litter of three cubs inside Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. This momentous event marks a major milestone for the cheetah restoration project in India. Authorities are closely monitoring Aasha and the cubs to ensure their healthy growth and development.**

3. Which three items from Arunachal Pradesh recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

- A. Adi kekir, Wancho crafts, Changlang textiles
- B. Apatani rice, adi kekir, Tibetan carpets
- C. Adi kekir, Tibetan carpets, Wancho wooden crafts ☒
- D. Khamti rice, adi kekir, Changlang textiles



- ✓ **Three products of Arunachal Pradesh – adi kekir ginger, carpets handmade by Tibetan settlers and wooden items by the Wancho community – have received the prestigious GI tag recognizing their unique geographical roots. Adi kekir is a famed variety of ginger while Wancho artisans create sculpture figures on wooden items. The GI tag certifies specific products as originating from a particular region to boost their marketability.**

4. Who is the author of "Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology"?

- A. Yuval Noah Harari
- B. Malcolm Gladwell
- C. Chris Miller ☒
- D. Walter Isaacson



- ✓ **Chris Miller, author of "Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology" which explains the US-China semiconductor rivalry, has been invited to address Tamil Nadu's Global Investors Meet. His presence will energize youth and foster policy discussions in this sector which the state aims to grow.**

5. In which year, Savitribai Phule established the country's first school for women?

- A. 1835
- B. 1848 ☒
- C. 1855
- D. 1860



- ✓ **Savitribai Phule, along with her husband Jyotiba Phule, is considered a pioneer of the women's rights movement in India. In 1848, she established the country's first school for women. She championed causes like women's education and empowerment as well as emancipation of marginalized communities.**

6. Which public sector space enterprise will launch India's GSAT-20 satellite aboard a SpaceX rocket later in 2024?

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation
- B. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd
- C. NewSpace India Limited ☒
- D. Antrix Corporation Ltd



- ✓ **NewSpace India Limited, the commercial arm of ISRO, plans to launch communications satellite GSAT-20 in Q2 of 2024 on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. It is a demand-driven high throughput satellite ordered by NSIL to meet India's growing broadband needs.**

7. Which organization recently signed an MoU with National Remote Sensing Centre to develop a Green Cover Index for National Highways?

- A. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- B. National Highways Authority of India ☒
- C. Bureau of Indian Standards
- D. Defence Research and Development Organisation

- ✓ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) entered an MoU with ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) for 3 years to develop a "Green Cover Index" using satellite imagery to monitor plantation along vast network of national highways across India.

8. Which corporate group is setting up Asia's first testing facility for Hyperloop transportation technology at IIT-Madras?

- A. Adani Group  
B. Vedanta Ltd  
C. ArcelorMittal ☒  
D. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd



- ✓ ArcelorMittal has partnered with IIT-Madras to construct Asia's first testing facility for Hyperloop pods and systems which enable magnetic levitation of pods through vacuum tubes for high-speed transportation of goods and people.

9. What is the name of the biosimilar antidiabetic drug recently launched by Glenmark in the Indian market?

- A. Insugen  
B. Lirafit ☒  
C. Glyciphage  
D. Januglify



- ✓ Glenmark pharmaceuticals launched Lirafit, a biosimilar of popular antidiabetic medicine Liraglutide in India priced nearly 70% cheaper to make the therapy more affordable for diabetic patients in the country.

10. Which organization along with CCRAS launched the 'SMART 2.0' program to promote clinical studies in priority areas of Ayurveda?

- A. AYUSH Ministry  
B. NITI Aayog  
C. National Commission for Indian System of Medicine ☒  
D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



- ✓ The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) along with National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) launched 'SMART 2.0' to promote clinical studies in priority areas of Ayurveda through mutual collaboration with Ayurveda institutions across India. The objective is to generate evidence on efficacy and safety of Ayurveda interventions using interdisciplinary research methods.

11. Who is the current (2024) CEO of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)?

- A. Sanjay Kundu
- B. Rajesh Kumar ☒
- C. Rakesh Asthana
- D. Ajay Bhalla



- ✓ Rajesh Kumar, CEO of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), in a recent media interaction revealed statistics that over ₹10,300 crore were siphoned off from India by cyber criminals since April 2021. I4C is a body established under the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide a framework for law agencies to tackle cybercrime.

12. Which state government has prohibited government offices from purchasing petrol and diesel vehicles from January 1, 2024?

- A. Himachal Pradesh ☒
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Himachal Pradesh government made two major decisions on January 1st, 2024 - all government offices have been prohibited from purchasing petrol or diesel vehicles since January 1st. This decision has been taken to make Himachal Pradesh a clean and green energy state by March 31, 2026. The government will now only purchase electric vehicles.

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1. Shirshendhu Mukyopadhyaya, who recently won the 2023 Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar is a prolific writer of which language?

- A. Tamil
- B. Kannada
- C. Bengali ☒
- D. Hindi



- ✓ Shirshendhu Mukyopadhyaya, a Bengali writer, was awarded the 2023 Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar. He is recognized for his contribution to Indian literature through his works in the Bengali language. Mukyopadhyaya has authored over 90 books, including travelogues and children's fiction. The Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar is a prestigious national literary award, named after the late Kannada poet Kuvempu, and honors writers who have significantly contributed to Indian languages.

2. Professor B R Kamboj, who was recently announced winner of 14th M S Swaminathan Award, is associated with which field?

- A. Agronomy ☒
- B. Veterinary Science
- C. Environmental Science
- D. Plant Biotechnology



- ✓ Professor B R Kamboj, Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, was awarded the M S Swaminathan Award for his significant contributions in the field of agronomy. Recognized as a scientist/extension specialist, Prof Kamboj's work has been influential in agricultural science. He has published around 300 research papers and articles in various national and international journals, books, and technical magazines. His award was presented at the International Conference on 'One Health One World' in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, highlighting his impact on agricultural research and development.

3. Which state has recently become the first state to map all accident black spots on the Mappls App?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Karnataka
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Punjab ☒

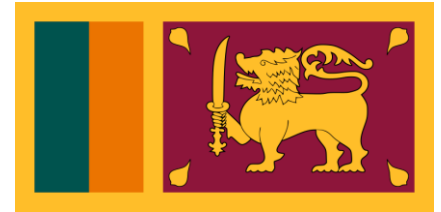


- ✓ Punjab has become the first state in India to map all 784 accident black spots on the Mappls App, a navigation system developed by MapMyIndia. This initiative, announced by Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, is part of the preparations for the launch of Chief Minister

Bhagwant Singh Mann's 'Sadak Suraksha Force'. This pioneering effort marks a significant step in using technology for improving road safety in the state.

4. Which country has recently declared a one-year moratorium on foreign research ships entering its waters?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Thailand
- C. Philippines
- D. Sri Lanka ☒



- ✓ Sri Lanka declared a one-year moratorium on foreign research ships entering its waters, with the official reason being for capacity building. This decision is seen as a response to concerns raised by India regarding Chinese research vessels docking in the region. Foreign Ministry spokesman Niluka Kadurugamuwa stated that the moratorium applies to all countries.

5. Petr Fiala, the Guest of Honour at the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit, is the Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Czech Republic ☒
- B. Slovakia
- C. Hungary
- D. Austria



- ✓ Petr Fiala, serving as the Guest of Honour at the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit, is the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. His presence at this significant event in Gandhinagar underscores the strengthening ties and cooperation between the Czech Republic and India. The Summit, known for attracting global leaders and investors, is an important platform for international economic and trade discussions.

6. According to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 report, which region is expected to have the highest GDP growth in 2024?

- A. European Union
- B. East Asia
- C. South Asia ☒
- D. Western Asia



- ✓ The UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 report forecasts that South Asia will experience significant GDP growth in 2024. It projects that the GDP in this region will increase by 5.2%, driven largely by the robust expansion in India, which remains the fastest-growing large economy in the world. India's growth is forecast to reach 6.2% this year.

7. Which country recently imposed a ban on its citizens from traveling to Russia or Ukraine for employment?

- A. India
- B. Pakistan
- C. Nepal ☒
- D. Bangladesh



- ✓ Nepal's government imposed a ban on its citizens from traveling to Russia or Ukraine for employment due to concerns over their recruitment in the ongoing armed conflict. The Department of Employment in Nepal issued a notice following reports that Nepalese nationals were being recruited by the Russian Army to fight in the conflict, with some casualties and captures reported. There are also unconfirmed beliefs that some Nepalese citizens might be fighting as hired soldiers on the Ukrainian side. This decision by the Nepalese government highlights the measures taken to ensure their citizens safety and well-being.

8. Who has been named as the president-designate for the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29)?

- A. Rashad Allahverdiyev
- B. Mukhtar Babayev ☒
- C. Sultan al-Jaber
- D. Fatih Birol



- ✓ Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan's Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources, has been named as the president-designate for the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29). Babayev, who previously worked as an executive at the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR), will lead the global climate talks at COP29. His appointment follows the precedent set by Sultan al-Jaber, chief of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), who presided over the previous year's COP28.

9. What is the overall cost of the "PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)" scheme approved by the Union Cabinet of India?

- A. Rs. 2542 crore
- B. Rs. 3583 crore
- C. Rs. 4797 crore ☒
- D. Rs. 5267 crore



- ✓ The Union Cabinet Chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the overarching scheme "PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)" of Ministry of Earth Sciences, for implementation during the period from 2021-26 at an overall cost of Rs 4,797 crore.

- ✓ The scheme encompasses five ongoing sub-schemes namely "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)", "Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources & Tech (O-SMART)", "Polar Science & Cryosphere Research (PACER)", "Seismology & Geosciences (SAGE)" and "Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT)".

10. Which Indian organization recently tested successfully a new kind of battery Silicon High energy Li-ion cell, featuring a Si-Graphite composite as anode material?

- A. ISRO ☒
- B. DRDO
- C. TATA Institute of Fundamental Research
- D. Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics



- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested a new kind of battery cell with an energy density of 190 Wh/kg. This Silicon High energy Li-ion cell, featuring a Si-Graphite composite as anode material, offers a more efficient and cost-effective alternative to conventional Li-ion cells, which typically have an energy density of 157 Wh/kg.
- ✓ The successful flight demonstration of these cells on the POEM-3 platform of PSLV-C58 marks a significant advancement in space battery technology, showcasing ISRO's continuous efforts in developing more efficient and cost-effective solutions for space missions.

11. Who has been appointed as India's ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva?

- A. Brajendra Navnit
- B. Senthil Pandian C ☒
- C. Pankaj Kumar Bansal
- D. M Selvendran



- ✓ Senthil Pandian C, an IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre from the 2002 batch, has been appointed as India's ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva. His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on January 5, 2024, and is set for a tenure of three years from the date of assumption of charge. This appointment follows the end of Brajendra Navnit's tenure as India's ambassador to the WTO.

12. Which Indian Grandmaster recently received support from the Adani Group for the Candidates chess tournament?

- A. Viswanathan Anand
- B. Pentala Harikrishna
- C. Vidit Gujrathi
- D. R Praggnanandhaa ☒





- ✓ 18-year-old Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa, one of India's brightest young chess prospects, recently received significant support from the Adani Group for his participation in the upcoming Candidates chess tournament. This backing was announced following a meeting with Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, who expressed pride in supporting Praggnanandhaa's chess career. The Candidates chess tournament is set to take place from April.02 to 25 in Toronto.

13. Which organization has developed India's man-portable air defense missile system, the VSHORADS?

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)  
B. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) ☒  
C. Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)  
D. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)



- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed India's man-portable air defense missile system, known as the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS). This system is designed to neutralize low-altitude aerial threats at ranges up to 6 kilometers.

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1. Sukanta Majumdar, who is one of the recipients of the Sansad Ratna Awards, belong to which political party?

- A. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ☒
- B. Shiv Sena
- C. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)
- D. Indian National Congress



- ✓ Sukanta Majumdar, one of the recipients of the Sansad Ratna Awards, belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Sansad Ratna Awards are presented annually to recognize the top-performing parliamentarians based on their performance in the Lok Sabha. Along with Majumdar, other recipients of the award include Shrikant Eknath Shinde from Shiv Sena, Sudheer Gupta from BJP, Amol Ramsing Kolhe from NCP, and Kuldeep Rai Sharma from the Congress.

2. The Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, that was recently in the news, is located in which state?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. West Bengal
- D. Chhattisgarh ☒



- ✓ The Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, which was recently in the news due to issues related to encroachment, is located in the state of Chhattisgarh. The tiger reserve, situated in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district, has faced challenges due to illegal encroachment in its buffer area. The Chhattisgarh high court ordered the removal of encroachers from the reserve, following a legal battle where the court rejected the petition filed by the encroachers. This action was based on evidence, including ISRO satellite imagery, which showed that the encroached region was once dense forest until 2012.

3. Kyaukphyu SEZ and deep-sea port, that was recently in news, is located in which country?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Indonesia
- C. Myanmar ☒
- D. Thailand



- ✓ China is pushing to expedite the construction of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in western Myanmar's Rakhine state. This initiative aims to ensure smoother access to the Bay of Bengal and is being developed by the Kyaukphyu SEZ Deep Seaport Co. Ltd, a joint venture between the CITIC Myanmar Port Investment Ltd and the Myanmar government-backed Kyaukphyu SEZ Management Committee. The project involves the construction of the Kyaukphyu SEZ and deep-sea port. The development of this SEZ is part of China's broader efforts to expand its economic and strategic footprint in Southeast Asia.

4. Sheikh Hasina, who recently secured a record fourth consecutive term as Prime Minister of Bangladesh, belongs to which political party?

- A. Bangladesh Nationalist Party
- B. Jatiya Party
- C. Awami League ☒
- D. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami



- ✓ Sheikh Hasina, who recently secured a record fourth consecutive term as Prime Minister of Bangladesh, belongs to the Awami League. Under her leadership, the Awami League won 200 seats in the 300-seat parliament in the Bangladesh general elections. This significant victory not only solidified Sheikh Hasina's position as the Prime Minister but also reaffirmed the Awami League's strong presence and influence in Bangladeshi politics.

5. What is the brand name of the environmental label under the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme recently launched by the environment ministry?

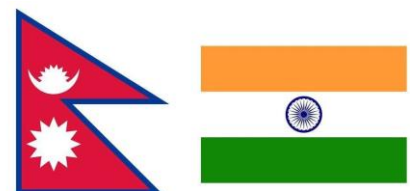
- A. Vriksha
- B. Harit
- C. Pramaan ☒
- D. Vanikaran



- ✓ The brand name of the environmental label provided under the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme, recently launched by the environment ministry, is PRAMAAN. This label is designed to inform both domestic and international consumers about the origin and source of forest and tree-based products. The certification scheme, which includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification, aims to encourage sustainable forest management and agro-forestry practices. The PRAMAAN label plays a crucial role in addressing concerns regarding deforestation and illicit timber trade, thereby enhancing the marketability and export potential of India's wood-based products.

6. What is the amount of hydropower India has agreed to purchase from Nepal according to the recent agreements signed between the two countries?

- A. 5,000 MW
- B. 10,000 MW ☒
- C. 15,000 MW
- D. 20,000 MW



- ✓ According to the recent agreements signed between India and Nepal, India has agreed to purchase 10,000 MW of hydropower from Nepal. This agreement will facilitate the export of 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal to India over the next 10 years. The agreement was one of several signed during the comprehensive talks held between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Nepalese counterpart, N P Saud.

7. Smruti Mandir and Deekshabhoomi, which were recently in news, are located in which city?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Pune
- C. Nagpur ☒
- D. Delhi



- ✓ Smruti Mandir and Deekshabhoomi, both of which were recently in the news, are located in the city of Nagpur. Smruti Mandir is known for housing the memorial of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, while Deekshabhoomi is a significant landmark where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar embraced Buddhism along with lakhs of his followers. These sites hold historical and cultural importance and recently attracted attention due to the visit of a Chinese delegation of Hindi scholars. Their visit to these landmarks in Nagpur was part of a cultural and educational exchange initiative.

8. The NAMASTE Portal that was recently in news, is related to which of the following fields?

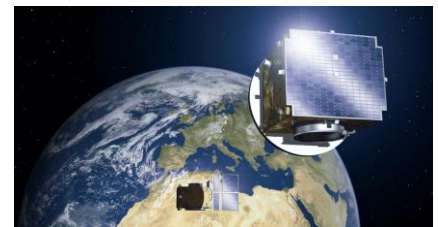
- A. Traditional Medicine ☒
- B. Space Research
- C. Environmental Conservation
- D. Digital Education Technology



- ✓ The NAMASTE (National Ayush Morbidity and Standardised Terminologies Electronic) Portal, which was recently in the news, is associated with the field of Traditional Medicine. This portal plays a significant role in the documentation and standardization of terminologies in the traditional medicine systems such as Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy. Its development and launch were integral to the inclusion of traditional medicine terminologies in the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases list.

9. What is the primary goal of the European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission scheduled to launch aboard India's PSLV?

- A. To study Earth's atmosphere
- B. To explore distant galaxies
- C. For solar observation ☒
- D. To map the Martian surface



- ✓ The primary goal of the European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission, which is scheduled to launch aboard India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is to demonstrate precision formation flying between two satellites for solar observation. This innovative mission aims to create an artificial eclipse by precisely positioning the two small satellites, namely the Coronagraph spacecraft and the solar-disc-shaped Occulter spacecraft, approximately 150 meters apart.



- ✓ This configuration will allow the Occulter to cast its shadow onto the Coronagraph's telescope, effectively blocking the Sun's direct light and enabling the observation of the Sun's faint corona in visible, ultraviolet, and polarised light for extended periods.

10. Which state government has recently launched an app-based electric bike taxi service called 'Baayu'?

- A. Jharkhand      B. Assam ☒
- C. West Bengal      D. Odisha



- ✓ Assam government has launched 'Baayu', an app-based electric bike taxi service by the Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC). It is India's first decentralized, app-based 100% electric bike taxi service that was flagged off by Assam Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya in Guwahati.

11. In which city was the All India Conference of director generals and inspector generals of police held in 2024?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Jaipur ☒
- C. New Delhi
- D. Kolkata



- ✓ The All-India Conference of director generals and inspector generals of police in 2024 was held in Jaipur. This annual conference, a significant event in the Indian policing and internal security calendar, brought together top police officials from across the country. The conference focused on various critical issues such as artificial intelligence, cyber security, counter-terrorism, left-wing extremism, narcotics smuggling, and prison reforms.

12. What is the primary focus of the "Harit Nauka – Guidelines for Green Transition of Inland Vessels" initiative recently unveiled?

- A. Promotion of Water Sports
- B. Adoption of Eco-Friendly Practices for Inland Vessels ☒
- C. Enhancement of Fishing Techniques
- D. Development of Waterway Infrastructure



- ✓ The primary focus of the "Harit Nauka – Guidelines for Green Transition of Inland Vessels" initiative, unveiled at the inaugural Inland Waterways Development Council meeting, is the adoption of eco-friendly practices for inland vessels.
- ✓ This initiative aims to contribute to sustainable development in waterway transportation by encouraging environmentally responsible operations and practices within the sector. The guidelines are designed to facilitate a transition towards greener and more sustainable methods in the operation and maintenance of inland water vessels, aligning with broader environmental objectives and sustainable development goals.



