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FIRST WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



JULY 2024

JULY 01-07

1. Recently, the government of Uttar Pradesh has decided to set up a bioplastic park in which district?

- A. Mathura
- B. Agra
- C. Lakhimpur Kheri
- D. Saharanpur



- ✓ The government of Uttar Pradesh is establishing a bioplastic park in Kumbhi village, Gola Gokarnnath tehsil, Lakhimpur Kheri district, to combat plastic pollution. Covering 1000 hectares and costing Rs 2000 crore, the project will be developed by Balrampur Chini Mill, with UPEIDA as the nodal agency. Bioplastics, made from renewable sources, decompose quickly, offering an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based plastics.

2. Which organization recently released the 'Migration and Development Brief' report?

- A. World Bank
- B. IMF
- C. UNDP
- D. UNEP



- ✓ India, the largest remittance recipient globally, is expected to receive \$124 billion in inward remittances in 2024 and \$129 billion in 2025. In 2023, India received \$120 billion, marking a 7.5% growth rate, projected to be 3.7% in 2024. The World Bank's June 2024 Migration and Development Brief highlights these trends, noting India as the leading emigrant origin country with 18.7 million emigrants.

3. Who has been awarded the 'PEN Pinter Prize 2024'?

- A. Vikram Seth
- B. Neelam Saxena
- C. Vikram Singh
- D. Arundhati Roy



- ✓ Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy has been awarded the 2024 PEN Pinter Literary Prize for her courageous writing. This honor comes shortly after the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi sanctioned her prosecution under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The award ceremony will be held in October in London. Previous winners include Salman Rushdie and Margaret Atwood. The PEN Pinter Award, established in 2009, recognizes exceptional English-language writers from the UK, Ireland, or the Commonwealth.

4. Pallikaranai Marshland is located in which state?

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



- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government plans to build a high-level bridge to protect the Pallikaranai Marshland, a freshwater and saline wetland 20 km south of Chennai. As one of Chennai's last natural wetlands, it serves as an aquatic buffer, draining 250 sq.km through Okkiyam Madavu and Kovalam Creek into the Bay of Bengal. A Ramsar site, it supports diverse species including 115 bird species, Russell's viper, and the glossy ibis.

5. Which organization has recently delivered the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy?

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



- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy in New Delhi. Developed by DRDO's Defence Laboratory in Jodhpur, this technology obscures radar signals and creates a microwave shield to reduce radar detection. The chaff rocket uses special fibers with unique microwave obscuration properties, assembled to enhance radar evasion capabilities.

6. Recently, which military station has become the second military station in India to construct a plastic waste road?

- A. Dehradun Military Station
- B. Roorkee Military Station
- C. Jaipur Military Station
- D. Meerut Military Station



- ✓ Jaipur Military Station is now the second in India to have a road made of plastic waste, inaugurated on June 26, 2024, by Major General R S Godara. The 100-meter road, built under GE (South) and CE Jaipur Zone with Deep Constructions Pvt Ltd, follows the first plastic road at Narangi Military Station, Assam. These roads are more durable, with less wear and tear, reduced water induction, and increased sustainability.

7. Mark Rutte, recently appointed as the new Secretary General of NATO, is the Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Singapore
- B. Indonesia
- C. The Netherlands
- D. Australia



- ✓ **Mark Rutte, Netherlands Prime Minister, has been appointed as the next Secretary General of NATO. Approved by NATO's 32 member countries on June 26 in Brussels, he will succeed Jens Stoltenberg on October 1, 2024.**
- ✓ **Mark Rutte's nomination came after overcoming opposition from Hungary and Turkey, and the withdrawal of Romanian President Klaus Iohannis. He became the sole candidate and was elected to lead the Western military alliance after serving as Dutch Prime Minister since 2010.**

8. Kalibr cruise missile was developed by which country?

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



- ✓ **The Russian Black Sea Fleet recently launched Kalibr cruise missiles, targeting Ukrainian infrastructure. Kalibr missiles, developed by Russia's Almaz-Antey, can be launched from various platforms and serve anti-ship, anti-submarine, and land attack roles. They vary in size, ranging from 1,300 kg to 2,300 kg, with ranges spanning 200 km to 2500 km.**

9. Which organization developed the 'Tapas BH-201 UAV'?

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



- ✓ **The Indian Air Force (IAF) has proposed to acquire 10 TAPAS drones, officially known as Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance Beyond Horizon-201, or Tapas BH-201. Developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, these medium-altitude, long-endurance drones, previously called Rustom-II, fulfill the tri-services' Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Tracking & Reconnaissance (ISTAR) needs. Capable of operating day and night at 30,000 feet with a 24-hour endurance.**

10. Recently, which country has signed an \$18-million memorandum of understanding with the ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)?

