

## CURRENT AFFAIRS FEBRUARY 2024

1. National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT) is located in
  - a. Ghaziabad
  - b. Hyderabad
  - c. Gurugram
  - d. Masulipatnam

Answer: A

A two-day workshop on “5G Use Case Labs: Awareness and Pre-Commissioning Readiness” was inaugurated by Mrs Gunjan Dave, Member (Technology), Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, today at IIT Roorkee. It was organised by National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), DoT, Ghaziabad. It aimed at generating awareness about 5G technology use cases and the 5G Use Case Lab being set up in IIT Roorkee with funding from DoT. The Prime Minister awarded setting up of 100 5G Labs across the country during the India Mobile Congress held in October last year.

2. India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated across the globe to commemorate the adoption of this international agreement on wetlands on \_\_\_\_\_ February 1971
  - a. 1st
  - b. 2nd
  - c. 3rd
  - d. 4th

Answer: B

India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated across the globe to commemorate the adoption of this international agreement on wetlands on 2nd February 1971. India ratified this Convention on 1st February 1982. Earlier in August 2022, India achieved a significant milestone of taking the total number of Ramsar Sites to 75 during the 75th Year of Independence. Due to a significant policy push from the Government of India, the number of Ramsar sites has increased from 26 to 80 in the last ten years, of which 38 have been added in the last three years alone.

3. What is the theme of World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2024?
  - a. Wetland Restoration
  - b. Wetlands Action for People and Nature
  - c. Wetlands and Water
  - d. Wetlands and Human Wellbeing

Answer: D

The theme of WWD-2024 is 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing' which underscores the critical role wetlands play in enhancing our lives. It highlights how wetlands contribute to flood protection, clean water, biodiversity and recreational opportunities, all of which are essential for human health and prosperity.

4. Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve and Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve are located in
- Karnataka
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Telangana
  - Andhra Pradesh

Answer: A

Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reservem, Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve: Karnataka

5. \_\_\_\_\_ spanning 453.72 ha is one of the largest inland wetlands of Tamil Nadu, and is a significant source of groundwater recharge for the area. Water from the wetland is utilized by the villagers for cultivating agricultural crops such as paddy, sugar cane, cotton, corn, and split red gram. \_\_\_\_\_ has one of the largest congregations of water birds in the State of Tamil Nadu. About 198 species of birds have been recorded here; some of the important visitors being the Bar headed Goose, Pin-tailed duck, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Common Pochard, Eurasian Wigeon, Common teal and Cotton teal.
- Longwood Shola Reserve Forest
  - Aghanashini Estuary
  - Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary
  - None

Answer: C

Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary spanning 453.72 ha is one of the largest inland wetlands of Tamil Nadu, and is a significant source of groundwater recharge for the area. Water from the wetland is utilized by the villagers for cultivating agricultural crops such as paddy, sugar cane, cotton, corn, and split red gram. Karaivetti has one of the largest congregations of waterbirds in the State of Tamil Nadu. About 198 species of birds have been recorded here; some of the important visitors being the Bar headed Goose, Pin-tailed duck, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Common Pochard, Eurasian Wigeon, Common teal and Cotton teal.

6. Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2024 will be held in
- Delhi
  - Haryana
  - Punjab
  - Rajasthan

Answer: B

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will visit Surajkund (Haryana) to inaugurate the Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2024.

7. India's largest and first-of-its kind mobility exhibition - Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 will be held in
- Kolkata
  - Mumbai
  - Bengaluru
  - New Delhi

Answer: D

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address a programme at India's largest and first-of-its kind mobility exhibition - Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 - on 2nd February, 2024 at 4:30 PM at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

8. The Union Cabinet has recently approved the continuation of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) with an outlay of Rs.29,610.25 crore up to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2025-26
  - 2024-25
  - 2026-27
  - 2027-28

Answer: A

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the continuation of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) with an outlay of Rs.29,610.25 crore for another three years up to 2025-26. The scheme will incentivize investments for Dairy processing and product diversification, Meat processing and product diversification, Animal Feed Plant, Breed multiplication farm, Animal Waste to Wealth Management (Agri-waste management) and Veterinary vaccine and drug production facilities.

Government of India will provide 3% interest subvention for 8 years including two years of moratorium for loan up to 90% from the scheduled bank and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), NABARD and NDDB. The eligible entities are individuals, Private Companies, FPO, MSME, Section 8 companies. Now the Dairy Cooperatives will also avail benefits for modernization, strengthening of the dairy plants.

9. A web portal of CMPFO namely C- CARES has been developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). C-CARES comes under the Ministry of
- Steel
  - Coal
  - Electronics and Information Technology
  - Science and Technology

Answer: B

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi launched a web portal of CMPFO namely C- CARES developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced

Computing (C-DAC), an R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on 31st January, 2024. This marks a significant leap in the digitization journey of CMPFO aiming to address the long-standing issue of digitizing its records and work processes.

10. Indian Navy has declared \_\_\_\_\_ as 'Year of Naval Civilians' to improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians.
- 2024
  - 2025
  - 2026
  - 2027

Answer: A

Indian Navy has declared 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians' to improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians by addressing all facets of Civilian HR Management in a time bound manner. Major focus areas towards maximising administrative efficiency, digital initiatives, generic and specific training programmes and welfare activities have been identified for implementation in 2024.

11. Unified Payments Interface is an Indian instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in \_\_\_\_\_
- 2014
  - 2015
  - 2016
  - 2017

Answer: C

Unified Payments Interface, commonly referred as UPI, is an Indian instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016

12. Who is the incumbent Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar?
- D K Joshi
  - Jagdish Mukhi
  - A K Singh
  - Bhopinder Singh

Answer: A

The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar, Admiral (Retd.) DK Joshi called on the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today.

13. Thaawarchand Gehlot is the incumbent Governor of
- Telangana
  - Karnataka
  - Goa
  - Maharashtra

Answer: B

The Governor of Karnataka, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today.

14. This scheme was launched in 2016 in order to provide a simple and affordable crop insurance product to ensure comprehensive risk cover for crops to farmers against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest and to provide adequate claim amount. The scheme is demand driven and available for all farmers. Which of the following schemes best suits the description?
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana
  - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
  - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme
  - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Answer: D

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched in 2016 in order to provide a simple and affordable crop insurance product to ensure comprehensive risk cover for crops to farmers against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest and to provide adequate claim amount. The scheme is demand driven and available for all farmers A total of 5549.40 lakh farmer applications were insured under the scheme since 2016-17 and Rs 150589.10 crore has been paid as claim.

15. ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research is located in
- Kanpur
  - Patna
  - Varanasi
  - Ranchi

Answer: C

ICAR- Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi is organizing a three-day mega Regional Agricultural Fair at Shahanshahpur campus from 03rd to 05th February, 2024. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Surya Pratap Shahi will be present as the chief guest in the fair. Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dr. Himanshu Pathak along with senior officials from ICAR such as DDG (Hort), Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, DDG (Extension), Dr. US Gautam, ADG, ICAR, Dr. Sudhakar Pandey will also be present on the occasion.

16. Satya Narayana Goenka is mainly associated with
- Meditation
  - Astrology
  - Space evacuation
  - Water conservation

Answer: A

Satya Narayana Goenka was an Indian teacher of Vipassanā meditation.

17. The four-day National Arogya Fair (2024) was held in

- a. New Delhi
- b. Mumbai
- c. Jaipur
- d. Gwalior

Answer: A

The four-day National Arogya Fair at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi concluded today. Minister of State for AYUSH and Women and child Development Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai was the chief guest of the closing ceremony.

The event was organized with the objective to showcase the benefits and principals of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy, creating awareness and encourage the adoption of holistic health and wellness practices, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among practitioners, experts and enthusiasts, providing space to business and vendors to promote products and services related to Ayush systems.

National Arogya Fair organized by Shri Puran Chandra Gupta Smarak Trust with the support of Ministry of Ayush from February 1, 2024 to February 4, 2024 at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi saw a dynamic convergence of India's rich healing traditions, encompassing Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. This four-day event serves as the vibrant testament to the nation's diverse culture and historical legacy in healthcare. It transcends as a platform to celebrate and showcase traditional system of medicine, emphasizing holistic well-being.

