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FIRST WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



MAY 2024

MAY 01-07

1. Recently, which organization has sanctioned a study on the impact evaluation of Geographical Indication (GI) products?

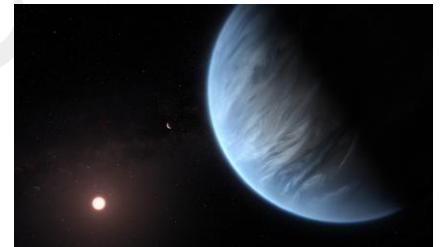
- A. SIDBI
- B. FSSAI
- C. NABARD
- D. ISRO



- ✓ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently sanctioned a study on the impact evaluation of Geographical Indication (GI) products to Symbiosis School of Economics. A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. The protection of intellectual property through laws will help to reap benefits in terms of economic growth, employment and income generation.

2. What is 'K2-18B'?

- A. Exoplanet
- B. Black hole
- C. Asteroid
- D. Submarine



- ✓ Preliminary data from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) suggests a more than 50% likelihood of dimethyl sulfide (DMS) gas on the exoplanet K2-18b. However, further analysis is required before a definitive conclusion can be reached. DMS is a gas that is only produced by living beings on Earth, primarily by phytoplankton in marine environments. The presence of DMS in K2-18b's atmosphere could be a groundbreaking discovery, as the planet is believed to be ocean-covered and 2.6 times larger than Earth. K2-18b, discovered in 2015, is a super Earth exoplanet orbiting an M-type star.

3. Recently, which organization has been granted 'navratna' status by the Department of Public Enterprises?

- A. BHEL
- B. HAL
- C. HMTL
- D. IREDA



- ✓ The Department of Public Enterprises has bestowed Navratna status upon the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA). Established in 1987 under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, IREDA functions as a Non-Banking Financial Institution.

- ✓ The Navratna status is awarded based on specific criteria including consistent high performance, such as achieving 'excellent' or 'very good' ratings in MoUs for three out of the last five years and a composite score of 60 or above in selected performance indicators.

4. According to National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), what is the predicted growth rate of Indian economy in 2024-25?

- A. 6%
B. 7%
C. 8%
D. 8.5%



- ✓ The National Council of Applied Economic Research predicts India's economy to surpass 7% growth this fiscal year, citing global growth, trade acceleration, and a promising monsoon. The IMF has raised India's growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.8%, up from 6.5%. Government data reveals a 7.6% growth in FY24.

5. Financial Intelligence Unit is a specialized agency comes under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Defence
B. Ministry of Power
C. Ministry of Finance
D. Ministry of Urban Development



वित्त मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
FINANCE

- ✓ The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), established in 2004 under the Ministry of Finance recently issued alert indicators under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for various sectors, including capital markets, insurance, online payment gateways, and cryptocurrency services. It analyzes suspicious financial transactions to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. Organizations like banks, stockbrokers, and insurance companies are mandated to register with FIU-IND as reporting entities under PMLA.

6. Which organization recently released the Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR), 2023?

- A. DRDO
B. ISRO
C. CSIR
D. ICAR



- ✓ ISRO released the Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) highlighting a rise in space object population. ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM), operational since 2022, ensures ISRO's space asset safety. Globally, 3143 objects were launched in space. India launched 127 satellites by 2023 and successfully conducted seven ISRO missions, including Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L-1.

7. Which organization recently launched the 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and 'Consumer Confidence Survey'?

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. Indian Economic Trade Organization
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Institute of Economic Growth



- ✓ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and 'Consumer Confidence Survey' to inform its bi-monthly monetary policy decisions. The former gathers subjective assessments on price movements from 19 cities, collecting both qualitative and quantitative data on inflation expectations. The latter seeks qualitative responses on economic conditions, employment, prices, income, and spending, also spanning 19 cities. These surveys aim to provide crucial insights for RBI's policy formulation.**

8. Which ministry recently signed an MoU with Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation for knowledge support on critical minerals?

