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SECOND WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



MAY 2024

MAY 08-14

1. What is 'MQ-9B Predator'?

- A. A technique used to remove pest from crop
- B. High Altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- C. Nuclear Ballistic Submarine
- D. Earth Observation Satellite



- ✓ **India will acquire MQ-9B Predator drones from the US, deploying them in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, it's a high-altitude, long-endurance armed UAV. Used by the US for surveillance and airstrikes, it has two variants: SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian.**

2. Recently, which country clinched Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2024 by defeating Uzbekistan?

- A. China
- B. Indonesia
- C. Japan
- D. Kazakhstan



- ✓ **Japan secured their second Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup title by defeating Uzbekistan in the final match held in Doha, Qatar. The solitary goal scored by substitute Yamada, secured Japan's victory and a spot in the 2024 Paris Olympics. The Japanese goalkeeper's crucial penalty saves ensured their win. Iraq claimed the bronze medal after defeating Indonesia in the semifinals.**

3. Recently, which country's men's team won 11th Thomas Cup by defeating Indonesia?

- A. China
- B. Malaysia
- C. India
- D. Vietnam



- ✓ **The 2024 BWF Thomas and Uber Cup, held in Chengdu, China, saw the Chinese badminton team's dominance, winning both men's and women's titles. In the Thomas Cup, China beat Indonesia 4-1, claiming their 11th victory. India, defending champions, lost to China in the quarterfinals. China's victory marks the first time since 2012 that one nation has clinched both titles at the world team championships.**

4. Recently, which organization has released the norms, guidelines and procedures for the implementation of Indian Space Policy, 2023?

- A. CSIR
- B. DRDO
- C. ICAR
- D. IN-SPACe



- ✓ IN-SPACE has released norms, guidelines, and procedures (NGP) for Indian Space Policy, 2023, enhancing regulatory predictability and ease of business. It covers Authorization for space activities within Indian territory and jurisdiction, including launch, operation, and re-entry of space objects. Only Indian entities can seek Authorization, while non-Indian entities can apply through Indian counterparts. The NGP outlines criteria and conditions for Authorization, ensuring transparency and compliance with regulations in the Indian space sector.

5. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in which state?

- A. Telangana
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala
- D. Karnataka



- ✓ The Maharashtra Forest department plans to move tigers from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve to Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, located in the Western Ghats. Formed in 2010, it includes Chandoli National Park and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary. The reserve boasts unique undulating terrain with steep escarpments and barren rocky plateaus known as "Sadas." It hosts abundant climax and near-climax vegetation, with minimal human impact anticipated.

6. What is the projected percentage of milk production reduction in India by 2085, as per the Lancet report?

- A. 25%
- B. 35%
- C. 45%
- D. 65%



- ✓ Rising temperatures in India could slash milk production by 25% by 2085, warns a Lancet report. India, the top global milk producer and consumer, faces severe livelihood and nutrition risks. The northern plains contribute 30% of India's milk, supported by 89 million smallholder farmers. Heat stress, measured by the Temperature Humidity Index (THI), reduces milk yield.

7. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) operates under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Women & Child Development
- D. Ministry of Defence



स्वास्थ्य एवं
परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE**

- ✓ Starting May 15, 2024, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) gains sole authority to issue manufacturing licenses for new drugs intended for export, sidelining state governments.

- ✓ All export-related No Objection Certificates (NOCs) must now be applied for through CDSCO zonal offices via the SUGAM Portal. Previously, state authorities handled this. The move aims to streamline exports and tackle delays identified by the Drug Consultative Committee (DCC).

8. Who have been named as laureates of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize?

- A. Russian journalists
- B. Ukrainian journalists
- C. Palestinian journalists
- D. China journalists



- ✓ Palestinian journalists covering Gaza won the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, recognizing their bravery in perilous conditions. The award ceremony held on 2 May during the World Press Freedom Conference in Santiago, Chile. Amid ongoing Gaza conflict, 26 journalists and media workers lost their lives since October 2023.

9. Which states are related with the dispute of Mullaperiyar Dam?

- A. Tamil Nadu & Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu & Karnataka
- C. Kerala & Karnataka
- D. Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ Tamil Nadu accuses Kerala in Supreme Court of obstructing Mullaperiyar dam maintenance while raising safety concerns. Kerala allegedly delays routine maintenance for months to over a year.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu seeks court's intervention for completing strengthening works on smaller and main dams, requesting permission to cut fifteen trees. It criticizes Kerala for not cooperating despite supervisory committee's authority under Dam Safety Act, 2021. The dam, built in late 1800s, diverts Periyar river to Tamil Nadu.

10. What is the main objective of Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)?

- A. To provide agricultural data and services
- B. To monitor and forecast weather patterns
- C. To provide ocean data, information, and advisory services
- D. To conduct research on space exploration



- ✓ INCOIS, established in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, issues alerts to coastal states about rough seas, high waves, and inundation risks. It operates under ESSO, aiming to furnish oceanic data, information, and advisory services to various sectors.