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1. On which date, the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas' observed in India?

- A. January.01
- B. January.09 ☒
- C. January.14
- D. January.21



- ✓ **Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas is celebrated on January 9th every year to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on January 9, 1915. The Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was established in 2003 by the Government of India Ministry of External Affairs to connect the Indian diaspora community more closely to India.**

2. As per United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects Report for 2024, what is the projected GDP growth rate for India in 2024?

- A. 5.9%
- B. 7.1%
- C. 6.2% ☒
- D. 4.0%



- ✓ **The Indian economy is projected to grow at a rate of 6.2% in 2024, a slight decrease from the 6.3% estimate for 2023. This growth is supported by strong domestic demand and the robust performance of the manufacturing and services sectors. This positions India as the fastest-growing large economy in the world, as stated in the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects Report for 2024.**

3. Wancho Wooden Craft, which has recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, belongs to which state?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh ☒
- B. Bihar
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ **Recently, three items of Arunachal Pradesh have received the prestigious Geographical Indication tag. These are adi kekir (ginger), handmade carpets by Tibetan settlers and wooden items made by Wancho community. Wancho wooden craft items are unique as they feature.**

4. Which company is operating the Krishna Godavari Basin Deep Sea Project in the Bay of Bengal?

- A. Reliance Industries
- B. Indian Oil
- C. Bharat Petroleum
- D. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) ☒



- ✓ The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is operating the Krishna Godavari Basin Deep Sea Project in the Bay of Bengal. The project is located in the KG-DWN-98/2 block, which has been delayed and extended multiple times over the past few years.
- ✓ The Krishna Godavari Basin is a petroliferous basin on the east coast of India. The onshore part is 15,000 square kilometers, and the offshore part is 25,000 square kilometers. ONGC has hired the floating platform Armada Sterling V for the project. The platform is owned 70% by Shapoorji Palonji Oil and Gas and 30% by Malaysia's Bumi Armada.

5. Lanjia Saura paintings, which recently got GI tag, belong to which state?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Odisha ☒
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Bihar



- ✓ Lanjia Saura paintings, also known as ekons or iditals, are a unique style of wall mural art from Odisha. The art form belongs to the Lanjia Saura community, a tribal group largely residing in the Rayagada district. These paintings are in the form of exterior murals painted on the mud walls of homes. White paintings figure over a crimson-maroon background.

6. Laokhowa and Burhachapori wildlife sanctuaries are Protected Areas (PA) of which state?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Assam ☒
- C. Manipur
- D. Mizoram



- ✓ Two rhinos have recently returned to the Laokhowa and Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam after nearly four decades, following a successful anti-encroachment operation. Located on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River, these two wildlife sanctuaries, despite having distinct names, form a unified entity both ecologically and geographically. They serve as vital connecting corridors for animal migration between Kaziranga and Orang National Parks.

7. Which one of the following describes the '30 Doradus B', that was recently in news?

- A. A supernova remnant ☒
- B. A supermassive blackhole
- C. A space observatory
- D. An earth-size exoplanet



- ✓ NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory recently captured a captivating image of 30 Doradus B, a supernova remnant situated in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way. Also known as NGC 2060, this celestial phenomenon is part of a dynamic star-forming region where stars have been continuously emerging for 8 to 10 million years. Located 160,000 light-years away from Earth, 30 Doradus B presents a complex landscape featuring dark gas clouds, young stars, high-energy shocks, and superheated gas.

8. Which country recently announced its participation in developing a module on NASA's Lunar Gateway Station alongside the USA, Japan, Canada, and the European Union?

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. India
- D. UAE ☒



- ✓ The UAE has recently made a significant stride in space exploration by announcing its collaboration in developing a module for NASA's Lunar Gateway Station. This joint effort includes participation from the USA, Japan, Canada, and the European Union, emphasizing the truly multinational nature of space exploration. The Lunar Gateway Station is a pivotal component of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to establish a long-term base on the Moon known as the Artemis base. Unlike its predecessor, the International Space Station (ISS), which orbits Earth in low Earth orbit (LEO), the Gateway will be the first space station to exist outside of LEO.

9. What is the name of the first US spacecraft to land on the moon's surface since Apollo 17 in 1972?

- A. Peregrine Mission – 1 ☒
- B. Vulcan Centaur
- C. Apollo – 24
- D. Astrobotic



- ✓ Peregrine Mission – 1 marks a significant milestone in lunar exploration as it is the first US spacecraft to land on the moon's surface since the historic Apollo 17 mission in 1972. Recently Peregrine Mission – 1 was launched by the American company Astrobotic aboard the Vulcan Centaur rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida. The mission's scientific objectives include studying the moon's thin atmosphere and water molecule movements. The scheduled landing date for Peregrine Mission – 1 is February 23.

10. Which company has recently announced an initiative "AI Odyssey" to skill 100,000 developers in India on AI technology?

- A. IBM
- B. Microsoft ☒
- C. Google
- D. Samsung



- ✓ Microsoft has announced an initiative named AI Odyssey to skill 100,000 developers in India in artificial intelligence technologies and tools. This will enable developers to solve complex real-world problems and create value by building AI solutions aligned to business outcomes. The program aims to promote AI fluency and adoption in the country by imparting comprehensive AI training to the developers over a month.

11. Which film won the Best Film (Drama) award at the 81st Golden Globe Awards 2024?

- A. The Fabelmans
- B. Top Gun: Maverick
- C. Oppenheimer ☒
- D. Jailer



- ✓ 81st Golden Globe Awards were held on January 7, 2024 in Beverly Hills, California to honor the best in American and international film/TV. The 'Best Film (Drama)' award was given to historical drama "Oppenheimer". The movie depicts the life of American physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer who led the Manhattan Project to develop the first nuclear weapons. It details Oppenheimer's work during World War II on creating the atomic bomb, hence calling him the "father of the atomic bomb".

12. Which city is the host of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023?

- A. Chennai
- B. Pune
- C. Faridabad ☒
- D. Kolkata



- ✓ A curtain raiser event for India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 was held in Faridabad, Haryana on January 8, 2024. IISF-2023 will be hosted in the DBT Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) – Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) campus, NCR Biotech Science Cluster, Faridabad from 17 to 20 January 2024.



13. Which company has recently received a patent for its 'Solar Flour Mill' innovation?

- A. Philips
- B. Kirloskar Brothers
- C. Shakti Pumps ☒
- D. Crompton Greaves



- ✓ **Shakti Pumps (India) Ltd** has received a patent from the Patent Office of Government of India for its 'Solar Flour Mill' innovation. This is the ninth patent awarded to the company. The solar-powered flour mill tackles electricity shortages in rural areas and helps save costs.

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### 1. What is the theme for observing Earth Rotation Day in 2024?

- A. Celebrating Earth's Natural Beauty
- B. Recognizing Human Achievements in Space Exploration
- C. Honoring the Discovery of Our Planet's Movement ☒
- D. Promoting Environmental Conservation



- ✓ **Earth Rotation Day is celebrated on January 8th every year. This special day is dedicated to acknowledging the pivotal discovery of Earth's rotation on its axis. The theme chosen to observe Earth Rotation Day in 2024 is 'Honoring the Discovery of Our Planet's Movement.' This theme invites us to reflect on the historical journey of understanding Earth's rotation and the impact this knowledge has had on our understanding of the universe.**

### 2. Which state has recently introduced a comprehensive social welfare scheme named "Yogyasree"?

- A. West Bengal ☒
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Bihar



- ✓ **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has recently launched the "Yogyasree" social welfare scheme, aimed at providing free training modules for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in the state.**
- ✓ **The initiative focuses on preparing these students for entrance and competitive examinations, demonstrating the government's commitment to educational empowerment. The Yogyasree scheme includes the establishment of fifty training centers across West Bengal, providing cost-free training for SC and ST students, with a specific emphasis on competitive examinations.**

### 3. What is the name of the newly discovered species of carnivorous worm found in northern Greenland, recently named "terror beast" by scientists?

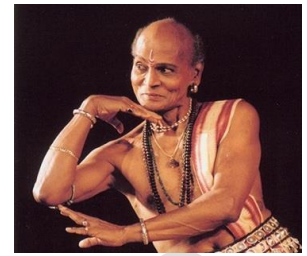
- A. *Arcticus wormensis*
- B. *Polarterroris predatoriens*
- C. *Greenlandicus carnivorous*
- D. *Timorebestia koprii* ☒



- ✓ **Scientists have recently made a discovery by uncovering the fossils of a newfound species of carnivorous worm in northern Greenland, aptly named Timorebestia koprii, or "terror beast." This species is a pioneer among early carnivorous animals that colonized the water column during the early Cambrian period, which occurred approximately 541 million to 485.4 million years ago. The fossils of Timorebestia koprii were found in the Early Cambrian Sirius Passet fossil locality in North Greenland.**

4. Kelucharan Mohapatra, whose 98<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary was recently observed, helped to revive and popularize which dance form?

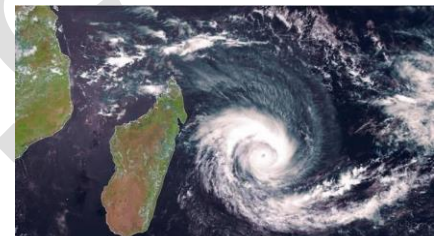
- A. Bharatanatyam
- B. Kathak
- C. Odissi ☒
- D. Manipuri



- ✓ **Legendary Indian classical dancer Kelucharan Mohapatra was born on 8 January, 1926. He is credited with the revival and popularising the Odissi dance form in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He did extensive research on the traditional 'Gotipua' and 'Mahari' dance forms, which led him to restructure Odissi.**

5. Which region is associated with the tropical cyclone Alvaro that has recently been in the news?

- A. Southeast Asia
- B. Madagascar ☒
- C. South America
- D. Australia



- ✓ **Tropical Cyclone Alvaro made a significant impact on southwest Madagascar, hitting the region on January 1st, 2024. This marked the first major cyclone influence during the 2023-2024 in the southwest Indian Ocean.**

6. Recently, which protected area was making news as the endangered “hog deer” was spotted here for the first time?

- A. Rajaji Tiger Reserve ☒
- B. Sundarbans Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Bandipur National Park
- D. Kaziranga National Park



- ✓ **The hog deer, previously not recorded in the Rajaji Tiger Reserve, has recently been discovered there, marking a significant finding. Known for its solitary nature, it occasionally feeds in small groups when food is abundant in open fields. Native to India, including the Himalayan foothill zone and Southeast Asia, hog deer have also been introduced to Sri Lanka, Australia, and the United States. In terms of conservation, the hog deer is categorized as endangered by the IUCN, and it is listed under Scheduled I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.**

7. The first meeting of the Inland Waterways Development Council was held at?

- A. Chennai
- B. Madurai
- C. Kolkata ☒
- D. Kanyakumari



- ✓ The Inland Waterways Authority of India, operating under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW), made history by organizing the inaugural meeting of the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) in Kolkata. Led by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the event convened representatives from waterway states, central government officials, and experts. The gathering discussed crucial initiatives, including the "Harit Nauka – Guidelines for Green Transition of Inland Vessels" and the "River Cruise Tourism Roadmap 2047," with a focus on advancing the development of inland waterways in India.

8. iDEX-DIO is the flagship scheme of which Ministry?

- A. Ministry of Tourism
- B. Ministry of Defence ☒
- C. Ministry of MSME
- D. Ministry of Tribal Affairs



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

- ✓ The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX-DIO) is gearing up to participate in the tenth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2024. Launched in 2018, iDEX-DIO is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. Its primary objective is to foster an innovation ecosystem in the Defence and Aerospace sector by collaborating with startups, innovators, MSMEs, incubators, and academia. This scheme earned the PM Award for Innovation in the defence sector. The initiative is funded and managed by the Defence Innovation Organization (DIO), a 'not for profit' company formed under the Companies Act 2013, with Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) HAL & BEL as the founder members.

9. Who is the fourth Secretary General of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?

- A. Indra Mani Pandey ☒
- B. Tenzin Lekhpel
- C. Abdul Motaleb Sarker
- D. Shabana Fyyaz



- ✓ Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, a senior diplomat of India, assumed today the position of Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). He is the 4<sup>th</sup> SG of BIMSTEC and will remain its SG for a period of three years. He has succeeded H.E. Tenzin Lekhpel of Bhutan.

10. Which Indian Institutes collaborated on the metabolic engineering of *Nothapodytes nimmoniana* plant cells to enhance the production of the anti-cancer drug camptothecin (CPT)?

- A. Indian Institutes of Technology, Bombay and Delhi
- B. Indian Institutes of Technology, Madras and Mandi ☒
- C. Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Kolkata and Pune
- D. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur



- ✓ Researchers at the Indian Institutes of Technology Madras and Mandi have successfully employed metabolic engineering techniques to boost the production of the anti-cancer drug camptothecin (CPT) in *Nothapodytes nimmoniana* plant cells. Camptothecin serves as a crucial anti-cancer drug lead molecule, contributing to the development of high-value medications like Topotecan and Irinotecan. Originally extracted from *Camptotheca acuminata* in Eastern Asia and *Nothapodytes nimmoniana* in India, camptothecin faces a threat due to climate change and extensive deforestation for its extraction, leading to the endangered status of these plants.

11. What was the global surface air temperature increases, relative to the 1850-1900 average in 2023?

- A. 1.48°C ☒
- B. 1.53°C
- C. 1.69°C
- D. 1.82°C



- ✓ In 2023, the global surface air temperature notably rose to 1.48 degrees Celsius above the average temperature recorded during the pre-industrial period of 1850-1900. This significant increase, reported by Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), marked 2023 as the warmest year since records began in 1850. This rise in temperature exceeded the previous record set in 2016 and is a clear indicator of ongoing global warming. The increase in temperature has been attributed to the rising concentrations of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere, primarily due to human activities such as burning fossil fuels.

12. What is the primary purpose of the ICD-11 TM Module 2?

- A. Classifying modern biomedicine ☒
- B. Including Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani in WHO classification
- C. Monitoring Infectious Diseases
- D. Developing Ayush Insurance Coverage



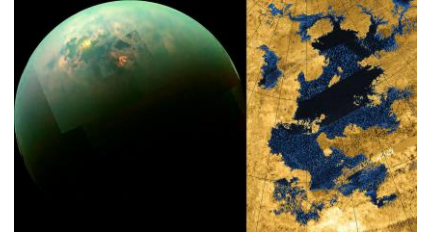
- ✓ The ICD-11 TM Module 2, launched by the World Health Organization in collaboration with India's Ministry of Ayush, primarily aims to include data and terminology relating to diseases based on traditional medicine systems - Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani - in the WHO's International Classification of Diseases (ICD11) classification.



- ✓ This significant inclusion marks a step towards achieving global uniformity in traditional medicine recognizing and integrating these ancient systems of medicine into the international healthcare framework. The inclusion of these traditional medical systems in the ICD11 classification reflects a growing recognition of the importance and relevance of traditional medicine in global healthcare.

13. The term "magic islands," recently in the news, refers to features found on which astronomical body?

- A. Saturn  
B. Mars  
C. Titan ☒  
D. Mercury



- ✓ The "magic islands" observed on Titan, Saturn's largest moon, are primarily made of porous, frozen organic solids. These floating formations, likened to shapes of honeycomb or Swiss cheese, were first spotted in 2014 by the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft. Scientists, led by Xinting Yu from the University of Texas, conducted research to unravel this mystery. They concluded that these structures are clusters of complex organic snow.

## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

### **TNPSC Current Affairs**

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1. Red Ant Chutney, which has recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, belongs to which state?

- A. Odisha ☒
- B. Bihar
- C. Goa
- D. Jharkhand



- ✓ The Red Ant Chutney of Mayurbhanj in Odisha has recently been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The application for registration was submitted by The Mayurbhanj Kai Society Ltd in 2020 under Class 30, as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This unique chutney, also known as Kai Chutney, is rich in valuable nutrients such as proteins, calcium, zinc, vitamin B-12, iron, magnesium, potassium, sodium, copper, and amino acids, contributing to immune system enhancement.

2. Which country is host and chair of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in 2024?

- A. UK
- B. China
- C. India ☒
- D. Nepal



- ✓ India is set to chair UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and host its 46th session in New Delhi from July 21 to 31, 2024, marking a historic milestone for our nation. Vishal V Sharma, India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, announced this decision. The World Heritage Committee, comprising representatives from 21 member states, gathers annually to recognize global cultural and natural heritage.

3. According to the prestigious awards by Skytrax in 2023, which airport was crowned the World's Best Airport for the year 2023?

- A. Singapore's Changi Airport ☒
- B. Qatar's Hamad International Airport
- C. Incheon International Airport
- D. Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi



- ✓ Singapore's Changi Airport has regained its title as the World's Best Airport for the year 2023, according to the esteemed awards presented by Skytrax, an air transport research firm. After being surpassed by Qatar's Hamad International Airport in the past two years, Changi Airport secured the top spot for the twelfth time, showcasing its enduring excellence.

4. What is the name of the assault rifle recently launched by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)?

- A. Agni
- B. Nirbhay
- C. Ugram ☒
- D. Tejas



- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched the “Ugram” assault rifle. The DRDO developed the rifle in collaboration with a private company and the Armament Research & Development Establishments (ARDE), a DRDO laboratory in Pune. The name “Ugram” means “ferocious”. The rifle is intended to meet the needs of the military, paramilitary, and police.

5. Chandubi Festival, recently seen in news, is celebrated in which Indian State?

- A. Assam ☒
- B. Goa
- C. Kerala
- D. Manipur



- ✓ The Chandubi Festival, an annual five-day celebration, recently took place along the Chandubi Lake in the Assam. This cultural extravaganza, starting on the first day of the New Year, showcases the rich local folk culture, ethnic cuisine, traditional handloom and dresses, as well as activities like boating.
- ✓ Not only does it contribute to the preservation of the waterbody, but it also plays a crucial role in generating livelihood opportunities for various tribes, including Rabhas, Garos, Gorkhas, and tea tribes, who sell local food items, homemade beverages, and traditional attire during the event.

6. Who has been appointed as the new prime minister of France by President Emmanuel Macron?

- A. Stecca Ford
- B. Gabriel Attal ☒
- C. Francois Hollande
- D. Nicolas Sarkozy



- ✓ France's President Emmanuel Macron made a significant move by appointing Gabriel Attal, 34, as the country's new Prime Minister. Attal's appointment follows the resignation of Elisabeth Borne, the former Prime Minister. Gabriel Attal previously held the education portfolio in Borne's government.

7. Which military exercise did the Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft participate in Guam?

- A. Exercise Sea Dragon 24 ☒
- B. Operation Desert Storm
- C. Exercise Red Flag
- D. Operation Neptune Spear



- ✓ The Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft landed in Guam to participate in Exercise Sea Dragon 24. The exercise is an Anti-Submarine Warfare exercise led by the US Navy. The exercise's goal is to improve coordination and interoperability between the participating navies through professional interactions on the ground and in the air. The Indian Navy's P-8I is a long-range maritime patrol aircraft.

8. Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve, recently in news, is located in which Indian state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Bihar
- D. Karnataka ☒



- ✓ The Karnataka Forest Department has initiated the collection of green tax at BR Hills, specifically targeting vehicles entering through the BRT Tiger Reserve. The BRT Tiger Reserve, situated in the Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka, derives its name from the white rocky cliff called 'BILIGIRI,' hosting a temple of Lord 'VISHNU,' locally known as 'Rangaswamy.' Established as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1974, it attained Tiger Reserve status in 2011, covering a total area of 574.82 Km<sup>2</sup>.

9. What is the name of the indigenously manufactured Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) recently flagged off by Chief of Naval Staff?

- A. Drishti 10 'Starship'
- B. Drishti 10 'Skyrocket'
- C. Drishti 10 'Starliner' ☒
- D. Drishti 10 'Stellar'



- ✓ The Chief of Naval Staff recently inaugurated the first indigenous Drishti 10 'Starliner' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for the Navy. Developed by Adani Defence and Aerospace, this advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform boasts 36-hour endurance and a 450 kg payload capacity.

10. INS Kabra, recently seen in the news, is a type of what naval vessel?

- A. Aircraft Carrier
- B. Submarine
- C. Offshore Patrol Vessel ☒
- D. Destroyer



- ✓ The INS Kabra, an indigenous fast attack craft of the Car Nicobar class, recently docked at the Colombo port as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka. Named after an island in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, the INS Kabra is one of the high-speed offshore patrol vessels built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for the Indian Navy. As the eighth vessel in a series of 10 Fast Attack Crafts, it is designed for cost-effective patrol, anti-piracy, and rescue operations in India's Exclusive Economic Zone.

11. What recent approval did the Union Cabinet grant in relation to space cooperation, involving the ISRO and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC)?

- A. Establishment of Joint Research Facility
- B. Launch of a manned mission to Mars
- C. MoU for Joint Small Satellite Development ☒
- D. Formation of an International Space Agency



- ✓ Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the ISRO and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) for the development of a Joint Small Satellite. 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.

12. Which airport is the venue of Wings India 2024, India's largest civil aviation event?

- A. Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad ☒
- B. Warangal Airport, Hyderabad
- C. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad
- D. Sri Sathya Sai Airport, Andhra Pradesh

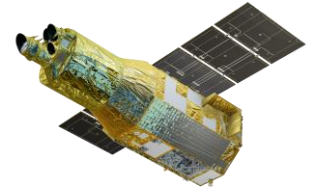


- ✓ Wings India 2024, India's largest civil aviation event, will take place at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport from January 18–21, 2024. The biennial event is organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Indian Industry (FICCI).



13. What is the primary objective of the XRISM satellite mission, that was recently making news?

- A. Studying Venusian Clouds
- B. Mapping Earth's Surface
- C. Observing the X-ray cosmos ☒
- D. Monitoring Climate Change



- ✓ **The XRISM (X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission) satellite mission, a collaborative effort led by Japan's JAXA, along with NASA and ESA, primarily aims to observe and study the X-ray cosmos. Launched on September 6, 2023, XRISM's mission is to scrutinize the universe's hottest regions, largest structures, and objects with the strongest gravity.**
- ✓ **This is achieved through advanced technology capable of detecting X-rays with energies up to 12,000 electron volts. The mission is equipped with two significant instruments, Resolve and Xtend, each contributing uniquely to the exploration of the cosmos.**

14. Who recently became the first Indian woman to receive the Arjuna Award for Equestrian Sports?

- A. P. V. Sindhu
- B. Mary Kom
- C. Saina Nehwal
- D. Divyakriti Singh ☒



- ✓ **Jaipur's Divyakriti Singh, aged 23, is the inaugural Indian female recipient of the Arjuna Award for equestrian sports. The sole representative from Rajasthan this year, Singh underwent three years of training in Germany at the Hof Kasselman dressage yard in Hagen. She secured an Individual Silver and two bronze medals at the International Dressage Competition in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**

15. Which government department is responsible for organizing the Startup India Innovation Week 2024 from 10th-18th January 2024?

- A. Department of Food and Public Distribution
- B. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) ☒
- C. Department of Financial Services
- D. Department of Heavy Industries



- ✓ **The DPIIT, a part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, will host the Startup India Innovation Week 2024 from January 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. This initiative aims to bring together stakeholders, including startups, entrepreneurs, and investors, to celebrate and boost the Indian Startup Ecosystem, culminating in National Startup Day on January 16th, 2024.**

16. Which ministry has been conferred with the prestigious 1st Prize in the Innovation Sandbox presentation for “Digital Transformation Initiatives in Land Governance through SVAMITVA Scheme”?

- A. Ministry of Panchayati Raj ☒
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of External Affairs
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj won the first prize in the Innovation Sandbox presentation for “Digital Transformation Initiatives in Land Governance through SVAMITVA Scheme”.
- ✓ The award was given at the Bharti Institute of Public Policy’s (BIPP) second annual three-day “Public Policy Dialogues” Conclave. Scheme is a reformative step towards establishment of clear ownership of property in rural inhabited (“Abadi”) areas, by mapping of land parcels using drone technology and providing ‘Record of Rights’ to village household owners with issuance of legal ownership cards (Property cards/Title deeds) to the property owners.

17. Which two countries’ scientists joined India’s 43<sup>rd</sup> Antarctic Expedition?

- A. Singapore and Mauritius
- B. Bangladesh and Bhutan
- C. Mauritius and Bangladesh ☒
- D. Nepal and Myanmar



- ✓ In a landmark development this December, India’s 43<sup>rd</sup> Antarctic expedition, spearheaded by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, saw the inclusion of scientists from Mauritius and Bangladesh, signifying a noteworthy stride in global collaboration for polar research. This collaboration evolved from the inaugural Colombo Security Conclave held in 2022.

18. According to the 2024 Henley Passport Index, what is the rank of India?

- A. 83<sup>rd</sup>
- B. 80<sup>th</sup> ☒
- C. 82<sup>nd</sup>
- D. 90<sup>th</sup>



- ✓ According to the 2024 Henley Passport Index, India is ranked 80<sup>th</sup> out of 199 countries. This is a three-rank increase from 2023, when India was ranked 83<sup>rd</sup>. The Henley Passport Index ranks countries based on the number of destinations that allow visa-free entry to their passport. India’s passport allows visa-free access to 62 destinations, including Thailand, Indonesia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. The most powerful passports in the world in 2024 are Japan, Singapore, French, German, Italy and Spain. Citizens of these countries can travel visa-free to 194 destinations.

19. '*Polygonum Chaturbhujatum*' recently seen in the news, belongs to which of the following species?

- A. Amphibians
- B. Plants ☒
- C. Fungi
- D. Animals



- ✓ A recent survey conducted at Gol Pahadi Island in the Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra led to the discovery of a new plant species belonging to the Polygonum genus. Named *Polygonum Chaturbhujatum*, this herbaceous plant adds to the biodiversity of the region. Additionally, the survey revealed the presence of six plant species endemic to India within the Pench Tiger Reserve, namely *Aegineta indica*, *Boerhavia crispa*, *Habenaria gibsonii*, *Iphigenia pallida*, *Petalidium barlerioides*, and *Barleria gibsonii*.

20. Einstein Probe (EP), a new astronomical satellite, was recently launched by which country?

- A. China ☒
- B. India
- C. Russia
- D. UK



- ✓ China recently launched the Einstein Probe (EP), an astronomical satellite developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), dedicated to time-domain high-energy astrophysics. Launched successfully on Jan.09, 2024, from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center using a "Long March-2C" rocket, the EP aims to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe. Equipped with advanced X-ray mirrors and detectors, the EP focuses on exploring the transient and variable X-ray sky.

21. Yakshagana, a traditional folk dance, belongs to which of the following state?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka ☒
- C. Kerala
- D. Bihar



- ✓ The century-old Yakshagana mela in Dakshina Kannada, known as Kateel Sri Durgaparameshwari Yakshagana Dashavatara Mandali or Kateel Mela, is set to resume its all-night performances following approval from the Karnataka High Court. This renowned Yakshagana troupe, founded in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, plays a significant role in 'Harake Seva'—fulfilling devotees' wishes by hosting Yakshagana shows. Yakshagana is a traditional folk-dance form in Coastal Karnataka.

22. What is the name of the mobile app developed by the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) project to track and monitor fish diseases across the country?

A. Report Fish Disease ☒

B. Disease Alert

C. FishCare

D. AquaTracker



- ✓ The National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) has launched the 'Report Fish Disease' mobile app to effectively monitor and track fish diseases across the country. Developed under the lead institute ICAR-NBFGR, in collaboration with partners like the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), the app aims to empower fish farmers by providing a user-friendly platform for reporting diseases on their farms.

23. In which region of India, Regional Conference on the theme “e-governance” being inaugurated?

A. Kutch

B. Guwahati ☒

C. Jaipur

D. Bombay



- ✓ A two-day Regional Conference on the theme “e- Governance” organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Government of Assam began in Guwahati. Governor of Assam, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria and Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh graced the inaugural event.

24. Srimandir Parikrama Project, recently in news, aims to improve the administration of which temple?

A. Puri Jagannath Temple ☒

B. Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple

C. Kashi Vishwanath Temple

D. Padmanabhaswamy Temple



- ✓ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is set to inaugurate the Jagannath Puri heritage corridor, part of the Srimandir Parikrama Project, on Jan.17. The project focuses on improving amenities, security, and traffic flow around the iconic Jagannath Puri Temple. The temple, dedicated to Lord Jagannath, is a historic Hindu pilgrimage site in Odisha.

25. Which Indian Bowler was bestowed with the Arjuna Award by the President of India Droupadi Murmu?

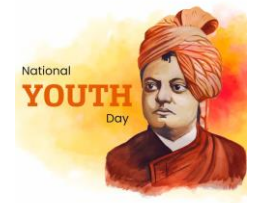
- A. Mohammed Shami ☒
- B. Jasprit Bumrah
- C. Arshdeep Singh
- D. Deepak Chahar



- ✓ Team India pacer Mohammed Shami was honoured with the Arjuna Award by President of India Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi. He was conferred with the honour at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. Arjuna Award is the second-highest sporting honour of India after the Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had recommended Shami's name following his exceptional performance in the ODI World Cup 2023.

26. On which day is National Youth Day celebrated annually to honor the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda?

- A. January.12 ☒
- B. January.09
- C. January.13
- D. January.05



- ✓ National Youth Day, observed on Jan.12<sup>th</sup>, pays tribute to Swami Vivekananda's spirit, celebrating the vibrant energy and potential of young minds. Commemorating Vivekananda's birth anniversary, the day emphasizes the pivotal role youth play in shaping the future. It serves as a catalyst for inspiration, empowerment, and fostering positive change and innovation. National Youth Day 2024 marks a celebration of these aspirations and dreams.

## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

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1. Which initiative was recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote cleanliness at pilgrimage sites?

- A. Clean Pilgrimage project
- B. Swachh Mandir Campaign ☒
- C. Swachh Bharat Initiative
- D. Sacred Site Hygiene Program



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Swachh Mandir' (Clean Temple) campaign ahead of the Ram temple consecration in Ayodhya on January 22. He called for a nationwide initiative to make Ayodhya the cleanest city in India. The campaign encourages citizens to clean pilgrimage sites from January 14 to 22, emphasizing the inclusive nature of the initiative.

2. Recently, which printing press published a book titled 'Modi: Energising A Green Future,'?

- A. Pentagon press ☒
- B. Penguin Random House
- C. Acme Printing press
- D. Harper collins publishers



- ✓ Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, leading the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, launched the book "Modi: Energising A Green Future." Published by Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, the book explores PM Narendra Modi's vision for a sustainable future. Edited by notable figures like RK Pachnanda and Bibek Debroy, it offers a comprehensive analysis of India's environmental policies.

3. What is the name of a guideline issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in India to instill human values and professional ethics in higher education institutions?

- A. UTSAH
- B. NEP SAARTHI
- C. Mulya Pravah 2.0 ☒
- D. Diksha



- ✓ The University Grants Commission (UGC) in India is promoting values and ethics in higher education through Mulya Pravah 2.0 guidelines. Aimed at instilling human values and professional ethics, it builds value-based institutions, emphasizing transparency, integrity, and accountability. The guidelines stress deep respect for fundamental duties and constitutional values, urging institutions to prioritize transparency, fairness, and the highest ethical standards. Mulya Pravah 2.0 is a modified version of the 2019 guideline with a focus on promoting constitutional values.

4. Who has been recently appointed as the Secretary of Railway Board?

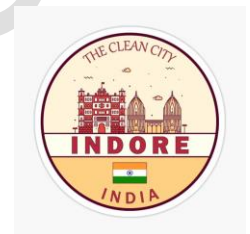
- A. Aruna Nayar (IRPS) ☒
- B. Arun Kumar (IPS)
- C. Preeti Singh (IPS)
- D. Swati Sharma (IAS)



- ✓ **Aruna Nayar, an Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) Officer of the 1987 Batch, has assumed the role of Railway Board Secretary. She officially took charge on January.06. Notably, the Appointments Committee of Cabinet appointed her as Secretary in IRMS Level-16, making her the first IRPS officer to be empanelled in IRMS at this level.**

5. Which city has been named the cleanest in India for the seventh consecutive year?

- A. Tiruchirappalli
- B. Indore ☒
- C. Salem
- D. Mumbai



- ✓ **Indore has been acclaimed as the cleanest city in India for the seventh year in a row, a title it has proudly held for an impressive consecutive streak. This recognition comes as part of the results from the Swachh Survekshan 2023, unveiled by President Droupadi Murmu on January 11, 2024. Notably, this year, Surat also achieved the joint top rank, sharing the honor with Indore for the first time. Swachh Survekshan, the world's largest urban cleanliness survey, had accolade the city's persistent and effective efforts in urban cleanliness and sanitation.**

6. Which reserve has been named India's first 'International Dark Sky Park'?

- A. Ranthambore National Park
- B. Kaziranga National Park
- C. Pench Tiger Reserve ☒
- D. Jim Corbett National Park



- ✓ **Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has been honored with the title of India's first 'International Dark Sky Park' by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). This significant accolade places Pench Tiger Reserve at the forefront of a global movement aimed at promoting astronomy and preserving natural night skies. The reserve has achieved this recognition for its efforts in implementing dark sky-friendly lighting policies, conducting educational outreach, and actively monitoring night sky quality.**

7. Which city hosted the World Tamil Diaspora Day celebrations 2024?

- A. Chennai ☒
- B. Madurai
- C. Salem
- D. Kanyakumari



- ✓ **Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin inaugurated the World Tamil Diaspora Day celebrations in Chennai on January 11, 2024. This event, spanning two days, was a significant gathering that brought together Tamils from about 58 countries, highlighting the global presence and cultural unity of the Tamil community. The celebration was marked by the participation of state ministers, people's representatives, industrialists, writers, and others.**

8. Which two entities have recently collaborated to streamline Self-Help Group (SHG) loans?

- A. Ministry of Finance and ICICI Bank
- B. Ministry of Rural Development and HDFC Bank
- C. Ministry of Rural Development and SBI ☒
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Axis Bank



- ✓ **The Ministry of Rural Development and State Bank of India have signed an MoU to ease enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHGs). State Bank of India introduced Svyam Siddha, a financial product tailored for SHG women entrepreneurs, offering loans up to Rs 5 lakhs.**

9. Who secured the gold in the 57 kg category at the 2024 Zagreb Open Singles?

- A. Aman Sherawat ☒
- B. Ravi Kumar Dahiya
- C. Uday Chand
- D. Deepak Punia



- ✓ **Aman Sehrawat clinched gold at the Zagreb Open 2024 in the men's singles 57 kg division, triumphing over China's Zou Wanhao 10-0. Currently ranked 13<sup>th</sup> globally, Sehrawat displayed dominance, securing victory within a minute and eight seconds in the final.**

10. Who recently secured the India's 16<sup>th</sup> quota for Paris Olympics?

- A. Rhythm Sangwan ☒
- B. Jiin Yang
- C. Manini Koushik
- D. Yeji Kim



- ✓ Rhythm Sangwan clinched a bronze medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2024, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, securing a Paris 2024 Olympic quota for India. This marked India's 16th shooting quota, surpassing the previous record of 15 for Tokyo 2020.

11. What is the official slogan of the 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Winter Games?

- A. Winter Wonderland  
B. Unity in Diversity  
C. Dream of Winter, Love among Asia ☒  
D. Play in Winter



- ✓ The 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Winter Games, scheduled for 2025, unveiled its core symbols in Heilongjiang, China. The official slogan, "Dream of Winter, Love among Asia," reflects unity and sportsmanship, embodying the passion for winter sports across Asian countries. Mascots "Binbin" and "Nini," Siberian tiger cubs, symbolize the Games' vitality. The emblem, named "Breakthrough," creatively merges Chinese culture and Olympic symbols.

12. Which infrastructure project, also known as Atal Setu, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mumbai?

- A. Mumbai Metro Line 3  
B. Bandra-Worli Sea Link  
C. Mumbai Coastal Road Project  
D. Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) ☒



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), officially named Atal Setu Nhava Sheva Sea Link, which is the country's longest bridge over the sea. The 22-km-long twin-carriageway six-lane bridge spans the Thane Creek in the Arabian Sea, connecting Sewri in Mumbai to Chirle in Raigad district. The MTHL is part of an effort to improve connectivity in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, encompassing Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, and Raigad districts, with the goal of fostering economic development. The new bridge will significantly enhance connectivity between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, alleviate congestion on the existing Vashi bridge route, and play a pivotal role in the region's overall transportation infrastructure.

13. Udupi railway station, situated under the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) network, was recently included in which government scheme for redevelopment?

- A. Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) ☒  
B. Production-Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)  
C. National Rail Plan (NRP) for India – 2030  
D. Vikalp Scheme



- ✓ The Udupi station, part of the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., has been added to the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) for redevelopment. Launched in February 2023 by the Indian Railways Ministry, ABSS targets the transformation of 1,309 stations across India. The scheme focuses on modernizing stations, enhancing passenger amenities, improving traffic circulation, facilitating inter-modal integration, and implementing long-term Master Plans.

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1. Recently, International Camel Festival was started in which city of India?

- A. Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- B. Kutch, Gujarat
- C. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Bikaner, Rajasthan ☒



- ✓ The International Camel Festival in Rajasthan's Bikaner district started with a vibrant Heritage Walk from Rampuriya Haveli, showing decorated camels, traditional costumes, and local folk artists. Additionally, the Tourism Department organized Rangoli, Mehndi, and drawing competitions at Bikaji ki Tekri, rewarding winners with mementos.

2. Ganga Sagar Mela, India's second-largest fair after Kumbh Mela, is celebrated in which state of India?

- A. Mizoram
- B. West Bengal ☒
- C. Goa
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ Gangasagar fair is celebrated every year on 14 or 15 January. This fair is held on the day of Makar Sankranti. In the year 2023, about 51 lakh devotees participated in this fair. This fair is held in South Pargana district of West Bengal. This fair is celebrated at Sagardweep, located some distance from the Bengal coast. Sagardweep is the place where the river Ganges meets the Bay of Bengal. Gangasagar Mela is the second largest Hindu fair after Kumbh Mela. By taking bath here one attains salvation and also gets the blessings of the ancestors.

