

Current Affairs MCQs PDF - May, 2024



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2023-24
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120 MCQs

These questions are sourced from GKToday's Current Affairs 2024 **Daily 20 MCQ Series** in [GKToday Academy Android Application](https://www.gktoday.in).

1. Recently, who has been appointed as president of the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA)?

- [A] Krishna M Ella
- [B] S.B. Rajan
- [C] Z. Nahar
- [D] S. Sivakumar

Answer: Krishna M Ella

Krishna M Ella, co-founder of Bharat Biotech, now heads the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) for 2024-2026. He succeeds Adar C Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII). Ella aims to enhance collaboration among vaccine manufacturers, researchers, and policymakers to expedite vaccine development and bolster production. IVMA also prioritizes enabling access to affordable vaccines in developing nations. SII, under Poonawalla, pioneered the Covishield vaccine during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

- [A] SIDBI
- [B] FSSAI
- [C] NABARD
- [D] ISRO

Answer: NABARD

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently sanctioned a study on the impact evaluation of Geographical Indication (GI) products to Symbiosis



School of Economics. A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. The protection of intellectual property through laws will help to reap benefits in terms of economic growth, employment and income generation.

3. What is 'K2-18B', recently seen in news?

- [A] Exoplanet
- [B] Black hole
- [C] Asteroid
- [D] Submarine

Answer: Exoplanet

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

4. Harirod-Murghab River Basin (HMRB), recently seen in news, is located in which country?

- [A] Afghanistan
- [B] Pakistan
- [C] Bhutan
- [D] Myanmar

Answer: Afghanistan

A study mapped Afghanistan's five river basins, each crucial for irrigation and regional dynamics. Notably, the Harirod-Murghab, originating in central mountains, sustains fertile lands in the northwest. The Helmand Basin, covering 51%, hosts Afghanistan's longest river, vital in the southwest. The Kabul Basin, formed by the Kabul River, dominates the southeast's drainage, while the Northern Basin differs in its internal flow. Understanding these basins aids water management and regional stability.

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

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

Answer: Reserve Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the 'Inflation Expectations Survey of



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

6. What is the purpose of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) in the context of recent IMF's assistance to Pakistan?

- [A] Short-term financial assistance for balance of payments problems
- [B] Long-term development assistance
- [C] Infrastructure investment funding
- [D] Humanitarian aid support

Answer: Short-term financial assistance for balance of payments problems

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$1.1 billion disbursement to Pakistan under the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA), aimed at addressing balance of payments issues. SBAs offer short-term financial aid to member countries, commonly used by both advanced and emerging economies. Eligibility extends to nations with external financing needs. Funding is contingent on policy reforms, including quantitative targets and structural measures. Loan duration ranges from 12 to 36 months.

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

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

Answer: Ministry of Mines

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

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

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

Answer: Ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate

Every year, May 1st marks International Labour Day, celebrated worldwide, including in India, to honor the contributions of the labor movement. Originating from the 1886 Chicago labor strike demanding an eight-hour workday, it gained significance after the



Haymarket incident. In 1889, leaders from twenty nations established it as International Labour Day. The 2024 theme focuses on workplace safety and health amidst climate change, emphasizing ongoing challenges faced by workers globally.

9. Vinay Vir, who recently passed away, was associated with which field?

- [A] Journalism
- [B] Politics
- [C] Sports
- [D] Medicine

Answer: Journalism

Vinay Vir, the esteemed journalist, publisher, and editor of Daily Hindi Milap, known for championing Hindi in the South, passed away at 72. His impactful management and editing elevated Hindi's presence. Born into a family of freedom fighters, Vinay Vir was a dedicated advocate for Hindi's growth. Secretary of the Yudhvir Foundation, he honored achievers. His legacy remains intertwined with the advancement of Hindi and the recognition of talent.

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

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

Answer: Rajasthan

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

11. Kankesanthurai Port, recently seen in news, is located in which country?

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

Answer: Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Cabinet approves renovation of Kankesanthurai Port, funded entirely by India. The port, located in the Northern Province, spans about 16 acres and is 104 km from Karaikal Port in Puducherry, India. The decision underscores efforts to enhance connectivity and infrastructure in the region. Additionally, a direct passenger ship service links Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu to Kankesanthurai, covering 111 km in around three and a half hours.

12. Recently, Kundan Green Energy has received approval for a 42 MW hydropower project



at which city of Uttarakhand?

- [A] Okhali
- [B] Chamoli
- [C] Ranikhet
- [D] Pauri

Answer: Okhali

Kundan Green Energy secures approval for a 42 MW hydropower venture in Okhali, Uttarakhand, as part of an 80 MW agreement with the state government with an investment of Rs 1,000 Crore. It targets completion by 2028, boosting the company's hydropower capacity to 270 MW from 104 MW. A subsidiary of Kundan Group, it's committed to India's renewable energy goal of 500 GW by 2030, employing sustainable practices for a greener future.

13. La Cumbre volcano, recently seen in news, is located in which island?

- [A] Galápagos
- [B] Lakshadweep
- [C] Borneo
- [D] Vancouver

Answer: Galápagos

Recent lava from La Cumbre volcano on Fernandina Island, Galápagos, devastates the habitat of rare land iguanas. Positioned atop the mantle plume generating Galápagos, it erupted for the first time since 2020. The island, 1,125 km off Ecuador's mainland, boasts a large caldera hosting a permanent lake, attracting diverse wildlife, including tens of thousands of Galápagos land iguanas nesting within it.

14. What is 'Antares', recently seen in news?

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

Answer: Red supergiant star

The Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) recorded the moon passing in front of Antares, a massive red supergiant star in Scorpius constellation. Antares, 10,000 times brighter than the Sun, is 700 times its diameter and lies 600 light-years away. Despite its size, Antares has low density and temperature, around 6,100°F (3,400°C), giving it a ruddy color. Red supergiants are large, cool stars approaching the end of their lives, highly luminous but with low surface temperature.

15. Red Colobus Conservation Action Plan, recently seen in news, is an initiative of which organization?

- [A] IUCN
- [B] WMO
- [C] WHO



[D] WWF

Answer: IUCN

A new study highlights Red colobus as key to tropical forest conservation. Imperiled across Africa, they're vital biodiversity indicators and one of two major simian groups globally. Facing extinction due to hunting and habitat loss, over half are Endangered or Critically Endangered. The Red Colobus Conservation Action Plan, led by IUCN, aims to prioritize their conservation, safeguarding Africa's forests and curbing unsustainable hunting.

16. Ajrakh textile craft, recently seen in news, is mainly associated with which state?

[A] Rajasthan

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Gujarat

[D] Kerala

Answer: Gujarat

The Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks awarded the Geographical Indication certificate to 'Kutch Ajrakh' artisans from Gujarat. Ajrakh, a textile craft deeply rooted in Gujarat's culture, especially in Kutch, Sindh, and Barmer, involves intricate hand-block printing on cotton cloth. Its name derives from 'Azrak', meaning indigo, a key dye used. Traditionally, Ajrakh prints symbolize sky (blue), land and fire (red), and stars (white), reflecting rich symbolism and history.

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

[A] Vaishali Ramesh Babu

[B] Surya Sekhar Ganguly

[C] Savitha Shri Baskar

[D] Tania Sachdev

Answer: Vaishali Ramesh Babu

Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu, awarded Grandmaster by FIDE, highlighted India's rising prominence in chess. She anticipates India's strong showing in the World Championship. Praising Viswanathan Anand's impact, she credits her father's decision to steer her towards chess. Supported by her parents, Vaishali became India's third female Grandmaster after Humpy and Dronavalli. She achieved the 2500 ELO points at the Llobregat Open, with FIDE formally granting her the title at the recent Candidates Tournament in Toronto.

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

[A] Bombay

[B] Dubai

[C] London

[D] New York



Answer: Dubai

Dubai is developing the world's largest airport, Al Maktoum International Airport, under Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's leadership. With a capacity for 260 million passengers annually, it will feature 400 terminal gates and five parallel runways. Beyond transportation, it aims to integrate into urban life, commerce, and global trade, positioning itself as the "world's airport" within Dubai South. This ambitious project underscores Dubai's dedication to innovation and global connectivity.

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

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Uttarakhand
- [D] Punjab

Answer: Uttarakhand

Recently, an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter collected water from Bhimtal Lake in Nainital, Uttarakhand to help control a nearby forest fire. The Indian Army and the IAF were called in to help control the blaze, with MI-17 choppers lifting water from the lake for firefighting efforts. Bhimtal Lake, Uttarakhand's largest lake in the Nainital district, is a centerpiece of the Kumaon region, dubbed India's "lake district." Named after the Mahabharata's Bhima, it formed naturally due to Earth's crust shifts. Constructed in 1883 during the British era, it features a masonry dam.

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

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

Answer: A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis

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

21. Hinglaj Mata Temple, recently seen in news, is located in which country?

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

Answer: Pakistan

Hindu devotees gather in Hinglaj, Lasbela district, Pakistan, for an annual festival at the ancient cave temple of Hinglaj Mata. The pilgrimage begins with a trek to steep mud



volcanoes, where pilgrims climb stairs and rocks to reach the summit. Tossing coconuts and rose petals into the crater, they seek divine permission to visit the temple. Dedicated to Goddess Hinglaj, it's one of the oldest temples in the Indian subcontinent. Located near the Hingol River, in Balochistan, Pakistan, the temple complex features shrines, caves, and sacred natural formations.

22. Which regulatory body in India recently approved changes in mutual fund regulations to prevent front-running?

- [A] Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- [B] Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- [C] National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- [D] Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

Answer: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

SEBI approved changes in mutual fund regulations to combat front-running in Indian asset management companies (AMCs). Front-running, or trading with non-public information ahead of significant transactions, is illegal in India and can impact asset prices. It occurs in various financial markets like stocks and commodities. Common strategies include Buy-Buy-Sell (BBS) and Sell-Sell-Buy (SSB) patterns. These regulatory changes aim to safeguard market integrity and investor interests.

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

- [A] Kathmandu
- [B] New Delhi
- [C] Pokhara
- [D] Hyderabad

Answer: Kathmandu

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

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

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

Answer: Namibia

NPCI's overseas arm signed a pact with the Bank of Namibia to develop a UPI-like instant payment system for Namibia, leveraging India's UPI technology and experiences. The



collaboration aims to modernize Namibia's financial ecosystem, enhancing accessibility, affordability, and connectivity with domestic and international payment networks. It also emphasizes interoperability, signaling a significant step towards improving financial inclusion and digital transactions in Namibia.

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

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

Answer: New York

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

26. What is 'Batillipes chandrayaani', recently seen in news?

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

Answer: Marine Tardigrade Species

Researchers from Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) discovered a new marine tardigrade species, *Batillipes chandrayaani*, on Tamil Nadu's southeast coast, named after Chandrayaan-3. Found in Mandapam's intertidal beach sediments, it measures 0.15mm in length and 0.04mm in width. Sporting a trapezoid-shaped head and four pairs of legs with sharp-tipped sensory spines, both sexes share similar morphology. It's the 39th species under the genus *Batillipes*. Tardigrades, dubbed "water bears," are resilient micro-animals, with marine species constituting 17% of known tardigrades, found across all oceans.

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

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

Answer: To explore and deliver KAVACH implementation projects in India and other countries

RailTel Corporation of India has partnered with a tech firm to implement KAVACH, an



indigenous Automatic Train Protection System, in India and abroad. Developed by RDSO in collaboration with the Indian industry, KAVACH operates at Safety Integrity Level - 4 with a remarkably low error probability. Its features include centralized train movement monitoring, automatic overspeed prevention, and SOS message relaying.

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

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

Answer: National Anti-Doping Agency

National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India recently concluded up its #PlayTrue Campaign, drawing over 12,133 participants nationwide. Held from April 15th to 30th, 2024, the campaign aimed to raise awareness about clean sports and anti-doping practices. It showcased NADA's dedication to educating athletes, coaches, and sports enthusiasts on anti-doping regulations. Through various activities like quizzes and awareness sessions, NADA encouraged fair play and integrity in sports, aligning with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA's) vision.

29. Recently, Jeremiah Manele has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country?

- [A] Maldives
- [B] Solomon Island
- [C] Mauritius
- [D] Singapore

Answer: Solomon Island

Former Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele elected as Solomon Islands' new Prime Minister, securing 31 votes out of 49 in a secret ballot. His victory suggests continued close ties with China. Manele pledges integrity and prioritization of national interests in his inaugural address, defeating opposition leader Matthew Wale, who garnered 18 votes.

30. Which African country recently declared the Mpox (also known as Monkeypox) outbreak across the country a health emergency?

- [A] Rwanda
- [B] Ghana
- [C] Congo
- [D] Somalia

Answer: Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo faces its largest Mpox outbreak, with a new strain detected in a mining town, posing higher transmission risks. Since January, over 4,500 suspected cases and nearly 300 deaths have been reported, tripling from last year. The WHO highlights the severity, prompting Congo to declare a nationwide health emergency.



Cases have also surfaced in the neighboring Republic of Congo.

31. Cricketer Ben Wells, who recently announced his retirement, belongs to which country?

- [A] Australia
- [B] England
- [C] South Africa
- [D] Bangladesh

Answer: England

Ben Wells, a rising cricketer for England, retired at 23 due to a rare heart disease, ARVC. Despite signing with Gloucestershire in 2021 and delivering notable performances, he hadn't played for England. His condition echoes that of former player James Taylor. Wells' career, marked by an unbeaten 108-run knock, ends abruptly, raising awareness about ARVC's impact on athletes' lives.

32. Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India recently signed an MoU with which country's Auditor General to increase cooperation in the field of audit?

- [A] Nepal
- [B] Bhutan
- [C] Myanmar
- [D] Sri Lanka

Answer: Nepal

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Girish Chandra Murmu, signed an MoU with Nepal's Auditor General, Toyam Raya, in Kathmandu. The MoU aims to enhance cooperation between the auditing institutions of both countries, facilitating the exchange of expertise and professional capacity-building in public sector auditing. During his visit, Murmu met Nepal's Prime Minister and Finance Minister, along with discussions on mutual cooperation in public sector audit with the Chairman of Nepal's Public Accounts Committee.

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

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

Answer: Nigeria

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



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

- [A] 158
- [B] 159
- [C] 160
- [D] 161

Answer: 159

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

35. Cricketer Devon Thomas, recently banned by ICC, belongs to which country?

- [A] England
- [B] Australia
- [C] West Indies
- [D] Pakistan

Answer: West Indies

The ICC has banned West Indies cricketer Devon Thomas for five years due to breaching anti-corruption codes of SLC, ECB, and CPL. The ban was imposed by the ICC as the designated Anti-Corruption Official. Thomas accepted the charges, leading to the sanction without a tribunal hearing. The ban includes a suspension of the last 18 months. Thomas admitted to violating several provisions of the codes.

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

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

Answer: 12th

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

37. Lakshya Aircraft, recently seen in the news, is designed and built by which organization?

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



[D] BHEL

Answer: DRDO

The Aeronautical Development Establishment, a Bengaluru-based Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) lab, creator of Lakshya aircraft, is under CBI scrutiny. Lakshya, a micro-light, pilot-less aircraft, was developed by ADE for Indian Armed Forces, inducted in 2000 (IAF), 2001 (IN), and 2003 (IA). Cost-effective, reusable, with HAL-manufactured engine, it aids weapon system trials, carries tow targets for training, and launches from land or sea. Controlled via GCS, it's designed for 15 missions, countering airborne threats.

