

Current Affairs MCQs PDF - March, 2024



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1. Recently, which South American country has declared a health emergency due to the rising cases of dengue fever?

[A] Chile

[B] Peru

[C] Argentina

[D] Bolivia

Answer: Peru

Peru declares a health emergency as dengue fever cases surge. The government activates the emergency in 20 out of 25 regions due to the rapid rise in cases, totaling over 31,000 with 32 deaths. Health Minister Cesar Vasquez cites El Nino's impact, causing high temperatures and heavy rains since 2023, facilitating mosquito breeding. The declaration expedites fund transfers to affected areas and facilitates the swift deployment of medical personnel.

2. Tawi festival, recently seen in the news, is celebrated in which state/UT?

[A] Kerala

[B] Jammu and Kashmir

[C] Delhi

[D] Goa

Answer: Jammu and Kashmir

The four-day 'Tawi Festival' in Jammu and Kashmir, starting on March 1, 2024, highlights the region's art, culture, and heritage. Emphasizing Jammu's diverse art forms and cultural heritage, the festival features seminars, workshops, folk music, street theatre, classical and folk dance, and a Mela. It provides a platform for youth creativity and encourages discussions with experts. The event showcases entrepreneurship, innovation, local cuisines, and organic products from women's NGO groups in the Himalayan region, culminating at the University of Jammu.

3. Which northeastern state recently adopted a resolution against the centre's decision to fence the India-Myanmar border & scrap the FMR agreement with Myanmar?

[A] Nagaland

[B] Manipur

[C] Mizoram

[D] Assam

Answer: Mizoram

In February 2024, the 60-member Mizoram Assembly adopted a resolution against the



Centre's decision to fence the India-Myanmar border and scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with the neighboring country. The FMR allows people living on both sides of the border to travel 16 km into each other's territory without a visa.

4. Recently, which country's parliament voted to approve Sweden's bid to join the NATO, making it the 32nd nation to join the alliance?

- [A] Norway
- [B] Bolivia
- [C] Hungary
- [D] Finland

Answer: Hungary

Hungary's parliament voted to ratify Sweden's bid to join NATO, making Sweden the 32nd member of the alliance. Sweden applied to join NATO in 2022 after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. New members must be approved by all existing NATO members. Hungary was the last country to block Sweden's membership, accusing Sweden of being hostile to it. The addition of the two Nordic countries will strengthen the alliance's capabilities, strengthening its position in the high north and the Baltic Sea.

5. Brian Mulroney, who recently passed away, was the former Prime Minister of which country?

- [A] Israel
- [B] Canada
- [C] Chile
- [D] France

Answer: Canada

Brian Mulroney, the ex-Canadian Prime Minister, passed away at 84. He led the Progressive Conservatives to a historic 1984 win, defeating Pierre Trudeau. Mulroney's nine-year term saw impactful policies, notably the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement negotiation, shaping his transformative legacy.

6. Melanochlamys Droupadi, recently seen in the news, belongs to which one of the following species?

- [A] Octopus
- [B] Sea slug
- [C] Crab
- [D] Turtle

Answer: Sea slug

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have identified a new species of head-shield sea slug, Melanochlamys Droupadi, along the coasts of Odisha and West Bengal. Measuring up to 7 mm, it's a small invertebrate with a brownish-black body and a distinctive ruby red spot. Inhabiting wet sandy beaches, the hermaphroditic slug forms a protective mucus sheath, leaving a trail like a turtle as it moves beneath the sand. Sea slugs, mollusks found in various marine environments, include 18 known species globally.



7. Recently, who has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG)?

- [A] Anup Kumar Singh
- [B] Sudhir Pratap Singh
- [C] Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- [D] Subhash Joshi

Answer: Daljit Singh Chaudhary

Daljit Singh Chaudhary, a 1990 batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG), a crucial role in India's security. Currently the DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), he takes on the added responsibility of leading the NSG, known as the "black cats." This move signifies a significant development in India's security apparatus, enhancing Chaudhary's role in shaping and overseeing critical aspects of national defense.

8. Recently, which state government has issued a directive for the adoption of the One Time Scheme (OTS) across all urban local bodies (ULBs)?

- [A] Telangana
- [B] Karnataka
- [C] Tamil Nadu
- [D] Maharashtra

Answer: Telangana

The Telangana government mandates the One Time Scheme (OTS) adoption in all urban local bodies, including GHMC, aiming to ease financial burdens on property owners. The initiative seeks to alleviate concerns of mounting arrears interest on property tax payments, providing a strategic solution to ease financial strain across urban municipalities in the state.

9. Recently, which payment bank signed an MoU with Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) to enhance financial inclusion in rural Rajasthan?

- [A] Airtel Payment Bank
- [B] Paytm Payments Bank
- [C] India Post Payments Bank
- [D] NSDL Payment Bank

Answer: India Post Payments Bank

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) have joined forces to boost financial inclusion in rural Rajasthan. The collaboration aims to offer convenient access to bank accounts, pension products, savings, and investment schemes. Additionally, it empowers beneficiaries to serve as Individual Business Correspondents for IPPB services, promoting government social welfare schemes and facilitating income-generating loans in the region.

10. Which ministry recently launched the 'Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality'?



- [A] Ministry of Defence
- [B] Ministry of Women & Child Development
- [C] Ministry of Rural Development
- [D] Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer: Ministry of Women & Child Development

Union Minister of Women & Child Development Smriti Irani revealed the logo and website for the Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality in a ceremony attended by Bill Gates and Chandrajit Banerjee. Emphasizing India's leadership in women's empowerment, Irani highlighted international support garnered at Davos. Launched at Davos 2024, the alliance aligns with PM Narendra Modi's vision for women-led development. Focused on SDGs, it seeks to consolidate practices, exchange knowledge, and attract investments in women's health, education, and entrepreneurship.

11. Which one of the following best describes about 'Jacaranda Tree', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Thorny trees grows near the wetlands
- [B] Soft trees found in the tropical thorn forests
- [C] Deciduous hard tree that grows well in tropical climatic region
- [D] Deciduous soft tree that grows well in temperate climatic region

Answer: Deciduous hard tree that grows well in tropical climatic region

The premature blooming of the Jacaranda tree in Mexico City raised concerns among residents and scientists. Also called Jacaranda acutifolia, it's a deciduous tree from the Bignoniaceae family, native to Brazil and North West Argentina. Thriving in tropical climates, well-drained soil, and sunlight, these hardy trees are cultivated worldwide for their vibrant blue or violet flowers. In Brazil, the wood is used for guitars, and its bark and root offer medicinal benefits. Early blooming poses ecological concerns, affecting hummingbirds and bees.

12. How much funding has the Union Cabinet approved for the International Big Cat Alliance?

- [A] Rs 250 crore
- [B] Rs 150 crore
- [C] Rs 100 crore
- [D] Rs 110 crore

Answer: Rs 150 crore

The Union Cabinet has officially launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with a one-time budgetary allocation of Rs 150 crore from the Indian government until 2028. Initiated by the Prime Minister in April 2023 to commemorate Project Tiger's 50th anniversary, IBCA aims to foster cooperation among 97 'range' countries for the conservation of seven big cat species. Its multifaceted approach includes governance structures like a General Assembly, a Council, and a Secretariat, along with financial support from the Indian government.



13. Recently, which state government has decided to establish a State Water Information Centre (SWIC)?

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

Answer: Odisha

The Odisha government is establishing the State Water Information Centre (SWIC) to coordinate, store, and disseminate water resource data. Operating under the Water Resources Department, it aims to maintain a comprehensive repository of hydro-meteorological data for Odisha. The center will be staffed with experts in water resources management and data handling. Additionally, the approval for contractual supervisors will enhance service delivery in Internal Child Development Services in Odisha.

14. Amrabad Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Telangana

The leopard population in Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Telangana, has significantly increased, as per the recent 'Status of Leopards in India' report. Spanning 2611.4 sq km, it is one of India's largest tiger reserves and the second-largest in core area. Originally part of Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, Amrabad Tiger Reserve emerged post-state bifurcation. Situated in Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts, it encompasses Nallamala Forest and vital water sources like Srishailam Dam and Nagarjunsagar Dam, fed by Krishna River.

15. Exercise Samudra Laksamana, recently seen in the news, is conducted between which two countries?

- [A] India & Malaysia
- [B] India & Maldives
- [C] China & Maldives
- [D] India & Sri Lanka

Answer: India & Malaysia

The Exercise Samudra Laksamana, a joint naval drill between the Indian Navy and Royal Malaysian Navy, commenced on February 28 and concluded on March 2 off the coast of Visakhapatnam. In its 3rd edition, the exercise involves Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir. Professional interactions, knowledge exchange, and collaborative sea operations aim to strengthen bilateral bonds, foster cooperation, and enhance interoperability between the two navies.

16. According to Status of Leopards in India 2022 report, which state has the largest



population of leopards?

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

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

The 'Status of Leopards in India, 2022' report reveals a leopard population increase to 13,874 from 12,852 in 2018. Indian leopards, found in various forested regions spanning India, Nepal, Bhutan, and parts of Pakistan, are most abundant in Central India and Eastern Ghats (8,820), followed by the Western Ghats (3,596) and the Shivalik Hills/Gangetic Plains (1,109). Statewise, Madhya Pradesh leads with 3,907 leopards, followed by Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879), and Tamil Nadu (1,070).

17. What is the theme of the National Birth Defects Awareness Month 2024?

- [A] Breaking Barriers: inclusive support for children with birth defects
- [B] Healthy Communities, Healthy Babies
- [C] Best for You. Best for Baby
- [D] Prevent to Protect: Prevent Infections for Baby Protection

Answer: Breaking Barriers: inclusive support for children with birth defects

Dr. V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, launched National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024, emphasizing the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana's vital role in improving child health. The scheme covers half of India's health and complements the existing Rashtriya Bal Swashtya Karyakram. The month-long campaign, themed "Breaking Barriers: inclusive support for children with birth defects," aims to raise awareness about prevention, early identification, and timely management of birth defects.

18. Which state government recently announced a fully funded universal life insurance scheme?

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

Answer: Nagaland

The Nagaland government introduced a fully-funded universal life insurance scheme, aiming to alleviate financial hardships resulting from untimely deaths. This initiative guarantees financial security by offering coverage for both breadwinners and their family members. The scheme works in conjunction with the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme, providing comprehensive protection and support.

19. 'SAMOA Pathway', recently seen in the news, is associated with which one of the following groupings?

- [A] African Union (AU)
- [B] Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



[C] Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

[D] European Union (EU)

Answer: Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The UN Secretary-General emphasizes the urgent need for increased funding to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) facing climate change. Comprising 39 States and 18 Associate Members, SIDS, located in the Caribbean, Pacific, and AIS regions, exhibit unique vulnerabilities. Recognized as a special case in 1992, they suffer from low economic diversification, dependence on tourism, and high debt stress. The UN has established action programs like the Barbados Programme of Action and SAMOA Pathway to address SIDS' challenges.

20. Chapchar Kut festival, recently seen in the news, is celebrated in which state?

[A] Assam

[B] Mizoram

[C] Tamil Nadu

[D] Kerala

Answer: Mizoram

Mizoram's Chapchar Kut festival, celebrated at the Assam Rifles Ground in Aizawl, showed vibrant Mizo traditions with Cheraw and Chai dances. The spring festival, marked by clearing forests for jhum cultivation, featured locals in colorful attire, engaging in folk dances and songs. Chapchar Kut, observed annually in March, attracted a diverse crowd, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of the Mizo community in a day-long celebration.

21. Which day is celebrated as World Wildlife Day?

[A] 2 March

[B] 3 March

[C] 4 March

[D] 5 March

Answer: 3 March

World Wildlife Day, observed on March 3, emphasizes the critical importance of safeguarding global biodiversity. The 2024 theme, "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation," highlights the role of technology in conservation efforts. Originating from Thailand's proposal to the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, this annual event underscores the urgency to protect flora and fauna worldwide, bringing attention to innovative digital solutions for wildlife preservation.

22. Recently, which ministry has been honored with the award for Best Performance in Accounts during the Financial Year 2023-24?

[A] Ministry of Finance

[B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

[C] Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

[D] Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting



The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting was awarded for Best Performance in Accounts for FY 2023-24 on the 48th Foundation Day of the Indian Civil Accounts Service. Led by Chief Controller of Accounts Ajay S. Singh, the ministry showcased exceptional efficiency and diligence in accounting practices, earning the prestigious recognition from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

23. Indiramma Housing Scheme, recently seen in the news, is associated with which state?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Kerala
- [D] Telangana

Answer: Telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has revealed the Indiramma Housing Scheme, set to commence on March 11. The initiative targets economic empowerment by offering housing solutions to underprivileged segments. In the initial phase, 3,500 houses per Assembly constituency will be approved, benefiting numerous recipients. Landowners will receive Rs. 5 lakh to build on their plots, while the homeless will get the same amount along with a plot for house construction, amplifying support for the economically disadvantaged.

24. Recently, which country became the first Spanish-speaking nation to recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)?

- [A] Chile
- [B] Cuba
- [C] Nicaragua
- [D] Peru

Answer: Nicaragua

Nicaragua achieves a historic milestone by becoming the first Spanish-speaking nation to recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) as the official book of standards for drugs manufactured and marketed in India. Published by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Rules 1945, IPC is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, dedicated to the timely publication of the IP.

25. Okhla Bird Sanctuary (OBS), recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Uttar Pradesh

On March 3, 2024, the WWF EIACP PC-RP, led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, marked World Wildlife Day at Okhla Bird Sanctuary. Recognizing its rich biodiversity and Mission LiFE focus, the celebration aimed to acknowledge wildlife's vital



roles. It is situated at NOIDA's entrance in Uttar Pradesh, the sanctuary spans 4 sq km, making it one of the state's 15 bird sanctuaries and one of India's 466 Important Bird Areas.

26. REC Limited has signed an agreement with which organization to aid in the education of approximately 75,500 children in the Siddharthnagar, UP?

- [A] Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED)
- [B] Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- [C] Evangelistic Association of the East
- [D] Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad

Answer: Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED)

REC Limited, in collaboration with UNISED, is contributing Rs. 9.91 crores through REC Foundation to educate 75,500 children in Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh. As a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Power, REC aims to empower students with modern educational tools. UNISED will implement solar-operated smart classes and joyful learning labs in government schools, fostering innovative learning. Additionally, REC Foundation recently allocated Rs. 15 crores to support the education of 12,500 children of ex-servicemen through the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

27. Which day is observed as National Safety Day in India?

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

Answer: March 4

National Safety Day, observed annually on March 4 in India, marks the beginning of National Safety Week. Emphasizing safety and precautions in all sectors, the 2024 theme is "Safety for a Sustainable Future," highlighting the vital connection between safety measures and sustainability. This day serves as a reminder of the critical importance of prioritizing safety, extending its focus beyond a single day to promote long-term safety practices.

28. Rupa Tarakas (Silver Filigree), which has recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, belongs to which state?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Chattisgarh
- [C] Tripura
- [D] Kerala

Answer: Odisha

Cuttack's renowned Rupa Tarakasi (Silver Filigree) has secured the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. The Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation Limited submitted the application, supported by the Department of Textile and Handicrafts, Government of Odisha. Filigree, linked to



exquisite craftsmanship in classical jewelry, dates back to 3500 BCE in Mesopotamia. Historical evidence suggests its introduction to Cuttack from Persia through Indonesia around 500 years ago via sea trade.

29. Which one of the following provision of the Indian Constitution poses a major hurdle to regulating coal mining in Nagaland?

- [A] Article 370
- [B] Article 371A
- [C] Article 245
- [D] Article 256

Answer: Article 371A

Article 371A of the Indian Constitution is a major obstacle to regulating coal mining in Nagaland. This provision protects Naga tribes' customs, traditions, and religious practices from external interference. It also allows the continuation of indigenous legal systems and traditional methods of justice. Article 371A has made it difficult for the government to oversee small-scale mining, especially after recent fatalities in a rat-hole mine explosion. Rat-hole mining is a hazardous way of extracting coal by creating small tunnels just large enough for a person to crawl through.

30. Recently, Indian scientists have developed an eco wound dressing from which one of the following?

- [A] Banana fibers
- [B] cotton fibres
- [C] Bast fibres
- [D] Jute fibres

Answer: Banana fibers

Indian scientists at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) have developed a new wound dressing material from banana fibers. The material is a multifunctional patch that combines banana fibers with biopolymers like chitosan and guar gum. The patch has excellent mechanical strength and antioxidant properties.

31. Recently, who has received the 'Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024' in recognition of his contributions to the field of regenerative medicine?