18. Vyommitra has recently been in news. This is a/an
- a. Oceanic robot
  - b. Frigate
  - c. Space robot
  - d. Tunnel

Answer: C

Woman Robot Astronaut "Vyommitra" will fly into Space ahead of ISRO's ambitious "Gaganyaan" mission, which will be India's first human manned Space Flight carrying Indian Astronauts into Space.

Disclosing this in New Delhi during an interaction with media, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the uncrewed "Vyommitra" Mission is scheduled for the third quarter of this year while a manned mission "Gaganyaan" is scheduled to be launched next year, that is 2025.

19. Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 was held in
- a. UK
  - b. India
  - c. Canada
  - d. Indonesia

Answer: B

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi today. The theme of the conference is “Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery” and will deliberate on important issues pertaining to law and justice like judicial transition and the ethical dimensions of legal practice; executive accountability; and revisiting modern-day legal education, among others.

20. India Energy Week 2024 will be held in
- Gujarat
  - Goa
  - Maharashtra
  - Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: B

Building on the success of the 2023 edition, inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, India Energy Week 2024 returns from 6 – 9 February 2024 in Goa, India.

With the clock winding down to the designated date, various government departments, including the nodal ministry at the Centre and Goa administration, are working tirelessly to cover all possible logistical and environmental aspects involved in hosting a mammoth gathering to ensure that the local life remains unaffected.

India Energy Week, 2024 is expected to draw over 35,000+ attendees, 350+ exhibitors, 400+ speakers spread across 80+ conference sessions and 4,000+ delegates from over 120 countries. The event will host an extensive array of global exhibitors, spanning core oil field services, lending dynamism to the atmosphere, and providing an unparalleled global platform to bring together the best and the brightest of the energy ecosystem.

21. Ustad Zakir Hussain, Rakesh Chaurasia, Shankar Mahadevan, Selvaganesh V and Ganesh Rajagopalan have won which of the following awards in February 2024?
- Emmy
  - Tony
  - Grammy
  - Golden Globe

Answer: C

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, congratulated musicians Ustad Zakir Hussain, Rakesh Chaurasia, Shankar Mahadevan, Selvaganesh V and Ganesh Rajagopalan for winning the Grammy award for the 'Best Global Music' today.

Their band 'Shakti', a fusion music group, has won the prestigious award for 'This Moment'.

22. The Nuremberg International Toy Fair, held annually since 1949, is the largest international trade fair for toys and games. It is being held in
- Germany

- b. France
- c. Italy
- d. Spain

Answer: A

Indian Toy Makers receive huge orders at Germany's Nuremberg International Toy Fair

Indian toy makers, who participated in the five-day international toy fair in Nuremberg, Germany, held from January 30, 2024 to February 3, 2024 have received huge orders worth more than 10 million USD as they had showcased high-quality products, exporters say. The Indian toy industry highlighted that the Government Initiatives like mandatory quality norms, increase in custom duty and a National Action Plan on Toys (NAPT) have helped in the manufacture of high-quality products which have garnered appreciation at the international platform. The Indian toy sector is growing at a healthy rate and competing with global players. Among the most popular categories at the fair were those pertaining to wooden toys and educational learning toys.

23. Who is the incumbent Chairperson of DRDO?
- a. G Satheesh Reddy
  - b. S Christopher
  - c. Avinash Chander
  - d. Samir V Kamat

Answer: D

Four flight trials of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) - ABHYAS were successfully carried out by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha during January 30 to February 02, 2024. The trials were conducted with four different mission objectives in a revised robust configuration using a single booster designed by Advanced Systems Laboratory, Hyderabad to provide reduced launch acceleration.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts of the teams associated in the design, development and testing of the system.

24. To achieve the target of 100% literacy by \_\_\_\_\_, the Government of India is implementing a centrally sponsored innovative scheme called Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Program. The scheme is popularly known as ULLAS: Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society, upholding the motto "Jan-Jan Sakshar". The scheme is targeted at all non-literates of age 15 years and above.
- a. 2028
  - b. 2030
  - c. 2035
  - d. 2047

Answer: B

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate the two-day ULLAS Mela on 6th February 2024 at the National Bal Bhavan, New



Delhi. Union Minister of State for Education Smt. Annpurna Devi will also be present as the Special Guest.

To achieve the target of 100% literacy by 2030, the Government of India is implementing a centrally sponsored innovative scheme called Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Program for the period of FYs 2022-2027. The scheme is popularly known as ULLAS: Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society, upholding the motto "Jan-Jan Sakshar". The scheme is targeted at all non-literates of age 15 years and above. The scheme, in line with NEP 2020, targets adults (aged 15 and above) who could not go to school or attain formal education. It focuses on imparting Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), through critical life skills, such as Digital Literacy, Financial Literacy, Legal Literacy, Environmental Literacy, Health & Hygiene, etc. Implemented in a hybrid mode, States/UTs have flexibility in offline, online, or combined approaches.

25. The Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) is listed in Schedule \_\_\_\_\_ of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
- a. I
  - b. II
  - c. III
  - d. IV

Answer: A

The Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) is listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.

The species is also listed in Appendix I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora and the Convention on conservation of Migratory Species.

The important habitats of Black-necked Crane have been notified as a Protected Areas, for example, Changthang Sanctuary, Ladakh.

The Tso Kar Wetlands Complex, an important foraging and breeding ground for Black-necked Crane has been designated as a Ramsar Site in December 2020.

The National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031) released by the Ministry in October 2017 provides for specific Chapters and priority actions on various aspects of wildlife conservation like, conservation of threatened species, mitigating human wildlife conflict, conservation of inland and coastal and marine ecosystems, landscape level conservation, etc.

The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for management of wildlife and its habitat in the country.

In accordance with provisions contained under Section 33 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Ministry has issued guidelines for the process of management planning for Protected Areas.

The Government of India has initiated Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) programme, that aims to generate public awareness about the environment, and conservation.

Important days such as World Wildlife Day, Wetlands Day, Migratory Bird Day, etc. and Wildlife Week are celebrated to bring in more awareness on wildlife and biodiversity among the public.

26. Charles III is the incumbent monarch of
- Spain
  - Denmark
  - Netherland
  - United Kingdom

Answer: D

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today conveyed his and people of India's wishes for the speedy recovery and good health to His Majesty King Charles III (United Kingdom).

In reply to a post by the Royal Family communicating the news of the King suffering a form of cancer, the Prime Minister posted on X :

"I join the people of India in wishing speedy recovery and good health to His Majesty King Charles III."

27. To facilitate the States in mobilizing resources for expanding coverage of micro irrigation, Government of India has created Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with initial corpus of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ Crore.
- 1,000
  - 2,000
  - 5,000
  - 10,000

Answer: C

To facilitate the States in mobilising resources for expanding coverage of micro irrigation, Government of India has created Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with initial corpus of Rs. 5000 Crore. States can avail loan from MIF for taking up special and innovative projects for expanding coverage of Micro Irrigation and also for incentivising micro irrigation beyond the provisions available under PDMC scheme to encourage farmers. Government of India provides interest subvention @3% on the loan availed by the States which is met from PDMC Scheme.

28. The Government of India fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 22 mandated agricultural crops on the basis of the recommendations of the \_\_\_\_\_
- CACP
  - NABARD
  - SFAC
  - GEAC

Answer: A

The Government of India fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 22 mandated agricultural crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned. Government in its Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the pre- determined principle to keep MSP at levels of one and half times of the cost of production. Accordingly, MSPs for all mandated crops kharif, rabi and other commercial crops have been increased with a return of at least 50 percent over all India weighted average cost of production from the agricultural year 2018-19.

29. APEDA comes under which of the following Ministries?
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
  - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Ministry of Civil Aviation

Answer: A

The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a statutory organisation under the administrative control of Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce and Industry), has the mandate to promote exports of agricultural and processed food products. APEDA has been providing assistance to the exporters under various components of its Export Promotion Scheme. The Department of Commerce provides financial assistance to promote exports, including exports of agricultural products through Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, and Export Promotion Schemes of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Commodity Boards: Tea Board, Coffee Board, Spices Board etc.

