

CURRENT AFFAIRS APRIL 2024

1. Who has recently become the President of the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association?
 - a. Krishna M Ella
 - b. Mahima Datla
 - c. T Srinivas
 - d. Naresh Trehan

Answer: A

The Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) announced Dr. Krishna M Ella, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of Bharat Biotech, as the association's new president for a two-year period from April 2024-2026.

2. The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) was developed as a collaboration between NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), the European Space Agency (ESA), and _____
 - a. Canadian Space Agency
 - b. Italian Space Agency
 - c. JAXA
 - d. Russian Space Agency

Answer:

A

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) was developed as a collaboration between NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

3. Paleontologists from Argentina has recently announced the discovery of a new medium-sized herbivorous _____, which was a fast runner and lived about 90 million years ago in the Late Cretaceous period in present day Patagonia. The animal, named Chakisaurus nekul, was found in the Pueblo Blanco Natural Reserve, in the southern province of Rio Negro, an area rich in fossils where many mammals, turtles, and fish have been found.
 - a. Woolly mammoth
 - b. Sabre-toothed cat
 - c. Megalodon
 - d. Dinosaur

Answer: D

Paleontologists from Argentina announced the discovery of a new medium-sized herbivorous dinosaur, which was a fast runner and lived about 90 million years ago in the Late Cretaceous period in present day Patagonia. The animal, named Chakisaurus nekul, was found in the Pueblo Blanco Natural Reserve, in the southern province of Rio Negro, an area rich in fossils where many mammals, turtles, and fish have been found along with other species of dinosaur.

4. Patanjali Ayurved is an Indian multinational conglomerate holding company, based in _____
- Uttar Pradesh
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Uttarakhand
 - Himachal Pradesh

Answer:

C

Patanjali Ayurved is an Indian multinational conglomerate holding company, based in Haridwar. It was founded by Ramdev and Balkrishna in 2006. Its office is in Delhi, with manufacturing units and headquarters in the industrial area of Haridwar

Headquarters: Haridwar, Uttarakhand,

5. International Workers' Day is a celebration of labourers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labour movement and occurs every year on _____
- April 30
 - May 30
 - May 31
 - May 1

Answer: D

International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day in some countries and often referred to as May Day, is a celebration of labourers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labour movement and occurs every year on 1 May, or the first Monday in May.

6. The Election Commission of India has recently taken a serious view of activities by political parties and candidates seeking details of voters under the guise of various surveys for their proposed beneficiary schemes, as a corrupt practice of bribery under Section _____ of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- 133 (1)
 - 123 (1)
 - 8 (1)
 - 143 (1)

Answer: B

The Election Commission of India has taken a serious view of activities by political parties and candidates seeking details of voters under the guise of various surveys for their proposed beneficiary schemes, as a corrupt practice of bribery under Section 123(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. It has noted that, “some political parties and candidates have been engaging in activities that blur the lines between legitimate surveys and partisan efforts to register individuals for post-election beneficiary-oriented schemes”.

7. The India-Indonesia friendship, which was elevated to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in _____, has widened the scope of bilateral relations to allow for new collaboration in the realm of defence industry, science and technology, among others.
- 2016
 - 2017
 - 2018
 - 2019

Answer: C

The seventh Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Indonesia will be held in New Delhi on May 03, 2024. The meeting will be co-chaired by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Indonesia Air Marshal (Retd.) Donny Ermawan Taufanto, MDS. Both sides will exchange views on regional and global issues of shared interest.

The India-Indonesia friendship, which was elevated to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018, has widened the scope of bilateral relations to allow for new collaboration in the realm of defence industry, science and technology etc. The defence relations form a significant pillar to this growing partnership.

8. Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) is located in
- Dhanbad
 - Pune
 - Nagpur
 - Kota

Answer: C

The headquarters of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) is located in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

9. #PlayTrue Campaign, recently seen in the news, is in affairs to
- NADA

- b. BCCI
- c. CCI
- d. SEBI

Answer:

A

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), India concluded #PlayTrue Campaign, with turnout of more than 12,133 participants. The campaign commemorated WADA's Play True Day and aimed at fostering awareness about the importance of clean sport and anti-doping practices in India, received overwhelming participation and support from athletes, coaches, and sports enthusiasts nationwide.

The #PlayTrue Campaign highlights NADA India's commitment to equipping athletes, coaches, and the entire sporting community with a thorough understanding of anti-doping regulations, empowering them to champion clean play in India. The campaign was held from 15th to 30th April, 2024.

10. World Tuna Day, observed annually on May _____ is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical importance of tuna conservation
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4

Answer: B

World Tuna Day, observed annually on May 2 is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical importance of tuna conservation. Tuna is popular for its numerous health benefits, as it provides Omega-3 fatty acids, protein and vital vitamins.

11. International Sun Day is celebrated every year on May _____ and it is a special occasion to honour the Sun. This day honours the Sun's contributions to life on Earth and highlights the significance of solar energy.
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4

Answer: C

International Sun Day is celebrated every year on May 3 and it is a special occasion to honour the Sun. This day honours the Sun's contributions to life on Earth and highlights the significance

of solar energy. This day gives you the chance to invest in the sustainability of the earth and realise the power of the Sun.

12. Constitution Park, jointly developed by Indian Army and Punit Balan Group, was recently inaugurated in
- Mumbai
 - Pune
 - Gwalior
 - Chennai

Answer: B

Constitution Park, jointly developed by Indian Army and Punit Balan Group, was inaugurated in Pune. The park was inaugurated by GOC-in-C, Southern Command, Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh.

13. Antares, recently seen in the news, is a/an
- Exoplanet
 - Asteroid
 - Comet
 - Star

Answer:

D

Antares is the brightest star in the constellation of Scorpius. It has the Bayer designation α Scorpii, which is Latinised to Alpha Scorpii

Antares is a red supergiant star located in the constellation of Scorpius. It is one of the brightest stars in the night sky and is often referred to as the "heart of the scorpion" due to its location within the constellation. Antares is approximately 550 light-years away from Earth and has a distinctive reddish-orange color

14. Devon Thomas, recently in the news, is a/an
- Athlete
 - Cricketer
 - Chess player
 - Diplomat

Answer:

B

The ICC has banned **West Indies batter Devon Thomas** from all cricket for five years. Thomas accepted breaching seven counts of the anti-corruption codes of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) and the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

Thomas had been suspended for corruption in May 2023 when he was slapped seven charges, which included "contriving to fix" matches. The period of ineligibility is backdated to 23 May 2023, when he was provisionally suspended. Thomas accepted breaching the same seven charges of which four were from the SLC anti-corruption code, one from the ECB code, and two from the CPL code.

15. World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, _____ May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4

Answer: C

World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the **Declaration of Windhoek** is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.

16. India ranked _____ among 180 countries in the latest annual World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders in 2024.
- 149
 - 159
 - 169
 - 179

Answer: B

India ranked **159** among 180 countries in the latest annual World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF, short for Reporters sans frontières in French), an international non-profit organization. India had ranked 161 in the 2023 list.

Meanwhile, Pakistan ranked seven spots above India at 152. It had ranked 150 in 2023. Norway topped the ranking, while Denmark was on the second rank in World Press Freedom Index. Sweden ranked third on the list.

In its analysis, the RSF claimed that "press freedom is in crisis in 'the world's largest democracy' – that is India, which has been ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi since 2014.

17. Kutch Ajrakh, which recently received GI tag, is a
- a. Textile crafting
 - b. Mango variety
 - c. Cheese delicacy
 - d. Glass working

Answer:

A

In a significant stride towards preserving India's rich textile heritage, the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) has bestowed the Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon the traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh,' hailing from the vibrant region of Kutch in Gujarat. This prestigious recognition serves as a testament to the exceptional artistry and cultural significance of the age-old craft practiced by artisans in the region.

Ajrakh, a time-honored textile craft, holds deep roots in the cultural tapestry of Gujarat, particularly in the regions of Sindh, Barmer, and Kutch, where its legacy spans millennia. The art of Ajrakh entails a meticulous process of hand-block printing on treated cotton cloth, culminating in intricate designs infused with rich symbolism and history. From the sourcing of natural vegetable and mineral colors to the intricate resist printing and dyeing techniques, each step in the Ajrakh-making process reflects the artisans' mastery and dedication to their craft.

18. Eta Aquarid, recently seen in the news, is a
- a. Zooplankton
 - b. Species of guppy
 - c. Supernova
 - d. Meteor shower

Answer: D

The Eta Aquarids are a meteor shower associated with Halley's Comet. They occur annually from late April to mid-May, with peak activity typically around May 5th or 6th. The name "Eta Aquarids" comes from the fact that the meteors appear to radiate from the constellation Aquarius, specifically from the star Eta Aquarii.

19. Which of the following has launched an online Pension Sanction & Payment Tracking System called 'BHAVISHYA'?
- a. Department of Economic Affairs
 - b. Department of Telecommunications
 - c. Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare
 - d. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare

Answer: C

Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare is working with a vision of ensuring active and dignified life for pensioners.

The goal is to ensure payment of all retirement dues and delivery of Pension Payment Order (PPO) to retiring employees on the day of retirement itself. Towards this goal, the department has launched an online Pension Sanction & Payment Tracking System called 'BHAVISHYA'. The system provides online tracking of pension sanction and payment process by the individual as well as the administrative authorities. The system captures the pensioners personal and service particulars. The forms for processing of pension can be submitted online. It keeps retiring employees informed of the progress of pension sanction process through SMS/E-Mail. The system obviates delays in payment of pension by ensuring complete transparency.