- [A] Pradeep Mahajan
- [B] Ashok Saraf
- [C] Babasaheb Purandare
- [D] Anil Kakodkar

Answer: Pradeep Mahajan

Dr. Pradeep Mahajan, Founder and CMD of StemRx, received the Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024 for groundbreaking contributions to regenerative medicine. His unique approach and commitment have advanced scientific understanding and provided innovative therapies globally. Dr. Mahajan's work at StemRx Hospital and Research Centre, and StemRx Bioscience Solutions, has not only transformed patient treatments but



has also established him as a beacon in regenerative medicine, earning him the prestigious recognition for his impactful and pioneering efforts.

32. First-ever Made-in-India ASTDS tug 'Ocean Grace', is recently built by which manufacturer company under MoPSW promoting Atmanirbhar Bharat?

- [A] Cochin Shipyard
- [B] Larsen & Toubro Shipbuilding
- [C] Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
- [D] Bharati Shipyard

Answer: Cochin Shipyard

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH, virtually inaugurated the 'Ocean Grace,' a 60T bollard pull tug, and a Medical Mobile Unit (MMU). Developed by Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW, Ocean Grace is India's first ASTDS Tug. The MMU is part of the port's corporate social responsibility. The event, attended virtually by dignitaries like Shri Shripad Naik and Shantanu Thakur, aligns with PM Modi's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

33. B Sai Praneeth, who recently announced his retirement, is associated with which sports?

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

Answer: Badminton

In March 2024, Praneeth announced his retirement from international badminton on social media. The 31-year-old from Hyderabad, Telangana cited injuries since the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as the reason for his retirement. He plans to become a coach in the US. In 2019, Praneeth won a bronze medal at the World Championships, becoming the first Indian to do so since 1983. He also won the Singapore Open and competed in the Tokyo Olympics.

34. Who has been appointed as the new chief secretary of Bihar?

- [A] Brajesh Mehrotra
- [B] Tripurari Sharan
- [C] Nishith Verma
- [D] Aamir Subhani

Answer: Brajesh Mehrotra

The Bihar government appointed Brajesh Mehrotra, a senior IAS officer, as the new chief secretary. Presently the additional chief secretary of revenue and land reforms, Mehrotra's distinguished career includes roles in general administration and parliamentary affairs, showcasing his dedication and competence in public service.

35. Recently, National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement has been jointly organized by the DPIIT and which organization?



- [A] World Bank
- [B] IMF
- [C] WTO
- [D] UNICEF

Answer: World Bank

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the World Bank Group organized the National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement in New Delhi. The workshop brought together the logistics sector community to brainstorm. The DPIIT is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

36. Recently, which state government has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called 'MYUVA scheme'?

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

Answer: Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has introduced "Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)" to back young entrepreneurs. The initiative offers interest-free loans, up to Rs 5 lakh, supporting digital transactions and providing grants to encourage the adoption of digital payment methods. The government aims to nurture one lakh young entrepreneurs annually through this program, fostering economic growth and innovation in the state.

37. Recently, where was the 'Asian River Rafting Championship' organized?

- [A] Shimla
- [B] Dehradun
- [C] Varanasi
- [D] Ayodhya

Answer: Shimla

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated the Asian River Rafting Championship near Basantpur on Sutlej River near the Ridge Shimla. The event hosts 20 teams from nations including Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Iran, Iraq, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia. Emphasizing the government's commitment to promoting adventure tourism, the Chief Minister highlighted a recent river rafting marathon in Nadaun, Hamirpur district, as part of this initiative.

38. Project Seabird, India's largest naval infrastructure project, is located in which state?

- [A] Kerala
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Tamil Nadu

Answer: Karnataka



The Defence Minister is set to inaugurate two piers and seven towers, providing 320 homes for Navy officers and Defence civilians at Naval Base Karwar, Karnataka, under Project Seabird—the largest naval infrastructure project in India. Conceived in the early 1980s and sanctioned in 1985, the project spans 11,000 acres, featuring a deep-sea harbour, breakwaters, a township, a naval hospital, and more. Once completed, it will be the largest naval base in the Eastern Hemisphere, accommodating warships, submarines, and aircraft.

39. Where was the India's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) inaugurated?

- [A] Patna
- [B] Bhopal
- [C] Lucknow
- [D] Dehradun

Answer: Patna

India's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) was inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The center is located near the Ganga River on the Patna University campus. The NDRC is a center of excellence that will help researchers and students understand the ecosystem of rivers. Researchers at the center will focus on various aspects of dolphin behavior in their natural habitat, including studying food habits and adaptation to changing environments. The center will also play a crucial role in training fishermen on methods to avoid inadvertently harming dolphins during fishing activities.

40. Risa Textile, which has recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, belongs to which state?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Mizoram
- [D] Tripura

Answer: Tripura

Tripura's traditional tribal attire, 'risa,' has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This handwoven cloth serves as a female upper garment, headgear, stole, and a gesture of respect. Adorning vibrant designs, it holds social and religious significance, notably in Garia Puja and weddings. Young girls receive their first risa at the Risa Sormani ceremony. Used creatively, it doubles as a makeshift hanger and an honorific gift. This cultural symbol is integral to the attire of Tripura's 19 indigenous tribal communities.

41. Recently, which country discovered a 5,000-year-old cemetery belonging to a Copper Age society?

- [A] Iran
- [B] Egypt
- [C] Italy
- [D] Vietnam

Answer: Italy



Italian archaeologists recently uncovered a 5,000-year-old cemetery from the Copper Age, shedding light on this transitional period between the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. The Copper Age, spanning 5,000 to 2,000 years ago, witnessed the emergence of metallurgy, particularly copper usage. Chalcolithic farmers engaged in agriculture, long-distance trade, and built distinctive polychrome painted pottery. The period marked the onset of societal complexities, with houses showcasing various architectural patterns. The discovery offers insights into early social structures and technological advancements before the advent of the Bronze Age.

42. What is the rank of India in the World Bank's Women, Business and Law index?

- [A] 112
- [B] 113
- [C] 114
- [D] 115

Answer: 113

India's rank in the World Bank's Women, Business and Law index rose to 113 out of 190 countries. The index assesses the legal environment for women's economic opportunities across eight categories, including mobility, workplace, and entrepreneurship. Scores range from 0 to 100, with 100 representing equal rights. The report provides objective benchmarks for global progress towards gender equality, highlighting achievements and underscoring the need for further efforts to ensure economic empowerment for all.

43. 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi', recently seen in the news, is launched by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- [B] Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- [C] Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- [D] Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Answer: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal unveiled the 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' initiative in New Delhi, aiming to make the agriculture sector the cornerstone of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. The digital gateway, developed by the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA), streamlines farmers' warehousing logistics through technology, ensuring fair prices for produce. Goyal also announced a reduction in security deposit charges at WDRA warehouses, from three percent to one percent, encouraging more farmers, particularly small-scale ones, to utilize the facilities and boost their income.

44. Recently, which ministry launched the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) and 'Chakshu' facility on Sanchar Saathi portal?

- [A] Ministry of Power
- [B] Ministry of Civil Aviation
- [C] Ministry of Communication
- [D] Ministry of Earth Sciences



Answer: Ministry of Communication

The Minister of Communications unveiled the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) and 'Chakshu' on the Sanchar Saathi portal. DIP facilitates real-time intelligence sharing and coordination among stakeholders like Telecom Service Providers, Law enforcement agencies, Banks, Social media platforms, and Identity document authorities. Developed by the Department of Telecommunications, DIP is a secure platform inaccessible to citizens. The portal also highlights cases of telecom resource misuse.

45. Which day is observed as 'International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day' every year?

- [A] March 4
- [B] March 5
- [C] March 6
- [D] March 7

Answer: March 5

"International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day, observed annually on March 5, was established by the UNGA in 2021. The day aims to enhance global understanding of disarmament issues, especially among youth. Its objectives include raising awareness about weapons of mass destruction, promoting education on disarmament, and encouraging actions to reduce threats and foster peace and security." The theme for International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day 2024 is "The Way Forward".

46. Gevra mine, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Chhattisgarh

As of March 2024, the Gevra mine in Chhattisgarh, India, is set to become the largest coal mine in Asia. The mine is a subsidiary of Coal India, which is part of the South Eastern Coalfield Limited (SECL). In March 2024, the mine received environmental clearance to increase its production capacity from 52.5 million tons per year to 70 million tons per year. The mine also has first-mile connectivity, including a conveyer belt, silos, and a rapid loading system for eco-friendly coal evacuation.

47. Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?

- [A] Himachal Pradesh
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Madhya Pradesh

Answer: Himachal Pradesh



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu introduced the "Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna," a groundbreaking initiative empowering women aged 18 to 60. Eligible beneficiaries will receive a ₹1,500 monthly stipend, totaling ₹800 crore annually. Envisioned to aid over five lakh women, the scheme aims to provide crucial financial support, marking a significant step towards women's empowerment in the state.

48. Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0, recently seen in the news, is organised in which state?

- [A] Himachal Pradesh
- [B] Uttarakhand
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Bihar

Answer: Himachal Pradesh

Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0 at Luhnu Cricket Ground, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh on March 5, 2024. Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid attended as chief guests. Inspired by PM Modi's 'Kheloge To Khiloge,' Thakur highlighted the event's significance. MP Khel Mahakumbh serves as a major platform for Hamirpur constituency players, aiming for 75,000 participants. Luhnu Cricket Ground in Himachal Pradesh hosts the event.

49. Claude 3, recently seen in the news, is associated with which one of the following?

- [A] Large Language Model
- [B] Medicinal Plant
- [C] Ancient Irrigation Technique
- [D] Asteroid

Answer: Large Language Model

Anthropic, the AI start-up, introduced its latest AI models, Claude 3, featuring three tiers – Haiku, Sonnet, and Opus. These Large Language Models (LLMs) excel in text, voice, and document processing, delivering contextually swift responses. Opus leads in power, Sonnet balances capability and cost, while Haiku ensures instant replies. Access varies: Sonnet powers Claude.ai for free, Opus requires Claude Pro subscription via Anthropic's web chat. All models boast a 2,00,000-token window, promising enhanced performance and information input capacity.

50. Recently, which institute has developed a drowning detection robot?

- [A] IIT Mandi and Palakkad
- [B] IIT Bombay and Mandi
- [C] IIT Kanpur
- [D] IIT Roorkee

Answer: IIT Mandi and Palakkad

Researchers from IIT Mandi and Palakkad created a drowning detection robot, addressing challenges in underwater investigation and exploration. The robot, designed for sea, reservoirs, and dams, aims to replace risky human involvement. Led by Jagdeesh Kadiyam, an AI and Robotics Center assistant professor, the team developed a prototype,



emphasizing safety and efficiency in marine operations. The innovation targets increased precision and reduced risks for costly search missions, enhancing exploration capabilities in challenging environments.

51. Where was the India's first small scale LNG unit inaugurated?

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

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated 201 CNG stations in 17 states and India's first Small Scale LNG Unit at GAIL's Vijaipur LPG plant. The event, conducted via video conferencing in New Delhi, included Minister of State Rameshwar Teli. Puri emphasized India's commitment to cleaner fuels, marking progress towards a 15% natural gas share in the primary energy basket by 2030. The development aligns with the government's vision for a gas-based economy, including a National Gas Grid and widespread City Gas Distribution network.

52. UDGAM Portal, recently seen in the news, is developed by which institution?

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

Answer: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the UDGAM portal, facilitating users to search unclaimed deposits in 30 banks, covering 90% of Depositor Education and Awareness Fund deposits. UDGAM, meaning Unclaimed Deposits-Gateway to Access inforMation, allows centralized searches for both individual and non-individual categories. Users provide specific details like account holder's name, bank name, and relevant identification for the search. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and awareness regarding unclaimed deposits in the RBI's DEA Fund.

53. India has successfully brought down the extreme rate of poverty below what percent of its population, according to 'World Poverty Clock'?

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

Answer: 3 %

India has successfully reduced extreme poverty, with under 3% of its population living below the poverty line, in accordance with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal. Recent data from the World Poverty Clock, supported by organizations such as IFAD and Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, highlights



India's significant strides towards ending extreme poverty, a key global objective set for achievement by 2030.

54. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) recently collaborated with which company to establish Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs) in schools?

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

Answer: Meta

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Meta partnered to create Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs) in key schools, advancing beyond Atal Tinkering Labs. These labs, backed by cutting-edge infrastructure, promote innovation among students by providing access to Artificial Intelligence, Augmented & Virtual Reality, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Robotics, 3D Printing, and Internet of Things technologies. This collaboration seeks to democratize future technology access, fostering a culture of innovation in education.

55. Who won the first prize at the 'National Youth Parliament Festival 2024'?

- [A] Vaishna Pitchai
- [B] Yatin Bhaskar Duggal
- [C] Kanishka Sharma
- [D] Aastha Sharma

Answer: Yatin Bhaskar Duggal

Yatin Bhaskar Duggal of Haryana clinched victory at the National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024. Vaishna Pitchai from Tamil Nadu secured second place, and Kanishka Sharma of Rajasthan claimed the third prize, showcasing the abundant talent and dedication across the nation.

56. Recently, Ministry of Jal Shakti signed an agreement with which institute for the establishment of an International Centre of Excellence for Dams?

- [A] IIT Kanpur
- [B] IIM Ahmedabad
- [C] IISc Bangalore
- [D] IIT Bombay

Answer: IISc Bangalore

The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) has signed a 10-year Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore to establish the International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED). With a focus on dam safety, ICED will provide technical support, conduct research, and offer academic courses. The Ministry will fund the center with a grant of 118.05 crore rupees for infrastructure construction and modernization. The MoA duration is ten years or until the completion of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase-II and III Scheme, whichever is earlier.

57. What is the theme of 'International Women's Day (IWD) 2024'?



- [A] Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress
- [B] Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
- [C] DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality
- [D] Think equal, build smart, innovate for change

Answer: Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global event on March 8th, acknowledging women's accomplishments in social, economic, cultural, and political spheres. In 2024, the United Nations' theme is 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,' emphasizing the need for gender equality. IWD serves as a worldwide celebration of women's achievements and a powerful call to action for advancing women's rights and opportunities.

58. Recently, which state government collaborated with World Economic Forum to establish AI centre?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Tamil Nadu
- [D] Kerala

Answer: Karnataka

The Karnataka state government has partnered with the World Economic Forum to establish a state-of-the-art AI center, formalized through a Letter of Intent signed on February 29. This strategic alliance aims to position Karnataka as a global hub for artificial intelligence, marking a crucial move towards integrating the state into the global digital and technological landscape.

59. How many banks have recently joined the RBI's UDGAM portal for unclaimed deposits?

- [A] 30
- [B] 35
- [C] 40
- [D] 45

Answer: 30

30 banks are part of the RBI's UDGAM portal for unclaimed deposits. The remaining banks are also in the process of joining. The UDGAM portal, which stands for Unclaimed Deposits-Gateway to Access Information, is an online portal developed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The portal allows individuals to search for their unclaimed deposits and accounts.

60. Jim Corbett National Park, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Uttarakhand
- [C] Himachal Pradesh
- [D] Uttar Pradesh

Answer: Uttarakhand

In March 2024, the Supreme Court of India criticized the illegal felling of 6,000 trees in the



Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand. The court said the trees were felled for eco-tourism buildings, and that the illegal activity is a "classic case" of a nexus between politicians and officials who harm the environment for short-term commercial gain. The court also said that the felling is a blatant violation of the protection act and Forest conservation act.

61. CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum has signed an MoU with which state to deploy the technology of making fuel from Pine Needles?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Uttarakhand
- [D] Tamil Nadu

Answer: Uttarakhand

The CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) signed an agreement with the Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) to deploy pine needles-based fuel-making technology in the state's Champawat district. The agreement includes implementing two technologies at the grassroots level in Champawat: A briquetting unit with a capacity of 50 kg per hour based on pine needles & 500 units of improved cookstoves for rural households.

62. Recently, which country hosted the 17th Annual International Biocuration Conference?

- [A] Myanmar
- [B] Nepal
- [C] India
- [D] Bangladesh

Answer: India

The 17th Annual International Biocuration Conference (AIBC-2024) is set to take place at the National Capital Region (NCR) Biotech Science Cluster in Faridabad, India. The venue, comprising the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) and the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), offers a comprehensive platform for scientific discussions and collaboration during the conference.

63. Which day is celebrated as 'Jan Aushadhi Day' every year?

- [A] 6 March
- [B] 7 March
- [C] 8 March
- [D] 9 March

Answer: 7 March

Jan Aushadhi Day is celebrated every year on 7 March. This day is also known as Generic Medicine Day. The purpose of celebrating Jan Aushadhi Diwas is to increase awareness about generic medicines among the people and to promote the use of generic medicines. Jan Aushadhi Diwas started in the year 2019. This is a scheme of the government. Its objective is to make generic medicines accessible to the common people.