3. Which ministry is responsible for the PM-eBus Sewa scheme?

- A. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways



- ✓ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister has announced tenders for the PM-eBus Sewa scheme, aiming to deploy 10,000 e-buses across Indian cities. The scheme operates on a 10-year Public Private Partnership model, where states/cities manage services and the central government provides subsidies from a Rs 57,613 crore fund. This scheme covers cities with populations over 300,000.

4. Zero Effect, Zero Defect Scheme (ZED) is an initiative of which Ministry of Government of India?

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises ☒



- ✓ The Zero Effect, Zero Defect (ZED) scheme, launched in October 2016 and revamped in April 2022, recently achieved 1 lakh certifications. It certifies environmentally conscious manufacturing under gold, silver, and bronze levels based on 20 parameters. Objectives include promoting Zero Defect production, upgrading quality standards, and supporting "Make in India." The scheme offers financial assistance, with up to 75% subsidy, to encourage MSMEs in adopting eco-friendly practices.

5. Which space agency recently conducted its first mobile robotic mission to the moon, VIPER Rover?

- A. NASA ☒
- B. ISRO
- C. ROSCOSMOS
- D. JAXA



- ✓ NASA's VIPER Rover, short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, represents the agency's groundbreaking robotic lunar mission.
- ✓ Scheduled to land at the Moon's South Pole in late 2024, VIPER is tasked with closely examining the presence and distribution of ice and other resources in this region. As NASA's first mobile robotic mission to the Moon, VIPER will analyze surface and subsurface ice at varying depths and temperatures across four distinct soil environments.

6. Which International company is planning to establish a semiconductor plant in Sanand, Gujarat?

- A. Qualcomm
- B. Simmtech ☒
- C. Micron Technology
- D. Intel



- ✓ South Korean firm Simmtech has unveiled plans to invest Rs 1,250 crore in setting up a semiconductor manufacturing plant in Sanand, Gujarat, as part of a significant boost to the semiconductor industry in India. Recognized as the world's largest manufacturer of semiconductor substrates, Simmtech has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government for this venture.

7. What is the projected global unemployment rate for the year 2024?

- A. 5.2% ☒
- B. 4.1%
- C. 6.2%
- D. 5.5%



- ✓ According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the global unemployment rate is expected to reach 5.2% in 2024, up from 5.1% in 2023. The ILO's "World Employment and Social Outlook" report for 2024 predicts that the number of unemployed people will increase by 2 million. The ILO attributes the increase to more people being unemployed in advanced economies.

8. Which article of the Indian Constitution states the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions?

- A. Article 30 ☒
- B. Article 14
- C. Article 19
- D. Article 61



- ✓ The Supreme Court has recently emphasized that the intent of Article 30 of the Indian Constitution is not to marginalize minorities by suggesting they have the upper hand in administering educational institutions. Article 30 safeguards the rights of minorities, both religious and linguistic, to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- ✓ The provision promotes equality and prohibits discrimination by stating that the government should not discriminate against minority-managed institutions while providing aid. Additionally, Article 30 (1A) addresses the fixation of the amount for the acquisition of property of educational institutions established by minority groups, further reinforcing the protection of minority rights in the country.

9. Who has been designated as India's Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO)?

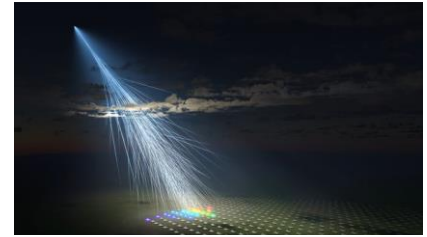
- A. Senthil Pandian C ☒
- B. Brajendra Navnit
- C. Smita Purushottam
- D. Anjali Prasad



- ✓ The Indian government has appointed Senthil Pandian C, a 2002 IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, as the ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva. This decision, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), follows the conclusion of Brajendra Navnit's term as India's ambassador to the WTO on March 31, 2024. Currently Senthil Pandian C serving as the commissioner of excise in Uttar Pradesh.

10. Amaterasu, is the high-energy cosmic-ray event recently discovered by Scientists of which country?

- A. Japan ☒
- B. China
- C. Australia
- D. India



- ✓ Japanese scientists have identified a high-energy cosmic-ray event called 'Amaterasu,' marking the second-highest-energy cosmic ray ever recorded. Amaterasu's energy level surpasses that of the Large Hadron Collider by approximately 40 million times.
- ✓ The detection of such ultra-high-energy cosmic rays (UHECRs) holds significance for advancing our understanding of cosmic phenomena and subatomic particles, potentially challenging current theories in high-energy particle physics.

11. Which country is host of 19<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, 2024?

- A. India
- B. Uganda ☒
- C. Azerbaijan
- D. South Africa



- ✓ The 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement is to be held from January 17 to 20 in Kampala, Uganda, with a preceding foreign ministers' meeting from January 15. The summit is a significant event for India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who will be attending and focusing on priorities for the Global South and outreach to Africa. The NAM, consisting of a diverse membership from across various continents, is a critical platform for global cooperation and solidarity. Uganda is set to chair the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the period 2024-2027.

12. Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project, a joint collaboration of which one of the following countries?

- A. UK, Myanmar, and Bangladesh
- B. USA, Japan, China, Canada, and India ☒
- C. Iraq, Sweden, Canada, and India
- D. Australia, USA, Maldives, and Iran



- ✓ A delegation from the Department of Science and Technology recently visited Mauna Kea to address challenges facing the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project. The TMT, a collaborative effort among the U.S., Japan, China, Canada, and India, is set to be the world's most advanced ground-based observatory. With a 30-meter segmented mirror at its core, the telescope, located on the inactive volcano Mauna Kea in Hawaii, will enable groundbreaking optical, near-infrared, and mid-infrared observations into deep space.

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1. What is the current conservation status of the 'Himalayan Wolf', as assessed by the IUCN in their Red List?

- A. Endangered
- B. Vulnerable ☒
- C. Least concern
- D. Critically Endangered



- ✓ The Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus chanco*), evaluated for the first time on the IUCN Red List, is now classified as 'Vulnerable.' Thriving at altitudes over 4,000 meters in the Himalayas, these genetically distinct Tibetan wolves adapted to hypoxic conditions. Their habitat spans China's Tibetan Plateau and parts of northern India.

2. Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO), has certified which country as a malaria-free country?

- A. Cabo Verde ☒
- B. Nigeria
- C. Tanzania
- D. Kenya



- ✓ Cabo Verde, a group of islands off the west coast of Africa, has been certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organization. This volcanic archipelago, comprising ten islands and five islets, boasts a moderate climate and diverse terrain. The population, mainly of mixed European and African descent, speaks Portuguese and Cape Verdean Creole. Praia serves as the capital.

3. The Bramhagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, which was recently in the news, is located in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka ☒
- D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ Researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) recently identified a new butterfly species named Conjoined Silverline (*Cigaritis conjuncta*) in Karnataka's Bramhagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot, India. This butterfly, about the size of a one-rupee coin, holds significant value for conservation efforts. They are endemic to mid-elevation evergreen forests of the Western Ghats. The discovery sites for this butterfly are at elevations of 900 meters (Iruppu Falls) and 1,300 meters (Honey Valley).

4. What is the objective of the Japan's Optical-8 satellite launched by the H-IIA rocket?

- A. Intelligence gathering for national security ☒
- B. Space exploration
- C. Weather Forecasting
- D. Satellite Internet Services



- ✓ Mitsubishi Heavy Industries achieved a milestone by launching the 48th H-IIA rocket, carrying Japan's Information-Gathering Satellite "Optical-8." The successful launch underscores the reliability of the H-IIA, with a commendable success rate of 97.92% since its inception in 2001 under the development of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). Japan is set to retire the H-IIA after two more launches, paving the way for the H3 as its successor.

5. Atpadi Conservation Reserve, recently seen in the news, is a new Conservation Reserve of which state?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Bihar
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Maharashtra ☒



- ✓ Maharashtra's government established the 'Atpadi Conservation Reserve' in Sangli, linking Maini Conservation Area and Maldhok Bird Sanctuary. It protects wildlife corridors and habitats for mammals like wolves, deer, foxes, and civets. The reserve has semi-evergreen, moist and dry deciduous forests, 36 tree species, 116 herbs, 15 shrubs, 14 vines, and a parasitic plant.

6. Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam, is a gravity dam, located in which state?

- A. Karnataka ☒
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharashtra



- ✓ The High Court of Karnataka has recently imposed a ban on all mining and quarrying activities within a 20-km radius of the historic Krishnarajasagar (KRS) Dam in Mandya district. It is located below the confluence of the river Kaveri with its tributaries, Hemavati and Lakshmana Tirtha. The KRS Dam, a gravity dam, stands as a tribute to Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV and was designed by the renowned engineer Sir M. Visvesvaraya. The court's decision aims to safeguard the dam and its surroundings.

### 7. Who sets the Bharat stage (BS) emission standards?

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. National Green Tribunal
- C. Indian Pollution Control Association
- D. Central Pollution Control Board ☒



- ✓ The Supreme Court's recent directive to the Union government underscores the urgency of framing a national policy to phase out heavy-duty diesel vehicles, specifically trucks and trailers, and replace them with Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) compliant vehicles. BS emission standards are initiated in India in 2000. The Central Pollution Control Board, under the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, establishes these standards and determines their implementation timeline.

### 8. What type of missile is New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) Missile?

- A. Surface to Air ☒
- B. Surface to Surface
- C. Air to Air
- D. Air to Surface



- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a milestone with the successful flight-test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur. This surface-to-air missile intercepted a high-speed unmanned aerial vehicle at a low altitude, affirming the complete weapon system's efficacy. Equipped with an indigenously developed radio frequency seeker, the AKASH-NG enhances the Indian Air Force's capabilities, defending against agile aerial threats.

### 9. What was the theme for the Climate Conference 2024, which was recently held in Mumbai?

- A. Decoding the Green Transition for India ☒
- B. Renewable Energy Solutions for a Sustainable Future
- C. Adapting the Climate Change
- D. Climate Justice and Social Equity



- ✓ The Climate Conference 2024, themed "Decoding the Green Transition for India," was recently held on January 12, in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.
- ✓ The event highlighted the crucial role of the private sector, climate tech startups, and institutional investors in mobilizing financial resources and technical capabilities to support government initiatives. The conference, featured esteemed dignitaries such as Ms. Leena Nandan, Mr. Amitabh Kant, Mr. K Rajaraman, Mr. Mike Hankey, and Mr. Nadir Godrej.

10. Punganur Cow, recently seen in the news, is native to which state of India?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Andhra Pradesh ☒
- D. Mizoram



- ✓ The Prime Minister recently personally fed Punganur cows at his New Delhi residence. Punganur cows, native to Andhra Pradesh's Punganur village, are one of the world's smallest cattle breeds, standing 70-90 cm tall and weighing less than 200kg. Known for their resilience to drought, they adapt to low-quality feed and produce milk with 8% fat content, rich in nutrients. These eco-friendly cows play a significant role in cultural practices, as seen in Andhra Pradesh's temples, including Tirupati Thirumala Temple.

11. What type of missile is ASTRA Missile, which was recently making news?

- A. Surface to Air
- B. Surface to Surface
- C. Air to Air ☒
- D. Air to Surface



- ✓ The Minister of State for Defence recently initiated the delivery of indigenously developed Astra Missiles to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Bharat Dynamics in Hyderabad. Astra is a cutting-edge beyond-visual-range (BVR) air-to-air missile, crafted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL). The ASTRA boasts a range of 80 to 110 km.

12. On which date, the 'Indian Army Day' is observed in India?

- A. 16 January
- B. 14 January
- C. 12 January
- D. 15 January ☒



- ✓ The President and Prime Minister recently extended warm wishes to Indian Army personnel on Army Day, celebrated annually on Jan.15. Established on Jan.15, 1949, Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief, marking a historic transition from British leadership. The 76<sup>th</sup> Army Day in 2024, themed "In Service of the Nation," will be commanded by the Army's Central Command in Lucknow, aligning with the Indian Army's motto, "Service Before Self."

13. *Sinomicrurus gorei*, recently seen in the news, belongs to which species?

- A. Snake ☒
- B. Fish
- C. Frog
- D. Bird



- ✓ Mizoram University's zoology researchers identified a new coral snake species, naming it *Sinomicrurus gorei* after Dr. Gore. Locally called 'Rulthihna,' it resembles the traditional Mizo amber necklace 'Thihna'. Only one other *Sinomicrurus* species, *Sinomicrurus maccllellandi*, exists in Northeast India. Previously considered the same species, a recent study unveiled distinctions.

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1. Pongal festival is celebrated to mark the beginning of which Tamil month?

- A. Margazhi
- B. Thai ☒
- C. Maasi
- D. Panguni



- ✓ Pongal festival is closely tied to the Tamil calendar, commencing with the arrival of the Tamil month of Thai. Celebrated in mid-January, Pongal coincides with the auspicious transition to the Thai month, signifying the harvest season's prosperity. It is a time when Tamilians express gratitude to nature for a bountiful harvest and celebrate with various rituals and festivities.

2. Which award is given to recognize and encourage young scientists who made an exceptional contribution in given field of Science and Technology?

- A. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) Award ☒
- B. Vigyan Team Award
- C. India Science Award
- D. C V Raman Birth Centenary Award



- ✓ Nominations for the 2024 Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards are open on the Ministry of Home Affairs' Award Portal from January 14 to February 28. Instituted by the Government of India, these prestigious awards honor remarkable contributions in Science, Technology, and Innovation. The National Award celebrates the outstanding achievements of researchers, technologists, and innovators. Additionally, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards are set to recognize and encourage young scientists for their exceptional contributions to Science and Technology.

3. Which country is set to become the world's largest producer of lentil (masoor) during the 2023-24 crop year?

- A. India ☒
- B. Myanmar
- C. Bhutan
- D. Nepal



- ✓ In 2023-24, India is set to become the world's leading lentil (masoor) producer due to expanded cultivation. Primarily consumed as 'Dal' after skin removal, lentils are hardy, frost-tolerant, and thrive in cold climates. Optimal growth temperature is 18-30°C, and well-drained, neutral loam soils are ideal. Major lentil-growing Indian states include Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Despite ranking second globally in production, India traditionally imports from Canada, Australia, Russia, Singapore, and Turkey, but has diversified sources in recent years.

4. Recently, which cricketer became the first men's player to play 150 T20Is?

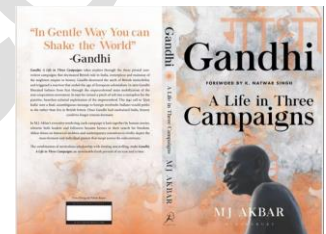
- A. Rohit Sharma ☒
- B. Virat Kohli
- C. K L Rahul
- D. Keshav Maharaj



- ✓ **Rohit Sharma, Team India's captain, created history by being the first male player to participate in 150 T20 International matches during the second T20I against Afghanistan at Holkar Cricket Stadium. In a triumphant return to the T20I squad after the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, Sharma led India to a convincing 6-wicket victory in the first T20I in Mohali.**

5. Who is the author of the recently launched book "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns"?

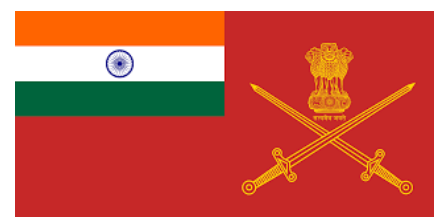
- A. K N Panikkar
- B. Kamlesh Patel
- C. Vijaya Kumar
- D. M J Akbar ☒



- ✓ **Renowned author M.J. Akbar, with co-author K. Natwar Singh, launched "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns" at a significant event hosted by Nripendra Misra, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Prime Minister's Museum and Library Society. The book focuses on Mahatma Gandhi's pivotal mass campaigns – Non-Cooperation Movement (1920), Salt Satyagraha (1930), and Quit India Movement (1942) – pivotal in dismantling British rule in India.**

6. What is the name of the Secure Army Mobile Ecosystem recently launched by the Indian Army?

- A. Sambhav ☒
- B. Project Shield
- C. Secure Army Mobile Platform
- D. Mobile Security Initiative



- ✓ **SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version) is an end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem developed by the Indian Army. It operates on 5G technology and aims to provide secure communication and instant connectivity. Command Cyber Operations Support Wings enhance cyber capabilities at operational and tactical levels. SAMBHAV addresses the vulnerability of mobile networks to eavesdropping, offering end-to-end security.**

7. Anamalai Tiger Reserve, which was recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Meghalaya



- ✓ The Forest Department is actively combating invasive species in the Ulandy range, core to the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR). Native tree saplings are replacing cleared invasive plants on 90 hectares of Ulandy's forest lands this fiscal year.
- ✓ The ATR, carved out of the Tamil Nadu portion of the Anamalais, situated in the Western Ghats south of the Palakkad gap, is surrounded by wildlife reserves: Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, and Eravikulam National Park. Notable ranges within the reserve include Amaravathi, Udumalpet, Pollachi, Ulandy, Valparai, and Manamboli.

8. Which city was the venue of International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition 2024?

- A. New Delhi, India
- B. Dubai, UAE ☒
- C. Mumbai, India
- D. London, UK



- ✓ The second International AYUSH Conference in Dubai showcases AYUSH as a reliable and cost-effective healthcare approach for, preventing and managing Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases. With over 1500 experts from across the globe, 50 talks, 300 research papers, and 1300 delegates, it aims to highlight traditional medicine's efficacy in tackling NCDs.

9. Recently, which three Indian Navy ships were decommissioned after 40 years of service?

- A. INS Cheetah, Guldar and Kumbhir ☒
- B. INS Rajput, Satpura and Khanderi
- C. INS Vikrant, Sahyadri and Arihant
- D. INS Shivalik, Karanj and Vela



- ✓ The INS Cheetah, Guldar, and Kumbhir, Polnocny class Landing Ships, were decommissioned after 40 years at Port Blair. Built in Poland, they joined the Indian Navy in 1984-86 and played a vital role in amphibious operations, logging 17 lakh nautical miles and over 12,300 days at sea.
- ✓ They were crucial in maritime security missions, humanitarian assistance, and operations in Sri Lanka. Notably, they provided relief after the 1997 cyclone in Sri Lanka and the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

10. Recently, who has been elected as the president of Taiwan?

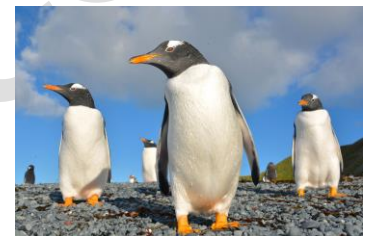
- A. Ma Ying-jeou
- B. William Lai ☒
- C. Tsai Ing-wen
- D. Keu-nhai



- ✓ William Lai, also known as Lai Ching-te, is the president of Taiwan, succeeding Tsai Ing-wen. Lai is promising to continue Tsai's foreign policy efforts to resist China's plans to annex Taiwan. Tsai Ing-wen has been president of the Republic of China (Taiwan) since 2016. She is the first woman to be elected as president of Taiwan, the first unmarried president, and the first president to be of both Hakka and aboriginal descent.

