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## NORTH EAST PSC

# CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION

### January 2024

By Intakhab Sir

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## Q1. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024' will be held between India and which of the following countries in Rajasthan?

(a) USA                      (b) United Arab Emirates

(c) Israel                     (d) Russia

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## Ans1. (b) United Arab Emirates

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**Q2. Recently, who amongst the following has won the 2023 World Blitz Chess Championship (Open Category), held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan?**

(a) Magnus Carlsen      (b) Daniil Dubov  
(c) Vladislav Artemiev   (d) Anish Giri

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**Ans2. (a) Magnus Carlsen**

Magnus Carlsen, a Norwegian Grandmaster, won the 2023 FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship, the seventh title in his series, on December 29–30, 2023



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**Q3. Which of the following mission of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) Satellite?**

(a) PSLV-C58      (b) GSLV-Mk III  
(c) SSLV-B16      (d) SLV-XL II

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**Ans3. (a) PSLV-C58**

**XPoSat**

- XPoSat stands for X-ray [Polarimeter Satellite](#).
- It is India's pioneering polarimetry mission aimed at studying various dynamics of astronomical sources in extreme conditions.
- It is only the world's second polarimetry mission using X-Ray after [NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer \(IXPE\)](#) that was launched in 2021.

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**Q4. Recently, PM Narendra Modi visited the home of Meera Manjhi in Ayodhya, who is the 10th crore beneficiary of the Ujjwala Yojana. Which of the following is the nodal ministry for the Ujjwala Yojana?**

(a) Ministry of Finance  
 (b) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
 (c) Ministry of Rural Development  
 (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

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**Ans4. (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

**Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**

- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG), introduced the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY) as a flagship scheme with the objective of making clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc.
- Usage of traditional cooking fuels had detrimental impacts on the health of rural women as well as on the environment.

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**Q5. Recently, who amongst the following has been appointed as the Chairman of the 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission?**

(a) N.K. Singh  
 (b) Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey  
 (c) Dr Arvind Panagariya  
 (d) Dr Arvind Subramanian

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**Ans5. (c) Dr Arvind Panagariya**

**Finance Commission**

- The Finance Commission in India is a constitutional body established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
- Its primary function is to recommend the distribution of financial resources between the central government and the state governments.
- Appointed by President

The Government of India, in adherence to Article 280(1) of the Constitution, has established the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**, appointing **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog and Professor at Columbia University, as its **Chairman**.

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**Q6. Recently, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has successfully used 'REJUPAVE' technology to build high-altitude bituminous road sections at the Sela tunnel and LGG-Damteng-Yangste (LDY) in Arunachal Pradesh. These have been constructed under which of the following projects?**

(a) Project VARTAK      (b) Project HIMANK  
(c) Project UDAYAK      (d) Project DANTAK

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**Ans33. (a) Project VARTAK**

Rejupave is an indigenous road construction technology that uses bio-oil to modify asphalt, reducing the heating requirements of bituminous mixes while preserving their temperature during transit.

- Project Vartak is a project of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under the Ministry of Defence of India.
- The project began in 1960 as Project Tusker, then renamed to Project Vartak in 1963.
- The project's initial goal was to build and maintain roads between Bhalukpong and Tenga.
- The project's scope has since been expanded to include roads in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- Project Vartak includes the Sela Tunnel, which is the longest two-lane tunnel in the world at 13,000 feet.
- The tunnel will bypass the Sela Pass and connect Tezpur, Assam, with Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The tunnel is part of the Trans-Arunachal Highway system and will cost Rs 825 crore.

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**Q7. Recently, who amongst the following has won the Girls' Under-19 Title at the 2023 Scottish Junior Open Squash held in Edinburgh, Scotland?**

(a) Joshna Chinappa      (b) Dipika Pallikal  
(c) Tanvi Khanna      (d) Anahat Singh

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**Ans7. (d) Anahat Singh**



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**Q8. Recently, which of the following banks has launched 'eSvarna', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network?**

(a) State Bank of India (SBI)  
 (b) HDFC Bank  
 (c) IndusInd Bank  
 (d) ICICI Bank

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**Ans8. (c) IndusInd Bank**

- A corporate credit card is a payment card that a company issues to its employees to cover approved business expenses.
- Corporate credit cards are different from personal credit cards because they are issued in the company's name and reflect the card as a business expenditure solution.

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**Q9. Recently, "zombie deer disease" has spread rapidly among wildlife in parts of the United States. Zombie deer disease is known as which of the following?**

(a) Anthrax  
 (b) Foot and Mouth Disease  
 (c) Chronic Wasting Disease  
 (d) Brucellosis

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**Ans9. (c) Chronic Wasting Disease**

**Zombie Deer Disease**

- **Zombie deer disease**, or chronic wasting disease (CWD), is a fatal **neurological disorder that affects deer, elk, moose and other members of the cervid family.**
- **It is caused by misfolded proteins called prions that infect the brain and spinal cord of the animals,** leading to weight loss, behavioural changes, loss of coordination and death.
- The disease has been spreading across North America and other parts of the world, posing a serious threat to wildlife conservation and human health.

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**Q10. Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated first all-girls Sainik School “**Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School**” at which of the following places?**

(a) New Delhi  
(b) Baramati, Pune  
(c) Vrindavan, Mathura  
(d) Jagatpura, Jaipur

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**Ans10. (c) Vrindavan, Mathura**

- The Defence Minister of India, inaugurated **Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School** in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh.
- This significant step reflects the government's commitment to providing equal opportunities for girls in the field of defence.
- The school is strategically positioned to play a pivotal role in furthering the **government's initiative to establish 100 new Sainik Schools** across all states and union territories, aligning with the objectives outlined in the **National Education Policy 2020**.
- The initiative aims to provide quality education, better career opportunities, and encourage **girls to join the Armed Forces**.

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**Q11. Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and which of the following organizations for supporting Indian Railways to achieve **Mission Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030** under the **South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) Initiative**?**

(a) Asian Development Bank (ADB)  
(b) World Bank  
(c) United States Agency for International Development (USAID)  
(d) Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)

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**Ans11. (c) United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

- The South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) is a five-year program from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) India that aims to improve access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy in six South Asian countries.
- The countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- The initiative runs from 2021 to 2026 and is in line with the countries' clean energy and climate priorities.

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**Q12. Recently, the Union Cabinet Chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the "PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)" scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It will be implemented during which of the following periods?**

(a) 2020-2025 (b) 2021-2026  
(c) 2022-2027 (d) 2023-2028

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**Ans12. (b) 2021-2026**

**PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)" Scheme**

- It is an overarching scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for the period from 2021 to 2026.
- It encompasses five ongoing sub-schemes, namely:
  - [ACROSS: Atmosphere and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services.](#)
  - [O-SMART: Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology.](#)
  - [PACER: Polar Science and Cryosphere Research.](#)
  - [SAGE: Seismology and Geosciences](#)
  - [REACHOUT: Research, Education, Training and Outreach.](#)
- PRITHVI scheme comprehensively addresses the **five components of Earth System Sciences**: [atmosphere](#), hydrosphere, geosphere, [cryosphere](#), and biosphere.
  - This holistic approach aims to enhance understanding and deliver reliable services for the country.

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**Q13. Recently, which of the following states has issued the notification to give Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to Hattee community of Trans-Giri area of Sirmaur district?**

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

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### Ans13. (a) Himachal Pradesh

The process for including a community in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India is as follows:

1. The state government concerned forwards a proposal to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The proposal should include a recommendation and justification.
2. The proposal is then sent to the Registrar General of India (RGI).
3. If the RGI approves the inclusion, the proposal is forwarded to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
4. If the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes also approves, the proposal goes to the Cabinet.
5. The Cabinet brings in the appropriate amendment to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.



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### Q14. Matarbari port, recently seen in news, is the first deep-sea port of which of the following countries?

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



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### Ans14. (c) Bangladesh

- A deep sea port, also known as a deep water port, is a port built in water that is at least 30 feet deep, while regular ports are only built in water that is up to 20 feet deep.
- Deep sea ports are used for loading and unloading large ships, especially those that are too large to enter smaller ports.



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**Q15. Recently, which of the following states has been ranked first in recording the highest entry rate on the **Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform?****

(a) Bihar (b) Madhya Pradesh  
(c) Chhattisgarh (d) Uttar Pradesh

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**Ans15. (d) Uttar Pradesh**

- The Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is a national platform that aims to integrate the criminal justice system's key components into a single digital platform.
- The ICJS is a project of the Supreme Court's e-committee and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The ICJS enables the seamless transfer of data and information between the criminal justice system's various pillars, such as courts, police, jails, and forensic science laboratories.
- The ICJS project's five pillars are: Police (Crime and Criminal Tracking and Network Systems), e-Forensics for Forensic Labs, e-Courts for Courts, e-Prosecution for Public Prosecutors, and e-Prisons for Prisons.

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**Q16. Recently, Reliance Power has signed an agreement to sell its **1,200 MW Kalai II hydroelectric project** for Rs 128.39 crore to THDC India Limited. It is in which of the following states?**

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

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**Ans16. (c) Arunachal Pradesh**

- The 1,200 MW **Kalai II hydroelectric project** is located in the **Anjaw district** of Arunachal Pradesh, India.
- The project is made up of six 190 MW units and one 60 MW unit in the Lohit river basin. It is estimated to cost 130 billion INR (US\$1.6 billion) and generate 4.85 TWh/year.

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**Q17. Recently, the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC) has announced that it is establishing Ashtlaxmi Haat & Experience Centre in which of the following cities?**

(a) Shillong (b) Kohima  
(c) Itanagar (d) Guwahati

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**Ans17. (d) Guwahati**

- Incorporated in 1977, North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC), as the name suggests is an organisation that attempts to develop and promote the indigenous crafts of the region by connecting craftsmen to prospective markets and consumers and generating economic, cultural and social opportunities for creators while adding cultural value for consumers.
- The corporation is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India.