64. Ratlam Riyawan Garlic, which has recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, belongs to which state?

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

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

Riyawan village's garlic in Jaora, Ratlam district, Madhya Pradesh, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its bold flavors and high oil content. Each bulb contains five to six cloves known for their pungent taste and medicinal properties. The recognition highlights the unique qualities of Riyawan garlic, distinguishing it from other varieties.

65. Recently, Maldives has signed a defense agreement with which country for obtaining non-lethal weapons and training?

- [A] Russia
- [B] India
- [C] Sri Lanka
- [D] China

Answer: China

Maldives recently inked a defense pact with China, securing non-lethal weapons and training. Noteworthy collaborations include the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge and social housing projects. The nation has previously engaged in the Belt and Road Initiative. These agreements signify strengthened ties and mutual developmental efforts between Maldives and China.

66. Majuli manuscript painting, recently seen in the news, is associated with which state?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Tripura
- [D] Mizoram

Answer: Assam

Majuli manuscript painting, a traditional art form dating back to the 16th century in Assam, recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The paintings are created on sanchi pat, manuscripts made from the bark of the sanchi or agar tree, using homemade ink. Srimanta Sankardev's illustrated rendering of the Adya Dasama from the Bhagwat Purana is considered the earliest example. Originally patronized by Ahom kings, this art form persists in every sattra in Majuli.

67. RBI recently signed an MoU with which bank to promote use of local currencies?

- [A] Bank of Bahrain
- [B] Bank of America Corp. (BAC)
- [C] Bank Indonesia



[D] Bank of Nova Scotia

Answer: Bank Indonesia

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a MoU in Mumbai, promoting cross-border transactions using the Indian Rupee (INR) and Indonesian Rupiah (IDR). RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and BI Governor Perry Warjiyo established a framework to boost the utilization of local currencies, aiming to enhance trade, deepen financial integration, and strengthen economic ties between India and Indonesia.

68. What is 'Haiper', recently mentioned in the news?

[A] Climate Monitoring Satellite

[B] Semiconductor Fabrication technology

[C] AI-powered video generation tool

[D] New island discovered off the coast of Indonesia

Answer: AI-powered video generation tool

Former members of Google's DeepMind team recently unveiled Haiper, an innovative AI-powered video generation tool. Haiper, an all-in-one visual foundation model, empowers users of all technical backgrounds to effortlessly create high-quality video content. The founders emphasize Haiper's role in advancing machine learning for enjoyable, surprising, and shareable creativity. The platform offers diverse tools like text-to-video, animated static images, and video repainting. Users can access the website, log in, and generate free HD videos with text prompts, limited to 2-4 seconds.

69. Recently, the Union Government partnered with which organization to connect tribal villages with internet services?

[A] ISRO

[B] ILO

[C] WTO

[D] UNESCO

Answer: ISRO

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs plans to partner with ISRO to deploy V-SAT stations for a pilot project in 80 tribal villages across Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Maharashtra. The collaboration aims to provide essential services like Internet, medical, and educational connectivity. ISRO Chief S. Somnath confirmed the collaboration and announced the upcoming signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the initiative at a ministry event focusing on innovative projects for tribal development.

70. Recently, which institute hosted the webinar on 'Viksit Bharat: Corporate governance for 2047'?

[A] Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)

[B] Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)

[C] Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

[D] Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs)

Answer: Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)



The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) hosted a webinar on "Viksit Bharat: Corporate Governance for 2047" on March 7, 2024. Viksit Bharat is the Government of India's vision to make India a developed nation by 2047. The vision includes many aspects of development, such as economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance.

71. Fourier's Law, recently mentioned in the news, is associated with which one of the following?

- [A] Law of Elasticity
- [B] Law of Partial Pressures
- [C] Law of Heat Conduction
- [D] Law of Fluid Dynamics

Answer: Law of Heat Conduction

Scientists recently uncovered an exception to Fourier's Law, a 200-year-old principle governing heat diffusion in solids. Fourier's Law, or Law of Heat Conduction, elucidates how heat transfers through materials based on temperature gradients. The formula, $q = -k \nabla T$, encompasses heat flux (q), thermal conductivity coefficient (k), and temperature gradient (∇T). This revelation challenges long-standing beliefs, highlighting the dynamic nature of scientific understanding in thermal conduction, an essential aspect of material science.

72. Which city is going to host the world's largest literary festival, Sahityotsav?

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

Answer: New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, celebrates its 70th anniversary with 'Sahityotsav,' the world's largest literary festival from March 11 to 16, 2024. Over 1100 writers and scholars from 175+ languages will participate in 190 sessions. Dr K. Sreenivasrao, Secretary, reveals diverse discussions, an exhibition, and a grand inauguration with governors Arif Mohammed Khan, Bishwabhusan Harichandan, and C.V. Anand Bose. Highlighted by the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 on March 12, featuring Odia writer Pratibha Rai as Chief Guest.

73. Which country received the prestigious 'Measles and Rubella Champion' global award for its exemplary efforts in combating these diseases?

- [A] India
- [B] Myanmar
- [C] Bhutan
- [D] Bangladesh

Answer: India

India was honored with the prestigious 'Measles and Rubella Champion' award on March



6, 2024, for its outstanding efforts in combatting these diseases. Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan accepted the award on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington DC. The recognition from 'The Measles and Rubella Partnership' highlights India's steadfast commitment to public health and controlling the spread of infectious diseases among children.

74. Recently, Bichom has been declared the 27th district of which state?

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

Answer: Arunachal Pradesh

Bichom, the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pema Khandu. The state assembly passed the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organisation of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in February, leading to the creation of Bichom and Keyi Panyor districts. Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng, includes 27 villages from West Kameng and 28 from East Kameng, marking a significant milestone for the region.

75. Recently, where was the 'Agriculture Integrated Command and Control Centre' inaugurated?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Chennai
- [C] Chandigarh
- [D] Bhopal

Answer: New Delhi

Union Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated the Agriculture Integrated Command and Control Centre in New Delhi's Krishi Bhawan. The initiative aims to empower farmers by offering vital information and services, fostering nationwide self-reliance. Farmers will access real-time farm data for informed decision-making, addressing challenges in the agriculture sector. The center is a crucial step towards enhancing the agricultural sector's efficiency and sustainability.

76. Which Indian writer was awarded with the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis?

- [A] Kiran Desai
- [B] Aravind Adiga
- [C] Arundhati Roy
- [D] Amitav Ghosh

Answer: Amitav Ghosh

Indian writer Amitav Ghosh, aged 67, has been awarded the prestigious 'Erasmus Prize' in 2024 by the Premium Erasmus Foundation of the Netherlands. Recognized for his passionate contributions in highlighting the global climate change crisis through literature, Ghosh will receive the award, with an incentive of 150,000 Euros, in person in



November. The award, established in 1958, honors individuals or institutions making exceptional contributions to culture or scholarship in Europe and beyond, emphasizing the cultural dimensions of the climate crisis.

77. Recently, where was the 125-foot statue of Lachit Borphukan unveiled?

- [A] Golaghat, Assam
- [B] Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh
- [C] Jorhat, Assam
- [D] Aizawl, Mizoram

Answer: Jorhat, Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Statue of Valour,' a 125-foot bronze monument honoring Ahom General Lachit Barphukan in Jorhat, Assam. Barphukan, born in 1622, bravely defended Assam against the Mughals in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat, preventing their expansion. Former President Ram Nath Kovind initiated the project in February 2022, and the statue, standing at 84 feet on a 41-foot pedestal, commemorates Barphukan's legacy in the Ahom Kingdom's military history.

78. Recently, where was the Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman Campaign Event organized?

- [A] Ajmer
- [B] Jaisalmer
- [C] Bikaner
- [D] Jaipur

Answer: Bikaner

The Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman Campaign Event in Bikaner, Rajasthan, on March 9, marked India's 75th Republic year. Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal attended, joined by legal professionals, police officials, law students, and faculty. The event aimed to highlight the Constitution's principles, fostering national unity. It set an example for other states, emphasizing citizen engagement, democratic values, and understanding rights and responsibilities in the democratic journey.

79. NAMASTE Scheme, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following group of workers?

- [A] Sanitation workers
- [B] Agricultural workers
- [C] Health workers
- [D] Construction workers

Answer: Sanitation workers

The NAMASTE Scheme, led by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, aims to eliminate manual engagement in hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning. Implemented by NSKFDC for three years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26) with a budget of 349.73 crores, the scheme provides entitlements



for Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs), including digital profiling, PPE kits, safety training, health insurance, and opportunities for entrepreneurship in the sanitation sector. Over 4800 Urban Local Bodies will benefit, profiling over a lakh SSWs.

80. Recently, NPCI has collaborated with which country's Fonepay Payment Service Ltd to facilitate cross-border UPI transactions?

- [A] Bhutan
- [B] Nepal
- [C] Myanmar
- [D] Australia

Answer: Nepal

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has collaborated with Fonepay Payment Service Ltd in Nepal, facilitating cross-border Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions between India and Nepal. Catering to around 30% of Nepal's Indian tourists, this alliance aims to enhance payment convenience for Indian travelers and streamline financial interactions, benefiting both tourists and the Nepalese economy.

81. Kinmen Islands, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Taiwan
- [B] Japan
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Philippines

Answer: Taiwan

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council urged China to maintain the "status quo" in waters near Taiwan-controlled Kinmen islands, cautioning against coast guard incursions into restricted areas. Jan Jyh-horng, the council's deputy head, emphasized the need for a controllable situation across the Strait in a press conference. Beijing initiated regular coast guard patrols around Kinmen last month following the deaths of two Chinese fishermen attempting to escape Taiwan's coast guard.

82. Coral Reef Watch Programme, recently seen in the news, is developed by which agency?

- [A] Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
- [B] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- [C] National Biodiversity Authority
- [D] National Ganga River Basin Authority

Answer: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The Coral Reef Watch Programme alerts of an imminent fourth global coral bleaching event, using its online tool for Sea Surface Temperature (SST) analysis. Developed by NOAA, it's the sole global early-warning system for coral reefs, monitoring conditions causing bleaching, disease, and death. The program delivers real-time warnings, incorporating SST, light, and ocean color data. Operating with remote sensing and climate forecasts, it aids stakeholders globally in preparing for and responding to coral reef



stressors driven by climate change and ocean warming.

83. Parrot fever, recently seen in the news, caused by which one of the following agents?

- [A] Virus
- [B] Fungus
- [C] Bacteria
- [D] Protozoa

Answer: Bacteria

Parrot fever, or psittacosis, has claimed five lives in a recent outbreak across Europe. Caused by bacterium *Chlamydophila psittaci*, it primarily affects birds but can infect humans through contaminated particles. Common in those close to birds, symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pains, and pneumonia-like symptoms. Severe cases may lead to complications, treated with antibiotics like doxycycline. Human-to-human transmission is rare, emphasizing the importance of proper hygiene and supportive care for recovery.

84. Mahtari Vandana Yojana, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?

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

Answer: Chhattisgarh

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Mahtari Vandana Yojana in Chhattisgarh, aiming to empower women by providing Rs 1000 monthly through direct benefit transfer. The scheme targets eligible married women, including widows and divorced individuals, promoting economic independence, gender equality, and reinforcing women's pivotal role in families. Over 70 lakh women in Chhattisgarh stand to benefit from this initiative, emphasizing financial security and inclusive support for women above 21 years as of January 1, 2024.

85. What is 'Inflection 2.5', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Black hole
- [B] Asteroid
- [C] Large Language Model
- [D] Exoplanet

Answer: Large Language Model

Inflection AI recently unveiled its upgraded LLM, Inflection 2.5, powering the Pi personal assistant chatbot. Positioned as a competitive in-house model, it showcases a uniquely empathetic fine-tuning, excelling in IQ areas like coding and mathematics. With real-time web search capabilities, Pi now provides up-to-date information on diverse topics. Pi, a humane AI companion, engages users in deep conversations, offering free access with six distinct voices. Its vast exposure to web text enables it to answer a wide array of questions.



86. Recently, where was the 'Naval Exercise Cutlass Express 2024' held?

- [A] Mauritius
- [B] Madagascar
- [C] India
- [D] Seychelles

Answer: Seychelles

INS Tir, the flagship of the First Training Squadron, recently joined Exercise Cutlass Express - 24 in Seychelles. Held from Feb 26 to Mar 08, 2024, the exercise aims to counter malign activities in East African coastal regions and the West Indian Ocean. Sponsored by U.S. AFRICOM and led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet, it enhances maritime security, cooperation, and interoperability among participating nations. The Indian Navy, part of the exercise since 2019, actively engaged with participants from 16 friendly foreign countries in Maritime Interdiction Operations, Visit Board Search and Seizure procedures, and Diving operations.

87. Recently, where was the MSME-Technology Center inaugurated by Union Minister Narayan Rane?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Odisha

Answer: Maharashtra

Union Minister Narayan Rane inaugurated the MSME-Technology Centre in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, laying the foundation for its estimated Rs 182 Crore project. The event included the launch of Sindhudurg Audyogik Mahotsav and Self Employment Conclave. The Government of India plans to establish 20 new Technology Centres and 100 Extension Centres nationwide, enhancing technology access for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. The Sindhudurg center will prioritize General Engineering and Food Processing, fostering growth opportunities in the region.

88. Recently, which players have clinched their second French Open Men's doubles Badminton title?

- [A] Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth
- [B] Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
- [C] Anders Antonsen and Viktor Axelsen
- [D] Weng Hongyang and Lu Guangzu

Answer: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won their second French Open men's doubles badminton title on Sunday, March 10, 2024. The Indian top seed beat Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan of Chinese Taipei in straight games (21-11, 21-17). Rankireddy and Shetty previously won the title in 2022.

89. Krystyna Pyszkova, who recently won Miss World 2024 title, belongs to which country?



- [A] Poland
- [B] Czech Republic
- [C] Jamaica
- [D] Mexico

Answer: Czech Republic

Krystyna Pyszkova of the Czech Republic won Miss World 2024 at the Jio World Cinema in Mumbai, succeeding Poland's Karolina Bielawska. Alongside the main title, Pyszkova was honored with the Best Fashion Designer Award - Europe. Notable contestants included India's Sini Shetty and Trinidad and Tobago's Aché Abrahams. The first runner-up was Yasmina Zaytoun from Lebanon. The event featured a grand ceremony with Bielawska crowning her successor in a star-studded affair.

90. Recently, who became the 14th president of Pakistan?

- [A] Amir Muqam
- [B] Musadik Malik
- [C] Mahmood Khan Achakzai
- [D] Asif Ali Zardari

Answer: Asif Ali Zardari

Asif Ali Zardari is the 14th president of Pakistan. He was sworn in on March 10, 2024, replacing Dr. Arif Alvi. Zardari is a veteran politician who has been the president of Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians and co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party. He is the first president to be elected twice to the office.

91. Mumps disease, recently seen in the news, is a contagious disease caused by which one of the following agents?

- [A] Virus
- [B] Bacteria
- [C] Fungus
- [D] Protozoa

Answer: Virus

Kerala grapples with a mumps outbreak, impacting over 10,000 children in under 70 days. Mumps, caused by the contagious mumps virus, starts with mild symptoms like headache and fever, progressing to severe swelling in salivary glands. It primarily affects unvaccinated children aged 2 to 12, though vaccinated adolescents and adults can still contract it due to waning immunity. The virus spreads through direct contact or airborne droplets, with an average incubation period of 16 to 18 days.

92. Recently, which state/UT conducted All-Women Maritime Surveillance Mission?

- [A] Andaman & Nicobar
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Lakshadweep
- [D] Karnataka

Answer: Andaman & Nicobar



The Andaman & Nicobar Command marked the 40th anniversary of INAS 318 and International Women's Day with a historic all-women maritime surveillance mission. The crew, consisting of Lt Cdr Shubhangi Swaroop, Lt Cdr Divya Sharma, and Lt Vaishali Mishra, showcased women's pivotal role in the Naval Air Arm. The event emphasized gender equality, as women officers handled pre-flight briefing, meteorological briefing, medical check-up, and Air Traffic Control. The mission's success reaffirms women's capability in executing independent operational tasks, reinforcing their crucial contributions to national defense.

