

CURRENT AFFAIRS DECEMBER 2024

1. The Government introduced Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India (SHAKTI) in _____
 - a. 2016
 - b. 2015
 - c. 2017
 - d. 2018

Answer: C

The Government introduced Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India (SHAKTI), 2017, which was issued by the Ministry of Coal on 22.05.2017, followed by amendments in this Policy issued by the Ministry of Coal on 25.03.2019 and 08.11.2023. SHAKTI Policy is a transparent way of allocating coal to Power Sector.

2. At present, there are _____ ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains declared as of national importance by and under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
 - a. 1697
 - b. 2697
 - c. 3697
 - d. 4697

Answer: c

There are 3697 ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains declared as of national importance by and under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 in the country.

3. HARIMAU SHAKTI is a Joint Military Exercise between India and _____
 - a. Japan
 - b. Indonesia
 - c. South Korea
 - d. Malaysia

Answer:

D

The 4th edition of India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI commenced today, at Bentong camp, Pahang district, Malaysia. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 2nd to 15th December 2024.

Indian contingent comprising of 78 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of MAHAR Regiment. The Malaysian contingent is being represented by 123 personnel from The Royal Malaysian Regiment. Joint Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Malaysia. Last edition was conducted in Nov 2023 at Umroi Cantonment in Meghalaya, India.

Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter insurgency operations in jungle terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the jungle environment.

4. As per the latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometer which is _____% of the geographical area of the country.
- 21.71
 - 22.71
 - 23.71
 - 24.71

Answer:

A

Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially. As per the latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometer which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. The State/UT wise details of forest cover in the country during the last five years are given in Annexure.

The forest and tree cover has increased by 7449 square kilometer as per the assessment in ISFR 2021 in comparison to assessment in ISFR 2017. As there is no loss of forest and tree cover, the question of increase in emission of carbon dioxide due to loss of forest & tree cover does not arise.

5. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) came into existence on 4th December_____.
- 1947
 - 1957
 - 1967
 - 1977

Answer:

B

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is the premier intelligence and enforcement agency on anti-smuggling matters under the aegis of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), Government of India. It came into existence on 4th December 1957.

With its Headquarters at New Delhi, 12 Zonal Units, 35 Regional Units and 15 Sub-Regional Units staffed by a little over 900 officials, DRI has been carrying out its mandate of preventing and detecting cases of smuggling of narcotic drugs & psychotropic substances, gold, diamonds, precious metals, wildlife products, cigarettes, arms, ammunitions & explosives, counterfeit currency notes, foreign currency, SCOMET Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies) items, hazardous & environmentally sensitive materials, antiques etc. and taking punitive action against the organised crime groups engaged therein. DRI is also engaged in unearthing commercial frauds and instances of customs duty evasion.

6. World Maritime Technology Conference 2024, under the aegis of the Institute of Marine Engineers India will be held from Dec 4-6, 2024 at _____.
- Chennai
 - Bengaluru
 - Kolkata
 - Mumbai

Answer:

A

World Maritime Technology Conference 2024, under the aegis of the Institute of Marine Engineers India will be held from Dec 4-6, 2024 at Chennai.

Indian Register of Shipping is “Knowledge and Technology Partner” for the Conference.

7. Which of the following States officially notified the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve?
- Maharashtra
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Karnataka

Answer: B

The Madhya Pradesh government officially notified the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve. While the move is significant for tiger conservation, it comes after a long wait, with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving it 17 years ago.

8. Which of the following is the Oxford Word of the Year 2024?
- Rizz
 - Brain rot
 - Goblin mode
 - Vax

Answer: B

'Brain rot' named Oxford Word of the Year 2024

9. Nafithromycin, recently seen in the news, is a/an
- Immunosuppressant
 - Vaccine
 - Antibiotic
 - Viral species

Answer: C

In a ground breaking step for India's biotechnology sector, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today formally launched the first indigenous antibiotic "Nafithromycin" for resistant infections.

It is only after 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over that our researchers received the right kind of support to explore their potential, said Dr Jitendra Singh and added that Modi's personal intervention has made the task far more easier now.

10. Which State has notified the Kumbh Mela area as the 76th district of the State for the duration of four months?
- Maharashtra
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Uttarakhand
 - Madhya Pradesh

Answer: B

FOR BETTER management of Maha Kumbh Mela that is scheduled to begin next month, the Uttar Pradesh government has notified the Kumbh Mela area as the 76th district of the state for a duration of four months. Officials said on Tuesday that over 5,000 hectares would come under this district. Around 66 revenue villages, part of four tehsils, would be part of this temporary district, they added.

11. Raj Manchanda, who recently passed away, was associated with which sports?
- Squash
 - Tennis
 - Javelin throw
 - Chess

Answer: A

Raj Manchanda was an Indian squash player. He won six straight National Squash Championships from 1977 to 1982. Also a member of the Arjuna Award, he received the Arjuna Award in 1980. In 1981, he received the Best Services Sportsman Award.

12. Navy Day in India is celebrated on _____ December every year to recognize the achievements of the Indian Navy
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4

Answer:

D

Navy Day in India is celebrated on 4 December every year to recognize the achievements of the Indian Navy and its role in the country. 4 December was chosen as on that day in 1971, during Operation Trident, the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels including PNS Khaibar, defeating the Pakistani Navy. On this day, those killed in the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971 are also remembered

13. Which of the following recently released “Trade Watch Quarterly”?
- Department of Commerce
 - Ministry of Statistics
 - NITI Aayog
 - DGFT

Answer:

C

NITI Aayog launches “Trade Watch Quarterly” in New Delhi

Trade Watch Quarterly will be a periodic publication focusing on India’s trade developments and emerging opportunities, insights of which shall be leveraged for evidence-based policy interventions: BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog

14. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme was launched on January 22, _____ as a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Women & Child Development with the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- 2014
 - 2015
 - 2016
 - 2017

Answer:

B

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme was launched on January 22, 2015 as a collaborative

effort by the Ministry of Women & Child Development with the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It focuses on preventing gender-biased sex-selective practices, ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and promoting her education. BBBP is a centrally sponsored scheme with 100% funding by the Central Government in all the districts of the country under Sambal vertical of Mission Shakti. The government of West Bengal is not implementing BBBP.

The key criteria to assess the impact and evaluate the progress of scheme is the improvement in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) and Gross Enrolment Ratio of girl child at secondary level. The SRB has improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 as per the provisional data of Health Management Information System (HMIS) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW). Also, as per the data of Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE +) of Department of School Education and Literacy, the National Gross Enrollment ratio of girls in school at secondary level has increased from 75.51 percent in 2014-15 to 79.4 percent in 2021-22 including rural areas.

15. The 10th India International Science Festival (IISF) was held at IIT _____
- Kanpur
 - Bombay
 - Madras
 - Guwahati

Answer: D

The 10th India International Science Festival (IISF) held at IIT Guwahati was started from November 30th and culminated on December 4th, 2024. The 4-day mega science festival featured 24 different events in which 7000 delegates and 45000 people including large number of students participated.

16. Who is the Chief Minister of Maharashtra at present?
- Devendra Fadnavis
 - Eknath Shinde
 - Ajit Pawar
 - Hemant Soren

Answer: A

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated Shri Devendra Fadnavis on taking oath as Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He also congratulated Shri Eknath Shinde and Shri Ajit Pawar on taking oath as Deputy Chief Ministers. Shri Modi assured all possible support from the Centre in furthering development in Maharashtra.

17. Hornbill Festival is an annual festival celebrated in _____
- a. Arunachal Pradesh
 - b. Nagaland
 - c. Mizoram
 - d. Tripura

Answer: B

Hornbill Festival is an annual festival celebrated from 1 to 10 of December in the Northeastern Indian state of Nagaland. The festival represents all ethnic groups of Nagaland for which it is also called the Festival of Festivals.

18. Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed annually on December _____ to commemorate the death anniversary of B R Ambedkar.
- a. 4
 - b. 5
 - c. 6
 - d. 7

Answer:

C

Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed annually on December 6 to commemorate the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, fondly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. Dr. Ambedkar, a revered leader, thinker, and reformer, dedicated his life to championing equality and eradicating caste-based discrimination. Millions across India pay homage to his legacy on this solemn day by reflecting on his teachings and commitment to building a just and inclusive society.

19. The 14th Finance Commission set up by the Government of India recommended the setting up of _____ Fast Track Courts during 2015-2020
- a. 3800
 - b. 2800
 - c. 1800
 - d. 4800

Answer: C

Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts. Allocation of funds for such courts is required to be done by the State Governments as per their need and resources. The 14th Finance Commission set up by the Government of India had recommended the setting up of 1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific

cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The Finance Commission had urged upon the State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments/UTs to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs from the Financial Year 2015-16 onward. In this regard, the State Governments/ UTs have set up 863 FTCs as on 31.10.2024. The State/UT-wise details of number of FTCs to be set up and made functional as of October, 2024 is given at Annexure. The Union Government has repeatedly urged the State/UT Governments since 2015-16 onwards to set up more FTCs to achieve the target. The setting up of more FTCs has also featured as one of the agenda items in the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices.