11. What is the IUCN status of 'Gentoo Penguin', which was recently seen in the news?

- A. Endangered
- B. Vulnerable
- C. Least Concern ☒
- D. Critically endangered



- ✓ A rare all-white Gentoo penguin was recently spotted in Chilean Antarctica, a species exclusive to the Southern Hemisphere between 45- and 65-degrees south latitude. Typically found along shorelines, Gentoo penguins have distinct head markings with two white wedges around their eyes. Predominantly inhabiting the Falkland Islands, these penguins are classified as "Least Concern" on the IUCN Red List.

12. What percentage of target has the government set to reduce accidental death by 2030?

- A. 50% ☒
- B. 40%
- C. 60%
- D. 30%

50%

- ✓ The government aims to cut accidental deaths by 50% by 2030, as announced by Road, Transport, and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari at a National conclave on Road Safety in New Delhi. Gadkari highlighted that every hour sees 53 injuries and 19 deaths from road accidents.

13. Farsi (Persian), recently seen in the news, is the official language of which country?

- A. Iran ☒
- B. Iraq
- C. Afghanistan
- D. South Africa

فارسی

- ✓ India's External Affairs Minister revealed that Farsi (Persian) is now classified as one of India's nine classical languages under the New Education Policy. Farsi, a key Iranian language and an Indo-European member, is the official language in Iran. Additionally, its variations, Dari and Tajik, hold official status in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, respectively. India has currently 6 classical languages viz. Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia.

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1. On which date, the 'National Startup Day' observed in India?

- A. 11 January
- B. 17 January
- C. 16 January ☒
- D. 18 January



- ✓ In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared January 16 as National Startup Day, marking a significant initiative to celebrate and boost the Indian startup ecosystem. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, along with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, designated January 10 to 16 as National Startup Week. On January 11, 2024, Startup India Innovation Week was launched under the theme "Startups Unlocking Infinite Potential."

2. Where has the Tibetan brown bear recently been sighted in India?

- A. Sikkim ☒
- B. Mizoram
- C. Assam
- D. Arunachal Pradesh



- ✓ The Tibetan brown bear, a rare subspecies, was recently spotted in Sikkim, marking the first confirmed sighting in India. Scientifically known as *Ursus arctos pruinosus*, it historically thrived in the alpine eastern Tibetan plateau. With distinctive features like shaggy dark fur and a white collar, these solitary bears have acute senses and feed on marmots and alpine vegetation. Despite their rarity, their conservation status is currently listed as "Least Concern" on the IUCN Red List.

3. Which portal, recently launched by the IMD, provides weather services for farmers in multiple languages?

- A. Monsoon Mission Portal
- B. Panchayat Mausam Sewa Portal ☒
- C. Monsoon Research Agenda Portal
- D. Mausam Sewa Portal



- ✓ The Panchayat Mausam Sewa Portal, a collaboration between the India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Green Alert Mausam Sewa, offers weather forecasts in English, Hindi, and twelve regional languages to every panchayat head and secretary. The initiative aims to empower farmers with timely weather alerts, reducing input costs and crop losses.

4. 'Ayutthaya' is a maritime exercise conducted by which two countries?

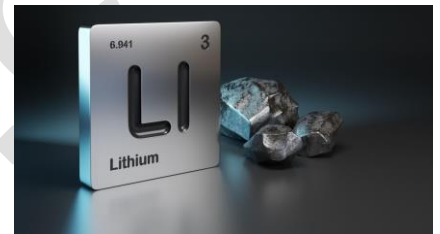
- A. India & China
- B. India & Thailand ☒
- C. India & Russia
- D. India & Japan



- ✓ The inaugural Bilateral Maritime Exercise, 'Ex-Ayutthaya,' between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy took place, symbolizing the historic ties between Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand. Indian Naval ships Kulish and IN LCU 56 participated, enhancing operational synergy. The 36<sup>th</sup> Indo-Thai CORPAT was also conducted simultaneously.

5. Recently, India has signed an agreement with which country for the exploration and mining of lithium?

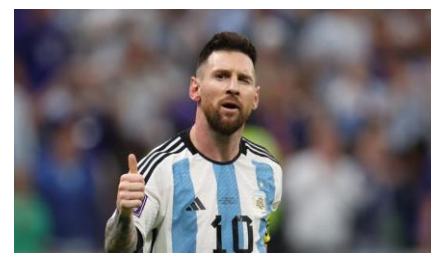
- A. Australia
- B. Russia
- C. Iran
- D. Argentina ☒



- ✓ India has signed an agreement with Argentina for the exploration and mining of lithium. The agreement is between India's state-owned company Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) and the state-run enterprise CATAMARCA MINERA Y ENERGÉTICA SOCIEDAD DEL ESTADO (CAMYEN SE). The agreement is worth \$24 million. The agreement grants KABIL exclusive rights to explore five lithium brine blocks in the Catamarca province. This is the first-ever lithium exploration and mining project by a Government of India-owned enterprise.

6. Recently, who received the Best FIFA Men's Player Award?

- A. Cristiano Ronaldo
- B. Lionel Messi ☒
- C. Neymar
- D. Robert Lewandowski



- ✓ Lionel Messi won the Best FIFA Men's Player Award for 2023, beating out Erling Haaland and Kylian Mbappé. This is the third time Messi has won the award, making him the first player to do so. The Best FIFA Men's Player Award was previously known as the FIFA World Player of the Year (1991–2009) and the FIFA Ballon d'Or (2010–2015). FIFA's selection criteria for the 2023 men's awards were based on achievements during the period from December 19, 2022 to August 20, 2023.

7. The venue of Exercise Topchi of Indian Army was \_\_:

- A. Nashik, Maharashtra ☒
- B. Kutch, Gujarat
- C. Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- D. Indore, Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Indian Army exhibited its indigenous firepower capabilities in the 'Exercise Topchi' at Devlali, Maharashtra. Conducted on January 14, 2024, the event showcased Atmanirbhar Bharat's artillery equipment, including K-9 Vajra, Dhanush, and Pinaka rocket launchers. K-9 Vajra is a 155 mm tracked artillery system developed by Larsen & Toubro. Dhanush, a 155 mm towed artillery gun, was also featured.

8. Which mobile app, recently launched by the IMD, provides integrated GIS-based services for all weather-related information?

- A. Monsoon
- B. Mausam ☒
- C. Accurate Weather
- D. RadarScope



- ✓ India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched MAUSAM, an integrated GIS-based mobile app offering weather services such as hourly forecasts, Rainfall, Humidity, Sunrise/Sunset, Moonrise/Moonset, Rain Alert, Lightning Alert, Cyclone Alert, and more. The app supports 12 Indian languages and introduces "mausamgram" accessible via the mobile app or IMD website.

9. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the first installment of which scheme for constructing permanent houses of poor tribals?

- A. PM-JANMAN scheme ☒
- B. Antyodaya Scheme
- C. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana
- D. NTR Housing Scheme



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the first installment of the PM-JANMAN scheme, a part of the Pradhan Mantri-Janjatiya Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), dedicated to the welfare of poor tribals. Launched on November 15, 2023, with a budget of ₹24,000 crore, the scheme aims to benefit tribals, particularly those in particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs). Under the PM Awas Yojana-Gramin, the funds are directly transferred to the beneficiaries bank accounts for the construction of permanent houses.

10. Panama Canal, which has been in news, connects which two oceans?

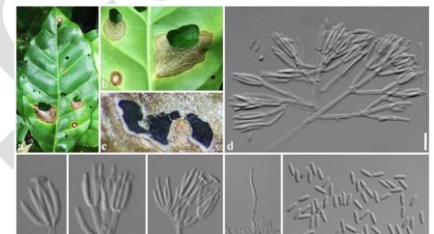
- A. Atlantic Ocean & Pacific Ocean ☒
- B. Atlantic Ocean & Indian Ocean
- C. Indian Ocean & Arctic Ocean
- D. Pacific Ocean & Arctic Ocean



- ✓ Scientists recently discovered a 22-million-year-old lost forest in the Panama Canal, a crucial artificial waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Stretching 80 kilometers, the canal features locks to adjust water levels for ship passage through the isthmus. Initiated by France in 1881, the United States took over in 1904, completing and managing the canal until 1999. Panama assumed full control in 2000, following the Torrijos-Carter Treaties with the U.S. in 1977.

11. What is '*Paramyrothecium indicum*', that was seen in the news recently?

- A. Flowering plant
- B. Phytopathogenic fungus ☒
- C. Herbicide-resistant crop
- D. Marine species



- ✓ Scientists discovered a new phytopathogenic fungus species in Kerala, named '*Paramyrothecium indicum*.' Most *Paramyrothecium* are phytopathogens, causing serious plant diseases that impact crop productivity. *Paramyrothecium* leaf spots are a type of fungal disease affecting various plants. Some produce bio-herbicidal metabolites, potentially used for weed control. Fungi, one of the 6 biological kingdoms, are eukaryotic organisms with diverse roles, including decomposition, plant diseases, and human skin ailments.

12. Recently, which state was ranked as the Best Performer in the Indian startup ecosystem ranking for 2022?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Bihar
- C. Manipur
- D. Rajasthan



- ✓ Tamil Nadu secured the title of the 'best performer' state in the 2022 Startup India State Startup Rankings. The state's strategic efforts included the revamping of its nodal startup agency, StartupTN, in 2021, and budget allocations for the launch of new funds like Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Fund (TANSEED), Emerging Sector Seed Fund, and Tamil Nadu SC/ ST Fund. The rankings also recognized Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh as best performers, while Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana were categorized as 'leaders.' Currently, Tamil Nadu boasts over 7,600 startups registered under the Startup India scheme.

13. Who has been appointed as the 'Director General of Naval Operations' in the Indian Navy?

- A. Vice Admiral AN Pramod ☒
- B. Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi
- C. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar
- D. Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi



- ✓ Vice Admiral AN Pramod assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO) in the Indian Navy. Pramod previously served as the flag officer commanding (FOC) of the Indian Navy's Maharashtra Naval Area. Pramod is a graduate of the 38th Integrated Cadet Course at the Naval Academy in Goa and was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1990. Pramod succeeds Vice Admiral Atul Anand, who was appointed DGNO on April 1, 2023.

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1. Pinaka, a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher was developed by which country?

- A. China
- B. Israel
- C. Russia
- D. India ☒



- ✓ Two South American countries express interest in the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers, designed by India's Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE). The Pinaka MBRL, utilized in the Kargil War, effectively neutralized Pakistan Army positions. It delivers lethal fire against various targets, boasting a range of 60 to 75 kilometers. With two pods of six rockets each, it can cover a 700 × 500 square meter area in 48 seconds.

2. What is the theme of the 'India International Science Festival', 2023?

- A. Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal ☒
- B. Global Science for Global Wellbeing
- C. Marching Towards Amrit Kaal with Science and Technology , and Innovation
- D. Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a sustainable future



- ✓ The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 is started from January 17 – 20, 2024. Organized by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, with coordination from the National Innovation Foundation-India, the festival is hosted by the Department of Biotechnology institutes Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Translational Health Science and Technology Institute in Faridabad. The central theme is "Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal," with 22 participating countries.

3. Recently, the central government announced its plan to extend basic facilities under the PM-JANMAN scheme to which endangered tribe?

- A. Sauras Tribes
- B. Kolam Tribes ☒
- C. Koraga Tribes
- D. Birhor Tribes



- ✓ The Central government is extending basic facilities to the endangered Kolam tribe through the Jan Jati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan, focusing on health and education. Kolam tribes, concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh, are designated as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group. Historically, they served as priests for the Gond tribe. Primarily farmers, they've transitioned from shifting cultivation to settled farming. They speak Kolami and other languages, using Devnagari script for writing.

4. 'e-SAKSHI Application' recently seen in news, is associated with which Union Ministry?

- A. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation ☒
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Power
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) e-SAKSHI Mobile App, recently launched by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, transforms the MPLAD Scheme's fund flow procedure. Offering convenience and accessibility, the app revolutionizes how MPs manage development projects, enabling real-time proposal tracking and oversight. It enhances decision-making with instant updates, streamlining communication between MPs and authorities.

5. Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival, which was seen in the news, is celebrated in which state of India?

- A. Assam
- B. Sikkim
- C. Arunachal Pradesh ☒
- D. Nagaland



- ✓ The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) is scheduled from January 18-20, 2024, in Seijosa, Arunachal Pradesh. Initiated in 2015, the festival celebrates the Nyishi tribal group's conservation efforts for hornbills in Pakke Tiger Reserve. The theme, "Domutoh Domutoh, Paga hum Domutoh," emphasizes preserving these iconic birds.

6. Recently, which player has become India's number one chess player, surpassing Vishwanathan Anand?

- A. R Praggnanandhaa ☒
- B. Ding Lire
- C. Gukesh D
- D. Vidit Gujrathi



- ✓ On January 17, 2024, Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa became India's top-ranked men's chess player, surpassing five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand. The 18-year-old chess prodigy achieved this milestone after defeating the current world champion, China's Ding Liren, in the fourth round of the Tata Steel Masters tournament.

7. In which region of India is the 12th edition of the 'MILAN 2024' naval exercise scheduled to be held?

- A. Visakhapatnam ☒
- B. Mumbai
- C. Kolkata
- D. Chennai



- ✓ The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise (MILAN) will take place in Visakhapatnam from February 19–27, 2024. The Indian Navy will host the exercise, which is expected to have over 50 countries and nearly 20 ships participating. The exercise will include both harbor and sea phases, and will focus on strengthening maritime cooperation and security. MILAN is a biennial event that has been a cornerstone of maritime collaboration and cooperation since 1995. The previous edition of MILAN, in 2022, had 39 countries participating.

8. According to the Global Firepower (GFP) 2024 annual report, what is the rank of India among the world's most powerful militaries?

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth ☒



- ✓ According to the Global Firepower (GFP) 2024 annual report, India ranks fourth among the world's most powerful militaries. The United States, Russia, and China rank first, second, and third, respectively. The GFP rankings consider various factors to provide a comprehensive perspective on global military strength. In 2024, the GFP review considered 145 world powers. According to the GFP, India has a Power Index (PwrIndx) score of 0.1023. A smaller PwrIndx value indicates a more powerful conventional fighting capability.

9. Recently, who has been selected for Assam's highest civilian award 'Assam Vaibhav'?

- A. Ranjan Gogoi ☒
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. Ratan TATA
- D. Amit Shah



- ✓ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi will receive the 'Assam Vaibhav' award, the state's highest civilian honor, for his contributions to law and justice. Gogoi, the 46<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India and a Rajya Sabha MP, is the first from Northeast India to hold the CJI post. The Assam Government selected 22 individuals for this prestigious award, acknowledging their excellence in various fields, including Gogoi's pivotal role in the Ayodhya 'Ram Temple' decision.

10. Which article of the constitution grants the right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India?

- A. Article 19 (1) (e) ☒
- B. Article 19 (1) (a)
- C. Article 19 (1) (c)
- D. Article 19 (1) (f)



- ✓ The Delhi High Court has ruled that foreigners cannot claim the right to reside in India under Article 19(1)(e) of the Constitution. This decision, during a habeas corpus petition for Azal Chakma, a suspected Bangladeshi national, emphasized that foreign national can't assert residency rights. The court cited the Supreme Court's view, stating the government's absolute power to expel foreigners. Article 19 (1) (e) grants Indians the right to reside anywhere inside India.

11. Kuno National Park, which was seen in the news, is located in which state of India?

- A. Madhya Pradesh ☒
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Kerala



- ✓ Recently, a cheetah named Shaurya died in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district. Shaurya was a seven-year-old cheetah from Namibia. With Shaurya's death, 13 of the original 20 cheetahs that were imported from Africa remain. Since March 2023, seven adult cheetahs and three cubs born in India have died in the park. Some experts believe that heavy rain, extreme heat, and humidity may have contributed to the deaths.

12. What is the theme of the World Economic Forum (WEF), 2024?

- A. Rebuilding Trust ☒
- B. Cooperation in a Fragmented World
- C. Working Together
- D. The Great Reset



- ✓ Union Ministers Smriti Irani and Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Women Leadership Lounge at Davos during the World Economic Forum (WEF) on January 16, 2024. Irani emphasized India's commitment to women-led development, citing government schemes. Puri noted India's shift to a women-led development model. The 54th WEF focuses on 'Rebuilding Trust,' addressing global conflicts, climate change, and deepfake.

13. Which state recently launched the Mahtari Vandana Yojana?

- A. Chhattisgarh ☒
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar



- ✓ Chhattisgarh recently launched the Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024, inspired by Madhya Pradesh's successful 'Aarthik Sarkari Ladli Bahna Yojana.' The state initiative aims to provide monthly economic assistance of 1,000 rupees to women, fostering self-reliance and skill development. The scheme supports women in managing expenses, initiating small-scale enterprises, and improving their financial conditions. With direct transfers to beneficiaries' bank accounts, Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024 proves to be a significant state-level effort empowering women in Chhattisgarh.

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1. Which organization developed the second-generation distress alert transmitter for fishermen?

- A. India Meteorological Department
- B. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- C. DRDO
- D. ISRO ☒



- ✓ **ISRO has developed a second-generation Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT) that enhances safety for fishermen at sea. Operational since 2010, over 20,000 DATs are in use. The technology allows fishermen to send emergency messages with real-time acknowledgments through satellite communication. The DAT-SG, an improved version, utilizes advanced capabilities and features.**

2. Who has been appointed as the first female neutral umpire by the ICC for a bilateral series?

- A. Sue Redfern ☒
- B. Nida Dar
- C. Shivani Mishra
- D. Mary Waldron



- ✓ **The International Cricket Council (ICC) appointed Sue Redfern as the first female neutral umpire to officiate a bilateral series. Redfern will umpire the upcoming ICC Women's Championship and T20I matches between Australia and South Africa. The ICC also appointed seven other impartial women umpires to officiate in the Women's Championship series. The decision to appoint Redfern aims to promote gender diversity in officiating roles.**

3. Chang'e 6 mission, recently seen in the news, is associated with which country?

- A. China ☒
- B. India
- C. Russia
- D. UK



- ✓ **The China National Space Administration (CNSA) confirmed that the Chang'e 6 sample return mission is scheduled to land on the Moon in the first half of 2024. This mission, aiming to collect lunar samples from the south pole, will contribute valuable data to understand the Moon's geology. Marking the first attempt to retrieve samples from the far side of the Moon, Chang'e 6 plans to bring back up to two kilograms of lunar samples and involves collaboration with international partners like the European Space Agency (ESA) and the French space agency CNES.**

4. Recently, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'NACIN', a national-level institute, in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Andhra Pradesh ☒
- C. Kerala
- D. Arunachal Pradesh



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics' (NACIN) new campus at Palasamudram, Andhra Pradesh. Declaring it a premier training institute, he highlighted the impact of tax reforms in the last 9 years on business ease, increased tax collection, and poverty reduction for 25 crore people. The 500-acre state-of-the-art campus will use advanced technologies like Augmented Reality and Artificial Intelligence for training Indian Revenue Service officials and allied services, emphasizing the government's commitment to fighting corruption and achieving a Developed Nation.

