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CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION

February 2024

By Intakhab Sir

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MCQs

By Intakhab Sir (GK Head Faculty)

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Q1. Recently, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has introduced a new medal “Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak” It has been introduced after merging how many existing medals?

(a) 2 (b) 3
(c) 4 (d) 5

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Ans1. (c) 4

MHA merges four medals into one – Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak

The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak will be conferred for excellence in operations in several areas, including counter-terrorism, arms control, prevention of narcotics smuggling etc.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has introduced a new medal, Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak, after merging four existing medals –

- Union Home Minister’s Special Operation Medal,
- Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation,
- Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak and
- Union Home Minister’s Awards for Meritorious Service in Forensic Science.

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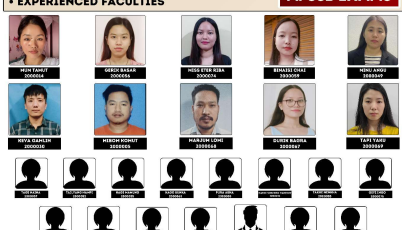
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Q2. Recently, which of the following companies has implanted a wireless brain chip “Telepathy” in a human for the first time?

(a) Synchron
(b) Neuralink
(c) BrainCo
(d) Kernel

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Ans2. (b) Neuralink

- **Elon Musk** made a recent announcement concerning the **successful implantation of a Neuralink device** in a human subject.
- The device is roughly the size of a large coin, specifically designed for implantation in the **skull for brain-computer interface**.
- Neuralink has obtained approval from the **US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** under the "**investigational device exemption.**"

EEG-BASED MIBCI SYSTEM

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Q3. According to the recent changes, the customers will be able to transfer up to how much amount between bank accounts using the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) using only recipient's mobile number and the name of their bank?

(a) Rs. 2 lakh (b) Rs. 3 lakh
(c) Rs. 4 lakh (d) Rs. 5 lakh

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Ans3. (d) Rs. 5 lakh

- As of February 1, 2024, customers can transfer up to Rs 5 lakh between bank accounts using the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) with only the recipient's mobile number and bank name.
- This update eliminates the need to add beneficiary details like account numbers or IFSC codes.

• IMPS stands for **Immediate Mobile Payment Service**, a service that allows bank customers to transfer funds in real-time using mobile phones.

• It was introduced in 2010 to support the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) policy of electronic store payments and make electronic transfers easier for customers.

• It is managed by **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

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Q4. Recently, it was informed that a woman Robot Astronaut will fly into Space ahead of ISRO's first human manned Space Flight "Gaganyaan" mission. What is the name of this woman Robot Astronaut?

(a) Vyommitra
(b) Anasuya
(c) Savitri
(d) Sophia

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Ans4. (a) Vyommitra

- The "Vyommitra" Mission is scheduled for the third quarter of 2024 while a **manned mission "Gaganyaan"** is scheduled to be launched in 2025.
- "Vyommitra" is a name derived from two Sanskrit words namely, "Vyoma" (meaning Space) and "Mitra" (meaning Friend).
- This Female Robot Astronaut is equipped with the capability to **monitor Module Parameters, issue Alerts and execute Life Support operations.**

The Gaganyaan project aims to **demonstrate human space capabilities**, launching astronauts into a 400-kilometer orbit and safely bringing them back to Earth, landing in India's sea waters.





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Q5. Recently, who amongst the following from India has won the **International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) female athlete of the year 2023 in Sanda category (Wushu)?**

(a) Naorem Roshibina Devi
(b) Mehreen Banday
(c) Rasiba Jaan
(d) Pooja Kadian

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Ans5. (a) Naorem Roshibina Devi

Naorem Roshibina Devi, a 23-year-old from Manipur, was named the International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) female athlete of the year in the sanda category for 2023 after a month-long public vote.



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Q6. Recently, five more wetlands have been declared as **Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) in India. Now, there are total how many Ramsar sites in India?**

(a) 75 (b) 80
(c) 83 (d) 78

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Ans6. (b) 80

Three of these sites, **Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Aghanashini Estuary and Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve** are located in **Karnataka** whereas two, **Karavetti Bird Sanctuary** and **Longwood Shola Reserve Forest** are in **Tamilnadu**.

- Ramsar is a city in Iran. In 1971, an international treaty for wetlands conservation and sustainable use was signed at Ramsar.
- The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

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Q7. According to the recently released All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report 2021-22 by the Union ministry of Education, which of the following states/union territories has the highest gross enrolment ratio (GER)?

(a) Puducherry (b) Chandigarh
(c) Delhi (d) Tamil Nadu

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Ans7. (b) Chandigarh

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE):

- The AISHE report has been published by the Ministry of Education since 2011.

Highlights of AISHE 2021-22:

In 2021-22, the overall gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education for the age group 18-23 years increased to 28.4%, from 27.3% in 2020-21 and 23.7% in 2014-15, the base year.

Female GER increased to 28.5% (2.07 crore) in 2021-22 from 27.9 (2.01 crore) in 2020-21 and 22.9 percent in 2014-15.

The GER of Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) students has also increased by around 2%. In 2020-21, the GER of SC students was 25.6% and ST was 23.4%, while in 2021-22 it increased to 27.2% and 25.8% respectively.

The enrolment of OBC students has also increased to 1.63 crore in 2021-22 from 1.13 crore in 2014-15.

About 78.9 per cent of the total students are enrolled in undergraduate level courses and 12.1 per cent are enrolled in postgraduate level courses.

Among disciplines at the undergraduate-level in AISHE 2021-22, enrolment is highest in Arts (34.2%), followed by science (14.8%), Commerce (13.3%), and Engineering and Technology (11.8%).

Among streams at postgraduate-level in AISHE 2021-22, maximum students are enrolled in Social Science (21.1%), followed by science (14.7%).

Government Universities constituting 58.6% of total Universities, contribute 73.7% of total enrolment, and Private Universities account for 26.3% of total enrolment.

Q8. What is the rank of India in the recently released Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2023 by the Transparency International?

(a) 93rd
(b) 85th
(c) 76th
(d) 133rd

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Ans8. (a) 93rd

Global Highlights of CPI 2023:
Top Three Countries:

- Denmark with a score of 90 tops the index for the sixth consecutive year, with Finland and New Zealand following closely with scores of 87 and 85, respectively.
- Due to well-functioning justice systems, these countries are also among the top scorers in the Rule of Law Index.

Bottom Spots:

- Somalia, Venezuela, Syria, South Sudan and Yemen, with their scores 11, 13, 13, 13 respectively, take the bottom spots in the index.
- They are all affected by protracted crises, mostly armed conflicts.

India's Rank and Score:

- India was ranked **93 out of 180 countries** on the CPI 2023.
- The overall score for India in 2023 was **39, a slight decrease from 40 in 2022.**
- In 2022, India was ranked 85.




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Q9. Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) for three years up to 2025-26. What is the total outlay under the scheme?

(a) Rs. 29,610.25 crore
 (b) Rs. 31,897.50 crore
 (c) Rs. 13,340.75 crore
 (d) Rs. 34,563.50 crore

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Ans9. (a) Rs. 29,610.25 crore

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund

- It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- It has been approved for incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies to establish
 - the dairy processing and value addition infrastructure
 - meat processing and value addition infrastructure and
 - Animal Feed Plant.
- Government of India will provide 3% interest subvention for 8 years including two years of moratorium for loan up to 90% from the scheduled bank and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), NABARD and NDDB.
- Under this government entities and cooperatives are not eligible to get benefit of this scheme.

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Q10. Recently, which of the following states topped the medal tally in the 6th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2023?

(a) Maharashtra
 (b) Tamil Nadu
 (c) Haryana
 (d) Rajasthan

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Ans10. (a) Maharashtra

Khelo India Youth Games

- KIYG is a national-level, multi-disciplinary sports competition for school and college students in India.
- The games are held annually in January or February and are part of the government's [Khelo India initiative](#).

FINAL MEDAL TALLY					
RANK	STATE	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	Maharashtra	57	48	53	158
2	Tamil Nadu	38	21	38	98
3	Haryana	25	22	46	103
4	Delhi	13	18	25	56
5	Rajasthan	13	17	17	47
6	Telangana	13	4	7	24
7	Uttar Pradesh	11	13	18	42

#KIYG2023

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Q11. Recently, PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the **Maa Kamakhya Divya Pariyojana (Maa Kamakhya Access Corridor) in which of the following cities?**

(a) Tezpur
(b) Tinsukia
(c) Kohima
(d) Guwahati

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Ans11. (d) Guwahati

- It has been sanctioned under the [Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region \(PM-DevINE\)](#) scheme.
- Situated on the Nilachal hills in Guwahati, Assam, Kamakhya temple is a significant pilgrimage centre.
- The temple is dedicated to different forms of Mother Shakti, namely Sundari, Tripura, Tara, Bhuvaneshvari, Bagalamukhi and Chinnamasta.



- [Ambubachi Mela](#) is one of the major festivals of this temple.
- The festival is held every year to commemorate the yearly menstruation of Goddess Kamakhya.

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Q12. Recently, the Indian Navy has declared 2024 as which of the following?

(a) Year of Transformation
(b) Year of Technology Absorption
(c) Year of Naval Civilians
(d) Year of Maritime Security

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Ans12. (c) Year of Naval Civilians

- The Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the "Year of Naval Civilians" to improve the well-being, efficiency, and administration of its civilian personnel.
- The Navy's goal is to improve administrative efficiency by addressing all aspects of civilian HR management in a timely manner.



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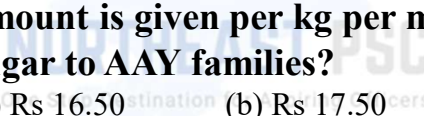
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Q13. Recently, extension of the scheme of sugar subsidy for **Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) families has been approved for two more years till 31 March 2026. Under this, subsidy of how much amount is given per kg per month of sugar to AAY families?**

(a) Rs 16.50 (b) Rs 17.50
(c) Rs 18.50 (d) Rs 19.50



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Ans13. (c) Rs 18.50

AAY was a step in the direction of making TPDS aim at **reducing hunger among the poorest segments of the BPL population.**

A National Sample Survey Exercise pointed towards the fact that about 5% of the total population in the country sleeps without two square meals a day. This section of the population could be called as "hungry".

In order to make TPDS more focused and targeted towards this category of population, the "**Antyodaya Anna Yojana**" (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for one crore poorest of the poor families.


Features of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana

AAY had to first identify one crore poorest of the poor families from amongst the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families covered under the TPDS within the states.

Provide them grains at a highly subsidised rate of **Rs. 2 per kg for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg for rice and Re. 1 for coarse grains.**

All costs related to distribution, transportation, and also margins of dealers had to be borne by States/UTs. The chosen households are entitled to 35kg of food grains per month.

The number of poor households has since increased to 2.5 crores and also includes households headed by terminally ill or widows or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years and above and no means of subsistence.



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Q14. Recently, Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for export of Apparel/Garments and Made ups has been extended up to 31st March 2026. It is implemented by which of the following ministries?

(a) Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
(b) Ministry of Textiles
(c) Ministry of External Affairs
(d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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Ans14. (a) Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme:

- It aims to reimburse all embedded State and Central Taxes/Levies for exports of manufactured goods and garments.
- It has been established as a successor for the old "Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) Scheme.
- The difference between RoSL & RoSCTL Scheme is that under the RoSL Scheme, there was no benefit on the central tax and Levies. But in the RoSCTL scheme, the exporter will get a rebate of both State and Central tax and Levies.
- **Objective:** To compensate for the State and Central Taxes and Levies in addition to the Duty Drawback Scheme on the export of apparel/ garments and Made-ups by way of rebate.
- The rebate under the Scheme shall be in the form of **duty credit scrips**.
- The scrips shall be issued electronically on the Customs system.
- The duty credit scrips shall be used for payment of Basic Customs Duty on import of goods. These scrips shall be **freely transferable**.
- **Validity of e-scrip:** The period of validity of the e-scrip, of **one year** from its creation, shall not change on account of the transfer of the e-scrip.
- **Eligibility:** All exporters of garments/Apparel and made-ups manufactured in India are eligible to take benefit under this scheme, except entities/ IECs under the Denied Entity List of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- **Implementing agency:** It has been notified by the Ministry of Textiles. However, the scheme shall be implemented by the Department of Revenue.