30. The Ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme- "Operation Greens" (OG) under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana since 2018-19.
- Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
  - Animal Husbandry
  - Food Processing Industries
  - Power

Answer: C

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme- "Operation Greens" (OG) under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana since 2018-19, with the objective of enhancing the value realisation of farmers and minimizing post-harvest losses. Under the Long Term Interventions component of the scheme, 53 projects have been approved across the country for eligible crops in identified production clusters with grants in aid of ₹634.59 crores for total project cost of ₹2457.49 crores. The details of the projects approved under the OG Scheme is at Annexure.

31. Guyana is a country in the
- South America
  - South Pacific
  - West Africa
  - East Africa

Answer: A

Guyana officially the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, is a country on the northern mainland of South America. Guyana is an indigenous word which means "Land of Many Waters".

The capital city is Georgetown.

The Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, H. E. Brigadier (Retd.) Mark Phillips called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (February 7, 2024).

32. The 23rd edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) will be held from 7-9 February 2024 in New Delhi. This is a flagship event of
- NITI Aayog
  - SDSN
  - TERI
  - UNDP

Answer: C

The 23rd edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 7-9 February 2024 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice.

33. Abhay Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada was an Indian spiritual teacher who was the founder of which of the following?
- Adhyatmik Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya
  - Bharat Sevashram Sangha
  - Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad
  - International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Answer: D

Abhay Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada was an Indian spiritual teacher who was the founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), commonly known as the "Hare Krishna movement".

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address the programme marking the 150th anniversary of Srila Prabhupada ji at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan on 8th February, 2024 at around 12:30 PM. The Prime Minister will also release a commemorative stamp and a coin in honour of great spiritual guru Srila Prabhupada ji.

Acharaya Srila Prabhupada was the founder of Gaudiya Mission, who played a pivotal role in preserving and spreading the fundamental tenets of Vaishnava faith. Gaudiya Mission has played a significant role in propagating the teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and the rich spiritual heritage of Vaishnavism across the world, making it the centre of the Hare Krishna Movement.

34. According to the World Bank's 'Logistics Performance Index Report (2023): Connecting to Compete 2023', India ranks \_\_\_\_\_ out of 139 countries.

- a. 36
- b. 38
- c. 40
- d. 42

Answer: B

According to the World Bank's 'Logistics Performance Index Report (2023): Connecting to Compete 2023', India ranks 38 out of 139 countries. India's rank has improved by six places from 44 in 2018 and sixteen places from 54 in 2014.

35. India ranks \_\_\_\_\_ in the World Bank's Doing Business Report (DBR), 2020 published in October, 2019 before its discontinuation by the World Bank.
- a. 63rd
  - b. 54th
  - c. 68th
  - d. 49th

Answer: A

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the Nodal Department for coordinating the initiatives under Ease of Doing Business which are aimed at creating a conducive business environment. Some of the steps taken by DPIIT in enhancing ease of doing business are as under:

India ranks 63rd in the World Bank's Doing Business Report (DBR), 2020 published in October, 2019 before its discontinuation by the World Bank. India's rank in the DBR improved from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd in 2019, registering a jump of 79 ranks in a span of 5 years.

36. Zakir Hussain Khan was an Indian educationist and politician who served as the \_\_\_\_\_ President of India
- a. Third
  - b. Fourth
  - c. Fifth
  - d. Sixth

Answer: A

Zakir Hussain Khan was an Indian educationist and politician who served as the third president of India from 13 May 1967 until his death on 3 May 1969.

37. In order to address the infrastructure requirement for fisheries sector, the Union Government during \_\_\_\_\_ created the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total funds size of Rs. 7522.48 crore.
- a. 2017-18
  - b. 2016-17
  - c. 2019-20
  - d. 2018-19

Answer: D

In order to address the infrastructure requirement for fisheries sector, the union Government during 2018-19 created the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total funds size of Rs 7522.48 crore.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved extension of Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for another 3 years upto 2025-26 within the already approved fund size of Rs 7522.48 crore and budgetary support of Rs 939.48 crore.

38. The Union Cabinet has recently approved the "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)", a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada for formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises with an investment of over Rs. 6,000 crores over a period of next \_\_\_\_\_years in all States/Union Territories.
- Three
  - Four
  - Five
  - Six

Answer: B

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)", a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada for formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises with an investment of over Rs. 6,000 crores over a period of next four (4) years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 in all States/Union Territories.

39. Who is the incumbent Chairperson of the Quality Council of India?
- T Koshy
  - Rajesh Maheshwari
  - Jaxay Shah
  - Sunil J. Singhi

Answer: C

The Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up as a public private partnership model on the model existing in Netherlands at the time, where although the NAB was not owned by the government, yet it was supported by it and was exceedingly used as a third party agency to improve quality in departments and industry. QCI thus, came to be organized as an independent autonomous body that worked towards assuring quality standards across all spheres of economic and social activities. Key industry associations, i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) became the promoters of the organizers and QCI got established under the Societies Registration Act in 1996 to provide accreditation services in various sectors for product, services and persons.

As our nation's backbone, the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector plays a pivotal role in fostering employment opportunities and reducing regional imbalances. In a significant stride towards fostering digital inclusion in the MSME sector, the Quality Council of India (QCI) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) are proud to announce the launch of the DigiReady Certification (DRC) portal.

Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, QCI

40. Government has set up National Culture Fund (NCF) as a Trust on 28th November, \_\_\_\_\_ under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890.
- 1995
  - 1996
  - 1997
  - 1998

Answer: B

Government has set up National Culture Fund (NCF) as a Trust on 28th November, 1996 under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890. NCF's objective is to mobilize extra resources through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) towards promoting, protecting and preserving India's cultural tangible & intangible heritage. Under this mode NCF & the partnering agencies become a part of the MoU for agreed projects and NCF plays an important role in getting the projects implemented as per norms. Moreover, NCF provides the donor/sponsor the flexibility to indicate a project along with any specific location/aspect and also an implementing agency for execution of the project.

41. Who is the incumbent Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh?
- Nara Chandrababu Naidu
  - Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy
  - Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy
  - Konijeti Rosaiah

Answer: B

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today.

42. Who of the following will be awarded Bharat Ratna in 2024?
- P V Narasimha Rao
  - M S Swaminathan
  - Chaudhary Charan Singh
  - All of the above

Answer: D

The decision to award Bharat Ratna to former Prime Ministers P V Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh and green revolution pioneer M S Swaminathan has taken the number of recipients of the country's highest civilian award to 53, five of them within 2024, maximum in a year so far.

43. ET Now Global Business Summit 2024 was held in

- a. New Delhi
- b. Bengaluru
- c. Mumbai
- d. Kochi

Answer: A

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the ET Now Global Business Summit 2024 at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi today.

The Prime Minister began his address by highlighting the significance of the theme of 'Disruption, Development and Diversification' chosen by the Global Business Summit 2024. "When it comes to disruption, development and diversification, everybody can agree that this is India's time", the PM remarked noting the growing trust towards India in the world. Speaking about the unprecedented enthusiasm towards India in Davos, the Prime Minister recalled the discussions about India being termed an unprecedented economic success story, its digital and physical infrastructure soaring to new heights, and India dominating every sector in the world. PM Modi also recalled a senior official comparing India's capability to that of a 'raging bull'. The Prime Minister said that development expert groups in the world discussing India's transformation in the past 10 years show the growing faith of the world towards India today. "Never before have we seen such positive sentiment regarding India's potential and success in the world", Shri Modi remarked recalling his acclamation from the Red Fort – 'This is the time, this is the right time'.

44. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), commonly known as the Pusa Institute, is India's national institute for agricultural research, education and extension. It is located in
- a. Bihar
  - b. Odisha
  - c. Delhi
  - d. Gujarat

Answer: C

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), commonly known as the Pusa Institute, is India's national institute for agricultural research, education and extension. The name Pusa Institute is derived from the fact that the institute was originally located in Pusa, Bihar as the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research in 1911. It was then renamed as the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute in 1919 and following a major earthquake in Pusa in 1934, it was relocated to Delhi in 1936. The current institute in Delhi is financed and administered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The IARI was responsible for the research leading to the "Green Revolution in India" of the 1970s. IARI ranked First among Agriculture and Allied Universities in the National Institutional Ranking Framework NIRF (India Rankings 2023),

45. As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India's military expenditure in the year 2022 (in million US dollars) is
- a. 81,363.20
  - b. 72,937.10
  - c. 76,348.50



d. 71,468.90

Answer: A

2022: 81,363.20

46. Dayanand Saraswati was an Indian philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj, a reform movement of Hinduism. The year 2024 marks the \_\_\_\_\_ birth anniversary of Dayanand Saraswati.
- 100th
  - 150th
  - 200th
  - 250th

Answer: C

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today addressed a programme on the 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayananda Saraswati organized at the birthplace of Swami Dayananda, Tankara in Morbi, Gujarat, via a video message.

In his address, PM Modi conveyed his delight at the Arya Samaj organizing the event to honour Swami Ji's contributions and to bring his teachings to the masses. Reflecting on his participation in last year's inauguration of the festival, he remarked, "When the contributions of such a great soul are so exceptional, it is natural for the festivities associated with them to be extensive."

47. Namdhari sect is associated with
- Sikhism
  - Jainism
  - Buddhism
  - Zoroastrianism

Answer: A

The Namdharis are a Sikh sect that differs from mainstream Sikhs chiefly in that it believes that the lineage of Sikh Gurus did not end with Guru Gobind Singh (1666–1708), as they recognize Balak Singh (1797–1862) as the 11th Guru of the Sikh religion, thus continuing the succession of Sikh Gurus through the centuries from Guru Nanak Dev to the present day

Minister of State - Culture & External Affairs Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, today released a commemorative coin of Rs 200/- and a currency coin of Rs 10/- on the occasion of the bicentennial birth anniversary of Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji in the august presence of His Holiness Sri Satguru Uday Singh Ji, the present Guru of Namdhari sect.

48. Who is the incumbent Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)?
- Dharmendra Pradhan
  - Debi Prasad Dogra
  - Shreepad Karmalkar
  - Pradip Kumar Das

Answer: D

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has taken a significant step towards fostering innovation and research in the renewable energy sector, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar. The MoU, inked today, February 11, 2024, at the 100 Cube Start-up Conclave held at IIT Bhubaneswar, aims to support collaborative efforts in innovation and research initiatives, technology transfer, and nurturing the start-up ecosystem.

The MoU was signed by Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA Shri Pradip Kumar Das, and Independent Director of IIT Bhubaneswar Dr. Debi Prasad Dogra, in the presence of Union Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Director of IIT Bhubaneswar, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar.

49. Lalduhawma is the incumbent Chief Minister of
- Sikkim
  - Tripura
  - Manipur
  - Mizoram

Answer: D

Chief Minister of Mizoram, Mr Lalduhawma, currently on a visit to the national capital, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy Dr Jitendra Singh in New Delhi today and discussed a wide range of State related issues including placement of Civil Servants and officers in the State.

50. Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Prof Ajay Kumar Sood has launched SWATI Portal in February 2024. What does W stand for in SWATI?
- Water
  - World
  - Wide
  - None

Answer: D

Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Prof Ajay Kumar Sood today launched "Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal, aimed at creating a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine)

51. What is the theme of Unani Day 2024?
- Unani Medicine for Public Health
  - Diet and Nutrition in Unani Medicine for Good Health & Well-being
  - Unani Medicine: Opportunities and Challenges
  - Unani Medicine for One Earth, One Health

Answer: D

World Unani Day is observed on February 11 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of social reformer and renowned Unani scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan, widely regarded as the pioneer of Unani medicine in India.

Theme of Unani Day 2024, "Unani Medicine for One Earth, One Health,"

52. \_\_\_\_\_ and Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT-R) signed an agreement for "Developing a 140GHz Fully Integrated Transmitter & Receiver Module for 6G and Beyond".
- C-DOT
  - CERT-In
  - NITI Aayog
  - ECCE

Answer: A

C-DOT, the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India and Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT-R) signed an agreement for "Developing a 140GHz Fully Integrated Transmitter & Receiver Module for 6G and Beyond".

The agreement is signed under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme of Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, which has been designed for providing funding support to domestic companies and institutions involved in technology design, development, commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.

53. Union Minister of Defence has recently unveiled a life-size statue of late General Bipin Rawat - the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) - at TonsBridge School in
- Maharashtra
  - Delhi
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Uttarakhand

Answer: D

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh unveiled a life-size statue of late General Bipin Rawat - the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) - at TonsBridge School, Dehradun in the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami on February 12, 2024. He paid floral tributes to General Rawat at the statue, terming him as a courageous soldier and a good human being, who will always be an inspiration to the future generations.

54. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Arlington) is in
- UK
  - France
  - USA
  - Spain

Answer: C

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a historic funerary monument dedicated to deceased U.S. service members whose remains have not been identified. It is located in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, United States.

55. The National Assessment Center, Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) was established in March \_\_\_\_\_ as an independent body under the Ministry of Education to fulfill the objectives suggested by the National Education Policy, 2020.
- 2021
  - 2023
  - 2022
  - 2020

Answer: B

The National Assessment Center, Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) was established in March 2023 as an independent body under the Ministry of Education to fulfil the objectives suggested by the National Education Policy, 2020.

56. BAPS Hindu Mandir was inaugurated in February 2024 in which of the following countries?
- India
  - UAE
  - Qatar
  - Saudi Arabia

Answer: B

The BAPS Hindu Mandir Abu Dhabi in the UAE, is a traditional Hindu mandir built by the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha. Inspired by Pramukh Swami Maharaj and consecrated by Mahant Swami Maharaj on 14 February 2024, this is the first Hindu traditional mandir to undergo complete digital modeling and seismic simulation.

57. International Energy Agency is headquartered in
- Paris
  - Geneva
  - New York
  - London

Answer: A

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation, established in 1974, that provides policy recommendations, analysis and data on the global energy sector.

58. Pulwama attack on CRPF personnel of India occurred in which year?
- 2016
  - 2017
  - 2018

d. 2019

Answer: D

The 2019 Pulwama attack occurred on 14 February 2019, when a convoy of vehicles carrying Indian security personnel on the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Lethapora in the Pulwama district of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The attack killed 40 Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel.

59. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been recently signed (in February 2024) between Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), technical arm of Department of Telecommunications (DOT), Ministry of Communications and \_\_\_\_\_, to drive innovation in the realm of Trustworthy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence Systems.
- VIT
  - Jadavpur University
  - University of Delhi
  - Amrita University

Answer: D

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today between Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), technical arm of Department of Telecommunications (DOT), Ministry of Communications and AMRITA UNIVERSITY, to drive innovation in the realm of Trustworthy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence Systems.

60. Who became the Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) in February 2024?
- Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey
  - Sanjay Kumar Jain
  - Arjun R
  - S K Sharma

Answer: B

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain, an Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) Officer of 1990 batch has taken over the charge of Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) today.

61. Barsingar power station is in
- Gujarat
  - Rajasthan
  - Chhattisgarh
  - Odisha

Answer: B

Barsingar power station project is a 250-megawatt (MW) lignite based power station operated by NLC India Limited, formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC), located at Barsingsar in Bikaner district, Rajasthan, India.

62. Which of the following is the base year of National Coal Index?

- a. 2014-15
- b. 2011-12
- c. 2016-17
- d. 2017-18

Answer: D

The National Coal Index (Provisional) has shown a significant decline of 4.75 % in December 2023 at 155.44 points compared to December 2022, where it was at 163.19 points. This notable decrease indicates sufficient availability of coal in market to meet the growing demands.

The National Coal Index (NCI) is a price index that combines coal prices from all sales channels, viz. Notified Prices, Auction Prices, and Import Prices. It considers prices of coking and non-coking coal of various grades transacted in the regulated (power and fertilizer) and non-regulated sectors.

Established with the base year as FY 2017-18, NCI serves as a reliable indicator of market dynamics, providing valuable insights of price fluctuations.

63. Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited is a Miniratna Category–I, Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), under the administrative control of

- a. Department of revenue
- b. Department of Economic Affairs
- c. Department of Financial Services
- d. Reserve Bank of India

Answer: B

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited is a Miniratna Category–I, Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), under the administrative control of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

64. 45th edition of the Chess Olympiad will be held in

- a. India
- b. China
- c. Hungary
- d. Romania

Answer: C

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur handed over the Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest, **Hungary**, the official host of the 45th edition of the Chess Olympiad today in New Delhi.

The handoff ceremony took place at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, where the minister, along with Indian Grand Master Vishwanathan Anand played also a friendly game of Chess against FIDE President, Arkady Dvorkovich and Hungarian Grand Master Judit Polgár before handing over the Olympiad torch to the FIDE President and Budapest.

The 44th edition of the Chess Olympiad was held in Chennai in the year 2022. More than 2500 players and 7000 had taken part in the global event at that time. The next edition of the FIDE Chess Olympiad will now take place in Budapest, Hungary this year with the official announcement for the same being made earlier this year.

65. Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan is an initiative of
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
  - Ministry of Education
  - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
  - Ministry of Minority Affairs

Answer: A

A special initiative under the NMBA is association of religious/spiritual organizations for carrying out various activities under NMBA and to spread the message of NMBA under their banner. A vehicle dedicated to NMBA is proposed to be launched today i.e. 14th February, 2024 at 4:00 pm in DAIC in presence of **Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment** to be used for NMBA awareness activities in Delhi-NCR.

Earlier, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (SJE) had signed a MoU with the Brahma Kumaris, Mount Abu on 4th March, 2023 for spreading the message of “**Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)**” among the youth, women, students, etc. Brahma Kumaris have done several programmes under NMBA as per signed MoU to spread awareness amongst people including youth, women.

Further, the Ministry has initiated ambitious Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) currently operational across the country with an aim to create awareness about ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with special focus on higher education institutes, university campuses, schools and reaching out into the community and garnering community involvement and ownership of the Abhiyaan.

66. With respect to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, which of the following statements is incorrect?
- PMNRF has been constituted by the Parliament
  - The fund is recognized as a Trust under the Income Tax Act
  - PMNRF is exempt under Income Tax Act
  - Prime Minister is the Chairman of PMNRF

Answer: A

In pursuance of an appeal by the then Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in January, 1948, the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was established with public contributions to assist displaced persons from Pakistan. The resources of the PMNRF are now utilized primarily to render immediate relief to families of those killed in natural calamities like floods, cyclones and earthquakes, etc. and to the victims of the major accidents and riots. Assistance from PMNRF is also rendered, to partially defray the expenses for medical treatment like heart surgeries, kidney transplantation, cancer treatment and acid attack etc. The fund consists entirely of public contributions and does not get any budgetary support. The corpus of the fund is invested in various

forms with scheduled commercial banks and other agencies. Disbursements are made with the approval of the Prime Minister. **PMNRF has not been constituted by the Parliament.** The fund is recognized as a Trust under the Income Tax Act and the same is managed by Prime Minister or multiple delegates for national causes. PMNRF operates from the Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi-110011 and does not pay any license fee. PMNRF is exempt under Income Tax Act, 1961 under Section 10 and 139 for return purposes. Contributions towards PMNRF are notified for 100% deduction from taxable income under section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Prime Minister is the Chairman of PMNRF and is assisted by Officers/ Staff on honorary basis.

67. In a landmark decision aimed at bolstering the agricultural sector and ensuring the welfare of farmers nationwide, the Government of India has announced an increase in the authorized capital of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) from Rs 10,000 Crore to Rs \_\_\_\_\_ Crore in February 2024.
- 15,000
  - 31,000
  - 26,000
  - 21,000

Answer: D

In a landmark decision aimed at bolstering the agricultural sector and ensuring the welfare of farmers nationwide, the Government of India (GoI) has announced an increase in the authorized capital of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) from Rs 10,000 Crore to Rs 21,000 Crore. This strategic move shows the government's steadfast commitment to supporting farmers and fortifying India's agrarian economy.

68. Indian Air Force has recently conducted 'Exercise - Vayu Shakti-24' in which of the following States?
- Gujarat
  - Rajasthan
  - Maharashtra
  - Karnataka

Answer: B

IAF Conducts 'Exercise - Vayu Shakti-24' In Rajasthan

Pokhran range near Jaisalmer reverberated with thunderous explosions and applause, on 17 February 2024, as the Indian Air Force showcased its offensive capabilities through an enthralling and formidable display of its firepower. Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

69. Satellite INSAT-3DS on launch vehicle GSLV-F14, fully funded by the \_\_\_\_\_, was successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh in February 2024.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences
  - Ministry of Science and Technology
  - Department of Space



d. Department of Telecommunications

Answer: A

Satellite INSAT-3DS on launch vehicle GSLV-F14, fully funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), was successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, today at 1730 hrs.

INSAT-3DS will augment the country's meteorological (weather, climate, and ocean related) services with the presently operational INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR in-orbit satellites. The newly launched INSAT-3DS satellite aims to enhance the monitoring of Earth's surface, atmosphere, oceans, and environment, elevate capabilities in data collection and dissemination and satellite-aided search and rescue services. The initiative will boost India's weather, climate, and ocean-related observations and services, expanding knowledge and better disaster mitigation and preparedness in the future.

70. Who is the incumbent Chairperson of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs?

- a. Surjit Bhujabal
- b. Mohan Kumar Singh
- c. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal
- d. Aruna Narayan Gupta

Answer: C

The Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), Central Excise and Customs, Bhopal Zone, organised an All Chief Commissioners' Conference on Customs matters at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 15-16 February, 2024. Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), presided over Chief Commissioners Conference.

71. Where is Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island located?

- a. Off the coast of Goa
- b. Off the coast of Gujarat
- c. Part of Lakshadweep
- d. Part of Andaman Islands

Answer: D

Ross Island, officially known as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island, is an island of the Andaman Islands. It belongs to the South Andaman administrative district, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The island is situated 3 km (2 mi) east from central Port Blair. The historic ruins are a tourist attraction.

72. India has defeated \_\_\_\_\_ to win its first ever Badminton Asia Team Championships in February 2024.

- a. Thailand
- b. Malaysia
- c. China
- d. Hong Kong

Answer: A

India have beaten favourites Thailand to win a first ever Badminton Asia Team Championships after a thrilling final that went down to the wire, the Indian women clinching it 3-2 at the end. The star of the show was Anmol Kharb, world rank 472 and aged just 17, who once again came up clutch in the most high pressure situation, this time beating world no. 45 Pornpicha Choeikeewong comfortably (21-14, 21-9) to win the decider.

73. Prabowo Subianto has been elected as the President of which of the following countries in February 2024?

- a. South Africa
- b. Brazil
- c. Indonesia
- d. Namibia

Answer: C

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today congratulated the people of Indonesia on the successful Presidential elections and the newly-elected President Prabowo Subianto.

74. Acharya Shri Vidyasagarji Maharaj, who recently passed away, was associated with

- a. Buddhism
- b. Jainism
- c. Hinduism
- d. Sikhism

Answer: B

Acharya Shri Vidyasagarji Maharaj was an Indian Digambara Jain Acharya (Digambar Jain Monk). He was recognized both for his scholarship and tapasya (austerity). He was known for his long hours in meditation. While he was born in Karnataka and took diksha (undertook spiritual discipline) in Rajasthan, he generally spent much of his time in the Bundelkhand region where he is credited with having brought about a revival in educational and religious activities. He wrote haiku poems and the epic Hindi poem "Mukamati".

75. Who is the incumbent Chairman of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority?

- a. Achal Kumar Jyoti
- b. Om Prakash Rawat
- c. Abhishek Dev
- d. Sushil Chandra

Answer:

C

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry facilitated the export of bananas from India to Russia via Sea by M/s. Gurukrupa Corporation Pvt. Ltd. a Mumbai-based exporter of fruits and vegetables regularly exporting fresh fruits and vegetables to the EU and the Middle East.

A consignment of 20 MT (1540 boxes) of bananas was flagged off on 17th February 2024 from Maharashtra by Chairman, APEDA, Shri **Abhishek Dev** in a collaborative effort with the Central Institute of Sub-tropical Horticulture (CISH). APEDA highlighted the development of sea protocol employed for this shipment by CISH for maintaining the quality of fruit in transit.