5. Who has been appointed as the Chief Staff Officer (Operations) of Eastern Naval Command?

- A. Rear Admiral Shantanu Jha ☒
- B. Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar
- C. Admiral R Hari Kumar
- D. Admiral Vinay Sinha



- ✓ As of January 17, 2024, Rear Admiral Shantanu Jha is the Chief Staff Officer (Operations) of the Eastern Naval Command. Jha is a 1993 graduate of the NDA and a recipient of the Nausena Medal. Before becoming Chief Staff Officer, Jha was the Commodore in (Strategy, Concepts & Transformation) at Naval Headquarters.

6. Parikrama Prakalpa project, that was in news recently, is in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Odisha ☒
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Gujarat



- ✓ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the \$107 million Parikrama Prakalpa project around Puri's Jagannath Temple, witnessed by 90 Indian temple heads and Nepal's Pashupatinath Temple reps, to improve pilgrim infrastructure - the biggest in 700 years. The inaugural event coincided with a 3-day ritual and launching of other Puri projects.

7. In which river will India's first solar-powered boat be launched?

- A. River Sarayu ☒
- B. Periyaru
- C. River Kaveri
- D. River Palar



- ✓ India's first solar-powered boat will be launched in the Saryu River in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. The Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Agency (UPNEDA) is behind the initiative, which aims to make Ayodhya a model solar city. The boat is made of a lightweight and durable fiberglass body and can stay in the water for five to six hours after a full charge.

8. Which scheme aims to provide scholarships to meritorious students from Scheduled Caste communities for higher education?

- A. Saakshar Bharat Scheme
- B. SWAYAM Scheme
- C. SHRESHTA scheme ☒
- D. Samagra Shiksha Scheme



- ✓ The CBSE has issued guidelines for Residential Private Schools to join the Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) Scheme, targeting meritorious students from Scheduled Caste communities for Classes 9-12.
- ✓ The scheme aims to offer scholarships, admitting around 3,000 students annually to private and NGO-run residential schools. It collaborates with voluntary organizations to uplift SC communities' socio-economically. Implemented by the Department of Social Justice, the scheme operates through SHRESHTA schools (best private schools) and NGOs running schools and hostels up to Class 12.

9. Recently, which country launched the EcoMark green accreditation framework for MSMEs at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos?

- A. Russia
- B. India
- C. UAE ☒
- D. China



- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched the EcoMark green accreditation framework for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland on January 17, 2024. The EcoMark certification is based on ISO standards and is digitally enabled.

- ✓ The Ecomark scheme provides accreditation and labeling for household and consumer products that meet specific environmental criteria while maintaining quality standards as per Indian norms. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of the Government of India introduced the Eco mark Certification Rules, 2023 to promote sustainability and environment friendly consumption patterns.

10. Recently, Union Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala inaugurated an artificial reef project in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu  
B. Kerala ☒  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
D. Goa



- ✓ On January 17, 2024, Union Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala inaugurated an artificial reef project in Vizhinjam, Kerala. The project aims to increase fish populations and fishermen's income. The project is a joint initiative between the Central and State governments. The artificial reefs will be placed on the seabed off the coasts of fishing villages.

11. What is the IUCN status of 'Indian Vulture' recently seen in the news?

- A. Endangered  
B. Vulnerable  
C. Least Concern  
D. Critically endangered ☒



- ✓ Recently spotted in Thane after a two-decade absence, the Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) is an Old-World scavenger native to Asia. Recognized for their longer beaks, they primarily feed on carcasses of dead animals. Females are smaller than males. With a drastic 97-99% population decline, they face extinction due to poisoning from diclofenac, a veterinary drug. Classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

12. What is '*Senna spectabilis*', recently seen in the news?

- A. Fungus  
B. Invasive plant ☒  
C. Ancient Agricultural Techniques  
D. Virus



- ✓ The Forest Department of Tamil Nadu successfully cleared 356.50 hectares of invasive *Senna spectabilis* in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve. This legume species, native to South and Central America, was introduced for shade and firewood but became a threat to biodiversity. With bright yellow flowers, it hindered the growth of indigenous trees and grass. Classified as "Least Concern" on the IUCN Red List.

13. Who is the author of 'Thirukkural', a collection of couplets on ethics, politics, economy and love?

- A. Thiruvalluvar ☒
- B. Kambar
- C. Munrurai Araiyanar
- D. Various Jain Saints



- ✓ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently honored poet and philosopher Saint Thiruvalluvar on Thiruvalluvar Day, originally celebrated on May 17-18, 1935. Now observed on January 15-16 in Tamil Nadu during Pongal festivities, the day pays tribute to Thiruvalluvar, a revered cultural icon. Known as Valluvar, his masterpiece, Thirukkural, consists of 1330 couplets covering ethics, politics, economy, and love. Divided into sections on virtue, wealth, and love, Thirukkural offers concise and poetic guidance on various aspects of life.

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1. Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, that was recently making news, is located in which state?

- A. Odisha ☒
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Odisha government, having successfully relocated deer from Cuttack, plans to introduce Sambar and Gaur (bison) in the Chandaka-Dampara wildlife sanctuary. Located in the Khurda district, it marks the northeastern boundary of the Eastern Ghats. Designated as a sanctuary in 1982, the area hosts various endangered wildlife and birds.

2. Green Rooms, recently in the news, is associated with which country?

- A. Russia
- B. Israel
- C. Ukraine ☒
- D. Iran



- ✓ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Denmark recently launched “green rooms” in Ukraine. The “green rooms” are specially equipped spaces that facilitate interactions between police officers and child survivors and witnesses of crime. The goal is to build trust in law enforcement among children and youth.

3. Which IIT recently collaborated with Altair to establish the eMobility Simulation Lab?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Madras ☒
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Roorkee



- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with Altair to establish the eMobility Simulation Lab. Altair is a global tech company that specializes in simulation, high-performance computing, and artificial intelligence.

4. Who has been appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal?

- A. Daljit Singh Chaudhary ☒
- B. Kumar Rajesh Chandra
- C. Sanjay Arora
- D. Rajni Kant Mishra



- ✓ Senior IPS officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary has been appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), a central armed police force guarding India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan. This key appointment aims to enhance strategic expertise in managing crucial border areas, addressing emerging security challenges.

5. Recently, which temple presented the ceremonial bow, known as the 'Onavillu,' to the Ayodhya Ram Temple?

- A. Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple  
B. Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple ☒  
C. Sri Guruvayoorappan Temple  
D. Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple



- ✓ Representatives from Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra will receive the traditional ceremonial bow, 'Onavillu,' from Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The Padmanabhaswamy Temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, holds significance in epics and puranas. Balarama is mentioned to have visited, bathed in Padmatheertham, and made offerings. Onavillu, a bow-shaped instrument with puranic inscriptions.

6. Bhitarkanika National Park is located in which state?

- A. Odisha ☒  
B. Gujarat  
C. Rajasthan  
D. Kerala



- ✓ Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha faces impending connectivity with the proposed Jajpur Road-Dhamra railway line traversing through it. Established in 1998, this 672 km<sup>2</sup> park, located in the Kendrapara district, ranks as India's second-largest mangrove ecosystem. Its delta formed by Brahmani, Baitarani, and Dhamra rivers. It houses diverse flora like Thespia and fauna such as endangered saltwater crocodiles. The area, a Ramsar Site since 2002, showcases a rich intertidal biodiversity and diverse wildlife.

7. Pulikulam cattle breed is an indigenous cattle breed of which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒  
B. Kerala  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
D. Odisha



- ✓ Interest in indigenous cattle breeds, such as the Pulikulam, is experiencing a resurgence, particularly due to the breed's association with the popular local game called Jalikattu in Tamil Nadu, India.

- ✓ The Pulikulam is renowned as a versatile draught and game breed native to Tamil Nadu, specifically originating from Pulikulam village in the Sivaganga district. Also known by various names like Palingu maadu, Mani maadu, Jallikattu maadu and Kilakattu maadu, these cattle are kept as migratory herds.

8. Guruvayoor Sree Krishna Swamy Temple, which was recently in news, is located in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu  
B. Kerala ☒  
C. Karnataka  
D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ The Prime Minister visited Guruvayur Temple during his two-day Kerala trip, praying at the Sreekrishna Temple. Guruvayoor Sree Krishna Swamy Temple, known as the Dwarka of the South, is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Lord Krishna's young form. Located in Guruvayur, Kerala, the temple dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The temple also houses a significant number of captive male Asian elephants in the nearby Punnathur Kotta elephant sanctuary.

9. Recently seen in the news, the 'Soliga' community resides in which River Basin region?

- A. Kaveri River Basin ☒  
B. Godavari River Basin  
C. Thamirabarani River Basin  
D. Mahanadi River Basin



- ✓ The book "Forgotten Trails: Foraging Wild Edibles" by Malemleima Ningombi and Harisha RP explores the Soligas and Yeravas tribes' traditional food practices in the Cauvery Basin. Soligas, among the oldest indigenous communities in Karnataka, forage from the Ghats, relying on honey and Silver-cockscomb, a nutrient-rich leafy green. The scientific community honored them with a wasp genus (Soliga ecarinata).

10. What is the primary objective of 'Boeing Sukanya Programme', recently launched by Prime Minister of India?

- A. To establish a new manufacturing unit for Boeing Aircraft in India  
B. To foster the entry of girls into the aviation sector, supporting and empowering them in STEM fields and aviation careers ☒  
C. To provide scholarships to 100 thousand girls in government schools  
D. To introduce a new aviation technologies exclusive to the Indian Market

- ✓ On January 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Boeing's global engineering and technology center near Bengaluru, a Rs 1,600 crore investment making it Boeing's largest facility outside the U.S. The Boeing India Engineering and Technology Centre (BIETC) at Hightech Defence

and Aerospace Park includes the launch of the Boeing Sukanya Programme, fostering the entry of girls into the aviation sector. This initiative supports and empowers girls and women in STEM fields and aviation careers.

11. 'Operation Sarvashakti', recently seen in news, launched by which armed force?

- A. Indian Army ☒
- B. Indian Air Force
- C. Indian Navy
- D. Indian Coast Guard



- ✓ The Indian Army initiated 'Operation Sarvashakti' in Jammu and Kashmir to counter terrorism, focusing on the Pir Panjal range. Terrorists had ambushed Indian troops in Rajouri and Poonch. The Pir Panjal Range, a significant mountain chain in the Western Himalayas, spans Himachal Pradesh, disputed Jammu and Kashmir, and extends into Pakistan. Serving as the largest range in the Lesser Himalayas, it acts as a natural barrier, separating the Kashmir Valley from the Jammu region.

12. Who is the author of Tamil novel, 'Naanthaan Aurangzeb' (Conversations with Aurangzeb)?

- A. Charu Nivedita ☒
- B. Devi Bharathi
- C. Nandini Krishnan
- D. Ambai



- ✓ Nandini Krishnan translated the Tamil novel Naanthaan Aurangzeb in English as "Conversations with Aurangzeb" by Charu Nivedita into English. The book is a combination of historical novel and satire, and is a commentary on the current times. It tells the story of a writer who meets the spirit of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, who then tells his side of the story.

13. Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Haryana ☒
- C. Punjab
- D. Sikkim



- ✓ The Indian government is actively promoting nature tourism at 16 Ramsar sites, including Chilika Lake and Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary. Sultanpur National Park, formerly Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, spans 1.42 sq km in Haryana's Gurgaon district, recognized as a Ramsar site in 2021. Featuring tropical and dry deciduous vegetation, it hosts over 320 bird species.

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1. What is the primary objective of the 'Global Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality' launched by India at the World Economic Forum?

- A. Educational Innovation
- B. Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality ☒
- C. Environmental Sustainability
- D. Economic Development



- ✓ India launched the "Global Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality" during the 54th annual World Economic Forum in Davos. This initiative aims to advance women's empowerment and gender equality globally. Focused on education, health, and enterprise, the alliance facilitates knowledge sharing, investment opportunities, and best practices to address Sustainable Development Goals, such as Good Health, Quality Education, Gender Equality, and Global Partnership for Development.

2. What is the theme of the G-77 Third South Summit in Kampala, Uganda?

- A. Leaving No One Behind ☒
- B. Economic Resilience and Economic Security
- C. Sustainable Development
- D. Global Unity & Prosperity



- ✓ The Third South Summit is a meeting of the Group of 77 (G-77) that took place in Kampala, Uganda on January 21–22, 2024. The theme of the summit was "Leaving No One Behind". The summit also included the G77+China Conference.
- ✓ The G-77 is a group of 134 countries, including China, India, Indonesia, and Pakistan. The G-77 was established as a reaction to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which were designed to meet the needs of developed countries. The G-77's policies include strengthening multilateralism, developing friendly relations, and promoting peaceful settlement of disputes.

3. Recently, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways laid the foundation stone for State-of-the-Arts 'Ayush Diksha' centre in which city?

- A. Bhubaneswar ☒
- B. Kolkata
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Kochi



- ✓ 'Ayush Diksha' Centre, a unique initiative for the development of Ayush professionals, is set to be established at the Central Ayurveda Research Institute in Bhubaneswar. The foundation stone was laid by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who emphasized integrating traditional Ayush medicine with modern practices.

- ✓ The centre, with a budget of Rs. 30 crores, will provide training programs, collaborate with national institutes, and focus on capacity development and research for self-sustainability. It will feature advanced facilities, including auditoriums, a natural library, and a modular kitchen.

4. Kanger Valley National Park, which was seen in the news, is located in which state?

- A. Kerala
- B. Odisha ☒
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Punjab



- ✓ Kanger Valley National Park, located in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, is collaborating with diverse organizations and government departments for a unique landscape-based ecological restoration plan. Established in 1982, the park spans 200 sq km along the Kholaba River. Known for diverse topography and exceptional caves like Kutumbasar, Kailash, and Dandak, it houses the Tirathgarh Waterfall.

5. Recently, which two airports were awarded the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024?

- A. Chennai & Coimbatore
- B. Bengaluru & Delhi ☒
- C. Mumbai & Hyderabad
- D. Delhi & Lucknow



- ✓ The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru and the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi were jointly awarded the "Best Airport of the Year" at the 2024 Wings India Awards. The award was presented by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia at an event in Hyderabad on January 18, 2024. The Mangaluru airport was also named the "best airport" in the under 5 million passenger category.

6. Recently, which state hosted the sixth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Odisha
- C. Kerala
- D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ The sixth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games is hosted by Tamil Nadu, marking the first time the event is held in South India. Taking place from January 19 to 31, 2024, across four cities—Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, and Coimbatore—the Games feature 5600 athletes in 275 events spanning 26 sports and one demo sport.

- ✓ The mascot, 'Veera Mangai,' pays homage to Rani Velu Nachiyar, an anti-colonial queen. The event is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports annually since 2018.

7. SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon) mission, recently seen in the news, is launched by which organization?

- A. ISRO  
B. NASA  
C. JAXA ☒  
D. ESA



- ✓ Launched by JAXA in September 2023, SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon) aboard an H-IIA rocket from Tanegashima aims for precise moon landing within 100 meters, showcasing advanced technologies. Carrying Sony and Tomy's mini robotic rovers for reconnaissance, the mission seeks to revitalize Japan's space program after setbacks, including the H3 rocket failure. Objectives include observing deep space X-rays and identifying their wavelengths with unprecedented precision using state-of-the-art spectroscopy.

8. Which organization recently launched the first indigenously developed Hepatitis A vaccine called 'Havisure'?

- A. Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) ☒  
B. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
C. World Health Organization (WHO)  
D. National Institute of Virology



- ✓ Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL) unveils Havisure, India's first indigenous Hepatitis-A vaccine, protecting against the contagious liver infection transmitted through contaminated food or water. Priced at Rs 2,150 per dose, Havisure is a vital step in achieving Atmanirbhar Bharat. Havisure joins IIL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), vaccines lineup, following Mebella and TeddyVac.

9. Soraya satellite is launched by which country?

- A. Iran ☒  
B. Iraq  
C. UAE  
D. Russia



- ✓ Iran's Revolutionary Guards achieved a milestone by launching the Soraya satellite into a record-high orbit of 750 km using the Ghaem-100 carrier. Despite U.S. warnings on the dual-use nature of such technology, Iran claims this as a success for its aerospace program. The satellite, weighing around 50 kg, marks Iran's first placement in orbits higher than 500 km.

10. Which state became the second state in the country, after Bihar, to conduct a caste census?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh ☒
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan



- ✓ Andhra Pradesh launched a 10-day comprehensive caste census, becoming the second state after Bihar to undertake this initiative. Volunteers will visit every home to collect caste details, which will be transmitted to the village secretariat system, marking a significant step in understanding the state's demographic composition.

11. Where was the 71<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council held?

- A. Imphal
- B. Shillong ☒
- C. Guwahati
- D. Manipur



- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 71st Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) in Shillong, Meghalaya. The NEC focuses on the economic and social development of the eight-state region. Shah highlighted the NEC's 50-year impact, citing over 12,000 km of roads, power plants, and national institutes established in the region, fostering development and addressing state-specific issues.

12. What is the primary objective of the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme, which has recently been in the news?

- A. Promoting renewable energy sources
- B. Green hydrogen production ☒
- C. Supporting nuclear energy initiatives
- D. Advancing carbon capture technologies



- ✓ The Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme, a component of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, allocates Rs 17,490 crore to boost domestic electrolyser manufacturing and green hydrogen production.
- ✓ Implemented by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), the program aims to make India a global Green Hydrogen hub. The broader mission, with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore, targets a Green Hydrogen production capacity of 5 MMT annually, reducing fossil fuel imports, attracting ₹8 lakh crore in investments, and creating over 6 lakh jobs by 2030.

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**1. Where was the 19<sup>th</sup> Non-Aligned Movement Summit held?**

- A. Brazil
- B. Delhi
- C. Kampala ☒
- D. Ghana



- ✓ **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar offered insights into the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Uganda, uniting 120 developing countries under the theme 'Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence.' As a key NAM member, India supports this theme, emphasizing its commitment to NAM's principles.**

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**2. Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) comes under which ministry?**

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs



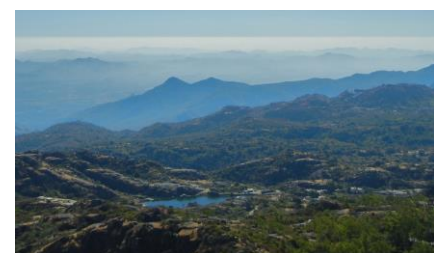
गृह मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**HOME AFFAIRS**

- ✓ **The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) has issued a warning about scams on WhatsApp. Established in 1970 under the Ministry of Home Affairs, BPRD aims to address police needs and challenges. It conducts research, recommends solutions, and stays updated on science and technology. Additionally, it aids in modernizing State Police Forces.**

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**3. Which one of the following is the highest peak of the Aravalli Range?**

- A. Guru Shikhar ☒
- B. Jharol
- C. Achalgarh
- D. Gogunda



- ✓ **The Supreme Court has declared that the State of Rajasthan can prohibit mining in the environmentally sensitive Aravalli Range. Stretching 670 km in northwestern India, the Aravalli is one of the world's oldest fold mountains, hosting diverse ecosystems. Guru Shikhar, its highest peak at 5,650 feet, overlooks Mount Abu, a popular hill station. The range serves as a geological boundary, separating the Thar desert from eastern Rajasthan. Rich in minerals, it also houses national parks like Sariska and wildlife sanctuaries.**

4. Arichalmunai point is located in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Odisha
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Punjab



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage at the origin point of Ram Setu, Arichal Munai, in Tamil Nadu, and visited temples in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala linked to the Ramayana tale. Concluding his South India tour, he offered prayers at Kothandaramaswamy Temple in Rameswaram. The tour included stops at significant religious sites, aligning with cultural and historical significance.