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**Q18. Recently, which of the following has become the first Union Territory to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana?**

(a) Puducherry  
(b) Ladakh  
(c) Jammu and Kashmir  
(d) Chandigarh

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**Ans18. (c) Jammu and Kashmir**

**PM Vishwakarma Scheme**

- The scheme is designed to **uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople** engaged in various occupations like **blacksmithing, goldsmithing, pottery, carpentry, and sculpting**, with a focus on preserving cultural heritage and integrating them into the formal economy and global value chains.
- It will be implemented as a **Central Sector Scheme**, fully funded by the Government of India.
- **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)** is the Nodal Ministry for the Scheme.
- The Scheme will be jointly implemented by the MoMSME, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

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**Ans20. (d) 50%**

- The **dividend payout ratio** is the percentage of a company's earnings paid to shareholders in dividends, relative to the company's net income.
- The formula for calculating the dividend payout ratio is:  $\text{Dividend Payout Ratio} = \frac{\text{Dividends}}{\text{Net Income}}$ .
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to give permission for banks having net non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio of less than 6 per cent to declare dividends.
- Currently, banks need to have a NNPA ratio of up to 7 per cent to become eligible for declaration of dividends.


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**Q21. Section 106 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), recently seen in news, provides for maximum imprisonment for how many years in hit-and-run road accident cases?**

(a) 5 years                      (b) 7 years  
(c) 10 years                      (d) 8 years


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**Ans21. (c) 10 years**

- Section 106(2) of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** states that anyone who causes death by rash and negligent driving of a vehicle and escapes without reporting it to a police officer or magistrate soon after the incident, shall be punished with imprisonment.
- The BNS, 2023** is set to be enforced starting July 1, 2024, with the exception of section 106(2).

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**Q22. Recently, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has announced to launch GSAT-20 satellite (GSAT-N2) on which of the following launch vehicles?**

(a) LVM-III  
(b) Ariane-5  
(c) PSLV-XL  
(d) Falcon 9

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**Ans22. (d) Falcon 9**

- NSIL is the commercial arm of ISRO with the primary responsibility of enabling Indian industries to take up high-technology space-related activities.
- It is also responsible for the promotion and commercialization of products from the Indian Space Programme.

Falcon 9 is the world's first orbital class reusable, two-stage rocket designed and manufactured by SpaceX for the reliable and safe transport of people and payloads into Earth orbit and beyond.

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**Q23. Recently, **Adi Kekir**, handmade carpets by Tibetan settlers and **Wancho wooden craft** have received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from which of the following states?**

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

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**Ans23. (c) Arunachal Pradesh**

**Adi Kekir** is a variety of ginger produced in the East Siang, Siang and Upper Siang districts. It is known for its taste and size.

**Handmade carpets** by the Tibetan refugees who live in various parts of the state are famous for their typical designs, motifs and textures.

**Wancho wooden craft items** are unique as they feature human heads — tobacco pipes with head-shaped bowls and drinking mugs with warriors carrying heads. The artisans also make sculptures of Buddha, animals and dolls.

**Great News!**  
The three distinctive products from Arunachal Pradesh have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags for their unique cultural and regional significance

Arunachal Pradesh  
**Adi Kekir (Ginger)**

Arunachal Pradesh  
**Wancho Wooden Craft**

Arunachal Pradesh  
**Handmade Carpet**

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**Q24. Recently, **Lanjia Saura painting** has received the GI Tag from which of the following states?**

(a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha  
(c) Chhattisgarh (d) West Bengal

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Ans24. (b) Odisha

**Lanjia Saura Painting**



- The painting is one of the **oldest tribal art forms and is also known as Idital.**
- The artworks are famous for their beauty, aesthetics, ritualistic association and iconography.
- The art form belongs to the **Lanjia Saura community, a PVTG largely residing in the Rayagada district.**
- These paintings are in the form of exterior murals painted on the mud walls of homes.
- White paintings figure over a **crimson-maroon background.**

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**Q25. Recently, the Government of India has extended the deadline for the completion of **Bharatmala Pariyojana** Phase-I to which of the following years?**

(a) 2025-26 (b) 2026-27  
(c) 2027-28 (d) 2028-29

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Ans25. (c) 2027-28

**Bharatmala Pariyojana**

- Bharatmala Pariyojana is a new umbrella program for the highways sector envisaged by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways that focuses on optimizing the efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
- Efficiency is enhanced by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions like the development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.
- Under Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana, the implementation of 34,800 km of national highways in 5 years (from 2017 to 2022) has been approved at an estimated outlay of Rs. 5,35,000 crore.

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**Q26. Recently, it was informed that more than 1 crore people have been screened for **Sickle Cell Disease** under the **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission**. It aims to eliminate sickle cell anemia from India by which of the following years?**

(a) 2030 (b) 2035  
(c) 2047 (d) 2025

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**Ans26. (c) 2047**

**National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission:**

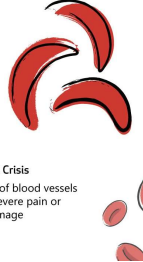
It was announced as part of the Union Budget 2023.  
**Vision: Eliminate sickle cell disease (SCD) as a public health problem in India before 2047.**  
 The overall aim is to enable access to affordable and quality health care to all SCD patients, and to lower the prevalence through awareness, change of practices and screening interventions.  
 The mission will entail awareness creation, universal screening of seven crore people in the 0-40 years age group in affected tribal areas and counselling through collaborative efforts of central ministries and state governments.  
 Initially, the focus shall be on 17 states with higher prevalence of SCD viz., Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar and Uttarakhand.

**What are Sickle Cell Disorders?**

- A group of disorders that cause red blood cells to become misshapen and break down.
- The cells die early, leaving a shortage of healthy red blood cells and can block blood flow causing pain.

**Types:**

<b>Sickle Cell Anaemia</b> Dysfunctional red cells due to abnormal haemoglobin	<b>Sickle Cell Crisis</b> Blockage of blood vessels causing severe pain or organ damage
---	--



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**Q27. Recently, Sundarban honey, Black Nunia rice and Tangail, Gorod and Kadiyal sarees have received the GI Tag from which of the following states?**

(a) Jharkhand      (b) West Bengal  
 (c) Assam          (d) Chhattisgarh

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**Ans27. (b) West Bengal**



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**Q28. Dr S Jaishankar will represent India at the 19<sup>th</sup> Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit 2024 in Kampala. It is in which of the following countries?**

(a) Ghana (b) Uganda  
(c) Ethiopia (d) Tanzania

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**Ans28. (b) Uganda**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement**

- The 19th Summit of the **NAM** was held in Kampala, Uganda, with the **theme of "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence"**.
  - Uganda has taken over as chair from Azerbaijan, to run until 2027.**
- The summit adopted the **Kampala Declaration**, slamming Israeli military aggression and calling for the **implementation of the UN Security Council resolution** to allow humanitarian aid into the besieged **Gaza Strip**.
- The External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India led the Indian delegation at the 19th NAM Summit, calling for a **sustainable solution to the Gaza crisis**. He emphasised the need for **immediate relief in the humanitarian crisis** and urged the prevention of the conflict's spread in the West Asian region.

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**Non Aligned Movement**

- The NAM was established in 1961 in Belgrade, **Yugoslavia**, through the initiative of five leaders of newly independent countries: Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, **Jawaharlal Nehru of India**, Sukarno of Indonesia, and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana.
- It was formed during the **Cold War** as an **organisation of States that did not seek to formally align** themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union but sought to remain independent or neutral.
- At present, the **Movement has 120 Member States, 17 Observer Countries and 10 Observer organizations.**
- NAM does not have a permanent secretariat** or a formal founding charter, act, or treaty.
- The **summit usually takes place every three years.**

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**Q29. Recently, which of the following has been awarded the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023 in the "Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility" category?**

(a) NTPC Limited  
(b) Jain Deemed to be University, Bengaluru  
(c) Odisha Mining Corporation Limited  
(d) University of Delhi

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**Ans29. (c) Odisha Mining Corporation Limited**

Recently, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced [Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar \(RKPP\) 2023](#). **Odisha Mining Corporate Limited** has been awarded in the category of Encouragement to Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility.

**Jain Deemed to be University, Bengaluru** has been awarded for identifying and nurturing budding and young talent.

**RKPP introduced by the government in 2009** is given to corporate entities (both private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

The Other five core awards that constitute India's National Sports Awards are the [Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award](#), the [Arjuna Award](#), the [Dronacharya Award](#), the [Major Dhyan Chand Award](#), and the [Maulana Abul Kalam Azad \(MAKA\) Trophy](#).

Sikkim

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**Q30. What is the name of the Humanoid robot which has been recently unveiled by Google DeepMind and Stanford University?**

(a) Optimus (b) Mika  
(c) Sophia (d) Mobile ALOHA

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**Ans30. (d) Mobile ALOHA**

- Stanford University has unveiled **Mobile ALOHA**, a robotic system designed to **elevate the capabilities of bimanual mobile manipulation**.
- This innovation builds upon the foundation of **Google DeepMind's ALOHA system**, taking it to new heights by introducing mobility and dexterity as focal points in robotic learning.



Mobile ALOHA

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**Q31. Recently, **Aditya-L1** has arrived at its destination, "L1", the first Sun-Earth Lagrangian point on which of the following dates?**

(a) 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 (b) 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2024  
(c) 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 (d) 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

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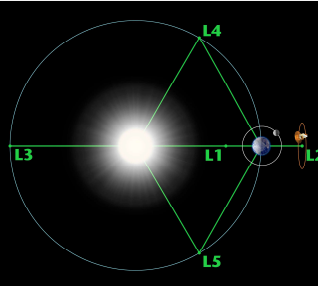
Ans31. (b) 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

**Aditya-L1 Mission**



- Aditya-L1 is the first space based observatory class Indian solar mission to study the Sun from a substantial distance of 1.5 million kilometers. It will take approximately 125 days to reach the L1 point.