76. The Neem Summit & Global Neem Trade fair was being organized by collaboration with ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi in \_\_\_\_\_ on 19-20 February 2024
- Lucknow
  - New Delhi
  - Jaipur
  - Patna

Answer: B

The Neem Summit & Global Neem Trade fair is being organized by collaboration with ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi in New Delhi on 19-20 February 2024. The event began with the opening of a Trade Fair by Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR Dr Himanshu Pathak. 22 companies participated in the trade fair from India and abroad who showcased their products. Following this, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR Dr. Himanshu Pathak inaugurated the Neem Summit along with Guests of Honour - Dr. P.K. Singh, Agricultural Production Commissioner, and Justice Honorable K.T. Tated, Chairman, Human Rights Commission, Government of Maharashtra.

77. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been recently signed between the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of the Ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ and DBS Bank, a prominent financial institution with a strong presence in Asia and Southeast Asia in New Delhi.
- Finance
  - Corporate affairs
  - Commerce and industry
  - External Affairs

Answer: B

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and DBS Bank, a prominent financial institution with a strong presence in Asia and Southeast Asia in New Delhi, today.

78. The Central Pollution Control Board was established under which of the following Acts?
- Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974
  - Environment Protection Act, 1986
  - Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
  - None

Answer: A

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Mo.E.F.C.C.). It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974. The CPCB is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

79. INYAS is the only recognised academy of young scientists in India which was established in \_\_\_\_\_ with a vision to promote science education and networking among young scientists.
- 2011
  - 2014
  - 2016
  - 2019

Answer: B

Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS) has organised its ninth Annual general Body Meeting on February 17th. Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) joined this program as the Guest of Honour. On the occasion, Prof. Aggarwal delivered an insightful talk and discussed the key objectives and activities of CSIR-NIScPR. She spoke how the science communication is important to inculcate scientific temperament in society. She also release the annual newsletter of INYAS.

INYAS is the only recognised academy of young scientists in India which was established in 2014 with a vision to promote Science education and networking among Young Scientists. After successfully completing an incubation period of five years, INYAS entered a new phase, since 2020.

80. Pandu Port is situated on the bank of which of the following rivers?
- Tungabhadra
  - Ganges
  - Indus
  - Brahmaputra

Answer: D

Pandu Port is a river port in the Indian state of Assam, serving Guwahati. This port has been developed on the bank of the Brahmaputra river. The port is the most important and the largest river port in Assam state

81. In which year was the Indira Gandhi National Open University established?
- 1975
  - 1985
  - 1995
  - 1955

Answer:

B

Indira Gandhi National Open University, known as IGNOU, is a public research university located at

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi, India. Named after the former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi, the university was established in 1985 with a budget of ₹20 million, after the Parliament of India passed the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985 (IGNOU Act 1985).

IGNOU is run by the central government of India, and with a total active enrollment of over 4 million students, it is the largest university in the world.

82. Arunachal Pradesh attained full statehood on February \_\_\_\_\_, 1987, with the Fifty-Third Amendment of the Indian Constitution, 1986, becoming the 25th state of the Indian Union.
- 19
  - 29
  - 17
  - 20

Answer:

D

Arunachal Pradesh attained full statehood on February 20, 1987, with the Fifty-Third Amendment of the Indian Constitution, 1986, becoming the 25th state of the Indian Union. Since then, February 20 has been celebrated as Statehood Day of the Himalayan state. This year is the 38th Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh.

83. Mission 'Aspides' has been recently launched by
- India
  - USA
  - EU
  - NATO

Answer: C

#### **EU launches mission Aspides to protect Red Sea vessels from Houthi attacks**

Mission 'Aspides' - Greek for shield - will aim to preserve freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, a region plagued with instability since October when Houthi rebels began targeting vessels navigating the waterway with a barrage of drone and rocket attacks.

84. What is a quasar, recently seen in the news?
- Black hole
  - Spherical bodies attached to the Sun
  - Moon of the Jupiter
  - None

Answer: D

Astronomers have identified what could be the brightest, most luminous object in the universe — a quasar that emits light 500 trillion times more intense than that of our sun.

Quasars are dazzling whirlpools of fast-moving, ultra-hot gas produced by giant black holes — and this particular quasar is driven by the fastest-growing black hole known to humans, one that is devouring the equivalent of one sun per day, according to the European Southern Observatory.

85. Which of the following States has declared Kaji Nemu as State fruit?

- a. Assam
- b. Meghalaya
- c. Odisha
- d. Sikkim

Answer: A

'Kaji Nemu' (Citrus limon) is a tangy fruit native to the Assam state of India. This lemon type is oval and has thin, smooth skin that is usually light green. This lemon variety has now been declared as the state fruit of Assam. Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, shared the news on his official X handle (formerly Twitter). "Our Government has decided to declare Kaji Nemu (Citrus Limon) as the State Fruit of Assam. With its unique aroma and antioxidant properties, Assam lemon has enriched our local cuisines. With today's announcement, it is set to shine on the global fruit map, boosting self-dependency and production," he wrote.

86. Kyriakos Mitsotakis recently visited India. He is the Prime Minister of

- a. Italy
- b. Greece
- c. Spain
- d. Poland

Answer:

B

Kyriakos Mitsotakis is a Greek politician who has been Prime Minister of Greece since June 2023 and before from July 2019 to May 2023

87. Ameen Sayani, who recently passed away, was associated with

- a. Radio
- b. TV
- c. Instrumental music
- d. Rock climbing

Answer:

A

Ameen Sayani was an Indian radio announcer. He achieved fame and popularity across the Indian Subcontinent when he presented his Binaca Geetmala program of hits over the airwaves of Radio Ceylon.

He was one of the most imitated announcers. His style of addressing the audience with "Behno aur Bhaiyo " (meaning "sisters and brothers") as against the traditional "Bhaiyo aur Behno" is still treated as an announcement with a melodious touch.

88. 'Before Memory Fades' is the autobiography of

- a. Soli Sorabjee

- b. Fali Sam Nariman
- c. Shanti Bhushan
- d. Ram Jethmalani

Answer: B

Fali Sam Nariman was an Indian jurist. He was a senior advocate to the Supreme Court of India from 1971 and was the President of the Bar Association of India from 1991 to 2010.

He was honoured with the 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2018. He was one of India's most distinguished constitutional lawyers and argued several leading cases. He was the Additional Solicitor General of India from May 1972 to June 1975.

Nariman's autobiography is called "Before Memory Fades".

89. Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is a festival to honour the Hindu Tribal goddesses, celebrated in the state of \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Madhya Pradesh
  - b. Chhattisgarh
  - c. Jharkhand
  - d. Telangana

Answer:

D

Sammakka Saralamma Jatara (also Sammakka Sarakka Jatara and Medaram Jatara) is a festival to honour the Hindu Tribal goddesses, celebrated in the state of Telangana, India. This Jatara is known for witnessing one of the largest people gatherings in the world. People offer Bellam (jaggery)(Locally called as Bangaram)

The Jatara begins at Medaram in Tadvai Mandala in Mulugu district. The rituals related to the Goddesses are entirely conducted by the **Koya** Tribe priests, in accordance with Koya customs and traditions.

90. The Indian Space Policy \_\_\_\_\_ was notified as an overarching, composite and dynamic framework to implement the vision for unlocking India's potential in Space sector through enhanced private participation. The said policy aims to augment space capabilities; develop a flourishing commercial presence in space; use space as a driver of technology development and derived benefits in allied areas; pursue international relations and create an ecosystem for effective implementation of space applications among all stakeholders.
- a. 2020
  - b. 2022
  - c. 2023
  - d. 2024

Answer: C

The Indian Space Policy 2023 was notified as an overarching, composite and dynamic framework to implement the vision for unlocking India's potential in Space sector through enhanced private participation. The said policy aims to augment space capabilities; develop a flourishing commercial

presence in space; use space as a driver of technology development and derived benefits in allied areas; pursue international relations and create an ecosystem for effective implementation of space applications among all stakeholders.