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Q15. Recently, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) "C-CARES". It is developed and designed by which of the following organizations?

(a) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
(b) NITI Aayog
(c) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
(d) National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)

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Ans15. (c) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) is an autonomous organization under the aegis of Ministry of Coal established in the year 1948 for administering Provident Fund and Pension schemes for the purpose of providing social security to the coal sector workers.



The C-CARES web portal is developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**, a Research and development organization under **MeitY**, the portal promises to revolutionize **record-keeping and streamline processes for CMPFO subscribers and pensioners.**

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Q16. According to the recently presented Interim Union Budget for 2024-2025, what will be the Fiscal deficit in 2024-25 as a percentage of GDP?


(a) 3.4% (b) 5.8%
(c) 5.1% (d) 6.2%

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Ans16. (c) 5.1%

Fiscal Deficit



- Fiscal deficit refers to the **shortfall in a government's revenue** when compared to its expenditure.
- When a government's **expenditure exceeds its revenues**, the government will have to **borrow money or sell assets** to fund the deficit.
- Taxes are the **most important source of revenue** for any government. In 2024-25, the government's tax receipts are expected to be Rs 26.02 lakh crore while its total revenue is estimated to be Rs 30.8 lakh crore.
- When a government **runs a fiscal surplus**, on the other hand, its revenues exceed expenditure.

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Q17. Recently, which of the following countries has announced its first lunar mission "Deep Space Radiation Probe"?

(a) Saudi Arabia (b) South Korea
(c) Taiwan (d) Oman

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Ans17. (c) Taiwan

Taiwan's National Central University announced the country's first lunar mission, revealing that a Deep Space Radiation Probe (DSRP) developed by its faculty and students is scheduled to launch in Japan as early as the fourth quarter of this year, Central News Agency Taiwan reported .

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Q18. According to the recently released "Electricity 2024" report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), Coal-fired generation is expected to meet how much percentage of India's electricity demand by 2026?

(a) 74% (b) 68%
(c) 44% (d) 21%

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Ans18. (b) 68%

Key Highlights of the Electricity Report 2024

Continued Reliance on Coal:

- Coal-fired generation is expected to meet **68% of India's electricity demand by 2026**, despite a decrease from 74% in 2023.

Renewable Generation:

- Close to 21 gigawatts (GW) of RE capacity was added during 2023, with RE accounting for nearly 44% of total installed capacity in 2023.

Electricity Demand Dynamics:

- India's electricity demand **rose by 7% in 2023**, driven by rapid economic growth and increased space cooling needs.

Global Comparison and Emerging Economies:

- About **85% of new electricity capacity** is expected from **emerging economies**, particularly in South Asia, with China and India in the lead.

Hydropower Challenges and Mandates:

- Changing weather patterns led to a **15% fall in hydropower generation** in 2023.

Diversification Efforts:

- Besides adding **wind and solar power** capacity, **large hydro and nuclear power projects** are being developed in the country.

Nuclear Power Surge:

- India currently has **23 operable nuclear reactors** providing about 2% of the country's electricity.
- Report highlighted that the **largest domestically built nuclear power plant, the 700 MWe Kakrapar Unit 3 reactor**, commenced operations in Gujarat in June 2023 and reached full capacity in August 2023.

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International Energy Agency (IEA)

- The IEA was **created in 1974** by member countries of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** to help industrialized countries respond to **major 1973-1974 oil crisis**.
- The IEA is an **autonomous forum** that provides analysis, data, and policy recommendations to help countries provide secure and sustainable energy.
- The IEA has four main areas of focus: **energy security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide**.
- Headquartered in **Paris, France**.

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Q19. “GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite” Portal, recently seen in news, is developed by which of the following organizations?

(a) National Commission for Women (NCW)
 (b) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
 (c) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
 (d) National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

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Ans19. (c) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite (Portal for Restoration and Repatriation of Child) has been developed and launched by [National Commission for Protection of Child Rights](#) to digitally monitor and track the restoration and repatriation of children as per the protocols under the [Juvenile Justice \(Care and Protection of Children\) Act, 2015](#).

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

- NCPCR is a statutory body set up in **March 2007** under the **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005**.
- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- The Commission's mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It inquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the **Right to Education Act, 2009**.
- It monitors the implementation of [Protection of Children from Sexual Offences \(POCSO\) Act, 2012](#).



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Q20. Recently, which of the following organizations has successfully conducted the flight trials of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) – ABHYAS?

(a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
 (b) Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)
 (c) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
 (d) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

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Ans20. (b) Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)

ABHYAS

- ABHYAS is a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT) developed by the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in India.
- It is designed for autonomous flight and is used to help in the evaluation of various missile systems.

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Q21. Recently, who amongst the following has made a world record for the most time spent in space?

(a) Oleg Kononenko
(b) Gennady Padalka
(c) Loral Ashley O'Hara
(d) Jasmin Moghbeli

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Ans21. (a) Oleg Kononenko

- Russian cosmonaut **Oleg Kononenko** has set a new world record for the most cumulative time spent in space, surpassing Gennady Padalka. Kononenko has now spent over 878 days and 12 hours in space.
- He has made five journeys to the International Space Station since 2008.



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Q22. Who amongst the following will be 50th recipient of the **Bharat Ratna 2024?**

(a) Murli Manohar Joshi
(b) Lal Krishna Advani
(c) Ashoke Sen
(d) Koppillil Radhakrishnan



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Ans22. (b) Lal Krishna Advani

- The prestigious **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian honour, is set to be conferred upon five eminent personalities who have made remarkable contributions to politics, governance, and agriculture.
- They are **Karpoori Thakur**, **Mankombu Sambasivan (MS) Swaminathan**, **Pamulaparthi Venkata (P. V.) Narasimha Rao**, **Lal Krishna Advani**, and **Chaudhary Charan Singh**.

Bharat Ratna

- The Bharat Ratna Award is the highest civilian award in India.
- Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order".
- It is bestowed upon individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the nation in various fields, such as arts, literature, science, and public service.
- However, the Government, in 2011, expanded the criteria to include "any field of human endeavour".
- The recommendations for the award are made by the Prime Minister to the President

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Q23. Recently, who amongst the following from India has been selected as a torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games?

(a) Mary Kom (b) Vijender Singh
(c) Sakshi Malik (d) Abhinav Bindra

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Ans23. (d) Abhinav Bindra

Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist and an IOC Athletes' Commission member, is among the 11,000 torchbearers chosen to carry the iconic symbol.




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Q24. Recently, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has been formally launched at which of the following World Heritage sites?

(a) Great Wall of China
(b) Colosseum, Italy
(c) Eiffel Tower, Paris
(d) Machu Picchu, Peru


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Ans24. (c) Eiffel Tower, Paris


Developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** in 2016, UPI is an instant payment system that integrates multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application, simplifying various banking functions, fund transfers, and merchant payments.

UPI GOES GLOBAL
UPI Adoption and Use Case



OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES: UPI QR payments for countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.

OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: India payment channels to be enabled in Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Switzerland.

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Q25. Recently, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the government's initiative to promote cervical cancer vaccination among girls aged between which of the following years?

(a) 5-10 years (b) 9-14 years
(c) 12-25 years (d) 16-49 years

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Ans25. (b) 9-14 years

- Cervical cancer develops in a **woman's cervix**. It is the 4th most common type of cancer among women, globally and 2nd **most common** among women in India.
 - India contributes the largest share of the **global cervical cancer** burden; nearly **1 in every 4 deaths** globally due to **cervical cancer** (as per The Lancet study).
- Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with **high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**, an extremely common virus transmitted through sexual contact.
 - Effective primary (HPV vaccination) and secondary prevention approaches (screening for and treating precancerous lesions) will prevent most cervical cancer cases.
- When diagnosed, cervical cancer is **one of the most successfully treatable** forms of cancer, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively.

The Serum Institute of India in 2023 launched an indigenous HPV vaccine known as **CERVAVAC**.

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Q26. Recently, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar has launched the “Digital India FutureLABS” at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Delhi. Which of the following is the nodal agency for the implementation of the “Digital India FutureLABS” initiative?

(a) NITI Aayog
(b) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
(c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
(d) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

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Ans26. (d) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

- The Digital India FutureLABS initiative is a partnership between the government, industry, students, startups, and academia to create labs in colleges and universities.
- The initiative aims to leverage futuristic technologies like AI, Big Data, and Quantum Computing in key growth areas like Computer, Communication, Automotive & Mobility, Strategic Electronics, and Industrial IoT.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC):

- It is the **apex research and development wing** of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It was **established** in the year **1988**.
- Its main purpose was to carry out **research and development** in Electronics, IT and other associated areas.
- It was **setup to build Supercomputers** in context of denial of import of Supercomputers by USA.
- C-DAC **build India's first indigenously built supercomputer Param 8000** in 1991.

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Q27. Recently, India's space telescope "AstroSat" has measured X-ray polarisation from the "Cygnus X-1" for the first time. Cygnus X-1 is a type of which of the following?

(a) Asteroid (b) Exo-Planet
(c) Black Hole (d) Galaxy

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Ans27. (c) Black Hole

Cygnus X-1:

- It was discovered over four decades ago.
- It is one of the first **confirmed black hole systems** in our galaxy.
- The black hole in Cygnus X-1 is 20 times heavier than the Sun, and has a companion - a heavy supergiant star (40 times more massive than the Sun) in a binary system.
- It is located at a distance that is about 400 times more than the distance between Earth and Sun.
- Due to the gravitational pull of the black hole, material from the supergiant falls and spirals in towards the black hole.
- This process leads to the formation of a thin accretion disk which is responsible for soft X-rays.

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Q28. Recently, which of the following has won the "Best Global Music Album" award, for their album "This Moment", at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards 2024?

(a) Shakti
(b) Davido
(c) Burna Boy
(d) Susana Baca

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Ans28. (a) Shakti

- The Indian fusion band Shakti won the **2024 Grammy Award for Best Global Music Album** for their album **This Moment**.
- The album was released in June 2023 and is the band's first in 45 years.
- It features eight songs and performances by Shankar Mahadevan (vocals), Zakir Hussain (tabla), John McLaughlin (guitar and guitar synth), V Selvaganesh (percussion), and Ganesh Rajagopalan (violin).



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Q29. Recently, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has announced the plan for the development of total how many Mega Ports in India by 2047?

(a) 4 (b) 5
(c) 6 (d) 7

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Ans29. (c) 6

- Six port clusters identified for development as Mega Ports by 2047.
- Four port clusters with a capacity exceeding 300 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA):
 - Cochin –Vizhinjam Port cluster,
 - Galathea South Bay Port,
 - Chennai – Kamarajar– Cuddalore Port cluster,
 - Paradip and Other Non-Major Ports Cluster.
- Two port clusters with Capacity Exceeding 500 MTPA:
 - Deendayal and Tuna Tekra and
 - Jawaharlal Nehru – Vadhavan.
- Major Ports are enhancing capacity and infrastructure as part of the **Maritime AmritKaal Vision, 2047.**
- Infrastructure projects are underway via **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** and internal resources, focusing on port development.

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Q30. Recently, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy has laid the foundation stone for India's first National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum in which of the following cities?