- A. Ministry of Mines
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- D. Ministry of Agriculture



खान मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
MINES

- ✓ **The Ministry of Mines and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation signed an MoU to enhance knowledge support for critical minerals crucial to India's economic growth, national security, and low-carbon energy transition. The agreement was inked during the 'Critical Minerals Summit' at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, emphasizing the importance of beneficiation and processing capabilities.**

9. Recently, who has been re-inducted into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) core group ahead of the Paris Games?

- A. Pooja Khanna
- B. Deepika Kumari
- C. Gagandeep Kaur
- D. Muskan Kirar



- ✓ **Former world number one archer Deepika Kumari re-inducted into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) core group for Paris Games. TOPS, initiated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2014 (revamped in 2018), aims to enhance India's Olympic and Paralympic performance. Funded by the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) and Khelo India scheme, it identifies elite athletes through the TOPS Elite Athletes' Identification Committee and provides targeted training via the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC).**

10. SMART (Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo) system is developed by which organization?

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. CSIR
- D. NDMA



- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on May 1, 2024, from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha coast. The test validated advanced mechanisms like symmetric separation and velocity control. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and DRDO chief Dr Samir V Kamat praised the SMART team. SMART is a next-gen lightweight torpedo delivery system boosting Indian Navy's anti-submarine capabilities.

11. What is the theme of 'International Labour Day 2024'?

- A. Ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate
- B. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance
- C. Universal Social Protection to End Child Labor
- D. Resilient Recovery



- ✓ Every year, May 1st marks International Labour Day, celebrated worldwide, including in India, to honor the contributions of the labor movement. Originating from the 1886 Chicago labor strike demanding an eight-hour workday, it gained significance after the Haymarket incident. In 1889, leaders from twenty nations established it as International Labour Day. The 2024 theme focuses on workplace safety and health amidst climate change, emphasizing ongoing challenges faced by workers globally.

12. Recently, which Indian company recently signed an MoU with Norwegian firm to implement floating solar power technology in India?

- A. NTPC Ltd
- B. NHPC Ltd
- C. SJVN
- D. NEEPCO



- ✓ NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower developer, has inked a Memorandum of Understanding with Ocean Sun, a Norwegian tech firm specializing in floating solar solutions. The agreement aims to explore joint ventures in deploying Ocean Sun's innovative floating solar technology, utilizing hydro-elastic membranes. NHPC's commitment to sustainable development and renewable energy expansion is reinforced through this partnership, aligning with its portfolio diversification into solar, wind, and green hydrogen projects.

13. What is 'Peucetia chhaparajnrvin'?

- A. Newly discovered green lynx spider
- B. Traditional Irrigation Technique
- C. Invasive weed
- D. Submarine



- ✓ **Daryapur arachnologist unveils Peucetia chhaparajnrvin, a new green lynx spider species. Found in Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan, it's named after the locale. Typically dwelling on Vachellia nilotica leaves, its green hue aids camouflage for ambushing prey. With swift legs, it hunts nocturnally, feasting on small insects.**

14. India will host the 2025 BWF World Junior Championships in which city?

- A. Chennai
- B. Guwahati
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Gangtok



- ✓ **India will host the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati, as announced by the Badminton World Federation (BWF). It marks India's first hosting since 2008, when Pune held the event. The specific dates for the 2025 edition will be disclosed later.**

15. Recently, India has agreed to train the civil service personnel of which country from 2025-30?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Bhutan
- D. Nepal



- ✓ **The Indian government renews an agreement with Bangladesh to train 1500 Bangladeshi officers from 2025 to 2030. Signed by DARPG India and Bangladeshi Ministry of Public Administration, the pact emphasizes mid-career capacity-building for Bangladesh Civil Servants. During a 3-day visit (28-30 April 2024), led by V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG, the agreement was finalized, focusing on field administration programs.**

16. Pattachitra paintings are associated with which states?

- A. Bihar & Jharkhand
- B. Odisha & West Bengal
- C. Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan
- D. Karnataka & Kerala



- ✓ In West Bengal, Swarna Chitrakar is a revered figure among the village's patuas (scroll painters). The PM recently lauded Odisha's Bhagyashree Sahu, another pattachitra artist, on his show Mann ki Baat. Pattachitra, a traditional cloth-based scroll painting, originates from Odisha and West Bengal, dating back to the 12th century. Patuas depict daily life scenes, accompanied by songs.