93. Mission Divyastra, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following missile system?

- [A] Trishul
- [B] Agni-5
- [C] Prithvi
- [D] Akash

Answer: Agni-5

India successfully conducted the inaugural flight test of the Agni-5 nuclear ballistic missile on March 11, 2024, as part of the Make in India initiative by DRDO. The indigenously developed missile incorporates MIRV technology, allowing a single missile to deploy multiple warheads across different locations. Referred to as 'Mission Divyastra' by PM Modi, Agni-5 marks a significant advancement as it can simultaneously target multiple locations, in contrast to conventional missiles with a single warhead for a solitary target.

94. Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance (RPTUAS) Scheme, recently seen in the news, introduced by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- [B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- [C] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- [D] Ministry of Rural Development

Answer: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers introduced the Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (RPTUAS). The initiative provides quality-based subsidies to pharmaceutical companies for achieving Revised Schedule M and WHO-GMP certifications. The scheme aims to elevate the pharmaceutical industry's standards, promoting adherence to Revised Schedule-M and WHO-GMP guidelines, thereby enhancing the quality and safety of pharmaceutical products manufactured in the country.

95. What are "Carmoisine, Tartrazine, and Rhodamine", sometimes seen in the news?

- [A] Infectious diseases
- [B] Industrial pollutants
- [C] Food coloring agents
- [D] Medicinal plants



Answer: Food coloring agents

The Karnataka government has banned artificial colors in 'Gobi Manchurian' and cotton candy due to health concerns. Among 171 Gobi Manchurian samples, 107 contained unsafe colors like tartrazine and sunset yellow. 25 cotton candy samples revealed 15 with unsafe colors including carcinogenic Rhodamine-B. The minister emphasized the danger, particularly to children, urging strict enforcement against the illegal use of such colors, highlighting Rhodamine-B's cancer-causing potential.

96. Recently, Nayab Saini was sworn in as the 11th chief minister of which state?

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

Answer: Haryana

Nayab Saini, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, became the 11th Chief Minister of Haryana on March 12, 2024. The swearing-in ceremony took place in Chandigarh, administered by Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, succeeding Manohar Lal Khattar, the state's first BJP Chief Minister. Earlier, Khattar resigned along with his council of ministers after the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), led by Dushyant Chautala, terminated its alliance with the BJP government in Haryana.

97. Recently, Ministry of Rural Development signed an MoU with which institute to formalize their partnership in applications of geospatial technology & AI?

- [A] IIT Kanpur
- [B] IIT Delhi
- [C] IIM Ahmedabad
- [D] IIT Roorkee

Answer: IIT Delhi

The Ministry of Rural Development and IIT Delhi signed an MoU for rural advancement through geospatial technology and AI. Led by Shri Amit Kataria and Prof. Manabendra Saharia, the collaboration focuses on "BhuPRAHARI" project under MGNREGA. Officials, including Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh and Prof. Rangan Banerjee, highlighted the partnership's significance in enhancing MGNREGA's efficiency and transparency. The integration of advanced tech aims to modernize rural development processes, ensuring accountability and optimal resource allocation.

98. Recently, which state government has signed MoUs with NTPC, CIL, NLC India and SJVN for 28.5 GW of solar power capacity and green hydrogen production?

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

Answer: Rajasthan



The Rajasthan government has inked MoUs with NTPC, CIL, NLC India, and SJVN for 28.5 GW solar power capacity and green hydrogen production. NTPC collaborates with Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam to explore supercritical units at Chhabra Thermal Power Plant. CIL partners with RVUNL for 4,100 MW power projects. NLCIL agrees with Rajasthan for a 125 MW lignite power plant and 1,000 MW solar plant. SJVN's subsidiary SGEL signs a 500 MW solar power usage agreement.

99. Recently, Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Kochrab Ashram in which state?

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

Answer: Gujarat

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Sabarmati Ashram, inaugurating Kochrab Ashram and launching the Gandhi Ashram Memorial's Master Plan. He paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi's statue and toured Hriday Kunj, while also planting a sapling and exploring an exhibition. Kochrab Ashram, established by Gandhi in 1915, was relocated in 1917 to a site along the Sabarmati River for agricultural and Khadi experiments, influenced by the legend of Dadhichi Rishi.

100. Recently, Union Minister of Science & Technology inaugurated the first-of-its-kind "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" at which place?

- [A] Mohali, Punjab
- [B] Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Bikaner, Rajasthan
- [D] Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Answer: Mohali, Punjab

The Union Minister of Science & Technology inaugurated India's first National Speed Breeding Crop Facility at the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali, Punjab. The facility will revolutionize crop improvement programs by rapidly developing advanced crop varieties through speed breeding methods. Established in 2010, NABI is India's first Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, dedicated to catalyzing transformations in the agri-food sector. NABI has actively contributed to initiatives like 'Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech (UNaTI) Mission' and Biotech Kisan Hubs for various regions.

101. When was the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 implemented in India?

- [A] 10 March 2024
- [B] 11 March 2024
- [C] 12 March 2024
- [D] 13 March 2024

Answer: 11 March 2024

On March 11, 2024, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs enforced the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 nationwide. The government established an Empowered Committee



and District-Level Committee for processing citizenship applications. The Act, passed on December 11, 2019, allows illegal migrants of six religious communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan to be eligible for Indian citizenship, provided they sought refuge in India due to religious persecution on or before December 31, 2014.

102. Recently, which airport was given the title of 'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific region?

- [A] Chennai International Airport
- [B] Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport
- [C] Indira Gandhi International Airport
- [D] Kempegowda International Airport

Answer: Indira Gandhi International Airport

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in Delhi, India has been named the "Best Airport" in the Asia-Pacific region for six years in a row. The award is given by the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards, which measure passenger satisfaction using real-time surveys.

103. The Research Network in India (SheRNI) initiative, recently seen in the news, is introduced by which organization?

- [A] UGC
- [B] UNESCO
- [C] UNICEF
- [D] WHO

Answer: UGC

The UGC's INFLIBNET Centre introduced the 'She Research Network in India' (SheRNI) to combat gender disparity in science. SheRNI empowers women in science, challenging stereotypes and inspiring future generations. Focused on providing visibility and recognition, it aims to boost women's participation in science and research careers. SheRNI's objectives include establishing a national-level expert platform for women faculty members, fostering collaboration, and creating networking opportunities within academia.

104. Recently, researchers discovered a new scorpion species with 8 eyes and 8 legs in which country?

- [A] Thailand
- [B] Indonesia
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Maldives

Answer: Thailand

Researchers discovered a new scorpion species with 8 eyes and 8 legs in Thailand's Kaeng Krachan National Park. Named *Euscorpiops Krachan*, it belongs to the subgenus *Euscorpiops*. Found during a wildlife expedition near the Tenasserim Mountain Range, the species was uncovered beneath a rock during a camping trip. This finding highlights the park's biodiversity and underscores the importance of continued exploration and conservation efforts.



105. Recently, which university conferred President Murmu with the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law?

- [A] University of Chicago
- [B] University of Mauritius
- [C] University of Melbourne
- [D] University of Pennsylvania

Answer: University of Mauritius

The University of Mauritius awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law to Indian President Smt Droupadi Murmu on March 12, 2024. President Murmu emphasized the pivotal role of education in shaping the future, highlighting India's commitment to youth empowerment and the transformative impact of education. She praised Mauritius as a valued partner in education and regional cooperation, with hundreds of Mauritian students benefiting from Indian programs annually.

106. According to recent released CEEW's report, which of the following states have been placed on the top in water management?

- [A] Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala
- [B] Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand
- [C] Haryana, Karnataka and Punjab
- [D] Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan

Answer: Haryana, Karnataka and Punjab

Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW's) report on used water management spotlights Haryana, Karnataka, and Punjab as leaders in the country. Urban water demand rises while groundwater levels dwindle. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) require enhanced treatment and reuse infrastructure. Financial constraints hinder 90% of ULBs. Merely 28% of 72,000 million liters of used water is treated. CEEW proposes a Municipal Used Water Management (MUWM) Index to prioritize treatment and reuse, aiming to address the pressing water crisis.

107. Recently, where was the Bharat Shakti military exercise held?

- [A] Pokhran, Rajasthan
- [B] Kutch, Gujarat
- [C] Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Bikaner, Rajasthan

Answer: Pokhran, Rajasthan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and foreign delegates from over 30 nations observed 'Bharat Shakti,' the largest military exercise in India's history, in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The tri-service drill featured the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, with the Indian Army as the host. Key commanders from each force attended, showcasing India's military prowess on a global stage.

108. According to the SIPRI report, which country ranked as the world's leading arms importer from 2019 to 2023?



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

Answer: India

According to report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India leads global arms imports with a 4.7% growth from 2014-2018 to 2019-2023. Russia remains India's primary arms supplier, but its share fell below 50% for the first time since 1960-64. India sourced 36% of its arms imports from Russia. The US supplied 55% of Europe's weapons, while Japan's imports rose by 155%, and South Korea's by 6.5%. China's imports decreased by 44%.

109. Phani Yerava tribe, recently seen in the news, is mostly found in which state?

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

Answer: Karnataka

Forest-dwelling tribes in Karnataka's Western Ghats, like those in Makuta village, face challenges securing livelihoods. Despite land rights acquisition under the Forest Rights Act, tribes like the Phani Yerava continue grappling with changing livelihoods and alcohol addiction. In 2021, aided by locals, the Yerava community secured land rights under the Forest Rights Act for their 19 households spanning 135 acres. The Phani Yerava tribe predominantly resides in Karnataka's Western Ghats region.

110. Recently, which ministry inaugurated the Credit Assistance Program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras?

- [A] Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
- [B] Ministry of Minority Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Rural Development
- [D] Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer: Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers has initiated a Credit Assistance Program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras, aiming to bolster the network nationwide. From 80 Kendras in 2014, there are now over 11,000 operational units. An estimated 10 to 12 lakh people visit these Kendras daily, accessing affordable medicines. The MoU between SIDBI and PMBI promises project loans up to Rs. 2 lakhs at competitive rates, benefiting small entrepreneurs and modernizing Kendra networks.

111. Bhojshala Temple, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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



[D] Odisha

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh HC has instructed the ASI to survey the Bhojshala Temple-Kamal Maula Mosque complex to determine its true nature. Hindus have been conducting puja on Tuesdays and Muslims offering namaz on Fridays since April 2003. Situated in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, Bhojshala holds historical and religious importance. Protected under the AMASR Archaeological Survey of India under the Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, (AMASR Act). At, it was originally a temple built by Parmar King Bhoja in the 11th Century AD, now a Monument of National Importance.

112. Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024, recently seen in the news, is introduced by which ministry?

[A] Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

[B] Ministry of Heavy Industries

[C] Ministry of Power

[D] Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer: Ministry of Heavy Industries

The Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, announced the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024) in March 2024 to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country. The scheme will run from April 2024 to July 2024, with a total outlay of Rs 500 crore. The scheme will support purchase of two-wheelers and three-wheelers. The scheme will provide a subsidy of Rs 10,000 for two-wheelers, and Rs 25,000 for small three-wheelers. The subsidies will be eligible for electric two, three, and four wheelers sold until March 31, 2024, or until the time funds are available, whichever is earlier.

113. Recently, the naval forces of which three countries launched a joint exercise near the Gulf of Oman?

[A] China, Iran, and Russia

[B] India, USA and China

[C] Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan

[D] Australia, Maldives and Russia

Answer: China, Iran, and Russia

The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman. The exercise, which began on March 11 and lasted until 15, is the fifth common military exercise between the three countries in recent years. The exercise aims to safeguard regional maritime security and strengthen maritime cooperation. The exercise is organized in three phases: harbor, sea, and summarize. The exercise focuses on anti-piracy and search and rescue training courses, and includes the participation of Russian warships and aviation.

114. Prasar Bharti - Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD) is recently launched by which ministry?



- [A] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- [B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- [C] Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- [D] Ministry of Communications

Answer: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting introduced Prasar Bharti - Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD) along with revamped websites for DD News and Akashvani News, alongside an updated News on Air mobile app. PB-SHABD, a news sharing service by Prasar Bharati, offers daily news feeds in video, audio, text, photo, and more formats across fifty categories. The service, free for the first year, aims to provide news stories in major Indian languages, enhancing access to diverse media content.

115. What are 'Agray' and 'Akshay', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Anti-submarine warships
- [B] Climate monitoring satellite
- [C] Medicinal plant found mainly in South India
- [D] Newly discovered Exoplanets

Answer: Anti-submarine warships

Indian Navy launched ships 'Agray' and 'Akshay' to bolster anti-submarine capabilities. The Ministry of Defence contracted Kolkata-based PSU GRSE for eight ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC). GRSE built these ships, launched nearly five years post-contract signing. Named after former Abhay class corvettes, Neeta Chaudhary named them INS Agray and INS Akshay. These are the fifth and sixth in the series. India's shipbuilding prowess enhances maritime security with modern capabilities.

116. Recently, where was the 54th session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) held?

- [A] Chennai, India
- [B] Nairobi, Kenya
- [C] Melbourne, Australia
- [D] Paris, France

Answer: Nairobi, Kenya

The 54th session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) took place from March 11-15, 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The US government hosted the event, which was the first CCFH meeting in Kenya. At the session, India presented its recently released Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Modernization of Food Streets. The SOP was presented along the lines of the proposed draft guidelines for Food Hygiene Control Measures in Traditional Markets for Food.

117. Project SOORYA, recently seen in the news, is launched by which organization?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] DRDO



[C] WHO

[D] UNEP

Answer: ISRO

ISRO's Project SOORYA is the name of its Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) project, which aims to build the country's own space station and send Indians to the moon. The project is led by S. Sivakumar, with the initial phase being his responsibility. The first launch of the NGLV, codenamed SOORYA, is expected by 2034-35, and will require a third launch pad at Sriharikota. The project demonstrates ISRO's commitment to technological innovation and solidifying India's position as a global space power.

118. Operation Rising Sun, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

[A] Smuggling of foreign-origin gold

[B] Smuggling of Drugs

[C] Smuggling of Tiger's skin

[D] Smuggling of red sandalwood

Answer: Smuggling of foreign-origin gold

In March 2024, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) launched Operation "Rising Sun" to bust a major gold smuggling syndicate. The operation took place across four states on March 12 and 13, 2024 and resulted in the seizure of 61.08 kilograms of gold, valued at around Rs 40 crore, along with 19 vehicles, cash, and other electronic items. The gold was recovered from Guwahati, Barpeta, Darbhanga, Gorakhpur, and Araria.

119. Euscorpiops Krachan, recently seen in the news, belongs to which one of the following species?

[A] Spider

[B] Scorpion

[C] Fish

[D] Snake

Answer: Scorpion

Researchers recently discovered a new scorpion species, Euscorpiops Krachan, in Thailand's Krachan National Park. Belonging to the subgenus Euscopiops, it exhibits typical features of this group, yet is notably smaller, measuring just over 1 inch. Brownish in color, females are darker than males, possessing eight eyes and legs. Like other Scorpiops genus members, it likely hunts through ambush tactics. This discovery highlights the biodiversity of mountainous regions.

120. 'Vocal for Local' initiative, recently seen in the news, launched by which one of the following?

[A] IIT Kanpur

[B] Ministry of Women and Child Development

[C] NITI Aayog

[D] UGC



Answer: NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog launched the 'Vocal for Local' initiative to foster self-reliance and sustainable growth. Under the Aspirational Blocks Programme, it promotes local products from 500 blocks through the Aakanksha brand. Aakanksha serves as an umbrella brand, facilitating international market access. The initiative includes a dedicated window on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal for these products. Partners offer support for e-commerce, linkages, literacy, certification, and skill enhancement to promote local entrepreneurship.

121. Recently, Prime Minister of India inaugurated the first Oil Palm Processing Mill under Mission Palm Oil in which state?

- [A] Arunachal Pradesh
- [B] Assam
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Maharashtra

Answer: Arunachal Pradesh

The Prime Minister inaugurated the first Oil Palm Processing Mill under Mission Palm Oil in Arunachal Pradesh. Launched in 2021, the National Mission for Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) aims to boost oil palm cultivation and crude palm oil production. With a Rs. 11,040 crore outlay, the scheme targets a significant increase in oil palm area and productivity by 2025-26, focusing on the North East and Andaman-Nicobar Islands. Various stakeholders will implement NMEO-OP.

122. Recently, where was the India's first indoor athletics and aquatic centre inaugurated?

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

Answer: Bhubaneswar

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated India's first indoor athletics and aquatic centres at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, and laid the foundation stone for an indoor diving center. Costing Rs 120 crore, the stadium accommodates 120 athletes with coaching facilities, medical care, and a pantry. It features a 10,000 sq. meter track by Mondo SpA and hosts national and international events. It's a training hub for the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Centre, aimed at developing athletics nationwide.

