

## Current Affairs MCQs PDF - June, 2024



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1. Recently, where was the 6th Meeting of India-Japan Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism held?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Hyderabad
- [C] Chennai
- [D] Bengaluru

**Answer:** New Delhi

The 6th Meeting of the India-Japan Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism took place in New Delhi on 29 May 2024. Key discussions involved regional terrorist threats, state-sponsored terrorism, and the misuse of technology by terrorists. Both nations emphasized enhancing cooperation through information exchange, capacity building, and multilateral cooperation. The next meeting will be in Tokyo at a mutually convenient date.

2. Recently, which country has launched its first space agency and plans to make a Mars landing by 2045?

- [A] Mauritius
- [B] South Korea
- [C] Singapore
- [D] Malaysia

**Answer:** South Korea

South Korea plans a Mars landing by 2045, investing 100 trillion won (\$72.6 billion) in space exploration. President Yoon Suk Yeol announced this at the launch of the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA), which aims to boost South Korea into the top five space powers. KASA will support the aerospace industry, with the first lunar lander planned for 2032. South Korea also plans at least three more space launches by 2027.

3. Which organization recently released the 'Global food policy report 2024'?

- [A] World Bank
- [B] Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- [C] International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- [D] International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Answer:** International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

The Global Food Policy Report 2024 by IFPRI reveals that 38% of Indians consume unhealthy foods, while only 28% eat all five recommended food groups. Malnutrition in India rose from 15.4% in 2011 to 16.6% in 2021. Adult overweight prevalence increased from 12.9% in 2006 to 16.4% in 2016. Processed food consumption is growing, with



packaged foods' share in household budgets nearly doubling to 12%.

4. Recently, which country has pledged \$135 million aid to Moldova to counter Russian influence?

- [A] U.S.
- [B] India
- [C] China
- [D] Japan

**Answer:** U.S.

The U.S. pledges \$135 million in aid to Moldova to counter Russian influence. Moldova, a landlocked country in the northeastern Balkan region of Europe, borders Ukraine and Romania. Its highest point is Mount Bălănești, with major rivers including the Dniester and Prut. Moldova experiences moderate winters and warm summers and possesses natural resources like lignite, phosphorites, gypsum, and limestone.

5. Which organization recently released the report titled 'Hooking the next generation: how the tobacco industry captures young customers'?

- [A] World Bank
- [B] United Nations Development Program (UNEP)
- [C] International Labour Organization (ILO)
- [D] World Health Organization (WHO)

**Answer:** World Health Organization (WHO)

The WHO and STOP released the "Hooking the Next Generation: How the Tobacco Industry Captures Young Customers" report on World No Tobacco Day, May 31. Key findings include that 37 million children aged 13-15 use tobacco globally, and 85% of 15-30-year-olds were exposed to e-cigarette ads. E-cigarettes produce nicotine-laden aerosol, an addictive substance.

6. Morni Hills, recently seen in news due to forest fire, is located in which state?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Haryana
- [D] Uttarakhand

**Answer:** Haryana

Morni Hills, Haryana's lone hill station, recently battled a severe forest fire amid scorching temperatures exceeding 46°C. The blaze spread rapidly through the arid landscape, engulfing shrubs, bushes, and trees. Situated in the Shivalik range at 3,600 feet above sea level, Morni Hills harbor diverse flora and fauna. Haryana features various hills and ranges, including the Shivalik in the north and the Aravalli stretching from southwest Haryana to Delhi, with Morni Hills in Panchkula and Dhosi Hills in Mahendragarh known for its extinct volcano.

7. What is the main objective of the Daksha project, recently seen in news?

- [A] Studying black holes





- [B] Analyzing the atmosphere of Mars
- [C] Investigating explosive astrophysical sources like gamma-ray bursts
- [D] Exploring the moon's surface

**Answer:** Investigating explosive astrophysical sources like gamma-ray bursts

The Daksha project plans to construct two high-energy space telescopes targeting gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) and gravitational wave sources' electromagnetic counterparts. Each telescope will detect energy from 1 keV to over 1 MeV. Positioned on opposite sides of Earth, they promise superior coverage compared to existing missions, anticipating the discovery of thousands of GRBs and dozens of high-energy binary neutron star mergers over a five-year mission. Other missions include Astrosat, Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, and Swift Observatory.

8. Recently, which medical institution has won the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion by WHO?

- [A] NIMHANS, Bengaluru
- [B] KGMU, Lucknow
- [C] AIIMS, Delhi
- [D] CMC, Vellore

**Answer:** NIMHANS, Bengaluru

The National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru received the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion from WHO. This award, established in 2019, honors significant contributions to health promotion. Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Health Secretary Shri Apurva Chandra congratulated NIMHANS, highlighting it as a recognition of India's efforts in inclusive healthcare and pioneering mental health work.

9. According to the provisional estimate of the National Statistical Organisation (NSO), what was the growth rate of Indian economy in 2023-24?

- [A] 7.6%
- [B] 8.2%
- [C] 6.6%
- [D] 5.1%

**Answer:** 8.2%

According to the National Statistical Organisation (NSO), India's GDP grew by 8.2% in FY 2023-24, surpassing the Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 7.6%. This marks the ninth time since 1960-61 that GDP growth exceeded 8%. The high growth rate was driven by a strong performance in Q4 (January-March 2024), with a 7.8% increase compared to the same period in 2023.

10. Recently, which state has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) learning in the Class 7 ICT textbooks?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Gujarat





[C] Kerala

[D] Maharashtra

**Answer:** Kerala

Kerala introduces AI learning in Class 7 ICT textbooks, pioneering a move to educate over 4 lakh students about Artificial Intelligence. The initiative aims to enhance technological education, familiarizing students with AI concepts from a young age. This forward-looking step reflects Kerala's commitment to modernizing its education system and preparing students for future technological advancements.

11. Which day is observed as 'World Milk Day' every year?

[A] 1 June

[B] 2 June

[C] 3 June

[D] 4 June

**Answer:** 1 June

World Milk Day, observed annually on June 1, emphasizes dairy's role in global nutrition. Established in 2001 by the FAO, it celebrates milk as a vital food source and the dairy sector. Milk consumption dates back to the Neolithic age, evolving into a significant part of many cultures and religious traditions. However, modern challenges such as industrialized distribution and consumer preferences impact its consumption, highlighting the need for continued advocacy.

12. Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

[A] Nagaland

[B] Manipur

[C] Assam

[D] Mizoram

**Answer:** Assam

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) allocates funds for canopy bridges aiding Hoolock Gibbon, India's lone ape, to traverse railway tracks in eastern Assam. Gibbons, Asia's smallest and fastest apes, inhabit tropical forests. Hoolock Gibbon, India's sole ape species, dwells in Assam, Meghalaya, and other northeastern states. Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary hosts a significant population. They're diurnal, monogamous, and vocal communicators. Endangered Western Hoolock Gibbon and Vulnerable Eastern Hoolock Gibbon face conservation concerns.

13. Pampa Lake, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

[A] Kerala

[B] Gujarat

[C] Odisha

[D] Karnataka

**Answer:** Karnataka

A team from the Karnataka State Department of Archaeology Museums and Heritage has



discovered rock shelter paintings estimated to be 2,500 years old near Pampa Lake in the Hampi World Heritage Area. Pampa Lake, located in Karnataka's Koppal district near Hampi, is one of the five sacred lakes in Hindu mythology. Surrounded by hills and temples, it holds cultural and religious significance, featuring prominently in Hindu epics like the Ramayana.

14. What is a 'Sarcophagus', recently seen in news?

- [A] A type of pyramid
- [B] A decorated coffin or container
- [C] An ancient weapon
- [D] A religious symbol

**Answer:** A decorated coffin or container

A recently discovered sarcophagus fragment beneath a religious center's floor is identified as belonging to Ramesses II, a prominent ancient Egyptian pharaoh. Sarcophagi, highly decorated coffins, date back to ancient Egypt, Rome, and Greece. Typically made of stone, they vary in design and are adorned with carvings and inscriptions. Sarcophagi offer valuable insights into ancient societies' art, culture, and beliefs, making them significant artifacts for archaeologists and historians.

15. Recently, ISRO collaborated with which company for sustainable space exploration through additive manufacturing?

- [A] Wipro 3D
- [B] Skyroot aerospace
- [C] Google 3D
- [D] IBM

**Answer:** Wipro 3D

Wipro 3D and ISRO have successfully 3D-printed the PS4 rocket engine for the PSLV's 4th stage, marking a significant advancement in space technology. Dr. V Narayanan of ISRO praised this achievement. The PS4 stage's advanced navigation and control systems enable precise orbital placements for various satellite missions. The collaboration utilized Design for Additive Manufacturing (DfAM) and Laser Powder Bed Fusion (LPBF) technology, streamlining production and improving structural integrity.

16. Recently, which research institute has developed a way of generating non-infectious Nipah virus-like particles (VLPs) in the laboratory?

- [A] Central Drug Research Institute
- [B] Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology
- [C] Institute of Advanced Virology
- [D] Raman Research Institute

**Answer:** Institute of Advanced Virology

Scientists at the Institute of Advanced Virology, Thiruvananthapuram, developed non-infectious Nipah virus-like particles (VLPs). VLPs resemble viruses but lack genetic material, making them non-infectious. They effectively create vaccines for diseases like





HPV, hepatitis B, and malaria by triggering an immune response without causing symptoms. VLPs, sized 20-200 nm, enter lymph nodes to activate the immune system, offering immunity against the actual virus.

17. Dinesh Karthik, who recently announced his retirement, belongs to which sports?

- [A] Cricket
- [B] Football
- [C] Basketball
- [D] Hockey

**Answer:** Cricket

Dinesh Karthik, the veteran wicketkeeper-batter, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after an emotional farewell from Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL. His international career spanned 180 games across all formats, amassing 3463 runs with one Test hundred and 17 half-centuries. As a wicketkeeper, he recorded 172 dismissals.

18. Recently, Claudia Shienbaum has been elected as the first woman President of which country?

- [A] Malaysia
- [B] Thailand
- [C] Singapore
- [D] Mexico

**Answer:** Mexico

Claudia Shienbaum has been elected as Mexico's first woman president, marking a historic milestone in its 200-year history. With a decisive lead confirmed by the election commission, she received congratulations from her mentor, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. The elections on June 2, 2024, also included over 20,000 political positions. Shienbaum will be sworn in on October 1, 2024.

19. Recently, where was the Shangri La Dialogue or the Asian Security Summit held?

- [A] Singapore
- [B] Mexico
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Egypt

**Answer:** Singapore

The 21st Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia-Pacific's premier defense summit, concluded on 2 June 2024 in Singapore. Held at the Shangri-La Hotel from 31 May to 2 June, it gathered over 100 delegates worldwide. Organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and the Singapore government, the summit addresses Asia-Pacific security challenges, fostering discussions among defense ministers, officials, and NGOs. The dialogue aims to create a utopian environment for regional security solutions.

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

- [A] China
- [B] Japan





[C] India

[D] Russia

**Answer:** China

China's space agency announced the successful landing of the uncrewed Chang'e-6 spacecraft on the moon's far side on June 2, 2024. Landing in the South Pole-Aitken Basin, it marks the first human sampling and return mission from this region. Launched 53 days earlier from Hainan, the mission includes an orbiter, returner, lander, and ascender. The lander, equipped with advanced sensors, will collect lunar samples using drilling and robotic arm methods within two days.

21. Recently, how much gold did RBI allocate from the U.K. to domestic vaults in FY24?

[A] 50 metric tonnes

[B] 100 metric tonnes

[C] 150 metric tonnes

[D] 200 metric tonnes

**Answer:** 100 metric tonnes

In FY24, RBI relocated 100 metric tonnes of gold from the U.K. to Indian vaults in Mumbai and Nagpur. India's gold reserves surged to 822 metric tonnes, with nearly 50% now stored domestically. RBI's banknotes are secured by assets like gold, Government Securities, and Foreign Currency Assets, as per the RBI Act, 1934. The recent geopolitical tensions emphasized risks of storing gold abroad, exemplified by Western nations' freezing of Russian assets.

22. Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai volcano, recently seen in the news, is located in which region?

[A] North Atlantic Ocean

[B] Indian Ocean

[C] Southern Pacific Ocean

[D] South Atlantic Ocean

**Answer:** Southern Pacific Ocean

A recent study warns that the January 15, 2022, eruption of the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai Volcano may lead to unusual weather patterns throughout the decade. Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai is a submarine stratovolcano in the Tongan archipelago in the Southern Pacific Ocean. It's part of the Tonga-Kermadec Islands volcanic arc, resulting from the subduction of the Pacific Plate beneath the Indo-Australian Plate. Eruptions from this highly active area have occurred regularly over the past few decades.

23. What is 'Tmesipteris lanceolata', recently seen in news?

[A] Fork fern

[B] Fish

[C] Asteroid

[D] Spider

**Answer:** Fork fern



New research reveals *Tmesipteris oblancoolata*, a fork fern species, boasts the largest genome known. A genome encompasses an organism's complete genetic information. This fern contains 160 billion base pairs, surpassing the human genome by over 50 times. Belonging to an ancient plant group predating dinosaurs, it's exclusive to New Caledonia and nearby Pacific islands, thriving in rainforest canopies.

24. Which glacier is the source of Sunkoshi River, recently in news?

- [A] Langtang Glacier
- [B] Zhangzangbo Glacier
- [C] Laigou Glacier
- [D] Pindar Glacier

**Answer:** Zhangzangbo Glacier

A recent river cleanup campaign, part of the PLEASE (Plastic Free Rivers and Seas of South Asia) program, removed 24,575 kg of waste from the Sunkoshi River and its banks. The Sunkoshi, also called the 'river of gold,' is in Nepal, forming part of the Koshi River system. Originating from the Zhangzangbo Glacier in Tibet, it joins the Ganga in Bihar, India, before emptying into the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh. It's renowned for challenging rapids and popular for rafting in Nepal.

25. Recently, which two organizations have jointly developed a "Unified India Organic" logo to replace the India Organic and Jaivik Bharat logos?

- [A] FSSAI and ICAR
- [B] FSSAI and APEDA
- [C] FSSAI and FDA
- [D] FSSAI and WHO

**Answer:** FSSAI and APEDA

FSSAI and APEDA collaborated to create the Unified India Organic logo, replacing India Organic and Jaivik Bharat logos. India Organic denotes NPOP compliance, while Jaivik Bharat was for FSSAI-certified organics. The new logo aims for uniformity in organic product regulations. It distinguishes organic from non-organic, signifying adherence to National Standards for Organic Production, enhancing consumer trust and market clarity in India's organic sector.

26. Which tiger reserve of Maharashtra recently reported the first photographic record of the 'spot-bellied eagle owl'?

- [A] Tadoba Tiger Reserve
- [B] Pench Tiger Reserve
- [C] Koyna Tiger Reserve
- [D] Umred Karhandla Sanctuary

**Answer:** Pench Tiger Reserve

Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra recently documented the first photograph of a spot-bellied eagle-owl, *Ketupa nipalensis*. This large bird of prey inhabits diverse environments like forests and savannas across India, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia. Recognizable by its





rich brown coloration and striking white-spotted pattern, it's a nocturnal apex predator feeding on various prey. Classified as Least Concern by IUCN, it comes protection under India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

27. In a gesture of humanitarian aid, India has recently sent a shipment of approximately 90 tonnes of medical supplies to which country?

- [A] Cuba
- [B] Vietnam
- [C] Singapore
- [D] Mauritius

**Answer:** Cuba

India dispatched around 90 tonnes of medical supplies to Cuba, including nine different Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), essential for producing antibiotics. The shipment departed from Mundra port on June 2. These medicines are crucial for treating chronic communicable diseases in Cuba, showcasing India's role as the "Pharmacy of the World." The aid underscores the enduring friendship between India and Cuba, reflecting India's commitment to humanitarian assistance.

28. Which space organization recently developed Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named 'PraVaHa'?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] JAXA
- [C] ESA
- [D] CNSA

**Answer:** ISRO

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) developed PraVaHa, a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software, at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa) simulates airflow for launch vehicles, crucial for designing their shape, structure, and thermal protection systems. It is used in the Gaganyaan program for analyzing human-rated launch vehicles. Currently, it simulates airflow for perfect and real gas conditions, with ongoing validations for chemical reactions in scramjet vehicles.

29. Department of Higher Education recently signed an MoU with which organization for creating the Digital Library Platform, Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya?

- [A] Central Board of Secondary Education
- [B] National Book Trust
- [C] National Library Association
- [D] Ministry of Culture

**Answer:** National Book Trust

The Department of School Education and the National Book Trust signed an MoU in New Delhi to create the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, a 24/7 Digital Library Platform. Secretary K. Sanjay Murthy highlighted its potential to enhance book accessibility and address library





reach issues in many states. He anticipates that in 2-3 years, the platform will feature over 10,000 books in more than 100 languages.