20. The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), have recently organized a side event titled "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57). The event was held in
- a. New York
 - b. New Delhi
 - c. London
 - d. Geneva

Answer:

A

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is organizing the side event titled "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" on 3rd May, 2024, during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57), taking place from the 29th of April until the 3rd of May 2024 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Smt. Supriya Das Datta, Sabhadhipati, Sepahijala Zilla Parishad, Tripura; Smt. Kunuku Hema Kumari, Sarpanch, Pekeru Gram Panchayat, Andhra Pradesh and Smt. Neeru Yadav, Sarpanch, Lambi Aheer Gram Panchayat, Rajasthan are attending the event to represent the Elected Women Representatives from the rural local self-government in India and the delegation is led by Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, GoI.

21. Who has recently become the first President of GST Appellate Tribunal?
- a. Abdul Nazeer
 - b. Sanjiv Khanna
 - c. Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
 - d. Nageswara Rao

Answer:

C

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman administered the oath of integrity and secrecy to Justice (Retd.) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as the President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), in New Delhi, today. Justice (Retd.) Mishra's appointment marks the beginning of the operationalisation of the GSTAT, a crucial body for resolving GST-related disputes.

The GSTAT is the Appellate Authority established under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, to hear various appeals under the said Act and the respective State/Union Territories GST Acts against the orders of the first appellate authority. It consists of a Principal Bench and various State Benches. As per the approval of the GST Council, the Government has notified the Principal Bench, to be located at New Delhi, and 31 State Benches at various locations across the country. Process for appointment of Judicial Members and Technical Members is already in progress.

22. Arabian Travel Mart 2024 is being held in

- a. Riyadh
- b. Amman
- c. Dubai
- d. Doha

Answer:

C

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is participating in Arabian Travel Mart 2024, being held in **Dubai** from May 6th to 9th May, 2024. The event marks a significant step in strengthening India's presence in the Middle East tourism market.

Incredible India pavilion was Inaugurated today by Mr. Satish Kumar Sivan, Consul General of India to Dubai. The pavilion has made a resounding entry, aiming to capture the entirety of the UAE market. Leading a delegation comprising tour operators, luxury hotels, wellness resorts, and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, India is poised to showcase itself as a 365-day destination.

23. Giani Zail Singh was an Indian politician from Punjab who served as the _____
President of India from 1982 to 1987

- a. Sixth
- b. Seventh
- c. Eighth
- d. Fifth

Answer: B

Giani Zail Singh was an Indian politician from Punjab who served as the seventh president of India from 1982 to 1987 and 9th Chief Minister of Punjab. He was the first Sikh to become president.

24. Who among the following has been recently appointed as the UNICEF India's National Ambassador?

- a. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
- b. Deepika Padukone
- c. Priyanka Chopra Jonas
- d. Kareena Kapoor Khan

Answer:

D

In its 75th year of partnership with India, UNICEF India today announced the appointment of one of the most iconic stars of Indian Cinema, Kareena Kapoor Khan as the organization's National Ambassador. In her role, Kareena Kapoor Khan will support UNICEF India in furthering every child's right to early childhood development, health, education and gender equality.

25. Bernard Hill, who recently passed away, was famous for his role in which of the following movies?

- a. Forrest Gump
- b. Pulp Fiction
- c. Titanic
- d. The Godfather

Answer: C

Bernard Hill was an English actor. He is known for playing Théoden, King of Rohan, in The Lord of the Rings film trilogy, **Captain Edward Smith in Titanic**, and Luther Plunkitt, the Warden of San Quentin Prison, in the Clint Eastwood film True Crime. Hill is also known for playing roles in television dramas, including Yosser Hughes, the troubled "hard man" whose life is falling apart in Alan Bleasdale's Boys from the Blackstuff in the 1980s, and more recently, as the Duke of Norfolk in the BBC adaptation of Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall.

26. Which of the following has recently launched MEDITECH STACKATHON 2024?

- a. Department of Health and Family Welfare
- b. Department of Health Research
- c. Department of Pharmaceuticals
- d. Department of Biotechnology

Answer: C

Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers Dr Arunish Chawla, launched the MEDITECH STACKATHON 2024 in collaboration with CII in New Delhi today. The MEDITECH STACKATHON is a groundbreaking initiative designed to catalyze transformative change within India's burgeoning MedTech sector by undertaking a comprehensive value chain analysis of select medical devices. Through close consultation with industry leaders, policymakers, and experts, the STACKATHON aims to address critical challenges, foster domestic manufacturing, and reduce import dependence, thereby positioning India as a global leader in medical technology. Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals Shri RP Singh and Chairman, CII National Medical Technology Forum Shri Himanshu Baid and other senior officials of the Department and representatives of the Industry were present on the occasion.

27. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has celebrated its _____ Raising Day on May 07, 2024
- 80th
 - 65th
 - 60th
 - 55th

Answer: B

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is celebrating its 65th Raising Day on May 07, 2024. To mark the day, an event was organised in New Delhi, which was presided over by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane. In his address, the Defence Secretary lauded the BRO for fulfilling its responsibilities successfully in inhospitable terrain and tough weather conditions. He termed the BRO an extremely crucial organisation which, through its infrastructure projects in border areas, is playing a major role in the security of the country, besides ensuring the socio-economic progress of far-flung areas.

28. Capacity Building on Design and Entrepreneurship (CBDE) program has been recently launched by
- Ministry of Education
 - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
 - Ministry of Science and Technology
 - Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer:

A

Secretary, Department of Higher Education, **Ministry of Education**, Shri K. Sanjay Murthy today virtually launched the 'Capacity Building on Design and Entrepreneurship (CBDE)' program in presence of officials of the Department; members of the Program Advisory Council, CBDE; mentors from the industry; representatives of the shortlisted Higher Education Institutions

(HEIs); Prof. Sudhir Varadarajan, Program Director, CBDE, and Principal Investigators and Co-Principal Investigators. More than 130 participants virtually attended the meeting.

29. Who is the incumbent Director General of the National Centre for Good Governance?

- a. V. L. Kantha Rao
- b. Surjit Bhujabal
- c. Sonam Jamtsho
- d. V. Srinivas

Answer: D

V. Srinivas, Director General, National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and Secretary, Department of Administration Reform and Public Grievances (DARPG)

30. Which of the following is the theme of World Asthma Day 2024?

- a. Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions
- b. Closing Gaps in Asthma Care
- c. STOP for Asthma
- d. Asthma Education Empowers

Answer:

D

World Asthma Day (WAD) (May 7, 2024) is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma, (GINA) (www.ginasthma.org), a World Health Organization collaborative organization founded in 1993. WAD is held each May to raise awareness of Asthma worldwide.

In celebration of World Asthma Day 2024, the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) has selected the theme of “**Asthma Education Empowers**”. GINA emphasizes the need to empower people with asthma with the appropriate education to manage their disease, and to recognize when to seek medical help. Health care professionals are called upon to increase their awareness of the continuing avoidable morbidity and mortality from asthma, and the published evidence on effective management of asthma, so they are equipped to provide reliable information and optimal treatment for their patients.

31. Celebrated on the _____ of May, the International Thalassaemia Day is devoted to raising awareness amongst the general public and decision-makers about thalassaemia, promoting and strengthening the lifelong and difficult struggle of patients against this severe blood disease, and commemorating all the people who are no longer with us, while renewing our promise to keep fighting until the final cure for thalassaemia is found.

- a. 7TH
- b. 8TH
- c. 9th

d. 10th

Answer: B

Celebrated on the 8th of May, the International Thalassaemia Day is devoted to raising awareness amongst the general public and decision-makers about thalassaemia, promoting and strengthening the lifelong and difficult struggle of patients against this severe blood disease, and commemorating all the people who are no longer with us, while renewing our promise to keep fighting until the final cure for thalassaemia is found.

Every year since 1994, the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) is organising many diverse activities for the International Thalassaemia Day, with the objective to draw the attention of general public, patient associations, public authorities, healthcare professionals, and industry representatives, to fuel discussions and promote actions on a particular theme related to the prevention, management or treatment of the disease in a patient-centred manner.

32. Jigyasa is an initiative of

- a. ISRO
- b. CSIR
- c. Department of Space
- d. Department of Atomic Energy

Answer:

B

The Jigyasa programme is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a new India and Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) of Scientific Community and Institutions.

Jigyasa, a student - scientist connect programme has been launched by the government in New Delhi. The programme would be implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).

"JIGYASA" is one of the major initiative taken up by CSIR at national level, during its Platinum Jubilee Celebration Year. CSIR is widening and deepening its Scientific Social Responsibility further with the programme. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this programme. The focus of this scheme is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with well planned research laboratory based learning.

33. Who is the incumbent Director General of CSIR?

- a. Mayank Mathur
- b. S. Sathiyarayanan

- c. Brij Kishore
- d. N. Kalaiselvi

Answer: D

Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR and DG CSIR

34. ICube Qamar is a lunar mission of which of the following countries?
- a. Iran
 - b. Pakistan
 - c. Saudi Arabia
 - d. Kazakhstan

Answer: B

China and Pakistan have set their sights on the moon, promising groundbreaking discoveries that could reshape our understanding of Earth's celestial neighbour.

Pakistan's maiden lunar mission, ICube Qamar (ICUBE-Q), has embarked on its voyage, hitching a ride aboard China's Chang'e-6 orbiter. This comes nearly nine months after India's Chandrayaan 3 made history with a soft landing on the moon's south pole.

