

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MARCH 2024

1. Keonjhar is a tribal dominated district rich in natural beauty. It is home to Munda, Kolh, Bhuiyan, Juang, Saanti, Bathudi, Gond, Santhal, Orang and Kondh. Keonjhar belongs to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Odisha
  - b. Jharkhand
  - c. Madhya Pradesh
  - d. Chhattisgarh

Answer: A

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a national seminar on 'Tribes of Keonjhar: People, Culture and Heritage', organized by Dharanidhar University at Gambharia, Keonjhar (**Odisha**) today (February 29, 2024). She also inaugurated an exhibition of tribal costumes, jewelry and food items on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Keonjhar is a tribal dominated district rich in natural beauty. It is home to Munda, Kolh, Bhuiyan, Juang, Saanti, Bathudi, Gond, Santhal, Orang and Kondh. She expressed confidence that the researchers participating in the discussion will reach concrete conclusions by discussing various aspects of the preservation of tribal culture.

2. PM-JANMAN is aimed at which of the following sections?
  - a. Domestic labourers
  - b. Victims of human trafficking
  - c. Tribals
  - d. Manual scavengers

Answer:

C

PM-JANMAN vision is aimed to improve the socio-economic status of PVTGs by bridging gaps in health, education, livelihoods; by improving basic infrastructure in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) communities, habitations, and families aligning with existing schemes of Nine Ministries/Departments

3. India's leopard population is estimated at \_\_\_\_\_ as of February 2024.
  - a. 13,874
  - b. 17,593
  - c. 11,493

d. 22,834

Answer: A

India's leopard population is estimated at 13,874 presently, up from 12,852 figures in 2018.

Through a X post, commenting over report on Status of Leopards in India today, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav informed that Central India recorded the highest population with Madhya Pradesh having 3,907 leopards.

4. Morarji Ranchhodji Desai was an Indian independence activist and politician who served as the \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Minister of India.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 4<sup>th</sup>
  - 5<sup>th</sup>
  - 6<sup>th</sup>

Answer: B

Morarji Ranchhodji Desai was an Indian independence activist and politician who served as the 4<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of India between 1977 and 1979 leading the government formed by the Janata Party. During his long career in politics, he held many important posts in government such as Chief Minister of Bombay State, Home Minister, Finance Minister and 2nd Deputy Prime Minister of India.

5. The Union Cabinet has recently approved PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana with a total outlay of Rs.75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for \_\_\_\_\_ Crore households. The Prime Minister had launched the scheme on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.
- 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4

Answer:

A

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana with a total outlay of Rs.75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for **One** Crore households. The Prime Minister had launched the scheme on 13th February, 2024.

6. C V Ananda Bose is the incumbent Governor of
- Maharashtra

- b. Karnataka
- c. West Bengal
- d. Tripura

Answer: C

The Governor of West Bengal, Dr C V Ananda Bose called on the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today.

7. Political party leaders are being designated as "star campaigners" under Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, \_\_\_\_\_
- a. 1950
  - b. 1951
  - c. 1952
  - d. 1954

Answer: B

Political party leaders designated as "star campaigners" under Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, deliver speeches during significant political rallies. It is essential to interpret this within the framework of harmonious and purposive construction, as the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and statutory provisions of the Act complement each other. Therefore, while enjoying the privileges granted by Section 77, star campaigners also bear the responsibility of upholding the highest ethical standards during election campaigns.

8. Who is the incumbent Chief Election Commissioner of India?
- a. Rajiv Kumar
  - b. Sushil Chandra
  - c. Sunil Arora
  - d. Om Prakash Rawat

Answer: A

Rajiv Kumar incumbent CEC

9. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the \_\_\_\_\_ organized a National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement, on February 27, 2024, in New Delhi that brought together the logistics sector community to brainstorm and identify factors affecting logistics performance and areas of improvement.
- a. Asian Development Bank
  - b. AIIB
  - c. NDB

d. World Bank

Answer: D

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank Group organised a National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement, on February 27, 2024, in New Delhi that brought together the logistics sector community to brainstorm and identify factors affecting logistics performance and areas of improvement.

10. India has recently exported its first commercial trial shipment of Sangola pomegranates to the US via sea. Sangole is well known for pomegranate production, and is in
- Maharashtra
  - Karnataka
  - Gujarat
  - Madhya Pradesh

Answer: A

Sangole or (Sangola) is a city with a municipal council in Solapur district in the Indian state of **Maharashtra**. It is situated near Holy city Pandharpur

Traditionally, in many historic records this area was part of the Mandesh region. Its name is derived from the Maan River. Sangole is known for pomegranate production as well as jowar.

11. United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ March to celebrate wild animals and plants.
- 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4

Answer: C

United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 3 March to celebrate wild animals and plants.

The WWD2024 Theme is Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.

12. Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk originated in which of the following countries?
- Australia
  - USA
  - UK

d. Turkey

Answer: B

The Sikorsky SH-60/MH-60 Seahawk (or Sea Hawk) is a twin turboshaft engine, multi-mission **United States** Navy helicopter based on the United States Army UH-60 Black Hawk and a member of the Sikorsky S-70 family. The most significant modifications are the folding main rotor blades and a hinged tail to reduce its footprint aboard ships.

The Indian Navy will commission the newly inducted **MH 60R Seahawk (a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter)** multi-role helicopter on 06 Mar 2024 at INS Garuda, Kochi marking a pivotal moment in India's Defence modernisation journey. The Seahawks squadron will be commissioned in the Indian Navy as INAS 334. The **helicopters are a part of the 24-aircraft FMS contract signed with the US government in Feb 2020.**

13. The iDEX, launched by Prime Minister of India in \_\_\_\_\_, essentially provides a unified platform for various stakeholders in the defence and aerospace sectors. It acts like an umbrella organisation to oversee technology development and potential collaborations in this specific field.
- 2017
  - 2019
  - 2018
  - 2022

Answer: C

Taking a giant leap forward towards promoting indigenous innovation and facilitating partnerships to address the evolving security challenges, Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO), under the aegis of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, is organising DefConnect 2024 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi on March 04, 2024. The event will be inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.

The iDEX, launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018, essentially provides a unified platform for various stakeholders in the defence and aerospace sectors. It acts like an umbrella organisation to oversee technology development and potential collaborations in this specific field.

14. Okhla Bird Sanctuary is a bird sanctuary at the Okhla barrage over \_\_\_\_\_
- Yamuna river
  - Chambal river
  - Godavari river
  - Penna river

Answer: A

Okhla Bird Sanctuary is a bird sanctuary at the Okhla barrage over Yamuna River. It is situated in Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar district, on Delhi-Uttar Pradesh state border and known as a haven for over 300 bird species, especially waterbirds. In 1990, an area of 3.5 square kilometres (1.4 sq mi) on the river Yamuna was designated a bird sanctuary by the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

15. REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading Non-Banking Finance Company, has recently partnered with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED) to support the education of around 75,500 children of Siddharthnagar district, \_\_\_\_\_. REC has entered into this partnership through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm REC Foundation. REC has committed a financial assistance of Rs. 9.91 crores towards this noble cause.
- West Bengal
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Himachal Pradesh

Answer: B

REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading Non-Banking Finance Company, has partnered with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED) to support the education of around 75,500 children of Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh. REC has entered into this partnership through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm REC Foundation. REC has committed a financial assistance of Rs. 9.91 crores towards this noble cause.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between REC Foundation and UNISED has been signed during a ceremony held in New Delhi. The agreement was finalized by Head of CSR at REC Foundation, Mr. Bhupesh Chandolia and Assistant Programme Director at UNISED, Ms. Rashmi Kumari, thus helping solidify UNISED's commitment to improving educational opportunities for underprivileged children.

16. Which of the following is India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor?
- Tarapur
  - Kakrapar
  - Kudankulam
  - Kalpakkam

Answer: D

In a historic milestone marking entry into the vital second stage of India's three stage nuclear program, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi witnessed today, commencement of "Core Loading" at India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe) at **Kalpakkam**, Tamil Nadu.

India has developed comprehensive capabilities spanning the entire spectrum of the nuclear fuel cycle. Government had approved in 2003, the creation of Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI) to construct and operate India's most advanced nuclear reactor-Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR).

In line with the true spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, PFBR has been fully designed and constructed indigenously by BHAVINI with significant contribution from more than 200 Indian industries including MSMEs. Once commissioned, India will only be the second country after Russia to have commercial operating Fast Breeder Reactor.

The Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) will initially use the Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel. The Uranium-238 "blanket" surrounding the fuel core will undergo nuclear transmutation to produce more fuel, thus earning the name 'Breeder'. The use of Thorium-232, which in itself is not a fissile material, as a blanket is also envisaged in this stage. By transmutation, Thorium will create fissile Uranium-233 which will be used as fuel in the third stage. FBR is thus a stepping stone for the third stage of the program paving the way for the eventual full utilization of India's abundant thorium reserves.

17. Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) is a recent initiative of
- Ministry of Communications
  - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
  - Ministry of Home Affairs
  - NITI Aayog

Answer: A

Minister of **Communications**, Railway, and Electronics & Information Technology Mr. Ashwini Vaishnaw in the presence of Minister of State for Communications, Mr. Devusinh Chauhan launched the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s 'Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)** for coordination among the stakeholders to curb misuse of telecom resources in cyber-crime and financial frauds, and 'Chakshu (चक्षु)' facility on Sanchar Saathi portal (<https://sancharsaathi.gov.in>), a pioneering initiative empowering citizens to proactively report suspected fraud communication.

18. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences is a medical institution located in
- New Delhi

- b. Bangalore
- c. Mysuru
- d. Mangaluru

Answer: B

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences is a medical institution in Bangalore, India. NIMHANS is the apex centre for mental health and neuroscience education in the country. It is an Institute of National Importance operating autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. NIMHANS is ranked 4th best medical institute in India, in the current National Institutional Ranking Framework.

19. E-Verification Scheme-2021 is an initiative of which of the following ministries?
- a. Ministry of MSME
  - b. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
  - c. Ministry of Finance
  - d. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: C

The **Income Tax Department (Ministry of Finance)** introduced the 'E-verification Scheme 2021' as a solution for taxpayers who faced mismatch issues on the IT portal by responding to it through the e-verification portal. The scheme was introduced on December 13, 2021, and the pilot program was launched in September 2022. It was implemented in February 2024.

The Income Tax Department has identified a mismatch between third-party details in interest and dividend income and income tax returns filed by the taxpayers. In many cases, taxpayers have not even filed the income tax returns.

20. The Government of India introduced the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) \_\_\_\_\_ to realize the goal of Green Mobility. This plan sets out the goals and time frame for the nation to manufacture and adopt Electric Vehicles.
- a. 2022
  - b. 2021
  - c. 2023
  - d. 2020

Answer: D



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government introduced the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) **2020** to realize the goal of Green Mobility. This plan sets out the goals and time frame for the nation to manufacture and adopt Electric Vehicles.

With the vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and to make India as a self-reliant nation, MHI, under the leadership of Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister of Heavy Industries had launched the PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry in 2021 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 25,938 crore. This revolutionary Scheme aims to boost local production of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.

21. Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Temple is located in the State of
- Maharashtra
  - Karnataka
  - Telangana
  - Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C

Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Temple is a temple in the Secunderabad area in Telangana, India, is 191 years old. Devotees offer prayers to the goddess every day. In particular, Lakhs of devotees offer prayers during Ashada Jathara, which usually falls on Sunday and Monday. It is also popular during the festival of Bonalu.

22. Who became the Prime Minister of Pakistan in March 2024?
- Imran Khan
  - Shehbaz Sharif
  - Shahid Khaqan Abbasi
  - Nawaz Sharif

Answer: B

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on being sworn in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

23. India's first underwater metro line was recently launched in
- Mumbai
  - Kolkata
  - Vishakhapatnam
  - Surat

Answer: B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday unveiled India's first underwater metro line in Kolkata from the Esplanade- Howrah Maidan under the East-West Metro. He experienced India's first underwater metro ride, accompanied by school students, and spoke to the employees who were engaged in construction of the underwater metro from Esplanade to Howrah leg of the East-West Metro.

24. Which of the following States has recently introduced its first generative AI teacher, Iris, developed in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited?
- Tamil Nadu
  - Karnataka
  - Kerala
  - Goa

Answer: C

Kerala, known for its strides in education, has taken another innovative step by introducing its first generative AI teacher, Iris. Developed in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited, Iris marks a significant advancement in the integration of artificial intelligence in education.

Unveiled at KTCT Higher Secondary School in Thiruvananthapuram, Iris is a humanoid designed to enhance the learning experience for students.

25. India's first-ever dolphin research centre was launched in
- Uttar Pradesh
  - Bihar
  - West Bengal
  - None

Answer: B

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated India's first-ever dolphin research centre in Patna. Built at a cost of Rs 30 crore, the National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC) stands on the banks of the Ganges inside the Patna University campus and will help students and researchers understand the behaviour of freshwater dolphins, particularly of those found in the Ganges.

26. Who is the incumbent Administrator of Lakshadweep?
- Praful K Patel
  - V Srinivas
  - Arjun Mohan

d. R Hari Kumar

Answer: A

INS Jatayu was commissioned at Minicoy island, Lakshadweep in presence of Adm R Hari Kumar, the Chief of Naval Staff, Hon'ble Administrator of Lakshadweep, Shri **Praful K Patel**, V Adm V Srinivas, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command on 06 Mar 24. This milestone event strengthens Indian Navy's foothold in the Lakshadweep island while extending capacity building, operational reach and sustenance in the region. The establishment of Naval Base at Minicoy will augment connectivity with the main land focusing towards comprehensive development of the islands. INS Jatayu will be functioning under the operational control of Naval Officer in Charge (Lakshadweep), Southern Naval Command.

27. Parivesh portal comes under the Ministry of

- a. Home Affairs
- b. Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- c. Housing and Urban Affairs
- d. Rural Development

Answer: B

The Parivesh portal: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

28. Indian Institute of Petroleum is located in

- a. Uttarakhand
- b. Himachal Pradesh
- c. Haryana
- d. Punjab

Answer: A

The Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), established in 1960, is one of the 37 constituent laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), dedicated to R&D in the hydrocarbon sector.

Spread over a campus of 250-acre, it is situated in Dehradun, the capital of **Uttarakhand** state, on National Highway 72 (NH 72). Established through an act of parliament in the year 1959, it started in New Delhi in 1960 and finally in Dehradun since 1963. It sought organisational help from Institut français du pétrole (IFP), France, a petroleum research organisation, under UNESCO programme during 1960 to 1964.

29. Who is the incumbent Chief Minister of Jharkhand?

- a. Hemant Soren

- b. Raghubar Das
- c. Arjun Munda
- d. Champai Soren

Answer: D

Champai Soren is an Indian politician currently serving as the 7th and current Chief Minister of Jharkhand since 2 February 2024 after the arrest of former Chief Minister Hemant Soren by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on charges of money laundering.

He is a member of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and represents **Seraikella** assembly constituency as MLA since 2005

30. Which of the following States has recently launched 'Vidhwa Punarvivah Protsahan Yojana' (widow remarriage incentive scheme) under which, women who chose to get married again after the death of their husbands, will be given an incentive of Rs 2 lakh by the government?
- a. Jharkhand
  - b. Chhattisgarh
  - c. Uttar Pradesh
  - d. Bihar

Answer: A

In a first of its kind initiative in the country, **Jharkhand** Chief Minister on Wednesday launched 'Vidhwa Punarvivah Protsahan Yojana' (widow remarriage incentive scheme) under which, women who chose to get married again after the death of their husbands, will be given an incentive of Rs 2 lakh by the government.

31. International Women's Day is celebrated on March
- a. 6
  - b. 7
  - c. 8
  - d. 9

Answer: C

International Women's Day is a holiday celebrated annually on March 8 as a focal point in the women's rights movement

The theme for International Women's Day in 2024 is "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress". The United Nations has designated this theme to highlight the importance of gender equality and decent work

32. The Union Cabinet has recently approved Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years from the date of notification at a total cost of Rs.10,037 crore.
- a. 5
  - b. 6
  - c. 7
  - d. 10

Answer: D

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade for Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024) for a period of 10 years from the date of notification along with 8 years for committed liabilities at a total cost of Rs.10,037 crore.

33. Sweden has recently become the \_\_\_\_\_ member of NATO
- a. 30<sup>th</sup>
  - b. 31<sup>st</sup>
  - c. 32<sup>nd</sup>
  - d. 33<sup>rd</sup>

Answer: C

Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of Nato after it completed its accession process in Washington.

34. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Mumbai for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz. the Indian Rupee (INR) and \_\_\_\_\_ for cross-border transactions
- a. Ringgit
  - b. Rupiah
  - c. Dong
  - d. Peso

Answer: B

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Mumbai on Thursday for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz. the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian **Rupiah** (IDR) for cross-border transactions. The MoU was signed by the Governor of Reserve Bank of India Mr. Shaktikanta Das and the Governor of Bank Indonesia Mr. Perry Warjiyo. This collaboration marks a key milestone in strengthening bilateral cooperation between RBI and BI.

35. Nikki Haley, was frequently referred to in the news, in connection with Presidential elections of which of the following countries?
- USA
  - UK
  - France
  - Russia

Answer: A

Indian-American candidate Nikki Haley on Wednesday suspended her Republican presidential campaign (**USA**) after losing to Donald Trump in Super Tuesday elections.

36. U R Rao Satellite Centre is an ISRO centre for the design, development, and construction of Indian satellites. It is located in
- Hyderabad
  - Ahmedabad
  - Bengaluru
  - Thiruvananthapuram

Answer: C

The U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) is an ISRO centre for the design, development, and construction of Indian satellites. It was established in 1972 as Indian Scientific Satellite Project (ISSP) in Peenya Industrial Estates of **Bangalore**.

37. Sudha Murty has been recently nominated as the member of
- Vidhan Sabha
  - Lok Sabha
  - National Commission for Women
  - Rajya Sabha

Answer: D

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed happiness on Rajya Sabha nomination of Smt Sudha Murty.