123. Recently, who among the following has been selected as the new election commissioner?

- [A] Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
- [B] Arun Goel and Anup Chandra Pandey
- [C] Sukumar Sen and RK Trivedi
- [D] KVK Sundaram and SL Shakhdar

Answer: Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-member selection panel has appointed Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as the new Election Commissioners in the Election Commission of India. However, there seems to be dissent from the Opposition member of the panel, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who has questioned the process of their appointment. The appointments have been made under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act 2023.

124. Which one of the following IITs have recently created a new system for a hybrid unmanned vehicle that can operate both underwater and in the air?

- [A] IIT Madras and Hyderabad
- [B] IIT Jodhpur, Kanpur, and Palakkad
- [C] IIT Kanpur, Bombay and Patna
- [D] IIT Kharagpur and Roorkee

Answer: IIT Jodhpur, Kanpur, and Palakkad

Researchers from IIT Jodhpur, Kanpur, and Palakkad devised a hybrid unmanned vehicle for air and underwater operation, inspired by Anhingas. Utilizing 3D printing, waterproofing, and RC transmission, they crafted a prototype tested for aerial, water surface, and underwater maneuvering. Presented at AIR '23, their work aims to enhance efficiency for tasks like oil spill mapping and lifeguard rescues. With six maneuvers for smooth transitions, this research advances hybrid vehicle capabilities significantly.

125. Recently, India Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which country on Law and Dispute Resolution?

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

Answer: Singapore

India and Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on law and dispute resolution. The MoU focuses on exchanging best practices in law and dispute resolution. The collaboration is expected to lead to the adoption of more effective dispute resolution mechanisms.

126. What is the primary objective of 'Sagar Parikrama', recently seen in the news?

- [A] To explore marine biodiversity
- [B] To understand the needs and challenges of fishermen
- [C] To encourage tourism in coastal areas
- [D] To enhance maritime security

Answer: To understand the needs and challenges of fishermen

The Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying unveiled a book and video on "Sagar Parikrama". This outreach program aims to engage coastal fishermen along a predetermined sea route, addressing their concerns and promoting government



schemes. Conducted by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, the Sagar Parikrama Yatra covered 7,986 kilometers across 80 coastal districts, awarding certificates and sanctions under schemes like PMMSY and KCC to progressive fishermen and entrepreneurs.

127. Recently, which ministry collaborated with IIT Roorkee in automotive and EV sector?

- [A] Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- [B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- [C] Ministry of Heavy Industries
- [D] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Answer: Ministry of Heavy Industries

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector. The two ministries signed an MoU to promote innovation and advance the automotive and EV sector. Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, witnessed the historic event.

128. Kazhuvveli watershed region, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Tamil Nadu

Conservationists plan to nominate Kazhuvveli watershed region of Tamil Nadu for inclusion in World Monuments Fund Watch 2025, linking local preservation efforts with global attention and action. The World Monuments Fund, founded in 1965, aims to conserve significant architectural and cultural sites worldwide. Headquartered in New York, it operates in 112 countries, partnering with communities, funders, and governments. Its work addresses contemporary issues such as climate change and underrepresentation by leveraging heritage for resilience and inclusivity.

129. Sankalan App, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

- [A] Mining related laws
- [B] New Environmental laws
- [C] New criminal laws
- [D] Health awareness laws

Answer: New criminal laws

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation inaugurated a digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS) and the 'Sankalan' mobile app. CCMS, developed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), aids in terrorism and organized crime case coordination, enhancing justice delivery. Sankalan serves as a guide through new criminal laws, bridging old and new legislation, benefiting all stakeholders.

130. Which institution recently collaborated with Israel Aerospace Industries for Applied



Research?

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

Answer: IIT Delhi

IIT Delhi and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) join forces in applied research, reflecting IAI's corporate social responsibility in India. The collaboration aims to foster innovation and technological advancement through joint projects, training, and research consultancy. Both entities strive to shape India's technological landscape, aligning with IIT Delhi's dedication to pioneering research.

131. Lamphelpat Lake, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Mizoram
- [D] Sikkim

Answer: Manipur

Lamphelpat Lake, located in Manipur's Langol hill range, serves as a crucial reservoir for excess waters from Luwangli and Nambul rivers. Also known as a mini Loktak lake, it sustains Imphal's ecosystem. Now, the Lamphelpat Waterbody Project, a joint effort of Manipur's Water Resource Department and Ministry of Jal Shakti, aims to revive it. This project, with six key components including flood control and ecotourism promotion, promises a remarkable revival for the lake.

132. Which one of the following best describes about 'Miassite (Rh17S15)', recently seen in the news?

- [A] World's largest solar power plant
- [B] Newly discovered marine species
- [C] World's First Unconventional Superconductor
- [D] Ancient irrigation technique

Answer: World's First Unconventional Superconductor

Scientists have discovered Miassite, the first unconventional superconductor found in nature. It's one of only four minerals that exhibit superconductivity when grown in the lab. Miassite shares properties with high-temperature superconductors. Superconductivity allows electricity transmission without energy loss. The London penetration depth test determined Miassite's superconductivity type. This breakthrough expands understanding of superconductivity and opens new avenues for research in materials science and quantum physics.

133. Which state became the first Indian state to buy land in Kashmir for tourism?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Andhra Pradesh



[C] Maharashtra

[D] Karnataka

Answer: Maharashtra

Maharashtra is the first Indian state to buy land in Kashmir to build a bhawan for tourists. The land transfer agreement, costing ₹8.16 crore, symbolizes cooperation between states, promoting tourism and cultural exchange. This historic step reflects a proactive approach towards strengthening bonds and signifies a commitment to mutual growth and understanding.

134. According to the DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024, what is the rank of India on the DHL Connectedness Index?

[A] 61st

[B] 62nd

[C] 63rd

[D] 64th

Answer: 62nd

According to the 2024 DHL Global Connectedness Report, India ranks 62nd out of 171 countries on the DHL Connectedness Index. This is a 5-position improvement from the previous year, when India ranked 67th. The report ranks countries based on their connectedness to the world through the flow of trade, capital, information, and people. The report also says that India is the world's fastest-growing major economy, and that it will play an increasingly central role in the development of globalization over the coming decades.

135. Noctis Volcano, a recently discovered massive volcano, was found on which planet?

[A] Mars

[B] Jupiter

[C] Neptune

[D] Saturn

Answer: Mars

Scientists recently discovered a massive volcano on Mars called Noctis, which is located on the eastern edge of Tharsis, a broad regional topographic rise. The volcano is 9,022 meters high and 450 kilometers wide, which makes it almost 200 meters taller than Mount Everest. It's located south of Mars' equator, in Eastern Noctis Labyrinthus, west of Valles Marineris, the planet's vast canyon system. Scientists discovered Noctis using data from NASA's Mariner 9, Viking Orbiter 1 and 2, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, and Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter missions, as well as ESA's Mars Express mission.

136. According to a report by TRAFFIC and WWF-India, which state has topped in the illegal trade of shark body parts?

[A] Odisha

[B] Tamil Nadu

[C] Andhra Pradesh



[D] Maharashtra

Answer: Tamil Nadu

According to a 2024 analysis by TRAFFIC and WWF-India, Tamil Nadu has topped the illegal trade of shark body parts in India, accounting for nearly 65% of seizures between 2010 and 2022. The study found that 16,000 kilograms of shark fins were seized during this period, which is almost 80% of the total. The confiscated products are headed to Singapore, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Sri Lanka, and mainland China.

137. Atapaka Bird Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

[A] Kerala

[B] Andhra Pradesh

[C] Maharashtra

[D] Karnataka

Answer: Andhra Pradesh

At Atapaka Bird Sanctuary, situated on Kolleru Lake in Andhra Pradesh, nature enthusiasts relish the sight of thousands of migratory birds, particularly Pelicans. Spanning 673 sq km across West Godavari and Krishna districts, it's under the Kaikalur forest range. Common species include Cormorants, Common Redshanks, and more. Kolleru Lake, India's largest freshwater lake, balances floods for Krishna and Godavari deltas, with over 68 inflowing channels and serves as a vital migratory bird habitat.

138. What is the theme of 'National Vaccination Day 2024'?

[A] Vaccine Prevents the Unwanted

[B] Protected Together: Vaccines Work

[C] Vaccines Work for All

[D] Close the immunization gap

Answer: Vaccines Work for All

National Vaccination Day, celebrated annually on March 16, signifies collective commitment to public health. Its 2024 theme, "Vaccines Work for All," emphasizes universal protection against diseases through vaccination. Originating in 1995 with India's Pulse Polio Vaccination Program, it also commemorates WHO's polio eradication initiative since 1988. Notably, it marks the 1975 eradication of smallpox. This day underscores the vital role of vaccination in preventing infectious diseases globally.

139. Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis, recently seen in the news, is associated with which one of the following disease?

[A] Liver disease

[B] Kidney disease

[C] Heart disease

[D] Lungs disease

Answer: Liver disease

Madrigal Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s drug Rezdiffra gained the first US approval to treat nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), a potentially deadly liver disease caused by fat



buildup. NASH, part of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, can lead to cirrhosis. Symptoms include fatigue, unexplained weight loss, weakness, and upper right belly ache. Risk factors include obesity, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, and metabolic syndrome. Treatment involves managing conditions like cholesterol levels, weight, and diabetes.

140. Recently, where was the National Time Protocol (NTP) for dissemination of Indian Standard Time (IST) inaugurated?

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

Answer: Mumbai

The National Time Protocol (NTP) for dissemination of Indian Standard Time (IST) was inaugurated in Mumbai in March, 2024 by Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal. The NTP will provide accurate time information with milliseconds, and will also improve cyber security. The National Time Protocol (NTP) for dissemination of Indian Standard Time (IST) was inaugurated in Mumbai on March 15, 2024 by Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal. The NTP will provide accurate time information with milliseconds, and will also improve cyber security.

141. 'Fair share for health and care' report, recently seen in the news, is launched by which organization?

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

Answer: WHO

The WHO's "Fair share for health and care" report highlights the gender gap in global healthcare. Women represent 67% of the health and social care workforce but face a 24% pay gap compared to men. Globally, 90% of women's earnings support family well-being, while only 30–40% of men's do. Despite comprising 25–60% of doctors, women make up 30–100% of nursing staff in 35 countries. Women perform 76% of unpaid care activities worldwide, with significant imbalances in India.

142. Bannerghatta Biological Park, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Karnataka

Bannerghatta Biological Park, established in 1971 in Bengaluru, Karnataka, is unaffected by the city's water crisis due to its location on the outskirts. Declared a biological reserve



in 2002, it boasts India's first fenced forested elephant sanctuary. Notably, it inaugurated India's first butterfly enclosure in 2006. The park is graced by the Suvarnamukhi stream flowing through it, enhancing its biodiversity and natural charm.

143. Which ministry has consistently ranked amongst the 10 top ministries in Grievance Redressal Assessment Index (GRAI) for 2023-2024?

- [A] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [B] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Agriculture
- [D] Ministry of Rural Development

Answer: Ministry of Home Affairs

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has consistently ranked among the top 10 ministries in the Grievance Redressal Assessment Index (GRAI) for 2023-2024. The MHA performed well in all 15 indicators, with an average redressal time of 8 days. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has also collaborated with states on initiatives to effectively resolve public grievances.

144. Recently, who has been appointed as the new chairman of Prasar Bharti?

- [A] Gaurav Dwivedi
- [B] Navneet Kumar Sehgal
- [C] Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- [D] Jagat Singh Chauhan

Answer: Navneet Kumar Sehgal

The Government of India appointed retired IAS official Navneet Kumar Sehgal as the new chairman of Prasar Bharati, the country's public broadcaster. His term will last for three years or until he reaches the age of 70, whichever comes earlier. Sehgal succeeded Surya Prakash, whose term ended in February 2020 after he turned 70.

145. Recently, which ministry signed an MoU with J-PAL South Asia to provide technical assistance in the implementation of inclusive development under DAY NRLM?

- [A] Ministry of Agriculture
- [B] Ministry of Jal Shakti
- [C] Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- [D] Ministry of Rural Development

Answer: Ministry of Rural Development

In March 2024, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia to help in the implementation of inclusive development under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY) National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). The partnership will also help empower rural women to become self-sufficient. The MoU includes the establishment of a Gender Impact Lab to conduct research and institutionalize data use within DAY NRLM.

146. Hemoglobin A1C Test, recently mentioned in the news, is used to test which one of the following diseases?



- [A] Diabetes
- [B] Dengue
- [C] Tuberculosis
- [D] Anaemia

Answer: Diabetes

A 2023 nationwide study revealed that India has an estimated 10.13 crore individuals with diabetes and 13.6 crore with pre-diabetes. The glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) test, commonly used in diagnosing and managing both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, measures blood sugar levels over time. Hemoglobin, found in red blood cells, transports oxygen throughout the body. This crucial blood test offers insights into diabetes management effectiveness.

147. Shipra River, recently seen in the news, is located on the banks of which city?

- [A] Ujjain
- [B] Varanasi
- [C] Mathura
- [D] Vadodara

Answer: Ujjain

A performance audit by India's CAG on Shipra River's degradation revealed key insights. Shipra, sacred like the Ganga, originates from Vindhya Range, flows 195km (93km through Ujjain), and joins the Chambal River. Legends claim it sprang from Lord Vishnu's boar incarnation's heart. Ujjain, a holy city, hosts the famous Kumbha Mela on its banks. Tributaries include Khan and Gambhir. Its significance extends across Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain texts.

148. Recently, RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.40 crore on which bank?

- [A] Bank of India
- [B] Punjab National Bank
- [C] Bank of Baroda
- [D] Canara Bank

Answer: Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1, 40, 76,000 on Bank of India (BoI) for non-compliance with certain RBI directions on interest rates on deposits, customer service, and other areas. The penalty is for deficiencies in regulatory compliance, not to pronounce on the validity of any transactions or agreements between the bank and its customers.

149. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

- [A] Viral disease of livestock
- [B] Bacterial disease of livestock
- [C] Fungus disease of Birds
- [D] Plant disease



Answer: Viral disease of livestock

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has hit 60% of milch cattle in Pilibhit district, Uttar Pradesh. FMD, a highly contagious viral disease, affects livestock like cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. It's not harmful to horses, dogs, or cats. Intensively reared animals are more prone. FMD is a transboundary animal disease, affecting livestock production and trade. It's caused by an aphthovirus and characterized by fever and blister-like sores. Recovery is common but leads to production losses.

150. Exercise "LAMITIYE, recently seen in the news, is conducted between which two countries?

[A] India and Japan

[B] India and Australia

[C] India and Egypt

[D] India and Seychelles

Answer: India and Seychelles

The Indian Army contingent embarked for Seychelles for the Tenth edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024". This biennial event, meaning 'Friendship' in Creole, fosters cooperation between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). 45 personnel from each side will participate, aiming to enhance interoperability in Sub-conventional Operations. The exercise, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, promotes bilateral military relations, exchanging skills, experiences, and tactical drills in a Semi-Urban environment.

151. Recently, 'Startup Mahakumbh' is being organized at which place?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Chennai

[C] Bengaluru

[D] Lucknow

Answer: New Delhi

The 'Startup Mahakumbh' is set from March 18-20, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam and India Trade Promotion Organization in New Delhi. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary of the Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade, believes it will boost innovation ranking. Over 34 deep-tech startups will exhibit innovations at the NASSCOM Pavilion during the three-day event.

152. Who has been conferred the Sangita Kalanidhi award in 2024 by the Madras Music Academy?

[A] Aruna Sairam

[B] N G Ganesan

[C] Ritha Rajan

[D] T M Krishna

Answer: T M Krishna

Carnatic vocalist Thodur Madabusi Krishna (T M Krishna) was awarded the Sangita Kalanidhi award in 2024 by the Madras Music Academy. The award recognizes Krishna's



powerful voice, adherence to tradition, exploratory approach to music, and his use of music as a tool for social reform. Krishna is known for challenging conventional ideas about caste and gender politics in Carnatic music. He began his musical journey at a young age, and at the age of 12, Krishna presented his debut concert at the Madras Music Academy.

153. Recently, which state/UT government recently approved the 10% reservations for Paharis and three other tribes?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Jammu & Kashmir
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Andaman and Nicobar

Answer: Jammu & Kashmir

The Jammu & Kashmir LG administration has sanctioned 10% reservation for newly-included tribes, such as Paharis, in Schedule Tribe (ST), and included 15 new castes in Other Backward Classes (OBCs). LG Manoj Sinha approved the Social Welfare Department's proposal to amend Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules, 2005. This includes adding Pahari Ethnic Group, Paddari Tribe, Kolis, and Gadda Brahmins to the Scheduled Tribes Order, increasing ST reservation to 20%.