35. Victoria Shi, an AI spokeswoman, is an initiative of
- a. India
 - b. Russia
 - c. China
 - d. Ukraine

Answer:

D

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly gaining a stronghold in every aspect of human life. From being an intelligent assistant enhancing productivity at work, now it seems AI has taken on a bigger role. **Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has introduced an AI-generated avatar as its digital spokesperson.** This is a first in the world of diplomacy.

According to a report in New York-based news outlet Barron's, the Ministry said that it would 'for the first time in history' use a digital spokeswoman named Victoria Shi to read its statements. Reportedly, the statements will be written by humans. Shi is seen dressed in a dark suit and introduces herself as Victoria Shi, a digital person, in a video posted on social media. The AI spokeswoman moves her head and hands as she speaks.

36. What does 'V' stand for in 'IEVP', an initiative of Election Commission of India?
- a. Voters

- b. Visitors
- c. Voting
- d. Verifiable

Answer: B

International delegates have expressed their happiness at having witnessed the polling process first-hand in General Election 2024. While some of the delegates appreciated transparency others termed ECI's initiatives such as Green Polling Stations as inspirational. Delegates also appreciated the use of technology at scale in the elections including during randomization of EVM-VVPATs. Some of the delegates also said that they were particularly struck by the unwavering faith and commitment of Indian voters towards strengthening democratic ideals. Overall, there was unanimity among the visiting members of the Election Management Bodies of these countries that the election process in India was a peaceful, inclusive and accessible and takes place in a festive mood.

These reactions came after largest ever contingent of international delegates experienced India's General Elections first-hand in the recently concluded third phase of the elections as part of the International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP).

37. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has recently brought together start-ups/MSMEs, academia and research institutions under the "Telecom Design Collaboration Sprint". This Sprint was organised by DoT at IIT, _____
- a. Bangalore
 - b. Madras
 - c. Delhi
 - d. Bombay

Answer:

A

In a novel initiative, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) brought together start-ups/MSMEs, academia and research institutions under the "Telecom Design Collaboration Sprint". This Sprint was organised by DoT at IIT, Bangalore. Fifteen leading startups/MSME in the Radio Access Network (RAN), Core ecosystems, esteemed institutions such as IIT Madras, C-DOT, IIT Delhi and other network entities participated.

38. With respect to West Nile Virus, which of the following statements are incorrect?
- a. It is a single-stranded RNA virus
 - b. It is a flavivirus
 - c. It is related to the viruses that cause Japanese encephalitis and yellow fever
 - d. None

Answer: D

What is the West Nile Virus?

The West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne, single-stranded RNA virus. It is a flavivirus and is related to the viruses that cause Japanese encephalitis and yellow fever.

How does the West Nile Virus spread?

Culex species of mosquitoes act as the principal vectors for transmission. Infected mosquitoes spread the disease among humans and animals, including birds, which are the reservoir host of the virus.

What are the symptoms of West Nile fever?

The disease is asymptomatic in 80% of the infected people. The rest develop what is called the West Nile fever or severe West Nile disease. For them, the symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, body aches, nausea, rash, and swollen glands.

What is the treatment for West Nile Virus disease?

No WNV-specific prophylaxis, treatment or vaccine is available. Only supportive treatments are given to neuroinvasive WNV patients. Health authorities globally advise for personal protective measures to reduce the risk of mosquito bites, such as using mosquito repellents.

Why is it called West Nile Virus?

The virus was first isolated in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda in 1937. It was identified in birds (crows and columbiformes like doves and pigeons) in the Nile delta region in 1953. Before 1997, WNV was not considered pathogenic for birds, but then, a more virulent strain caused deaths of different bird species in Israel, presenting signs of encephalitis and paralysis.

West Nile Virus in India

In India, antibodies against WNV were first detected in humans in Mumbai in 1952 and virus activity has since been reported in southern, central, and western India. WNV has been isolated in India from Culex vishnui mosquitoes in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, from Culex quinquefasciatus mosquitoes in Maharashtra, and from humans in Karnataka.

The Kerala government on Tuesday (May 7) said that cases of West Nile fever have been reported from three districts in the state – Thrissur, Malappuram and Kozhikode. One person died of the viral disease on Monday and six other cases have been reported in recent days.

39. World Red Cross Day and Red Crescent Day is celebrated on _____ May every year
- a. 6
 - b. 7
 - c. 8
 - d. 9

Answer:

C

May 8 is World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, a time to recognize the work of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and staff responding to emergencies and crises worldwide. Every day, Red Crossers are out in local communities, helping those in need and making a difference in the lives of others. This year, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is asking people to demonstrate acts of kindness through the #FromtheHeart campaign.

40. ICAR-NBFGR has made a significant breakthrough with the discovery of a new _____ species in the pristine waters of Arunachal Pradesh, India. Named *Glyptothorax punyabratai*, this newfound species adds to the rich biodiversity of the region and highlights the importance of continued exploration and conservation efforts.
- e. Clownfish
 - a. Sea anemone
 - b. Starfish
 - c. Catfish

Answer: D

ICAR-NBFGR, the apex institute for fish genetic resources, has made a significant breakthrough with the discovery of a new **catfish** species in the pristine waters of Arunachal Pradesh, India. Named *Glyptothorax punyabratai*, this newfound species adds to the rich biodiversity of the region and highlights the importance of continued exploration and conservation efforts.

The discovery, spearheaded by ICAR-NBFGR researchers, was made in the Brahmaputra River drainage system. The species was collected from Tung Stream, a tributary of the Tissa River. The findings have been documented and published in the scientific journal *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters*. The holotype and paratype specimens of *Glyptothorax punyabratai* are now registered at the National Fish Museum-cum-Repository of ICAR-NBFGR in Lucknow.

41. National Board of Examinations (NBE) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and established in 1975 at _____
- a. Bengaluru
 - b. Chennai
 - c. Hyderabad
 - d. New Delhi

Answer: D

National Board of Examinations (NBE) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (India), Government of India, and established in 1975 at New Delhi as a Society under Delhi Society registration act, to standardizing postgraduate medical education and examination in India

42. National Technology Day is celebrated on May _____ every year to remember the successful nuclear test conducted by India and recognise & honour the significant contributions of scientists and engineers who have played a crucial role in the country's technological progress
- 8
 - 9
 - 10
 - 11

Answer:

D

National Technology Day is celebrated on May 11 every year to remember the successful nuclear test conducted by India and recognise & honour the significant contributions of scientists and engineers who have played a crucial role in the country's technological progress. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of science and technology in nation-building.

43. Manthan is a 1976 Hindi film directed by _____, inspired by the pioneering milk cooperative movement of Verghese Kurien.
- Shyam Benegal
 - Bimal Roy
 - Satyajit Ray
 - Hrishikesh Mukherjee

Answer:

A

The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) student's film "SUNFLOWERS WERE FIRST ONES TO KNOW" is selected in the La Cinef Competitive section. The short film made in Kannada, was shortlisted among entries from across the globe and will now compete against 17 other international short films in the final stage.

Furthermore, Shyam Benegal's 'Manthan', a film focusing on the Amul dairy cooperative movement, will be presented in the Classics section, adding a touch of historical significance to the festival's Indian lineup. The film reels were preserved for several decades in film vaults of NFDC-National Film Archive of India (NFAI), a unit of the Ministry, and has been restored by the Film Heritage Foundation (FHM).

44. Henley & Partners, an international wealth migration specialist, in collaboration with New World Wealth, a global data intelligence firm, recently published the World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2024. Which of the following cities topped the list published by the Report?
- New York City
 - Tokyo
 - London
 - The Bay Area

Answer: A

Henley & Partners, an international wealth migration specialist, in collaboration with New World Wealth, a global data intelligence firm, recently published the World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2024, which highlights the richest cities globally for the year 2024.

The report highlights **New York City**, which has continued to maintain its position as the world's wealthiest city, with 11 other US cities joining the top 50 list. In contrast, Tokyo, which held the top spot a decade ago, has fallen to third place due to a decline in its high-net-worth individual population.

Notably, India has made significant progress, with two of its cities breaking into the top 50 list. Mumbai and Delhi rank 24th and 37th, respectively, indicating a growing presence of wealthy individuals in the country.

45. Bajrang Punia is a well known
- Golfer
 - Wrestler
 - Track and field athlete
 - Rugby player

Answer: B

Bajrang Punia is an Indian freestyle **wrestler**, who competes in the 65-kg weight category. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Punia won a bronze medal by defeating Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov with a 8–0 margin. Punia is the only Indian wrestler to win 4 medals at the World Wrestling Championships.

46. International Nurses Day is on
- May 11
 - May 12
 - May 15
 - May 10

Answer: B

Every year, May 12 is celebrated as International Nurses Day globally. On this day, several activities are conducted to thank the nurses around the world. The theme for International Nurses Day 2024 is Our Nurses. Our Future.

47. Which among the following countries is the leading producer of Lithium in the world?

- a. Australia
- b. China
- c. Democratic Republic of Congo
- d. India

Answer:

A

There is also collaboration of India with **Australia who is the leading producer of Lithium** (about 47% of the world- top producer) and Cobalt (about 3% of World- 4th largest producer) by signing G2G MoU (between Ministry of Mines and DSIR) and B2B MoU (between KABIL and CMO). Five projects of Lithium and Cobalt have been selected where project feasibility is being carried out.

48. Department of Atomic Energy is headquartered in _____

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

Answer:

B

The Department of Atomic Energy is an Indian government department with headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra. DAE was established in 1954 with Jawaharlal Nehru as its first minister and Homi Bhabha as its secretary.

49. Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) is an intelligence agency responsible for providing and coordinating defence and military intelligence to the Indian Armed Forces. Who is the incumbent Director General Defence Intelligence Agency?

