

## CurrentAffairsMCQsPDF - January, 2024



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## 120 MCQs

These questions are sourced from GKToday's Current Affairs 2023 Daily 20 MCQ Series in [GKToday Academy Android Application](#).

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

- [A] January 1
- [B] January 9
- [C] January 14
- [D] January 21

**Answer:** January 9

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas is celebrated on January 9th every year to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on **January 9, 1915**. Gandhi had spent over two decades in South Africa, building the foundations of Satyagraha and working to ease discrimination against the Indian community there. The Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was established in 2003 by the Government of India Ministry of External Affairs to connect the Indian diaspora community more closely to India. Various events and award ceremonies take place on this day celebrating outstanding overseas Indians.

2. In the acronym SARAS mela, which are organized frequently, what does R stand for?

- [A] Remote
- [B] Rural
- [C] Regressive
- [D] Right

**Answer:** Rural

SARAS stands for Sale of Articles of Rural Artisans Society. They are organized at several places across India to promote Rural artisans. Recently, '**Didi Lakhpati Tripura Agragati**' (Progressive Tripura through Women Entrepreneurs) was the unique theme of the SARAS Mela 2023 launched by Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha. Aiming to showcase and economically empower small business owners and self-help group members, over 300 stalls have been set up for 15 days. Rural artisans, craftswomen and homemakers from remote parts of the state are participating to sell indigenous products like handicrafts, handloom items, delicacies etc.

3. General Dong Jun, who was recently in news, is the Defence Minister of which country?

- [A] China
- [B] Taiwan
- [C] South Korea
- [D] North Korea

**Answer:** China

General Dong Jun has been appointed as China's new defence minister, replacing General Li Shangfu who mysteriously disappeared from public view four months ago without any explanation. 62-year old Dong Jun has a Navy background and was previously the deputy commander of the Southern Military Command, overseeing the sensitive South China Sea region. His appointment is seen as a significant move by President Xi Jinping to place a loyalist in charge of the 2.3 million-strong People's Liberation Army, particularly amidst rising tensions with the US and Taiwan.

4. The annual business event, colloquially called Russian Davos is held every year in which city of Russia?



- [A] Moscow
- [B] Leningrad
- [C] Sevastopol
- [D] St. Petersburg

**Answer:** St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) is an annual Russian business event held in St. Petersburg since 1997, under the Russian President's auspices since 2006. It gathers 10,000+ participants from 120+ countries, including CEOs, heads of state, and ministers. The Forum aims to bridge barriers between Russia and other countries including India, attract foreign investment, and promote Russia as a business-friendly nation. SPIEF is often compared to the World Economic Forum in Davos and called Russian Davos. It was held recently.

5. Which city in Maharashtra has been selected by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as the venue to host the National Youth Festival 2024?
- [A] Nagpur
  - [B] Mumbai
  - [C] Nasik
  - [D] Pune

**Answer:** Nasik

The city of Nashik in Maharashtra has been selected by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India to host the National Youth Festival (NYF) 2024. As per recent announcements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the 5-day youth festival in Nashik on January 12, which will see participation of around 7,500 youths from across India. NYF is held every year to celebrate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on January 12. The selection of Nashik as the host gained attention as preparations are underway to organize this youth-centric national event focused on cultural programmes and competitions.

6. David Warner, who has retired from one-day international (ODI) and Test cricket, is a player from which country?
- [A] Australia
  - [B] New Zealand
  - [C] England
  - [D] South Africa

**Answer:** Australia

Australian opener David Warner has retired from one-day international (ODI) and Test cricket to spend more time with his family. He plans to play his 112th and final Test against Pakistan but will not participate in ODIs. However, he has left the door open for a potential return for the 2025 Champions Trophy. Warner has had a successful ODI career, scoring 22 centuries and 6,932 runs at an average of 45.30 in 161 matches. He was a key part of the Australian team that won the ICC Cricket World Cup in India last year. While he is retiring from ODIs, he remains available for T20 cricket and hopes to play in the T20 World Cup in June. Warner has played 111 Tests for Australia, accumulating 8,695 runs at an average of 44.58, with 26 centuries and 36 half-centuries.

7. The Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Technology for Women (LBSITW), which was recently in news for launching its nanosatellite called WESAT, is located in which city?
- [A] Bengaluru
  - [B] Pune



[C] Thiruvananthapuram

[D] Mangalore

**Answer:** Thiruvananthapuram

On January 1, 2024, a nanosatellite called WESAT (Women Engineered SATellite) was launched by students of Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Technology for Women (LBSITW) in Thiruvananthapuram. The satellite was launched as secondary payload aboard an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) mission, specifically the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C58/XPoSat mission. The mission's announcement of success was made from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. **WESAT is a 1.4-kg satellite designed and developed entirely by women, making it the first Indian satellite with this distinction.** The purpose of WESAT is to study ultraviolet radiation and its impact. The satellite project was led by **Lizy Abraham, an Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator,** with technical assistance from ISRO.

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

[A] Rs. 10,000

[B] Rs. 50,000

[C] Rs. 1 lakh

[D] Rs. 5 lakh

**Answer:** Rs. 1 lakh

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

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

[A] Odisha

[B] Bihar

[C] Jharkhand

[D] Chhattisgarh

**Answer:** Odisha

The recently renamed Maa Manikeswari University is located in the state of Odisha, India. Formerly known as Kalahandi University, it was renamed after Maa Manikeswari, the presiding deity of Kalahandi district. The university has been functioning since September 1, 2020, and the name change was officially announced by **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on November 1, during the foundation day of Kalahandi district.** It was initially granted unitary university status in 2019 and now offers a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, serving the Kalahandi and Nuapada districts with over 50 affiliated colleges.

10. What is the name of the first deep sea port of Bangladesh that was recently making news?

[A] Chittagong Port

[B] Sonadia Port

[C] Matarbari Port

[D] Cox's Bazaar Port

**Answer:** Matarbari Port

Matarbari, which has been recently in the news, is the **first deep sea port of Bangladesh.** This port is being developed with **assistance from Japan,** with the aim of boosting exports for Bangladesh. It is



expected to enhance economic ties and open up development prospects not only for Bangladesh but also for India's northeastern states, including Tripura. The project is set to start operations in 2027 and is seen as a significant development in the region's infrastructure and trade connectivity.

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

- [A] INS Makar
- [B] INS Sandhayak
- [C] **INS Sagardhwani**
- [D] INS Dhruv

**Answer:** INS Sagardhwani

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

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

- [A] Safety Assurance Scheme
- [B] **Witness Protection Scheme**
- [C] Witness Security Programme
- [D] Judicial Witness Guard

**Answer:** Witness Protection Scheme

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

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

- [A] Guwahati, Assam
- [B] **Mushalpur, Assam**
- [C] Shillong, Meghalaya
- [D] Imphal, Manipur

**Answer:** Mushalpur, Assam

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

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

- [A] 1988
- [B] **1992**
- [C] 1995
- [D] 1998

**Answer:** 1992

India and Pakistan recently continued their long-standing practice of exchanging lists of their nuclear installations and facilities, a procedure they have followed since January 1, 1992. This exchange, which



is the **33rd consecutive one**, is mandated by the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations and Facilities. The agreement, **signed in 1988 and effective from 1991**, requires both countries to annually inform each other about their nuclear installations and facilities every January 1st. This exchange is significant as it happens despite ongoing tensions between the two countries over issues like Kashmir and cross-border terrorism.

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

- [A] TB Poshan Yojana (TBY)
- [B] **Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)**
- [C] TB-DBT
- [D] Akshay Poshan

**Answer:** Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)

Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) was introduced by the government in April 2018 with the primary aim of providing financial assistance to tuberculosis (TB) patients for their nutritional needs. Recognizing undernutrition as a significant risk factor for TB, the scheme offers ₹500 per month as direct benefit transfer (DBT) to TB patients. This monetary support is intended to help patients purchase food and maintain a nutritious diet throughout the duration of their TB treatment. The scheme has seen a gradual increase in beneficiaries over the years, indicating its growing reach and importance in supporting TB patients' nutritional needs.

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

- [A] Laxmikant Bajpai
- [B] Baburam Nishad
- [C] Vijaypal Singh Tomar
- [D] **Ramnath Kovind**

**Answer:** Ramnath Kovind

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

17. Adora Magic City is the first homegrown cruise ship of which country?

- [A] Thailand
- [B] **China**
- [C] Japan
- [D] South Korea

**Answer:** China

China launched its first homegrown cruise ship, Adora Magic City, from Shanghai port in January 2024 on its maiden commercial voyage. With amenities like mahjong rooms and hotpot restaurants, the 16-deck luxury ship targets China's expanding domestic tourism market as national pride in indigenous manufacturing grows. Its success is seen as showcasing China's shipbuilding prowess and attempt to rival foreign cruise liners.

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



- [A] India
- [B] Pakistan
- [C] **Bangladesh**
- [D] Saudi Arabia

**Answer:** Bangladesh

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

19. As per a recent report, what percentage of India's agriculture imports in 2023 comprised of vegetable oils, pulses and fruits?
- [A] 86.4%
  - [B] 62.1%
  - [C] 57.8%
  - [D] 72.1%

**Answer:** 72.1%

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

20. What is the name of the mission launched by the Health Ministry to screen people for sickle cell disease?
- [A] National Sickle Cell Anaemia Mission
  - [B] **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission**
  - [C] National Sickle Cell Anaemia Eradication Mission
  - [D] National Sickle Cell Anaemia Control Mission

**Answer:** National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

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

21. Which animal has recently been declared the national symbol of Kyrgyzstan?
- [A] **Snow leopard**
  - [B] Yak
  - [C] Eagle
  - [D] Horse

**Answer:** Snow leopard

Kyrgyzstan has declared the snow leopard as its new national symbol. Snow leopards inhabit the Tian Shan mountain range in the country. They feature in Kyrgyz folklore and are seen as a symbol of



greatness, nobility and resilience. Conservation of the endangered species will be promoted under the new status.

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

- [A] Ladakh
- [B] Jammu & Kashmir
- [C] Andaman & Nicobar
- [D] Chandigarh

**Answer:** Jammu & Kashmir

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

23. What distinguishes the new Chinese aircraft carrier Fujian, that was recently in news, from its predecessors?

- [A] Nuclear Power Source
- [B] **Electro-magnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS)**
- [C] Fighter Jet Capacity
- [D] Underwater Capabilities

**Answer:** Electro-magnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS)

The Chinese aircraft carrier Fujian is distinguished from its predecessors by its Electro-magnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS). This advanced system enables the Fujian to launch a broader range of aircraft from its deck, marking a significant technological advancement over the previous carriers Shandong and Liaoning. The EMALS is noted for being more reliable and energy-efficient, and it represents a milestone in the modernization of the Chinese military. This feature places the Fujian alongside the Ford-class aircraft carriers of the US Navy, which are also equipped with the latest version of the EMALS, highlighting its significance in global naval capabilities. The development and implementation of the EMALS on the Fujian align with President Xi Jinping's calls for increased combat-readiness and technological advances in the Chinese military.

24. Which organization recently issued the standard operating procedure (SOP) for summoning government officials in judicial proceedings?

- [A] Law Commission of India
- [B] **Supreme Court of India**
- [C] High Court of Delhi
- [D] Ministry of Law and Justice

**Answer:** Supreme Court of India

The Supreme Court of India issued the SOP for summoning government officials after observing that the constant summoning of officials instead of relying on government lawyers runs contrary to the constitutional scheme. The SOP aims to outline guidelines and restrain the overuse of summons power by courts which often pressurizes the government. It states that officials cannot be summoned just because their stance differs from the court's view. This move brings much-needed reforms to strengthen executive-judiciary coordination by avoiding unnecessary harassment of government officials.

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

- [A] Asha





- [B] Aadya
- [C] Adima
- [D] **Aasha**

**Answer:** Aasha

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

26. NATO has signed a contract to buy 1,000 units of which missile defense systems?

- [A] THAAD
- [B] S-400
- [C] **Patriot**
- [D] Arrow

**Answer:** Patriot

NATO announced signing of a \$5.5 billion contract by member countries in Europe to purchase up to 1,000 Patriot air defense missiles to bolster security in view of the threat from Russia. The deal comes as Moscow has unleashed barrages of missile and drone strikes against Ukraine. Patriot systems supplied by nations like the US and Germany have been used by Kyiv to shoot down Russia's attacks in the 11-month war.

27. Which corporate group made the highest contribution to electoral trusts in India during 2022-23 as per the ADR report?

- [A] Adani Group
- [B] **Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited**
- [C] Serum Institute of India
- [D] Reliance Industries

**Answer:** Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited

Megha Engineering & Infrastructures contributed **₹87 crore**, the highest among corporates, to electoral trusts in political funding during 2022-23 followed by Serum Institute of India at ₹50.25 crore as per the ADR report. Top 10 donors comprised 90.66% of total corporate contributions received by such trusts.

28. Which architect firm has been appointed by Adani group for preparing the draft city master plan of Dharavi redevelopment project?

- [A] Make Architects
- [B] HCP Design
- [C] **Hafeez Contractor**
- [D] Architecture Discipline

**Answer:** Hafeez Contractor

Adani appointed Hafeez Contractor Architects as the city planning firm for charting out the draft development plan for Dharavi project along with US firms Sasaki and Buro Happold. Contractor is known for slum rehabilitation and social housing projects aimed at improving lives.

29. Which company won the highest number of oil and gas blocks in the recent Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) bidding round?

- [A] **ONGC**
- [B] OIL
- [C] Reliance Industries Ltd



[D] Vedanta Ltd

**Answer:** ONGC

State-owned ONGC won seven out of the ten areas awarded for exploration and production in the latest 8th round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) bidding. A Reliance-BP joint venture managed to win one block out of the total ten.

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

[A] Insugen

[B] **Lirafit**

[C] Glyciphage

[D] Januglify

**Answer:** Lirafit

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

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

[A] **Himachal Pradesh**

[B] Uttarakhand

[C] Sikkim

[D] Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer:** Himachal Pradesh

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

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

[A] AYUSH Ministry

[B] NITI Aayog

[C] **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine**

[D] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Answer:** National Commission for Indian System of Medicine

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

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

[A] Sanjay Kundu

[B] **Rajesh Kumar**

[C] Rakesh Asthana

[D] Ajay Bhalla



**Answer:** Rajesh Kumar

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

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

- [A] Yuval Noah Harari
- [B] Malcolm Gladwell
- [C] **Chris Miller**
- [D] Walter Isaacson

**Answer:** Chris Miller

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

35. Which motivational speaker and NGO founder was appointed as a brand ambassador for the government's Viksit Bharat Abhiyan initiative?

- [A] Sonu Sood
- [B] **Amitabh Shah**
- [C] Ujjwal Patni
- [D] Sandeep Maheshwari

**Answer:** Amitabh Shah

The government appointed prominent motivational speaker and CSR icon Amitabh Shah, founder of NGO Yuva Unstoppable, as a brand ambassador for its Viksit Bharat Abhiyan program. The initiative, spearheaded by PM Modi, aims to tap India's demographic dividend to drive national development. Shah's youth-focused philanthropy aligns with the mission's emphasis on upskilling youth and imbuing values for nation-building. His NGO has skilled over 6 million young beneficiaries so far. The appointment signals the administration's strategy to involve civil society in achieving its vision for an empowered and future-ready India.