38. What is the primary function of Boeing Starliner, recently seen in news?

[A] Exploring distant planets

[B] Transporting astronauts to the space station

[C] Providing wireless internet

[D] Conducting scientific experiments in space

Answer: Transporting astronauts to the space station

An Atlas V rocket is poised to launch Boeing's Starliner crew capsule on its third test flight, marking the first with astronauts aboard. Starliner is a spacecraft designed to ferry astronauts to space, consisting of a crew capsule and service module. With innovative features like wireless internet and tablet interfaces, it's reusable up to 10 times, fitting atop Atlas V rockets operated by United Launch Alliance, a Boeing-Lockheed Martin venture.

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

[A] Ajay Kumar

[B] Rajeev Saxena

[C] Shashi Bhushan Singh

[D] Arvind Kumar

Answer: Shashi Bhushan Singh

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

40. Paliyar Tribe, recently in news, mainly resides in which state?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Kerala

[C] Karnataka

[D] Maharashtra

Answer: Tamil Nadu

Recent research on Paliyar Tribals in Kodaikanal and Theni areas urges immediate



government action for their upliftment. Derived from "Palaniyan" in Tamil, they're also known as Paliyans, Pazhaiyaraes, and Panaiyars. Distributed in Tamil Nadu districts, they speak Tamil and traditionally hunted and gathered. They worship Vanadevadaai and Karuppan. They bury their dead on the western side of their residential area, avoiding cremation.

41. What is 'MQ-9B Predator', recently seen in the news?

- [A] A technique used to remove pest from crop
- [B] High Altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- [C] Nuclear Ballistic Submarine
- [D] Earth Observation Satellite

Answer: High Altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

India will acquire MQ-9B Predator drones from the US, deploying them in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, it's a high-altitude, long-endurance armed UAV. Used by the US for surveillance and airstrikes, it has two variants: SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian. The latter has been utilized by the Indian Navy since 2020.

42. Which asset management company has recently launched India's first Nifty Non-Cyclical Index Fund?

- [A] Groww Mutual Fund
- [B] Axis Mutual Fund
- [C] UTI Mutual Fund
- [D] Invesco Mutual Fund

Answer: Groww Mutual Fund

Groww Mutual Fund recently introduced India's inaugural Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index Fund. This mutual fund aims for long-term capital growth by investing in securities from the Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index (TRI), comprising 30 companies less affected by economic instability. Non-cyclical stocks, also termed defensive stocks, sustain demand irrespective of economic fluctuations, catering to daily consumer necessities like food and utilities, making them resilient investment choices.

43. Recently, which country's men's team won 11th Thomas Cup by defeating Indonesia?

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

Answer: China

The 2024 BWF Thomas and Uber Cup, held in Chengdu, China, saw the Chinese badminton team's dominance, winning both men's and women's titles. In the Thomas Cup, China beat Indonesia 4-1, claiming their 11th victory. India, defending champions, lost to China in the quarterfinals. The Uber Cup followed a similar narrative. China's victory marks the first time since 2012 that one nation has clinched both titles at the world team



championships.

44. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Maharashtra

The Maharashtra forest department plans to move tigers from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve to Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, located in the Western Ghats. Formed in 2010, it includes Chandoli National Park and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary. The reserve boasts unique undulating terrain with steep escarpments and barren rocky plateaus known as "Sadas." It hosts abundant climax and near-climax vegetation, with minimal human impact anticipated.

45. What is 'FWD-200B', recently seen in news?

- [A] Chemical weapon
- [B] Indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft
- [C] Indian naval ship
- [D] Exoplanet

Answer: Indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft

A Bengaluru-based company has introduced FWD-200B, India's premier indigenous bomber UAV. The medium-altitude, long-endurance craft boasts a maximum take-off weight of 498 kg and operates up to 9,000 ft above sea level. It's equipped with optical surveillance gear and integrated with missile-like weapons for precision air strikes, marking a significant advancement in India's defense technology.

46. What is the projected percentage of milk production reduction in India by 2085, as per the Lancet report?

- [A] 25%
- [B] 30%
- [C] 35%
- [D] 40%

Answer: 25%

Rising temperatures in India could slash milk production by 25% by 2085, warns a Lancet report. India, the top global milk producer and consumer, faces severe livelihood and nutrition risks. The northern plains contribute 30% of India's milk, supported by 89 million smallholder farmers. Heat stress, measured by the Temperature Humidity Index (THI), reduces milk yield. Unabated, this could cost 3.4 lakh tons of milk and 15,000 crores by 2030 in the northern plains alone.

47. Sanglaphu Lake, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Mizoram



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

Answer: Sikkim

Sanglaphu Lake, or Sanglaphu Cho, opened to the public at Yumesamdong, Sikkim, at 5080m altitude. It's renowned as the "Great Lake" with religious importance. Its emergence gained attention after the closure of Gurudongmar Lake due to a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF). Located in the Dongkya range, Sanglaphu Mountain feeds Gurudongmar Lake, a source for the Teesta River.

48. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), recently seen in news, operates under which ministry?

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

Answer: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Starting May 15, 2024, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) gains sole authority to issue manufacturing licenses for new drugs intended for export, sidelining state governments. All export-related No Objection Certificates (NOCs) must now be applied for through CDSCO zonal offices via the SUGAM Portal. Previously, state authorities handled this. The move aims to streamline exports and tackle delays identified by the Drug Consultative Committee (DCC). CDSCO, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, regulates drugs across India through 9 zonal offices.

49. Which High Court recently issued directives to combat the use of spurious oxytocin hormone in dairy colonies due to animal cruelty?

- [A] Calcutta High Court
- [B] Delhi High Court
- [C] Bombay High Court
- [D] Gujarat High Court

Answer: Delhi High Court

The Delhi High Court mandates action against oxytocin use in city dairies due to animal cruelty concerns. Weekly inspections and legal actions ordered by the Delhi government to combat oxytocin misuse, with police involvement. Oxytocin boosts milk production but harms cattle and humans, leading to health issues like uterine ruptures and milk contamination. Misuse violates the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Drugs and Cosmetics Act, posing risks to both animals and consumers.

50. What is the main objective of Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), recently in news?

- [A] To provide agricultural data and services
- [B] To monitor and forecast weather patterns



[C] To provide ocean data, information, and advisory services

[D] To conduct research on space exploration

Answer: To provide ocean data, information, and advisory services

INCOIS, established in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, issues alerts to coastal states about rough seas, high waves, and inundation risks. It operates under ESSO, aiming to furnish oceanic data, information, and advisory services to various sectors. Its activities include round-the-clock monitoring and warning services for tsunamis, storm surges, and high waves, daily advisories for fisherfolk, and short-term ocean state forecasts. It also deploys Ocean Observing Systems to collect data and predict oceanic changes.

51. What is the primary habitat of 'Red Squirrel', recently seen in news?

[A] Tropical rainforests

[B] Desert regions

[C] Coniferous forests

[D] Grasslands

Answer: Coniferous forests

Archaeological evidence reveals English red squirrels as hosts for leprosy-causing *Mycobacterium leprae* strains in medieval Winchester, renowned for its leprosarium and fur trade. Leprosy persists in Asia, Africa, and South America. Recent research identifies red squirrels, armadillos, and chimpanzees as natural *M. leprae* hosts. Red squirrels, arboreal and primarily herbivorous, boast sharp claws for climbing and swimming abilities. Their coat color varies regionally, shedding twice yearly. Found in Coniferous forests, they store excess food in caches, living up to 7 years. Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

52. Border Road Organization (BRO), recently celebrated its 65th raising day, comes under which ministry?

[A] Ministry of Civil Aviation

[B] Ministry of Earth Sciences

[C] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

[D] Ministry of Defence

Answer: Ministry of Defence

The Border Road Organisation (BRO) marked its 65th raising day on May 7, 2024, with a ceremony in New Delhi, led by Union Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane. Established in 1960 by the Nehru government, BRO undertakes critical road projects for the Army. Notably, Project Tuskar, now Project Vartak, connects Bhalukpong to Tenga in Arunachal Pradesh, while Project Beacon focuses on Kashmir. Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan currently heads BRO, operating under the Ministry of Defence with the motto: "In the Silence of Our Great Mountains – Work Speaks."

53. What is 'Choline', recently seen in news?

[A] Nutrient

[B] Pesticide



[C] Virus

[D] Invasive plant

Answer: Nutrient

Researchers recently found that FLVCR2, a protein, facilitates the transportation of the essential nutrient choline into the brain. Choline plays a crucial role in cellular growth and metabolism, existing in both water and fat-soluble forms. While the body can produce choline in the liver, dietary intake is necessary to meet daily requirements. Rich sources include meat, fish, dairy, eggs, as well as various fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

54. Pakistan recently launched its first-ever lunar mission, iCube-Qamar, in collaboration with which country?

[A] Russia

[B] India

[C] China

[D] Iran

Answer: China

Pakistan and China jointly launched iCube-Qamar, Pakistan's inaugural lunar mission. The 7kg satellite, developed by Pakistan's Institute of Space Technology (IST), SUPARCO, and China's SJTU, is part of China's Chang'e-6 mission. Equipped with two optical cameras, it orbits the moon, enabling Pakistan to conduct satellite-based research on lunar surface imagery independently.

55. Which country has recently introduced an AI generated spokesperson, named Victoria Shi?

[A] Russia

[B] Iran

[C] Iraq

[D] Ukraine

Answer: Ukraine

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has introduced an AI-generated avatar, Victoria Shi, as its digital spokesperson. Shi, clad in professional attire, presents updates on consular affairs via social media. While her appearance is AI-generated, the content she delivers is human-written and verified. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba lauds Shi's introduction as a groundbreaking move, highlighting time and resource savings. Ukraine showcases its embrace of innovative tech in diplomatic operations.

56. Archaeologists have recently discovered a 7000-year-old prehistoric settlement in which country?

[A] Serbia

[B] Bulgaria

[C] Romania

[D] Finland

Answer: Serbia



Archaeologists unearthed a 7000-year-old prehistoric settlement near the Tamiš River in northeastern Serbia. Spanning 11-13 hectares and encircled by 4-6 ditches, it dates to the late Neolithic era. Geophysical techniques uncovered Vinča culture artifacts, highlighting their presence in southeastern-central Europe. This discovery is pivotal, shedding light on the sparse identification of larger Late Neolithic settlements in the Serbian Banat region.

57. What is theme of 'World Asthma Day 2024'?

- [A] Closing Gaps in Asthma Care
- [B] Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions
- [C] Enough Asthma Deaths
- [D] Asthma Education Empowers

Answer: Asthma Education Empowers

In celebration of World Asthma Day 2024, GINA promotes the theme "Asthma Education Empowers", stressing the importance of educating those with asthma for effective disease management and timely medical intervention. With over 260 million affected globally, asthma causes over 450,000 preventable deaths annually. Health professionals are urged to enhance their understanding of asthma's impact and evidence-based management to offer optimal care and reduce avoidable morbidity and mortality.

58. *Fusobacterium nucleatum* bacteria, recently seen in news, is primarily found in which part of human body?

- [A] Heart
- [B] Brain
- [C] Mouth
- [D] Lungs

Answer: Mouth

A recent study identified a unique subtype of *Fusobacterium nucleatum* prevalent in colorectal cancer (CRC) tumors. *F. nucleatum*, a Gram-negative anaerobic bacillus, is commonly found in the human mouth and gastrointestinal tract. Named Fna C2, this subtype exhibits higher resistance to acid, potentially facilitating direct migration to the intestines. Moreover, Fna C2 can hide within tumor cells, evade the immune system, and utilize gastrointestinal nutrients, distinguishing it as a significant factor in CRC development.

59. Which ministry launched 'Cool Summers of India' campaign in Dubai during the Arabian Travel Mart 2024?

- [A] Ministry of Tourism
- [B] Ministry of External Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Defence
- [D] Ministry of Finance

Answer: Ministry of Tourism

India's Ministry of Tourism is actively engaging in the Arabian Travel Mart 2024 in Dubai, aiming to bolster its presence in the Middle East tourism market. At the event, the



'Incredible India' pavilion showcases diverse destinations, including hill resorts promoted through the 'Cool Summers of India' campaign. This initiative challenges perceptions about India's climate, promoting it as a year-round destination. Participation holds significant potential for revenue generation and job creation in India's tourism sector.

60. Tirthahalli region, recently seen in news due to areca nut, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Karnataka

The Areca Research Centre at Shivamogga discovered that Areca nuts from Tirthahalli, Karnataka, are of superior quality compared to other varieties. Areca nut, also known as Betel Nut or Supari, is a key cash crop in India. It ranks fourth among the most commonly consumed psychoactive substances globally, following caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol. Widely chewed, especially in Southern Asia, it's a key ingredient in various Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) products. Over 600 million people consume it regularly.

61. Recently, who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Grappling Committee of India for J&K region?

- [A] Saniyaa Kadree
- [B] Vinod Sharma
- [C] Swati Saxena
- [D] Ravi Kant

Answer: Saniyaa Kadree

Saniyaa Kadree appointed Chairperson of The Grappling Committee of India for Jammu & Kashmir, recommended by Subham Choudhary. Responsibilities include overseeing grappling sports operations and providing strategic guidance. Her appointment aims to promote and nurture grappling talent in the region, covering all areas within the state for grassroots development.

62. Which country recently announced drills involving tactical nuclear weapons?

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

Answer: Russia

Russia's Defence Ministry announced drills involving tactical nuclear weapons, designed for battlefield use with yields as low as 1 kiloton. Unlike strategic weapons, their quantity isn't disclosed. These weapons, like artillery ammo or short-range missile warheads, can be discreetly transported and delivered by various means. They've never been restricted by arms control agreements. The Hiroshima bomb was 15 kilotons. These drills signal Russia's readiness to employ tactical nuclear options in combat scenarios.



63. Pulitzer Prize, recently in news, is associated with which field?

- [A] Journalism
- [B] Agriculture
- [C] Entertainment
- [D] Sports

Answer: Journalism

Columbia University announced the 2024 Pulitzer Prize winners on May 7. The prestigious award, established by Joseph Pulitzer in 1904, recognizes excellence in journalism, arts, and culture. Winners are selected by the Pulitzer Prize Board, with categories spanning journalism and arts. The ceremony, to be held later, will see recipients honored by the university president. This year's winners join a legacy dating back to the first prize in 1917.

64. Which IIT has recently launched Secure IoT, India's first indigenous microcontroller chip?

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

Answer: IIT Madras

India's Mindgrove Technologies, incubated by IIT Madras, has launched Secure IoT, the nation's first high-performance SoC (system on chip). Supported by Peak XV Partners, the chip enables Indian OEMs to integrate locally-made technology, reducing costs without sacrificing quality. Secure IoT, a system-on-chip, consolidates multiple electronic components into one, facilitating smaller and more efficient devices. This breakthrough marks a significant step towards India's self-reliance in technology and innovation.

65. What is 'Leber congenital amaurosis', recently seen in news?

- [A] A neurological disorder
- [B] A rare genetic eye disorder
- [C] A type of skin condition
- [D] A cardiovascular disease

Answer: A rare genetic eye disorder

Researchers utilized CRISPR-Cas9 to restore vision in individuals with Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA), a rare genetic eye disorder causing blindness from birth. LCA affects 1 in 40,000 people, impairing light-sensitive cells due to a mutation in the CEP290 gene. The "BRILLIANCE" trial administered a single dose of CRISPR therapy, EDIT-101, which corrected the mutation, enabling proper function of the CEP290 protein, thus restoring vision by allowing the retina to perceive light.

