

## Current Affairs MCQs PDF - April, 2024



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1. Cumbum valley, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

Cumbum Valley, known as the "Grapes City of South India," is known for Panneer Thratchai grapes, comprising 85% of India's production. Introduced in 1832 by a French priest, these grapes thrive year-round, unlike elsewhere. Recognized for its rapid growth and early maturity, it earned a Geographical Indication tag in 2023. Cumbum Valley's grapes, rich in nutrients, are used for wine, spirits, and more. Its location in Tamil Nadu's Western Ghats adds to its allure.

2. What is 'Stargate', recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] Black hole
- [B] Meteorological satellite
- [C] AI Supercomputer
- [D] Nuclear powered submarine

**Answer:** AI Supercomputer

Microsoft and OpenAI are jointly embarking on a \$100 billion project to create "Stargate," an AI supercomputer. Scheduled for launch in 2028, it follows OpenAI's AI upgrade in 2022. The project aims to surpass existing data centers' capabilities by 100 times. Divided into five phases, with Stargate as the fifth, a smaller fourth-phase supercomputer is slated for release in 2026. Significant costs will be allocated to acquiring essential AI chips.

3. Decision Support System (DSS), recently seen in news, is discovered by which institutional organization?

- [A] Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune
- [B] Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
- [C] Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow
- [D] Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics

**Answer:** Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune

The Decision Support System (DSS) for Delhi's air pollution, developed by IITM Pune, will resume in September with new features. It forecasts Delhi's air quality and pollution sources, including emissions from Delhi and neighboring districts. It also assesses the impact of emission interventions and biomass burning. Now, it will extend to eight



surrounding NCR districts. DSS, operational in winter, halted temporarily due to forecast discrepancies. It collaborates with SAFAR for comprehensive air quality data.

4. Which IIT recently signed an MoU with Canada based biotechnology company (Conlis Global) for bone grafting technology?

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

**Answer:** IIT Kanpur

IIT Kanpur recently signed an MoU with Conlis Global, a Canadian biotech company, for licensing a groundbreaking technology promoting bone healing and regeneration. Nano Hydroxyapatite-based Porous Composite Scaffolds, developed indigenously, possess biodegradable, osteoinductive, and osteopromotive properties crucial for bone regeneration. Highly biocompatible, these scaffolds demonstrate robust mechanical strength and foster excellent interaction between polymer networks and solvents, facilitating cell-material interactions with osteoblast cells.

5. Gopalpur Port, recent seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Kerala

**Answer:** Odisha

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has acquired a controlling 95% stake in Gopalpur Port, Odisha, solidifying its position in the ports and logistics sector. Valued at Rs 3,350 crore, the deal includes an equity value of Rs 1,349 crore and an enterprise value of Rs 3,080 crore. Previous majority stakeholders, Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) and Orissa Stevedores Ltd (OSL), held 56% and 44% stakes respectively. Gopalpur Port boasts a capacity of 20 MTPA and strategic location in Ganjam district.

6. What is 'J-slab ballastless track system', recently seen in news?

- [A] To analyze the impacts of industrial pollutants on public health
- [B] System that promotes agricultural exports at grassroot level
- [C] Type of railway track used for high speed trains
- [D] To study the prevalence of infectious disease in rural areas

**Answer:** Type of railway track used for high speed trains

India is adopting the J-slab ballastless track system for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, marking its debut in the country. This system, designed for high-speed trains, replaces traditional ballasted tracks with pre-cast concrete slabs. Benefits include enhanced stability, reduced maintenance, and a smoother ride for passengers due to its uniform surface. Notably, the absence of ballast minimizes wear and tear, promising efficiency and durability for India's ambitious rail infrastructure.



7. Maravakandy Dam, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Telangana

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

With fishing halted, migratory birds flock to Maravakandy Dam in the Nilgiris. Situated 35 km from Ooty in Tamil Nadu, it was constructed in 1951 over Aravarihallam stream, a Sigur River tributary. This dam serves as the main water source for the Moyar hydroelectric powerhouse, attracting diverse avian species during migratory seasons.

8. Katchatheevu Island, recently seen in news, is situated between which two countries?

- [A] India and Bangladesh
- [B] India and Myanmar
- [C] India and Sri Lanka
- [D] Spain and France

**Answer:** India and Sri Lanka

Documents obtained through an RTI application by Tamil Nadu's BJP chief K. Annamalai reveal India's inconsistent approach to the Katchatheevu island dispute with Sri Lanka. Katchatheevu, a small island in the Palk Strait, lacks a permanent settlement and freshwater source. Administered by both India and Sri Lanka historically, a 1974 agreement marked its boundary. Indian fishermen, particularly from Tamil Nadu, face challenges due to conflicting claims over the island.

9. Recently, how many sites have been added to the Global Geoparks network?

- [A] 16
- [B] 17
- [C] 18
- [D] 19

**Answer:** 18

In March 2024, UNESCO's Executive Board added 18 new sites to the Global Geoparks network, bringing the total number of sites to 213 across 48 countries. The new sites are located in Belgium, the Netherlands, Brazil, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, and Spain. Global Geoparks are single geographical areas that are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development.

10. Recently, which two countries have partially joined the Schengen area, the ID-check-free travel zone in Europe?

- [A] Poland and Spain
- [B] Romania and Bulgaria
- [C] Sweden and Portugal
- [D] Denmark and Ireland



**Answer:** Romania and Bulgaria

Romania and Bulgaria have partially joined the Schengen Area, marking a significant step in their integration with the European Union. After years of negotiations, air and sea travelers from both countries now have ID-check-free access. However, land border checks persist, notably due to Austria's concerns over illegal migration. The Schengen Area, established in 1985, encompasses 23 EU states plus Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. Prior to this expansion, around 3.5 million people crossed internal borders daily.

11. Vaigai, Mettur, and Papanasam dams, recently seen in news due to water level, are located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

Recent news highlighted water levels in several dams including Vaigai, Mettur, and Papanasam. Vaigai Dam in Tamil Nadu serves Madurai's water needs. Mettur Dam, on the Cauvery River, is one of India's largest, with inflows from Karnataka. Papanasam Dam irrigates fields in Tirunelveli and Tuticorin, considered holy due to its association with Lord Shiva.

12. What is 'Senna spectabilis', recently seen in news?

- [A] Highly invasive tree
- [B] Asteroid
- [C] Exoplanet
- [D] Black hole

**Answer:** Highly invasive tree

The forest department is eradicating *Senna spectabilis*, a highly invasive tree, from Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR). Originally introduced as ornamental trees by private estates, the Madras High Court ordered their removal due to ecological impact on local reserves. Belonging to the legume family, native to South and Central America, it's also known as golden wonder tree for its bright yellow flowers. Despite medicinal uses, including treating ringworm and food-borne pathogens, its removal is necessary for preserving local ecology.

13. Which state of India recently witnessed the 'Swell waves'?

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

**Answer:** Kerala

Swell waves inundated coastal areas in central and southern Kerala due to distant storm



winds, termed 'Kallakkadal'. The waves flooded beaches in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, and Thrissur districts, prompting district-level disaster management to alert. 'Kallakkadal' causes flash floods without noticeable wind changes. Authorities advise against beach visits and monitor the high-alert coastal areas. Swells, characterized by collective height, period, and direction, vary in size and quality based on local conditions.

14. 'INTERACT project', recently seen in news, is funded by which organization?

- [A] European Union
- [B] International Labour Organization
- [C] United Nations Development Programme
- [D] World Bank

**Answer:** European Union

The International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic (INTERACT) is a EU-funded project granting researchers access to Arctic research stations across Europe, Russia, and North America. It facilitates work in remote areas, fostering cross-fertilization and enabling comparative measurements. Researchers contribute to new research directions while accessing otherwise inaccessible regions.

15. Recently, who has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Niger?

- [A] Pankaj Saran
- [B] P. R. Chakraborty
- [C] Vikram Misri
- [D] Sita Ram Meena

**Answer:** Sita Ram Meena

Mr. Sita Ram Meena, a 2008 batch IFS officer, has been appointed as India's Ambassador to the Republic of Niger. Previously serving as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, this appointment marks a significant career advancement. Mr. Meena's diplomatic experience and expertise position him well for this new role, which underscores India's commitment to strengthening ties with Niger on the international stage.

16. Recently, which port in India emerged as the top cargo-handling port in India in 2023-24?

- [A] Karaikal port
- [B] Paradip port
- [C] Kandla port
- [D] Kochi port

**Answer:** Paradip port

Paradip Port Authority in Odisha surpassed Deendayal Port Authority in Kandla as India's top cargo-handling major port in 2023-24. Handling 145.38 MMT of cargo, it registered a 7.4% growth from the previous year. It's capable of handling 289 MMT. Notably, it excels in coastal shipping, handling 59.19 MMT of coastal traffic and achieving highest productivity among major ports. Established in 1962, it became India's 8th major port in 1966, now under the Ministry of Ports.





17. Judith Suminwa Tuluka, recently seen in news, became the first woman Prime Minister of which country?

- [A] Angola
- [B] Zambia
- [C] Congo
- [D] Rwanda

**Answer:** Congo

Judith Suminwa Tuluka became the Democratic Republic of Congo's first female Prime Minister, succeeding Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde. This historic appointment by President Felix Tshisekedi fulfilled a campaign promise. Tuluka, former Planning Minister, and assumed office just a month after Lukonde resigned from the position, which he held for three years. Her appointment marks a significant step towards gender equality and representation in Congolese politics.

18. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recently delivered two Dornier 228 planes to which country?

- [A] Peru
- [B] Bolivia
- [C] Guyana
- [D] Chile

**Answer:** Guyana

India has delivered two Dornier-228 aircraft to Guyana as part of a Line of Credit, marking a new phase in their partnership. The Indian Air Force dispatched a team to Guyana for the delivery. The High Commission of India in Guyana expressed enthusiasm, stating it marks the start of a significant chapter in their bilateral relations. This initiative underscores India's commitment to strengthening ties with Guyana through strategic collaborations.

19. REC Limited, recently won the SKOCH ESG Award 2024, comes under which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Power
- [B] Ministry of Defence
- [C] Ministry of Agriculture
- [D] Ministry of Corporate Affairs

**Answer:** Ministry of Power

REC Limited, a Ministry of Power entity, clinched the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in 'Renewable Energy Financing'. This accolade acknowledges REC's dedication to sustainable financing, driving the shift towards renewable energy. As a pivotal player in India's clean energy transition, REC spearheads numerous sustainable projects and engages in discussions with developers across various green sectors. The SKOCH ESG Awards highlight organizations' commitment to environmental, social, and governance factors, crucial for India's sustainable future.

20. Who won the 56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24?



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

**Answer:** Maharashtra

The 56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24 saw Maharashtra dominating both men's and women's categories at Delhi's Karnail Singh Stadium and Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. Maharashtra's men's team won against Indian Railways in a thrilling final, while the women's team led by Sampada Maurya triumphed over Airport Authority of India. The championship featured 37 teams in each category, organized by the Kho Kho Federation of India.

21. Recently, which institution established the Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) as a new tool to combat cybercrime?

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

**Answer:** RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to establish the Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) to counter cybercrime, focusing on legal app approval and curbing illegal loan apps. DIGITA aims to centralize verification of digital lending apps, ensuring compliance with RBI regulations. Unverified apps may face penalties and law enforcement action. Maintaining a public list of approved apps, DIGITA enhances consumer protection and aids in combating financial crimes in the digital lending sector.

22. Recently, an anti-dumping probe has been initiated on 'insoluble sulphur' imports from which countries?

- [A] France and Germany
- [B] China and Japan
- [C] Russia and UK
- [D] Japan and France

**Answer:** China and Japan

An anti-dumping investigation has commenced on imports of 'insoluble sulphur' from China and Japan. Insoluble sulphur, an amorphous form of sulfur, doesn't dissolve in carbon disulfide. Widely utilized as a rubber additive, especially in automobile parts like tires and shoes, it acts as a vulcanization accelerator, enhancing rubber quality and durability through cross-linking. This process, vital in the rubber industry, improves product wearability and overall quality.

23. Sanjhi Craft, recently got a GI tag, belongs to which state?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Maharashtra





[C] Karnataka

[D] Kerala

**Answer:** Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh leads India with the most Geographical Indication (GI) certified products, now totaling 69 after the addition of 15 new items, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58. Sanjhi art, originating in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh in the 16th century, is renowned for intricate designs and spiritual significance. Associated with the mother goddess Sanjhi, the craft involves mud images crafted into cosmic forms. It originated around Krishna temples and is now practiced nationwide.

24. Recently, who has become the sole Indian weightlifter who qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024?

[A] Mirabai Chanu

[B] Kunjarani Devi

[C] Gurdeep Singh

[D] Karnam Malleswari

**Answer:** Mirabai Chanu

Mirabai Chanu, Tokyo Olympics medallist, secures her spot at the Paris Olympics, making history as the sole Indian weightlifter to qualify. At the IWF World Cup in Phuket, Thailand, the 29-year-old Olympic silver medalist finished third in Group B of women's 49kg, earning 11th place overall. After a six-month injury lay-off, Chanu lifted a total of 184kg at the event, solidifying her berth for the 2024 Paris Games.

25. What is the name of the Indian Coast Guard ship that recently made a port call in Vietnam as part of its overseas deployment to ASEAN countries?

[A] Tara Bai

[B] Samrat

[C] Samudra Paheredar

[D] Priyadarshini

**Answer:** Samudra Paheredar

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Pollution Control Vessel Samudra Paheredar, along with a helicopter, docked at Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam on April 02, 2024, continuing its ASEAN deployment. Crew will focus on marine pollution response, search & rescue, and law enforcement through professional interactions, training, and sports events with Vietnam Coast Guard. Demonstrating India's shipbuilding prowess, the visit strengthens bilateral ties and showcases cooperation. 25 NCC cadets will join in environmental activities.

26. Bindyarani Devi, who was recently in news, belongs to which sports?

[A] Hockey

[B] Swimming

[C] Boxing

[D] Weight lifting

**Answer:** Weight lifting



Bindyarani Devi, Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 silver medalist, secured a bronze at the IWF World Cup 2024 in Phuket, Thailand, lifting 196 kg in the women's 55 kg category. Conversely, Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Mirabai Chanu placed 12th. Despite not medaling, Chanu qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024, becoming India's sole weightlifter to do so. Kang Hyon Gyong of North Korea clinched gold, while Romania's Mihaela Cambei took silver.

27. Recently, who has taken over as president of industry body ASSOCHAM for 2024-25?

- [A] Vineet Agarwal
- [B] Sanjay Nayar
- [C] Deepak Sood
- [D] Sunil Kanoria

**Answer:** Sanjay Nayar

Sanjay Nayar, former chairman of Sorin Investment Fund, assumes presidency at ASSOCHAM for 2024-25, succeeding Ajay Singh of SpiceJet. Nayar, with extensive global financial experience, notably at Citigroup and KKR, retired in 2023. He played pivotal roles in establishing KKR India operations and serves on Nykaa's board. Active in various industry bodies, Nayar aims to bolster sustainability initiatives during his tenure, aligning with India's developmental objectives.

28. Bhojshala Complex, sometimes seen in news, is situated in which state?

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

**Answer:** Madhya Pradesh

The Bhojshala complex, located in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, is a historically contested site between Hindus and Muslims. Protected by the Archaeological Survey of India, it holds significance as a temple for Hindus and a mosque for Muslims. An arrangement by ASI allows Hindus to conduct pujas on Tuesdays and Muslims to offer namaz on Fridays. Recently, the Supreme Court rejected a stay on ongoing scientific surveys, emphasizing no physical alterations to the structure.

29. Which region of West Bengal was recently struck by a devastating tornado?

- [A] Mainaguri
- [B] Siliguri
- [C] Darjeeling
- [D] Kolkata

**Answer:** Mainaguri

Recently, a destructive tornado hit Mainaguri, Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal, leaving five dead and over a hundred injured within its 10-minute rampage. Tornadoes, though rare, afflict India's eastern regions like West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand, especially pre-monsoon. A 2016 study by India Meteorological Department noted increased tornado



activity in Bengal, with fatalities. Rising occurrences in India are attributed to factors like warming Bay of Bengal and unusual wind patterns.