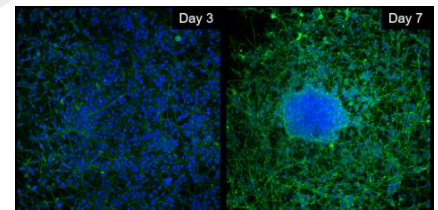
- A. Australia
- B. Japan
- C. Germany
- D. France



- ✓ Recently, the Australian government signed an \$18 million MoU with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm, as part of the Space MAITRI mission. This initiative strengthens bilateral ties in space exploration, focusing on debris management and sustainability. NSIL will launch Australia's Space Machines Company's Optimus spacecraft in 2026 on ISRO's SSLV, marking a significant collaboration in space technology and fostering responsible space operations between India and Australia.

11. Which institute has recently designed a novel 3D hydrogel culture system to study TB infection and treatment?

- A. Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- B. Institute of Ayurvedic Studies and Research
- C. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- D. National Tuberculosis Institute



- ✓ Researchers from IISc's Department of Bioengineering have developed a 3D hydrogel culture system that mimics the mammalian lung environment. This innovation allows precise tracking and study of tuberculosis bacteria infection in lung cells. The system serves as a robust platform for testing the effectiveness of TB therapeutics.

12. Which institute has recently signed an MoU with the University of Leeds to launch the Joint Virtual Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development (VCoE-SD)?

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



- ✓ IIT Madras and the University of Leeds have partnered to establish the Joint Virtual Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development (VCoE-SD). This MoU aims to foster impactful research and innovation towards achieving sustainable development goals. The collaboration will enhance academic exchange through joint projects, courses, and conferences, creating a network of high-quality staff to drive sustainable solutions globally.

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1. Recently, who has been appointed as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)?

- A. Yuvraj Singh
- B. Kapil Dev
- C. Sachin Tendulkar
- D. Neeraj Chopra



- ✓ **Kapil Dev, renowned Indian cricketer and avid amateur golfer, has been elected as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). Kapil Dev, captain of India's 1983 Cricket World Cup-winning team, served as vice president and member of PGTI's governing body. Known as the "Haryana Hurricane," he played a key role in promoting professional golf in India since PGTI's inception in 2006, organizing tournaments nationwide.**

2. Which district of Uttar Pradesh is known as the 'City of Knives'?

- A. Rampur
- B. Saharanpur
- C. Mirzapur
- D. Raebareli



- ✓ **Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh, known as the "City of Knives," has crafted the renowned Rampuri chaku since the 18th century. These blades, symbols of artisanship and royal patronage, are made from high-quality steel, paired with handles of bone, horn, or ivory, intricately carved into pieces of art. Despite a 1990s ban on longer blades to reduce violence, Rampur artisans adapt legally, preserving their craft's legacy.**

3. Recently, which country has started 'Rhisotope Project' to protect rhinos?

- A. South Africa
- B. Zimbabwe
- C. New Zealand
- D. India



- ✓ **South African scientists launched the "Rhisotope" project, injecting radioactive material into live rhino horns to combat poaching. The aim is to make the horns detectable at borders and toxic for consumption. Involving 20 rhinos, the process includes drilling, inserting radioisotopes, and adding microdots and chips.**

4. Which organization recently witnessed 'Gigantic Jets' over the Himalayan Mountains?

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



- ✓ **NASA recently observed gigantic jets over the Himalayan Mountains. These rare and powerful lightning phenomena extend from the top of a cloud to the edge of space, differing from regular cloud-to-cloud and cloud-to-ground lightning. Documented only in the 21st century, the bottoms of gigantic jets resemble blue jets, while the tops look like red sprites. This discovery adds to our understanding of atmospheric phenomena.**

5. Raimona National Park, recently seen in news due to an antelope-like mammal 'mainland serow', is located in which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Assam
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Sikkim



- ✓ **A mainland serow, a mammal between a goat and an antelope, was sighted at 96 meters above sea level in Raimona National Park, Assam, near human habitation. Documented by a team of scientists, this finding was published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa. The serow, usually found at 200-3,000 meters in the India-Bhutan border region, highlights biodiversity conservation efforts in the park.**

6. Recently, where was the third annual conference on MND 'Awareness, Care and Management' held?

- A. AIIMS, Patna
- B. KGMU, Lucknow
- C. NIMHANS, Bengaluru
- D. AIIMS, Delhi



- ✓ **The annual conference on MND 'Awareness, Care, and Management' at Nimhans, Bengaluru, highlighted the importance of symptomatic and supportive treatments. Motor Neuron Diseases (MNDs) are progressive neurological disorders affecting motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness, slurred speech, and paralysis, typically after age 50. Causes are mostly unknown, though some cases are genetic. MND affects more males than females.**

7. Steriphopus wangala belongs to which species?

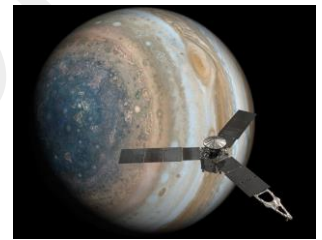
- A. Fish
- B. Spider
- C. Frog
- D. Butterfly



- ✓ A new spider species, *Steriphopus wangala*, was discovered in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills. Named after the Garo community's Wangala harvest festival, this spider belongs to the Palp-Footed Spider family and has reddish-brown coloring.