- ✓ Its activities include round-the-clock monitoring and warning services for tsunamis, storm surges, and high waves, daily advisories for fisherfolk, and short-term ocean state forecasts. It also deploys Ocean Observing Systems to collect data and predict oceanic changes.

11. Border Road Organization (BRO), recently celebrated its 65th raising day, comes under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Civil Aviation
B. Ministry of Earth Sciences
C. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
D. Ministry of Defence



- ✓ The Border Road Organisation (BRO) marked its 65th raising day on May 7, 2024, with a ceremony in New Delhi, led by Union Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane. Established in 1960 by the Nehru government, BRO undertakes critical road projects for the Army. Notably, Project Tuskar, now Project Vartak, connects Bhalukpong to Tenga in Arunachal Pradesh, while Project Beacon focuses on Kashmir. Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan currently heads BRO, operating under the Ministry of Defence with the motto: "In the Silence of Our Great Mountains – Work Speaks."

12. Pakistan recently launched its first-ever lunar mission, iCube-Qamar, in collaboration with which country?

- A. Russia
B. India
C. China
D. Iran



- ✓ Pakistan and China jointly launched iCube-Qamar, Pakistan's inaugural lunar mission. The 7kg satellite, developed by Pakistan's Institute of Space Technology (IST), SUPARCO, and China's SJTU, is part of China's Chang'e-6 mission. Equipped with two optical cameras, it orbits the moon, enabling Pakistan to conduct satellite-based research on lunar surface imagery independently.

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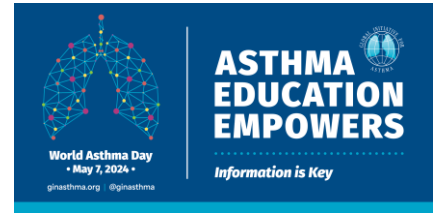
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1. What is theme of 'World Asthma Day 2024'?

- A. Closing Gaps in Asthma Care
- B. Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions
- C. Enough Asthma Deaths
- D. Asthma Education Empowers



- ✓ In observation of World Asthma Day, GINA promotes the theme "Asthma Education Empowers", stressing the importance of educating those with asthma for effective disease management and timely medical intervention. With over 260 million affected globally, asthma causes over 450,000 preventable deaths annually.

2. Which state has decided to implement the Central Government's SMART-PDS scheme?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Goa



- ✓ Kerala embraces the SMART-PDS scheme, aimed at modernizing and enhancing efficiency in the Public Distribution System. Led by the Department of Food & Public Distribution, it aims to curb food grain leakage and improve distribution chain efficiency. This technology-driven initiative centralizes ration card data and enables real-time monitoring from procurement to distribution.

3. Which institute recently conducted a study on coral bleaching in the Lakshadweep Sea?

- A. IIT, Kanpur
- B. ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
- C. National Institute of Oceanography
- D. Marine Biological Laboratory



- ✓ The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) reports severe coral bleaching in the Lakshadweep Sea due to prolonged marine heatwaves since 2023. Rapid warming in the Indian Ocean, coupled with strong El Niños, has increased heatwave frequency. The western Indian Ocean saw the highest rise, with about 1.5 events per decade, followed by the north Bay of Bengal at 0.5 events per decade. In 2020, 85% of corals in the Gulf of Mannar bleached.

4. Which ministry launched 'Cool Summers of India' campaign in Dubai during the Arabian Travel Mart 2024?

- A. Ministry of Tourism
- B. Ministry of External Affairs
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Finance



पर्यटन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
TOURISM

- ✓ India's Ministry of Tourism is actively engaging in the Arabian Travel Mart 2024 in Dubai, aiming to bolster its presence in the Middle East tourism market. At the event, the 'Incredible India' pavilion showcases diverse destinations, including hill resorts promoted through the 'Cool Summers of India' campaign. This initiative challenges perceptions about India's climate, promoting it as a year-round destination. Participation holds significant potential for revenue generation and job creation in India's tourism sector.

5. Tirthahalli region, recently seen in news due to areca nut, is located in which state?

- A. Telangana
B. Maharashtra
C. Kerala
D. Karnataka



- ✓ The Areca Research Centre at Shivamogga discovered that Areca nuts from Tirthahalli, Karnataka, are of superior quality compared to other varieties. Areca nut, also known as Betel Nut or Supari, is a key cash crop in India. It ranks fourth among the most commonly consumed psychoactive substances globally, following caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol. Widely chewed, especially in Southern Asia, it's a key ingredient in various Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) products. Over 600 million people consume it regularly.

6. What is the primary goal of carbon farming?

- A. To capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
B. To increase agricultural yields
C. To reduce water consumption in agriculture
D. To increase greenhouse gas emission



- ✓ Carbon farming, or carbon sequestration farming, aims to mitigate climate change by capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in soil or biomass. It's adaptable across various agro-climatic zones and addresses soil degradation, water scarcity, and climate variability challenges. Best suited to regions with long growing seasons and adequate rainfall, carbon farming utilizes vegetation growth to sequester carbon. This practice helps reduce greenhouse gas concentrations and fosters sustainable agriculture.