38. Arjun Munda handles which of the following portfolios in the current Union Cabinet?
- Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
  - Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
  - Social Justice and Empowerment
  - None

Answer: A

Arjun Munda is an Indian politician. He is the current Minister of Tribal Affairs and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in the Second Modi ministry.

He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He was also Chief Minister of the Indian state of Jharkhand. He has also served as a member of parliament, having been elected to the 15th Lok Sabha from the **Jamshedpur** constituency in the 2009 parliamentary elections.

39. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is a prime security and Law Enforcement Agency in the field of Railway Security in India. Established in \_\_\_\_\_ for better protection and security of Railway property, the Force has evolved to include roles in passenger security and facilitation.
- 1951
  - 1957
  - 1955
  - 1965

Answer: B

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is a prime security and Law Enforcement Agency in the field of Railway Security in India. Established in 1957 for better protection and security of Railway property, the Force has evolved to include roles in passenger security and facilitation.

40. Kaziranga National Park is in
- Sikkim
  - Assam
  - Arunachal Pradesh
  - Meghalaya

Answer: B

Kaziranga National Park is a national park in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam. The park, which hosts two-thirds of the world's Indian **rhinoceroses**, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

41. Which of the following countries is not member of the European Free Trade Association?
- Iceland

- b. Liechtenstein
- c. Norway
- d. Finland

Answer: D

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is a regional trade organization and free trade area consisting of four European states: **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.**

The organization operates in parallel with the European Union (EU), and all four member states participate in the European Single Market and are part of the **Schengen Area**. They are not, however, party to the European Union Customs Union.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today hailed **signing of India-EFTA Trade & Economic Partnership Agreement.**

42. Which of the following is the motto of Central Industrial Security Force?
- a. Service Security Peace
  - b. To Protect and to Serve
  - c. Protection and Security
  - d. Truth Alone Triumphs

Answer: C

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is a federal police organisation in India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is one among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). CISF provides security to over 356 industrial units (including 13 Private Sector Units), government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located all over India. These include atomic power plants, space installations, mines, oil fields and refineries, major ports, heavy engineering, steel plants, barrages, fertiliser units, airports and hydroelectric/thermal power plants owned and controlled by Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and currency note presses.

Protection and Security (motto)

43. INS Tir, the lead ship of First Training Squadron (1TS) participated in Exercise Cutlass Express - 24 (CE – 24) held at Port Victoria, \_\_\_\_\_ from 26 February – 08 March 2024.
- a. Seychelles
  - b. Mauritius
  - c. Madagascar
  - d. Sri Lanka



Answer: A

INS Tir, the lead ship of First Training Squadron (1TS) participated in Exercise Cutlass Express - 24 (CE – 24) held at Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 Feb – 08 Mar 24. The exercise was inaugurated by the President of Seychelles in attendance of dignitaries from India, USA and African countries. As part of Cutlass Express, the Indian Navy actively engaged with participants from 16 friendly foreign countries. Training was conducted on theoretical and practical aspects of Maritime Interdiction Operations, Visit Board Search and Seizure procedures and Diving operations. During the sea phase, the ship's VBSS team boarded Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG) ship LE Vigilant and demonstrated procedures of boarding operations. Indian divers along with US and Seychelles divers undertook joint diving operations post rigorous training week. The ship hosted R Adm Calvin M Foster, Deputy Commander of US Navy 6th Fleet who shared his views on the importance of maritime cooperation and shared commitment in the region, appreciating the crucial role played by the Indian Navy. The exercise culminated at a closing ceremony held at Seychelles Defence Academy, Ile Perseverance on 08 Mar 24. The Indian Navy has been participating in the exercise since 2019.

44. The comprehensive maritime security exercise 'Sea Defenders-2024' between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) & \_\_\_\_\_ Coast Guard culminated at Port Blair on March 9, 2024. The exercise was aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation and interoperability between the two forces.
- Australian
  - Icelandic
  - United States
  - Indonesian

Answer: C

The comprehensive maritime security exercise 'Sea Defenders-2024' between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) & United States Coast Guard (USCG) culminated at Port Blair on March 9, 2024. The exercise was aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation and interoperability between the two forces.

45. Poshan Pakhwada 2024 is being organized under the Ministry of
- Health and Family Welfare
  - Women and Child Development
  - Social Justice
  - Rural Development

Answer: B

Poshan Pakhwada 2024 under Ministry of Women and Child Development

46. Mission Divyastra, has been recently seen in the news, in connection with
- Under water research vessel
  - UAV
  - Agni missile
  - Gaganyaan

Answer: C

The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar extended his congratulations on the success of Mission Divyastra, the first flight test of the indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV).

47. Ramadan is the \_\_\_\_\_ month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm), prayer (salah), reflection, and community.
- 8<sup>th</sup>
  - 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 9<sup>th</sup>
  - 12<sup>th</sup>

Answer: C

Ramadan is the **ninth** month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm), prayer (salah), reflection, and community. A commemoration of Muhammad's first revelation, the annual observance of Ramadan is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts twenty-nine to thirty days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next.

48. What does P stand for in the SVEEP programme of the Election Commission of India?
- Personnel
  - Participation
  - Platform
  - Penetration

Answer: B

In the run up to the forthcoming General Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, the Election Commission of India today organised a briefing for Observers to be deployed in the States/UTs.

Over 2150 senior officers drawn from IAS, IPS officers as well as officers from Indian Revenue Service and few other Central Services attended the briefing meeting which was organised in a hybrid mode at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Few officials joined virtually from the office of Chief

Electoral Officers in their respective States/UTs. Around 900 General Observers, 450 Police Observers and 800 Expenditure Observers are being deployed in the forthcoming elections.

During the day-long briefing sessions, the officers were given comprehensive and thorough inputs about the various aspects of election management by the Senior Deputy Election Commissioner, DECs and DGs of ECI. Detailed thematic presentations were made on Election planning, Observer's roles and responsibilities, electoral roll issues, enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, legal provisions, EVM/VVPAT management, media engagement and the wide array of activities undertaken for voter facilitation under the Commission's flagship SVEEP (Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral **Participation**) programme.

49. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the National Standards Body of India under Department of \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Pharmaceuticals
  - b. Consumer Affairs
  - c. Standardization
  - d. Legal Metrology

Answer: B

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the National Standards Body of India under Department of **Consumer affairs**, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.

It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 which came into effect on 12 October 2017.

The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS. BIS has 500 plus scientific officers working as Certification Officers, Member secretaries of technical committees and lab OIC's.

50. The National Archives of India is celebrating its \_\_\_\_\_ Foundation Day in 2024.
- a. 114<sup>th</sup>
  - b. 124<sup>th</sup>
  - c. 134<sup>th</sup>
  - d. 144<sup>th</sup>

Answer: C

The National Archives of India is celebrating its **134th** Foundation Day. On this occasion, Minister of State for Law & Justice (Independent Charge), Parliamentary Affairs and Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, today launched a digital exhibition "Subhash Abhinandan", based on the

life of Subhash Chandra Bose. This exhibition is based on documents available in the National Archives.

51. The President of India has recently visited the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), Moka which is in
- Madagascar
  - Thailand
  - Sri Lanka
  - Mauritius

Answer: D

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu visited the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), Moka, Mauritius today (March 12, 2024).

President Murmu paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi located on the campus of the Institute, which was established in 1970 as a joint initiative of the Governments of India and Mauritius. MGI is a leading institution promoting and propagating Indian arts, culture and languages in Mauritius.

52. The Namo Bharat is an Indian Electric multiple unit (EMU) train built for RapidX (Regional Rapid Transit services). The train was designed by the French rolling stock manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_ at its engineering centre in Hyderabad, Telangana, and was manufactured in Savli, Gujarat.
- Scheuerle
  - Alstom
  - Vossloh
  - Siemens

Answer: B

The Namo Bharat is an Indian Electric multiple unit (EMU) train built for RapidX (Regional Rapid Transit services).

The train was designed by the French rolling stock manufacturer Alstom at its engineering centre in Hyderabad, Telangana, and was manufactured in Savli, Gujarat. The train has an aerodynamic design which reduces the drag when it travels. The train has a design speed of 180 km/h (110 mph) and is operated at a speed of 160 km/h (99 mph).

Currently, it is running and operational on Delhi Meerut RRTS system.

53. Who became the Chief Minister of Haryana in March 2024?

- a. Bhagwat Dayal Sharma
- b. Rao Birender Singh
- c. Nayab Saini
- d. Bansi Lal

Answer: C

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated Shri, Nayab Saini on taking oath as Chief Minister of Haryana. He has also extended his good wishes to team of Ministers in Haryana Cabinet.

54. Tri-service exercise 'Bharat Shakti' (2024) was held in
- a. Rajasthan
  - b. Gujarat
  - c. Haryana
  - d. Punjab

Answer: A

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with delegates from more than 30 nations witnessed the tri-service exercise 'Bharat Shakti' at the Pokhran field firing range in Jaisalmer, **Rajasthan** on Tuesday.

Roar of aircraft mid-air, valour displayed on ground during 'Bharat Shakti' exercise is the call of a 'new India', said PM Modi at 'Bharat Shakti' exercise.