8. Juno probe is a NASA spacecraft designed to orbit which planet?

- A. Jupiter
- B. Mars
- C. Saturn
- D. Venus



- ✓ New findings from NASA's Juno probe reveal the extent of lava lakes on Jupiter's moon Io. Launched in 2011, Juno is designed to study Jupiter's origins and changes. It arrived at Jupiter in 2016 and orbits every 11 days. Initially a 5-year mission, it has been extended to 2025. During this extended mission, Juno explores Jupiter's moons Ganymede, Europa, and Io, as well as its atmosphere and rings.

9. Recently, which organization has successfully completed six consecutive development trials of High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS'?

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



- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently completed six successful trials of the High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS' in Chandipur, Odisha. Designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Larsen & Toubro, ABHYAS provides realistic threat scenarios for weapon systems practice. It features autonomous flying, a laptop-based Ground Control System, and data recording capabilities for post-flight analysis.

10. Recently, where was the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) Annual Board meeting held?

- A. India
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Bhutan
- D. China



- ✓ India participated in the CLGF Annual Board meeting in Sri Lanka, focusing on "Reinforcing Social Resilience through Women's Political Representation." CLGF, headquartered in London since 1995, unites local governments and ministries across 56 Commonwealth nations, including India. It advocates for gender equality in local governance to support women's active participation in public life, aligning with SDG 5 goals.

11. Recently, an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for early detection of forest fires has been launched in which tiger reserve of Maharashtra?

- A. Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve
- B. Pench Tiger Reserve
- C. Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve
- D. Sahyadri Tiger Reserve



- ✓ An advanced AI system for early forest fire detection has deployed at Pench Tiger Reserve. Located across Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Pench is known for its diverse forest types including Tropical Moist Deciduous and Teak. The reserve, designated a National Park in 1975 and Tiger Reserve in 1992, is divided by the Pench River and hosts a rich biodiversity.

12. Which organization created the national level geospatial databases for Bhuvan Panchayat 4.0 and National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM 5.0)?

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



- ✓ The Union Minister of State for Science and Technology launched two geoportals: Bhuvan Panchayat 4.0 and NDEM 5.0, both with national geospatial databases created by ISRO. Bhuvan Panchayat 4.0 aims to integrate space-based information for governance and research, focusing on spatial planning at the Gram Panchayat level. NDEM 5.0 provides a comprehensive geospatial database for nationwide situational assessment and decision-making during emergencies.

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1. What is the rank of India in the Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) 2024?

- A. 65th
- B. 72nd
- C. 85th
- D. 62nd



- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has launched the AI Preparedness Index (AIPI) Dashboard, ranking 174 countries on their readiness to adopt AI technologies. Categories include Low-Income Countries (LIC), Emerging Market Economies (EM), and Advanced Economies (AE). Singapore, Denmark, and the United States lead the AE category, while India, an EM, ranks 72nd with a score of 0.49. China ranks 31st with a score of 0.63, reflecting its higher readiness compared to neighboring countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

2. Which city recently hosted the "Hunar" exhibition, a captivating display of Indian folk and tribal art?

- A. Varanasi
- B. Kanchipuram
- C. Dubai
- D. Paris



- ✓ The Dubai Art Centre hosted the "Hunar" exhibition, showcasing India's rich folk and tribal art heritage. Organized by Videsha Pandey, the exhibition features diverse works including a Ramayana painting, Aipan art from Uttarakhand, Madhubani art from Bihar, Warli art from Maharashtra, and Muria art from Chhattisgarh. The exhibition aims to highlight India's cultural diversity and underrepresented art forms.

3. Which state government recently announced the inclusion of a chapter on the Emergency in the state's school curriculum?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Kerala
- D. Arunachal Pradesh



- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced a new school curriculum chapter on the Emergency of 1975-77, highlighting the "excesses and repression" during that period. This aims to educate the younger generation about the struggle against the Emergency.