36. What is the full form of FMR as mentioned in the news regarding India's border with Myanmar?

- [A] Financial Market Reforms
- [B] Free Medical Resources
- [C] Foreign Military Relations
- [D] **Free Movement Regime**

**Answer:** Free Movement Regime

FMR refers to the Free Movement Regime operational on India's border with Myanmar. It allows tribal communities living along both sides of the boundary to travel up to **16 km across the border without visas**. However, amidst rising illegal immigration and security challenges tied to cross-border crime, India plans to discontinue the FMR scheme and mandate visas for Myanmarese nationals' entry. Concerns around FMR facilitating entry of non-tribals abusing its lax regulations prompted this reassessment of the agreement **after 75 years**.

37. On the bank of which river, the West Bengal government plans to develop a tea park?

- [A] Ganga
- [B] **Hooghly**
- [C] Anjana



[D] Kalindi

**Answer:** Hooghly

The West Bengal government plans to develop a tea park spread over 10-12 acres along the banks of the Hooghly River near Kolkata. It aims to establish an export-oriented tea processing and packaging facility inspired by Dubai's models that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee observed during her Middle East visit. The initiative seeks to boost Darjeeling tea exports by value-addition leveraging Kolkata port's connectivity. The tea industry stakeholders have welcomed the proposal to enable large scale investment in upgrading technology for the terrace tea gardens.

38. Which state will feature India's first Personal Rapid Transit or PRT corridor as part of its metro rail infrastructure?

[A] Uttar Pradesh

[B] Uttarakhand

[C] Madhya Pradesh

[D] Maharashtra

**Answer:** Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand will feature India's first Personal Rapid Transit or PRT corridor as part of its metro rail infrastructure being built to link key cities. The PRT network will serve as a customized mass transit option wherein pod-like driverless vehicles will transport commuters directly to destinations without stops. The innovative mode will connect passengers from Haridwar and Rishikesh to Dehradun airport as part of the state's Prepaid Autos may replace digital meters wider integrated rail strategy. Besides the PRT line, the metro project also envisages conventional Mass Rapid Transit System routes across 30km.

39. The **Hattee community**, which was recently in news for legal dispute on its inclusion in Scheduled Tribes list, is primarily found in which state of India?

[A] Himachal Pradesh

[B] Uttarakhand

[C] Karnataka

[D] Tamil Nadu

**Answer:** Himachal Pradesh

The Hattee community, which has been at the center of recent legal discussions regarding its inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list, is primarily found in Himachal Pradesh. This issue gained prominence following the Himachal Pradesh High Court's decision to stay the inclusion of the Hattee community in the state's ST list. The High Court intervened after the state government issued directions for this inclusion, which was contested by other communities through legal petitions. The Hattees are specifically from the Trans-Giri Area of Sirmour district in Himachal Pradesh, and their potential inclusion in the ST list has been a subject of debate and legal scrutiny.

40. Who has been appointed as the first woman Director-General of Police in Maharashtra?

[A] B. Sandhya

[B] Archana Sondawale

[C] Sushma Singh

[D] Rashmi Shuklla

**Answer:** Rashmi Shuklla

Rashmi Shuklla, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service officer, has been appointed as the Director-General



of Police in Maharashtra, becoming the first woman to hold this top police post in the state. She takes over from Rajnish Seth, another 1988-batch officer. Prior to this appointment, Shukla was on Central deputation, heading the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). Her career has included several significant positions, including serving as Commissioner of the State Intelligence Department (SID) and Additional Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force. Despite being involved in some controversies, such as the phone-tapping row during her tenure in the SID, her appointment marks a notable achievement in the field of law enforcement in Maharashtra.

41. Which country is host of 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, 2024?

- [A] India
- [B] **Uganda**
- [C] Azerbaijan
- [D] South Africa

**Answer:** Uganda

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

42. What is the primary purpose of the Quality Control Orders (QCOs) issued by the government?

- [A] Promote Exports
- [B] Increase Tax Revenue
- [C] **Contain Sub-standard Imports**
- [D] Promote Domestic Manufacturing

**Answer:** Contain Sub-standard Imports

The government's recent decision to issue 65 Quality Control Orders (QCOs), as announced by the Joint Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), is primarily aimed at containing the import of sub-standard goods into India. These QCOs cover over 500 products and are part of a broader strategy to ensure product safety for consumers and to boost domestic manufacturing. Under these orders, products must bear the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) mark to be produced, sold, traded, imported, or stocked in India. This initiative aligns with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and serves to curb the influx of inferior quality imports, thereby protecting consumer interests and promoting fair trade practices. The stringent penalties for violations of these orders further underscore their importance in maintaining quality standards in the market.

43. What is the purpose of the 'Bharat Park' to be set up in the United Arab Emirates, as announced by government recently?

- [A] Promote Tourism
- [B] Technology Collaboration
- [C] Cultural Exchange
- [D] **Facilitate Trade of Indian Goods**

**Answer:** Facilitate Trade of Indian Goods

'Bharat Park,' a project announced by India's Commerce and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal, is intended



to facilitate the trade of Indian goods in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This initiative, involving the establishment of a goods showroom and warehouses in the UAE, aims to create a dedicated platform for showcasing and selling Indian products to other countries. Announced during an event organized by the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC), the creation of Bharat Park is a strategic move to enhance the visibility and accessibility of Indian goods in international markets.

44. Which two entities have been selected as recipients of the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023?

- [A] Jain University & Odisha Mining Corp.
- [B] Tata Sports Academy & Reliance Foundation
- [C] Sports Authority of India & Infosys Ltd.
- [D] Olympic Gold Quest & JSW Sports

**Answer:** Jain University & Odisha Mining Corp.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has announced the recipients of the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for the year 2023. Jain Deemed to be University, Bengaluru, and Odisha Mining Corporate Limited have been chosen for this prestigious award. Jain University is being recognized for its efforts in the identification and nurturing of budding and young talent, while Odisha Mining Corporate Limited is being awarded for its encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility activities. These awards, an integral part of India's National Sports Awards, aim to acknowledge and honor significant contributions in the field of sports promotion and development.

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

- [A] Kannada
- [B] Bengali
- [C] Tamil
- [D] Hindi

**Answer:** Bengali

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

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

- [A] Agronomy Science and technology of crop production
- [B] Veterinary Science
- [C] Environmental Science
- [D] Plant Biotechnology

**Answer:** Agronomy

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



development.

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

- [A] India
- [B] Pakistan
- [C] **Nepal**
- [D] Bangladesh

**Answer:** Nepal

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

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

- [A] Rashad Allahverdiyev
- [B] **Mukhtar Babayev**
- [C] Sultan al-Jaber
- [D] Fatih Birol

**Answer:** Mukhtar Babayev

Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan's Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources, has been named as the president-designate for the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29). Babayev, who previously worked as an executive at the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR), will lead the global climate talks at COP29. His appointment follows the precedent set by Sultan al-Jaber, chief of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), who presided over the previous year's COP28. This decision has been a point of interest given Babayev's ties to the oil industry and the ongoing discussions about transitioning away from fossil fuels in global energy systems. The role of the president-designate is crucial in steering the conversations and outcomes of the conference, especially in light of the critical environmental challenges faced globally.

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

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

**Answer:** Rs. 4797 crore

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the "PRITHvi Vlgyan (PRITHVI)" scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for implementation during the period from 2021-26. The overall cost of this comprehensive scheme is Rs. 4,797 crore. PRITHVI encompasses five ongoing sub-schemes and aims to augment and sustain long-term observations of the Earth's vital signs, develop modeling systems for weather, ocean, and climate hazards, and explore and harness oceanic resources sustainably. It also seeks to translate knowledge from Earth system science into services for societal,



environmental, and economic benefits. The scheme represents a significant investment in understanding and addressing various aspects of Earth System Sciences, leveraging the expertise of various institutes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

50. Which organizations were involved in the development of the humanoid robot ALOHA?

- [A] NASA and MIT ALOHA - Advocates of Linux Open - Source Hawaii Association  
[B] Google DeepMind and Stanford University  
[C] Boston Dynamics and Harvard University  
[D] SpaceX and Caltech

**Answer:** Google DeepMind and Stanford University

The humanoid robot ALOHA was developed through a collaborative effort by researchers at Google DeepMind and Stanford University. This innovative robot is designed for bimanual teleoperation and is capable of performing a range of tasks autonomously and through user-controlled operations. ALOHA's development represents a significant advancement in the field of robotics, showcasing the capabilities of combining machine learning algorithms with practical robotic applications. The open-source nature of ALOHA's hardware and software further emphasizes the commitment of Google DeepMind and Stanford University to contribute to the broader field of robotics research and development.

51. Which city is the host of Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024?

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

**Answer:** New Delhi

The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024, a significant event in the mobility sector, is being coordinated by the Engineering Export Promotion Council India (EEPC India), with joint support from various stakeholder industry bodies. This expo, set to be held at Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, is an industry-led and government-supported initiative. It showcases a wide array of innovations and collaborations in the mobility sector, featuring over 600 exhibitors from more than 50 countries. The event includes specialized exhibitions like Auto shows, ACMA Automechanika, urban mobility solutions, and more. It also features conferences with global experts and highlights India's commitment to engineering excellence and sustainable solutions in the mobility landscape.

52. Who has been recently appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?

- [A] Mustafa Ghouse  
[B] Lakshmi Narasimhan  
[C] Raghuram Iyer  
[D] Michel Aballea

**Answer:** Raghuram Iyer

Raghuram Iyer has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). His appointment follows a meticulous selection process conducted by the nomination committee of the IOA. Iyer's extensive experience in sports management and administration, particularly his previous roles as CEO of Indian Premier League teams Rajasthan Royals and Rising Pune Supergiants, has been recognized as making him an ideal candidate for this position. The appointment comes after a significant delay and repeated reminders from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). As CEO, Iyer will play a crucial role in promoting and developing Olympic sports in India and will be an





ex-officio member of the IOA's Executive Council, although without voting rights.

53. In which country is the Al Udeid Air Base located, where the United States has recently extended its military presence for another 10 years?

- [A] Saudi Arabia
- [B] Qatar
- [C] United Arab Emirates
- [D] Bahrain

**Answer:** Qatar

The Al Udeid Air Base, where the United States has extended its military presence for an additional 10 years, is located in Qatar. This base is significant as it hosts the largest US military facility in West Asia. The extension of the US military presence at Al Udeid Air Base underscores the strategic importance of Qatar in the region and the ongoing partnership between Qatar and the United States in military and defense matters. The base plays a crucial role in various US military operations in the region, making this extension a key development in international military and geopolitical dynamics.

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

- [A] Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- [B] Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- [C] Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
- [D] Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

**Answer:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed India's man-portable air defense missile system, known as the Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS). This system is designed to neutralize low-altitude aerial threats at ranges up to 6 kilometers. The VSHORADS, which represents a significant advancement in India's defense technology, is notable for its state-of-the-art uncooled imaging infrared seeker, making it technically superior to existing man-portable air defense systems in the Indian armed forces. The system is undergoing user trials and, upon successful completion, is expected to enter bulk production.

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

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
- [B] Karnataka
- [C] West Bengal
- [D] Chhattisgarh

**Answer:** Chhattisgarh

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

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



- [A] 5,000 MW
- [B] 10,000 MW
- [C] 15,000 MW
- [D] 20,000 MW

**Answer:** 10,000 MW

According to the recent agreements signed between India and Nepal, India has agreed to purchase 10,000 MW of hydropower from Nepal. This agreement will facilitate the export of 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal to India over the next 10 years. The agreement was one of several signed during the comprehensive talks held between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Nepalese counterpart, N P Saud. This hydropower purchase is a significant aspect of the bilateral ties between the two countries, emphasizing cooperation in the energy sector. It reflects the ongoing efforts to strengthen economic and strategic relations between India and Nepal. Additionally, the agreement is a step forward in enhancing energy security and promoting sustainable energy development in the region.

57. Which company has been contracted by the defence ministry for the procurement of 697 'bogie open military (BOM)' railway wagons for the Indian Army?

- [A] Tata Advanced Systems
- [B] Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- [C] Jupiter Wagons Ltd
- [D] Mahindra Defence Systems

**Answer:** Jupiter Wagons Ltd

The defence ministry signed a contract with Jupiter Wagons Ltd for the procurement of 697 'bogie open military (BOM)' railway wagons for the Indian Army. The deal, worth Rs 473 crore, is aimed at enhancing the Army's logistical capabilities, particularly for the transportation of infantry combat vehicles. These wagons are essential for the speedy and simultaneous induction of Army units and equipment into operational areas during conflict situations, as well as facilitating their peacetime movement for military exercises and inter-station transfers. Jupiter Wagons Ltd's involvement in providing this critical rolling stock underscores the company's role in supporting the Indian defence sector's logistical needs.

58. Which elite unit of the Indian Navy was involved in the successful rescue of 21 crew members, including 15 Indians, from the Liberian-flagged vessel MV Lila Norfolk recently?

- [A] Garud Commando Force
- [B] Para (Special Forces)
- [C] MARCOS (Marine Commandos)
- [D] National Security Guard (NSG)

**Answer:** MARCOS (Marine Commandos)

The elite unit of the Indian Navy involved in the successful rescue of 21 crew members, including 15 Indians, from the Liberian-flagged vessel MV Lila Norfolk was the MARCOS (Marine Commandos). This rapid response operation was initiated following an attempted hijacking in the North Arabian Sea. The operation showcased the Indian Navy's capability and readiness to handle maritime security threats, employing various assets including a warship, maritime patrol aircraft, helicopters, P-8I aircraft, and Predator MQ9B drones. The sanitization operation carried out by the MARCOS commandos confirmed the absence of hijackers on the vessel, thereby ensuring the safety and security of the crew onboard. The MARCOS unit is known for its expertise in maritime operations and plays a crucial role in safeguarding India's maritime interests.

59. What is the primary objective of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)



between India and USAID/India for the Indian Railways?

- [A] Expansion of Railway Network
- [B] Achievement of Net-Zero Carbon Emission by 2030
- [C] Increase in Passenger Train Services
- [D] Modernization of Railway Stations

**Answer:** Achievement of Net-Zero Carbon Emission by 2030

The primary objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/India for the Indian Railways is to achieve net-zero carbon emission by 2030. This MoU is focused on enabling the Indian Railways to adopt advanced energy solutions and systems, utility modernization, and regional energy and market integration. It also includes provisions for private sector participation, training, and workshops on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

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

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

**Answer:** Adoption of Eco-Friendly Practices for Inland Vessels

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

61. What is the new name of the food security scheme in Rajasthan, previously known as Indira Rasoi Yojana?

- [A] Atal Bhojan Yojana
- [B] Shree Annapurna Rasoi Yojana
- [C] Atal Rasoi
- [D] Swami Vivekananda Aahar Yojana

**Answer:** Shree Annapurna Rasoi Yojana

The food security scheme in Rajasthan, previously known as Indira Rasoi Yojana, has been renamed to Shree Annapurna Rasoi Yojana by the BJP-led government under Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma. This scheme aims to provide subsidized meals to the people, especially the underprivileged, to ensure that no one goes hungry. Along with the name change, the government grant per subsidized meal has been increased, and the weight of the meal per plate has also been raised. The renaming of the scheme aligns with the current government's initiatives in the state and reflects their commitment to providing nutritious and affordable food to those in need.