66. In which district Tripura's first International Cricket Stadium is being constructed?

- [A] South Tripura
- [B] West Tripura
- [C] Dhalai



[D] Gomati

Answer: West Tripura

The Tripura Cricket Association (TCA) is poised to unveil the state's inaugural international cricket stadium in Narsingarh, West Tripura. The stadium, slated for inauguration by February 2025, aims to host major cricket events. Construction commenced in 2017 with a 22-month target, but delays prompted weekly reviews for expedited progress. Secretary Subrata Dey emphasized the project's acceleration, targeting completion by January 2025 or mid-February, adhering to a clear roadmap.

67. What is 'Spektr-RG (SRG)', recently seen in news?

[A] Nuclear powered Submarine

[B] Newly discovered marine species

[C] Synthetic opioid drug

[D] Space observatory

Answer: Space observatory

A new pulsar was discovered by astronomers using the Spektr-RG space observatory. Launched in 2019, Spektr-RG is a German-Russian high-energy astrophysics observatory studying the universe in the X-ray range. It orbits the Sun-Earth system's outer Lagrange point (L2), 1.5 million km away, in a 6-month period. The observatory's name stands for Spektr-Rentgen-Gamma and it was launched atop a Proton-M rocket from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan.

68. Which organization recently released the 'Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System' report?

[A] World Bank

[B] IMF

[C] WMO

[D] ILO

Answer: World Bank

The World Bank's 'Recipe for a Livable Planet' report outlines strategies for achieving net zero emissions in the agrifood system. It defines the agrifood system's scope from farm to table, highlighting its significant contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, with developing countries and China, Brazil, and India being major emitters. India's emissions are mainly from livestock. Despite increased climate financing, agrifood projects receive only 4.3%. The report suggests doubling investments to \$260 billion yearly by 2030 for emissions reduction.

69. Recently, which organization successfully conducted the first PreBurner Ignition trial for semi-cryogenic engine (SCE)-200?

[A] ISRO

[B] DRDO

[C] HAL

[D] CSIR

**Answer: ISRO**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the first PreBurner Ignition trial for semi-cryogenic engine (SCE)-200 on May 2, 2024 at the semi-cryo integrated engine test facility (SIET) at IPRC, Mahendragiri. The pre-burner ignition test article (PITA) is a full complement of the engine power head system, excluding the turbopumps. The test proved that the pre-burner could ignite smoothly and continuously. The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) created a start fuel ampule that combines triethylaluminium and triethyleboron to ignite the semi-cryogenic engine. This ampule was used for the first time in ISRO's 2000 kN semi-cryogenic engine.

70. Shinkun La Tunnel, recently seen in news, is located between which two regions of India?

- [A] Kangra Valley & Spiti Valley
- [B] Nubra Valley & Parvati Valley
- [C] Lahaul valley & Zaskar valley
- [D] Patratu Valley & Pangi Valley

Answer: Lahaul valley & Zaskar valley

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is set to build the Shinkun La Tunnel, spanning 4.1 km under the 16,580 feet high Shinku-La pass, linking Himachal's Lahaul valley and Ladakh's Zaskar valley. It will be the world's longest high altitude highway tunnel. Costing Rs. 1,681.5 crores, it promises all-weather connectivity to Ladakh, shortening routes to border areas. Expected to streamline transportation, it will also provide security against long-range artillery shelling or missile firings.

71. World Migration Report 2024, recently released by which organization?

- [A] International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- [B] World Trade Organization (WTO)
- [C] World Bank
- [D] International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Answer: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) released its 2024 World Migration Report, highlighting conflict and climate change as major drivers of global displacement. There are about 281 million international migrants worldwide, with 117 million displaced, marking a record high. In India, climate impacts drive internal migration from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. India hosts the most international migrants (18 million), with top destinations being UAE, USA, and Saudi Arabia. In 2022, India led in remittances, exceeding USD 111 billion.

72. Recently, where was the first Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) between India & Australia held?

- [A] Canberra
- [B] New Delhi
- [C] Melbourne



[D] Chennai

Answer: Canberra

India and Australia held their inaugural Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) in Canberra, Australia. Indian Commerce Secretary Shri Sunil Barthwal led the delegation, meeting with Deputy Secretary George Mina from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Discussions encompassed implementing the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA), addressing issues from market access to pharmaceutical pricing. Both nations explored mutual interests like coastal tourism and prawn disease prevention, establishing an institutional mechanism for data exchange.

73. Where was Uttar Pradesh's first traffic park recently opened?

[A] Prayagraj

[B] Ayodhya

[C] Saharanpur

[D] Varanasi

Answer: Prayagraj

The first traffic park in Uttar Pradesh was inaugurated by the Prayagraj Development Authority in Prayagraj district. Costing 90 lakh rupees, it features a motion theater, digital games, free swings for kids, and electric vehicles for both kids and adults. The park aims to educate about traffic rules and safety while providing recreational activities.

74. Which state recently launched 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' campaign to prevent forest fires in state?

[A] Himachal Pradesh

[B] Uttarakhand

[C] Haryana

[D] Punjab

Answer: Uttarakhand

The Uttarakhand government's Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign aims to tackle forest fires. Supreme Court expresses concern over fires that claimed five lives. Forest destruction and air pollution prompt action. CM Dhami launches campaign urging public involvement, including cooperatives and youth groups. Campaign entails collecting pine tree leaves for payment of Rs 50 per kg. Collected leaves sold to industries. Tehsildars oversee collection centers. Goal is to prevent further forest devastation.

75. Widal Test, recently seen in the news, is associated with which disease?

[A] TB

[B] Malaria

[C] Dengue

[D] Typhoid

Answer: Typhoid

The Widal Test, crucial for diagnosing typhoid fever caused by Salmonella Typhi, suffers from inaccuracies, complicating India's battle against the disease. Symptoms of typhoid



overlap with other illnesses, necessitating precise testing. Developed in the late 1800s, the test lacks reliability, prompting caution from the World Health Organization. Despite its convenience, reliance on it risks misdiagnoses, escalating expenses, and fostering antimicrobial resistance, urging a shift towards more dependable diagnostics.

76. Recently, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) inaugurated a Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at which place?

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

Answer: New Delhi

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched a Krishi ICCC at Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi. The initiative utilizes tech like AI, remote sensing, and GIS for informed agricultural decision-making. It consolidates geospatial data from sources such as Digital Crop Survey and Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics. The Krishi ICCC aims to monitor the farm sector effectively, enhancing productivity and market intelligence.

77. Which organization recently released a report titled 'Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation'?

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

Answer: World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum's report titled 'Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation' highlights Earth Observation (EO) technologies' economic potential, estimating a \$3.8 trillion contribution to global GDP from 2023-2030. EO encompasses remotely-sensed and in-situ data collection, offering insights across sectors. Agriculture benefits from precision techniques, while energy sectors utilize EO for forecasting and operations management. Mining gains insights for mineral exploration. EO also aids climate efforts, with applications like early wildfire detection and greenhouse gas monitoring, potentially reducing over 2 billion tonnes of CO₂ annually by 2030.

78. Ritacuba Blanco glacier, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

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

Answer: Colombia

Ritacuba Blanco, Colombia's iconic mountain peak, has witnessed drastic changes due to climate change and the El Niño weather phenomenon. Once covered in pristine ice and snow, the glacier now reveals large cracks and receding walls. Experts warn of accelerated



melting, exacerbated by greenhouse gases. With only six glaciers remaining of the original 14, Ritacuba Blanco in the Sierra Nevada del Cocuy National Park faces imminent risk, highlighting the urgent need for climate action.

79. Recently, where was the sixth edition of the Commandants Conclave held?

- [A] Indore
- [B] Varanasi
- [C] Jaisalmer
- [D] Pune

Answer: Pune

The sixth Commandants' Conclave convened at MILIT, Pune on May 7, 24, hosted by HQ Integrated Defence Staff. Commandants of esteemed Armed Forces Training Institutions and War Colleges, alongside senior leadership, strategized on future defence strategies. They exchanged insights, shared best practices, and discussed topics like strategic resilience, technological advancement, and human capital development. The event highlighted the commitment to innovation and collaboration in training future leaders amidst evolving global challenges.

80. Which ministry recently launched the 'Capacity Building on Design and Entrepreneurship (CBDE) program?

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

Answer: Ministry of Education

Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, virtually launched the 'Capacity Building on Design and Entrepreneurship (CBDE)' program. Over 130 participants attended, including officials, industry mentors, and representatives of selected Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The program, led by industry-academia collaboration, aims to foster problem-solving skills and entrepreneurial mindset among students. 30 HEIs will receive mentorship to integrate design and entrepreneurship development into their curriculum, supported by industry experts like Shri Manoj Kohli and Smt. Debjani Ghosh.

81. Darfur region, recently seen in news due to hunger crisis, is located in which country?

- [A] Algeria
- [B] Sudan
- [C] Libya
- [D] Egypt

Answer: Sudan

The UN warns of impending famine in Darfur, Sudan, amidst escalating violence exacerbating the country's hunger crisis. Since April 2023, civil war has ravaged the region, leaving inhabitants to subsist on "grass and peanut shells," as per the World Food



Programme. Darfur, in western Sudan, suffers from ethnic tensions between Arab and African groups, resulting in extensive violence and human rights violations.

82. Recently, which organization has released upgraded Dietary Guidelines for Indians to suit modern eating habits for 2024?

- [A] Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- [B] Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- [C] Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- [D] Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Answer: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued updated Dietary Guidelines for Indians in 2024, developed by researchers from the National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad. Emphasizing physical activity, regular exercise, and limitations on salt and high fat/sugar foods, the guidelines aim to combat obesity.

83. Which institute recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386?

- [A] Indian Agricultural Research Institute
- [B] National sugar Research Institute
- [C] Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
- [D] Central Scientific Industrial Organisation

Answer: Indian Agricultural Research Institute

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386, which is resistant to leaf rust and yellow diseases. These diseases are common in the northwest region of India, which includes Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. IARI is a leading institute that has developed many of India's wheat and rice varieties, which are often called the "Green Revolution".

84. Argan tree, recently seen in news, is native to which country?

- [A] Malaysia
- [B] Morocco
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Angola

Answer: Morocco

Every May 10, the International Day of Argania is celebrated worldwide, honoring the ancient Argan tree that has thrived in Morocco for 80 million years. These trees are vital to the local economy and environment. The day aims to raise awareness of their significance, benefits, and the challenges they encounter.

85. Recently, which country's ambassador inaugurated the Kohima Peace Memorial in Nagaland?

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



Answer: Japan

In Nagaland, Japan's ambassador Hiroshi Suzuki and CM Neiphiu Rio inaugurated Kohima Peace Memorial and laid Eco Park's foundation stone. Symbolizing Japan-Nagaland collaboration, it commemorates WWII's Battle of Kohima, signifying peace and reconciliation. Ambassador Suzuki highlighted the battle's impact on Nagaland and prayed for all souls involved. He praised the monument's role in honoring victims. The event holds historical and educational significance, fostering remembrance and respect.

86. What is the causative agent of 'Foot rot disease', recently in news?

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

Answer: Fungus

Punjab Agricultural University introduces *Trichoderma asperellum* to tackle 'foot rot' disease in Basmati rice, endorsed by Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC). The disease, caused by Fungus *Fusarium verticillioides*, affects seedlings and transplanted crops. Symptoms include yellowing, elongation, and eventual death of plants. Current chemical treatments like *Trichoderma harzianum* and Sprint 75 WS pose risks to soil and consumers due to toxicity. Carbendazim, a component of Sprint 75 WS, is banned in Punjab due to high residues.

87. Recently, what amount has India contributed to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund?

- [A] \$200,000
- [B] \$300,000
- [C] \$400,000
- [D] \$500,000

Answer: \$500,000

India's \$500,000 contribution to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund underscores its commitment to combating global terrorism. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), established in 2017, coordinates counter-terrorism efforts worldwide. It provides leadership, enhances coordination among 38 entities, strengthens capacity-building assistance to Member States, and advocates for resources. UNOCT ensures balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy's pillars for effective global counter-terrorism.

88. What is '55 Cancr e', recently seen in news?

- [A] Invasive weed
- [B] Super-Earth
- [C] Ancient irrigation technique
- [D] Submarine

Answer: Super-Earth



Scientists have found a super-Earth, 55 Cancri e, near our solar system. It's twice Earth's size with a thick atmosphere rich in carbon dioxide and monoxide. Orbiting its star, Copernicus, at a close distance, it completes an orbit every 18 hours. Positioned 41 light years away, it faces perpetual day and night. A light-year equals nearly six trillion miles, illustrating the vast gap between Earth and this exoplanet.

89. What is Nerium Oleander, recently seen in news?

- [A] Evergreen shrub
- [B] Asteroid
- [C] Black hole
- [D] Naval ship

Answer: Evergreen shrub

After a woman and two cattle died from consuming Nerium Oleander, the Travancore Devaswom Board decided to remove the flower from offerings to devotees. Oleander, an evergreen shrub known as 'Arali' in Malayalam, grows up to 18-20 feet and is used in poojas despite its toxicity. Ancient civilizations like the Mesopotamians, Romans, and Arabs valued oleander for its medicinal properties. Its toxicity, due to cardiac glycosides, can cause severe symptoms including death. Oleander extracts may have potential medical benefits, including anti-cancer properties.

90. Kadet Defence Systems has been developed India's first kamikaze drone in collaboration with which organization?

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

Answer: DRDO

India's first kamikaze drone, developed by Kadet Defence Systems with DRDO, is a Loitering Aerial Munition (LAM) or Suicidal drone. It loiters over targets for precise identification, capable of changing targets mid-flight or aborting missions. Adaptable to diverse terrains like deserts and high-altitude areas, it has a 12-hour loitering capacity and a flying range of 150-300 km.

91. Bajrang Punia, who was in news recently, belongs to which sports?

- [A] Tennis
- [B] Boxing
- [C] Wrestling
- [D] Badminton

Answer: Wrestling

United World Wrestling (UWW) provisionally suspended Bajrang Punia, Tokyo bronze medallist, until December 31, 2024, citing National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India's suspension. NADA suspended Punia after he refused an anti-dope test on April 23, 2024. Punia's failure to respond to NADA's notice further complicates his situation. If cleared by



NADA, Punia might still compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics, beginning on July 26, 2024.

92. Cook Islands, recently seen in news, are located in which ocean?

- [A] Atlantic Ocean
- [B] South Pacific Ocean
- [C] Southern Ocean
- [D] Indian Ocean

Answer: South Pacific Ocean

The Cook Islands, self-governing since 1965, aims to mine minerals from its seabed for electric car batteries. The Cook Islands are located in the South Pacific Ocean, about 2,900 km northeast of New Zealand and 4,500 km south of Hawaii. Its 15 islands, once a New Zealand colony, host a vast territorial water area, comparable to Mexico's size. Researchers found nodules rich in cobalt and manganese on the seabed, growing as thick as a credit card every million years. Technological barriers to extraction have recently eased, sparking international interest in the Cook Islands' mineral potential.

93. Which organization recently celebrated 70th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict?

- [A] UNESCO
- [B] WTO
- [C] FAO
- [D] UNICEF

Answer: UNESCO

UNESCO marked the 70th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict. It's the first global legal framework solely dedicated to safeguarding movable and immovable heritage during peacetime and conflict. With 135 member states, including India, the Convention and its Protocols (1954, 1999) operate under UNESCO. The 1999 Protocol enhances protection, featuring a list of Cultural Properties under Enhanced Protection.

94. Recently, India signed a visa waiver agreement for diplomatic passports with which country?

- [A] Italy
- [B] Poland
- [C] Greece
- [D] Moldova

Answer: Moldova

India and Moldova inked an agreement permitting visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and official passports. The deal aims to bolster bilateral relations, established since March 20, 1992, characterized as "warm, stable and friendly" by the Ministry of External Affairs. In January, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar congratulated Mihai Popsoi on his appointment as Moldova's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.