- a. D S Rana
- b. Jacob John Mkunda
- c. S C Malhan
- d. Kamal Davar

Answer: A

Director General Defence Intelligence Agency (DG DIA) Lieutenant General DS Rana has proceeded on an official visit to the United Republic of Tanzania. The aim of this visit, scheduled from 13-15 May 2024, is to further reinforce the robust defence ties between the two nations and discuss opportunities for regional security collaboration.

50. 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests was held in

- a. New Delhi
- b. New York
- c. London
- d. Geneva

Answer: B

India participated in the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), held at the UN Headquarters in New York from May 6th to 10th May 2024. During the session, India highlighted the Country's significant advancements in forest conservation and sustainable forest management which led to consistent increase in forest cover over the past fifteen years. Globally, India ranks third in the net gain, in average annual forest area, between 2010 and 2020.

51. Which of the following has/have been recently included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'?

- a. Ramcharitmanas
- b. Panchatantra
- c. Sahṛdayāloka-Locana
- d. All of the above

Answer: D

The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'. This inclusion is a proud moment for India, a confirmation of the country's rich literary heritage and cultural legacy. It signifies a step forward in global cultural preservation efforts, highlighting the importance of recognizing and safeguarding the diverse narratives and artistic expressions that shape our shared humanity. By honouring these literary masterpieces, society not only pays homage to the creative genius of their creators but also ensures that their profound wisdom and timeless teachings continue to inspire and enlighten future generations.

The 'Ramcharitmanas', 'Panchatantra', and 'Sahṛdayaloka-Locana' are such timeless works that have deeply influenced Indian literature and culture, shaping the nation's moral fabric and artistic expressions. These literary works have transcended time and place, leaving an indelible

mark on readers and artists both within and outside India. It is noteworthy that 'Sahṛdayaloka-Locana', 'Panchatantra', and 'Ramcharitmanas' were authored by Acharya Anandvardhan, Pt. Vishnu Sharma, and Goswami Tulsidas, respectively.

52. Samadhan Campaign, recently seen in the news, is an initiative of
- Department of Ex Servicemen Welfare
 - Department of Defence Production
 - Defence Research and Development Organisation
 - Department of Military Affairs

Answer:

A

As part of the outreach programme '**Samadhan Campaign**' of **Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare**, Secretary (Ex-servicemen Welfare) Dr Niten Chandra visited the border areas in the northeast state of Sikkim and took stock of the various welfare schemes for the veterans on Monday, 13 May 2024. In a major move to further bolster the financial security of the veterans, the Secretary ESW directed the Rajya Sainik Board & Zila Sainik Boards to set up Common Service Centres and PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the region that will be run by Ex-servicemen.

53. Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI is between India and
- USA
 - UK
 - France
 - Germany

Answer:

C

The 7th edition of India- **France** Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced today, at Umroi, in a fully developed and modern Foreign Training Node in Meghalaya. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13th to 26th May 2024. The Opening Ceremony of the joint exercise was attended by H.E. Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India and Major General Prasanna Sudhakar Joshi, General Officer Commanding 51 Sub Area. Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France. Last edition was conducted in France in November 2021.

54. Shahid Beheshti Port Terminal has been recently in the news in connection with
- Iran
 - Iraq
 - Afghanistan
 - Pakistan

Answer:

A

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal visited Chabahar, **Iran** on 13 May 2024 to witness the signing ceremony of Long-term Main Contract for the development of Shahid Beheshti Port Terminal, Chabahar. The contract was signed between India Port Global Limited (IPGL) and Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of **Iran**.

The Union Minister held fruitful bilateral meeting with his counterpart H.E. Mehrdad Bazrpash, Minister of Roads and Urban Development of Iran. The Ministers recalled the common vision of their leaders to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in connectivity initiatives and in making Chabahar Port a regional connectivity hub.

55. Who among the following has been recently in the news for summiting Mount Everest for the 29th time?
- a. Apa Sherpa
 - b. Phurba Tashi Sherpa
 - c. Lakpa Rita
 - d. Kami Rita

Answer:

D

One of the world's most skilled climbing guides on Mount Everest has reached the Earth's highest peak for the **29th time**, beating his own record for most times to the summit, according to expedition organisers.

Kami Rita reached the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) peak early morning on Sunday, said Mingma Sherpa from Seven Summits Treks.

56. Sanchar Saathi Portal is an initiative of
- a. Department of Telecommunications
 - b. Department of Posts
 - c. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
 - d. Department of Personnel & Training

Answer:

A

The Department of Telecommunications has introduced the Sanchar Saathi Portal, an innovative initiative aimed at empowering mobile subscribers and enhancing their security while increasing awareness of government initiatives. This platform enables citizens to effectively manage and monitor the mobile connections registered under their name, while also providing valuable features such as disconnecting unnecessary connections, tracking lost phones, and verifying the authenticity of devices during new or used purchases. To achieve these goals, the portal incorporates two significant modules known as Central Equipment

Identity Register (CEIR) and Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAF COP).

57. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) has recently celebrated the completion of _____ years
- 100
 - 150
 - 200
 - 250

Answer: D

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) today celebrates the completion of 250 years, commemorating an extraordinary journey, spanning over two and a half centuries. From a humble beginning as a small dry dock in 1774, to its incorporation in 1934, and subsequently, its stewardship under the Government of India since 1960, completion of 250 years of MDL is a milestone that marks a testament of resilience, growth and enduring legacy."

To mark this occasion of immense significance MDL today organized a series of events including inauguration of adjacent land acquired from MPA, launch of prototype of indigenous midget submarine 'Arowana', commissioning of Solar Electric Hybrid boat, release of MDL's Commemorative Coin which marks the 250 years completed and conducting a daylong technical seminar.

58. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the _____ coordinates activities related to combating cybercrime in the country
- Ministry of Defence
 - Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - Ministry of Communication

Answer: B

A large number of complaints are being reported on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) regarding intimidation, blackmail, extortion and "Digital Arrests" by cyber criminals posing as Police Authorities, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Narcotics Department, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Enforcement Directorate and other Law Enforcement Agencies.

These fraudsters typically call a potential victim and inform that the victim has sent or is the intended recipient of a parcel, which contains illegal goods, drugs, fake passports or any other contraband item. Sometimes, they also inform that a near or dear one of the victim has been found to be involved in a crime or an accident and is in their custody. A demand for money is made to compromise the “case”. In certain instances, unsuspecting victims are made to undergo “Digital Arrest” and remain visually available over Skype or other video conferencing platform to the fraudsters, till their demands are met. The fraudsters are known to use studios modeled on Police Stations and Government offices and wear uniforms to appear genuine.

Across the country, several victims have lost large amounts of money to such criminals. This is an organized online economic crime and is learnt to be operated by cross-border crime syndicates.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of **Home** Affairs, coordinates activities related to combating cybercrime in the country. MHA is closely working with other Ministries and their agencies, RBI and other organizations to counter these frauds. I4C is also providing inputs and technical support to Police Authorities of States/UTs for identifying and investigating the cases.

Citizens are advised to be alert and spread awareness about these types of frauds. On receipt of such calls, the citizens should immediately report the incident on cybercrime helpline number 1930 or www.cybercrime.gov.in for assistance.

59. World Hydrogen Summit 2024 was held in

- a. Rotterdam
- b. Davos
- c. Liechtenstein
- d. Lisbon

Answer:

A

For the first time, India has set up its own pavilion, at the **World Hydrogen Summit 2024, being held in Rotterdam**, Netherlands, during May 13 – 15, 2024. The India Pavilion, set up by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, is one of the largest pavilions at the Summit and has been inaugurated by Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Shri Bhupinder S. Bhalla on May 12, 2024.

60. India launched its National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023 with an overall outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores. India has set an ambitious target to achieve a green hydrogen production capacity of _____ MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) by end of the year 2030.

- a. 2

- b. 5
- c. 10
- d. 20

Answer: B

India launched its National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023 with an overall outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores. India has set an ambitious target to achieve a green hydrogen production capacity of 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) by end of the year 2030. As on date, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has awarded tenders for setting up of 412,000 tonnes of Green Hydrogen production capacity and 1,500 MW of electrolyzer manufacturing capacity.

India has also notified scheme guidelines for use of Green Hydrogen in steel, transport / mobility and shipping sectors. The Department of Science and Technology has initiated Hydrogen Valley Innovation Clusters to foster innovation and promote Green Hydrogen ecosystem in India.

61. Kamla Beniwal, who recently passed away, was a/an
- a. Politician
 - b. Diplomat
 - c. Scientist
 - d. Advocate

Answer:

A

Kamla Beniwal was an Indian independence activist and **politician**. She was a senior member of Indian National Congress party. She served as a minister in different posts and Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan in 2003. Later she served as Governor of different Indian states between 2009 and 2014. She became the first woman minister in Rajasthan in 1954 at the age of 27. She was the first ever woman Governor of any northeastern state. She was a recipient of Tamra Patra Award from former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in recognition of her contribution in the freedom struggle.

62. "Sangam Initiative: A Leap Towards AI-Driven Infrastructure Transformation" is an initiative of
- a. Department of Telecommunications
 - b. Department of Culture
 - c. Department of Science and Technology
 - d. Department of Electronics and Information Technology

Answer:

A

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) proudly announces the selected participants for

Stage 1 of the ground-breaking 'Sangam: Digital Twin with AI-Driven Insights Initiative'. Launched on February 15, 2024, the Sangam initiative aims to revolutionize infrastructure planning and design by leveraging digital twin technology to create precise, dynamic models of physical environments. This innovative approach enables real-time insights and predictive analytics, significantly enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of infrastructure projects. The initiative aims to address complex challenges by integrating telecommunications, computational technologies, sensing, and imaging to create comprehensive digital replicas of physical assets. [For full details, visit <https://sangam.sancharsaathi.gov.in/>].

