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FOURTH WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



JULY 2024

JULY 22-31

1. Tehri Hydro Power Plant is located on which river basin?

- A. Mandakini
- B. Bhagirathi
- C. Ramganga
- D. Tons



- ✓ A 2400 MW Hydro Power Complex is under construction in Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, on the Bhagirathi River. It includes the Tehri Hydro Power Plant, Koteshwar Hydro Electric Project, and Tehri Pumped Storage Plant. The Bhagirathi River originates from the Gangotri Glacier and becomes the Ganga at Devprayag. Key tributaries include Kedar Ganga and Jadh Ganga. Operational dams on Bhagirathi include Maneri, Joshiyara, Koteshwar, and Tehri Dams.

2. Harela Festival is celebrated in which state?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Kerala



- ✓ On July 16, Sawan begins, marked by the Harela festival in Uttarakhand. This traditional Hindu festival, also celebrated in parts of Himachal Pradesh, is especially popular in Uttarakhand's Kumaun region. Harela symbolizes peace, prosperity, and the celebration of nature. It holds cultural and environmental importance, representing prayers for abundant harvests and prosperity through divine blessings.

3. Halwa ceremony is associated with releasing of which document?

- A. RBI's Annual Report
- B. Union Budget
- C. Economic Survey
- D. NITI Aayog's Annual Report



- ✓ The Union Finance Minister recently participated in a traditional 'halwa' ceremony, marking the final stage of preparation for the Union Budget 2024-25, set to be unveiled on July 23. This ritual involves serving 'halwa' to finance ministry officials and signifies the initiation of budget document printing. Officials enter a 'lock-in' period for confidentiality, staying in the Finance Ministry's North Block basement. This practice stems from a 1950 budget leak, leading to strict secrecy measures.
-

4. What is the name of nation's first toll-free narcotics helpline, recently launched Ministry of Home Affairs?

- A. Vikrant
- B. Nischay
- C. Manas
- D. Kaveri



- ✓ India launched its first national toll-free anti-narcotics helpline, '1933', along with an email service called MANAS (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra) on July 18. Announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the Narco-Coordination Centre meeting, the helpline aims to offer citizens a 24/7 platform to report drug-related crimes and seek assistance.

5. What is the primary aim of "e-mobility R&D Roadmap for India", recently launched by the Principal Scientific Adviser?

- A. To reduce the price of electric vehicles
- B. Achieving global leadership in electric vehicles (EVs)
- C. To promote electric vehicle sales
- D. To establish manufacturing units for electric vehicles



- ✓ India's "e-mobility R&D Roadmap" launched by the Principal Scientific Adviser aims to achieve global leadership in electric vehicles (EVs) within five years. It identifies key areas like Energy Storage Cells, EV Aggregates, Materials and Recycling, and Charging and Refueling for intensive research. India targets a 45% reduction in emission intensity by 2030, energy independence by 2047, and net-zero emissions by 2070, emphasizing EV adoption, indigenous energy storage, and renewable energy for charging infrastructure.

6. Which country recently hosted the 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) for the first time?

- A. Nepal
- B. South Korea
- C. Bhutan
- D. Maldives



- ✓ The 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) took place in Busan, South Korea, marking the country's first hosting of this global conference.
- ✓ Attracting 3,000 participants from 60 nations, the event highlighted South Korea's dedication to space exploration and international collaboration. Distinguished attendees included leaders from major space agencies, underscoring the significance of global interest in advancing space research and ambitious future projects.

7. Recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar inaugurated India's first overseas Jan Aushadi Kendra in which country?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Indonesia
- C. Mauritius
- D. Malaysia



- ✓ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurated India's first overseas Jan Aushadi Kendra in Mauritius, joined by Prime Minister Pravin Kumar Jugnauth. This project aims to provide affordable, Made-in-India medicines, enhancing healthcare in Mauritius. Jaishankar also inaugurated a Mediclinic in Grand Bois village, funded by Indian assistance, offering secondary healthcare to 16,000 residents.

8. Which Indian player won bronze medal at World Junior Squash Championship 2024?

- A. Shaurya Bawa
- B. Mohamad Zakaria
- C. Kush Kumar
- D. Anahat Singh



- ✓ Shaurya Bawa won a bronze medal at the WSF World Junior Squash Championships 2024 in Houston, USA, on July 17, 2024, after losing in the semifinals to Egypt's Mohamed Zakaria. This marks the second medal for an Indian male player in the tournament's history, following Kush Kumar's 2014 bronze. Indian female player Anahat Singh missed a medal, losing in the quarter-finals to Egypt's Nadien Elhammamy.

9. 'Operation Nanhe Farishtey' is related to which organization?

- A. DRDO
- B. Railway Protection Force
- C. ISRO
- D. Ministry of women and child development



- ✓ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has rescued 84,119 children at risk in Indian railway stations and trains over the past seven years under Operation Nanhe Farishtey, launched in 2018. The operation focuses on runaway, abandoned, impoverished, disabled, or kidnapped children, protecting them from crime syndicates. Rescued children are handed over to the District Child Welfare Committee. In 2022, RPF rescued the highest number, 17,756 children.