He also said that Pokhran has become witness to trinity of India's *aatmanirbharta* (self-reliance), belief, and self-pride.

55. The Semiconductor fabrication facility at the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) will be set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) under the Modified Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India. With a total investment of over Rs. 91,000 crore, this will be the \_\_\_\_\_ commercial semiconductor fab in the country.
- e. First
  - f. Second
  - g. Third
  - h. Fourth

Answer: A

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will participate in 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat' and lay the foundation stone of three semiconductor projects worth about Rs 1.25 lakh crore

on 13th March, 2024 at 10:30 AM via video conferencing. Prime Minister will also address the youth across the country on the occasion.

It has been the vision of the Prime Minister to position India as a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing and technology development, fostering the creation of employment opportunities for the nation's youth. In line with this vision, foundation stone is being laid for the Semiconductor fabrication facility at the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR), Gujarat; Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility at Morigaon, Assam; and the Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility at Sanand, Gujarat.

The Semiconductor fabrication facility at the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) will be set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) under the Modified Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India. With a total investment of over Rs. 91,000 crore, this will be the **first** commercial semiconductor fab in the country.

56. PM-SURAJ national portal has been recently launched which is aimed at
- Credit support
  - Energy conservation
  - LPG distribution
  - Climate change mitigation

Answer: A

– PM-SURAJ stands for 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan'. It is a national portal launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide credit support to small entrepreneurs from marginalised communities.

57. NAMASTE scheme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of \_\_\_\_\_
- Education
  - Housing and Urban Affairs
  - Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
  - Rural Development

Answer: B

The National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to make sanitation work safer in urban India. The scheme will be implemented in all 4,800+ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the country from 2022-23 to 2025-26, with an outlay of Rs. 360 crore

58. The Government of India has set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March \_\_\_\_\_ under the provision of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- 2001
  - 2002
  - 2003
  - 2004

Answer: B

The Government of India has set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002 under the provision of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The mission of Bureau of Energy Efficiency is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. This will be achieved with active participation of all stakeholders, resulting into accelerated and sustained adoption of energy efficiency in all sectors.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bhutan on extending co-operation in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.

The MoU was signed between Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India and Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan.

59. Who is the incumbent Chairperson of FSSAI?
- G. Kamala Vardhana Rao
  - Shubha Thakur
  - Apurva Chandra
  - Anupam Mishra

Answer: C

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a statutory body under the administration of the **Ministry of Health** and Family Welfare, Government of India. It regulates the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import of food articles, while also establishing standards to ensure food safety. The FSSAI was established by the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which consolidated all former acts and orders related to food safety that were previously handled by various ministries and departments.

**Apurva Chandra** (Chairperson)

60. What is the theme of the International Day of Yoga 2024?
- Yoga for Women Empowerment
  - Yoga for humanity
  - Yoga for well-being
  - Yoga at Home and Yoga with the Family

Answer: A

Yoga Mahotsav-2024, a grand event was organized today to commemorate 100 Days Countdown to IDY -2024 at Vigyan Bhawan. The event was celebrated with this year's IDY theme "**Yoga for Women Empowerment**". International Day of Yoga is observed every year on 21st June. This year the 10th edition will be observed.

61. Who among the following is not a member of the Election Commission of India as on 18 March 2024?
- Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
  - Gyanesh Kumar
  - Rajiv Kumar
  - Arun Goel

Answer: D

Shri **Gyanesh Kumar and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** today assumed charge as Election Commissioners in the Election Commission of India.

Chief Election Commissioner **Shri Rajiv Kumar** welcomed the newly appointed Election Commissioner's at Nirvachan Sadan to the action packed and intense twelve weeks ahead. He emphasized the significance of their joining at this historic point, when team ECI is all set to conduct the General Elections 2024 in the world's largest democracy.

ECI is a 3 member body

62. National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) is India's premier institute for dairy research located in Karnal, \_\_\_\_\_
- Punjab
  - Haryana
  - Gujarat
  - Sikkim

Answer: B



National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) is India's premier institute for dairy research located in Karnal, Haryana, having being accorded with the status of Deemed University since 1989. NDRI operates under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

63. Dragonfire is a laser directed-energy weapon (LDEW) technology demonstrator developed by \_\_\_\_\_
- UK
  - USA
  - Canada
  - Australia

Answer: A

Dragonfire is a British laser directed-energy weapon (LDEW) technology demonstrator. It was first unveiled to the public in 2017 at the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) conference in London and is being developed by UK Dragonfire, a collaboration consisting of MBDA UK, Leonardo UK, QinetiQ and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

64. National Vaccination Day is celebrated every year in India on \_\_\_\_\_ March to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of frontline health care workers to ensure the vaccination of every child
- 13
  - 14
  - 15
  - 16

Answer: D

In 1988, the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Polio Eradication Initiative was begun as the initial step of removing this disease from the planet.

In 1995, around the same time, the government of India began the pulse polio Vaccination Program as the first attempt of uprooting this sickness from the country. From that point forward, March 16 has been celebrated as National Vaccination Day.

65. Cillian Murphy has won 96<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards for his role in
- Maestro
  - The Holdovers
  - Oppenheimer
  - Killers of the Flower Moon

Answer: C

### Actor in a leading role Winner

Cillian murphy (**Oppenheimer**)

66. The Statue of Unity is the world's tallest statue, with a height of \_\_\_\_\_ metres, located near Kevadia in the state of Gujarat. It depicts Indian statesman and independence activist Vallabhbhai Patel.
- 162
  - 172
  - 182
  - 192

Answer: C

The Statue of Unity is the world's tallest statue, with a height of 182 metres, located near Kevadia in the state of Gujarat, India. It depicts Indian statesman and independence activist Vallabhbhai Patel (1875–1950), who was the first deputy prime minister and home minister of independent India and an adherent of Mahatma Gandhi. Patel is highly respected for playing a significant role in the political integration of India. The statue is located in Gujarat on the **Narmada River** in the **Kevadiya** colony, facing the Sardar Sarovar Dam 100 kilometres (62 mi) southeast of the city of Vadodara.

67. Sikh New Year falls on
- March 13
  - March 14
  - March 15
  - March 16

Answer: B

The **Nanakshahi** calendar is a tropical solar calendar used in Sikhism. It is based on the "Barah Maha" (Twelve Months), a composition composed by the Sikh gurus reflecting the changes in nature conveyed in the twelve-month cycle of the year.

The year begins with the month of Chet, with 1 Chet corresponding to **14 March**. The reference epoch of the Nanakshahi calendar is the birth of Guru Nanak Dev, corresponding to the year 1469 CE.

68. The Government of India launched the National Mission for Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) in August \_\_\_\_\_. The mission is committed to escalating oil palm cultivation and elevating Crude Palm Oil production to 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26.
- 2020

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

Answer: B

During the visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi underscored India's self-reliance (Atmanirbharta) in edible oil production. The Prime Minister highlighted the Mission Palm Oil, a special campaign carried out by the central government with the Northeast in mind and inaugurated the first oil mill under this mission. "Mission Palm Oil will make India Aatmanirbhar in the edible oil sector and boost the income of farmers," the Prime Minister said, expressing gratitude towards the farmers for taking up palm cultivation.

The Government of India launched the National Mission for Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) in August **2021**. The mission is committed to escalating oil palm cultivation and elevating Crude Palm Oil production to 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26. NMEO-OP has provisioned INR 5,870 Cr exclusively for the NER region out of the total national budget of INR 11,040 for the promotion of oil palm, where 90% contribution will be made by the Central government.

69. India is presently a net importer of edible oil, with \_\_\_\_\_% of the total edible oil being imported from various countries.
- a. 57
  - b. 67
  - c. 77
  - d. 87

Answer: A

India is presently a net importer of edible oil, with 57% of the total edible oil being imported from various countries. The insufficiency in edible oil is negatively impacting our FOREX by 20.56 billion USD, making it more important for the nation to become self-sufficient (Atmanirbhar) in the production of edible oil through the promotion of oilseeds and palm oil.

During the visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Prime Minister of India underscored India's self-reliance (Atmanirbharta) in edible oil production. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the Mission Palm Oil, a special campaign carried out by the central government with a focus on the Northeast, and inaugurated the first oil mill under this mission. "Mission Palm Oil will make India Aatmanirbhar in the edible oil sector and boost the income of farmers," the Prime Minister said, expressing gratitude towards the farmers for taking up palm cultivation.

70. IPEF was launched in May 2022, bringing together \_\_\_\_\_ regional partners
- 10
  - 12
  - 14
  - 16

Answer: C

IPEF was launched in May 2022, bringing together **14** regional partners – Australia, Brunei, Fiji, **India**, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the **United States**, and Vietnam – in a new model of economic cooperation. IPEF negotiations began in late 2022. In May 2023, the IPEF partners announced the substantial conclusion of the negotiations for a first-of-its-kind IPEF Supply Chain Agreement. In November 2023, the IPEF partners announced the substantial conclusion of the negotiations on the proposed IPEF Clean Economy and Fair Economy Agreements, as well as on a proposed overarching Agreement on IPEF to help ensure the durability of the framework and held a signing ceremony for the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement.