30. Which organization recently collaborated with the Tamil Nadu State Forest Department for the successful radio-collaring of Nilgiri Tahr in Mukurthi National Park?

- [A] World Health Organization (WHO)
- [B] World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- [C] Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- [D] United Nations Environment program (UNEP)

**Answer:** World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

The Tamil Nadu State Forest Department, with WWF-India, radio-collared a male Nilgiri Tahr in Mukurthi National Park, marking the first collar operation without tranquilization. Nilgiri Tahr, also called Varaiaadu, is Tamil Nadu's state animal and the sole mountain ungulate in southern India. With an endangered status, its habitat spans the Western Ghats. Threatened by habitat loss and poaching, the species' resilience underscores its ecological significance in high-stress environments.

31. Recently, the forest and wildlife department of Delhi is establishing a tissue culture laboratory at which wildlife sanctuary of India?

- [A] Benog Wildlife Sanctuary
- [B] Asola-Bhati Wildlife Sanctuary
- [C] Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary
- [D] Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary

**Answer:** Asola-Bhati Wildlife Sanctuary

Delhi's Forest and Wildlife Department is setting up a tissue culture lab at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary to propagate endangered native trees. The lab aims to regenerate saplings of rare species facing challenges in natural regeneration. Tissue culture, also known as micropropagation, involves growing plant cells in a controlled, sterile environment. This technique allows for the production of clones from a single cell, aiding conservation efforts for threatened trees in the city.

32. According to World Bank, what is the projected economic growth of India for FY 25?

- [A] 6.3%
- [B] 6.4%
- [C] 6.6%
- [D] 6.8%

**Answer:** 6.6%

The World Bank revised India's GDP growth projection for FY25 to 6.6%, up by 20 basis points. Despite a slowdown from the current year's estimated 7.5% growth, robust public investment is anticipated to drive future growth. India's statistics ministry estimated the current year's GDP growth at 7.6%, higher than earlier projections. The projected slowdown in growth from 2023-24 to 2024-25 is attributed to decreased investment, though services and industry sectors are expected to remain strong.



33. Recently, President of India launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer at which place?

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

**Answer:** IIT Bombay

India's President, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched the nation's inaugural home-grown gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay. The groundbreaking "CAR-T cell therapy" offers affordable hope in the cancer fight. This medical milestone, a part of 'Make in India,' embodies 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.' Developed collaboratively by IIT Bombay, Tata Memorial Hospital, and ImmunoACT, it marks a significant achievement in research and development. Gene therapy holds promise in treating various diseases, heralding a new era in healthcare.

34. Kathia wheat, recently got a GI tag, belongs to which state?

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

**Answer:** Uttar Pradesh

The indigenous wheat variety Kathiya Gehu from Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh, earns a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, marking a breakthrough for agricultural recognition. It's the first farm produce from Uttar Pradesh to achieve this distinction, highlighting the region's agricultural significance. The GI tag acknowledges the unique qualities and geographical origin of Kathiya Gehu, ensuring its protection and promoting its heritage. This recognition bolsters the cultural and economic value of Bundelkhand's agricultural heritage.

35. Recently, what target has the India set for the export of marine products in 2023-24?

- [A] \$9.1 billion
- [B] \$7.7 billion
- [C] \$8.6 billion
- [D] \$11.1 billion

**Answer:** \$9.1 billion

India aims to boost marine product exports to \$12 billion in two years through increased processing capacity and higher-value products. In 2022-23, exports totaled \$8.09 billion. However, from April to February 2023-24, exports dipped 7.5% to \$6.8 billion, largely due to decreased exports to the US and Europe. The government targets \$9.1 billion in exports for 2023-24. India ranks third in fish production globally and second in aquaculture.

36. Indian laurel tree, recently seen in news, mainly found in which forests?

- [A] Dry and moist deciduous forests



- [B] Tropical Thorn Forests
- [C] Tropical Evergreen Forests
- [D] Montane Forests

**Answer:** Dry and moist deciduous forests

Forest authorities in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitharama Raju district recently harvested water from an Indian laurel tree (*Terminalia elliptica*). Also known as Asna or Indian laurel, it grows mainly in dry and moist deciduous forests. Its wood is prized for furniture and musical instruments, while its leaves sustain silkworms for Tussah silk production. Medically, the bark treats diarrhea, yielding oxalic acid. Additionally, its bark and fruit are sources of pyrogallol and catechol for dye and leather tanning.

37. Which two countries recently signed an agreement to work together to develop tests for the most advanced AI models?

- [A] India & Russia
- [B] France & Australia
- [C] US & UK
- [D] Germany & UK

**Answer:** US & UK

The United States and the United Kingdom have signed an agreement to collaborate on developing tests for advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models, following commitments made at the Bletchley Park AI Safety Summit. Bletchley Park, known as the birthplace of modern computing, will host the world's first global AI summit in 2023. Both countries aim to share information on AI capabilities and risks, conduct joint testing exercises, and align approaches to deploying AI systems safely.

38. Recently, venomous jellyfish blooms have been sighted at which place?

- [A] Paradip coast, Odisha
- [B] Visakhapatnam coast, Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Utkal coast, Odisha
- [D] None of the above

**Answer:** Visakhapatnam coast, Andhra Pradesh

Venomous *Pelagia noctilucas*, or purple-striped jellyfish, are blooming along Visakhapatnam's coast in Andhra Pradesh. Jellyfish blooms occur when populations rapidly increase due to warm ocean temperatures. These blooms detrimentally impact fishing and tourism industries. Natural factors like ocean and wind currents can also contribute to these occurrences.

39. Recently, which organization has partnered with Panasonic Energy to create a joint venture for producing lithium-ion cells in India?

- [A] Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
- [B] International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- [C] Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- [D] Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)



**Answer:** Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has partnered with Panasonic Energy to establish a joint venture for lithium-ion cell production in India, responding to rising demand for electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage. This collaboration aims to support India's goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070. With a focus on sustainable mobility, the venture plans to leverage IOC's distribution network and Panasonic's battery expertise, contributing to India's renewable energy transition and reducing carbon emissions.

40. Recently, which organization have successfully conducted a flight test of 'Agni Prime', a medium range ballistic missile (MRBM)?

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

**Answer:** DRDO

India's DRDO and Strategic Forces Command successfully tested the 'Agni-Prime' ballistic missile at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. Range sensors, including two ships, captured data. Witnessed by top officials, Agni-P is a medium-range ballistic missile with nuclear capabilities, designed as successor to Agni-I and II. It boasts a 1,000-2,000 km strike range, advanced technology from Agni-IV/V, and features composite materials for lightweight and strength. It's a two-stage, solid-fueled, road-mobile missile with dual navigation.

41. Recently, which country developed the world's most powerful laser?

- [A] Bulgaria
- [B] Estonia
- [C] Romania
- [D] Sweden

**Answer:** Romania

Romania has developed the world's most powerful laser, which is part of the European Union's Infrastructure ELI project. The laser, called the "Extreme Light Infrastructure-Nuclear Physics"- (ELI-NP) laser, is located in Magurele, Romania, near Bucharest. It uses Chirped-Pulse Amplification, which is a groundbreaking technology based on the inventions of Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland. The laser is operated by the French company Thales and is expected to have revolutionary applications in healthcare and space exploration.

42. Recently, which country conducted the joint naval exercise with US, Australia & Japan?

- [A] Hong Kong
- [B] Philippines
- [C] Indonesia
- [D] Thailand

**Answer:** Philippines





The Philippines, alongside the United States, Japan, and Australia, conducted joint naval drills in April, 2024, in the South China Sea, aimed at strengthening military cooperation amidst China's regional influence. This exercise precedes a trilateral summit involving the Philippines, Japan, and the US, highlighting efforts to bolster security ties in the face of growing tensions in the Asia-Pacific.

43. Which country recently declared the EL-Nino induced drought a national disaster?

- [A] Botswana
- [B] Namibia
- [C] Mozambique
- [D] Zimbabwe

**Answer:** Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe along with Zambia and Malawi has declared a state of disaster due to severe drought. President Emmerson Mnangagwa attributes it to an "El Nino-induced drought," affecting over 80% of Zimbabwe. Climate change exacerbates the crisis, causing dire food shortages and humanitarian crises in the region.

44. Recently, which state has filed a suit at the Supreme Court claiming that the Centre is withholding national disaster relief funds?

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

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has sued the Centre at the Supreme Court, alleging withholding of national disaster relief funds post-Cyclone Michaung and floods in 2023. Disaster relief funds stem from the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF), established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 after the 2004 tsunami. NDRF encompasses severe calamities like cyclones, droughts, and floods, necessitating additional funding beyond SDRF.

45. Recently, who was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution?

- [A] NHPC
- [B] POWERGRID
- [C] SJVN Limited
- [D] NTPC

**Answer:** SJVN Limited

SJVN Limited received the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution. The company also secured the 'Achievement Award for Social Development and Creating Impact' and the 'CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy'. Geeta Kapur, Chairperson and Managing Director, highlighted SJVN's commitment to CSR initiatives, managed through the SJVN Foundation. SJVN spent over Rs 450 crore on



diverse CSR activities including education, healthcare, infrastructure, disaster relief, and cultural promotion. CGM (HR) Baljit Singh accepted the awards.

46. BASEL III Endgame, recently seen in the news, is related to which sector?

- [A] Environmental sector
- [B] Health sector
- [C] Agricultural sector
- [D] Banking sector

**Answer:** Banking sector

The U.S. Federal Reserve announces significant alterations to the "Basel III endgame" proposal, aimed at imposing stricter bank capital requirements. The changes, favoring Wall Street banks, come after intense lobbying against the rules, which would affect banks with assets exceeding \$100 billion. The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, formed in 1974 to bolster financial stability, oversees these regulations. India became a member in 2009. The committee operates under the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland.

47. Pathimalai Cave, recently seen in news due to ancient rock paintings, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

The Pathimalai cave hosts ancient rock art, approximately 3,000 years old, depicting an elephant, a chariot (sometimes interpreted as a peacock), and early dwellers' lives. Located near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, the site lacks protection, endangering the paintings. This artwork, drawn in white pigments, is significant in the Kongu region. Unlike other rock art sites, Pathimalai is easily accessible, situated at the base of a rocky hillock amidst farmland, drawing visitors' attention.

48. What is the name of the world's oldest man that died at the age of 114 recently?

- [A] John Tinniswood
- [B] Juan Vicente Perez Mora
- [C] Yukichi Chuganji
- [D] Eugenie Blanchard

**Answer:** Juan Vicente Perez Mora

Juan Vicente Perez Mora, recognized by Guinness as the world's oldest man, passed away shortly before his 115th birthday. His longevity secrets included hard work, early bedtimes, and a daily glass of aguardiente. Governor Freddy Bernal hailed him as a symbol of Tachirenses values: humble, hardworking, and devoted to family.

49. Which country has supported the BIMSTEC Charter recently?

- [A] Nepal



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

**Answer:** Nepal

Nepal's Lower House of Parliament endorsed the BIMSTEC Charter, fostering collaboration among member countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand). Established in 1997, BIMSTEC aims for regional development. The charter outlines principles, objectives, and cooperation framework, establishing legal basis, structure, functions. It promotes regional integration, covering economic development, trade, investment, technology transfer, connectivity. Endorsement and ratification by member states are crucial for effective implementation.

50. What is the theme of 'World Health Day 2024'?

- [A] Building a fairer, healthier world
- [B] My Health, My Right
- [C] Our planet, our health
- [D] Support nurses and midwives

**Answer:** My Health, My Right

World Health Day, observed annually on April 7, commemorates the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO) and raises awareness on global health issues. It emphasizes the importance of healthy living and fosters global cooperation in healthcare. In 2024, the theme 'My Health, My Rights' underscores individual rights to healthcare. This day serves as a vital platform for promoting health awareness and inspiring people worldwide to prioritize their well-being.

51. Phanigiri Buddhist site, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Telangana

The Department of Archaeology and Museums discovered a coin hoard at Phanigiri site in Suryapet district, Telangana, from the Ikshvaku period. Phanigiri, meaning "hillock of snake hood," is a Buddhist site approximately 110 km from Hyderabad. Excavations revealed a Mahastupa, Chaitya Grihas, viharas, and a life-size Stucco of Bodhisattva. Brahmi label inscriptions from Satavahana and Ikshvaku times (~2nd – 3rd Century A.D.) were also found, along with a thorana's panel indicating co-existence of Mahayana and Hinayana sects.

52. Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX), recently seen in news, is a joint mission between which two space agencies?

- [A] ISRO & JAXA
- [B] NASA & ISRO



[C] CNSA & ROCOSMOS

[D] ESA & NASA

**Answer:** ISRO & JAXA

The Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX) is a joint mission between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to explore the moon's South Pole region. JAXA will provide the launch vehicle and rover, while ISRO will contribute the lander. Equipped with tools to measure water content in lunar sand and conduct drilling and sampling, the rover promises vital insights into the Moon's Polar Regions.

53. Which Indian Coast Guard ship has recently conducted a prompt operation and safely rescued 27 Bangladeshi fishermen?

[A] Vikram

[B] Sagar

[C] Talwar

[D] Amogh

**Answer:** Amogh

Indian Coast Guard's swift operation rescued 27 Bangladeshi fishermen stranded on fishing boat Sagar II in Indian waters. Patrol ship 'Amogh' identified the distressed vessel drifting in the India-Bangladesh Maritime Boundary Line on April 4, 2024. Investigation found its steering gear malfunctioning for two days. Prompt action ensured safe retrieval of all crew members by the Indian Coast Guard, showcasing their commitment to maritime safety and cooperation.

54. According to RBI, what is the projected Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25)?

[A] 3.2%

[B] 4.5%

[C] 5.1%

[D] 5.5%

**Answer:** 4.5%

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, leading the Monetary Policy Committee, has maintained the repo rate at 6.5% for the 7th consecutive time, as announced on April 5, 2024. Predicting a 7% growth for India's economy in FY 25, with a 4.5% expected Consumer Price Index inflation, Das emphasized inflation control and pledged an accommodative policy for growth. The first MPC meeting for FY 2024-25 convened from April 3-5, with the next scheduled for June 5-7, 2024.

55. Which city becomes the first city in India to install 210 artificial reefs?

[A] Chennai

[B] Hyderabad

[C] Kolkata

[D] Mumbai



**Answer:** Mumbai

Mumbai, India, is the first city in India to install 210 artificial reefs, which are being built in the Arabian Sea near Worli Koliwada. The RPG Foundation (RPGF) has funded the initiative, which is part of its Project Nature marine conservation initiative. The reefs are made from recycled cement and cost Rs 62 lakh to install. The reefs are a significant milestone in marine conservation. They will provide a steady supply of commercial fish and benefit local fishermen.

56. Recently, which port of India achieved a milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24 by handling 66.4 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of Cargo?

- [A] Visakhapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata
- [C] Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai
- [D] Kochi Port, Kerala

**Answer:** Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata

In FY 2023-24, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, comprising Kolkata Dock System and Haldia Dock Complex, handled a record-breaking 66.4 MMT of Cargo, up 1.11% from the previous year. Chairman Shri Rathendra Raman attributed this success to strategic initiatives boosting productivity and safety. Haldia Dock Complex reached its highest volume of 49.54 MMT, a 1.91% increase, while KDS managed 16.856 MMT. The port also achieved a remarkable 65% growth in net surplus, reaching Rs. 501.73 crores.

57. Recently, which country declared a national emergency on drug abuse?

- [A] Sierra Leone
- [B] Guinea
- [C] Mali
- [D] Nigeria

**Answer:** Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone's President has declared a national emergency on substance abuse due to the surge in the use of the dangerous synthetic drug "kush." The tropical West African country, bordered by Guinea, Liberia, and the Atlantic Ocean, faces this challenge. Its landscape comprises lightly wooded hills and mangrove swamps along the coast, with major rivers like the Rokel, Taia, Moa, and Sewa flowing through its terrain.

58. By what year does India aim to end urea imports according to the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers?