17. Which state recently launched a digital water distribution system for agricultural fields?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala



- ✓ Rajasthan introduced a digital water distribution system for agriculture, employing "Barabandi," a fixed turn method for canal water distribution. The new online "barabandi" system, developed by NIC Jaipur, allows scheduled irrigation supply accessible remotely. Farmers can track water flow to their fields, reducing manual errors. This innovation aims to optimize water usage and enhance agricultural efficiency in Rajasthan.

18. Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), which has recently completed 50 years, was launched by which organization?

- A. WHO
- B. WMO
- C. ILO
- D. UNICEF



- ✓ The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) marks its 50th anniversary, initiated by WHO in 1974. Renamed UIP in India in 1985, it now offers vaccines for 13 universally recommended diseases and 17 context-specific ones. Global DPT coverage surged from 5% in the '70s to 84% in 2022. Smallpox eradicated; polio remains in Afghanistan & Pakistan. In India, coverage grows yearly, reaching 76% in 2019-21.

19. Recently, which country has launched a new currency 'ZiG'?

- A. Rwanda
- B. Zimbabwe
- C. Somalia
- D. Botswana



- ✓ Zimbabwe introduces the ZiG currency, aiming to stabilize its economy. The ZiG, backed by gold reserves, replaces the depreciated Zimbabwe dollar. Initially launched electronically, physical banknotes and coins are now in circulation. Despite efforts to restore faith, skepticism persists, with some government departments refusing to accept the new currency. This move reflects ongoing struggles to address Zimbabwe's enduring economic challenges.

20. Kankesanthurai Port is located in which country?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Myanmar
- C. Malaysia
- D. India



- ✓ Sri Lanka's Cabinet approves renovation of Kankesanthurai Port, funded entirely by India. The port, located in the Northern Province, spans about 16 acres and is 104 km from Karaikal Port in Puducherry, India. The decision underscores efforts to enhance connectivity and infrastructure in the region. Additionally, a direct passenger ship service links Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu to Kankesanthurai.

21. Which country is the host of the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26)?

- A. Argentina
- B. India
- C. Norway
- D. Chile



- ✓ India will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) in Kochi, Kerala, from May 20 to 30. Organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research these meetings aim to foster global discussions on Antarctica's environmental conservation and scientific collaboration. India, a Consultative Party since 1983, operates two research stations and enacted the Antarctic Act in 2022.

22. Recently, India has initiated Project ISHAN (Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management) in which city?

- A. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- B. Nagpur, Maharashtra
- C. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- D. Jaipur, Rajasthan



- ✓ India has initiated Project ISHAN (Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management) in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The project aims to streamline air traffic management (ATM) by consolidating India's four Flight Information Regions (FIRs) into a single system overseen from Nagpur. India's airspace is currently divided into four FIRs and a sub-FIR at Guwahati. The FIRs are controlled by India through Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, with a sub-FIR at Guwahati. India also shares its FIRs with 12 neighboring countries.

23. Recently, which intergovernmental organization has formed a panel specifically focused on critical energy transition minerals?

- A. United Nations B. World Health Organisation
C. World Bank D. World Trade Organisation



- ✓ The UN has formed a panel to address critical energy transition minerals, primarily sourced from underdeveloped nations like those in Africa. This initiative aims to curb resource nationalism and environmental damage caused by high demand for these minerals.
- ✓ The panel's goal is to establish global principles for a smoother transition to renewable energies, aligned with sustainable development goals and climate agreements. It emphasizes equitable benefits for communities and environmental protection.