20. International Social Security Association is headquartered in _____
- Rome
 - Manila
 - New York
 - Geneva

Answer: D

The International Social Security Association (ISSA) is an international organization bringing together national social security administrations and agencies. Founded in 1927, the ISSA has more than 330 member organizations in 158 countries. It has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the International Labour Office (ILO).

India has been honored with the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024, presented by Dr. Mohammed Azman, President of ISSA, at the Regional Social Security Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) received five Certificates of Merit for Communication channels, E-proceedings: A case on use of information and communication technology in justice delivery, Massive district outreach programme (Nidhi Aapke Nikat), Multilingual call centres and Prayaas initiative. The awards were received by Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, DG, ESIC on behalf of EPFO.

21. Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib, and Durvalumab are drugs used to treat _____
- Tuberculosis
 - Cancer
 - AIDS
 - Leprosy

Answer:

B

Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance reduced the Customs Duty to Nil in respect of three anticancer drugs viz., Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib, and Durvalumab vide Notification 30/2024 dated 23.07.2024. Further, GST rates were also reduced on these anticancer drugs from 12% to 5% vide Notification no. 05/2024 dated 08.10.2024. As per the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013), Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of drugs/formulations is inclusive of taxes and duties, as applicable. Accordingly, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has issued an Office Memorandum directing the companies to reduce MRP on these drugs on account of reduction in GST rates and exemption from Custom Duties so as to pass on the benefit of reduced taxes and duties to the consumer and to file Form II/V furnishing information about change in prices.

22. National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap) is an initiative of _____

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- c. Ministry of Finance
- d. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer:

B

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, is developing the National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap) to integrate State Legal Metrology Departments and their portals into a unified National System. This initiative aims to streamline processes for issuing licenses, conducting verifications and managing enforcement and compliance. By creating a centralized database, eMaap eliminates the need for stakeholders to register on multiple State Portals, fostering ease of doing business and transparency in trade practices.

23. *Trouessartia thalassina* and *Proterothrix sibillae* are species of _____

- a. Feather mites
- b. Red spider
- c. Wild cats
- d. Himalayan butterflies

Answer:

A

In the lush forests of Meghalaya, researchers have stumbled upon two previously unknown species of feather mites while examining birds for routine ecological studies.

The mites, later identified as *Trouessartia thalassina* and *Proterothrix sibillae*, were found feeding on Old World flycatchers—specifically, the Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassinus*) and the Small Niltava (*Niltava macgrigoriae*).

24. The Rajya Sabha recently passed the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024, which replaces the Aircraft Act,_____.
- a. 1954
 - b. 1924
 - c. 1944
 - d. 1934

Answer:

D

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday (December 05) passed the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024, which replaces the Aircraft Act, 1934. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill on August 09 2024. The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak (BVV) retains most provisions of the Aircraft Act

25. The International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) is a submarine cable protection non-profit organisation headquartered in _____
- a. UK
 - b. USA
 - c. Japan
 - d. Australia

Answer: A

The International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) is a submarine cable protection non-profit organisation. It was formed in 1958 to promote the protection of international telecommunications and power submarine cables against human and natural hazards.

HQ Location: United Kingdom (UK)

26. Who has been recently appointed as Cardinal?
- a. George Jacob Koovakad
 - b. Antony Vadakkekara
 - c. Mar George Alencherry
 - d. Anthony Cardinal Poola

Answer:

A

In a historic moment, Pope Francis elevated Archbishop George Jacob Koovakad to the rank of Cardinal, making him the first Catholic priest from India to be directly appointed to the rank.

The 51 year-old Monsignor – senior member of the clergy in the Catholic Church – who joined the Vatican Diplomatic Service in 2006 was among the 21 priests from around the world inducted into the College of Cardinals on Saturday at St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City.

27. Who has been appointed as the new Reserve Bank of India governor?

- a. Vikram Misri
- b. Srikant Nagulapalli
- c. Piyush Singh
- d. Sanjay Malhotra

Answer: D

Revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra has been appointed as the new Reserve Bank of India governor, an official notification from the Centre's cabinet committee stated on Monday.

Malhotra, a 1990 batch Rajasthan cadre IAS Officer, will replace Shaktikanta Das, whose tenure comes to an end on Tuesday. He will be the 26th governor of the central bank.

28. Nikshay Mitras are seen in the news related to _____
- a. Mining
 - b. Gold loan
 - c. Tuberculosis
 - d. Export import

Answer: C

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today highlighted that initiatives like Nikshay Mitras and shorter, effective treatments have significantly reduced TB incidence, improved recovery rates and reinforced India's global leadership in combating TB.

29. The Punatsangchhu II hydroelectric project is associated with _____
- a. Nepal
 - b. Bangladesh
 - c. Bhutan
 - d. Sri Lanka

Answer: C

The Punatsangchhu II hydroelectric project in Bhutan that is fully funded by India is set to be commissioned in October 2024. This week, Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay inaugurated the initial reservoir filling of the project.

30. 'Anna Chakra', the Public Distribution System (PDS) Supply chain optimisation tool, is an initiative of _____
- a. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
 - b. RBI
 - c. NITI Aayog

d. None

Answer: A

The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi launched 'Anna Chakra', the Public Distribution System (PDS) Supply chain optimisation tool and SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) portal a significant step towards modernizing the Public Distribution System and subsidy claim mechanisms of the States.

31. The Ministry of Culture established the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) in _____ during the 10th Five Year Plan to document, conserve, and promote access to Indian manuscripts
- 2002
 - 2001
 - 2003
 - 2004

Answer:

C

The Ministry of Culture established the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) in 2003 during the 10th Five Year Plan to document, conserve, and promote access to Indian manuscripts. The scheme was evaluated by a committee of experts, which recommended its continuation with broader reach and direct oversight by the Ministry. The National Mission for Manuscripts presently functions as a unit under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, for which funds are provided to the organization. The NMM uses technology with contributions from IGNC for preservation and digitization of manuscripts. The digitized manuscripts are uploaded to the <https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in>.

32. The ambient air quality standards for Ozone (O₃) is prescribed as _____ µg/m³ for 8-hourly monitored value and 180 µg/m³ for 1-hourly monitored value for industrial, residential, rural and ecological sensitive area
- 50
 - 100
 - 150
 - 200

Answer: B

The ambient air quality standards for Ozone (O₃) has been notified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) among one of the twelve (12) pollutants under National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), 2009. The ambient air quality standards for Ozone (O₃) is prescribed as 100

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for 8-hourly monitored value and $180 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for 1-hourly monitored value for industrial, residential, rural and ecological sensitive area. As per the NAAQS, the method of measurement of Ozone (O₃) in ambient air is UV photometric, Chemiluminescence, and Chemical method.

Ozone is a secondary pollutant which is formed in the ground level through atmospheric reactions (Troposphere) in the presence of sunlight and responsible factors are high temperature and emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) & Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Major sources for NO_x include vehicles, power plants and burning of fuel/waste and VOCs are emitted from vehicles, petrol pumps, use of solvents and burning of waste.

33. Which of the following launched Bima Sakhi Yojana?

- a. Life Insurance Corporation of India
- b. SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
- c. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
- d. HDFC Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

Answer:

A

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today launched the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' of Life Insurance Corporation, in line with his commitment to women empowerment and financial inclusion, in Panipat, Haryana. During the occasion, he also laid the foundation stone of the Main campus of Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal. Addressing the gathering, Shri Modi said that today India was taking another strong step towards women empowerment. He added that today being the 9th day of the month was special as number 9 was considered auspicious in our scriptures and was associated with the nine forms of Nav Durga, worshipped during the Navratri. He remarked that today is also a day of worship of Nari Shakti.

34. Who organized Sheet Metal Forming 2024 Conference (SMF 2024)?

- a. IIT Kanpur
- b. IIM Ahmedabad
- c. IIT Ropar
- d. NITI Aayog

Answer: C

IIT Ropar successfully hosted the Sheet Metal Forming (SMF) 2024 conference, attracting a large gathering of national and international delegates. The event featured eminent speakers from IITs and prominent industry partners, including Autoform, Electropneumatics & Hydraulics, Altair, Tata Steel, Tata Technologies Ltd., Ford India, Felss System GmbH, and JBM Auto Ltd. SMF 2024, the flagship conference of the Sheet Metal Forming Research Association (SMFRA), provided a platform for researchers and developers from India and abroad to present and exchange ideas on metal forming technologies.

35. Asia Pacific Deaf Games 2024 was held in _____
- a. Singapore
 - b. Indonesia
 - c. Thailand
 - d. Malaysia

Answer: D

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the Indian team on Monday after their successful return from Kuala Lumpur, following a 55-medal haul at the 10th Asia-Pacific Deaf Games, an 11-time increase over their last participation in 2015 where India won 5 medals.

The 68-member Indian team, including 42 men and 26 women, captured an unprecedented 8 gold, 18 silver and 29 bronze medals to finish fifth among 21 countries, their best-ever performance in the quadrennial tournament since its inaugural edition in 1984. Previously, the Indian team had clinched 5 medals (2 Gold, 3 Silver) in the 2015 edition in Taiwan, ending ninth out of 23 countries. The 2019 edition was cancelled due to political unrest in Hong Kong.