- [A] 2024
- [B] 2025
- [C] 2026
- [D] 2027

**Answer:** 2025

India aims to halt urea imports by 2025 as local production surges with new fertilizer plants. Currently importing 30% of its 35 million tonnes annual requirement, the country



saw urea production rise from 225.08 to 284.95 lakh tonnes between 2014-15 and 2022-23. The government's strategy includes reviving closed plants and promoting alternative fertilizers like nano-liquid urea to achieve self-sufficiency and reduce reliance on imports from Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

59. Recently, where was the first-ever trilateral service planning conference called 'Parivartan Chintan' held?

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

**Answer:** Delhi

The inaugural 'Parivartan Chintan' tri-service armed forces planning conference convened in New Delhi on April 8, 2024, organized by the Union Ministry of Defence. Led by the Chiefs of Army, Navy, and Air Force, alongside the Department of Military Affairs, the conference aimed to establish a unified, integrated theatre command. Chaired by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, it sought to foster jointness, integration, and readiness for future conflicts through innovative reforms and initiatives.

60. Peter Pellegrini recently became the new president of which country?

- [A] Norway
- [B] Slovakia
- [C] Denmark
- [D] Romania

**Answer:** Slovakia

Peter Pellegrini, backed by Slovakia's nationalist-left government, wins the presidential election, defeating liberal Ivan Korčok. With 53.85% of the vote, Pellegrini pledges to maintain Slovakia's peace stance. He becomes the sixth president since independence in 1993, succeeding Zuzana Čaputová. As president, Pellegrini will appoint the prime minister, swear in the government, and influence judicial appointments. His victory signifies a shift towards state interventionism. The new government halts weapon exports to Ukraine.

61. Which country has recently declared a federal emergency in Orenburg region due to the Ural River flooding Orsk?

- [A] Ukraine
- [B] Kazakhstan
- [C] Russia
- [D] Tajikistan

**Answer:** Russia

Russia declared a "federal emergency" in southern Orenburg due to the Ural River flooding Orsk, leading to the evacuation of thousands. The Ural River, spanning 2,428 km through Russia and Kazakhstan, serves as a continental boundary between Europe and





Asia. Originating from the Ural Mountains, it flows into the Caspian Sea. Melting snow primarily feeds it, with a unique digitate delta. With 58 tributaries, it holds significance as Europe's third-longest river.

62. What is the name of the rock where scientists recently discovered a gigantic ocean located 700 km beneath the Earth's surface?

- [A] Ringwoodite rock
- [B] Olivine rock
- [C] Wadsleyite rock
- [D] Rintamaki rock

**Answer:** Ringwoodite rock

A groundbreaking discovery has unveiled a vast ocean hidden beneath the Earth's crust, located 700 kilometers deep within a rock called ringwoodite. This subterranean reservoir, three times the volume of all surface oceans combined, was detected using a network of 2000 seismographs across the US. Ringwoodite's unique properties, detailed in a 2014 scientific paper, allow it to absorb and trap water, supporting the theory of Earth's internal water origin and reshaping our understanding of the planet's water cycle.

63. Recently, which country ended diplomatic ties with Ecuador?

- [A] Bolivia
- [B] Chile
- [C] Mexico
- [D] Brazil

**Answer:** Mexico

Mexico ended diplomatic ties with Ecuador after Ecuadorian police raided the Mexican embassy in Quito on April 5, 2024, seeking to arrest former VP Jorge Glas, granted asylum by Mexico. President Lopez Obrador denounced the breach of Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, asserting sovereignty violation. Brazil and UN Secretary-General Guterres criticized Ecuador's actions. The Convention, established in 1961, governs diplomatic norms including the establishment of embassies in receiving states.

64. Ujung Kulon National Park, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Indonesia
- [B] Malaysia
- [C] Romania
- [D] China

**Answer:** Indonesia

A new Javan rhinoceros calf was sighted in Ujung Kulon National Park on Java Island, Indonesia. This species is the rarest living rhinoceros, found solely in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park. It closely resembles the greater one-horned rhinoceros but has a smaller head and fewer skin folds. Females lack prominent horns, while males possess a single horn. Classified as critically endangered by IUCN and listed in CITES Appendix I, conservation efforts are vital for its survival.



65. Recently, which country has made immediate changes to an employment visa program?

- [A] Australia
- [B] Fiji
- [C] New Zealand
- [D] Romania

**Answer:** New Zealand

The New Zealand government swiftly implemented reforms to the Accredited Employer Worker Visa (AEWV) scheme to attract essential skills while safeguarding migrants from exploitation. Responding to unsustainable net migration levels, Immigration Minister Erica Stanford emphasized the crucial role of immigration policies in revitalizing the economy. These changes aim to align immigration settings with national priorities for sustainable growth and address vulnerabilities in the migrant workforce.

66. Recently, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar has awarded an 'On-the-spot Unit Citation' to which Indian Naval Ship for anti-piracy operations?

- [A] INS Sharda
- [B] INS Kaveri
- [C] INS Amogh
- [D] INS Trishul

**Answer:** INS Sharda

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, honored INS Sharda at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, with an 'On the Spot Unit Citation' for its successful anti-piracy efforts. The ship played a crucial role in rescuing 19 crew members of the Iranian fishing vessel Omari from Somali pirates. Utilizing surveillance data, INS Sharda covertly tracked the vessel, launching a helo and Prahar team at dawn, compelling the pirates to release the crew. This operation exemplifies Indian Navy's commitment to maritime security.

67. Gangu Ramsay, who recently passed away at the age of 83, was associated with which field?

- [A] Cinematography
- [B] Sports
- [C] Politics
- [D] Music

**Answer:** Cinematography

Renowned Bollywood cinematographer Gangu Ramsay, part of the famed Ramsay Brothers, passed away at 83. With a legacy spanning over 50 films, Ramsay was celebrated for his remarkable cinematography, leaving an indelible mark on the industry. His contribution to cinema will be dearly remembered.

68. Recently, who became the first person to run across Africa?

- [A] Dennis Kimetto
- [B] Russ Cook



- [C] Sisay Lemma
- [D] Kenenisa Bekele

**Answer:** Russ Cook

British national Russ Cook, also known as the "Hardest Geezer," conquered an epic challenge spanning over 352 days. Trekking 10,000+ miles across 16 countries in Africa, he endured visa hurdles, health scares, and even an armed robbery. Departing from South Africa's south and reaching Tunisia's north, he completed the journey, raising charity funds. Cook aims to inspire others with his feat, potentially the first to run Africa's length, emphasizing the power of sports at a press conference in Bizerte, Tunisia.

69. What kind of satellite is 'TSAT-1A', recently seen in news?

- [A] Earth observation satellite
- [B] Climate monitoring satellite
- [C] Communication satellite
- [D] Navigation satellite

**Answer:** Earth observation satellite

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) launched TSAT-1A, an optical sub-metre-resolution Earth observation satellite, with SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. Built in collaboration with Satellogic Inc., it offers military-grade imagery capabilities and multispectral/hyperspectral imaging. Deployed for Indian defense, it enhances preparedness and strategic decision-making. Assembled in Karnataka, it marks the private sector's first foray into military satellite development, complementing India's existing ISRO-built spy satellites.

70. Recently, which organization recommended imposing an anti-dumping duty on sodium cyanide (NaCN)?

- [A] World Trade Organization (WTO)
- [B] International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- [C] Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)
- [D] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

**Answer:** Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended a five-year anti-dumping duty on sodium cyanide (NaCN) imported from China, the EU, Japan, and Korea. The investigation, conducted under the Customs Tariff Act and Rules, cited suppressed prices, production declines, and financial losses for domestic industry. Economic non-viability has led to production suspension despite capacity expansion. Sodium cyanide, used in various applications including insecticides and metal extraction, appears as a white crystalline solid with the chemical formula NaCN.

71. Recently, which country has invoked the peace clause for rice at the World Trade Organization (WTO)?

- [A] Bhutan
- [B] India



- [C] Argentina
- [D] Afghanistan

**Answer:** India

India has invoked the WTO's Peace Clause for the fifth time, citing breach of rice subsidy limits. The clause shields developing nations from dispute challenges regarding subsidy breaches. Global trade norms dictate subsidies should not exceed 10% of production value based on a 1986-88 reference price. India seeks amendments to this formula and proposed the Peace Clause in 2013 as an interim measure until a permanent solution is negotiated.

72. Recently, who has been appointed as the coach of the senior national women's hockey team?

- [A] PR Sreejesh
- [B] Amit Rohidas
- [C] Harendra Singh
- [D] Harmanpreet Singh

**Answer:** Harendra Singh

Former Indian Hockey player and Dronacharya awardee Harendra Singh has been chosen by Hockey India to coach the senior national women's team until the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. He replaces Janneke Schopman of Holland, who resigned after the team's failure to qualify for the Paris Olympics. No formal announcement has been made due to the model code of conduct.

73. Which country has recently decided to end captive lion breeding due to concerns over trophy hunting and the use of lion bones in traditional Chinese medicine?

- [A] South Africa
- [B] India
- [C] Tanzania
- [D] Botswana

**Answer:** South Africa

South Africa has decided to end captive lion breeding due to concerns over trophy hunting and the use of lion bones in traditional Chinese medicine. In April 2024, Environment Minister Barbara Creecy announced that the country will stop breeding lions for a variety of reasons, including trophy hunting and the use of bones as substitute for tigers in traditional Chinese medicine. The South African government had already announced its intention to ban the breeding of lions for hunting in 2021.

74. Recently, what forms of assistance is India providing to Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Mauritius under the United Nations' initiative?

- [A] Early warning weather system
- [B] Scientific research facility
- [C] Educational infrastructure
- [D] Cybersecurity measures



**Answer:** Early warning weather system

India is contributing to the 'Early Warnings for All' initiative by the United Nations, aiming to establish life-saving early warning systems for hazardous weather, water, or climate events globally by 2027. Collaborating with Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Mauritius, India is aiding in setting up early warning weather systems. These efforts enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities by providing timely alerts and forecasts for natural disasters like cyclones, floods, and storms.

75. Recently, a fresh batch of Igla-S air defence system has arrived India from which country?

- [A] France
- [B] China
- [C] USA
- [D] Russia

**Answer:** Russia

The Indian Army has received the initial shipment of Igla-S MANPADS from Russia, as part of a comprehensive deal comprising 120 launchers and 400 missiles. These systems bolster the Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) capabilities, crucial in mountainous terrains along the northern border. With domestic production planned in India, one regiment has already deployed these advanced systems, replacing outdated Igla-1M units, in line with future indigenous VSHORAD developments.

76. Recently, which country's army launched a campaign to collect garbage from Mount Everest?

- [A] Nepal
- [B] China
- [C] India
- [D] Bhutan

**Answer:** Nepal

The Nepal Army's Mountain Cleaning Campaign 2024 at Mt. Everest involves collecting 10 tonnes of garbage and retrieving five bodies. Led by Maj. Aditya Karki, a 12-member team will start on April 14, supported by 18 Sherpas. The initiative, aiming to combat human-made pollution and climate change effects, collaborates with various bodies. Waste will be segregated, with biodegradables treated locally and non-biodegradables transported to Kathmandu. This marks the fourth annual campaign led by the Nepal Army.

77. 'Port of Baltimore', recently seen in news, is located on which river?

- [A] Wicomico River
- [B] Patapsco River
- [C] Tred Avon River
- [D] None of the Above

**Answer:** Patapsco River

The Port of Baltimore, a vital seaport on the Patapsco River in Maryland, serves as a



commercial hub connecting to the Atlantic Ocean. Despite its closure due to a bridge collapse on March 26, efforts are underway to remove containers from the stranded ship Dali, a 984-foot vessel. Once completed, it will take weeks to tow the ship and reopen the port, which ranks ninth in the U.S. by trade volume.

78. Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, recently seen in news, is located in which country?

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

**Answer:** Ukraine

Amidst ongoing conflict, Russia and Ukraine exchange accusations of launching kamikaze drones targeting Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Captured early in the war, the plant's reactors are gradually being shut down despite intermittent attempts to reconnect to the Russian energy grid. Situated near Enerhodar in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, Ukraine, the plant's six power units utilize VVER reactors. The proximity to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster site adds gravity to potential risks.

79. What is 'funding winter', recently seen in news in the context of startups?

- [A] Term used to describe a period of reduced capital inflows to startups
- [B] A season characterized by heavy snowfall that affects startup operations
- [C] A time when startups receive an influx of funding from large investors
- [D] A period marked by increased profitability for startups

**Answer:** Term used to describe a period of reduced capital inflows to startups

In 2023, investments from large foreign investors in Indian startups plummeted by 80% due to a funding winter in the country's startup ecosystem. A funding winter signifies reduced capital inflows, influenced by various factors such as geopolitical unrest and financial irregularities. This phenomenon forces startups to prioritize profit maximization, conserve working capital, and suspend expansion plans and expenditures, ultimately challenging founders to navigate through a period of financial constraint and sustainability focus.

80. C-Dome air defence system, recently seen in news, is developed by which country?

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

**Answer:** Israel

Israel deployed its ship-mounted defense system, C-Dome, for the first time. C-Dome, a naval adaptation of the Iron Dome, protects against rocket and missile threats. Utilizing radar detection and interceptors, it boasts high effectiveness. Mounted on Sa'ar 6-class corvettes, it integrates with ship radar for enhanced target detection. Operational since November 2022, C-Dome ensures comprehensive maritime defense against modern





threats, showcasing Israel's advanced military technology.

81. Recently, who won the F1 Japanese Grand Prix 2024?

- [A] Daniel Ricciardo
- [B] Logan Sargeant
- [C] Max Verstappen
- [D] Lando Norris

**Answer:** Max Verstappen

Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the Japanese Formula One Grand Prix 2024 at Suzuka, defeating teammate Sergio Perez. Carlos Sainz finished third. It's Verstappen's third win out of four races this season. He dominates F1, winning championships in 2021-2023. Only Carlos Sainz has beaten him since 2023. Verstappen leads with a 13-point gap. At 26, he holds records as the youngest F1 driver and for most wins and points in a season.

82. Recently, who organized the 'Shakti- Festival of Music and Dance'?

- [A] Sangeet Natak Akademi
- [B] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [C] Lalit Kala Akademi
- [D] UNESCO

**Answer:** Sangeet Natak Akademi

Sangeet Natak Akademi launches 'Shakti: a festival of music and dance' to revive Temple Traditions. Held during Navaratri, starting April 9, 2024, it celebrates the power of nine goddesses. The festival, under Kala Pravah, will span seven Shaktipeeths across India, from Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati, to Shaktipeeth Maa Harsidhi Temple, Ujjain.

83. What is 'Rhamphicarpa fistulosa', recently seen in news?

- [A] Black hole
- [B] Asteroid
- [C] Species of fish
- [D] Parasitic weed

**Answer:** Parasitic weed

Rice vampireweed (Rhamphicarpa fistulosa) impacts over 140,000 farm households annually in Africa, causing \$82 million in losses. It's a predominant and troublesome parasitic weed affecting rice, sorghum, and maize. Though it also affects other cereals, rice suffers the most. Current fertilizers don't control it. Resistant rice cultivars NERICA-L-40 and -31 offer hope, but further research is needed to mitigate its extensive economic and agricultural damage.

84. India recently collaborated with which organization to nurture startups in the EV battery recycling field?

- [A] European Union
- [B] World Bank
- [C] United Nation Environment program
- [D] World Trade Organization



**Answer:** European Union

The European Union and India have partnered to advance electric vehicle (EV) goals, focusing on battery recycling technologies. This collaboration under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council aims to enhance cooperation between SMEs and startups in clean and green technologies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ursula von der Leyen initiated this effort in April 2022. Marc Lemaître of the European Commission highlights the event's significance in fostering a green and circular economy.

85. Recently, which IIT have developed a nanosensor designed for the swift detection of Cytokines, proteins crucial in cell regulation?

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

**Answer:** IIT Jodhpur

Researchers at IIT Jodhpur created a nanosensor for rapid Cytokine detection, crucial in cell regulation. It aims to reduce mortality by addressing delayed diagnoses. This technology promises rapid, point-of-care health monitoring, disease diagnosis, and immune response tracking. Prof. Ajay Agarwal stated the technique shows promise for key biomarkers like IL-6, IL- $\beta$ , and TNF- $\alpha$ . Currently in development, clinical trials are imminent. This innovation could revolutionize healthcare diagnostics and patient management.