62. Which calendar do certain Eastern Orthodox churches follow, leading to Christmas being celebrated on January 7th?

- [A] Gregorian Calendar



- [B] Russian Calendar
- [C] Julian Calendar
- [D] Chinese Lunar Calendar

**Answer:** Julian Calendar

Certain Eastern Orthodox churches, including Russian and other traditions, observe Christmas on January 7th due to their adherence to the ancient Julian calendar. This calendar runs 13 days behind the widely-used Gregorian calendar, causing the date of December 25th in the Julian calendar to fall on January 7th in the Gregorian calendar.

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

- [A] 5.9%
- [B] 7.1%
- [C] 6.2%
- [D] 4.0%

**Answer:** 6.2%

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

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

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

**Answer:** Arunachal Pradesh

Recently, three items of Arunachal Pradesh have received the prestigious Geographical Indication tag. These are adi kekir (ginger), handmade carpets by Tibetan settlers and wooden items made by Wancho community. Wancho wooden craft items are unique as they feature human heads- tobacco pipes with head-shaped bowls and drinking mugs with carrying heads.

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

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

**Answer:** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)

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

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



- [A] A **supernova remnant**
- [B] A supermassive black hole
- [C] A space observatory
- [D] An Earth-size exoplanet

**Answer:** A supernova remnant

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

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

- [A] **Peregrine Mission - 1**
- [B] Vulcan Centaur
- [C] Apollo - 24
- [D] Astrobotic

**Answer:** Peregrine Mission - 1

Peregrine Mission - 1 marks a significant milestone in lunar exploration as it is the first US spacecraft to land on the moon's surface since the historic Apollo 17 mission in 1972. Recently Peregrine Mission - 1 was launched by the American company Astrobotic aboard the Vulcan Centaur rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida. The spacecraft carries a unique payload, including the DNA of well-known former US Presidents such as John F. Kennedy and iconic figures from Star Trek. The mission's scientific objectives include studying the moon's thin atmosphere and water molecule movements. The scheduled landing date for Peregrine Mission - 1 is February 23.

68. Which IIT has recently developed a 'Work4Food' solution to guarantee minimum wages for food delivery workers?

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

**Answer:** IIT Delhi

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has developed a 'Work4Food' solution that guarantees minimum wages for food delivery workers. The solution was developed by a research team from IIT Delhi comprising Abhijnan Chakraborty, Sayan Ranu, Amitabha Bagchi and PhD scholar Anjali. Professor Chakraborty from the Computer Science and Engineering Department, IIT Delhi said that this solution is an order assignment algorithm to ensure each delivery person earns more than the minimum wage.

69. Which country has recently announced the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative to boost collaborative efforts with India in sustainable energy solutions?

- [A] United States
- [B] **Denmark**
- [C] Japan
- [D] Australia



**Answer:** Denmark

Denmark has announced its Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative to boost collaborative efforts between the two countries in the sustainable energy solutions sector. The new alliance is a strategic initiative led by the Danish Embassy and Consulate General of Denmark in India. It aims to advance the green fuels sector including green hydrogen and help both countries achieve their goal of carbon neutrality. Nine Danish organisations have already committed as founding members of GFAI. The announcement comes as India pushes towards carbon neutrality by 2070 while Denmark aims for 2050.

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

- [A] Philips
- [B] Kirloskar Brothers
- [C] **Shakti Pumps**
- [D] Crompton Greaves

**Answer:** Shakti Pumps

Shakti Pumps (India) Ltd has received a patent from the Patent Office of Government of India for its 'Solar Flour Mill' innovation. This is the ninth patent awarded to the company. The solar-powered flour mill tackles electricity shortages in rural areas and helps save costs. Chairman Dinesh Patidar stated that it offers a better solution than electricity-dependent mills.

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

- [A] **West Bengal**
- [B] Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Jharkhand
- [D] Bihar

**Answer:** West Bengal

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has recently launched the "Yogyasree" social welfare scheme, aimed at providing free training modules for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in the state. The initiative focuses on preparing these students for entrance and competitive examinations, demonstrating the government's commitment to educational empowerment. The Yogyasree scheme includes the establishment of fifty training centers across West Bengal, providing cost-free training for SC and ST students, with a specific emphasis on competitive examinations. Furthermore, **46 centers will extend similar opportunities for those aspiring to secure government jobs and pursue careers in civil services.**

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

- [A] Southeast Asia
- [B] **Madagascar**
- [C] South America
- [D] Australia

**Answer:** Madagascar

Tropical Cyclone Alvaro made a significant impact on southwest Madagascar, hitting the region on January 1st, 2024. This marked the first major cyclone influence during the 2023-2024 in the southwest Indian Ocean. The ongoing season, which spans from late October to May, has posed unprecedented challenges to the area, with Cyclone Alvaro being the latest destructive force.

73. India's **first multi-sport beach games** started recently in at which State / Union Territory?

- [A] Lakshadweep
- [B] Andaman & Nicobar Island



[C] Goa

[D] Daman & Diu

**Answer:** Daman & Diu

Over 1,200 players from 20 states and UTs are participating in India's first multi-sport beach games started recently in Diu. Eight sports featured are beach volleyball, pencak silat, beach boxing, beach soccer, sea swimming, malakhambah, beach kabaddi and tug of war. PM Modi will address participants via video, Sports Minister Thakur will attend as chief guest. Games have a dolphin theme with related images on banners. Opening ceremony at Ghoghala Beach, closing at INS Khukhri Memorial.

74. In response to warming oceans, what adaptation strategy have women in Zanzibar adopted to overcome challenges?

[A] Transitioning to deep-sea fishing

[B] Embracing climate-resilient sponge farming

[C] Expanding seaweed cultivation

[D] Shifting to traditional fishing methods

**Answer:** Embracing climate-resilient sponge farming

The warming oceans in Zanzibar have compelled women to shift from seaweed to climate-resilient sponge farming as a means of sustainable livelihood. Sponge farming, a relatively new business opportunity, stands out for its environmental friendliness. Sponges, living animals with intricate structures, serve as microscopic pumps that purify ocean water by removing impurities, including sewage. Unlike seaweed, sponges display remarkable resilience to climate change, require minimal maintenance, and command premium market prices. Their unique reproductive capabilities, as hermaphrodites, enable easy self-propagation, making commercial sponge farming feasible. Apart from their use in bathing and hygiene due to natural antibacterial properties, sponges contribute to combating climate change. Their skeletons break down into silicon particles, crucial for the growth of diatoms that absorb large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> in the ocean, thus playing a vital role in controlling the carbon cycle and reducing the greenhouse effect.

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

[A] Indra Mani Pandey

[B] Tenzin Lekhpal

[C] Abdul Motaleb Sarker

[D] Shabana Fyyaz

**Answer:** Indra Mani Pandey

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

76. Which one of the following describes 'Sky Dew', that was in the news recently?

[A] A cruise missile system

[B] A high-altitude observation balloon

[C] A fighter aircraft

[D] A fuel-efficient drone

**Answer:** A high-altitude observation balloon



Amid escalating tensions with Hezbollah militants along the Lebanese border, Israel recently deployed "Sky Dew," a surveillance blimp developed jointly with US company TCOM. Shaped like an aircraft, this state-of-the-art detection system features powerful radars and sensors capable of tracking multiple airborne threats simultaneously from up to 250km away. Operating at a high altitude without need for refueling, Sky Dew significantly boosts Israel's aerial threat detection abilities and intelligence gathering versus Hezbollah and other adversaries. The timing of its deployment points to Israel bolstering its defenses against potential attacks.

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

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

**Answer:** Indian Institutes of Technology Madras and Mandi

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

78. What was the global surface air temperature increase relative to the 1850-1900 average in 2023?

- [A] 1.48°C
- [B] 1.53°C
- [C] 1.69°C
- [D] 1.82°C

**Answer:** 1.48°C

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

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

- [A] Classifying modern biomedicine
- [B] Including Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani in WHO classification
- [C] Monitoring infectious diseases
- [D] Developing Ayush insurance coverage

**Answer:** Classifying modern biomedicine

The ICD-11 TM Module 2, launched by the World Health Organization in collaboration with India's Ministry of Ayush, primarily aims to include data and terminology relating to diseases based on





traditional medicine systems - Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani - in the WHO's International Classification of Diseases (ICD11) classification. This significant inclusion marks a step towards achieving global uniformity in traditional medicine, recognizing and integrating these ancient systems of medicine into the international healthcare framework. The inclusion of these traditional medical systems in the ICD11 classification reflects a growing recognition of the importance and relevance of traditional medicine in global healthcare. It also represents an effort to create a more comprehensive and inclusive international health vocabulary that acknowledges the diversity of medical systems and practices around the world.

80. Siamang gibbons, that were recently making news, are primarily known for?

- [A] Their large throat sacs
- [B] Their endangered status
- [C] Their singing voices
- [D] Their monogamous nature

**Answer:** Their singing voices

Siamang gibbons (*Symphalangus syndactylus*), native to the rainforests of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, are primarily known for their unique and powerful singing voices. These vocalizations, a distinctive feature of the species, serve essential purposes such as communication and territory marking. The Siamang's large throat sacs amplify their calls, making them the loudest of all gibbons. Unfortunately, this remarkable singing ability, coupled with their beauty, has made Siamangs a prime target in the illegal wildlife trade, particularly for use as exotic pets. The rescue and subsequent release of these gibbons back into the wild, as undertaken by the Aspinall Foundation in South Sumatra, is not only a conservation success story but also a poignant reminder of the threats faced by these endangered primates. This effort highlights the importance of preserving natural habitats and wildlife, as well as the ongoing challenges in combating illegal wildlife trade.

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

- [A] Saturn
- [B] Mars
- [C] Titan
- [D] Mercury

**Answer:** Titan

The "magic islands" observed on Titan, Saturn's largest moon, are primarily made of porous, frozen organic solids. These floating formations, likened to shapes of honeycomb or Swiss cheese, were first spotted in 2014 by the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft. Scientists, led by Xinting Yu from the University of Texas, conducted research to unravel this mystery. They concluded that these structures are clusters of complex organic snow, which accumulate and snow down onto Titan's surface and its methane and ethane lakes. Due to the unique composition of Titan's atmosphere, rich in methane and other organic molecules, this organic "snow" does not immediately dissolve upon contact with the liquid bodies on the moon's surface. The phenomenon is akin to ice sheets breaking off from glaciers on Earth and floating on sea surfaces, a process known as calving. This discovery not only sheds light on the intriguing features of Titan but also enhances our understanding of the moon's geophysical processes and the interactions between its atmosphere and surface.

82. What is the primary source of the new jet fuel recently developed by Firefly Green Fuels?

- [A] Cooking oil



- [B] Human sewage
- [C] Rapeseed oil
- [D] Agricultural remnants

**Answer:** Human sewage

The innovative jet fuel, recently developed by Firefly Green Fuels, is derived primarily from human sewage. This pioneering approach, led by CEO James Hygate, transforms sewage into kerosene-like fuel. The process is part of a broader effort to reduce the aviation industry's carbon footprint, which is crucial given the industry's significant contribution to global carbon emissions. This development represents a major stride in sustainable aviation, offering a potential 90% reduction in carbon footprint compared to traditional fossil jet fuels.

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

- [A] Agni
- [B] Nirbhay
- [C] Ugram
- [D] Tejas

**Answer:** Ugram

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched the "Ugram" assault rifle. The DRDO developed the rifle in collaboration with a private company and the Armament Research and Development Establishments (ARDE), a DRDO laboratory in Pune. The "Ugram" is a 7.62 x 51 mm caliber rifle that weighs less than four kilograms and has a range of 500 meters. The name "Ugram" means "ferocious". The rifle is intended to meet the needs of the military, paramilitary, and police. The DRDO develops defense technologies and also supports other technologies and products. The DRDO has also developed other major systems and technologies, including aircraft avionics, UAVs, small arms, artillery systems, and missile systems.

84. What recent investment decision has LIC, India's leading insurer, made in the financial sector?

- [A] Investing in a technology start-up
- [B] Allocating funds to a National Housing Bank-promoted company
- [C] Acquiring a stake in a pharmaceutical company
- [D] Initiating a partnership with an educational institution

**Answer:** Allocating funds to a National Housing Bank-promoted company

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) recently disclosed in a regulatory filing that its board has granted approval to acquire up to a 10% stake in a newly established company backed by the National Housing Bank (NHB). The investment aims to focus on residential mortgage-backed securities and will be executed through equity contributions in multiple phases. NHB, established under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, operates as an All-India Financial Institution (AIFI) wholly owned by the Government of India. The institution's primary objective is to function as a key agency promoting housing finance institutions at both local and regional levels, providing financial and other forms of support to such institutions.

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

- [A] Drishti 10 'Starship'
- [B] Drishti 10 'Skyrocket'
- [C] Drishti 10 'Starliner'



[D] Drishti 10 'Stellar'

**Answer:** Drishti 10 'Starliner'

The Chief of Naval Staff recently inaugurated the first indigenous Drishti 10 'Starliner' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for the Navy. Developed by Adani Defence and Aerospace, this advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform boasts 36-hour endurance and a 450 kg payload capacity. Designed for all-weather military operations with clearance for both segregated and unsegregated airspace, the UAV significantly enhances India's naval capabilities. Its autonomous nature, coupled with mission effectiveness and versatile payload configurations, makes it a valuable asset for strategic operations.

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

- [A] Aircraft Carrier
- [B] Submarine
- [C] Offshore Patrol Vessel
- [D] Destroyer

**Answer:** Offshore Patrol Vessel

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

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

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

**Answer:** Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad

Wings India 2024, India's largest civil aviation event, will take place at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport from January 18–21, 2024. The biennial event is organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Indian Industry (FICCI). The event will feature new-generation aircraft displays, allied aviation services, auxiliary unit industries, and tourism sector advancements. It will also focus on innovation, partnerships, and the future of flying.

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

- [A] Studying Venusian clouds
- [B] Mapping Earth's surface
- [C] Observing the X-ray cosmos
- [D] Monitoring climate change

**Answer:** Observing the X-ray cosmos

The XRISM (X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission) satellite mission, a collaborative effort led by Japan's JAXA, along with NASA and ESA, primarily aims to observe and study the X-ray cosmos. Launched on September 6, 2023, XRISM's mission is to scrutinize the universe's hottest regions, largest structures, and objects with the strongest gravity. This is achieved through advanced technology



capable of detecting X-rays with energies up to 12,000 electron volts. The mission is equipped with two significant instruments, Resolve and Xtend, each contributing uniquely to the exploration of the cosmos. Resolve analyzes the chemical compositions, temperatures, densities, and motion directions of celestial objects, as demonstrated by its detailed examination of N132D, a supernova remnant in the Large Magellanic Cloud. Xtend complements this by capturing wide-field X-ray images, like its observation of Abell 2319, a galaxy cluster undergoing a merger. XRISM's mission signifies a major advancement in our understanding of the universe beyond the capacities of visible light, providing more detailed chemical maps and insights into the dynamic processes governing the cosmos.

89. Which country has recently passed a significant legislative bill banning the consumption and sale of dog meat?

- [A] Japan
- [B] North Korea
- [C] South Korea
- [D] Thailand

**Answer:** South Korea

The South Korean parliament recently passed a significant legislative bill banning the consumption and sale of dog meat. This landmark decision marks the end of a centuries-old controversial practice in South Korea. The bill, receiving widespread bipartisan support, was approved by an overwhelming majority of 208 votes in the single-chamber parliament. The new law, coming into effect after a three-year grace period, will impose penalties of up to three years in prison or fines of up to 30 million Korean won for slaughtering dogs for food. This legislative move reflects a changing attitude in South Korea toward dog meat consumption, aligning with growing concerns for animal welfare. It also represents a cultural shift in the country, where dog meat was traditionally consumed for perceived health benefits. The passing of this bill is a pivotal moment in animal protection, signaling a shift in societal values and the country's commitment to animal welfare.