10. What is the primary objective of ASMITA Project, recently launched by Ministry of Education and UGC?

- A. To promote and integrate Indian languages more deeply into the education system
- B. To replace English with Indian languages in all subjects
- C. To promote foreign languages in India
- D. To build new universities



- ✓ **The Ministry of Education and UGC launched the ASMITA Project to develop 22,000 books in Indian languages within five years. ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing) aims to enhance educational resources and integrate Indian languages into the education system. Thirteen nodal universities will lead this collaborative effort, with UGC creating a standard operating procedure for the book-writing process, ensuring quality and accessibility.**

11. What is late blight disease, which recently affected the potato crop across the country?

- A. Bacterial infection
- B. Fungal disease
- C. Viral infection
- D. Pest infestation



- ✓ **The Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) issued an advisory warning of a high risk of late blight disease in potatoes due to weather changes. Late blight, caused by *Phytophthora infestans*, is a serious fungal disease affecting tomatoes and potatoes. It spreads via infected transplants, volunteer plants, and certain weeds, with spores traveling long distances in storms. The disease thrives in cool, wet weather, causing repeated infection cycles.**

12. Jerdon's Courser is a nocturnal bird endemic to which region of India?

- A. Western Ghats
- B. Eastern Ghats
- C. North Eastern Region
- D. Ladakh



- ✓ **Jerdon's Courser, a critically endangered nocturnal bird, is endemic to the Eastern Ghats of India, specifically Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Scientific name: *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*. Rediscovered in 1986 after being thought extinct, it inhabits open patches within scrub-forests. Recognizable by its grey-brown plumage, large eyes, and distinctive calls, it hunts insects by sight.**

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1. Common Services Centres is an initiative of which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. Ministry of Urban Development



- ✓ **The Common Services Centres Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) celebrated its 15th anniversary. Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), CSC SPV oversees the CSC Scheme, part of the Digital India Programme. CSCs serve as access points for delivering government, private, and social sector services to rural citizens, promoting digital and financial inclusion across India.**

2. What is the primary aim of the U-WIN portal?

- A. To track COVID-19 cases
- B. To maintain an electronic registry of routine immunizations
- C. To manage healthcare appointments
- D. To facilitate telemedicine services



- ✓ **U-WIN, launching on August 15, will transform maternal and child healthcare in India by digitizing vaccination records, replacing the manual system used by ASHA and other healthcare workers. Replicating the Co-WIN system, U-WIN maintains an electronic registry of routine immunizations. Currently in pilot mode in all states and Union Territories except West Bengal, it records vaccination events for pregnant women and children aged 0-5 under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).**

3. Recently, which institution has approved \$240.5 million in loans to advance rooftop solar system installations across India?

- A. Asian Development Bank
- B. World Bank
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. European Investment Bank



- ✓ **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$240.5 million in loans to advance rooftop solar system installations across India, enhancing renewable energy access.**
- ✓ **The financing supports the Solar Rooftop Investment Programme under the Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF), with funds from ADB's Clean Technology Fund and Ordinary Capital Resources. Loans will be distributed through the State Bank of India and NABARD. As of now, India's rooftop solar capacity is 11.08 GW.**

4. Which organization recently published the 'Global Education Monitoring Report 2024'?

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



- ✓ UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2024 highlights the impact of climate change on education. Mandated by the 'Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action', it monitors SDG 4 (Quality Education). Key findings: Over 20 years, schools closed during 75% of extreme weather events, affecting over 5 million people. In India, early-life rainfall shocks impaired vocabulary, math, and non-cognitive skills.

5. Which state recently reported the cases of 'Chandipura virus infection' in children?

- A. Odisha
- B. Gujarat
- C. Haryana
- D. Punjab



- ✓ Recently, the Gujarat government reported six children dying from suspected Chandipura virus (CHPV) infection since July 10. CHPV, part of the Rhabdoviridae family, is transmitted by sandflies and mosquitoes, including *Aedes aegypti*. The virus, residing in the insects' salivary glands, can infect humans and domestic animals through bites. It can quickly progress to encephalitis, causing inflammation of the brain's active tissues and potentially affecting organs like the kidneys and liver.

6. Recently, which country hosted 9th Women's Cricket Asia Cup?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Australia
- C. France
- D. Sri Lanka



- ✓ The 9th Women's Cricket Asia Cup begins on July 19, 2024, in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, with Nepal facing the UAE. Held in the T-20 format, all matches, including the final on July 28, will be at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium. Organized by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), affiliated with the ICC, the ACC is led by BCCI General Secretary Jay Shah. India, the defending champion, won the 2022 edition.

7. Which two Indian space scientists received the honour at the Global Space Conference from the prestigious organization Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)?

- A. Prahlad Chandra Agrawal and Anil Bhardwaj
- B. Ajay Kumar Sood and Pawan Kumar
- C. Lalitha Abraham and Rajiv Gauba
- D. Ashwin Vasavada and Sharmila Bhattacharya



- ✓ Indian space scientists Prahlad Chandra Agrawal and Anil Bhardwaj received prestigious awards from COSPAR during its 45th scientific assembly in Busan, South Korea. Agrawal, a retired professor from TIFR, earned the Harrie Massey Award for contributions to X-ray astronomy and leading AstroSat. Bhardwaj, PRL Director since 2017, won the Vikram Sarabhai Medal for his work in planetary space sciences and key roles in ISRO's missions.

