

THIRD WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



APRIL 2024

APRIL 15-21

1. According to Global Hepatitis Report 2024, what percentage of the global Hepatitis B & C disease burden did India account for in 2022?

A. 10.5%

B. 11.6% ☑

C. 12.1%

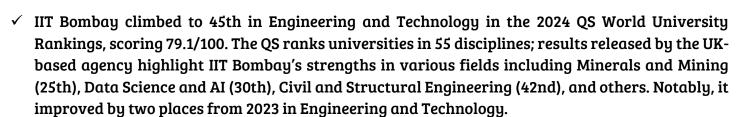
D. 9.5%



- ✓ India, accounting for 11.6% of global hepatitis cases in 2022 as per WHO, faces over 35.3 million infections, with 29.8 million from hepatitis B and 5.5 million from hepatitis C. Ranking second after China, India and China together contribute 27.5% of global cases.
 - 2. Recently, which organization has been designated as the Nodal Centre for the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)' programme by the ISRO?
 - A. Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) ☑
 - B. MP Council of Science and Technology (MPCST)
 - C. Council of Science and Technology, Lucknow
 - D. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi



- ✓ GUJCOST becomes ISRO's nodal center for the Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) Program. Geared towards postgraduate and final-year undergraduates in physical sciences and technology, START provides introductory online training covering various space science domains like Astronomy, Astrophysics, Heliophysics, Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy. Conducted by experts from Indian academia and ISRO centers, it aims to cultivate knowledge in space sciences among students.
 - 3. Which institution secured the 45th rank in Engineering and Technology of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2024?
 - A. IIT Bombay
 - B. IIT Kanpur
 - C. IIT Madras
 - D. IIT Roorkee



- 4. Recently, which bank became the first private bank to open a branch in Lakshadweep?
- A. Axis bank
- B. HDFC bank ☑
- C. YES bank
- D. ICICI bank



- ✓ HDFC Bank makes history as the first private bank to establish a branch in India's Lakshadweep, specifically at Kavaratti Island. Previously, only government banks operated in the region. The move aims to enhance banking infrastructure and provide personalized and digital services, with a focus on personal and digital banking.
 - 5. According to the recent Asian Development Bank report, what is the expected growth rate of the Indian economy in 2024-25?
 - A. 8.1 %
 - B. 7.8 %
 - C. 7.0 % ☑
 - D. 6.9 %



- ✓ The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) April 2024 outlook revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 7%, up from 6.7%. ADB reported India's 7.6% GDP growth in 2023-24, projecting 7.2% growth in 2025-26. Reserve Bank of India also forecasts 7% growth for FY25. Despite global economic challenges, India is anticipated to lead major economies in FY 2025, fueled by domestic demand, government policies, investments, and export gains in electronics and services.
 - 6. Recently, who has become the first Indian monk to be honoured with the American President's Gold Volunteer Service award?
 - A. Acharya Lokesh Muni 🗹 🦳
 - B. Raghaveshwara Bharathi
 - C. Vijayendra Saraswati
 - D. Bharathi Tirtha



- ✓ Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni is the first Indian monk to receive the American President's Gold Volunteer Service award in 2024. He is the founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati and World Peace Centre, and is recognized for his contributions to humanity and the public good. He has said that receiving the award is a matter of pride, and that it honors Indian culture, spiritual values, and Jain principles of Lord Mahavir.
 - 7. According to World Cybercrime Index 2024, what is the rank of India in cybercrime globally?
 - A. 8th
- B. 9th
- C. 10th ☑
- D. 11th

✓ An international team led by the University of Oxford and UNSW Canberra introduces the inaugural 'World Cybercrime Index'. Drawing from data collected through a survey of 92 experts, it ranks roughly 100 countries based on cybercrime prevalence. Key findings reveal concentrated threats, with Russia leading, followed by Ukraine, China, USA, Nigeria, and Romania. The score of India was recorded at 6.13 and was ranked 10th in the list of 15 countries.

- 8. What is 'Mange disease'?
- A. Skin disease of animals caused by mite infestations

 ✓
- B. Viral infection caused by the bite of an infected animal
- C. Communicable disease that primarily affects cattle
- D. Fungal disease that affects landscape of plants



- ✓ The forest department is monitoring an outbreak of mange disease among Asiatic wild dogs in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. Mange, caused by mite infestations, leads to inflammation, itching, skin thickening, and hair loss. The severe form, caused by Sarcoptes scabiei mites, also affects humans. All domestic animals can get mange, with specific mites infesting only one species. Transmission occurs through direct contact and contaminated objects. Most forms of mange are treatable.
 - 9. Recently, where was the first steel cutting ceremony of the Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy held?
 - A. Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - B. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 🗹
 - C. Vizhinjam, Kerala
 - D. Kolkata, West Bengal