71. In a first of its kind initiative, the Election Commission of India (ECI) in association with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organised an Exhibition Cricket Match between the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) Team and the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) team to foster voter education and inclusivity. The match was held on March 16, 2024 at Karnail Singh Stadium in New Delhi. On the occasion, \_\_\_\_\_, a distinguished Para-archer, and Arjuna Awardee, was announced as the National Icon in the PwD category.
- Sheetal Devi
  - Nikhil Chopra
  - Harvinder Singh
  - Rakesh Kumar

Answer: A

In a first of its kind initiative, the Election Commission of India (ECI) in association with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organised an Exhibition Cricket Match between the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) Team and the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) team to foster voter education and inclusivity. The match was held on March 16, 2024 at Karnail Singh Stadium in New Delhi. On the occasion, Ms. Sheetal Devi, a distinguished Para-archer, and Arjuna Awardee, was announced as the National Icon in the PwD category.

The event was graced by Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner's Shri Gyanesh Kumar and Shri Sukhbir Singh Sandhu who felicitated the winning team. Renowned former Indian Cricketer, Nikhil Chopra, was also invited as the special guest alongside officials from DDCA and IDCA.

72. LAMITIYE-2024, a military exercise between India and
- a. Australia
  - b. Nepal
  - c. Sri Lanka
  - d. Seychelles

Answer: D

Indian Army contingent departed for Seychelles today to participate in the Tenth edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The Joint Exercise will be conducted at Seychelles from 18-27 March 2024. 'LAMITIYE' meaning 'Friendship' in the Creole language is a biennial training event and has been conducted in Seychelles since 2001. 45 personnel each from the GORKHA RIFLES of the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) will participate in the exercise.

The aim of the Exercise is to enhance interoperability in Sub-conventional Operations in Semi-Urban environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter on Peace Keeping Operations. The Exercise will enhance cooperation and interoperability between both the sides during Peace Keeping Operations. The exercise will also build and promote bilateral military relations in addition to exchanging skills, experiences and good practices between both armies

73. Which of the following ministries has recently notified Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024?
- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
  - b. Ministry of External Affairs
  - c. PMO
  - d. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

Answer: A

On March 11, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024. The notification enabled the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) that was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019.

74. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana with an investment of over Rs. 75,000 crores, aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to \_\_\_\_\_ units of free electricity every month.
- a. 400
  - b. 100

- c. 300
- d. 500

Answer: C

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today announced the launch of rooftop solar scheme for free electricity - PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The Prime Minister posted on X:

"In order to further sustainable development and people's wellbeing, we are launching the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. This project, with an investment of over Rs. 75,000 crores, aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month."

75. The General election to elect the members of the 18th Lok Sabha will take place in how many phases?
- a. 4
  - b. 5
  - c. 6
  - d. 7

Answer: D

The General election to elect the members of the 18th Lok Sabha in India is expected to take place in **seven** phases spread over 44 days starting April 19 in the world's largest election, counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

Announcing the poll schedule to elect the 543-member Lok Sabha, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar told a news conference on Saturday that over 97 crore voters—49.7 crore male and 47.1 crore female—are eligible to cast their votes across 10.5 lakh polling booths

76. Who among the following won the 2024 Russian Presidential Election?
- a. Boris Nadezhdin
  - b. Nikolay Kharitonov
  - c. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
  - d. Alexei Navalny

Answer: C

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin on his re-election as the President of the Russian Federation. The Prime Minister also emphasized working together to further strengthen the time-tested Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia in the years to come

77. Tiger Triumph-24, a bilateral training exercise between India and

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

Answer: A

Tiger Triumph-24, a bilateral tri-service humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise of India and US is scheduled on the Eastern Seaboard from 18 to 31 Mar. The training exercise is designed to improve readiness and cooperation between the two forces in line with the partnership between both countries.

78. Kurukshetra University is a university established on 11 January 1956 in the Indian state of

\_\_\_\_\_

- a. Haryana
- b. Punjab
- c. Uttar Pradesh
- d. Uttarakhand

Answer: A

Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (KUK) is a university established on 11 January 1956 in Kurukshetra, in the Indian state of Haryana, 160 kilometres (99 mi) from the capital, Delhi. It is a member of Association of Commonwealth Universities.

79. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs has recently laid the foundation stone of 'Centre for Preservation and promotion of Tribal Culture & Heritage' at Padampur, Kharsawan district,

\_\_\_\_\_

- a. Chhattisgarh
- b. Madhya Pradesh
- c. Odisha
- d. Jharkhand

Answer: D

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs; Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda, virtually laid the foundation stone of 'Centre for Preservation and promotion of Tribal Culture & Heritage' at Padampur, Kharsawan district, Jharkhand today. The museum is an effort to depict and preserve the rich legacy of the tribal community in the State of Jharkhand, while showcasing the rich tribal way of life and culture.

80. Patent office (India) granted over \_\_\_\_\_ Patents in the period between 15 March 2023 and 14 March 2024.

- a. 50,000

- b. 150,000
- c. 100,000
- d. 200,000

Answer: C

Every 6 minutes one technology is seeking IP protection in India. In 2023, an all-time high of 90300 patent applications were received. Patent office granted over one lakh Patents in the last one year (15-Mar-2023 to 14-Mar-2024). Every working day, 250 patents were granted.

81. Indian Navy has recently rescued a hijacked Bulgarian ship named \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Varna
  - b. Minkov
  - c. Briz
  - d. Ruen

Answer: D

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has replied to the President of Republic of Bulgaria, Mr Rumen Radev regarding the Indian Navy rescuing a hijacked Bulgarian ship “Ruen” and its crew members including 7 Bulgarian citizens. The Prime Minister expressed appreciation and emphasized India’s commitment to protecting freedom of navigation and combating piracy and terrorism in the Indian Ocean region.

82. National Highway 16 doesn’t pass through which of the following States?
- a. Bihar
  - b. Odisha
  - c. Andhra Pradesh
  - d. Tamil Nadu

Answer: A

National Highway 16 (NH 16) is a major National Highway in India that runs along east coast of **West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu**. It was previously known as National Highway 5.

The northern terminal starts at Dankuni National Highway 19 near Kolkata and the southern terminal is at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is a part of the Golden Quadrilateral project to connect India's major cities.

83. Railway Protection Force comes under the Ministry of
- a. Railways



- b. Home Affairs
- c. Defence
- d. Internal Security

Answer: A

Railway Protection Force (RPF) is an armed force of the Union under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India. The force was established by the RPF Act, 1957, enacted by the Indian Parliament for "the better protection and security of railway property and passenger area". It has the power to search, arrest, enquire, and prosecute offenses committed under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act 1966 and the Railways Act, 1989 (amended from time to time). RPF has also been entrusted with the responsibility of security of railway passenger area and railway passengers since 2004

84. Who is the incumbent Chairperson of the National Commission for Women?

- a. Jayanti Patnaik
- b. Lalitha Kumaramangalam
- c. Rekha Sharma
- d. Mamta Sharma

Answer: C

The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women.

It was established on 31 January 1992

The first head of the commission was Jayanti Patnaik.

Rekha Sharma is the incumbent chairperson.

85. The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has accepted the resignation of Pashu Pati Kumar Paras from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under clause (2) of Article \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution.

- a. 72
- b. 73
- c. 74
- d. 75

Answer: D

The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has accepted the resignation of Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution.

Further, as advised by the Prime Minister, the President has directed that Shri Kiren Rijju, Cabinet Minister, be assigned the charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, in addition to his existing portfolio.

86. The Summit for Democracy is a virtual summit hosted by \_\_\_\_\_ "to renew democracy at home and confront autocracies abroad". The first summit was held on December 9–10, 2021
- USA
  - UK
  - India
  - Australia

Answer: A

The Summit for Democracy is a virtual summit hosted by the United States "to renew democracy at home and confront autocracies abroad". The first summit was held on December 9–10, 2021.

The three themes are defending against authoritarianism, addressing and fighting corruption, and advancing respect for human rights.

87. Set up on 19th June \_\_\_\_\_, the National Internet Exchange of India is a not-for-profit (Section 8) company under the aegis of MeitY and is tasked to increase internet penetration and adoption in India by facilitating the various infrastructure aspects to enable the internet ecosystem to be managed and used by the masses.
- 2000
  - 2003
  - 2005
  - 2007

Answer: B

Set up on 19th June 2003, the National Internet Exchange of India is a not-for-profit (Section 8) company under the aegis of MeitY and is tasked to increase internet penetration and adoption in India by facilitating the various infrastructure aspects to enable the internet ecosystem to be managed and used by the masses. The four services which come under the NIXI are setting IXPs, towards building Internet Exchange Points, .IN Registry towards building the .in domain digital identity, IRINN towards IPv4 and IPv6 addresses adoption and Data Centre services under NIXI-CSC towards data storage services.

National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is proud to announce the launch of the BhashaNet portal for the upcoming Universal Acceptance (UA) Day, scheduled to take place on March 21, 2024, at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in the National Capital. This will be the second event hosted between NIXI and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), underscoring their joint commitment to promote the UA and advancing digital inclusion across the nation. In addition, it's noteworthy that Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Internet Governance division, MeitY, Government of India are actively supporting UA Day.