7. Polavaram Water Project is associated with which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
B. Andhra Pradesh
C. Kerala
D. Rajasthan



- ✓ During Lok Sabha elections, the Polavaram water project becomes central, featured in party manifestoes. The project, dating back to 1941, faces delays and controversies. The Polavaram Water Project, also known as the Indira Sagar Project, is located in the East Godavari and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh, India. The project is a multi-purpose dam on the Godavari River that provides irrigation, drinking water, and hydropower to the districts of East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari, and Krishna.

8. Pulitzer Prize is associated with which field?

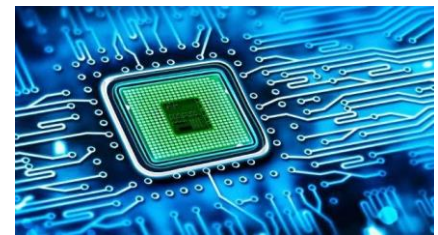
- A. Journalism
- B. Agriculture
- C. Entertainment
- D. Sports



- ✓ Columbia University announced the 2024 Pulitzer Prize winners on May 7. The prestigious award, established by Joseph Pulitzer in 1904, recognizes excellence in journalism, arts, and culture. Winners are selected by the Pulitzer Prize Board, with categories spanning journalism and arts. The ceremony, to be held later, will see recipients honored by the university president. This year's winners join a legacy dating back to the first prize in 1917.

9. Which IIT has recently launched Secure IoT, India's first indigenous microcontroller chip?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Madras
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Roorkee



- ✓ India's Mindgrove Technologies, incubated by IIT Madras, has launched Secure IoT, the nation's first high-performance SoC (system on chip). Supported by Peak XV Partners, the chip enables Indian OEMs to integrate locally-made technology, reducing costs without sacrificing quality. Secure IoT, a system-on-chip, consolidates multiple electronic components into one, facilitating smaller and more efficient devices.

10. What is the causative agent of West Nile fever?

- A. Bacteria
- B. Virus
- C. Protozoa
- D. Fungus



- ✓ Kerala's health department confirms five West Nile fever cases in Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Thrissur districts. Four patients have recovered; one remains under observation. Kerala recorded its first West Nile case in 2011 and first death in 2022.

- ✓ The virus, traced back to Uganda in 1937, primarily infects birds and spreads via migratory birds. West Nile Fever, caused by the West Nile Virus, is a flavivirus commonly found in Africa, Europe, and the Americas. It primarily spreads through infected mosquitoes biting birds and occasionally humans.

11. Which day is observed as 'World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day'?

- A. 7 May
B. 8 May
C. 9 May
D. 10 May



- ✓ Every year on May 8th, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day honors the efforts of these humanitarian societies, including the IFRC, the largest of its kind. Originating from the 14th International Conference of the Red Cross in 1938, the date marks the birth of Jean Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross. Renamed in 1984, this day's theme for 2024, "Everything we do comes from the heart," reflects the compassion driving their actions.

12. Glyptothorax punyabratai belongs to which species?

- A. Spider
B. Catfish
C. Frog
D. Snake



- ✓ The ICAR-NBFGR discovered a new catfish species, Glyptothorax punyabratai, in Arunachal Pradesh's Tung Stream, a Brahmaputra River tributary. It's nocturnal and benthic, common traits among catfish. Catfish, over 2000 species strong, mostly inhabit freshwater, some marine.

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1. Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers recently launched the 'MEDITECH STACKATHON 2024' at which place?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Chennai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Indore



- ✓ Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Dr Arunish Chawla, launched the MEDITECH STACKATHON 2024 in New Delhi with CII. This initiative aims to transform India's MedTech sector by analyzing select medical devices' value chain. India's MedTech industry projects a 28% annual growth, aiming for a USD 50 billion size by 2030.

2. In which district Tripura's first International Cricket Stadium is being constructed?

- A. South Tripura
- B. West Tripura
- C. Dhalai
- D. Gomati



- ✓ The Tripura Cricket Association is poised to unveil the state's inaugural international cricket stadium in Narsingarh, West Tripura. The stadium, slated for inauguration by February 2025, aims to host major cricket events.

3. What is 'Spektr-RG (SRG)'?

- A. Nuclear powered Submarine
- B. Newly discovered marine species
- C. Synthetic opioid drug
- D. Space observatory



- ✓ A new pulsar was discovered by astronomers using the Spektr-RG space observatory. Launched in 2019, Spektr-RG is a German-Russian high-energy astrophysics observatory studying the universe in the X-ray range. It orbits the Sun-Earth system's outer Lagrange point (L2), 1.5 million km away, in a 6-month period. The observatory's name stands for Spektr-Rentgen-Gamma and it was launched atop a Proton-M rocket from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan.