24. Recently, the Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group collaborated to open the India's first Constitution Park in which city?

- A. Ahmedabad
B. Pune
C. Jaipur
D. Varanasi



- ✓ The Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group joined hands to inaugurate Pune's inaugural Constitution Park. Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh led the ceremony, stressing citizens' constitutional duties for India's progress by 2047. He highlighted the global importance of the Indian Constitution, which secures Fundamental Rights and underscores Fundamental Duties. Understanding these rights and responsibilities is pivotal for India's development.

IMPORTANT LINKS

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1. What is 'Antares'?

- A. Submarine
- B. AI tool
- C. Red supergiant star
- D. Invasive plant



- ✓ **The Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) recorded the moon passing in front of Antares, a massive red supergiant star in Scorpius constellation. Antares, 10,000 times brighter than the Sun, is 700 times its diameter and lies 600 light-years away. Despite its size, Antares has low density and temperature, around 6,100°F (3,400°C), giving it a ruddy color.**

2. According to Invest India report, India's e-commerce market is expected to grow to \$325 billion by which year?

- A. 2025
- B. 2027
- C. 2030
- D. 2040

2030

- ✓ **Invest India projects India's e-commerce to reach \$325 billion by 2030, driven by 500 million consumers and widespread internet access. It anticipates India becoming the 3rd largest online retail market by 2030. The agency, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, revealed in 2022, e-commerce was worth \$70 billion, constituting 7% of retail.**

3. Recently, which organization has advised all states and UTs to "completely prohibit" all harmful sharp threads or "manjha"?

- A. National Green Tribunal
- B. Animal Welfare Board of India
- C. National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board
- D. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



- ✓ **The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has urged states and UTs to fully prohibit harmful sharp threads or "manjha." The Delhi High Court instructed the Delhi government to establish a policy for compensating victims of accidents caused by Chinese manjha. In 2017, the NGT mandated a complete ban on manjha.**
- ✓ **AWBI, a statutory advisory body founded under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960, operates from Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana.**

4. Ajrakh textile craft is mainly associated with which state?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Kerala



- ✓ **The Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks awarded the Geographical Indication certificate to 'Kutch Ajrakh' artisans from Gujarat. Ajrakh, a textile craft deeply rooted in Gujarat's culture, especially in Kutch, Sindh, and Barmer, involves intricate hand-block printing on cotton cloth. Its name derives from 'Azrak', meaning indigo, a key dye used.**

5. Which day is celebrated as 'World Tuna Day' every year?

- A. May.01
- B. May.02
- C. May.03
- D. May.04



- ✓ **World Tuna Day, celebrated annually on May 2nd, highlights the decline in global tuna stocks and the necessity of enforcing international regulations for their preservation. Tuna, vital for both developed and developing nations, faces threats from overfishing. The day emphasizes sustainable fishing practices, reducing bycatch, and promoting international cooperation to ensure future tuna supplies. It serves as a crucial reminder of the urgent need to address the challenges confronting the tuna industry globally.**

6. Recently, who has been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation?

- A. Vaishali Ramesh Babu
- B. Surya Sekhar Ganguly
- C. Savitha Shri Baskar
- D. Tania Sachdev



- ✓ **Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu, awarded Grandmaster by FIDE, highlighted India's rising prominence in chess. Vaishali became India's third female Grandmaster after Humpy and Dronavalli. She achieved the 2500 ELO points at the Llobregat Open, with FIDE formally granting her the title at the recent Candidates Tournament in Toronto.**

7. Recently, which city is constructing the world's largest airport, Al Maktoum International Airport?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Dubai
- C. London
- D. New York



- ✓ Dubai is developing the world's largest airport, Al Maktoum International Airport, under Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's leadership. With a capacity for 260 million passengers annually, it will feature 400 terminal gates and five parallel runways. Beyond transportation, it aims to integrate into urban life, commerce, and global trade.