36. Human Rights Day is observed annually around the world on _____ December.
- a. 10
 - b. 11
 - c. 12
 - d. 13

Answer:

A

Human Rights Day is observed annually around the world on 10 December. It commemorates the anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

37. Ministry of Cooperation has set up Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, _____.
- a. 2000
 - b. 2001
 - c. 2002
 - d. 2004

Answer:

C

Ministry of Cooperation has set up Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002. The BBSSL is promoted by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The initial paid up capital of BBSSL is Rs. 250 Cr with contribution of Rs. 50 Cr each by the five promoters and authorized share capital is Rs. 500 Cr. The BBSSL has been set up to undertake production, procurement & distribution of quality seeds under single brand through cooperative network to improve crop yield and develop a system for preservation and promotion of indigenous natural seeds. BBSSL would help in increasing the production of quality seeds in India through cooperatives thereby reducing the dependence on imported seeds, enhancing agriculture production, providing boost to rural economy, promoting “Make in India” and leading to Atmanirbhar Bharat.

38. Yuva Sahakar Scheme comes under _____

- a. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
- b. Ministry of Cooperation
- c. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- d. NITI Aayog

Answer: B

“Yuva Sahakar – Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme” is being implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) a statutory corporation under the administrative control of Ministry of Cooperation, across the country, with the aim to encourage newly formed cooperative societies with new and/or innovative ideas. The scheme encourages young entrepreneur Cooperative Societies which are in operation for a minimum of 3 months. The loan provided under the scheme is a long-term loan (up to 5 years) and as an incentive, NCDC provides 2% interest subvention on its applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project activities. Further, the loan component under the scheme can also be dovetailed with subsidy, as applicable and available from other Government of India schemes. NCDC funding is project based. No proposal has been received from any eligible cooperative of Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh so far under Yuva Sahakar Scheme.

39. India has achieved a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of _____ as per NFHS-5 (2019–21).

- a. 1.8
- b. 2.0
- c. 2.1

d. 2.2

Answer:

B

India has achieved a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.0 as per NFHS-5 (2019–21). This is aligned with the National Population Policy 2000 and the National Health Policy 2017 (TFR of 2.1).

40. The Ministry of Heavy Industries notified the PM E-DRIVE scheme on 29th September, _____, with a budgetary outlay of ₹10,900 crore.

- a. 2022
- b. 2024
- c. 2021
- d. 2023

Answer: B

The Ministry of Heavy Industries notified the PM E-DRIVE scheme on 29th September, 2024, with a budgetary outlay of ₹10,900 crore, out of which ₹500 crores have been allocated in the form of demand incentives for e-trucks and other emerging EVs.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components Industry in India notified by the Government on 23rd September, 2021 for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities for Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products (including e-Trucks) with a budgetary outlay of ₹25,938 crore proposes financial incentives to boost domestic manufacturing of AAT products with minimum 50% Domestic Value Addition (DVA) and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.

41. Which of the following organized Smart India Hackathon 2024?

- a. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- b. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- c. Ministry of Education
- d. NITI Aayog

Answer: C

The 7th edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) is being held concurrently at 51 nodal centres nationwide. The Software Edition is to run nonstop for 36 hours and the Hardware Edition will continue from 11 December 2024 to 15 December 2024, bringing together the brightest young minds to showcase innovative solutions.

This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, has established itself as the world's largest open innovation model. It offers students a unique platform to address real-world challenges, promoting a culture of creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. This

year more than 250 problem statements were presented. Some of the interesting problem statements of this year's edition include 'Enhancing Images of Darker Regions on the Moon' presented by ISRO, 'Developing a real-time Ganga Water Quality Monitoring system using AI, satellite data, IoT, and dynamic models' presented by Ministry of Jal Shakti, and 'Developing a Smart Yoga Mat integrated with AI' presented by Ministry of AYUSH.

42. The One Stop Centre (OSC) is a component of the Sambal vertical under the umbrella Mission _____
- Unnati
 - Sabala
 - Samarth
 - Shakti

Answer: D

The One Stop Centre (OSC) is a component of the Sambal vertical under the umbrella Mission Shakti. It provides integrated support and assistance under the one roof to women affected by violence and those in distress, both in private and public spaces. It provides services like medical aid, legal aid and advice, temporary shelter, police assistance and psycho-social counselling to needy women. As on date, out of the approved 878 One Stop Centres (OSCs), 802 OSCs are operational across the country and over 10.12 lakh women have been assisted till 31st October, 2024. Further, Shakti Sadan is a component of Samarthya vertical under Mission Shakti. It is an Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home for women in distress situations including trafficked women. It aims at creating a safe and enabling environment for the women in distress situations, to enable them to overcome the difficult circumstances. As on date, 404 Shakti Sadans are operational across the country and presently, 29,315 women have been supported/rehabilitated.

43. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) was established through an Act of Parliament, namely Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, _____
- 2023
 - 2022
 - 2021
 - 2024

Answer: A

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), established through an Act of Parliament, namely Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023 (25 of 2023), aims to seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and

innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories. ANRF acts as an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country. The provisions of the said Act have been brought into force on February 5, 2024 and many programmes have been launched in line with the commitment of the Government to operationalize ANRF.

44. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was set up under the National Investigation Agency Act, _____ as a Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
- 2002
 - 2010
 - 1954
 - 2008

Answer: D

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was set up under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 as a Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

The Agency investigates and prosecutes offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States, matters relating to international treaties etc. specified in the Schedule to the NIA Act, 2008.

The Government has empowered the NIA through NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019 to investigate scheduled offences involving Indian citizens or Indian interests that are committed outside India. Further, the mandate of NIA has also been expanded to investigate offences related to Explosive Substances Act, 1908, Human Trafficking, Cyber Terrorism and Arms Act, 1959.

45. Sagar Parikrama Yatra Programme is an initiative of _____
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
 - Ministry of Defence
 - Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
 - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

Answer: C

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India on 5th March, 2022 has started the 'Sagar Parikrama' an extensive outreach program on the occasion of 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to visit the coastal areas of the country in a phased manner. The journey of 'Sagar Parikrama' was started from Mandvi, Gujarat and it covered visit of 113 locations of 80 coastal districts in 12 phases, covering the

coastal length of 7440 km across 12 coastal states/UTs and concluded at Ganga Sagar, West Bengal on 11.01.2024. 'Sagar Parikrama' aimed to (i) facilitate interaction with fishermen, coastal communities and stakeholders so as to disseminate information of various fisheries related schemes and programs being implemented by the Government, (ii) demonstrating solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholder's as a spirit of Aatma nirbhar Bharat (iii) promote responsible fisheries with focus on sustainable balance between the utilization of marine fisheries resources for food security of nation and livelihoods of coastal fisher communities, and (iv) protection of marine ecosystems.

46. Who won the World Chess Championship 2024?

- a. Ding Liren
- b. Gukesh Dommaraju
- c. Nepomniachtchi
- d. Magnus Carlsen

Answer: B

Gukesh Dommaraju is an Indian chess grandmaster and the reigning World Chess Champion. He is the youngest undisputed World Chess Champion in the history of the game. A chess prodigy, Gukesh is the youngest player to have surpassed a FIDE rating of 2750, doing so at the age of 17, and was the third-youngest to have surpassed 2700 at the age of 16. He earned the title of grandmaster at the age of 12 and remains the third-youngest grandmaster in the history of chess.

47. Who is the incumbent Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries?

- a. Nitin Jairam Gadkari
- b. Rajiv Ranjan Singh
- c. H.D. Kumaraswamy
- d. Virendra Kumar

Answer: C

India is committed to decarbonise the steel sector in alignment with net-zero emission intensity target by 2070. To mark this, as a historic milestone in India's journey towards low-emission steel, Shri H D Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of Steel & Heavy Industries, unveiled the Taxonomy of Green Steel for India during an event held at Vigyan Bhavan, on 12th December 2024 in the presence of Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries, Officers of Steel Ministry, representatives from other concerned Ministries, CPSEs, Steel industry players, Think Tanks, Academia and some foreign representatives in India

including a delegation of European Union. Globally, there is no commonly accepted definition of green steel; India is the first nation to release the Taxonomy of Green Steel.

48. National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System comes under _____
- a. NITI Aayog
 - b. Ministry of Science & Technology
 - c. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - d. Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer: B

Department of Science & Technology (DST) is implementing multi-stakeholder National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System (NM-ICPS). The Mission was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2018 at a total outlay of Rs.3660 Crores for a period of five years. NM-ICPS is a comprehensive Mission aimed at complete convergence with all stakeholders by establishing strong linkages between academia, industry, Government and International Organizations. The Mission working with all the concerned Ministries/ Departments to identify their technology needs, develop solutions and technical support. The Mission aims at development of technology platforms to carry out R&D, Translational Research, Product Development, Incubating & Supporting Start-ups as well as Commercialization.

49. Which of the following is the official broadcast partner for Hockey India League 2024-25?
- a. KITE Victers
 - b. SWAYAM Prabha
 - c. Doordarshan
 - d. Star India

Answer: C

Doordarshan announced as official broadcast partner for Hockey India League 2024-25

India's National Broadcaster, Doordarshan, has partnered with the Hockey India League to transform IndiaKaGame Hockey into a nationwide celebration and make hockey players household names across the country. This year's edition of Hockey India League (HIL), set to commence on 28th December 2024 is historic as it marks the inaugural season of the Women's Hockey India League, alongside the much-anticipated men's competition.