30. Sundhnukagigar volcano, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Indonesia
- [B] Iceland
- [C] Chile
- [D] Tonga

**Answer:** Iceland

The Sundhnukagigar Volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted for the fifth time since December 2023. Iceland, known as the Land of Fire and Ice, sits on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where Eurasian and North American plates diverge, making it volcanically active. Hotspots, like the Reunion hotspot, and divergent plate margins, such as the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, contribute to volcanic activity. Volcanoes, vents in the Earth's crust, release gases like water vapor, carbon dioxide, and sulfur dioxide upon eruption.

31. Recently, where was the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held?

- [A] London
- [B] Paris
- [C] New Delhi
- [D] Geneva

**Answer:** Geneva

India participated in the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. The WSIS+20 Forum commemorates 20 years since the WSIS, held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005), and is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD. Its aim is to address information and communication technology issues through a multi-stakeholder approach, fostering a people-centric, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society.

32. Akatsuki Mission, recently seen in news, is associated with space agency?

- [A] NASA
- [B] JAXA
- [C] ISRO
- [D] CNSA

**Answer:** JAXA

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) lost contact with Akatsuki, launched in 2010 as Japan's first successful mission to another planet. Akatsuki, in an equatorial orbit around Venus, aimed to study its toxic atmosphere and volcanic surface, weather patterns, lightning, and super-rotation caused by strong winds. It complemented ESA's Venus Express, operational until 2014, using ultraviolet and infrared cameras to globally map clouds and atmospheric structures.

33. What is 'Dictyostelium discoideum', recently seen in news?



- [A] Amoeba
- [B] Algae
- [C] Weed
- [D] Drug

**Answer:** Amoeba

Scientists discovered that green-beard genes drive natural altruism in the amoeba *Dictyostelium discoideum*. These genes enable individuals to recognize and cooperate with each other, potentially causing harmful behavior towards those with different gene versions. Altruism in nature involves behavior where an animal acts in a way that may be harmful to itself but benefits others of its species.

34. Recently, the central government has approved the establishment of an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in which district of Assam?

- [A] Kamrup
- [B] Jorhat
- [C] Golaghat
- [D] Sonitpur

**Answer:** Kamrup

The central government has approved Assam's plan for a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Kamrup district, with IIM Ahmedabad mentoring the project. This decision aims to bolster education and industry in the Northeast, where only one IIM currently exists. Assam's collaboration with IIM Ahmedabad and provision of land underscores its commitment to advancing education and economic growth. The initiative is expected to benefit neighboring states like Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

35. Which day is observed as 'International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression' every year?

- [A] 3 June
- [B] 4 June
- [C] 5 June
- [D] 6 June

**Answer:** 4 June

The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, observed annually on June 4th, highlights children's suffering worldwide. Established on August 19, 1982, this day focuses on the pain endured by innocent children. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), founded in 1997, aims to end violence against children. In 2018, the refugee crisis saw over 70 million people, including children, fleeing conflict. In 2019, the UN reported 357 killings and 30 disappearances of human rights defenders.

36. Hydroxyurea drug, recently seen in the news, is related to which disease?

- [A] Dengue
- [B] TB
- [C] Malaria





[D] Sickle cell anaemia

**Answer:** Sickle cell anaemia

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is addressing the significant challenge of sickle cell disease in India, which affects over 20 million people. A major issue is the lack of hydroxyurea formulations suitable for paediatric patients, complicating precise dosing for children. Hydroxyurea, effective in treating sickle cell disease and thalassemia, currently lacks appropriate paediatric versions. To resolve this, ICMR is seeking collaboration for developing and commercializing low-dose paediatric hydroxyurea formulations, aiming to improve treatment protocols for young patients.

37. Ruaha National Park, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

[A] Tanzania

[B] Kenya

[C] Rwanda

[D] Nigeria

**Answer:** Tanzania

Tanzania's conservation efforts face scrutiny as reports emerge of human rights abuses by Ruaha National park rangers. Such incidents highlight escalating conflicts between conservation authorities and local communities. Tanzania's focus on conservation and tourism development, backed by international funding, has led to land disputes and disruptions to indigenous livelihoods. The World Bank's withdrawal of \$150 million from Tanzania's REGROW project underscores concerns over human rights violations. Ruaha National Park is situated west of Iringa town in south-central Tanzania. Spanning an elevation of 2,500 to 5,200 feet (750 to 1,900 m), it covers 5,000 square miles (12,950 square km). Initially, it was part of the Rungwa Game Reserve.

38. What is the theme of 'World Environment Day 2024'?

[A] Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience

[B] Beat Plastic Pollution

[C] Ecosystem Restoration

[D] Solution to plastic pollution

**Answer:** Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience

World Environment Day has been celebrated annually on June 5 since 1973. Millions worldwide participate in its observance. The 2024 theme is 'land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience'.

39. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Tamil Nadu

[D] Odisha

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has initiated a three-day elephant census at





Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve. Located at the Eastern and Western Ghats junction in Erode District, Tamil Nadu, this reserve is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. It is contiguous with Mudumalai, Bandipur, and Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserves, collectively hosting over 280 tigers, the world's largest tiger population. Declared a tiger reserve in 2013, it connects the Eastern and Western Ghats, supporting diverse wildlife.

40. Recently, the "None of the Above" (NOTA) option emerged as the runner-up in which constituency of Madhya Pradesh?

- [A] Gwalior
- [B] Indore
- [C] Khajuraho
- [D] Jabalpur

**Answer:** Indore

In Madhya Pradesh's Indore constituency, the "None of the Above" (NOTA) option became the runner-up with a record 2,18,674 votes, the highest ever. NOTA allows voters to disapprove of all candidates without choosing any, expressing negative opinions and maintaining secrecy. First used in the 2013 Assembly elections, it was introduced following a 2013 Supreme Court directive in the PUCL vs. Union of India case.

41. What is 'Neo', recently seen in news?

- [A] a novel protein
- [B] Asteroid
- [C] Invasive weed
- [D] Exoplanet

**Answer:** a novel protein

Recent research identified a novel protein, "Neo," crucial in bacterial defense against bacteriophages. Discovered by Stephen Tang and Samuel Sternberg in *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, Neo is part of the DRT-2 system. It involves rolling-circle reverse transcription of non-coding RNA, producing double-stranded cDNA upon phage infection. This cDNA generates mRNAs encoding the Neo protein, which induces bacterial cell dormancy, protecting the population from phage spread.

42. Recently, which ministry declared Self-Declaration Certificate (SDC) mandatory for all new advertisements?

- [A] Ministry of Communications
- [B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- [C] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- [D] Ministry of Home Affairs

**Answer:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting now mandates a Self-Declaration Certificate (SDC) for all new advertisements. Following a Supreme Court directive, ads on TV, print media, or the internet require a valid SDC. Advertisers must submit SDCs via the Broadcast Seva Portal for TV/radio ads and the Press Council of India's portal for print/digital ads.



The SDC ensures ads are truthful and comply with regulatory guidelines.

43. Which state government recently announced a Rs 10,000-crore project funded by the World Bank to tackle air pollution?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Punjab
- [C] Haryana
- [D] Madhya Pradesh

**Answer:** Haryana

Haryana Chief Secretary T V S N Prasad announced a Rs 10,000-crore World Bank-funded project to combat state air pollution. The Haryana Clean Air Project will start in NCR districts, enhancing air quality monitoring infrastructure. The initial phase includes a state-of-the-art lab, modernizing existing labs, a program management unit for oversight, and training programs for stakeholders involved in air quality management.

44. Which institute recently developed a innovative fire rescue drone?

- [A] IIT Dharwad
- [B] IIT Kanpur
- [C] IIT Bombay
- [D] IIT Ahmedabad

**Answer:** IIT Dharwad

At IIT Dharwad, a team led by Sudheer Siddapureddy and Ameer Mulla unveiled a fire rescue assistant drone at the DDANFR 2024 training, funded by NMICPS and TiHAN Foundation. The drone, designed for navigating small spaces and high temperatures, marks a significant advancement in fire safety. Prof. Siddapureddy highlighted the challenges of creating a device that is both compact and robust.

45. Which country hosted the 'World Environment Day 2024'?

- [A] Saudi Arabia
- [B] Russia
- [C] India
- [D] Australia

**Answer:** Saudi Arabia

World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5th annually, promotes environmental awareness and protection. The 2024 celebration, hosted by Saudi Arabia, coincides with the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Each year features a specific theme addressing current environmental issues. Notably, India hosted the 45th World Environment Day in 2018 with the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

46. Mount Kanlaon, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Mexico
- [B] Philippines
- [C] Indonesia
- [D] Chile





**Answer:** Philippines

Hundreds sheltered in evacuation centers after Mount Kanlaon erupted in the central Philippines. Mount Kanlaon, a 2435m stratovolcano on Negros Island, is the highest mountain on the island and part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. Known for its pyroclastic cones and craters, the biologically diverse volcano has erupted multiple times since 1886, with phreatic explosions causing minor ashfalls. It influences major river systems on Negros Island.

47. What is 'Thismia malayana', recently seen in news?

- [A] A new species of plant
- [B] A rare species of fern
- [C] A type of traditional medicine
- [D] An ancient irrigation technique

**Answer:** A new species of plant

Thismia malayana, a newly discovered mycoheterotrophic plant in Peninsular Malaysia's rainforests, steals nutrients from underground fungi instead of performing photosynthesis. It thrives in low-light forest understories, with specialized flowers pollinated by fungus gnats. Typically 2 cm long, it grows near tree roots or rotten logs and is highly sensitive to environmental changes, earning a Vulnerable status on the IUCN Red List.

48. Which countries are involved in the "Air of the Anthropocene" project, recently in news?

- [A] India, Ethiopia, and the USA
- [B] India, Ethiopia, and the UK
- [C] China, Ethiopia, and the UK
- [D] India, China, and the UK

**Answer:** India, Ethiopia, and the UK

The "Air of the Anthropocene" project visualizes air pollution in India, Ethiopia, and the UK using light painting, highlighting severe health risks and sparking global discussions on air quality. This initiative combines art and science to produce photographic evidence of air pollution. Particulate matter (PM), a key pollutant, is linked to severe health issues and causes approximately 7 million premature deaths annually, with 99% of the global population affected.

49. Maharani Temple, which has been recently damaged by fire, is located in which state/UT?

- [A] Jammu and Kashmir
- [B] Uttarakhand
- [C] Himachal Pradesh
- [D] Haryana

**Answer:** Jammu and Kashmir

The iconic Maharani Temple, situated on a small hillock in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir ,





was tragically gutted in a blaze. Constructed in 1915 by Mohini Bai Sisodia, wife of Maharaja Hari Singh, it was a royal temple of the Dogra dynasty. Dedicated to Lord Shiva and Parvati, the temple featured intricate Indian and Persian designs. The Indian Army and local communities restored it in 2021, highlighting its cultural significance.

50. Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update (2024-2028) report, recently in news, is issued annually by which organization?

- [A] World Bank
- [B] United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- [C] World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- [D] International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Answer:** World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) issues an annual Global Climate Update (2024-2028), predicting a high likelihood (80%) of global temperatures exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for at least one year. There's an 86% chance of a warmer year than 2023, the warmest on record. Reductions in sea-ice concentration are anticipated in the Barents Sea, Bering Sea, and Sea of Okhotsk, highlighting ongoing climate change trends and their potential impacts.

51. Nagi Bird Sanctuary, recently declared as new Ramsar Site, is located in which state?

- [A] Bihar
- [B] Haryana
- [C] Uttarakhand
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Bihar

India declared Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries as new Ramsar Sites, boosting the nation's count to 82, tied for third globally. Nagi, a man-made reservoir in Bihar's Jamui district, hosts diverse migratory birds like Bar-headed geese and Red-crested Pochard. Nakti sanctuary, also in Jamui, serves as a vital wintering habitat for over 20,000 birds and supports rich fauna like Bengal fox and Monitor Lizard. Both sanctuaries contribute to the biodiversity of the Ganga basin.

52. Recently, which country has banned the entry of visitors with Israeli passports?

- [A] Singapore
- [B] India
- [C] Maldives
- [D] Iran

**Answer:** Maldives

Amid public outrage over the Gaza conflict, Maldives has banned Israeli passport holders' entry into the country. The decision contrasts with diplomatic relations restored in 2010 after lifting a ban in the early 1990s. This move reflects Maldives' stance on the conflict and underscores tensions in the region.

53. Recently, the 3rd Indian Analytical Congress (IAC) was inaugurated at which place?



- [A] Dehradun
- [B] Chennai
- [C] Hyderabad
- [D] Lucknow

**Answer:** Dehradun

The 3rd Indian Analytical Congress (IAC) was launched at CSIR-IIP in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Organized jointly by CSIR-IIP and ISAS-Delhi Chapter, the three-day conference focuses on "Role of Science and Technology in Green Transitions." It serves as a platform for industry, academia, scientists, and technologists to discuss prevalent and upcoming solutions in Analytical Sciences. The event features technical sessions with talks by eminent speakers, presentations, and special sessions.

54. Reverse Transcriptase enzyme, recently in news, is most commonly associated with which type of virus?

- [A] Norovirus
- [B] Retrovirus
- [C] Mimivirus
- [D] Hepatitis B virus

**Answer:** Retrovirus

Researchers have identified a protein, Neo, in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* that counters bacteriophage infections by halting replication. Neo is produced via a process involving Reverse Transcriptase (RTs) and non-coding RNA. RTs are enzymes that synthesize DNA from RNA templates, crucial for retroviruses like HIV. This discovery showcases RT's diverse role in bacterial defense and hints at its potential in biotechnology and medicine, particularly in combating antimicrobial resistance.

55. 'State of Ocean Report, 2024', recently released by which organization?

- [A] UNCTAD
- [B] UNDP
- [C] UNEP
- [D] UNESCO

**Answer:** UNESCO

UNESCO's 2024 State of Ocean Report highlights climate change and human activities impacting global oceans. Initiated by IOC-UNESCO during the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, it supports the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). Key findings include significant warming of the upper 2,000 meters, increased ocean acidification, consistent sea level rise since 1993, and the urgent need for better monitoring systems. The report emphasizes the uncertain impacts of marine carbon dioxide removal technologies.

56. Dnipro city, recently seen in news due to missile attack, is located in which country?

- [A] Ukraine
- [B] Russia





[C] Israel

[D] Iran

**Answer:** Ukraine

A recent Russian missile attack on Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth-largest city, injured seven people, including two children, and damaged civilian infrastructure. Dnipro, an industrial hub in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, covers 409,718 square kilometers and lies along the Dnieper River. The city produces launch vehicles, machinery, and chemicals. The Dnieper River, Europe's fourth-longest, drains much of Belarus and Ukraine. The attack underscores the ongoing conflict's impact on civilians and infrastructure.

57. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) recently joined hands with which South American country to enable UPI payments?

[A] Brazil

[B] Argentina

[C] Peru

[D] Chile

**Answer:** Peru

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Peru's central bank (BCRP) have partnered to create a UPI-like payment system in Peru. This makes Peru the first South American country to adopt NPCI's technology, enabling instant payments between individuals and businesses. The initiative aims to expand digital payments among Peru's large unbanked population.

58. Recently, India launched Biopharmaceutical Alliance with which countries?

[A] US, Japan and South Korea

[B] China, Russia and Nepal

[C] UK, Russia and Israel

[D] Australia, China and UK

**Answer:** US, Japan and South Korea

India, the US, South Korea, Japan, and the EU have formed a Biopharmaceuticals Alliance. The first meeting was in San Diego during the Bio International Convention 2024. Biopharmaceuticals, derived from living organisms, are set to comprise 50% of future medical drugs. The alliance aims to prevent drug shortages like those during the COVID-19 pandemic by diversifying and mapping the pharmaceutical supply chain, ensuring a resilient and sustainable system.

59. 'World Wealth Report 2024', recently released by which organization?

[A] International Monetary Fund

[B] Capgemini Research Institute

[C] World Bank

[D] International Labour Organization

**Answer:** Capgemini Research Institute

The Capgemini Research Institute's World Wealth Report 2024 reveals a 12.2% rise in





India's high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) in 2023, totaling 3.589 million. Globally, HNWI wealth grew 4.7% to \$86.8 trillion, with a 5.1% increase in the HNWI population to 22.8 million. India's HNWI financial wealth rose by 12.4% to \$1,445.7 billion. Key drivers include a resilient economy, robust equity markets, a lower unemployment rate, and increased market capitalization and national savings.

60. Recently, which organization introduced the 'New Framework for Unaffected Price'?

- [A] Ministry of Finance
- [B] RBI
- [C] SEBI
- [D] CSIR

**Answer:** SEBI

SEBI introduced a framework based on the "unaffected price" to mitigate the impact of market rumours on stock prices. The framework, implemented in phases starting June 1 for the top 100 entities and December 1 for the top 250, aims to maintain a fair price by excluding undue influence from rumours. This enhances market integrity, transparency, and investor confidence while reducing speculative activity.