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

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

**Answer:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

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

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

- [A] Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- [B] Ministry of Finance
- [C] Ministry of External Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Home Affairs

**Answer:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj



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

92. Which two countries' scientists joined India's 43rd Antarctic Expedition?

- [A] Singapore and Mauritius
- [B] Bangladesh and Bhutan
- [C] Mauritius and Bangladesh
- [D] Nepal and Myanmar

**Answer:** Mauritius and Bangladesh

In a landmark development this December, India's 43rd Antarctic expedition, spearheaded by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, saw the inclusion of scientists from Mauritius and Bangladesh, signifying a noteworthy stride in global collaboration for polar research. This collaboration evolved from the inaugural Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference held in 2022, which established the foundation for scientific partnerships among participating nations. The conference, focusing on oceanographic and hydrographic studies, laid the groundwork for cooperative initiatives, ultimately fostering enhanced international collaboration in polar research.

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

- [A] 83rd
- [B] 80th
- [C] 82nd
- [D] 90th

**Answer:** 80th

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

94. What is the name of the fuel developed by Clean Core Thorium Energy, a Chicago-based company, which combines Thorium and High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU)?

- [A] ANEEL
- [B] HALEU-Thor
- [C] Core Energy Fuel
- [D] Enriched Thorium

**Answer:** ANEEL

Clean Core Thorium Energy, a Chicago-based company, has introduced ANEEL (Advanced Nuclear Energy for Enriched Life), a fuel combining Thorium and High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU). Named after India's scientist Dr. Anil Kakodkar, ANEEL is designed for use in India's existing Pressurized Heavy-Water Reactors (PHWRs), potentially revolutionizing the country's nuclear energy sector. With



India boasting the world's largest Thorium reserves at 1.07 million tonnes, ANEEL offers a promising solution for efficiently harnessing Thorium in nuclear reactors. The fuel brings several advantages, including reduced nuclear waste volume, lower operating costs, and enhanced long-term efficiency.

95. What is the name of the recently discovered species of dinosaur found by paleontologists in Argentina?

- [A] Sidersaurus rex
- [B] Maraeosaurus argentinensis
- [C] Sidersaura marae
- [D] Argentinasaurus fragments

**Answer:** Sidersaura marae

Paleontologists in Argentina have recently uncovered fossil fragments of a new sauropod dinosaur species named Sidersaura marae. This dinosaur lived during the Cenomanian age of the Late Cretaceous epoch, approximately 96 to 93 million years ago, in the Patagonian region. Belonging to the Rebbachisauridae family, which is widespread across South America, Africa, North America, Europe, and Asia, Sidersaura marae is characterized by distinct teeth, some of which formed tooth batteries reminiscent of hadrosaurs and ceratopsian dinosaurs.

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

- [A] Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Karnataka
- [C] Kerala
- [D] Bihar

**Answer:** Karnataka

The century-old Yakshagana mela in Dakshina Kannada, known as Kateel Sri Durgaparameshwari Yakshagaana Dashavatara Mandali or Kateel Mela, is set to resume its all-night performances following approval from the Karnataka High Court. This renowned Yakshagana troupe, founded in the mid-19th century, plays a significant role in 'Harake Seva'—fulfilling devotees' wishes by hosting Yakshagana shows. Yakshagana is a traditional folk dance form in Coastal Karnataka, incorporating dance, music, song, scholarly dialogues, and vibrant costumes. Originally performed solely by men, including female roles, the art form now includes women in troupes. A typical Yakshagana troupe comprises 15 to 20 actors and a Bhagawatha, the master of ceremonies and main storyteller.

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

- [A] Report Fish Disease
- [B] DiseaseAlert
- [C] FishCare
- [D] AquaTracker

**Answer:** Report Fish Disease

The National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) has launched the 'Report Fish Disease' mobile app to effectively monitor and track fish diseases across the country. Developed under the lead institute ICAR-NBFGR, in collaboration with partners like the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), the app aims to empower fish farmers by providing a user-friendly platform for reporting diseases on their farms. The app features an intuitive interface, allowing farmers to easily report disease outbreaks by providing crucial information such as location, affected species, symptoms, and images. Geo-tagging technology ensures a swift response from authorities, providing real-time



updates on reported cases for transparency and accountability.

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

- [A] Puri Jagannath Temple
- [B] Maa Kamakhya Temple
- [C] Lingaraj Temple
- [D] Yamunotri Temple

**Answer:** Puri Jagannath Temple

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is set to inaugurate the Jagannath Puri heritage corridor, part of the Srimandir Parikrama Project, on January 17. The project focuses on improving amenities, security, and traffic flow around the iconic Jagannath Puri Temple. The temple, dedicated to Lord Jagannath, is a historic Hindu pilgrimage site in Odisha, known for its annual Ratha Yatra. The initiative aims to enhance conditions and infrastructure in the temple vicinity, contributing to the area's cultural and religious significance.

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

- [A] Mohammed Shami
- [B] Jasprit Bumrah
- [C] Arshdeep Singh
- [D] Deepak Chahar

**Answer:** Mohammed Shami

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

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

- [A] 12th January
- [B] 9th January
- [C] 12th February
- [D] 10th January

**Answer:** 12th January

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

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

- [A] Mumbai
- [B] Gandhinagar
- [C] Indore
- [D] Nagpur



**Answer:** Indore

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

102. Which state has launched 'Lakhpati Baideos' scheme recently?

- [A] Tripura
- [B] Assam
- [C] West Bengal
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Assam

Assam government has launched an ambitious scheme with the primary goal of developing around 40 lakh women Self-Help Group (SHG) members into Rural Micro Entrepreneurs, also referred to as 'Lakhpati Baideos' (sisters). This initiative aims to ensure an annual income of ₹1 lakh for each member. The scheme is a comprehensive approach to promote entrepreneurship among rural women, backed by a substantial budget of around ₹4,000 Crore. It includes a set of eligibility criteria related to family planning and the education of girl children among the beneficiaries. Additionally, the scheme involves the submission of a business plan by the members, with government support in its formulation. Financial aid, part grant and part loan, is provided over a three-year period to assist these women in establishing and growing their businesses.

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

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

**Answer:** Ministry of Rural Development and SBI

The Ministry of Rural Development and State Bank of India have signed an MoU to ease enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHGs). State Bank of India introduced Svyam Siddha, a financial product tailored for SHG women entrepreneurs, offering loans up to Rs 5 lakhs. The initiative simplifies the loan application process, reducing documentation requirements and turnaround time. DAY-NRLM will facilitate the application process, and a training toolkit, developed with the IFC under the World Bank-funded NRETP, aims to enhance the capacities of State Rural Livelihoods Missions for increased access to formal finance by SHG members.

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

- [A] Aman Sherawat
- [B] Ravi Kumar Dahiya
- [C] Udey Chand
- [D] Deepak Punia

**Answer:** Aman Sherawat

Aman Sehrawat clinched gold at the Zagreb Open 2024 in the men's singles 57 kg division, triumphing over China's Zou Wanhao 10-0. Currently ranked 13th globally, Sehrawat displayed dominance, securing victory within a minute and eight seconds in the final. Notably, he staged a remarkable comeback in the





qualifying round against Turkey's Muhammet Karavus, winning 15-4. Coach Lalit Kumar praised Sehrawat's dedication. Eyes are now on Sehrawat's potential Olympic trials, where he may face Ravi Dahiya. Other Indian wrestlers had mixed results, with Deepak Punia and Yash facing challenges in their respective categories.

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

- [A] Qualcomm
- [B] **Simmtech**
- [C] Micron Technology
- [D] Intel

**Answer:** Simmtech

South Korean firm Simmtech has unveiled plans to invest Rs 1,250 crore in setting up a semiconductor manufacturing plant in Sanand, Gujarat, as part of a significant boost to the semiconductor industry in India. Recognized as the world's largest manufacturer of semiconductor substrates, Simmtech has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government for this venture. The plant, to be located near Micron's existing facility in Sanand, will occupy 30 acres of land, with construction set to begin in the next two to three months and completion expected in 6-7 months.

106. Who recently secured the India's 16th quota for Paris Olympics?

- [A] **Rhythm Sangwan**
- [B] Jiin Yang
- [C] Manini Koushik
- [D] Yeji Kim

**Answer:** Rhythm Sangwan

Rhythm Sangwan clinched a bronze medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2024, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, securing a Paris 2024 Olympic quota for India. This marked India's 16th shooting quota, surpassing the previous record of 15 for Tokyo 2020. Sangwan's stellar performance in the final, scoring 28 out of 45, earned her the bronze, while South Korea's Jiin Yang and Yeji Kim claimed gold and silver. The Olympic quotas were redistributed to India due to South Korea's prior qualifications.

107. What recent discovery was made by the CSIR lab in Jammu regarding the cannabis plant?

- [A] Cannabis plant's ability to produce electricity
- [B] The use of cannabis in environmental protection
- [C] Enhanced fragrance properties of cannabis-derived oils
- [D] **Antibiotic properties in the cannabis plant**

**Answer:** Antibiotic properties in the cannabis plant

Scientists at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, have discovered that tetrahydrocannabinol (THCBD), a phytocannabinoid derived from the cannabis plant, exhibits previously unrecognized antibiotic properties. Phytocannabinoids are plant-derived compounds found in cannabis. The researchers extracted cannabidiol, a cannabinoid, from cannabis and subjected it to a reaction with hydrogen using palladium as a catalyst. This process resulted in a mixture of molecules with identical compositions but distinct structures, one of which was THCBD. This finding highlights the potential of cannabis-derived compounds in novel antibiotic development.

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

- [A] **5.2 %**



- [B] 4.1 %
- [C] 6.2 %
- [D] 5.5 %

**Answer:** 5.2 %

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the global unemployment rate is expected to reach 5.2% in 2024, up from 5.1% in 2023. The ILO's "World Employment and Social Outlook" report for 2024 predicts that the number of unemployed people will increase by 2 million. The ILO attributes the increase to more people being unemployed in advanced economies. The ILO's Director of Research Department, Richard Samans, says that the ILO is projecting a slight decline in labor market performance, in part due to slowing global growth. The ILO also predicts that working poverty will persist and income inequality will widen. The ILO suggests that greater social justice is needed for a sustainable recovery.

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

- [A] **Article 30**
- [B] Article 14
- [C] Article 19
- [D] Article 61

**Answer:** Article 30

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

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

- [A] Mizoram
- [B] **West Bengal**
- [C] Goa
- [D] Karnataka

**Answer:** West Bengal

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

111. Which bank of India has introduced the Green Rupee Term Deposit?

- [A] **State Bank of India (SBI)**
- [B] HDFC Bank



- [C] ICICI Bank
- [D] Indian Bank

**Answer:** State Bank of India (SBI)

Recently, the State Bank of India (SBI) launched the SBI Green Rupee Term Deposit (SGRTD). The SGRTD is a deposit scheme that aims to raise funds for environmentally-friendly initiatives and projects. The scheme is open to NRIs, non-individuals, and resident individuals. The SGRTD has tenors of 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days. The SGRTD offers flexible tenors.

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

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

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

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister has announced tenders for the PM-eBus Sewa scheme, aiming to deploy 10,000 e-buses across Indian cities. The scheme operates on a 10-year Public Private Partnership model, where states/cities manage services and the central government provides subsidies from a Rs 57,613 crore fund. Covering cities with populations over 300,000, it has two segments: augmenting city bus services and associated infrastructure, and supporting green urban mobility initiatives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions

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

- [A] U.K, Myanmar, and Bangladesh
- [B] U.S., Japan, China, Canada, and India
- [C] Iraq, Sweden, Canada, and India
- [D] Australia, U.S., Maldives, and Iran

**Answer:** U.S., Japan, China, Canada, and India

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

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

- [A] Intelligence gathering for national security
- [B] Space exploration
- [C] Weather forecasting
- [D] Satellite internet services

**Answer:** Intelligence gathering for national security

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



transition has faced challenges, notably with JAXA's first test launch of the H3 experiencing failure in March the previous year.

115. Which one of the following describes about "AN-32 Aircraft"?

- [A] French hypersonic airplane
- [B] Soviet-origin military transport aircraft
- [C] Indian-origin military transport aircraft
- [D] Chinese search and rescue airplane

**Answer:** Soviet-origin military transport aircraft

The Indian Air Force (IAF) recently located the wreckage of an An-32 aircraft missing for seven-and-a-half years. The AN-32, a Soviet-origin military transport aircraft, was designed by Ukraine's Antonov Design Bureau for the IAF, purchased in 1984. With a fleet of around 100, its NATO reporting name is Cline. The versatile aircraft, operating in tropical and mountainous regions, weighs 16,800kg, has a max speed of 530km/h, and a range of 2,500km. It accommodates cargo, passengers, paratroopers, and medical missions, showing its adaptability and critical role in military and humanitarian operations.

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

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

**Answer:** Karnataka

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

117. What is the name of the project launched by I-STEM (Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map) at IISc, Bengaluru?

- [A] Samavesha project
- [B] Science Technology Innovation (STI) Hubs
- [C] Sankalp project
- [D] Patent Facilitation Programme (PFP)

**Answer:** Samavesha project

I-STEM is set to launch the Samavesha project at IISc., Bengaluru, on January 16, aiming to boost research collaboration in India. An initiative by the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India, I-STEM follows the "One Nation One Portal" concept, connecting researchers with resources. It facilitates locating and accessing specific R&D facilities, with a fee for extended use. A panel of experts will assist users through the S&T Chat Room. The I-STEM web portal includes a Digital Catalogue and hosts industry challenges, aligning with GoI directives for Aatmnirbhar Bharat. The portal's IP is protected with a provisional patent application.

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

- [A] Surface to Air
- [B] Surface to surface
- [C] Air to Air



[D] Air to Surface

**Answer:** Surface to Air

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a milestone with the successful flight-test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur. This surface-to-air missile intercepted a high-speed unmanned aerial vehicle at a low altitude, affirming the complete weapon system's efficacy. Equipped with an indigenously developed radio frequency seeker, the AKASH-NG enhances the Indian Air Force's capabilities, defending against agile aerial threats. Notably, it can engage up to **10 targets simultaneously** within a **range of 40 km**, showcasing superior performance compared to its predecessors.

119. Recently, which Tiger Reserve has got the title of India's first 'Dark Sky Park'?

[A] Kamlang Tiger Reserve

[B] **Pench Tiger Reserve**

[C] Palamau Tiger Reserve

[D] Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

**Answer:** Pench Tiger Reserve

The Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra is India's first International Dark Sky Park. The International Dark-Sky Association certification focuses on lighting policy, retrofits, outreach, and night sky monitoring. The reserve's certification recognizes its commitment to protecting the night sky, reducing light pollution, and creating an ideal environment for astronomy enthusiasts and stargazers. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has emphasized the importance of preserving natural darkness for nature conservation, ecological integrity in protected areas, and the well-being of communities in cities.

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## 120 MCQs

These questions are sourced from GKToday's Current Affairs 2023 Daily 20 MCQ Series in [GKToday Academy Android Application](#).