50. To address the issues of transfer, transport, sale and procurement of elephants and to regulate their movement, the Government has notified "Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, _____".
- a. 2024

- b. 2023
- c. 2022
- d. 2021

Answer: A

Further, to address the issues of transfer, transport, sale and procurement of elephants and regulate the movement of captive elephants within and between states in India, the Government of India has notified “Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024”. Furthermore, a High-Powered Committee to look into the matter related to transfer of captive elephants from one state to another has been constituted as per the order of Hon’ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 03/03/2023 in the Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 12246 of 2022.

51. SAMARTH Udyog Bharat 4.0 Initiative comes under _____
- a. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - b. Ministry of Labour and Employment
 - c. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
 - d. Ministry of Heavy Industries

Answer: D

Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub (SAMARTH)

SAMARTH Udyog Bharat 4.0 is an Industry 4.0 initiative of Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises, Government of India under its scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in Indian Capital Goods Sector.

SAMARTH Udyog encompasses manufacturers, vendors and customers as the main stakeholders. The experiential and demonstration centres for Industry 4.0 have been proposed to spread awareness about I4.0 amongst the Indian manufacturing industries. Five centres of I4.0 having a unique identity for spreading awareness and branding have been sanctioned under SAMARTH Udyog. It is emphasized that these centres would have resource sharing, common platform of industry 4.0 and network each other’s resources so that the utilization of resources is maximised.

52. National Energy Conservation Day is on December _____
- a. 12
 - b. 13
 - c. 14
 - d. 15

Answer: C

Energy efficiency stands as a cornerstone of sustainable development, weaving together the threads of progress and environmental stewardship. In India, this deep dedication to sustainability is passionately commemorated on December 14 as National Energy Conservation Day. This annual observance shines as a ray of hope and shared responsibility, underscoring the critical need for adopting sustainable energy practices. Far beyond a ceremonial occasion, it serves as a driving force for individuals, industries, and institutions to embrace energy efficiency, paving the way for a greener, more harmonious future.

53. Which of the following has launched a quantum computing chip called Willow?

- a. Intel
- b. Google
- c. Qualcomm
- d. Microsoft

Answer: B

Google has announced a significant advancement in quantum computing as it unveiled its next-generation chip called 'Willow'. This new chip, developed at the company's quantum lab in Santa Barbara, California, was able to solve a complex mathematical problem in just five minutes — a task that would take classical computers longer than the history of the universe.

54. Who has been named Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2024?

- a. Kamala Harris
- b. Mark Zuckerberg
- c. Elon Musk
- d. Donald Trump

Answer: D

Time Magazine is now clarifying and fact-checking parts of its own interview with President-elect Donald Trump shortly after naming him its Person of the Year for 2024. The announcement, made on December 12, cited Trump's unprecedented political comeback, beating other heavyweight finalists such as Kate Middleton, Vice President Kamala Harris, Mark Zuckerberg, Tesla CEO Elon Musk, and Russian opposition figure Yulia Navalnaya.

55. Who has recently become the first to achieve a \$400B net worth, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index?

- a. Elon Musk
- b. Jeff Bezos

- c. Mark Zuckerberg
- d. Bernard Arnault

Answer: A

Elon Musk, the richest person in the world, has made headlines once more, becoming the first person in history to have a net worth surpassing \$400 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index estimates Musk's current net worth at \$447 billion, representing a significant gain since the US presidential elections last month.

56. RBI has recently increased collateral-free agricultural loan limit from ₹1.6 to ₹_____ Lakh per borrower.
- a. 2
 - b. 2.5
 - c. 3
 - d. 3.5

Answer: A

In a significant move to support the agricultural sector and address rising input costs, the Reserve Bank of India has announced an increase in the limit for collateral-free agricultural loans, including loans for allied activities. The existing loan limit of ₹1.6 lakh per borrower has been raised to ₹2 lakh.

This decision acknowledges the impact of inflation and the increasing cost of agricultural inputs on farmers. It aims to provide enhanced financial access to farmers, ensuring they have sufficient resources to meet their operational and developmental needs without the burden of providing collateral.

57. National Consumer Day is celebrated every year on _____ December in India
- a. 14th
 - b. 15th
 - c. 25th
 - d. 24th

Answer: D

Major e-commerce platforms like Ajio, JioMart, Netmed, BigBasket, Tata Cliq, Tata 1mg, Zomato and Ola would be adopting Safety Pledge on the occasion of National Consumer Day, 2024 to be celebrated on 24th December, 2024.

The Safety Pledge is a voluntary commitment by e-commerce platforms for detecting and preventing the sale of unsafe, spurious and non-conforming products, cooperating with statutory authorities responsible for product safety, raising consumer product safety awareness among sellers and empowering consumers on product safety.

58. National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage is located in _____
- a. Bengaluru
 - b. Mumbai
 - c. New Delhi
 - d. Hyderabad

Answer: D

The Ministry of Ayush and National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad has successfully hosted a two day workshop to gather requirements for the implementation of International Classification of Diseases, Traditional Medicine Module-2, Updating Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani International Terminologies and Scoping Review for the development of Sowa Rigpa Terminologies. NIIMH is a WHO Collaboration Centre for “Literary and Fundamental Research in Traditional Medicine”. The event took place at 10th World Ayurveda Congress in Dehradun, Uttarakhand on 13th and 14th December 2024.

59. ‘CHARAK’- “Community Health: A Responsive Action for Koylanchal” is an initiative under _____
- a. Ministry of Coal
 - b. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - c. Ministry of Education
 - d. Ministry of Steel

Answer: A

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Coal, Singrauli based Coal India arm Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) has rolled out ‘CHARAK’- “Community Health: A Responsive Action for Koylanchal”, an innovative health-centric CSR Initiative today. This project is aimed at providing free treatment for the patients suffering from identified Life-Threatening diseases belonging to Economically Weaker Sections of Singrauli region.

60. Which of the following has organized the third edition of the mega event “Viraasat Sari Festival 2024”?
- a. Ministry of Tourism
 - b. Ministry of Culture

- c. Ministry of Textiles
- d. Ministry of Cooperation

Answer: C

Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is organizing the third edition of the Mega event “Viraasat Sari Festival 2024”, from 15th – 28th December 2024, at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi.

During 2022-23 and 2023-24 “Virasat Sari Festival” was celebrated and was a big hit with an impressive footfall of approx 20,000 footfalls, across age-groups, and brought much needed attention to the sector.

In continuation to the series of the events, the third edition of “Viraasat Sari Festival 2024” will be having special focus on Handloom Saris of various parts of the nation and will bring together handloom weavers, sari designers and sari lovers and buyers across the country. The event will showcase the Handloom heritage of India.

61. Zakir Hussain Allarakha Qureshi, who recently passed away, was associated with which musical instrument?
- a. Sitar
 - b. Veena
 - c. Mridangam
 - d. Tabla

Answer: D

Zakir Hussain Allarakha Qureshi was an Indian tabla player, composer, percussionist, music producer, and film actor. He was known for bringing classical Indian music to a global audience. He was the eldest son of tabla player Alla Rakha, and won four Grammy Awards.

62. SLINEX 2024 is the bilateral naval exercise between India and _____
- a. Sri Lanka
 - b. Bangladesh
 - c. Thailand
 - d. Indonesia

Answer: A

The bilateral naval exercise SLINEX 2024 (Sri Lanka–India Exercise) will be conducted from 17 to 20 Dec 24 at Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command. The exercise will be held in two phases - the Harbour Phase from 17 to 18 December and the Sea Phase from 19

to 20 December. Initiated in 2005, SLINEX is a significant series of bilateral naval exercises that have strengthened maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka over the years.

63. Who is the incumbent Director General of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)?
- Ranjana Aggarwal
 - Yogesh Suman
 - N. Kalaiselvi
 - Jitendra Singh

Answer: C

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) inaugurated its newly renovated second floor at its premises in New Delhi on 13 December 2024. The inauguration was done by Dr. (Mrs.) N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR, Govt. of India. The renovated facilities at CSIR-NIScPR will further enhance the institute's capabilities in science communication and policy research.

64. Where has the country's first diabetes biobank been established by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)?
- Mumbai
 - Chennai
 - New Delhi
 - Bengaluru

Answer: B

The country's first diabetes biobank, a repository of population-based biological samples aimed at supporting scientific research, has been established in Chennai by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF).

The biobank set up at the MDRF, Chennai aims to gather, process, store and distribute biospecimens to assist scientific studies with the permission of the ICMR.

The biobank will facilitate advanced research on the causes of diabetes, the variations of the Indian type of diabetes and related disorders, said Dr V Mohan, chairman of the MDRF and Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre.

65. Which country became the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?
- France

- b. Germany
- c. UK
- d. Italy

Answer: C

UK becomes first European nation to join CPTPP trading bloc

The UK has officially become a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), joining 11 existing members including Australia, Japan and Canada. The CPTPP rose from the ashes of the TPP, which was signed in 2016 but was never ratified after Donald Trump pulled the US out of the deal. Plus, France has a new government but still no budget. MPs are set to start debate on an emergency spending bill.

66. DPIIT has recently inked a partnership with _____ Bank, India's largest private sector bank by assets, by signing an MoU to empower startups with world-class banking and financial services.
- a. ICICI
 - b. HDFC
 - c. Kotak Mahindra
 - d. Axis

Answer: B

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has inked a partnership with HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank by assets, by signing an MoU to empower startups with world-class banking and financial services.