**Lagrange Points**

- Lagrange points are special positions in space where the gravitational forces of two large orbiting bodies, such as the Sun and the Earth, balance each other out.




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**Q32. Recently, Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated India's 1<sup>st</sup> Healthy & Hygienic Food Street, 'PRASADAM', in which of the following cities?**

(a) Ujjain  
(b) Bhopal  
(c) Indore  
(d) Pune


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Ans32. (a) Ujjain

- Prasadam aims to connect people in every corner of the country with pure and safe local and traditional food.
- It is in line with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.
- The food street is designed to provide various facilities including a kids' play area, drinking water facility, CCTV surveillance, parking, public conveniences and seating spaces.
- The 'Prasadam' initiative strives to enhance Ujjain's tourism allure and safeguard its culinary heritage while also playing a role in fostering economic development.
- The initiative is provided with financial support which is extended to states and Union Territories (UTs) with a funding distribution ratio of either 60:40 or 90:10, under the National Health Mission.
- Standard branding of these food streets will be done as per FSSAI guidelines.


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**Q33. Recently, India has signed the Bilateral Haj Agreement 2024 with which of the following countries?**

(a) United Arab Emirates      (b) Oman  
(c) Qatar      (d) Saudi Arabia

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**Ans33. (d) Saudi Arabia**

- In January 2024, India and Saudi Arabia signed a bilateral Haj agreement that sets a total quota of 175,025 Indian pilgrims for Haj 2024, with 140,020 seats reserved for the Haj Committee of India and 35,005 for Haj Group Operators.
- The agreement also includes digital initiatives to enhance the Hajj experience.

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**Q34. Recently, who amongst the following has been honoured with the 14<sup>th</sup> Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture?**

(a) Prof. B.R. Kamboj (b) Dr. GS Khush  
(c) Prof. Rattan Lal (d) Dr. Surinder Sehgal

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**Ans34. (a) Prof. B.R. Kamboj**

- In a notable achievement, **Prof. B.R. Kamboj**, the Vice Chancellor of **Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University**, has been bestowed with the prestigious **M.S. Swaminathan Award**.
- This recognition comes in appreciation of his significant contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the field of agronomy.

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**Q35. Recently, the foundation stone for the project on modernisation and upgradation of Paradip Fishing Harbour has been laid. It is in which of the following states?**



(a) Odisha (b) West Bengal  
(c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu

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**Ans35. (a) Odisha**

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Ports in India

● Major port  
● Non-major port

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**Q36. Recently, Mukhtar Babayev has been named as the president-designate for the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29). COP29 will be held in which of the following countries?**

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(a) Uzbekistan (b) Armenia  
(c) Azerbaijan (d) Turkiye

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**Ans36. (c) Azerbaijan**

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- COP stands for Conference of the Parties.
- The UNFCCC is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a global environmental treaty that aims to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations.
- The COP is the UNFCCC's main decision-making body, and it meets annually to review the convention's implementation and make decisions to promote its effective implementation.
- The UNFCCC was ratified in 1992, and came into force in 1994.
- It has been ratified by 197 countries, which are called the UNFCCC conference of parties (COP).

**Q37. Recently, which of the following has won the “Best film – drama” award at the 81<sup>st</sup> Golden Globe Awards 2024?**

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(a) Barbie  
(b) Poor Things  
(c) The Boy and the Heron  
(d) Oppenheimer

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Ans37. (d) Oppenheimer Golden Globes Awards 2024	
Category	Winner
Best Film – Drama	Oppenheimer
Best Actress – Drama	Lily Gladstone, Killers of the Flower Moon
Best Film – Musical or Comedy	Poor Things
Best Actor – Musical or Comedy	Paul Giamatti, The Holdovers
Best TV Series – Drama	Succession
Best Actress in a TV Series – Drama	Sarah Snook, Succession
Best TV Series – Musical or Comedy	The Bear
Best Limited Series, Anthology Series or TV Movie	Beef
Cinematic and Box Office Achievement	Barbie
Best Original Song	What Was I Made For? by Billie Eilish and Finneas (Barbie)
Best Original Score	Ludwig Göransson, Oppenheimer
Best Actor – Drama	Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer
Best Actress – Musical or Comedy	Emma Stone, Poor Things
Best Director	Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer
Best Animated Film	The Boy and the Heron
Best Actor in a TV Series – Drama	Kieran Culkin, Succession
Best Actress in a TV Series – Musical or Comedy	Ayo Edebiri, The Bear
Best Non-English Language Film	Anatomy of a Fall

**Q38. Recently, which of the following states has launched India's first app-based 100% electric and decentralized bike taxi services 'Baayu'?**

(a) Assam (b) West Bengal  
(c) Gujarat (d) Maharashtra

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**Ans38. (a) Assam**

The [Assam](#) government launched 'Baayu,' an app-based [electric bike taxi](#) service that is an innovative and forward-thinking sustainable mobility initiative of the state government-run Assam State Transport Corporation ([ASTC](#)).



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**Q39. Recently, which of the following countries has won the 2024 United Cup Tennis Tournament?**

(a) Australia (b) USA  
(c) Germany (d) Poland

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**Ans39. (c) Germany**



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**Q40. Recently, who amongst the following has created a Guinness World Record for singing in 140 languages in 9 hours in a concert?**

(a) S. Janaki (b) Vinod Rathod  
(c) Suchetha Satish (d) Zubeen Garg

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**Ans40. (c) Suchetha Satish**

- Suchetha Satish, an 18-year-old singer from Kannur, UAE, set the Guinness World Record for singing in 140 languages during a concert in Dubai on November 24, 2023.
- The concert, titled Concert for Climate, was held as a prelude to the UN climate conference, CO. Satish could have sung in 150 languages, but chose 140 as a tribute to the 140 heads of states invited to COP28.

- The idea for Guinness World Records originated from a pub argument in the 1950s, where Sir Hugh Beaver, the Managing Director of Guinness Brewery, sought a definitive answer to settle a debate.
- In response to the need for settling contentious facts, Sir Hugh conceived the idea of a book providing comprehensive and authoritative records.
- Two researchers, Norris and Ross McWhirter, were hired to compile the first edition of the Guinness Book of Records, which became an unexpected success.
- Over time, the book expanded into an annual publication that updated existing records and set new ones.

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**Q41. Recently, it was informed that Indian Railways has achieved total how much Route Kilometres electrification in the calendar year 2023?**

(a) 6,577 KM (b) 61,508 KM  
(c) 65,556 KM (d) 21,801 KM

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**Ans41. (a) 6,577 KM**

- During the calendar year 2023, Indian Railways has achieved 6,577 Route Kilometers electrification.
- Total Broad Gauge (BG) network of 61,508 Route Kms have been electrified upto December '2023 which is 93.83 % of total Broad Gauge route (65,556 RKMs) of Indian Railways.

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**Q42. Recently, which of the following countries has announced the **Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) Initiative?****

(a) Denmark  
(b) Netherlands  
(c) Germany  
(d) France

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**Ans42. (a) Denmark**

- It aims to **advance the green fuels sector, including green hydrogen, through innovation and partnerships.**
- GFAI's objective is to foster **an ecosystem promoting sustainable energy growth in India,** involving businesses, government entities, and research institutions.
- The initiative is part of the **Green Strategic Partnership signed in 2020** between India and Denmark.
- The announcement coincides with **India's push for carbon neutrality by 2070 and Denmark's top ranking in the 2024 Climate Performance Ranking.**

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**Q43. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the minimum capital requirement for **Small Finance Banks (SFBs)** to how much amount?**

(a) Rs. 100 crore      (b) Rs. 200 crore  
(c) Rs. 300 crore      (d) Rs. 400 crore

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**Ans43. (b) Rs. 200 crore**

**Small Finance Banks**

- SFBs in India are a category of banks established to provide basic banking services and credit facilities to underserved sections of the population, including small business owners, micro and small industries, farmers, and the unorganized sector.
  - They are regulated by RBI.
  - Example: Capital Small Finance Bank, Ujjivan, Utkarsh etc.
- All prudential norms and regulations of the RBI as applicable to existing commercial banks, including the requirement of maintenance of **CRR and SLR** are also applicable to SFBs.
- Also, according to RBI, if an SFB aspires to transit into a universal bank, it has to have a **satisfactory track record of performance for a minimum period of 5 years.**



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**Q 44. Recently, which of the following African Countries has been certified malaria free by the world Health Organization (WHO)?**

(a) Cabo Verde  
(b) Nigeria  
(c) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)  
(d) Somalia

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**Ans 44. (a) Cabo Verde**

- Cabo Verde, the third African country, has been certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO) in January 2024.
- It joins Algeria (2019) and Mauritius (1973) as countries in the WHO African region to receive the certification.
- Cabo Verde is an archipelago of 10 islands west of Senegal with a population of more than 500,000 people





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**Q45. Recently, India's First National Highway steel Slag Road on Indapur-Panvel section has been inaugurated on which of the following National Highways?**

(a) NH-66 (b) NH-345  
(c) NH-8 (d) NH-267



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**Ans45. (a) NH-66**

- India's first National Highway (NH) steel slag road section was inaugurated in January 2024 on the Mumbai-Goa NH-66.
- The road is 1 km long and has four lanes.
- It was constructed by JSW Steel under the guidance of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI).
- The road uses waste from steel industries to create a valuable resource for building eco-friendly highways


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**Q46. Recently, PM Shri Narendra Modi has released the first installment to how many beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G) under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM –JANMAN)?**

(a) 1 Lakh (b) 2 Lakh  
(c) 3 Lakh (d) 4 Lakh

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**Ans46. (a) 1 Lakh**

**PMAY-G:**

- Although **Indira Awas Yojana (started in 1996)** addressed the housing needs in the rural areas, **certain gaps were identified** (lack of transparency in selection of beneficiaries, low quality houses, weak monitoring, etc) by CAG in 2014.
- To address these gaps in the rural housing program and in view of the Government's commitment to providing "Housing for All" by 2022, the IAY has been restructured into PMAY-G w.e.f. 1st April 2016.
- PMAY-G aims at providing a pucca house, with basic amenities, to all houseless householders and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated houses, by 2022.