(a) Mumbai
(b) New Delhi
(c) Hyderabad
(d) Chennai

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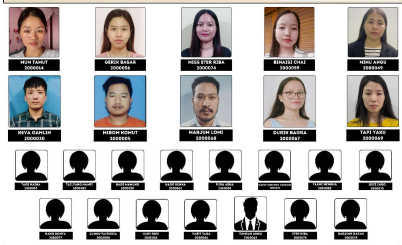
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Ans30. (c) Hyderabad

- Union Culture Minister **G. Kishan Reddy** recently laid the foundation stone for the country's **digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad.**
- Spearheaded by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, this museum aims to house approximately one lakh ancient writings spanning various times and languages, preserving them for future generations.

Epigraphy involves the study and interpretation of ancient inscriptions, such as manuscripts and stone carvings.

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Q31. Recently, which of the following countries has released eight former Indian naval officers, who were previously sentenced to death on charges of spying?

(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Iran
(c) Israel (d) Qatar

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Ans31. (d) Qatar

2022

- 30 AUG: Eight former Indian Navy officers were arrested on undeclared charges. They were put in solitary confinement.
- 1 OCT: India's ambassador to Qatar and deputy head of mission meet the veterans.
- 19 OCT: First consular access was granted.

2023

- 1 MARCH: The last bail plea filed for veterans rejected.
- 25 MARCH: Charges filed against the men.
- 29 MARCH: The trial begins.
- 30 MAY: Doha Global, where veterans worked, shut operations.
- 4 AUG: The men moved out of solitary confinement to jail war.
- 26 OCT: Death sentence awarded.

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Q32. Recently, Gupteswar Forest, in Odisha has been declared as the Biodiversity-Heritage Site (BHS). It is in which of the following districts of Odisha?

(a) Dhenkanal (b) Koraput
(c) Mayurbhanj (d) Bhadrak

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Ans32. (b) Koraput

Biodiversity Heritage Site

- **Biodiversity Heritage sites (BHS)** are well-defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems with a high diversity of wild and domesticated species, the presence of rare and threatened species, and keystone species.
- As per provision under **Section 37(1) of 'The Biological Diversity Act, 2002'** State Governments are empowered to notify in the official gazette, in consultation with '**local bodies**', areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.
- Creation of BHS may not put any restriction on the prevailing practices and usages of the local communities, other than those voluntarily decided by them. The purpose is to **enhance the quality of life of the local communities** through conservation measures.

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First BHS of India:

- **Nallur Tamarind Grove in Bengaluru, Karnataka** was the first Biodiversity Heritage Site of India, declared in 2007.
- According to the **National Biodiversity Authority**, India has a **total of 45 Biodiversity Heritage Sites** as of **February 2024**.

Last Five Additions to BHS:

- **Haldir Char Island West Bengal** (May 2023)
- **Birampur-Baguran Jalpai West Bengal** (May 2023)
- **Tungkyong Dho Sikkim** (June 2023)
- **Gandhamardan Hill Odisha** (March 2023)
- **Gupteswar Forest Odisha** (Feb 2024)

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Q33. Recently, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL) Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme. It will provide financial support to the students of which of the following institutions?

(a) Kendriya Vidyalayas
(b) Navodaya Vidyalayas
(c) Sainik Schools
(d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)

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Ans33. (b) Navodaya Vidyalayas

Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme:

- This initiative guarantees access to high-quality learning systems by facilitating a seamless transition from secondary to higher education and extending financial support for the meritorious Navodaya Vidyalaya students who lack means.
- It symbolises a whole-of-society approach to empowerment through access to and opportunities for education, particularly to students belonging to economically disadvantaged sections.

EdCIL

- Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL) is the only Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- It was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, on June 17, 1981.
- It is categorized as a 'Mini Ratna Organisation' by the Government of India.
- It offers consultancy and technical services in different areas of Education and Human Resource Development not only within the country but also on a global basis.

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Q34. Recently, the President of India, Smt. Drupadi Murmu has inaugurated the “Vividhta ka Amrit Mahotsav: A cultural odyssey unveiling the richness of Northeast India” in which of the following cities?

(a) Shillong (b) New Delhi
(c) Mumbai (d) Guwahati

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Ans34. (b) New Delhi

In a significant development, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the four-day cultural extravaganza ‘Vividhta ka Amrit Mahotsav: A cultural odyssey’ unveiling the richness of Northeast India as a part of Udyan Utsav, 2024 at Amrit Udyan, Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.



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Q35. Recently, APAAR - Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry - has been launched through Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural regions of India. It is an initiative of which of the following ministries?

(a) Ministry of Rural Development
(b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
(c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
(d) Ministry of Education

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Ans35. (d) Ministry of Education

- The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) is a system that assigns a unique 12-digit ID to every student in India from early childhood through higher education.
- The ID is linked to the student's Aadhaar ID, but does not replace it.
- The APAAR system was introduced in 2020 in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) and the National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCrF).
- The APAAR system aims to streamline the academic experience for students by centralizing academic data and making it easily accessible.
- It also helps students track their academic progress and achievements, and identify areas for improvement.
- The system also simplifies the admission process for students who transfer between educational institutions, and reduces the risk of losing or damaging physical documents.

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Q36. Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced that fencing will be done along the entire Indo-Myanmar border. What is the total length of the Indo-Myanmar border?

(a) 3,488 kilometres
(b) 1,643 kilometres
(c) 1,752 kilometres
(d) 3,310 kilometres


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Ans36. (b) 1,643 kilometres



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- Sikkim

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Q37. Recently, who amongst the following has won the Chennai Open ATP Challenger Men's Singles title 2024 (Tennis)?

(a) Sumit Nagal
(b) Luca Nardi
(c) Ramkumar Ramanathan
(d) Saketh Myneni

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Ans37. (a) Sumit Nagal



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Q38. Recently, the first phase of the Bi-annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis elimination has been launched. India's target is to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by which of the following years?

(a) 2025 (b) 2027
(c) 2029 (d) 2047

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Ans38. (b) 2027

Lymphatic Filariasis

- Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as **elephantiasis**, is a **neglected tropical disease** caused by **parasitic infection** which is transmitted through the **bite of infected mosquitoes**.
- This impacts millions of individuals in tropical and subtropical regions across the globe.

Causes and Transmission:

- **Lymphatic filariasis** is caused by **infection with parasites** classified as **nematodes (roundworms)** of the family Filarioididea.

Symptoms:

- In chronic conditions, it leads to **lymphoedema (tissue swelling)** or **elephantiasis (skin/tissue thickening)** of limbs and hydrocele (scrotal swelling).

Treatment:

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recommends three drug treatments to accelerate the global elimination of lymphatic filariasis. The treatment, known as **IDA**, involves a **combination of ivermectin, diethylcarbamazine citrate and albendazole**.
- The plan is to administer these drugs for two consecutive years. The **life of the adult worm is hardly four years, so it would die a natural death without causing any harm to the person.**

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Q39. Recently, the state cabinet of which of the following state governments has approved the creation of two more districts– Keyi Panyor and Bichom?

(a) Manipur
(b) Mizoram
(c) Sikkim
(d) Arunachal Pradesh

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Ans39. (d) Arunachal Pradesh

- Keyi Panyor will be created by bifurcating it from the Lower Subansiri district, with its headquarters in Yachuli circle (Ter Gapin-Sam Sath area).
- Bichom district will be carved out of East Kameng and West Kameng districts, with Napangphung as its headquarters.

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Q40. Recently, what is the rank of India in the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions in the world for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2023?

(a) 1st (b) 2nd
(c) 3rd (d) 4th

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Ans40. (c) 3rd

The top 10 countries and regions for LEED in 2023 are:

1. Mainland China
2. Canada
3. India
4. Turkey
5. Brazil
6. Saudi Arabia
7. Spain
8. Italy
9. South Korea
10. Mexico

- Green building is a construction approach that uses sustainable practices to minimize a building's environmental impact.
- Green buildings are designed to reduce the impact of the built environment on human health and the natural environment by:
 - Efficiently using energy, water, and other resources
 - Protecting occupant health and improving employee productivity
 - Reducing waste, pollution, and harm to the environment

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Q41. Recently, The **Healthy Indian Project (THIP) has been included as a member of the **Vaccine Safety Net (VSN)**. Vaccine Safety Net is an initiative of which of the following organizations?**

(a) World Health Organization (WHO)
(b) Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance
(c) NITI Aayog
(d) Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)

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Ans41. (a) World Health Organization (WHO)

Vaccine Safety Net:

- It is a **global network of websites**, established by the **World Health Organization** that provides reliable information on **vaccine safety**.
- It is a network of a diverse group of **digital information resources** (websites and social media), VSN members, located in countries around the world and providing scientifically based information on vaccine safety in various languages.
- A key player in the Project is the **Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS)**, established by **WHO in 1999**, to respond promptly, efficiently, and with scientific rigour to vaccine safety issues of potential global importance.

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- Sikkim

Q42. Recently, which of the following institutions has launched an AI platform “iOncology-AI” in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Pune?

(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras
(b) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi
(c) Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi
(d) Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru

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- Tripura
- Sikkim

Ans42. (b) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi

- The iOncology-AI project emerges from a collaborative effort between the AIIMS in Delhi and Pune’s Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- This partnership brings together expertise in medical research and computational science to revolutionize cancer care.
- It aims to leverage AI to enhance the precision and efficacy of cancer treatment.
- By analysing vast datasets encompassing genetic profiles, clinical histories, and treatment outcomes, the project seeks to unravel the complex interplay between genetics and cancer therapy.

Oncology is a branch of medicine that focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer.

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- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- Sikkim

Q43. Recently, Dr (Col) V K Gupta has become the first patient to be declared cancer-free after treatment through the indigenously developed Chimeric Antigen Receptor T cell (CAR-T cell) Therapy. What is the name of this therapy?

(a) NexCAR19 (b) Tecartus
(c) Yescarta (d) Abecma

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Ans43. (a) NexCAR19

CAR T-cell therapies are a major breakthrough in cancer treatment. Unlike chemotherapy or immunotherapy which involve taking drugs, CAR T-cell therapies use a patient's own cells. They are modified in the laboratory to activate T-cells and target tumor cells. CAR T-cell therapy has been approved for leukaemias (cancers arising from the cells that produce white blood cells) and lymphomas (arising from the lymphatic system).

EXAMS of

- Tripura
- Sikkim

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Q44. Recently, which of the following states has approved a proposal to declare the corridor area between Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and Kawal Tiger Reserve as a conservation reserve?

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- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- Sikkim

(a) Maharashtra (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Telangana (d) Andhra Pradesh

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Ans44. (c) Telangana

A conservation reserve is a protected area that acts as a buffer zone to connect migration corridors between national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and reserves.

TIGER RESERVES IN TELANGANA & MAHARASHTRA

Kawal	Telangana
Amrabad	Telangana
Melghat	Maharashtra
Tadoba-Andhari	Maharashtra
Pench	Maharashtra
Sahyadri	Maharashtra
Nawegaon-Nagzira	Maharashtra
Bor	Maharashtra

EXAMS of

- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- Sikkim

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Q45. Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)”. What is the total outlay under the scheme?

EXAMS of

- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
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(a) Rs 10,000 crore (b) Rs 20,000 crore
(c) Rs 6,000 crore (d) Rs 3,000 crore

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Ans45. (c) Rs 6,000 crore

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana

- PM-MKSSY, a **Central Sector Sub-scheme** under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada (PMMSY)** for formalisation of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises with an investment of over Rs. 6,000 crores over a period of next four years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 in all States/Union Territories.
- **Gradual Formalisation of the unorganised fisheries sector** through self-registration of fishers, fish farmers and supportive workers under a **National Fisheries Sector Digital Platform (NFDP)**.
- Facilitating access to **institutional financing** for fisheries sector micro and small enterprises.
- Providing a **one-time incentive** to beneficiaries for purchasing **aquaculture insurance**.
- Incentivising adoption and expansion of safety and quality assurance systems for fish, and fishery products and maintenance of jobs.

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Q46. Recently, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and which of the following organizations have launched the DigiReady Certification (DRC) portal for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises?