4. Which organization recently released the 'Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System' report?

- A. World Bank
- B. IMF
- C. WMO
- D. ILO



- ✓ The World Bank's 'Recipe for a Livable Planet' report outlines strategies for achieving net zero emissions in the agrifood system. It defines the agrifood system's scope from farm to table, highlighting its significant contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, with developing countries and China, Brazil, and India being major emitters. India's emissions are mainly from livestock. Despite increased climate financing, agrifood projects receive only 4.3%. The report suggests doubling investments to \$260 billion yearly by 2030 for emissions reduction.

5. Recently, which organization successfully conducted the first PreBurner Ignition trial for semi-cryogenic engine (SCE)-200?

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. HAL
- D. NASA



- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the first PreBurner Ignition trial for semi-cryogenic engine (SCE)-200 on May 2, 2024 at the semi-cryo integrated engine test facility (SIET) at IPRC, Mahendragiri. The pre-burner ignition test article (PITA) is a full complement of the engine power head system, excluding the turbopumps.
- ✓ The test proved that the pre-burner could ignite smoothly and continuously. The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) created a start fuel ampule that combines triethylaluminium and triethyleboron to ignite the semi-cryogenic engine. This ampule was used for the first time in ISRO's 2000 kN semi-cryogenic engine.

6. Shinkun La Tunnel is located between which two regions of India?

- A. Kangra Valley & Spiti Valley
- B. Nubra Valley & Parvati Valley
- C. Lahaul Valley & Zaskar Valley
- D. Patratu Valley & Pangi Valley



- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is set to build the Shinkun La Tunnel, spanning 4.1 km under the 16,580 feet high Shinku-La pass, linking Himachal's Lahaul valley and Ladakh's Zaskar valley. It will be the world's longest high-altitude highway tunnel. Its estimated cost for construction is Rs. 1,681.5 crores.

7. World Migration Report 2024, recently released by which organization?

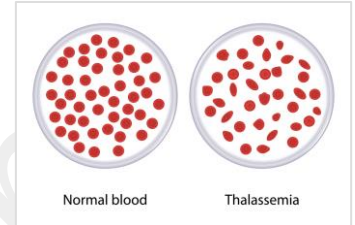
- A. International Organization for Migration
- B. World Trade Organization
- C. World Bank
- D. International Maritime Organization



- ✓ The International Organization for Migration (IOM) released its 2024 World Migration Report, highlighting conflict and climate change as major drivers of global displacement. There are about 281 million international migrants worldwide. In India, climate impacts drive internal migration from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. India hosts the most international migrants (18 million), with top destinations being UAE, USA, and Saudi Arabia.

8. What is theme of 'World Thalassemia Day 2024'?

- A. Be Aware
B. Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress
C. Addressing Health Inequalities
D. The dawning of a new era for thalassaemia



- ✓ World Thalassaemia Day, observed annually on May 8th, aims to raise awareness about thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare held an event in New Delhi, led by Secretary Apurva Chandra, stressing timely detection and prevention.
- ✓ Panos Ennglezos established the day in 1994 in memory of his son George. The 2024 theme is "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All." Thalassemia affects the production of hemoglobin, crucial for oxygen transport in red blood cells.

9. Recently, which state launched the 'School on Wheels' initiative?

- A. Manipur
B. Assam
C. Mizoram
D. Nagaland



- ✓ Manipur's government introduced "School on Wheels" to educate students in relief camps due to ethnic strife. Governor Anusuiya Uikey inaugurated the initiative, featuring a mobile school bus with library, computers, and sports gear. It aims to reach affected students, acknowledging the impact on education due to the strife starting May 3 last year. The scheme intends to provide necessary teaching to students in relief camps.

10. Recently, which state government has taken steps to denotify the boundaries of the Pulicat bird sanctuary?

- A. Tamil Nadu
B. Andhra Pradesh
C. Karnataka
D. Kerala



- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government plans to denotify the Pulicat bird sanctuary's boundaries, reducing its eco-sensitive zone. Spanning 720 sq km, it straddles Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, primarily in Tiruvallur district.
- ✓ Situated 60 km north of Chennai, it's separated from the Bay of Bengal by Sriharikota Island. Fed by three major rivers, including the Arani, Kalangi, and Swarnamukhi, it hosts diverse aquatic and avian life, supporting local livelihoods and serving as a floodwater catchment during cyclones.

11. Recently, where was the first Joint Committee Meeting between India & Australia held?

- A. Canberra
- B. New Delhi
- C. Melbourne
- D. Chennai



- ✓ India and Australia held their inaugural Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) in Canberra, Australia. Indian Commerce Secretary Shri Sunil Barthwal led the delegation, meeting with Deputy Secretary George Mina from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
- ✓ Discussions encompassed implementing the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA), addressing issues from market access to pharmaceutical pricing. Both nations explored mutual interests like coastal tourism and prawn disease prevention, establishing an institutional mechanism for data exchange.

12. Recently, which country became the first to get \$100 billion in remittances?

- A. Myanmar
- B. India
- C. Nepal
- D. Singapore



- ✓ In 2022, India made history by receiving over \$100 billion in remittances, as reported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). India's remittances surged to \$111 billion, surpassing all other nations. Mexico followed as the second-largest recipient.