86. Recently, President of India inaugurated a two-day Homeopathic Symposium at which place?

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

**Answer:** New Delhi

On April 10, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu of India inaugurated a two-day Homoeopathy Symposium in New Delhi, organized by CCRH, to commemorate World Homoeopathy Day. She emphasized Homoeopathy's global acceptance as a simple and accessible treatment. President Murmu lauded the Ministry of AYUSH and government bodies like CCRH, National Commission for Homoeopathy, and National Institute of Homoeopathy for their pivotal roles in promoting Homoeopathy in India.

87. Who received the prestigious "Medal of Honour" at Consular Day 2024 in Chennai for promoting bilateral relations between Palau & India?

- [A] Sanjeev Jai Narain
- [B] Shachi Gurumayum
- [C] Neeraj Sharma
- [D] Amit Sharma



**Answer:** Neeraj Sharma

Neeraj A Sharma, Honorary Consul General of Palau in India, received the prestigious "Medal of Honour" from HCCD-India during Consular Day at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. The event, hosted by HCCD-India, celebrated Honorary Consuls' vital role in global relations. KL Ganju and Mohan Suresh graced the ceremony. Established in 1995, HCCD-India promotes understanding among Honorary Consuls. Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi presented the award, highlighting Honorary Consuls' contribution to India's global image.

88. Recently, which organization launched a new edition of the Girl Empowerment Mission?

- [A] DRDO
- [B] ISRO
- [C] NTPC
- [D] BHEL

**Answer:** NTPC

NTPC Limited, India's largest power company, launches the latest edition of Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM), aligned with the Government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative. GEM offers a 1-month workshop nurturing girls' imaginations and fostering opportunities. From April 2024, 3,000 underprivileged children join at 42 locations, totaling 10,000 beneficiaries. Started in 2018 with 392 participants, GEM expanded nationwide, benefitting 7,424 girls till date, despite COVID-19 challenges. 2,707 girls participated in 2023 alone.

89. Recently, which hospital becomes the first in country to procure and conduct successful piezoelectric bone conduction hearing implants?

- [A] AIIMS, Delhi
- [B] KGMU, Lucknow
- [C] Command hospital, Pune
- [D] Hinduja, Bombay

**Answer:** Command hospital, Pune

Command Hospital, Pune, achieved a milestone by being the first government hospital in India to procure and perform piezoelectric bone conduction hearing implants. The ENT department conducted successful implants in a child with congenital ear anomalies and an adult with Single Sided Deafness (SSD). As a Neurotology center of the Armed Forces Medical College, they addressed the limited outreach of the costly implant, offering a vital solution for patients with conductive/mixed hearing loss or SSD who don't benefit from traditional interventions.

90. Recently, which space organization has been directed to establish a time standard for the Moon called Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC)?

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



[D] NASA

**Answer:** NASA

NASA has been tasked with establishing Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC) as a unified standard for timekeeping on the Moon and other celestial bodies. Unlike time zones, time standards define units of time and aid in timekeeping. With lunar missions planned, a standard is crucial due to varying gravitational forces and celestial influences.

91. Canara Bank recently signed an MoU with which institution for providing financial support to startups?

[A] IIT Madras

[B] IIT Bombay

[C] IIT Delhi

[D] IIT Kanpur

**Answer:** IIT Bombay

Canara Bank and Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay, formalized collaboration via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration aims to bolster the startup sector by offering financial aid and support. Canara Bank's Canara Start-Up Scheme will provide funding for industrial units, while SINE, a renowned technology incubator, will offer full incubation and acceleration services to tech startups. Together, they seek to foster the growth and success of businesses in India.

92. What is the primary objective of 'CDP-SURAKSHA' platform, recently seen in news?

[A] To disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers

[B] To create the largest 3D map in universe

[C] To facilitate voter registration processes

[D] To provide real time updates on election results

**Answer:** To disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers

The Government of India has launched CDP-SURAKSHA, a digital platform for horticulture farmers to receive subsidies efficiently. It integrates with PM-KISAN and utilizes e-RUPI vouchers for instant subsidy disbursal. Features include UIDAI validation, eRUPI integration, and geotagging. Farmers can order planting material, contribute their share, and receive subsidies automatically. Vendors deliver materials, verified by geo-tagged media. IA releases funds upon verification, with subsidy released to IA after document submission to CDA.

93. Recently, who has been re-elected to International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the term 2025-2030?

[A] Jatin Narlikar

[B] Sudhi Choudhary

[C] Jagjit Pavadia

[D] David T. Johnson

**Answer:** Jagjit Pavadia

India's Jagjit Pavadia secures re-election to the INCB for the 2025-2030 term. The



International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is an autonomous body overseeing UN drug control treaties' implementation. Established in 1968 under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, it consists of 13 members elected by the UN Economic and Social Council every five years. The INCB's mandate encompasses the enforcement of various drug control conventions, ensuring global compliance.

94. Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Report, recently released by which organization?

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

**Answer:** World Trade Organization

The World Trade Organization's Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Report indicates early signs of trade fragmentation. In 2023, intermediate goods trade decreased by 6%, contrasting with stagnant non-intermediate trade. China's share of Asian trading partners for parts and accessories slightly dropped. Disruptions in key shipping routes, such as the Panama and Suez Canals, are challenging global trade resilience. Traffic diversion via the Cape of Good Hope adds approximately 10 days to Asia-Europe journeys.

95. Tons River, recently seen in news, is the largest and most important tributary of which river?

- [A] Yamuna
- [B] Indus
- [C] Narmada
- [D] Kaveri

**Answer:** Yamuna

Two people drowned in the Tons River while bathing in UP's Ballia, the largest tributary of the Yamuna. Originating from Bandarpunch Mountain in Uttarakhand, it traverses through Garhwal and Himachal Pradesh. Spanning 200 km, it cuts through gorges and valleys, ending at the Yamuna near Kalsi. Despite being a tributary, Tons contributes more water than the Yamuna itself. Pabbar and Asan rivers are its main tributaries, enriching the culturally significant Tons Valley inhabited by indigenous tribes.

96. Recently, who has been appointed as the head of the US-India Tax Forum by US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)?

- [A] M.N. Srinivasu
- [B] Tarun Bajaj
- [C] Naveen Aggarwal
- [D] Ajit Saxena

**Answer:** Tarun Bajaj

Former Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj, now head of the US-India Tax Forum, brings extensive finance and taxation expertise to the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF). Appointed after serving as an advisor, Bajaj's leadership aims to strengthen



economic ties between the US and India.

97. What is the main objective of India's Chandrayaan-4 mission, as announced by ISRO Chief S Somnath recently?

- [A] To collect moon rocks and soil and bring them back to Earth for scientific analysis
- [B] To establish a research station on moon
- [C] To explore water on the moon
- [D] None of the Above

**Answer:** To collect moon rocks and soil and bring them back to Earth for scientific analysis  
The primary objective of India's Chandrayaan-4 mission is to collect moon rocks and soil and bring them back to Earth for scientific analysis. The mission will also include a safe and controlled landing on the moon, successful ascent from the lunar surface, docking and undocking maneuvers in lunar orbit, and ensuring safe return of the samples back to Earth. Only three countries have achieved lunar sample return so far: the United States, the Soviet Union, and China.

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

- [A] 10.5%
- [B] 11.6%
- [C] 12.1%
- [D] 9.5%

**Answer:** 11.6%

India, accounting for 11.6% of global hepatitis cases in 2022 per WHO, faces over 35.3 million infections, with 29.8 million from hepatitis B and 5.5 million from hepatitis C. Ranking second after China, India and China together contribute 27.5% of global cases. The WHO report also highlights an increase in hepatitis-related mortality to 1.3 million deaths in 2022, with hepatitis B responsible for 83% and hepatitis C for 17% of deaths.

99. Recently, which organization has been designated as the Nodal Centre for the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)' programme by the ISRO?

- [A] Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST)
- [B] M.P Council of Science and Technology (MPCST)
- [C] Council of Science and Technology, Lucknow
- [D] Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi

**Answer:** Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST)

GUJCOST becomes ISRO's nodal center for the Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) Program. Geared towards postgraduate and final-year undergraduates in physical sciences and technology, START provides introductory online training covering various space science domains like Astronomy, Astrophysics, Heliophysics, Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy. Conducted by experts from Indian academia and ISRO centers, it aims to cultivate knowledge in space sciences among students.

100. Which institution secured the 45th rank in Engineering and Technology of





Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2024?

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

**Answer:** IIT Bombay

IIT Bombay climbed to 45th in Engineering and Technology in the 2024 QS World University Rankings, scoring 79.1/100. The QS ranks universities in 55 disciplines; results released by the UK-based agency highlight IIT Bombay's strengths in various fields including Minerals and Mining (25th), Data Science and AI (30th), Civil and Structural Engineering (42nd), and others. Notably, it improved by two places from 2023 in Engineering and Technology.

101. Recently, who has become the first Indian monk to be honoured with the American President's Gold Volunteer Service award?

- [A] Acharya Lokesh Muni
- [B] Raghaveshwara Bharathi
- [C] Vijayendra Saraswati
- [D] Bharathi Tirtha

**Answer:** Acharya Lokesh Muni

Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni is the first Indian monk to receive the American President's Gold Volunteer Service award in 2024. He is the founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati and World Peace Centre, and is recognized for his contributions to humanity and the public good. He has said that receiving the award is a matter of pride, and that it honors Indian culture, spiritual values, and Jain principles of Lord Mahavir.

102. According to World Cybercrime Index 2024, what is the rank of India in cybercrime globally?

- [A] 8th
- [B] 9th
- [C] 10th
- [D] 11th

**Answer:** 10th

An international team led by the University of Oxford and UNSW Canberra introduces the inaugural 'World Cybercrime Index'. Drawing from data collected through a survey of 92 experts, it ranks roughly 100 countries based on cybercrime prevalence. Key findings reveal concentrated threats, with Russia leading, followed by Ukraine, China, USA, Nigeria, and Romania. The score of India was recorded at 6.13 and was ranked 10th in the list of 15 countries. Cybercrime costs are projected to skyrocket, reaching \$13.82 trillion by 2028.

103. Recently, where was the first steel cutting ceremony of the Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy held?

- [A] Kutch



- [B] Chennai
- [C] Visakhapatnam
- [D] Jaisalmer

**Answer:** Visakhapatnam

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane oversaw the inaugural steel cutting of the Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam. The FSS, with a 44,000-ton displacement, will play a vital role in replenishing naval fleets with fuel, water, ammunition, and stores, bolstering operational capabilities. Aramane also initiated the augmentation of slipway and infrastructure modernization at HSL, aiming to enhance its capacity and capability for future defense projects like the Landing Platform Dock, supporting 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

104. Where was the 'Asian Wrestling Championship 2024' held?

- [A] Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- [B] Beijing, China
- [C] New Delhi, India
- [D] Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Answer:** Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

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

105. Recently, Eurasian otter species was radio-tagged in which tiger reserve, for the first time in India?

- [A] Satpura Tiger Reserve
- [B] Kanha Tiger reserve
- [C] Pench Tiger Reserve
- [D] Bandhavgarh Tiger reserve

**Answer:** Satpura Tiger Reserve

In a milestone for India, the Eurasian otter was recently radio-tagged in Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. This marks the first instance of such tagging in the country. India is also home to two other otter species: the Smooth-coated otter and the Asian small-clawed otter. The Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*) is classified as near threatened by the IUCN, with protected status under India's Wildlife Protection Act and CITES Appendix I. It boasts brown fur, webbed feet, and unique adaptations for its aquatic lifestyle.

106. Where is the world's largest hybrid renewable energy park being established?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Gujarat



- [C] Odisha
- [D] Haryana

**Answer:** Gujarat

Adani Green Energy Limited, a part of the Adani Group, is constructing the world's largest renewable energy park in Khavda, Gujarat's Kutch district. Spanning 538 square kilometers, it dwarfs Paris in size by fivefold. With a planned capacity of 30 GW and an investment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore, it currently produces 2 GW, set to expand to 6 GW by March 2025. Located just 1 km from Pakistan's border, it emphasizes solar energy, aiming to generate 81 billion units, fulfilling the electricity demands of nations like Belgium, Chile, and Switzerland.

107. Which country has signed USD 375 million deal with India in defence sector?

- [A] Philippines
- [B] Vietnam
- [C] Egypt
- [D] Malaysia

**Answer:** Philippines

India will deploy defense attaches in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Philippines, Armenia, and Poland to bolster strategic ties. This initiative aligns with India's goal to expand global partnerships amid rising geopolitical tensions. Notably, India aims to strengthen defense relations with the Philippines to counter China's assertiveness in the South China Sea. Recent deals include a USD 375 million agreement for BrahMos missiles. High-level discussions emphasize mutual security and development goals.

108. Recently, India has signed a protocol to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with which country?

- [A] Singapore
- [B] Maldives
- [C] Indonesia
- [D] Mauritius

**Answer:** Mauritius

India and Mauritius recently amended their Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to combat tax evasion and avoidance. The revision covers all incomes including capital gains and dividends. It introduces the Principal Purpose Test (PPT) to prevent misuse of treaty benefits like reduced withholding taxes. The preamble now emphasizes eliminating double taxation without enabling tax evasion. The amendment impacts cross-border investments via Mauritius, requiring consideration of BEPS MLI implications. However, it doesn't address the status of past investments.

109. What is the theme of 'International Day of Human Space Flight 2024'?

- [A] Encouraging Scientific Curiosity
- [B] Way For Space
- [C] Conservation of Outer Space



[D] Beginning of the Space Era for Mankind

**Answer:** Encouraging Scientific Curiosity

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

110. Recently, who has been appointed as the first woman high commissioner to India by Britain?

[A] Lilly Gunasekar

[B] Lindy Cameron

[C] Alicia Herbert

[D] Gill Atkinson

**Answer:** Lindy Cameron

Lindy Cameron, an Oxford alumna and former CEO of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre, becomes the first female high commissioner to India. This historic appointment highlights UK-India relations, coinciding 70 years after India appointed its first high commissioner to London. Cameron's career includes service in conflict zones like Iraq and Afghanistan, with senior positions in the UK government, emphasizing her background in international development.

111. According to Plastic Overshoot Day Report, which country has one of the lowest per capita plastic waste production rates globally?

[A] Myanmar

[B] India

[C] China

[D] Russia

**Answer:** India

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

112. What is 'VA-ResNet-50', recently seen in news?

[A] AI tool which can predicts fatal heart rhythm

[B] Newly discovered species of bamboo plant

[C] Vaccine of Tuberculosis

[D] Black hole

**Answer:** AI tool which can predicts fatal heart rhythm

A study in Leicester led by Dr. Joseph Barker and Prof. Andre Ng used AI to detect



ventricular arrhythmia (VA), a deadly cardiac disorder. The AI tool, VA-ResNet-50, accurately identified VA 80% of the time, analyzing 270 adults' ECGs from 2014 to 2022. Ventricular arrhythmia, if untreated, can cause sudden death. Published in the European Heart Journal – Digital Health, the study highlights AI's potential in diagnosing critical heart conditions.

113. Khavda Renewable Energy Park, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Gujarat

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

114. Which country has recently banned the media from reporting on activities of political parties and associations?

- [A] Mali
- [B] Rwanda
- [C] Kenya
- [D] Somalia

**Answer:** Mali

Mali recently prohibited media coverage of political parties and associations. The landlocked nation is situated in western Africa, primarily within the Sahel region, acting as a transition between the Sahara Desert and humid savannas. It shares borders with Algeria (north), Niger, and Burkina Faso (east), Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea (south), and Senegal and Mauritania (west).

115. Fort Emmanuel, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Kerala

History buffs aim to preserve the laterite-brick ruins of Fort Emmanuel, constructed by the Portuguese in 1503 at Fort Kochi Beach, Kerala. Originally a symbol of alliance between the Maharajah of Kochi and Portugal, it housed the town within its walls. Dutch forces took over in 1683, followed by British control in 1795. By 1947, it lay in ruins, signifying its historical importance amidst foreign occupation.



116. Which organization recently developed a sustainable hydrogel to remove microplastics from water?

- [A] Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- [B] Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- [C] Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- [D] Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

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

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) developed a novel hydrogel to remove microplastics from water. This hydrogel, with a unique polymer network, binds and degrades microplastics using UV light. It comprises three polymer layers: chitosan, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyaniline, combined with copper substitute polyoxometalate nanoclusters acting as catalysts. Microplastics, typically less than 5mm, are categorized as primary (from commercial products) and secondary (resulting from larger plastic breakdown due to environmental factors).