- (a) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Quality Council of India (QCI)
- (d) World Economic Forum (WEF)

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Ans46. (c) Quality Council of India (QCI)

The DigiReady Certification (DRC) portal is an online platform that assesses and certifies the digital readiness of small businesses and retailers in India.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):

- Open Network for Digital Commerce, is a private non-profit Section 8 company established by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of Government of India to develop open e-commerce
- It is an **open-source network** set up to **enable buyers and sellers to transact with each other irrespective of the e-commerce platform** on which either of them are registered.

Quality Council of India:

- QCI is a **non-profit organization** registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
- Nodal Ministry is the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion** under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Its **objective is to create a mechanism for independent third-party assessment** of products, services, and processes.

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Q47. According to the recently released "Annual NeSDA Way Forward Report 2023" (National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment), which of the following has topped the list of States/Union Territories with maximum numbers of e-Services?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir
- (b) Assam
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Kerala

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Ans47. (a) Jammu and Kashmir

Key Highlights of the Annual NeSDA Way Forward Report 2023
Total Mapped E-Services:

- By the end of December 2023, a total of **16,487 e-Services** were mapped on the NeSDA Way Forward Dashboard, showcasing the extent of digital service delivery across various sectors.
- **In e-service delivery, Jammu & Kashmir is followed by Tamil Nadu** (1,101 e-services), Madhya Pradesh (1010), and Kerala (911).
- Apart from **Manipur, the bottom four states** are Lakshadweep (42), Ladakh (46), Sikkim (51) and Nagaland (64).
- Maximum e-services are provided in the sector – **Local Governance & Utility Services**.

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Q48. Recently, President Smt. Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav 2024 in New Delhi. It is organised by which of the following organizations?

(a) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
 (b) Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)
 (c) India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)
 (d) Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO)

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Ans48. (b) Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

Aadi Mahotsav

- It is organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, will showcase the rich diversity of India's tribal heritage.
- It is not only a platform to exhibit the extraordinary talent and craftsmanship of tribal artisans but also an opportunity to interact, learn, and contribute to the empowerment of tribal communities.
- The festival will feature an expanded showcase with over 300 stalls, offering varied display of Tribal art, handicrafts, natural produce, and delectable tribal cuisine.

TRIFED

- It is a national-level organisation under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It is primarily engaged in the development and marketing of tribal handicrafts and natural products.
- It came into existence in 1987 and got registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (now the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002).

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Q49. Recently, India and which of the following countries have signed an agreement on cooperation in construction of additional nuclear reactors in Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project site, Tamil Nadu?

(a) USA (b) France
 (c) Japan (d) Russia

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Ans49. (d) Russia

Name of Nuclear Power Station	Location
Kakrapar Atomic Power Station – 1993	Gujarat
(Kalpakkam) Madras Atomic Power Station – 1984	Tamil Nadu
Narora Atomic Power Station- 1991	Uttar Pradesh
Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant -2000	Karnataka
Rajasthan Atomic Power Station – 1973	Rajasthan
Tarapur Atomic Power Station – 1969	Maharashtra
Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant – 2013	Tamil Nadu

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Q50. Recently, which of the following companies has launched the “ADVANTA(I)GE INDIA” initiative to equip 2 million Indians with AI skills by 2025?

(a) Microsoft
(b) Google
(c) Meta
(d) IBM

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Ans50. (a) Microsoft

ADVANTAG(I)GE INDIA
The Microsoft recently announced ADVANTAG(I)GE INDIA, which aims to train two million Indians with AI skills by 2025.

ADVANTAG(I)GE INDIA intends to push India’s AI transformation and empower its workforce for jobs in the future.




It an initiative to equip 2 million people in India with artificial intelligence (AI) skills by 2025.

It is part of Microsoft’s wider Skills for Jobs initiative, which aligns with the company’s responsible AI principles. The goal of ADVANTAG(I)GE INDIA is to bridge the gap in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities by training individuals while also focusing on rural areas to ensure AI-induced progress is more inclusive.

Training will be given through partnerships with the government, non-profit firms, and businesses across the country.

It is a significant step towards democratising access to AI skills across the nation and reflects Microsoft’s deep commitment to enabling inclusive growth with technology.

Microsoft has partnered with India’s Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship as well as 10 state governments to provide basic and advanced training in AI to 500,000 students and job seekers.




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Q51. Recently, the 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference 2024 was held in which of the following cities?

(a) Colombo, Sri Lanka
(b) Perth, Australia
(c) Dhaka, Bangladesh
(d) New Delhi, India

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- Tripura
- Sikkim

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Ans51. (b) Perth, Australia

Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)

- IOC is an annual international conference that focuses on the geopolitical, economic, and strategic importance of the Indian Ocean region.
- The theme of this edition of the conference is "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".



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- Tripura
- Sikkim

Q52. What is the name of the mascot of the fourth Khelo India University 2023?

(a) Sheen-e She'
(b) Ujjwala
(c) Ashtalakshmi
(d) Borphukan

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- Tripura
- Sikkim

Ans52. (c) Ashtalakshmi

- The fourth Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2023 was held from February 17–29, 2024 in the North East region of India.
- The games took place across 18 venues in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, and Tripura, and featured 4,544 athletes competing in 20 sports disciplines.
- Chandigarh University won the overall championship with a total of 71 medals, including 32 gold, 18 silver, and 21 bronze.



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Q53. Recently, which of the following ministries has announced that the scheme outlay of FAME India scheme Phase II has been enhanced from ₹10,000 crore to ₹11,500 crore?

a) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
d) Ministry of Heavy Industries

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- Tripura
- Sikkim

Ans53. (d) Ministry of Heavy Industries

AME India Scheme
 FAME India is a part of the [National Electric Mobility Mission Plan](#). The scheme's main objective is to encourage the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles by offering upfront incentives on purchase. The scheme covers [Hybrid and electric](#) technologies like Mild Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, Plug-in Hybrid and battery Electric Vehicles.

Phase I:
 Started in 2015 and was completed on 31st March 2019, with an outlay of Rs 895 crore. The 1st phase of FAME The scheme had four focus areas namely, technology development, demand creation, pilot project, and charging infrastructure.

Achievements:
 In the 1st phase of the scheme, about 2.78 lakh xEVs were supported with total demand incentives. In addition, 465 buses were sanctioned to various cities/states under this scheme.

AME India Phase-II:
 The Ministry of Heavy Industries is implementing the scheme for five years, starting April 1, 2019, with a total budget of Rs. 10,000 crore. This phase mainly focuses on supporting the electrification of public & shared transportation and aims to support through demand incentive eBuses, e-3 Wheelers, e-4 Wheeler Passenger Cars and e-2 Wheelers. In addition, the creation of charging infrastructure is also supported under the Scheme.

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Q54. Recently, which of the following space agencies has launched the PACE (Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem) satellite?

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- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- Sikkim

a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
 b) ROSCOSMOS
 c) China National Space Administration (CNSA)
 d) European Space Agency (ESA)




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Ans54. (a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- The Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) is a NASA satellite that was launched on February 8, 2024 to study the ocean, atmosphere, and climate. PACE's mission is to improve understanding of the following:
 - Ocean color, biogeochemistry, and ecology
 - Carbon cycle
 - Aerosols and clouds
 - Phytoplankton blooms
 - Air quality
 - Climate change impacts on ocean phytoplankton blooms
 - Role of airborne particles in cloud development
 - Global temperature regulation

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- Tripura
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Q55. “Kaladan Multi-Model Transit Transport Project”, recently seen in news, is a bilateral project between India and which of the following countries?

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- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- Sikkim

(a) Bangladesh
 (b) Myanmar
 (c) Sri Lanka
 (d) Bhutan

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Ans55. (b) Myanmar


The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project was jointly identified by **India and Myanmar** to create a **multi-modal mode of transport** for the shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar.

Details of project:

- 1) It connects the eastern Indian seaport of **Kolkata** with **Sittwe** seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea. It will reduce the distance from Kolkata to Sittwe by approximately **1,328 km**.
- 2) In Myanmar, it will then link **Sittwe seaport** to **Paletwa** in **Chin State** via the Kaladan river boat route
- 3) From **Paletwa** by **road** to **Mizoram state in Northeast India** (Paletwa is less than 20 km from the Bangladesh border).

Components of project: The project involves sea, river, and road transportation:



Sea Route: From Kolkata to Sittwe (539 km).
River Route: Sittwe to Paletwa via the Kaladan River (158 km).
Road Route: Paletwa to Indo-Myanmar border (110 km), and further into Mizoram.



Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

EXAMS of

- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- Sikkim

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Q56. Recently, who amongst the following from India has been honoured by the Switzerland Tourism with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland?

(a) Abhinav Bindra (b) Sachin Tendulkar
 (c) Neeraj Chopra (d) P.V. Sindhu

EXAMS of

- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- Sikkim

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Ans56. (c) Neeraj Chopra

In February 2024, Switzerland Tourism honored Indian Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra with a plaque at the Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch, also known as the "Top of Europe".



EXAMS of

- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- Sikkim

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Q57. Recently, the parliament has passed the bill to include 'Pahari Ethnic Group, Paddari Tribe, Koli and Gadda Brahmin' communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes of which of the following states/union territories?

(a) Ladakh
 (b) Jammu and Kashmir
 (c) Himachal Pradesh
 (d) Uttarakhand

EXAMS of

- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- Sikkim

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Ans57. (b) Jammu and Kashmir

Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- The bill particularly focuses on including **four ethnic groups** in the list of **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The **ethnic groups** are Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe, and Pahari Ethnic Group”.
- By extending Scheduled Tribe status to these communities, the bill intends to **ensure their socio-economic and political empowerment.**

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Q58. Recently, Judge Nawaf Salam has been elected as the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). He is from which of the following countries?

(a) Lebanon
(b) Saudi Arabia
(c) United Arab Emirates
(d) Uganda

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Ans58. (a) Lebanon

International Court of Justice

ICJ was established in 1945 by the United Nations charter and started working in April 1946. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). It settles legal disputes between States and gives advisory opinions in accordance with international law, on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. It has 193 state parties and current President is Joan E. Donoghue.

Structure of ICJ

The Court is composed of **15 judges**, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the **United Nations General Assembly** and the **Security Council**. These organs vote simultaneously but separately. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies. In order to ensure a measure of continuity, one third of the Court is elected every three years and Judges are eligible for re-election. ICJ is assisted by a **Registry**, its administrative organ. Its official languages are **English** and **French**. The 15 judges of the Court are distributed in following regions:

- Three from Africa.
- Two from Latin America and Caribbean.
- Three from Asia.
- Five from Western Europe and other states.
- Two from Eastern Europe.

Q59. Recently, which of the following has become the first state in the Northeast to implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS)?

(a) Sikkim (b) Assam
(c) Manipur (d) Arunachal Pradesh

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Ans59. (a) Sikkim

- Rajasthan was the first state to reintroduce the OPS in April 2022, followed by Chhattisgarh in December 2022, Jharkhand and Punjab in October 2022, and Himachal Pradesh on April 17, 2023.
- In most of these states, employees have been given the option to choose between the OPS and the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

OPS was an unfunded pension scheme financed on a pay-as-you-go (PAYG) basis in which current revenues of the government funded the pension benefit for its retired employees. Old Pension Scheme was replaced by a restructured defined-contribution (DC) pension scheme called the National Pension System.

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Q60. Recently, which of the following countries has won the 2024 ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup?

(a) India
(b) South Africa
(c) Pakistan
(d) Australia

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Ans60. (d) Australia



The 2024 ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup was an international limited-overs cricket tournament organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC), that was held in South Africa from 19 January to 11 February 2024. It was the fifth edition of the Under-19 Cricket World Cup. India were the defending champions. The tournament was originally scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka, but its hosting was pulled in November 2023 after Sri Lanka Cricket was suspended by the ICC. In the final, Australia defeated India by 79 runs to win their fourth Under-19 Cricket World Cup title.