5. What is the focus of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between India and Cuba?

- A. Agricultural Collaboration for Crop Improvement
- B. Digital public infrastructure ☒
- C. Cultural Exchange Programs for Mutual Understanding
- D. Joint Efforts in Combating Climate Change



- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in India signed an MoU with the Ministry of Communications of Cuba to share successful digital solutions for population-scale digital transformation. The agreement, aimed at promoting digital transformation, includes capacity-building programs and the exchange of best practices. India will collaborate with Cuba to enhance the adoption of Digital Public Infrastructure, fostering mutual benefits for both countries' digital ecosystems. The MoU was signed in New Delhi, emphasizing cooperation in these vital areas.

6. Which community in Kookkanam, Kerala, speaks the 'Madhika language'?

- A. Chakaliya ☒
- B. Koraga
- C. Kurumbar
- D. Chenchu



- ✓ Madhika, a language spoken by the Chakaliya community in Kookkanam, Kerala, is on the verge of extinction. The Chakaliya were once nomadic and migrated from Karnataka to northern Malabar. Initially recognized as a Scheduled Tribe, they are now part of the Scheduled Caste category in Kerala. The language, resembling Kannada, faces a decline as the younger generation opts for Malayalam. With only two remaining speakers, efforts are underway, including the government's 'Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India,' to safeguard Madhika from disappearing.

7. 'Maru Mahotsav', also known as Desert Festival, is celebrated in which region of India?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Jaisalmer ☒
- C. Kutch
- D. Bikaner



- ✓ The Jaisalmer Desert Festival, also known as Maru Mahotsav, is a vibrant cultural extravaganza scheduled for 2024 in the heart of Rajasthan's desert city, Jaisalmer. This unique blend of music, dance, art, and tradition showcases the rich heritage of Rajasthan. The festival, themed "Back to the Desert," is a captivating celebration from February 22–24, 2024.

8. Which player won the title of Men's Singles India Open 2024?

- A. Shi Yu Qi ☒
- B. Lee Cheuk Yiu
- C. Chirag Shetty
- D. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy



- ✓ China's Shi Yu Qi won the 2024 India Open men's singles title on January 21, 2024. He beat Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu in straight sets, 23-21, 21-17. The 2024 India Open badminton tournament was held in New Delhi, India from January 16–21, with a prize fund of USD 850,000. The other winners were: Women's singles: Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei) Men's doubles: Kang Min Hyuk-Seo Seung Jae (South Korea) Mixed doubles: Mayu Matsumoto-Wakana Nagahara (Japan).

9. Recently, which organization released guidelines on the ethical use of Large Multi-Modal Models (LMM) in healthcare?

- A. WHO ☒
- B. UNICEF
- C. UNESCO
- D. Global Health Council



- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued guidance on the ethical use of Large Multi-Modal Models (LMM) in healthcare. LMMs, powerful AI technology capable of processing diverse data, are transforming healthcare and research. The WHO emphasizes a collaborative approach involving governments, tech companies, healthcare providers, and civil society in LMM development. WHO outlines six core principles, including protecting autonomy, ensuring transparency, and promoting inclusiveness in AI development and deployment.

10. Who is the main architect of the Ram Mandir, Ayodhya?

- A. Pramukh Swami Mahara
- B. Arun Yogiraj
- C. Subhash Bhoite
- D. Chandrakant Sompura ☒



- ✓ Chandrakant Sompura, the chief architect of Ayodhya Ram Mandir, comes from a renowned lineage of temple architects in Ahmedabad. With a legacy spanning generation, the Sompuras have crafted over 200 temples, including iconic structures like Somnath Temple, Swaminarayan Temple, Akshardham complex, and Birla Temple. The Ayodhya Ram Mandir epitomizes Nagara architecture, showcasing intricate carvings, majestic spires, and sacred sanctums, honoring India's cultural diversity.

11. 'Gole Mela' festival is hosted by which state/UT?

- A. Jammu & Kashmir ☒
- B. Haryana
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Punjab



- ✓ The Jagannath Temple in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir hosts the "Gole Mela" festival twice a year. The festival is a cultural and religious celebration that brings together devotees from the Udhampur district and beyond. The festival is a spiritual gathering that fosters a sense of community among devotees.

12. Willingdon Island is located in which city of India?

- A. Bombay
- B. Kochi ☒
- C. Kutch
- D. Chennai



- ✓ The Cochin Port Joint Trade Union Forum recently appealed to the Indian Prime Minister to revive Willingdon Island's former glory. Named after Lord Willingdon, a British Viceroy, it's one of India's largest man-made islands and a key commercial hub in Kochi. Besides hosting top hotels, it accommodates the Kochi Naval Base and Central Institute of Fisheries Technology.

13. What is the primary objective of NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter?

- A. Conducting geological surveys on Mars
- B. Performing experimental flight tests on Mars ☒
- C. Collecting Soil samples for Analysis
- D. Searching for signs of ancient life on Mars



- ✓ **NASA has successfully re-established contact with its Ingenuity helicopter on Mars. Launched aboard the Perseverance rover, Ingenuity made history on April 19, 2021, as the first aircraft to achieve powered, controlled flight on another planet. Operating independently of the rover's science mission, it flew to a height of 10 feet, hovered for 30 seconds, and descended in a groundbreaking 39.1-second flight, demonstrating the feasibility of flight in Mars' challenging atmosphere using onboard systems.**

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1. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is located in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala ☒
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ A recent survey at Parambikulam Tiger Reserve uncovered 11 new species, comprising three birds, four butterflies, and four odonates. It is situated in the Western Ghats Mountains across Palakkad and Thrissur districts in Kerala, this Tiger Reserve spans 643.66 sq km and boasts diverse habitats, including evergreen and deciduous forests. Home to unique species like Nilgiri Tahr and hosting the world's oldest teak tree.

2. What is '*Andrographis theniensis*'?

- A. Plant ☒
- B. Animal
- C. Bacteria
- D. Fungi



- ✓ A new plant species, '*Andrographis theniensis*,' was discovered in Tamil Nadu's Theni district in the Western Ghats. Named after its location, the plant closely resembles *Andrographis megamalayana*, featuring glabrous leaves and stems, a nine-veined lower lip, pale yellowish sparse hair on the middle lobe, and yellow anther. *Andrographis*, a tropical Asian genus, is known for treating various ailments in traditional medicine systems.

3. When is the 'Parakram Diwas' observed every year?

- A. 22 January
- B. 21 January
- C. 23 January ☒
- D. 25 January



- ✓ Indian Prime Minister extends Parakram Diwas greetings on January 23, commemorating Subhash Chandra Bose's 127th birth anniversary. Bose, a freedom fighter, played a key role in India's independence movement against British colonial rule. Parakram Diwas aims to inspire fearlessness and patriotism, especially in the youth.
- ✓ Bose, born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Orissa, joined the Indian National Congress, served as its president, but resigned due to ideological conflicts with Mahatma Gandhi. In 1939, he formed the Forward Bloc, uniting anti-British forces in India.

4. Recently, which global financial institution became the anchor investor in India's largest renewable energy infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)?

- A. European Investment Bank
- B. World Bank
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) ☒



- ✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) recently became the anchor investor in India's largest renewable energy infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT). The InvIT is called Sustainable Energy Infra Trust (SEIT) and has eight operational solar power generation assets. The AIIB invested INR 4.86 billion (about USD 58.4 million) into SEIT.

5. 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman campaign', recently seen in the news, is associated with which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Law and Justice ☒
- B. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Commerce & Industry



- ✓ The Vice-President of India will inaugurate the 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' campaign on the 75<sup>th</sup> Republic Day. The campaign, led by the Ministry of Law and Justice, aims to reaffirm commitment to the Constitution, celebrating shared values. The Panch Pran goals include making India developed, eradicating a slave mentality, embracing cultural pride, promoting unity, and respecting national protectors.

6. Recently, which institution has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 in the institutional category?

- A. 60 Parachute field hospital, UP ☒
- B. 30 Parachute field hospital, UP
- C. KJMU, Lucknow
- D. AIIMS, Delhi



- ✓ The 60 Parachute Field Hospital in Uttar Pradesh is honored with the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 for outstanding Disaster Management efforts. The annual award, instituted by the Centre, acknowledges individuals and organizations in India for their selfless service in disaster management. Announced on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, January 23, the award includes a 51 lakh rupees cash prize and a certificate for institutions, and five lakh rupees and a certificate for individuals.

7. What is the name of the AI-based app recently launched by the central government for providing study materials in regional languages?

A. Anuvadini App ☒

B. Bhashini App

C. Diksha App

D. Bhasha Sangam App



- ✓ The central government has launched the 'Anuvadini' app, an AI-based platform, to promote multilingualism in education. Aligned with the National Education Policy-2020, it aims to provide digital study materials for all courses in Indian languages from the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution. Directives from the Ministry of Education instruct the UGC, AICTE, and the Department of School Education to ensure the availability of study materials in regional languages.

8. Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana is related to which one of the following?

A. Rooftop solar panels ☒

B. Sunflower cultivation

C. Electric Generators

D. Rural Healthcare



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' during the Ayodhya life consecration ceremony, targeting rooftop solar panels on one crore households. This initiative promotes self-reliance in energy, emphasizing economic empowerment and reduced electricity bills.

9. Exercise Cyclone is conducted between which two countries?

A. India & Egypt ☒

B. India & Japan

C. India & Sudan

D. India & Israel



- ✓ The 2nd edition of Exercise CYCLONE, a joint special force drill between India and Egypt, is taking place in Anshas, Egypt, from January 22 to February 1, 2024. The Indian Army contingent, comprising 25 personnel from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), is participating.
- ✓ The exercise focuses on enhancing bilateral military cooperation and understanding operating procedures in desert terrain under UN Charter Chapter VII. It involves three phases, including Military Exhibitions, IED training, and Joint Tactical Exercises, fostering stronger ties between the two friendly nations.

10. Which player won the title of Women's Singles India Open 2024?

- A. Tai Tzu Ying ☒
- B. Chen Yu Fei
- C. Jia Min
- D. Kodai Naraoka



- ✓ **Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei won the India Open 2024 women's singles title against China's Chen Yu Fei, the reigning Olympic champion. Ying won in straight sets, 21-16, 21-12. Ying, a Tokyo Olympics silver medalist, also beat Singapore's Jia Min in straight games to advance to the final. The 2024 India Open badminton tournament took place from January 16–21 and had total prize money of US\$850,000.**

11. Mamani Ethnic Food Festival is associated with which state/UT?

- A. Jammu & Kashmir ☒
- B. Haryana
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Punjab



- ✓ **The Mamani Ethnic Food Festival is celebrated in Ladakh, India. It is a festival celebrated by both Buddhist and Muslim communities in the majority of Kargil district blocks and the Skurbuchan block of Leh district. It is also celebrated in Kargil and Leh cities. The festival is a testament to the commitment of Ladakh communities to preserve their cultural heritage. It celebrates traditions and promotes communal harmony.**

12. Exercise KHANJAR is conducted between which two countries?

- A. India-Kyrgyzstan ☒
- B. India-Afghanistan
- C. India-Tajikistan
- D. India-Turkmenistan



- ✓ **The 11th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has started at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. Initiated in December 2011, it is an annual event alternating between both countries. The Indian Army's Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and Kyrgyzstan's Scorpion Brigade are participating.**
- ✓ **The exercise focuses on exchanging Counter Terrorism and Special Forces Operations experiences, emphasizing skills, techniques, and showcasing indigenous defense equipment. It aims to strengthen defense ties, address terrorism concerns, and foster bilateral relations.**

13. Scrub typhus is an infectious disease caused by which one of the following?

- A. Bacteria ☒
- B. Fungi
- C. Virus
- D. Protozoa



- ✓ A recent study in Tamil Nadu's Vellore reveals that a minimal increase in rainfall can escalate scrub typhus cases by 0.5 to 0.7%. This infectious disease, caused by the bacterium *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, spreads through infected mites. Symptoms include fever, headache, body ache, and, in severe cases, respiratory distress, brain inflammation, and multi-organ failure leading to death. The disease, treatable with doxycycline, peaks in cooler months, and no vaccine exists.

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<https://wp.me/p7JanY-ag8>

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1. Which player is set to be awarded the Cricketer of the Year at the BCCI awards?

- A. Shubman Gill ☒
- B. Rohit Sharma
- C. Virat Kohli
- D. K L Rahul



- ✓ The BCCI will honor former Indian all-rounder and coach Ravi Shastri with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and cricketer Shubman Gill will receive the Cricketer of the Year award for his outstanding performance.

2. D K Basu's judgement is related to which one of the following?

- A. Protect the rights and dignity of individuals in police custody ☒
- B. Protection of interests of minorities
- C. Child Labour
- D. Safeguards against sexual exploitation



- ✓ The Supreme Court of India recently emphasized the D K Basu Judgment (1996) against police abuse and custodial violence. The case D K Basu vs State of West Bengal, addressed deaths in police custody. The petitioner D K Basu highlighted the issue leading to the judgment that custodial violence violates the rule of law and human dignity. The ruling expanded the scope of fundamental rights, allowing compensation for their infringement.

3. Which two other countries participated in Exercise Desert Knight conducted by the Indian Air Force?

- A. Egypt and Sudan
- B. France and UAE ☒
- C. France and Russia
- D. UAE and Egypt



- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise Desert Knight with the French Air and Space Force (FASF) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force on January 23–24, 2024. The exercise took place over the Arabian Sea, with the IAF operating from its west coast bases and the UAE and France operating from Al Dhafra airbase. The exercise's main focus was to improve synergy and interoperability between the three air forces. The IAF said that such exercises demonstrate the growing diplomatic and military interactions in the region, as well as the IAF's capabilities.

4. Where was the 42-day Mahamandal festival inaugurated?

- A. Haryana
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Uttar Pradesh ☒
- D. Rajasthan



- ✓ A 42-day Mahamandal festival commenced at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya following the Pran Pratishtha of Ram Lalla. Starting on January 24, the festival, overseen by Ram Mandir trustee Jagadguru Vishvesh Prapann Tirtha, includes daily Kalash puja and worship with forty-eight urns in the sanctum sanctorum. Bhagwan Ram will be honored in the Vaishnav tradition, receiving a Rajbhog of assorted sweets. The festival involves a 42-day Havan with recitation of various mantras at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi complex.

5. 'National Girl Child Day' was first initiated in which year?

- A. 2006
- B. 2007
- C. 2008 ☒
- D. 2009



- ✓ National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India on January 24th every year. The day was started in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the government of India. The day aims to raise awareness about the inequalities that girls face in Indian society. It also advocates for equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and nutrition.
- ✓ The day also commemorates the anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child). The scheme's main goal is to prevent female foeticide and sex determination, ensure safety and save all female children, and to provide them with quality education.

6. Which organization developed the Insat-3DS satellite in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD)?

- A. ISRO ☒
- B. DRDO
- C. Indian Coast Guard
- D. HAL



- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has completed crucial tests on the Insat-3DS satellite, a collaborative effort with the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Part of a climate observatory satellite series, it aims to enhance climate services. The satellite, along with INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR already in orbit, will be launched using the more advanced Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F14), featuring cryogenic liquid propellants. INSAT-3DR boasts improvements like imaging in the Middle Infrared band for night-time cloud and fog pictures and enhanced accuracy in Sea Surface Temperature estimation.

7. 'Fit India Champions' podcast series is launched by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports ☒
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Finance



- ✓ The Fit India Mission, a flagship program by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is launching the 'Fit India Champions' podcast series in collaboration with GOQii. Starting January 27, the series highlights the extraordinary achievements and inspiring stories of Indian sports heroes. The inaugural episode features Sheetal Devi, an armless archer who won gold at the 2023 Asian Para Games on her debut.

8. Parvatmala Programme comes under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways ☒
- B. Ministry of Power
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Agriculture



- ✓ The government plans to expand the Parvatmala Pariyojana, a national ropeways development program, to at least 400 projects in the next five years. Launched in the 2022-23 Union Budget, the program aims to ease congestion in mountainous areas with limited road and train connectivity. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways oversees the project, with implementation entrusted to the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), a 100% owned subsidiary of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

9. Recently, Karpoori Thakur was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna. He was the former Chief Minister of which state?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Bihar ☒
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Odisha



- ✓ Prominent Gandhian socialist leader and former Bihar chief minister, Karpoori Thakur, will posthumously receive the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award instituted in 1954. While traditionally for Indian-born citizens, exceptions include Mother Teresa, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, and Nelson Mandela.

10. Recently, who became the second Indian man to win a gold medal at the Asian Marathon Championships in 2024?

- A. Gopi T
- B. Man Singh ☒
- C. Srinu Bugatha
- D. Kartik Kumar



- ✓ Indian marathon runner Man Singh secured a historic gold at the 2024 Asian Marathon Championships in Hong Kong, becoming the second Indian man to achieve this feat. Finishing with an impressive time of 2:14:19, Singh outpaced the runner-up by 65 seconds. The first Indian to claim this title was Gopi Thonakal in 2017.

11. Where was the 14th All India Police Commando Competition organized?

- A. Visakhapatnam ☒
- B. Kurnool
- C. Guntur
- D. Nellore



- ✓ The 14th All India Police Commando Competition (AIPCC) 2024 began on January 22, 2024 and will run until January 30, 2024. The competition is being held at the Greyhounds Centre in Visakhapatnam, India and is being organized by the Andhra Pradesh State Police (Greyhounds). The AIPCC is considered the top professional competition for police forces in India. The competition will feature 16 state police teams and seven teams from central police agencies.

12. What is 'Mimosa'?

- A. Virus
- B. Fungi
- C. Invasive plant ☒
- D. Ancient Agricultural Technique



- ✓ Assam grapples with a rising menace of invasive Mimosa plants, endangering its forests and biodiversity. Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, faces the invasion, impacting the diet of wildlife. Originally introduced by the tea industry for soil enrichment, Mimosa, also known as Touch-Me-Not, now threatens the region due to climate and geographical factors.

13. Mukhyamantri Gramin Solar Street Light scheme is associated with which state?

- A. Bihar ☒
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Odisha
- D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Mukhyamantri Gramin Solar Street Light scheme is associated with the state of Bihar. Despite the launch of the Mukhyamantri Gramin Solar Street Light Scheme in Bihar 18 months ago, over 80% of rural villages are still without solar street lights.
- ✓ Chief Minister Nitish Kumar initiated the scheme in 2022 to install over a million solar street lights in 8,000 Gram Panchayats, promoting green energy. However, only 106,161 lights have been installed to date, significantly falling short of the target, as revealed by official data from the Bihar Panchayati Raj Department's digital platform.