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The PM-JANMAN (comprising Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) to focus on 11 critical interventions through 9 Ministries including [Ministry of Tribal Affairs](#) which are as follows:

1	Provision of pucca houses
2	Connecting roads
3a	Piped Water Supply
3b	Community water supply
4	Mobile Medical Units with medicine cost
5a	Construction of hostels
5b	Vocational education & skilling
6	Construction of Anganwadi Centers
7	Construction of Multipurpose Centers (MPC)
8a	Energization of HHs (Last mile connectivity)
8b	Provision of 0.3 KW solar off-grid system
9	Solar lighting in streets & MPCs
10	Setting up of VDVKS
11	Installation of mobile towers

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**Q47. Recently, which of the following organization has announced the launch of the first human trial for its **ChAdOx1 NipahB vaccine**?**

(a) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru  
 (b) University of Oxford  
 (c) Moderna  
 (d) Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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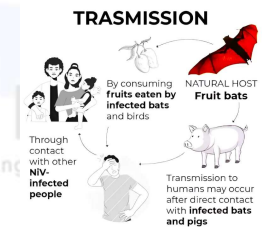
- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
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**Ans47. (b) University of Oxford**

**Nipah Virus**

- It belongs to a family of paramyxoviruses.
- First identified: In 1998 in Malaysia and Singapore in an outbreak among pig farmers.
- Carriers: Fruit bats of the family Pteropodidae acts as a natural host of the virus.

**TRANSMISSION**



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**Q48. Recently, Union Minister Ajay Bhatt has flagged off the indigenously developed and manufactured **Astra Missiles**. It is manufactured by which of the following companies?**

(a) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)  
 (b) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)  
 (c) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)  
 (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

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**Ans48. (a) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**

**ASTRA MISSILE**  
 A SNAPSHOT

Meaning: **Weapon** (sanskrit)  
 Range: **70 km**  
 Speed: **Over 5,555 km/hr**



An all-weather Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile (BVRAAM)

Indigenously designed and developed by DRDO

The first-ever BVRAAM developed in India

Can locate and track targets at different altitudes

Source: DRDO website, PIB news reports

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**Q49. Recently, who amongst the following has become the first player to play 150 men's T20 international matches (cricket)?**

(a) Virat Kohil                      (b) Babar Azam  
(c) Rohit Sharma                  (d) Paul Stirling

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**Ans49. (c) Rohit Sharma**

- Rohit Sharma, the captain of the Indian cricket team, became the first male player to play 150 men's T20 international matches on January 14, 2024, during the second T20 match against Afghanistan in Indore.
- Sharma is also the second player in world cricket to reach the 100 T20 international milestone.



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**Q50. Recently, Union Minister Shri Amit Shah chaired the 71<sup>st</sup> Plenary session of the North Eastern Council in which of the following cities?**

(a) Guwahati  
(b) Kohima  
(c) Shillong  
(d) Itanagar

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**Ans50. (c) Shillong**

**North Eastern Council:**

- North Eastern Council (NEC) is under the administrative purview of the Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region (MDoNER).
- NEC is not a constitutional body, but a statutory organization established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971, as amended in 2002.
- It is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region which consists of the eight States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- The Council comprises Governors and Chief Ministers of constituent States and three members nominated by the President.

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**Q51. Recently the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> year of establishment on which of the following days?**

(a) 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
(b) 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
(c) 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
(d) 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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**Ans51. (b) 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

- IMD was established in 1875. It is the National Meteorological Service of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
- It works as an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- IMD is also one of the six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres of the [World Meteorological Organization](#).

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**Q52. Recently, the first bilateral maritime exercise between India and which of the following Countries has been named 'Ex - Ayutthaya'?**

(a) Vietnam (b) Malaysia  
(c) Thailand (d) Japan



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**Ans52. (c) Thailand**

- Ex-Ayutthaya is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Thailand.
- The name translates to "The Invincible One" or "Undefeatable" and symbolizes the significance of the two cities, Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand.
- The exercise took place from December 20–23, 2023.



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**Q53. Recently, which of the following states has emerged as the overall champion in the Beach Games 2024 held at Ghoghla Beach in Diu?**

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Goa  
(c) Assam (d) Maharashtra

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**Ans53. (a) Madhya Pradesh**

- Madhya Pradesh became the overall champion of the 2024 Beach Games, which were held at Ghoghla Beach in Diu, India.
- The landlocked state won 18 medals, including seven gold medals, showcasing its sporting prowess.



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**Q54. Recently, who amongst the following has been awarded the Best FIFA Men's Player 2023 (Football)?**

(a) Lionel Messi (b) Erling Haaland  
(c) Kylian Mbappe (d) Cristian Ronaldo

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Ans54. (a) Lionel Messi

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Q55. Recently, Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh has launched the **MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application**. It is an imitative of which of the following ministries?

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(a) Ministry of Rural Development  
(b) Ministry of Finance  
(c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation  
(d) Ministry of commerce and Industry

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Ans55. (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

**e-SAKSHI Application:**

- It was launched for revised fund flow procedure under **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) Scheme**.
- It will bring forth a myriad of benefits, revolutionizing the way Members of Parliament engage with and manage development projects in their constituencies.

**MPLAD Scheme:**

- It was first introduced in 1993.
- The Scheme is fully **funded by the Government of India** under which funds are released in the form of grants-in-aid directly to the district authorities.
- The **funds** released under the Scheme are **non-lapsable**, e., the entitlement of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility.
- At present, the annual entitlement per MP/ constituency is **5 crore rupees**.
- The elected **Lok Sabha Members** can recommend works in **their respective constituencies**.
- The elected **members of the Rajya Sabha** can recommend works **anywhere in the state** from which they are elected.
- **Nominated Members** of the Parliament can recommend works for implementation, anywhere in the country.

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Q56. Recently, Which of the following organizations has launched the **‘One Vehicle, One FASTag’** initiative?

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(a) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)  
(b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)  
(c) NITI Aayog  
(d) Banking Association of India (BAI)

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**Ans56. (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has launched the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative that aims to **discourage user behavior of using single FASTag for multiple vehicles** or linking multiple FASTags to a particular vehicle.
- NHAI is also encouraging FASTag users to complete the '**Know Your Customer**' (KYC) process of their latest FASTag by updating KYC as per RBI guidelines.
- FASTags with valid balance but with incomplete KYC will get deactivated/blacklisted by banks post **31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**.

**FASTag**

- FASTag is a device that employs **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology** for making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion.
- NHAI launched two mobile Apps – **MyFASTag and FASTag Partner** to facilitate the availability of FASTags.
- The tag is valid for **5 years** from the date of issuance and comes in seven different colour codes.

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**Q57. Recently, who amongst the following has been awarded the Assam's highest civilian award – Assam Baibhav 2023?**

(a) Ranjan Gogoi  
(b) Nidiram Deuri  
(c) Kishan Chand Nauriyal  
(d) Elvis Ali Hazarika

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**Ans57. (a) Ranjan Gogoi**

**Assam Baibhav' Awards 2023:**

- It is one of the highest civilian awards given by the state of Assam. As an award, Gogoi will be given a citation, certificate, medal and a cash prize of **Rs 5 lakh**.
- Ranjan Gogoi was the **46th CJI of India** and the first judge from the Northeast to hold the post.
- During his tenure, the Supreme Court had given a historic verdict on the decade-old **Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid** case.

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**Q58. Which of the following countries has secured the first rank in the recently released list of top 20 countries with largest gold reserves (Q3-2023) by World Gold Council?**

(a) USA (b) Germany  
(c) Italy (d) France

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**Ans58. (a) USA**

- According to the World Gold Council, the United States of America has the largest gold reserves in the world, with 8,133.46 tonnes in Q4 2023.
- Germany is in second place with 3,352.65 tonnes, and Italy is in third with 2,451.84 tonnes.
- France is in fourth place with 2,436.88 tonnes.
- Gold reserves are a country's gold assets held or controlled by the central bank.
- Gold is seen as a safe-haven asset, and nations keep gold reserves as a buffer against unstable currencies and uncertain economic conditions.
- The quantity of gold held in reserve can affect a nation's creditworthiness and crisis management capabilities.

**World Gold Council**

- The World Gold Council (WGC) is a nonprofit association of the world's leading gold producers.
- Headquartered in London, the WGC covers the markets which comprise about three-quarters of the world's annual gold consumption.

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**Q59. Recently, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition forces Exercise "CYCLONE" was held between India and which of the following countries?**

(a) United Arab Emirates  
(b) Oman  
(c) Egypt  
(d) Saudi Arabia

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**Ans59. (c) Egypt**



The map shows Egypt's location in North Africa, bordered by Libya to the west, Sudan to the south, Jordan to the east, and Israel to the northeast. Major cities like Cairo, Alexandria, and Luxor are marked. The Mediterranean Sea is to the north and the Red Sea to the east.

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**Q60. Recently, it was informed that two Arogya Maitri Disaster Management Cubes have been deployed in Ayodhya. What is its name?**

(a) CHARAKA  
(b) SUSHRUTA  
(c) BHISHM  
(d) ASHWINI



The image shows two white, tent-like structures (cubes) set up on a wooden floor. Each cube is equipped with medical supplies, including a stretcher, a table, and various medical equipment.

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**Ans60. (c) BHISHM**

- The Arogya Maitri Disaster Management Cube is a mobile hospital that is part of the Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri (BHISHM) project. The cubes are modular and made in India to provide emergency solutions for disasters, conflicts, and wars.
- They can be assembled into a portable hospital and are equipped with cutting-edge technology like mini-ICUs and operation theaters.
- The cubes are also robust, waterproof, and light, and can be deployed in 12 minutes.