88. The Fact Check Unit under PIB was established in November \_\_\_\_\_ with a stated objective of acting as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news and misinformation. It also provides people with an easy avenue to report suspicious and questionable information pertaining to the Government of India.
- 2019
  - 2020
  - 2023
  - 2024

Answer: A

Government of India today notified Fact Check Unit (FCU) under the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) as the fact check unit of the Central Government.

In a Gazette notification issued today, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the PIB FCU under the provisions of the sub-clause (v) of sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. MIB and MeitY have been working closely on the subject to address the challenge of fake news, especially on social media.

The Fact Check Unit under PIB was established in November 2019 with a stated objective of acting as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news and misinformation. It also provides people with an easy avenue to report suspicious and questionable information pertaining to the Government of India.

89. All-India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for agricultural laborers and rural laborers is being released by which of the following bodies?
- RBI
  - NSSO
  - CSO
  - Labour Bureau

Answer: D

The Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, releases the All-India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for agricultural laborers and rural laborers

90. The International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE]) is an inter-governmental cooperative initiative founded in 2003 consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ countries
- a. 20
  - b. 24
  - c. 28
  - d. 31

Answer: B

The International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE]) is an inter-governmental cooperative initiative founded in 2003 consisting of 24 countries. The IPHE works with the member countries and leaders in the hydrogen fuel and fuel cell industry in order to further develop and implement those technologies.

The 41st Steering Committee Meeting of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE), being hosted by India in New Delhi during March 18 – 22, 2024, began its formal proceedings on March 19, 2024. The second and third days, i.e., March 19 and 20, 2024 have been reserved for formal proceedings of the 41st Steering Committee Meeting, which is being held at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi.

91. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for many matters related to information and communication technologies. It was established on 17 May \_\_\_\_\_ as the International Telegraph Union.
- a. 1865
  - b. 1875
  - c. 1885
  - d. 1895

Answer: A

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for many matters related to information and communication technologies. It was established on 17 May 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, significantly predating the UN and making it the oldest UN agency. Doreen Bogdan-Martin is the Secretary-General of ITU, the first woman to serve as its head.

92. India Mozambique \_\_\_\_\_ (IMT) Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise is a joint maritime exercise scheduled from 21-29 March 2024.
- Turkey
  - Turkmenistan
  - Tanzania
  - Tunisia

Answer: C

INS Tir and INS Sujata will participate in the forthcoming second edition of India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise, a joint maritime exercise scheduled from 21-29 Mar 24. The first edition of IMT TRILAT exercise conducted in Oct 22, saw participation of INS Tarkash with the Tanzanian and Mozambique Navies.

The current edition of the exercise is planned in two phases. As part of the harbour phase scheduled from 21-24 Mar 24, Naval ships Tir and Sujata will engage with the respective Navies at the ports of Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Maputo (Mozambique). This phase would begin with a Planning Conference followed by conduct of joint harbour training activities like Damage Control, Fire Fighting, Visit Board Search and Seizure procedures, Medical Lectures, Casualty Evacuation and Diving operations. The sea phase of the exercise is scheduled from 24-27 Mar 24 covering practical aspects of countering asymmetric threats, Visit Board Search and Seizure procedures, boat handling, manoeuvres and firing exercise. A joint EEZ surveillance is also planned during the sea phase. The exercise will conclude with a joint debrief scheduled at Nacala (Mozambique).

93. Who is the incumbent Chairman & Managing Director of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)?
- Bhuwan Chandra Pathak
  - Rajeev Kumar Mital
  - M. Sankaranarayanan
  - Bishwadip Dey

Answer: A

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is an Indian public sector undertaking based in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is wholly owned by the Government of India and is responsible for the generation of electricity from nuclear power. NPCIL is administered by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Shri Bhuwan Chandra Pathak (Chairman & Managing Director)

94. Technology Development Board (TDB), is a statutory body established by Government of India under Technology Development Board Act, \_\_\_\_\_, to promote development and

commercialization of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology for much wider application.

- a. 1990
- b. 1995
- c. 2000
- d. 2005

Answer: B

Technology Development Board (TDB), is a statutory body established by Government of India under Technology Development Board Act, 1995, to promote development and commercialization of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology for much wider application. The board consists of 11 Board members. The Government reconstituted the Board in March 2000. The Board plays a pro-active role by encouraging enterprises to take up technology-oriented products. The board provides equity capital or loans to industrial concerns and financial assistance to research and development institutions.

The loans carry a simple interest rate of 5% per annum.

In an innovative initiative aimed at propelling healthcare innovation forward, the Technology Development Board (TDB) has penned an agreement with M/s Peptris Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and the Foundation for Neglected Disease Research (FNDR), Bengaluru on 18th March. Under the agreement, the Board has sanctioned a grant of ₹75 Lakhs towards the project "ANAGRANINF - Development of a Novel Class of Antibiotics Against Gram-Negative Bacterial-Infections," against the total project cost of ₹1.5 crores.

95. Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of \_\_\_\_\_ Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- a. Maharatna
  - b. Navratna
  - c. Miniratna
  - d. Abhiratna

Answer: C

Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). This recognition, bestowed upon by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, underscores GRID-INDIA's pivotal role in the nation's power landscape.

Established in 2009, GRID-INDIA holds the crucial mandate of overseeing the seamless and uninterrupted operation of the Indian Power System, ensuring the efficient transfer of electric power within and across regions, facilitating trans-national power exchanges with a focus on reliability, economy, and sustainability. It facilitates competitive and efficient wholesale electricity markets and administer settlement systems.

96. Prime Minister of India has been recently conferred the Order of the Druk Gyalpo by which of the following countries?
- Bhutan
  - Nepal
  - Thailand
  - Laos

Answer: A

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was conferred the Order of the Druk Gyalpo, Bhutan's highest civilian decoration, by His Majesty the King of Bhutan in a public ceremony at the Tendrelthang, Thimphu. Prime Minister Modi is the first foreign leader to be given this prestigious award.

His Majesty the King of Bhutan had announced the conferment of the award during Bhutan's 114th National Day celebrations held at the Tashichhodzong, Thimphu in December 2021. The award recognizes Prime Minister Modi's contribution to strengthening India-Bhutan friendship and his people centric leadership. The citation added that the award also honours India's rise as a global power under his leadership, and celebrates Bhutan's special bond with India. Prime Minister Modi's leadership has set India on the path of transformation, and that India's moral authority and global influence have grown.

97. The Defence Services Staff College is located in
- Karnataka
  - Uttarakhand
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Maharashtra

Answer: C

The Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) is a defence service training institution of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

It trains officers of all three services of the Indian Armed Forces – (Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force), selected officers from the Paramilitary forces and the Civil Services and officers from friendly foreign countries for command and staff appointments.

Location: Wellington Cantonment, Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu

98. 'An illustrated guide to the Lepidoptera of India: taxonomic procedures, family characters, diversity and distribution' was published by which of the following?
- IUCN
  - Zoological Survey of India
  - Central Zoo Authority of India
  - Botanical Survey of India

Answer: B

The Zoological Survey of India published a book entitled, 'An illustrated guide to the Lepidoptera of India: taxonomic procedures, family characters, diversity and distribution'. The Book is authored by Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) along with Dr. Navneet Singh, Dr. Rahul Joshi and Dr. P. C. Pathania, Scientists of ZSI and a Lepidoptera expert from Hong Kong, Dr. R.C. Kendrick.

99. The International Day of Forests (IDF) is celebrated on March \_\_\_\_\_ to recognize and promote the value of forests
- 21
  - 22
  - 23
  - 24

Answer: A

National Zoological Park, New Delhi (Delhi Zoo) has celebrated International Day of Forests on 21st March, 2024. The theme for this year's International Forest Day is "**Forests and innovation: new solutions for a better world**". The purpose of this event is to create awareness among visitors about plants and their importance in our lives.

100. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was passed in which year?
- 1980
  - 1990
  - 1975
  - 1985

Answer: D



The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, commonly referred to as the NDPS Act, is an Act of the Parliament of India that prohibits a person the production/manufacturing/cultivation, possession, sale, purchasing, transport, storage, and/or consumption of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance. The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23 August **1985**. It was passed by both the Houses of Parliament, received assent from then President Giani Zail Singh on 16 September 1985, and came into force on 14 November 1985. The NDPS Act has since been amended four times — in 1988, 2001, 2014 and 2021. The Act extends to the whole of India and it applies also to all Indian citizens outside India and to all persons on ships and aircraft registered in India.

101. Which of the following festivals commemorates the victory of Vishnu as Narasimha over Hiranyakashipu?

- a. Diwali
- b. Ekadasi
- c. Govardhan Puja
- d. Holi

Answer: D

Holi is a popular and significant Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colours, Love, and Spring.

It celebrates the eternal and divine love of the deities Radha and Krishna.

Additionally, the day signifies the triumph of good over evil, as it commemorates the victory of Vishnu as Narasimha over Hiranyakashipu.

Holi originated and is predominantly celebrated in the Indian subcontinent of India and Nepal, but has also spread to other regions of Asia and parts of the Western world through the Indian diaspora.

102. World Tuberculosis Day, observed on \_\_\_\_\_ March each year, is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis and efforts to eliminate the disease.