8. Bhimtal Lake, recently seen in news due to forest fires, is located in which state?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Kerala
- D. Punjab



- ✓ Recently, an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter collected water from Bhimtal Lake in Nainital, Uttarakhand to help control a nearby forest fire. The Indian Army and the IAF were called in to help control the blaze, with MI-17 choppers lifting water from the lake for firefighting efforts. Bhimtal Lake, Uttarakhand's largest lake in the Nainital district, is a centerpiece of the Kumaon region, dubbed India's "lake district." Named after the Mahabharata's Bhima, it formed naturally due to Earth's crust shifts.

9. What is the theme of 'World Press Freedom Day 2024'?

- A. A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis
- B. Shaping a Future of Rights
- C. Journalism under Digital Siege
- D. Information as Public Good



- ✓ World Press Freedom Day, observed annually on May 3, 2024, focuses on "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis." Emphasizing journalism's role in addressing global environmental issues, it highlights the importance of a free press in informing the public and holding decision-makers accountable. Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993, it commemorates the Declaration of Windhoek, promoting press freedom globally.

10. According to IQAir, which city has recently been ranked as the most polluted city globally?

- A. Kathmandu
- B. New Delhi
- C. Pokhara
- D. Hyderabad



- ✓ According to IQAir, Kathmandu is the most polluted city in the world as of May 2, 2024. IQAir is a Swiss technology company that monitors the pollution levels of 101 cities in real time. The Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal has advised residents to wear masks due to the alarming increase in air pollution in the Kathmandu valley. In 2023, IQAir's World Air Quality report ranked India as the third most polluted country and New Delhi as the most polluted capital city.

11. Pension Department has recently launched an online portal for government retirees. what is the name of the portal?

- A. Abhyukt portal
- B. Vriddhi portal
- C. Bhavishya portal
- D. Vikas portal



- ✓ The Pension Department has launched an online portal called Bhavishya for tracking pension payments and sanctions for government retirees. The portal is integrated with the pension processing and payment services of five banks, including State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Canara Bank.

12. Recently, NPCI signed an agreement with which African country for UPI-like instant payment services?

- A. Namibia
- B. Tanzania
- C. Kenya
- D. Nigeria



- ✓ NPCI's overseas arm signed a pact with the Bank of Namibia to develop a UPI-like instant payment system for Namibia, leveraging India's UPI technology and experiences.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to modernize Namibia's financial ecosystem, enhancing accessibility, affordability, and connectivity with domestic and international payment networks. It also emphasizes interoperability, signaling a significant step towards improving financial inclusion and digital transactions in Namibia.

IMPORTANT LINKS

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1. Recently, where was the event titled “Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way” organized?

- A. London
- B. Paris
- C. New York
- D. New Delhi



- ✓ On May 3, 2024, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, with UNFPA, host “Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way” during CPD57 in New York. Elected women representatives, including Sabhadhipati Supriya Das Datta (Tripura), Sarpanch Kunuku Hema Kumari (Andhra), and Sarpanch Neeru Yadav (Rajasthan), led by Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj, will showcase Indian women’s grassroots leadership.

2. Recently, which Indian received the ‘Green Oscar’ Whitley Gold Award 2024?

- A. Tulsi Gowda
- B. Purnima Devi Barman
- C. Alice Garg
- D. Amrita Devi



- ✓ Dr Purnima Devi Barman, an Assamese wildlife biologist, clinched her second Whitley Gold Award, also known as the Green Oscar, for safeguarding the endangered Hargila or Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland home. She previously won in 2017. Princess Anne, the charity’s patron, presented her the trophy in London. Dr Barman mobilized locals to protect the stork and its habitat, increasing their population from 450 to over 1800.