61. What does "origami in biology" refer to?

- [A] Folding biological molecules into specific shapes or structures
- [B] Using traditional paper origami for medical purposes
- [C] Cutting and gluing DNA into new forms
- [D] Drawing biological molecules on paper

**Answer:** Folding biological molecules into specific shapes or structures

Stanford researchers, driven by curiosity and "recreational biology," discovered how a simple cell exhibits complex behavior without a nervous system. In biology, origami involves folding molecules like DNA into specific shapes, inspired by Japanese paper origami. Applications include synthetic biology for designing new proteins, drug design for targeting protein structures, and nanotechnology for creating nanoscale devices and materials.

62. What is the primary objective of the 'TRISHNA mission', recently in news?

- [A] Exploring outer space
- [B] Monitoring surface temperature and water management at regional to global scale
- [C] Studying ocean currents
- [D] Mapping the moon's surface

**Answer:** Monitoring surface temperature and water management at regional to global scale

The TRISHNA mission, a collaboration between ISRO and CNES, aims to monitor surface temperature and water management globally. Its objectives include detailed monitoring of energy and water budgets, assessing urban heat islands, and detecting thermal anomalies. The mission features two primary payloads: CNES's Thermal Infra-Red sensor and ISRO's VNIR-SWIR payload. Operating in a sun-synchronous orbit, TRISHNA will



significantly enhance climate monitoring and urban planning over its 5-year operational life.

63. Sahastra Tal Trek, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Himachal Pradesh
- [B] Sikkim
- [C] Uttarakhand
- [D] Assam

**Answer:** Uttarakhand

Nine trekkers from Karnataka tragically lost their lives near Sahastra Tal in Uttarakhand, part of a 22-member group, due to bad weather while returning from the trek. The state government is coordinating rescue efforts, and families of the deceased are notified. Sahastra Tal Trek, a high-altitude trail at 15,000 feet in Uttarkashi district, is flanked by Bhagirathi and Bhilangana Valleys, with the Kush Kalyan Plateau north. Locals perform annual rituals around the lake for auspiciousness.

64. Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan-2 scheme, recently seen in news, is associated with which state?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Haryana
- [D] Punjab

**Answer:** Rajasthan

Responding to water scarcity, the Rajasthan government launches Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan 2.0, aiming to construct 500,000 water harvesting structures in 20,000 villages over four years. Rajasthan, among India's driest regions, faces annual rainfall variations from 100 mm to 800 mm, causing water shortages for basic needs. Groundwater replenishment relies on rainfall, yet excessive usage depletes reserves. RIICO mandates rainwater harvesting for plot lessees, and RPH&CCL integrates it into building projects.

65. Recently, CSC SPV signed an MoU with which ministry to convert 10,000 FPOs into CSCs?

- [A] Ministry of Agriculture
- [B] Ministry of Communications
- [C] Ministry of Defence
- [D] Ministry of MSMEs

**Answer:** Ministry of Agriculture

An MoU was signed between CSC SPV and the Ministry of Agriculture to convert 10,000 FPOs into Common Service Centres (CSCs). This initiative aims to enhance rural development and digital empowerment by enabling FPOs to offer various citizen-centric services through the Digital Seva Portal. This move, part of a scheme launched in 2020, will provide training, increase employment, and support sustainable incomes for farmers.





66. A J T Johnsingh, who recently passed away, belonged to which field?

- [A] Wildlife conservationist
- [B] Entertainer
- [C] Poet
- [D] Politician

**Answer:** Wildlife conservationist

Distinguished Indian wildlife conservationist and biologist A J T Johnsingh passed away at 78 in Bengaluru on June 7, 2024. Born in Tamil Nadu's Western Ghats, he was influenced by Jim Corbett's tales. Johnsingh joined the Wildlife Institute of India and played key roles in tiger conservation and various organizations. His research focused on diverse species, and he authored over 70 scientific papers and 80 popular articles on wildlife conservation.

67. Which organization recently launched new initiatives for "greening education" in classrooms?

- [A] World Bank
- [B] UNICEF
- [C] UNEP
- [D] UNESCO

**Answer:** UNESCO

UNESCO has launched new tools under the Greening Education Partnership: the Greening Curriculum Guidance (GCG) and Green School Quality Standards (GSQS). The GCG offers a practical manual for mainstreaming environmental topics in curricula, detailing expected learning outcomes. The GSQS sets minimum requirements for creating green schools with an action-oriented approach. This initiative, involving 80 member states, aims to equip learners with the skills to tackle climate change and promote sustainable development.

68. MTU 1271, BPT 2846, and NLR-3238, recently seen in news, are related to which crop?

- [A] Rice
- [B] Cotton
- [C] Sugarcane
- [D] Mustard

**Answer:** Rice

The Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU) released new rice varieties for Kharif in Andhra Pradesh: MTU 1271, BPT 2846, and NLR-3238, as alternatives to BPT 5204. MTU 1271, a high-yielding, non-logging, semi-dwarf variety, yields 2.8-3 tonnes per acre with a 140-day crop duration. BPT 2846 yields 2.4 tonnes per acre in 130-135 days. NLR-3238, with 22.5% higher zinc composition, is viable for all seasons.

69. Which country recently unveiled a monumental 700-metre pedestrian bridge named the 'Bridge of National Unity'?

- [A] Austria
- [B] Poland
- [C] Hungary





[D] Slovakia

**Answer:** Hungary

Hungary recently unveiled the 'Bridge of National Unity,' a 700-metre pedestrian bridge spanning Budapest's Danube River. Symbolizing unity, it marks a milestone in Hungary's architectural landscape. Attended by officials and citizens, its significance lies in fostering cohesion, showcasing engineering prowess, and providing leisure space. The bridge enhances connectivity and serves as a vibrant public area.

70. Recently, where was the 'third Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage' held?

[A] Bonn, Germany

[B] London, UK

[C] Paris, France

[D] New Delhi, India

**Answer:** Bonn, Germany

The third Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage occurred during the 60th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UNFCCC in Bonn, Germany. The Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, founded in 2019, aids developing nations in mitigating climate change-induced loss and damage. It mobilizes technical support from diverse entities to bolster vulnerable countries' capacity in managing climate-related impacts.

71. Ministry of Health along with which organization recently launched National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX), a digital platform?

[A] Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

[B] Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

[C] Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

[D] NITI Aayog

**Answer:** Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

The Health Ministry and IRDAI are launching the National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX), a digital platform uniting insurance companies, healthcare providers, and government insurance administrators. NHCX aims to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accuracy in claims processing by facilitating data exchange among stakeholders. It supports the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission's goals of simplifying health insurance claims and creating a unified digital healthcare platform, benefiting policyholders and patients.

72. Recently, where was the first Command and Control Compatibility Board meeting for 2024 between Indian & U.S. held?

[A] New Delhi

[B] New York

[C] Hyderabad

[D] Chennai

**Answer:** New Delhi

The first 2024 Command and Control Compatibility Board (CCCB) meeting between India and the U.S. took place at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, from June 4-7. Led by Mr. Paul



Nicholson and Brigadier Rahul Anand, the 29-member U.S. delegation and 38-member Indian delegation discussed interoperability and operational communication needs. The CCCB, formed under the 2018 COMCASA agreement, held its seventh meeting, reflecting the strengthening India-U.S. military relationship.

73. Recently, who has been named the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2024?

- [A] Vellayan Subbiah
- [B] Vaibhav Anant
- [C] Reetesh Dhingra
- [D] Pratap Raju

**Answer:** Vellayan Subbiah

Indian entrepreneur Vellayan Subbiah won the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024 in Monaco, becoming the fourth Indian to receive this honor. He is the Executive Vice Chairman of Tube Investments of India and Chairman of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance. Chosen among 51 winners from 47 countries, Subbiah was nominated for the global award after winning the 2023 India award. The selection criteria included entrepreneurial spirit, growth, purpose, and impact.

74. Large Action Models (LAMs), frequently seen in the news, are related to which field?

- [A] Disaster management
- [B] Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- [C] Environmental activities
- [D] Heat wave

**Answer:** Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Enterprises globally are adopting Large Action Models (LAMs), advanced AI models that understand complex goals via natural language and autonomously execute tasks. Unlike Large Language Models (LLMs), LAMs integrate language comprehension with logic and reasoning for task execution. They utilize deep learning and reinforcement learning from vast datasets for strategic planning and real-time decision-making. Applications include personal assistants, autonomous vehicles, robotics, healthcare, and financial modeling.

75. What is the primary purpose of the 'Duty Drawback Scheme', recently seen in news?

- [A] To increase import duties
- [B] To rebate the incidence of Customs and Central Excise duties on materials used in exported goods
- [C] To provide loans to exporters
- [D] To penalize non-compliant exporters

**Answer:** To rebate the incidence of Customs and Central Excise duties on materials used in exported goods

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) now automatically deposits duty drawback payments into exporters' bank accounts. This WTO-compliant scheme, under the Customs Act, 1962, rebates Customs and Central Excise duties on imported and excisable materials used in exports. It promotes exports by ensuring they are zero-rated,





relieving exporters of specific tax burdens. Eligibility includes goods imported, used, or manufactured from imported or indigenous materials.

76. Which type of ecosystem is associated with the recent discovery of fascinating animals like transparent sea cucumbers and pink sea pigs?

- [A] Deserts
- [B] Abyssal Plains
- [C] Kelp forests
- [D] Montane forests

**Answer:** Abyssal Plains

During a recent deep-sea expedition to the Abyssal Plains in the Pacific Ocean, transparent sea cucumbers, pink sea pigs, and bowl-shaped sponges were discovered. Abyssal plains are flat ocean floor regions, usually at the base of continental rises, found mostly in the Atlantic Ocean. They cover 40% of Earth's ocean floor, occur at depths over 6,500 feet, and are composed of basalt covered by various sediments. The Sohme plain is the largest.

77. Recently, where was the East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) held?

- [A] Beijing, China
- [B] New Delhi, India
- [C] Bangkok, Thailand
- [D] Vientiane, Lao

**Answer:** Vientiane, Lao

Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar represented India at the East Asia Summit (EAS SOM) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF SOM) in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on June 7-8, 2024. Key issues discussed included Indo-Pacific peace, maritime security, and regional conflicts. Mazumdar emphasized EAS's role in promoting stability and highlighted India's maritime security initiatives. He also held bilateral meetings with counterparts from several countries, discussing regional cooperation and shared perspectives.

78. What is "sticky inflation", recently seen in news?

- [A] A temporary drop in prices
- [B] A phenomenon where prices adjust quickly to changes in supply and demand
- [C] A phenomenon where prices do not adjust quickly to changes in supply and demand
- [D] A significant decline in consumer goods prices

**Answer:** A phenomenon where prices do not adjust quickly to changes in supply and demand

In its recent review, the RBI maintained the repo rate unchanged for the eighth consecutive time, citing concerns over sticky inflation. Sticky inflation describes prices that don't adjust promptly to supply and demand shifts, resulting in persistent inflation. Factors like rising wages and consumer prices drive this phenomenon, prompting monetary authorities to consider tightening policy and increasing interest rates to address





it.

79. Recently, which institute launched UDAAN programme to boost drone startups in India?

- [A] IIT Delhi
- [B] IIT Kanpur
- [C] IIT Bombay
- [D] IIT Roorkee

**Answer:** IIT Kanpur

IIT Kanpur's Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) introduces UDAAN, a program aimed at propelling drone startups in India. UDAAN, a collaboration between SIIC, Drone CoE Kanpur, and Drone Federation of India, selects 20 startups annually for intensive acceleration. Participants gain access to R&D facilities, mentorship, financing, and industry connections. It supports startups in product development, market analysis, and growth planning.

80. Greater adjutant, recently seen in news, belongs to which species?

- [A] Fish
- [B] Spider
- [C] Stork
- [D] Ant

**Answer:** Stork

Urbanization threatens the survival of greater adjutant storks in Assam's wetlands. Found in South and Southeast Asia, they nest in tall trees near wetlands, feeding mainly on fish, frogs, and carrion. Threats include habitat loss, overfishing, and pollution. Classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN, they play a vital role in sanitation and disease control. Two Indian breeding populations exist, primarily in Assam, highlighting the urgency for conservation efforts.

81. Who won the men's singles title at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 Challenger Tennis tournament in Germany?

- [A] Alexander Ritschard
- [B] Nikoloz Basilashvili
- [C] Ramesh Krishnan
- [D] Sumit Nagal

**Answer:** Sumit Nagal

Sumit Nagal clinched his sixth ATP Challenger title at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 in Germany, defeating Alexander Ritschard in three sets. This victory is expected to elevate Nagal's ATP ranking, potentially securing his spot in the 2024 Summer Paris Olympics. It marks his fourth clay court title and second win in 2024. The ATP Challenger Tour, organized by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), is second only to the ATP Tour in significance.

82. Recently, who won the Norway Chess tournament 2024 with 17.5 points?



- [A] R Praggnanandhaa
- [B] Magnus Carlsen
- [C] Fabiano Caruana
- [D] Gukesh D

**Answer:** Magnus Carlsen

Magnus Carlsen won the Norway Chess 2024 crown for the sixth time, securing victory in an Armageddon tie-breaker against Fabiano Caruana. Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa finished third, three points behind Carlsen, after defeating Hikaru Nakamura in the final round. In the women's section, India's R Vaishali placed fourth, and GM Koneru Humpy finished fifth. The tournament, held in Stavanger, featured several thrilling games in the final round.

83. Recently, who became the first woman helicopter pilot of the Indian Navy?

- [A] Mohana Singh
- [B] Anamika B Rajeev
- [C] Priya Paul
- [D] Archana Kapoor

**Answer:** Anamika B Rajeev

Sub Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev made history at INS Rajali, Arakkonam, by becoming the first woman in the Indian Navy to fly a helicopter. This milestone was achieved during the 102nd Helicopter Conversion Course's passing out parade. Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar awarded "Golden Wings" to 21 officers at the event, which marked the end of Stage I training for the 4th Basic Helicopter Conversion Course on June 7.

84. Recently, Prem Singh Tamang became the Chief Minister of which Himalayan state?

- [A] Uttarakhand
- [B] Sikkim
- [C] Arunachal Pradesh
- [D] Meghalaya

**Answer:** Sikkim

Prem Singh Tamang of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) was sworn in as Chief Minister of Sikkim for a second term on June 10. The 56-year-old took the oath in Nepali, administered by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok, attended by thousands of supporters. Despite a firecracker ban, celebrations erupted. Eleven other ministers, including Sonam Lama and Arun Kumar Upreti, were also sworn in.

85. Recently, a rare four-horned antelope has been sighted for the first time in which tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh?

- [A] Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve
- [B] Kanha Tiger Reserve
- [C] Pench Tiger Reserve
- [D] Panna Tiger Reserve

**Answer:** Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve



A rare four-horned antelope, also known as Chousingha, was sighted for the first time in Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, previously Nauradehi Sanctuary. The smallest Asian antelope, *Tetracerus quadricornis*, is endemic to India and Nepal. These antelopes inhabit dry, deciduous forests and hilly terrains with significant grass or undergrowth cover. Distinguished by four horns, only males grow them. The species is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

86. Which country has recently unveiled its new "Deep Stand-off" long-range air launched ballistic missile named "AIR LORA"?

- [A] Russia
- [B] China
- [C] Israel
- [D] India

**Answer:** Israel

Israel Aerospace Industries unveiled the Air LORA, an air-launched variant of the LORA ballistic missile. Designed for striking high-value targets, it features advanced navigation, anti-jamming capabilities, and can operate in extreme conditions. Air LORA boasts a robust warhead, high mission success rate, and can be integrated into various airborne platforms. Its supersonic speed and 90° attack angle enhance its effectiveness against well-protected targets.

87. Przewalski horses, recently seen in news, were reintroduced in the steppes of which country?

- [A] Iraq
- [B] Iran
- [C] Uzbekistan
- [D] Kazakhstan

**Answer:** Kazakhstan

Przewalski horses, the last truly wild horse, are being reintroduced to the Kazakhstan steppe. These small, stocky horses, originally found in Mongolia, diverged from a common ancestor with domestic horses 500,000 years ago. With a population of 2,000, they live in reintroduction sites in Mongolia, China, and Kazakhstan, and also in France, Russia, and the Chernobyl exclusion zone. Their diet consists of grass and leaves, and they live in social structures led by a dominant stallion.

88. Where was the 112th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) of International Labour Organisation (ILO) held recently?

- [A] Geneva, Switzerland
- [B] London, UK
- [C] New Delhi, India
- [D] Paris, France

**Answer:** Geneva, Switzerland

The Indian delegation led by Secretary Sumita Dawra attended the 112th session of the





International Labour Conference in Geneva. Dawra discussed India's labour reforms, social security for informal workers, and female labour participation. Meetings with ILO leaders focused on global skills mapping, social security, green jobs, and skilled worker migration. The delegation emphasized the care sector's importance, highlighting initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and its GDP impact.

