

1. Recently, who has become the first woman to be appointed the Director General of Medical Services?

- A. Lt Gen Punita Arora
- B. Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair
- C. Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar
- D. Lt Gen Kavita Sahai



- ✓ **Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair became the first woman to lead the Indian Army's Medical Services on August 1, 2024. A third-generation armed forces member, she graduated from the Armed Forces Medical College and joined the Army Medical Corps in 1985. She previously served as Director General of Hospital Services and has received numerous honors, including the Vishisht Seva Medal.**

2. Recently, where was the '52nd Conference of Governors' held?

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



- ✓ **On August 2, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu presided over the 52nd Conference of Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan, her first time leading the event. The conference, attended by key leaders like Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Home Minister Amit Shah, also included state governors, lieutenant governors, and administrators of union territories.**
- ✓ **The two-day event featured participation from NITI Aayog officials and senior government members. The Conference of Governors, first held in 1949, addresses governance and administrative issues in India.**

3. Sharavathy Pumped Storage hydroelectric plant is built on which river?

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



- ✓ **The Central Electricity Authority has approved two new hydro-pumped storage plants in India. The 2000 MW Sharavathi Hydro-Pumped Storage plant in Karnataka will use the Talakalale and Gerusoppa dams, aiming to address the state's power issues.**
- ✓ **Developed by KPCL and Megha Engineering, it's the largest of its kind in India. The 600 MW Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Plant in Odisha will utilize the Upper Indravati Reservoir's released**

water, with construction by Odisha Hydropower Corporation Limited. Both projects require Central Electricity Authority approval as per the Electricity Act of 2003.

4. Recently, India signed an agreement with which country to develop National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat?

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



- ✓ During Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's visit to India from July 30 to August 1, 2024, the Indian government announced \$300 million in loans to strengthen Vietnam's maritime security. Nine agreements were signed, including Vietnam joining the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and a plan to develop the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.

5. Which ministry is the nodal body for the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) in Gujarat?

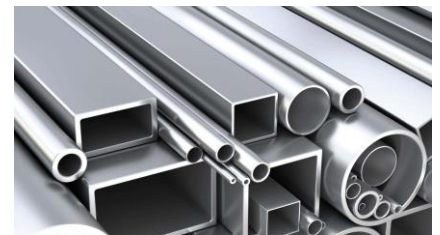
- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of AYUSH
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ The Ministry of Ayush signed an \$85 million agreement with the WHO to support the Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat, over the next 10 years. This funding will expand the centre and support its research. The agreement was signed by Arindam Bagchi and Dr Bruce Aylward at WHO headquarters in Geneva. The GCTM, established with a total investment of \$250 million, aims to enhance global health through traditional medicine combined with modern science. The Union Ministry of Ayush is the nodal body for the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

6. According to recent data, which country is the second-largest aluminium producer in the world?

- A. India
- B. Mexico
- C. Canada
- D. China



- ✓ India has become the world's second-largest aluminium producer, with a 1.2% increase in production to 10.43 lakh tons in the first quarter of FY 2024-25. This highlights India's growth in the aluminium sector, just behind China. Additionally, production of other key minerals has risen significantly, with iron ore reaching 79 million metric tons (MMT) and limestone 116 MMT.

7. *Schistura sonarengaensis* belongs to which species?

- A. Loach
- B. Spider
- C. Frog
- D. Lizard



- ✓ Scientists discovered a new loach species, *Schistura sonarengaensis*, in Meghalaya's South Garo Hills near the Bangladesh border. This freshwater, bottom-dwelling fish was found in three cave-dwelling populations. It has prominent eyes and 13-26 black blotches on a greyish-black stripe over a pale body. Unlike typical cave species, it retains eyes and has reduced pigmentation. It differs from other *Schistura* species in the region, except for *Schistura syngkai*.

8. What is the main objective of Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)?

- A. To ensure food security and control market prices during lean seasons
- B. To increase food grain production
- C. To reduce food grain prices globally
- D. To reduce food grain consumption



- ✓ The Centre has allowed state governments to directly buy rice from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) without e-auctions under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS).
- ✓ The OMSS enables FCI to sell surplus wheat and rice from the central pool at predetermined prices to traders, bulk consumers, and states. This is in addition to maintaining buffer stocks for the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes. The scheme aims to ensure food security and control market prices during lean seasons, especially in deficit regions. States can procure food grains for their needs beyond NFSA allocations.

9. Which organization recently released "World Development Report 2024: The Middle-Income Trap"?

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



WORLD BANK GROUP

- ✓ The World Bank's 2024 report highlights the "Middle-Income Trap," where countries stuck in middle-income status struggle to advance to high-income levels. This trap often occurs around \$8,000 GDP per capita. Since 1990, only 34 of 108 middle-income countries have moved to high-income status. Key challenges include aging populations, rising protectionism, and the need for faster energy transitions.

- ✓ India, classified as a lower-middle-income country since 2007, has a GNI per capita of \$2,540 and would need 75 years to reach one-quarter of US income per capita at current trends.

10. Recently, scientists have discovered six new species of bent-toed gecko, a type of small lizard, in which region of India?

- A. Northeastern
- B. Western Ghats
- C. Eastern Ghats
- D. Ladakh



- ✓ Scientists have discovered six new lineages of bent-toed geckos in Northeast India. These geckos, found in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram, are nocturnal and live near forest streams, rocks, and vegetation. Each state in the region hosts its own unique species of these geckos, with 30 different species identified in Northeast India overall.

11. Recently, Indian radio astronomers have identified 34 new giant radio sources (GRASs) using which telescope?

- A. GROWTH-India Telescope
- B. Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope
- C. Cassegrain Telescope
- D. Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT)



- ✓ Indian astronomers have discovered 34 new Giant Radio Sources (GRSs) using the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) near Pune. Operated by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), GMRT has 30 large parabolic dishes that study radio waves. GRSs are massive cosmic objects with supermassive black holes at their centers.

12. What is the main objective of the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024?

- A. To create a comprehensive disaster database and establish Urban Disaster Management Authorities
- B. To increase disaster relief funds
- C. To reduce the number of disaster management agencies
- D. To eliminate the need for disaster response teams



PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

- ✓ The Indian government plans to introduce the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Lok Sabha. This bill aims to create a comprehensive disaster database and set up Urban Disaster Management Authorities in state capitals and major cities.
- ✓ It will empower the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) to independently prepare disaster plans and appoint experts. The bill also seeks to grant statutory recognition to bodies like the National Crisis Management

Committee and propose the establishment of State Disaster Response Forces by state governments. This amendment aligns with the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations.

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