67. Ministry of Cooperation has set up Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, _____.
- a. 2000
 - b. 2001
 - c. 2002
 - d. 2004

Answer: C

Ministry of Cooperation has set up Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002. The BBSSL is promoted by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The

initial paid up capital of BBSSL is Rs. 250 Cr with contribution of Rs. 50 Cr each by the five promoters and authorized share capital is Rs. 500 Cr. The BBSSL will undertake production, procurement & distribution of quality seeds under single brand through network of cooperatives to improve crop yield and develop a system for preservation and promotion of indigenous natural seeds. BBSSL will help in increasing the seed replacement rate, and varietal replacement rate by ensuring the role of farmers in production of certified seeds. This society will focus on production, testing, certification, procurement, processing, storage, branding, labelling and packaging of two generations of seeds i.e. foundation and certified (breeder seeds will be sourced from Public Sector Research Organizations and International Research Institutes i.e., ICRISAT, IRRI, CIMMYT etc.) through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) by leveraging various schemes and policies of different ministries of Government of India in a focused manner through 'Whole of the Government Approach'.

68. Minorities Rights Day is observed annually on _____December to commemorate the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities in 1992
- 18th
 - 17th
 - 19th
 - 20th

Answer: A

Minorities Rights Day will be celebrated tomorrow (18th December,2024) at an event being organised in the Scope Complex Auditorium ,New Delhi . The event is to be graced by Minister of State for Minority affairs Shri George Kurian and National Commission for Minorities Chairperson Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura.

Minorities Rights Day is observed annually on 18 th December to commemorate the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities in 1992. It serves as an important occasion to raise awareness about the rights of minorities, acknowledge their contributions to Indian society, and continue working toward their protection and empowerment.This Declaration, though non-binding, plays a vital role in shaping the global discourse on minority rights.The Declaration, which outlines key rights such as the freedom to enjoy culture, practice religion, and speak one's language, marks a crucial moment in international human rights law.

69. Who is the incumbent Director General of Railway Protection Force?
- Satish Kumar
 - Prashanta Kumar Agrawal

- c. Manoj Yadava
- d. Ashwini Vaishnaw

Answer: C

Currently Manoj Yadava (IPS) is Director General of Railway Protection Force.

70. Which of the following is India's indigenous anti pesticide suit to safeguard farmers' health?

- a. Krishi Suraksha
- b. Annadata Shakti
- c. Khet Rakshak
- d. Kisan Kavach

Answer: D

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled Kisan Kavach, Bharat's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit, here today. Designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure, this innovation marks a transformative step in ensuring farmer safety and aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of using science and technology to empower the agricultural community.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that the Kisan Kavach is a groundbreaking solution addressing a critical gap in farmer safety. Developed by BRIC-inStem, Bangalore, in collaboration with Sepio Health Pvt. Ltd., the bodysuit offers protection against pesticide-induced toxicity, which often leads to severe health complications, including breathing disorders, vision loss, and, in extreme cases, death.

"Kisan Kavach is not just a product but a promise to our farmers to safeguard their health as they continue to feed the nation," Dr. Jitendra Singh stated. The washable and reusable suit, priced at ₹4,000, can last up to a year and employs advanced fabric technology to deactivate harmful pesticides upon contact, ensuring farmer safety like never before.

71. National Institute of Siddha is an institute for study and research of Siddha medicine which is located in _____

- a. Mumbai
- b. New Delhi
- c. Chennai
- d. Hyderabad

Answer: C

National Institute of Siddha is an institute for study and research of Siddha medicine. It was established in 2005 at Tambaram, Chennai, India. It is one of the eight national institutes established across nation, for training and research in "Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy education", by Department of AYUSH, Government of India

72. PM-AASHA scheme comes under _____

- a. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- b. Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
- c. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Answer: A

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has initiated several measures to help farmers to enhance their income. The Government's MSP policy for major agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investments in farming and boost production and productivity. The minimum support price (MSP) is the minimum price for select crops covering major cereals, shreeanna (millets), pulses, oilseeds, copra, cotton and jute raised in Kharif and Rabi seasons that the Government of India considers as remunerative for farmers and hence warrants price support. The government fixes MSP for 24 crops at 1.5 times the Cost of Production (CoP). **Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare implements the umbrella scheme of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA).** The scheme is implemented for notified pulses, oilseeds & copra. The PM AASHA was launched in September 2018 with an aim to Provide price assurance for pulses, oilseeds and copra, ensuring financial stability for farmers, reduce post-harvest distress selling & promote crop diversification towards pulses and oilseeds. In September 2024, cabinet approved the continuation of Integrated scheme of PM AASHA with Price Support Scheme (PSS), price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) & Market intervention Scheme (MIS) as its components.

73. National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions is a statutory body established by National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act (NCMEI Act),

-
- a. 2000
 - b. 2002
 - c. 2004
 - d. 2005

Answer: C

National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) was established to protect and safeguard the educational institutions which are established by the religious minorities in India. It is a statutory body established by National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act (NCMEI Act), 2004. This also ensures rights of religious minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice as provided in Article 30 of the Constitution of India. Linguistic minorities do not come under the ambit of the NCMEI Act, 2004

74. The Mission Mausam was launched in September _____, and it is envisaged to boost India's weather and climate-related science, research, and services
- 2020
 - 2021
 - 2022
 - 2024

Answer: D

The Mission Mausam was launched in September 2024, and it is envisaged to be a multi-faceted and transformative initiative to tremendously boost India's weather and climate-related science, research, and services. Mission Mausam envisages making Bharat Weather Ready and Climate Smart with the aim that no weather will go undetected and early warning for all. It will help better equip stakeholders, including citizens and last-mile users, to tackle extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change.

Ministry of Earth Sciences

75. India has recently conducted first-ever Ganges River Dolphin tagging in _____
- Assam
 - West Bengal
 - Bihar
 - Uttar Pradesh

Answer: A

Today marks a historic achievement in wildlife conservation as the first-ever Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) has been tagged in Assam. This initiative, conducted under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), was implemented by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department and Aaranyak, with funding from the National CAMPA Authority. This is the first tagging, not only in India, but also for the species, and this milestone is a significant

advancement of Project Dolphin, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

76. Raigad Fort is located in the State of _____

- a. Karnataka
- b. Madhya Pradesh
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Chhattisgarh

Answer: C

Raigad, seen in the Raigad district of Maharashtra, India, is a hill fort located in the city of Mahad. It is one of the strongest fortress on the Deccan Plateau and was historically referred to as Rairee or Rairy fort.

77. The Government of India and _____ recently signed a \$42 million loan to provide coastal and riverbank protection to increase resilience of local communities and natural ecosystems in the state of Maharashtra.

- a. World Bank
- b. ADB
- c. AIIB
- d. NDB

Answer: B

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a \$42 million loan to provide coastal and riverbank protection to increase resilience of local communities and natural ecosystems in the state of Maharashtra.

78. In which year was the E-Shram Portal launched?

- a. 2020
- b. 2021
- c. 2022
- d. 2023

Answer: B

The E-Shram Portal is a flagship initiative by the Government of India to support and empower the unorganized workforce, which forms the backbone of the nation's economy. Launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on 26th August 2021, this portal is designed to create a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW), verified and seeded with Aadhaar, enabling the delivery of targeted welfare schemes and benefits. By leveraging

technology, the E-Shram Portal ensures that workers gain access to social security, job opportunities, and financial inclusion, fostering a more equitable and resilient labor ecosystem. Registration on the E-Shram portal is free of cost. A total of Rs. 704.01 crores were allocated for NDUW for the period FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25.

79. According to the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked _____ among 119 countries
- 39th
 - 34th
 - 44th
 - 49th

Answer: A

According to the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked 39th among 119 countries. In the previous index published in 2021, India was ranked 54th. However, due to a revision in the WEF's methodology, India's 2021 rank was adjusted to 38th place.

80. Who has recently released a report titled "S.A.F.E. Accommodation - Worker Housing for Manufacturing Growth"?
- Ministry of Finance
 - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 - Ministry of Labour and Employment
 - NITI Aayog

Answer: D

NITI Aayog released a report on "S.A.F.E. Accommodation - Worker Housing for manufacturing growth". This comprehensive report explores the crucial role of secure, affordable, flexible, and efficient (S.A.F.E.) accommodations for industrial workers in boosting India's manufacturing sector. It identifies key challenges, offers actionable solutions, and highlights the pivotal interventions required to scale up such housing facilities across the country.

81. Om Prakash Chautala was an Indian politician who served as the 7th Chief Minister of _____
- Gujarat
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Punjab
 - Haryana

Answer: D

Om Prakash Chautala was an Indian politician who served as the 7th Chief Minister of Haryana from the Indian National Lok Dal. He was the son of 6th Deputy Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Devi Lal. He held the record for being the oldest prisoner of the Tihar Jail of Delhi (aged 89), after his sentencing in 2022. He served as the Chief Minister of Haryana for the most (five) terms.

82. The Government of India and the _____ recently signed a \$350 million policy-based loan under the second subprogram of Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) program.
- World Bank
 - ADB
 - AIIB
 - NDB

Answer: B

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a \$350 million policy-based loan under the second subprogram of Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) program.

The signatories to the loan agreement were Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance; Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and the ADB.