- ✓ Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane oversaw the inaugural steel cutting of the Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ The FSS, with a 44,000-ton displacement, will play a vital role in replenishing naval fleets with fuel, water, ammunition, and stores, bolstering operational capabilities. Aramane also initiated the augmentation of slipway and infrastructure modernization at HSL, aiming to enhance its capacity and capability for future defense projects like the Landing Platform Dock, supporting 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.
 - 10. Where was the 'Asian Wrestling Championship 2024' held?
 - A. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 🗹
 - B. Beijing, China
 - C. New Delhi, India
 - D. Dushanbe, Tajikistan



√ The 2024 Asian Wrestling Championship took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where India's Udit clinched silver in men's freestyle 57 kg, while Abhimanyu secured silver in 70 kg. Abhimanyu and Vicky also won bronze medals in their respective categories. Despite defeating opponents from Iran, Kyrgyzstan, and North Korea, Udit settled for silver after a close final against Japan's Kento Yumiya, marking India's first absence from gold since 2019.

11. Plastic Overshoot Day 2024 report, recently released by which Non-profit organization?

A. Earth Action

B. American National Red Cross

C. United Way

D. INSO





- ✓ Earth Action released the Plastic Overshoot Day 2024 report, marking the point when global plastic waste surpasses manageable levels, leading to environmental harm.
- ✓ The Global Plastic Overshoot Day is projected for September 5th, with India's on April 23rd. Key findings show a 7.11% increase in plastic waste since 2021, with 12 countries responsible for 60% of mismanaged waste. India, classified as a Low-Waste-Producing Polluter, faces challenges like improper disposal and additive use.
 - 12. According to Plastic Overshoot Day Report, which country has one of the lowest per capita plastic waste production rates globally?

A. India 🗹

B. Sri Lanka

C. Myanmar

D. Philippines



✓ A recent report by Switzerland's EA Earth Action reveals India as one of the top twelve contributors to 60% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste. Released on April 12, 2024, the Plastic Overshoot Day report highlights Eritrea as the worst in the Mismanaged Waste Index, with Bermuda at the bottom. India's per capita plastic waste production is the world's lowest at 8 kg per year, yet its expected mismanaged waste in 2024 is "very high" at 7.4 million tons.

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- 1. Where is the world's largest hybrid renewable energy park being established?
- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Gujarat ☑
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Odisha



- ✓ Adani Green Energy Limited, a part of the Adani Group, is constructing the world's largest renewable energy park in Khavda, Gujarat's Kutch district. It spanning 538 square kilometers. With a planned capacity of 30 GW and an investment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore, it currently produces 2 GW, set to expand to 6 GW by March 2025. It aiming to generate 81 billion units.
 - 2. Which country has signed USD 375 million deal with India in defence sector?
 - A. Philippines **☑**
 - B. Vietnam
 - C. Egypt
 - D. Malaysia



- ✓ India will deploy defense attaches in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Philippines, Armenia, and Poland to bolster strategic ties. This initiative aligns with India's goal to expand global partnerships amid rising geopolitical tensions. Notably, India aims to strengthen defense relations with the Philippines to counter China's assertiveness in the South China Sea. Recent deals include a USD 375 million agreement for BrahMos missiles.
 - 3. What is the theme of 'International Day of Human Space Flight 2024'?
 - A. Encouraging Scientific Curiosity

 ✓
 - B. Way for Space
 - C. Conservation of Outer Space
 - D. Beginning of the Space Era for Mankind



✓ International Day for Human Space Flight (IDHSF) is celebrated annually on April 12, honoring Yuri Gagarin, the first human in space in 1961. The UNGA declared it in 2011 to advocate for peaceful space exploration. In 2024, the theme is "Encouraging Scientific Curiosity" to foster outer space exploration's peaceful advancement.

- 4. Recently, who has been appointed as the first woman high commissioner to India by Britain?
- A. Lilly Gunasekar
- C. Alicia Herbert
- D. Gill Atkinson



- ✓ Lindy Cameron, an Oxford alumna and former CEO of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre, becomes the first female high commissioner to India. This historic appointment highlights UK-India relations, coinciding 70 years after India appointed its first high commissioner to London.
 - 5. 'Dustlik' joint military exercise conducted between which two countries?
 - A. India and Uzbekistan
 - B. India and Russia
 - C. India and Tajikistan
 - D. Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan



- ✓ The 5th edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan begins on April 15 in Termez, Uzbekistan. Running for 14 days until April 28, it aims to enhance cooperation and future military ties between the two nations.
- ✓ Through training programmes, the exercise fosters mutual understanding and strengthens their relationship by sharing operational methodologies. This collaborative effort will significantly boost defence cooperation and deepen bilateral military engagement.
 - 6. Queqiao-2, a relay satellite, recently launched by which country?
 - A. Russia
 - B. Japan
 - C. India
 - D. China ☑