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

- [A] **Air-to-Air missile**
- [B] Surface-to-Surface missile
- [C] Air-to-Surface missile
- [D] Surface-to-Air missile

**Answer:** Air-to-Air missile

The Minister of State for Defence recently initiated the delivery of indigenously developed Astra Missiles to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Bharat Dynamics in Hyderabad. Astra is a cutting-edge beyond-visual-range (BVR) air-to-air missile, crafted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL). The ASTRA Mk-I, integrated with SU-30 Mk-I aircraft, boasts a range of 80 to 110 km, travels at 4.5 Mach speed, and features a locally developed Ku-band active radar guidance system and a 15-kg warhead.

2. Kachchhi Kharek (dates), which has recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, belongs to which state?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh
- [B] **Gujarat**
- [C] Goa
- [D] Bihar

**Answer:** Gujarat

Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous date variety of Kutch, secures Gujarat's second Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Dating back 400-500 years in Kachchh, the palms likely originated from seeds tossed by settlers returning from Haj in the Middle East. Harvested at the khalal stage, Kutch dates, known for salinity tolerance, commence their season on June 15. Uniquely, Kutch is the sole global hub for economically cultivating, marketing, and consuming fresh dates, hosting over two million palms, contributing to 85% of India's total date palm cultivation.

3. Kalaram Mandir, which was recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Telangana
- [B] Rajasthan
- [C] **Maharashtra**
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Maharashtra

India's Prime Minister recently visited Kalaram Mandir in Nashik, Maharashtra, built in 1792 by Sardar Rangarao Odhekar. Situated on the Godavari's banks, the temple's name, Kala Ram, signifies the black statue of Lord Ram. Notable features include statues of Ram, Sita, Lakshman, and a Hanuman idol at the entrance. The main temple has 14 steps symbolizing Ram's exile years and 84 pillars representing the cycle of 84 lakh species to attain human birth.

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

- [A] Maasi
- [B] **Thai**
- [C] Chithirai



[D] Aadi

**Answer:** Thai

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

5. Prabha Atre, who passed away recently, was associated with which profession?

[A] **Classical singer**

[B] Classical dancer

[C] Sports person

[D] Historian

**Answer:** Classical singer

The Indian classical music community mourns the loss of Dr. Prabha Atre, an iconic vocalist of the Kirana Gharana, who passed away in Pune at 91. Beyond her classical singing, she was a versatile academic, researcher, composer, and author, holding degrees in diverse fields. Representing the Kirana Gharana, her refined style embraced khayal, thumri, ghazal, bhajan, and tarana. Dr. Atre's global impact as a musical ambassador earned her prestigious awards, including the Padma Vibhushan. Her legacy challenges conventions, making her passing a loss globally.

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

[A] **Sambhav**

[B] Project Shield

[C] Secure Army Mobile Platform

[D] Mobile Security Initiative

**Answer:** Sambhav

SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version) is an end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem developed by the Indian Army. It operates on 5G technology and aims to provide secure communication and instant connectivity. Command Cyber Operations Support Wings enhance cyber capabilities at operational and tactical levels. SAMBHAV addresses the vulnerability of mobile networks to eavesdropping, offering end-to-end security. Developed in collaboration with experts, it leverages existing public cellular networks and deploys 35,000 sets in two phases, reinforcing India's stance in hybrid warfare and civil-military fusion.

7. What target has the government set to reduce accidental death by 2030?

[A] **50 %**

[B] 40 %

[C] 60 %

[D] 30 %

**Answer:** 50 %

The government aims to cut accidental deaths by 50% by 2030, as announced by Road, Transport, and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari at a National conclave on Road Safety in New Delhi. Gadkari highlighted that every hour **sees 53 injuries and 19 deaths from road accidents**. Emphasizing road safety as a top priority, he outlined government initiatives and stressed the importance of a public education campaign to alter behavior and enhance safety.

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





- [A] Iran
- [B] Iraq
- [C] Afghanistan
- [D] South Africa

**Answer:** Iran

India's External Affairs Minister revealed that Farsi (Persian) is now classified as one of India's nine classical languages under the New Education Policy. Farsi, a key Iranian language and an Indo-European member, is the official language in Iran. Additionally, its variations, Dari and Tajik, hold official status in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, respectively. India has currently 6 classical languages viz. Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia. The National Education Policy-2020 had noted that in addition to these classical languages, Pali, Persian, and Prakrit; and their works of literature too must be preserved for their richness and for the pleasure and enrichment of posterity.

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

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

**Answer:** Sikkim

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

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

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

**Answer:** Vice Admiral AN Pramod

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

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

- [A] Monsoon Mission Portal
- [B] Panchayat Mausam Sewa Portal
- [C] Monsoon Research Agenda Portal
- [D] Mausam Sewa Portal

**Answer:** Panchayat Mausam Sewa Portal

The Panchayat Mausam Sewa Portal, a collaboration between the India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Green Alert Mausam Sewa, offers weather



forecasts in English, Hindi, and twelve regional languages to every panchayat head and secretary. The initiative aims to empower farmers with timely weather alerts, reducing input costs and crop losses. It facilitates informed agricultural planning for activities like sowing, transplantation, and irrigation.

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

- [A] Cristiano Ronaldo
- [B] **Lionel Messi**
- [C] Neymar
- [D] Robert Lewandowski

**Answer:** Lionel Messi

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

13. Which organization has initiated the first-in-human vaccine trials for the deadly Nipah virus?

- [A] **University of Oxford**
- [B] World Health Organization
- [C] Bharat Biotech
- [D] Gamaleya Research Institute

**Answer:** University of Oxford

The University of Oxford initiates the first-in-human clinical trial for the ChAdOx1 NipahB vaccine against the lethal Nipah virus. The trial, led by the Oxford Vaccine Group and funded by CEPI, involves 51 participants aged 18-55. Nipah virus, fatal in 75% of cases, has caused outbreaks in South-East Asia, including a recent one in Kerala, India (September 2023). The virus, carried by fruit bats, may transmit through contact with infected animals or person-to-person contact.

14. Recently, which NIT developed the 'Fault Tolerant Inverter' for solar power supply?

- [A] NIT Warangal
- [B] NIT Jaipur
- [C] NIT Kurukshetra
- [D] **NIT Raipur**

**Answer:** NIT Raipur

A team led by Lalit Sahu, an Assistant Professor at NIT Raipur, has developed a 'Fault Tolerant Inverter' to address electricity supply faults. This innovation enables uninterrupted use of solar-generated electricity for residential and industrial purposes, compensating for the frequent faults in power conversion devices. The inverter, refined through two patents, enhances power supply stability by regulating solar panel variations. It marks a significant advancement, considering the typical 15-20 years lifespan of solar panels and 10-12 years for power conversion objects.

15. Which state launched Operation 'AMRITH' to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR)?

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

**Answer:** Kerala



The Kerala Drug Control Department recently launched Operation Amrith (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention for Total Health) to combat antibiotic resistance (AMR). The initiative aims to prevent the misuse of antibiotics and protect the state's citizens from its potentially deadly consequences. The operation includes surprise raids in pharmacies to detect over-the-counter (OTC) sales of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription. The department has also provided a toll-free number for lodging complaints against medical shops. The operation also aims to raise awareness about AMR, ensure responsible antibiotic use, and prevent the spread of drug-resistant infections.

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

- [A] **Nashik, Maharashtra**
- [B] Kutch, Gujarat
- [C] Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- [D] Indore, Madhya Pradesh

**Answer:** Nashik, Maharashtra

The Indian Army exhibited its indigenous firepower capabilities in the 'Exercise Topchi' at Devlali, Maharashtra. Conducted on January 14, 2024, the event showcased Atmanirbhar Bharat's artillery equipment, including K-9 Vajra, Dhanush, and Pinaka rocket launchers. K-9 Vajra is a 155 mm tracked artillery system developed by Larsen & Toubro. Dhanush, a 155 mm towed artillery gun, was also featured. The exercise emphasized the integrated use of guns, mortars, rockets, drones, and aviation assets for enhanced firepower and surveillance.

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

- [A] Monsoon
- [B] **Mausam**
- [C] Accurate weather
- [D] RadarScope

**Answer:** Mausam

India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched MAUSAM, an integrated GIS-based mobile app offering weather services such as hourly forecasts, Rainfall, Humidity, Sunrise/Sunset, Moonrise/Moonset, Rain Alert, Lightning Alert, Cyclone Alert, and more. The app supports 12 Indian languages and introduces "mausamgram" accessible via the mobile app or IMD website. "mausamgram" enables users to view observations, forecasts, and warnings through a map or search function using place names, pincodes, or coordinates, aligning with the vision "Har Har Mausam, Har Ghar Mausam."

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

- [A] **PM-JANMAN scheme**
- [B] Antyodaya scheme
- [C] Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana
- [D] NTR Housing scheme

**Answer:** PM-JANMAN scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the first installment of the PM-JANMAN scheme, a part of the Pradhan Mantri-Janjatiya Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), dedicated to the welfare of poor tribals. Launched on November 15, 2023, with a budget of ₹24,000 crore, the scheme aims to benefit tribals, particularly those in particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVVTGs). In a video conference with 100,000 beneficiaries, Modi emphasized the government's commitment to the welfare of the weakest



sections, transferring funds directly to their bank accounts for the construction of permanent houses under the PM Awas Yojana-Gramin.

19. Recently, Telangana collaborated with which organization to establish Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR)?

- [A] World Bank
- [B] World Trade Organization
- [C] **World Economic Forum**
- [D] International Monetary Fund

**Answer:** World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum (WEF) and Telangana government are establishing the 19th Center of the WEF's Fourth Industrial Revolution Network (4IR) in Hyderabad, slated for launch in February 2024. It will be the world's first thematic center dedicated to health tech and life sciences, solidifying a strategic partnership between Telangana and WEF. The center aims to enhance healthcare technology, aligning with the broader vision of both entities. The launch during BioAsia 2024 positions Hyderabad as a global healthcare hub, emphasizing collaboration for improved living standards and global recognition for Telangana in the 4IR network.

20. Which organization recently issued Japanese Yen Denominated Green Bonds?

- [A] **REC Limited**
- [B] International Monetary Fund
- [C] World Bank
- [D] Japan Green Finance Organization

**Answer:** REC Limited

REC Limited, a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Power, achieved a milestone with its inaugural JPY 61.1 billion green bonds issuance. It marks REC's eleventh entry into the international bond market and the first Yen Green Bonds issuance by an Indian PSU. The bonds, with maturities of 5, 5.25, and 10 years, were issued at yields of 1.76%, 1.79%, and 2.20%, respectively. This Euro-Yen issuance is the largest in South and Southeast Asia, making it India's largest Yen-denominated issuance. The bonds received significant interest globally, with a high international allocation. They will be listed exclusively on India INX and NSE IFSC in GIFT City, Gujarat.

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

- [A] **Tamil Nadu**
- [B] Bihar
- [C] Manipur
- [D] Rajasthan

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu secured the title of the 'best performer' state in the 2022 Startup India State Startup Rankings. The state's strategic efforts included the revamping of its nodal startup agency, StartupTN, in 2021, and budget allocations for the launch of new funds like Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Fund (TANSEED), Emerging Sector Seed Fund, and Tamil Nadu SC/ ST Fund. The rankings also recognized Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh as best performers, while Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana were categorized as 'leaders.' Currently, Tamil Nadu boasts over 7,600 startups registered under the Startup India scheme, with more than **2,250 startups registering in 2022** alone.



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

- [A] **Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal**
- [B] Global Science for Global Wellbeing
- [C] Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology, and Innovation
- [D] Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a sustainable future

**Answer:** Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal

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

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

- [A] Sauras tribes
- [B] **Kolam tribes**
- [C] Koraga tribes
- [D] Birhor tribes

**Answer:** Kolam tribes

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

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

- [A] **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**
- [B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- [C] Ministry of Power
- [D] Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

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

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) e-SAKSHI Mobile App, recently launched by the Minister of State for Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), transforms the MPLAD Scheme's fund flow procedure. Offering convenience and accessibility, the app revolutionizes how MPs manage development projects, enabling real-time proposal tracking and oversight. It enhances decision-making with instant updates, streamlining communication between MPs and authorities. The app promotes transparency through budget management features, ensuring efficient monitoring of expenditures for proposed projects, ultimately facilitating a more responsive and accountable development process.

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

- [A] **Visakhapatnam**
- [B] Bombay
- [C] Kolkata



[D] Kutch

**Answer:** Visakhapatnam

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

26. Recently, which state of India is involved in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with INOX Air Products for the Green Ammonia Plant?

[A] Maharashtra

[B] Gujarat

[C] Rajasthan

[D] kerala

**Answer:** Maharashtra

INOX Air Products, an industrial and medical gases manufacturer, has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the government of Maharashtra for the establishment of a green ammonia plant. The planned investment for the project is \$3 billion, and the plant is expected to be commissioned within the next 3 to 5 years. The primary objective of the facility is to produce 500,000 metric tons per annum (MTPA) of liquid ammonia. INOX Air Products, a privately-held company, currently operates in about 45 locations across India.

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

[A] 4th

[B] 3rd

[C] 5th

[D] 2nd

**Answer:** 4th

According to the Global Firepower (GFP) 2024 annual report, India ranks fourth among the world's most powerful militaries. The United States, Russia, and China rank first, second, and third, respectively. The GFP rankings consider various factors to provide a comprehensive perspective on global military strength. In 2024, the GFP review considered 145 world powers. According to the GFP, India has a Power Index (PwrIdx) score of 0.1023. A perfect PwrIdx score is 0.0000, but this is not realistically attainable. A smaller PwrIdx value indicates a more powerful conventional fighting capability.

28. Who inaugurated the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace in New Delhi?

[A] Prime Minister Narendra Modi

[B] Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

[C] Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar

[D] President Droupadi Murmu

**Answer:** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, inaugurating the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, highlighted global challenges like climate change, conflict, terrorism, and poverty.



Emphasizing Buddha's timeless wisdom, Dhankhar praised the Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path as transformative guides for inner peace and conflict resolution. Stressing the importance of non-violence, he noted that violence doesn't breed unity. Dhankhar called for embracing Buddha's teachings, asserting their relevance in India's governance, environmental sustainability, and as a beacon of hope for global harmony.

29. Recently, which country agreed to host a 'Global Peace Summit' on Ukraine?

- [A] **Switzerland**
- [B] Maldives
- [C] Mauritius
- [D] Singapore

**Answer:** Switzerland

Switzerland will host a global peace summit on Ukraine at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The summit will be a meeting of world leaders to discuss ending Russia's invasion. Zelensky has said that it's important to show that the world is against Russia's aggression and for a fair peace. He also wants countries from the Global South to be present. The Swiss government has said that it's working out further details.

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

- [A] **Madhya Pradesh**
- [B] Rajasthan
- [C] UttarPradesh
- [D] Kerala

**Answer:** Madhya Pradesh

Recently, a cheetah named Shaurya died in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district. Shaurya was a seven-year-old cheetah from Namibia. With Shaurya's death, 13 of the original 20 cheetahs that were imported from Africa remain. Since March 2023, seven adult cheetahs and three cubs born in India have died in the park. Some experts believe that heavy rain, extreme heat, and humidity may have contributed to the deaths. Others say that the radio collars on the cheetahs could be killing them. The pathogens that aggravate the wounds under the collars could be new to the African cheetahs or to Indian conditions.