63. Power Finance Corporation Ltd. is an Indian Central Public Sector Undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Power. Established in 1986, it is the financial backbone of Indian power sector. Who is the incumbent "Chairperson and Managing Director" of the Power Finance Corporation Ltd.?
- Sanjay Jaju
 - Ajay Kumar Bhalla
 - Parminder Chopra
 - Tholoana Rose Ncheke

Answer: C

The Power Finance Corporation announced its financial results for the financial year 2023-24, at an event held in Mumbai today, May 15, 2024.

On PFC's performance, Chairperson and Managing Director, Smt. **Parminder Chopra** shared that PFC Group continues to be the largest NBFC Group in India and is also India's highest profit-making NBFC both on a consolidated and on a stand-alone basis.

64. National Highways Authority of India is an autonomous agency of the Government of India, set up in
- 1965
 - 1975
 - 1985
 - 1995

Answer: D

The National Highways Authority of India or NHAI is an autonomous agency of the Government of India, set up in **1995** (Act 1988) and is responsible for management of a road network of over 50,000 km of National highways out of 1,32,499 km in India. It is a nodal agency of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

65. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is conducted by
- a. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
 - b. Ministry of Labour and Employment
 - c. Labour Bureau
 - d. Office of the Economic Adviser

Answer: A

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of the Government of India. This survey provides crucial data on various labor force parameters, such as employment, unemployment, and labor force participation rates, which are essential for policy-making and economic planning.

66. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is on
- a. 17 May
 - b. 18 May
 - c. 19 May
 - d. 20 May

Answer:

A

Celebrated every year on 17 May, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) marks the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) – the United Nations agency for digital technologies.

67. Securities and Exchange Board of India has recently granted additional time of 3 years to the Life Insurance Corporation of India to achieve _____ public shareholding under Rule 19(2)(b)(iv) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957.
- a. 10%
 - b. 5%
 - c. 20%
 - d. 16%

Answer:

A

"Pursuant to Regulation 30 of Listing Regulations, this is to inform that Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") vide its letter dated May 14, 2024 has conveyed its decision, to grant additional time of 3 years to Life Insurance Corporation of India ("the Corporation") to achieve 10% public shareholding under Rule 19(2)(b)(iv) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, i.e., within a period of 5 years from the date of listing," LIC said in a regulatory filing.

68. "Vagrants in the Valley", "Once Upon a Monsoon Time", "Angry River", "Strangers in the Night", "All Roads Lead to Ganga", "Tales of Fosterganj", "Leopard on the Mountain" and "Too Much Trouble" are the major works
- R K Narayan
 - Ruskin Bond
 - Kiran Desai
 - Vikram Seth

Answer: B

Eminent English author Ruskin Bond was awarded the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship at his Mussoorie home on Saturday.

Bond was named a recipient of Akademi's highest honour in September 2021. However, due to his ill health, he could not be given the honour in person.

Born on 19 May 1934 in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, Bond has been actively writing for more than 50 years and has written in various genres of literature, including short stories, children's books, novels, autobiographical works and non-fiction.

His notable works include "Vagrants in the Valley", "Once Upon a Monsoon Time", "Angry River", "Strangers in the Night", "All Roads Lead to Ganga", "Tales of Fosterganj", "Leopard on the Mountain" and "Too Much Trouble".

69. The UN General-Assembly declared _____ May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity
- 12
 - 14
 - 16
 - 19

Answer:

C

Living together in peace is all about accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way.

The UN General-Assembly, in its resolution 72/130, declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity. The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.

The Day invites countries to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure peace and sustainable development, including by working with communities, faith leaders and other relevant actors, through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals.

70. Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) is headquartered in
- Geneva
 - New York
 - New Delhi
 - Rome

Answer: A

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. GANHRI operates as an international association that coordinates and supports national human rights institutions (NHRIs) around the world. It aims to promote and strengthen NHRIs to ensure they adhere to the principles set out in the Paris Principles, which establish the standards for the operation and functioning of these institutions.

71. International Day of Light is celebrated annually on May _____ to highlight the importance of light and its various applications in science, culture, art, education, and sustainable development.
- 15
 - 16
 - 17
 - 18

Answer: B

International Day of Light 2024: The International Day of Light was proclaimed by UNESCO on November 24, 2017. The date, **May 16**, was chosen to commemorate the first successful laser operation in 1960 by physicist and engineer **Theodore Maiman**.

72. Which of the following countries has recently unveiled the world's first high-speed 6G prototype device?
- China
 - South Korea
 - Japan
 - Singapore

Answer: C

A **Japanese** consortium recently unveiled the world's first high-speed 6G prototype device. It can transmit data at a whopping 100 gigabits per second (Gbps), covering more than 300 feet. That's a 20x improvement over the current 5G technology. The prototype device was a result of collaboration among Japan's leading telecom companies, including DOCOMO, NTT Corporation, NEC Corporation, and Fujitsu.

73. Blue Corner Notice, recently seen in the news, is issued by

- a. NIA
- b. FBI
- c. INTERPOL
- d. UNCITRAL

Answer: C

Interpol issued on Tuesday (May 7) a **Blue Corner Notice** against “absconding” Hassan JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, accused of multiple instances of sexual abuse. This will help the Special Investigation Team probing the case to locate Prajwal Revanna. He flew to Germany from Bengaluru on April 27 using his diplomatic passport. His whereabouts are currently not known, amid reports that he later flew to Dubai or Hungary.

74. Which of the following is **not** a color-coded alert system used by IMD?

- a. Orange Alert
- b. Green Alert
- c. Black Alert
- d. Yellow Alert

Answer: C

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) uses a color-coded alert system to convey the severity of weather conditions and potential hazards. These alerts help authorities and the public prepare for and respond to adverse weather events. The primary alerts issued by the IMD are:

Green Alert: No warning. Weather is normal, and no significant threat is expected.

Yellow Alert: Be aware. Indicates severely bad weather that could affect daily routines but is not life-threatening. It serves as an early warning to keep an eye on changing conditions.

Orange (Amber) Alert: Be prepared. Signifies more severe weather conditions that could cause significant disruptions and pose a risk to life and property. People should prepare for potential impacts.

Red Alert: Take action. Indicates extremely severe weather conditions that could cause widespread damage, significant risk to life, and major disruptions. Urgent action is needed to ensure safety.

75. Shingo La is a mountain pass in India, on the state boundary between Ladakh and

-
- a. Uttar Pradesh
 - b. Himachal Pradesh
 - c. Uttarakhand
 - d. Sikkim

Answer: B

Shingo La (also known as Shinku La) is a mountain pass in India, on the state boundary between Ladakh and **Himachal Pradesh**. It connects the Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh with the Zaskar region of Ladakh. Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road, a strategic road with the unidirectional-twin-tube total-4-lane Shingo La Tunnel which is expected to be completed by 2025 will reduce the Manali to Kargil distance by 522 km

76. With reference to calcium carbide, which of the following statements is incorrect?

- a. It releases acetylene gas which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus
- b. Calcium carbide for ripening fruits has been banned in India
- c. FSSAI has permitted the use of ethylene gas as a safer alternative to calcium carbide for fruit ripening in India
- d. None

Answer:

D

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has alerted traders'/fruits handlers/Food Business Operators (FBOs) operating ripening chambers to strictly ensure compliance with the prohibition on calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits, particularly during the mango season. FSSAI is also advising Food Safety Departments of States /UTs to remain vigilant and take serious action and deal stringently against person(s) indulging in such unlawful practices as per the provisions of FSS Act, 2006 and Rules/Regulations made thereunder.

Calcium carbide, commonly used for ripening fruits like mangoes, releases acetylene gas which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus. These substances, also known as 'Masala', can cause serious health issues such as dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting and skin ulcers, etc. Additionally, acetylene gas is equally hazardous to those handling it. There are chances that calcium carbide may come in direct contact with fruits during application and leave residues of arsenic and phosphorus on fruits.

Due to these dangers, the use of calcium carbide for ripening fruits has been banned under Regulation 2.3.5 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011. This regulation explicitly states, "No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale or have in his premises for the purpose of sale under any description, fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas."

Considering the issue of rampant use of banned calcium carbide, FSSAI has permitted the use of ethylene gas as a safer alternative for fruit ripening in India. Ethylene gas can be used at concentrations up to 100 ppm (100 µl/L), depending upon the crop, variety and maturity. Ethylene, a naturally occurring hormone in fruits, regulates the ripening process by initiating and controlling a series of chemical and biochemical activities. The treatment of unripe fruits with ethylene gas triggers the natural ripening process until the fruit itself starts producing ethylene in substantial quantities.

77. The IMO International Day for Women in Maritime is observed on _____ May every year.
- a. 17
 - b. 18
 - c. 10
 - d. 31

Answer: B

The IMO International Day for Women in Maritime is observed on 18 May every year.

2024 theme "Safe Horizons: Women Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety"

78. The RBI sets the maximum gold loan to value ratio (LTV) at _____% of the gold's market value as of May 2024.
- a. 50
 - b. 60
 - c. 75
 - d. 90

Answer: C

Maximum Limit: The RBI sets the maximum gold loan to value ratio (LTV) at 75% of the gold's market value. This means borrowers can get a loan amount equivalent to 75% of their pledged gold's worth.

Temporary Increase: During the pandemic, the RBI temporarily increased the LTV to 90% to assist individuals facing financial hardship. However, this higher limit expired in March 2021.