The SMILE program is a programmatic policy-based loan (PBL) to support the government in undertaking wide-ranging reforms in the logistics sector in India. The programmatic approach comprises two subprograms, which aim to expand India's manufacturing sector and improve the resilience of its supply chains.

83. The "India State of Forest Report (ISFR)" is brought out by Forest Survey of India (FSI) on a biennial basis since _____.
- 1957
 - 1977
 - 1987
 - 1997

Answer: C

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Sh. Bhupender Yadav will release the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023 in presence of Minister of State Sh. Kirti Vardhan Singh and Secretary, Smt. Leena Nandan tomorrow in FRI, Dehradun.

The event will be attended by the senior officers of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and MoEF & CC organisations viz., ICFRE, WII, IGNFA, FRI, CASFOS, IRO, BSI, ZSI etc. The programme will also be attended by IFS probationers of IGNFA and SFS probationers of CASFOS.

The “India State of Forest Report (ISFR)” is brought out by Forest Survey of India (FSI) on a biennial basis since 1987. The report provides vital information on Forest and Tree resources of the country, based on two major activities viz., Forest Cover Mapping (FCM) and National Forest Inventory (NFI) of FSI. FSI has been publishing the report since 1987 and this report will be 18th such report in the series.

84. Which of the following bills was introduced to give effect to the mechanism of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State/Union Territory Assemblies?
- The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth) Amendment Bill, 2024
 - The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth) Amendment Bill, 2024
 - The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth) Amendment Bill, 2024
 - The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth) Amendment Bill, 2024

Answer: D

Two landmark Bills namely, (i) The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth) Amendment Bill, 2024 and (ii) The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to give effect to the mechanism of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State/Union Territory Assemblies under the vision “One Nation, One Election.” were introduced in Lok Sabha, on 17 December, 2024 and got referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 20 December, 2024.

85. In the context of Indian economy, what does M stand for in the “JAM Trinity”?
- Mobility
 - Mission
 - MSP
 - Mobile

Answer: D

Modi Government has been working for the poor and more than 200 schemes have been launched in the last 10 years for the welfare of the 140 crore people of the nation, said Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road, Transport and Highways, Shri Harsh Malhotra.

Shri Malhotra was addressing a Press Conference on impact of path breaking reforms of JAM(Jan Dhan Yojna, Aadhar& Mobile) Trinity Schemes,Digital Transactions and AYUSHMAN BHARAT-PM JAY.

86. The United Nations has declared _____ as the International Year of Camelids.
- a. 2023
 - b. 2024
 - c. 2025
 - d. 2026

Answer: B

The United Nations has declared 2024 as the International Year of Camelids. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and ICAR – National Research Center on Camel organized a day-long stakeholder workshop on 'Strengthening Camel Milk Value Chain in India' on Friday, 20 December 2024 in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

87. Who is the incumbent Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karmachari?
- a. M Venkatesan
 - b. Shashank Singh
 - c. Himanshu Kumar
 - d. N Vasantha

Answer:

A

M Venkatesan: Chairperson (Rank of Union Minister of State)

88. Which of the following countries has recently conferred The Order of Mubarak Al- Kabeer, its highest national award on the Prime Minister of India?
- a. Bahrain
 - b. Qatar
 - c. Kuwait
 - d. Oman

Answer: C

His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait conferred upon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi The Order of Mubarak Al- Kabeer, the highest national award of Kuwait. His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of Kuwait also graced the occasion.

89. National Farmers' Day is observed on _____ December every year.
- a. 22nd
 - b. 23rd
 - c. 24th
 - d. 25th

Answer: B

Farmers, the lifeblood of the nation and revered as 'Annadatas', are the foundation of India's prosperity. Their relentless toil feeds the nation, sustains the rural economy, and ensures the strength of every household. National Farmers' Day, observed on 23rd December, celebrates their invaluable contribution. This day marks the birth anniversary of Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister, renowned for his deep understanding of rural issues and unwavering advocacy for farmers' welfare. It is a moment to honour our farmers' unwavering dedication and recognise their pivotal role in shaping the nation's progress.

90. 'Jago Grahak Jago App,' 'Jagriti App,' and 'Jagriti Dashboard' are initiatives of _____
- a. Ministry of Finance
 - b. Election Commission of India
 - c. NITI Aayog
 - d. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

Answer: D

Department of Consumer Affairs will launch 'Jago Grahak Jago App,' 'Jagriti App,' and 'Jagriti Dashboard' for public use on National Consumers Day 2024 i.e. 24th December, 2024.

As part of the government's broader strategy and ongoing efforts to strengthen consumer protection in the digital era and curb unfair practices in e-commerce and online services, the Central Consumer Protection Authority notified the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns in 2023 and specified 13 dark patterns, namely: False urgency, Basket Sneaking, Confirm shaming, forced action, Subscription trap, Interface Interference, Bait and switch, Drip Pricing, Disguised Advertisements and Nagging, Trick Wording, Saas Billing and Rogue Malwares.

91. Shyam Benegal, who recently passed away, was associated with _____
- a. Architecture
 - b. Archaeological studies
 - c. Film industry
 - d. Geophysics

Answer: C

Shyam Benegal was an Indian film director, screenwriter and documentary filmmaker. Often regarded as the pioneer of parallel cinema, he is widely considered as one of the greatest filmmakers post 1970s. He has received several accolades, including eighteen National Film Awards, a Filmfare Award and a Nandi Award. In 2005, he was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in the field of cinema. In 1976, he was honoured by the Government of India with the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian honour of the country, and in 1991, he was awarded Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian honour for his contributions in the field of arts. He died on 23 December 2024, aged 90. Shyam Benegal passed away at Wockhardt Hospital in Mumbai, where he was receiving treatment for chronic kidney disease.

92. National Homeopathy Research Institute in Mental Health is located in _____
- Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Karnataka
 - Andhra Pradesh

Answer: A

A two-day 'National Conference on Homoeopathy in Mental Health' was organized by the National Homoeopathy Research Institute in Mental Health (NHRIMH), Kottayam, under the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), an autonomous apex research organization under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India commemorating the 'Golden Jubilee Celebration' of the institute on 23-24 December 2024 at NHRIMH Auditorium.

93. Who is the incumbent Chairperson of TRAI?
- Ranjan Bose
 - Neelkanth Mishra
 - Atul Kumar Chaudhary
 - Anil Kumar Lahoti

Answer: D

Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

94. The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$_____ million loan to support green and sustainable infrastructure projects aligned with the country's climate commitments on 20th December 2024.
- 250

- b. 500
- c. 750
- d. 100

Answer: B

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$500 million loan to support green and sustainable infrastructure projects aligned with the country's climate commitments on 20th December 2024. The ADB loan, with a sovereign guarantee, will be extended to the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).

95. Who has been recently appointed as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court?
- a. G.S. Sandhawalia
 - b. Ramachandra Dattatray Huddar
 - c. Guhanathan Narendar
 - d. Venkatesh Naik Thavaryanaik

Answer: C

Guhanathan Narendar >> Appointed as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court.

96. Who is the incumbent Governor of Tamil Nadu?
- a. Banwarilal Purohit
 - b. C. Vidyasagar Rao
 - c. R. N. Ravi
 - d. Surjit Singh Barnala

Answer: C

Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri R. N. Ravi, met Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today in New Delhi.

97. Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project is located in _____
- a. Madhya Pradesh
 - b. Uttar Pradesh
 - c. Maharashtra
 - d. Gujarat

Answer: A

In line with his commitment to energy sufficiency and promoting green energy, Prime Minister will inaugurate the Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project established at Omkareshwar in

Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. The project will reduce carbon emissions and contribute to the Government's mission of net zero carbon emission by 2070. It will also help in water conservation by reducing water evaporation.

98. Nayakkarpatti Tungsten Block is located in _____

- a. Karnataka
- b. Telangana
- c. Andhra Pradesh
- d. Tamil Nadu

Answer: D

Geological Survey of India (GSI) handed over the Geological Memorandum (GM) for Tungsten in Melur – Terkutteru – Muthuvelpatti Areas, Madurai District to State Government Tamil Nadu on 14 Sep 2021, as at that time the state government was empowered to auction all major minerals including critical minerals like tungsten.

Later on, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended by the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 with effect from 17.08.2023. The Amendment Act, inter alia, inserted section 11D in the Act which empowered the Central Government to exclusively auction mining leases and composite licenses in respect of 'critical and strategic minerals' specified in Part D of the First Schedule of the Act. Tungsten is one such critical mineral.

Based on the amendment, Ministry of Mines wrote to State Government Tamil Nadu on 15.09.2023 about the auction **of critical mineral blocks of Tamil Nadu including the Nayakkarpatti Tungsten Block**. In response, vide letter dated 03.10.2023, Water Resource Minister of Tamil Nadu questioned the amendment act passed by the Parliament and sought that power to auction the critical minerals also be vested with State Governments. It is pertinent to note here that during 2021-2023 when the state had the powers to auction the critical minerals, Tamil Nadu did not do anything. In fact, since the advent of auction regime, Tamil Nadu has not auctioned a single major mineral block in last nine years.

99. Good Governance Day is observed in India annually on _____ December, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- a. 24th
- b. 25th
- c. 30th
- d. 21st

Answer: B

Good Governance Day is observed in India annually on the twenty-fifth day of December, the birth anniversary of former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to honor Prime Minister Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.