- ✓ China National Space Administration (CNSA) declared the Queqiao-2 satellite launch a "complete success". Queqiao-2, or Magpie Bridge 2, weighs 1,200 kg and features a 4.2-meter parabolic antenna, facilitating communications between Earth and lunar probes until 2030.
 - 7. Khavda Renewable Energy Park is located in which state?
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Odisha



✓ Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) established the world's largest renewable energy park in Gujarat's Khavda region. Spanning 538 square kilometers, it boasts a 45 GW capacity, primarily solar-powered. Khavda, in Gujarat's Kutch region, features exceptional solar radiation and wind speeds. Located near the Pakistan border, it's patrolled by the Border Security Force. AGEL invests Rs 1.5 lakh crore to generate 30 MW of clean electricity, with 81 billion units projected.

8. PACE Satellite was launched by which space agency?

A. NASA 🗹

B. ISRO

C. JAXA

D. CNSA



- ✓ NASA's PACE satellite, launched into Sun-synchronous orbit, now shares high-quality Earth observation data publicly. Equipped with the Ocean Colour Instrument (OCI), alongside polarimeters SPEXone and HARP2, it enhances aerosol, cloud, and ocean research. OCI's broad spectral range aids in phytoplankton identification. This data facilitates studies on oceanic life, air particles, fisheries health, algal blooms, pollution, and climate change impacts on the atmosphere and oceans, advancing scientific understanding.
 - 9. Which organization recently developed a sustainable hydrogel to remove microplastics from water?
 - A. Defence Research and Development Organization
 - B. Indian Institute of Science

 ✓
 - C. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
 - D. Indian Space Research Organization



- ✓ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) developed a novel hydrogel to remove microplastics from water. This hydrogel, with a unique polymer network, binds and degrades microplastics using UV light. It comprises three polymer layers: chitosan, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyaniline, combined with copper substitute polyoxometalate nanoclusters acting as catalysts. Microplastics, typically less than 5mm, are categorized as primary (from commercial products) and secondary (resulting from larger plastic breakdown due to environmental factors).
 - 10. Recently, which institution has issued a drug safety alert over the use of the anti-inflammatory drug Nimesulide?
 - A. ICMR

 - C. Indian Veterinary Research Institute
 - D. Institute for Communicative and Cognitive Neurosciences



✓ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) issued a safety alert regarding Nimesulide, an antiinflammatory drug. IPC, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, updates drug standards regularly. It publishes the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), setting standards for drug identity, purity, and strength for human and animal healthcare.

11. What is the primary objective of Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)?

A. Limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels ☑

B. Promoting organic farming in North India

C. Promoting sustainable exploration of marine resources

D. To promote corporate social responsibility



✓ The Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), established in 2015, supports companies in setting Science-Based Targets (SBTs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement. SBTi verifies targets independently, ensuring alignment with the latest climate science. It distinguishes between near- and long-term goals, essential for significant progress by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

12. How much tree cover has India lost since 2000, according to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch monitoring project?

A. 3.13 million hectares B. 1.23 million hectares

C. 3.25 million hectares
☐ D. 2.33 million hectares ☐

✓ Since 2000, India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover, as per Global Forest Watch (GFW). GFW, an initiative of the World Resources Institute (WRI), utilizes satellite data to monitor forests globally in near real-time. GFW primarily references tree cover for assessing forest extent, loss, and gain.

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- 1. Which day is celebrated as 'World Art Day' every year?
- A. 13 April
- B. 14 April
- C. 15 April **☑**
- D. 16 April



- ✓ Every April 15th marks World Art Day, celebrating art's global impact and Leonardo da Vinci's legacy. In 2024, the theme is "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art," highlighting art's role in fostering communal bonds and understanding. This annual tribute recognizes art's significance in communication, cultural identity, and personal freedom, emphasizing the enduring contributions of artists worldwide.
 - 2. MSC ARIES ship is associated with which country?
 - A. Maldives
 - B. India

 - D. Iraq



- ✓ Iran's Navy captured the Israeli ship MSC Aries near the Strait of Hormuz with 17 Indian crew members aboard. Iranian officials now control the crew. Efforts are underway for their safe return. Iranian Foreign Minister Amirabdullahian stated Tehran will allow Indian officials to meet them soon. Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar discussed their return with Iran's Foreign Minister.
 - 3. Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) weapon system is developed by which organization?
 - A. ISRO
 - B. DRDO ☑
 - C. CSIR
 - D. IEA



✓ The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Army jointly conducted successful field tests of the indigenously developed Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) system. Designed by DRDO, it includes the MPATGM, launcher, target acquisition device, and fire control unit. Tests at the Pokhran Field Firing Range on April 13, 2024, showcased remarkable missile and warhead performance.