91. The year 2024 marks the \_\_\_\_\_ birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas.

- a. 625<sup>th</sup>
- b. 647<sup>th</sup>
- c. 658<sup>th</sup>
- d. 654<sup>th</sup>

Answer:

B

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today addressed the 647th Birth Anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas in Varanasi. At the Sant Guru Ravidas Janmasthan temple at Seer Govardhanpur near BHU, the Prime Minister inaugurated the newly installed statue of Sant Ravidas in adjoining Ravidas Park. He also inaugurated various development works around Sant Ravidas Janmasthan worth about Rs 32 crores and laid the foundation stone for the Sant Ravidas Museum and beautification of the park worth about Rs 62 crore.

92. Manohar Gajanan Joshi, who recently passed away, was the former Chief Minister of

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Madhya Pradesh
- c. Odisha
- d. Bihar

Answer: A

Manohar Gajanan Joshi was an Indian politician from the state of Maharashtra, who served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra from 1995 to 1999, and Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 2002 to 2004

93. Raisina Dialogue comes under the purview of which of the following Ministries?

- a. Ministry of External Affairs
- b. Ministry of Defence
- c. Ministry of Home Affairs
- d. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: A

The Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference held annually in New Delhi, India. Since its inception in 2016, the conference has emerged as India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation, an independent think tank, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

94. \_\_\_\_\_ February is celebrated as UNESCO's International Mother Language Day since its announcement on 17 November 1999 to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.

- a. 20<sup>th</sup> February
- b. 21<sup>st</sup> February
- c. 22<sup>nd</sup> February



d. 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Answer: B

21st February is celebrated as UNESCO's International Mother Language Day since its announcement on 17 November 1999 to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.

95. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar is the incumbent Governor of

- a. Uttar Pradesh
- b. West Bengal
- c. Uttarakhand
- d. Bihar

Answer: D

The Holy Relics of Lord Buddha and His Two Disciples were Enshrined today for public veneration at the specially built Mandapam at Sanam Luang Pavilion in Bangkok with great reverence and amidst Holy Chanting. The **Governor of Bihar Shri Rajendra Vishwanath** Arlekar handed over the Holy Relics of Buddha to Thai Prime Minister (Chairman), Mr Srettha Thavisin, while those of Arahants Sariputra & Maha Maudgalayana were handed over by Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar to the Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Somsak Thepsutin and Thai Culture Minister for enshrining in the mandapa.

96. India's First Gati Shakti Research Chair has been recently established at IIM \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Shillong
- b. Lucknow
- c. Rohtak
- d. Indore

Answer: A

#### **India's First Gati Shakti Research Chair established at IIM Shillong**

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal attended the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the MoPSW and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) to set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair'.

The Chair will spearhead high-quality academic research on multimodal logistics with a North-East focus: building knowledge on multimodal logistics development strategies and practice in the North-Eastern region, facilitate knowledge and innovation for logistical capacity building in the region. The chair also aims to foster collaboration with global experts in creating and developing knowledge & expertise while strengthening the links between the multimodal logistics research and capacity-building activities with key stakeholders such as the logistics industry, government bodies, local authorities, and other partners and associations. The chair will also support the multimodal logistics research activities, capacity building and outputs to enable PM Gati Shakti Masterplan to power the East and North-East Region's logistical capacity.

97. MakhaBucha Day (Magha Puja) is a religious celebration associated with

- a. Hinduism
- b. Buddhism
- c. Jainism
- d. Confucianism

Answer: B

MakhaBucha Day (Magha Puja) is a religious celebration marking Lord Buddha's teachings to his disciples. MakhaBucha is celebrated according to the traditional lunar calendar, on the day of full moon of the third lunar month. The term makha comes from the word "Magha" in Pali and it refers to the third lunar month, while bucha can translate as "to worship," both of which are derived from the Pali language used in Buddhist scripture. Therefore, the term MakhaBucha refers to a day intended for worshipping on the third lunar month.

MakhaBucha, the first important religious festival in the Buddhist calendar, takes place in nations including Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, where the majority of Buddhists practice Theravada Buddhism, also known as "Buddhism of the south".

98. Ancient City of Ayutthaya is located in

- a. Nepal
- b. Myanmar
- c. Thailand
- d. Bhutan

Answer: C

Governor of Bihar Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar visited the Ancient City of Ayutthaya in **Thailand**, today, which is named after the birth city of Lord Ram in Ayodhya in India. The Governor is heading a 22-member Indian Delegation that took the holy relics of Lord Buddha for a 26 day exposition in Thailand.

99. The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), under the aegis of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has successfully commissioned India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which stores energy using solar energy. The 40 megawatts (MW) / 120MWh BESS with a solar photovoltaic (PV) plant which has an installed capacity of 152.325 megawatt hour (MWh) and dispatchable capacity of 100MW AC (155.02 MW peak DC) is located in Rajnandgaon,

\_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Uttar Pradesh
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Chhattisgarh
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C

The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), under the aegis of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has successfully commissioned India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which stores energy using solar energy. The 40 megawatts (MW) / 120MWh BESS with a solar photovoltaic (PV) plant which has an installed capacity of 152.325 megawatt hour (MWh) and

dispatchable capacity of 100MW AC (155.02 MW peak DC) is located in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. The energy would be purchased by the state of Chhattisgarh, thus contributing to meeting the peak energy demand of the state using green electrons and also towards its renewable purchase obligations. The project has been dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi via video conferencing today, February 24, 2024.

100. Dwarkadhish temple is dedicated to which of the following deities?

- a. Krishna
- b. Shiva
- c. Ganesh
- d. Hanuman

Answer:

A

The Dwarkadhish temple, also known as the Jagat Mandir and occasionally spelled Dwarakadheesh, is a Hindu temple dedicated to Krishna, who is worshiped here by the name Dwarkadhish (Dvārakādhisha), or 'King of Dwarka'.

The temple is located at Dwarka city of Gujarat, India, which is one of the destinations of Char Dham, a Hindu pilgrimage circuit. The main shrine of the five-storied building, supported by 72 pillars, is known as Jagat Mandir or Nija Mandir.

Archaeological findings suggest the original temple was built in 200 BCE at the earliest. The temple was rebuilt and enlarged in the 15th–16th century.

101. Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is between India and

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

Answer:

B

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force commenced today at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is an annual exercise and conducted alternatively in India and Japan. The contingent of both sides comprises of 40 personnel each. The Japanese contingent is being represented by troops from the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and Indian Army contingent is being represented by a Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles.

102. 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of WTO is being held in

- a. UAE
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. Japan
- d. Singapore

Answer:

A

13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

103. The Prime Minister has recently inaugurated Sudarshan Setu which connects Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island, built at a cost of around Rs. 980 crores. It is the longest Cable-stayed bridge in the country of around \_\_\_\_\_ Km.

- a. 4.27
- b. 3.85
- c. 2.32
- d. 5.33

Answer:

C

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today inaugurated Sudarshan Setu which connects Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island, built at a cost of around Rs. 980 crores. It is the longest Cable-stayed bridge in the country of around 2.32 Km.

104. Pankaj Udhas, who recently passed away, was associated with

- a. Music
- b. Drama
- c. Political commentary
- d. Aerospace

Answer:

A

Pankaj Udhas was an Indian ghazal and playback singer known for his works in Hindi cinema, and Indian pop.

105. Which of the following States launched Savera programme for early detection and prevention of breast cancer?

- a. Uttarakhand
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Assam
- d. Haryana

Answer: D

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday inaugurated the Savera programme — aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer — which was initiated by the Medanta Foundation in collaboration with the Health Department in Gurgaon.

Under the scheme, visually impaired people will conduct screening for breast cancer, said the CM, highlighting that “they have natural tactile sensitivity”. “The importance of this ability has been understood, tested, and used by people associated with the medical world. Visually impaired people can detect breast cancer up to half a centimeter, whereas a normal doctor can detect it up to one centimeter, after examination,” he said.

106. Which of the following countries has recently inaugurated the world’s third-largest and Africa’s largest mosque?

- a. Namibia
- b. Algeria
- c. Mozambique
- d. Gabon

Answer: B

Algeria has inaugurated the world's third-largest and Africa's largest mosque, which had been delayed for years amid political shifts, ahead of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Monday officially inaugurated the Grand Mosque of Algiers on the North African nation's Mediterranean coastline.