154. Which state's Animal Husbandry department has announced to recognize the 'Thenmala Kullan' a dwarf cow, as an indigenous breed?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Kerala

Answer: Kerala

The Kerala Animal Husbandry department has announced plans to register the ThenmalaKullan, a dwarf cow, as an indigenous breed. The cow is known for its distinctive features and adaptation to the local agro-ecological conditions. The Thenmala utilise are also important for tribal communities and traditional farming practices in the area. The cow has a small hump and is reared by tribespeople in Arippa and Thenmala

155. Which one of the following best describes about Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC), recently seen in the news?

- [A] A proposed trade route connecting Chennai (India) and Vladivostok (Russia)
- [B] A modern trade route linking Kamarajar Port (India) and Nakhodka (Russia)
- [C] A ancient trade connecting Indian Ocean and Red sea
- [D] A proposed trade route connecting Mumbai (India) and Duqm (oman)

Answer: A proposed trade route connecting Chennai (India) and Vladivostok (Russia)

The Red Sea crisis has spurred interest in the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC), a proposed trade route connecting Chennai, India, to Vladivostok, Russia. The corridor aims to shorten transportation time between Indian and Russian ports in the Far East by up to 16 days.



Once operational, it will reduce the shipping duration from India to Far East Russia to 24 days, compared to over 40 days via the Suez Canal.

156. ULLAS initiative, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following sectors?

- [A] Education sector
- [B] Health sector
- [C] Agriculture sector
- [D] Finance sector

Answer: Education sector

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), under the Ministry of Education, India, conducted the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) on March 17, 2024, across 23 states. FLNAT is part of the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram initiative, aimed at revolutionizing education nationwide. ULLAS fosters a learning ecosystem for individuals, providing basic education, digital and financial literacy, and critical life skills, particularly for those aged 15 and above without schooling opportunities, through volunteerism.

157. Ethanol 100 fuel, recently launched by petroleum ministry, is currently accessible in how many states?

- [A] Three
- [B] Four
- [C] Five
- [D] Seven

Answer: Five

Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched 'ETHANOL 100', a groundbreaking automotive fuel at IndianOil's retail outlet in Delhi. This ethanol-based fuel will be available in 183 outlets across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, and Tamil Nadu. Secretary Shri Pankaj Jain and IndianOil Chairman Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya also attended. Minister Puri emphasized ETHANOL 100's role in reducing fossil fuel dependence, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of energy transformation.

158. SIMA, an AI gaming agent, recently developed by which one of the following company?

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

Answer: Google

Google DeepMind unveiled SIMA, an AI gaming agent adept at executing tasks across diverse virtual environments using natural language instructions. SIMA, or Scalable Instructable Multiworld Agent, functions as a generalist AI capable of various tasks. It acts like a virtual companion, navigating dungeons or constructing castles based on user



commands. Trained to understand human language, SIMA autonomously completes assigned challenges or tasks within video game settings.

159. World Air Quality Report 2023, recently seen in the news, is published by which organization?

- [A] World Health Organization
- [B] Swiss organisation IQAir
- [C] United Nations Environment Programme
- [D] United Nations Development Programme

Answer: Swiss organisation IQAir

Delhi was labeled as the world's most polluted capital city in the 2023 World Air Quality Report by Swiss Organization IQAir. India ranked third in air quality with an average annual PM2.5 concentration of 54.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Bangladesh and Pakistan were worse off, while Bihar's Begusarai was named the most polluted metropolitan area. Ten of the top 11 polluted cities were Indian, with Lahore being the only exception. 96% of India's population faces PM2.5 levels exceeding WHO guidelines.

160. E-crop, a crop simulation model-based device, was developed by which one of the following institute?

- [A] Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod
- [B] Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Kerala
- [C] Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair
- [D] National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack

Answer: Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Kerala

E-Crop, a crop simulation model, offers growers SMS advice on water and nutrient needs. Developed by Santhosh Mithra of CTCRI, Kerala, it received a patent from the Indian Patent Office retroactively from 2014. Farmers utilize the 'krihi kruthya' app to record and transmit soil moisture data to the server for analysis. This innovative device aids farmers in optimizing water and nutrient management for enhanced crop yields.

161. Barberton Greenstone Belt, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Western Australia
- [B] Canada
- [C] South Africa
- [D] Russia

Answer: South Africa

Scientists recently discovered early earthquake evidence in South Africa's Barberton Greenstone Belt, located on the eastern edge of the Kaapvaal Craton. Known for gold mineralization and unique komatiites, it boasts some of Earth's oldest rocks, over 3.6 billion years old, with traces of ancient life. The Makhonjwa Mountains, constituting 40% of the belt, feature rocks dating back 3.2 to 3.6 billion years. Ultramafic rocks found here are rich in magnesium and iron.

162. Exercise 'Tiger Triumph', recently seen in the news, is conducted between which two



countries?

- [A] India and Australia
- [B] Russia and Sudan
- [C] India and UK
- [D] India and USA

Answer: India and USA

Exercise Tiger Triumph, occurring from March 18 to 31, 2024, is a bilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) drill between India and the USA on the Eastern Seaboard. It focuses on enhancing interoperability and refining SOPs for rapid disaster response. The Harbor Phase runs from March 18 to 25, featuring joint training, exchanges, and social events. Afterward, participating ships engage in maritime, amphibious, and HADR operations. Both Indian and US forces, including naval, army, and air assets, partake in the exercise.

163. What is 'Heterobilharzia Americana', recently seen in the news,?

- [A] Virus
- [B] Whipworm
- [C] Flatworm
- [D] Bacteria

Answer: Flatworm

Southern California recently found the dog-killing flatworm parasite *Heterobilharzia Americana* in the Colorado River. Also known as a liver fluke, it causes canine schistosomiasis, affecting livers and intestines. Researchers identified two snail varieties capable of transmitting it: *Galba cubensis* and *Galba humilis*. Previously seen mainly in Texas and Gulf Coast states, treatments exist but don't always work, potentially leading to euthanasia. While not directly contagious to humans, it can cause swimmer's itch.

164. Recently, which space organization is planning to carry a 'message in a bottle' to Europa, one of Jupiter's moon in October 2024?

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

Answer: NASA

In October 2024, NASA's Europa Clipper mission will journey to Jupiter's moon, Europa, aiming to uncover signs of life. It's speculated there's a salty lake beneath its icy crust. The spacecraft carries a metal plate featuring a poem by US Poet Laureate Ada Limón and over 2.6 million names etched on a silicon microchip. Notably, it also includes 103 waveforms representing the word "water" in various languages, including Hindi, showcasing an Indian connection.

165. Recently, where was the Formula-4 car racing event was organized?

- [A] Srinagar



- [B] Uttarakhand
- [C] New Delhi
- [D] Bengaluru

Answer: Srinagar

Srinagar hosted its inaugural Formula-4 car racing event along Dal Lake's Boulevard Road, covering a 1.7 km track from Lalit Ghat to Nehru Park. Organized by the Federation of Motor Clubs of India, it aimed to boost youth interest in sports. Divisional Commissioner Vijay Kumar Bidhuri highlighted its potential to promote sports careers. Unlike Formula 1, Formula-4 races reach speeds up to 210 km/h, with participants as young as 15.

166. Recently, who has been conferred the Nritya Kalanidhi Award 2024?

- [A] Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari
- [B] Jayashri
- [C] Neena Prasad
- [D] Vid Bragha Bessell

Answer: Neena Prasad

Dr. Neena Prasad, a top exponent of Mohiniyattam, has been awarded the Nritya Kalanidhi Award in 2024. She has trained in multiple classical dance forms, including Bharat Natyam, Kuchipudi, and Kathakali. She has also received a Ph.D. from Rabindra Bharati University and a post-doctoral fellowship from the University of Surrey. Prasad runs music academies in Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram, including the Bharatanjali Academy of Indian Dances, and teaches students at her academies.

167. Recently, who has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to Russia?

- [A] Saurabh Kumar
- [B] Vinay Kumar
- [C] Amal Kumar Goswami
- [D] D.B. Venkatesh Varma

Answer: Vinay Kumar

Vinay Kumar, an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1992 batch, is appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Russia, currently serving in Myanmar. The Ministry of External Affairs announced his new assignment, reinforcing the longstanding partnership between India and Russia. The move highlights the strategic importance of diplomatic ties between the two nations amidst recent elections in Russia. Kumar is expected to assume his new role shortly.

168. Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR), recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Bihar

Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR), Bihar's sole tiger reserve, utilizes green energy for watering



wild animals, including tigers, and their prey in scorching summers. Established in 1990 and declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1978, VTR encompasses Valmiki National Park and Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary. Situated on the Gandak riverbanks, it shares borders with Royal Chitwan National Park and Parsa Wildlife Sanctuary of Nepal. The Bihar government awaits NTCA approval to declare Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary as the state's second tiger reserve after VTR.

169. What is 'Biomining', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Extracting minerals from sea water
- [B] Extracting metals from ores using microorganisms
- [C] Extracting minerals from volcanic rocks
- [D] Extracting mineral from ground using electromagnets

Answer: Extracting metals from ores using microorganisms

Delhi's biomining project aimed at clearing landfill sites is facing another setback as it is expected to miss the 2024 deadline. Biomining involves extracting metals from solid materials using micro-organisms. This technique is not only used for metal extraction but also for cleaning up polluted sites. The process involves microbes oxidizing metals, making them soluble in water, or breaking down surrounding minerals to make metal recovery easier. Bioleaching and bio-oxidation are common biomining processes.

170. Recently, which institute signed an MoU with the Indian Navy to promote technology development, innovative solutions, and joint R&D?

- [A] IIT Kharagpur
- [B] IIT Roorkee
- [C] IIT Madras
- [D] IIT Kanpur

Answer: IIT Kharagpur

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and the Indian Navy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in March 2024 to promote technology development, innovative solutions, and joint R&D. The MoU was signed at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, and will be co-ordinated by INS Shivaji, Lonavala. The collaboration focuses on joint research and development initiatives involving teams from both the Indian Navy and IIT Kharagpur.

171. Recently, who won the 'Saraswati Samman 2023' for his work Roudra Sathwikam?

- [A] Vijay Tendulkar
- [B] Vasdev Mohi
- [C] Prabha Varma
- [D] Padma Sachdev

Answer: Prabha Varma

Malayalam poet Prabha Varma won the 2023 Saraswati Samman for his work Roudra Sathwikam. The K.K. Birla Foundation selected Varma for the award, which is given annually to an outstanding literary work written in an Indian language. The award



includes a citation, plaque, and 15 lakh rupees. Roudra Sathwikam is a 2022 poetic work that explores the conflict between power and politics, the individual and the state, and art and power. The Saraswati Samman is one of the most prestigious awards in India, and was established in 1991. The award is given to an Indian citizen for an outstanding literary work published in the last 10 years.

172. What is 'KKL(R) 3', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Salt tolerant paddy variety
- [B] Newly discovered plant disease
- [C] Asteroid
- [D] Black hole

Answer: Salt tolerant paddy variety

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute (PAJANCOA & RI) introduces KKL(R)3, its third paddy variety. Developed to address water scarcity during the kuruvai season, KKL(R)3 is salt tolerant, crucial for delta regions facing saline water issues. It matures in 110-115 days, tailored for the coastal delta region. Yielding 3,435-3,500 kg/ha in salt-affected areas and 6,420 kg/ha under normal conditions, it offers a solution to farmers' challenges.

173. Which day is celebrated as 'World Sparrow Day' every year?

- [A] 19 March
- [B] 20 March
- [C] 21 March
- [D] 22 March

Answer: 20 March

World Sparrow Day is celebrated annually on March 20th. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about the protection of sparrows and other birds that share our environment. It is a call to action to remember the delicate beauty around us that must be protected. The theme for World Sparrow Day 2024 is "I Love Sparrows". This theme highlights the special connection between humans and sparrows.

174. Where will India's first Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory be established by October 2024?

- [A] Jammu and Kashmir
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Himachal Pradesh
- [D] Rajasthan

Answer: Jammu and Kashmir

India's first battery energy storage (BESS) gigafactory will be established in Jammu and Kashmir, and is expected to start operations in October 2024. The 7 GWh capacity facility is being developed by GoodEnough Energy, a battery energy storage systems manufacturer based in Greater Noida. The factory's goal is to help reduce carbon emissions by 5 million tons annually, which is equivalent to the Indian Railways annual carbon reduction target



of 4 million tonnes. The factory will also help to ensure the stability of the power grid.

175. Recently, which country hosted the third summit for Democracy?

- [A] Vietnam
- [B] South Korea
- [C] India
- [D] Germany

Answer: South Korea

South Korea hosted the 3rd Summit for Democracy in Seoul from 18-20 March 2024, initiated by President Joe Biden in 2021 to combat authoritarianism and uphold human rights. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken opened the summit. Previously, the 1st was held virtually in 2021, with over 100 countries attending, and the 2nd in 2023, co-hosted with multiple nations in virtual mode, with 121 world leaders invited.

176. 'Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour' report, recently seen in the news, is released by which organization?

- [A] International Labour Organization
- [B] World Health Organization
- [C] World Trade Organization
- [D] World Bank

Answer: International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) published a report titled 'Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour', revealing that Forced Labour generates illegal profits of USD 36 billion annually, marking a 37% increase since 2014. Factors contributing to this rise include more people being forced into labour and higher profits from victim exploitation. Forced labour's total annual illegal profits are highest in Europe & Central Asia, followed by Asia & the Pacific, the Americas, Africa, and the Arab States.

177. Recently, which organization of India has received the Aviation Week Laureates Award?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] DRDO
- [C] ICAR
- [D] CSIR

Answer: ISRO

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) received the Aviation Week Laureates Award in 2024 for its achievements with the Chandrayaan-3 mission. Deputy Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in the US, Sripriya Ranganathan, accepted the award on behalf of ISRO. The award recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in the aerospace industry.

178. Which country's lawmakers recently passed a new national security law that gives government more power to curb dissent, treason and insurrection?

- [A] Hong Kong



- [B] Iran
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Egypt

Answer: Hong Kong

Hong Kong recently passed a new national security law that expands government powers to suppress dissent and imposes life sentences for treason and insurrection. The law also includes life sentences for sabotage and "colluding with foreign forces". The law is seen as the latest step in a political crackdown that began in 2019 with pro-democracy protests. In 2020, Beijing imposed a national security law that gave it broad new powers to punish critics and silence dissenters.

179. BhashaNet portal, recently seen in the news, is launched by which organization?

- [A] National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)
- [B] NASSCOM
- [C] ISRO
- [D] DRDO

Answer: National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)

NIXI unveils BhashaNet portal on Universal Acceptance Day for digital inclusion and linguistic diversity in India. Established in 2003, NIXI is a non-profit under Companies Act 2013. It promotes domestic routing for better internet service and manages .IN is India's Country Code Top Level Domain since 2004. NIXI facilitates internet infrastructure and operates as NIR (IRINN) offering IXPs for Internet Exchange Points, aiming to increase internet penetration and adoption in India.

180. What is the theme of 'World Forestry Day 2024'?

- [A] Forests and innovation: new solutions for a better world
- [B] Forest restoration: the path to recovery and welfare
- [C] Forests and Biodiversity
- [D] Learn to Love Forests

Answer: Forests and innovation: new solutions for a better world

World Forest Day, or International Day of Forests, is celebrated annually on March 21. It promotes the value of forests and encourages global participation in tree-related campaigns, including planting drives. Coordinated by the FAO and UN Forum on Forests, it was established in 1971. March 21 was chosen to align with the Vernal and Autumn Equinoxes. This year's theme is "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World."

181. Recently, who was awarded the prestigious Devi Shankar Awasthi Award 2023?

- [A] Achyutanand Mishra
- [B] Ashutosh Bhardwaj
- [C] Ram Shankar Awasthi
- [D] Nishant

Answer: Nishant



Nishant, a young poet and critic, is awarded the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award in 2023 for his book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'. The selection committee, comprising esteemed writers like Mridula Garg and Sudhir Chandra, unanimously chose Nishant. Established in 1995, this honor, named after Hindi literary critic Devi Shankar Awasthi, recognizes young critics for their significant contributions to Hindi criticism. Nishant's work exemplifies excellence in both criticism and poetry.

182. According to the World Air Quality Report, which country was the 3rd most polluted country in 2023?

- [A] Nepal
- [B] Egypt
- [C] India
- [D] Finland

Answer: India

In 2023, India ranked as the 3rd most polluted country globally, per the World Air Quality Report by Swiss company IQAir. Drawing data from 30,000+ air quality monitoring stations across 7,812 locations in 134 countries, only 10 met the WHO's clean air standard. French Polynesia, Mauritius, and Iceland had the cleanest air, while India trailed behind Pakistan and Bangladesh in pollution levels.