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**Q61. Recently, which of the following organization has developed a second-generation 'Distress Alert Transmitter' (DAT-SG) for Fishermen?**

(a) Indian National Centre of Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad  
(b) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi  
(c) Indian space Research Organisation (ISRO)  
(d) ICAR-Central of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Mumbai

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**Ans61. (c) Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO)**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed the second-generation Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT-SG) for fishermen.
- The DAT-SG is a UHF transmitter that uses the NavIC module.
- It allows fishermen to send emergency messages from fishing boats while at sea.
- The DAT-SG is designed to improve maritime safety for fishermen.

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**Q62. Recently, the Andhra Pradesh Government has unveiled the world's tallest statue of BR Ambedkar 'Statue of Social Justice' in Vijayawada. What is its total height from the ground?**

(a) 175 Feet (b) 206 Feet  
(c) 790 Feet (d) 125 Feet



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**Ans62. (b) 206 Feet**

- The Statue of Social Justice, also known as the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Smriti Vanam, is 206 feet tall, including the 81-foot base it stands on.
- The statue itself is 125 feet tall.
- The statue is located in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh and is dedicated to the Indian statesman, social reformer, and father of the Indian Constitution.
- The statue is the fourth tallest in India, after the Statue of Unity in Ahmedabad, which is 597 feet tall.

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**Q63. Total how many children will be awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024?**

(a) 16 (b) 17  
(c) 18 (d) 19

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**Ans63. (d) 19**

**Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)**

- The PMRBP is organized to celebrate the energy, determination, ability, zeal and enthusiasm of children.
- The awards are conferred upon the children for their excellence in seven categories, viz. Art & Culture, Bravery, Environment, Innovation, Science & Technology, Social Service and Sports, which deserve national recognition.
- Each awardee of PMRBP is given a medal, cash prize of Rs. 1 Lakh, a Certificate and a Citation.
- The selection of awardees was made by a Selection Committee under the chairpersonship of the Union Minister for Women and Child Development.
- The Awards are given by the President of India in the week preceding Republic Day every year.

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**Q64. Recently, which of the following has become the fifth country in the world to successfully land its SLIM spacecraft (Smart Lander of Investigating Moon) on the Lunar Surface?**

(a) United Arab Emirates  
(b) Japan  
(c) Israel  
(d) France

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**Ans64. (b) Japan**

- Japan has marked a significant achievement in space exploration by becoming the **fifth country to successfully soft-land a spacecraft on the Moon**.
- The Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) touched down near the Shioli crater, south of the lunar equator, utilizing precision technology that allowed it to land closer to its target site than any previous mission.
- Japan follows the United States, the Soviet Union, China and India in reaching the moon.

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**Q65. Recently, the new Ram Lalla idol has been in the 'Garbha Griha' of the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra temple. Who amongst the following is the sculptor of the idol?**

(a) Ram Sutar  
(b) Satya Narayan Pandey  
(c) Ganesh Bhatt  
(d) Arun Yogiraj

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**Ans65. (d) Arun Yogiraj**

- Arun Yogiraj is the sculptor of the Ram Lalla idol in the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra temple in Ayodhya.
- The 51-inch tall idol is made from a three-billion-year-old rock called "Krishna Shile" and is placed in the temple's sanctum sanctorum, or garbha griha.
- Yogiraj is a fifth-generation sculptor from Mysuru, Karnataka who has also carved a 30-foot statue of Subhas Chandra Bose near India Gate in New Delhi.



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**Q66. Who amongst the following is the author of the new book 'The Rajiv I Knew: And Why he was India's Most Misunderstood Prime Minister'?**

(a) Mani Shankar Aiyar  
(b) Mallikarjun Kharge  
(c) Shashi Tharoor  
(d) Dr. Manmohan Singh

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**Ans66. (a) Mani Shankar Aiyar**

In this brilliantly argued and deeply researched book, Mani Shankar Aiyar, who served as joint secretary to the prime minister and later as special assistant to the Congress president, unravels the various controversies and takes a close look at the accords signed by Rajiv Gandhi with insurgents and other discontents to end violence and restore peace and tranquillity in disturbed regions.

**The RAJIV I KNEW**

And Why He Was India's Most Misunderstood Prime Minister

An authoritative account of Rajiv Gandhi's prime ministership by one of his closest aides

**MANI SHANKAR AIYAR**

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**Q67. Recently, which of the following organization has announced to conduct Military exercise “Steadfast Defender 2024”?**

(a) African Union (AU)  
(b) Association of South East Asian Nations(ASEAN)  
(c) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)  
(d) BRICS

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**Ans67. (c) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

Steadfast Defender 2024 (SD24) is NATO's biggest military exercise since the Cold War, taking place from January 22 to May 31, 2024.

**NATO**

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance formed in 1949.
- It was established with the primary goal of providing collective defence against potential aggression, particularly from the Soviet Union during the Cold War era.
- Over the years, NATO has evolved to address a range of security challenges beyond its original mandate.
- NATO was established on April 4, 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. by 12 founding member countries from **Europe** and North America.
- The original 12 founding members of NATO were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- NATO has expanded since its founding, with new member countries joining in multiple rounds. The alliance currently consists of **32 member countries**.

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**Q68. Which of the following ministries will organize the “Bharat Parv 2024” at the Lawns and Gyan Path in front of Red Fort, Delhi?**

(a) Ministry of Culture  
(b) Ministry of Tourism  
(c) Ministry of Cooperation  
(d) Ministry of Home Affairs

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**Ans68. (b) Ministry of Tourism**

Bharat Parv is a nine-day event held annually at the end of January to showcase India's culture and cuisine. The 2024 event was organized by the Ministry of Tourism and took place from January 23–31 at the Lawns and Gyan Path in front of the Red Fort in Delhi. The event featured: Republic Day Parade tableaux, Cultural performances from various states, Food stalls, Pan-India Crafts Bazaar, and Showcase of 26 Central Ministries and Departments' citizen-focused programs and initiatives.






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**Q69. Recently, who amongst the following has been appointed as the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?**

(a) Rashmi Shukla  
 (b) Nina Singh  
 (c) Daljit Singh Chaudhary  
 (d) Himanshu Kohli

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**Ans69. (c) Daljit Singh Chaudhary**

**Sashatra Seema Bal**

- SSB comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs and a part of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), along with six other central security forces in India (Assam Rifles, Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police and National Security Guard).
- It was established as **Special Service Bureau** in May 1963, in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression in 1962.
- It was declared a **lead intelligence agency for Indo Nepal** in June 2001 and assigned the **Indo Nepal border**. In 2004, it was also assigned **Indo Bhutan border**.






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**Q70. Recently, PM Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 6<sup>th</sup> Khelo India Youth Games 2023 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. What is the Official Mascot of the games?**

(a) Veera Mangai  
 (b) Ujjwala  
 (c) Olly  
 (d) Shera

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**Ans70. (a) Veera Mangai**

- The mascot for the games is Veera Mangai.
- Rani Velu Nachiyar, fondly called Veera Mangai, was an Indian queen who waged a war against British colonial rule.



**MASCOT**  
VEERA MANGAI  
KHELO INDIA  
YOUTH GAMES  
#KIYG2023

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**Q71. Recently, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has announced which of the following language as one of the classical languages in India under the New Education Policy 2020?**

(a) Urdu  
(b) Konkani  
(c) Farsi (Persian)  
(d) Kashmiri

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**Ans71. (c) Farsi (Persian)**

- In a significant move to deepen cultural ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that the Centre has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy.
- As of now, India recognizes six languages as classical, including **Tamil** (2004), **Sanskrit** (2005), **Kannada** (2008), **Telugu** (2008), **Malayalam** (2013), and **Odia** (2014).
- In addition to these classical languages **Pali, Persian, and Prakrit** and their works of literature are to be preserved according to India's National Education Policy-2020.
- The addition of Farsi (Persian) brings the total to nine classical languages (Needs more clarification).

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**Q72. Recently, Ministry of Education, has issued directions that study material for all courses under school and higher education will be made available digitally in Indian Languages included in the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution. It will be done using which of the following apps?**

(a) Bhashini (b) Anuvadini  
(c) Krutrim (d) ChatGPT

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**Ans72. (b) Anuvadini**

- The Indian government has launched the **Anuvadini app** to make study materials available digitally in Indian languages for all courses in school and higher education.
- The app is based on artificial intelligence (AI) and will translate books in engineering, medical, law, UG, PG, and skill.
- The government has already been working on this direction for the past two years.

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**Q73. What is the of the place which is believed to be the starting point of the Ram Setu?**

(a) Indira point  
(b) Arichal Munai  
(c) Panchvati  
(d) Chitrakoot

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**Ans73. (b) Arichal Munai**



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**Q74. Who amongst the following is the author of the new book “Assam’s Braveheart Lachit Barphukan”?**

(a) Arup Kumar Dutta  
 (b) Himant Biswa Sarma  
 (c) Nirupama Borgohain  
 (d) Phani Sarma

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**Ans74. (a) Arup Kumar Dutta**

Lachit Borphukan was a commander and councillor in the **Ahom Kingdom**. The Ahom Kingdom resisted the invasion of the Mughal Empire several times and reigned in present-day Assam for over 600 years. The Ahom Dynasty was founded in **1228 in Assam’s Brahmaputra Valley**. The first King of the Ahom Kingdom was **Chaolung Sukaphaa**, who crossed the Patkai mountainous region to reach the Brahmaputra valley. In 1615, the Ahom Dynasty engaged in its first significant conflict with the Mughal Empire. The **Mughals** conquered the **Ahom capital of Garhgaon in 1662** but were defeated in later battles. Finally, during the **battle of Saraighat in 1671**, the **Ahoms led by Lachit Borphukan successfully defeated the Mughals**. **Borphukan is mainly known for his leadership in this battle**. By 1682, the Mughal influence in the region was completely eradicated.