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Q61. Recently, 200th birth anniversary of **Swami Dayananda Saraswati was observed. He was the founder of which of the following social organizations?**

(a) Brahmo Samaj
(b) Arya Samaj
(c) Ramakrishna Mission
(d) Atmiya Sabha

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Ans61. (b) Arya Samaj

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati

- Swami Dayanand Saraswati was born on **12th February 1824** in Tankara, Gujarat in a Brahmin family. His parents, Lalji Tiwari and Yashodhabai were orthodox Brahmin.
- He wandered as an **ascetic for fifteen years (1845-60)** in search of truth.
- Dayananda's views were published in his famous work, **Satyarth Prakash (The True Exposition)**.
- He was an **Indian philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj**.

Arya Samaj

- It aims to **reestablish the Vedas**, the earliest Hindu scriptures, as revealed truth. He rejected all later accretions to the Vedas as degenerate but, in his own interpretation, included much post-Vedic thought.
- The Arya Samaj has always had its **largest following in western and northern India**.
- The Samaj **opposes worship of murtis (images), animal sacrifice, shraddha** (rituals on behalf of ancestors), basing caste upon birth rather than upon merit, **untouchability, child marriage**, pilgrimages, priestly craft, and temple offerings.




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Q62. Recently, PM Narendra Modi has Inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu. It has been developed under which of the following schemes?

(a) Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
(b) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
(c) National Rural Health Mission
(d) Mission Indradhanush

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Ans62. (b) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

- PMSSY was announced in **2003** with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Two Components:**
- Setting up of **AIIMS like institutions**.
- **Upgradation of government medical colleges** in various states.
- The **project cost** for upgradation of each medical college institution is **shared by the Centre and the state**.




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Q63. Recently, the 12th edition of the **Multilateral Naval Exercise 2024 (MILAN 2024) has commenced in which of the following cities?**

(a) Kochi
 (b) Mumbai
 (c) Visakhapatnam
 (d) Kolkata

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Ans63. (c) Visakhapatnam






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Q64. Under the **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, total how many units of free electricity will be provided to each household every month?**

(a) 100 units
 (b) 200 units
 (c) 300 units
 (d) 400 units




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Ans64. (c) 300 units
PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

- Originally intended to fully subsidise installation of 1-3 Kilowatt (KW) solar systems in 1 crore households, the scheme now offers up to 60% coverage of costs, with households required to cover the remainder, albeit with accessible loans.
- The scheme envisaged to generate up to 300 units of free electricity every month which would translate to benefits of ₹15,000-18,000 annually for households.
- India had aimed to install 40 GW of rooftop solar by 2022 but has only achieved approximately 12 GW thus far.

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Q65. Recently, **Kaji Nemu (Citrus Limon) has been declared as the State Fruit of which of the following states?**

(a) Arunachal Pradesh
 (b) Assam
 (c) Meghalaya
 (d) Mizoram

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Ans65. (b) Assam

- Kaji Nemu lemons (Citrus limon) are an Assamese variety grown in Assam, India. They are one of the most commercially produced lemons in Assam, known for their fragrance and culinary and medicinal properties.
- Kaji Nemu lemons are exported to various countries, including the Middle East. They have **received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, indicating their unique qualities and origin.**




- Kaji Nemu lemons are a source of vitamin C, vitamin A, potassium, iron, fiber, magnesium, phosphorus, calcium, zinc, copper, niacin, folate, and B vitamins.
- They are known for their digestive and anti-inflammatory properties.

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Q66. Recently, which of the following has won the “Best Film**” award at the **77th British Academy Film Arts Awards 2024 (BAFTA 2024)?****

(a) Poor Things
 (b) Oppenheimer
 (c) The Holdovers
 (d) The Zone of Interest

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Ans66. (b) Oppenheimer

The 77th British Academy Film Awards, more commonly known as the BAFTAs, were held on 18 February 2024, honouring the best national and foreign films of 2023, at the Royal Festival Hall within London's Southbank Centre. Presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, accolades were handed out for the best feature-length film and documentaries of any nationality that were screened at British cinemas in 2023.

No	Category	Winner
1	Best Film	Oppenheimer
2	Outstanding British Film	The Zone of Interest
4	Film Not in the English Language	The Zone of Interest
5	Documentary	20 Days in Mariupol
6	Animated Film	The Boy And The Heron
7	Director	Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer
8	Original Screenplay	Anatomy of a Fall
9	Adapted Screenplay	American Fiction
10	Leading Actress	Emma Stone, Poor Things
11	Leading Actor	Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer
12	Supporting Actress	Da'Vine Joy Randolph, The Holdovers
13	Supporting Actor	Robert Downey Jr., Oppenheimer
14	Original Score	Oppenheimer
15	Cinematography	Oppenheimer

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Q67. Recently, the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals was held in which of the following cities?**

(a) Samarkand, Uzbekistan
 (b) Bonn, Germany
 (c) Rome, Italy
 (d) New Delhi, India

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Ans67. (a) Samarkand, Uzbekistan

CMS

- It is an intergovernmental treaty under the [UNEP \(United Nations Environment Programme\)](#)- popularly known as [Bonn Convention](#).
- It was signed in 1979 and in force since 1983.
- **As of 1st March 2022, the CMS has 133 Parties.**
- India has also been a party to CMS since 1983.

Aim:

- It aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- It lays the legal foundation to conduct conservation measures on a global scale.
- The legal instruments under CMS may range from legally binding Agreements to less formal MoU.

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Q68. Recently, which of the following countries has won the **2023 Africa Cup of Nations (Football)?**

(a) Nigeria
 (b) Senegal
 (c) Morocco
 (d) Ivory Coast

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Ans68. (d) Ivory Coast



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Q69. According to the recently released regulations of the 70th National Film Awards 2022, the monetary reward for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award has been increased to how much amount?

(a) Rs 5 lakh
(b) Rs 10 lakh
(c) Rs 15 lakh
(d) Rs 20 lakh

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Ans69. (c) Rs 15 lakh

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is part of the **National Film Awards**, a highly coveted collection of honours in the film industry. The Award is named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, the **pioneering filmmaker who gave India its first film– ‘Raja Harishchandra’, in 1913.**
- The award is considered the highest honour in the Indian film fraternity. It is awarded for “its outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.

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Q70. Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis was the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker at the recently held 9th Raisina Dialogue 2024, New Delhi. Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis is the Prime Minister of which of the following countries?

(a) Greece (b) Poland
(c) Germany (d) Netherlands

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Ans70. (a) Greece

Raisina Dialogue

- The Raisina Dialogue is an **annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics**, which aims to address the most challenging issues faced by the world. It was structured along the lines of the [Shangri-La Dialogue](#).
- It is a **component of India's "intelligence diplomacy,"** which, though not prominently featured in the public eye, **plays a crucial role in the national security framework**, alongside the diplomatic corps and the armed forces.
- The conference takes place in New Delhi and is attended by **people from political, business, media, and civil society** backgrounds.

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Q71. Recently, “iRASTE” initiative of which of the following ministries has won the 9th GovTech award at the 2024 World Government Summit, Dubai in the ‘AI-Powered Government Services’ category?

(a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 (b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
 (c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 (d) Ministry of Finance

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Ans71. (b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

iRASTE Project

- This is a unique AI approach that uses the predictive power of AI to identify risks on the road, and a collision alert system to communicate timely alerts to drivers, to make several improvements related to road safety.
- **Objective:** To significantly reduce road accidents.
- **Implemented by:** I-Hub Foundation, IIIT Hyderabad, a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under its [National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems \(NM-ICPS\)](#) along with INAI (Applied AI Research Institute).

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Q72. Recently, which of the following ministries has launched the “Sangam: Digital Twin” initiative?

(a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 (b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 (c) Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications
 (d) Ministry of Defence

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Ans72. (c) Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications

Sangam: Digital Twin Initiative

- It is a Proof of Concept (PoC) distributed in two stages to be conducted in one of the major cities of India.
- First stage is exploratory for clarity of horizon and creative exploration to unleash potential.
- Second stage is for practical demonstration of specific use cases generating a future blueprint that may serve as a roadmap to scale and replicate successful strategies in future infrastructure projects through collaboration.
- Aim: The initiative aims to demonstrate practical implementation of innovative infrastructure planning solutions, to develop a model framework for facilitating faster and more effective collaboration and to provide a future blueprint that may serve as a roadmap to scale and replicate successful strategies in future infrastructure projects.
- Digital Twin technology offers a solution by creating virtual replicas of physical assets, allowing for real-time monitoring, simulation and analysis for experimental iterations and feedback loop to adapt to the changes for achieving the best outcomes.
- The initiative comes in the backdrop of past decade's breakthroughs in communication, computation and sensing in the era of techade striving for the vision 2047.

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Q73. Recently, which of the following companies has launched the text to video AI model “Sora”?

(a) OpenAI
 (b) Microsoft
 (c) Google
 (d) Meta

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Ans73. (a) OpenAI

Sora OpenAI

- Sora OpenAI in Japanese means sky, an imagery that evokes ‘limitless creative potential’.
- SORA OpenAI is a **diffusion based AI model** developed by OpenAI, specialising in transforming textual prompts into vivid and realistic video scenes.

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Q74. Recently, Ravichandran Ashwin has become the second Indian player to complete 500 wickets in Test matches (cricket). He achieved this feat in total how many test matches?

(a) 81 (b) 98
 (c) 101 (d) 129

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Ans74. (b) 98

- Anil Kumble was the first Indian bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket, achieving the milestone on March 9, 2006.
- He finished his career with 619 Test wickets, making him India's leading wicket-taker in Test cricket history.

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Q75. Recently, Supreme Court has declared the **Electoral Bond Scheme (EBS) and associated amendments as unconstitutional under which of the following articles of the Constitution of India?**

(a) Article 19(1)(a) (b) Article 19(2)
(c) Article 19(1)(d) (d) Article 19(1)(e)

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Ans75. (a) Article 19(1)(a)



Electoral Bonds

- Electoral bonds, the scheme introduced in 2018 allowing anonymous funding to political parties.
- The EBS was first announced in the 2017 Budget Session. It was later notified in January 2018 as a source of political funding through amendments to the **Finance Act of 2017, the Representation of the People Act of 1951, the Income Tax Act of 1961, and the Companies Act of 2013**, to enable the Electoral Bonds Scheme.

Donations Through Electoral Bonds:


- Electoral bonds are issued by the **State Bank of India (SBI)** and its designated branches and are sold in multiple denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.
- Donors can purchase electoral bonds through a **Know Your Customer (KYC)- compliant account** and subsequently transfer the funds to political parties.
- Donors, whether individuals or companies, can purchase these bonds, and the **identities of the donors remain confidential, both to the bank and the recipient political parties.**
- Donations made via electoral bonds **enjoyed 100% tax exemption** under the scheme.
- Notably, there is **no limit on the number of electoral bonds** that a person or company can purchase.



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Q76. India's first **Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) will be started from which of the following states under the "Project Sanjeevani"?**


(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Sikkim



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Ans76. (b) Uttarakhand

- The service will be based at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh and will be able to transport accident victims up to 150 km away.
- The HEMS is part of the government's efforts to improve medical outreach and trauma care services, and to ensure patients receive critical care at AIIMS within the "golden hour" after an accident.



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Q77. Recently, the **INDUS-X Summit 2024 was held in New Delhi. It is a joint initiative between India and which of the following countries?**

a) United Arab Emirates
 b) USA
 c) Israel
 d) France

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Ans77. (a) USA

- Recently, the United States Department of Defense (DoD) and the Indian Ministry of Defense (MoD) participated in the **second India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) Summit** in New Delhi, India.
- The summit was jointly organized by **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**, MoD, and the DoD, and coordinated by the **US-India Business Council (USIBC)** and **Society of India Defense Manufacturers (SIDM)**.

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

- Launched in 2018, iDEX is the flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Defence**. It is funded and managed by the **Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)**, established as a 'not-for-profit' company under Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.
- iDEX, aims to foster **innovation and technology development in the Defence and Aerospace sector**.