89. What is 'Xylitol', recently seen in news?

- [A] Asteroid
- [B] Artificial sweetener
- [C] Vaccine for Malaria
- [D] Invasive weed

**Answer:** Artificial sweetener

A recent study indicates that artificial sweetener xylitol could pose health risks, elevating the likelihood of cardiovascular events like heart attacks and strokes. Xylitol, a sugar alcohol, is widely used as a sweetener in sugar-free chewing gums, diabetes-friendly foods, and oral-care products. It combines traits of sugar and alcohol molecules and is sourced naturally or artificially from plant materials. This underscores potential health concerns associated with its consumption.

90. Which ministries have initiated the preparations for organisation of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2024?

- [A] Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of AYUSH
- [B] Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Ministry of AYUSH
- [C] Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Ministry of Defence
- [D] Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of AYUSH

**Answer:** Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Ministry of AYUSH

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) and the Ministry of AYUSH are gearing up for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2024, slated for June 21. Reviewing preparations, Secretary Sanjay Jaju (I&B) and Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha (AYUSH) focused on media and outreach plans. Various media units under I&B, including Prasar Bharati and New Media Wing, will promote Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) benefits. Prasar Bharati will broadcast special programs via Doordarshan and All India Radio. AYUSH will share the 'Yoga Geet' across platforms. The initiative also includes the Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman to honor media contributions in spreading yoga awareness.

91. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Karnataka

**Answer:** Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh government has prepared the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary to become a new cheetah habitat. Teams from Kenya and South Africa assessed the site, and



prey animals were relocated from other tiger reserves. Eight Namibian cheetahs were released at Kuno National Park in 2022, followed by 12 more from South Africa in 2023. The Chief Minister directed a study on introducing rhinos and other rare animals to the state.

92. Recently, where was the 'Japan India Maritime Exercise 2024 (JIMEX-24)' started?

- [A] Gujarat, India
- [B] Yokosuka, Japan
- [C] Tokyo, Japan
- [D] Chennai, India

**Answer:** Yokosuka, Japan

The 8th Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-24) has commenced in Yokosuka, Japan. Hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF), it features the Indian Navy's INS Shivalik and JMSDF's JS Yugiri. The exercise includes harbour and sea phases, focusing on naval interaction and warfighting skills, aiming to enhance interoperability and strengthen defense ties between Japan and India.

93. Recently, Mohan Charan Majhi was sworn in as the Chief Minister of which state?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Bihar
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Jharkhand

**Answer:** Odisha

Mohan Charan Majhi of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was sworn in as Odisha's chief minister on June 12, 2024, by Governor Raghubar Das. He is the first BJP leader and the third tribal to hold this position. Two deputy chief ministers, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, were also sworn in. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, J.P. Nadda, and nine BJP state chief ministers attended the ceremony.

94. Which day is observed as 'World Day Against Child Labour' every year?

- [A] 11 June
- [B] 12 June
- [C] 13 June
- [D] 14 June

**Answer:** 12 June

World Day Against Child Labour is observed annually on 12 June to focus on ending child labour. Initiated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 2002, the day highlights global efforts to protect children. The 2024 theme, "Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour," marks the 25th anniversary of the ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention. The ILO headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.

95. Recently, where was the foreign minister meeting of the BRICS countries held?

- [A] St. Petersburg, Russia
- [B] Guangzhou, China





[C] Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

[D] Bengaluru, India

**Answer:** Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

The first BRICS ministerial meeting with new members Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE was held in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, on 10-11 June 2024. Russia, the current BRICS chairman, hosted the meeting to prepare for the 16th annual BRICS summit in October 2024. Argentina declined membership. The 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2023, had invited six countries to join.

96. Pandit Rajeev Taranath, who recently passed away, was associated with which field?

[A] Table player

[B] Sarod maestro

[C] Classical vocalist

[D] Violin player

**Answer:** Sarod maestro

Sarod maestro Pandit Rajeev Taranath recently passed away in Mysuru. The sarod, a prominent Hindustani classical music instrument, is a stringed lute adapted from the Afghan rabab in the 16th century, with its modern form designed in the 19th century. Typically 100 cm long, it features a hollow wooden body, a goatskin membrane, a horn bridge, and steel or bronze strings, with no fretboard but a polished steel plate.

97. What is 'Donanemab', recently seen in news?

[A] New species of spider

[B] New Alzheimer's drug

[C] Invasive plant

[D] Asteroid

**Answer:** New Alzheimer's drug

Independent advisers to the US FDA unanimously determined that the benefits of the new Alzheimer's drug, Donanemab, outweigh its risks. Similar to Lecanemab, Donanemab targets amyloid beta plaques, showing a 35.1% cognitive decline reduction in early-stage patients over 76 weeks. While it doesn't cure Alzheimer's, it slows progression. FDA concerns initially delayed approval due to side effects like brain swelling. India faces a growing Alzheimer's challenge with inadequate national planning.

98. Which state was the hardest hit by forest fires this season (November to June), according to data collected by the MODIS sensor fitted onto NASA's Aqua and Terra satellites ?

[A] Maharashtra

[B] Uttarakhand

[C] Chhattisgarh

[D] Odisha

**Answer:** Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand faced the worst forest fires this season, with 2,154 incidents recorded by



MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) sensor fitted onto Nasa's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Aqua and Terra satellites until June 10, 2024. Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh followed, with significant fire occurrences. April saw nearly 9,000 forest fires across India, the highest for any month, as per MODIS data.

99. "Starship" spacecraft, recently seen in the news, is built by which organization?

- [A] SpaceX
- [B] NASA
- [C] DRDO
- [D] Skyroot Aerospace

**Answer:** SpaceX

SpaceX's Starship completed its first successful test flight, featuring a gentle splashdown of both booster and spacecraft. Starship, a fully reusable spacecraft, is designed for missions including Mars colonization and lunar landings. Comprising the Super Heavy booster and Starship spacecraft, it boasts a capacity for 100 passengers or large cargo payloads. Fueled by Raptor engines, it utilizes liquid methane and oxygen. With objectives ranging from Mars missions to lunar landings, Starship aims to revolutionize space travel.

100. Pema Khandu recently became the Chief Minister of which Northeastern state?

- [A] Arunachal Pradesh
- [B] Assam
- [C] Manipur
- [D] Mizoram

**Answer:** Arunachal Pradesh

Chief Minister Pema Khandu was sworn in for a third consecutive term on June 13, 2024, at the DK State Convention Centre in Itanagar. He announced that the Bharatiya Janata Party's election manifesto will guide Arunachal Pradesh's new government for the next five years. Additionally, his Council of Ministers will meet to outline a development roadmap within the first 100 days of their tenure.

101. Which country will host men's Junior Hockey World Cup in 2025?

- [A] Germany
- [B] France
- [C] India
- [D] Malaysia

**Answer:** India

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has chosen India to host the inaugural FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, featuring 24 teams, in December 2025. This decision aligns with FIH's strategy to expand opportunities and promote diversity in hockey. FIH President Tayyab Ikram and Hockey India's President Dr. Dilip Tirkey emphasized the event's significance and India's commitment to fostering global hockey talent. India has previously hosted the tournament thrice, winning twice.





102. Which organization recently released 'Global Economic Prospects' report?

- [A] World Bank
- [B] UNEP
- [C] UNDP
- [D] ILO

**Answer:** World Bank

The World Bank's June 2024 Global Economic Prospects report revised India's GDP growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.6%, up from 6.4% in January. India is projected to remain the fastest-growing major economy in 2024-25. For 2025-26, the forecast increased to 6.7% from 6.5%. India's economy grew by 8.2% in 2023-24, per the NSO. The Reserve Bank of India raised its 2024-25 forecast to 7.2%.

103. What is 'Chlorella sorokiniana', recently seen in news?

- [A] Microalgae
- [B] Bacteria
- [C] Amoeba
- [D] Fungus

**Answer:** Microalgae

Scientists from CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology highlighted Chlorella Growth Factor (CGF), derived from microalgae 'Chlorella sorokiniana', as beneficial for food and feed applications. Microalgae, microscopic and mostly unicellular, thrive in diverse aquatic environments and lack roots or stems. They are crucial in ecosystems as primary producers, offering nutritional benefits due to their richness in lipids, proteins, and pigments. Examples include Spirulina and Chlorella, commonly used as dietary supplements for their health benefits.

104. Which country became the first country to adopt the India's 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme'?

- [A] Maldives
- [B] Bhutan
- [C] Mauritius
- [D] Nepal

**Answer:** Mauritius

India's 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme' aims to provide affordable generic medicines through Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs). Mauritius adopted the scheme, becoming the first country outside India to do so. Nepal is now in talks with India to establish similar centers, enhancing access to low-cost, high-quality medicines. With over 10,000 PMBJKs across India, the scheme aims to reduce healthcare costs and promote generic medicine use, managed by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau.

105. Recently, Visakhapatnam port has secured which place in the Container Port Performance Index?

- [A] 18th
- [B] 19th



[C] 17th

[D] 16th

**Answer:** 19th

The World Bank, in collaboration with S&P Global Market Intelligence, launched the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), utilizing data from 405 global ports, the largest dataset of its kind. Visakhapatnam Port achieved a notable ranking of 19 in this index, reflecting its efficiency and infrastructure quality in handling container traffic. This assessment provides insights into global port operations, aiding in strategic improvements for enhanced trade facilitation and logistics management.

106. According to a global assessment of Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions, which country is the world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)?

[A] China

[B] India

[C] Brazil

[D] Russia

**Answer:** India

India ranks as the world's second largest emitter of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), a potent greenhouse gas. In 2020, India contributed nearly 11% of global man-made N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, following China's 16%. These emissions primarily stem from nitrogen-based fertilizers and animal manure used in agriculture. Despite this, India's per capita emissions are relatively low at 0.8 kg/person compared to other top emitters like China, the US, Brazil, and Russia.

107. Recently, scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered three new craters on which planet?

[A] Venus

[B] Earth

[C] Mars

[D] Saturn

**Answer:** Mars

Scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad discovered three craters on Mars within the Tharsis Volcanic Region, known for extensive lava flows. Named Lal, Mursan, and Hilsa, these craters offer insights into Martian surface geology and age. Named after Indian towns and a renowned geophysicist, these discoveries contribute to our understanding of Mars' stable crust and geological processes, contrasting with Earth's active geology and erosion.

108. Volkhov River, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?

[A] China

[B] India

[C] France

[D] Russia





**Answer:** Russia

Recently, four medical students from Maharashtra studying in Russia drowned in the Volkhov River near St. Petersburg. The Volkhov River, in northwestern Russia, flows from Lake Ilmen to Lake Ladoga and is historically significant for trade. It hosts the first Soviet hydroelectric station built in 1926. In 2022, nearly 16,500 Indian students were studying in Russia, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

109. Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands, recently seen in news, are small disputed islands between which two countries?

- [A] India and China
- [B] Iran and UAE
- [C] Russia and Ukraine
- [D] India and Sri Lanka

**Answer:** Iran and UAE

Recently, Iran summoned China's ambassador to protest a joint statement by China and the UAE about the sovereignty of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb islands. These disputed islands between Iran and UAE, located at the Strait of Hormuz entrance, were historically Persian but were occupied by Britain until 1971. Iran reclaimed them after British withdrawal, while the UAE asserts they belonged to Ras al-Khaimah before Iran's takeover.

110. What is the name of the mobile app recently launched by NCRB to provide information about new criminal laws?

- [A] NCRB Samarth
- [B] NCRB Sahayak
- [C] NCRB Sangrah
- [D] NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws

**Answer:** NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws

The NCRB has launched the "NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws" mobile app to provide comprehensive information on new criminal laws, effective from next month. The app compiles the Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, with features like chapter and section indexing, old-to-new law comparison charts, and offline functionality. Available on Google Play and Apple App Store, it benefits the public, court officers, advocates, law students, and police officers.

111. What is 'Nagastar-1', recently seen in news?

- [A] Earth observation satellite
- [B] Man-portable suicide drones
- [C] Nuclear ballistic submarine
- [D] Exoplanet

**Answer:** Man-portable suicide drones

The Indian Army has received Nagastar-1, a unique man-portable suicide drone designed to target launch pads, enemy camps, and infiltrators safely. Under Emergency



Procurement Powers, the Army ordered 480 Loiter Munitions from Solar Industries' Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL). Following successful pre-delivery inspections, 120 units have been delivered to an Army Ammunition Depot, according to defense sources.

112. Which state government recently launched "Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom" scheme to improve soil health?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Kerala

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the "Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom" plan to promote sustainable farming in state with a ₹206 crore budget. A key focus is improving soil health using green manure methods. A ₹20 crore start-up fund will support the distribution of green manure seeds across 200,000 acres from 2024-25, benefiting over 200,000 farmers directly.

113. Recently, who won the FIDE under-20 Girl's World Chess Championship 2024?

- [A] Mariam Mkrtchyan
- [B] Salonika Saina
- [C] Divya Deshmukh
- [D] Shubhi Gupta

**Answer:** Divya Deshmukh

18-year-old Nagpur girl and International Master Divya Deshmukh won the FIDE U-20 Girl's World Chess Championship, becoming the fourth Indian woman to do so. The tournament, held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from June 2-13, 2024, featured 230 players from 44 countries. Divya remained unbeaten, finishing with 10 points out of 11. Grand Master Kazybek Nogerbek from Kazakhstan won the men's title. Divya will compete in the 2024 Chess Olympiad in Budapest.

114. Recently, which ministry released the first All-India survey on 'AYUSH'?

- [A] Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- [B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- [C] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Agriculture

**Answer:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the first All-India survey on AYUSH, conducted by the National Sample Survey Office from July 2022 to June 2023. Key findings reveal that 95% of rural and 96% of urban populations aged 15 and above are aware of AYUSH. Predominantly used for rejuvenation, AYUSH's usage and expenditure are higher in urban areas. AYUSH includes Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Homoeopathy, offering cost-effective treatments with negligible side effects.





115. What is the primary objective of the GREAT Scheme, recently seen in news?

- [A] To support traditional textile industries in UAE
- [B] To develop a startup ecosystem in technical textiles
- [C] To promote agricultural products across urban India
- [D] To export Indian Medicines globally

**Answer:** To develop a startup ecosystem in technical textiles

The Empowered Programme Committee of the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) has approved 7 startup proposals under the GREAT scheme. GREAT (Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles) is part of NTTM's Research, Development, and Innovation Component, led by the Ministry of Textiles. It offers grants-in-aid of up to INR 50 lakhs over 18 months to harness India's technical textiles sector expertise for innovative product and technology development. The GREAT Scheme supports innovators in technical textiles to develop prototypes into market-ready technologies and products, facilitating commercialization. Aimed at enhancing India's startup ecosystem in sectors like sustainable textiles, speciality fibres, and smart textiles, it offers crucial support for innovation.

116. Which ministry has recently released guidelines delineating the use of arbitration and mediation in domestic public procurement contracts?

- [A] Ministry of Defence
- [B] Ministry of AYUSH
- [C] Ministry of Agriculture
- [D] Ministry of Finance

**Answer:** Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance issued guidelines for arbitration and mediation in domestic public procurement contracts to streamline dispute resolution for government entities. Key points include avoiding automatic arbitration in large contracts, restricting arbitration to disputes under Rs. 10 crores, preferring institutional arbitration, and adopting mediation for high-value matters. Arbitration is a quasi-judicial ADR process governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, and mediation follows the Mediation Act, 2023.

117. Jaitkhamb pilgrimage centre, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Punjab
- [B] Chhattisgarh
- [C] Bihar
- [D] Haryana

**Answer:** Chhattisgarh

The Satnami community in Chhattisgarh violently protested the desecration of a Jaitkhamb, a sacred symbol. The tallest Jaitkhamb is near Giraud village in Baloda Bazar of Chhattisgarh, at Guru Ghasidas' birthplace. The Satnamis, founded in 1657 by Birbhan in Haryana, trace their roots to Bhakti poet Kabir and Saint Ravidas. The community's spiritual lineage follows Guru Ghasidas, an 18th-century saint.



118. Bedout Island, recently seen in news due to cyclone Ilsa, is located in which country?

- [A] Australia
- [B] Maldives
- [C] Indonesia
- [D] Malaysia

**Answer:** Australia

Cyclone Ilsa, a category 5 cyclone, recently devastated Bedout Island, Australia, wiping out 80-90% of its seabird population, including Masked Boobies, Brown Boobies, and Lesser Frigatebirds. Seabirds, which live and feed in ocean environments, are vital for island and reef health. They connect marine and terrestrial ecosystems by transporting marine nutrients to land through guano and other means.

119. Recently, which state government provided Rs 5 lakh financial assistance for families of state residents who died in the Kuwait fire tragedy?