117. Recently, which institution has issued a drug safety alert over the use of the anti-inflammatory drug Nimesulide?

- [A] Indian Council of Medical Research
- [B] Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission
- [C] Indian Veterinary Research Institute
- [D] Institute for Communicative and Cognitive Neurosciences

**Answer:** Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) issued a safety alert regarding Nimesulide, an anti-inflammatory drug. IPC, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, updates drug standards regularly. It publishes the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), setting standards for drug identity, purity, and strength for human and animal healthcare. Additionally, IPC promotes the rational use of generic medicines by publishing the National Formulary of India.

118. Mount Etna, recently seen in news, is located in which region of Italy?

- [A] Sardinia
- [B] Aosta Valley
- [C] Sicily
- [D] Tuscany

**Answer:** Sicily

Mount Etna, Europe's largest and most active volcano, recently produced rare volcanic vortex rings, where gas, mainly water vapor, forms perfect circles when released from its crater. This phenomenon, first noted in 1724, can last up to 10 minutes. Etna's circular vent is a key characteristic. Similar events have been observed at various volcanoes worldwide. Situated on Sicily's east coast, Etna boasts Italy's highest peak south of the Alps.

119. What is the primary objective of Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), recently seen



in news?

- [A] Limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels
- [B] Promoting organic farming in North India
- [C] Promoting sustainable exploration of marine resources
- [D] To promote corporate social responsibility

**Answer:** Limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels

The Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), established in 2015, supports companies in setting Science-Based Targets (SBTs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement. A recent decision allowing carbon offsetting for Scope 3 emissions has sparked controversy. SBTi verifies targets independently, ensuring alignment with the latest climate science. It distinguishes between near- and long-term goals, essential for significant progress by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

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

- [A] 3.13 million hectares
- [B] 1.23 million hectares
- [C] 3.25 million hectares
- [D] 2.33 million hectares

**Answer:** 2.33 million hectares

Since 2000, India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover, as per Global Forest Watch (GFW). GFW, an initiative of the World Resources Institute (WRI), utilizes satellite data to monitor forests globally in near real-time. It's user-friendly, allowing custom mapping, trend analysis, alerts, and data downloads. GFW primarily references tree cover for assessing forest extent, loss, and gain, as it's easily measurable using medium-resolution satellite imagery.

121. What is the Hubble tension, recently seen in news?

- [A] A discrepancy in measurements of the distance between Earth and the Hubble Space Telescope
- [B] A disagreement among astronomers about the age of the universe
- [C] A discrepancy in measurements of the rate of expansion of the universe
- [D] A conflict between scientists and the Hubble Space Telescope

**Answer:** A discrepancy in measurements of the rate of expansion of the universe

In a recent study, German and British scientists proposed a radical explanation for the Hubble tension. This refers to a conflict between measurements of the universe's expansion rate, known as the Hubble constant ( $H_0$ ). Determined through the cosmic distance ladder and the cosmic microwave background (CMB), discrepancies exist. The tension, indicating potential unknown physics or measurement errors, underscores the importance of resolving it for a deeper understanding of the universe's expansion and underlying principles.

122. Paharia Tribe, recently seen in the news, mainly speaks which language?





- [A] Magh
- [B] Malto
- [C] Kui
- [D] Megam

**Answer:** Malto

The Pahariya tribe in Jharkhand aims to achieve seed independence by depositing native varieties in community-led banks. Derived from "pahar," meaning hills, they inhabit Jharkhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha. Their livelihood includes jhum cultivation. Divided into Mal and Shauria Pahariyas, they predominantly speak Malto. Worshiping household deities like Mait and Maa, they have a unique religious pantheon. The Pahariya language reflects influences from Havli and Chharisgarhi.

123. Special Olympics Bharat (SOB), recently seen in news, is a National Sports Federation recognized by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
- [B] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Power
- [D] Ministry of Defence

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

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

124. Longte Festival, recently seen in the news, celebrated by the Nyishi tribe of which state?

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

**Answer:** Arunachal Pradesh

The Longte Festival, celebrated by the Nyishi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh. It's unique among tribal festivals as it prohibits animal sacrifice. Instead, the Altar is adorned with feathers and bamboo flowers. Longte Yullo, one of the oldest Nyishi festivals, is celebrated across various Nyishi clans. The Nyishi tribe, the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh, boasts rich traditions and identifies as descendants of Abutani in the Tani group.

125. Kuchipudi dance, recently seen in the news, is a classical dance form of which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Andhra Pradesh



- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Uttar Pradesh

**Answer:** Andhra Pradesh

Kuchipudi, an Indian classical dance originating from Andhra Pradesh, faces a survival crisis due to dwindling patronage. Historically, it evolved from itinerant actors into a refined form under Siddhendra Yogi in the 15th century. It's known for intricate footwork, graceful movements, and storytelling. Performers must master Sanskrit, Telugu, music, and manuscripts. Kuchipudi is deeply rooted in Vaishnavism, often depicting stories of Krishna, and features unique elements like Tarangam, performed on a brass plate to Carnatic beats.

126. What was the primary objective of 'Operation Meghdoot', recently mentioned in news?

- [A] To establish a military base in Ladakh
- [B] To capture strategic heights in the Himalayas
- [C] To engage in a peacekeeping mission
- [D] To secure the Siachen Glacier

**Answer:** To secure the Siachen Glacier

The Indian Army marked 40 years since 'Operation Meghdoot,' securing the Siachen Glacier, vital for its strategic location in Northern Ladakh. Launched in 1984, it responded to Pakistan's territorial claims, establishing India's presence at the world's highest battlefield. Led by Lieutenant Generals Chibber and Hoon, along with Major General Sharma, the operation showcased remarkable coordination between the Army and Air Force, resulting in India gaining control of Siachen Glacier.

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

- [A] Rashmi Kumari
- [B] N. Nirmala
- [C] Kajal Kumari
- [D] Sharmila Singh

**Answer:** Rashmi Kumari

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

128. Recently, which state is leading in implementing the Green Credit Programme with over 500 land parcels for tree plantation?

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



**Answer:** Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh is leading in implementing the Green Credit Programme, with 500+ approved land parcels for tree plantation across 10 states in two months. 10,000 hectares of land are earmarked. MP has the highest approved degraded forest land (954 hectares), followed by Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Assam. Public sector undertakings will carry out plantations to earn green credits. The program focuses on ecosystem services, promoting non-carbon environmental actions, benefiting local soil, water, and ecosystems.

129. Recently, which country has become the first country to roll out a Vaccine for Meningitis?

- [A] Nigeria
- [B] Algeria
- [C] Botswana
- [D] Malaysia

**Answer:** Nigeria

Nigeria leads the global fight against meningitis, introducing the groundbreaking Men5CV vaccine, endorsed by WHO, targeting five strains in one shot. This surpasses previous vaccines, vital as bacterial meningitis, prevalent in Africa, poses serious health risks. Africa's "meningitis belt," including Nigeria, faces escalating cases, with a 50% rise reported last year by WHO. Nigeria's pioneering move sets a precedent for broader adoption worldwide, marking a significant stride in public health.

130. Recently, which Indian stadium becomes the first BCCI-accredited venue with a new 'hybrid pitch'?

- [A] Wankhede stadium, Maharashtra
- [B] Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium
- [C] Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow
- [D] Barabati Stadium, Cuttack

**Answer:** Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium

The Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium, Himachal Pradesh becomes the first BCCI-accredited venue with a groundbreaking 'hybrid pitch' by Netherlands-based SISGrass. This innovation combines natural turf with 5% polymer fiber, endorsed by the ICC for T20 and 50-over matches. The pitch promises resilience, durability, and consistent bounce, easing maintenance burdens. The Universal machine, employed in Dharamshala, will replicate this technology in Ahmedabad and Mumbai, following successful installations at iconic English grounds like Lord's and The Oval.

131. Recently, who has become the first English woman to be honoured as Wisden's leading cricketer in the world?

- [A] Danielle Wyatt
- [B] Heather Knight
- [C] Nat Sciver-Brunt



[D] Amy Jones

**Answer:** Nat Sciver-Brunt

Nat Sciver-Brunt, the first England woman honoured as Wisden's top cricketer, topped Joe Wisden's awards. Harry Brook and Mark Wood also named among Wisden's five cricketers of the year. Sciver-Brunt nominated for stellar 2023 form, reclaiming top spot in women's cricket.

132. Bumblebees, recently seen in news, are most commonly found in which type of climate?

[A] Temperate climate

[B] Polar climate

[C] Tropical climate

[D] Equatorial climate

**Answer:** Temperate climate

A recent study reveals bumblebees' resilience to common pesticides. Belonging to the family Apidae, they're large, hairy, and social insects, alongside honey bees. Found worldwide, mainly in temperate zones, with over 250 species, they excel in nectar collection and plant pollination. This resilience highlights their importance in ecosystems and agriculture, offering hope for sustainable pollination despite pesticide use.

133. Recently, where was an International humanitarian conference for Sudan held?

[A] London

[B] Paris

[C] Moscow

[D] Beijing

**Answer:** Paris

An International Humanitarian Conference convened in Paris on April 15, 2024, aimed to aid Sudan amidst conflict between its army and rebel paramilitary groups. Organized by France, Germany, and the EU, in response to a UN appeal, it drew representatives from 58 states, regional organizations like the African Union, and NGOs. The event sought funds to assist Sudan and neighboring nations. Notable attendees included UN agencies, the World Bank, IMF, and Arab Development Bank.

134. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who recently announced his resignation, belongs to which country?

[A] Egypt

[B] Malaysia

[C] Vietnam

[D] Singapore

**Answer:** Singapore

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will resign on May 15, 2024, with Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong succeeding him. Wong, the world's highest-paid leader, will earn 2.2 million Singapore dollars yearly. Lee became PM in 2004, succeeding Goh



Chok Tong, while Lee Kuan Yew was the first PM. Lawrence Wong will be sworn in as Singapore's fourth Prime Minister on May 15, 2024.

135. Derek Underwood, who recently passed away, was associated with which sports?

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

**Answer:** Cricket

Derek Underwood, England's leading wicket-taker and esteemed left-arm spinner, has died. He claimed 297 wickets in 86 Test matches and 2465 wickets in 676 first-class cricket games. Underwood held the presidency of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in 2008 and was honored with induction into the ICC Hall of Fame in 2009. His legacy extends beyond his remarkable achievements on the field, leaving an indelible mark on cricket history.

136. Which day is celebrated as 'World Hemophilia Day' every year?

- [A] 16 April
- [B] 17 April
- [C] 18 April
- [D] 19 April

**Answer:** 17 April

World Hemophilia Day, observed annually on April 17, raises awareness about hemophilia and bleeding disorders. It highlights the rare blood disorder's impact on clotting and prolonged bleeding due to clotting factor deficiency. The 2024 theme, "Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders," underscores universal treatment access regardless of condition, gender, age, or location, aiming for inclusive care for individuals with inherited bleeding disorders and honoring community volunteers.

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

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

**Answer:** ISRO

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

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

- [A] 5.1%



[B] 6.8%

[C] 7.1%

[D] 4.5%

**Answer:** 6.8%

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

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

[A] 2025

[B] 2027

[C] 2030

[D] 2035

**Answer:** 2030

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

140. Recently, which Indian Naval Ship seized 940 kgs of narcotics in the Arabian Sea as part of an operation led by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)?

[A] INS Kaveri

[B] INS Shakti

[C] INS Talwar

[D] INS Veer

**Answer:** INS Talwar

INS Talwar, a vessel of the Indian Navy, intercepted 940 kg of drugs in the Arabian Sea under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) operation. CMF, headquartered in Bahrain, spans 3.2 million square miles of waters, safeguarding shipping lanes. It combats terrorism, piracy, fosters regional cooperation, and ensures maritime safety. CMF collaborates with partners to enhance security, build maritime capabilities, and responds to humanitarian crises.

141. Veeranam Lake, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Kerala

[C] Maharashtra

[D] Odisha



**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

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

142. Which organization developed the KAVACH system, recently seen in the news?

- [A] Power Grid Corporation of India (POWER GRID)
- [B] Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)
- [C] National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)
- [D] NTPC Limited

**Answer:** Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)

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

143. Bhandasar Jain Temple, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Rajasthan

The Bhandasar Jain Temple, a ghee-made marvel in Bikaner, Rajasthan, was built by Jain merchant Bhandasa Oswal. Dedicated to the 5th Tirthankara, Sumatinatha, it's under Archaeological Survey of India protection. During a drought, 40,000 kilograms of ghee substituted water in its construction. Its red sandstone structure, adorned with intricate yellow-stone carvings, stands three stories tall. The sanctum is crowned with a shikhara, while ornate paintings and frescoes depict Tirthankaras' lives.

144. Hakki Pikki tribe, recently seen in the news, is predominantly found in which state?

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

**Answer:** Karnataka

Members of the Hakki Pikki tribe, predominantly found in Karnataka, were caught in violence in Sudan. The name "Hakki Pikki" means "bird catchers" in Kannada. In northern





Karnataka and Maharashtra, they are known as Mel-Shikari. Socially divided into four clans resembling the Hindu caste system, they traditionally followed semi-nomadic lifestyles, relying on hunting and begging. However, with wildlife laws, they now depend on forest produce and trade spices and herbal oils.

145. 'Probe 3 Mission', recently seen in news, is related to which space agency?

- [A] China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- [B] Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- [C] European Space Agency (ESA)
- [D] National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Answer:** European Space Agency (ESA)

The European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission is scheduled to launch in September 2024, using India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The mission will see two satellites fly together in space, 144 meters apart, and aligned with the sun. The satellites will block each other's solar disk, allowing researchers to see the sun's faint corona, or surrounding atmosphere. This will be the first precision formation flying mission in the world.

146. Which countries recently signed a treaty to recognize whales as legal persons?

- [A] Australia and Fiji
- [B] New Zealand and the Cook Islands
- [C] Japan and South Korea
- [D] Canada and Greenland

**Answer:** New Zealand and the Cook Islands

New Zealand and the Cook Islands signed a treaty recognizing whales as legal persons, following New Zealand's declaration of the Whanganui River as a legal entity. Legal persons, whether human or non-human entities, possess rights akin to individuals, including the ability to sue, be sued, own property, and enter contracts. This marks a significant step in environmental and legal spheres, acknowledging the intrinsic value of non-human life forms and natural entities.

147. What is the official name of Israel's operation for intercepting drones and missiles launched by Iran?

- [A] Operation Iron Shield
- [B] Operation Punch
- [C] Operation Arrow
- [D] Operation Eagle

**Answer:** Operation Iron Shield

Israel's successful interception of Iranian drones and missiles is dubbed "Operation Iron Shield." Its defense includes Arrow-2, Arrow-3, David's Sling, and Iron Dome systems. Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 target medium to long-range missiles, while David's Sling focuses on short to medium and medium to long-range ones. Iron Dome, the world's first missile defense system, handles short-range rockets and UAVs, adeptly managing multiple threats simultaneously.



148. Jansen's, checkerboard and moon, recently discovered in the Laccadive Sea, belongs to which species?

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

**Answer:** Fish

Recently discovered in the Laccadive Sea near India's southwest coast, three new fish species—Jansen's, checkerboard, and moon—are capable of using tools. They utilize live or dead coral structures as anvils to crack open sea urchin shells for food, showcasing specialized behaviors. This behavior challenges the perception of fish intelligence. The Laccadive Sea, also known as the Lakshadweep Sea, borders India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, encompassing 303,476 square miles within the Indian Ocean.

149. Which institution recently green lighted investments in the country's Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIS)?

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

**Answer:** RBI

The Reserve Bank of India permits Foreign Institutional Investors to invest in Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs), aiming to fund environmental projects. SGrBs are debt securities issued by governments to support climate initiatives. The Union Budget 2022-23 introduced SGrBs, with the government outlining a framework based on ICMA principles: use of proceeds, project selection, fund management, and reporting. This move aligns with global efforts to finance sustainable development.

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

- [A] Mahasweta Devi
- [B] Mamta Ji Sagar
- [C] Anita Desai
- [D] Manjit Singh

**Answer:** Mamta Ji Sagar

Kannada poet Mamta Ji Sagar received the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW) in April 2024 for her literary contributions. She's also known as a playwright and academic. Sagar, a facilitator at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, described her journey of applying for the award, which began eight months prior. The ceremony took place during the inaugural Congress of the World Organization of Authors in Abuja, Nigeria, hosted by the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) Writers Village, established by Chinua Achebe in 1981.