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1. Where was Uttar Pradesh's first traffic park recently opened?

- A. Prayagraj
- B. Ayodhya
- C. Saharanpur
- D. Varanasi



- ✓ **The first traffic park in Uttar Pradesh was inaugurated by the Prayagraj Development Authority in Prayagraj district. Costing 90 lakh rupees, it features a motion theater, digital games, free swings for kids, and electric vehicles for both kids and adults. The park aims to educate about traffic rules and safety while providing recreational activities.**

2. Recently, Indian Army's Kharga corps and the Indian Air Force have conducted a joint exercise 'Gagan Shakti II' in which state?

- A. Haryana
- B. Punjab
- C. Gujarat
- D. Rajasthan



- ✓ **The Indian Army's Kharga Corps, with the Western Command, conducted a three-day joint exercise, "Gagan Strike-II," with the Indian Air Force in Punjab. Utilizing assets like Apache helicopters and UAVs, the exercise focused on validating attack helicopters' role in supporting mechanized operations. It aimed to refine protocols and enhance coordination for ground offensives, including live fire maneuvers, in developed terrains.**

3. Recently, where was the 5th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting between India & Bhutan held?

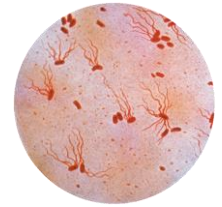
- A. Ladakh
- B. New Delhi
- C. Jaipur
- D. Bhopal



- ✓ **The 5th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting between India and Bhutan convened on May 6th-7th, 2024, in Leh, Ladakh. Meeting was co-chaired by officials from both nations, discussions centered on bilateral matters like new Land Customs Stations, trade routes, infrastructure, digitalization, smuggling prevention, and coordinated cross-border management. Bhutan lauded India's support for capacity building and cross-border trade initiatives through workshops and bilateral agreements, expressing gratitude for ongoing collaboration.**

4. Widal Test is associated with which disease?

- A. TB
B. Malaria
C. Dengue
D. Typhoid



- ✓ **The Widal Test, crucial for diagnosing typhoid fever caused by Salmonella Typhi, suffers from inaccuracies, complicating India's battle against the disease. Symptoms of typhoid overlap with other illnesses, necessitating precise testing. Developed in the late 1800s, the test lacks reliability, prompting caution from the World Health Organization.**

5. Recently, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) inaugurated a Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at which place?

- A. New Delhi
B. Hyderabad
C. Chennai
D. Lucknow



- ✓ **The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched a Krishi ICCC at Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi. The initiative utilizes tech like AI, remote sensing, and GIS for informed agricultural decision-making. It consolidates geospatial data from sources such as Digital Crop Survey and Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics. The Krishi ICCC aims to monitor the farm sector effectively, enhancing productivity and market intelligence.**

6. Which organization recently released a report titled 'Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation'?

- A. International Monetary Fund
B. World Bank
C. World Economic Forum
D. World Meteorological Organization



- ✓ **The World Economic Forum's report titled 'Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation' highlights Earth Observation (EO) technologies' economic potential, estimating a \$3.8 trillion contribution to global GDP from 2023-2030. EO encompasses remotely-sensed and in-situ data collection, offering insights across sectors. Agriculture benefits from precision techniques, while energy sectors utilize EO for forecasting and operations management. Mining gains insights for mineral exploration. EO also aids climate efforts.**

7. According to Global Electricity Review 2024 report, India surpassed which country to become 3rd largest solar power generator?

- A. Japan
B. China
C. Pakistan
D. France



- ✓ India surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023, per Ember's report. Solar energy accounted for a record 5.5% of global electricity, with India generating 5.8%. Solar's global generation expanded over six times since 2015. By 2030, solar is projected to contribute 22% to global electricity, crucial for combating climate change. India aims for 50% non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030.

8. Which institute recently identified two new species of needlefish in Indian waters?

- A. Central Marine Research Institute
- B. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
- C. Central Marine Biology Research Institute
- D. Central Marine Ecology Research Institute



- ✓ **Researchers at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) identified two new needlefish species in Indian waters. These marine creatures are commonly found in temperate and tropical regions, characterized by silvery bodies with blue or green backs. They are carnivorous, preying on small fish, crustaceans, and cephalopods.**

9. Recently, the term "Doubtful voter" or "D-voter" has been primarily used in which state?

- A. Manipur
- B. Assam
- C. Mizoram
- D. Nagaland



- ✓ **During India's general elections, 'D voters' were a significant issue in Assam. A 'Doubtful voter' or 'D-voter' is someone whose citizenship status is uncertain during the creation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam. Legal ambiguity surrounds the term, and those classified undergo a verification process. D-voters are ineligible to vote or stand for office until their citizenship status is resolved.**