8. Recently, which state has secured the first place under the 'Best Performing State' category in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Odisha
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Bihar



- ✓ Madhya Pradesh topped the 'Best Performing State' category in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme, aimed at supporting street vendors affected by COVID-19. Assam was second in the 'Innovation and Best Practices Award' category. In urban local bodies, Delhi's Municipal Corporation led in loan performance, followed by Bengaluru and Ahmedabad. Kerala secured first place in the DAY-NULM SPARK category, with Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan also recognized. The PM SVANidhi scheme provides affordable loans and promotes digital transactions.

9. What is '*Phlogacanthus Sudhansusekharii*'?

- A. A new frog species discovered in Maharashtra
- B. Newly discovered plant species from northeast India
- C. An ancient irrigation technique
- D. Newly discovered fish species in Western Ghats



- ✓ Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India discovered a new plant species, *Phlogacanthus sudhansusekharii*, in Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh. This species, part of the Acanthaceae family and *Phlogacanthus* genus, honors Dr. Sudhansu Sekhar Dash for his contributions to plant research.

10. According to NITI Aayog report, India has set a target to achieve 500 billion US dollar in electronics manufacturing in value terms by which year?

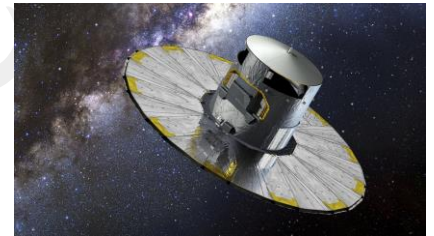
- A. 2025
- B. 2027
- C. 2030
- D. 2032



- ✓ India aims to achieve \$500 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2030, targeting \$350 billion from finished goods and \$150 billion from components. The NITI Aayog report, launched by Vice Chairman Suman Bery, analyzes the sector's growth and challenges, highlighting a rise from \$48 billion in 2017 to \$101 billion in 2023, largely due to mobile phone manufacturing. The report outlines interventions needed for India to become a global electronics manufacturing hub.

11. Gaia Spacecraft was launched by which space agency?

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



- ✓ The Gaia spacecraft, launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) in December 2013, is mapping over a billion stars in the Milky Way from the second Sun-Earth Lagrange point (L2). It monitors stars 14 times a year, charting their positions, distances, movements, and brightness. Gaia aims to discover new celestial objects, study distant quasars, and test Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, creating a precise 3D map of our galaxy.

12. Recently, where was the 'International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL)' inaugurated?

- A. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- B. Rajkot, Gujarat
- C. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- D. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ The International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL) was inaugurated in Rajkot, Gujarat, on 18th July 2024. As India's first such center, iCAL aims to set global standards for auditing local governance. It serves as a collaborative platform for policymakers and auditors, enhancing local government auditors' independence and acting as a knowledge center. iCAL addresses governance issues and promotes best practices among India's 2.5 lakh panchayats and 8,000 Urban Local Bodies.

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1. Which country recently developed the world's first dual-tower solar thermal plant?

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. India
- D. South Korea



- ✓ China has unveiled the world's first dual-tower solar thermal power plant (TPP), enhancing energy efficiency by 24%. The plant features two 200-meter towers with thousands of mirrors that track the sun, achieving 94% reflection efficiency. It uses molten salt storage to retain excess heat, enabling continuous power generation even at night. This innovative design maximizes energy capture and storage, advancing solar power technology.

2. Recently, who has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the US?

- A. J N Dixit
- B. Vinay Mohan Kwatra
- C. Nirupama Menon
- D. Surendra Kumar Adhana



- ✓ Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the United States, as confirmed by the Ministry of External Affairs. A retired Indian Foreign Service diplomat, Kwatra has extensive expertise in relations with India's neighbors, the US, China, and Europe.

3. Adam's Bridge is separated by which two water bodies?

- A. Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea
- B. Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait
- C. Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- D. Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea



- ✓ Scientists from ISRO successfully mapped the submerged structure of Adam's Bridge (Ram Setu), a 48 km limestone chain connecting Rameswaram Island (India) to Mannar Island (Sri Lanka). The bridge separates the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait, with shallow waters of 1-10 meters. Geological evidence indicates it was a former land connection, referenced in the Ramayana and Islamic legend, but submerged since 1480 due to natural calamities.

4. Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) is implemented by which two organizations?

- A. NABARD and RBI
- B. RBI and SEBI
- C. NABARD and SEBI
- D. SEBI and NITI Aayog



- ✓ The Union Government plans to raise the upper limit of short-term crop loans under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Implemented from Kharif 2006-07, MISS offers subsidized short-term credit to farmers and is active from 2022-23 to 2024-25. Interest subvention is available to various banks, and the scheme is managed by NABARD and RBI. Eligible recipients include owner cultivators, tenant farmers, and SHGs.

5. Pralay Missile was developed by which organization?

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



- ✓ Armenia's interest in India's Pralay missile presents a significant opportunity for India. The Pralay missile is a 350-500 km short-range, quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile with a 500-1,000 kg payload, developed by DRDO for defense needs.