**ARUP KUMAR DUTTA**  
 ASSAM’S BRAVEHEART  
**LACHIT BARPHUKAN**

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**Q75. Recently, which of the following has become India’s first state to launch Regenerative Tourism?**

(a) Uttarakhand  
 (b) Himachal Pradesh  
 (c) Goa  
 (d) Gujarat

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**Ans75. (c) Goa**

- Regenerative tourism is a new approach to sustainable travel that goes beyond minimizing the negative impacts of tourism and instead aims to improve and rejuvenate the destinations it operates in.
- It's based on collaboration and partnership, and encourages tourism that protects and limits environmental damage, while also delivering positive benefits to nature, habitats, community, and places.

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**Q76. Recently, which of the following companies has launched India's first indigenously developed Hepatitis A Vaccine 'Havisure'?**

(a) Serum Institute of India (SII)  
 (b) Bharat Biotech  
 (c) Biological E  
 (d) Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL)

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**Ans76. (d) Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL)**  
 Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL), a subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), developed Havisure in Hyderabad.

**Hepatitis A virus (HAV):**

- It is an inflammation of the liver that can cause mild to severe illness.
- It is transmitted through ingestion of contaminated food and water or through direct contact with an infectious person (sex practices).
- **Almost everyone recovers fully from hepatitis A with a lifelong immunity** (few people with HAV could die from fulminant hepatitis).
- A safe and effective vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis A.

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**Q77. Which of the following ministries will showcase the 'Anant Sutra – The Endless Thread' textile installation at Kartavya Path, New Delhi?**

(a) Ministry of Tourism  
 (b) Ministry of Culture  
 (c) Ministry of Textiles  
 (d) Ministry of Rural Development

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**Ans77. (b) Ministry of Culture**

**Anant Sutra:**

- Anant Sutra is a visually stunning tribute to the saree, India's timeless gift to the fashion world.
- It will showcase nearly **1,900 sarees and drapes** from every corner of the country.
- It will have **QR codes that can be scanned to know the details** about weaving and embroidery arts used in it.



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**Q78. Recently, PM Narendra Modi has announced the launch of 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' Under this scheme, total how many households will get rooftop solar power system?**

(a) 1 crore  
(b) 2 crore  
(c) 3 crore  
(d) 4 crore

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**Ans78. (a) 1 crore**

**Solar Capacity in India**

**India's Current Solar Capacity:**

- **Rooftop Solar Capacity:** Total rooftop solar installed capacity is around 11.08 GW as of December 2023.
- **Gujarat tops the list with 2.8 GW**, followed by Maharashtra by 1.7 GW.
- According to a recent report by [Council on Energy, Environment and Water \(CEEW\)](#), only 20% of rooftop solar capacity installations are in the residential sector, with the majority in commercial and industrial sectors.
- The report suggests that **India's 25 crore households could deploy 637 GW of solar energy on rooftops**, and just one-third of this could meet the entire residential electricity demand in the country.
- **Total Installed Capacity:** According to the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** [solar power installed capacity](#) in India has reached around 73.31 GW as of December 2023.
- In terms of total solar capacity, **Rajasthan is at the top with 18.7 GW**. Gujarat is at the second position with 10.5 GW.

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**Q79. Recently, Ayodhya administration has installed the world's longest solar light line. What is its total length?**

(a) 10.2km  
(b) 9.7km  
(c) 8.4km  
(d) 11.9km

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**Ans79. (a) 10.2km**



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**Q80. Who amongst the following is the author of the book “Conversations with Aurangzeb”?**

(a) Perumal Murugan  
(b) Sujatha  
(c) Charu Nivedita  
(d) Jayakanthan

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**Ans80. (c) Charu Nivedita**

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**Q81. Recently, Sahil Thakur represented India at the fourth edition of the Winter Olympics 2024. It was held in which of the following countries?**

(a) China                      (b) South Korea  
(c) Switzerland              (d) Austria

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**Ans81. (b) South Korea**

- Sahil Thakur represented India at the 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangwon, South Korea.
- The games took place from January 19 to February 1, 2024.
- The 2024 games were the first to be held in Asia, and included over 70 nations and 81 events.
- Thakur is an alpine skier from Himachal Pradesh and was the flag bearer at the opening ceremony.



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**Q82. Recently, the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Kyrgyzstan joint special Forces Exercise “**KHANJAR**” was held in which of the following states?**

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

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**Ans82. (c) Himachal Pradesh**



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**Q83. Recently, which of the following has become the second state after Bihar, to conduct a caste census?**

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

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**Ans83. (b) Andhra Pradesh**

**Background of Caste-Based Surveys**

- **Pre-Independence Era:** Caste wise enumeration of the population was introduced under the British colonial administration in 1881 and continued till the 1931 census.
- **Post Independence Surveys**
  - Independent India's governments abandoned full caste enumeration on the apprehension that it would strengthen caste divisions and perpetuate the caste system.
  - The caste system has persisted and flourished in independent India — even without the caste census along with its discriminatory and exclusionary consequences as revealed by official surveys and statistics.

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**Mandal Commission Report**

- The report of the Backward Classes Commission headed by B.P. Mandal submitted to the President of India in 1980.
- The report had the dictum inscribed at the outset, "There is equality only among equals. To equate unequals is to perpetuate inequality."
- The Mandal Commission report had concluded from the caste/community-wise population figures of the 1931 census.
- It estimated the combined population of Hindu and non-Hindu OBCs to be 52% of India's population.
- The commission had also arrived upon a crucial conclusion, that caste is also a class of citizens.
- And if the caste as a whole is socially and educationally backward, **reservation** can be made in favour of such a caste on the ground that it is a socially and educationally backward class of citizens **within the meaning of Article 15(4)**.
  - **Article 15(4) of the Constitution** enables the State to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes of citizens.

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**Q84. Recently, who amongst the following from India has won the gold medal at the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Marathon Championships 2024, Hongkong, China?**

(a) Man Singh                      (b) AP Belliappa  
(c) Ashvini Jadhav                (d) Jyoti Gawate

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**Ans84. (a) Man Singh**



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**Q85. Recently which of the following organizations has announced to organize the year-long festival on "Connecting the world through Ramayan", as a part of the seventh edition of the "India International Ramayan Mela"?**

(a) National School of Drama  
(b) Sahitya Akademi  
(c) Lalit Kala Akademi  
(d) Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)

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**Ans85. (d) Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)**

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is organizing the year-long festival, Connecting the World through Ramayan, as part of the seventh edition of the India International Ramayan Mela in 2024.
- The festival will begin at Delhi's Purana Qila (Old Fort) from January 18–24, 2024, and will feature performances and exhibitions from seven countries.
- The festival will also showcase India's traditional handicrafts, including arts and crafts, and interactive arts and crafts exhibitions.

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**Q86. Recently, the remains of a 2,800-year-old human settlement have been discovered in which of the following cities in India?**

(a) Ayodhya      (b) Bhopal  
(c) Vadnagar      (d) Varanasi

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**Ans86. (c) Vadnagar**



Vadnagar, the native village of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been a significant hub of civilization with a rich cultural history spanning over 5,500 years. The excavation, initiated in 2016 and reaching a depth of 20 meters, has revealed evidence of a colony dating back to 800 BCE, challenging the conventional belief in a "Dark Age" following the collapse of the Harappan civilization. Seven distinct cultural stages, including Mauryan, Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian, Hindu-Solankis, Islamic, and Gaekwad-British colonial rule, have been identified during the ongoing work in Vadnagar.


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**Q87. Recently, which of the following has secured the first rank in the Forbes list of 10 strongest currencies in the world?**

(a) Kuwaiti Dinar      (b) Bahraini Dinar  
(c) US Dollar      (d) British Pound

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**Ans87. (a) Kuwaiti Dinar**

**The other currencies in the top 10, according to Forbes, are:**



- Bahraini Dinar (BHD)
- Omani Rial (OMR)
- Jordanian Dinar (JOD)
- Gibraltar Pound
- British Pound
- Cayman Island Dollar
- Swiss Franc

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**Q88. Recently, Exercise “Desert Knight” was held between India and which of the following countries?**

(a) Australia and Germany  
(b) Japan and USA  
(c) Saudi Arabia and United Kingdom  
(d) France and United Arab Emirates (UAE)

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**Ans88. (d) France and United Arab Emirates (UAE)**



- Exercise Desert Knight is a joint military exercise between India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The exercise's main goal is to improve cooperation and interoperability between the three air forces.
- The exercise took place over the Arabian Sea, with the IAF operating from bases in India. The activities unfolded over the Arabian Sea within the Indian Flight Information Region (FIR).

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**Q89. According to the recently released, Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAII) report, which of the following states/union territories has the highest number of snow leopards in India?**

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

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**Ans89. (a) Ladakh**

- The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) report estimates that there are 718 snow leopards in India, which is about 10-15% of the global population.
- The SPAI program was conducted between 2019 and 2023 and covered more than 70% of the potential snow leopard range in India.
- The report estimates the presence of snow leopards in different states as follows:
  - Ladakh (477)
  - Uttarakhand (124)
  - Himachal Pradesh (51)
  - Arunachal Pradesh (36)
  - Sikkim (21)
  - Jammu and Kashmir (9)

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**Q90. Recently, which of the following ministries has published Scheme Guidelines for implementation of Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme?**

(a) Ministry of Power  
(b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  
(c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

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**Ans90. (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has embarked Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme within the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

**SIGHT Programme: An Overview**

- Mission Alignment:** SIGHT is an integral component of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, strategically designed to foster domestic electrolyser manufacturing and green hydrogen production.
- Financial Commitment:** A substantial investment of Rs 17,490 crore has been allocated to SIGHT until 2029-30.
- Dual Incentive Mechanisms:** SIGHT introduces two distinct financial incentive mechanisms:
  - Incentive for Electrolyser Manufacturing:** To boost the production of essential electrolysis equipment.
  - Incentive for Green Hydrogen Production:** Encouraging the generation of clean and sustainable green hydrogen.
- Adaptive Evolution:** The incentive schemes and programs will evolve in response to market dynamics and technological advancements, ensuring the Mission's adaptability.
- Execution Authority:** The **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** is entrusted with executing the scheme, driving its effective implementation.