4. Which state government recently launched the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme'?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Odisha
- C. Gujarat
- D. Kerala



- ✓ The Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Scheme 2024, launched in Maharashtra, offers free education for girls and support for the unemployed. Eligible women aged 21-60 will receive Rs. 1500 monthly. Aimed at promoting financial independence and self-reliance, the scheme includes a budget of 46 thousand crores, providing various benefits to women, enhancing their development and overall well-being.

5. Recently, where was the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meeting held?

- A. China
- B. France
- C. Indonesia
- D. Singapore



- ✓ India has been placed in the "regular follow-up category" by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) after its plenary meeting in Singapore from June 26-28, 2024. The meeting evaluated 17 countries on anti-money laundering, anti-terrorism financing, and anti-proliferation compliance. India, Russia, France, Italy, and the UK were kept in the regular follow-up, while one country was grey-listed. The FATF commended India's efforts but urged quicker prosecution in such cases.

6. What is the primary objective of the GSAT 20 satellite?

- A. Earth Observation
- B. Communication
- C. Weather Monitoring
- D. Navigation



- ✓ For the first time, ISRO will launch its latest large satellite, GSAT 20, on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. GSAT 20, a hi-tech communication satellite, weighs 4,700 kg and has a throughput capacity of 48 GBPS. It features 32 spot beams covering all of India, especially the Northeast. Owned by ISRO's commercial arm NSIL, it uses SpaceX due to the limitations of India's Launch Vehicle Mark 3.

7. Central Electronics Limited (CEL), which was recently granted 'Mini Ratna' status, comes under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Power
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Communication Technology
- D. Ministry of MSME



विज्ञान एवं
प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

- ✓ **Central Electronics Limited (CEL), recently granted "Mini Ratna" (Category-1) status, is a Govt of India Enterprise under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology. Established in 1974, CEL aims to commercialize indigenous technologies from National Laboratories and R&D Institutions. CEL excels in solar energy systems, strategic electronics, and various high-tech areas, producing solar cells, railway signaling equipment, and components for defense applications.**

8. What is the main purpose of the Sangyaan App, recently launched by Railway Protection Force (RPF)?

- A. To provide train schedules
- B. To educate and empower RPF personnel by providing information about criminal laws
- C. To monitor train ticket bookings
- D. To provide health tips to RPF personnel



- ✓ **The Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched the Sangyaan App, developed by the RPF Tech Team. It educates RPF Personnel on new criminal laws like Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) 2023. This mobile tool aims to enhance legal knowledge and operational relevance, offering comprehensive insights into legal provisions for effective RPF operations.**

9. Which ministry has recently launched virtual NQAS assessment and spot food licence initiative to ensure healthcare for all?

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology
- D. Ministry of Power



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

- ✓ **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched two initiatives: Virtual NQAS Assessment for Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM) and Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHL), ensuring compliance with Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). The Spot Food License Initiative uses the Food safety and compliance system (FoSCoS) platform for instant licensing and registration across India, aiming to streamline processes. These initiatives support "Healthcare for All" by enhancing real-time monitoring of health facilities and simplifying food safety compliance.**

10. Recently, where was the 29th edition of the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise held?

- A. Auckland, New Zealand
- B. Hawaii, USA
- C. Paris, France
- D. Kolkata, India



- ✓ **Indian multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik, deployed in the South China Sea and North Pacific Ocean, has arrived at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, USA to participate in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.**
- ✓ **RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise, enhancing naval interoperability and trust among 29 participating countries. Led by the US Navy, the exercise includes diverse activities like symposiums, sports competitions, and integrated sea operations.**

11. Recently, the Central Railway has inaugurated its first-ever floating solar plant with a 10 MWp capacity in which lake of India?

- A. Lonar Lake
- B. Igatpuri Lake
- C. Periyar Lake
- D. Venna Lake



- ✓ **Central Railway has inaugurated India's first floating solar plant, a 10 MWp installation on Igatpuri lake in the Western Ghats. This initiative marks a milestone in Indian Railways' clean energy efforts, aimed at achieving zero carbon emissions by 2030.**

12. Keshava temple is located in which state?

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



- ✓ **Karnataka's Tourism Department is set to elevate the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Somanathapur, especially the Keshava Temple, as a key attraction in Mysuru's tourism circuit before Dasara this year. Located in Somanathapura town along the River Kaveri, the temple, completed in 1268 AD under Hoysala King Narasimha III, features a unique star-shaped platform with three sanctums. Recognized alongside Halebidu and Belur temples, it holds cultural significance as part of the Hoysala heritage.**

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1. What is the theme of Statistics Day, 2024?