6. Recently, Union Minister of Coal and Mines inaugurated National Landslide Forecasting Centre in which city?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Bhopal
- C. Kolkata
- D. Varanasi



- ✓ The Union Minister of Coal and Mines inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre at the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Kolkata. The Bhusanket Web Portal and Bhooskhalan Mobile App were launched to facilitate landslide hazard data dissemination and forecasting. The GSI, established in 1851, focuses on geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment through surveys and research. The GSI headquarters is in Kolkata, with six regional offices across India.

7. Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is a mission of which space organization?

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



- ✓ A study by the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) confirmed two black holes at the center of galaxy OJ 287, four billion light-years away. Launched by NASA in 2018, TESS searches for exoplanets around the brightest stars. It has found 410 confirmed exoplanets, ranging from small rocky worlds to giants. TESS orbits Earth in a unique high orbit.

8. Which organization recently released 'Towards Justice: Ending Child Marriage' report?

- A. UNICEF
- B. Childhood Education International (CEI)
- C. India Child Protection (ICP)
- D. Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW)



- ✓ **India Child Protection (ICP) released the "Towards Justice: Ending Child Marriage" report. ICP, part of the Child Rights and Multi-Faith Initiative, addresses child abuse, trafficking, digital exploitation, and child marriage. Key findings: Assam's legal measures reduced child marriages by 81% from 2021-22 to 2023-24. Despite three girls marrying every minute (Census 2011), only three cases are reported daily. In 2023-24, 14,137 child marriages were prevented. With a 92% case backlog, clearing it could take 19 years.**

9. What is E. coli?

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



- ✓ **Paris' outdated sewage system has severely contaminated the Seine River with E. coli, a harmful bacterium. The Seine, France's second-longest river at 775 km, flows through Paris for 13 km and empties into the English Channel. E. coli, found in human and animal intestines, can cause severe symptoms like abdominal cramps, diarrhea, and kidney failure. It spreads via contaminated food and water tainted by fecal waste.**

10. Which day is observed as 'World Chess Day' every year?

- A. July.20
- B. July.02
- C. June.02
- D. June.20



- ✓ **World Chess Day, celebrated annually on July 20th, marks the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924. UNESCO proposed this day in 1966, recognizing chess for its intellectual benefits and cultural diversity. Originating in India as "Chaturanga" nearly 1500 years ago, chess is promoted as a game for all ages and backgrounds. FIDE was founded by chess organizations from eight countries.**

11. Recently, where was the centre of excellence on "Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G" inaugurated?

- A. Kolkata
- B. Chennai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Bhopal



- ✓ Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom), inaugurated the Centre of Excellence on "Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G" at IITM Research Park, Chennai. This Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE)-India sub-centre aims to advance 6G technology with unprecedented speeds, ultra-low latency, and enhanced connectivity. It will unite academic and industry experts to innovate and shape global 6G standards and infrastructure. A workshop will foster collaboration on 6G R&D proposals.

12. What is the theme of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024?

- A. The Future is Now
- B. New Digital Universe
- C. Inclusive Innovations
- D. IMAGINE: A new CONNECTED world Intelligent



- ✓ Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia unveiled the theme for India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024, "The Future is Now," highlighting India's leadership in 6G technology and telecommunications. The event will showcase innovative solutions, host over 500 meetings with 1,000+ investors, and include MoUs to enhance cybersecurity.

13. What is 'Sagittarius A*?'

- A. Asteroid
- B. Black hole
- C. AI Model
- D. Invasive weed



- ✓ Scientists have discovered an intermediate-mass black hole at the center of a star cluster in the Milky Way, near the supermassive black hole Sagittarius A* (Sgr A*). Sgr A* is located at the galaxy's center, in the constellation Sagittarius, with an estimated mass of 4.3 million times that of the sun. It has a diameter of 14.6 million miles (23.5 million km) and is a strong radio wave source.

14. Which state government recently launched the Rajiv Gandhi Civil Abhaya Hastham Scheme?

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



- ✓ **Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has launched the Rajiv Gandhi Civil Abhaya Hastham Scheme 2024. This scheme provides Rs 1 lakh financial assistance to economically weaker students (EWS/BC/SC/ST) who have passed the UPSC preliminary exam to help them prepare for the mains. The scheme aims to increase the number of civil employees in the state.**

15. Recently, which institute has received the best technology award for its pioneering work in the field of horticultural sciences?

- A. Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture
- B. Indian Institute of Spices Research
- C. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research
- D. Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology



- ✓ **The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) received the best technology award for its work in horticultural sciences. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented the award during ICAR's 96th Foundation Day. IISR's award-winning technology, "Process for instant soluble turmeric enriched spice flavoured milk powder," has been commercialized with Malabar Milk Producers' Union, resulting in products Golden Milk and Golden Milk Mix.**

16. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme is a WTO- compliant scheme of which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Commerce
- D. Ministry of Finance



वाणिज्य एवं
उद्योग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY**

सत्यमेव जयते

- ✓ **The tea industry seeks higher rates under the RoDTEP scheme to boost export competitiveness. RoDTEP, a flagship export promotion scheme by India's Commerce Ministry, refunds unrebated central, state, and local duties on inputs.**
- ✓ **Announced in September 2019, it replaced the MEIS scheme following a WTO ruling. Effective January 1, 2021, RoDTEP supports crucial export sectors to enhance competitiveness, create jobs, and promote economic growth, aiming for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.**

17. Recently, which former Indian players were inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, USA?

- A. Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes
- B. Ajay Ramaswami and Rohit Rajpal
- C. Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna
- D. Karan Rastogi and Jay Royappa



- ✓ Indian tennis legends Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj became the first Indian and Asian men's tennis players inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, making India the 28th country represented. British sports journalist Richard Evans was also inducted. Paes was honored in the Player Category, while Amritraj and Evans were recognized in the Contributor Category. The Hall of Fame now includes 267 tennis legends from 28 nations.

18. Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES) is a planetary defence mission of which space agency?

- A. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- B. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- C. European Space Agency (ESA)
- D. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)



- ✓ The European Space Agency's Ramses spacecraft will accompany the asteroid Apophis during its close pass of Earth in 2029. The Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES) aims to intercept Apophis, which will pass within 32,000 km of Earth on April 13, 2029. Visible to 2 billion people, this rare event allows researchers to study Apophis's altered characteristics due to Earth's gravity, enhancing planetary defense capabilities.

19. Which Indian tennis player, in partnership with Albano Olivetti of France, has won the men's doubles title at the ATP Swiss Open 2024?

- A. Sumit Nagal
- B. Yuki Bhambri
- C. Somdev Devvarman
- D. Digvijay Pratap



- ✓ Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri, with Albano Olivetti of France, won the 2024 Swiss Open Gstaad Men's Doubles title, held from July 15-21 in Gstaad, Switzerland. This ATP 250 event marked the 56th edition of the tournament. This victory is Bhambri's third ATP title. The pair defeated Fabrice Martin and Ugo Humbert in the final. Bhambri previously won titles at the 2023 Mallorca Open and 2024 BMW Open.

20. What is the primary purpose of a Radome?

- A. Enhance the Signal strength
- B. Shield a radar or antenna system from environmental elements
- C. Increase the antenna's size
- D. Decrease the antenna's power consumption



- ✓ **The Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) has achieved a significant milestone by developing homegrown fused silica radomes for missiles. Radomes are protective enclosures that shield radar or antenna systems from environmental elements without affecting signal transmission. Made from rigid or flexible materials, radomes maintain antenna performance by reducing environmental impact, concealing electronic equipment, and preventing collisions with nearby objects. They ensure the antenna's durability and efficiency.**

21. What is 'Mesembrius bengalensis'?

- A. Spider
- B. Frog
- C. Fish
- D. Flower fly



- ✓ **Researchers from the Shadpada Entomology Research Lab (SERL) at Christ College, Irinjalakuda, reported two new flower fly species, Mesembrius bengalensis and M. quadrivittatus, from Kerala's Kole wetlands and Vilagan Kunnu hillocks. Flower flies, belonging to the Syrphidae family, mimic bees or wasps and are crucial pollinators. The Kole wetlands, Kerala's largest brackish tropical ecosystem, lie between the Chalakudy and Bharathapuzha Rivers.**

22. Which day is observed as 'National Flag Day' every year?

- A. July.22
- B. July.26
- C. January.26
- D. January.22



- ✓ **National Flag Day, observed on July 22, commemorates the 1947 adoption of India's tricolour flag by the Constituent Assembly, shortly before independence on August 15. This day celebrates India's historical achievement, diversity, and unity. It promotes understanding of the flag's significance through educational workshops, talks, and exhibitions, emphasizing values of democracy, inclusivity, and national pride.**

23. Manolo Marquez, who has been appointed as head coach of the Indian men's football team, belongs to which country?

- A. Australia
- B. Spain
- C. France
- D. Romania



- ✓ **Spaniard Manolo Marquez has been appointed head coach of the Indian men's football team, while also continuing his role with FC Goa in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season. Marquez will assume the national team head coach role full-time after the ISL season. AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey announced the appointment.**

24. Recently, which two countries are planning to establish a Joint Crediting Mechanism for carbon trading and credit adjustment through a Memorandum of Cooperation?

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



- ✓ **India and Japan are planning to establish a Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) for carbon trading and credit adjustment through a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC). The JCM will be created under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement and will aim to reduce emissions, promote low-carbon technologies, and encourage economic growth. The JCM will also facilitate the sharing of emission reduction credits, the spread of decarbonizing technologies, and the implementation of mitigation actions.**

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1. Recently, which state has released guidelines on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the rare disease amoebic meningoencephalitis?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Gujarat



- ✓ Kerala has issued technical guidelines for diagnosing and managing amoebic meningoencephalitis. Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a rare, often fatal infection caused by the brain-eating amoeba *Naegleria fowleri*, found in freshwater. Symptoms include headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting, typically after exposure to warm, stagnant freshwater. PAM has a high mortality rate over 97%. Treatment remains uncertain but should involve amebicidal drugs that can cross the blood-brain barrier.

2. Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini dams are located in which state?

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



- ✓ A flood alert has been issued for low-lying areas downstream of Karnataka's Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam due to a water inflow exceeding 69,000 cusecs. The alert affects regions along the Cauvery River in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts. The KRS dam's inflow surpassed 60,000 cusecs for the second consecutive day, prompting a release of 50,000 cusecs. The Kabini dam also recorded high inflows. Rising water levels have led to the closure of tourist sites like Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary.