- 4. Jiadhal River is the tributary of which river?
- A. Ganges
- B. Brahmaputra
- C. Kaveri
- D. Godavari



- ✓ The Jiadhal River, a northern tributary of the Brahmaputra, originates in the Arunachal Pradesh Himalayas. Its course through Dhemaji district in Assam features braided channels. It flows into the Brahmaputra near Selamukh but now joins the Subansiri due to an embankment. The basin area is 1053.20 sq.km., with heavy rainfall causing significant sediment deposition there.
 - 5. Recently, which country developed the world's first satellite series (Tiantong-1)?
 - A. Japan
 - B. Russia
 - C. China ☑
 - D. Israel



- ✓ Chinese scientists launched the Tiantong-1 satellite series; pioneering satellite-enabled smartphone calls without ground infrastructure like cellular towers. The Tiantong-1 comprises three satellites in geosynchronous orbit at ~36000 km altitude, covering the Asia-Pacific from the Middle East to the Pacific Ocean. Huawei released the first smartphone supporting satellite calls in Sep 2023, connecting directly to the Tiantong satellites. Geosynchronous orbit ensures satellites match Earth's rotation.
 - 6. Special Olympics Bharat (SOB) is a National Sports Federation recognized by which ministry?
 - A. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports ☑
 - B. Ministry of Home Affairs
 - C. Ministry of Power
 - D. Ministry of Defence



✓ Special Olympics Bharat (SOB), a National Sports Federation of India, is establishing district units in Tamil Nadu through elections on April 22. Registered under the Indian Trust Act 1882 in 2001, it's accredited by Special Olympics International. Recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, it's a Priority Category National Sports Federation, focusing on sports for persons with intellectual disabilities.

7. Longte Festival is celebrated by the Nyishi tribe of which state?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Odisha



✓ The Longte Festival, celebrated by the Nyishi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh. It's unique among tribal festivals as it prohibits animal sacrifice. Instead, the Altar is adorned with feathers and bamboo flowers. Longte Yullo, one of the oldest Nyishi festivals, is celebrated across various Nyishi clans.

8. Jonatan Christie, who recently won his first Asian Badminton Championship, belongs to which country?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Indonesia 2
- C. Thailand
- D. Singapore



√ Indonesian badminton player Jonatan Christie clinched his maiden Asian Badminton Championship title by defeating Chinese player Li Shi Feng in the final of the 2024 Badminton Asia Championships on April 14. The event, held in Ningbo, China, from April 9-14, is a BWF Super 1000 tournament, awarding 1000 points to the winners. This championship served as the final Olympic qualifier before the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

- 9. Kuchipudi dance is a classical dance form of which state?
- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Telangana
- D. Maharashtra



Kuchipudi, an Indian classical dance originating from Andhra Pradesh, faces a survival crisis due to dwindling patronage. Historically, it evolved from itinerant actors into a refined form under Siddhendra Yogi in the 15th century. It's known for intricate footwork, and storytelling. Kuchipudi is deeply rooted in Vaishnavism, often depicting stories of Krishna.

- 10. What was the primary objective of 'Operation Meghdoot'?
- A. To establish a military base in Ladakh B. To capture strategic heights in the Himalayas
- C. To engage in a peacekeeping mission
- D. To secure the Siachen Glacier ☑



✓ The Indian Army marked 40 years since 'Operation Meghdoot,' securing the Siachen Glacier, vital for its strategic location in Northern Ladakh. Launched in 1984, it responded to Pakistan's territorial claims, establishing India's presence at the world's highest battlefield.

✓ Led by Lieutenant Generals Chibber and Hoon, along with Major General Sharma, the operation showcased remarkable coordination between the Army and Air Force, resulting in India gaining control of Siachen Glacier.



- A. Rajasthan
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Delhi 🗹
- D. Jammu and Kashmir



✓ Qudsia Bagh, built in 1748 by Qudsia Begum, wife of Mughal Emperor Md Shah Rangeela, underwent recent restoration by Delhi Development Authority. It is located in North Delhi and it follows Persian char-bagh style. The Bagh's remains include its grand western gateway, Qudsia Mosque, and pavilions in red sandstone. The mosque, a simple structure with three-storied walls, is ASI protected.

12. Recently, who won the National Women's Carrom title for the twelfth time?

A. Rashmi Kumari 🗹

- B. N Nirmala
- C. Kajal Kumari
- D. Sharmila Singh



✓ Three-time World Champion Rashmi Kumari secured her 12th national women's singles title at the 51st National Carrom Championship, defeating K Nagajothi 25-8, 14-20, 25-20. Rashmi, employed at ONGC, triumphed in the women's final. In the men's category, K Srinivas clinched his fourth national singles title by defeating S Aditya 25-0, 19-6.