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Q78. Recently, which of the following organizations has announced the launch of “YUva Vigyani KAryakram**” (YUVIKA) (Young Scientist Programme)?**

(a) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
 (b) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
 (c) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
 (d) Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)



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Ans78. (b) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA)

- "Young Scientist Programme", or "YUva Vigyani KAryakram" YUVIKA, is a learning and awareness creating programme of the ISRO to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science, and Space Applications to younger students with a preference to rural areas.
- The programme is aimed at creating awareness about the emerging trends in science and technology amongst the youngsters, who are the future building blocks of our nation. ISRO has chalked out this programme to "Catch them young".
- The programme is also expected to encourage more students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research /career.
- Those who have finished class 8 and are currently studying in class 9 can apply for the programme.

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Q79. Recently, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated projects of more than Rs. 254 crore at Pandu Port, Guwahati, Assam. Pandu Port is part of which of the following?

(a) National Waterway 1
(b) National Waterway 2
(c) National Waterway 3
(d) National Waterway 4

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Ans79. (b) National Waterway 2

The Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river (891 Km) declared as National Waterway-2 in 1988 is located in the state of Assam. As per the National Waterways Act, 2016, 111 waterways have been declared as NWs. National Waterway-1 (Prayagraj-Haldia) with length 1620 km is the longest National waterway in India.

Brahmaputra River National Waterway No. II

Tripura
 Sikkim

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Q80. Recently, which of the following has become the first state in the North-East India to achieve 100 percent saturation of Har Ghar Jal under Jal Jeevan Mission?

(a) Assam
(b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Sikkim
(d) Meghalaya

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Ans80. (b) Arunachal Pradesh

Jal Jeevan Mission

- Launched in 2019, it envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
- It comes under Jal Shakti Ministry.

Arunachal Pradesh has made a significant achievement by reaching 100 percent saturation in the 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), announced by Chief Minister Pema Khandu. This milestone sets Arunachal Pradesh apart as the first state in the northeast and the tenth in India to fully embrace the central government's initiative, aimed at ensuring clean and safe piped water for every household.



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Q81. Recently, **INSAT-3DS satellite on launch vehicle **GSLV-F14** has been successfully launched. It was fully funded by which of the following ministries?**

(a) Ministry of Science and Technology
 (b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 (c) Ministry of Earth Sciences
 (d) Ministry of Communications



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Ans81. (c) Ministry of Earth Sciences



- INSAT-3DS is designed to **enhance meteorological observations**, aid in weather forecasting, and improve **disaster warning capabilities**.
- Fully funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), it follows the lineage of **Third Generation Meteorological Satellites from Geostationary Orbit**.
- The satellite will monitor land and ocean surfaces, augmenting the services provided by existing **INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites**.
- India gets weather updates through INSAT-3D & 3DR weather satellites. INSAT 3DR was launched in 2016 as a follow up on INSAT-3D which was launched in 2013.

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SLV-3	ASLV	PSLV-XL	GSLV Mk II	GSLV Mk III
				
Height : 22.7m	Height : 23.5m	Height : 44m	Height : 49m	Height : 43.43 m
Lift-off weight : 17 t	Lift-off weight : 39 t	Lift-off weight : 320 t	Lift-off weight : 414 t	Lift-off weight : 640 t
Propulsion : All Solid	Propulsion : All Solid	Propulsion : Solid & Liquid	Propulsion : Solid, Liquid & Cryogenic	Propulsion : Solid, Liquid & Cryogenic
Payload mass : 40 kg	Payload mass : 150 kg	Payload mass : 1860 kg	Payload mass : 2200 kg	Payload mass : 4000 kg
Orbit : Low Earth Orbit	Orbit : Low Earth Orbit	Orbit : 475 km Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (1300 km in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit)	Orbit : Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit	Orbit : Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit


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Q82. Recently, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and which of the following space agencies have announced to launch the world's first wooden satellite "LignoSat**" probe?**

(a) European Space Agency (ESA)
 (b) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
 (c) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
 (d) ROSCOSMOS

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Ans82. (b) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

LignoSat

- The world's first wooden satellite, designed to combat [space debris](#).
- Constructed from **magnolia wood (known as Hoonoki in Japanese)**, known for its stability and resistance to space conditions.
- It is a coffee mug-size satellite.



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Q83. Recently, who amongst the following from India attended the 60th Munich Security Conference 2024 in Germany?

(a) Dr S. Jaishankar
(b) Vinay Mohan Kwatra
(c) Shri Narendra Modi
(d) Amitabh Kant

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Ans83. (a) Dr S. Jaishankar

Munich Security Conference 2024

- It is the world's leading forum for debating international security policy. It is often referred to as the 'Davos of Defence'.
- Its objective is to build trust and contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, by sustaining a continuous and informal dialogue within the international security community.
- It has been held in Munich, Germany, since 1963.
- The conference is held annually in February.

Key features:

- 1) It is a venue for diplomatic initiatives to address the world's most pressing security concerns.
- 2) It brings together security experts, politicians, military leaders and the defence industry from around the world.
- 3) It publishes the Munich Security Report. This is an annual report about figures, maps and research on crucial security challenges.

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Q84. Recently, the statue of U Tirot Sing, freedom fighter from Khasi Hills (in present day Meghalaya) has been unveiled at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in which of the following cities?



(a) New Delhi (b) Guwahati
(c) Colombo (d) Dhaka

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Ans84. (d) Dhaka

Tirot Sing:

- Tirot Sing, also known as 'the Hero of the Khasi Hills,' led an attack against British forces in 1829, resisting their attempts to control the Khasi Hills.
- Captured after the Anglo-Khasi War, he died as a political prisoner in Dhaka in 1835.



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Q85. Recently, PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at **Kulasekarapattinam. It is in which of the following districts of Tamil Nadu?**

(a) Cuddalore (b) Coimbatore
(c) Thoothukudi (d) Erode

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Ans85. (c) Thoothukudi

- A spaceport or cosmodrome is a site for launching or receiving spacecraft, by analogy to a seaport for ships or an airport for aircraft.
- **Location:** India's second spaceport is being established in **Kulasekarapattinam**, a coastal village in the **Thoothukudi** district of Tamil Nadu.
- **Kulasekarapattinam** situated in the Thoothukudi district, is an **ancient port town** dating back to the **1st century AD**.
- The new spaceport is **dedicated to Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs)** developed by the private sector.
- Indian Space Research Organization launched a **Rohini sounding rocket** from a mobile launch pad to mark the beginning of work at the site.



ON A MORE DIRECT ROUTE
Second spaceport will be used for smaller rockets

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE
> Dogleg manoeuvre is a sharp turn that causes the rocket to deviate from a straight flight path
> This manoeuvre requires more fuel in the rocket which eats into the payload capacity of the launcher

When rockets are launched from Kulasekarapattinam, this manoeuvre is not required as there is no landmass along the flight path in the southeast direction

In polar missions, a PSLV from Sriharikota must perform a dogleg manoeuvre to avoid flying over Sri Lanka, to protect it from rocket debris

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Reasons why launching sites are generally located on the Eastern Coast:

- The eastern coast location offers several benefits for rocket launches:
- **Fuel Savings:** Launching rockets from the eastern coast harnesses Earth's rotation, **granting them initial velocity and reducing fuel requirements for orbit**.
- **Equatorial Position:** The spaceport's proximity to the **Equator** further enhances launch efficiency. Rockets launched closer to the Equator receive an additional boost from the Earth's rotational speed, making it **easier to reach orbit**.

The new spaceport advantages over the Sriharikota facility:

- **Eliminating Diversion Due to Sri Lanka's Airspace:** Currently, rockets launched from the existing spaceport at **Sriharikota** (Andhra Pradesh) must head east before turning south. This trajectory is necessary to avoid flying over the airspace of neighboring **Sri Lanka**. Rockets can now take a more direct path without encroaching on Sri Lanka's airspace, enhancing launch efficiency.
- **Proximity to Isro's Propulsion Complex:** Isro's **propulsion complex** is located in **Mahendragiri**, which is much closer to Kulasekarapattinam (approximately 88 m) than to Sriharikota (approximately 780 km). This proximity facilitates the transportation of rocket components, **reducing both time and cost**.

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Q86. Recently, ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, chaired the 62nd session of the UN Commission for Social Development 2024. Which of the following countries will chair the 63rd session of the **Commission for Social Development in 2025?**

(a) Poland (b) France
(c) Greece (d) Bangladesh

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Ans86. (a) Poland

Commission for Social Development (CSocD):

- CSocD, formerly known as the Social Commission, is a **functional commission** of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.
- It has been in **existence since the very inception of the United Nations**, advising ECOSOC and governments on a wide range of social policy issues and from the social perspective of development.
- Its primary purpose is to **advance social development and formulate policies and recommendations** to address global social issues.
- It focuses on topics such as **poverty eradication, social inclusion**, and the promotion of **equitable and sustainable development**.
- Originally 18, membership has been increased several times, most recently in 1996, and **now stands at 46**.
- Members are elected by ECOSOC based on **equitable geographical distribution for four-year terms**.



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Q87. Recently, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated India's **first Skill India Centre (SIC) in which of the following districts of Odisha?**

(a) Bhadrak
(b) Balasore
(c) Kalahandi
(d) Sambalpur

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Ans87. (d) Sambalpur

- The SIC in Sambalpur, Odisha, **aims to upgrade the skills of the youth, particularly focusing on new-age job roles**.
- The initiative complements the **Kaushal Rath initiative** launched earlier to provide skill training and certification across various districts of Odisha.
- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** will oversee the implementation of training programs to ensure adherence to quality standards and the overall functioning of the centre.

- NSDC is a unique **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** enterprise working under the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- It was established to catalyse the skilling ecosystem, NSDC partners with the private sector to implement the **Skill India Mission**, focusing on efficient vocational training initiatives. It supports enterprises, startups, and organisations by providing funding, concessional loans, and innovative financial products to enhance skilling initiatives.

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Q88. Recently, Shashi Tharoor has been conferred with the ‘Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur’ (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by which of the following countries?

(a) Germany (b) Netherlands
(c) France (d) United Kingdom

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Ans88. (c) France

Shashi Tharoor conferred France's highest civilian honour

Receiving the recognition, Tharoor said he was immensely honoured to accept the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour).

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Q89. Recently, multinational military exercise ‘Shanti Prayas IV’ has commenced in which of the following countries?

(a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan
(c) Nepal (d) Myanmar

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Ans89. (c) Nepal

- The Shanti Prayas Exercise is co-hosted by the Nepali Army and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, reflecting the strong military cooperation between Nepal and the United States.

Which States/Union Territories Share Boundaries with Nepal?



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Q90. Recently, who amongst the following has been awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal by President Droupadi Murmu for designing a drone called ‘Multipurpose Octocopter’?

(a) Havildar Amritpal Singh
 (b) Havildar Varinder Singh
 (c) Havildar Gurkeerat Singh
 (d) Havildar Meharwan Singh

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Ans90. (b) Havildar Varinder Singh


Singh's Octocopter isn't confined to the skies for mere observation. Its capabilities extend far beyond, encompassing a spectrum of operations. **From surveillance missions to combat engagements**, the drone emerges as a force multiplier for the Indian Army.



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Other Gallantry Awards

- **Sena Medal, Nao Sena Medal, and Vayusena Medal:** Awarded to members of the Indian army, navy, and air force respectively for devotion to duty or courage as part of military operations.
- **Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal:** Medal and Ribbon Instituted in 1980 to recognize the distinguished service of the most exceptional order during war/conflict/hostilities.
- **Uttam Yudh Seva Medal:** Medal and Ribbon Instituted in 1980 to recognize the distinguished service of an exceptional order during war/conflict/hostilities.
- **Yuddh Seva Medal:** Medal and Ribbon Instituted in 1980 to recognize distinguished service of a high order during war/conflict/hostilities.
- **Param Vishisht Seva Medal:** Medal and Ribbon Instituted in 1960 as VSM Class-I to recognize the distinguished service of the most exceptional order.
- **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal:** Medal and Ribbon Instituted in 1960 as VSM Class-II for distinguished Service of an exceptional order.
- **Vishisht Seva Medal:** Medal and Ribbon Instituted in 1960 and as VSM Class-III to recognize the distinguished service of a high order.
- **Mention in Dispatches:** Recognizes distinguished and meritorious service in operational areas and combat zones that are not of a sufficiently high order to warrant the grant of gallantry awards.