- A. Use of data for decision-making
- B. Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework
- C. Data for Sustainable Development
- D. End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition



- ✓ **National Statistics Day, celebrated annually on June 29 in India, honors Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis for his contributions to statistics and economic planning. Initiated in 2007, its goal is to raise awareness, particularly among youth, about the pivotal role of statistics in shaping socio-economic policies. The theme for 2024 is, "Use of data for decision-making".**

2. Recently, who has been appointed as the 35th Foreign Secretary of India?

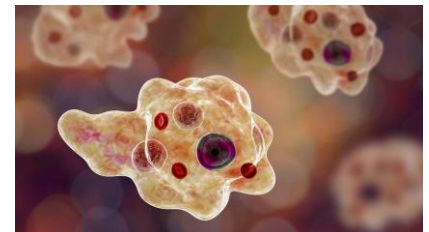
- A. Amitabh Kant
- B. Vikram Misri
- C. Ruchira Kamboj
- D. Ajay Bisaria



- ✓ **Vikram Misri has been appointed as India's new Foreign Secretary, succeeding Vinay Mohan Kwatra on July 15, 2024. Known for his expertise in China affairs, Misri served as India's ambassador to China during the 2019-2021 period, including the Galwan Valley clashes.**

3. What is *Amoebic Meningoencephalitis*?

- A. A common cold
- B. A rare, usually fatal infection of the central nervous system
- C. A type of cancer
- D. A bacterial infection of the lungs



- ✓ **Due to continued rain in Kerala, the health department cautioned against amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), a rare, usually fatal brain infection caused by *Naegleria fowleri*. This amoeba thrives in warm, shallow waters and enters the brain through the nose. Early symptoms include fever, headache, and vomiting, progressing to stiff neck, seizures, hallucinations, and coma. Symptoms typically appear within five days of infection.**

4. Recently, which country has become the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna?

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



- ✓ India has become the first country to prepare a comprehensive checklist of its entire fauna population, documenting 104,561 species. This milestone, announced by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav in Kolkata, coincided with the launch of the Fauna of India Checklist Portal by the Zoological Survey of India. This portal, vital for scientific research, encompasses 121 checklists of all known taxa. The event also featured the 2nd Animal Taxonomy Summit-2024.

5. Which team won the 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup by defeating the South Africa team?

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



- ✓ The Indian men's cricket team, led by Rohit Sharma, won the 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup by defeating South Africa by 7 runs at Kensington Oval, Barbados on 29 June 2024. This is India's second T20 World Cup win, following their 2007 victory. The final marked the T20 retirements of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja. It was also Rahul Dravid's last assignment as coach.

6. What is 'Snowblind'?

- A. Exoplanet
- B. Asteroid
- C. Malware
- D. Drugs



- ✓ A new Android malware called 'Snowblind' targets users to steal banking credentials by bypassing anti-tamper mechanisms using the 'seccomp' security feature. Snowblind repacks apps to avoid detection and utilizes accessibility services to remotely view screens, disabling biometric and two-factor authentication. It primarily infects devices via apps from untrusted sources and is most active in Southeast Asia, posing a significant threat to banking app security.

7. Which ministry has recently developed an eSankhyiki portal?

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- D. Ministry of Defence



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is the nodal Ministry for integrated development of the national statistical system in the country in tune with the global statistical practices and data dissemination standards. MoSPI is committed to enhancing user

experience and data accessibility through use of cutting-edge technologies and the adoption of global best practices.

- ✓ In line with this mandate, the Ministry has developed an eSankhyiki portal to provide real-time inputs for planners, policy-makers, researchers and the public at large. The objective of this portal is to establish a comprehensive data management and sharing system for ease of dissemination of official statistics in the country.

8. Recently, which country has successfully developed and certified SEBEX 2, a new explosive that is 2.01 times more lethal than standard Trinitrotoluene (TNT)?

- A. India
- B. Bangladesh
- C. France
- D. Afghanistan



- ✓ India has certified SEBEX 2, an explosive 2.01 times more potent than TNT, developed for bombs and warheads. Approved by the Indian Navy, it's touted as one of the world's most powerful non-nuclear explosives. SEBEX 2 promises enhanced destructive capability without added weight, aiming to revolutionize military ordnance. Its development signals potential for significant exports in defense technology.

9. INS Ranvir belongs to which type of class?

- A. Seawolf
- B. Rajput
- C. Scorpene
- D. Kalvari



- ✓ Indian Naval Ship INS Ranvir, a Rajput Class Guided Missile Destroyer, arrived in Chattogram, Bangladesh for an Operational Deployment. Commissioned in 1986, the upgraded ship features state-of-the-art indigenous weapons and sensors. The visit includes professional interactions, community outreach, and sports with Bangladeshi naval personnel. INS Ranvir will also participate in a Maritime Partnership Exercise. This visit enhances India-Bangladesh friendship, cooperation, and regional security, aligned with India's SAGAR initiative.