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1. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) recently signed an MoU with which institution for co-operation in research and technology?

A. IIT Mandi 🗹

B. IIT Madras

C. IIT Kanpur

D. IIT Bombay

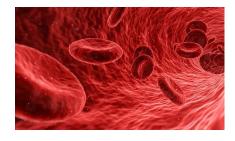


- ✓ Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh for collaboration in research and technology. The MoU focuses on semiconductors, quantum technologies, and drones. It aims to strengthen the synergies between BEL and IIT-Mandi, and to improve the quality and range of solutions BEL provides to its customers.
 - 2. Tiger Hill is a part of which wildlife sanctuary in West Bengal?

 - B. Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary
 - C. Jore Pokhri Wildlife Sanctuary
 - D. Ramnabagan Wildlife Sanctuary



- ✓ The Eastern Zonal Bench of the National Green Tribunal in Kolkata has issued notices to key Union and state government departments, along with the Darjeeling district administration, regarding the degradation of Tiger Hill's environment. Petitioner Subhas Datta's complaints prompted the action, citing unplanned activities harming the iconic site. Tiger Hill, renowned for its sunrise views over Mt Kanchenjunga, is part of the Senchal wildlife sanctuary, established in 1915.
 - 3. Which day is observed as 'World Hemophilia Day' every year?
 - A. April.16
 - B. April.17 🗹
 - C. April.18
 - D. April.19



✓ World Hemophilia Day, observed annually on April 17, raises awareness about hemophilia and bleeding disorders. It highlights the rare blood disorder's impact on clotting and prolonged bleeding due to clotting factor deficiency. The 2024 theme for the day is, "Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders". 4. Who becomes the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on the NS-25 mission of Blue Origin?

- A. Gopi Thotakura 🗹
- B. Santosh Kulangara
- C. Rajeev Aggarwal
- D. Sanjay Sinha



✓ Gopi Thotakura is set to make history as the first Indian space tourist on Blue Origin's NS-25 mission, founded by Jeff Bezos. It's divided into sub-orbital and orbital trips. Sub-orbital flights briefly breach the Kármán line (~100 km) before returning to Earth, like NS-25.

5. Recently, which organization has developed Carbon-Carbon (C-C) nozzle for rocket engines?

A. ISRO ☑

B. DRDO

C. BHEL

D. HAL



✓ ISRO announced a significant advancement in rocket engine technology, unveiling a lightweight Carbon-Carbon (C-C) nozzle developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). This breakthrough promises to boost payload capacity by enhancing crucial parameters like thrust levels, specific impulse, and thrust-to-weight ratios. Leveraging advanced materials such as Carbon-Carbon composites, VSSC crafted a nozzle divergent with exceptional properties, paving the way for improved launch vehicle performance.

6. According to IMF, what is the GDP growth projection of India for FY 2024-25?

A. 5.1%

B. 6.8% ☑

C. 7.1%

D. 4.5%



✓ The IMF raised India's GDP growth projection for FY 2024-25 to 6.8%, up 30 basis points from its previous forecast. India's growth is anticipated to stay strong due to robust domestic demand and a growing working-age population. Globally, growth is projected to continue at 3.2% for FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26. India retains its status as the world's fastest-growing economy, outpacing China's growth projection of 4.6% in the same period.

7. Recently, ISRO has decided to achieve debris-free space by which year?

- A. 2025
- B. 2027
- C. 2030 ☑
- D. 2035



✓ ISRO Chairman S Somanath declared India's ambition for a debris-free space by 2030 at the 42nd IADC annual meeting. S Somanath, also the Secretary of the Department of Space, highlighted the importance of debris-free missions for space sustainability. This initiative aims to spark discussions and actions toward achieving a cleaner space environment.

8. What is 'Gaia-BH3'?

- A. Communication satellite
- B. Nuclear ballistic submarine
- C. Invasive weed
- D. Massive stellar black hole

 ✓



- ✓ Astronomers have identified Gaia-BH3, the most massive known stellar black hole in the Milky Way. Discovered through data from the Gaia mission, it causes an unusual 'wobbling' of its companion star. Confirmed by ground-based observatories, it boasts a mass 33 times that of our sun, located 1,926 light-years away in Aquila. Gaia-BH1, another nearby black hole, has nearly 10 solar masses. Sagittarius A* remains the galaxy's most massive black hole.
 - 9. Recently, DRDO organized the first international workshop on 'Emerging Technologies and Challenges for Exoskeleton' at which place?
 - A. Bengaluru 🗹
 - B. Chennai
 - C. Hyderabad
 - D. Bombay



Bengaluru hosts the inaugural international workshop on 'Emerging Technologies & Challenges for Exoskeleton' organized by DRDO. Inaugurated by Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary of Department of Defence R&D, the event underscores exoskeleton technology's significance in military and civilian realms. Lt Gen JP Mathew highlights its history, challenges, and dual-use potential.

