

1. Which organization recently upgraded the Regional Analysis of Indian Ocean (RAIN) system for gathering information on the health of the Indian Ocean?

- A. National Institute of Oceanography
- B. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
- C. Indian Meteorological Department
- D. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



- ✓ **The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Hyderabad has upgraded its Regional Analysis of Indian Ocean (RAIN) system to include Sea Surface Height Anomaly (SSHA) alongside salinity and sea surface temperature. Developed since 2023 and implemented recently, the system aids in monitoring the Indian Ocean's health. Additionally, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral but is expected to turn positive, potentially increasing monsoon rainfall in India from August onwards.**

2. Anand Marriage Act provides statutory recognition to marriage rituals of which community in India?

- A. Muslim
- B. Sikh
- C. Jain
- D. Jews



- ✓ **The National Commission for Minorities held a video conference to discuss the implementation of the Anand Marriage Act, which recognizes Sikh marriage rituals. States like Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Meghalaya reported its implementation, while others assured to do so within two months. Originating in 1909 and amended in 2012, the Act allows Sikhs to register marriages outside the Hindu Marriage Act. Recently, Jammu and Kashmir framed rules for Anand marriage registration.**

3. Recently, India and which country signed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for Organic Products?

- A. Hong Kong
- B. Taiwan
- C. Vietnam
- D. Japan



- ✓ **The India-Taiwan Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for Organic Products came into effect on July 8, 2024, announced at the 9<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Trade Meeting in New Delhi. This agreement boosts trade in organic products between the two countries. Certified organic products from India can now be exported to Taiwan and vice versa. Implementing agencies are India's APEDA and Taiwan's Agriculture and Food Agency. Key exports include aromatic plants, rice, and herbal tea.**

4. Recently, where was the 25<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) meeting held?

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



- ✓ The 25<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) meeting, chaired by Professor Ajay Kumar Sood on July 9, 2024 in New Delhi, reviewed various science and technology initiatives. Established in 2018, PM-STIAC advises on strategic matters, formulates missions like Deep Ocean Exploration, AI, National Quantum, Electric Vehicle, and AGNiI missions, and oversees their implementation across government agencies to advance India's scientific and technological capabilities.

5. Recently, which organization has released Financial Inclusion Index?

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. NABARD
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. SEBI



- ✓ The Reserve Bank's Financial Inclusion (FI) Index rose to 64.2 in March 2024, up from 60.1 in March 2023, indicating growth in financial inclusion across India. The index ranges from 0 (complete exclusion) to 100 (full inclusion) and comprises three parameters: access (35%), usage (45%), and quality (20%). The improvement was mainly driven by the usage dimension.

6. Which state government recently announced free higher education policy for EWS, SEBC, OBC girls?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala
- D. Himachal Pradesh



- ✓ The Maharashtra government has announced a new policy making higher education free for girls from the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBC), and Other Backward Classes (OBC). Effective from the 2024-25 academic year, this initiative aims to increase female participation in professional courses and aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP).

7. Recently, researchers of which institute have demonstrated a novel method to create mineral nanoparticles using microdroplets of water?

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



- ✓ Researchers at IIT Madras have discovered a method to create mineral nanoparticles using microdroplets of water, which are about 10 micrometers in size. This breakthrough has potential implications for the origin of life and agricultural soil replenishment. Microdroplets can break down minerals into nanoparticles faster than bulk water. Silica nanoparticles, for example, can enhance plant growth, potentially converting unproductive soils into fertile lands and improving food production and security.

8. Recently, which organization has launched the 'Medical Devices Information System' (MeDvIS)?

- A. World Health Organization
- B. World Bank
- C. UNICEF
- D. UNDP



- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched MeDevIS (Medical Devices Information System), an online platform providing global access to information on 2,301 types of medical devices. This resource aids decision-making for the selection, procurement, and use of medical devices for diagnostics & treatment of various diseases. The platform covers over 10,000 medical technologies, from simple tools like thermometers to complex equipment like defibrillators and radiotherapy devices, enhancing access and navigation for healthcare providers.

9. What is the theme of 'World Population Day 2024'?

- A. To Leave No One Behind, Count Everyone
- B. Safeguard the health and rights of women and girls
- C. Gender equality and reproductive health
- D. Family Planning is a Human Right



- ✓ World Population Day is observed annually on July 11 since 1990, focusing on population growth, environmental impact, and development issues. Established by the UNDP in 1989, the date marks the global population surpassing five billion on July 11, 1987. The 2024 theme is, "To Leave No One Behind, Count Everyone".

10. Which country is the host of 'Exercise Pitch Black 2024'?

- A. India
- B. France
- C. Australia
- D. New Zealand



- ✓ An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent arrived at RAAF Base Darwin, Australia, for Exercise Pitch Black 2024, from July 12 to August 2. This biennial, multinational exercise, the largest in its 43-year history, involves 20 countries, 140+ aircraft, and 4400 personnel. Focusing on night operations and Large Force Employment warfare, it includes IAF's Su-30 MKI, C-17 Globemaster, and IL-78 aircraft, enhancing international cooperation and best practices.

11. What is the primary objective of Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) scientific deep-drilling programme?

- A. To study marine biodiversity
- B. To explore for fossil fuels
- C. To understand reservoir-triggered earthquakes
- D. To search for underground water sources



- ✓ The Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) in Karad, Maharashtra, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, leads India's deep-drilling programme. It aims to reach 6 km into the earth's crust to study reservoir-triggered earthquakes in Maharashtra's Koyna-Warna region, prone to seismic activity since the 1962 impoundment of the Koyna Dam. This effort advances seismology and technological innovation, vital for understanding geohazards and developing geo-resources.

12. Recently, scientists have discovered a new species of a shield-tail snake in which region of India?

- A. Western Ghats
- B. Eastern Ghats
- C. Trans Himalayas
- D. Aravalli Range



- ✓ Researchers recently discovered a new species of shield-tail snake, *Uropeltis caudomaculata*, in the Meghamalai-Munnar landscape of the Western Ghats. Named for the yellow spot on its tail, this non-venomous species is distinguished by its increased number of ventral scales and is found exclusively in the Meghamalai Tiger Reserve, Periyar Tiger Reserve, and Yellapetty, Munnar. Shield-tail snakes belong to the Uropeltidae family, endemic to peninsular India and Sri Lanka. They inhabit hilly forests, burrow up to one foot below soil, and occupy tunnels in leaves, humus, rocks, and logs. They possess a keratinous shield at the tail tip.

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