107. Prime Minister of India has virtually laid the foundation stone for Sikkim's first Indian Railways station in \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Gangtok
- b. Lachung
- c. Gurudongmar
- d. Rangpo

Answer:

D

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday virtually laid the foundation stone for Sikkim's first Indian Railways station in Rangpo.

108. Which of the following companies recently launched South Asia's largest ammunition & missiles complex in Kanpur?

- a. Tata Advanced Systems
- b. Adani Defence & Aerospace
- c. Hindustan Aeronautics
- d. Paras Defence And Space

Answer:

B

Adani Defence & Aerospace starts South Asia's largest ammunition & missiles complex in Kanpur

109. Who is the incumbent CEO of NITI Aayog?

- a. B V R Subrahmanyam
- b. Parameswaran Iyer
- c. Amitabh Kant
- d. Sindhushree Khullar

Answer: A

**B. V. R. Subrahmanyam**

In February 2023, he has taken charge as 4<sup>th</sup> (current) CEO of NITI Aayog.

110. Vijay Shekhar Sharma has recently resigned from his position as part-time non-executive chairman and board member of which of the following companies?

- a. PayPal India
- b. Paytm
- c. PhonePe
- d. Razorpay

Answer:

B

Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma has resigned from his position as part-time non-executive chairman and board member of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL), almost a month after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) initiated regulatory action against it.

111. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple is a historic Hindu temple located on the southern bank of the \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Vaigai River
- b. Thamirabarani River
- c. Noyyal River
- d. Gadilam River

Answer:

A

Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple a.k.a Arulmigu Meenakshi Amman Thirukkovil is a historic Hindu temple located on the southern bank of the Vaigai River in the temple city of Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India. It is dedicated to the goddess Meenakshi, a form of Shakti, and her consort, Sundareshwarar, a form of Shiva. The temple is at the centre of the ancient temple city of Madurai mentioned in the Tamil Sangam literature, with the goddess temple mentioned in 6th-century CE texts. This temple is one of the Paadal Petra Sthalams, which are 275 temples of Shiva that are revered in the verses of Tamil Saiva Nayanars of the 6th-9th century CE.

112. Agalega Island is part of

- a. Lakshadweep
- b. Mauritius
- c. French Reunion
- d. Madagascar

Answer: B

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Pravind Jugnauth, will jointly inaugurate the new Airstrip and St. James Jetty along with six community development projects at the **Agalega Island in Mauritius** on 29 February 2024 at 1 PM via video conferencing.

113. National Institute of Ayurveda is a research institute of Ayurvedic medicine, located in

- a. New Delhi
- b. Meerut
- c. Patna
- d. Jaipur

Answer: D

The National Institute of Ayurveda (abbreviated as NIA) is a research institute of Ayurvedic medicine, located in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

The National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur under the Ministry of Ayush of the Government of India and Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine of the Ministry of Public Health of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of an Academic Collaboration in Ayurveda and Thai Traditional Medicine in New Delhi,

India at 10th India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting held at Hyderabad House, New Delhi today. Shri B.K. Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, and Dr. Taweessin Visanuyothin, Director General, Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine Thailand signed the MoU in the presence of other dignitaries during the event.

114. SWAYAM Plus Platform is an initiative of the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_
- Education
  - Health and Family Welfare
  - External Affairs
  - Women and Child Development

Answer:

A

Union Minister of **Education** and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched the SWAYAM Plus Platform today in New Delhi. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education Shri K. Sanjay Murthy; Chairperson, UGC, Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar; Chairperson, NCVET, Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi; Chairperson, NASSCOM, Shri Rajesh Nambiar; Director, IIT Madras, Prof. V Kamakoti; Chairman, AICTE, Prof. T.G. Sitharam; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Shri Govind Jaiswal, other academicians and dignitaries were also present at the event. A video on SWAYAM PLUS was shown during the launch event. MoUs were exchanged with Swayam and industry partners including Apnatime Tech Pvt. Ltd., L&T EduTech, Tata Consultancy Services Limited, The Job Plus and People's Network, Wadhvani Foundation (Skill Development Network), Medvarsity Online Limited, Smartbridge Educational Services Pvt. Ltd, Anaadi Foundation, 360Digi TMG, and Balani Infotech Private Limited for launching industry courses on SWAYAM Plus.

115. Infrastructure Finance Secretariat comes under
- Department of Revenue
  - Department of Economic Affairs
  - Department of Expenditure
  - Department of Commerce

Answer: B

The Infrastructure Finance Secretariat (IFS) in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF), organised a two-day workshop in hybrid mode on 26th -27th February, 2024, in New Delhi.

116. Government of India has declared 'Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir' as an 'Unlawful Association' for a further period of \_\_\_\_\_ years under Section 3(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967 in February 2024.
- 2
  - 5
  - 10
  - 20

Answer:

B

Government of India has declared 'Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir' as an 'Unlawful Association' for

a further period of 5 years under Section 3(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah in his post on 'X' said that "Pursuing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and separatism the government has extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir for five years. The organisation is found continuing its activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The outfit was first declared an 'Unlawful Association' on 28 February 2019. Anyone threatening the security of the nation will face ruthless measures."

The last ban on the 'Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir' was imposed, vide Gazette Notification Number S.O. 1069(E), dated the 28th February, 2019. Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir is continuing to be involved in fomenting terrorism and anti-India propaganda for fueling secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir, which is prejudicial to the sovereignty, security and integrity of India. Many criminal cases have been registered against the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir and its members under various sections of law including the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

117. National Science Day is celebrated in India on February \_\_\_\_\_ each year to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman.
- a. 26
  - b. 27
  - c. 28
  - d. 29

Answer: C  
National Science Day is celebrated in India on February 28 each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman on 28 February 1928.

For his discovery, Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

118. Two of the country's top Maharatna CPSE entities Coal India Limited (CIL) and \_\_\_\_\_ formally signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) on 28th February 2024 in Delhi for setting up an ammonium nitrate plant through surface coal gasification (SCG) technology route.
- a. Steel Authority Of India
  - b. National Thermal Power Corporation Limited
  - c. GAIL India Limited
  - d. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

Answer: D  
Two of the country's top Maharatna CPSE entities Coal India Limited (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) formally signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) on 28th February 2024 in Delhi for setting up an ammonium nitrate plant through surface coal gasification (SCG) technology route.

119. Appellate Body - the appellate arm of the Dispute Settlement (DS) system of the WTO - had been non-functional since December 2019, due to the blocking of appointment of its Members by \_\_\_\_\_.



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

Answer: A

At the Working Session on Dispute Settlement (DS) Reforms, at the World Trade Organization's 13th Ministerial Conference on 28 February 2024, India emphatically called for the restoration of the Appellate Body as the top-most priority of any reform process, along for effective formalisation of the ongoing informal dispute settlement reform discussions among some Members at the WTO.

During the Working Session, WTO Members noted that the Appellate Body - the appellate arm of the DS system - had been non-functional since December 2019, due to the blocking of appointment of its Members by the **United States**. This had called into question the WTO's overall credibility and the rules-based trade-order it upholds.

India recalled the commitment of WTO Members of 12th Ministerial Conference to conduct discussions with the view to having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024.

120. The Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952. These honours not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievement, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution. The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ while the Akademi Award carries a purse money of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh), besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

- a. 2 lakh
- b. 3 lakh
- c. 5 lakh
- d. 10 lakh

Answer: B

The Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952. These honours not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievement, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution. The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of Rs.3, 00, 000/- (Rupees three lakhs) while the Akademi Award carries a purse money of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh), besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

121. Who was the first Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India?

- a. A P J Abdul Kalam
- b. Rajagopala Chidambaram
- c. K VijayRaghavan
- d. Ajay K Sood

Answer:

A

The Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) is the chief advisor to the government on matters related to scientific policy. It is currently a Cabinet Secretary level position created in 1999 by the Atal Bihari

Vajpayee government. The first appointed Principal Scientific Adviser was A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. This was followed by Rajagopala Chidambaram who held the rank of a Minister of State and was the PSA for 16 years. The current PSA is Ajay Kumar Sood.