- 10. Recently, which Indian Naval Ship seized 940 kgs of narcotics in the Arabian Sea as part of an operation led by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)?
- A. INS Kaveri
- B. INS Shakti
- C. INS Talwar
- D. INS Veer



- ✓ INS Talwar, a vessel of the Indian Navy, intercepted 940 kg of drugs in the Arabian Sea under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) operation. CMF, headquartered in Bahrain, spans 3.2 million square miles of waters, safeguarding shipping lanes. It combats terrorism, piracy, fosters regional cooperation, and ensures maritime safety.
 - 11. Veeranam Lake is located in which district of Tamil Nadu?
 - A. Chennai
 - B. Chengalpattu

 - D. Tirunelveli



- ✓ Veeranam Lake, vital for Chennai's water supply, hit zero million cubic feet (mcft) in April, 2024, as per Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) data. Last year, it held 687.40 mcft; its capacity is 1,465 mcft.
- ✓ Located in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district, it's among the world's longest man-made lakes (14 km). It is built by Chola Prince Rajaditya Chola between 907-955 A.D., it's named after his father, Veeranarayanan. Fed by the Kollidam River, it's referenced in Kalki's "Ponniyin Selvan."
 - 12. Which organization developed the KAVACH system?
 - A. Power Grid Corporation of India
 - B. Research Design and Standards Organisation

 ☑
 - C. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation
 - D. NTPC Ltd



✓ The Supreme Court recently commended Railways for implementing the Kavach anti-collision system. Developed indigenously by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with Indian industry, Kavach is a state-of-the-art ATP system meeting SIL-4 standards. Utilizing high frequency radio communication, it prevents collisions by updating train movement continuously. It's the most cost-effective collision protection system.

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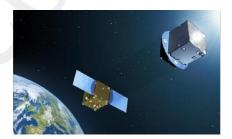
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- 1. Recently, which state holds the top position among Indian states for economic complexity?
- A. Tamil Nadu 🗹
- B. Gujarat
- C. Kerala
- D. Telangana



✓ Tamil Nadu leads Indian states in economic complexity, gauged by GDP and employment diversity. Its agri sector's contribution to Gross Value Added and labor force is below the national average, compensated by higher shares of industry, services, and construction. This balanced economy reflects a lower dependency on agriculture compared to the national average, positioning Tamil Nadu as a robust economic entity.

- 2. 'Proba-3 Mission' is related to which space agency?
- A. CNSA
- B. ISRO
- C. JAXA
- D. ESA ☑



- ✓ The European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission is scheduled to launch in September 2024, using India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The mission will see two satellites fly together in space, 144 meters apart, and aligned with the sun. The satellites will block each other's solar disk, allowing researchers to see the sun's faint corona, or surrounding atmosphere. This will be the first precision formation flying mission in the world.
 - 3. Which institution recently green lighted investments in the country's Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIS)?
 - A. RBI
 - B. SIDBI
 - C. Ministry of Finance
 - D. NABARD



✓ The Reserve Bank of India permits Foreign Institutional Investors to invest in Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs), aiming to fund environmental projects. SGrBs are debt securities issued by governments to support climate initiatives. The Union Budget 2022-23 introduced SGrBs.

4. Recently, who was honored with the World Literary Prize for her contribution to literature by the World Organization of Writers (WOW)?

A. Mahasweta Devi

B. Mamta Ji Sagar 🗹

C. Anita Desai

D. Manjit Singh

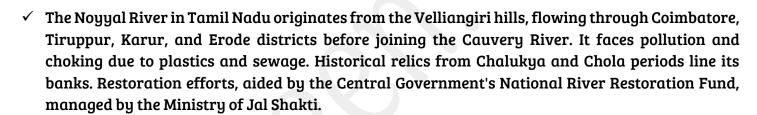
- ✓ Kannada poet Mamta Ji Sagar received the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW) in April 2024 for her literary contributions. The ceremony took place during the inaugural Congress of the World Organization of Authors in Abuja, Nigeria, hosted by the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) Writers Village, established by Chinua Achebe in 1981.
 - 5. Noyyal River is the tributary of which river?

A. River Kaveri 2

B. River Vaigai

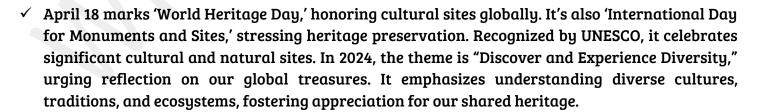
C. River Thamirabarani

D. River Palar



- 6. What is the theme of 'World Heritage Day 2024'?
- A. Discover and Experience Diversity

 ✓
- B. Heritage Changes
- C. Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures
- D. Heritage and Climate



7. Recently, a state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated in which state?

A. Tamil Nadu

B. Kerala ☑

C. Maharashtra

D. Odisha



✓ In Kerala, the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO unveiled the Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE). It's a testing hub for sonar systems on Indian Navy ships, subs, and helicopters. SPACE has two parts: a floating platform and a submersible one reaching 100m depth. It facilitates quick deployment and recovery of scientific gear, aiding survey, sampling, and data collection for Anti-Submarine Warfare research.

