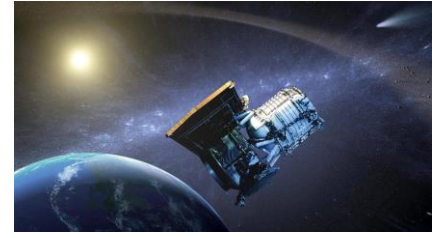


1. NEOWISE Telescope was launched by which space agency?

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



- ✓ **NASA's NEOWISE mission, originally launched as the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) in 2009, has concluded after over a decade. Initially designed to survey the sky in infrared, detecting asteroids, stars, and faint galaxies, it completed its primary mission in 2011.**
- ✓ **In 2013, the telescope was reactivated for the NEOWISE project to study near-Earth objects (NEOs) and distant asteroids and comets. NEOWISE detected over 158,000 minor planets, including 34,000 new discoveries. Its data helped set limits on asteroid numbers, orbits, sizes, and compositions, and led to the discovery of the first known Earth Trojan asteroid.**

2. Gotipua dance is a traditional dance form of which state?

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



- ✓ **Gotipua is a traditional dance form from Odisha, performed by young boys who dress as women to honor Lord Jagannath and Lord Krishna. This dance, a precursor to Odissi classical dance, involves acrobatic movements inspired by the life of Radha and Krishna. The boys wear a bright blouse called "Kanchula" and an embroidered silk cloth called "Nibibandha."**

3. Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana comes under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- D. Ministry of Defence



पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS**

- ✓ **The Cabinet approved an amendment in the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana to provide financial support for Advanced Biofuel Projects. The scheme promotes the production of 2nd-generation (2G) bioethanol from renewable sources like lignocellulosic biomass. Launched in 2019, it was recently extended until 2028-29. It is implemented by the Centre for High Technology under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The objective of scheme is to establishing commercially viable 2G ethanol projects, providing farmers income from agricultural waste, and addressing environmental pollution. Financial support is provided through Viability Gap Funding (VGF).**

4. Recently, researchers have identified anti-diabetic herb 'Gymnema sylvestre' in which hills of Bihar?

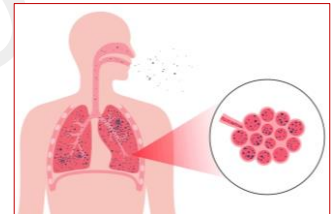
- A. Brahmayoni Hills
- B. Dungeshwari Hills
- C. Kaimur Hills
- D. Mandar Hills



- ✓ **Researchers identified Gymnema sylvestre (Gurmar) on Brahmayoni Hill in Gaya, Bihar, known for its diabetes treatment potential. Gurmar, used in the anti-diabetic drug BGR-34 by CSIR, reduces blood sugar by blocking intestinal sugar absorption. It contains gymnemic acid, flavonoids, and saponins, which regulate lipid metabolism and lower cholesterol.**

5. What is 'Silicosis'?

- A. A cardiovascular disease
- B. A respiratory disease
- C. A neurological disorder
- D. A digestive disorder



- ✓ **Researchers have recently warned that silicosis, a respiratory disease that hardens the lungs, could become as serious as asbestos exposure. It is caused by inhaling silica dust found in soil, sand, concrete, granite, and artificial stone. Commonly affects workers in construction, mining, oil and gas extraction, kitchen engineering, dentistry, pottery, and sculpting. People in these industries face a higher risk of developing silicosis after 10-20 years of exposure. Symptoms include a persistent cough, shortness of breath, weakness, and tiredness.**

6. 'Trichophyton indotineae' is caused by which pathogen?

- A. Virus
- B. Fungi
- C. Bacteria
- D. Protozoa



- ✓ **Drug-resistant fungal infections, especially Trichophyton indotineae, are a growing health concern in India. Trichophyton indotineae, known as ringworm or jock itch, was first identified in India and has spread globally. It belongs to genotype VIII within the T. mentagrophytes/T. interdigitale species. Inappropriate use of steroid creams has made this strain difficult to treat.**
- ✓ **Symptoms include persistent, treatment-resistant rashes, often misdiagnosed as eczema. Misdiagnosis and delayed treatment worsen the condition and increase community transmission. Itraconazole may help reduce the spread of this condition.**

7. Recently, which state has become the first in the country to give money to girl students to buy sanitary napkins?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Odisha



- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in India to give cash to adolescent girls for sanitary napkins. The cash is part of the state's Sanitation and Hygiene scheme. Eligible school girls (class 7-12) receive ₹300 annually. Over ₹57 crore has been distributed to more than 19 lakh girls. The state also launched the Udita program in 2016 to address social taboos and raise awareness about menstruation. Under Udita, women and girls up to 45 years old can receive a free pack of six sanitary pads every month.**

8. Which day is observed as 'World Organ Donation Day' every year?

- A. 12 August
- B. 13 August
- C. 14 August
- D. 15 August



- ✓ **World Organ Donation Day 2024 is celebrated on August 13 to raise awareness about organ donation. The theme for 2024 is "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today." Thousands of people worldwide await life-saving organ transplants each year. The day aims to promote the importance of organ donation and dispel related myths. It also honors organ donors who have saved lives and given others a chance at a healthy life.**

9. Which institution remained on the top spot in the National Institute Ranking Framework, 2024?

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



- ✓ **The India Rankings 2024 were released by the Union Education Minister, based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). IIT Madras ranked 1st in the Overall Category for the sixth year and in Engineering for the ninth year. IISc Bengaluru topped the Universities Category for the ninth year and Research Institutions for the fourth year. IIM Ahmedabad ranked 1st in Management for the fifth year. AIIMS Delhi topped the Medical Category for the seventh year. NIRF was launched in 2015 and uses five broad parameters for ranking.**

10. How many climate-resilient seed varieties were launched by the Prime Minister of India at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute?

- A. 100
- B. 109
- C. 120
- D. 158



- ✓ The Prime Minister introduced 109 new seed varieties that are high-yielding, climate-resilient, and biofortified. These varieties cover 61 crops, including 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops. Field crops include cereals, millets, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, and more. Horticultural crops include fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, spices, flowers, and medicinal plants. The new seed varieties are designed to consume less water while producing higher yields. One paddy variety requires 30% less water than usual, benefiting farmers.

11. What is 'INS Arighat'?

- A. Rocket Launcher
- B. Warfer Ship
- C. Nuclear powered submarine
- D. Aircraft carrier



- ✓ India is ready to commission its second nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arighat, for strategic deterrence. INS Arighat is India's second indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), following INS Arihant, commissioned in 2018. It was built at the Indian Navy's Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam. The submarine is 111.6 meters long, with a displacement of 6,000 tonnes, and can reach speeds up to 24 knots submerged.

12. What is the main objective of the 'Model Solar Village initiative'?

- A. Increase agricultural production
- B. Promote solar energy adoption
- C. Improve healthcare facilities
- D. Develop educational institutions



- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy released guidelines for the "Model Solar Village" under PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. The initiative aims to create one Model Solar Village per district across India, promoting solar energy adoption and self-reliance. A total of ₹800 crore is allocated, with ₹1 crore for each selected village. Eligible villages must be revenue villages with over 5,000 people (or 2,000 in special category states). Villages compete based on their installed renewable energy capacity, with winners receiving ₹1 crore.

- ✓ The PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana provides 300 units of free electricity per month to 1 crore households, with a ₹75,000 crore investment.

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