3. According to recently released OECD report, what is the expected growth rate of India’s economy in 2024-25?

- A. 5.5%
- B. 6.6%
- C. 7.2%
- D. 7.8%



- ✓ The OECD’s “Economic Outlook” report, released on May 2, 2024, raised India’s economic growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.6%, up from 6.2%. It also projects a 6.6% growth rate for 2025-26. The OECD joins other institutions in revising India’s growth prospects.
- ✓ The report attributes India’s accelerated growth to increased public investment and business confidence. It emphasizes the need for the government to address indebtedness through revenue growth, spending efficiency, and fiscal rules.

4. Recently, Geological Survey of India (GSI) explorers discovered ancient fossils in which hills of Meghalaya?

- A. South Garo Hills
- B. East Khasi Hills
- C. West Khasi Hills
- D. Jaintia Hills



- ✓ Geological Survey of India (GSI) explorers discovered ancient fossils, estimated at 35-40 million years old, in Tolegre, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Garo Hills, part of Meghalaya State, lies in the Meghalaya subtropical forests eco-region near the Indo-Bangladesh border. The Patkai hill range, extending into Myanmar, encompasses Garo Hills, known for heavy rainfall.

5. What is 'Batillipes chandrayaani'?

- A. Marine Tardigrade Species
- B. Invasive plant
- C. Naval Ship
- D. Exoplanet



- ✓ Researchers from Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) discovered a new marine tardigrade species, Batillipes chandrayaani, on Tamil Nadu's southeast coast, named after Chandrayaan-3. Found in Mandapam's intertidal beach sediments, it measures 0.15mm in length and 0.04mm in width. Sporting a trapezoid-shaped head and four pairs of legs with sharp-tipped sensory spines, both sexes share similar morphology. It's the 39th species under the genus Batillipes. Tardigrades, dubbed "water bears," are resilient micro-animals.

6. Recently, which institution released the 'Aging well in Asia: Asian Development Policy Report'?

- A. World Bank
- B. Asian Development Bank
- C. European Investment Bank
- D. African Development Bank



- ✓ The Asian Development Bank's report on Aging well in Asia highlights four vital aspects of older persons' well-being: health, productive work, economic security, and social engagement. It reveals that developing Asia faces rapid aging, with the older population set to almost double to 25.2% by 2050.

7. Sri Madhava Perumal Temple is located in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ **The Sri Madhava Perumal Temple reveals a historic trade route from over 1,000 years ago. Submerged in the Bhavanisagar dam, lowered water levels now unveil the temple in Erode district, Tamil Nadu. Hoysala King Veera Ballala III appointed Madhava Perumal Dhandanayaka to govern, who constructed the Dhandanayaka Fort 680 years ago. His son, Veera Siddha Keththaya Dhandanayaka, built the temple within. Later ruled by Vijayanagara Empire, Ummattur chiefs, and Tipu Sultan, the fort witnessed the Battle of Sathyamangalam in 1790.**

8. What is the purpose of the MoU recently signed between RailTel Corporation of India and the tech firm?

- A. To explore and deliver KAVACH implementation projects in India and other countries
- B. To develop a new version of KAVACH
- C. To develop a new railway lines
- D. To manufacture train engines



- ✓ **RailTel Corporation of India has partnered with a tech firm to implement KAVACH, an indigenous Automatic Train Protection System, in India and abroad. Developed by RDSO in collaboration with the Indian industry, KAVACH operates at Safety Integrity Level - 4 with a remarkably low error probability. Its features include centralized train movement monitoring, automatic overspeed prevention, and SOS message relaying.**

9. Which organization of India recently organized #PlayTrue Campaign to create awareness about clean sports?

- A. National Anti-Doping Agency
- B. National Sports Federation
- C. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- D. National Sports Organisation



- ✓ **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India recently concluded up its #PlayTrue Campaign, drawing over 12,133 participants nationwide. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about clean sports and anti-doping practices. It showcased NADA's dedication to educating athletes, coaches, and sports enthusiasts on anti-doping regulations.**
- ✓ **Through various activities like quizzes and awareness sessions, NADA encouraged fair play and integrity in sports, aligning with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA's) vision.**