100. Who is the current Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)?

- a. Abhijit Narendra
- b. Anirban Dasgupta
- c. Atanu Bhowmick
- d. Amarendu Prakash

Answer: D

Amarendu Prakash, Chairman, SAIL

101. As on December 25, 2024, _____ startups have been recognized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

- a. 157,066
- b. 257,066
- c. 357,066
- d. 457,066

Answer: A

Recognizing the transformative potential of startups, the Indian government has introduced several initiatives to support and nurture entrepreneurship. The flagship Startup India program, launched in 2016, has been a cornerstone in this effort. As on December 25, 2024, 157,066 startups have been recognized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and 759,303 users are registered on the portal.

102. Startup Accelerator of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development, and Growth (SAMRIDH) scheme launched in _____, aims to support 300 software product startups over four years with an outlay of ₹99 crore, providing funding up to ₹40 lakh per startup through accelerators to scale their businesses.

- a. 2021
- b. 2022
- c. 2023
- d. 2024

Answer: A

Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR): Platform designed to centralize, streamline, and enhance collaboration among key stakeholders within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies.

In addition, initiatives such as the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) provide infrastructure and financial support to innovators. Further, the Startup Accelerator of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development, and Growth (SAMRIDH) scheme launched in 2021, aims to support 300 software product startups over four years with an outlay of ₹99 crore, providing funding up to ₹40 lakh per startup through accelerators to scale their businesses.

103. Rashtraparv Website is an initiative of _____

- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
- b. Ministry of Culture
- c. Ministry of Defence
- d. Ministry of Tourism

Answer: C

Rashtraparv is the official website of Ministry of Defence for disseminating information related to organisation of National events i.e. Republic Day Celebrations (RDC) and Independence Day Celebrations (IDC) to public. These information majorly includes Seating Plan for events, Parking Layout, Route Map, Schedule of events, Ticket availability for a particular event and other information like details of Tableau shortlisted for Republic Day Parade etc.

104. According to Ministry of Tourism, International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) in India during 2023 were _____ Million.

- a. 28.89
- b. 38.89
- c. 18.89
- d. 8.89

Answer: C

Tourism Statistics

International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) in India during 2023 were 18.89 Million.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2023 were 9.52 Million.

Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through tourism during 2023 were Rs.231927 Crore.

Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV) in India during 2023 were 2509 Million.

105. Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, _____ is an autonomous institute under Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

- a. Kanpur
- b. Gurugram
- c. Patna
- d. Ranchi

Answer: B

Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurugram is an autonomous institute under Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India. The objectives of IPFT include developing user & environment friendly pesticide formulation technologies, promoting efficient application technologies, bio efficacy studies on pesticide formulations for CIB&RC licensing and imparting specialized trainings to Scientists, Engineers, and students from agrochemical industries and academia.

106. Veer Baal Diwas is celebrated on _____ December every year.

- a. 25th
- b. 26th
- c. 30th
- d. 21st

Answer: B

The nation celebrates VEER BAAL DIWAS on 26th December 2024 (Thursday). Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, will grace this occasion and launch the "Suposhan Gram Panchayat" Campaign, interact with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees, and address children across the country.

107. Which of the following works of M. T. Vasudevan Nair retells the story of the Mahabharata from the point of view of Bhimasena?

- a. Naalukettu
- b. Kaalam
- c. Asuravithu
- d. Randamoozham

Answer: D

Madath Thekkepaattu Vasudevan Nair, popularly known as M. T., was an Indian author, screenplay writer and film director. He was a prolific and versatile writer in modern Malayalam literature, and was one of the masters of post-Independence Indian literature. Randamoozham,

which retells the story of the Mahabharata from the point of view of Bhimasena, is widely credited as his masterpiece.

At the age of 20, as a chemistry undergraduate, he won the prize for the best short story in Malayalam for Valarthumrigangal at World Short Story Competition jointly conducted by New York Herald Tribune, Hindustan Times, and Mathrubhumi. His first major novel, Naalukettu (The Legacy), written at the age of 23, won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1958. His other novels include Manju (Mist), Kaalam (Time), Asuravithu (The Demon Seed), and Randamoozham (The Second Turn). The emotional experiences of his early days went into his novels, and most of his works are oriented towards the basic Malayalam family structure and culture. His three novels set in traditional tharavads in Kerala are Naalukettu, Asuravithu, and Kaalam.

108. Manmohan Singh was an Indian politician, economist, academic, and bureaucrat, who served as the _____ Prime Minister of India
- 12th
 - 11th
 - 14th
 - 13th

Answer: D

Manmohan Singh was an Indian politician, economist, academic, and bureaucrat, who served as the 13th Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014. He was the fourth longest-serving prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Narendra Modi. A member of the Indian National Congress, Singh was the first Sikh prime minister of India. He was also the first Prime Minister since Nehru to be re-elected after completing a full five-year term.

109. The 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was held in _____, from February 26 to March 2, 2024.
- Abu Dhabi
 - Kuwait City
 - Doha
 - Riyadh

Answer: A

The 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from February 26 to March 2, 2024. India actively participated in the Conference, with the Commerce Secretary and the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister (HCIM) leading the delegation at different stages. India successfully defended its national

interests in key areas of negotiations like agriculture, sustainable development, fisheries, investment, ecommerce, SPS/TBT etc. while highlighting the concerns of developing nations and the Global South.

During the Conference, Comoros and Timor-Leste were formally inducted into the WTO, raising the membership count to 166. India warmly welcomed these new Members, emphasizing the strengthened representation of the Global South.

Although there was no outcome on agriculture at MC 13, India managed to oppose attempts from a few WTO Members to divert focus from mandated issues, such as Permanent Solution on Public Stockholding for food security purposes.

Active participation and coalition building led to MC13 decision on maintenance of moratorium on imposition of customs duties on e-transmissions until MC14/ 31st March 2026, whichever is earlier, without further extension.

110. Families of more than 10 lakh workers across 1210 tea gardens of Assam & West Bengal will gain access to better education, health, and improved working conditions through the _____ X _____ initiative. Identify X

- a. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana
- b. Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana
- c. Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana
- d. Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Maandhan Yojana

Answer: C

Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana (PMCSPI)

Families of more than 10 lakh workers across 1210 tea gardens of Assam & West Bengal will gain access to better education, health, and improved working conditions through the PMCSPI initiative.

111. How many commodities are being monitored by Price Monitoring Division (PMD) which was set up in 1998?

- a. 23
- b. 22
- c. 38
- d. 35

Answer: C

Price Monitoring Division oversees the implementation of daily price monitoring of essential food commodities and price stabilization interventions. The Department collects daily retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential commodities and retail prices of 16 additional commodities from 555 price reporting centers through mobile app viz. Price Monitoring System (PMS). These daily prices constitute critical inputs to take decisions purport to mitigate price surge, market intervention, restricting import-export duties and calibrate the monetary policy. Under Price Stabilization Fund, government undertakes market interventions to control the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities such as onion, potato, tomato and pulses to protect the interests of consumers. Market interventions primarily involve procurement of these commodities for buffer stock and undertaking strategic market disposals to contain price volatility. Buffer stocking also acts as deterrent for unscrupulous speculations. The procurement of agri-horticultural commodities ensures remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.

The Price Monitoring Division (PMD) was set up in 1998. Presently, 38 commodities are being monitored by PMD include five item groups i.e., Cereals: Fats: (Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil, Vanaspati Oil, Soya Oil, Sunflower Oil, Palm Oil, Desi Ghee, Butter), Vegetables: (Potato, Onion, Tomato, Brinjal), Animal Products: (Milk, Egg), Spices: (Black Pepper, Coriander, Cumin Seed, Red Chilli, Turmeric), Fruits: (Banana), Others: (Sugar, Gur, Tea, Salt). In October 2024, Ladakh was added to the price monitoring network with the inclusion of two new centers, Leh and Kargil. This strategic expansion has brought the total coverage to 35 States/UTs.

112. The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) was set up with an initial corpus of ₹_____ crore to tackle price volatility in some agri-horticultural commodities viz. onion, potato and pulses to protect the interests of consumers.

- a. 100
- b. 300
- c. 500
- d. 750

Answer: C

The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) was set up with an initial corpus of ₹500 crore to tackle price volatility in some agri-horticultural commodities viz. onion, potato and pulses to protect the interests of consumers. These commodities are to be procured from farmers/farmer's association at the time of harvesting and stored for regulated release during lean season to help bring down their prices. The PSF Scheme has now been merged with other components of PM-AASHA scheme of D/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Therefore, PSF is now one of the components of PM-AASHA umbrella scheme. However, the PSF Scheme will continue to be managed by D/o Consumer Affairs for price stabilisation interventions and daily price monitoring.

113. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the features of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)?

- a. The scheme offers unbanked persons a basic bank account without any minimum balance requirement, called a Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) account
- b. Free RuPay debit card, with in-built accident insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakh
- c. Access to overdraft facility of up to Rs. 10,000, subject to eligibility conditions
- d. All of the above are its features

Answer: D

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched as the National Mission for Financial Inclusion on 28.8.2014. It aimed to ensure comprehensive financial inclusion of all households in the country by providing universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic bank account to every household, financial literacy, and social security cover.