3. Which country will host the inaugural Olympic Esports Games 2025?

- A. Iran
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Jordan
- D. UAE



- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Saudi Arabia announced that Saudi Arabia will host the inaugural Olympic Esports Games in 2025. This historic partnership will last for 12 years, ensuring that the Olympic Esports Games are held regularly.

4. Recently, which state became the first in the country to introduce the concept of Gross Environment Product index?

- A. Kerala
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Meghalaya



- ✓ **Uttarakhand became the first state in India to introduce the Gross Environment Product (GEP) index, which measures the impact of developmental activities on the environment. Launched by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the GEP equation is based on air, water, soil, and forest quality indices. This initiative follows aims to balance economy and ecology by assessing environmental conditions directly affected by development.**

5. Recently, which Indian Shooter has been awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee?

- A. Abhinav Bindra
- B. Jaspal Rana
- C. Manu Bhaker
- D. Pranju Somani



- ✓ **Indian shooting legend Abhinav Bindra has been awarded the Olympic Order by the IOC for his outstanding contributions to the Olympic Movement. The ceremony will be held on August 10 during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris. Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, won the men's 10m air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Games. He has also served on the ISSF Athlete Committee and the IOC Athlete Commission.**

6. Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Power Project is located in which country?

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



- ✓ **The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) will invest ₹290 crore in the 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Power Project on Nepal's Karnali River. This run-of-the-river project will supply power to Nepal, India, and Bangladesh for 25 years. Awarded to GMR Upper Karnali Hydro Power Limited in 2008, it will generate 3,466 million units of electricity annually, offsetting two million tons of greenhouse gas emissions.**

7. Which institution recently signed a Joint Letter of Intent with World Intellectual Property Organization to develop programs for countries in the global south?

- A. WAPCOS
- B. World Bank
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. IIT, Delhi



- ✓ On July 22, 2024, a high-level WIPO delegation signed a Joint Letter of Intent (JLoI) with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog in New Delhi. The JLoI aims to develop programs for innovation, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property in the Global South. WIPO, a UN agency, releases the annual Global Innovation Index (GII). In 2023, India ranked 40th, and in 2022, India saw the highest global patent filing growth at 31.6%.

8. Which day is observed as 'National Broadcasting Day' every year?

- A. July.20
- B. July.23
- C. July.25
- D. July.31



- ✓ National Broadcasting Day is celebrated in India every July 23, marking the start of radio broadcasting on this day in 1927 by the Indian Broadcasting Company from Bombay. Renamed All India Radio (AIR) in 1936, it grew into one of the world's largest networks. Radio has been vital in connecting India, offering news, music, and stories, and playing a key role in historical events like the freedom struggle.

9. National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) is an autonomous research institute established under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- D. Ministry of Urban Development



- ✓ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) is constructing a new ocean research vessel for India's Deep Ocean Mission to explore rare minerals in the Indian Ocean. Established in 1998, NCPOR is India's leading R&D institution for Polar and Southern Ocean research. It coordinates polar expeditions and scientific research in Antarctica, the Arctic, the Himalayas, and the Southern Ocean, and is located in Vasco da Gama, Goa, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

10. Charaideo Maidam is located in which state?

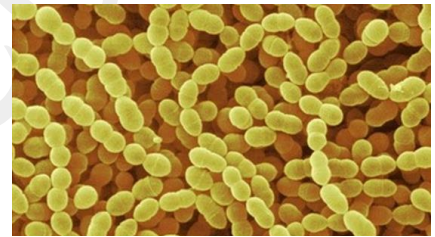
- A. Assam
- B. Manipur
- C. Nagaland
- D. Sikkim



- ✓ Charaideo Maidam will become North East India's first world heritage site in the cultural category and India's 43rd overall. Located in Assam, these ancient burial mounds of Ahom kings and nobles date back to the 13th to 18th centuries. Revered as sacred by the Ahom community, the Maidams resemble large grass-covered hillocks. Kaziranga and Manas National Parks are the other world heritage sites from North East India in the natural category.

11. What is 'S. thermophilus'?

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



- ✓ Scientists at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) in India discovered a new strain of lactic acid bacteria while studying S. thermophilus. This gram-positive, non-motile bacterium, found in the digestive tract, produces lactic acid, aiding in food breakdown, nutrient absorption, and fighting harmful organisms. It improves lactose digestion, reduces inflammation, and lowers the risk of inflammatory bowel disease. S. thermophilus is used in yogurt production and probiotic supplements.

12. Which organization recently released the 'State of the World's Forests 2024 Report'?

- A. SEBI
- B. NABARD
- C. Food and Agriculture Organization
- D. Ministry of Agriculture



- ✓ The FAO's "State of the World's Forests 2024" report, themed "Accelerating Forest solutions through innovation," highlights a decline in deforestation rates to 10.2 million ha per year in 2015–2020 from 15.8 million ha in 1990–2000. India ranks 3rd for average annual net forest area gain (2010-2020). Non-Timber Forest Products support 275 million Indian livelihoods. Innovation is crucial for climate resilience, bioeconomy shifts, and leveraging non-wood forest products' nutritional benefits.