8. Recently, a team of archaeologists discovered a unique Iron Age megalithic site in which state?

A. Tamil Nadu

B. Telangana

C. Tripura

D. Madhya Pradesh



✓ Archaeologists uncovered a unique Iron Age megalithic site at Ooragutta near Bandala village in SS Tadvai mandal, Mulugu district, Telangana. The Iron Age, spanning from 1200 BC to 600 BC marked a pivotal shift in human history with the advent of iron tools. This period witnessed significant advancements in agriculture, notably with the introduction of iron plows, enhancing farming efficiency.

9. Recently, which ministry has issued new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regulations for the space sector?

A. Ministry of Home Affairs

B. Ministry of Defence



वित्त मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF **FINANCE**

C. Ministry of Finance

✓

D. Ministry of Power

- ✓ The Ministry of Finance has issued new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regulations for the space sector. The 'Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2024' modify the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019. These rules operate under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
- ✓ The amended FDI policy allows 100% FDI through both automatic and government routes, aligning with the Indian Space Policy 2023, replacing the previous approval route for satellite establishment and operation.

10. State of World Population 2024 report, recently released by which organization?

A. World Bank

B. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

✓

C. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

D. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



✓ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released the 2024 State of the World's Population report in April 2024. India leads with a population of 144.17 crore, expected to double in 77 years. 68% aged 15-64, with a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0.

✓ Life expectancy at birth is 71 and 74 years for men and women respectively. Child marriage rates were 23%, and women with disabilities face up to 10 times more gender-based violence. Marginalized communities are largely ignored despite 30 years of SRH progress.

11. Recently, where was the World Future Energy Summit 2024 organized?

A. Abu Dhabi ☑

B. London

C. Paris

D. New Delhi



- ✓ The 16th World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2024 took place from April 16–18, 2024 at the ADNEC Centre in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The summit focused on the global energy transition, investment in clean energy, and a sustainable future. The summit featured a panel of women entrepreneurs leading decarbonization innovation.
- ✓ Masdar's parent company Mubadala, along with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and holding company ADQ, also agreed to form a hydrogen alliance to produce green and blue variants of the fuel.
 - 12. Recently, which IIT has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility "on wheels"?

A. IIT Kanpur

B. IIT Madras 2

C. IIT Bombay

D. IIT Roorkee



✓ IIT Madras launched India's first mobile medical device calibration facility to enhance healthcare accessibility. Developed under the Anaivarukkum IITM initiative, it addresses the critical need for accurate calibration of medical instruments for precise diagnosis and treatment. This initiative aligns with UN SDG 3, aiming for universal healthcare.

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1. According to UNCTAD report, what is the estimated growth rate of India's economy in 2024?

A. 6.3%

B. 6.5% ☑

C. 6.7%

D. 6.9%



✓ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) forecasts India's economy to grow at 6.5% in 2024, following a 6.7% growth in 2023. India maintains its status as the world's fastest-growing major economy. Multinational companies are expanding manufacturing operations in India to diversify supply chains, aiming to boost exports. Growth in 2023 was driven by public capital investment and service sector expansion, as per the UNCTAD report.

2. Recently, DRDO conducted a successful flight test of the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) at which place?

A. Chandipur, Odisha 🗹

B. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

C. Pokhran, Rajasthan

D. Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh



✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha. All subsystems performed well, monitored by range sensors and a Su-30-Mk-I aircraft. The missile showcased precise navigation, flying close to the sea surface. The test affirmed the reliability of the indigenous propulsion system by GTRE, Bengaluru. Developed by ADE, equipped with advanced avionics, the ITCM is a technology demonstrator with an upgraded seeker and small turbofan engine.

3. What is the theme of 'World Liver Day 2024'?

A. Keep your liver healthy and disease-free ☑

B. Be Vigilant, Get Regular Liver Check-Ups

C. Keep your liver healthy and Spread awareness

D. Spreading awareness about liver-related issues



✓ On April 19th, World Liver Day promotes liver health awareness globally. This year's theme, "Keep your liver healthy and disease-free," highlights preventive measures and regular check-ups. The initiative aims to educate about liver-related disorders, encourage lifestyle changes, and support affected individuals.