183. Vechur cow, recently seen in the news, is indigenous to which state?

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

Answer: Kerala

Dr. Sosamma Iype and her students saved the Vechur cow breed from extinction, earning her the Padma Shri in 2022. The Vechur cow, named after Vechoor village in Kerala, is the world's smallest cattle breed, averaging 90cm in height and 130kg in weight. Despite lower milk yield compared to hybrids, its milk contains beneficial properties like beta-casein A2 and lactoferrin. The breed's genetic purity and adaptability make it ideal for traditional farming.

184. Recently, who was unanimously elected as co-chair of the Digital Innovation Board of International Telecommunication Union's (ITU)?

- [A] Neeraj Mittal
- [B] Aparajita Sharma
- [C] Ajay Ranjan Mishra
- [D] Sunil Mittal

Answer: Neeraj Mittal

Dr. Neeraj Mittal has been unanimously elected as co-chair of the Digital Innovation Board of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN specialized agency for information and communication technologies. Established in 1865 as the International



Telegraph Union, it became a UN specialized agency in 1947. With 193 member countries and over 1000 affiliated entities, ITU allocates global radio spectrum, sets technical standards, and promotes ICT access worldwide. India has been an active member since 1869. Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

185. Recently, which two star clusters have been discovered in space by European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope?

- [A] Aditya and Vikram
- [B] Ajay and Pushp
- [C] Shiva and Shakti
- [D] Dhruv and Ganga

Answer: Shiva and Shakti

The European Space Agency's Gaia telescope uncovered ancient star streams, Shiva and Shakti, shedding light on galaxy origins. These structures, formed 12 billion years ago, influenced Milky Way formation. Shakti stars orbit farther from the galactic center in circular paths, unlike Shiva. Named after Hindu deities, they symbolize universal creation. Gaia, launched in 2013, maps the Milky Way by analyzing data from over a decade, measuring stars' positions, distances, and speeds.

186. Recently, ISRO successfully conducted the Reusable Landing Vehicle (RLV) LEX 02 Landing Experiment. What is the name of RLV?

- [A] Akash
- [B] Pushpak
- [C] Ambar
- [D] Pushkar

Answer: Pushpak

ISRO's successful Pushpak Reusable Landing Vehicle (RLV) LEX 02 Landing Experiment marks a milestone in India's space program. This experiment is part of the Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD) Programme, reaffirmed indigenous high-speed autonomous landing technologies. RLV, resembling a space plane, aims to enable cost-effective access to space. Building upon RLV LEX-01's success in 2023, India plans to scale up this technology for a two-stage orbital launch vehicle, following NASA and private sector examples.

187. Recently, who became the first Black leader of a government in the UK?

- [A] James Cleverly
- [B] Bim Afolami
- [C] Kemi Badenoch
- [D] Vaughan Gething

Answer: Vaughan Gething

Vaughan Gething, son of a Welsh father and Zambian mother, is elected as Wales' first minister, becoming the UK's first Black government leader. Gething prioritizes diversity and unity, aiming to navigate challenges like Tata Steel job cuts. Previously Wales' health



minister during COVID-19, he faces economic hurdles, including Tata Steel's blast furnace closures and environmental protests. Gething's leadership underscores Wales' commitment to inclusivity amidst pressing issues.

188. Recently, which state has formulated a Low-Carbon Action Plan (LCAP) to strengthen its waste management and domestic wastewater sector?

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

Answer: Bihar

Bihar has formulated a Low-Carbon Action Plan (LCAP) to strengthen its waste management and domestic wastewater sector. The LCAP is part of the state's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2070. The LCAP includes an assessment of the existing waste management infrastructure, including solid waste and domestic wastewater, and outlines a roadmap to reduce emissions.

189. Recently, the government has approved inclusion of which crops under its price stabilization fund (PSF)?

- [A] Cotton and Coffee
- [B] Wheat and Rice
- [C] Jute and Tea
- [D] Pulses and Barley

Answer: Wheat and Rice

The government has recently included wheat and rice in the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF). Established in 2014-15 under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), it was transferred to DOCA in 2016. Managed centrally by PSFMC, it regulates proposals from State Governments and Central Agencies. SFAC maintains it as a central corpus fund. The fund aims to stabilize prices of selected commodities by distributing or procuring them, primarily used to counter high or low prices.

190. Which player won WTT Feeder Beirut Table Tennis 2024 title?

- [A] Mouma Das
- [B] Manav Thakkar
- [C] Sharath Kamal
- [D] G.Sathiyam

Answer: G.Sathiyam

Indian table tennis player G.Sathiyam clinched the men's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut 2024 tournament, defeating compatriot Manav Vikash Thakkar. Diya Chitale and Manush Shah secured the mixed doubles title, marking India's second win. G.Sathiyam's victory marked India's first-ever singles title at the WTT Feeder Series, beating world no. 74 Manav Thakkar. Sathiyam, ranked 103, rebounded from losing the first game to claim victory and advance by defeating Chuang Chih-yuan in the semifinal.



191. Recently, who has been elected as chairman of Indian Bank Association?

- [A] Madhav Nair
- [B] Rajeev Dewal
- [C] B N Mishra
- [D] M.V. Rao

Answer: M.V. Rao

M.V. Rao, MD & CEO of Central Bank of India, elected as Indian Bank Association (IBA) chairman for 2023-24, succeeding Atul Kumar Goel of Punjab National Bank. Goel served as chairman for 2021-22 and 2022-23. The IBA's Managing Committee elected office bearers for 2023-24 in a meeting on March 21, 2024.

192. Byadagi chillies, recently seen in the news, are primarily grown in which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Karnataka
- [C] Kerala
- [D] Maharashtra

Answer: Karnataka

AMPC e-tender process for Byadagi Chilli in Byadagi led to violent protests over alleged low prices. Byadgi chilli, named after the town in Karnataka, is less spicy, renowned for vibrant color, crucial in South Indian cuisine. Primary varieties are Byadgi Kaddi, thin and less popular, and Byadgi Dabbi, prized for its color, flavor, and mild spiciness. Both varieties received Geographical Indication tag in 2011, contributing to India's second-largest chilli turnover.

193. Which ministry has recently announced guidelines for betting and gambling platforms?

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

Answer: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting advises endorsers and influencers on social media to avoid promoting offshore online betting and gambling platforms due to their negative impact on consumers, especially youth. Social media and online advertising intermediaries are urged not to target Indian audiences with such content. The Central Consumer Protection Authority expresses concerns about celebrities endorsing these platforms and warns of legal consequences under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 for non-compliance.

194. Recently, which agency has signed a working arrangement with European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)?

- [A] CBI
- [B] NBI



[C] CISF

[D] CRPF

Answer: CBI

The CBI and Europol signed a Working Arrangement for cooperation between Indian and EU law enforcement. Executives Catherine De Bolle and Praveen Sood inked the deal during a virtual event. The agreement aims to foster direct collaboration, leveraging their mandates and strategies for synergies.

195. Dachigam National Park, recently seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

[A] Jammu and Kashmir

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Rajasthan

[D] Gujarat

Answer: Jammu and Kashmir

Despite conservation efforts, Kashmir's hangul deer, also known as the Kashmir stag, faces extinction. This shy and sensitive species, the only surviving Asiatic sub-species of the European red deer, is Jammu and Kashmir's state animal. Endemic to Kashmir's hills, particularly in Dachigam National Park, it suffers from habitat loss and poaching. Critically endangered according to IUCN and listed in CITES Appendix I, urgent measures are needed to save it from disappearing.

196. Where were the first Foreign Office Consultations between India and Mauritania organized?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Nouadhibou

[C] Nouakchott

[D] Chennai

Answer: Nouakchott

India and Mauritania held their 1st Foreign Office Consultations in Nouakchott, discussing bilateral, regional, and global issues. Talks covered political cooperation, economic partnership, and cultural exchanges. Bilateral trade surged to \$378 million in 2022-23 from \$108 million in 2021-22. India's Resident Mission, opened in June 2021, has bolstered relations. The meeting highlighted the enduring friendship and collaboration between the two nations.

197. Which one of the following countries recently signed a new agreement to build Australia's SSN-AUKUS Submarines?

[A] Ukraine, France and Germany

[B] US, UK, and Australia

[C] India, US and China

[D] Russia, Australia and Malaysia

Answer: US, UK, and Australia

The US, UK, and Australia have formed a new pact to construct Australia's SSN-AUKUS



submarines, marking a milestone in defense cooperation. ASC and BAE Systems will build the submarines, equipped for intelligence, surveillance, and undersea warfare. SSN-AUKUS will enhance industrial collaboration, bolster collective capacity, and spur economic growth in defense sectors. AUKUS aims to fortify a robust submarine industrial base across the three nations, ensuring production and maintenance capabilities

198. What is the name of the Border Patrol Surveillance Drone, recently launched by Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace?

- [A] Talwar
- [B] Khanjar
- [C] Vinash
- [D] Trishul

Answer: Trishul

Garuda Aerospace launched the Border Patrol Surveillance Drone, 'Trishul. Trishul monitors people, natural disasters, and traffic. It features state-of-the-art cameras, infrared technology, radar sensors, and data gathering capabilities for security threats. The launch showcases Garuda Aerospace's dedication to pioneering drone technology for surveillance purposes, emphasizing their commitment to excellence in product development and service provision.

199. Recently, who has become the first person to reach Point Nemo, the oceanic pole of inaccessibility in the Pacific Ocean?

- [A] Chris Brown
- [B] Hrvoje Lukatela
- [C] Jules Verne
- [D] Vilhjalmur Stefansson

Answer: Chris Brown

Chris Brown of Britain achieved a historic feat by becoming the first person to reach Point Nemo, the oceanic pole of inaccessibility in the Pacific Ocean. Located far from land, Point Nemo sits at coordinates 48°52.6' South latitude and 123°23.6' West longitude. Brown announced his accomplishment via Instagram on March 20, 2024. The nearest landmasses, Ducie Island, Motu Nui Island, and Maher Island, are thousands of kilometers away.

200. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) recently signed an MoU with whom to enhance peaceful use of nuclear energy?

- [A] Railway Protection Force (RPF)
- [B] National Cadet Corps (NCC)
- [C] Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- [D] Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Answer: National Cadet Corps (NCC)

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) signed a MoU to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy. Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh and BVS



Shekhar signed the agreement in New Delhi in March, 2024. NPCIL will educate NCC cadets and provide resources for regional engagement and camps. Cadets will visit NPCIL facilities, gaining firsthand experience in nuclear energy's peaceful applications and technical aspects.

201. What is the theme for World Meteorological Day 2024?

- [A] At the frontline of climate action
- [B] Early Warning and Early Action
- [C] The ocean, our climate and weather
- [D] Climate and Water

Answer: At the frontline of climate action

World Meteorological Day, celebrated annually on March 23, highlights environmental awareness and human impact on Earth. It marks the founding of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The objective is to raise awareness about meteorology and its ongoing changes. The 2024 theme, "At the frontline of climate action," emphasizes the vital role of meteorology in addressing climate change globally.

202. Recently, which ministry launched the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), 2024?

- [A] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- [B] Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- [C] Ministry of Power
- [D] Ministry of Heavy Industries

Answer: Ministry of Heavy Industries

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) initiated the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024 following the conclusion of the FAME-II on March 31, 2024. EMPS aims to expedite the adoption of electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers, fostering green mobility and EV manufacturing. With a tenure of four months from April 1 to July 31, 2024, EMPS offers subsidies and requires OEM registration and vehicle approval by MHI to avail incentives.

203. Krutrim AI model, recently mentioned in the news, is developed by which one of the following companies?

- [A] Meta
- [B] Ola
- [C] Microsoft
- [D] Amazon

Answer: Ola

Ola, the Indian ridesharing giant, unveiled Krutrim AI, touted as "India's own AI", earlier this year. Positioned as a personalized assistant, it aims to streamline daily tasks, blending cultural nuances and Indian languages. Powered by NLP, ML, and Deep Learning, it grasps human language intricacies and improves with data. Unlike traditional AI, Krutrim AI delves into user intent, offering assistance across tasks from email drafting to travel



planning and skill acquisition.

204. Which organization recently adopted the first global resolution on Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

- [A] United Nations General Assembly
- [B] United Nations Human Rights Council
- [C] United Nations Development Programme
- [D] World Health Organization

Answer: United Nations General Assembly

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution championing safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems in alignment with sustainable development goals. It stresses human rights in AI development and recognizes its potential for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Marking the first Assembly involvement in regulating AI, it urges against AI systems violating human rights and advocates for regulatory frameworks. Led by the US, the resolution garnered support from over 120 Member States.

205. Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Telangana
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Karnataka

Answer: Telangana

Telangana's Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary faces forest fires in the Tadvai region. Established in 1953, it lies near Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana borders, traversed by the Dayyam Vagu River. Renowned for the Sammakka Sarakka Jathra, it's traversed by the Godavari River. Vegetation comprises tropical dry deciduous types with teak, bamboo, and climbers. Notable fauna include Indian gaur, giant squirrel, tiger, leopard, and various others like sloth bear and wild dogs.

206. Recently, the Election Commission of India launched which app to facilitate easier voting for persons above 85 years of age and PWDs with 40%?

- [A] Madad App
- [B] Sankalp App
- [C] Saksham App
- [D] Kavach App

Answer: Saksham App

The Election Commission aims to ensure inclusivity in voting with new measures. Voters over 85 and those with 40% benchmark disability can vote from home. Polling stations will provide volunteers, wheelchairs, and transport. The Saksham App facilitates voting for PWDs. Permanent Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in schools aim to enhance election processes. Polling stations managed by PWDs and women, along with Model Polling Stations, promote accessibility and gender inclusivity.



207. What is the primary objective of Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP), recently seen in the news?

- [A] To replace India's 25 crore conventional meters with smart meters
- [B] To improve water distribution efficiency
- [C] To promote renewable energy sources
- [D] To reduce pollution from power plants

Answer: To replace India's 25 crore conventional meters with smart meters

Kerala's decision to opt for an alternative approach to smart electricity meters undermines government's Rs 3 lakh crore smart meters project. Smart meters record electricity usage and voltage levels, aiming to enhance billing and collection efficiencies for distribution companies. The Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP) seeks to replace 25 crore conventional meters with smart ones across India. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power, leads the implementation.

208. Recently, where was the 148th Inter Parliamentary Union meeting held?

- [A] Paris, France
- [B] Washington DC, United States
- [C] Geneva, Switzerland
- [D] Vienna, Austria

Answer: Geneva, Switzerland

The 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland from March 23–27, 2024. The IPU is an international organization founded in 1889, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as offices in New York, United States of America, and Vienna, Austria. A seven-member Indian parliamentary delegation, led by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh attended the event. The IPU boasts 180 member countries

209. Recently, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named an asteroid after which Indian scientist?

- [A] Harish Chandra
- [B] Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan
- [C] Jayant Murthy
- [D] Avadh Saxena

Answer: Jayant Murthy

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) honored Indian astrophysicist Professor Jayant Murthy by naming asteroid (215884) Jayantmurthy after him. Discovered in 2005 by MW Buie at Kitt Peak National Observatory, the asteroid orbits the Sun between Mars and Jupiter every 3.3 years. The renaming signifies Murthy's significant contributions to the field of astrophysics, highlighting his global impact on celestial studies.

210. What is 'Bima Sugam' initiative, recently seen in the news?

- [A] A new insurance company in India



- [B] An e-commerce platform approved by IRDAI for selling insurance products
- [C] New strategy to offering policies only in hardcopy format
- [D] A platform to promote offline insurance transactions

Answer: An e-commerce platform approved by IRDAI for selling insurance products

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved Bima Sugam, an e-commerce platform for insurance products. It consolidates life and non-life offerings under one roof, facilitating an end-to-end digital experience from purchase to claim settlement. Bima Sugam aims to enhance transparency and efficiency across the insurance value chain, serving as a one-stop solution for stakeholders, including customers, insurers, intermediaries, and agents.

211. What is the IUCN status of 'Great Indian Bustard', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Least Concern
- [B] Endangered
- [C] Critically endangered
- [D] Vulnerable

Answer: Critically endangered

The Supreme Court has formed an expert committee to preserve the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard, emphasizing the need for sustainable development in line with renewable energy commitments. The bustard, native to India, symbolizes grassland health and faces alarming decline with only 150 individuals remaining, including those in captivity. Classified as Critically Endangered, it holds significant conservation status under international agreements and is the state bird of Rajasthan.

