

1. Which state government recently announced plan to plant nearly 19 lakh palm trees to combat lightning deaths?

- A. Bihar
- B. Haryana
- C. Punjab
- D. Odisha



- ✓ The Odisha government plans to plant nearly 19 lakh palm trees in 2024-25 to mitigate lightning risks. Each forest block boundary will receive four palm trees, costing Rs 7 crore. Palm trees like Coconut and Palmyrah are part of tropical ecosystems, with Palmyrah designated as Tamil Nadu's State Tree. They act as natural conductors during lightning strikes, potentially saving lives. Male palm trees bear flowers, while females produce fruits.

2. Which ministry recently launched a portal 'Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN)'?

- A. Ministry of Coal and Mines
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Defence



कोयला मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
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- ✓ The Union Minister for Coal and Mines launched the NIRMAN Portal, part of Mission Karmayogi. Announced by Coal India Limited (CIL), the portal aims to support UPSC Preliminary exam qualifiers from SC, ST, female, or third gender candidates with an annual family income under Rs 8 lakh. Eligible candidates, permanent residents of CIL's 39 operational districts, will receive Rs 1 lakh.

3. Recently, IAF chief inaugurated Weapon Systems School (WSS) in which city?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Kolkata
- D. Bhopal



- ✓ The Chief of the Air Staff inaugurated the Weapon Systems School (WSS) at Air Force Station Begumpet, Hyderabad. The WSS aims to modernize the Indian Air Force (IAF) by providing effect-based, contemporary training to officers of the newly formed branch. Flight Cadets in the WS Branch will undertake their second semester of training at this institute here.

4. Recently, Air India is establishing South Asia's largest flight training school in which state?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Meghalaya



- ✓ Air India is establishing South Asia's largest flight training school in Maharashtra's Amravati district with an investment of over ₹200 crore. Opening in the next financial year's first quarter, it will address the airline's need for 500-700 pilots annually, following a large aircraft order. In partnership with Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC), the 10-acre facility will train 180 commercial pilots yearly using 31 single-engine Piper aircraft and three twin-engine Diamond aircraft.

5. Recently, which country successfully test-fired an air-surface anti-radiation missile 'Rudram-1'?

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



- ✓ India successfully test-fired the Rudram-1, its first indigenous anti-radiation missile developed by DRDO for the Indian Air Force (IAF). Key features include a launch platform on Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, INS-GPS navigation, and a Passive Homing Head. It has a range of 100-250 km and speeds up to Mach 2. Rudram-1 enhances the IAF's Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) capability, acts as a force multiplier.

6. Recently, which district's Panchayat in Kerala has constituted a technical committee to address the menace of water hyacinth?

- A. Kottayam
- B. Kannur
- C. Wayanad
- D. Thrissur



- ✓ The District Panchayat of Kottayam (Kerala) has formed a technical committee to tackle the water hyacinth problem. Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is a fast-growing aquatic plant from Brazil that spreads through seeds and vegetative reproduction. It forms dense mats on water surfaces, blocking sunlight and reducing oxygen levels, which disrupts fisheries, transportation, and recreation. It's often called the "terror of Bengal" due to its invasive nature.

7. Which day is observed as 'International Plastic Bag Free Day'?

- A. July.03
- B. July.05
- C. November.05
- D. November.03



- ✓ **International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed on July 3 to encourage avoiding single-use plastics and combat plastic pollution. Established by Bag Free World, the day saw its first observance in 2008, initiated by Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe. In 2015, the EU passed directives to reduce single-use plastic bags. Bangladesh was the first country to ban these bags in 2022, followed by India and others.**

8. Which two organizations recently signed an MoU to develop AI tools for detecting and classifying large cardamom diseases in Sikkim?

- A. National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India
- B. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Spices Board of India
- C. National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Spices Board of India



- ✓ **The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India have signed an MoU to develop AI tools for detecting and classifying large cardamom diseases in Sikkim. Led by NIC's AI Centre of Excellence in Kolkata, the project analyzes images of cardamom leaves to identify diseases early.**

9. Recently, where was the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held?

- A. Tehran, Iran
- B. Astana, Kazakhstan
- C. Beijing, China
- D. New Delhi, India



- ✓ **The 24th SCO Heads of State Meeting was held on July 4, 2024, in Astana, Kazakhstan. Hosted by President Tokayev, the summit admitted Belarus as the 10th full member. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi skipped the meeting, represented by External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar, who reiterated Modi's stance against terrorism. Key leaders, including Putin, Xi Jinping, and Erdogan, attended, emphasizing the priority of combating terrorism and radicalization.**

10. Recently, which government agency has launched the 'Sampoornata Abhiyaan'?

- A. National Informatics Centre
- B. NABARD
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of Finance



- ✓ **NITI Aayog launched the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' on July 4, 2024, targeting 100% saturation of 12 key social sector indicators across 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks. Running until September 30, the campaign saw enthusiastic participation from officials, frontline workers, and citizens nationwide. Events included health camps, cultural programs, and awareness yatras, emphasizing community involvement and commitment to the campaign's goals from Jammu and Kashmir to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

11. Which country hosts 46<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee?

- A. Australia
- B. France
- C. India
- D. Russia



- ✓ **India will host the 46th UNESCO World Heritage Committee session from July 21-31, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. This significant cultural diplomacy event will draw over 2,500 delegates from 195 countries, including state parties to the World Heritage Convention, advisory bodies, senior diplomats, heritage experts, and scholars. The gathering aims to discuss and decide on matters of global cultural significance.**

12. Which research institute of India has recently developed an anti-insecticide fabric that effectively neutralises organophosphate-based pesticides?

- A. Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
- B. Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem)
- C. National Institute of Biomedical Genomics
- D. Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research

- ✓ **In Bengaluru, the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem) has developed an innovative anti-insecticide fabric. This fabric utilizes nucleophilic small molecules that covalently bond to neutralize organophosphate-based pesticides upon contact, even after 150 washes. It aims to protect farmers from chronic pesticide toxicity by detoxifying pesticides through nucleophile-mediated hydrolysis.**

## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

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