- [A] Kerala
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Kerala

The Kerala government announced Rs 5 lakh financial assistance for families of state residents who died in the Kuwait fire tragedy, which claimed 49 lives and injured 50. This decision was made during an emergency Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Additionally, the government will provide Rs 1 lakh to those injured in the incident, according to a statement from the Chief Minister's office.

120. In a major advancement in the agricultural sector, Jammu & Kashmir has broadened its existing Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with which country?

- [A] Mexico
- [B] Japan
- [C] France
- [D] New Zealand

**Answer:** New Zealand

Jammu & Kashmir has expanded its partnership with New Zealand into a strategic agreement, leveraging New Zealand's expertise in breeding technology, sustainable farm management, and advanced disease control. This collaboration aims to transform the sheep and goat sectors in the Union Territory through comprehensive training and innovative practices, revitalizing the region's agricultural landscape.

121. Recently, the WHO has designated which medical institute as a WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine" ?

- [A] National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad
- [B] National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur
- [C] AIIMS, Delhi





[D] KGMU, Lucknow

**Answer:** National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad

The World Health Organization has designated the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad, as a WHO Collaborating Centre for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine" from June 3, 2024, for four years. Established in 1956, NIIMH documents medico-historical research in various traditional Indian healthcare systems. This recognition reflects the institute's dedication under Prof. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya's leadership.

122. Recently, Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected as the President of which country?

[A] Kenya

[B] Rwanda

[C] South Africa

[D] Nigeria

**Answer:** South Africa

Cyril Ramaphosa secured a second term as South Africa's President on June 14, 2024, after a coalition deal between the ANC, Democratic Alliance (DA), and other smaller parties. The ANC, for the first time since 1996, failed to secure a parliamentary majority, obtaining only 40% of the votes in the May 29, 2024 election. Ramaphosa first became President on February 15, 2018. This marks South Africa's second national unity government since Nelson Mandela in 1994.

123. Which organization and Sansad TV recently signed an agreement to make Indian art and culture more accessible to the people?

[A] Lalit Kala Academy

[B] Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

[C] Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

[D] Sangeet Natak Academy

**Answer:** Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and Sansad TV signed an agreement to make Indian art and culture more accessible. IGNCA-produced programs will be aired on Sansad TV. The MoU was signed by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi (IGNCA) and Mr. Rajat Punhani (Sansad TV). Both expressed happiness over this collaboration, aiming to produce and broadcast various cultural programs and utilize IGNCA's archive.

124. Recently, who became the first Indian to win a three star Grand Prix event in equestrian?

[A] Roshni Sharma

[B] Shruti Vora

[C] Alisha Abdullah

[D] Kalyani Potekar

**Answer:** Shruti Vora

Shruti Vora, a 53-year-old from Kolkata, became the first Indian to win a three-star Grand



Prix event in equestrian. She triumphed in the CDI-3 event at the FEI Dressage World Cup in Lipica, Slovenia, on June 7, 2024, scoring 67.761 points on her horse Magnanimous. Vora has previously represented India in the 2022 Dressage World Championships and the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games.

125. Lipulekh Pass, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Himachal Pradesh
- [B] Sikkim
- [C] Assam
- [D] Uttarakhand

**Answer:** Uttarakhand

Indian traders have urged the central government to resume border trade with China through the Lipulekh Pass. Located in Uttarakhand at 5,334 meters, Lipulekh connects India with Tibet and is key for trade and the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrimage. Historically significant as a trade route, it was the first Indian border post for trade with China, opened in 1992, followed by Shipki La and Nathu La passes.

126. What is 'Olympus Mons', recently seen in the news?

- [A] A shield volcano on Mars
- [B] Invasive plant
- [C] Nuclear ballistic submarine
- [D] Short range ballistic missile

**Answer:** A shield volcano on Mars

Scientists discovered frost on Mars' tallest volcano, Olympus Mons, indicating an active water cycle. Olympus Mons, a 3.5-billion-year-old shield volcano in Mars' western hemisphere, is the highest point on Mars and the largest volcano in the solar system. It stands 16 miles (24 km) high, about three times taller than Mt. Everest, and spans 340 miles (550 km), larger than Hawaii's Mauna Loa. Its summit caldera, with overlapping pits, is 50 miles (80 km) wide.

127. Iskander-M missile system, recently in news, was developed by which country?

- [A] China
- [B] India
- [C] Japan
- [D] Russia

**Answer:** Russia

Russia claimed to have targeted a Ukrainian airbase in Mirgorod using the Iskander-M missile system. The Iskander-M, in service since 2006, is a short-range ballistic missile system designed for tactical strikes. It can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads, has a range of 400-500 km, and travels up to Mach 7. The missile system includes features like maneuverable re-entry vehicles and decoys to evade defenses.

128. 'Kavli Prizes', recently seen in news, are awarded for which fields?

- [A] Literature, Peace, and Music





- [B] Economics, Environment and Chemistry
- [C] Astrophysics, Nanoscience and Neuroscience
- [D] Agriculture, Physics and Maths

**Answer:** Astrophysics, Nanoscience and Neuroscience

The 2024 Kavli Prize winners were announced, honoring contributions in astrophysics, neuroscience, and nanoscience. David Charbonneau and Sara Seager received the astrophysics prize for exoplanet discoveries. In nanoscience, Robert Langer, Armand Paul Alivisatos, and Chad Mirkin were awarded for biomedical breakthroughs. In neuroscience, Nancy Kanwisher, Winrich Freiwald, and Doris Tsao were recognized for their pioneering work on facial recognition and brain mapping. The prizes, established in 2008, commemorate Fred Kavli.

129. Which ministry recently launched an e-flow ecological monitoring system that allows real-time monitoring of river quality?

- [A] Ministry of Jal Shakti
- [B] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- [C] Ministry of Agriculture
- [D] Ministry of Rural Development

**Answer:** Ministry of Jal Shakti

The Union Jal Shakti Ministry launched an e-flow ecological monitoring system for real-time planning and monitoring of river projects and water quality. Developed by NMCG, it analyzes Ganga and Yamuna water quality, tracks Namami Gange program activities, and ensures STPs operate efficiently. This system supports sustainable Ganga River flow by monitoring crucial parameters across 11 projects, marking a pivotal advancement in river conservation efforts under India's flagship Namami Gange initiative.

130. Recently, the APEDA has facilitated the successful export of the first consignment of MD 2 variety pineapples to which country?

- [A] Sri Lanka
- [B] France
- [C] UAE
- [D] Myanmar

**Answer:** UAE

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first export of MD 2 pineapples, also known as "Golden Ripe" or "Super Sweet," to the UAE. The shipment included 8.7 metric tons (650 boxes) of pineapples. Developed by Del Monte in the 1980s, MD 2 pineapples are primarily grown in Costa Rica, the Philippines, and Thailand, with Indian production in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district.

131. Which state government recently launched the 'Mission Nischay'?

- [A] Haryana
- [B] Punjab



[C] Uttarakhand

[D] Gujarat

**Answer:** Punjab

Punjab Police, in collaboration with the BSF and VDCs, conducted a one-week anti-drug campaign, "Mission Nishchay," in Fazilka district from June 15 to 21. They will engage residents of 42 villages along the India-Pakistan border to gather intelligence on drug demand and supply. The initiative aims to foster community participation, with a special focus on youth and women, in curbing the drug menace.

132. Which country will host the multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2024' in August?

[A] Germany

[B] Spain

[C] France

[D] India

**Answer:** India

The Indian Air Force will host its first multinational exercise, Tarang Shakti 2024, in August 2024. Around 10 countries, including Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, the UAE, the UK, and the US, are expected to participate, with others as observers. Initially scheduled for late 2023, the exercise was deferred. The event will enhance interoperability with friendly neighboring air forces.

133. Which organization recently supported the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) to achieve sustainable waste management in the city?

[A] UNEP

[B] World Bank

[C] UNDP

[D] IMF

**Answer:** World Bank

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), with World Bank assistance, aims to enhance trash management by 2026-2027, focusing on stopping waste disposal at the Kodungaiyur dump. In a recent meeting with state officials, GCC discussed making solid waste management strategic, setting a Zero Waste goal, and eventually closing the Perungudi dumpsite following Kodungaiyur's success.

134. What is 'Aedes albopictus', recently seen in news?

[A] Mosquito

[B] Spider

[C] Frog

[D] Ant

**Answer:** Mosquito

Warmer conditions are aiding the Aedes albopictus mosquito, which spreads dengue, chikungunya, and Zika, to thrive, according to the EU health agency. Climate change will likely increase dengue risk in Europe, especially in Spain, Italy, and France, due to rising





temperatures and humidity. However, summer droughts in Spain and Portugal may reduce its habitat. Controlling *Aedes albopictus* involves removing standing water, using repellents, and community mosquito control programs.

135. Recently, which organization has developed a new tool to predict the emergence of El Nino and La Nina conditions?

- [A] Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
- [B] National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)
- [C] Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- [D] Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)

**Answer:** Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

The Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has developed the Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network (BCNN) to predict El Nino and La Nina conditions. Utilizing AI, deep learning, and ML, BCNN forecasts ENSO phases by observing ocean-atmosphere interactions and using the Nino3.4 index. Established in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, INCOIS provides ocean data, information, and advisory services to various stakeholders.

136. Which ministry recently organised the 'Global Wind Day' event with a central theme of 'Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India'?

- [A] Ministry of Defence
- [B] Ministry of Agriculture
- [C] Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- [D] Ministry of Urban Development

**Answer:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) celebrated Global Wind Day on June 15, 2024, highlighting India's wind energy achievements and future potential. With the theme "Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India," the event featured discussions on wind energy's role in meeting power demand, accelerating onshore adoption, and offshore development. India, with 46.4 GW of installed wind power capacity, aims to achieve 50% non-fossil fuel-based power by 2030 and net zero by 2070.

137. Recently, where was the second edition of Ex Red Flag 2024 held?

- [A] Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma
- [B] Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska
- [C] Beale Air Force Base, California
- [D] Creech Air Force Base, Nevada

**Answer:** Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska

An Indian Air Force contingent, including Rafale aircraft, participated in Exercise Red Flag 2024 at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. This advanced aerial combat training involved air forces from Singapore, UK, Netherlands, Germany, and the US. Conducted four times annually by the US Air Force, Red Flag simulates realistic combat scenarios with Red Force defending and Blue Force attacking, enhancing international air force cooperation and



readiness. This marked the debut of IAF's Rafale in Red Flag exercises.

138. Recently, which regulatory body has been awarded the 'Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024' by Central Banking, London, UK?

- [A] RBI
- [B] NABARD
- [C] SEBI
- [D] SBI

**Answer:** RBI

In 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) received the "Risk Manager of the Year Award" from Central Banking in London. This accolade recognizes RBI's efforts in enhancing risk management policies and ensuring financial stability in India. Mr. Manoranjan Mishra, RBI's Executive Director, accepted the award, highlighting RBI's achievements in risk culture and setting benchmarks for global central banks in effective risk management practices.

139. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Rajasthan
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh has finalized preparations to reintroduce cheetahs in the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, making it India's second cheetah habitat after Kuno National Park. The sanctuary spans 368.62 sq km across Mandsaur and Neemuch districts, bordered by Rajasthan. Initial efforts saw 8 Namibian cheetahs released in Kuno National Park in September 2022, followed by 12 cheetahs from South Africa in February 2023, marking significant strides in India's cheetah conservation efforts.

140. Burp Tax, recently in news, was introduced by which country?

- [A] New Zealand
- [B] China
- [C] Russia
- [D] France

**Answer:** New Zealand

New Zealand introduced the 'burp tax' in 2022, targeting greenhouse gas emissions from livestock, specifically methane emissions from ruminant animals like cows and sheep, which are released mainly through burping. The primary goal of this tax was to reduce methane emissions from these animals. However, New Zealand recently announced the scrapping of this tax.

141. Which country's scientists recently discovered new pattern of solar atmospheric rotation by using CHASE telescope ?

- [A] Japan





- [B] India
- [C] China
- [D] U.K.

**Answer:** China

Chinese scientists using the CHASE telescope have discovered a new pattern in the sun's atmospheric rotation, providing the first accurate 3D picture of this phenomenon. Published in Nature Astronomy, this breakthrough enhances understanding of the sun's magnetic activity and atmospheric behavior. CHASE, a satellite project, aims to deepen knowledge of solar dynamics.

142. Recently, where was the second annual meeting of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) between India and the US held?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Chennai
- [C] Hyderabad
- [D] Jaipur

**Answer:** New Delhi

The 2nd India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) meeting was held on June 17, 2024, in New Delhi. Co-chaired by Indian NSA Ajit Doval and US NSA Jake Sullivan, this event marked Sullivan's first visit to India post the third swearing-in of the Modi government. The iCET aims to enhance cooperation in space, semiconductors, telecom, AI, quantum tech, biotechnology, and clean energy.

143. What is 'Planet Nine', recently seen in news?

- [A] A hypothetical planet in the outer region of our solar system
- [B] A moon of Neptune
- [C] Comets from the Kuiper Belt
- [D] A newly discovered moon of saturn

**Answer:** A hypothetical planet in the outer region of our solar system

Astronomers have been searching for a hypothetical ninth planet, Planet Nine, in the outer solar system for nearly a decade. Proposed to explain anomalies in the orbits of distant trans-Neptunian objects, Planet Nine is estimated to be 5-10 times the mass of Earth with a highly elliptical orbit, ranging from 400 to 800 AU from the Sun. Experts believe we may soon find it.

144. What is the main objective of 'SDG 7', recently in news?

- [A] Promote nuclear energy development
- [B] Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50%
- [C] Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- [D] Increase fossil fuel production worldwide

**Answer:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

The SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2024 reveals the world is not on track to meet SDG 7 by 2030. Initiated in 2018, this annual report is the key reference for SDG 7 progress. It



aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. The report is produced by IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, and WHO, covering energy access, efficiency, renewables, clean cooking, and international cooperation.

145. "Joint Communiqué on a Peace Framework", recently seen in news in the context of which two countries?

- [A] India and Nepal
- [B] Iran and Iraq
- [C] India and China
- [D] Russia and Ukraine

**Answer:** Russia and Ukraine

India dissociated from the final document of a Peace Summit in Switzerland, emphasizing peace proposals acceptable to both Russia and Ukraine. The summit, held on June 15-16, 2024, addressed the ongoing Ukraine war's impact. Key points included nuclear safety at Ukraine's plants, global food security, and humanitarian issues like prisoner exchanges and the return of displaced Ukrainians. Attendees reaffirmed commitments to international law and UN resolutions.

146. Astronomers recently discovered a new supernova 'SN 2023adsy' by using which telescope?

- [A] Hubble Space Telescope
- [B] James Webb Space Telescope
- [C] Spitzer Space Telescope
- [D] Chandra X-ray Observatory

**Answer:** James Webb Space Telescope

Using the James Webb Space Telescope, astronomers discovered SN 2023adsy, the most distant Type Ia supernova detected. A supernova is a cataclysmic explosion of a massive star, with Type I occurring when a star accumulates matter from a neighbor, and Type II when a star collapses under its gravity. Supernovas, the largest explosions in space, outshine galaxies, produce heavy elements, and occur once every 50 years in Milky Way-sized galaxies.

147. What is 'Filoboletus manipularis', recently seen in news?

- [A] Spider
- [B] Fish
- [C] Mushroom
- [D] Invasive weed

**Answer:** Mushroom

Researchers recently discovered a rare bioluminescent mushroom species, *Filoboletus manipularis*, in Kasaragod forests. These mushrooms glow bright green at night due to a chemical reaction involving luciferin and luciferase. They thrive in tropical, humid environments with decaying organic matter. This bioluminescence likely attracts insects, aiding in spore dispersion. The light-producing reaction is similar to that in fireflies and





some marine creatures.

148. Mangaf region, recently seen in news due to fire incident, is located in which country?

- [A] Kuwait
- [B] Iran
- [C] Iraq
- [D] Qatar

**Answer:** Kuwait

The recent fire in Mangaf, Kuwait, resulting in the deaths of Indian migrant workers, highlights the poor living conditions and neglect of low-income workers' rights in GCC states. The Kafala system ties migrant workers' visas to their employers, granting employers extensive control and contributing to exploitation and vulnerability. Low wages, restricted movement, and the absence of worker unions further exacerbate these issues, worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic by confinement and deportations.

149. Recently, which state government is actively promoting Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), or 'tar-wattar' technique?

- [A] Haryana
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Punjab
- [D] West Bengal

**Answer:** Punjab

The Punjab government is promoting the DSR (or 'Tar-wattar') technique, which is more suitable for heavy or medium-to-heavy-textured soils due to better water retention. Light-textured soils, which require frequent irrigation, negate DSR's water-saving benefits. The Majha and Doaba regions of Punjab predominantly have suitable soil types for DSR, while Malwa has a mix of soil textures, including light-textured soils.