The scheme offers:

To unbanked persons a basic bank account without any minimum balance requirement, called a Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) account

Free RuPay debit card, with in-built accident insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakh

Access to overdraft facility of up to Rs. 10,000, subject to eligibility conditions

Easy access to banking services in rural areas, through Bank Mitras

Awareness about financial products through financial literacy programs

114. National geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of urban Habitations (NAKSHA) is an initiative of _____

- a. Ministry of Science and Technology
- b. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c. Ministry of Rural Development
- d. ISRO

Answer: C

Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) is implementing two Schemes/Programmes:

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and

Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC- PMKSY)

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

In September 2024, the Department has launched a new program **“National geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of urban HABitations (NAKSHA)”** under DILRMP Scheme (Digital India Land Records Modernization Program) for creation of Land Records in Urban Areas as a pilot in 150 cities across the country. The pilot programme is implemented with active cooperation of Revenue and Urban Development Departments of States/UTs and is proposed to be completed in a year’s time. A financial outlay of Rs. 193.81 Crore has been allocated for the programme. This program will provide clarity on ownership of land and solve land related disputes in urban areas.

115. Which of the following is a project initiated by the Government of India for providing a common compute platform for AI research and knowledge assimilation?

- a. AIRAVATA
- b. ARAVAT
- c. AIRAVAN
- d. AIRAWAT

Answer: D

AI Research Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform (AIRAWAT)

The Government has initiated a project AIRAWAT for providing a common compute platform for AI research and knowledge assimilation. This AI computing infrastructure will be used by all Technology Innovation Hubs, research labs, scientific community, industry, start-ups and institutions under the National Knowledge Network. The Proof of Concept (PoC) for AIRAWAT will be developed with 200 petaflops mixed precision AI machine which will be scalable to a peak compute of 790 AI petaflops.

The AIRAWAT has secured 75th position in Top 500 Global Supercomputing List declared at International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023), Germany putting India on top of AI Supercomputing nations worldwide.

116. Perplexity AI, Inc. is headquartered in _____

- a. USA
- b. UK
- c. China
- d. Japan

Answer: A

Perplexity AI is a conversational search engine that uses large language models (LLMs) to answer queries using sources from the web and cites links within the text response. Its developer, Perplexity AI, Inc., is based in San Francisco, California (USA).

117. Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN is conducted between India and _____

- a. Bhutan
- b. Thailand
- c. Sri Lanka
- d. Nepal

Answer: D

The Indian Army contingent comprising 334 personnel departed for Nepal today to participate in 18th edition of Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN. The exercise will be conducted in Saljhandi, Nepal from 31st December 2024 to 13th January 2025. It is an annual training event conducted alternatively in the two countries.

118. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) is the largest publicly funded health assurance scheme in the world which provides health cover of Rs. _____ lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

- a. 10
- b. 5
- c. 15
- d. 2.5

Answer: B

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY:

The second pillar of Ayushman Bharat is the Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY), the largest publicly funded health assurance scheme in the world which provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization

119. World Social Protection Report 2024-26 is released by _____

- a. UNICEF
- b. ILO
- c. CONNECT
- d. International Social Security Association

Answer:

B

World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Universal social protection for climate action and a just transition

This ILO flagship report provides a global overview of progress made around the world since 2015 in extending social protection, with a sharp focus on the climate crisis and the need for climate action to transition to a more sustainable world.

120. Which of the following has launched Haj Suvidha App?

- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
- b. Ministry of External Affairs
- c. Ministry of Minority Affairs
- d. Ministry of Tourism

Answer: C

As part of the Government's efforts to make Haj a smoother and comfortable experience, the Ministry for Minority Affairs has launched the Haj Suvidha App for the benefit of all Haj Pilgrims.

Haj Suvidha App has been developed by BISAG-N under the able guidance of the Ministry for Minority Affairs, and will be a game changer in the pilgrimage experience. Leveraging digital and mobile technologies, the Haj Suvidha app will provide necessary information and direct access to important services like Training modules, Flight Details, Accommodation, Emergency Helpline, Health, etc. at the fingertips of the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims would be able to focus better on their spiritual journey and forget about mundane tasks like travel, luggage, documents etc. The App offers solutions to common problems faced by the pilgrims during their journey and will be a boon especially to those performing Haj for the first time in their life.

121. Which of the following missions of ISRO seeks to dock or merge or join together two satellites in space?

- a. NISAR
- b. SROSS
- c. SARAL
- d. SpaDeX

Answer: D

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS, PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh informed here today that (Indian Space Research Organisation) ISRO's year-end mission scheduled for

30th December is going to be a historic one as it will seek the rare feat of docking or merging or joining together two satellites in Space. The project has been named "Space Docking Experiment" (SpaDeX), he said.

122. POEM refers to the usage of the spent fourth stage of the Polar Synchronous Launch Vehicle (PSLV). Which of the following accurately describes POEM?

- a. Payload Orbital Experiment Module
- b. Polar Orbit Environmental Module
- c. PS4-Orbital Experiment Module
- d. Propulsion Optimization and Evaluation Module

Answer: C

PS4-Orbital Experiment Module, designated as POEM, refers to the usage of the spent fourth stage of the Polar Synchronous Launch Vehicle (PSLV). It provides an opportunity for the scientific community to carry out certain in-orbit microgravity experiments for an extended duration of up to three months using the POEM platform, which otherwise would end up as space debris immediately after the mission objective of injecting the primary payloads of the mission. Such experimental payloads serve as precursor experiments to validate various proof-of-concept and enabling technologies for future missions.

123. 2024 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships was held in _____

- a. Doha
- b. Bahrain
- c. Riyadh
- d. Muscat

Answer: A

India's medal-winning athletes are aiming to reach higher levels in the new year after their impressive show at the December 19-25 Asian youth and junior weightlifting championships 2024 in Doha. Overall, India won 33 medals across youth and junior categories.

124. 2026 Commonwealth Games will be held in _____

- a. Belfast
- b. Hamburg
- c. Melbourne
- d. Glasgow

Answer: D

The 2026 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXIII Commonwealth Games and Glasgow 2026, is a planned multi-sport event scheduled from 23 July to 2 August 2026, to be hosted in Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland, for members of the Commonwealth of Nations. This will be the fourth Commonwealth Games to be hosted in Scotland, following the 1970 and 1986 games in Edinburgh, and the 2014 games in Glasgow.

125. James Earl Carter Jr., who recently passed away, was the _____ President of the United States.

- a. 38th
- b. 39th
- c. 40th
- d. 45th

Answer: B

James Earl Carter Jr. was the 39th president of the United States, serving from 1977 to 1981. A member of the Democratic Party, he was the longest-lived U.S. president and the first to reach 100 years of age.

126. The Army War College, Mhow (A.W.C.) is a defence service training and research institution of the Indian Army located in _____

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Uttarakhand
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Uttar Pradesh

Answer:

C

The Army War College, Mhow (A.W.C.) is a defence service training and research institution of the Indian Army located in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh. It is a premier training institute of warfare and carries out research in tactics, logistics, contemporary military studies and improvement in military doctrine. The college trains about 2500-3000 officers of the Indian Armed Forces, as well as paramilitary forces each year.

127. SynOPS facility at INCOIS, Hyderabad, has been recently established for better visualisation of in situ ocean data, satellite remote sensing and model products for an integrated view of the state of the ocean. Which of the following accurately describes SynOPS?

- a. Systematic Oceanic Prediction and Simulation
- b. Synthetic Observation and Prediction System
- c. Synchronised Oceanographic Prediction Solutions
- d. Synergistic Ocean Observation Prediction Services

Answer: D

Hon'ble Minister of Earth Sciences (HMoES) inaugurated the Doppler Weather Radar at Lansdowne, Uttarakhand, on February 23, 2024.

HMoES inaugurated HAWOS at 11 heliports installed and commissioned by IMD on February 25, 2024, at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, for better weather observations and advisories.

HMoES inaugurated the '**Synergistic Ocean Observation Prediction Services (SynOPS)**' facility at INCOIS, Hyderabad, for better visualisation of in situ ocean data, satellite remote sensing and model products for an integrated view of the state of the ocean on February 14, 2024.

128. National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management is located in

-
- a. Punjab
 - b. Haryana
 - c. Delhi
 - d. Gujarat

Answer: B

National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM or NIFTEM-K) is a higher education institute operating under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI). It is located at Kundli industrial area of Sonapat, Haryana, India. It was granted the Institute of National Importance status in 2021.

129. e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti, and e-Summon App are initiatives of _____

- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
- b. Ministry of Law and Justice
- c. Supreme Court of India
- d. NALSAR

Answer: A

To ensure seamless implementation of these laws, the MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) launched e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti, and e-Summon App for three new criminal laws in Chandigarh

130. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission on 30th December 2024?

- a. Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi
- b. Priyank Kanoongo

- c. V Ramasubramanian
- d. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani

Answer: C

Shri Justice V Ramasubramanian, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India today assumed the charge of the Chairperson and Justice (Dr.) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi as the Member of the National Human Rights Commission, (NHRC) India, at a function organised to welcome them and Shri Priyank Kanoongo who joined the Commission as a Member last week. They were appointed by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt Draupadi Murmu on 21st December 2024. Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Acting Chairperson, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal and other senior officers and staff of the Commission were present on the occasion.