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**GREEN HYDROGEN**

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**Q91. Recently, which of the following ministries has announced the first recipients of the ‘Vaibhav’ fellowship (Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik)?**

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

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**Ans91. (b) Ministry of Science and Technology**

**VAIBHAV Scheme**

- The Government has launched VAIBHAV fellowships programme in 2023 to connect the **Indian STEM** (Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) **diaspora with Indian academic and R&D institutions** for collaborative research work leading to sharing of knowledge, wisdom, and best practices in the frontier areas of science & technology.
- The VAIBHAV Fellow would identify an **Indian Institution for collaboration and may spend up to two months there in a year for a maximum of 3 years.**
- The VAIBHAV fellows are expected to collaborate with their Indian counterparts and help initiate research activities in the host institution in the cutting-edge areas of Science and Technology.

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**Q92. Recently, which of the following has won the “Best Marching Contingent among the three services” in the Judges Choice category?**

(a) Sikh Regiment Contingent  
 (b) Rajputana Rifles Regimental Contingent  
 (c) Kumaon Regiment Contingent  
 (d) Madras Regiment Contingent

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**Ans92. (a) Sikh Regiment Contingent**

**Best Marching Contingents**

- **Among the Three Services:** The Sikh Regiment Contingent was declared the best marching contingent, showcasing their discipline and precision.
- **Among CAPF/Other Auxiliary Forces:** The Delhi Police Women Marching Contingent received the award, highlighting the increasing role of women in security forces.



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**Q93. Recently, the registration portal for Phase IV of Yuva Sangam, under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, has been launched by which of the following ministries?**

(a) Ministry of Cooperation  
 (b) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports  
 (c) Ministry of External Affairs  
 (d) Ministry of Education

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**Ans93. (d) Ministry of Education**

- Yuva Sangam is a Government of India initiative that aims to strengthen people-to-people connections among young people from different states and union territories.
- The program organizes educational and cultural tours for youth from one state or union territory to another.
- During the tours, participants are exposed to five areas: tourism, traditions, development, people-to-people connections, and technology.
- The program is open to all Indian youth between the ages of 18 and 30, including students, NSS/NYKS volunteers, and employed or self-employed people.

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**Q94. Recently, Ministry of Rural Development, has launched the “SARATHI” app for effective implementation of which of the following schemes?**

(a) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)  
 (b) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana  
 (c) Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin)  
 (d) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

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**Ans94. (a) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)**

- The SARATHI app is a national technology solution for the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), a flagship program of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- The app was launched by the Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development on January 25, 2024.
- The app helps ultra-poor change makers plan tasks, grant schedules, and monitor household performance. It also allows teams at the block, district, state, and national level to monitor program impact, cadre performance, and financial performance.

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**Q95. Recently, total how many personnel of Police, Fire Service, Home Guard & Civil Defence and Correctional Service have been awarded Gallantry/Service Medals on the occasion of Republic Day 2024 (26<sup>th</sup> January)?**

(a) 1132      (b) 1098  
(c) 879      (d) 1453

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**Ans95. (a) 1132**

- The government has taken many steps in recent years to rationalize and transform the entire award ecosystem of various awards.
- In this regard, 16 Gallantry/Service Medals (for Police, Fire Service, Home Guard & Civil Defence and Correctional Service) have been rationalized and merged into four medals namely President's Medal for Gallantry (PMG) Medal for Gallantry (GM), President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) and Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM).

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**Q96. Recently, which of the following state's tableau has won the first prize in the judge's choice category during the 75<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Parade 2024 (Kartavya Path, New Delhi)?**

(a) Odisha  
(b) Gujarat  
(c) Tamil Nadu  
(d) Uttar Pradesh

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**Ans96. (a) Odisha**

**Best Tableaux States/UTs Category:**

- **First:** Odisha's tableau, themed "Woman Empowerment in Viksit Bharat," showcased the state's commitment to women's progress.
- **Second:** Gujarat's "Dhordo: A Global Icon of Gujarat's Border Tourism" tableau highlighted the state's border tourism.
- **Third:** Tamil Nadu's "Kudavolai System in Ancient Tamil Nadu – Mother of Democracy" tableau depicted the region's ancient democratic system.
- **Ministries/Departments Category:** The Ministry of Culture won with their tableau "Bharat: Mother of Democracy," celebrating India's democratic heritage.

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**Q97. Recently, which of the following companies has announced the launch of its AI video model “Lumiere”?**

(a) Microsoft      (b) Amazon  
 (c) Apple          (d) Google

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**Ans97. (d) Google**

Google’s Lumiere can create five-second videos on a given prompt, both text- and image-based.

Text-to-Video

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**Q98. PM YASASVI Scheme (PM Young Achievers’ Scholarship Award Scheme for a Vibrant India), recently seen in news, is implemented by which of the following ministries?**

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

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**Ans98. (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

**PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme (PM YASASVI)**

It is a scholarship scheme for Other Backward Class (OBCs), Economically Backward Class (EBC), and Denotified Nomadic Tribes (DNT) students.

Under this scheme, students can avail of Pre-Matric Scholarships from Classes 9 to 10 and Post-Matric Scholarships for their higher education at the post-matriculation or post-secondary level. Exceptional students also have the opportunity to receive scholarships for top-tier schools and colleges. Additionally, hostel facilities are provided for OBC students through a construction scheme.

**Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT)**

The term 'De-notified Tribes' stands for all those communities which were once notified under the Criminal Tribes Acts, enforced by the British Raj between 1871 and 1947. These Acts were repealed by the Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were "De-Notified".

A few of these communities which were listed as de-notified were also nomadic. Terms such as nomads and semi-nomads are applied to social groups who undertook a fairly frequent, usually seasonal physical movement as part of their livelihood strategy in the recent past.

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**Q99. Recently, a new three-drug treatment regimen - dapsone, rifampicin and clofazimine - for leprosy patients has been approved in India. Under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme, India aims to eradicate leprosy by which of the following years?**

(a) 2025                      (b) 2026  
(c) 2027                      (d) 2030

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**Ans99. (c) 2027**

**National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)**

- The NLEP is a Centrally Sponsored Health Scheme introduced in 1983 and it has been implemented with the major objective of reducing the **disease burden, prevention of disability and improving awareness** among the masses about Leprosy and its curability.

**Leprosy**

- Leprosy, also known as **Hansen's disease**, is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria called "*Mycobacterium leprae*".
- The disease affects the **skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces** of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes.

**Treatment:**

- Leprosy is curable and treatment during early stages can prevent disability.
- The currently recommended treatment regimen consists of three drugs: **dapsone, rifampicin and clofazimine**. The combination is referred to as multi-drug therapy (MDT).

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**Q100. Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has identified total how many cities for conducting a survey and relocating adults engaged in begging under the 'Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprises' (SMILE) scheme?**

(a) 15                      (b) 30  
(c) 45                      (d) 60

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**Ans100. (b) 30**

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme "**SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**".
- It includes a subscheme - '**Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in Begging**'.
- It is a new Scheme after the merger of existing Schemes for Beggars and Transgenders.
- Scheme provides for the use of the existing shelter homes available with the State/UT Governments and Urban local bodies for rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of Begging.

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**Q101. Recently, who amongst the following has been awarded the **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023**?**

(a) Pat Cummins  
(b) Virat Kohli  
(c) Suryakumar Yadav  
(d) Rachin Ravindra

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**Ans101. (a) Pat Cummins**



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**Q102. Recently, **Singpho Phalap** (Singpho tea) has received the GI Tag from which of the following states?**

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

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**Ans102. (b) Arunachal Pradesh**

- Singpho Phalap, also known as Singpho tea, is one of 12 products from Arunachal Pradesh that received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in January 2024.
- The GI tag recognizes the efforts of communities to preserve their traditional products and heritage.

**GI Act of 1999**

The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** is the main law in India that oversees the registration and protection of geographical indications. The Act's **key provisions include:**

- The establishment of the **Geographical Indications Registry**, which is responsible for processing and registering a GI applications.
- The **criteria** for registering a GI, include the association between the product and its geographical origin, and the reputation or quality attributable to that origin.
- The **duration of protection** is initially 10 years but can be renewed indefinitely.
- Provisions for enforcing GI rights, including civil and criminal **penalties for infringement.**
- Provisions for registering authorised users and associations of producers.


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**Q103. Recently, who amongst the following was the parade commander at the 75<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Parade 2024 on 26<sup>th</sup> January, held at Kartavya Path, New Delhi?**

(a) Major General Sumit Mehta  
 (b) Lieutenant General Bhavnish Kumar  
 (c) General Manoj Pande  
 (d) Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan

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**Ans103. (b) Lieutenant General Bhavnish Kumar**



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**Q104. Recently, who amongst the following unfurled the national flag upon the arrival of President Droupadi Murmu at the Kartavya Path on the occasion of Republic Day 2024?**


(a) Captain Sandhya  
 (b) Major Saumya Shukla  
 (c) Major Srishti Khullar  
 (d) Squadron Leader Rashmi Thakur

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**Ans104. (b) Major Saumya Shukla**

Major Saumya Shukla of the Army Service Corps unfurled the Indian National Flag on January 26, 2024, during the 75th Republic Day parade in New Delhi. The parade's theme was "Nari Shakti", or woman power, and Major Shukla's act was followed by the National Anthem and a 21-gun salute.



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**Q105. Recently, who amongst the following became the **first woman officer to lead an all-male contingent of the Bombay Sappers at the Republic Day Parade 2024 in New Delhi?****

(a) Constable Kashyap Monika Narendra  
 (b) Assistant Commandant Tanmayee Mohanty  
 (c) Major Divya Tyagi  
 (d) Assistant Commandant Megha Nair

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**Ans105. (c) Major Divya Tyagi**

- The Bombay Sappers, also known as the Bombay Engineer Group (BEG), are a regiment of the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers.
- The BEG originated from the British Raj's Bombay Presidency army and is headquartered in Khadki, Pune, Maharashtra.