13. Kalaripayattu is the traditional martial art form popularly practiced in which state?

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



- ✓ The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports announced in the Lok Sabha that the Indian Kalaripayattu Federation has been recognized as the Regional Sports Federation to promote Kalaripayattu in India. This traditional martial art, originating in Kerala, is believed to have been established by the warrior sage Parasurama. The term "Kalaripayattu" combines "kalari" (place of combat) and "payattu" (fighting) in Malayalam.

14. Recently, which organization successfully carried out a second experimental flight for the demonstration of Air Breathing Propulsion Technology?

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



- ✓ ISRO successfully conducted the second experimental flight for Air Breathing Propulsion Technology, which uses atmospheric oxygen as an oxidizer instead of carrying one onboard. This makes rockets lighter and more efficient. However, the technology is applicable only within the denser layers of Earth's atmosphere (up to 70 kilometers altitude). Beyond this, rockets must switch to a stage with both fuel and an onboard oxidizer.

15. Which day is observed as 'National Income Tax Day' every year?

- A. 23 July
- B. 24 July
- C. 25 July
- D. 26 July



- ✓ Since 2010, India observes National Income Tax Day on July 24, commemorating the first imposition of income tax by Sir James Wilson in 1860. The day highlights the importance of timely tax payments for national development. The first observance marked the 150th anniversary in 2010. The Income Tax Act of 1922 established the framework for direct tax administration, later consolidated by the 1961 Act after Independence.

16. What is the primary goal of the MSME-TEAM Initiative?

- A. To assist MSMEs in obtaining loans
- B. To onboard five lakh MSMEs onto the ONDC platform
- C. To provide training for MSME employees
- D. To develop new marketing strategies for MSMEs



- ✓ **The Ministry of MSME launched the “MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative” (MSME-TEAM Initiative) under the RAMP scheme. It aims to assist five lakh MSMEs, including two and a half lakh women-owned MSEs, in onboarding the Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform. The initiative offers financial assistance for catalogue preparation, logistics, and packaging. Awareness workshops will target Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The sub-scheme runs until March 2027.**

17. What is the primary objective of the Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN)?

- A. To create a new postal code system
- B. To replace traditional addresses with QR codes
- C. To implement a new mail sorting system
- D. To establish a standardized, geo-coded addressing system in India



- ✓ **The Department of Posts launched the beta version of DIGIPIN, a geo-coded addressing system developed with IIT Hyderabad. DIGIPIN aims to simplify addressing for public and private services by creating and sensing geo-locations of addresses. This system will enhance public service delivery, emergency response, and logistics efficiency. It can be used as a base layer for various ecosystems requiring accurate addressing.**

18. According to Union Budget 2024-25, how many industrial parks have been sanctioned under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)?

- A. 10
- B. 01
- C. 12
- D. 21



- ✓ **The Union Budget 2024-25 proposes creating twelve industrial parks under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme. The government will develop investment-ready industrial parks in or near 100 cities, partnering with states and the private sector. Industrial parks, like Andhra Pradesh’s Sri City SEZ, foster employment, shared infrastructure, enhanced productivity, and attract Foreign Direct Investment, expanding manufacturing activity.**

19. Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) launched by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Power
- B. Ministry of Urban Development
- C. Ministry of Heavy Industries
- D. Ministry of Defence



भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES

सत्यमेव जयते

- ✓ The Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) was launched in March 2024 by the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries to accelerate EV adoption and will end on July 31, 2024. With a total outlay of Rs. 500 crores, the scheme targets two-wheelers (private, corporate, and commercial) and three-wheelers (including e-rickshaws and carts). Eligible EVs must be manufactured and registered within the scheme's validity period.

20. What is the primary aim of the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan?

- A. To improve the infrastructure in urban areas
- B. To enhance the socio-economic condition of tribal communities
- C. To promote digital literacy in rural areas
- D. To increase agricultural productivity



- ✓ The Union Budget introduced the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan, aimed at improving the socio-economic status of tribal communities. The scheme will use a saturation approach to target tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, focusing on education, health, and skill development. It plans to cover 63,000 villages and benefit 5 crore tribal people nationwide.

21. How much funding has the Finance Ministry recently allocated for the Namu Drone Didi scheme?

- A. Rs 600 crore
- B. Rs 500 crore
- C. Rs 400 crore
- D. Rs 300 crore



- ✓ The Finance Ministry has allocated Rs 500 crore for the Namu Drone Didi scheme, aimed at providing drones to 15,000 women self-help groups (SHGs) from 2023-24 to 2025-2026. This initiative trains women to become drone pilots, helping farmers with tasks such as fertilizer spraying, seed sowing, and crop monitoring. The program seeks to modernize agriculture and boost productivity by subsidizing up to 80% of drone costs, up to Rs 8 lakh per SHG.

22. 'Operation Prahar' was launched by which state against the threats posed by the Naxalites?