31. What is the Qanat system, recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] Modern irrigation technique
- [B] **Ancient water-supply system**
- [C] Ancient taxation system
- [D] Ancient Harvesting method

**Answer:** Ancient water-supply system

In response to severe water shortages in dry regions of Africa, the ancient "qanat system" is proposed as a solution. Originating in arid areas worldwide, this water-supply system channels mountain water through sloping tunnels to address limited water supplies. Known by various names, such as "foggara" and "falaj," qanats have been used for centuries in regions like North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. This gravity-based system, requiring no electricity, offers sustainability, minimal evaporation, and widespread irrigation potential, fostering social cohesion.

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

- [A] India Meteorological Department
- [B] Ministry of Earth Sciences



[C] DRDO

[D] **ISRO**

**Answer:** ISRO

ISRO has developed a second-generation Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT) that enhances safety for fishermen at sea. Operational since 2010, over 20,000 DATs are in use. The technology allows fishermen to send emergency messages with real-time acknowledgments through satellite communication. The DAT-SG, an improved version, utilizes advanced capabilities and features. Messages decoded at the Indian Mission Control Centre help Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres locate distressed boats for timely Search and Rescue operations, reassuring fishermen of impending assistance.

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

[A] **China**

[B] India

[C] Russia

[D] UK

**Answer:** China

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

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

[A] Uttar Pradesh

[B] **Andhra Pradesh**

[C] Kerala

[D] Karnataka

**Answer:** Andhra Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics' (NACIN) new campus at Palasamudram, Andhra Pradesh. Declaring it a premier training institute, he highlighted the impact of tax reforms in the last 9 years on business ease, increased tax collection, and poverty reduction for 25 crore people. The 500-acre state-of-the-art campus will use advanced technologies like Augmented Reality and Artificial Intelligence for training Indian Revenue Service officials and allied services, emphasizing the government's commitment to fighting corruption and achieving a Developed Nation by 2047.

35. Dwarka, Joshimath, Puri, and Sringeri are monastic centers (maths) established by which ancient Indian philosopher?

[A] Virasena

[B] Nimbarkacharya

[C] Totakacharya

[D] **Adi Shankaracharya**

**Answer:** Adi Shankaracharya

The four Shankaracharyas, leaders of Hindu maths established by Adi Shankara, declared their non-





attendance at the Ayodhya Ram temple inauguration. Adi Shankaracharya, or Shankara founded maths in Dwarka, Joshimath, Puri, and Sringeri, each safeguarding a Veda. For instance, Govardhan Math in Puri protects the Rig Veda. The Shankaracharyas oversee the Dashanami Sampradaya, a renunciate order. Originating in the 8th century, these maths serve as centers for religious practice, knowledge dissemination, and Vedic literature preservation.

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

- [A] Saryu River
- [B] Gomti River
- [C] Gandak River
- [D] Kosi River

**Answer:** Saryu River

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

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

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

**Answer:** Critically Endangered

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

38. Where is Asia's largest civil aviation event, Wings India 2024, being held?

- [A] Hyderabad
- [B] Bombay
- [C] Lucknow
- [D] Kochi

**Answer:** Hyderabad

Asia's largest civil aviation event, Wings India 2024, is being held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, India from January 18-21, 2024. The event includes exhibitions, static displays, demonstration flights, media conferences, and business meetings. The event's theme is "Connecting India with the World in Amritkal". It will feature aircraft of various sizes, and is expected to attract around 1500 delegates from over 100 countries, 5,000 business representatives, and more than 100,000 visitors.

39. Which organ of the body is most commonly affected by Crohn's disease, a type of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)?

- [A] Kidney
- [B] Heart
- [C] Lungs
- [D] Small intestines



**Answer:** Small intestines

A recent study in Scientific Reports explored the link between migraines and the development of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). IBD encompasses chronic inflammation in the digestive tract, ranging from mild to severe. Types include Ulcerative colitis, affecting the colon and rectum, and Crohn's disease, marked by inflammation in the digestive tract, commonly in the small intestine. Indeterminate colitis IBD combines features of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, posing potential life-threatening complications for some individuals.

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

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

**Answer:** Daljit Singh Chaudhary

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

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

- [A] Jagannath temple
- [B] Padmanabhaswamy temple
- [C] Ramaswamy Temple
- [D] Kothandaramar Temple

**Answer:** Padmanabhaswamy temple

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

42. Bhitarkanika National Park, which was seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Odisha

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

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

- [A] Rajasthan



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

**Answer:** Kerala

The Prime Minister visited Guruvayur Temple during his two-day Kerala trip, praying at the Sreekrishna Temple. Guruvayoor Sree Krishna Swamy Temple, known as the Dwarka of the South, is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Lord Krishna's young form. Located in Guruvayur, Kerala, the temple dates back to the 17th century, possibly even 5000 years. Notable features include traditional Kerala architecture; a 1638 C.E. rebuilt central shrine, ancient murals, and a 70-foot gold-covered Dwajasthamba. Thulabharam, where devotees are weighed against offerings, is a popular ritual. The temple also houses a significant number of captive male Asian elephants in the nearby Punnathur Kotta elephant sanctuary.

44. 'Steadfast Defender 2024' exercise, which was seen in the news, launched by which organization?

- [A] NATO
- [B] UNDP
- [C] UNICEF
- [D] UNESCO

**Answer:** NATO

NATO is preparing for its biggest military exercises in decades, called Steadfast Defender 2024. The drills will involve around 90,000 personnel, more than 50 ships, over 80 aircraft, and at least 1,100 combat vehicles. It will include all 31 NATO member countries and candidate Sweden. The drills will demonstrate NATO's ability to defend its territory up to the border with Russia. The second part of the exercise will focus on the deployment of NATO's quick reaction force to Poland. Other major locations for the drills will include the Baltic States, Romania, and Germany.

45. Which style of architecture was used in the construction of the Jagannath Temple, recently seen in the news?

- [A] Kalinga architecture
- [B] Nagara architecture
- [C] Dravida architecture
- [D] Vesara architecture

**Answer:** Kalinga architecture

Odisha's Chief Minister inaugurated a heritage corridor encircling the revered Jagannath Temple in Puri, one of Hinduism's most renowned sites. Built in the 12th century during King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva's reign, the temple neutralizes the power of Yama, the god of death, according to Hindu beliefs. The Kalinga architectural marvel houses idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra. The annual Rath Yatra festival celebrates Jagannath's visit to Gundicha Temple, attracting millions. The festival spans nine days, beginning in the lunar month of Ashadha.

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

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

**Answer:** Indian Army



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

47. Recently, who became the first Indian player in 35 years to beat a seeded player at a Grand Slam?

- [A] Sumit Nagal
- [B] J.C Shang
- [C] Yuki Bhambri
- [D] Rohan Bopanna

**Answer:** Sumit Nagal

Sumit Nagal made history at the Australian Open, becoming the first Indian since 1989 to defeat a seeded player at a Grand Slam by beating Alexander Bublik. He broke an 11-major drought for Indian representation in the Australian Open singles main draw. Grand Slam tournaments, comprising the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open, are the most crucial annual tennis events played on different surfaces. Nagal's achievement echoes Ramesh Krishnan's 1989 victory over Mats Wilander at the Australian Open.

48. What is the main purpose of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), recently seen in news?

- [A] Bridging the rural-urban digital divide
- [B] Promoting organic farming
- [C] Improving infrastructure of schools in rural areas
- [D] Providing clean water to rural areas

**Answer:** Bridging the rural-urban digital divide

Telecom service providers are urging the Ministry of Finance to halt the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) levy until the current corpus is depleted. The USOF, established in 2003, aims to ensure nondiscriminatory access to affordable telecom services in rural areas thereby bridging the rural-urban digital divide. It offers subsidy support through Net Cost or Viability Gap Funding to encourage expansion in commercially non-viable regions. The fund is sustained by a Universal Service Levy on telecom operators' gross revenue, administered by the Department of Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications.

49. What is the IUCN status of 'Gangetic Dolphin' recently seen in the news?

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

**Answer:** Endangered

A Gangetic dolphin recently rescued in Odisha raises hopes for the presence of more freshwater dolphins in rivers. Once widespread in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems, the Ganges river dolphin is now endangered. Classified as blind, it hunts using ultrasonic sounds. The species, protected under Schedule-I of India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, faces conservation challenges. 'Project Gangetic Dolphin,' launched in 2023, signifies India's commitment to the endangered species, declared the national aquatic animal.



50. Lampreys, recently seen in the news, belongs to which of the following species?

- [A] Snake
- [B] Fish
- [C] Frog
- [D] Invasive Plant

**Answer:** Fish

A recent study in California has identified two potential new lamprey fish species, adding to the group of boneless, jawless creatures that have existed for over 350 million years. Lampreys, part of the primitive Agnathans, inhabit coastal and freshwater areas worldwide, excluding Africa. Ranging from 15 to 100 centimeters, these eel-like fish lack scales, fins, and gill covers, breathing through distinctive gill openings. Their migratory nature involves transitioning between freshwater and saltwater for different lifecycle stages.

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

- [A] Lucknow & Chennai
- [B] Bengaluru & Delhi
- [C] Mumbai & Hyderabad
- [D] Delhi & Lucknow

**Answer:** Bengaluru & Delhi

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

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

- [A] Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- [B] National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- [C] European Space Agency (ESA)
- [D] Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

**Answer:** Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

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

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

- [A] Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Tamil Nadu
- [D] Rajasthan

**Answer:** Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh launched a 10-day comprehensive caste census, becoming the second state after Bihar



to undertake this initiative. C Srinivasa Venugopala Krishna, the Information and Public Relations Minister, mentioned that the census may be extended by four or five days if necessary. Volunteers will visit every home to collect caste details, which will be transmitted to the village secretariat system, marking a significant step in understanding the state's demographic composition.

54. Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), that was recently in news, comes under which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [B] Ministry of Defence
- [C] Ministry of Finance
- [D] Ministry of Corporate Affairs

**Answer:** Ministry of Home Affairs

The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) has issued a warning about scams on WhatsApp. Established in 1970 under the Ministry of Home Affairs, BPRD aims to address police needs and challenges. It conducts research, recommends solutions, and stays updated on science and technology. Additionally, it aids in modernizing State Police Forces and Correctional Administration. Originally with two divisions, it later added a Training Division in 1973 and now oversees the National Police Mission.

55. Which one of the following is the highest point of the Aravalli Range?

- [A] Guru Shikhar
- [B] Jharol
- [C] Achalgarh
- [D] Gogunda

**Answer:** Guru Shikhar

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

56. Arichalmunai point, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

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

57. Which community in Kookanam, Kerala, speaks the 'Madhika language' that was mentioned in the news?

- [A] Chakaliya
- [B] Koraga
- [C] Kurumbar



[D] Chenchy

**Answer:** Chakaliya

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

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

[A] Jaipur

[B] Jaisalmer

[C] Kutch

[D] Bikaner

**Answer:** Jaisalmer

The Jaisalmer Desert Festival, also known as Maru Mahotsav, is a vibrant cultural extravaganza scheduled for 2024 in the heart of Rajasthan's desert city, Jaisalmer. This unique blend of music, dance, art, and tradition showcases the rich heritage of Rajasthan. The festival, themed "Back to the Desert," is a captivating celebration from February 22–24, 2024, offering a delightful fusion of contemporary and age-old customs, creating an unforgettable experience and serving as a testament to Rajasthan's enduring traditions.

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

[A] Pramukh Swami Mahara

[B] Arun Yogiraj

[C] Subhash Bhoite

[D] Chandrakant Sompura

**Answer:** Chandrakant Sompura

Chandrakant Sompura, the chief architect of Ayodhya Ram Mandir, comes from a renowned lineage of temple architects in Ahmedabad. With a legacy spanning generations, the Sompuras have crafted over 200 temples, including iconic structures like Somnath Temple, Swaminarayan Temple, Akshardham complex, and Birla Temple. The Ayodhya Ram Mandir epitomizes Nagara architecture, showcasing intricate carvings, majestic spires, and sacred sanctums, honoring India's cultural diversity. It stands as a harmonious blend of spirituality and architectural brilliance, reflecting Lord Ram's revered abode.

60. What is the primary objective of NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter, which was seen in the news?

[A] Conducting geological surveys on Mars

[B] Performing experimental flight tests on Mars

[C] Collecting soil samples for analysis

[D] Searching for signs of ancient life on Mars

**Answer:** Performing experimental flight tests on Mars

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



61. What is 'Andrographis theniensis', recently seen in the news?

- [A] **Plant**
- [B] Flower
- [C] Bacteria
- [D] Fungus

**Answer:** Plant

A new plant species, 'Andrographis theniensis,' was discovered in Tamil Nadu's Theni district in the Western Ghats. Named after its location, the plant closely resembles Andrographis megamalayana, featuring glabrous leaves and stems, a nine-veined lower lip, pale yellowish sparse hair on the middle lobe, and yellow anther. Andrographis, a tropical Asian genus, is known for treating various ailments in traditional medicine systems. With nearly 25 species in India, it holds significance for its medicinal uses against cold, cough, fever, and more.

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

- [A] **Ministry of Law and Justice**
- [B] **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**
- [C] Ministry of Finance
- [D] Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**Answer:** Ministry of Law and Justice

The Vice-President of India will inaugurate the 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' campaign on the 75th Republic Day. The campaign, led by the Ministry of Law and Justice, aims to reaffirm commitment to the Constitution, celebrating shared values. Themes include Sabko Nyay –Har Ghar Nyaya, Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp, Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyan. The Panch Pran goals include making India developed, eradicating a slave mentality, embracing cultural pride, promoting unity, and respecting national protectors.

63. Where was the first meeting of the Social Audit Advisory Body (SAAB) held?

- [A] Mumbai
- [B] **Delhi**
- [C] Lucknow
- [D] Kolkata

**Answer:** Delhi

The first meeting of the Social Audit Advisory Body (SAAB) was held on January 18, 2024 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Saurabh Garg, the Secretary of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. A social audit is a formal evaluation of a company's procedures and efforts related to corporate social responsibility and societal impact. It assesses how well a company is meeting its CSR objectives and provides an opportunity to identify areas for improvement.

64. Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

- [A] **Rooftop solar panels**
- [B] Sunflower cultivation
- [C] Electric generators
- [D] Rural health care

**Answer:** Rooftop solar panels

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' during the Ayodhya life





consecration ceremony, targeting rooftop solar panels on one crore households. This initiative promotes self-reliance in energy, emphasizing economic empowerment and reduced electricity bills. Key features include providing electricity to low and middle-income households, encouraging a nationwide rooftop solar adoption campaign, and offering financial assistance under the existing National Rooftop Solar Scheme. The move aligns with the government's commitment to harness solar power for economic and environmental sustainability.

65. Exercise Cyclone, recently in the news, is conducted between which two countries?

- [A] India & Egypt
- [B] India & Japan
- [C] Egypt & Sudan
- [D] India & Israel

**Answer:** India & Egypt

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

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

- [A] Tai Tzu Ying
- [B] Chen Yu Fei
- [C] Jia Min
- [D] Kodai Naraoka

**Answer:** Tai Tzu Ying

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

67. Exercise KHANJAR, recently in the news, is conducted between which two countries?

- [A] India- Tajikistan
- [B] India- Kazakhstan
- [C] India-Kyrgyzstan
- [D] India- Egypt

**Answer:** India-Kyrgyzstan

The 11th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has started at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. Initiated in December 2011, it is an annual event alternating between both countries. The Indian Army's Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and Kyrgyzstan's Scorpion Brigade are participating. The exercise focuses on exchanging Counter Terrorism and Special Forces Operations experiences, emphasizing skills, techniques, and showcasing indigenous defense equipment. It aims to strengthen defense ties, address terrorism concerns, and foster bilateral relations.

68. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme, which was seen in the news, is associated with which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Finance



[B] Ministry of Commerce & Industry

[C] Ministry of Defence

[D] Ministry of Law & Justice

**Answer:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry

The Centre has no plans to modify the RoDTEP scheme for exporters, despite US anti-subsidy duties. The issue lies in exporters' inability to provide adequate documents to US investigators, not the scheme's WTO compatibility. Launched on January 1, 2021, by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, RoDTEP replaces the MEIS to refund non-recoverable embedded taxes and boost exports. The scheme aims to address previously low export volumes by facilitating duty and tax remissions for exporters.

69. Recently, which National Park has received two new mammalian species, the elusive binturong (*Arctictis binturong*) and the small-clawed otter?

[A] Orang National Park

[B] Manas National Park

[C] Nameri National Park

[D] Kaziranga National Park

**Answer:** Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam recently welcomed two new mammalian species: the elusive binturong (*Arctictis binturong*) and the small-clawed otter. Known colloquially as the bearcat, the binturong is India's largest civet. It's a solitary, nocturnal animal with scent glands for marking territory and a unique prehensile tail. Found in South-East Asia, its distribution spans several countries. Classified as Vulnerable by IUCN, it's also listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and Appendix III of CITES.

70. Hwange National Park, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?

[A] Namibia

[B] Zimbabwe

[C] Mozambique

[D] Botswana

**Answer:** Zimbabwe

Recently, over 160 elephants and numerous other wildlife species perished in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park due to a climate change-induced drought. The park, part of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, faced a severe water crisis as seasonal water sources dried up and boreholes failed. The extended drought, influenced by the El Nino weather phenomenon, forced elephants to migrate in search of water. Despite temporary relief from rains, the park remains at risk, with forecasts predicting further drought and heightened climate change challenges in the southern African region.

71. Which player is set to be awarded the Cricketer of the Year at the BCCI awards?

[A] Shubman Gill

[B] Rohit Sharma

[C] Virat Kohli

[D] K L Rahul

**Answer:** Shubman Gill

The BCCI will honor former Indian all-rounder and coach Ravi Shastri with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and cricketer Shubman Gill will receive the Cricketer of the Year award for his outstanding



performance, including being the fastest to reach 2000 runs in ODIs and scoring five hundreds in the past year.

72. D.K. Basu's judgement, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

- [A] **Protect the rights and dignity of individuals in police custody**
- [B] Protection of interests of minorities
- [C] Child Labour
- [D] Safeguards against sexual exploitation

**Answer:** Protect the rights and dignity of individuals in police custody

The Supreme Court of India recently emphasized the D.K. Basu Judgment (1996) against police abuse and custodial violence. The landmark case, D.K. Basu vs. State of West Bengal, addressed deaths in police custody. The petitioner, D.K. Basu, highlighted the issue, leading to the judgment that custodial violence violates the rule of law and human dignity. The ruling expanded the scope of fundamental rights, allowing compensation for their infringement. This case is pivotal in Indian human rights jurisprudence.

73. Which two other countries participated in Exercise Desert Knight conducted by the Indian Air Force?

- [A] Egypt and Sudan
- [B] **France and UAE**
- [C] France and Russia
- [D] UAE and Egypt

**Answer:** France and UAE

The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise Desert Knight with the French Air and Space Force (FAF) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force on January 23–24, 2024. The exercise took place over the Arabian Sea, with the IAF operating from its west coast bases and the UAE and France operating from Al Dhafra airbase. The exercise's main focus was to improve synergy and interoperability between the three air forces. The IAF said that such exercises demonstrate the growing diplomatic and military interactions in the region, as well as the IAF's capabilities.

74. Where was the 42-day Mahamandal festival inaugurated?

- [A] Haryana
- [B] Chattisgarh
- [C] **Uttar Pradesh**
- [D] Rajasthan

**Answer:** Uttar Pradesh

A 42-day Mahamandal festival commenced at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya following the Pran Pratishtha of Ram Lalla. Starting on January 24, the festival, overseen by Ram Mandir trustee Jagadguru Vishvesh Prapann Tirtha, includes daily Kalash puja and worship with forty-eight urns in the sanctum sanctorum. Bhagwan Ram will be honored in the Vaishnav tradition, receiving a Rajbhog of assorted sweets. The festival involves a 42-day Havan with recitation of various mantras at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi complex.

75. Why is Lake Retba commonly referred to as the "Pink Lake"?

- [A] Presence of flamingos
- [B] **Abundance of halophilic green algae**
- [C] High iron content in the water
- [D] Reflection of the surrounding landscape



**Answer:** Abundance of halophilic green algae

Lake Retba, also known as Lac Rose or the Pink Lake, is located north of the Cap Vert peninsula in Senegal. Threatened by pollution and mining, its waters, primarily sourced from the sea, are home to halophilic green algae, *Dunaliella salina*. The algae's red pigments give the lake its distinctive pink color. A popular tourist destination, the Pink Lake's unique hue comes from the alga's salt-resistant qualities, supported by carotenoid pigments rich in vitamins and trace elements.

76. 'National Girl Child Day' was first initiated in which year?

- [A] 2006
- [B] 2007
- [C] 2008
- [D] 2009

**Answer:** 2008

National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India on January 24th every year. The day was started in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the government of India. The day aims to raise awareness about the inequalities that girls face in Indian society. It also advocates for equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and nutrition. The day also commemorates the anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child). The scheme's main goal is to prevent female foeticide and sex determination, ensure safety and save all female children, and to provide them with quality education.

77. Which organization developed the Insat-3DS satellite in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD)?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] DRDO
- [C] Indian Coast Guard
- [D] HAL

**Answer:** ISRO

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has completed crucial tests on the Insat-3DS satellite, a collaborative effort with the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Part of a climate observatory satellite series, it aims to enhance climate services. The satellite, along with INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR already in orbit, will be launched using the more advanced Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F14), featuring cryogenic liquid propellants. INSAT-3DR boasts improvements like imaging in the Middle Infrared band for night-time cloud and fog pictures and enhanced accuracy in Sea Surface Temperature estimation.

78. What is the primary objective of Telangana's Gruha Jyothi Scheme, which was seen in the news?

- [A] Providing 200 units of free electricity
- [B] Providing LPG cylinder to every households
- [C] Providing safe drinking water to rural areas
- [D] Providing free medicines to rural areas

**Answer:** Providing 200 units of free electricity

Telangana's Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy, accelerates welfare scheme implementations, notably the Gruha Jyothi Scheme, set to launch in February. Implementation details reveal that BPL cardholders will receive 200 free units from February, exempting qualifying households from electricity charges within the threshold.

79. What is the IUCN status of 'Agulhas long-billed lark' recently seen in the news?



- [A] Vulnerable
- [B] **Near threatened**
- [C] Endangered
- [D] Critically endangered

**Answer:** Near threatened

The Agulhas long-billed lark, a small passerine bird endemic to South Africa, faces challenges as farming encroaches on its nesting grounds in Renosterveld fynbos. Preferring Renosterveld, it has adapted to modified habitats like farmlands, but its patchy distribution remains unclear. The species, known for its inconspicuous appearance, is confined to the Agulhas plains. Despite being near-threatened, the lark displays resilience, surviving in the Agulhas arable farmlands from the Hottentots-Holland mountain range to Mossel Bay.

80. 'Fit India Champions' podcast series, which was seen in the news, is launched by which ministry?
- [A] **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
  - [B] Ministry of Home Affairs
  - [C] Ministry of Defence
  - [D] Ministry of Finance

**Answer:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

The Fit India Mission, a flagship program by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is launching the 'Fit India Champions' podcast series in collaboration with GOQii. Starting January 27, the series highlights the extraordinary achievements and inspiring stories of Indian sports heroes. The inaugural episode features Sheetal Devi, an armless archer who won gold at the 2023 Asian Para Games on her debut. The podcast aims to showcase and celebrate the accomplishments of remarkable individuals in the field of sports.

81. Parvatmala Programme, which was seen in the news, comes under which ministry?
- [A] **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
  - [B] Ministry of Power
  - [C] Ministry of Defence
  - [D] Ministry of Agriculture

**Answer:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

The government plans to expand the Parvatmala Pariyojana, a national ropeways development program, to at least 400 projects in the next five years. Launched in the 2022-23 Union Budget, the program aims to ease congestion in mountainous areas with limited road and train connectivity. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways oversees the project, with implementation entrusted to the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), a 100% owned subsidiary of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Last year, plans were announced to develop over 250 projects with a ropeway length exceeding 1,200 kilometers in five years.

82. Recently, who became the second Indian man to win a gold medal at the Asian Marathon Championships in 2024?
- [A] Gopi T
  - [B] **Man Singh**
  - [C] Srinu Bugatha
  - [D] Kartik Kumar

**Answer:** Man Singh



Indian marathon runner Man Singh secured a historic gold at the 2024 Asian Marathon Championships in Hong Kong, becoming the second Indian man to achieve this feat. Finishing with an impressive time of 2:14:19, Singh outpaced the runner-up by 65 seconds. The first Indian to claim this title was Gopi Thonakal in 2017. Singh's triumph also marked an achievement below the Paris Olympics qualifying mark, showcasing his prowess on the international stage.

83. Where was the 14th All India Police Commando Competition organized?

- [A] Visakhapatnam
- [B] Kurnool
- [C] Guntur
- [D] Nellore

**Answer:** Visakhapatnam

The 14th All India Police Commando Competition (AIPCC) 2024 began on January 22, 2024 and will run until January 30, 2024. The competition is being held at the Greyhounds Centre in Visakhapatnam, India and is being organized by the Andhra Pradesh State Police (Greyhounds). The AIPCC is considered the top professional competition for police forces in India. The competition will feature 16 state police teams and seven teams from central police agencies, with over 750 commandos participating. The competition will cover five areas: Navigation, Skill test, Planning and presentation, Physical activity.

84. Hercules, recently seen in the news, belongs to which one of the following species?

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

**Answer:** Spider

In a recent Central Coast discovery, Hercules, the largest male funnel web spider ever recorded, made headlines. Measuring 3.1 inches, it boasts fangs capable of penetrating human nails, ranking as the world's most venomous arachnid. This marks the first male of such magnitude. Male funnel webs are deadlier than females, and they inhabit forested regions and gardens across Sydney, Australia, extending from Newcastle to the Blue Mountains. The warm and humid climate along Australia's east coast serves as an ideal breeding ground.

85. When is the 'National Voters' Day' observed every year?

- [A] 24 January
- [B] 25 January
- [C] 26 January
- [D] 15 January

**Answer:** 25 January

The Election Commission of India marks its 75th year on January 25, 2024, coinciding with the 14th National Voters' Day (NVD). Since 2011, NVD is observed annually on January 25 to raise electoral awareness and encourage citizens to participate. The event, celebrated at various levels across the country, aims to facilitate voter enrolment, particularly among young voters. The theme for NVD 2024 is 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure,' emphasizing the significance of electoral participation.

86. What is the name of the first large language model recently introduced by CoRover.ai in India?

- [A] RoverGPT
- [B] AutoGPT
- [C] ChatGPT



[D] **BharatGPT**

**Answer:** BharatGPT

CoRover.ai, a key player in Conversational AI, has unveiled BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM). Designed for 22 Indian languages, BharatGPT addresses linguistic diversity challenges. As an Indigenous Generative AI platform, it seamlessly integrates voice and text modes, offering a unique solution. Notably, BharatGPT supports voice in 12 languages and text in 22 languages, achieved through collaboration with the National Hub of Language Technology under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's National Language Translation Mission.

87. Which state is set to launch the world's first Melanistic Tiger Safari?

[A] Kerala

[B] **Odisha**

[C] Tamil Nadu

[D] Andhra Pradesh

**Answer:** Odisha

Odisha is set to introduce the world's first melanistic tiger safari near the Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district. The Simlipal Tiger Reserve is unique for housing melanistic tigers with distinctive broad black stripes. Covering approximately 200 hectares, the safari received approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority. Scheduled to open in October, it will host three melanistic tigers and two other big cats from Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar, contributing to conservation through captive breeding.

88. Recently, which IIT hosted Phase 3 of the 'Yuva Sangam' programme under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'?

[A] **IIT Guwahati**

[B] IIT Kanpur

[C] IIT Bombay

[D] IIT Kharagpur

**Answer:** IIT Guwahati

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati hosted Phase 3 of the Yuva Sangam program. The program is an initiative under the Ministry of Education's "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat". The Yuva Sangam program aims to strengthen connections between the country's youth. During the program, youth are exposed to five areas: Paryatan (Tourism) Parampara (Traditions) Pragati (Development) Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect) & Prodyogik (Technology).

89. All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), recently seen in the news, is inaugurated at which city of Uttar Pradesh?

[A] **Kanpur**

[B] Lucknow

[C] Prayagraj

[D] Varanasi

**Answer:** Kanpur

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare recently inaugurated a Super Specialty Block at GSVM Medical College in Kanpur, UP, and laid the foundation stone for the first state-of-the-art All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) Satellite Centre in North India. This center in Kanpur focuses on training doctors and offering care in speech-language pathology, audiology, communication disorder



prevention, tele-assessment, and rehabilitation, emphasizing a comprehensive approach to healthcare and education.

90. 'Halwa Ceremony', recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

- [A] Budget
- [B] Economic Survey
- [C] Republic Day
- [D] Fit India Programme

**Answer:** Budget

The Union Finance Minister recently participated in the annual 'Halwa Ceremony,' marking the commencement of budget-related document printing. The tradition involves preparing traditional dessert 'halwa' in a massive kadhai, with the finance minister initiating the process. Held in the Finance Ministry's North Block basement, it symbolizes the send-off for officials engaged in crafting the annual financial statement. Post-ceremony, officials enter a 'lock-in' period, isolating themselves to maintain budget document confidentiality until its presentation.

91. Who is the chief guest of Republic Day 2024 celebrations?

- [A] French President Emmanuel Macron
- [B] Russian President Vladimir Putin
- [C] British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak
- [D] Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

**Answer:** French President Emmanuel Macron

French President Emmanuel Macron, the chief guest at India's 75th Republic Day celebrations. India prepares for its grand Platinum Jubilee Republic Day celebration, showcasing military strength and cultural heritage at New Delhi's 'Kartavya Path' on Republic Day.

92. "Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)" report, recently seen in the news, is released by which institution?

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

**Answer:** RBI

The RBI's "Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)" report analyzes data from 2.58 lakh Panchayats for 2020-21 to 2022-23, highlighting key findings. Panchayats heavily rely on grants (95%) due to limited own revenue sources like property taxes. Inter-state variations in devolution impact socio-economic outcomes. Inconsistent data poses challenges in assessing fiscal health. PRIs struggle with local tax revenue generation due to a limited tax base, administrative issues, and unclear guidelines. Revenue sources include Central and State government grants, and PRIs have the authority to impose taxes and fees.

93. Where was the 44th All India Criminology Conference of the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) held?

- [A] Jaipur
- [B] Gandhinagar
- [C] Lucknow
- [D] Indore





**Answer:** Gandhinagar

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the 5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference at the National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The conference focused on Forensic Behavioural Science, an emerging field highlighted by Shah. Emphasizing the role of Behavioral Science in crime prevention, he inaugurated a Digital Forensic Excellence Centre for capacity building and investigations, underscoring its importance alongside a robust administration and judiciary.