151. Noyyal River, recently seen in news due to pollution, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

The Noyyal River in Tamil Nadu originates from the Velliangiri hills, flowing through Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Karur, and Erode districts before joining the Cauvery River. It faces pollution and choking due to plastics and sewage. Historical relics from Chalukya and Chola periods line its banks. Restoration efforts, aided by the Central Government's National River Restoration Fund, managed by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

152. What is the theme of 'World Heritage Day 2024'?

- [A] Discover and Experience Diversity
- [B] Heritage Changes
- [C] Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures
- [D] Heritage and Climate

**Answer:** Discover and Experience Diversity

April 18 marks 'World Heritage Day,' honoring cultural sites globally. It's also 'International Day for Monuments and Sites,' stressing heritage preservation. Recognized by UNESCO, it celebrates significant cultural and natural sites. In 2024, the theme is "Discover and Experience Diversity," urging reflection on our global treasures. It emphasizes understanding diverse cultures, traditions, and ecosystems, fostering appreciation for our shared heritage.

153. Tiranga Barfi, recently got a GI tag, belongs to which city of Uttar Pradesh?

- [A] Ayodhya
- [B] Lucknow
- [C] Kanpur
- [D] Varanasi

**Answer:** Varanasi

Tiranga Barfi of Varanasi linked with India's independence, attained Geographical Indication (GI) status. Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft from Varanasi also received GI recognition. The GI Registry Office in Chennai listed 75 new products from Uttar Pradesh, including these. Varanasi now boasts 34 GI products, contributing to Uttar Pradesh's total of 75. Other items like Bareilly Zardozi and Tharu Embroidery also gained GI registration, bringing the state's total to 75, a record.

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

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



[D] Odisha

**Answer:** Kerala

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

155. Leaf Litter Frog, recently seen in the news, is primarily found in which forest?

[A] White River National Forest

[B] Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest

[C] Kukrail Reserve Forest

[D] Norway spruce forests

**Answer:** Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest

Scientists recently discovered that Leaf Litter Frogs emit ultrasonic sounds as a defense against predators. These high-frequency screams, inaudible to humans, are a survival strategy for the most abundant frog species in forest communities. Found in Brazilian Atlantic rainforest, they inhabit leaf litter and low vegetation. Females are the largest at 64mm. Despite their unique adaptation, they are categorized as "Least Concern" by the IUCN. Ultrasonic waves exceed human hearing frequencies.

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

[A] Telangana

[B] Kerala

[C] Gujarat

[D] Odisha

**Answer:** Telangana

Archaeologists uncovered a unique Iron Age megalithic site at Ooragutta near Bandala village in SS Tadvai mandal, Mulugu district, Telangana. The Iron Age, spanning from 1200 B.C. to 600 B.C., marked a pivotal shift in human history with the advent of iron tools. This period witnessed significant advancements in agriculture, notably with the introduction of iron plows, enhancing farming efficiency. Ironwork originated in Turkey before spreading across Europe, revolutionizing metalworking practices.

157. Which government institution recently signed a record 125 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) in FY 2023-24?

[A] Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

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

[C] Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)

[D] National Savings Institute

**Answer:** Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)



The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) achieved a record 125 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers in FY 2023-24, comprising 86 Unilateral APAs (UAPAs) and 39 Bilateral APAs (BAPAs). This marks a 31% increase from the previous year. Total APAs since inception reached 641 (506 UAPAs, 135 BAPAs). The highest number of BAPAs was signed, enhancing tax certainty for nine years and easing business for Multinational Enterprises with cross-border transactions.

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

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

**Answer:** Ministry of Finance

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

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

- [A] World Bank
- [B] United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- [C] United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- [D] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Answer:** United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released the 2024 State of the World's Population report in April 2024. India leads with a population of 144.17 crore, expected to double in 77 years. 68% aged 15-64, with a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0. Life expectancy at birth is 71 and 74 years for men and women respectively. Child marriage rates were 23%, and women with disabilities face up to 10 times more gender-based violence. Marginalized communities are largely ignored despite 30 years of SRH progress.

160. Recently, which IIT has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility "on wheels"?

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

**Answer:** IIT Madras

IIT Madras launched India's first mobile medical device calibration facility to enhance



healthcare accessibility. Developed under the Anaivarukkum IITM initiative, it addresses the critical need for accurate calibration of medical instruments for precise diagnosis and treatment. This initiative aligns with UN SDG 3, aiming for universal healthcare. Prof. Kamakoti emphasized its cost-effectiveness and scalability, ensuring quality healthcare even in remote areas.

161. Recently, which institute played a crucial role in the Surya Tilak Project at Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh?

- [A] Indian Institute of Astrophysics
- [B] Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- [C] IIT Delhi
- [D] IIT Kanpur

**Answer:** Indian Institute of Astrophysics

The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), under the Department of Science and Technology, played a pivotal role in the Surya Tilak Project at Ayodhya. The project aimed to bring sunlight onto the forehead of Sri Ram Lalla at noon on Sri Ram Navami. IIA's team calculated sun positions, designed the optical system, and aligned it on-site. They also identified Ram Navami dates for a 19-year cycle and estimated sky positions accordingly.

162. Which countries are the native habitats of the Gray Slender Loris, recently rescued in Goa by forest officials?

- [A] India and Sri Lanka
- [B] Nepal and Bhutan
- [C] Bangladesh and Myanmar
- [D] Poland and Ireland

**Answer:** India and Sri Lanka

A Gray Slender Loris was rescued in North Goa by forest officials. The gray slender loris (*Loris lydekkerianus*) is native to southern India and central, north-central, and east-central Sri Lanka. It lives in subtropical and tropical dry forests, and subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests. It's also commonly found in the tropical scrub and deciduous forests, and dense hedgerow plantations bordering farmlands. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies the gray slender loris as Least Concern. The gray slender Loris is a small primate that's part of the oldest and most primitive group of primates, called prosimians.

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

- [A] Chandipur, Odisha
- [B] Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Pokhran, Rajasthan
- [D] Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

**Answer:** Chandipur, Odisha

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the



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

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

- [A] Keep your liver healthy and disease-free
- [B] Be Vigilant, Get Regular Liver Check-Ups
- [C] keep your liver healthy and disease-free
- [D] Spreading awareness about liver-related issues

**Answer:** Keep your liver healthy and disease-free

On April 19th, World Liver Day promotes liver health awareness globally. This year's theme, "Keep your liver healthy and disease-free," highlights preventive measures and regular check-ups. The initiative aims to educate about liver-related disorders, encourage lifestyle changes, and support affected individuals. By fostering proactive approaches, the campaign empowers people to make informed choices, prioritizing their liver's well-being through early detection and healthy habits.

165. Lakshmana Tirtha River, recently seen in news, is tributary of which river?

- [A] Godavari
- [B] Krishna
- [C] Narmada
- [D] Kaveri

**Answer:** Kaveri

Severe drought and intense heat have caused the complete drying up of the Lakshmana Tirtha River, a tributary of the Kaveri in Karnataka. Originating in the Brahmagiri hills, it flows eastward before merging with the Kaveri River at Krishna Raja Sagara Lake. The famous Lakshmanatirtha Falls, or Irupu Falls, adorns its path, near Kerala's border. The Kaveri River, originating at Talakaveri, is sacred to Hindus and empties into the Bay of Bengal at Poompuhar, Tamil Nadu.

166. What is GPS spoofing, recently seen in the news?

- [A] Enhancing GPS accuracy
- [B] Broadcasting exact location
- [C] Manipulating GPS receivers with false signals
- [D] Enhancing privacy of individual

**Answer:** Manipulating GPS receivers with false signals

Israel reportedly utilized GPS spoofing to disrupt Iran's missile targeting by interfering with GPS navigation signals. This cyberattack involves broadcasting false GPS signals, misleading receivers into providing inaccurate location data. GPS spoofing exploits weaknesses in satellite signals, posing significant threats to navigation and various





industries like logistics, telecommunications, and defense. Unlike jamming, spoofing is more sophisticated and potentially catastrophic, highlighting the critical importance of safeguarding GPS systems.

167. Dragonfly rotorcraft mission, recently seen in news, is associated with which space organization?

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

**Answer:** NASA

NASA confirmed the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's moon Titan with a \$3.35 billion budget, launching in July 2028. It's a "dual quadcopter" exploring various locations, mainly on the moon's surface, with a radioisotope power system. Scheduled to arrive in 2034, it will search for prebiotic chemical processes, resembling early Earth conditions. This marks NASA's first scientific vehicle on another planetary body. Titan, Saturn's largest moon, boasts an Earth-like liquid cycle and a thick atmosphere.

168. Recently, Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) has signed an MoU with which institute for collaborative research and training?

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

**Answer:** IIT Kanpur

The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur signed an MoU for collaborative research and training. Lieutenant General Daljit Singh and Professor S. Ganesh signed the agreement. Aimed at improving soldiers' health in remote areas, the partnership will focus on research and technology development to address health challenges in inaccessible regions.

169. Recently, India delivered BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to which country?

- [A] Sweden
- [B] Philippines
- [C] Egypt
- [D] Vietnam

**Answer:** Philippines

India delivered BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines under a \$375 million deal signed in 2022. BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture of India's DRDO, signed the contract with the Philippines in January 2022 for the supply of Shore Based Anti-Ship Missile System. India's arms sales this year totaled Rs 21,000 crore, according to Prime Minister of India.

170. Mount Ruang, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?



- [A] Malaysia
- [B] India
- [C] Indonesia
- [D] Russia

**Answer:** Indonesia

Mount Ruang, a stratovolcano in Indonesia's North Sulawesi province, recently erupted, sending an ash cloud over a mile high. Standing at 10,932 feet, it boasts a two-mile-wide caldera. Stratovolcanoes, like Ruang, are tall, steep, and cone-shaped, often found near subduction zones. They account for about 60% of Earth's volcanoes, characterized by explosive eruptions due to cooler, more viscous lavas. Ruang's summit typically features a small crater, sometimes filled with water or ice.

171. Clouded Tiger Cat, recently seen in the news, is primarily found in which region?

- [A] Southern Central American and Andean Mountain chains
- [B] Appalachian Highlands
- [C] Asian rainforests
- [D] European Alps

**Answer:** Southern Central American and Andean Mountain chains

A new species of tiger cat, the clouded tiger cat (*Leopardus pardinoides*) is recently discovered in Brazil, faces threats from deforestation and illegal hunting. Tiger cats, also known as oncillas, are small spotted cats native to Central and South America, weighing between 1.5 to 3 kilograms. The clouded tiger cat, found in southern Central American and Andean Mountain chains, has distinct features including long tail, short-round ears, and rich reddish/orangish/grayish-yellow fur with 'cloudy' rosettes.

172. Recently, what does World Health Organization (WHO) term pathogens that transmit through air?

- [A] Waterborne pathogens
- [B] Infectious respiratory particles
- [C] Swine flu
- [D] Parkinson syndrome

**Answer:** Infectious respiratory particles

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

173. Raman Subba Row, who passed away recently, was associated with which sports?

- [A] Hockey
- [B] Football



[C] Cricket

[D] Table Tennis

**Answer:** Cricket

Former England Test batsman Raman Subba Row passed away at 92. England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed his demise, honoring him as England's oldest living men's Test cricketer. Subba Row began his cricketing journey at Cambridge University, later joining Surrey and Northamptonshire. Despite not securing a permanent spot at Surrey, he captained Northamptonshire in 1958. He earned 13 England caps during his remarkable career, leaving a lasting legacy in the cricketing world.

174. Capri city, recently seen in news, is located in which country?

[A] Iraq

[B] France

[C] Italy

[D] Russia

**Answer:** Italy

The G-7 foreign ministers convened in Capri, Italy from April 17-19, 2024, led by Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani. Amid Iran's attack on Israel and ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, they issued three communiques condemning Iran's actions and pledging sanctions. Representatives from EU joined. The ministers urged de-escalation and called upon Iran and Israel to prevent further conflict. Italy, as G7 chair, hosted the crucial diplomatic gathering.

175. Nagorno-Karabakh Region, recently seen in the news, is located in which mountainous region?

[A] South Caucasus Range

[B] Sayans Range

[C] Verkhoyansk Range

[D] Chersky Range

**Answer:** South Caucasus Range

Russian peacekeepers are withdrawing from Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan regained control from Armenian separatists. Nagorno-Karabakh, also Artsakh, is a mountainous region in the South Caucasus, claimed by both Azerbaijan and Armenia since 1917. Although internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, it's predominantly inhabited by ethnic Armenians with their own government. Both Armenians and Azerbaijanis have historical and religious ties to the region, leading to ongoing tension.

176. Which ministry recently released the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education 2024 titled 'Aadharshila'?

[A] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

[B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[C] Ministry of Home Affairs

[D] Ministry of Women and Child Development



**Answer:** Ministry of Women and Child Development

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education 2024, named 'Aadharshila', aligned with the National Education Policy 2020. This 48-week curriculum caters to children aged three to six in anganwadis. Developed by a committee including various ministries, NCERT, and civil society organizations, it emphasizes foundational learning.

177. The Shompen Tribe, recently in the news, primarily resides in which region?

- [A] Diu Island
- [B] Netrani Island
- [C] Lakshadweep Island
- [D] Great Nicobar Island

**Answer:** Great Nicobar Island

Shompen, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group, cast their first Lok Sabha Election vote. Residing in the dense tropical rainforests of Great Nicobar Island, they belong to the Mongoloid group. With an estimated population of 229 according to the 2011 Census, they are hunters and gatherers, living a semi-nomadic life. Despite not being colonized in defined reserve forests, they sustain their lifestyle by hunting wild pig, python, monitor lizard, and crocodile.

178. Which day is celebrated as 'National Civil Service Day' every year?

- [A] 20 April
- [B] 21 April
- [C] 22 April
- [D] 23 April

**Answer:** 21 April

National Civil Services Day is celebrated on April 21 annually in India to honor civil servants, the nation's administrative backbone. It commemorates Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 1947 address to probationary officers, calling them 'the steel frame of India.' The day involves recognizing and motivating civil servants, evaluating departmental performance, and presenting awards for excellence in public administration, reaffirming their commitment to serving citizens.

179. Shahid Beheshti port, recently seen in news, is located in which country?

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

**Answer:** Iran

During his visit to Iran, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar discussed establishing a long-term cooperation framework for Chabahar port with Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash. Chabahar, Iran's first deepwater port at the Gulf of Oman, is crucial for global trade. It's part of the proposed International North-South



Transport Corridor (INSTC), with two ports: Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari. India's investment is focused on Shahid Beheshti port.

180. Which city's airport has won the prestigious 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax?

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

**Answer:** Hyderabad

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) won the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany, on April 17. This highlights the staff's exceptional service quality across various fronts, recognized for attitude, friendliness, and efficiency. The accolade underscores their dedication in enhancing the overall passenger experience, covering roles from customer help to security and food services.

181. Global Financial Stability Report, recently released by which organization?

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

**Answer:** International Monetary Fund

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its latest Global Financial Stability Report, a biannual assessment evaluating the stability of global financial markets and emerging-market financing. Published in April and October, the report scrutinizes current financial conditions, highlighting potential risks such as imbalances in the financial and structural realms. It aims to address threats to global financial stability and assess access to financing for emerging-market nations.

182. What is the theme of 'World Earth Day 2024'?

- [A] Invest in Our Planet
- [B] Planet vs Plastics
- [C] Climate action
- [D] Restore Our Earth

**Answer:** Planet vs Plastics

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. World Earth Day, April 22, 2024, focuses on "Planet vs Plastics," highlighting the urgent need to address plastic pollution. EARTHDAY.ORG calls for a 60% reduction in plastic production by 2040 for planetary health. Originating in 1970 from Senator Gaylord Nelson and Harvard student Denis Hayes, Earth Day responds to environmental degradation, catalyzed by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. This year's event falls on Monday, emphasizing global action against plastic pollution.



183. Recently, which region of India is being considered for the prestigious World Craft City (WCC) title by the World Crafts Council International (WCCI)?