79. "Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defence Systems" (VSHORAD) was originated in which of the following countries?

- a. China
- b. Russia
- c. France
- d. Germany

Answer:

B

The Army is all set to begin receiving another set of **RUSSIAN** Igla-S very short range air defence systems (VSHORAD) by the end of May or early next month, filling a critical void in the its air defence requirements which has been repeatedly delayed. In another development, multiple sources confirmed that the payments issue between India and Russia that has held up critical payments for defence deals as well as payments has been resolved.

80. Malti Joshi, who recently passed away, was a well known

- a. Writer
- b. Athlete
- c. Diplomat
- d. Scientist

Answer: A

Malti Joshi was an Indian novelist, essayist and writer, who wrote primarily in the Hindi and Marathi languages. She was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honours, in 2018.

81. Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency is in

- a. Himachal Pradesh
- b. Jammu and Kashmir
- c. Uttarakhand
- d. Uttar Pradesh

Answer: B

After a record voter turnout of 38.49% in Srinagar PC in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Baramulla Parliament Constituency now seems headed for the highest turnout in the last 8 Lok Sabha elections. Voter turnout of 54.21 % was recorded as of 5 PM in the districts of Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora and Budgam.

Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency is one of the five Lok Sabha (parliamentary) constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir in northern India. Baramulla has 17.2 lakh voters in this lok sabha elections

82. National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB) is an apex Research and Development organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of
- a. Corporate Affairs
 - b. Heavy Industries
 - c. Commerce and Industry
 - d. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Answer: C

National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB) is an apex Research and Development organization under the administrative control of DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. NCB is dedicated to research, technology development & transfer, education & industrial services for cement, allied building materials & construction industries. For more information about NCB: <https://www.ncbindia.com>.

83. International Museum Day is on
- a. 18 May
 - b. 19 May
 - c. 20 May
 - d. 21 May

Answer:

A

The objective of International Museum Day (IMD) is to raise awareness about the fact that, "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples." Organised on 18 May each year or around this date, the events and activities planned to celebrate International Museum Day can last a day, a weekend or an entire week. IMD was celebrated for the first time 40 years ago. All around the world, more and more museums participate in International Museum Day. Last year, more than 37,000 museums participated in the event in about 158 countries and territories.

This year's theme, "Museums for Education and Research," underscores the pivotal role of cultural institutions in providing a holistic educational experience. This day pushes for a more conscious, sustainable and inclusive world.

84. ULIP is a digital gateway that integrates logistics-related data from various government systems. The platform was launched by the Government of India in 2022. What does "U" represent in the ULIP?
- Unified
 - Universal
 - Uniform
 - Unit

Answer: A

The Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) is a digital gateway that integrates logistics-related data from various government systems. The platform was launched by the Government of India in 2022 as part of its National Logistics Policy (NLP). The NLP aims to reduce logistics costs, improve the country's Logistics Performance Index ranking, and create a data-driven decision support mechanism.

85. The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with _____ on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning.
- UNDP
 - WHO
 - WOAH
 - UNSDG

Answer: A

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) India on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning.

The MOU was signed today at "We the People Hall", UNDP Country office, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi between Smt. Alka Upadhyay, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Ms. Caitlin Wiesen. UNDP Resident Representative in India. This strategic partnership aims to enhance the digitalization of vaccine cold chain management, capacity building, and communication planning in India.

86. International Day of Yoga will be celebrating its _____ edition in 2024
- a. 8th
 - b. 9th
 - c. 10th
 - d. 11th

Answer: C

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi organised a grand event to commemorate the 10th edition of International Day of Yoga, 2024. The theme of the event on this occasion was 'Yoga for Women Empowerment'.

87. World Bee Day is celebrated on May _____
- a. 19
 - b. 20
 - c. 18
 - d. 21

Answer: B

World Bee Day is celebrated on May 20. On this day Anton Janša, the pioneer of beekeeping, was baptized in 1734. The purpose of the international day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem

In recognition of the pivotal role that youth can play in addressing challenges bees and other pollinators are facing, World Bee Day 2024 focuses on the theme "Bee engaged with Youth." This theme highlights the importance of involving young people in beekeeping and pollinator conservation efforts, recognizing them as the future stewards of our environment.

88. 2024 Varzaqan helicopter crash, recently seen in the news, was in relation to the affairs of
- a. Iran
 - b. Syria
 - c. Israel
 - d. Ukraine

Answer:

A

On 19 May 2024, an Iranian Air Force helicopter crashed near the village of Uzi, Varzaqan County, in the province of East Azerbaijan, Iran, killing all on board. The Bell 212 was travelling from the Giz Galasi Dam to Tabriz and carried the president of Iran Ebrahim Raisi, foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, governor-general of East Azerbaijan Malek Rahmati,

representative of the Supreme Leader in East Azerbaijan Mohammad Ali Ale-Hashem, the head of the president's security team, and three flight crew.

89. Nikhat Zareen is associated with

- a. Badminton
- b. Tennis
- c. Shooting
- d. Boxing

Answer: D

Nikhat Zareen is an Indian **boxer** and a two-time world champion. She won a gold medal at the 2011 AIBA Women's Youth & Junior World Boxing Championships held in Antalya. Zareen won gold medals at the 2022 Istanbul, and 2023 New Delhi IBA Women's World Boxing Championships. She also won gold medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. She won the bronze medal in the Light flyweight event in the 2022 Asian Games.

90. Who is the incumbent President of the Republic of China (Taiwan)?

- a. Cho Jung-tai
- b. Xi Jinping
- c. Hsiao Bi-khim
- d. Lai Ching-te

Answer: D

Lai Ching-te is a Taiwanese politician and former physician who is currently serving as the 8th president of the Republic of China (Taiwan) since May 2024.

91. Which of the following festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Nibbāna), and passing (Parinirvāna) of Gautama Buddha in Theravada, Tibetan Buddhism and Navayana?

- a. Asalha Puja
- b. Magha Puja
- c. Vesak
- d. Uposatha

Answer: C

Vesak also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima, and Buddha Day, is a holiday traditionally observed by Buddhists in South Asia and Southeast Asia, as well as Tibet and Mongolia. It is among the most important Buddhist festivals. The festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Nibbāna), and passing (Parinirvāna) of Gautama Buddha in Theravada, Tibetan Buddhism and Navayana.

92. Under the ambit of the Foreign Trade Policy, Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council was established by the Government of India, during the year _____, to promote and develop the export of telecom equipment and services.
- a. 1979
 - b. 1989
 - c. 1999
 - d. 2009

Answer:

D

About TEPC: Under the ambit of the Foreign Trade Policy, TEPC was established by the Government of India, during the year 2009, to promote and develop the export of telecom equipment and services.

The council's scope encompasses the entire telecom ecosystem including ICT hardware and software, Infrastructure products, service provision, system Integration & consultancy services. TEPC effectively caters to the diverse stakeholders within the telecom domain, including equipment manufacturers, system integrators, service providers and other relevant entities.

93. Who is the incumbent Chairperson of the TRAI?
- a. Anil Kumar Lahoti
 - b. Mahanagar Doorsanchar
 - c. Sunil Kumar Gupta
 - d. P D Vaghela

Answer:

A

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is a regulatory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India. It consists of a chairperson and not more than two full-time members and not more than two part-time members. The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance, effective from 24 January 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.

Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairperson, TRAI

94. Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024 was conducted by
- a. Defence Cyber Agency
 - b. CERT-In
 - c. Department of Telecommunications
 - d. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Answer:

A

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan attended 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024', on May 22, 2024, and underscored the importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities.

The comprehensive cyber defence exercise is being conducted by **Defence Cyber Agency** from 20 - 24 May 2024. It aims to further develop Cyber Defence Capability of all Cyber security organisations and promote synergy amongst all stakeholders. It focusses on enhancing collaboration and integration among participants from various military and prominent national organizations.

95. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) was established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, _____.
- 1998
 - 2003
 - 2004
 - 1982

Answer: A

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) was established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, **1998**. CERC is the Central Commission for the purposes of the Electricity Act, 2003 which has repealed the ERC Act, 1998. The Commission consists of a Chairperson and three other Members. Additionally, Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority is the ex-officio Member of the Commission.

Major functions of CERC under the Electricity Act, 2003 are, among others, to regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government, to regulate the tariff of other generating companies having a composite scheme for generation and sale of electricity in more than one State, to regulate the inter-State transmission of electricity and to determine tariff for inter-state transmission of electricity. Under the Act, CERC is mandated to carry out certain other functions also, including to issue license for inter- state transmission and trading, to adjudicate disputes, to advise the Central Government on formulation of National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy; to promote competition, efficiency and economy in activities of electricity industry; and to promote investment in electricity industry.

96. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has recently organized a national brainstorming session on "Transforming Science, Technology, and Innovation Ecosystems of India" at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in
- New Delhi
 - Bengaluru

- c. Mumbai
- d. Hyderabad

Answer: A

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) organized a national brainstorming session on “Transforming Science, Technology, and Innovation Ecosystems of India” at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), today in New Delhi.

The day-long discussions were hosted by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and focused on critical areas like research and innovation; equity and inclusion; technology development, translation, innovation, and entrepreneurship; international cooperation; and science, technology, and innovation governance.

97. NTPC has secured the _____ rank globally at the ATD BEST Awards 2024, this being the highest ranking among all Indian companies
- a. Second
 - b. Third
 - c. First
 - d. Fourth

Answer: B

NTPC has achieved an impressive milestone by securing the 3rd rank globally at the ATD BEST Awards 2024, this being the highest ranking among all Indian companies. Notably, NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award seven times in the past eight years. The accolade was accepted by CGM (Strategic HR & Talent Management), NTPC, Ms. Rachana Singh Bhal at a ceremony held in New Orleans, USA, on 21st May, 2024.