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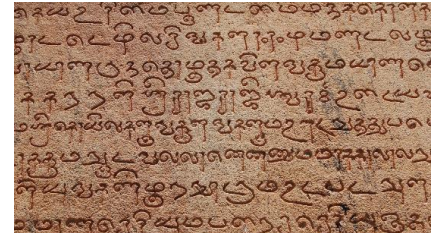
<https://wp.me/p7JanY-ag8>

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1. The Grantha script, once used to write Sanskrit, was mainly from which Indian State?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Kerala
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ Archaeologists found 11th and 16th-century stone inscriptions in Paranchervazhi village near Kangayam in Tamil Nadu, featuring 'Grantham' and Tamil scripts. Grantham, a historical script, once scribed Sanskrit across South East Asia and Tamil Nadu. Originally named for literary works in Sanskrit, it later influenced Malayalam and became Arya Ezhuthu.

2. When is the 'National Voters' Day' observed every year?

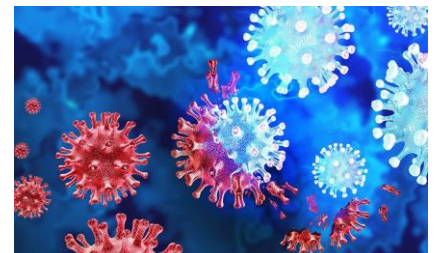
- A. 24 January
- B. 25 January ☒
- C. 26 January
- D. 15 January



- ✓ The Election Commission of India marks its 75th year on January 25, 2024, coinciding with the 14th National Voters' Day (NVD). Since 2011, NVD is observed annually on January 25 to raise electoral awareness and encourage citizens to participate. The event, celebrated at various levels across the country, aims to facilitate voter enrolment, particularly among young voters. The theme for NVD 2024 is "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure".

3. 'Disease X' is related to?

- A. Hypothetical pathogen for future pandemic ☒
- B. Fungal disease
- C. Plant disease
- D. Genetic disease



- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) warns of 'Disease X,' a potential new pandemic with unknown characteristics, listed in the WHO's Blueprint since 2018. This hypothetical pathogen, belonging to any of 25 virus families, lacks known treatments and could be 20 times deadlier than the recent SARS-COVID virus.

4. What is the primary objective of the VLF (Very Low Frequency) communication station established by Indian Navy?

- A. To enhance maritime security in the Arabian Sea
- B. To strengthen communication capabilities for naval operations ☒
- C. To monitor seismic activity in the Bay of Bengal
- D. To facilitate space exploration missions from the Indian coast



- ✓ **The Indian Navy's primary objective for its Very Low Frequency (VLF) communication station is to transmit fleet broadcasts and communicate with ships and submarines. VLF radio waves are used to communicate with submarines that are underwater.**
- ✓ **The Indian Navy has been operating a VLF facility for the last 24 years. The first VLF station was established at INS Kattabomman Radar Station in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu in 1990. The Navy is currently building a second VLF station in the Damagudem forest area near Puduru of Vikarabad mandal, Telangana. The new station is expected to be completed in 2027.**

5. Recently, which player secured the first global table tennis title at the WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024?

- A. Sreeja Akula ☒
- B. Lily Zhang
- C. Manika Batra
- D. Diya Chitale



- ✓ **Indian table tennis player Sreeja Akula secured her first international title at the WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 in Texas, USA. In a dominant performance, the 25-year-old defeated world No. 46 Lily Zhang in the women's singles final with a convincing 3-0 victory (11-6, 18-16, 11-5).**

6. Recently, which IIT hosted Phase 3 of the 'Yuva Sangam' programme under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'?

- A. IIT Guwahati ☒
- B. IIT Kanpur
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Kharagpur



- ✓ **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati hosted Phase 3 of the Yuva Sangam program. The program is an initiative under the Ministry of Education's "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat". The Yuva Sangam program aims to strengthen connections between the country's youth. During the program, youth are exposed to five areas: Paryatan (Tourism) Parampara (Traditions) Pragati (Development) Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect) & Prodyogik (Technology).**

7. All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) is inaugurated at which city of Uttar Pradesh?

- A. Kanpur ☒
- B. Lucknow
- C. Prayagraj
- D. Varanasi



- ✓ The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare recently inaugurated a Super Specialty Block at GSVM Medical College in Kanpur, UP, and laid the foundation stone for the first state-of-the-art All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) Satellite Centre in North India.

8. LSAM 19 (Yard 129) is launched by which armed forces?

- A. Indian Army ☒
- B. Indian Airforce
- C. Indian Navy
- D. Indian Coast Guard



- ✓ The Indian Navy launched LSAM 19, the fifth barge in the 11 x ACTCM Barge Project. Manufactured by MSME Shipyard, Suryadipta Projects Private Limited, Thane, the versatile barge enhances Navy capabilities with ammunition, torpedoes, and missiles. These barges, built under a March 2021 agreement between the Ministry of Defence and Suryadipta Projects, adhere to Naval Rules and Regulations, contributing to India's Make in India initiative.

9. 'Halwa Ceremony' is related to?

- A. Budget
- B. Economic Survey ☒
- C. Republic Day
- D. Fit India Programme



- ✓ The Union Finance Minister recently participated in the annual 'Halwa Ceremony,' marking the commencement of budget-related document printing. The tradition involves preparing traditional dessert 'halwa' in a massive kadhai, with the finance minister initiating the process. Held in the Finance Ministry's North Block basement, it symbolizes the send-off for officials engaged in crafting the annual financial statement. Post-ceremony, officials enter a 'lock-in' period, isolating themselves to maintain budget document confidentiality until its presentation.

10. Kaushal Bhawan is associated with which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Textiles
- B. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship ☒
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Ministry of Agriculture



कौशल विकास और  
उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
SKILL DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
सत्यमेव जयते

- ✓ President of India, Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Kaushal Bhawan, symbolizing India's commitment to empowering youth through skills, aligned with PM Narendra Modi's Skill India Mission. The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship's initiatives aim to catalyze youth aspirations, fostering a skilled future.

11. Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the MoU with which country for cooperation in the information technology sector?

- A. Oman ☒
- B. Egypt
- C. Singapore
- D. Tanzania



- ✓ The Union Cabinet, led by PM Narendra Modi, approved a MoU between India and Oman in IT, signed on December 15, 2023. The agreement, effective for three years, promotes bilateral collaboration in Government-to-Government (G2G) and Business-to-Business (B2B) sectors.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to boost employment in IT through mutual support, technology sharing, information exchange, and investments. The Ministries involved are India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Oman's Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology.

12. Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) primarily deals with which one of the following?

- A. Assault and Murder
- B. Corruption in Private sector
- C. Corruption in Government sector
- D. Cheating and dishonest inducement ☒

420

- ✓ The recent Supreme Court ruling clarified that prosecuting someone under Section 420 of the IPC for cheating requires examining if deceitful acts were coupled with inducement leading to property transfer. IPC 420 addresses cheating, inducing individuals to surrender property, alter valuable securities. This serious offence entails imprisonment up to seven years and fines. It is cognizable and non-bailable, emphasizing dishonest acts to gain advantages.

13. Leprosy is an infectious disease caused by which one of the following?

- A. Bacteria ☒
- B. Virus
- C. Fungi
- D. Protozoa



- ✓ The Central government has approved a new leprosy treatment regimen, targeting transmission halt at the sub-national level by 2027. The WHO recommended the three-drug regimen (dapsone, rifampicin, clofazimine) in 2015, known as multi-drug therapy (MDT). Termed 'Uniform MDT,' a single three-pack kit is administered to all leprosy patients for convenience. Treatment lasts six months for PB and 12 months for MB cases. Leprosy, caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, affects skin and nerves, spreading through close contact, leading to potential disabilities if untreated.

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### 1. What is the theme of 'National Tourism Day', 2024?

- A. Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories ☒
- B. Tourism and Green Investments
- C. Rural and Community Centric Tourism
- D. Tourism for Inclusive Growth

Incredible! India

- ✓ **National Tourism Day was celebrated on January 25, 2024. The theme for 2024 was "Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories". The theme promotes responsible and mindful travel. The central government organizes seminars, cultural events, and other programs to mark the day.**

### 2. Who is the chief guest of Republic Day 2024 celebrations?

- A. French President Emmanuel Macron ☒
- B. Russian President Vladimir Putin
- C. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak
- D. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu



- ✓ **French President Emmanuel Macron, the chief guest at India's 75<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations. India prepares for its grand Platinum Jubilee Republic Day celebration, showcasing military strength and cultural heritage at New Delhi's 'Kartavya Path' on Republic Day.**

### 3. "Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)" report is released by which institution?

- A. RBI ☒
- B. SBI
- C. NABARD
- D. IDBI



- ✓ **The RBI's "Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)" report analyzes data from 2.58 lakh Panchayats for 2020-21 to 2022-23, highlighting key findings. Panchayats heavily rely on grants (95%) due to limited own revenue sources like property taxes. Inconsistent data poses challenges in assessing fiscal health. Revenue sources include Central and State government grants, and PRIs have the authority to impose taxes and fees.**

### 4. Where was the 44<sup>th</sup> All India Criminology Conference of the National Forensic Science University held?

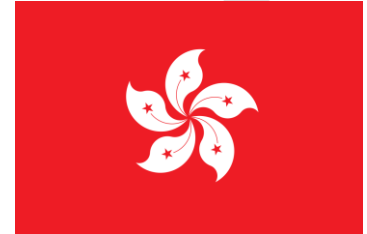
- A. Jaipur
- B. Gandhinagar ☒
- C. Lucknow
- D. Indore



- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the 5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference at the National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The conference focused on Forensic Behavioural Science, an emerging field highlighted by Shah. Emphasizing the role of Behavioral Science in crime prevention, he inaugurated a Digital Forensic Excellence Centre for capacity building and investigations, underscoring its importance alongside a robust administration and judiciary.

5. Recently, India surpassed which country to become the fourth-largest equity market globally?

- A. Hong Kong ☒
- B. Singapore
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Australia



- ✓ India recently overtook Hong Kong as the world's fourth-largest equity market, boasting a total market value of \$4.33 trillion, surpassing Hong Kong's \$4.29 trillion. The leading global stock markets are currently the U.S., China, and Japan. This milestone underscores India's rising prominence in the global financial arena, propelled by a robust GDP, political stability, and foreign investments.

6. Border Security Force (BSF) comes under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of External Affairs
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
- D. Ministry of Power



गृह मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**HOME AFFAIRS**

- ✓ Punjab and West Bengal have challenged the central government's decision to expand the Border Security Force's (BSF) operational jurisdiction from 15 km to 50 km. They argue that this move violates federal principles and encroaches on state law and order powers. The BSF, established in 1965 after the India-Pakistan war, is a vital part of India's security apparatus, operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is primarily deployed along the borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, including the Indo-Pakistan International Border and Indo-Bangladesh International Border.

7. What does 'SMART' stand for in the context of Indian standards?

- A. Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant and Time-bound
- B. Standards Machine Applicable Readable and Transferable ☒
- C. Standardized Measurement and Reporting Technique
- D. Systematic Manageable Analytical Resourceful Timely



- ✓ The Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) supports the SMART (Standards Machine Applicable Readable and Transferable) approach to enhance the readability of Indian standards. The initiative by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) prioritizes machine interpretability.

8. Vijay Raghavan Committee was constituted by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of External Affairs  
B. Ministry of Defence ☒  
C. Ministry of Home Affairs  
D. Ministry of Power



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

- ✓ A committee led by Prof K Vijay Raghavan, appointed by the Ministry of Defence, reviewed and proposed restructuring of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). Established in 1958, DRDO focuses on cutting-edge defense technologies.

9. How many Padma awards were approved by the President for conferment on the eve of 75<sup>th</sup> Republic Day?

- A. 132 ☒  
B. 130  
C. 150  
D. 135

132

- ✓ In the year 2024, the President approved the conferment of 132 Padma awards on the eve of Republic Day. This prestigious list includes five Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 110 Padma Shri awards, recognizing exceptional contributions across various fields. Additionally, the list comprises individuals from diverse backgrounds, as it features nine awardees from the category of "Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI."

10. How many individuals were honored with the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2023?

- A. 28  
B. 29  
C. 30  
D. 31 ☒

31

- ✓ The President of India approved the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2023 for 31 individuals, including 3 posthumous awardees. The awards, recognizing meritorious acts of saving lives, consist of Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak (3 recipients), Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak (7 recipients), and Jeevan Raksha Padak (21 recipients).

11. Magnetometer boom is associated with which mission?

- A. Chandrayaan-3
- B. Aditya-L1 ☒
- C. Gaganyaan
- D. NISAR



- ✓ **ISRO announced the successful deployment of the 6-meter magnetometer boom on the Aditya-L1 satellite at Lagrange point L-1, after being stowed for 132 days since launch. The boom carries two advanced fluxgate magnetometer sensors, measuring interplanetary magnetic fields in space. Placed at three and six meters from the spacecraft, this minimizes spacecraft-generated magnetic field impact, ensuring accurate measurements.**

12. Who has been conferred the prestigious 'Freedom of City of London' award?

- A. Madhur Kumar
- B. Loknath Mishra
- C. Sharukh T Wadia
- D. Ajit Mishra ☒



- ✓ **Ajit Mishra, a distinguished India-born lawyer living in the UK, received the prestigious 'Freedom of the City of London' award for his remarkable contributions to legal and public life. The Founder and Chair of UK India Legal Partnership, Mishra, a dual-qualified lawyer, boasts over two decades of experience in facilitating M&A and commercial transactions between India and the UK.**

13. Pazhassi Irrigation Project is related to which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala ☒
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ **The Irrigation Department has initiated the third phase test run for the Pazhassi Irrigation Project, aiming to restore water supply halted since 2008. Canal shutters will open on January 31 at 9:00 am, covering the Renovated Main Canal and Mahi Branch Canal. The test will assess the canals condition.**

## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

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### 1. What is 'Armado'?

- A. Electric vehicle
- B. Ballistic missile
- C. Satellite
- D. Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle (ALSV) ☒



- ✓ The new Mahindra Armado, India's first Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle (ALSV), debuted at the Republic Day Parade. Designed and built by Mahindra Defence Systems, it's intended for the Indian armed forces in counter-terrorism, Special Forces, reconnaissance, and border patrolling. Armado accelerates from 0 to 60 kmph in 12 seconds, reaching speeds exceeding 120 kmph, equipped with self-cleaning exhaust and air filtration for extreme climates.

### 2. Who has become the first woman to hold the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army?

- A. Preeti Rajak ☒
- B. Rajeshwari Kumari
- C. Manisha Keer
- D. Shreyasi Singh



- ✓ Champion trap shooter Preeti Rajak made history as the first woman subedar in the Army, promoted from havildar. Subedar Rajak, a meritorious sportswoman in shooting, joined the Army in 2022 based on her trap shooting prowess.

### 3. Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is conducted between which two countries?

- A. India and Israel
- B. India and Saudi Arabia ☒
- C. India and Egypt
- D. India and Japan



- ✓ The Indian Army announced that the first joint military exercise between India and Saudi Arabia, "SADA TANSEEQ", will take place from January 29 to February 10, 2024. The exercise will be held at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. The exercise aims to improve synergy, interoperability by sharing best practices between the two countries' armies.

### 4. When is the 'World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day' observed every year?

- A. 28 January
- B. 29 January
- C. 30 January ☒
- D. 31 January



- ✓ **World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day** is observed annually on January 30. Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a group of 20 conditions prevalent in tropical areas, affecting impoverished communities. Caused by various pathogens, NTDs like Guinea worm, Chikungunya, Dengue, and Elephantiasis pose severe health, social, and economic consequences. India hosts around 12 NTDs. WHO estimates over 1 billion people are affected, with 1.6 billion needing interventions.

5. 'Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award' is associated with which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Kerala
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ **Mohammed Zubair**, co-founder of Alt News, received the 2024 Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award from the Tamil Nadu government. Established in 2000, the award acknowledges remarkable contributions to fostering harmony. Presented annually on Republic Day by the Chief Minister, it honors individuals in Tamil Nadu for outstanding efforts in promoting communal harmony. The award includes a medal, Rs. 25,000 cash, and a certificate recognizing their services.

6. Which country is the second-largest producer of 'Tasar silk'?

- A. Japan
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. India ☒



- ✓ **Jharkhand's Republic Day parade tableau** highlighted tribal women's expertise in crafting Tasar silk, a wild silk variety derived from silkworms feeding on plants like Asan and Arjun. Known by various names like tusaar and tusser, India is the second-largest global producer after China, with exclusive Indian tussar, mainly cultivated by tribals.

7. Futala Lake is located in which state?

- A. Kerala
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra ☒
- D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ **The Supreme Court** has directed the Maharashtra government and its metro rail corporation to halt construction activities at Futala Lake in Nagpur. Futala Lake, also called Telankhedi Lake, in western Nagpur, Maharashtra, is over 200 years old, spanning 60 acres. Constructed by the Bhonsle kings, the lake is renowned for its vibrant fountains and is flanked by forest on three sides, with a landscaped beach on the fourth.

8. INSAT-3DS, recently launched by ISRO, is what kind of satellite?

- A. Geostationary satellite
- B. Meteorological satellite ☒
- C. Communication satellite
- D. Earth observation satellite



- ✓ **ISRO and IMD collaborate for a new meteorological satellite, part of a climate observatory series to enhance climate services. The Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F14) will deploy it, joining INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR.**
- ✓ **The satellite boasts improvements like night-time imaging, accurate sea surface temperature estimation, and higher spatial resolution. Its payloads include a multispectral imager, a 19-channel sounder, data relay transponder, and a search and rescue transponder.**

9. Which article of the Constitution states that "There shall be a Supreme Court of India"?

- A. Article 124 ☒
- B. Article 129
- C. Article 110
- D. Article 112



- ✓ **The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India, the apex judicial body established on January 26, 1950. Article 124 of the Constitution of India states that "There shall be a Supreme Court of India". The Supreme Court is the highest court in India and the final court of appeal for all civil and criminal cases.**

10. Which state government has launched 'Road Safety Force' to prevent road accidents?

- A. Punjab ☒
- B. Haryana
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Maharashtra



- ✓ **Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched the 'Road Safety Force' in Jalandhar, making Punjab the first state to initiate a dedicated road safety and traffic management force. Concerned about the high fatality rate of 17-18 lives lost daily in road accidents, Mann deployed 144 hi-tech vehicles and 5000 personnel to streamline traffic and enhance road safety across the state.**

11. Rusoma Orange Festival is celebrated in which state?

- A. Assam
- B. Nagaland ☒
- C. Sikkim
- D. Manipur



- ✓ The Rüsoma Orange Festival is a two-day festival held in Rüsoma Village, Kohima, Nagaland. The festival's goal is to encourage rural farmers to promote organic products and generate income. The festival also helps to strengthen the village's economy.

12. Purple Revolution is associated with which one of the following?

- A. Lavender ☒
- B. Sunflower
- C. Honey
- D. Cotton



- ✓ The Purple Revolution in Jammu & Kashmir, presented during the Republic Day Tableau (2024). A part of the Aroma Mission by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology, it signifies the remarkable rise of lavender cultivation. This initiative seeks to boost the local aromatic crop-based agro economy, elevate farmer incomes, and foster commercial-scale lavender farming, presenting lucrative startup opportunities for overall regional growth.

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