10. Which day is observed as 'Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day' every year?

- A. July.01
- B. July.05
- C. March.29
- D. March.05



- ✓ Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day, observed annually on July 1, commemorates the implementation of India's transformative tax system. The 2024 celebration marks the seventh anniversary of GST, introduced to simplify the complex tax structure previously managed by central and state governments. GST revolutionized India's fiscal landscape, significantly impacting the economy by streamlining indirect taxes and fostering economic efficiency.
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11. Recently, researchers from which state have developed a method to produce activated carbon for supercapacitors from coconut husks?

- A. Tamil Nadu
B. Kerala
C. Odisha
D. Maharashtra



- ✓ Researchers at Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala developed a method to produce activated carbon from coconut husks for supercapacitors. This sustainable, efficient solution leverages the high surface area of activated carbon, making it ideal for high-performance supercapacitors. These devices store and deliver charge through reversible adsorption and desorption of ions, enhancing electrochemical energy storage.
-

12. MK Ranjitsinh & others vs Union of India & others case, recently seen in the news, is related with which issue?

- A. Poverty and Hunger
B. Climate Change
C. Triple Talaq
D. None of the above



- ✓ India's Supreme Court, in MK Ranjitsinh and others Vs Union of India & others case has set a precedent in climate change jurisprudence. The landmark judgment establishes the right to 'be free from the adverse effects of climate change' as a fundamental right under Articles 21 and 14 of the Constitution. This decision shapes India's climate policy by influencing governance and legislation, highlighting the judiciary's role in addressing environmental challenges and protecting citizens' rights.
-

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1. Which institute recently developed an efficient method of hydrogen generation from methanol and formaldehyde combinations?

- A. IISER, Tirupati
- B. IIT, Roorkee
- C. IIT, Madras
- D. IIT, Delhi



- ✓ Researchers at IISER Tirupati devised a method to generate hydrogen efficiently using methanol and formaldehyde. They employed nickel catalysts, readily available in the market, without needing bases or activators. This hydrogen production enabled selective partial transfer hydrogenation of alkynes, converting them into alkenes. The method supports the synthesis of bioactive molecules.

2. Alexandria, a port city recently in the news due to the visit of INS Tabar, is located in which country?

- A. Indonesia
- B. Egypt
- C. France
- D. Rome



- ✓ Indian Naval Ship Tabar recently visited Alexandria, Egypt, highlighting India's commitment to bilateral relations. INS Tabar, a Talwar-class stealth frigate commissioned in 2004 in Russia, embodies the motto "Guts and Glory." This visit underscores India's strategic maritime engagement, emphasizing regional cooperation and naval capabilities.

3. Recently, which organization has approved a \$1.5 billion loan to support India's green hydrogen initiatives?

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- D. International Development Association



- ✓ The World Bank approved \$1.5 billion to support India's low-carbon energy development. The funding will boost green hydrogen, electrolyzers, and renewable energy. This aligns with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission and energy goals: achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2070.

4. Recently, the Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) announced which country as a partner nation for the human spaceflight programme?

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



- ✓ US-based Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) and Blue Origin have partnered with India for their human spaceflight program. They will offer six seats on a future New Shepard mission to citizens from countries with limited space presence. New Shepard, a reusable suborbital rocket, will take the selected astronauts on an 11-minute journey past the Kármán line, the internationally recognized space boundary at 100 km.

5. Indian army recently conducted joint military exercise 'Maitree' with which country's army?

- A. Thailand
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Australia
- D. New Zealand



- ✓ The Indian Army commenced the Maitree exercise with the Royal Thai Army at Fort Vachiraprakan, Thailand, from 1 to 15 July 2024. Initiated in 2006, this bilateral exercise enhances defense cooperation. Seventy-six personnel from both armies, including the Ladakh Scouts, participate. The exercise focuses on counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in urban and jungle environments, joint planning, tactical drills, and physical fitness.

6. Recently, where was the third United Nations conference on Afghanistan held?

- A. Doha, Qatar
- B. Astana, Kazakhstan
- C. New Delhi, India
- D. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



- ✓ For the first time, the Taliban participated in the United Nations Conference on Afghanistan, held in Doha on 30 June and 1 July 2024. Despite attendance from 25 countries and organizations, including the EU and SCO, no substantial progress was made. The Taliban, represented by Zabihullah Mujahid, joined after their demands were met, excluding Afghan civil society representatives. India was represented by J.P. Singh from the Ministry of External Affairs.

7. Which organization has recently captured an epic view of the largest volcano in our solar system named Olympus Mons using the Mars Odyssey orbiter?