10. Recently, which state launched the 'Nakshatra Sabha', India's first astro tourism campaign?

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Haryana
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan



- ✓ **The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and Starscapes have collaborated to introduce Nakshatra Sabha, an Astro Tourism venture. Beyond star-gazing, it offers solar observations, astrophotography contests, and camping. Aimed at astronomy enthusiasts and adventurers, it aims to merge cosmic wonders with Uttarakhand's natural beauty.**

11. Which state did the Supreme Court recently order to halt illegal mining in the Aravalli range?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Haryana
- D. Maharashtra



- ✓ **The Supreme Court ordered an end to illegal mining in the Aravalli Range in Rajasthan. Stretching 692 kilometers across Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana, the Aravallis are India's oldest mountain range, vital for ecology and hydrology. They prevent desertification, regulate climate, and support diverse ecosystems and rivers like Sabarmati and Luni.**

12. Saksham Valley is a territorial dispute between which two countries?

- A. India & Bhutan
- B. India & Pakistan
- C. India & Nepal
- D. India & China



- ✓ **India protests China's construction in Saksham Valley, deemed illegal. The valley is part of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. It is a disputed territory claimed by India but controlled by Pakistan and ceded to China in 1963 by Pakistan. Article 6 of the agreement stipulates renegotiation after Kashmir dispute settlement. It borders Xinjiang, POK, and Siachen Glacier. The Karakoram highway, built in the 1970s, resulted from the agreement between China and Pakistan.**

13. Which country recently launched the Chang'e 6 probe to bring back soil from the dark side of the moon?

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. India
- D. Japan



- ✓ China launched the Chang'e-6 probe to gather samples from the Moon's far side, aiming to be the first nation to do so. Previously, only the USA and USSR collected lunar samples, all from the near side. China's Chang'e 4 landed on the far side in 2019 but didn't retrieve samples. In 2023, India's Chandrayaan-3 mission achieved a first by landing near the Moon's South Pole.

14. India recently agreed to enhance cooperation in energy and local currency settlement with which African country?

- A. Kenya
- B. Tanzania
- C. Senegal
- D. Nigeria



- ✓ India and Nigeria agreed to expedite the Local Currency Settlement System Agreement, aiming to enhance bilateral trade. Trade settlements will occur in Indian rupees and Nigerian naira. The decision was reached during the 2nd India-Nigeria Joint Trade Committee session in Abuja. Led by Amardeep Singh Bhatia, the Indian delegation included representatives from the RBI, EXIM Bank, and NPCI. The meeting, held from April 29 to 30, 2024, outlined areas for trade enhancement.

15. Bhadra Tiger Reserve is located in which state?

- A. Kerala
- B. Karnataka
- C. Gujarat
- D. Maharashtra



- ✓ The Bhadra Tiger Reserve, located in Karnataka's Western Ghats, has seen a surge in safari visitors. Tourists must tread carefully in this eco-sensitive zone. The reserve, declared India's 25th Tiger Reserve in 1998, houses a significant tiger population alongside elephants and diverse fauna. Other Karnataka state tiger reserves include Bandipur, Nagarhole, Dandeli-Anshi, and Biligiriranga.

16. Recently, where was the 7th India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting held?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Jakarta
- C. Chennai
- D. Hyderabad



- ✓ India and Indonesia recently held their seventh Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting in New Delhi, focusing on expanding collaboration in defence industry, maritime security, and multilateral cooperation.

- ✓ Both nations expressed satisfaction with the growing scope of defence cooperation. The meeting emphasized defence industry collaboration involving firms like Bharat Forge and Mahindra Defence. They stressed maritime security cooperation and highlighted Indonesia's role in India's Act East Policy.

17. What is the rank of India in the World Press Freedom Index 2024?

- A. 158
- B. 159
- C. 160
- D. 161



- ✓ India's World Press Freedom Index score declined from 36.62 to 31.28 in 2024, as per Reporters Without Borders. This annual report assesses journalism freedoms across 180 nations. India's rank improved from 161 to 159 due to others' decline. However, India lags behind Turkey, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Despite a slight improvement in security, scores fell across other indicators, signaling challenges to press independence.