150. Which two ministries signed a MoU on 'Krishi Sakhi convergence program (KSCP)', recently seen in news?

- [A] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of Rural Development
- [B] Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Jal Shakti
- [C] Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- [D] Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Rural Development

**Answer:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of Rural Development

Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded certificates to over 30,000 self-help groups as Krishi Sakhis in Varanasi on June 18, 2024. Recognizing women's pivotal role in agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, along with the Ministry of Rural Development, collaborated on the Krishi Sakhi Certification Programme through an MoU signed in August 2023, aimed at enhancing rural women's skills and empowerment in agricultural practices.

151. Which company partnered with Tamil Nadu to provide IT skills training to over 200000



students in the state under Naan Mudhalvan program?

- [A] Google
- [B] Microsoft
- [C] Meta
- [D] Oracle

**Answer:** Oracle

Oracle has partnered with Tamil Nadu for the Naan Mudhalvan program, aiming to train 200,000+ students in advanced IT skills like cloud computing, AI, data science, ML, and blockchain. This initiative underscores Oracle's commitment to enhancing youth employability through digital and campus-based learning, offering certifications in cutting-edge technologies. The collaboration aims to equip students with skills essential for the future job market, emphasizing Oracle's role in fostering technological expertise among the youth.

152. Which city hosted the conference on 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System'?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Kolkata
- [C] Jaipur
- [D] Varanasi

**Answer:** Kolkata

Kolkata hosted the conference "India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System," organized by the Ministry of Law and Justice. The event focuses on three new laws: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam. It gathers legal experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss and raise awareness about these legislations' implications for criminal justice administration in India, aiming to foster informed dialogue and strategic implementation strategies.

153. Ghatampur and Obra C thermal power projects, recently in news, is associated with which state?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Bihar
- [C] Haryana
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is fast-tracking the Ghatampur and Obra C thermal power projects to meet rising energy demands. The combined capital expenditure exceeds Rs 32,000 crore, with the Ghatampur project (1,980 MW) costing Rs 19,006 crore and led by Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power. Scheduled for completion in 2024-25, Ghatampur will supply 75% of its electricity to the state. Obra C (1,320 MW) faced cost overruns, partly covered by state borrowings and share capital contributions.





154. Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, who recently passed away, was the former governor of which state?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Jharkhand
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Odisha

Former Odisha Governor Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, aged 95, passed away on June 15. He was a senior Congress leader from Maharashtra, served three terms in the Rajya Sabha, and practiced as a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court. Bhandare's tenure as Governor of Odisha spanned from August 2007 to March 2013. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and former CM Naveen Patnaik expressed deep sorrow at his demise.

155. Nalanda University, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Jharkhand
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Bihar
- [D] Rajasthan

**Answer:** Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Nalanda University campus near the ancient ruins in Rajgir, Bihar. Founded by Kumargupta in the 5th century, Nalanda was a renowned monastic university for 600 years, flourishing under Harshavardhan and the Pala monarchs. It attracted students from across Asia, teaching subjects like Buddhism, medicine, and astronomy. Destroyed in 1193 by Bakhtiyar Khilji, it was rediscovered in 1812 and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

156. Recently, which country became the first Southeast Asian country to recognize same-sex marriage?

- [A] Thailand
- [B] Vietnam
- [C] Malaysia
- [D] Singapore

**Answer:** Thailand

Thailand became the first Southeast Asian country to recognize same-sex marriage. Despite its inclusive reputation, Thailand faced decades of challenges passing this law due to conservative societal and governmental values. The bill grants full legal, financial, and medical rights to marriage partners of any gender. It awaits formal endorsement by King Maha Vajiralongkorn and will become effective within 120 days.

157. Ghodbunder Fort, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Kerala



[D] Rajasthan

**Answer:** Maharashtra

A hidden chamber was recently discovered beneath the inner layers of Ghodbunder Fort during restoration work. Ghodbunder Fort, located in Thane, Maharashtra, on the Ulhas River, was built by the Portuguese and completed in 1730. Initially used for horse trading, it was later occupied by the Marathas and the British. The fort features a Portuguese church from the early 16th century and various historical structures.

158. What is 'Ophichthus Suryai', recently seen in news?

[A] A rare fish discovered in West Bengal

[B] A invasive weed found in Northeastern states

[C] A newly discovered species of snake eel

[D] Military weapon

**Answer:** A newly discovered species of snake eel

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India's Gopalpur centre discovered a new snake eel species, 'Ophichthus Suryai,' in Odisha. This species differs from its congeners by the dorsal fin origin near the gill opening, unique vertebral count, and multiple rows of teeth on both jaws. Snake eels, marine fishes of the Ophichthidae family, inhabit warm, tropical waters, often hiding at the sea bottom, and can grow up to 10 feet.

159. Siniyah Island, recently seen in news due to ancient city 'Tu'am', is located in which country?

[A] Maldives

[B] Indonesia

[C] Japan

[D] UAE

**Answer:** UAE

Archaeologists discovered Tu'am, an ancient city known for its pearl trade, on UAE's Siniyah Island, confirming its historical existence. Dating back to the fourth century, Tu'am thrived until succumbing to local conflicts and the bubonic plague. Excavations revealed ancient homes and a Christian monastery, aligning with historical records. This discovery establishes Siniyah Island as the true location of Tu'am, showcasing its significance as the largest known ancient town on the UAE's Gulf coast.

160. What is the main focus of the 'Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations', recently released by CDS?

[A] Military aspects of cyberspace operations

[B] To create an AI tool for monitoring civilians

[C] Monitoring Earth's climate

[D] None of the Above

**Answer:** Military aspects of cyberspace operations

The recently released Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations by CDS during the COSC meeting emphasizes military aspects and provides guidance to commanders and staff. It





aims to enhance awareness among warfighters about executing cyberspace operations. This keystone publication guides commanders in navigating complex military environments, promotes jointness and integration within the Indian Armed Forces, and signifies a substantial advancement in ongoing processes related to cyberspace operations.

161. What is the aim of the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES), recently approved by government of India?

- [A] To improve healthcare infrastructure
- [B] To strengthen the criminal forensic infrastructure
- [C] To enhance educational facilities
- [D] To develop transportation systems

**Answer:** To strengthen the criminal forensic infrastructure

The Indian government approved the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES) to strengthen forensic infrastructure, aiding the criminal justice system. Approved on June 19, 2024, by the Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, the NFIES will be implemented by the Home Ministry. It supports new criminal laws effective July 1, 2024, requiring mandatory forensic investigation for severe crimes. NFIES includes new campuses for the National Forensic Sciences University and additional Central Forensic Science Laboratories.

162. What is the rank of India on the 'Energy Transition Index 2024'?

- [A] 63rd
- [B] 64th
- [C] 67th
- [D] 68th

**Answer:** 63rd

India is ranked 63rd on the global Energy Transition Index 2024 by the World Economic Forum. The index monitors the global shift towards sustainable, secure, and accessible energy systems. Sweden tops the rankings, followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, and France. Despite notable progress by emerging economies like Brazil and China, 83% of countries regressed in security, equity, or sustainability. The gap between advanced and developing economies is narrowing, despite disparities.

163. What is the main objective of the '5G Intelligent Village' initiative, recently seen in news?

- [A] To improve urban connectivity
- [B] To enhance satellite communication
- [C] To uplift rural communities through 5G technology
- [D] To develop new social media platforms

**Answer:** To uplift rural communities through 5G technology

The Department of Telecommunications announced two initiatives—5G Intelligent Village and Quantum Encryption Algorithm (QEA)—to drive innovation in the telecom sector.



These proposals aim to harness 5G technology for equitable technological advancement, focusing on rural upliftment through Ultra-Reliable Low-Latency Communication (URLLC) and massive Machine Type Communication (mMTC). The initiatives target critical areas like agriculture, education, healthcare, governance, and sustainability, demonstrating the benefits of 5G connectivity in selected villages.

164. e-Shram portal, recently seen in news, is launched by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Labour and Employment
- [B] Ministry of Agriculture
- [C] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Rural Development

**Answer:** Ministry of Labour and Employment

At the 112th International Labour Conference in Geneva, India's delegation, led by the Secretary of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, highlighted the e-Shram portal. Launched in 2021, the portal registers unorganized workers across 400 occupations, providing a comprehensive national database. Fully Aadhaar-verified, it aims to facilitate access to social security schemes. The e-Shram portal integrates with the National Career Service, Skill India Digital Hub, myScheme portal, and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhaan scheme.

165. Delos Island, which was seen in the news, is located on which sea?

- [A] Red Sea
- [B] South China Sea
- [C] Caribbean Sea
- [D] Aegean Sea

**Answer:** Aegean Sea

The ancient site on Greece's Delos island, a key sanctuary of the Greek and Roman world and a UNESCO World Heritage site, faces destruction within decades due to rising sea levels and geological changes. Settled since the 3rd millennium B.C., Delos is vulnerable to increasing temperatures and humidity, which damage cultural heritage materials. Located in the Aegean Sea, the area is primarily Greek, with Turkey holding Imbros and Tenedos islands.

166. Vadhavan Port, recently seen in news, is to be constructed in which state?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Maharashtra

The Union Cabinet approved the development of the Greenfield Major Port at Vadhavan, Maharashtra. To be constructed via a Special Purpose Vehicle by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority and Maharashtra Maritime Board, this all-weather deep draft port supports the PM Gati Shakti program. Located in Palghar District and built through PPP on a





landlord model, it will have a 20-meter draft, 23.2 million TEUs capacity, and boost EXIM trade via IMEC and INSTC.

167. Swami Vivekananda Nishakt Swawlamban Protsahan Scheme (SVNSPS), recently seen in news, is a social security scheme of which state?

- [A] Jharkhand
- [B] Odisha
- [C] Bihar
- [D] Haryana

**Answer:** Jharkhand

In Khunti district, Jharkhand, individuals with sickle cell anemia will receive a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 under the Swami Vivekananda Nishakt Swawlamban Protsahan Scheme. The district administration has initially identified nine beneficiaries from various blocks, ensuring ongoing coverage for new cases. Sickle cell screening has been extensive, identifying 46 cases of sickle cell anemia-thalassemia among over 99,000 people tested. Pension eligibility is based on disability certificates, benefiting those severely affected by the condition.

168. David Johnson, who recently passed away, was associated with which sports?

- [A] Hockey
- [B] Cricket
- [C] Football
- [D] Badminton

**Answer:** Cricket

Former Indian cricketer David Jude Johnson tragically passed away after falling from his fourth-floor apartment balcony in Kothanur, Bengaluru. A respected figure in domestic cricket, Johnson, originally from Arsikere, Hassan, had made his Test debut for India against Australia in 1996. His untimely demise has left a void in the cricketing community, mourning the loss of a talented player and beloved individual.

169. Recently, how much funding has approved by Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve India's health system preparedness?

- [A] \$140 million
- [B] \$150 million
- [C] \$160 million
- [D] \$170 million

**Answer:** \$170 million

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has granted India a significant loan of USD 170 million (approximately Rs 1,418 crore) to enhance its healthcare system's readiness and response capabilities for future pandemics. Aligned with India's National Health Policy 2017, the policy-based loan aims to improve governance and policy frameworks essential for achieving universal healthcare coverage. Key initiatives include strengthening disease surveillance networks nationwide through interconnected laboratories, enabling quicker



responses to infectious disease threats across cities, states, and union territories.

170. Which institute recently signed an MoU with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to enhance road safety through AI?

- [A] IIT, Kanpur
- [B] IIIT, Delhi
- [C] IIM, Ahmedabad
- [D] IIT, Bombay

**Answer:** IIIT, Delhi

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed an MoU with Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT Delhi) to enhance road safety using AI-based solutions to improve road sign availability on national highways. The project will cover approximately 25,000 km. IIIT Delhi will conduct surveys to collect imagery and data on road sign conditions along selected highway stretches.

171. Recently, a team of wildlife experts has documented the presence of a 'striped caecilian (Ichthyophis spp)' in which national park for the first time?

- [A] Kaziranga National Park
- [B] Manas National Park
- [C] Raimona National Park
- [D] Orang National Park

**Answer:** Kaziranga National Park

Assam's wildlife officials reported the first recording of the striped caecilian (Ichthyophis spp) in Kaziranga National Park during a recent herpetofauna survey. Caecilians are elongated, limbless amphibians in the order Gymnophiona, resembling earthworms or snakes. Named "Caecilian" meaning "blind," they inhabit moist tropical and subtropical regions, mainly burrowing underground. There are about 200 known species, mostly found in forests, grasslands, and wetlands.

172. Recently, which country has become the first in 2024 and the 51st globally to eliminate a neglected tropical disease- the gambiense form of human African trypanosomiasis?

- [A] Nigeria
- [B] Kenya
- [C] Tanzania
- [D] Chad

**Answer:** Chad

In 2024, Chad became the first country and the 51st globally to eliminate a neglected tropical disease, the gambiense form of human African trypanosomiasis (HAT), also known as sleeping sickness. HAT is caused by protozoan parasites transmitted by tsetse flies and is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa. The gambiense form, found in 24 West and Central African countries, causes chronic illness, while the rhodesiense form, found in 13 East and Southern African countries, causes acute disease.





173. Hooch tragedy, recently occurred in which state?

- [A] Bihar
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Jharkhand

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

In Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi, at least 34 people died, and around 100 were hospitalized after consuming spurious liquor, known as hooch. Hooch, derived from the Alaskan Hoochinoo tribe, is produced in crude settings without quality control. Made through fermentation and distillation, it often contains toxic methanol. Improper distillation can concentrate methanol, making it highly dangerous. The incident underscores the lethal risks of consuming illicit alcohol.

174. Kolar Gold Fields, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Jharkhand
- [D] Karnataka

**Answer:** Karnataka

The Karnataka government approved the Centre's proposal to revive gold mining at Kolar Gold Fields (KGF). Located 100 km from Bangalore in Kolar district, KGF mines are among the world's deepest, operated by Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a public sector undertaking established in 1972. Mining here is costly due to the depth of the ore.

175. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS), recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Gujarat

**Answer:** Gujarat

Six Asiatic lions recently migrated from Gir Forest to Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS). These endangered lions, slightly smaller than African lions, are protected under IUCN's Endangered status, CITES Appendix I, and India's Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. They exhibit moderate mane growth and lack a specific breeding season. The Gir forest and other protected areas in Gujarat's Saurashtra region are their exclusive habitats.

176. Which organization recently released the 'World Investment Report 2024'?

- [A] UNCTAD
- [B] UNDP
- [C] UNEP
- [D] UNICEF

**Answer:** UNCTAD

The UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2024 reveals a 2% global decline in foreign direct



investment (FDI) flows in 2023, with significant drops noted in India. Funding for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) investments via sustainable finance products is also slowing. Established in 1964, UNCTAD aids developing nations in accessing the advantages of a global economy equitably.

177. Which organization has recently released the snow update 'Hindu Kush Himalaya' between 2003-2024?

- [A] International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- [B] United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- [C] Greenpeace India
- [D] World Bank

**Answer:** International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

The ICIMOD's Hindu Kush Himalaya snow update for 2024 reported record low snow persistence in India's Ganga River basin, alongside similar challenges in the Brahmaputra and Indus basins. The HKH region spans eight countries and is crucial for Asia's major river systems, supporting 1.9 billion people. It holds vast snow and glacier resources, essential for ecosystem services and downstream communities, making it pivotal for water supply across South and East Asia.

178. Recently, which armed force launched the first-of-its-kind skin bank for the treatment of severe burn injuries in defence?

- [A] Indian Air Force
- [B] Indian Navy
- [C] Indian Army
- [D] National Security Guard

**Answer:** Indian Army

The Indian Army inaugurated a state-of-the-art skin bank at Army Hospital (Research & Referral) on June 18. This facility, a first within Armed Forces Medical Services, focuses on treating severe burn injuries for armed forces personnel and families. It addresses injuries from fire accidents, electrical incidents, and high-altitude kerosene warmers. The skin bank centralizes collection, processing, storage, and distribution of skin grafts, enhancing medical capabilities nationwide for military hospitals.

179. Recently, a huge imbalance of energy has been detected on which planet?

- [A] Venus
- [B] Saturn
- [C] Mars
- [D] Jupiter

**Answer:** Saturn

Researchers at the University of Houston discovered a significant seasonal energy imbalance on Saturn using data from the Cassini probe. This finding challenges existing models of gas giants' climate and planetary evolution. Saturn's large orbital eccentricity, varying nearly 20%, causes substantial seasonal variations in solar energy absorption,





unlike Earth. This discovery by Xinyue Wang highlights the influence of internal heat on Saturn's climate and reshapes understanding of planetary and atmospheric sciences in our solar system.

180. Recently, which state has established the world's first conservation and breeding centre for Asian king vultures?

- [A] Haryana
- [B] Bihar
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Madhya Pradesh

**Answer:** Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh has established the world's first conservation and breeding center for Asian king vultures in Maharajganj district. Named Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre, it aims to revive the critically endangered species, listed since 2007. The vultures face threats from habitat loss and diclofenac poisoning. Currently housing a male-female pair with plans to pair more females, the center monitors them round-the-clock. Once ready, pairs will be released into the wild to bolster their population and ensure their survival.