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



- ✓ **NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiter captured an epic view of Olympus Mons, the largest volcano in the solar system. Launched in 2001, Odyssey's mission includes mapping Mars' surface and serving as a communication relay. Olympus Mons, a shield volcano, is 24 kilometers high and 550 kilometers wide, dwarfing Earth's Mauna Loa. Odyssey holds the record for the longest active mission around another planet, scheduled to last until 2025.**

8. What is the primary objective of 'Project Nexus'?

- A. To improve domestic banking systems
- B. To enable instant cross-border retail payments
- C. To create a new crypto currency
- D. To monitor international financial transactions



- ✓ **The RBI joined Project Nexus, an initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by linking domestic Fast Payment Systems (FPSs). Conceptualized by the BIS Innovation Hub, Nexus provides a single-connection solution for seamless international transactions. It aims to connect FPSs of India and 4 ASEAN countries by 2026. Nexus will automatically link new member countries, enhancing efficiency, reducing costs, and improving international payment accessibility.**

9. 'Nouka Baich' is the traditional boat race of which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala
- C. West Bengal
- D. Manipur



- ✓ **With the south-west monsoon setting in, Nouka Baich boat races will soon begin in rural West Bengal. These traditional races occur from September to November, with increasing female participation. Linked to the worship of the Hindu deity Manasa, goddess of snakes, these races use various traditional boats, including the 90 ft long Sorengi. The races celebrate agrarian culture and the swollen rivers of the monsoon season.**

10. Recently, archaeologists have uncovered a 41,000-year-old ostrich nest in which state?

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



- ✓ Archaeologists discovered the world's oldest known ostrich nest, dating back 41,000 years in Andhra Pradesh. This find could offer insights into the extinction of megafauna in the Indian subcontinent. Megafauna, animals over 50 kg, include megaherbivores, megacarnivores, and megaomnivores. Anthropogenic pressures since the Late Pleistocene led to significant losses among megafauna like woolly mammoths and sabre-toothed tigers.

11. Recently, Sujata Saunik became the first female Chief Secretary of which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharashtra



- ✓ Senior IAS officer Sujata Saunik became Maharashtra's first female Chief Secretary (CS), the 45th since the state's formation in 1960. She succeeds Nitin Kareer, who retired. Saunik will serve a one-year tenure until June 2025. Her appointment by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was unanimous. The transition ceremony took place at Mantralaya, the State Secretariat in Mumbai.

12. Tianlong-3 space rocket is associated with which country?

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



- ✓ The private Chinese rocket Tianlong-3 crashed after accidental launches during a test run. Developed by Beijing Tianbing (Space Pioneer), Tianlong-3 is a medium-lift orbital launch vehicle, partially reusable up to ten times, with the first stage capable of autonomous vertical landing. It can launch medium-sized payloads to low Earth orbit (LEO) and sun-synchronous orbit (SSO), and its performance is comparable to SpaceX's Falcon 9.

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1. Which ministry recently approved Rs 56 crore for the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and Lesser Florican?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Tourism



- ✓ **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) approved Rs 56 crore for the next phase of conserving the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and Lesser Florican. This program, running since 2016, aims for the long-term recovery of these critically endangered species, with around 140 GIBs and fewer than 1,000 Lesser Floricans surviving. Key efforts include breeding centers, in-situ conservation, artificial insemination techniques, and addressing threats like hunting and power line collisions.**

2. Recently, who won the Leon Masters Chess Championship for the 10th time?

- A. Fabiano Caruana
- B. Viswanathan Anand
- C. Sergey Karjakin
- D. Magnus Carlsen



- ✓ **Former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand of India won the Leon Masters chess championship for the 10th time by defeating Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain 3-1 in the final on June 30, 2024, in Leon, Spain. Anand, a five-time world champion, has previously won the tournament in 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, and 2016. The Leon Masters features four players, including Arjun Erigaisi and Veselin Topalov.**

3. Recently, which country's Navy has signed a deal with India's Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for an 800-tonne ocean-going tug?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Bangladesh
- D. China



- ✓ **The Bangladesh Navy signed a significant deal with India's Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for an 800-tonne ocean-going tug, part of a \$500-million line of credit from India for defence equipment. The contract was finalized in Dhaka, witnessed by GRSE and Bangladesh Navy officials. Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi's visit to Bangladesh coincided with the deal, emphasizing bilateral defence ties and exploring new naval cooperation opportunities between the two countries.**

4. Recently, which country has sent two trains carrying coal to India through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for the first time?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. Ukraine
- D. Bangladesh



- ✓ Russia has initiated coal shipments to India via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for the first time. Two trains will travel 7,200 km from St. Petersburg to Mumbai port via Iran's Bandar Abbas port. INSTC integrates shipping, rail, and road networks, facilitating cargo movement between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe. Established in 2000, the corridor aims to enhance transportation cooperation, initially agreed upon during the Euro-Asian Conference on Transport.

