

1. 'Mitra Shakti' is a joint military exercise between India and which country?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Malaysia
- C. Singapore
- D. Australia



- ✓ **The Indian Army and Sri Lankan Army started their 10th joint exercise, "Mitra Shakti," at Maduru Oya in Sri Lanka's Southern Province. This year's focus is on joint operations in semi-urban areas, in line with UN Chapter VII on peace and security threats. This year's exercise involves 120 soldiers from India's Rajputana Rifles. The exercise aims to strengthen defense ties, enhance coordination, and improve interoperability between the Indian and Sri Lankan armed forces.**

2. BPalM regimen is associated with which disease?

- A. Malaria
- B. Diabetes
- C. Tuberculosis
- D. Dengue



- ✓ **India will train healthcare professionals to use the BPalM regimen for treating multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). The BPalM regimen includes bedaquiline, pretomanid, linezolid, and moxifloxacin. Recommended by WHO in 2022, it's already available in nearly 40 countries. The BPalM regimen is more effective, has fewer side effects, and shortens treatment time from 18-24 months to six months. It also helps prevent TB transmission, making it crucial for India's goal to eliminate TB by 2025, as the country has 27% of global TB cases.**

3. Which day is observed as 'World Lion Day' every year?

- A. 09 August
- B. 10 August
- C. 11 August
- D. 12 August



- ✓ **World Lion Day is celebrated annually on August 10 to promote lion conservation and protection. Lions are scientifically known as Panthera leo.**
- ✓ **The Big Cat Initiative (BCI), started in 2009 by conservationists Dereck and Beverly Joubert with National Geographic, aims to protect lions from poaching and hunting. World Lion Day was first observed in 2013 to raise awareness about the threats faced by lions. In India, the Asiatic Lion Conservation Project, launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, focuses on protecting Asiatic lions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.**

4. Which organization has recently launched a 'HaatiApp' (ElephantApp) to help mitigate the ongoing Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) in Assam?

- A. Aaranyak
- B. Bombay Natural History
- C. WWF-India
- D. Vanashakti



- ✓ **Aaranyak launched a mobile app and a handbook to address Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) in Assam. The app, 'HaatiApp,' provides early warnings about wild elephants near villages and includes a form for victims to claim compensation. Aaranyak will handle form submissions to Forest Divisions. The handbook, in Assamese, covers solar-powered fences, offering guidance on their use, installation, and maintenance to prevent HEC.**

5. Which institute recently issued an advisory to farmers to control 'Fruit Rot Disease in arecanut plantations'?

- A. Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad
- B. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod
- C. Central Institute for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner
- D. Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal



- ✓ **The ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) in Kasaragod recently issued an advisory to help farmers control the spread of fruit rot disease, also known as koleroga, in arecanut plantations. Fruit rot disease harms crops, leading to major losses for farmers and making produce unsellable. It can sometimes even kill the plant. The disease is caused by fungi, bacteria, or viruses, making it hard to prevent and treat. Heavy rainfall, low temperatures, high humidity, and alternating sunshine and rain favor the spread of the disease.**

6. What is the theme of 'International Youth Day 2024'?

- A. From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development
- B. Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World
- C. Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a world for all ages
- D. Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health



- ✓ **International Youth Day is observed on August 12th each year since 2010 to celebrate youth potential and address their challenges globally. In India, National Youth Day is celebrated on January 12th since 1985, marking Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. The idea for International Youth Day was proposed at the 1991 World Youth Forum in Vienna.**

- ✓ The first International Youth Day was observed on August 12, 2010, following a 2009 UN resolution. The 2024 theme for this day is "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development".

7. 'Neelakurinji plant' is mostly found in which region of India?

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



- ✓ Neelakurinji, a purplish flowering shrub that blooms once every 12 years, is now on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. It is found in the Western Ghats of Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. The flowers are most concentrated in the high ranges around Munnar, Kerala, especially in Eravikulam National Park, which is 12 kilometers from Munnar. Nilgiri Hills are named after its blue flowers, and the Paliyan tribes use its blooming cycle to calculate age. Neelakurinji is threatened by habitat loss due to tea plantations, softwood plantations, and urbanization.

8. How many medals were won by India at Paris Olympics 2024?

- A. 5
B. 6
C. 7
D. 8



- ✓ The 33rd Summer Olympics ended on August 11, 2024, in Paris, France, with the Olympic flame being extinguished by IOC President Thomas Bach and French swimmer Leon Marchand.
- ✓ The Olympic flag was handed over to Los Angeles, USA, which will host the 34th Summer Olympics in 2028. India sent a 117-member team to the Paris Olympics and won six medals: one silver and five bronze. Medal winners included Manu Bhaker (bronze, two events), Swapnil Kusale (bronze), the Men's Hockey Team (bronze), Neeraj Chopra (silver in javelin), and Aman Sehrawat (bronze in wrestling).

9. Which day is observed as 'World Elephant Day' every year?

- A. 09 August
B. 10 August
C. 11 August
D. 12 August



- ✓ World Elephant Day is observed on August 12th since 2012 to raise awareness about the challenges faced by elephants, the largest land mammals. Elephants, known as pachyderms, have thick skin and are related to animals like hippos and rhinos. They are primarily found in Africa and Asia but are threatened by poaching for ivory and human-elephant conflicts due to habitat encroachment. India is home to about 55% of the Asian elephant population. The 2024 theme is "Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance, and environmental importance."

10. Munal satellite is developed by which country?

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



- ✓ An MoU was signed between India's Ministry of External Affairs and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to launch Nepal's Munal satellite. The agreement was witnessed during the visit of India's External Affairs Minister to Nepal. Munal Satellite is an indigenous Nepali project, developed by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) with help from Antarikchya Pratishan Nepal (APN), focusing on creating a vegetation density database of Earth's surface. The satellite will be launched soon using NSIL's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

11. What is 'Tantalum'?

- A. Black hole
- B. Rare metal
- C. Asteroid
- D. Submarine



- ✓ The Central Government recently classified 24 minerals, including Tantalum, as Critical and Strategic under the MMDR Act, 1957. Tantalum is a rare metal with the symbol Ta and atomic number 73. It is usually found in the ore columbite-tantalite (coltan) and major producers include the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Brazil, and Nigeria. Tantalum is a shiny, silvery metal, soft when pure, and highly resistant to corrosion and chemical attack below 150°C. It has an extremely high melting point.

12. "*Smithophis mizoramensis*" belongs to which species?

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



- ✓ Scientists from Mizoram University and Max Planck Institute identified a new snake species in Mizoram named *Smithophis mizoramensis*. The species is also called "Tuithiangrul" or "Mizo Brook Snake." This discovery raises the total number of known *Smithophis* species to five.
- ✓ Two other *Smithophis* species were previously recorded in Mizoram. The snake was studied for 15 years due to its resemblance to related species, showing a 10-14% DNA difference. It has unique coloration and scale patterns and inhabits both lowland and highland areas near rivers in Mizoram.

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