181. Which intergovernmental body recently won the 'Blue Planet Prize 2024'?

- [A] Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- [B] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- [C] Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP)
- [D] None of the Above

**Answer:** Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was awarded the 2024 Blue Planet Prize for its role as the global authority on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and nature's contributions to people. Established in 1992, this prestigious award by Japan's Asahi Glass Foundation recognizes scientific contributions towards solving global environmental challenges. IPBES shares the honor with Robert Costanza from University College London for his work in ecological economics, each receiving USD 500,000 for their achievements.

182. Which state/UT recently organized the 'Hemis festival 2024'?

- [A] Ladakh
- [B] Assam
- [C] Manipur
- [D] Lakshadweep

**Answer:** Ladakh

The Hemis Festival, celebrating Tibetan Buddhism, occurs annually in Ladakh, India. In 2024, it celebrated on June 16th and 17th. Known as Hemis Tsechu, it commemorates Guru Padmasambhava's birth anniversary. The two-day event fills Hemis Monastery, Ladakh's largest Buddhist monastery, with vibrant colors, music, and spiritual energy, making it a significant cultural celebration.



183. Encephalartos woodii plant, recently seen in news, is endemic to which country?

- [A] Australia
- [B] Brazil
- [C] South Africa
- [D] India

**Answer:** South Africa

Scientists are using remote sensing and AI to find a female Encephalartos woodii in Ngoye Forest, South Africa. This cycad, a "living fossil" from the Carboniferous period, has thick trunks and stiff leaves. Cycads, gymnosperms like conifers, reproduce via insect-pollinated cones. Despite their ancient lineage, cycads are highly endangered due to slow growth, habitat loss, and illegal trade. The search aims to preserve this rare species.

184. Claude 3.5 Sonnet, an AI model recently seen in the news, is developed by which company?

- [A] Google
- [B] Facebook
- [C] Microsoft
- [D] Anthropic

**Answer:** Anthropic

Anthropic has launched its latest AI model, Claude 3.5 Sonnet, part of the upcoming Claude 3.5 series. This large language model excels in visual reasoning, outperforming previous models like Claude 3 Opus. Claude 3.5 Sonnet is noted for its speed, visual data analysis, and accurate transcription of imperfect images. It sets new benchmarks in coding proficiency, reasoning, and knowledge, and excels in writing high-quality, relatable content.

185. Recently, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to which state government on custodial death row?

- [A] Kerala
- [B] Jharkhand
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Bihar

**Answer:** Odisha

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to the Odisha government over unpaid compensation for a custodial death. From 2017 to 2022, India reported over 660 custodial deaths, with Gujarat having the highest at 80. Constitutional safeguards include Articles 14 and 21, while legal safeguards encompass Sections 330, 331 IPC, and 176 Cr.P.C. NHRC guidelines and Supreme Court rulings further protect detainees, ensuring prompt reporting and proper arrest procedures.

186. Which organization recently released the 'Statistical report on value of output from agriculture and allied sectors (2011-12 to 2022-23)'

- [A] National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development





- [B] National Statistics Office
- [C] Food Corporation of India
- [D] Ministry of Agriculture

**Answer:** National Statistics Office

The NSO released the "Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2022-23)." Key highlights include agriculture's 18.2% share of GVA in 2022-23. Sub-sector contributions are Crop (54.3%), Livestock (30.9%), Forestry (7.9%), and Fishing (6.9%). From 2011-12 to 2022-23, Crop's share declined from 62.4% to 54.3%, while Livestock, Forestry, and Fishing output increased significantly.

187. Which firm has recently joined the Low Methane Rice project (LMRP) to promote Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) in Uttar Pradesh?

- [A] KisanKraft Limited
- [B] Reliance Industries
- [C] Ambrosia Organic Farm
- [D] Tata Group

**Answer:** KisanKraft Limited

KisanKraft Limited has joined the Low Methane Rice Project (LMRP) under UP-PRAGATI Accelerator programs (UPPAP) to promote Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) in Uttar Pradesh. LMRP, an initiative by the World Bank's 2030 Water Resource Group (WRG), aims to enhance agricultural practices and boost incomes by promoting water-use efficiency and low-carbon methods. Launched by the Uttar Pradesh Multi-Stakeholder Platform, UPPAP is supported by the 2030 WRG and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

188. Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report 2024, recently released by which organization?

- [A] International Monetary Fund
- [B] World Bank
- [C] United Nations Environment Programme
- [D] United Nations Development Programme

**Answer:** World Bank

According to the World Bank's Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report, gas flaring reached 148 billion cubic meters (bcm) in 2023, the highest since 2019. Gas flaring, the burning of natural gas during oil extraction, persists due to market constraints, regulatory issues, and political factors. Although flaring safely disposes of gas, it wastes a valuable resource that could be used for power generation or conservation.

189. Recently, the world's oldest termite mound discovered in which country?

- [A] India
- [B] China
- [C] Japan
- [D] South Africa

**Answer:** South Africa

Scientists discovered the world's oldest inhabited termite mounds in Namaqualand, South



Africa. Known as 'heuweltjies' in Afrikaans, these mounds host the southern harvester termite, *Microhodotermes viator*. Radiocarbon dating reveals organic carbon dating back 13,000 to 19,000 years, and carbonate dating up to 34,000 years. These mounds are the oldest with both organic and inorganic carbon, formed during a wetter climate that allowed minerals like calcite and gypsum to dissolve, enriching groundwater.

190. How many candidates from the 2024 Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections have requested verification of the burnt memory in EVMs and VVPAT units?

- [A] 11
- [B] 13
- [C] 16
- [D] 18

**Answer: 11**

For the first time, 11 candidates from the 2024 Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections requested verification of the "burnt memory" of EVMs and VVPATs. This option, provided by the Supreme Court in April, requires candidates to cover verification costs, refundable if tampering is found. "Burnt memory" refers to the permanent storage in these devices, containing votes, machine configuration, and printed vote records for integrity verification.

191. Recently, which institute's researchers have fabricated a novel device to convert infrared light into visible light?

- [A] Institute of Science (IISc)
- [B] IIT, Delhi
- [C] IIT, Kanpur
- [D] Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

**Answer: Institute of Science (IISc)**

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) developed a device that converts infrared light to visible light, potentially revolutionizing defense and optical communications. Using a 2D material, they created a non-linear optical mirror stack for up-conversion and widefield imaging. The technology employs multilayered gallium selenide on a gold reflective surface with a silicon dioxide layer, simplifying complex infrared imaging techniques.

192. Recently, where was the '43rd World Medical and Health Games' held?

- [A] China
- [B] France
- [C] India
- [D] Germany

**Answer: France**

At the 43rd World Medical and Health Games in Saint-Tropez, France, from June 16-23, 2024, four officers from the Armed Forces Medical Service won a record 32 medals. Lieutenant Colonel Sanjeev Malik, Major Anish George, Captain Stephen Sebastian, and





Captain Dania James collectively secured 19 gold, 9 silver, and 4 bronze medals. The Medgames is the world's largest sporting event for medical and health professionals, first held in 1978.

193. Who won two bronze medals for India at the Archery World Cup 2024?

- [A] Pravin Jadhav
- [B] Abhishek Verma
- [C] Dhiraj Bommadevara
- [D] Limba Ram

**Answer:** Dhiraj Bommadevara

At the Archery World Cup 2024 Stage 3 in Antalya, Türkiye, 22-year-old Dhiraj Bommadevara won two bronze medals in the recurve events. India secured four medals overall: one gold, one silver, and two bronze. The Indian women's compound team, consisting of Aditi Swami, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, and Parneet Kaur, achieved a hat-trick of gold medals, marking their third consecutive win this season.

194. What is the theme of 'International Olympics Day 2024'?

- [A] Together, For a Peaceful World
- [B] Let's Move and Celebrate
- [C] Together for a better world
- [D] Moving Forward: United by Emotion

**Answer:** Let's Move and Celebrate

Olympic Day is celebrated worldwide on June 23, marking the foundation of the International Olympic Committee in Paris in 1894. Proposed by Dr. Josef Gruss in 1947, the first Olympic Day was celebrated in 1948. The 2024 theme, "Let's Move and Celebrate," encourages global participation in sports. The 33rd Summer Olympics will be held in Paris from July 26 to August 11, 2024.

195. Recently, who was elected unanimously as the Speaker of the 16th Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly?

- [A] Ashok Bendalam
- [B] C Ayyannapatrudu
- [C] Koyye Moshenu Raju
- [D] Jagan Mohan Reddy

**Answer:** C Ayyannapatrudu

Telugu Desam Party's Narsipatnam MLA, C. Ayyanna Patrudu, was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 16th Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on June 22, 2024. His election was unopposed as no other MLA filed a nomination for the Speaker's post.

196. Recently, which city of Kerala has been officially declared as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'?

- [A] Kochi
- [B] Kollam
- [C] Palghat



[D] Kozhikode

**Answer:** Kozhikode

Kozhikode in Kerala has been declared India's first UNESCO City of Literature, joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). Established in 2004, UCCN promotes urban development through creativity, encompassing nearly 300 cities globally in fields such as literature, crafts, and music. Other Indian cities in UCCN include Srinagar and Jaipur (crafts and folk arts), Mumbai (film), Chennai, Gwalior, and Varanasi (music), and Hyderabad (gastronomy).

197. What is the primary purpose of the e-Samridhi Portal, recently seen in news?

[A] To provide agricultural loans

[B] For registration of farmers to procure pulses at MSP

[C] To offer crop insurance

[D] To promote organic farming

**Answer:** For registration of farmers to procure pulses at MSP

The Union Minister of Agriculture urged state governments to encourage farmers to register on the e-Samridhi portal for assured pulse procurement at Minimum Support Prices (MSP). Launched by NAFED and NCCF, the portal allows direct registration or through PACS and FPO. Payments are made directly to farmers' bank accounts by NAFED. NAFED, an apex marketing cooperative founded in 1958, promotes agricultural trade and is headquartered in New Delhi.

198. According to the UNCTAD report, India dropped to what position in 2023 in terms of FDI inflows?

[A] 9th

[B] 12th

[C] 14th

[D] 15th

**Answer:** 15th

According to a UNCTAD report, foreign direct investment (FDI) to India dropped by 43% in 2023, falling from \$49 billion in 2022 to \$28 billion. Globally, FDI declined by 2%. India, China, France, Australia, and the USA saw reduced FDI inflows. India's global FDI recipient rank fell from 8th to 15th in 2023 but remained in the top five for attracting greenfield projects and international project finance deals.

199. Which state government recently announced an increase in the annual income limit for the creamy layer of Other Backward Classes (OBC) from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh?

[A] Odisha

[B] Haryana

[C] Punjab

[D] Uttar Pradesh

**Answer:** Haryana

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced an increase in the annual income





limit for the creamy layer of Other Backward Classes (OBC) from ₹6 lakh to ₹8 lakh. The reservation quota for OBCs in Group-A and Group-B positions will rise from 15% to 27%, aligning with Central government policy. This aims to enhance the welfare of the OBC community and benefit the youth in government jobs.

200. Recently, India has secured what position in the Global Domestic Airline Market?

- [A] First
- [B] Second
- [C] Third
- [D] Fifth

**Answer:** Third

India's aviation sector has ascended to the world's third-largest domestic market, advancing from fifth place a decade ago under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. The average yearly growth rate in airline seat capacity is a leading 6.9%. Low-cost carriers (LCCs) now dominate with 78.4% market share, led by IndiGo capturing 62%. LCCs' rapid expansion, with IndiGo growing 13.9% annually, has significantly boosted accessibility and contributed to economic growth.

201. Recently, the Ministry of Coal has initiated India's first ever pilot project for underground coal gasification (UCG) in which state?

- [A] Bihar
- [B] Odisha
- [C] Jharkhand
- [D] Madhya Pradesh

**Answer:** Jharkhand

India's Ministry of Coal launched the country's inaugural Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) pilot project at the Kasta coal block in Jharkhand's Jamtara District. Led by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), the initiative seeks to transform coal into methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and dioxide through in-situ gasification. These gases have broad industrial uses, including synthetic natural gas production, fuel and fertilizer synthesis, and explosives manufacturing, aiming to revolutionize India's coal industry with sustainable applications.

202. Khalubar War Memorial museum, recently seen in the news, is located in which region of India?

- [A] Bengaluru
- [B] Ladakh
- [C] Chandigarh
- [D] New Delhi

**Answer:** Ladakh

In Ladakh, the Indian Army opened the Khalubar War Memorial to tourists as a tribute to Kargil War heroes, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26. Located in Aryan Valley, Ladakh the memorial honors the bravery of soldiers like Captain



Manoj Pandey. Local residents also played a crucial role in the war. Pre-Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations included a "Trek to Battle Site" led by Brig OP Yadav (Retd).

203. Lake Natron, recently seen in the news, is located on the border of which two countries?

- [A] Peru and Bolivia
- [B] Tanzania and Kenya
- [C] Kenya and Ethiopia
- [D] Austria and Switzerland

**Answer:** Tanzania and Kenya

Experts report a steady decline in the flamingo population at Lake Natron due to extreme weather and encroachment. Located on the Tanzania-Kenya border, this salt lake is part of the Great Rift Valley and a Ramsar site. Its unique warm, alkaline waters, fed by the Ewaso Ng'iro River, create ideal conditions for flamingos. However, agriculture, pollution, and climate change threaten this ecosystem, known for its striking red color.

204. Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in news, is located in which state/UT?

- [A] Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- [B] Uttarakhand
- [C] Sikkim
- [D] Ladakh

**Answer:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands

NITI Aayog's Great Nicobar Development plan aims to promote the holistic development of Greater Nicobar. The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife denotified the entire Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, for infrastructure development. Opposition arises due to ecological impact, wildlife concerns, tribal rights violations, health risks for the Shompen tribe, seismic risks, and local concerns. The project threatens 130 sq km of forest land, critical habitats, and the ancestral lands of the Great Nicobarese.

205. Ancient city Tamluk, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Jharkhand
- [B] Bihar
- [C] West Bengal
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** West Bengal

Tamluk, located in West Bengal, was a significant ancient city known as Tamralipta or Tamralipti. It served as the capital of the Suhma kingdom and later the Pala Empire during the 7th to 9th centuries CE. Excavations have revealed remnants of the ancient town Chandraketugarh. Today, Tamluk is renowned for its production and export of paan (betel leaf), shedding light on its historical trade importance in Indian kingdoms.

206. Which non-governmental organization (NGO) has recently launched a nationwide campaign, "Poori Padhai Desh Ki Bhalai"?





- [A] Smile Foundation
- [B] Child Rights and You
- [C] Goonj
- [D] HelpAge India

**Answer:** Child Rights and You

Child Rights and You (CRY) launched "Poori Padhai Desh Ki Bhalai" to enhance girls' school attendance nationwide. In India, female literacy rates lag behind males, with significant dropout rates in rural areas before fifth grade. However, rural women's literacy has risen by 26% in the last decade. Girls' gross enrolment ratios at elementary, secondary, and higher secondary levels surpass boys'. The initiative aims to bridge educational disparities and empower more girls through increased participation in schools.

207. Dagestan Region, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Russia
- [B] Iran
- [C] Turkey
- [D] Iraq

**Answer:** Russia

Gunmen in Russia's Dagestan Region killed 15 police officers and a priest. Dagestan, officially a part of the Russian Federation, is a predominantly Muslim region with a history of insurgency and terrorism. Its name, "Land of Mountains," highlights its rugged terrain in the Eastern North Caucasus. The capital, Makhachkala, lies on the Caspian Sea coast. Avars are the largest ethnic group, followed by Dargins, Kumyks, and Lezgins, contributing to its diverse cultural fabric.

208. Khalanga Reserve Forest, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Haryana
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Uttarakhand
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Uttarakhand

Local residents in Dehradun rallied to save 2,000 Sal trees in Khalanga Reserve Forest, prompting the state government to relocate a planned drinking water plant due to public outcry. Environmental activists and locals protested against the felling of trees for the Song Dam drinking water project. Social media campaigns and symbolic acts like tying Raksha-Sutras to trees were employed. The project aims to supply drinking water to 60 wards in Dehradun, costing an estimated Rs. 3,000 crores.

209. Which organization recently collaborated with Manav Rachna University (MRU) to install a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver in Delhi NCR?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] NASA



[C] ESA

[D] JAXA

**Answer:** ISRO

Manav Rachna University (MRU) partnered with ISRO and NARL to install Delhi NCR's first Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver. This initiative aims to enhance research in atmospheric and space sciences, offering engineering and science students practical experience with satellite navigation technology. This collaboration marks a significant step in advancing educational and research opportunities in these fields at MRU.