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Q91. Recently, which of the following countries has become the 119th country to sign the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement?


(a) Chile (b) Hungary
 (c) Malta (d) Yemen

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Ans91. (c) Malta

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is an **action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform** for increased deployment of **solar energy technologies**.
- Its basic motive is to facilitate **energy access, ensure energy security, and drive energy transition** in its member countries.
- The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by **India and France** to mobilize efforts against **climate change** through deployment of **solar energy solutions**.
- Headquarters:** The Headquarters is in India with its Interim Secretariat being set up in **Gurugram**.



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Q92. Recently, who amongst the following has become first woman scientist to win the 2023 G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research?

(a) Dr Aditi Pant
(b) Professor Aditi Sen De
(c) Dr Tessy Thomas
(d) Dr Ritu Karidhal Srivastava

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Ans92. (b) Professor Aditi Sen De

- Aditi Sen De received the GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence for her contribution to the field of quantum technologies. Simply put, here's what she does.
- Dr Aditi Sen De, a physicist with the Harish Chandra Research Institute, Prayagraj, has won the 2023 GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence.



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Q93. Recently, India has contributed how much amount to the **Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund established by India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA)?**

(a) \$1 million (b) \$2 million
(c) \$3 million (d) \$4 million

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Ans93. (a) \$1 million

- The IBSA Fund, established in 2004 and operational since 2006, aims to implement projects in developing countries to alleviate poverty and hunger, aligning with internationally agreed development goals.
- IBSA may refer to the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum, which is a tripartite grouping that promotes international cooperation between India, Brazil, and South Africa. IBSA was established in June 2003 to contribute to the construction of a new international architecture.

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Q94. Recently, Indian Railways longest transportation tunnel 'T-50' was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL). What is its total length?

(a) 12.895 km (b) 12.77 km
(c) 11.25 km (d) 10.20 km

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Ans94. (b) 12.77 km

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project:

- The USBRL Project involves the **construction of a railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla** joining the Kashmir valley with the Indian Railways network.
- **Aim:** To connect Kashmir to the rest of the country and give a push to development in the Valley.
- **Total Length: 272 km**
- The Project was declared as a "National Project" in 2002.

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Q95. Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of Umbrella Scheme on ‘Safety of Women’ at a total cost of Rs.1179.72 crore during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. It is administered by which of the following ministries?

(a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
 (b) Ministry of Minority Affairs
 (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
 (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

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Ans95. (c) Ministry of Home Affairs

Projects under the Umbrella Scheme for “Safety of Women”

- 112 Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 2.0;
- Upgradation of Central Forensic Sciences laboratories, including setting up of National Forensic Data Centre;
- Strengthening of DNA Analysis, Cyber Forensic capacities in State Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs);
- Six Cyber Forensic Science Laboratories will be established in Pune, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Delhi, Kamrup and Bhopal which will help in speeding up of scientific and timely investigations.
- Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children;
- Capacity building and training of investigators and prosecutors in handling sexual assault cases against women and children; and
- Women Help Desk & Anti-human Trafficking Units.

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Q96. Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of “Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)” for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. What is the total outlay under the scheme?

(a) Rs. 4,100 crore (b) Rs. 2,100 crore
 (c) Rs. 1,800 crore (d) Rs. 8,900 crore

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Ans96. (a) Rs. 4,100 crore

Flood Management and Border Areas Programme

- It is a centrally sponsored Scheme.
- River Management and Border Areas (RMBA) component: Under this flood control and anti-erosion works on common border rivers with neighbouring countries including hydrological observations and flood forecasting, and investigation & pre-construction activities of joint water resources projects (with neighbouring countries) on common border rivers will be taken up with 100% central assistance.
- The Scheme has the provision of incentivizing the States which implement flood plain zoning, recognized as an effective non-structural measure for flood management.
- Significance: This is particularly relevant as the increased incidence of extreme events have been witnessed during the last few years in view of likely impact of climate change and situation may further aggravate in times to come exacerbating problem of floods in terms of extent, intensity and frequency.

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Q97. Recently, the “National Level Project of Health Screening and Management through Ayurvedic Interventions for Tribal Students” has been announced. This project will cover the students of which of the following age group?

(a) 2-5 years (b) 6-10 years
(c) 10-15 years (d) 10-18 years

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Ans97. (d) 10-18 years

National Level Project of Health Screening and Management through Ayurvedic Interventions for Tribal Students

The project aims at screening the general health condition of the students enrolled in classes 6th to 12th. The screening will be carried out in selected 55 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) spread across 14 states of the country.

The special focus is on Anaemia, Haemoglobinopathies, Malnutrition & Tuberculosis. Efforts will be made to inculcate healthy lifestyle practices among students as per the principles of Ayurveda. Also, an integrated approach will be made for the management of the diseases.

Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) impart quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.

The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students including good health.

At present, there are 401 functional schools spanned across the country with focus on special state-of-the-art facilities for providing quality education and training in sports and skill development.

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Q98. Recently, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana (National Entrepreneurship Development Project) in Sambalpur, Odisha. It has been launched for the beneficiaries of which of the following schemes?

(a) Prime Minister Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi)
(b) Jal Jeevan Mission
(c) Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)
(d) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

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Ans98. (a) Prime Minister Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi)

Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana (National Entrepreneurship Development Project)

- Tailored specifically for beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme, this unique National Entrepreneurship Development Project underscores the government’s steadfast commitment to nurturing job providers across the nation.
- The Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana aims to equip individuals with comprehensive entrepreneurship training, aligning with the vision of Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, of creating job providers rather than job seekers.
- Recognizing the imperative to adapt to the evolving job market, this initiative focuses on reskilling and upskilling employees to enhance their competitiveness and adaptability in an era of disruptive technology.

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Q99. Recently, which of the following organizations has launched the **Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH)?**

(a) Gavi - the Vaccine Alliance
 (b) World Health Organization (WHO)
 (c) World Bank
 (d) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

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Ans99. (b) World Health Organization (WHO)

Global India Digital Health Initiative

- The new **GIDH** initiative will operate as a WHO-managed network and platform to support the implementation of the **Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025**.
- The Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025 outlines a comprehensive framework for leveraging digital technologies to enhance health and healthcare systems worldwide.
- As a **WHO Managed Network** (“Network of Networks”), GIDH aims to consolidate and **amplify recent and past gains in global digital health** while strengthening mutual accountability.

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Q100. Recently, which of the following states has launched the **CM Jan Arogya Yojana (CMJAY), becoming the first north-eastern state to introduce universal health insurance coverage?**

(a) Assam (b) Meghalaya
 (c) Tripura (d) Arunachal Pradesh

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Ans100. (c) Tripura

Tripura CM Manik Saha launches health insurance for citizens not covered under Ayushman Bharat scheme

In Tripura, the Ayushman Bharat scheme was started on September 23, 2018.

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Q101. Recently, **Seetha Mahalaxmi Healthcare (SML) has unveiled which of the following AI Models, in partnership with the IIT Bombay-led BharatGPT ecosystem?**

(a) Bheem (b) Hanooman
(c) Arjuna (d) Pushpak

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Ans101. (b) Hanooman

Hanooman

- Hanooman is a series of large language models (LLMs) that can respond in 11 Indian languages like Hindi, Tamil, and Marathi.
- However, there are plans to expand to more than 20 languages.
- It has been designed to work in four fields, including health care, governance, financial services, and education.
- Not just a chatbot.
- Notably, the series is not just a chatbot. It is a multimodal AI tool, which can generate text, speech, videos and more in multiple Indian languages.
- One of the first customised versions is VizhyGPT, an AI model fine-tuned for healthcare using reams of medical data.
- The size of these AI models ranges from 1.5 billion to a whopping 40 billion parameters.

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Q102. Recently, which of the following countries has topped the medal tally at the **Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2024 held in Tehran, Iran?**

(a) India
(b) China
(c) Japan
(d) Iran

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Ans102. (b) China

China topped the medal tally at the 2024 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran, Iran with 16 medals, including eight golds, six silvers, and two bronzes. India finished fifth with three golds and one silver.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	8	6	2	16
2	Japan	4	4	1	9
3	Kazakhstan	4	2	6	12
4	Iran	3	6	7	17
5	India	3	1	0	4
6	Kyrgyzstan	2	1	1	4
7	Kuwait	1	0	0	1
7	Oman	1	0	0	1
9	Uzbekistan	0	2	2	4
10	Bangladesh	0	1	1	2
10	Iraq	0	1	1	2
10	Qatar	0	1	1	2

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Q103. Recently, who amongst the following has become the youngest player to defeat a grandmaster (Chess)?

(a) Abhimanyu Mishra
(b) Raunak Sadhwani
(c) Ashwath Kaushik
(d) Javokhir Sindarov

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Ans103. (c) Ashwath Kaushik

- As of February 2024, **Ashwath Kaushik** is the youngest player to defeat a grandmaster in classical chess, at the age of 8 years, 6 months, and 11 days.
- The Indian-born chess player from Singapore beat 37-year-old GM Jacek Stopa from Poland in the fourth round of the 22nd Burgdorfer Stadthaus Open in Switzerland.
- Kaushik, who is the World Under-Eight Rapid Champion, broke the record previously held by Milko Popchev.



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Q104. Recently, which of the following organizations has developed “DURGA-2” (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array), a directed-energy weapon (DEW)?

(a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
(b) Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
(c) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
(d) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

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Ans104. (b) Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

- It is a 100-kilowatt lightweight DEW and can be used by armed forces.
- It aims to provide the Indian armed forces with cutting-edge technology capable of neutralising various threats, including drones, missiles, and artillery shells.

Directed-Energy Weapons (DEWs)

- It is a type of weapon system that emits highly focused energy, typically in the form of lasers, microwaves, or particle beams, to incapacitate or destroy targets.
- Unlike traditional firearms or explosives which rely on kinetic energy (physical impact), DEWs use directed energy to achieve their effects.



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Q105. Recently, which of the following states has signed a MoU with National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to establish **Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)?**

(a) Nagaland (b) Manipur
(c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Mizoram

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Ans105. (c) Arunachal Pradesh

- Realizing the importance of 'tiger protection' in biodiversity conservation, the Finance Minister had announced policy initiatives on 29th February, 2008, for constituting 'Special Tiger Protection Force' (STPF).
- Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves.

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Q106. Recently, who amongst the following has become the fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in T20 cricket?

(a) David Warner (b) Glenn Maxwell
(c) Babar Azam (d) Virat Kohli

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Ans106. (c) Babar Azam

- In February 2024, Pakistan's Babar Azam became the fastest male batsman to score 10,000 runs in T20 cricket, breaking the previous record held by Chris Gayle of the West Indies.
- Azam reached the milestone while playing for Peshawar Zalmi against Karachi Kings in the Pakistan Super League (PSL).
- He needed only six runs to reach the landmark.



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Q107. Which of the following is the mascot of the 7th North East Youth Festival 2024, Tripura?

(a) Phayre's leaf monkey (b) Ashtalakshmi
(c) Hoolock Gibbon (d) Red panda

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Ans107. (a) Phayre's leaf monkey



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Q108. What is the name of the planned rail corridor for high density traffic route, which has been announced in the Interim Budget 2024-25?