The ATD BEST Awards, established by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D). It honors organizations that leverage talent development as a strategic business tool and demonstrate enterprise-wide success through effective employee development practices. The ranking is said to be determined through a rigorous evaluation and assessment process conducted by international experts of high integrity and global eminence.

98. Which of the following State governments has recently made it mandatory to provide 33% reservation for women in services and posts that are being outsourced by various government departments and organisations?
- a. Kerala
 - b. Karnataka

- c. Goa
- d. Telangana

Answer: B

Aligning with the quota policy applied in permanent government positions, Karnataka State government has now made it mandatory to provide 33% reservation for women in services and posts that are being outsourced by various government departments and organisations. This reservation is within the quota stipulated for SC/ST and other backward communities in government outsourced jobs.

99. What does "A" stand for in PM-WANI scheme?

- a. Aggregator
- b. Aerial
- c. Access
- d. Approved

Answer:

C

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of Department of Telecom (DoT) to proliferate Broadband through Public Wi-Fi networks under the framework of the **Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)** on 9th December 2020.

This framework takes forward the goal of National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 (NDCP) of creating a robust digital communications infrastructure. The PM-WANI framework envisages provision of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Hotspot providers. It will consist of elements such as Public Data Office (PDO), Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA), App Provider and Central Registry.

100. Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), a digital platform for online reporting of damages incurred during various disasters, was launched by the Government of

- a. Odisha
- b. Assam
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Gujarat

Answer: B

DRIMS is a state-of-the-art initiative of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) for accurate reporting and assessment of damages caused by disasters and disbursal of aid to those affected by them.

Guwahati: The Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), a digital platform for online reporting of damages incurred during various disasters, was launched on Wednesday.

Assam's Chief Secretary, Assam, Dr Ravi Kota lunched the platform at Assam Administrative Staff College (AASC), Khanapara, Guwahati.

101. National Crisis Management Committee is chaired by
- Director General, India Meteorological Department
 - Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister
 - Cabinet Secretary
 - National Security Advisor

Answer: C

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) met today under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba to review preparedness for the impending cyclone in Bay of Bengal.

102. DD Kisan was established in
- 2000
 - 2005
 - 2010
 - 2015

Answer: D

DD Kisan is the only TV channel in the country, which has been established by the Government of India and dedicated to the farmers. This channel was established on 26 May 2015.

The objective of establishing DD Kisan Channel was to always keep the farmers informed about the changes in weather, global and local markets etc., so that farmers can make appropriate plans in advance and take right decisions on time. DD Kisan Channel is meeting these standards for the last 9 years.

DD Kisan channel is also working to bring forward the efforts of progressive farmers to all the people, with the aim of serving the agricultural and rural community in the country and working towards creating an environment of holistic development by educating them.

103. Remal, seen in the news recently, is a

- a. Reed instrument
- b. Cyclonic storm
- c. Contingent patrol vehicles
- d. Literary piece

Answer: B

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has initiated comprehensive preparatory measures to ensure minimal loss of life and property at sea due to Cyclonic Storm 'Remal' originating in the central Bay of Bengal. It is expected to intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm by May 25, 2024. The system is likely to make landfall at North/ North-West Bay of Bengal near West Bengal Coast on the intervening night of May 26 & 27.

104. "SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW", a course end film directed by _____, a student of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), received the Cannes' La Cinef Award for Best Short at 77th Cannes Film Festival in France.

- a. Chidanand Naik
- b. Suraj Thakur
- c. Manoj V
- d. Abhishek Kadam

Answer:

A

"SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW", a course end film by Chidanand Naik, a student of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), received the Cannes' La Cinef Award for Best Short at 77th Cannes Film Festival in France. The winner was officially announced on 23rd May 2024 at the festival where the student Director Shri Chidanand Naik received the award.

105. Which of the following has been conferred with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'?

- a. NHPC
- b. NTPC
- c. NHAI
- d. BHEL

Answer: A

NHPC, India's premier hydropower company, has been conferred with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'. The Award has been given to NHPC in recognition of its preparedness in the areas of upskilling of employees, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) interventions, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I)

initiatives, constant technological upgradations, Employee Engagement processes, robust Corporate Governance strategies etc. which establish it as a trusted brand amongst all its stakeholders.

106. Who among the following has been appointed as the Commandant, National Defence Academy in May 2024?

- a. Gurcharan Singh
- b. Ajay Kocchar
- c. Manish Chadha
- d. K. M. Ramakrishnan

Answer:

A

Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh assumed the appointment of Commandant, National Defence Academy on 25 May 2024 from Vice Admiral Ajay Kocchar. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (Khadakwasla), he was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1990.

107. Who is the incumbent Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization?

- a. Francis Gurry
- b. Rena Lee
- c. Daren Tang
- d. Wang Binying

Answer: C

WIPO Director General Daren Tang

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaty on intellectual property, Genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, is a significant win for countries of the global South and for India, which is a mega biodiversity hotspot with abundance of traditional knowledge, and wisdom.

108. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet is chaired by

- a. Prime Minister
- b. Union Home Minister
- c. Cabinet Secretary
- d. Establishment Officer

Answer:

A

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appoints several top posts within the Government of India.

The committee is composed of the Prime Minister of India (ex-officio Chairman) and the Minister of Home Affairs

109. Payal Kapadia has recently won Grand Prix Award for her film _____

- a. Sunflowers Were The First Ones To Know
- b. Swaham
- c. The Elephant Whisperers
- d. All We Imagine As Light

Answer: D

India's performance at 77th Cannes Film Festival has been phenomenal with 2 filmmakers, an actress and a cinematographer won top awards at the world's leading film festival. As one of the largest film producing Nation with a thriving Film industry, Indian Film makers have fetched huge accolades at his years' Cannes.

For the first time in 30 years an Indian film, **Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine as Light'** which centers around the lives of two nurses, was nominated for the Palme d'or, the highest award in the festival. Kapadia's film won the Grand Prix, the second position in the category. With this win Payal Kapadia, a FTII alumnus, becomes the first Indian to bag this prestigious award. This comes after 30 years when Shaji N Karun's 'Swaham' competed for highest honour.

110. The UN General Assembly proclaimed _____ May the International Day of the Markhor.

- a. 22
- b. 23
- c. 24
- d. 25

Answer: C

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 24 May the International Day of the Markhor and celebrate it for the first time in 2024.

The markhor (*Capra falconeri*) is an iconic and ecologically significant species found across the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia, including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The greatest threats to the survival of the markhor are habitat loss, illegal hunting, including poaching, and climate change.

The markhor was categorized as "near threatened" in 2014 and is on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, and has been included in Appendix I

to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora since 1992.

Besides its ecological value, the markhor is a valuable species that contributes to the local economy.

Preserving the markhor and its natural habitat is an ecological imperative and a significant opportunity to bolster the regional economy, foster conservation efforts and promote sustainable tourism and economic growth and that conservation efforts will benefit the ecosystem.

111.PRAGATI-2024 is an initiative of

- a. Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda
- b. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences
- c. National Institute of Naturopathy
- d. All India Institute of Ayurveda

Answer: B

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, is hosting "Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation (PRAGATI-2024)" at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on May 28, 2024. This interactive meeting focuses on exploring research opportunities and fostering collaboration between CCRAS and the Ayurveda drug industry.

112.The Appointment Committee of Cabinet has recently approved the extension in service of Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO _____ -

- a. S. Christopher
- b. Samir V Kamat
- c. G. Satheesh Reddy
- d. Kishore Mandappa

Answer: B

The Appointment Committee of Cabinet, on May 27, 2024, approved the extension in service of Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat for a period of one year, beyond his normal age of superannuation (May 31, 2024), i.e. up to May 31, 2025. He was appointed to this post on August 25, 2022. Dr Kamat is an alumni of IIT Kharagpur and The Ohio State University, USA and joined DRDO in 1989. Prior to the appointment of Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr Kamat served as Director General (Naval Systems and Materials)

113. Water for Shared Prosperity is a report by

- a. UNEP
- b. IPCC
- c. World Bank
- d. UN-Water

Answer: C

World Bank's report: Water For Shared Prosperity

114. "Copilot+ PC" is a product of

- a. Apple
- b. Microsoft
- c. Intel
- d. Acer, Explore Beyond Limits

Answer: B

Today, at a special event on our new **Microsoft** campus, we introduced the world to a new category of Windows PCs designed for AI, Copilot+ PCs.

Copilot+ PCs are the fastest, most intelligent Windows PCs ever built. With powerful new silicon capable of an incredible 40+ TOPS (trillion operations per second), all-day battery life and access to the most advanced AI models, Copilot+ PCs will enable you to do things you can't on any other PC. Easily find and remember what you have seen in your PC with Recall, generate and refine AI images in near real-time directly on the device using Cocreator, and bridge language barriers with Live Captions, translating audio from 40+ languages into English.

115. The Great Indian Bustard has been listed as _____-on the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)

- a. Critically Endangered
- b. Endangered
- c. Endangered Beyond Redemption
- d. Extinct in the Wild

Answer: A

The Great Indian Bustard has been listed as **Critically Endangered** on the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

116. Kang Yatze is a mountain located at the end of the Markha valley in the Himalayas in

- a. Ladakh
- b. Zaskar
- c. Jammu
- d. Manali

Answer:

A

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) boys and girls mountaineering expedition to Mount Kang Yatse-II peak was flagged off by DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh from New Delhi on May 28, 2024. The peak is located in the **Ladakh** region at an altitude of 6,250m/20,505ft, and this is the 87th NCC Cadets mountaineering expedition since 1970.