94. Zombie virus, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

- [A] Ancient viruses are frozen in the Arctic permafrost
- [B] Virus found in space
- [C] Disease X
- [D] Covid 19

**Answer:** Ancient viruses are frozen in the Arctic permafrost

The zombie virus is related to global warming and the thawing of Arctic permafrost. The rising temperatures caused by global warming have led to the thawing of previously frozen ice, which could unleash "zombie viruses". The zombie virus is an amoeba virus that scientists have revived from the melted ice. The new strain has one of 13 viral genomes, with Pandoravirus yedoma, 48,500 years old, being the longest frozen virus to become infectious. Scientists are developing an Arctic surveillance system to detect and contain outbreaks.

95. What does 'SMART' stand for in the context of Indian standards, recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant and Time-bound
- [B] Standards Machine Applicable Readable and Transferable
- [C] Standardized Measurement and Reporting Technique
- [D] Systematic Manageable Analytical Resourceful Timely

**Answer:** Standards Machine Applicable Readable and Transferable

The Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) supports the SMART (Standards Machine Applicable Readable and Transferable) approach to enhance the readability of Indian standards. The initiative by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) prioritizes machine interpretability. With over 80% of BIS licenses going to small enterprises, the push for accessible standards aims to benefit sectors dominated by these businesses.

96. Recently, scientists have discovered a shallow "soda lake" in which country?

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

**Answer:** Western Canada

Scientists have identified a shallow "soda lake" in western Canada resembling Darwin's "warm little ponds," potentially mirroring primordial Earth conditions. With a pH of 9-11, the lake's alkalinity results from high carbonate concentration, particularly sodium carbonate. It may be saline due to sodium chloride and other salts. These lakes, common in arid regions, are highly productive ecosystems, driven by dissolved carbon dioxide.

97. How many Padma awards were approved by the President for conferment on the eve of 75th Republic Day?

- [A] 132



- [B] 130
- [C] 150
- [D] 135

**Answer:** 132

In the year 2024, the President approved the conferment of 132 Padma awards on the eve of Republic Day. This prestigious list includes five Padma Vibhushan, **17 Padma Bhushan**, and **110 Padma Shri awards**, recognizing exceptional contributions across various fields. Additionally, the list comprises individuals from diverse backgrounds, as it features nine awardees from the category of "Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI."

98. Which ministries collaborated to organize the Veer Gatha 3.0 event in New Delhi?

- [A] Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Finance
- [B] Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health
- [C] **Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education**
- [D] Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs

**Answer:** Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan honored 100 school students as 'Super-100' winners of Veer Gatha 3.0 in New Delhi. The awards, part of the Republic Day celebrations, recognize students for their contributions in various categories. The Veer Gatha project aimed to instill awareness and appreciation for Armed Forces sacrifices, attracting a record-breaking participation of 1.36 crore students from over 2.42 lakh schools between July 13 and September 30 the previous year.

99. Recently, PM Modi unveiled development projects worth over 19,100 crore rupees at which district of Uttar Pradesh?

- [A] Kanpur
- [B] **Bulandshahr**
- [C] Saharanpur
- [D] Mathura

**Answer:** Bulandshahr

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated development projects worth over Rs 19,100 crore in Bulandshahr, UP. The projects include a 173-km double-line electrified section on the dedicated freight corridor (DFC) between New Khurja and New Rewari. Goods trains were flagged off through a video conference. Additionally, Modi inaugurated a rail line connecting Mathura-Palwal and Chipiyana Buzurg-Dadri sections, enhancing rail connectivity between the national capital and southern-western and eastern India.

100. Pazhassi Irrigation Project, recently seen in the news, is the irrigation project of which state?

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

**Answer:** Kerala

The Irrigation Department has initiated the third phase test run for the Pazhassi Irrigation Project, aiming to restore water supply halted since 2008. Canal shutters will open on January 31 at 9:00 am, covering the Renovated Main Canal and Mahi Branch Canal. The test assesses canal conditions, emphasizing



public awareness to avoid designated sections during water release. Cooperation is sought from local authorities, voluntary organizations, and residents. A Vigilance Committee will address concerns, ensuring collective responsibility for the project's success.

101. Where was the '84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference held?

- [A] **Mumbai**
- [B] Bhopal
- [C] New Delhi
- [D] Chennai

**Answer:** Mumbai

All India Presiding officers' conference concludes in Mumbai. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference, emphasizing the 'One Nation, One Legislative Platform' through e-Vidhan and Digital Sansad. He commended the government's removal of 2,000 outdated laws over the past decade. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, inaugurating the conference, expressed concerns about indiscipline in legislatures. The All India Presiding Officers' Conference, celebrating its centenary in 2021, plays a crucial role in shaping legislative governance in India.

102. What is 'Armado', recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] Electric vehicle
- [B] Ballistic missile
- [C] Satellite
- [D] **Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle (ALSV)**

**Answer:** Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle (ALSV)

The new Mahindra Armado, India's first Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle (ALSV), debuted at the Republic Day Parade. Designed and built by Mahindra Defence Systems, it's intended for the Indian armed forces in counter-terrorism, Special Forces, reconnaissance, and border patrolling. With a seating capacity of six (expandable to eight), it boasts a 1,000 kg load capacity, B7-level ballistic protection, and a 3.2-liter diesel engine generating 216 hp. Armado accelerates from 0 to 60 kmph in 12 seconds, reaching speeds exceeding 120 kmph, equipped with self-cleaning exhaust and air filtration for extreme climates.

103. Who has become the first woman to hold the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army?

- [A] **Preeti Rajak**
- [B] Rajeshwari Kumari
- [C] Manisha Keer
- [D] Shreyasi Singh

**Answer:** Preeti Rajak

Champion trap shooter Preeti Rajak made history as the first woman subedar in the Army, promoted from havildar. This marks a significant milestone as the Army recently opened soldier ranks to women in the Corps of Military Police (CMP). Subedar Rajak, a meritorious sportswoman in shooting, joined the Army in 2022 based on her trap shooting prowess. Currently, the CMP is the only Army branch with enlisted women, offering opportunities for aspiring female Agniveers.

104. Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ', recently in the news, is conducted between which two countries?

- [A] India and Israel
- [B] India and Egypt
- [C] **India and Saudi Arabia**
- [D] Egypt and Japan



**Answer:** India and Saudi Arabia

The Indian Army announced that the first joint military exercise between India and Saudi Arabia, "SADA TANSEEQ", will take place from January 29 to February 10, 2024. The exercise will be held at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. The exercise aims to improve synergy, interoperability by sharing best practices between the two countries' armies.

105. Who are the primary targets of the PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme (PM YASASVI), recently seen in the news?

- [A] General Category Students
- [B] Students from all social backgrounds
- [C] OBCs, EBC, and DNT students
- [D] Only economically disadvantaged students

**Answer:** OBCs, EBC, and DNT students

A total of Rs 32.44 Crore was allocated for Pre-matric and Rs 387.27 Crore for Post-Matric Scholarships under the PM YASASVI scheme. Aimed at Other Backward Class (OBCs), Economically Backward Class (EBC), and Denotified Nomadic Tribes (DNT) students, it covers Classes 9-12, offering scholarships for top-tier education. Hostel facilities are provided for OBC students. Eligibility requires an annual income below Rs 2.50 Lakhs, studying in a Top Class School, and permanent residence in the respective State/UT. Entitlement ranges from Rs 75,000 to Rs 1,25,000 p.a., covering tuition and hostel fees. The implementing agency is the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

106. Where was the 63rd Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) Meeting held?

- [A] Bhopal
- [B] Kolkata
- [C] Jaipur
- [D] Raipur

**Answer:** Bhopal

The 63rd CGPB meeting in Bhopal, chaired by Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, discussed the Annual Programme for the 2024-25 Field Season. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) proposed 1055 scientific programs, including 392 Mineral Development projects, aiming to generate auctionable mineral blocks. Notably, 188 projects focus on strategic minerals like REE, RM, Graphite, Lithium, Vanadium, and PGE, marking a 50% increase from the previous year's target, emphasizing exploration of critical minerals.

107. Recently, which Indian company launched India's first artificial intelligence unicorn 'Krutrim'?

- [A] Ola
- [B] Uber
- [C] Amazon
- [D] Flipkart

**Answer:** Ola

Krutrim, Ola group's AI firm, becomes India's first AI unicorn, securing \$50 million at a \$1 billion valuation in a recent funding round. A unicorn is a privately held startup valued over \$1 billion, symbolizing rarity and uniqueness. The pandemic's impact, fostering digital growth in India, led to a surge in unicorn companies, driven by factors like a thriving digital payments ecosystem, a vast smartphone user base, and digital-first business models, attracting substantial investments.

108. Hermit crabs, recently seen in the news, are commonly found in which of the following habitats?



- [A] Sandy- or muddy-bottomed marine waters
- [B] Deserts
- [C] Mountains
- [D] Polar Regions

**Answer:** Sandy- or muddy-bottomed marine waters

A recent study revealed that the majority of terrestrial hermit crab species worldwide utilize trash as shells. These small crustaceans lack their own shells, borrowing them from other animals, often using empty snail shells or other hollow objects for shelter. Found in sandy or muddy bottomed marine waters and occasionally on land and in trees, hermit crabs can grow up to 6 inches long. Despite their name, they are social creatures, living together in pairs or groups, and can live up to 10 years.

109. Which country is the second-largest producer of 'Tasar silk', recently seen in the news?

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

**Answer:** India

Jharkhand's Republic Day parade tableau highlighted tribal women's expertise in crafting Tasar silk, a wild silk variety derived from silkworms feeding on plants like Asan and Arjun. Known by various names like tusaar and tusser, India is the second-largest global producer after China, with exclusive Indian tussar, mainly cultivated by tribals. Key production regions include Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh, with Jharkhand emerging as a significant contributor. The tableau aimed to showcase this indigenous skill on a national platform.

110. International Court of Justice (ICJ), recently seen in the news, is the principal judicial organ of which organization?

- [A] United Nations
- [B] European Union
- [C] World Bank
- [D] UNICEF

**Answer:** United Nations

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), also known as the World Court, has decided not to dismiss the genocide case against Israel. Established in 1945 as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the ICJ operates from The Hague, Netherlands. Unlike other UN organs in New York, it holds public hearings. The ruling underscores the ICJ's role in global justice and its commitment to addressing significant international disputes.

111. Futala Lake, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Maharashtra

The Supreme Court has directed the Maharashtra government and its metro rail corporation to halt construction activities at Futala Lake in Nagpur. Futala Lake, also called Telankhedi Lake, in western Nagpur, Maharashtra, is over 200 years old, spanning 60 acres. Constructed by the Bhonsle kings, the



lake is renowned for its vibrant fountains and is flanked by forest on three sides, with a landscaped beach on the fourth.

112. Which article of the Constitution states that "There shall be a Supreme Court of India"?

- [A] **Article 124**
- [B] Article 129
- [C] Article 110
- [D] Article 112

**Answer:** Article 124

The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India, the apex judicial body established on January 26, 1950. Article 124 of the Constitution of India states that "There shall be a Supreme Court of India". The Supreme Court is the highest court in India and the final court of appeal for all civil and criminal cases.

113. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), recently seen in the news, is associated with which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- [B] Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- [C] **Ministry of Finance**
- [D] Ministry of Defence

**Answer:** Ministry of Finance

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) intercepted seven consignments from Hong Kong at the Foreign Post Office in New Delhi. Established on December 4, 1957, DRI is India's premier anti-smuggling agency under the Ministry of Finance. It collects intelligence on smuggling, narcotics, and under-invoicing, collaborating with foreign agencies, analyzing trends, and guiding investigations. With headquarters in New Delhi, DRI operates through 12 zonal units, 35 regional units, and 15 sub-regional units.

114. Rusoma Orange Festival, recently seen in the news, is celebrated in which state?

- [A] Assam
- [B] **Nagaland**
- [C] Sikkim
- [D] Manipur

**Answer:** Nagaland

The Rüsoma Orange Festival is a two-day festival held in Rüsoma Village, Kohima, Nagaland. The festival's goal is to encourage rural farmers to promote organic products and generate income. The festival also helps to strengthen the village's economy.

115. Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] **Jharkhand**
- [B] Chattisgarh
- [C] Bihar
- [D] Odisha

**Answer:** Jharkhand

Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, located 10 km from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, is soon introducing a canopy walk at 25 feet height. Established in 1975, spanning 193 sq. km., it **houses a significant Indian Elephant population.** Named after the local goddess "Dalma mai," it features dry peninsular Sal and Northern dry



mixed deciduous forests. Abundant in medicinal plants, including Ananatmula and Satawari, the sanctuary falls within the catchment of Subarnarekha River and Dimna Lake.

116. Where was 'National Conference on Strategic Trade Controls (NCSTC)' held?

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

**Answer:** New Delhi

The National Conference on Strategic Trade Controls (NCSTC), organized by the DGFT and supported by the Ministry of External Affairs held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The event, focusing on India's strategic trade controls, SCOMET, and export systems, aims to ensure compliance with international best practices. Notable participants include key international figures and senior government officials. Over 500 industry representatives are anticipated, with registrations open to interested stakeholders via DGFT's website.

117. Purple Revolution, recently seen in the news, is associated with which one of the following?

- [A] Lavender
- [B] Sunflower
- [C] Honey
- [D] Cotton

**Answer:** Lavender

The Purple Revolution in Jammu & Kashmir, presented during the Republic Day Tableau (2024), is a Lab-to-Market success story under CSIR's Viksit Bharat theme. A part of the Aroma Mission by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology, it signifies the remarkable rise of lavender cultivation. This initiative seeks to boost the local aromatic crop-based agro economy, elevate farmer incomes, and foster commercial-scale lavender farming, presenting lucrative startup opportunities for overall regional growth.

118. What is nitrogen hypoxia, recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] A medical treatment for oxygen deficiency
- [B] A process of inhaling nitrogen to induce asphyxiation
- [C] Lethal injection
- [D] A method of electrocution

**Answer:** A process of inhaling nitrogen to induce asphyxiation

Alabama recently executed a long-serving death row inmate using nitrogen hypoxia, a novel method. Nitrogen hypoxia involves inhaling lethal concentrations of pure nitrogen gas, leading to asphyxiation. This alternative execution method employs a respirator mask, pumping nitrogen into the lungs, causing unconsciousness and eventual death from oxygen deprivation. Nitrogen hypoxia is gaining attention as a departure from traditional capital punishment methods like lethal injection and electrocution.

119. Deep Grace Ekka, who recently announced her retirement, is associated with which sports?

- [A] Hockey
- [B] Cricket
- [C] Football
- [D] Table Tennis

**Answer:** Hockey



Deep Grace Ekka is a former Indian woman's hockey defender and penalty corner specialist. Recently, the 29-year-old announced her retirement from international hockey. Ekka played in 268 matches for the Indian women's hockey team, including two Olympic Games. She was a key player in India's qualification for the 2016 Rio Olympics and was a key defender at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, where India finished fourth.

120. Which district of Kerala is set to host the International Literature Festival?

[A] Thrissur

[B] Kollam

[C] Wayanad

[D] Kannur

**Answer:** Thrissur

The International Literature Festival of Kerala (ILFK) commenced in Thrissur with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan emphasizing literature's role in uniting humanity. Themed "Literature, culture and progress," the seven-day festival organized by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi features global, Indian, and regional writers, including poets from Palestine and Manipur. The event aims at cultural renaissance, hosting 100 sessions with 500 participants and a book festival with 100 publishers.