(a) Amrit Sagar (b) Vividh Kaal
(b) Amrit Chaturbhuj (d) Bharat Sankalp

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Ans108. (c) Amrit Chaturbhuj

- The Union Minister further stated that “In this budget, a big focus has been put on creating additional capacity through three corridors.
- First is Energy, mineral and cement corridors which will help reduce pollution of roads and ensure reduction in cost of logistics.
- Second is port connectivity which will provide seamless connectivity to the ports through railways in a multimodal ‘Gati Shakti’ way and third is ‘Amrit Chaturbhuj’ which will be akin to golden quadrilateral on Railway network on high density traffic routes.
- Overall, through these 3 corridors, about 40,000 Km of new track will be laid which will significantly increase railway capacity and reduce pollution as railway can save up to 90% CO2 emissions in a cost effective manner.
- This will bring a big transformation in the country’s economy in an efficient, productive and sustainable manner.”

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Q109. Recently, the 16th edition of the India-Maldives-Sri Lanka trilateral Exercise 'Dosti-16' has commenced in Male, Maldives. Which of the following countries is participating as the observer country?

(a) China (b) Bangladesh
(c) Singapore (d) Pakistan

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Ans109. (b) Bangladesh

Which States/Union Territories Share Boundaries with Bangladesh?

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Q110. Recently, who amongst the following has become India's first woman Pitch curator (Cricket)?

(a) Jacintha Kalyan
(b) Pooja Vastrakar
(c) Shreyanka Patil
(d) Titas Sadhu

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Ans110. (a) Jacintha Kalyan

In a historic stride for Indian cricket, Jacintha Kalyan has become the trailblazing pioneer as the first female cricket pitch curator in our nation.

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Q111. Recently, the 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between India and Japan has commenced in which of the following states?

(a) Rajasthan
(b) Maharashtra
(c) Uttarakhand
(d) Himachal Pradesh

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Ans111. (a) Rajasthan

- The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise '[Dharma Guardian](#)' between the [Indian Army](#) and the [Japan Ground Self Defence Force](#) started on 25th February and will conclude on 9th March 2024 at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
- Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' is an [annual exercise](#) conducted alternatively in India and Japan.
- The Exercise aims to foster **military cooperation** and enhance **combined capabilities** to execute joint operations in the semi-urban environment under Chapter VII of the [United Nations Charter](#).

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Q112. Recently, Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton has scored the fastest T20 International (Cricket) hundred in just 33 balls against Nepal. He is from which of the following countries?

(a) Kenya (b) Netherlands
(c) Namibia (d) United Arab Emirates

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Ans112. (c) Namibia




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Q113. Recently, the construction of the **Shahpur Kandi Dam Project has been completed. It has been built over which of the following rivers?**

(a) Sutlej River (b) Beas River
(c) Indus River (d) Ravi River

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Ans113. (d) Ravi River

Shahpur Kandi Dam Project

- It is located on the Ravi River in Pathankot district, Punjab, downstream from the existing Ranjit Sagar Dam.
- The water released by Ranjit Sagar Dam is utilized for generating power from this project.
- The main purpose behind the construction of this dam is power generation and irrigation in Punjab and J&K States.
- It is constructed by the irrigation department of the Government of Punjab.
- The project consists of a 55.5 m high concrete gravity dam, a 7.70 km long hydel channel, two head regulators, and two powerhouses.
- The total output capacity of the project is 206 MW.

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Q114. The three new criminal laws - **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023** and **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023** – will come into effect from which of the following dates?**

(a) 1st April, 2024 (b) 1st May, 2024
(c) 1st June, 2024 (d) 1st July, 2024

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Ans114. (d) 1st July, 2024

Changes proposed in criminal laws

Union home minister Amit Shah has introduced three key bills in the Lok Sabha that, if approved, will overhaul India's criminal justice system. A look at key aspects of the bills

THE BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA (BNS) BILL, 2023
Proposed to replace Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860

The IPC, which was framed by the British, is the official criminal code of India that lists various crimes and its punishments

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Sedition deleted, but another provision penalising secessionism, separatism, rebellion and acts against sovereignty, unity and integrity of India brought in
- Provision of **death penalty** for gang rape of minors and for mock lynching
- **Community service** introduced as one of the punishments for the first time

THE BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA, 2023
Proposed to replace Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973

The CrPC lays down the procedure for investigation, arrest, court hearings and punishment in criminal cases

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Time-bound investigation**, trial and judgment within 30 days of the completion of arguments
- **Video-recording** of the statement of sexual assault victims to be made mandatory
- New provision for **attachment of property and proceeds of crime**

THE BHARATIYA SAKSHYA BILL, 2023
Proposed to replace the Indian Evidence Act, 1872

The IEA applies to all judicial proceedings in the country and defines the particulars of evidence produced and admissible in courts

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Documents to also include** electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smart phones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mails, messages on devices
- **Digitisation of all records** including case diary, FIR, charge sheet and judgement
- Electronic or digital record shall have the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as paper records

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Q115. According to the recently released All India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23, which of the following states has the highest Monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) (Without Imputation)?

(a) Sikkim (b) Haryana
(c) Punjab (d) Chhattisgarh

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Ans115. (a) Sikkim

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) is conducted by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** every 5 years. It is designed to collect information on the consumption of goods and services by households.

Highlights of the Recent Survey:
The estimates of average monthly per capita consumption expenditure were generated without imputing the value figures of the items received free by the households through various social welfare programmes such as **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana**. Increase in MPCE. It reveals a **33.5%** increase in MPCE in urban households since 2011-12, reaching **₹3,510**, while rural India's MPCE increased by **40.42%** to **₹2,008**. In 2022-23, **46%** of rural household expenditure and **39%** of urban household expenditure were on food items.

Distribution of MPCE by Population Percentiles: The **bottom 5%** of India's rural population, ranked by MPCE, has an average MPCE of **Rs. 1,373** while it is **Rs. 2,001** for the same category of population in the urban areas.

- The top 5% of India's rural and urban population, ranked by MPCE, has an average MPCE of **Rs. 10,501** and **Rs. 20,824**, respectively.

State-wise MPCE Variations: Sikkim has the **highest MPCE** in both rural (₹7,731) and urban areas (₹12,105), while **Chhattisgarh** has the **lowest** with ₹2,466 for rural households and ₹4,483 for urban households.

- The rural-urban difference in average MPCE, among the states is the highest in Meghalaya (83%) followed by Chhattisgarh (82%).

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- UT-wise MPCE Variations:** Among the UTs, MPCE is the **highest in Chandigarh** (Rural Rs. 7,467 and Urban Rs. 12,575), whereas, it is the **lowest in Ladakh** (Rs. 4,035) and Lakshadweep (Rs. 5,475) for rural and urban areas respectively.
- Food Spending Trends:** Since the 1999-2000 survey, the **share of expenditure on food has gradually declined** and the share of non-food items has increased for both urban and rural households.
 - A decline in food spending is understood as an increase in incomes, which then means **having more money for other expenditures** like on medical, clothing, education, conveyance, durables, fuel, entertainment, among other things.
 - The recent survey result showed that the share of **cereals and pulses** within overall food consumption expenditure has been **reducing**, both in rural and urban households.
 - Among the non-food items, the share of spending on **conveyance** was the highest.
 - Till 2022-23, **fuel and light** used to see the highest consumption spending among the non-food items.

National Statistical Office

- About:** Formed in 2019 by merging the **Central Statistical Office (CSO)** and the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**.
 - C. Rangarajan Committee** first suggested the establishment of NSO as the nodal body for all core statistical activities.
 - It currently works under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- Function:** Collects, compiles, and disseminates reliable, objective, and relevant statistical data.

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Q116. Recently, which of the following has won the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 title?

(a) Indian Navy
 (b) Indian Army
 (c) Karnataka
 (d) Maharashtra

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Ans116. (b) Indian Army

KIWG medal winners

Rank	State/UT/Team	Gold medals	Silver medals	Bronze medals	Total medals
1	Army	10	5	6	21
2	Karnataka	9	2	0	11
3	Maharashtra	7	8	7	22
4	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	9	17
5	Uttarakhand	3	3	1	7
6	Ladakh	2	6	7	15
7	Telangana	2	1	0	3
7	Uttar Pradesh	2	1	0	3
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1	6	4	11
10	ITBP	1	4	3	8

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Q117. Recently, PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for Sikkim's first railway station “Rangpo Railway Station”. It is in which of the following districts of Sikkim?

(a) Gangtok (b) Soreng
 (c) Namchi (d) Pakyong

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Ans117. (d) Pakyong

- The station will be a part of the under-construction 45-km rail line from Sevoke near Siliguri in West Bengal to Rangpo in Sikkim. It will have 14 tunnels and 22 bridges.
- The track on the Sevoke-Rangpo section of the Northeast Frontier Railway will have the capacity to handle 25 ton and trains can run at a maximum speed of 110 kmph.
- There will be three stations between Sevoke and Rangpo — Riyang, Teesta Bazar and Melli, all in West Bengal.
- The Teesta Bazar station will be underground.
- The project was awarded to IRCON International in May 2010 at a cost of Rs 4,084.69 crore and the original deadline was May 2015.

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- Tripura
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Q118. Recently, Ministry of Ayush has signed an MoU with which of the following ministries for a joint public health initiative for Anaemia Control among adolescent girls using Ayurveda interventions in the five districts under “Mission Utkarsh”?

(a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
 (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
 (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

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Ans118. (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development

Anaemia

- **Anemic Condition:**
 - It is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet physiologic needs, which vary by age, sex, altitude, smoking, and pregnancy status.
- **Causes:**
 - Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anaemia, although other conditions, such as folate, vitamin B12 and vitamin A deficiencies, chronic inflammation, parasitic infections, and inherited disorders can all cause anaemia.
- **Status in India:**
 - The prevalence of anaemia among six groups as per the National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21), is 25.0% in men (15-49 years) and 57.0% in women (15-49 years), 31.1% in adolescent boys (15-19 yrs), 59.1% in adolescent girls, **52.2% in pregnant women (15-49 years)** and 67.1% in children (6-59 months).

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Q119. Recently, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the ‘Trisonic Wind Tunnel’ at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC). It is in which of the following districts of Kerala?

(a) Kollam
 (b) Thiruvananthapuram
 (c) Idukki
 (d) Malappuram

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Ans119. (b) Thiruvananthapuram

Wind Tunnel

Wind tunnels are large tubes with air moving inside. The tunnels are used to copy the actions of an object in flight. Researchers use wind tunnels to learn more about how an aircraft will fly. Space agencies use wind tunnels to test scale models of aircraft and spacecraft. Some wind tunnels are big enough to hold full-size versions of vehicles. The wind tunnel moves air around an object, making it seem like the object is really flying.

Trisonic Wind Tunnel at VSSC

- ‘Trisonic’ refers to the tunnel’s capability to test in three speed regimes—below the speed of sound (subsonic), at the speed of sound (transonic), and above the speed of sound (supersonic).



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Q120. Recently, Ms Elisa de Anda Madrazo has been appointed as the President of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for 2024-26 term. She is from which of the following countries?**

(a) Canada (b) Germany
(c) Mexico (d) Argentina

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Ans120. (c) Mexico

FATF

- FATF is the global **money laundering** and **terrorist financing** watchdog set up in 1989 out of a **G-7** meeting of developed nations in Paris.
- Initially, its objective was to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- After the 9/11 attacks on the US, the FATF in 2001 expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing.
- In April 2012, it added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**.
- The FATF Secretariat is located at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

Members:

- As of today, it is a 39-member body representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.
- Out of 39 members, there are two regional organisations: the **European Commission**, and the **Gulf Cooperation Council**.
- Countries that are the members of FATF Include:
 - Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong (China), Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the UK and the US.

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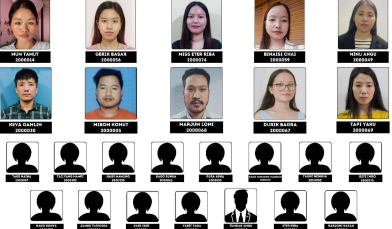
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