210. Ambubachi Mela, recently seen in news, is an annual festival of which state?

[A] Assam

[B] Sikkim

[C] Manipur

[D] Nagaland

**Answer:** Assam

Devotees nationwide are gathering at Assam's Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati for the annual Ambubachi Mela. The Kamakhya Temple, one of India's 51 Shaktipeeths, is located atop Nilachal Hills and is dedicated to Goddess Kamakhya, a form of Goddess Parvati. The Ambubachi Mela celebrates the goddess's annual menstruation. The temple's architecture uniquely combines the traditional Nagara and Mughal styles, known as the Nilachala Style.

211. Recently, who has been appointed as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha?

[A] Piyush Goyal

[B] JP Nadda

[C] Chirag Paswan

[D] Rajnath Singh

**Answer:** JP Nadda

Union Minister JP Nadda has been appointed Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, succeeding Piyush Goyal, who is now a Lok Sabha member from North Mumbai, Maharashtra. Nadda was nominated to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat by the BJP in February this year.

212. Recently, which ministry has launched the "Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao" initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0?

[A] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

[B] Ministry of Rural Development

[C] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[D] Ministry of Agriculture

**Answer:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched the Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 from July 1 to August 31. It aims to





prepare Urban Local Bodies for monsoon challenges, focusing on cleanliness and health. Aligning with the Health Ministry's 'STOP Diarrhoea Campaign,' it promotes inter-departmental collaboration to address cleanliness and disease risks during heavy rainfall.

213. Recently, a rare Indian Painted Frog was recently sighted at which tiger reserve of Telangana?

- [A] Amrabad Tiger Reserve
- [B] Kawal Tiger Reserve
- [C] Vanasthali Tiger Reserve
- [D] None of the Above

**Answer:** Kawal Tiger Reserve

A rare Indian Painted Frog, *Uperodon taprobanicus*, was recently spotted in Telangana's Kawal Tiger Reserve, a significant find outside its usual habitats. This species belongs to the Microhylidae family and is found in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, southern and eastern India, and Nepal. Notable for its striking coloration and smooth body, the frog is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List and is common in Sri Lanka and India's Western and Eastern Ghats.

214. Salihundam Buddhist Heritage Site, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Rajasthan
- [D] Maharashtra

**Answer:** Andhra Pradesh

Historians and enthusiasts are restoring Srikakulam's ancient history in Andhra Pradesh. Known for its prominent Buddhist sites like Dantapuri and Salihundam, Neolithic-era caves, and ancient temples, Srikakulam was once part of the Kalinga Dynasty and later ruled by the Gajapati Kingdom, Eastern Chalukyas, Kakatiya, and Vijayanagara empires. Key sites include the Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple in Arasavalli and the Srimukhalingam Temple by the Vamsadhara River.

215. Recently, who has been elected as the speaker of 18th Lok Sabha?

- [A] K Suresh
- [B] Om Birla
- [C] Rajnath Singh
- [D] Amit Shah

**Answer:** Om Birla

Om Birla has been re-elected as Speaker of the Lok Sabha, defeating opposition candidate K Suresh in the first test of strength for the new Modi government. This marks Birla's second term as Speaker, making him the sixth person to hold the position twice.

216. 'School in a Box' initiative, recently seen in news, is associated with flood-affected children of which Northeastern state?

- [A] Arunachal Pradesh



- [B] Assam
- [C] Nagaland
- [D] Manipur

**Answer:** Assam

Flood-affected children in Assam will receive a 'school in a box' in 167 relief camps to continue their education. The initiative, aimed at children aged 6 to 18, helps them cope with trauma from losing homes or family members. Each camp will get a UNICEF-designed child-friendly space (CFS) kit with notebooks and learning materials. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority is training officials to maximize the kits' utility and reduce children's mental stress.

217. Recently, the United States of America has designated which country as its major non-NATO ally, MNNA?

- [A] Botswana
- [B] Namibia
- [C] Kenya
- [D] Nigeria

**Answer:** Kenya

The United States has designated Kenya as a major non-NATO ally (MNNA), offering benefits in defense trade and security cooperation. President Biden pledged this status during Kenyan President William Ruto's recent US visit. The MNNA designation, a symbol of close US relations, provides military and economic privileges without security commitments. This status enhances Kenya's defense and security partnership with the US.

218. David Warner, who recently announced his retirement from International cricket, belongs to which country?

- [A] Australia
- [B] South Africa
- [C] England
- [D] New Zealand

**Answer:** Australia

David Warner's 15-year international cricket career ended quietly as Australia's exit from the 2024 T20 World Cup. Warner had announced this World Cup as his last, marking his final stages in international cricket. He played his last ODI in 2023, his final Test in early 2024, and concluded his career after the T20 World Cup, despite hinting at a possible return for the 2025 Champions Trophy.

219. What is the primary purpose of the eSakshya app, recently tested by Ministry of Home Affairs?

- [A] To provide social networking services
- [B] To help police record and upload crime scene evidence
- [C] To offer cloud storage solutions to businesses
- [D] To provide details of infrastructural development of railways





**Answer:** To help police record and upload crime scene evidence

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs is testing eSakshya, a mobile app developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It aids police in recording crime scenes and uploading evidence to a cloud-based platform. Each recording can be up to four minutes long, with multiple files per First Information Report (FIR). The app aims to ensure digital evidence integrity, crucial for new criminal laws to prevent potential legal loopholes.

220. Which day is observed as 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' every year?

- [A] 24 June
- [B] 25 June
- [C] 26 June
- [D] 27 June

**Answer:** 26 June

Every June 26th, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking raises awareness about the detrimental impact of drugs on society. In 2024, the theme is "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention." Established by the UN General Assembly on December 7, 1987, this day highlights global efforts to combat drug use and trafficking, acknowledging the persistent health risks they pose despite widespread awareness among youth about their dangers for recreational use.

221. Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Kerala

**Answer:** Karnataka

India's largest leopard safari has opened at Bannerghatta Biological Park, Karnataka. Covering 20 hectares, the safari houses eight leopards, with plans to increase this number. The area is secured with railway barricades and enclosed with 4.5-meter-tall chain-link mesh and mild steel sheets to ensure the leopards remain within the boundaries.

222. Which day is observed as Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) day every year?

- [A] 26 June
- [B] 27 June
- [C] 28 June
- [D] 29 June

**Answer:** 27 June

Since 2017, June 27 has been observed as Micro Small Medium Enterprise (MSME) Day, recognizing the sector's role in economic development and employment. MSMEs account for 90% of businesses, 60-70% of employment, and 50% of GDP globally. The United



Nations General Assembly established MSME Day on April 6, 2017. The 2024 theme is "MSMEs and the SDG," focusing on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

223. Which organization developed the 'Tapas BH-201 UAV', recently seen in news?

- [A] JAXA
- [B] ISRO
- [C] DRDO
- [D] HAL

**Answer:** DRDO

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has proposed to acquire 10 TAPAS drones, officially known as Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance Beyond Horizon-201, or Tapas BH-201. Developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, these medium-altitude, long-endurance drones, previously called Rustom-II, fulfill the tri-services' Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Tracking & Reconnaissance (ISTAR) needs. Capable of operating day and night at 30,000 feet with a 24-hour endurance, they feature a 250 km range, carry up to 350 kg payloads, and include advanced surveillance and radar technologies.

224. Which organization recently released the 'World Drug Report 2024' report?

- [A] World Bank
- [B] European Union
- [C] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- [D] World Customs Organization (WCO)

**Answer:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC released its Annual World Drug Report (2024) on World Drug Day, June 26th, aiming to combat drug abuse and trafficking globally. The report highlights a rise in illicit drug use, with 292 million users worldwide by 2022. Cannabis remains the most abused drug, followed by opioids and others. Regions like the Triple Frontier and Golden Triangle face significant criminal activity. Legalization efforts in Canada, Uruguay, and parts of the US are noted, alongside environmental impacts of drug-related activities.

225. Which institute has recently signed an MoU with the University of Leeds to launch the Joint Virtual Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development (VCoE-SD)?

- [A] IIT Kanpur
- [B] IIT Delhi
- [C] IIT Madras
- [D] IIT Bombay

**Answer:** IIT Madras

IIT Madras and the University of Leeds have partnered to establish the Joint Virtual Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development (VCoE-SD). This MoU aims to foster impactful research and innovation towards achieving sustainable development goals. The collaboration will enhance academic exchange through joint projects, courses, and conferences, creating a network of high-quality staff to drive sustainable solutions.





globally, as highlighted by Prof. Vasilis Sarhosis from the University of Leeds.

226. Recently, who has been appointed as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)?

- [A] Yuvraj Singh
- [B] Kapil Dev
- [C] Sachin Tendulkar
- [D] Neeraj Chopra

**Answer:** Kapil Dev

Kapil Dev, renowned Indian cricketer and avid amateur golfer, has been elected as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). He succeeds H Srinivasan, withdrawing his candidacy. Kapil Dev, captain of India's 1983 Cricket World Cup-winning team, served as vice president and member of PGTI's governing body. Known as the "Haryana Hurricane," he played a key role in promoting professional golf in India since PGTI's inception in 2006, organizing tournaments nationwide.

227. Which district of Uttar Pradesh is known as the 'City of Knives'?

- [A] Rampur
- [B] Saharanpur
- [C] Mirzapur
- [D] Raebareli

**Answer:** Rampur

Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh, known as the "City of Knives," has crafted the renowned Rampuri chaku since the 18th century. These blades, symbols of artisanship and royal patronage, are made from high-quality steel, paired with handles of bone, horn, or ivory, intricately carved into pieces of art. Despite a 1990s ban on longer blades to reduce violence, Rampur artisans adapt legally, preserving their craft's legacy. This resilience highlights Rampur's cultural heritage and commitment to craftsmanship.

228. Recently, the government of Uttar Pradesh has decided to set up a bioplastic park in which district?

- [A] Mathura
- [B] Agra
- [C] Lakhimpur Kheri
- [D] Saharanpur

**Answer:** Lakhimpur Kheri

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is establishing a bioplastic park in Kumbhi village, Gola Gokarnnath tehsil, Lakhimpur Kheri district, to combat plastic pollution. Covering 1000 hectares and costing Rs 2000 crore, the project will be developed by Balrampur Chini Mill, with UPEIDA as the nodal agency. Bioplastics, made from renewable sources, decompose quickly, offering an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based plastics.

229. Which organization recently released the 'Migration and Development Brief' report?



- [A] World Bank
- [B] IMF
- [C] UNDP
- [D] UNEP

**Answer:** World Bank

India, the largest remittance recipient globally, is expected to receive \$124 billion in inward remittances in 2024 and \$129 billion in 2025. In 2023, India received \$120 billion, marking a 7.5% growth rate, projected to be 3.7% in 2024. The World Bank's June 2024 Migration and Development Brief highlights these trends, noting India as the leading emigrant origin country with 18.7 million emigrants.

230. Who has been awarded the 'PEN Pinter Prize 2024'?

- [A] Vikram Seth
- [B] Neelam Saxena
- [C] Vikram Singh
- [D] Arundhati Roy

**Answer:** Arundhati Roy

Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy has been awarded the 2024 PEN Pinter Literary Prize for her courageous writing. This honor comes shortly after the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi sanctioned her prosecution under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The award ceremony will be held in October in London. Previous winners include Salman Rushdie and Margaret Atwood. The PEN Pinter Award, established in 2009, recognizes exceptional English-language writers from the UK, Ireland, or the Commonwealth.

231. Pallikaranai Marshland, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Karnataka
- [C] Kerala
- [D] Tamil Nadu

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu government plans to build a high-level bridge to protect the Pallikaranai Marshland, a freshwater and saline wetland 20 km south of Chennai. As one of Chennai's last natural wetlands, it serves as an aquatic buffer, draining 250 sq.km through Okkiyam Madavu and Kovalam Creek into the Bay of Bengal. A Ramsar site, it supports diverse species including 115 bird species, Russell's viper, and the glossy ibis.

232. Which ministry recently launched the scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for Holders of Exploration Licences (EL)?

- [A] Ministry of Earth Sciences
- [B] Ministry of Finance
- [C] Ministry of Mines
- [D] Ministry of Power

**Answer:** Ministry of Mines





The Ministry of Mines launched the Scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses to accelerate mineral exploration and reduce costs. The scheme offers 50% reimbursement, up to Rs 20 crore, for exploration expenses. This cap increases to Rs 24 crore if a G2 block is auctioned within three years. Funded by the Rs 5,000 crore NMET, recipients must repay the amount over ten years from production start or within one month of receiving lump sum payments.

233. *Steriphopus wangala*, recently seen in news, belongs to which species?

- [A] Fish
- [B] Spider
- [C] Frog
- [D] Butterfly

**Answer:** Spider

A new spider species, *Steriphopus wangala*, was discovered in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills. Named after the Garo community's Wangala harvest festival, this spider belongs to the Palp-Footed Spider family and has reddish-brown coloring. The Wangala festival, or 100 Drums Festival, marks the end of the agricultural season, featuring rhythmic drumming and dances to thank deities and celebrate the harvest, signifying winter's onset.

234. Recently, which organization has successfully completed six consecutive development trials of High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS'?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] DRDO
- [C] HAL
- [D] JAXA

**Answer:** DRDO

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently completed six successful trials of the High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS' in Chandipur, Odisha. Designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Larsen & Toubro, ABHYAS provides realistic threat scenarios for weapon systems practice. It features autonomous flying, a laptop-based Ground Control System, and data recording capabilities for post-flight analysis.

235. What is 'Factory farming', recently seen in news?

- [A] A traditional farming method of paddy
- [B] Raising livestock and poultry in high-density facilities under controlled conditions
- [C] It is related to Organic farming
- [D] None of the Above

**Answer:** Raising livestock and poultry in high-density facilities under controlled conditions  
Intensive animal agriculture, or factory farming, raises livestock and poultry in dense facilities to boost dairy output cost-effectively. Concerns include antibiotic resistance in



53% of Indian egg samples, zoonotic diseases originating from animals (60% known, 75% emerging), and significant environmental impact (14.5%-16.5% of global greenhouse gases). Diets rich in animal products also heighten risks of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes.

236. Which countries recently participated in trilateral multi-domain exercise, named Freedom Edge?

- [A] Australia, Japan and India
- [B] Vietnam, Egypt and France
- [C] China, India and UK
- [D] South Korea, US and Japan

**Answer:** South Korea, US and Japan

South Korea, the US, and Japan launched their inaugural trilateral multi-domain exercise, Freedom Edge, on South Korea's Jeju Island. The three-day exercise aims to enhance security cooperation amid North Korea's strengthened ties with Russia. Activities include ballistic missile defense, air defense, antisubmarine warfare, search and rescue, maritime interdiction, and defensive cyber training. This follows a recent summit where North Korea and Russia signed a strategic partnership treaty, including military support clauses.

237. Recently, an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for early detection of forest fires has been launched in which tiger reserve of Maharashtra?

- [A] Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve
- [B] Pench Tiger Reserve
- [C] Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve
- [D] Sahyadri Tiger Reserve

**Answer:** Pench Tiger Reserve

An advanced AI system for early forest fire detection has deployed at Pench Tiger Reserve. Located across Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Pench is known for its diverse forest types including Tropical Moist Deciduous and Teak. The reserve, designated a National Park in 1975 and Tiger Reserve in 1992, is divided by the Pench River and hosts a rich biodiversity featuring tigers, leopards, and diverse flora like Mahua and Salai.

238. Lizard Island, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Australia
- [B] Indonesia
- [C] Malaysia
- [D] Singapore

**Answer:** Australia

A severe bleaching event has ravaged 97% of coral at Lizard Island, part of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, due to extreme heat stress. Known as Jiigurru or Dyiigurra, Lizard Island is located in Queensland. The island's traditional owners are the Dingaal people, an Aboriginal Australian clan also known as Dingiil, Walmbarddha, or Walmbaria.

239. Which state government recently announced the inclusion of a chapter on the





Emergency in the state's school curriculum?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
- [B] Assam
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Jharkhand

**Answer:** Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced a new school curriculum chapter on the Emergency of 1975-77, highlighting the "excesses and repression" during that period. This aims to educate the younger generation about the struggle against the Emergency. Additional benefits for 'Loktantra Senanis' include air ambulances for serious health issues, fare discounts, state honors for funerals, and increased funeral financial support from ₹8,000 to ₹10,000. Employment training will also be provided to their families.

240. Recently, which country became the first in the world to start offering preemptive bird flu vaccinations to certain workers exposed to animals?

- [A] Finland
- [B] Poland
- [C] New Zealand
- [D] Australia

**Answer:** Finland


Finland is the first country to offer preemptive bird flu vaccinations to specific workers exposed to animals. Vaccines will target workers at fur and poultry farms, lab technicians, veterinarians, and those in bird sanctuaries and animal by-product plants, aged 18 and over. Finland secured vaccines for 10,000 people through an EU procurement of 40 million doses from CSL Seqirus. Vaccinations start next week, following past bird flu outbreaks in fur farms.

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