10. Recently, where was the sixth edition of the Commandants Conclave held?

- A. Indore
- B. Varanasi
- C. Pune
- D. Jaisalmer



- ✓ **The sixth Commandants' Conclave convened at MILIT, Pune on May 7, 24, hosted by HQ Integrated Defence Staff. Commandants of esteemed Armed Forces Training Institutions and War Colleges, alongside senior leadership, strategized on future defence strategies. They exchanged insights, shared best practices, and discussed topics like strategic resilience, technological advancement, and human capital development.**

11. Which ministry recently launched the 'Capacity Building on Design and Entrepreneurship (CBDE) program?

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs



शिक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION

- ✓ Sanjay Murthy, Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, virtually launched the 'Capacity Building on Design and Entrepreneurship (CBDE)' program. The program, led by industry-academia collaboration, aims to foster problem-solving skills and entrepreneurial mindset among students. At this stage, 30 HEIs have been selected through a process anchored by the IIITDM, Kancheepuram, a Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Center (MMTTC) as Nodal Centre for the program.

12. How many medals were won by India in the Asian Open Pickleball Championship 2024?

- A. 6
- B. 5
- C. 4
- D. 2



- ✓ India showcased dominance at the Asian Open Pickleball Championship in Vietnam, clinching three gold and two bronze medals. Sachin Pahwa and Priyanka Chhabra secured gold in mixed doubles intermediate 35+. Isha Lakhani and Pei Chuan Kao triumphed in women's doubles open, while Aniket Patel and Rohit Patil claimed gold in men's doubles.

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1. Recently, which organization adopted the first law to tackle violence against women?

- A. European Union (EU)
- B. United Nations (UN)
- C. African Union (AU)
- D. ASEAN



- ✓ **The European Union (EU) adopted its first law to combat violence against women. The law requires EU countries to criminalize female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and online harassment. However, the law does not include a common definition of rape. The EU Commission proposed the law in 2022.**

2. Recently, which organization has released upgraded Dietary Guidelines for Indians to suit modern eating habits for 2024?

- A. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- B. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- C. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- D. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



- ✓ **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued updated Dietary Guidelines for Indians in 2024, developed by researchers from the National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad. Emphasizing physical activity, regular exercise, and limitations on salt and high fat/sugar foods, the guidelines aim to combat obesity.**

3. Hindon River is tributary of which river?

- A. Godavari
- B. Kaveri
- C. Krishna
- D. Yamuna



- ✓ **The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has instructed the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) to present an additional report within two weeks on Hindon River pollution, detailing actions against polluting municipal bodies. Hindon, a Yamuna tributary, spans 400 km from Saharanpur to Noida. Urban, agricultural, and industrial waste have rendered it one of the most polluted stretches in the Ganga basin. In 2015, CPCB declared it a 'dead river,' unfit for bathing.**

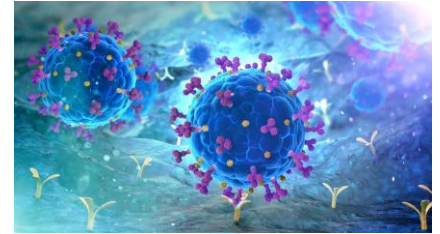
4. Which institute recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386?

- A. Indian Agricultural Research Institute
- B. National Sugar Research Institute
- C. TATA Institute of Fundamental Research
- D. Central Scientific Industrial Organization

- ✓ The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386, which is resistant to leaf rust and yellow diseases. These diseases are common in the northwest region of India, which includes Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. IARI is a leading institute that has developed many of India's wheat and rice varieties, which are often called the "Green Revolution".

5. What is 'FLiRT'?

- A. Nuclear ballistic submarine
- B. Malicious software
- C. An underwater research station
- D. New variant of COVID-19



- ✓ FLiRT, a new variant of COVID-19, has emerged as the dominant strain in the United States. It belongs to the Omicron JN.1 lineage and features two mutations, KP 1.1 and KP.2. Rapidly spreading, FLiRT exhibits diverse symptoms including sore throat, cough, fatigue, nasal congestion, headache, muscle aches, fever, and gastric issues. Continuous monitoring and appropriate public health measures are essential to address its rapid transmission.

6. Recently, which country's ambassador inaugurated the Kohima Peace Memorial in Nagaland?

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. Bhutan
- D. Nepal



- ✓ In Nagaland, Japan's ambassador Hiroshi Suzuki and CM Neiphiu Rio inaugurated Kohima Peace Memorial and laid Eco Park's foundation stone. Symbolizing Japan-Nagaland collaboration, it commemorates WWII's Battle of Kohima, signifying peace and reconciliation.

7. What is the causative agent of 'Foot rot disease'?

- A. Bacteria
- B. Fungi
- C. Virus
- D. Protozoa



- ✓ Punjab Agricultural University introduces *Trichoderma asperellum* to tackle 'foot rot' disease in Basmati rice, endorsed by Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC). The disease, caused by Fungus *Fusarium verticillioides*, affects seedlings and transplanted crops. Symptoms include yellowing, elongation, and eventual death of plants. Current chemical treatments like *Trichoderma harzianum* and Sprint 75 WS pose risks to soil and consumers due to toxicity. Carbendazim, a component of Sprint 75 WS, is banned in Punjab due to high residues.