95. Recently, Japan collaborated with which country on a hypersonic missile-intercepting system called GPI Project?

- [A] Russia
- [B] United States
- [C] India
- [D] China

Answer: United States

The Japan-U.S. GPI Project aims to intercept hypersonic missiles. Modified missiles from U.S. Navy ships target hypersonic weapons in their "vulnerable" glide phase. Hypersonic missiles exceed Mach 5 speeds, nearly 4,000 mph. Glide phase sees weapons separate from boosters, using gravity to accelerate and maneuver toward targets.

96. DigiLocker, recently in news, is a flagship initiative of which ministry?

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

Answer: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

DigiLocker, initiated by India's Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology in 2015, serves as a secure platform for government documents. Students can access scores and verified marksheets. It's government-approved with stringent security measures, including 2048 Bit RSA SSL encryption and multi-factor authentication. Users can store essential documents digitally, aiding paper-free initiatives. Documents issued via DigiLocker hold legal equivalence to physical copies. The app supports passport applications and identity verification, enhancing convenience and accessibility.

97. Recently, which country is on the verge of a dramatic change to its immigration policy that could reverberate from the dense Darien jungle to the US border?

- [A] Costa Rica
- [B] Panama
- [C] Nicaragua
- [D] Cuba

Answer: Panama

Panama, a Central American country connecting North and South America, is poised for a significant immigration policy shift, potentially impacting from its dense Darien jungle to the U.S. border. Bordered by Costa Rica and Colombia, it boasts the famous Panama Canal, cutting through its midsection. With a diverse population and vast rainforests, Panama's cultural tapestry includes indigenous, European, Afro-Caribbean, and global immigrant influences.

98. What is 'Sea anemones', recently in news?

- [A] Invertebrate aquatic animal
- [B] Newly discovered species of spider



[C] Naval ship

[D] Submarine

Answer: Invertebrate aquatic animal

Scientists at ICAR-NBFGR observed mass anemone bleaching near Agatti island in Lakshadweep. Sea anemones, invertebrate aquatic animals, are integral to coral ecosystems. They possess stinging cells, forming symbiotic bonds with clownfish and Hermit crabs. Anemones anchor to rocks using sticky discs and come in various colors. They exhibit a unique relationship with other marine life, offering protection in exchange for food scraps.

99. Which two countries recently carried out the 7th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Shakti'?

[A] India & Maldives

[B] India & Russia

[C] India & UAE

[D] India & France

Answer: India & France

Joint military Exercise Shakti, a biennial event between Indian and French forces, occurred at Umroi, Meghalaya, from May 13-26, 2024. Attended by French Ambassador Thierry Mathou, Brigadier Mayur Shekatkar, and dignitaries, it focuses on joint planning and strategy development for war scenarios. Shakti, alternating between India and France, aims to enhance cooperation, understanding, and interoperability while sharing combat experiences in countering terrorism.

100. What is the theme for 'International Nurses Day 2024'?

[A] Our Nurses, Our Future, The Economic Power of Care

[B] Closing the Gap

[C] Nurses: A Voice to Lead

[D] Nurses: A Force for Change

Answer: Our Nurses, Our Future, The Economic Power of Care

International Nurses Day, observed on May 12, honors Florence Nightingale's legacy. Some countries extend celebrations into National Nurses Week. The day emphasizes nurses' critical role in healthcare, combating undervaluation. Each year, a theme is chosen by the International Council of Nurses; for 2024, it's 'Our Nurses Our Future, The Economic Power of Care,' highlighting nurses' impact on global economy and the need for investment in the profession for better health outcomes.

101. Recently, which space organization successfully tested a liquid rocket engine made with the help of 3D printing?

[A] ISRO

[B] JAXA

[C] CNSA

[D] ESA

**Answer: ISRO**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested a liquid rocket engine made via 3D printing. ISRO utilized the PS4 engine, employed in the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle's fourth stage, for this advancement. 3D printing constructs objects layer by layer from computer-generated designs. It reduces components from 14 to one, eliminates 19 weld joints, saving 97% of raw material, and cuts production time by 60%.

102. Recently, Mikhail Mishustin has been re-appointed as Prime Minister of which country?

- [A] Russia
- [B] Ukraine
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Malaysia

Answer: Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as prime minister, continuing a technocratic leadership. Mishustin, credited with maintaining stable economic performance amid Western sanctions, submitted his Cabinet's resignation as per Russian law during Putin's fifth term inauguration. Mishustin, 58, a former head of Russia's tax service, has kept a low political profile and is expected to retain most Cabinet members, although Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu's fate remains uncertain.

103. Recently, Idashisha Nongrang has been appointed as the first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of which state?

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

Answer: Meghalaya

Idashisha Nongrang makes history as Meghalaya's first female Director General of Police (DGP), breaking barriers in the state's matrilineal society. A 1992 Indian Police Service member from the Khasi community, she succeeds Lajja Ram Bishnoi upon his retirement on May 19. Nongrang previously served as DGP in 2021 and currently leads Meghalaya Civil Defence.

104. Which country recently won 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy?

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

Answer: Japan

Japan secured their first Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey trophy by defeating Pakistan 4-1 in the penalty shootout. The final match, held at Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia on May 11, 2024, ended 2-2 in normal time. This victory marked Japan's maiden title in the



tournament. Pakistan, making its 10th final appearance, has previously won the trophy thrice. In the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy, Japan clinched the top spot, followed by Pakistan and Malaysia.

105. Pench Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Maharashtra

A leopard cat, scientifically known as *Prionailurus bengalensis*, was sighted in Maharashtra's Pench Tiger Reserve, marking its first appearance there. This forest-dwelling felid species is recognized for its leopard-like coat. Leopard cats are widely distributed across Asia, inhabiting various forested habitats. They exhibit diverse sizes and colorations, typically sporting four black stripes on their forehead. Solitary and nocturnal, they are categorized as Least Concern by the IUCN Red List.

106. What is 'Caenorhabditis elegans', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Invasive plant
- [B] Frog
- [C] Nematode
- [D] Spider

Answer: Nematode

Researchers discovered that offspring of *C. elegans* worms, after consuming disease-causing bacteria, inherited the knowledge to avoid the same bacteria from birth. *C. elegans*, a nematode worm, matures from egg to adult in 3-5 days, offering insights into human and biological sciences. It was the first multicellular organism to have its genome sequenced and neural wiring mapped. With hermaphroditic reproduction, it can self-fertilize, aiding genetic studies.

107. Recently, India's first ever accelerator program for Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) launched in which city?

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

Answer: Bengaluru

Krishikalpa, a non-profit, launched India's first FPO accelerator program in Bengaluru, backed by NABARD. It aims to convert FPOs into sustainable rural businesses, facilitating market connections, resource access, and entrepreneurial skills. NABARD contributes cost-effective strategies to bridge agricultural value chain gaps, enabling risk mitigation, knowledge sharing, and revenue growth for farmers. The initiative targets positive change in the agricultural ecosystem through supply chain management and market orientation



training.

108. Which cooperative society has recently signed an agreement with Marut Dronetech Private Ltd to launch Drone-as-a-Service operations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

- [A] Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)
- [B] Amul
- [C] Anyonya Co-operative Bank Limited
- [D] Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF)

Answer: Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)

IFFCO partners with Marut Dronetech for Drone-as-a-Service (DAAS) in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, aiming to boost rural entrepreneurship and youth engagement. The collaboration targets to cover five lakh acres for agri input spraying. Marut Dronetech will deploy drones to dispense IFFCO agri-products. DAAS facilitates affordable drone tech access for farmers through rural entrepreneurs, promoting accessibility.

109. Recently, which company announced its first ever partnership with Hockey India for the National Women's Hockey League 2024?

- [A] Pepsico
- [B] Coca Cola
- [C] Nestle
- [D] Parle Agro

Answer: Coca Cola

The Coca-Cola India Foundation, partnered with Hockey India for the National Women's Hockey League 2024, marking its first collaboration. This partnership aims to empower women in hockey, aligning with Coca-Cola India's #SheTheDifference campaign. Over three years, they will provide coaching, equipment, nutrition, and organize camps and tournaments, supported by Sporting Ethos. The initiative strives to enhance the stature of female hockey players, domestically and globally.

110. Churdhar Valley, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Himachal Pradesh

Recently, two American women of Indian origin were rescued from Churdhar Valley by an army helicopter after becoming trapped while trekking. Churdhar Valley is located in the Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh, India. The Churdhar peak, at an elevation of 3,647 meters (11,965 feet), is the highest point in the valley and the outer Himalayas.

111. Recently, where was the 4th Joint Committee meeting for the review of AITIGA (ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement) held?

- [A] New Delhi, India
- [B] Jurong, Singapore



[C] Jakarta, Indonesia

[D] Putrajaya, Malaysia

Answer: Putrajaya, Malaysia

The 4th Joint Committee meeting for AITIGA review convened in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 7-9 May 2024. AITIGA, signed in 2009, is a trade pact between ASEAN and India, effective since 2010, commonly known as the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement. Focused on physical goods, it excludes services, with a separate ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement established in 2014 during the 7th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations in Bangkok, Thailand.

112. Rat hole mining, recently seen in news, is a method of manual drilling most prevalent in which state?

[A] Meghalaya

[B] Uttarakhand

[C] Arunachal Pradesh

[D] Assam

Answer: Meghalaya

A High Court-appointed panel in Meghalaya highlights stalled efforts in restoring environments damaged by rat-hole coal mining. This method, prevalent in the state's Jaintia and Khasi Hills, involves narrow, manual pits for coal extraction. Classified into side-cutting and box-cutting, it lacks regulation and safety measures, leading to accidents and fatalities. Despite a 2014 ban by the NGT, rat-hole mining persists, posing environmental and human risks.

113. Recently, which ministry has sanctioned 113 roads under the Vibrant Village Programme in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim?

[A] Ministry of Defence

[B] Ministry of Home Affairs

[C] Ministry of Rural Development

[D] Ministry of Agriculture

Answer: Ministry of Home Affairs

The Home Ministry approved 113 roads under the Vibrant Village Programme across Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim to enhance connectivity in border areas. This scheme, active from 2022-23 to 2025-26, aims to uplift villages along the northern border, curbing outmigration and bolstering security. It targets 2967 villages in 19 districts and 46 border blocks of 4 states and 1 UT. Focus areas include infrastructure, livelihoods, tourism, and cultural heritage development.

114. Recently, which Indian Naval Ship visited Vietnam as part of the Indian Navy's Operation Deployment?

[A] INS Kaveri

[B] INS Vikram

[C] INS Kiltan



[D] INS Veer

Answer: INS Kiltan

INS Kiltan arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on 12 May 24, strengthening ties between India and Vietnam. The visit, part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet deployment, emphasizes professional, social, and community exchanges. Kiltan, an ASW corvette, symbolizes India's naval prowess and was built domestically. The visit culminates in a Maritime Partnership Exercise, enhancing interoperability between the two navies and reflecting their shared values.

115. Recently, the 'ASHVA' range of All-Terrain Vehicles with Military Potential was developed in which city?

[A] Jaipur

[B] Indore

[C] Bengaluru

[D] Varanasi

Answer: Bengaluru

The "ASHVA" range of All-Terrain Vehicles, developed by All Terrain Private Limited (ATHON) in Bengaluru, provides effective transportation for troops and supplies in challenging environments. Tailored for military purposes, these vehicles address operational needs of the Indian Army and Air Force, reducing reliance on imports. Additionally, they hold promise for applications in the Indian agricultural sector, marking a strategic development in domestic manufacturing and defense capabilities.

116. India recently signed a 10 year agreement with which country to develop and manage the Chabahar Port?

[A] Iran

[B] Iraq

[C] Pakistan

[D] Afghanistan

Answer: Iran

India recently signed a 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and manage the Chabahar port, a deep-water port in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province. It's strategically located on the Gulf of Oman at the Strait of Hormuz mouth, granting direct Indian Ocean access. Comprising Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari ports, its proximity to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, alongside its role in the International North-South Transport Corridor, signals its potential as a vital commercial center.

117. What is the name of the project being undertaken by the state highways department in Tamil Nadu around the Nilgiris' major roads?

[A] Nilgiris Highway Rehabilitation Scheme

[B] Soil Nailing and Hydroseeding Project

[C] Soil Conservation Farming

[D] Soil and Water Conservation Society

**Answer:** Soil Nailing and Hydroseeding Project

The project 'slope stabilization using soil nailing and Hydroseeding method' is implemented by Tamil Nadu's state highways department around Nilgiris' major roads. It employs geotechnical engineering techniques like soil reinforcement through steel tendons, creating composite masses akin to gravity walls. Methods include drilled and grouted, driven, drilling, and jet grouted soil nailing. While driven is fast but lacks corrosion protection, drilling and jet grouted methods offer quicker stabilization and erosion control.

118. World Wildlife Crime Report 2024, recently released by which organization?

[A] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

[B] World Health Organization (WHO)

[C] World Bank

[D] United Nation Development Program (UNDP)

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

The 2024 World Wildlife Crime Report by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime revealed rhinos and cedars as the most trafficked species from 2015-2021. Established in 1997, the UNODC combats drug abuse, trafficking, and crime worldwide. It strengthens international cooperation, promotes crime prevention, and aids criminal justice reform to combat transnational organized crime and corruption.

119. Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, recently seen in news, is associated with which space organization?

[A] ISRO

[B] JAXA

[C] NASA

[D] CNSA

Answer: NASA

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, led by NASA, targets exploration from our solar system's outer reaches to the observable universe edge. Its focus includes dark energy, dark matter, exoplanets, and various infrared astrophysics and planetary science areas. Key instruments include the Wide Field and Coronagraph Instrument, utilizing microlensing for exoplanet studies. With a field of view 100 times larger than Hubble, it promises groundbreaking insights into cosmic phenomena.

120. Tennis player Dominic Thiem, who recently announced his retirement, belongs to which country?

[A] Indonesia

[B] Singapore

[C] Austria

[D] China

Answer: Austria

Austrian tennis star Dominic Thiem, 30, announced his retirement at the season's end due



to persistent wrist injuries. Thiem, ranked 117th, claimed 17 career titles, including the 2020 US Open. He reached a career-high ranking of 3 in March 2020. Thiem notably reached the finals of the Australian Open in 2017 and the French Open in 2018 and 2019. He also competed in two ATP finals in London featuring the season's top eight players.

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1. Manika Batra, recently seen in the news, is associated with which sports?

- [A] Table Tennis
- [B] Badminton
- [C] Football
- [D] Chess

Answer: Table Tennis

Manika Batra, India's top women's table tennis player, achieved a historic milestone by entering the world's top 25 in Women's singles rankings, reaching a career-high of 24. She matched G. Sathyan's record for the highest rank achieved by an Indian in singles table tennis. Following her performance in the Saudi Smash tournament, she climbed 15 spots, reaching the quarterfinals. Batra, a gold medallist at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, continues to shine on the global stage.

2. Recently, where was the second round of the India-US dialogue on Africa held?

- [A] California
- [B] Washington DC
- [C] New Delhi
- [D] Varanasi

Answer: Washington DC

The second round of the India-US Dialogue on Africa convened in Washington DC on May 14-15, 2024. Shri Puneet R. Kundal and Shri Sevala N. Mude led the Indian delegation, while Ms. Mary Catherine Phee headed the US team. The dialogue fosters collaboration on developmental projects in Africa, aligning with African priorities. This marks the first



dialogue since the African Union's inclusion in the G20 during India's presidency.