- a. 21
- b. 22
- c. 23
- d. 24

Answer: D

World Tuberculosis Day, observed on 24 March each year, is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis and efforts to eliminate the disease.

The theme for World TB Day 2024: “Yes! We Can End TB!

103. Prime Minister of India has recently inaugurated the Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck Mother and Child Hospital in \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Thimphu
- b. Gelephu
- c. Samdrup Jongkhar
- d. Punakha

Answer: A

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.E. Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, inaugurated the Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck Mother and Child Hospital, a state-of-the-art hospital, built with the assistance of the Government of India in **Thimphu**.

The Government of India has supported the development of the 150 - bedded Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck Mother and Child Hospital in two phases. The Phase one of the Hospital was constructed at a cost of Rs. 22 Crores and is operational since 2019. The construction of the second phase was taken up in 2019, as part of the 12th Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs. 119 Crores, and was completed now.

104. Which of the following organizations' project/product called “Mobile-enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting” has been qualified for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2024 in the category of “Benefits in all aspects of life - E-environment”, amongst 1000+ global entries for WSIS Prize 2024?

- a. United Telecoms Limited
- b. C-DOT
- c. Sasken Technologies
- d. HFCL

Answer: B

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is a series of conferences organised by United Nations (UN) and co-hosted by ITU and the Swiss confederation which focuses on information and communication technologies (ICTs) and its impact on society. The WSIS process (conferences) aims to bridge the digital divide and promote the use of ICTs for social and economic development through a structured and inclusive approach at the national, regional and international levels.

The WSIS Prizes honour outstanding projects / achievements that leverage the power of information and communication technology to accelerate achievement of sustainable development goals.

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), a premier Telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India, is thrilled to announce that its project/product “Mobile-enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting” has been qualified for the WSIS Prizes 2024 in the category of “Benefits in all aspects of life - E-environment”, amongst 1000+ global entries for WSIS Prize 2024.

105. ‘Op Sankalp’ has been frequently seen in the news in connection with

- e. Manipur violence
- f. Sino-Indian border dispute
- g. Maritime security
- h. Insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: C

Indian Navy has responded to the manifestation of Israel – Hamas conflict in the maritime domain by re-orienting and significantly enhancing the scope of its ongoing maritime security operations since mid-Dec 23. The navy undertook proactive actions during the hijacking of Malta Flagged Bulk Carrier MV Ruen on 14 Dec 23. Today, 23 Mar 2024, marks the completion of 100 days of the ongoing **maritime security** operations under the aegis of ‘Op Sankalp’. During this time, the Indian Navy has responded to 18 incidents and has played a pivotal role as the ‘First Responder’ and ‘Preferred Security Partner’ in the Indian Ocean Region. The significance of IN’s contributions has been further underscored with the culmination of actions against the hijacking of MV Ruen.

106. The first ever Nuclear Energy Summit was held in Brussels in March 2024, organised jointly by \_\_\_\_\_ and Belgium. World leaders came together to reaffirm their commitment to nuclear energy as a way to reduce carbon emissions and meet development goals.

- a. Atomic Energy Commission
- b. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- c. World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO)
- d. Nucleareurope

Answer: B

The first ever Nuclear Energy Summit was held in Brussels this week, organised jointly by the IAEA and Belgium. World leaders came together to reaffirm their commitment to nuclear energy as a way to reduce carbon emissions and meet development goals.

107. In the current year, the Government has directed NCCF and NAFED to initiate procurement of \_\_\_\_\_ lakh tonnes of onion for the buffer requirement directly from the farmers as Rabi-2024 harvest started arriving in the market. For the procurement, NAFED and NCCF are to pre-register the onion farmers to ensure that payments to the farmers are transferred to their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer. Rabi onion is critical for country's onion availability as it contributes 72 -75% of annual production in the country. The Rabi onion is also crucial for ensuring year-round availability of onion as it has better shelf life compared to Kharif onion and can be stored for supplies till November-December.

- a. 4
- b. 5
- c. 6
- d. 7

Answer: B

In the current year, the Government has directed NCCF and NAFED to initiate procurement of 5 lakh tonnes of onion for the buffer requirement directly from the farmers as Rabi-2024 harvest started arriving in the market. For the procurement, NAFED and NCCF are to pre-register the onion farmers to ensure that payments to the farmers are transferred to their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer.

Rabi onion is critical for country's onion availability as it contributes 72 -75% of annual production in the country. The Rabi onion is also crucial for ensuring year-round availability of onion as it has better shelf life compared to Kharif onion and can be stored for supplies till November- December.

It may be recalled that the Department of Consumer Affairs had, through NAFED and NCCF, purchased about 6.4 LMT of Onion during 2023-24 for the buffer stocking as well as intervention by way of simultaneous procurement and disposal. The continuous procurements by the NAFED and NCCF have guaranteed remunerative prices for onion farmers all through the year in 2023. Subsequently, the Department of Consumer Affairs adopted retail sale intervention for disposal of onion through retail outlets and mobile vans operated by NCCF, NAFED, Kendriya Bhandar and other State controlled cooperatives at subsidized price of Rs.25 per kg during last year. The timely intervention and calibrated release ensured stabilization of retail prices effectively without impacting farmer realization.

108. Shinkun La is a 5,091 meter mountain pass in India that connects \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Lahaul and Spiti
- b. Jammu and Srinagar
- c. Kullu and Spiti
- d. Lahaul and Zaskar

Answer: D

Shinkun La, also known as Shingo La or Shinku La, is a 5,091-meter (16,703-foot) mountain pass in India that connects the Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh to the Zaskar region of Ladakh

109. The strategic Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road is located in

- a. Punjab
- b. Arunachal Pradesh
- c. Ladakh
- d. Sikkim

Answer: C

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) connected the strategic Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in Ladakh on March 25, 2024. This 298-km road will connect Manali to Leh through Darcha and Nimmu on Kargil – Leh Highway. The road is now the third axis apart from Manali-Leh and Srinagar-Leh which connects Ladakh to the hinterland.

110. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently approved 100% acquisition of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited by \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Adani Power Limited
- b. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation
- c. Tata Power
- d. Reliance Power Limited

Answer: A

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved 100% acquisition of Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited by Adani Power Limited.

111. Who is the incumbent Chairperson of the Lokpal of India?

- a. Pankaj Kumar
- b. Ajay Tirkey
- c. A M Khanwilkar
- d. Ritu Raj Awasthi

Answer: C

Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi sworn in as judicial member, Lokpal .The oath was administered by Justice A. M. Khanwilkar, Chairperson, Lokpal of India.

Shri Pankaj Kumar and Shri Ajay Tirkey took oath as member, Lokpal. The oath ceremony was organised today at Lokpal of India office in New Delhi.

112.Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary located in Eturnagaram village in Mulugu district in \_\_\_\_\_

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

Answer: B

Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary located in Eturnagaram village in Mulugu district in Telangana,

113.In a bid to provide accessibility to all and leave no voter behind, the Election Commission has recently announced that the voters above \_\_\_\_ years of age and Persons-with-Disabilities with \_\_\_\_\_ percent benchmark disability can vote from home.

- a. 65, 40
- b. 75, 40
- c. 85, 40
- d. 85, 30

Answer: C

In a bid to provide accessibility to all and leave no voter behind, the Election Commission announced that the voters above 85 years of age and Persons-with-Disabilities (pwd) with 40 percent benchmark disability can vote from home.

Further, volunteers and wheelchairs will be available at every polling station. The poll body is also arranging transport facilities for the persons-with-disabilities and elderly.

The Commission launched the **Saksham** App to facilitate easier voting for PWDs and to avail facilities at Polling Stations.

Further, it is pushing for permanent Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in schools as a gift of election process to the students.

114. India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce and the share of youngsters with secondary or higher education in the total unemployed youth has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022, as per the India Employment Report 2024 released by \_\_\_\_\_ and the Institute of Human Development (IHD).

- a. ILO
- b. IMF
- c. World Bank
- d. World Economic Forum

Answer: A

India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce and the share of youngsters with secondary or higher education in the total unemployed youth has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022, as per the India Employment Report 2024 released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD) here on Tuesday. The youth employment and underemployment increased between 2000 and 2019 but declined during the pandemic years, the study, released by Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, said, adding that educated youths have experienced much higher levels of unemployment in the country during the period.

115. The \_\_\_\_\_ government has recently moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre to release financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the state for drought management.

- a. Kerala
- b. Karnataka
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Odisha

Answer: B

The Karnataka government has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre to release financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the state for drought management.

The petition has also sought to declare that the Centre's action in not releasing the financial assistance for drought arrangement as per the NDRF is "ex-facie violative" of the fundamental rights of the people of the state guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

116. The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) comes under

- a. Ministry of Defence
- b. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c. Ministry of Civil Aviation

d. Department of Space

Answer: A

The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) is under Deptt. Of Defence Production , Ministry of Defence. This organisation is more than hundred years old and provides Quality Assurance (QA) cover for the entire range of Arms, Ammunitions, Equipments and Stores supplied to Armed Forces. Apart from QA activities, the organisation is responsible for import substitution and associates with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the development projects. It also ensures Documentation, Codification and Standardisation Action for minimizing the variety of components / equipments. The other services rendered are promotion of small scale industries, Post procurement services, Defect Investigations and Technical Consultancy to the users, Ministry and the Production Agencies.