8. Recently, what amount has India contributed to the UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund?

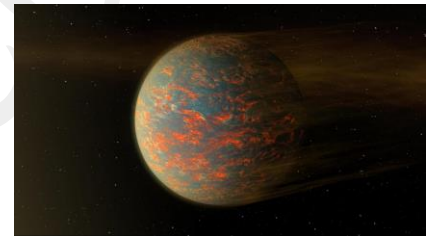
- A. \$200,000
- B. \$300,000
- C. \$400,000
- D. \$500,000



- ✓ India's \$500,000 contribution to the UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund underscores its commitment to combating global terrorism. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), established in 2017, coordinates counter-terrorism efforts worldwide. It provides leadership, enhances coordination among 38 entities, strengthens capacity-building assistance to Member States, and advocates for resources.

9. What is '55 Cancri e'?

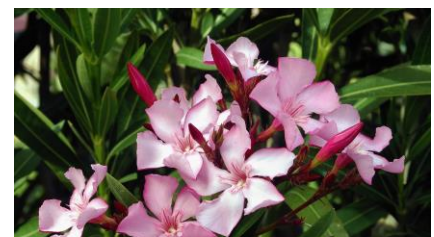
- A. Invasive weed
- B. Super-Earth
- C. Ancient Irrigation Technique
- D. Submarine



- ✓ Scientists have found a super-Earth, 55 Cancri e, near our solar system. It's twice Earth's size with a thick atmosphere rich in carbon dioxide and monoxide. Orbiting its star, Copernicus, at a close distance, it completes an orbit every 18 hours. Positioned 41 light years away, it faces perpetual day and night.

10. What is Nerium Oleander?

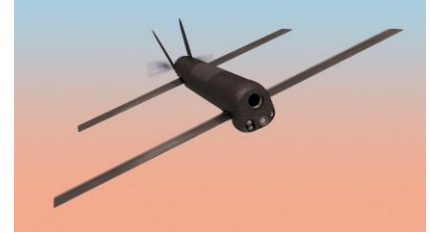
- A. Evergreen shrub
- B. Asteroid
- C. Black hole
- D. Naval Ship



- ✓ After a woman and two cattle died from consuming Nerium Oleander, the Travancore Devaswom Board decided to remove the flower from offerings to devotees. Nerium Oleander, an evergreen shrub known as 'Arali' in Malayalam, grows up to 18-20 feet and is used in poojas despite its toxicity. Ancient civilizations like the Mesopotamians, Romans, and Arabs valued Nerium Oleander for its medicinal properties. Its toxicity, due to cardiac glycosides, can cause severe symptoms including death.

11. Kadet Defence Systems has been developed India's first kamikaze drone in collaboration with which organization?

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. BHEL
- D. HAL



- ✓ India's first kamikaze drone, developed by Kadet Defence Systems with DRDO, is a Loitering Aerial Munition (LAM) or Suicidal drone. It loiters over targets for precise identification, capable of changing targets mid-flight or aborting missions. Adaptable to diverse terrains like deserts and high-altitude areas, it has a 12-hour loitering capacity and a flying range of 150-300 km.

12. Which day is celebrated as 'National Technology Day' every year?

- A. 10 May
- B. 11 May
- C. 12 May
- D. 13 May



- ✓ India celebrates National Technology Day on May.11, commemorating its advancements in technology. It marks India's entry into the nuclear club, the maiden flight of its indigenous aircraft, and the successful testing of the Trishul missile. The 2024 theme for the day is, "From Schools to Startups: Igniting Young Minds to Innovate".

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1. Which organization recently celebrated 70th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict?

- A. UNESCO
- B. WTO
- C. FAO
- D. UNICEF



- ✓ UNESCO marked the 70th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict. It's the first global legal framework solely dedicated to safeguarding movable and immovable heritage during peacetime and conflict. With 135 member states, including India, the Convention and its Protocols (1954, 1999) operate under UNESCO.

2. Recently, where was the 19th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) held?

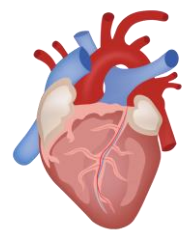
- A. Paris
- B. New York
- C. California
- D. London



- ✓ The 19th UN Forum on Forests convened recently in New York, aiming to foster global forest management, conservation, and sustainability. Established in 2000 under ECOSOC, it includes all UN member states and specialized agencies, with India as a founding member. Based in New York, it reports to the General Assembly via ECOSOC. Its objective is to bolster long-term political commitment to forest issues and promote their sustainable development.