3. Recently, the government of India has announced humanitarian assistance worth \$ 1 million to which country?

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

Answer: Kenya

India pledges \$1 million in humanitarian aid to Kenya to alleviate the aftermath of deadly floods, claiming 267 lives and displacing over 380,000 people. The assistance includes 22 tons of supplies like tents, blankets, and hygiene kits, dispatched via an Indian Air Force plane. Additionally, 18 tons of medical aid, including life-saving drugs and surgical equipment, aim to address urgent healthcare needs of flood-affected Kenyans.

4. Exercise Tarkash, a joint counter terrorism exercise, recently held between which two countries?

- [A] India & Australia
- [B] Nepal & China
- [C] India & Egypt
- [D] India & US

Answer: India & US

The India-U.S. joint urban counter terrorism exercise, involving the NSG and U.S. SOF, concludes in Kolkata, the seventh edition. Started on April 22, 2024, following the previous edition in Chennai, January 2023. Focuses on building relations and interoperability between forces. Aims at enhancing bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism, including sharing tactics and procedures for urban operations like close quarter battles and hostage rescues.

5. Strait of Gibraltar, recently in news, is located between which two countries?

- [A] Spain & Morocco
- [B] Uganda and Tanzania
- [C] Russia and Iran
- [D] Malawi and Mozambique

Answer: Spain & Morocco

In the Strait of Gibraltar, orcas sank a sailing yacht, with the incident occurring in Moroccan waters. The strait connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean, separating Europe and Africa. Its narrowest point lies between Morocco and Spain. Geological studies attribute its formation to the movement of tectonic plates. Water flow dynamics involve the Mediterranean Sea's highly saline waters flowing outward beneath the Atlantic Ocean's currents, while less saline waters flow inward atop the Mediterranean current.

6. Sariska Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?



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

Answer: Rajasthan

Sariska Tiger Reserve, established 46 years ago, awaits land ownership documentation. Located in Rajasthan's Alwar district, it spans 800 sq km in the Aravali Hills. Once a royal hunting ground, it became a natural reserve in 1955 and a national park in 1979. Renowned for relocating tigers successfully, it also boasts historic sites like Bhangarh Fort and natural wonders like Siliserh Lake. Its terrain features rocky landscapes, scrub forests, and semi-deciduous woods.

7. Recently, a Red Panda was sighted in which wildlife sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh?

- [A] Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
- [B] Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary
- [C] Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary
- [D] Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary

A Red Panda, an endangered species, sighted in Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh. These small arboreal mammals inhabit high-altitude forests across Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, and China. Their preferred habitat includes temperate forests of the Himalayas, thriving best at 2,200-4,800m altitudes with bamboo understories. Protected under various regulations, Red Pandas face threats like habitat fragmentation, predation by feral dogs, and occasional hunting.

8. According to data released by Tea Board of India (TBI), tea production across the tea estates of Assam and Bengal may fall by what percent?

- [A] 25%
- [B] 50%
- [C] 15%
- [D] 30%

Answer: 50%

Tea production in Assam and West Bengal could drop by 50% per TBI data. The Tea Board of India (TBI), established in 1954 under the Tea Act, 1953, operates under the Ministry of Commerce with headquarters in Kolkata. It boasts overseas offices in London, Dubai, and Moscow. With 31 members, including the Chairman, it's reconstituted every three years. Major tea-growing regions include Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, and Himachal Pradesh.

9. Recently, which state has initiated bio-energy projects to use pine needles for generating electricity?

- [A] Himachal Pradesh
- [B] Odisha



[C] Uttarakhand

[D] Gujarat

Answer: Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA) initiated bio-energy projects in Uttarakhand to utilize pine needles for power generation, covering 16.36% of the state's forest area. These projects failed due to technology limitations. Chir pine forests produce 15 lakh tonnes of needles annually. Utilizing 40% could fulfill power needs and create employment.

10. Which armed force has recently launched Operation Sadbhavana in North Sikkim?

[A] Indian Army

[B] Indian Navy

[C] Sashastra Seema Bal

[D] Indian Air Force

Answer: Indian Army

Under Operation Sadbhavana, Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army supported remote communities in Naga and Rangrang villages of North Sikkim. After a devastating glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF), relief materials were distributed, symbolizing solidarity. A medical camp served over 150 patients, and educational sessions engaged local youths under the Agniveer Scheme. These efforts underscore the Army's commitment to community development, fostering harmony, and strengthening bonds with border populations.

11. Grande Prairie Forest, which was seen in the news due to wildfire, is located in which country?

[A] Mexico

[B] Vietnam

[C] Malaysia

[D] Canada

Answer: Canada

The Grande Prairie Forest Area, Canada faces an unprecedented wildfire crisis, with multiple out-of-control blazes. Authorities rate the danger as extreme, hampering helicopter and air tanker operations due to limited visibility. Smoke from neighboring British Columbia worsens the situation. One major fire, GWF029, covers 90 hectares near Valhalla. Overnight, a fire guard was established, but ground crews continue battling surface fires until windy conditions ease.

12. Which bank has recently launched Pixel Pay, India's first Virtual Credit Card?

[A] Bank of Baroda

[B] Indian Bank

[C] Axis Bank

[D] HDFC Bank

Answer: HDFC Bank



HDFC Bank introduces Pixel Play, India's first virtual credit card in collaboration with Visa. Available in two variants, Pixel Play and Pixel Go, it allows users to customize cards based on lifestyle and preferred merchants via the PayZapp app. Featuring streamlined digital management, card controls, rewards, and EMI dashboards, HDFC Bank redefines banking experiences.

13. Recently, which institute discovered an eco-friendly solution for treating muddy river water?

- [A] Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal
- [B] Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy, Visakhapatnam
- [C] Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- [D] Indian institute of Technology, Kanpur

Answer: Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy, Visakhapatnam

The Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy (IIPe) in Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with other research institutions, has recently discovered an eco-friendly solution for treating muddy river water. The solution is called the "Surface Modification Technique of Membrane".

14. Which day is celebrated as International Day of Light every year?

- [A] 15 May
- [B] 16 May
- [C] 17 May
- [D] 18 May

Answer: 16 May

The International Day of Light, established by UNESCO, celebrates light's impact on society and technology. May 16th marks its observance, commemorating Theodore Maiman's 1960 laser breakthrough. In 2024, themed "Light in Our Lives," it highlights light's guiding role. Originating from the 2015 UN International Year of Light, IDL was adopted by UNESCO in 2016. Its inaugural celebration was on May 16, 2018, emphasizing the global significance of light science and its applications.

15. Recently, who has been honored with Global Excellence Award 2024 for outstanding contributions in education?

- [A] Rajaram Jain
- [B] Yashwant Singh
- [C] Chandrakant Satija
- [D] Surendra Kishore

Answer: Chandrakant Satija

Chandrakant Satija, Founder/CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, received the Global Excellence Award 2024 at a Mumbai ceremony on May 12th. He was honored as the Most Trusted Admissions Consultant in Vidarbha. With 21+ years in education, Satija guides students' careers with quality education, counseling, and admission guidance.

16. Kadar tribes, recently seen in news, mainly belongs to which region of India?



- [A] Northeastern India
- [B] South India
- [C] Western ghats
- [D] Northern India

Answer: South India

The recent death of a Kadar tribesman in Tamil Nadu's Anamalai Tiger Reserve due to an elephant attack has shocked indigenous communities and conservationists. Kadars, a small tribal group in South India, have historically coexisted with wild elephants. They are traditional forest dwellers, residing along the border of Cochin in Kerala and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. They rely on forest resources for sustenance, practicing specialized trades like honey collection for trade.

17. 'TAK-003', a live attenuated dengue vaccine, is developed by which country?

- [A] Japan
- [B] Greece
- [C] Mexico
- [D] Indonesia

Answer: Japan

TAK-003, developed by Japan's Takeda, is a live-attenuated dengue vaccine containing weakened strains of all four virus serotypes. It's WHO prequalified, the second dengue vaccine after CYD-TDV. Recommended for children aged 6-16 in high-burden, high-transmission areas, it aims to combat dengue.

18. Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile, recently seen in news, is developed by which country?

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

Answer: Russia

Russian President has fortified the nation's military by introducing the Bulava, a new nuclear-capable missile, into the arsenal. The RSM-56 Bulava, designed by the Moscow Institute of Thermal Technology, is a three-stage solid-propellant submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). It measures 12.1 meters in length, 2 meters in diameter, with a launch mass of 36.8 tonnes. Capable of carrying up to 10 MIRVs, it boasts a range of 8,300 km and in-flight maneuverability for enhanced accuracy.

19. Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2024, recently published by which organization?

- [A] International organization for Migration
- [B] Geneva based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- [C] World Meteorological Organization
- [D] World Bank



Answer: Geneva based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

In 2023, global internal displacement rose to 75.9 million from 71.1 million the year before, as per the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024 (GRID-2024) by the Geneva-based IDMC. The report cites 7.7 million displaced by disasters, a quarter due to earthquakes, and 68.3 million by conflict. Sudan, Syria, DRC, Colombia, and Yemen house nearly half of IDPs. Sudan alone records 9.1 million IDPs, with new displacements concentrated in Sudan, Palestinian territories, and DRC.

20. Robert Fico, who was recently injured in a shooting incident, is the Prime Minister of which country?

- [A] Slovakia
- [B] Estonia
- [C] Greece
- [D] Hungary

Answer: Slovakia

Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico is in stable condition after being shot five times in a politically motivated assassination attempt in Handlova. The 59-year-old was attacked by a 71-year-old writer while greeting people. Fico underwent emergency surgery in Banska Bystrica. Security officers quickly apprehended the suspect, and no one else was injured in the incident.

21. What is the theme of 'National Dengue Day 2024'?

- [A] Dengue Prevention: Our Responsibility for a Safer Tomorrow
- [B] Fight Dengue, Save Lives
- [C] Effective Community Engagement: Key to Dengue Control
- [D] Fight against Dengue

Answer: Dengue Prevention: Our Responsibility for a Safer Tomorrow

National Dengue Day, observed annually on May 16, highlights the severity of dengue fever, a potentially fatal mosquito-borne disease affecting millions globally. In 2024, the theme, "Dengue Prevention: Our Responsibility for a Safer Tomorrow," underscores the importance of community engagement in combating the disease. The initiative aims to raise awareness and promote proactive measures to control dengue outbreaks, emphasizing collective responsibility for public health and safety.

22. Sunil Chhetri, who recently announced his retirement, belongs to which sports?

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

Answer: Football

Sunil Chhetri, India's revered football star, will retire from international football after India's match against Kuwait on June 6, 2024, concluding his illustrious career. As the captain of the Blue Tigers, he's been a pivotal figure, known for wearing Jersey No. 9.



Chhetri, hailing from Secunderabad, debuted professionally with Mohun Bagan in 2002 and played internationally since 2005. His career included stints in the MLS and Portuguese league, marking a remarkable journey in Indian football history.

23. Recently, which two countries have signed an agreement to jointly develop interceptors for hypersonic missiles?

- [A] United States and Japan
- [B] China and Russia
- [C] India and Japan
- [D] Russia and India

Answer: United States and Japan

Japan and the U.S. signed a contract to develop interceptors for hypersonic missiles by the 2030s, costing over \$3 billion. Announced in August, the plan addresses the rapid advancements in missile technology around Japan. Japan allocated ¥75 billion (\$480 million) for 2024 development. Hypersonic missiles' speed and irregular trajectories make them difficult to intercept. Japan's defense budget increased amid rising tensions with China and North Korea.

24. What is the theme of 'World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024'?

- [A] Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing
- [B] Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development
- [C] Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times
- [D] Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Answer: Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed on May 17 annually to explore the use of ICT and the Internet in societies and to address the digital divide. Each year, the ITU selects a theme; for 2024, it is "Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development." Sustainable development, as defined by the 1987 Brundtland Commission report, aims to meet present needs without compromising future generations' ability to do the same.

25. Recently, where was the third session of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Trade Committee (JTC) held?

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

Answer: New Delhi

The Third Session of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Trade Committee was held in New Delhi from May 13-14, 2024. Co-chaired by India's Priya P. Nair and Zimbabwe's Rudo M. Faranisi, the session focused on enhancing bilateral trade, investment, and cooperation in various sectors such as healthcare, renewable energy, and digital economy. Both sides agreed to explore MoUs for regulatory cooperation and to strengthen ties between



investment promotion agencies and chambers of commerce.

26. Recently, where was the 12th India-Mongolia Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on defence held?

- [A] Darkhan
- [B] Bengaluru
- [C] Ulaanbaatar
- [D] New Delhi

Answer: Ulaanbaatar

The 12th Joint Working Group (JWG) of Indian and Mongolian defence ministers met in Ulaanbaatar on May 16-17, 2024, as part of their annual meetings. Indian delegation led by Amitabh Prasad, Joint Secretary of Defence, and Mongolian delegation by Brigadier General Gankhuyag Davagdorj. Discussions included bilateral cooperation, Indian Armed Forces capabilities, and potential collaboration in defence manufacturing. Both sides expressed satisfaction with ongoing cooperation and pledged to enhance it further.

27. Ambaji White Marble, recently awarded a GI tag, is predominantly quarried from which state?

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

Answer: Gujarat

Marble mined in Ambaji, Gujarat, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Central Government. Known as Ambaji White Marble, it is renowned for its pristine white color with unique gray or beige veining. This marble is durable, long-lasting, and has a smooth, polished surface, making it popular for luxury architectural projects, sculptures, and monuments.

28. What is 'Deda method', recently seen in news?

- [A] A paddy cultivation method in Northern India
- [B] A method of preserving seeds by Muria tribes
- [C] A traditional irrigation technique
- [D] An ancient medicinal practice to cure malaria

Answer: A method of preserving seeds by Muria tribes

A Muria tribal farmer from Chhattisgarh, settled in the Godavari Valley, uses the traditional 'deda' method to preserve seeds. Seeds are wrapped in Siali leaves, layered with wood ash and lemon leaves, and sealed airtight. Each deda supports 5kg of seeds, protecting them from pests and preserving viability for up to five years. This method is effective for pulses like green gram, red gram, black gram, and beans.

29. Which ministry has recently taken a significant step towards promoting cleanliness and environmental sustainability by launching Swachhata Pakhwada?

- [A] Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region



[B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[C] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

[D] Ministry of Rural Development

Answer: Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) launched Swachhata Pakhwada from May 16 to 31, 2024, under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Initiated in April 2016, this initiative focuses on cleanliness and sustainability by engaging central government ministries and departments. Ministries, termed 'Swachhata Ministries,' follow a pre-circulated annual calendar and are monitored via Swachhata Samiksha to ensure significant improvements.

30. PREFIRE Polar Mission, recently seen in news, is developed by which space organization?

[A] JAXA

[B] CNSA

[C] NASA

[D] ESA

Answer: NASA

NASA's PREFIRE polar mission, launching from New Zealand on May 22, involves twin satellites measuring Earth's poles six hours apart. The mission aims to reveal the full spectrum of heat loss from polar regions, improving climate models. PREFIRE will address knowledge gaps, enhancing predictions of climate change and sea level rise by providing new data on how Earth's atmosphere and ice influence heat radiation from the Arctic and Antarctic.

31. What is 'RoseTTAFold', recently seen in news?

[A] New species of fish

[B] Nuclear Ballistic Submarine

[C] Asteroid

[D] An AI software prediction tool

Answer: An AI software prediction tool

RoseTTAFold, an AI software from the University of Washington, could transform target discovery and drug interaction understanding. Developed at the Institute for Protein Design, it employs generative diffusion-based architectures to predict structural complexes. This 'three-track' neural network integrates sequential patterns in proteins, amino acid interplay, and probable 3D configurations. It can forecast structures and interactions among protein, DNA, and RNA combinations, offering profound potential for scientific advancement.

32. Recently, the central government has collaborated with which company to block more than 1000 skype IDs used in the Digital Arrest scam?