- [A] Srinagar
- [B] Kochi
- [C] Moradabad
- [D] Udaipur

**Answer:** Srinagar

The World Crafts Council International (WCCI) has identified Srinagar as a potential candidate for the World Craft City (WCC) designation from India this year. The WCCI is a Kuwait-based non-profit organization that promotes fellowship, economic development, and exchange programs. The WCCI has inspected several clusters where artisans are working on local crafts like Pashmina shawls, carpets, and papier mâché.

184. Indelible ink, recently seen in the Lok Sabha elections, is prepared by using which chemical?

- [A] Sodium Nitrate
- [B] Silver Nitrate
- [C] Potassium Nitrate
- [D] Sodium Chlorite

**Answer:** Silver Nitrate

As Lok Sabha elections approach, the iconic symbol of Indian polls, a purple-black indelible ink mark on the left index finger, becomes ubiquitous. The ink, containing silver nitrate, remains visible under UV light and resists soap and liquids for up to 72 hours. Manufactured by CSIR and licensed to Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd. since 1962, it's exported to over 25 countries. Mandated by the Representation of the People Act (RoPA) of 1951, it ensures electoral integrity.

185. Seng Khihlang festival, recently seen in news, is celebrated in which state?

- [A] Meghalaya
- [B] Sikkim
- [C] Mizoram
- [D] Nagaland

**Answer:** Meghalaya

The 34th Seng Khihlang festival concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya. Hosted by the Seng Khasi Sein Raij, it unifies followers of the Khasi Indigenous Faith. A highlight is the exchange of the Monolith, symbolizing unity. This year, Wahiajer received it from Seng Khasi Shaid Shaid. Khasi people, indigenous to Meghalaya and parts of Assam and Bangladesh, celebrate their culture and faith during Seng Khihlang, showcasing their vibrant community.

186. Thrissur Pooram , a grand temple festival, is primarily associated with which state?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Maharashtra



[C] Kerala

[D] Tamil Nadu

**Answer:** Kerala

Thrissur Pooram, a grand temple festival celebrated globally, embodies Kerala's rich culture and diversity. Rooted in tradition, it unites people of all backgrounds with music, processions, fairs, and fireworks. Lasting seven days, the highlight is the sixth day in the Malayalam month of Medam, coinciding with the Pooram star. Established in 1796 by Shakthan Thampuran, it ensures the continuity of temple festivals. This year, Thrissur Pooram falls on April 20, showcasing Kerala's vibrant heritage.

187. Recently, Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Bhagwan Mahavir Nirvana Mahotsav at which place?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Chennai

[C] Hyderabad

[D] Mumbai

**Answer:** New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav in New Delhi on Mahaveer Jayanti. He paid homage to Bhagwan Mahaveer, witnessed a dance drama by school children, and released a commemorative stamp and coin. Addressing the gathering, he praised the youth's dedication to Mahaveer's values, thanked the Jain community, and emphasized the event's significance amidst India's democratic process and constitutional milestones. Modi highlighted India's enduring civilization and stressed the importance of dialogue and learning from ancient philosophies amidst global conflicts.

188. Recently, Zero Shadow Day was observed in which region of India?

[A] Daman & Diu

[B] Pondicherry

[C] Lakshadweep

[D] Great Nicobar

**Answer:** Pondicherry

Zero Shadow Day was recently observed in Pondicherry. It happens twice yearly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, occurring between the December and June solstices, and vice versa. This phenomenon is exclusive to latitudes within +23.5 and -23.5 degrees. On this day, the Sun is directly overhead, casting no shadows. This occurs when sunlight strikes surfaces perpendicularly, resulting in shadows being obscured.

189. Recently, which ministry has issued the directive to eliminate commercial dealing in organs, especially those involving foreign citizens?

[A] Ministry of Agriculture

[B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[C] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs





[D] Ministry of Power

**Answer:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The Union Health Ministry mandates a unique NOTTO-ID for all organ transplant cases to combat commercial organ dealing. The directive ensures accountability and compliance by appointing authorities to investigate and take action against violations. Regular inspections of registered hospitals are emphasized for quality assurance. Violating hospitals face suspension of registration under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act. The aim is to enforce ethical practices and prevent malpractices, especially with foreign nationals.

190. Mount Erebus, recently seen in the news, is located in which continent?

[A] South America

[B] North America

[C] Europe

[D] Antarctica

**Answer:** Antarctica

Mount Erebus, Antarctica's most southerly active volcano on Ross Island, spews \$6000 worth of gold dust daily. It's a stratovolcano with a persistent lava lake since 1972, unique for its constant activity and occasional Strombolian eruptions. Researchers monitor it via satellites due to its remote location. Erebus is characterized by a conical shape and layers of lava, tephra, and ash, making it a significant geological phenomenon.

191. Rampage Missile, recently seen in the news, developed by which country?

[A] Iran

[B] Iraq

[C] Israel

[D] Russia

**Answer:** Israel

Israel recently utilized the Rampage missile, an advanced air-to-surface weapon, in an attack on an Iranian military base. Developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and Israeli Military Industries Systems, the Rampage is a long-range, supersonic missile designed for precision strikes against fortified targets. It boasts features like supersonic speed, over 190 miles range, 150 kg explosive payload, GPS/INS guidance, and mid-flight path adjustment, enabling it to operate effectively in any conditions.

192. Recently, which country's food agency has ordered a recall of India's Spice product due to the presence of ethylene oxide?

[A] Singapore

[B] Malaysia

[C] Indonesia

[D] Vietnam

**Answer:** Singapore

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) issued a recall of Indian Spice products due to ethylene



oxide contamination. Ethylene oxide is a colorless, flammable gas with various industrial uses including as a pesticide and sterilizing agent. Prolonged exposure can cause irritation to eyes, skin, and respiratory system, and poses carcinogenic risks to humans.

193. Recently, which gulf country launched first ever Hindi Radio Broadcast?

- [A] Oman
- [B] Qatar
- [C] Kuwait
- [D] Saudi Arabia

**Answer:** Kuwait

Kuwait launched its inaugural Hindi radio broadcast on Apr 22, hailed by the Indian Embassy for fostering stronger ties between India and Kuwait. The Indian community, numbering around 1 million, constitutes Kuwait's largest expatriate group, as reported by ANI. This move underscores the significance of Indian presence in Kuwait and reflects efforts to cater to the needs and interests of the expatriate population.

194. Which company has recently introduced a new 'VASA 1 AI model', a framework designed to generate lifelike talking faces for virtual characters?

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

**Answer:** Microsoft

Microsoft unveils VASA-1 AI model, crafting realistic talking faces for virtual characters. Leveraging Visual Affective Skills (VAS), it transforms static images and speech clips into lifelike videos. Users can tweak videos with customizable options.

195. Recently, which country hosted the first international Rainbow Tourism Conference?

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

**Answer:** Nepal

The inaugural Rainbow International Tourism Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, organized by Mayako Pahichan and Nepal Tourism Board, aimed at promoting LGBTQ-inclusive tourism. Minister Bhagawati Chaudhary and Sunil Babu Pant inaugurated the event, emphasizing inclusivity in tourism. Discussions covered topics like pink tourism, accessibility, and cultural sensitivity. With global LGBTQ travel spending at USD 202 billion, the conference advocated for LGBTQ-friendly tourism to boost economies. Collaboration with stakeholders aimed to foster diversity in tourism initiatives.

196. Golden trevally, recently seen in news, belongs to which species?

- [A] Frog
- [B] Spider



[C] Butterfly

[D] Fish

**Answer:** Fish

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) achieved captive breeding of the high-value marine fish, golden trevally. This breakthrough will enhance sustainable seafood production and boost India's mariculture activities. Golden trevally, a reef-associated species, cohabits with larger fishes like skates and groupers. It's utilized for consumption and ornamental purposes. CMFRI, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, monitors and assesses marine fisheries resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Established in 1967, CMFRI is part of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

197. Saurav Ghosal, who recently announced his retirement, is associated with which sports?

[A] Squash

[B] Table Tennis

[C] Chess

[D] Badminton

**Answer:** Squash

India's top male squash player, Saurav Ghosal, retired from professional squash after a 21-year career. Ghosal, who began in 2003, claimed 10 PSA titles and reached 18 finals. His last victory was in 2021 at the Malaysian Open. Ghosal, ranked world No. 10 in 2019, held the highest Indian ranking. He was the first Indian to attain junior World No. 1 in 2004 and the only to reach the top 10 in men's singles.

198. Mullaperiyar dam, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

[A] Karnataka

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Kerala

[D] Odisha

**Answer:** Kerala

The Supreme Court set July 10 to finalize legal matters regarding Tamil Nadu's objection to Kerala's Survey of India report on the Mullaperiyar catchment area. The case arose from Kerala's construction of a mega car park, prompting Tamil Nadu to seek a permanent injunction against encroachment. Conflict intensified in 2023 when the National Green Tribunal allowed Kerala's projects in the Periyar Tiger Reserve. The Mullaperiyar Dam is located on Periyar River in Kerala and is built between 1887 and 1895, diverts Periyar river water to arid regions.

199. Recently, which state's High Court has upheld the state government's ban on hookah and water-pipe smoking?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Maharashtra



[C] Tamil Nadu

[D] Karnataka

**Answer:** Karnataka

The Karnataka High Court upheld the state government's ban on hookah and water-pipe smoking. The ban is supported by the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and Karnataka Poisons Rules. Article 47 of the Constitution mandates improving public health. The court deemed the ban a reasonable restriction on citizens' rights, citing Article 19(1)(g). This decision underscores the balance between public health concerns and individual freedoms.

200. Recently, who became the first woman Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University?

[A] Naima Khatoon

[B] Fatima Sheikh

[C] Farhat Hashmi

[D] Khushboo Mirza

**Answer:** Naima Khatoon

Professor Naima Khatoon is appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), the first woman to hold the position in its history. The appointment was made by the Ministry of Education and approved by President Droupadi Murmu. Khatoon, currently the Principal of AMU's Women's College, will serve for five years or until she turns 70. She becomes the third VC of a Central University and the second woman VC in India after Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit.

201. Which day is celebrated as 'National Panchayati Raj Day'?

[A] 22 April

[B] 23 April

[C] 24 April

[D] 25 April

**Answer:** 24 April

Every year on 24th April, India celebrates 'National Panchayati Raj Day', marking the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1993. This amendment established a three-tier system of local governance with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at the village, block, and district levels. Organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the day honors grassroots democracy.

202. Recently, which organization has developed India's lightest bullet proof jacket?

[A] DRDO

[B] ISRO

[C] CSIR

[D] BARC

**Answer:** DRDO

The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has achieved a milestone by creating the nation's lightest Bullet Proof Jacket, designed to withstand Level 6 threat



of BIS ammunition. Recently tested at TBRL, Chandigarh, it incorporates novel materials and processes for enhanced protection. The front Hard Armour Panel (HAP) utilizes a monolithic ceramic plate with polymer backing, providing both durability and comfort for operatives during missions, as affirmed by the Ministry of Defence.

203. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, as a part of the Earth Day Celebrations, recently installed India's biggest Climate Clock at which place?

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

**Answer:** New Delhi

As part of Earth Day Celebrations, the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) unveiled India's largest Climate Clock at its headquarters in Rafi Marg, New Delhi. The initiative aims to raise awareness about climate change. Prof Chetan Singh Solanki, from IIT Bombay, emphasized the urgency for energy literacy among citizens, urging them to minimize energy consumption.

204. Recently, which country hosted the 'Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference'?

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

**Answer:** Bhutan

On Earth Day 2024, Bhutan leads the Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference, striving to raise \$1 billion in a decade to safeguard crucial tiger habitats. Co-hosted by Bhutan's Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, the event, in collaboration with the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Tiger Conservation Coalition, highlights sustainable finance, the UN's Global Biodiversity Framework, and essential public-private partnerships for tiger conservation.

205. Mount Elgon National Park, recently seen in news due to Marburg virus, is located in which country?

- [A] Uganda
- [B] Tanzania
- [C] Rwanda
- [D] Kenya

**Answer:** Kenya

Experts fear that Kitum, the world's deadliest cave in Mount Elgon National Park, Kenya, could harbor the next pandemic, Marburg virus, flagged as "epidemic-prone" by World Health Organization. Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) is a severe hemorrhagic fever affecting humans and primates, caused by a unique zoonotic RNA virus related to Ebola.



Transmitted through bat-inhabited caves, it spreads via direct contact with infected bodily fluids, raising concerns about potential outbreaks and the need for heightened vigilance.

206. Which organization recently released a report titled "Towards a Regenerative Blue Economy – Mapping the Blue Economy"?

- [A] International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- [B] Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- [C] World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- [D] Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

**Answer:** International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The IUCN released a report titled "Towards a Regenerative Blue Economy – Mapping the Blue Economy," proposing a definition and principles for a Regenerative Blue Economy (RBE). The RBE model aims for effective regeneration and protection of ocean ecosystems, along with sustainable economic activities and fair prosperity. It emphasizes protection, restoration, and resilience of marine ecosystems, prioritizing inclusion, fairness, and indigenous rights, while excluding activities like oil extraction and deep-sea mining for carbon reduction and ecosystem preservation.

207. C-DOT recently signed an agreement with which institute for "Automated Service Management in Network of 5G and beyond Using AI"?

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

**Answer:** IIT Jodhpur

C-DOT, the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, and Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur (IIT-J) have inked an agreement under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) of the DoT. The collaboration aims to develop AI frameworks for automated network management and fault detection in 5G and Beyond Networks. This initiative will establish a real-time testbed for showcasing automated management and slicing techniques, catering to various application use-cases like smart metering and remotely operated vehicles.

208. Barak Valley, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Assam

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Assam's Barak Valley has sparked indifferent responses from intending applicants, who prioritize clearing their names from the foreigner's tribunal and ending detention camps over CAA benefits. Implemented in March, the CAA aims to expedite citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants



from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan arriving before December 31, 2014. Despite expectations of positive impacts, Barak Valley's voters remain disengaged, with upcoming polls in Silchar and Barak Valley showing little influence from the CAA outcome.

209. Which Indian Naval Sailing Vessel recently marked a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly 2 months by two women officers of the Indian Navy?

- [A] INSV Tarini
- [B] INSV Saryu
- [C] INSV Kaveri
- [D] INSV Kirpan

**Answer:** INSV Tarini

The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel INSV Tarini completed a significant transoceanic journey, led by two female officers, culminating in its return to Goa after nearly two months. During the expedition, the crew engaged with Mauritian officials and collaborated with the Mauritius Coast Guard, bolstering bilateral relations. This achievement underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in maritime roles. Next, the crew is gearing up for Sagar Parikrama-IV, a global circumnavigation expedition set for September 2024 aboard INSV Tarini.

210. Recently, which country has appointed Col. Edison Napyo as the first Defence Adviser of India?

- [A] New Zealand
- [B] Tonga
- [C] Fiji
- [D] Papua New Guinea

**Answer:** Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea has named Colonel Edison Napyo as its inaugural Defence Advisor to India, signifying deepening cooperation between the two nations. Acting Chief of Defence Force Commodore Philip Polewara led the farewell ceremony for Napyo, who will serve as a liaison between PNG's government and military in India. Col Napyo, the first to hold this position, aims to facilitate training and diplomatic engagements. Commodore Polewara emphasized representing PNG effectively during Napyo's deployment.

211. Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2024, recently in news, is produced annually by which organization?

- [A] Food Security Information Network (FSIN)
- [B] World Health Organization (WHO)
- [C] International Labour Organization (ILO)
- [D] Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

**Answer:** Food Security Information Network (FSIN)

The 2024 Global Report on Food Crisis (GRFC) revealed alarming statistics, with nearly 282 million people experiencing acute food insecurity in 59 countries in 2023. Produced annually by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), the report analyzed 1.3 billion





people across these nations. Conflict, extreme weather, and economic shocks were identified as major drivers of food crises, with conflict particularly affecting regions like Palestine and Sudan, impacting 135 million people.

212. Ross Ice Shelf, recently seen in the news, is located in which continent?

- [A] Australia
- [B] South America
- [C] Antarctica
- [D] Europe

**Answer:** Antarctica

Researchers have made a startling discovery in Antarctica: the massive Ross Ice Shelf, equivalent in size to France, shifts forward by several centimeters daily. Located in the Ross Sea, it extends over 487,000 square kilometers, largely hidden beneath hundreds of meters of ice. Fed by glaciers from both East and West Antarctic Ice Sheets, the shelf stabilizes the continent's ice sheet, crucial for regulating land ice movement.