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**Q106. Recently, President Smt Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to how many Armed Forces personnel on the occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> Republic Day 2024?**

(a) 60      (b) 70  
 (c) 80      (d) 90

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**Ans106. (C) 80**



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**Q107. Recently, who amongst the following has won the **Australian Open 2024 women's singles title (Tennis)?****

(a) Coco Gauff                      (b) Qinwen Zheng  
(c) Aryna Sabalenka                (d) Iga Swiatek

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**Ans107. (c) Aryna Sabalenka**

Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus won the 2024 Australian Open women's singles title by defeating Zheng Qinwen of China 6–3, 6–2 in the final.



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**Q108. Recently, who amongst the following have won the **Australian Open 2024 Men's Doubles Title (Tennis)?****

(a) Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori  
(b) Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden  
(c) Thomas Machac and Zhang Zhizhen  
(d) Yannick Hanfmann and Dominik Koepfer

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**Ans108. (b) Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden**

At 43, Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest Grand Slam champion. India's Rohan Bopanna and Australian Matthew Ebden dug deep to win the Australian Open men's doubles title on Saturday with a 7-6(0) 7-5 victory over Italian duo Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori.



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**Q109. Recently, who amongst the following has become the **first woman to hold the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army?****

(a) Shilpa Rani      (b) Preeti Rajak  
(c) Raiza Dhillon    (d) Rajeshwari Kumari

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**Ans109. (b) Preeti Rajak**



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**Q110. Recently, Ms. Padma Subrahmanyam has been awarded the **Padma Vibhushan 2024**. She is related to which of the following dance forms?**

(a) Odissi              (b) Bharatnatyam  
(c) Kuchipudi        (d) Kathakali

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**Ans110. (b) Bharatnatyam**

**Recipients of the Padma Awards in 2024**

- The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Awards.
- 30 of the awardees are women, 8 persons from the category of [Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI](#) and 9 Posthumous awardees.

**Padma Vibhushan Recipients in 2024**

S.No.	Awardee Name	Field	State
1.	Ms. Vyjayantimala Bali	Art	Tamil Nadu
2.	Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi	Art	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Shri M Venkaiah Naidu	Public Affairs	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Shri Bindeshwar Pathak	Social Work	Bihar
5.	Ms. Padma Subrahmanyam	Art	Tamil Nadu

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**Padma Awards**

- The Padma Awards are **announced annually on Republic Day** (26<sup>th</sup> January).
- Instituted in **1954**, it is one of the **highest civilian honours** of India.
- Objective:** To recognise achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an **element of public service** is involved.
- The Awards are given in three categories:
  - Padma Vibhushan** (for exceptional and distinguished service),
  - Padma Bhushan** (distinguished service of higher order) and
  - Padma Shri** (distinguished service).
- Padma Vibhushan is highest in the hierarchy of Padma Awards followed by Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- The awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities like **art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.**

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**Q111. Who amongst the following is the only foreigner to be conferred with the Padma Bhushan 2024?**

(a) Tim Cook      (b) Elon Musk  
(c) Young Liu      (d) Jeff Bezos

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**Ans111. (c) Young Liu**

- Young Liu, the CEO and Chairman of the Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn Group, was the only foreigner to receive the Padma Bhushan in 2024.
- The award was given to Liu in recognition of Foxconn's contributions to India's technological development.
- Liu was one of 17 recipients of the Padma Bhushan in 2024, India's third-highest civilian award.



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**Q112. Who amongst the following is India's first female elephant mahout (an elephant tamer and caretaker), who is also awarded the Padma Shri 2024 award?**

(a) Chami Murmu  
(b) Uma Maheshwari D  
(c) Parbati Barua  
(d) Smriti Rekha Chakma

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**Ans112. (c) Parbati Barua**

- Parbati Baruah, also known as "Hasti Kanya" (Elephant Girl), is India's first female elephant mahout (elephant keeper and tamer) and a recipient of the 2024 Padma Shri award.
- The 67-year-old animal conservation activist from Gauripur, Assam, was recognized for her contributions to animal conservation and breaking down preconceptions in a traditionally male-dominated field.



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**Q113. Recently, the inaugural edition of Joint Military Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' between India and Saudi Arabia was held in which of the following states?**

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

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**Ans113. (b) Rajasthan**



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**Q114. Recently, who amongst the following has won the 2024 Australian Open men's singles title (Tennis)?**

(a) Daniil Medvedev (b) Jannik Sinner  
(c) Novak Djokovic (d) Carlos Alcaraz

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**Ans114. (b) Jannik Sinner**  
Italy's young tennis player Jannik Sinner won the men's singles title at the Australian Open 2024 by defeating Russia's Daniil Medvedev.



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**Q115. Recently, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 16.67 kg gold and 39.73 kg silver, worth over Rs. 10 crore, in New Delhi. What was the name of the operation?**

(a) Operation White Gold  
(b) Operation Samudra  
(c) Operation Black Gold  
(d) Operation Deep

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**Ans115. (c) Operation Black Gold**

- The DRI is the **apex anti-smuggling agency of India**, working under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.
- The **Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)** was **renamed as the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** in 2018 **after the roll out of Goods and Services Tax (GST)**. CBIC deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of Customs, Central Excise duties, Central Goods & Services Tax and Integrated GST, prevention of smuggling.
- It is tasked with detecting and curbing smuggling of contraband, including drug trafficking and illicit international trade in wildlife and environmentally sensitive items, as well as combating commercial frauds related to international trade and evasion of Customs duty.
- The DRI has also been designated as the **lead agency for Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre (SCord)**.
- It was constituted on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1957.

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**Q116. Recently, the foundation stone of north-east region first Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy (CRIYN) and 100 bedded Yoga & Naturopathy hospital was laid in which of the following districts of Assam?**

(a) Tinsukia (b) Dibrugarh  
(c) Sonitpur (d) Hojai

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**Ans116. (b) Dibrugarh**

- AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday laid the foundation of the first yoga and naturopathy hospital in the northeast.
- About ₹100 crore would be invested in the Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN) at Dihing Khamtighat in eastern Assam's Dibrugarh district.
- The institute, along with a 100-bed hospital, would be spread across 15 acres.

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**Q117. Who amongst the following is the author of the new book “The Cooking of Books: A Literary Memoir”?**

(a) Romila Thapar  
(b) Arundhati Roy  
(c) Vikram Seth  
(d) Ramachandra Guha

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**Ans117. (d) Ramachandra Guha**

- It is not often that an author and his editor strike up a relationship that survives forty years of epistolary exchanges and intellectual sparring.
- The strangely enduring and occasionally fractious friendship that developed between the famously outspoken historian Ramachandra Guha and his reticent editor Rukun Advani is the subject of this quite eccentric and thoroughly compelling literary memoir.

**the Cooking of Books**  
*A Literary Memoir*  
**RAMACHANDRA GUHA**

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**Q118. Recently, which of the following countries has won the inaugural FIH Women's Hockey5s World Cup 2024, which was held in Muscat, Oman?**

(a) Netherlands (b) India  
(c) Poland (d) Australia

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**Ans118. (a) Netherlands**

- The **2024 Hockey5s World Cup** was the first edition of the **FIH Women's Hockey5s World Cup**, the quadrennial world championship for women's national **hockey5s** teams organized by the **FIH**. It was held from 24 to 27 January 2024, in **Muscat, Oman**.
- The Netherlands won the final against India to claim the first gold medal



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**Q119. Recently, three Indian origin scientists - Professors Rahul R. Nair, Mehul Malik and Dr Tanmay Bharat - have been awarded the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists 2024 in which of the following countries?**

(a) USA      (b) Sweden  
(c) Germany      (d) United Kingdom


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**Ans119. (d) United Kingdom**

- Three Indian-origin researchers are among nine scientists named recipients of the prestigious Blavatnik Awards For Young Scientists in the UK.
- The awards recognize research that is transforming medicine, technology, and our understanding of the world across three categories: Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences & Engineering, and Life Sciences.
- The recipients, including Professors Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, and Tanmay Bharat, will be honored at a black-tie gala dinner and award ceremony in London on February 27, 2024. They will receive grants totaling 480,000 pounds.



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Q120. Recently, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Diamond Jubilee celebrations (75 years) of the Supreme Court** on which of the following days?

(a) 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024  
 (b) 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2024  
 (c) 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024  
 (d) 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

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Ans120. (b) 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

- On the **28<sup>th</sup> January 1950**, two days after India became a **Sovereign Democratic Republic**, the Supreme Court came into being.
- It succeeded the **Federal Court of India**, established under the **Government of India Act of 1935**.
- However, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is greater than that of its predecessor because it also **replaced the British Privy Council** as the highest court of appeal.

**Constitutional Provisions:** Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the **organization, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures** and so on of the Supreme Court.

- The Parliament is also authorised to regulate them.

**Current Composition:** The Supreme Court of India **consists of 34 judges including the Chief Justice of India**, all appointed by the President of India.

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Q121. Recently, which of the following countries have announced to leave the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**?

(a) Senegal, Liberia and Nigeria  
 (b) Ivory Coast, Ghana and Togo  
 (c) Guinea, Sierra Leone and Gambia  
 (d) Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso

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Ans121. (d) Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso

**ECOWAS**

**About:** ECOWAS is a regional grouping aimed to promote economic integration and shared development of the **West African sub-region**.

- It was established in May 1975 by 15 West African countries in **Lagos, Nigeria**.


**Founding members:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sénégal, and Togo.


**Headquarters:** Abuja, Nigeria.

**Major Initiatives:** ECOWAS established its **free trade area in 1990** and adopted a common external tariff in January 2015.

India has a long-standing relationship with ECOWAS and was given the **status of observer to the body in 2004**.

**ECOWAS member states**  
 The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established in 1975 to promote economic integration and cooperation.



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