[A] Google

[B] Microsoft



[C] Meta

[D] Flipkart

Answer: Microsoft

The central government, in partnership with Microsoft, blocked over 1,000 Skype IDs linked to the Digital Arrest scam. Victims are coerced into staying visible on video calls, resembling police interrogations, until they comply with criminals' demands. Perpetrators impersonate law enforcement agencies and use AI to mimic victims' family members' voices. Intelligence agencies believe this is part of an organized online crime racket involving cross-border syndicates, sourcing victims' phone numbers from online databases or corrupt bank employees.

33. What is the theme of National Endangered Species Day 2024?

[A] Wildlife Without Borders

[B] Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration

[C] Celebrate Saving Species

[D] Sustaining all life on Earth

Answer: Celebrate Saving Species

National Endangered Species Day, observed on May 17th in 2024, highlights the importance of protecting endangered species. Established annually on the third Friday of May, it raises awareness about the plight of endangered species. Conceived by David Robinson, a senior staff member at the Endangered Species Coalition, this year's theme, "Celebrate Saving Species," urges action to mitigate human activities threatening wildlife, emphasizing mindfulness and contributions to nature's well-being.

34. Recently, which country has unveiled a 10-year Blue Residency visa for environmental specialists?

[A] UAE

[B] India

[C] Malaysia

[D] Indonesia

Answer: UAE

The UAE introduces the 10-year Blue Residency Visa for environmental champions, aiming to attract global leaders in sustainability. Successful applicants include researchers, activists, and members of environmental organizations. This initiative aligns with the Year of Sustainability and COP28's goals, showcasing the UAE's commitment to environmental stewardship. The visa complements existing programs like the Golden and Green Visas, extending long-term residency to investors and skilled professionals. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber lauds the initiative, strengthening the UAE's global sustainability leadership.

35. Which country was declared the host of the Women's World Cup 2027?

[A] Brazil

[B] India

[C] Australia



[D] South Africa

Answer: Brazil

Brazil was declared the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup at the FIFA Congress, beating the joint bid of Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany. Brazil secured 119 votes against 78 for the European bid. The decision followed a FIFA technical evaluation favoring Brazil. Brazil's bid featured purpose-built stadiums and strong commercial backing. The U.S. and Mexico had withdrawn their joint bid to focus on the 2031 tournament.

36. Recently, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$500 million loan to which bank for providing microloans to women in rural areas?

[A] HDFC bank

[B] Axis bank

[C] ICICI bank

[D] UCO bank

Answer: HDFC bank

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) provided a \$500 million loan to HDFC Bank on May 17, 2024. This loan will support women microfinance borrowers, specifically those in self-help groups (SHGs) and joint liability groups (JLGs) engaged in sustainable livelihood initiatives. Unlike non-banking finance companies, which charge higher rates, HDFC Bank can offer cheaper loans due to its access to lower-cost funds from CASA deposits.

37. What is the primary aim of the National Savings Certificate (NSC) scheme, recently seen in news?

[A] To encourage high-income investors to invest

[B] To provide a savings option for low- to mid-income investors and offer tax benefits

[C] To support corporate investments

[D] To encourage foreign investments

Answer: To provide a savings option for low- to mid-income investors and offer tax benefits

The Prime Minister declared a Rs 9.12 lakh investment in the National Savings Certificate (NSC) scheme in his nomination filing. The NSC is a fixed-income investment scheme by the Indian government, targeting low- to mid-income investors to promote savings and tax benefits. Investments can be made individually, for minors, or jointly, through post offices.

38. Which is the nodal ministry for the Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI), recently seen in news?

[A] Ministry of Defence

[B] Ministry of Agriculture

[C] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[D] Ministry of Rural Development

Answer: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) mandated all medical device licensees to



report adverse events on the Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI). Launched in 2015, MvPI aims to enhance patient safety by systematically analyzing adverse events. The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission serves as the National Coordination Centre. Medical devices, regulated by the CDSCO, include electronics, implants, and in-vitro diagnostics. India, heavily reliant on imports for medical devices, oversees regulations through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

39. Spiti Valley, recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Arunachal Pradesh
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Tamil Nadu
- [D] Himachal Pradesh

Answer: Himachal Pradesh

Due to rising temperatures, apple cultivation has become viable in Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh, at elevations up to 3,400 meters. Farmers are shifting from barley and potatoes to apples, which are economically significant. In 2023-24, Spiti Valley produced apples worth Rs 34 crore. Apples, a temperate fruit, originated in the Middle East over 4000 years ago. China is the largest apple producer globally.

40. What are 'baobabs', recently seen in news?

- [A] New species of fish
- [B] Traditional medicines
- [C] Deciduous trees
- [D] Ancient paintings

Answer: Deciduous trees

A recent study in Nature, titled 'The rise of baobab trees in Madagascar', sheds light on the origins and spread of baobabs, deciduous trees found in Madagascar, Africa, and Australia. These trees, known for their towering stature up to 50 meters and longevity of up to 2,000 years, face threats. Baobabs also exist in India, with a notable 400-year-old tree near Golconda Fort in Andhra Pradesh.

41. Recently, which district of Uttar Pradesh get its second Sentinel Surveillance Hospital Lab (SSH Lab), a vital facility to diagnose dengue virus?

- [A] Ayodhya
- [B] Prayagraj
- [C] Raebareilly
- [D] Mirzapur

Answer: Prayagraj

Prayagraj is set to inaugurate its second Sentinel Surveillance Hospital Lab (SSH Lab) to diagnose dengue virus, addressing the current lack of facilities. Currently, only one SSH lab operates at Moti Lal Nehru Medical College. Plans were discussed during a workshop on National Dengue Day at MLN College, aiming to establish the specialized lab at Tej Bahadur Sapru hospital by the end of 2024, enhancing diagnostic capabilities in the



district.

42. Recently, where was an inaugural Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa held?

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

Answer: Paris

The inaugural Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa, held in Paris on May 14, 2024, drew over 1,000 delegates from nearly 60 countries. The summit highlighted the critical health and environmental impacts of traditional cooking methods used by over a billion Africans. Despite progress in China, India, and Latin America, clean cooking remains elusive in Africa, where over 70% of people in countries like Nigeria, Kenya, and Ghana rely on biomass.

43. Recently, which institution has approved a USD 148.5 million loan to enhance power supply in Sikkim?

- [A] Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- [B] Eurasian Development Bank (EDB)
- [C] European Central Bank (ECB)
- [D] World Bank

Answer: Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 148.5 million loan to modernize Sikkim's electricity supply. The project supports the state's Power for All initiative, ensuring uninterrupted, quality electricity. It includes upgrading 770 km of power lines, replacing 580 km of old conductors, and upgrading 26 substations. Additionally, 15,000 public street lights will be installed, and electricity conservation and safety programs will be conducted in 28 villages.

44. What is the theme of 'World Bee Day 2024'?

- [A] Bee engaged – Build Back Better for Bees
- [B] Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees
- [C] Bee Engaged with Youth
- [D] Bee Engaged in Pollinator-Friendly Agricultural Production

Answer: Bee Engaged with Youth

World Bee Day, observed on May 20, marks Anton Janša's birth anniversary, a beekeeping pioneer. Established by the UN in 2017, it highlights bees' crucial roles in food security, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture. The 2024 theme, "Bee engaged with Youth," focuses on involving young people in bee conservation efforts to protect these essential pollinators.

45. Ebrahim Raisi, who recently passed away in helicopter crash, was the President of which country?

- [A] Vietnam



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

Answer: Iran

On May 19, 2024, Iran's hardline President Ebrahim Raisi tragically died in a helicopter crash in northwestern Iran. Raisi, a significant political figure and potential successor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was viewed as pivotal in Iran's leadership. His unexpected death has profoundly impacted both Iran and the international community.

46. Nikhat Zareen, who recently won gold medal at Elorda Cup 2024, belongs to which sports?

- [A] Wrestling
- [B] Boxing
- [C] Chess
- [D] Badminton

Answer: Boxing

Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi won gold medals for India at the 3rd Elorda Cup 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Zareen defeated Kazakhstan's Zhazira Urakbayeva in the 52 kg category, while Minakshi overcame Uzbekistan's Saidakhon Rakhmonova in the 48 kg category. India's 21-member boxing contingent secured a total of 12 medals: 2 gold, 2 silver, and 8 bronze.

47. Which day is observed as 'World Refugee Day' every year?

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

Answer: 20 May

World Refugee Day, observed on May 20, raises awareness about refugees displaced by war, persecution, and economic factors. Originating from African Refugee Day in 1975, the UN adopted it in 2000. The first World Refugee Day was in 2001, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol. India hasn't signed the convention, though the UNHCR operates there since 1981. The 2024 theme is "Hope Away from Home."

48. Kaundinya Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Andhra Pradesh

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India and the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board rediscovered the Sri Lankan golden-backed frog (*Hylarana gracilis*) in Koundinya



Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh, after two centuries. This sanctuary, part of Project Elephant, houses Asian elephants and features diverse flora and fauna. The frog, once considered endemic to Sri Lanka, highlights ancient biogeographical connections dating back 15 million years.

49. What is the IUCN status of 'Iberian lynx', recently seen in the news?

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

Answer: Endangered

The number of endangered Iberian lynx in Spain and Portugal has nearly doubled since 2020. This lynx, known for its pointy ears, long legs, and spotted fur, is the world's most endangered feline. It is sexually dimorphic and primarily nocturnal. Once widespread in the Iberian Peninsula, it now faces threats from human activities. Conservation efforts have improved its population, but it remains endangered according to the IUCN Red List.

50. Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX), recently seen in the news, is a joint mission of which two space organizations?

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

Answer: ISRO and JAXA

The India-Japan partnership is gearing up for the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX), set to launch in 2025 aboard Japan's H3 rocket. Coordinated by ISRO and JAXA, the mission aims to explore the moon's southern polar region, particularly focusing on water presence. It showcases advanced surface exploration tech, with a rover searching autonomously for water and sampling soil.

51. Project Astra, a multimodal AI agent, recently developed by which company?

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

Answer: Google

Google unveiled Project Astra at its annual developer conference, a versatile AI agent adept at real-time interactions via text, video, images, and speech. It can assess code correctness via phone camera and doesn't display emotional diversity in its voice. Demonstrated on smartphones and smart glasses, Astra aims for a human-like assistant experience, capable of remembering and understanding the world around it.

52. An endangered species, Red panda was recently spotted in which wildlife sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh?



- [A] Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
- [B] Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary
- [C] Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary
- [D] Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary

A red panda was recently sighted in Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh. This herbivore species uses its bushy tail for balance and warmth. It's shy, arboreal, and an ecological indicator. Resembling a house cat, it inhabits mountainous forests across Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, and Nepal, with half its habitat in the Eastern Himalayas. Threatened by habitat loss, it's classified as Endangered by IUCN, listed on CITES Appendix I, and protected under India's Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

53. Which institute was ranked as India's best-performing higher education institution in the 2024 Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) Global 2000 list?

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

Answer: IIM Ahmedabad

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad was ranked as India's best-performing higher education institution in the 2024 Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) Global 2000 list, securing the 410th position globally. The rankings process examined data from more than 20,966 universities

54. Recently, which state government has taken measures, including the allotment of grassland, to protect the state's endangered 'polo ponies'?

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

Answer: Manipur

Manipur government safeguards endangered 'polo ponies' by allocating 30 acres of grassland in Lamphelpat, Imphal West district. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh emphasized the move's importance for preserving Manipuri Pony habitat, allowing them to roam and graze freely. This measure aims to protect the state's unique heritage and biodiversity while ensuring the well-being of the endangered species.

55. Recently, which Indian created history by becoming the first Indian space tourist?

- [A] Ashutosh Sharma
- [B] Gopi Thotakura
- [C] Akhilesh Gupta
- [D] Balram Bhargava

Answer: Gopi Thotakura



Gopi Thotakura, an Indian expatriate, became the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian in space on Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. The mission, New Shepard's seventh human spaceflight, included six crew members, among them Gopi Thotakura. The crew also featured historical figure Ed Dwight, the first black astronaut candidate selected by President Kennedy. New Shepard has now flown 37 people into space, marking another milestone in space tourism.

56. R21/Matrix-M vaccine, recently seen in the news, is developed for the prevention of which disease?

- [A] Dengue
- [B] Small pox
- [C] Malaria
- [D] Mumps

Answer: Malaria

The Serum Institute of India (SII) has begun exporting the 'R21/Matrix-M' malaria vaccine to Africa to combat the disease. This new vaccine, recommended by WHO, joins the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine. Developed by Oxford University's Jenner Institute and SII, it received support from EDCTP, Wellcome Trust, and EIB. Affordable and effective, it's approved for children and licensed in multiple African countries, marking a significant step in global malaria prevention efforts.

57. What is the main purpose of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS) Programme, recently seen in news?

- [A] Agricultural research
- [B] Disaster management
- [C] Wildlife conservation
- [D] Urban planning

Answer: Disaster management

In response to the crash of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's helicopter in East Azerbaijan, the European Union activated its Copernicus EMS mapping service. Named after Nicolaus Copernicus, the programme provides earth observation data since its launch in 1998. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS) Programme provides timely and accurate geo-spatial information to help manage natural disasters, man-made emergencies, and humanitarian crises. The EMS Programme uses satellite remote sensing and other data to provide information on emergency response and disaster risk management.

58. Port of Cartagena, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Mexico
- [B] Indonesia
- [C] Maldives
- [D] Spain

Answer: Spain



Spain denied entry to an Israel-bound vessel carrying arms at Cartagena port. Cartagena serves as an intermediate stop for ships, facilitating cargo operations and refueling. Such ports initially provided anchorage for ships to refuel, restock, and repair, evolving into commercial hubs. Aden, Honolulu, and Singapore exemplify these transitional ports. Spain's refusal underscores global efforts to regulate arms trafficking and highlights the significance of ports in international security.

59. Recently, which organization released a report titled 'Water for Shared Prosperity'?

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

Answer: World Bank

The World Bank unveiled "Water For Shared Prosperity" at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, defining shared prosperity as equitable growth, especially for the poorest. It identifies four key pillars: human, social, and natural capital, and economic opportunities. The report highlights disparities in water access due to population growth, urbanization, and climate change. In 2022, 197 million lacked safe drinking water, 211 million lacked basic sanitation, with 450 million in high-poverty, low-water-access areas globally.

60. Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) recently signed an MoU with which organization on digitalisation of animal vaccine cold chain Management?

- [A] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- [B] United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- [C] World Bank
- [D] World Health Organization (WHO)

Answer: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, India, signed an MoU with UNDP India for digitalizing vaccine cold chain management and capacity building. The agreement, signed by Smt. Alka Upadhyay and Ms. Caitlin Wiesen, aims to improve immunization coverage in India. With a focus on enhancing supply chains and addressing the challenge of serving India's vast human and livestock population, the partnership emphasizes efficient cold chain equipment and communication planning.

61. What is the rank of India in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024?

- [A] 35
- [B] 39
- [C] 45
- [D] 50

Answer: 39



In 2024, India rose to 39th place on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index, indicating a post-pandemic tourism revival. The US tops the list, with India leading in South Asia and among lower-middle-income nations. Improved infrastructure and resources fuel India's travel sustainability. Previously 54th in 2021, changes in index parameters affect comparability. The top five includes US, Spain, Japan, France, and Australia.