3. What is 'Kawasaki Disease'?

- A. A rare heart disease
- B. An eye disorder
- C. Fungal disease
- D. Bacterial disease



- ✓ Two baby girls diagnosed with Kawasaki disease were successfully treated at Coimbatore Medical College and Hospital (CMCH). Kawasaki disease, a rare heart condition, primarily affects children under 5, leading to high fever and inflamed blood vessels.
- ✓ It's a significant cause of heart disease in kids, targeting coronary arteries. Symptoms include fever, rash, swollen hands and feet, and inflamed mucous membranes. The disease's cause remains unknown, with cases peaking in late winter and early spring.

4. What is 'Hermes-900'?

- A. Unmanned Aerial System
- B. Nuclear Ballistic Submarine
- C. Invasive weed
- D. Ancient Monument



- ✓ **The Indian Army and Navy are set to receive Hermes-900 drones, or Drishti-10, enhancing their surveillance capabilities. Hermes-900, a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial system, boasts over-the-horizon, multi-mission capabilities with a payload capacity of 350 kgs. It facilitates Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Reconnaissance and maritime patrol missions.**

5. Which country became the first nation to lose all of its glaciers?

- A. Russia
- B. Venezuela
- C. Norway
- D. Sweden



- ✓ **Venezuela loses all glaciers, with the Humboldt Glacier being the last to vanish. The International Cryosphere Climate Initiative declares it too small to be classified as a glacier. It's now termed an ice field.**

6. DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Communications
- C. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
- D. Ministry of Civil Aviation



- ✓ **DigiLocker, initiated by India's Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology in 2015, serves as a secure platform for government documents. Students can access scores and verified marksheets. It's government-approved with stringent security measures, including 2048 Bit RSA SSL encryption and multi-factor authentication.**
- ✓ **Users can store essential documents digitally, aiding paper-free initiatives. Documents issued via DigiLocker hold legal equivalence to physical copies. The app supports passport applications and identity verification, enhancing convenience and accessibility.**

7. Which two countries recently carried out the 7th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Shakti'?

- A. India & Maldives
- B. India & Russia
- C. India & UAE
- D. India & France



- ✓ **Joint military Exercise Shakti, a biennial event between Indian and French forces, occurred at Umroi, Meghalaya, from May 13-26, 2024. Attended by French Ambassador Thierry Mathou, Brigadier Mayur Shekatkar, and dignitaries, it focuses on joint planning and strategy development for war scenarios.**
- ✓ **Shakti, alternating between India and France, aims to enhance cooperation, understanding, and interoperability while sharing combat experiences in countering terrorism.**

8. What is the theme for 'International Nurses Day 2024'?

- A. Our Nurses, Our Future, The Economic Power of Care
- B. Closing the Gap
- C. Nurses: A Voice to Lead
- D. Nurses: A Force for Change



- ✓ **International Nurses Day, observed on May 12, honors Florence Nightingale's legacy. Some countries extend celebrations into National Nurses Week.**
- ✓ **The day emphasizes nurses' critical role in healthcare, combating undervaluation. Each year, a theme is chosen by the International Council of Nurses; for 2024, it's 'Our Nurses Our Future, The Economic Power of Care,' highlighting nurses' impact on global economy and the need for investment in the profession for better health outcomes.**

9. Recently, which space organization successfully tested a liquid rocket engine made with the help of 3D printing?

- A. ISRO
- B. NASA
- C. JAXA
- D. CNSA



- ✓ **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested a liquid rocket engine made via 3D printing. ISRO utilized the PS4 engine, employed in the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle's fourth stage, for this advancement. 3D printing constructs objects layer by layer from computer-generated designs. It reduces components from 14 to one, eliminates 19 weld joints, saving 97% of raw material, and cuts production time by 60%.**

10. Andrott, Kiltan, and Kalpeni Islands, recently seen in the news due to coral bleaching, are located in which region of India?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Lakshadweep Sea
- C. Andaman Sea
- D. Kerala



- ✓ ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) found severe coral bleaching in Lakshadweep Sea due to prolonged maritime heatwaves since October 2023. Corals, sessile organisms, suffered due to warm waters, ejecting algae, their food source. Lakshadweep's islands, mostly coral atolls, rely on coral-derived soil. Bleaching affects major islands like Bitra, Kiltan, Amini, Andrott, Kalpeni, and Kavaratti.

11. Recently, Idashisha Nongrang has been appointed as the first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of which state?

- A. Nagaland
- B. Sikkim
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Assam



- ✓ Idashisha Nongrang makes history as Meghalaya's first female Director General of Police (DGP), breaking barriers in the state's matrilineal society. A 1992 Indian Police Service member from the Khasi community, she succeeds Lajja Ram Bishnoi upon his retirement on May 19. Nongrang previously served as DGP in 2021 and currently leads Meghalaya Civil Defence.

12. Which country recently won 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy?

- A. Japan
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Malaysia



- ✓ Japan secured their first Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey trophy by defeating Pakistan 4-1 in the penalty shootout. The final match, held at Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia on May 11, 2024, ended 2-2 in normal time. This victory marked Japan's maiden title in the tournament. Pakistan, making its 10th final appearance, has previously won the trophy thrice. In the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy, Japan clinched the top spot, followed by Pakistan and Malaysia.

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