18. Recently, India and the Netherlands organized which round of foreign consultations in The Hague?

- A. 11th
- B. 12th
- C. 13th
- D. 14th



- ✓ India and the Netherlands held the 12th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in The Hague on May 2, 2024. The consultations were led by Shri Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
- ✓ The meeting was a chance to evaluate progress since the last FOC in New Delhi in December 2022. During the meeting, India and the Netherlands agreed to strengthen their bilateral ties by focusing on new technologies like green hydrogen and semiconductors.

19. Recently, who has been appointed as President of Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)?

- A. O P Choudhary
- B. Pankaj Chaudhary
- C. Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
- D. Ajay Bhushan Pandey



- ✓ Retired Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra appointed as President of GSTAT, the Second Appellate Authority under the Central GST Act, 2017. GSTAT hears appeals against orders from the Appellate Authority under CGST Act, 2017 and State GST Acts, ensuring dispute resolution uniformity.

- ✓ GSTAT comprises a Principal Bench in New Delhi, led by the President and two Technical Members (one from Centre, one from State), along with several State Benches.

20. Lakshya Aircraft is designed and built by which organization?

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. CSIR
- D. HAL



- ✓ The Aeronautical Development Establishment, a Bengaluru-based Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) lab, creator of Lakshya aircraft, is under CBI scrutiny. Lakshya, a micro-light, pilot-less aircraft, was developed by ADE for Indian Armed Forces, inducted in 2000 (IAF), 2001 (IN), and 2003 (IA). Cost-effective, reusable, with HAL-manufactured engine, it can launch from land or sea.

21. How much has the fossil fuel capacity in India increased during FY24?

- A. 1.65%
- B. 2.44%
- C. 3.50%
- D. 3.80%



- ✓ In FY24, the country's fossil fuel-based power capacity increased by 2.44% to 243.22 GW from March 2023's 237.27 GW. Non-fossil fuel capacity increased by 10.79%, reaching 190.57 GW in 2023-24 compared to 172.01 GW in 2022-23. This includes solar, wind, and hydropower. Nuclear power capacity grew to 8.18 GW from 6.78 GW, marking a 20.64% yearly increase.

22. Recently, who has been appointed as Secretary at Director level in the National Jute Board, Kolkata, under the Ministry of Textiles?

- A. Ajay Kumar
- B. Shashi Bhushan Singh
- C. Rajeev Saxena
- D. Arvind Kumar



- ✓ Shashi Bhushan Singh, an Indian Railway Traffic Service officer, has been appointed as Secretary (Director level) of the National Jute Board in Kolkata by the Central Government. The appointment is for 5 years or until further notice. Established under the National Jute Board Act, 2008, the NJB began operations on April 1, 2010, consolidating the Jute Manufactures Development Council and the National Centre for Jute Diversification.

23. Paliyar Tribe is related to which state?

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



- ✓ Recent research on Paliyar Tribals in Kodaikanal and Theni areas urges immediate government action for their upliftment. Derived from "Palaniyan" in Tamil, they're also known as Paliyans, Pazhaiyaraes, and Panaiyars. Distributed in Tamil Nadu districts, they speak Tamil and traditionally hunted and gathered. They worship Vanadevadai and Karuppan. They bury their dead on the western side of their residential area, avoiding cremation.

24. Recently, where was the 26th ASEAN-Indian Senior Officials' meeting held?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Jaipur
- C. Chennai
- D. Hyderabad



- ✓ The 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting in New Delhi, co-chaired by Jaideep Mazumdar and Albert Chua, reviewed ASEAN-India relations, focusing on political-security, economic, and socio-cultural engagement. They discussed implementing the Prime Ministers' 12-Point Proposal to strengthen the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Preparation for the upcoming ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane, Laos, was also discussed.

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