62. What is the theme of 'International Day for Biological Diversity 2024'?

- [A] Be part of the Plan
- [B] We're part of the solution #ForNature
- [C] From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity
- [D] Building a shared future for all life

Answer: Be part of the Plan

Biodiversity, essential for human well-being, was first coined by Walter G. Rosen in 1985. It faces threats like habitat loss, pollution, and climate change, leading to species extinction and ecosystem degradation. The 2024 International Day of Biodiversity on May 22 highlights the theme "Be Part of the Plan," urging collective action to reverse biodiversity loss and support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

63. Recently, where was '33rd Arab League Summit' held?

- [A] Doha, Qatar
- [B] Manama, Bahrein
- [C] Beirut, Lebanon
- [D] Muscat, Oman

Answer: Manama, Bahrein

At the 33rd Arab League Summit in Manama, leaders emphasized the rapprochement process a year after Syria's reinstatement. UN chief urged for Gaza ceasefire and regional unity. The League of Arab States, established in 1945 in Cairo, aims to strengthen relations, coordinate policies, and promote cooperation among its 22 member states. India holds observer status.

64. Recently, which organization released a report titled 'Financing Gap for Universal Social Protection'?

- [A] International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- [B] International Labour Organization (ILO)
- [C] World Bank
- [D] International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Answer: International Labour Organization (ILO)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) released a working paper on the "Financing gap for universal social protection," estimating the gap at 3.3% of GDP annually for 133 low and middle-income countries (LMICs), totaling US\$1.4 trillion per year. Universal Social Protection (USP) includes key guarantees for vulnerable groups and healthcare. India alone needs US\$135.3 billion, with a financing gap of 3.3% of GDP and 11.8% of



government expenditure.

65. Chandru G, who recently clinched the WBC India Cruiserweight Championship title, belongs to which state?

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

Answer: Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu's Chandru G won the WBC India Cruiserweight Championship with a fourth-round knockout of Jaskaran Singh from Punjab. Chandru, entering with a 10-0 record, overcame a slow start and Jaskaran's height advantage. By the second round, he dominated with heavy combinations. A decisive right cross in the fourth round led to the referee stopping the fight. Chandru dedicated the victory to his supporters and Tamil Nadu.

66. Recently, which state government launched the Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), in collaboration with UNICEF?

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

Answer: Assam

The Assam government launched the Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), in collaboration with UNICEF. The platform is an initiative of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) to help accurately report and assess damage caused by disasters, and to distribute aid to those affected. DRIMS captures critical impact data, such as damage to crops and livestock losses, to help expedite relief delivery and post-disaster restoration efforts. The platform also helps to quickly deliver rehabilitation grants to affected beneficiaries.

67. Kumaon hills, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Uttarakhand

The Supreme Court has temporarily halted a 90-acre hotel and township project in Uttarakhand's Kumaon hills, challenging the "single window" clearance system meant to expedite development in ecologically sensitive Himalayan regions. The stay order comes amidst forest fires and green cover loss in Uttarakhand. The case underscores the conflict between rapid development and environmental protection, stressing the need for thorough environmental assessments and legal oversight for large projects in fragile



ecosystems.

68. Recently, who has been appointed as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the term 2024-25?

- [A] Sumit Mazumder
- [B] T V Narendran
- [C] Sanjiv Puri
- [D] Rakesh Bharti Mittal

Answer: Sanjiv Puri

Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director of ITC, has been elected President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2024-25, replacing R Dinesh. Rajiv Memani is the new President-Designate, and R Mukundan is the new Vice President. Puri, an IIT Kanpur and Wharton alumnus, has received accolades including the 'Best CEO Award' 2024 and the 'Transformational Leader Award 2022-23'.

69. Which ministry has recently proposed new rules for radar speed guns used to measure vehicle speeds on roads?

- [A] Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- [B] Ministry of MSME
- [C] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- [D] Ministry of Defence

Answer: Ministry of Consumer Affairs

The Consumer Affairs Ministry has proposed new rules for radar speed guns. Radar equipment must be verified and stamped within a year of installation. Existing equipment requires re-verification when due. Legal proceedings will outline conditions for using speed measurement results.

70. Which country recently reported its first human case of avian influenza?

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

Answer: Australia

Australia reports its first human H5N1 avian flu infection. The child's case raises concerns as H5N1 primarily infects animals. Avian influenza (bird flu) is caused by Type A viruses, divided into subtypes based on Hemagglutinin (HA) and Neuraminidase (NA) proteins, such as H5N3 and H5N8. H5N1, a high pathogenicity strain, is transmitted by migratory wild birds, particularly waterfowl, which are natural reservoirs.

71. What is the name of the Indian-origin professor who has been awarded the 2024 Shaw Prize in Astronomy?

- [A] Raghu Raj Bahadur
- [B] Abhijit Banerjee
- [C] Shrinivas R. Kulkarni



[D] Ganesh Thakur

Answer: Shrinivas R. Kulkarni

Shrinivas R. Kulkarni, an Indian-origin professor at Caltech, receives the 2024 Shaw Prize in Astronomy for groundbreaking contributions to the field. Recognized for his research on millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, and supernovae, Kulkarni's work has advanced understanding of variable and transient celestial phenomena. As the George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science at Caltech, his achievements mark significant strides in unraveling the mysteries of the universe.

72. Recently, who has become oldest woman to climb Mount Everest?

[A] Kami Rita

[B] Jyoti Ratre

[C] Sangeeta Bahl

[D] Premlata Agarwal

Answer: Jyoti Ratre

Jyoti Ratre, a 55-year-old entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, became the oldest Indian woman to summit Mount Everest on May 19. Her achievement comes six years after Sangeeta Bahl's record. This was Ratre's second attempt, after harsh weather halted her 2023 climb. She has already conquered the highest peaks on five continents and aims to summit Mount Vinson and Denali to complete all seven.

73. What are 'Psychedelics', recently seen in news?

[A] Drugs

[B] Virus

[C] Protein

[D] Invasive weed

Answer: Drugs

Researchers advocate for domestic clinical trials of psychedelic drugs due to increasing global trials and the low effectiveness of current mental health medications. Psychedelics alter perception, behavior, and consciousness, often intensifying sensory awareness. Categories include Classical Psychedelics like LSD, psilocybin, and DMT, primarily acting on serotonin receptors, and Non-Classical Psychedelics like ketamine and MDMA, interacting with various receptors. They offer potential breakthroughs in mental health treatment.

74. Mount Nemrut, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

[A] Turkey

[B] Nepal

[C] Indonesia

[D] Malaysia

Answer: Turkey

NASA's International Space Station captured an unusual crater on Mount Nemrut, one of the Eastern Taurus' highest peaks in southeastern Türkiye. Named after King Nimrod, it stands 9,672 feet tall at the Arabian-Eurasian tectonic plates' intersection. This geologically



young stratovolcano last erupted in 1650 C.E. Additionally, it hosts the Hiero Theseion, built by Hellenistic King Antiochos I, and is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site and a prominent National Park in Türkiye.

75. 'Niyad Nellanar' scheme, recently seen in news, is associated with which state?

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

Answer: Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh's Deputy Chief Minister urged Naxalites to integrate into mainstream society, seeking their input for a new surrender rehabilitation policy. Emphasizing dialogue, the government offers development initiatives like the Niyad Nellanar scheme, providing essential amenities to villages near security camps in the Naxal-affected Bastar region. This effort aims to ensure holistic development beyond anti-Naxal operations, fostering equality and progress in tribal areas.

76. Matua community, recently seen in news, is mainly associated with which state?

- [A] West Bengal
- [B] Bihar
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Madhya Pradesh

Answer: West Bengal

The Matua community of West Bengal, comprising Namasudras, a Scheduled Caste, demands the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019. They migrated to India pre- and post-1971, fleeing religious persecution in Bangladesh. Constituting 17.4% of West Bengal's SC population, they are the second-largest group after Rajbanshis. Harichand Thakur founded Matua Mahasangha, advocating against caste oppression and promoting Dalit education and social upliftment.

77. Recently, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has proclaimed which day as the International Day of the Markhor?

- [A] 23 May
- [B] 24 May
- [C] 25 May
- [D] 26 May

Answer: 24 May

The United Nations General Assembly designated May 24 as the International Day of the Markhor, following a resolution sponsored by Pakistan and eight other countries. This day aims to raise awareness and promote the conservation of the Markhor, an iconic and ecologically significant species native to the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia.

78. Mrugavani National Park, recently seen in news, is located in which state?



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

Answer: Telangana

Telangana Forest Department informed NGT that the area of MNP in Chilkur was reduced by 80 hectares on paper. NGT was hearing a case concerning extra high-tension electrical lines through the eco-sensitive zone. MNP, located in Hyderabad, Telangana, boasts tropical waterless deciduous forest, including Teak, Bamboo, and Sandal. Its fauna includes Spotted deer, Indian hare, forest cat, civet, Indian rat snake, Russell's viper, cheetal, and the flowerpecker bird.

79. Arti, who recently received the Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award, belongs to which district of Uttar Pradesh?

- [A] Unnao
- [B] Raebareli
- [C] Bahraich
- [D] Saharanpur

Answer: Bahraich

Arti, an 18-year-old E-rickshaw driver from Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district, received the Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award from King Charles III at Buckingham Palace. She arrived in her Pink E-rickshaw, provided under UP's Mission Shakti scheme. Sponsored by Prince Trust International, the award recognizes young women's achievements despite challenges. Named after barrister Amal Clooney, it honors Arti's work inspiring girls in her community through the Pink E-rickshaw initiative.

80. 'Parivaar Pehchaan Patra' and 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' schemes, recently seen in news, are associated with which state?

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

Answer: Haryana

Haryana government faces backlash over e-initiatives, turning into an election issue. Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) and Meri Fasal Mera Byora draw criticism. PPP suffers privacy concerns and discrepancies, causing inconvenience. Meri Fasal Mera Byora, though beneficial, suffers from poor implementation and loopholes, leading to fraud and corruption. PPP aims for 'paperless' and 'faceless' delivery of state benefits, providing unique family IDs. Meri Fasal Mera Byora, launched in 2022, aims to facilitate farmer grievances under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

81. Recently, which armed force conducted a 'Pollution Response Seminar & Mock Drill' in West Bengal?



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

Answer: Indian Coast Guard

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) hosts 'Pollution Response Seminar and Mock Drill' at Haldia, West Bengal on May 22-23, 2024. Key stakeholders and oil handling agencies collaborate to combat sea oil spills. Table-top exercises enhance response capabilities. State-of-the-art equipment demos improve readiness. Commander stresses synergy for effective implementation of National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan. Collective responsibility to protect marine resources emphasized, reaffirming ICG commitment to safer seas and cleaner coasts.

82. Dombivali Boiler Blast, a tragic incident, recently happened in which state?

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

Answer: Maharashtra

A boiler blast at a Dombivali, Maharashtra chemical company killed 8 and injured 60. Over the past decade, India reported 130 significant chemical accidents, resulting in 259 deaths and 563 injuries, per NDMA. Notable incidents include the Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984), Visakhapatnam Gas Leak (2020), Chennai Oil Spill (2017), and Neyveli Boiler Blast (2020). Key factors: poor safety regulations, lack of training, equipment failure, and inadequate emergency preparedness.

83. Which institution recently collaborated with Columbia University to develop optical driving process for nanopatterns?

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

Answer: IIT Guwahati

Scientists from IIT Guwahati and Columbia University have developed a novel nanopatterning method using a tabletop IR laser. Led by Dr. Rishi Maiti from IIT Guwahati, the research was published in Science Advances. Nanopatterning, crucial for creating nano-scaled optical elements, significantly impacts advanced light detectors, solar cells, lasers, and LEDs. The technique manipulates materials at scales 100,000 times smaller than a human hair's width.

84. Recently, the world's first 100% biodegradable pen has been launched in which country?

- [A] India



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

Answer: India

Over 50 billion ballpoint pens are trashed yearly, with 95% made of plastic. Saurabh H. Mehta from New Delhi created the world's first 100% biodegradable pen. He founded bioQ, focusing on eco-friendly stationery, and launched NOTE (No Offence to Earth) to eliminate plastic in pens. The NOTE pen features a recycled paper refill, non-toxic ink, and a removable metal tip, exploring materials like paper tubes, bamboo, and metal for its exterior.

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

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

Answer: Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has initiated a three-day elephant census at Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, located at the junction of Eastern and Western Ghats in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. It spans 1,411.6 sq km, declared a tiger reserve in 2013, fostering a continuous habitat for tigers and other wildlife. The reserve boasts the world's largest tiger population, over 280 tigers, and is home to indigenous tribes like the Irula and Kurumba.

86. Ashtamudi Lake, recently seen in the news due to microplastic pollution, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Kerala

A recent study exposes extensive microplastic pollution in Ashtamudi Lake, emphasizing ongoing monitoring and addressing potential public health risks. Located in Kerala's Kollam district, the lake boasts scenic beauty and eight connecting channels, earning its name Ashtamudi. Second-largest in Kerala, it drains into the sea via Neendakara estuary, fed primarily by the Kallada River. Historically significant, it served as a crucial port in the 14th century, and hosts diverse marshy mangroves, including endangered species.

87. Recently, researchers of which university have discovered that Neanderthals from 50,000 years ago were infected with three viruses still present in modern humans?

- [A] University of Oxford, England
- [B] Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil
- [C] Stanford University, California



[D] Columbia University, New York

Answer: Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil

Researchers at Brazil's Federal University of Sao Paulo discovered that Neanderthals 50,000 years ago harbored three viruses still impacting modern humans. This finding surpasses the previous record by 20,000 years, held by a 31,000-year-old common-cold virus. Marcelo Briones suggests it's feasible to synthesize these ancient viruses. The discovery, from DNA analysis of Neanderthal skeletons in Russia's Altai mountains, confirms ancient viral origins, ruling out contamination.

88. Periyar River, recently seen in news, is the longest river in which state?

[A] Kerala

[B] Gujarat

[C] Maharashtra

[D] Karnataka

Answer: Kerala

A recent mass fish kill devastated the Periyar River in Kerala, causing widespread destruction and outrage. The Periyar River, Kerala's longest, originates in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu and flows northward, passing through the Periyar National Park into the man-made Periyar Lake. It eventually joins the Vembanad Lake before reaching the Arabian Sea. The river, spanning 244 km, sustains a vast area and is vital for Kerala's economy, notably with the Idukki Dam, the state's largest hydroelectric project.

89. Recently, National Council for Cement and Building Materials-Incubation Centre (NCB-IC) was inaugurated by which ministry?

[A] Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

[B] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

[C] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

[D] Ministry of Communications

Answer: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Recently, the National Council for Cement and Building Materials-Incubation Centre (NCB-IC) was inaugurated by the Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. At NCB-IC, startups/entrepreneurs receive mentorship from NCB scientists and industry experts for product development. DPIIT-recognised startups now total 1,36,584. NCB, under DPIIT, is a leading R&D organization focusing on cement, building materials, and construction industries, offering research, technology development, education, and industrial services.

90. What is the main objective of Astrosat mission, recently seen in the news?

[A] To study celestial sources in the X-ray, optical & spectral bands simultaneously

[B] Analyzing cosmic microwave background radiation

[C] To study exoplanets

[D] To explore the Mar's surface

Answer: To study celestial sources in the X-ray, optical & spectral bands simultaneously



Indian astrophysicists used AstroSat to discover aperiodic modulation of high-energy X-rays in Swift J1727.8-1613, a black hole binary source. AstroSat, India's first dedicated astronomy mission, launched in 2015, observes celestial sources in X-ray, optical, and UV bands simultaneously. It carries five scientific payloads for imaging and studying cosmic sources. Unique for enabling multi-wavelength observations, AstroSat is controlled from Bengaluru. Its objectives include studying binary systems, star birth regions, and conducting deep-field surveys.