212. Recently, which country has introduced a new heavyweight in its aerial arsenal, the Z-20 attack helicopter?

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

Answer: China

China unveils Z-20, a 10-tonne attack helicopter dubbed Z-21, to bolster aerial capabilities surpassing Z-10 and Z-19. Primarily aimed for close air support and anti-armor missions, Z-20 amalgamates features from AH-64 and Mi-28 helicopters. Vital for potential conflicts with Taiwan or India, filling a firepower gap compared to Z-19 and Z-10, akin to OH-58 Kiowa and AH-1Z in roles. Strategic move anticipated by military analysts for regional dynamics.

213. Which state's education minister recently launched Shiksha Reform, an online learning platform that equips students with technological skills?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Gujarat



[D] Punjab

Answer: Gujarat

Gujarat's Minister of State for Education, Praful Pansheriya, introduced the online learning platform, Shiksha Reform, in Surat, emphasizing the importance of technology in education. Launched with Microsoft and a Finnish university, Shiksha Reform offers high-quality courses, including in AI and cybersecurity. Noted educationist Deepak Rajguru and Finnish educationist Antti Isovita attended the launch, highlighting its significance.

214. What is the name approved by the IAU Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature for the landing site of Chandrayaan's Vikram lander?

[A] Trishul

[B] Shiv Shakti

[C] Agniveer

[D] Vijay

Answer: Shiv Shakti

The International Astronomical Union approved 'Statio Shiv Shakti' for Chandrayaan's Vikram lander site. On August 26, PM announced Chandrayaan 3's landing site would be named Shiv Shakti. Rooted in Hindu mythology, "Shivshakti" symbolizes determination and empowerment. PM highlighted the connection between humanitarian efforts and Shiva. The "Shakti" component honors women scientists.

215. Gorkha Fort (also known as Banasar, Malaun & Sabathu), recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

[A] Himachal Pradesh

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Madhya Pradesh

Answer: Himachal Pradesh

Gorkha forts in Himachal Pradesh, relics of historical significance, suffer neglect. Gorkha Fort, atop Subathu hill, believed founded by Amar Singh Thapa to resist British, now lies in ruins. Also known as Banasar, Malaun, or Sabathu fort, it bears witness to fierce battles. Despite its historical importance, the fort faces neglect, highlighting the need for preservation efforts to safeguard this valuable piece of heritage.

216. POEM 3 Mission, recently in the news, is launched by which space organization?

[A] ISRO

[B] NASA

[C] JAXA

[D] CNSA

Answer: ISRO

ISRO's PSLV Orbital Experimental Module 3 (POEM 3) Mission aims to tackle orbital debris with PSLV's PS4 stage, designated as the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module. This marks ISRO's third deployment of PS4 for orbital experiments, dubbed POEM-3. The module will



conduct in-orbit scientific experiments for 4-6 months, powered by solar panels and a Lithium-ion battery. Equipped with 10 payloads, it aims to explore microgravity conditions and advance space research.

217. Who won the Abel Prize 2024, sometimes called the Nobel Prize of Mathematics?

- [A] Avi Wigderson
- [B] Luis A. Caffarelli
- [C] Michel Talagrand
- [D] Laszlo Lovasz

Answer: Michel Talagrand

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awards the 2024 Abel Prize to Michel Talagrand from CNRS, Paris, France, for his contributions to probability theory and stochastic processes. Talagrand's work illuminates the role of randomness in various phenomena, crucial for fields like weather forecasting and business logistics. Central to his research is the understanding and application of the Gaussian distribution, evident in seemingly random events such as birth weights, academic performance, and athlete retirements.

218. On World Kabaddi Day 2024, which country created history by creating a Guinness World Record with the participation of 128 players?

- [A] India
- [B] Japan
- [C] Malaysia
- [D] Bangladesh

Answer: India

India achieved a Guinness World Record on World Kabaddi Day, March 24, with 128 players participating at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Panchkula. An MOU between HIPSA and Haryana Govt. facilitated the event, aiming to promote Kabaddi globally. Guinness set a benchmark of 84 players, but organizers aimed for 154. This historic feat highlights India's commitment to Kabaddi's growth and global recognition.

219. Recently, which IIT successfully transferred a pioneering swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt, a vaccine manufacturing company?

- [A] IIT Guwahati
- [B] IIT Madras
- [C] IIT Kanpur
- [D] IIT Roorkee

Answer: IIT Guwahati

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd. The vaccine targets classical swine fever virus prevalent in states like Bihar, Kerala, and northeastern regions. Developed using a recombinant vector, the vaccine is non-infectious to humans. IIT Guwahati's reverse genetic platform facilitated its creation. The collaboration aims to address the significant gap in India's



swine fever vaccine technology, safeguarding pig populations in affected regions.

220. Recently, where was the 'Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre' inaugurated?

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

Answer: New Delhi

The Union Agriculture Minister inaugurated a Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi. It utilizes various IT applications to aid decision-making in agriculture. Housed in the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, its objectives include comprehensive monitoring of the farm sector by integrating geospatial, soil survey, and weather data. Employing cutting-edge technologies like AI, remote sensing, and GIS, it processes extensive data on climate, crops, and yields for informed decision-making.

221. Luis Montenegro, recently seen in news, became the new Prime Minister of which country?

- [A] Portugal
- [B] Spain
- [C] Mexico
- [D] Poland

Answer: Portugal

After eight years of Socialist rule, Luis Montenegro from the centre-right Democratic Alliance becomes Portugal's new prime minister. Despite AD's recent election victory, Montenegro's minority government holds only 80 out of 230 parliamentary seats. His refusal to ally with the far-right Chega party leaves the government in a fragile state, requiring negotiations with other parties for legislative backing. Montenegro's appointment marks the return of a centre-right leader to power after over eight years.

222. Naheed Divecha, who recently won two gold medals in the Indian Masters National Badminton Championship, belongs to which state?

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

Answer: Maharashtra

Naheed Divecha from Maharashtra triumphed with two golds at the 2024 Indian Masters National Badminton Championship in Panchkula. Representing Bombay Gymkhana and Shuttle Craze Academy, she secured the Women's 50 singles title by defeating Haryana's Sunita Singh Panwar. Additionally, Divecha partnered with Kiran Mokade to claim the Mixed Doubles 50 title, beating top-seeded Karnataka pair Prabakaran Subbaiyan and



Jayashree Raghu.

223. Which day is celebrated as 'World Theatre Day' every year?

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

Answer: 27 March

World Theatre Day is celebrated annually on March 27, initiated by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in 1961. Each year, a prominent theatre figure delivers a message. Jean Cocteau gave the inaugural speech in 1962. ITI boasts over 85 global centers. Theatre encompasses various roles including writers, directors, actors, sound producers, costume and set designers, and show callers, all crucial in bringing a performance to life beyond acting and narration.

224. Global Trade Update report, recently seen in the news, is released by which organization?

- [A] UNCTAD
- [B] ILO
- [C] WHO
- [D] WTO

Answer: UNCTAD

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released a Global Trade Update report noting a 14% increase in India's services exports in 2023, while goods exports fell by 6%. It anticipates a global trade rebound in 2024. However, logistical challenges like shipping disruptions in the Red Sea and Black Sea may escalate costs and disrupt supply chains. Established in 1964, UNCTAD serves as the primary authority of the UN General Assembly in trade and development matters.

225. Who has achieved the title of the billionaire capital of Asia, according to recently released Hurun Research Institute Report?

- [A] Mumbai
- [B] Beijing
- [C] Manila
- [D] Jakarta

Answer: Mumbai

Mumbai, India's financial capital, surpasses Beijing as Asia's billionaire hotspot, with 92 billionaires according to the Hurun Research Institute. This marks a significant moment for India's economic status in Asia. Globally, New York leads with 119 billionaires, followed by London with 97. Despite China leading in the country ranking with 814 billionaires, there's been a notable decline. The United States follows with 800 billionaires, and India secures third place with 271 billionaires.

226. Recently, the Border Road Organization connected the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in



which region?

- [A] Ladakh
- [B] Srinagar
- [C] Kashmir
- [D] Amritsar

Answer: Ladakh

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) completed the strategic Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in Ladakh. This 298-km road connects Manali to Leh via Darcha and Nimmu on Kargil – Leh Highway. It's the third axis linking Ladakh to the hinterland, alongside Manali-Leh and Srinagar-Leh routes. Notably, the road is shorter and crosses only one pass, Shinkun La (16,558 feet), where tunnel work by BRO is set to begin.

227. Mushk Budiji, recently seen in the news, is an indigenous variety of which crop?

- [A] Rice
- [B] Wheat
- [C] Maize
- [D] Jowar

Answer: Rice

A recent study unveils the secrets behind the unique aroma of Mushk Budiji, a native rice variety from the Kashmir Himalaya. Initially threatened by extinction due to low yield and rice blast disease, a revival initiative by SKUAST scientists since 2007 has led to its slow resurgence. In August 2023, Mushk Budiji was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This niche crop thrives under specific climatic conditions, securing its place in Kashmir's agricultural heritage.

228. Recently, which country hosted the G20 second Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting?

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

Answer: Brazil

The 2nd Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting, led by Brazil, convened in Brasilia with India's participation. Ms. Sumita Dawra, Secretary of Labour & Employment, India, co-chairs alongside Brazil and South Africa. The meeting's focus includes quality employment, just transition amidst digital transformations, technology's role in enhancing life quality, and gender equity in workplaces. The Indian delegation emphasized inclusivity, advocating for equal representation and empowerment irrespective of demographics.

229. Recently, where was the first Nuclear Energy Summit held?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Brussels



[C] Moscow

[D] Beijing

Answer: Brussels

Leaders from 34 countries convened in Brussels for the Nuclear Energy Summit on March 21. Organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Belgium, the summit aimed to explore strategies for leveraging nuclear power in achieving net-zero emissions and sustainable development goals. Following COP28, where over 20 countries pledged to increase nuclear energy use, the summit emphasized practical steps for deployment and financing. Technical panels delved into maximizing nuclear energy's potential.

230. Recently, A 900-year-old Kannada inscription from the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty was discovered in which state?

[A] Telangana

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Karnataka

[D] Maharashtra

Answer: Telangana

A 900-year-old Kannada inscription from the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty was unearthed in Gangapuram, Telangana. The Chalukyas governed central India's Deccan plateau from the 6th to 12th centuries, comprising three distinct dynasties: Badami, Kalyani, and Vengi. The Kalyani Chalukyas, primarily Kannadiga, ruled from their capital, Kalyani (modern-day Bidar district, Karnataka). Tailapa II founded the empire while ruling Tardavadi in Bijapur district, Karnataka, under the Rashtrakuta Empire's suzerainty.

231. Scientists of Goa have recently discovered 50,000-year-old magnetofossil at which place?

[A] Arabian Sea

[B] Indian Ocean

[C] Bay of Bengal

[D] Kanyakumari

Answer: Bay of Bengal

Scientists have uncovered a 50,000-year-old magnetofossil in the Bay of Bengal. Magnetofossils are magnetic particles formed by magnetotactic bacteria, which align with the Earth's magnetic field. These bacteria navigate to areas with optimal oxygen levels using tiny iron-rich crystals, acting as a compass. This finding sheds light on ancient microbial life and their role in Earth's history, offering insights into environmental conditions of the past.

232. Recently, who has been appointed as the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA)?

[A] Kuldeep Singh

[B] Kaliraj Mahesh Kumar

[C] R.S.Krishnia



[D] Sadanand Vasant Date

Answer: Sadanand Vasant Date

The central government recently appointed new Director Generals for key agencies. Sadanand Vasant Date, a 1990 batch IPS officer from Maharashtra, now heads the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Rajeev Kumar Sharma, also from the 1990 batch but from Rajasthan cadre, will oversee the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPRD).

233. Bassirou Diomaye Faye, recently seen in the news, became the new President of which country?

[A] Senegal

[B] Mali

[C] Niger

[D] Ghana

Answer: Senegal

At 44, Bassirou Diomaye Faye secures victory as Senegal's youngest president-elect, defeating rival Amadou Ba, who conceded after the first-round vote. Faye, mentored by Ousmane Sonko, vows to transform Senegal's political scene, focusing on democratic reforms, reducing executive authority, and fighting corruption. His agenda includes renegotiating international deals and possibly introducing a new currency. Faye's win marks a significant shift in Senegalese politics, signaling a new era of change and promise.

234. Indian Agriculture Research Institute has demanded legal action against which country for cultivating basmati varieties protected in India?

[A] Afghanistan

[B] Pakistan

[C] Myanmar

[D] Bangladesh

Answer: Pakistan

In March 2024, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has urged legal action against Pakistan for cultivating its improved basmati rice varieties without authorization. The IARI has raised concerns that Pakistan is "illegally" growing the varieties, which could endanger India's \$5.5 billion export market. The IARI has found that varieties like Pusa-1121 and 1509 Basmati are grown in Pakistan under new names.

235. Who won women's singles title at the WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 in Beirut, Lebanon?

[A] Sreeja Akula

[B] Sarah D Nutte

[C] Suh Hyo

[D] Ayhika Mukherjee

Answer: Sreeja Akula

Sreeja Akula, ranked 47th globally, won the women's singles title at WTT Feeder Beirut II 2024 in Lebanon, defeating Sarah D Nutte of Luxembourg in a thrilling final. The Indian paddler, aged 25, secured victory after coming from behind, with scores of 6-11, 12-10,



11-5, 11-9. Notably, she had beaten top seed Suh Hyo Won of South Korea earlier in the tournament. This marks her second WTT singles career title.

236. Recently, which ministry notified new wage rates for unskilled manual workers under the MGNREGA, 2005 for FY 2024-2025?

- [A] Ministry of Rural Development
- [B] Ministry of Agriculture
- [C] Ministry of Power
- [D] Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer: Ministry of Rural Development

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has announced new wage rates for unskilled manual workers under MGNREGA for FY 2024-2025. MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of wage employment annually to rural adult household members. MoRD adjusts state-wise wage rates yearly based on CPI-AL changes, as mandated by MGNREGA's Section 6. This ensures fair compensation for rural laborers, supporting livelihoods in alignment with inflation rates.

237. According to the Brand Finance 2024 report, which is the world's strongest insurance brand?

- [A] Oriental general Insurance
- [B] Life Insurance Corporation of India
- [C] HDFC Life Insurance
- [D] Max Life Insurance

Answer: Life Insurance Corporation of India

In the 2024 Brand Finance Insurance 100 report, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) maintains its global dominance, solidifying its position as the strongest insurance brand with a stable brand value of Rs 816 billion. Cathay Life Insurance follows closely. Meanwhile, Chinese insurers like Ping An, China Life Insurance, and CPIC assert their dominance, with Ping An leading the pack with a significant increase in brand value to Rs 2799 billion, showcasing China's influence on the international insurance landscape.

238. Food Waste Index Report 2024, recently seen in news, is released by which organization?

- [A] UNEP
- [B] UNDP
- [C] WHO
- [D] ILO

Answer: UNEP

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) released its 3rd Food Waste Index Report in 2024, revealing that in 2022, 1.05 billion metric tonnes of food, 19% of the global supply, were wasted. This waste contrasts starkly with 783 million people experiencing hunger worldwide. The report emphasizes the need to tackle food waste to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 12.3. Households are the largest contributors, responsible



for 60% of wastage. Annual per capita food wastage is estimated at 79 kg.

239. Recently, Government of India is establishing new atomic clocks at which places?

- [A] Bengaluru, Bhopal and Lucknow
- [B] Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Hyderabad
- [C] Bombay and Chennai
- [D] Chandigarh, Patna and Lucknow

Answer: Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Hyderabad

The Indian government is deploying atomic clocks nationwide to ensure all devices align with Indian Standard Time, countering reliance on US-based servers. Developed by only four countries, atomic clocks were invented in 1955. The CSIR-NPL New Delhi is India's timekeeper, maintaining seven atomic clocks. New clocks are being installed in Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, and Hyderabad, expanding from Faridabad and Ahmedabad. By June, synchronization with NPL time will be mandatory for all Indian device manufacturers.

240. Recently, a database has been launched by India to record crime against which group?

- [A] UN Peacekeepers
- [B] The Bergin Crew
- [C] Solomon Organization
- [D] Overseas Indian Workers

Answer: UN Peacekeepers

The India-led Group of Friends (GOF), comprising 40 member states, convened its second meeting to bolster accountability for crimes against peacekeepers. India launched a new database to record such crimes, hosted on the Unite Aware platform, aiming to facilitate analysis and drive effective strategies. Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj emphasized the GOF's progress, especially in strengthening the rule of law within Mission areas, underscoring insights gained into challenges surrounding accountability.

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