117.The Expert Committee on developing the Gujarat International Finance Tech-City International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC) as 'Global Finance and Accounting Hub' has submitted its report to Chairperson, International Financial Services Centre Authority, (IFSCA) on 26th March, 2024. The Committee was chaired by

- a. Shobhit Srivastava
- b. Pallavi Ajmera
- c. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal
- d. Himanshu Jain

Answer: C

The Expert Committee on developing the Gujarat International Finance Tech-City International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC) as 'Global Finance and Accounting Hub' has submitted its report to Chairperson, International Financial Services Centre Authority, (IFSCA) on 26th March, 2024.

The Expert Committee was constituted pursuant to the notification issued by Ministry of Finance on 18th January, 2024 wherein book-keeping, accounting, taxation and financial crime compliance were notified as 'financial services' under Sec 3(1)(e)(xiv) of IFSCA Act, 2019. The Expert Committee was chaired by the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). The committee comprised of experts from the industry, academia and the Government.

The Expert Committee was chaired by CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal and CA. Aniket Sunil Talati, the current and immediate past president of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.



118. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by \_\_\_\_\_, has attended the 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva, Switzerland.

- a. S Niranjan Reddy
- b. Sujeet Kumar
- c. Prashanta Nanda
- d. Harivansh Narayan Singh

Answer: D

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by Mr. Harivansh, is currently attending the 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva, Switzerland. The delegation comprises five members from Rajya Sabha namely S Niranjan Reddy, Sujeet Kumar, Ashok Mittal, Prashanta Nanda and Sumitra.

The Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha**, Harivansh Narayan Singh held a bilateral meeting with their Armenian counterparts on the sidelines of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) event in Geneva, Switzerland.

119. Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye has recently won the Presidential election of

- a. Gambia
- b. Senegal
- c. Guinea
- d. Mauritania

Answer: B

Little-known, 44-year-old opposition leader **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** was congratulated Monday by **Senegal's** incumbent president Macky Sall.

He is posed to become the west African nation's next president, less than two weeks after being released from prison to run in the election.

120. Who has been appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency in March 2024?

- a. P V Ramasashtry
- b. Mahender Singh Manral
- c. Rajeev Kumar
- d. Sadanand Vasant Date

Answer: D

The Centre has appointed Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) chief Sadanand Vasant Date as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The Appointments

Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has also appointed two new DGs of the Bureau of Police Research and Development and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

121. In which year was the Indian Institute of Public Administration established?

- a. 1950
- b. 1954
- c. 1960
- d. 1964

Answer: B

The Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) was established in 1954 and is research and training organization under the Ministry of Personnel of the Government of India.

It is engaged in training and research in Public Administration and Governance in India. The institute hosts regular training programs for various Civil Servants, Judicial Servants, Public Administrators among others. The present Director-General of the institute is Surendra Nath Tripathi

122. cVIGIL app is an initiative of

- a. CIC
- b. ECI
- c. CVC
- d. CAG

Answer: B

The cVIGIL app of Election Commission of India (ECI) has become an effective tool in the hands of people to flag election code violations. Since the announcement of General Elections 2024, over 79,000 complaints have been received as of today. Over 99% complaints have been resolved and close to 89% of these complaints have been resolved within 100 minutes. Speed and transparency are the cornerstones of cVIGIL app.

More than 58,500 complaints (73% of the total) received are against illegal hoardings and banners. More than 1400 complaints received pertain to money, gifts and liquor distribution. Close to 3% of the complaints (2454) pertain to defacement of property. Out of the 535 complaints received for display of firearms and intimidation, 529 have already been resolved. 1000 complaints reported were for campaigning beyond the prohibited period including use of speakers beyond permitted time.

123. Government e Marketplace has closed 2023-24 financial year with ₹ \_\_\_\_\_ lakh crore in Gross Merchandise value (GMV)

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 4
- d. 8

Answer: C

Government e Marketplace has closed this financial year with ₹ 4 lakh crore in Gross Merchandise value (GMV) - doubling its GMV clocked at the end of previous Fiscal Year. This testifies to the portal's unique digital capabilities and functionalities that have facilitated greater efficiency, transparency, and seamlessness in public procurement.

The procurement of Services through the GeM portal has proved to be a pivotal force behind this staggering GMV. Nearly 50% of this GMV has been attributed to the procurement of Services, displaying a remarkable surge of 205% in terms of Services procured on GeM last FY. By creating access to market, GeM has been exceptionally successful in breaking down the cartel of established and renowned service providers, paving way for small domestic entrepreneurs to participate in government tenders from anywhere at any time. The vast repository of Services on GeM has enabled States to procure innovative solutions that cater to all their dynamic needs.

124. Sanchar Saathi portal is a citizen centric initiative of

- a. Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms
- b. Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- c. Ministry of Railways
- d. Department of Telecommunications

Answer: D

Sanchar Saathi portal is a citizen centric initiative of Department of Telecommunications to empower mobile subscribers, strengthen their security and increase awareness about citizen centric initiatives of the Government. Sanchar Saathi empowers citizens by allowing them to know the mobile connections issued in their name, get disconnected the connections either not taken by them or not required by them, block and trace stolen/lost mobile phones and check genuineness of devices while buying a new/old mobile phone. Sanchar Saathi facilitates citizens for reporting suspected fraud communication. Sanchar Saathi contains various modules like Chakshu, CEIR, TAF COP, KYM, RICWIN, KYI etc.

125. The National Cybercrime Helpline Number is

- a. 1390
- b. 1990
- c. 1930

d. 1330

Answer: C

The national cybercrime helpline number is 1930.

126. Which of the following personalities has been conferred Bharat Ratna in 2024 in person?

- a. M S Swaminathan
- b. Chaudhary Charan Singh
- c. Karpoori Thakur
- d. L K Advani

Answer: D

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented Bharat Ratna at an Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (March 30, 2024). She conferred Bharat Ratna upon:

- Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao posthumously. On behalf of the late Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Bharat Ratna was received by Shri P.V. Prabhakar Rao, his son.
- Former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh posthumously. On behalf of the late Chaudhary Charan Singh, Bharat Ratna was received by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, his grandson.
- Dr. M.S. Swaminathan posthumously. On behalf of the late Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Bharat Ratna was received by Dr. Nitya Rao, his daughter.
- Shri Karpoori Thakur posthumously. On behalf of the late Shri Karpoori Thakur, Bharat Ratna was received by Shri Ramnath Thakur, his son.

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday conferred the Bharat Ratna to former deputy Prime Minister and BJP leader LK Advani.

President Murmu paid a visit to senior BJP leader LK Advani's residence and conferred him with the prestigious award. This was decided in view of the ailing health of the veteran BJP leader Advani.

127. Easter is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the

- a. Birth of Jesus
- b. Crucifixion of Jesus
- c. Resurrection of Jesus
- d. Birth of Saint Nicholas

Answer: C

Easter is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD.

128. Who is the incumbent Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization?

- a. Jacques Diouf
- b. Edouard Saouma
- c. Qu Dongyu
- d. Addeke Hendrik Boerma

Answer: C

Director-General, FAO, Dr. QU Dongyu

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organized closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 on 29 March 2024 at the FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy. The high-level hybrid event that allowed participants to join both in-person and virtually and was graced by esteemed dignitaries from various parts of the world, including Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Smt. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi from Govt. of India.

129. The National Maritime Day is celebrated on April \_\_\_\_\_ across the country to commemorate the sailing of the first Indian commercial vessel, SS Loyalty.

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 5
- d. 6

Answer: C

National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5 across the country to commemorate the sailing of the first Indian commercial vessel, SS Loyalty. The ship sailed from Mumbai to London. National Maritime Day is meant to appreciate the contribution of maritime trade to the growth of the Indian economy and the significance of India's strategic location in international trade.

130. The World Meteorological Day is commemorated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ March

- a. 23<sup>rd</sup>
- b. 24<sup>th</sup>
- c. 25<sup>th</sup>
- d. 26<sup>th</sup>

Answer: A

The World Meteorological Day is commemorated every year on 23rd March. It marks the origin of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 23 Mar 1950 and signifies the invaluable contribution and essential role of the meteorologists in this field. As part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations, a METOC (Meteorological and Oceanographic) seminar \_'Meghayan-24'\_ was conducted by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at Southern Naval Command on 28 Mar 24. The seminar was based on the theme \_\*'At the Frontline of Climate Action'\*\_ as promulgated by WMO for the year 2024.

On this occasion an indigenous mobile application **INDRA** (Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis) to disseminate weather related information and forecasts empowering optimal & quick decision making was also launched. The application has been developed by BISAG (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics) in coordination with Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology, Indian Navy. The event was attended by Rear Admiral Upal Kundu, Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command, Cmde Abhinav Barve, Commodore (NOM), Naval Headquarters and Mr. Miren Karamta, Director, BISAG. The seminar served as a platform towards sharing of knowledge & insights on weather and climate services as well as way ahead to face the challenges of climate change.