91. Which country named the cyclonic storm 'Remal' that recently hit the Bay of Bengal?

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

Answer: Oman

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) warns that a low depression in the Bay of Bengal has intensified into severe cyclonic storm Remal, with wind speeds of 100-120 km/h. Cyclone Remal, named by Oman, is the season's first in the region and will bring heavy rain and thundershowers to West Bengal and Bangladesh.

92. Who has become the first Indian gymnast to win a gold medal at the 2024 Asian Gymnastics Championships?

- [A] Dipa Karmakar
- [B] Pranati Nayak
- [C] Rucha Divekar
- [D] Kalpana Debnath

Answer: Dipa Karmakar

Dipa Karmakar of Tripura made history by becoming the first Indian gymnast to win gold at the Asian Championships. She won the women's vault final at the 2024 Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with a score of 13.566. North Korea's Kim Son-hyang and Jo Kyong-byol took silver and bronze. Despite this victory, Dipa finished 16th in the all-around, missing the 2024 Paris Olympics quota.

93. Virupaksha Temple, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Karnataka

A portion of Hampi's Virupaksha Temple in Karnataka, specifically the 'saalu mantap' pavilion, collapsed due to torrential rains. Dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, a form of Shiva, the temple is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Hampi, the former capital of the Vijayanagara kingdom. It showcases Dravida temple architecture with grand gopuras, Vimana, intricate carvings, and pillared halls.



94. Which institute recently launched the 'Electric Tiller'?

- [A] CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research
- [B] CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute
- [C] CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research
- [D] CSIR-Advanced Materials and Processes Research

Answer: CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research launched an Electric Tiller for small farmers, prioritizing user comfort and eco-sustainability. Features include enhanced torque, electronic controls, and versatile charging options like AC and Solar DC. It produces zero exhaust emissions, supporting India's commitment to eco-friendly farming. Compatible with various attachments, it minimizes operator fatigue, boosts productivity, and has the potential to reduce operational costs by up to 85%. Tilling improves soil quality and promotes healthy crop growth.

95. Irrawaddy River, recently seen in news, is located in which country?

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

Answer: Myanmar

Myanmar's military regime has formed a body to evaluate hydropower projects on the Irrawaddy River, potentially reviving the controversial Myitsone Dam. Amid worsening power shortages since the 2021 coup, the regime aims to address these issues and boost domestic production.

96. Recently, Ministry of Ayush and the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) hosted a sensitization program at which place?

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

Answer: New Delhi

The Ministry of Ayush and the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) hosted a program in New Delhi to enhance collaborations between the insurance sector and Ayush healthcare providers. The event, attended by CEOs and CMDs of insurance companies and Ayush hospital owners, aims to improve the accessibility and affordability of Ayush treatments. Key figures emphasized the commitment to making healthcare affordable, accessible, and high-quality.

97. Whooping cough (pertussis), recently in news, is caused by which agent?

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



[D] Protozoa

Answer: Bacteria

In winter 2023, health experts noticed rising whooping cough (pertussis) cases in Europe, the US, and the UK, with UK cases hitting a 20-year high. By March 2024, European cases peaked higher than in the past decade. Factors include declining vaccine uptake in babies and during pregnancy, and reduced population immunity post-COVID-19. Whooping cough, caused by Bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*, primarily affects babies under six months. Symptoms include cold-like signs and a distinctive "whooping" cough. Prevention involves DTP and Tdap vaccines, which also protect against diphtheria and tetanus. In India, the DTP vaccine is used.

98. Recently, Gitanas Nausėda has been re-elected as the President of which country?

[A] Lithuania

[B] Luxembourg

[C] Croatia

[D] Bulgaria

Answer: Lithuania

Gitanas Nausėda, a non-partisan candidate and former bank chief economist, was re-elected as Lithuania's president on May 26, 2024, defeating Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė. The initial election on May 12, 2024, saw Nausėda receiving 46% and Šimonytė 16%, leading to a run-off. Nausėda won decisively, securing his second five-year term. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated him on his re-election.

99. Which state government has recently banned the sale, production and distribution of tobacco products?

[A] Kerala

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Bihar

[D] Telangana

Answer: Telangana

The Telangana government has banned the manufacture, storage, distribution, and sale of gutka and pan masala containing tobacco and nicotine for one year starting May 24, 2024. This decision, driven by public health concerns, is enforced under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The ban aims to mitigate serious health risks like oral cancer and oral submucous fibrosis linked to these products.

100. Which state government recently issued an order to Forest Development Corporation to plant eucalyptus trees for its financial sustenance in 2024-2025?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Gujarat

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Kerala

Answer: Kerala



The Kerala government authorized the Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) to plant eucalyptus trees for financial support in 2024-2025. Eucalyptus, a genus of over 660 species, includes some of the world's tallest trees, native to Australia and nearby regions. Known as gum trees, they feature gum-infused bark, circular leaves, and small flowers. In India, Eucalyptus tereticornis and Eucalyptus hybrids are commonly cultivated in various states, thriving in fertile, loamy soil.

101. Narva River, recently seen in the news, is a disputed river between which two countries?

- [A] Turkey and Jordan
- [B] Egypt and Ethiopia
- [C] Russia and Estonia
- [D] India and China

Answer: Russia and Estonia

A new dispute has emerged between Russia and Estonia over the removal of navigation markers on the Narva River, part of their shared border. The Narva River basin, located in the Baltic Sea basin, spans eastern Estonia and northwest Russia. Key transboundary water bodies include Lake Peipsi and the Narva reservoir, with the river connecting Lake Peipsi to the Gulf of Finland.

102. ZiG currency, recently seen in news, is a new gold-backed currency launched by which country?

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

Answer: Zimbabwe

To address economic instability, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe launched a gold-backed currency, the ZiG, on April 5, 2024. The ZiG is Zimbabwe's sixth currency, with denominations from 1 to 200 ZiG. Backed by gold reserves, it aims to stabilize the economy and prevent devaluation. Zimbabwe has faced severe inflation, surpassing 500%, leading to the collapse of the Zimbabwean dollar in 2009 and reliance on foreign currencies.

103. Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) initiative, recently seen in the news, has been introduced by which organization?

- [A] SEBI
- [B] NABARD
- [C] DRDO
- [D] ISRO

Answer: SEBI

Delhi-based think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) praised SEBI's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) initiative. Introduced in May 2021, BRSR



mandates the top 1000 listed companies to disclose their performance on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects. This aims to showcase their commitment to responsible business practices and provides policymakers and investors with crucial data for informed decision-making.

104. What is the primary use of a Linear Accelerator (LINAC) device, recently in news?

- [A] To diagnose TB
- [B] For external beam radiation treatments for patients with cancer
- [C] To measure heat waves
- [D] None of the Above

Answer: For external beam radiation treatments for patients with cancer

The Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER) signed an MoU on MRI and Linear Accelerator technology transfer with industry. The Linear Accelerator (LINAC) is used for cancer treatment through external beam radiation. It accelerates electrons using microwave technology to produce high-energy x-rays that target and destroy cancer cells. SAMEER is an autonomous R&D lab in Mumbai under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

105. What is 'Oedocladium sahyadricum', recently seen in news?

- [A] Protein
- [B] Algae
- [C] Virus
- [D] Bacteria

Answer: Algae

A team of botanists at Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta, discovered a new algal species, *Oedocladium sahyadricum*, in the Western Ghats. Named after the Sahyadri region, it is dioecious, terrestrial, and mat-forming on damp soil. The alga, velvety green turning yellowish-green when mature, has potential applications in medicine, agriculture, and natural pigment production. This is Kerala's first recorded species of *Oedocladium*.

106. Doomsday Glacier, recently seen in the news, is located in which continent?

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

Answer: Antarctica

A study reveals Antarctica's Thwaites Glacier, known as the "Doomsday Glacier," is highly vulnerable to warming oceans. Roughly the size of Britain, it holds enough water to raise sea levels by over half a meter. Melting at a rate contributing 4% to global sea level rise annually, its significance lies in slowing ice flow into the ocean. Thwaites underscores Antarctica's critical role in climate dynamics and the urgent need for environmental action.

107. Rajaji Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?



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

Answer: Uttarakhand

A tigress translocated from Corbett Tiger Reserve to Rajaji Tiger Reserve has given birth to four cubs, according to the Chief Wildlife Warden. Rajaji National Park, established in 1983 and located in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, is a vital link to other tiger habitats in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. The reserve, named after freedom fighter C. Rajgopalachari, became India's 48th tiger reserve in 2015.

108. Which space organization has recently launched a tiny satellite to measure heat lost from Earth's poles?

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

Answer: NASA

NASA recently launched one of two climate satellites to study heat emissions at Earth's poles, named PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-Infrared Experiment). This mission is vital for analyzing Earth's energy budget, which determines its temperature and climate. Currently, there's no way to measure far-infrared radiation emitted from the Arctic and Antarctica, leaving a gap in understanding the planet's energy balance. The second satellite will be launched soon to address this gap.

109. Recently, which Indian peacekeeper received the 'United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year for 2023'?

- [A] Lakshmi Sehgal
- [B] Radhika Sen
- [C] Sophia Qureshi
- [D] Priya Jhingan

Answer: Radhika Sen

Major Radhika Sen, an Indian peacekeeper in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, received the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year for 2023. Serving with MONUSCO, she led the Engagement Platoon, established Community Alert Networks, and conducted mixed-gender patrols. Her efforts included providing education and training for locals, empowering women, and fostering a safe, inclusive environment. Her service ran from March 2023 to April 2024. The award, established in 2016, honors peacekeepers integrating gender perspectives. Major Sen is the second Indian recipient after Major Suman Gawani in 2019, who served in South Sudan.

110. Genetically modified (GMO) mosquitoes were recently released in which country of Africa to fight malaria?



- [A] Kenya
- [B] Djibouti
- [C] Tanzania
- [D] Botswana

Answer: Djibouti

Genetically modified mosquitoes were released in Djibouti to combat malaria as part of the two-year-old 'Djibouti Friendly Mosquito Programme'. This method releases engineered male mosquitoes that mate with females, passing on a gene that prevents female offspring from surviving to adulthood, reducing the population of malaria-transmitting *Anopheles stephensi* mosquitoes. Similar methods have been successful in Brazil, the Cayman Islands, Panama, and India.

111. Vivekananda Rock Memorial, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

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

Answer: Tamil Nadu

The Prime Minister meditate for 48 hours at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari, marking the end of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The memorial, built in 1970 to honor Swami Vivekananda, is on a small island off Kanyakumari where the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea meet. It features the 'Shripada Mandapam,' 'Vivekananda Mandapam,' and a life-sized bronze statue of Vivekananda.

112. Recently, a 'Himalayan Serow' was spotted in which National Park of Assam?

- [A] Manas National Park
- [B] Namdapha National Park
- [C] Nameri National Park
- [D] Orang National Park

Answer: Nameri National Park

Recently, a Himalayan serow was spotted in Nameri National Park, resembling a blend of goat, donkey, cow, and pig. Serows are herbivores, typically inhabiting altitudes between 2,000 to 4,000 meters in the Himalayas. The Himalayan serow, a subspecies of the mainland serow, is vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List. Nameri Tiger Reserve, situated in Assam's Sonitpur district, encompasses the park and is contiguous with Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.

113. How much assistance has the Government of India granted to Papua New Guinea for the recent flood and landslide disaster?

- [A] \$1 million
- [B] \$2 million
- [C] \$3 million
- [D] \$4 million



Answer: \$1 million

India provided \$1 million in immediate aid to Papua New Guinea after a flood and landslide disaster claimed 2,000 lives. Prior assistance was extended in 2018 after an earthquake and in 2019 and 2023 following volcanic eruptions. Diplomatic relations between India and Papua New Guinea began in 1975. PNG appointed its first defense adviser to India, enhancing defense cooperation. PNG has supported India's positions in international forums like the UN and Commonwealth.

114. What is microcephaly, recently seen in news?

- [A] A condition where a baby's eyes is larger than normal
- [B] A condition where a baby's head is much smaller than normal
- [C] A condition where a baby's head is larger than normal
- [D] A condition where a baby's heart is larger than normal

Answer: A condition where a baby's head is much smaller than normal

Recent research confirms the SASS6 gene's significance in microcephaly and neuron development. Microcephaly results in a significantly smaller head size in babies, often associated with poor motor skills, speech difficulties, and abnormal facial features. It stems from abnormal cell division during embryonic brain development and can be diagnosed prenatally. Consanguineous marriages increase the risk due to heightened chances of inheriting two mutated copies of the SASS6 gene, vital for cell division and centriole formation.

115. Which state's State Tiger Strike Force (STSF) recently seized an iguana and an emperor scorpion during a raid?

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

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh State Tiger Strike Force (STSF) seized an iguana and an emperor scorpion in Dewas district, enforcing Rule 49 M of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) for the first time. Section 49 M mandates registration of possession, transfer, and reporting of birth/death of scheduled animals. Both species are in Appendix II of WPA 1972 and CITES, needing specific permits. Animals are housed at Kamala Nehru Zoological Museum. New rules require online registration of CITES-listed animals by August 31, 2024.

116. Recently, National Archives of India successfully completed a first-of-its-kind project to archive historical documents of the Indian diaspora in which country?

- [A] Iraq
- [B] Cyprus
- [C] Oman
- [D] Bahrain

Answer: Oman



The Indian Embassy in Muscat and the National Archives of India (NAI) completed a groundbreaking project archiving historical documents of the Indian diaspora in Oman. Titled "The Oman Collection – Archival Heritage of the Indian Community in Oman," the project digitized over 7,000 documents from 32 prominent Indian families in Gujarat. Spanning from 1838 to the early 20th century, the collection includes diaries, letters, and photographs, now accessible on NAI's "Abhilekh Patal" portal.

117. Recently, FICCI organized 'Cold Chain and Logistics Summit' at which place?

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

Answer: New Delhi

The FICCI organized Cold Chain and Logistics Summit in New Delhi to promote collaboration and innovation in India's perishable goods industry. Dr. Surendra Ahirwar of the Ministry of Commerce highlighted the importance of redefining logistics for various sectors, including pharma, food, oil, and flowers. Over 250 delegates from diverse industries are participating, aiming to develop an integrated, sustainable, and efficient cold chain ecosystem.

118. Recently, which Indian space startup successfully launched Agnibaan's sub-orbital rocket?

- [A] Astrogate Labs
- [B] Bellatrix Aerospace
- [C] Dhruva Space
- [D] Agnikul cosmos

Answer: Agnikul cosmos

Indian space startup Agnikul Cosmos successfully launched its first sub-orbital test vehicle, Agnibaan SOrTeD, powered by the world's first single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine. This milestone, achieved after four previous launch attempts, marks the second private startup launch in India and the first from a private launchpad at Sriharikota. Dr. Pawan Goenka hailed the launch as a historic moment for India's space sector.

119. Recently, where was the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) held?

- [A] Trinidad and Tobago
- [B] Antigua and Barbuda
- [C] Bahamas
- [D] Barbados

Answer: Antigua and Barbuda

The SIDS4 conference, held from May 27-30, 2024, gathered over 3,000 delegates to develop the "Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS" (ABAS), aiming for resilient prosperity in Small Island Developing States. The Coalition for Disaster Resilient



Infrastructure (CDRI) announced funding through its Infrastructure for Resilient Island States Programme (IRIS) at the United Nations 4th International Conference on SIDS in Antigua and Barbuda.

120. Which country has recently assumed the chair of the Colombo Process for the term 2024-26?

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

Answer: India

India assumed the Chair of the Colombo Process for 2024-26, its first time since 2003. The Colombo Process, a regional consultative platform for managing overseas employment and labor, includes 12 Asian member states like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. India, a founding member, focuses on skills recognition and ethical recruitment. The UN's International Organization for Migration supports this process.

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