5. Which state recently launched the 'NTR Bharosa pension scheme'?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Telangana
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha



- ✓ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the NTR Bharosa pension scheme on 1 July 2024, delivering pensions personally to beneficiaries. The scheme, a promise fulfilled by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government, increases monthly pensions for various categories: from Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 for elderly, widows, and others, and up to Rs 15,000 for severely disabled individuals. The initiative aims to enhance social security.

6. Where was the 16th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' held?

- A. Kolkata, West Bengal
- B. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- C. Umroi, Meghalaya
- D. Guwahati, Assam



- ✓ The 16th India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant started at Umroi, Meghalaya, running from July 3 to 16, 2024. It involves 45 Indian personnel and Mongolian Army's 150 Quick Reaction Force Battalion. The annual event, alternating between the countries, focuses on counter-insurgency in semi-urban and mountainous terrain. Key attendees include Mongolian Ambassador Dambajavyn Ganbold and Major General Prasanna Joshi. The exercise enhances interoperability and defense cooperation.

7. What is the primary objective of the LOw-Frequency ARray (LOFAR)?

- A. To study the Earth's core
- B. To observe the Universe at low radio frequencies
- C. To monitor climate change
- D. To track asteroid movements



- ✓ **Astronomers discovered a new radio galaxy using the LOw-Frequency ARray (LOFAR), a pan-European distributed radio interferometer developed by the Dutch Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON). LOFAR observes the Universe at low radio frequencies (90-200 MHz) and can simultaneously observe multiple directions. It aims to explore the early universe, solar activity, and the terrestrial atmosphere.**

8. What is 'Senna spectabilis'?

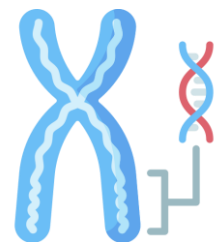
- A. Invasive plant
- B. Species of Fish
- C. Traditional irrigation method
- D. Communication satellite



- ✓ **Environmental organizations recently urged the Forest department to maintain transparency in a project to extract Senna spectabilis from Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. Senna spectabilis, a legume family tree native to South and Central America, is invasive in India. Known for its bright yellow flowers and resilience, it was introduced for shade and fuelwood but now threatens native species due to its dense foliage.**

9. What is Down syndrome?

- A. A genetic disorder caused by missing chromosomes
- B. A condition caused by an extra chromosome or piece of a chromosome
- C. A viral infection affecting the nervous system
- D. A type of muscular dystrophy



- ✓ **A recent study potentially documents the first case of Down syndrome in Neanderthals. Down syndrome occurs when a person has an extra chromosome or a part of a chromosome, specifically an extra copy of chromosome 21, called trisomy 21. This genetic condition impacts mental and physical development, causing various challenges. Although individuals with Down syndrome share similarities, their abilities vary. The condition typically arises randomly during early fetal development and is not inherited.**

10. Xenophrys apatani belongs to which species?

- A. Ant
- B. Frog
- C. Fish
- D. Spider



- ✓ Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India discovered a forest-dwelling frog, *Xenophrys apatani*, in Talle Wildlife Sanctuary, named after the Apatani community for their conservation efforts. This species is found in the Eastern Himalayan and Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots. The Apatani, residing in Arunachal Pradesh's Ziro valley, speak Tani, worship the sun and moon, and celebrate festivals like Dree and Myoko. They practice integrated rice-fish farming, using rice varieties Emeo, Pyape, and Mypia.

11. Which government agency recently released the report titled "Improving the Culture of Research and Development (R&D) in State Universities and Institutes"?

- A. National Disaster Management Authority
- B. Intellectual Property Appellate Board
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India



NITI Aayog

- ✓ NITI Aayog's report on R&D in Indian state universities highlights a doubling of Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) to Rs 127,381 crore in 2020-21 from Rs 60,197 crore in 2010-11. Government sectors, including central and state governments, and higher education institutions drive GERD. R&D fosters innovation, aligns education with industry needs, and addresses societal challenges. However, challenges include low GDP spending on R&D compared to global peers, emphasis on teaching over research, and limited enrollment in advanced programs like Ph.D.

12. Recently, which organization announced the New World Soil Health Index at International conference on Soils?

- A. UNESCO
- B. UNICEF
- C. UNEP
- D. UNDP



- ✓ UNESCO introduced the New World Soil Health Index at an international conference in Morocco to standardize soil quality assessment globally. It aims to monitor soil degradation trends and improvements across different ecosystems. UNESCO will pilot sustainable soil management in ten Biosphere Reserves to develop best practices. Globally, soil degradation affects 75% of land, impacting 3.2 billion people, and is projected to reach 90% by 2050. In India, 32% of land is degraded, with 25% undergoing desertification due to various factors including deforestation and industrial pollution.

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