213. What is 'Stellaria mcclintockiae', recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] A new plant species
- [B] Traditional irrigation technique
- [C] Earth observation satellite
- [D] Black hole

**Answer:** A new plant species

A new plant species, *Stellaria mcclintockiae*, has been identified by researchers in the Nelliampathy hills, belonging to the *Stellaria* (Caryophyllaceae species) group. Named in tribute to geneticist Barbara McClintock, it's the first of its kind discovered in southern India. The species exhibits distinct traits compared to others in the wild, marking a significant addition to botanical knowledge. *Stellaria mcclintockiae* is classified within the *Stellaria media* group, enriching our understanding of plant diversity.

214. Recently, which country's farmers are employing the alternate wetting and drying technique to reduce methane emissions from rice paddies?

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

**Answer:** Vietnam

According to a Food and Agriculture Organisation report from 2023, rice paddies contribute 8% of all human-made methane in the atmosphere. In response, Vietnamese farmers are adopting the alternate wetting and drying technique to mitigate methane emissions while growing rice. This water-saving method involves flooding fields intermittently, reducing water usage in irrigated fields. Additionally, they utilize large drones to efficiently spray organic fertilizer onto knee-high rice seedlings, enhancing agricultural sustainability.



215. Atacama Desert, recently seen in news, is the driest desert in the world, located in which country?

[A] Brazil

[B] Chile

[C] Argentina

[D] Guyana

**Answer:** Chile

Researchers have made a groundbreaking discovery in Chile's Atacama Desert, uncovering thriving microbial life 13 feet below its parched surface, marking the deepest such find in the region. The Atacama, nestled between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, spans nearly 1,000 km along Chile's coast. It's renowned as the driest desert globally, showcasing extreme conditions such as high UV radiation and saline, oxidizing soils, and is dotted with caked salt deposits and volcanic peaks.

216. The English Channel, recently in the news, separates which two countries?

[A] England & France

[B] Ireland & Scotland

[C] New Zealand & Australia

[D] Indonesia & Malaysia

**Answer:** England & France

Recently, tragedy struck the English Channel as five individuals, including a child, lost their lives attempting to cross it. This event occurred mere hours after Britain's passing of a bill aiming to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda, in hopes of deterring such perilous crossings. The English Channel, also known as "the Channel," is a narrow stretch of the Atlantic Ocean, separating the southern coast of England from the northern coast of France.

217. What is the name of the research institute which has recently collaborated with British Antarctic Survey to report on Antarctic ice conditions?

[A] National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

[B] National Centre for Antarctic Research

[C] National Institute of Ocean Technology

[D] National Institute of Oceanography

**Answer:** National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

Researchers from India's National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey, reported unprecedented hindrance in Antarctic ice expansion and retreat before the 2023 annual ice maximum. Established in 1998 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, it spearheads India's polar and Southern Ocean research. The center plans and executes expeditions in Antarctica, Arctic, Himalayas, and Southern Ocean, while also focusing on vital projects like EEZ mapping and the Deep Ocean Mission. Located in Goa, it was formerly known as the National Center for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR).



218. What is the main objective of the National Career Service (NCS) portal, recently in news?

- [A] Selling career-related merchandise
- [B] Bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers
- [C] Provide career counselling to students
- [D] Providing online gaming services

**Answer:** Bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers

The Centre aims to modernize the nine-year-old National Career Service (NCS) portal to connect millions of youths with potential employers, fostering a future-ready workforce. Launched in 2015 as part of the E-Governance Plan, NCS offers online career counseling, vocational guidance, and job matching services nationwide. It bridges the gap between job seekers, employers, and training providers, facilitating informed career decisions based on qualifications, skills, and interests.

219. Recently, 26th World Energy Congress is organized in which country?

- [A] Belgium
- [B] Netherlands
- [C] Germany
- [D] Denmark

**Answer:** Netherlands

A Ministerial Round Table Conference convened on April 24, 2024, during the 26th World Energy Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Discussions centered on the transformative impact of the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai. The Congress, themed 'Redesigning Energy for People and Planet', aimed to shape global energy transitions amidst unpredictability.

220. Recently, where were the India-South Korea Consultations on disarmament and Non-Proliferation held?

- [A] Busan
- [B] Seoul
- [C] Hyderabad
- [D] New Delhi

**Answer:** Seoul

India-Republic of Korea Consultations on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation occurred in Seoul on April 26, 2024. Discussions encompassed nuclear, chemical, and biological disarmament, regional non-proliferation issues, outer space security, conventional weapons (including AI), and multilateral export controls. Ms. Muanpui Saiawi led the Indian delegation, representing the Ministry of External Affairs, while Mr. Youn Jong Kwon led the RoK delegation, representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

221. Chernobyl nuclear power plant, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Russia
- [B] Israel



[C] Ukraine

[D] Iraq

**Answer:** Ukraine

Every April 26th marks the International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day, honoring the victims of the catastrophic event. On April 26, 1986, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant explosion in Ukraine released a massive radioactive cloud, exposing around 8.4 million people to harmful radiation. The day serves to raise awareness of the disaster's consequences and the ongoing impact on affected communities worldwide.

222. Recently, which Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) secured a Green Loan of Japanese Yen (JPY) 60.536 billion for sustainable projects in India?

[A] Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd (REC)

[B] Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HEC Limited)

[C] Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

[D] HMT Limited (HMTL)

**Answer:** Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd (REC)

Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd (REC) obtained a Green Loan of Japanese Yen (JPY) 60.536 billion for sustainable initiatives in India. The Italian Export Credit Agency, SACE, backed the loan with an 80% guarantee as part of its Push Strategy program. Targeting renewable energy, green mobility, and energy efficiency projects, it marks SACE's inaugural JPY-denominated loan and their first green loan in India. This move aligns with the growing trend towards green financing, fostering environmental sustainability.

223. What is Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), recently seen in the news?

[A] Cruise missile

[B] Short-range surface-to-air missiles

[C] Surface-to-surface artillery weapon

[D] Anti-tank guided missile

**Answer:** Surface-to-surface artillery weapon

The United States is providing Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) to Ukraine to aid in its conflict with Russia, aiming for use within Ukraine's borders. The decision stems from Russia's heightened assaults on civilian infrastructure and suspicions of North Korea supplying ballistic missiles to Russia. Developed by Lockheed Martin, the ATACMS is a surface-to-surface artillery weapon with a range of up to 300km, surpassing existing Army capabilities. Previous versions had ranges around 160km.

224. Recently, which organization released the 2024 Global Education Monitoring Report: Gender report – Technology on her terms in France?

[A] UNDP

[B] IMF

[C] UNESCO

[D] UNICEF

**Answer:** UNESCO



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) published the 2024 Global Education Monitoring Report: Gender report – Technology on her terms in France in 2024. The report examines the impact of technology on girls' education opportunities and future technological development. It highlights ICT's potential to overcome educational barriers for girls, citing the M-shule platform in Kenya. However, the digital divide persists, with fewer women owning mobile phones and having internet access compared to men.

225. Phi-3-Mini, an AI model, recently developed by which company?

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

**Answer:** Microsoft

Microsoft recently introduced Phi-3-Mini, its latest 'lightweight' AI model, the first of three planned releases. Outperforming similar-sized and larger models across various benchmarks, it excels in language, reasoning, coding, and math. Supporting a 128K token context window, a first in its class, it maintains quality. With a 3.8B size, it's accessible on platforms like Microsoft Azure AI Studio, HuggingFace, and Ollama, in two variants: 4K and 128K tokens context-length.

226. Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), recently seen in news, comes under which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Earth Sciences
- [B] Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- [C] Ministry of Jal Shakti
- [D] Ministry of Agriculture

**Answer:** Ministry of Earth Sciences

A recent study by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) highlights the crucial need for accurately forecasting specific oceanographic parameters due to their significant economic benefits. Established in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), INCOIS operates under the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO). Its mandate is to offer top-notch ocean information and advisory services to various sectors, including society, industry, government agencies, and the scientific community. INCOIS provides round-the-clock monitoring and warning services for coastal populations regarding tsunamis, storm surges, and high waves through its Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC).

227. Alagar Temple, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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



**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

The conclusion of the Chithirai festival was signified by the return procession of Lord Kallazhagar from the Vaigai river. Alagar Temple, situated at the foothills of Alagar hills in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, is one of Lord Vishnu's 108 abodes, revered as Kallazhagar. It boasts six corridors within fort walls and is referenced in Tamil epic Silappadikaram and Alvars' hymns. The temple's mandapam pillars showcase Nayaka art style.

228. What is nephrotic syndrome, recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] A skin disorder
- [B] A kidney disorder causing excessive protein in urine
- [C] A respiratory condition
- [D] A neurological disorder

**Answer:** A kidney disorder causing excessive protein in urine

Regular use of fairness creams has been linked to nephrotic syndrome by Kerala researchers. Nephrotic syndrome is a kidney disorder causing excessive protein in urine due to glomeruli inflammation. Healthy kidneys filter waste but inflamed glomeruli leak protein into urine. It's not a specific kidney disease but can result from various conditions damaging kidney filters. Diseases like nephritis, diabetes, and lupus can trigger nephrotic syndrome, impacting both kidneys and other body parts.

229. According to UNCTAD report, what was the growth rate of the Indian Service Sector export in 2023?

- [A] 11.4%
- [B] 9.2%
- [C] 8.1%
- [D] 10.7%

**Answer:** 11.4%

In 2023, Indian service sector exports surged by 11.4% to \$345 billion, while Chinese service exports fell by 10.1% to \$381 billion, as per a UNCTAD report. India's service imports slightly decreased by 0.4% to \$248 billion. India ranks 7th globally in service exports, with the US leading. Additionally, India stood as the 9th largest service-importing country. The US and China hold top positions as service importers, according to UNCTAD.

230. Recently, which state government's food safety department has imposed a ban on using Liquid Nitrogen (LN) in food items?

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

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

The commissioner of food safety in Tamil Nadu has instructed officials to oversee the use of liquid nitrogen in food items and enforce the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Liquid nitrogen, an inert, colorless, extremely cold element with a boiling point of  $-320^{\circ}\text{F}$



(-196°C), poses health risks including frostbite-like injuries, organ damage, and potential perforation. It's utilized to rapidly cool and freeze food in various industrial processes.

231. Okavango Delta, recently in the news because of drought conditions, is located in which country?

- [A] Namibia
- [B] Botswana
- [C] Malawi
- [D] Zambia

**Answer:** Botswana

Drought in Botswana's Okavango Delta threatens endangered hippos, forcing them to seek water near Maun. The delta, formed by the Okavango River from Angola, lacks an outlet to the sea, draining into the Kalahari Basin. Africa's third largest alluvial fan, it's a haven for endangered species like cheetahs and rhinos. Recognized on the World Heritage List in 2014, it's a vital ecosystem battling the effects of climate change.

232. According to recent data from the Reserve Bank of India, what was India's net household savings rate for the fiscal year 2023?

- [A] 4.5%
- [B] 5.3%
- [C] 6.7%
- [D] 7.1%

**Answer:** 5.3%

Recent data from the Reserve Bank of India shows India's net household savings hit a 47-year low at 5.3% of GDP in 2023, dropping from 7.3% in 2022. Simultaneously, household debt surged to 5.8% of GDP, the second-highest since the 1970s. The Household Saving Rate is the proportion of disposable income saved rather than spent, encompassing financial assets, physical assets, and precious metals like gold and silver ornaments.

233. Chakisaurus nekul, recently seen in news, belongs to which species?

- [A] Spider
- [B] Herbivorous dinosaur
- [C] Lizard
- [D] Frog

**Answer:** Herbivorous dinosaur

Palaeontologists from Argentina discovered Chakisaurus nekul, a medium-sized herbivorous dinosaur, in Patagonia's Pueblo Blanco Natural Reserve. It was named after indigenous languages, "Chaki" means "old guanaco," and "Nekul" means "fast" or "agile." Lived approximately 90 million years ago in the Late Cretaceous period, it was a fast runner with a uniquely downward-curving tail. The discovery sheds light on the region's diverse prehistoric fauna and challenges previous assumptions about dinosaur anatomy.

234. Recently, which former Indian cricketer has been appointed as the ambassador of ICC





Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

- [A] Yuvraj Singh
- [B] Harbhajan Singh
- [C] Suresh Raina
- [D] Irfan Pathan

**Answer:** Yuvraj Singh

Yuvraj Singh, famed Indian cricketer, is named ambassador for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, starting in 36 days. Renowned for hitting six sixes in an over during India's 2007 victory, he joins Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt as ambassadors. Bolt, Jamaican sprinter and eight-time Olympic gold medalist, adds to the event's excitement. Singh, 42, played a pivotal role in India's 2007 win and will participate in pre-tournament promotions for the 10-team event starting June 1.

235. What is the theme of World Veterinary Day (WVD) 2024?

- [A] Value of Vaccination
- [B] Veterinarians are essential health workers
- [C] Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession
- [D] Environmental protection for improving animal and human health

**Answer:** Veterinarians are essential health workers

World Veterinary Day (WVD) annually celebrates veterinarians' contributions globally, emphasizing their role in public health and animal welfare. Observed on the last Saturday of April, WVD raises awareness of veterinarians' vital role in maintaining both animal and human health. In 2024, celebrated on April 27, the theme is "Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers," emphasizing their crucial role in safeguarding public health and promoting animal and environmental well-being.

236. Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

**Answer:** Rajasthan

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issues draft notification defining the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) for Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan. The ESZ aims to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and conserve wildlife. The sanctuary, established in 1983, houses endangered species like leopard, Indian wolf, and vulture. The draft proposes an ESZ of 348.60 sq km around the sanctuary's core area. Public feedback is sought within 60 days. A Supreme Court directive mandates ESZs for all protected forests, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries.

237. Recently, which ministry has granted Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) status to the gem and jewellery sector?

- [A] Ministry of Finance



- [B] Ministry of Power
- [C] Ministry of Mines
- [D] Ministry of Agriculture

**Answer:** Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance has granted Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status to the gem and jewellery sector to enhance ease of doing business. Asian Star, a leading diamond manufacturer, is the first recipient in the industry. The AEO program, under the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework, aims to secure international supply chains. AEO status offers benefits like quicker clearance and enhanced security, aligning with World Trade Organization trade facilitation agreements. Introduced in India in 2011, the voluntary AEO Programme by CBIC simplifies customs procedures.

238. What is theme of International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2024, recently held in New Delhi?

- [A] Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow
- [B] Delivering Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure
- [C] Situating Resilient Infrastructure
- [D] Future-ready disaster resilient infrastructure

**Answer:** Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow

The 6th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) convened in New Delhi, India, featuring government bodies, global institutions, and media. Hosted by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, the theme "Investing Today for a More Resilient Tomorrow" emphasized proactive measures. The conference aimed to foster resilience in infrastructure against disasters and climate change, fostering global collaboration for resilient infrastructure projects.

239. What is INS Vikrant, recently seen in news?

- [A] Submarine
- [B] Aircraft carrier
- [C] Tankers
- [D] Frigates

**Answer:** Aircraft carrier

The Indian Navy recently showcased twin carrier operations with its two aircraft carriers: INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant. India operates these carriers, with INS Vikrant being the first aircraft carrier purchased from the UK, active since the 1960s. INS Viraat, India's second carrier, was originally HMS Hermes. INS Vikramaditya, formerly Russia's Admiral Gorshkov, joined the Indian Navy in 2013, marking India's third carrier.

240. Recently, which country is contemplating the lifting of vehicle import restrictions to stimulate economic growth?

- [A] Bangladesh
- [B] Sri Lanka
- [C] Nepal



[D] Myanmar

**Answer:** Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is considering lifting vehicle import restrictions to stimulate economic growth, potentially by late 2024 or early 2025. Enforced in response to economic turmoil in 2022, the move aligns with IMF revenue targets but could strain foreign exchange reserves by \$800 million. President Wickremasinghe's committee recommendations are pivotal. Despite its severe economic downturn, the Sri Lankan rupee is stabilizing, hinting at positive developments in its value.

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