117.77th World Health Assembly of WHO was held in

- a. Basel
- b. Rome
- c. New Delhi
- d. Geneva

Answer:

D

Shri Apurva Chandra, Union Health Secretary held a bilateral meeting with Lord Markham, Parliament Under Secretary of State, United Kingdom, on the sidelines of the 77th World Health Assembly of WHO in Geneva, today.

118.Mount Mungalo, recently seen in the news, is in

- a. Indonesia
- b. Papua New Guinea
- c. Guyana
- d. Gabon

Answer: B

Mount Mungalo>>Papua New Guinea

119.Ligdus garvale, recently seen in the news, is a species of

- a. Spider
- b. Butterfly
- c. Termite
- d. Terrapin

Answer:

A

A group of naturalists from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka recently discovered a new species of

spider in Kodagu. They named it *Ligdus garvale* after the village where it was found. Garvale, a village in the Somwarpet taluk of Kodagu district, is where the spider was discovered.

120. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently announced a dividend of ₹_____ lakh crore to the Government of India for the fiscal year 2023-24.

- a. 3.85
- b. 1.87
- c. 5.88
- d. 2.11

Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made a historic move, announcing a staggering dividend of ₹2.11 lakh crore to the Government of India for the fiscal year 2023-24.

121. RudraM-II, recently seen in the news, is a/an

- a. UAV
- b. Missile
- c. Radar
- d. Underwater drone

Answer: B

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha at around 1130 hours on May 29, 2024. The flight-test met all the trial objectives, validating the propulsion system and control & guidance algorithm. The performance of the missile has been validated from the flight data captured by range tracking instruments like electro-optical systems, radar and telemetry stations deployed by Integrated Test Range, Chandipur at various locations, including the on-board ship.

122. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is on

- a. May 28
- b. May 29
- c. May 30
- d. May 31

Answer: B

International Day of UN Peacekeepers: 29 May

123. National Bal Bhavan, an autonomous body under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, was established in _____

- a. 1950
- b. 1960
- c. 1956
- d. 1966

Answer: C

The National Bal Bhavan, an autonomous body under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, was established in 1956. It was founded with the vision of fostering learning through thinking, imagination, creativity, and entertaining activities for children.

Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, today inaugurated the month-long "Summer Fiesta 2024" at the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi. Summer Fiesta is a month-long camp comprising over 30 types of different activities for children aged between 5 to 16 years. Shri Vipin Kumar, Additional Secretary (SS-II), Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education and the Chairman of National Bal Bhavan, and senior officials from the Ministry were also present on the occasion.

124. The _____ government has prohibited the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of gutka and pan masala comprising tobacco and nicotine statewide. The ban will go into effect for a time of one year, starting from May 24, 2024.

- a. Delhi
- b. Kerala
- c. Telangana
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Answer:

C

The Telangana government has prohibited the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of gutka and pan masala comprising tobacco and nicotine statewide. The ban will go into effect for a time of one year, starting from May 24, 2024.

The restriction has been imposed in light of a legitimate concern for public well-being. As indicated by the order from the Food Safety Commissioner, the restriction will be upheld under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

125. PRAVAAH Portal is an initiative of

- a. RBI
- b. SEBI

- c. IRDAI
- d. CBI

Answer: A

The **Reserve Bank of India** has launched three major initiatives – the PRAVAAH portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App and a FinTech Repository – aimed at enhancing public access to the central bank and facilitating regulatory approvals and transactions.

The PRAVAAH (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation, and Authorisation) portal is a secure and centralized web-based platform for individuals and entities to apply online for various regulatory approvals from the RBI. The portal streamlines the process of seeking authorizations, licenses, or regulatory approvals by providing a single point of contact for applicants. It is expected to improve the efficiency of the RBI's regulatory approval and clearance processes.

The Retail Direct Mobile App offers retail investors easy access to the Retail Direct platform and facilitates transactions in government securities (G-Secs). The app enables retail investors to open Retail Direct Gilt accounts with the RBI, participate in primary auctions for G-Secs, and buy and sell G-Secs in the secondary market. The app is available for download on the Play Store for Android users and the App Store for iOS users.

The Fintech Repository is a comprehensive database containing information on the Indian fintech sector. The repository aims to provide a better understanding of the sector from a regulatory perspective and facilitate the design of appropriate policy approaches. It includes information on Indian fintech companies, their products and services, and the regulatory framework applicable to them.

The RBI has also launched a related repository called the EmTech Repository meant for RBI-regulated entities (banks and NBFCs). The EmTech Repository contains information on the adoption of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), cloud computing, distributed ledger technology (DLT), and quantum computing by these entities.

126. International Conference On Steel: Focus On Capital Goods (ICONS24) was organized In

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

Answer:

D

MECON Limited along with SAIL , under the aegis of Ministry of Steel, Government of India is organizing a two days International Conference on Steel (ICONS-2024): Focus on Capital Goods on 30th & 31st May 2024 at **Ranchi**.

127.A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been recently signed between IndianOil and the Indian _____ to pioneer the deployment of hydrogen fuel cell technology for heavy-duty e-mobility.

- a. Army
- b. Navy
- c. Air Force
- d. Coast Guard

Answer:

A

In a significant milestone towards promoting sustainable, eco-friendly transportation solutions, IndianOil has handed over a state-of-the-art green hydrogen fuel cell bus to the Indian Army. This landmark event was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IndianOil and the Indian Army to pioneer the deployment of hydrogen fuel cell technology for heavy-duty e-mobility.

128.Who among the following has been awarded the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for 2023 for their work supporting conflict-affected communities?

- a. Punita Arora
- b. Padma Bandopadhyay
- c. Madhuri Kanitkar
- d. Radhika Sen

Answer:

D

Major Radhika Sen, an Indian peacekeeper deployed in Congo under the United Nations (U.N.) Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), was awarded the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for 2023 for her work supporting conflict-affected communities. The award was presented to her by UN Secretary-General António Guterres at a ceremony on Thursday, as May 30 is observed as the 'international day of UN peacekeepers'.

129.Which of the following countries has assumed the Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26?

- a. Nepal
- b. India
- c. Maldives
- d. Bangladesh

Answer: B

India has become chair of regional grouping Colombo Process for the first time since its inception in 2003.

The Colombo Process is a regional consultative forum comprising 12 member states of Asia.

“Promoting safe, orderly and legal migration. **India** assumed the Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26, for the first time since its inception,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on ‘X’.

130. International Day of Potato is on

- a. May 30
- b. May 31
- c. June 2
- d. June 8

Answer: A

International Day of Potato | 30 May

131. Bharat Coal Gasification & Chemicals Limited (BCGCL) is a joint venture company of

-
- a. CIL and IndianOil
 - b. BHEL and NTPC
 - c. CIL and BHEL
 - d. POWER GRID and IndianOil

Answer: C

Bharat Coal Gasification & Chemicals Limited (BCGCL), a joint venture company of CIL and BHEL has floated a tender document for selection of LSTK-2 contractor for ‘Coal to Ammonium Nitrate’ Project at Odisha on Thursday. The tender is available with tender number, PNMM/PC288/E/001, and the tender title, "Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited, BCGCL", on CPP portal. The LSTK-2 tender deals with Syngas Purification Plant and ammonia Synthesis gas plant that will purify the raw syngas produced from the coal gasifier and make it suitable for ammonia synthesis.

132. Which of the following Indian cities hosted 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM-46) and the 26th Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP-26)?

- a. Dharwad
- b. Kochi
- c. Bhubaneswar
- d. Haldia

Answer: B

India successfully concluded hosting of the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM-46) and the 26th Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP-26) from May 20th to May 30th, 2024 in Kochi, Kerala.

133. Which of the following is the theme of the “World No Tobacco Day” 2024?

- a. Grow Food, Not Tobacco
- b. Tobacco: Threat to our Environment
- c. Commit to Quit
- d. Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference

Answer:

D

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, organized an event today to observe World No Tobacco Day 2024. This year's theme, “Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference,” underscores the urgent need to shield youth from the detrimental influences of tobacco consumption. Union Health Secretary Shri Apurva Chandra addressed the event through a video message, focusing on the devastating impact of tobacco use. He emphasized the Government’s proactive stance, implementing measures across various levels—local, national, regional, and global—to significantly reduce tobacco prevalence and exposure to tobacco smoke, thereby fostering healthier communities. The message can be viewed here:

World No Tobacco Day is observed around the world every year on 31 May

134. Which of the following has been awarded with the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO)?

- a. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi
- b. Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh
- c. Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry
- d. National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru

Answer:

D

National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, an Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has been awarded with the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion, established by WHO in 2019, recognizes individuals, institutions and/or governmental or non-governmental organizations that have demonstrated remarkable contributions to health promotion.

135. The Cold Chain and Logistics Summit has been recently organised by the _____ in New Delhi

- a. ASSOCHAM
- b. FICCI
- c. CII
- d. Indian Industries Association

Answer: B

The Cold Chain and Logistics Summit is being organised by the **FICCI** in New Delhi. The summit aim is to foster collaboration and innovation in developing an integrated, sustainable, and efficient cold chain ecosystem for India's perishable goods industry. Addressing the Summit, Dr Surendra Ahirwar, Joint Secretary of DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry said, the discussion on Cold Chain and Logistics sector is need of hour. He added, the discussion will also help to redefine logistics mechanisms of the wider sector including Pharma, Food, Oil and Flowers.