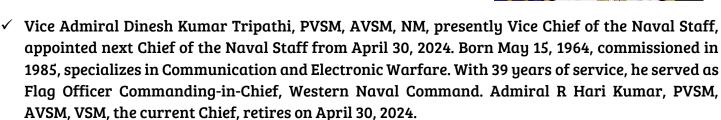
- 4. Lakshmana Tirtha River is tributary of which river?
- A. Godavari
- B. Krishna
- C. Narmada
- D. Kaveri 🗹



- ✓ Severe drought and intense heat have caused the complete drying up of the Lakshmana Tirtha River, a tributary of the Kaveri in Karnataka. Originating in the Brahmagiri hills, it flows eastward before merging with the Kaveri River at Krishna Raja Sagara Lake.
- ✓ The famous Lakshmanatirtha Falls, or Irupu Falls, adorns its path, near Kerala's border. The Kaveri River, originating at Talakaveri, is sacred to Hindus and empties into the Bay of Bengal at Poompuhar, Tamil Nadu.
 - 5. Dragonfly rotorcraft mission is associated with which space organization?
 - A. NASA 🗹
 - B. ISRO
 - C. CNSA
 - D. JAXA



- ✓ NASA confirmed the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's moon Titan with a \$3.35 billion budget, launching in July 2028. It'll explore various locations, mainly on the moon's surface, with a radioisotope power system. Scheduled to arrive in 2034, it will search for prebiotic chemical processes, resembling early Earth conditions. Titan, Saturn's largest moon, boasts an Earth-like liquid cycle and a thick atmosphere.
 - 6. Recently, who has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff?
 - A. Admiral Karambir Singh
 - B. Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
 - C. Admiral Sunil Lanba
 - D. Admiral Dinesh Tripathi





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- 7. Recently, India delivered BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to which country?
- A. Sweden
- B. Philippines ☑
- C. Egypt
- D. Vietnam



- ✓ India delivered BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines under a \$375 million deal signed in 2022. BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture of India's DRDO, signed the contract with the Philippines in January 2022 for the supply of Shore Based Anti-Ship Missile System. India's arms sales this year totaled Rs 21,000 crore, according to Prime Minister of India.
 - 8. Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array (DURGA) system is developed by which organization?
 - A. DRDO ☑
 - B. HAL
 - C. ISRO
 - D. BHEL



- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is testing DURGA-2, a prototype of
 its Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array. This system utilizes lasers, microwaves, or particle
 beams to damage or destroy targets, offering advantages over conventional munitions. It
 operates at the speed of light, unaffected by gravity or atmospheric drag, and boasts precision
 and customizable effects.
 - 9. Recently, which company has become the third-largest silver producer globally?
 - A. Hindustan Zinc Limited ☑
 - B. Silver Zinc Corporation
 - C. Sunrise Zinc Limited
 - D. Mewat Zinc Limited



- ✓ Hindustan Zinc Limited, a subsidiary of the Vedanta Group, has become the world's third-largest silver producer, according to the 2024 World Silver Survey by The Silver Institute. The company's Sindesar Khurd Mine in Rajasthan is the world's second-largest silver-producing mine. In 2023, Hindustan Zinc produced 45.9 million ounces of silver, an 8% increase from the previous year.
 - $10. \ Recently, what does World Health Organization (WHO) term pathogens that transmit through air?$
 - A. Waterborne pathogens
- C. Swine Flu D. Parkinson syndrome



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✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) introduces the term 'Infectious Respiratory Particles' (IRPs) to describe pathogens transmitted through the air, addressing a lack of common terminology during the COVID-19 pandemic. IRPs encompass particles expelled through breathing, talking, coughing, or sneezing. They exist across a spectrum of sizes, with two descriptors: Airborne transmission (inhalation) and Direct deposition (exposure to expelled particles).

11. Recently, fossil of largest snake named 'Vasuki Indicus' discovered in which state?

A. Kerala

B. Gujarat ☑

C. Maharashtra

D. Madhya Pradesh



✓ Discovered in Gujarat, a fossil vertebra confirms 'Vasuki Indicus' as the largest snake ever, estimated at 11-15 meters and 1 tonne. Likely an ambush predator in marshy swamps, it lived during a period of high global temperatures. Comparable to Titanoboa, a Colombian snake measuring 43 feet long and weighing over a tonne, Vasuki Indicus sheds light on prehistoric serpents' immense size and ecological roles.

12. Who is the author of the recently released book 'India - the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda'?

A. Amish Tripathi

B. Bhimeswara Challa 🗹

C. Bhavik Sarkhedi

D. Vikram Seth

✓ Bhimeswara Challa's book launch, "India — the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda," at ASCI Hyderabad, signals a pivotal moment in India's intellectual discourse. As a former UN official, Challa offers a unique perspective, advocating for a resurgent India. His book serves as a passionate call to action, urging readers to confront pressing issues beyond electoral politics.

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