- A. Bihar
B. Chhattisgarh
C. Jharkhand
D. Odisha



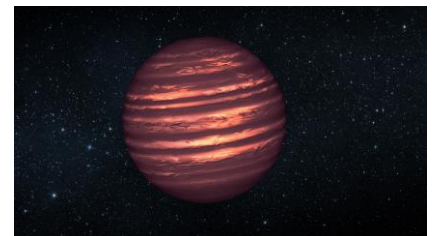
- ✓ Since Chhattisgarh's first tribal Chief Minister took office, Naxalite-related incidents have surged fivefold, including killings, arrests, and surrenders. This increase coincides with "Operation Prahar," a counter-insurgency effort targeting Maoist leaders. While aimed at neutralizing insurgents and disrupting recruitment, the operation has faced allegations of excessive state power and staged encounters, raising concerns about its impact on local Adivasi communities not involved with Maoist activities.
-

23. What is the purpose of developing a 'climate finance taxonomy' as announced in the Union Budget for 2024-25?

- A. To create standards for classifying climate-related financial instruments like green bonds
B. To guide investors and banks in directing investments toward sustainable projects to address climate change
C. To manage risks associated with climate change
D. To benchmark countries' progress in climate finance
- ✓ The finance minister announced the development of a 'climate finance taxonomy' in the Union Budget 2024-25. This system classifies parts of the economy as sustainable investments, guiding investors and banks in directing funds to combat climate change. It sets standards for climate-related financial instruments like green bonds and aids in climate risk management and net-zero transition planning. Countries such as South Africa, South Korea, and the EU have already developed similar taxonomies.
-

24. What are 'Brown Dwarfs'?

- A. Celestial bodies
B. Invasive plants
C. Species of fish
D. Drugs for TB



- ✓ Researchers using the James Webb Space Telescope have studied the atmospheric conditions of brown dwarfs. These objects, larger than planets but smaller than stars, are between giant planets and small stars in size. They accumulate material like stars and have hot silicate cloud formations. Unlike stars, brown dwarfs cannot sustain nuclear fusion, which is why they are called "failed stars." They retain H & He better than planets and have low metal content.
-

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1. According to the Union Budget 2024-25, how much financial allocation has the Ministry of Railways received for the fiscal year 2024-25?

- A. Rs 1.78 lakh crore
- B. Rs 2.55 lakh crore
- C. Rs 4.34 lakh crore
- D. Rs 3.78 lakh crore



रेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
RAILWAYS

- ✓ For the fiscal year 2024-25, the Union Budget allocated a record ₹2.55 lakh crore to the Ministry of Railways, marking a 5.85% increase from the previous year's ₹2.41 lakh crore. Despite this significant funding boost, the Economic Survey 2023-24 highlights limited progress on key safety initiatives, including the deployment of the automatic train protection system Kavach and the overhaul of signaling systems at railway stations.

2. According to Union Budget 2024-25, how much funding has been allocated for the 'Khelo India' initiative?

- A. Rs 600 crore
- B. Rs 800 crore
- C. Rs 900 crore
- D. Rs 400 crore



- ✓ In the Union Budget 2024-25, the Khelo India initiative received ₹900 crore, a ₹20 crore increase from the previous year's allocation of ₹880 crore. Khelo India, focused on grassroots sports development, continues to be a top priority for the government. Launched in 2018, it has expanded to include Khelo India University Games, Winter Games, and Para Games. Numerous State Centres of Excellence have been established to support young athletes.

3. What is the rank of India in 'Henley Passport Index 2024'?

- A. 25th
- B. 52nd
- C. 82nd
- D. 28th



- ✓ The Henley Passport Index 2024 ranks the Indian passport 82nd, providing visa-free access to 58 countries, including Indonesia, Maldives, and Thailand. Singapore tops the index with visa-free entry to 195 countries, while France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and Japan are second with 192 destinations. Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, and Sweden share third place (191 countries), and the UK, New Zealand, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, and Switzerland are fourth (190 countries).

4. What is 'Tax Incidence'?

- A. The process of setting tax rates
- B. The division of tax burden between stakeholders
- C. The methods of collecting taxes
- D. The history of tax legislation



- ✓ **The Union government has stated that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has reduced the tax burden on common people. Tax incidence refers to how a tax burden is divided between stakeholders such as buyers and sellers. There are two forms: statutory incidence, which determines who is legally responsible for paying the tax, and economic incidence, which reflects the final burden on economic welfare.**

5. Which day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' in India?

- A. 25 July
- B. 26 July
- C. 27 July
- D. 28 July



- ✓ **Kargil Vijay Diwas, observed on 26 July, commemorates the Indian Army's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil Conflict. On its 25th anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the Drass sector in Ladakh to honor the martyrs at the Kargil War Memorial. The Kargil War, fought from May 8 to July 26, 1999, saw Pakistani forces disguised as mujahideen infiltrating Indian posts. India's Operation Vijay successfully evicted them.**

6. Which country hosts 21st edition of the multinational joint military exercise Khaan Quest 2024?

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



- ✓ **Indian Army has participated in the 21st KHAAN QUEST multinational military exercise in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 27 July to 9 August 2024. Co-sponsored by the US Indo-Pacific Command and hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces, KHAAN QUEST promotes regional peace and security. Initially a US-Mongolia bilateral exercise in 2003, it became multilateral in 2008. The exercise focuses on peacekeeping operations, enhancing skills for future UN peacekeeping missions.**

7. Recently, where was the country's 500th Community Radio Station inaugurated?

- A. Shillong B. Aizawl
- C. Kohima D. Gangtok



- ✓ On 25 July 2024, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw, announced the winners of the 10th National Community Radio Award and inaugurated India's 500th Community Radio Station at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- ✓ Named Apna Radio 90.0 FM, it will provide weather updates, government schemes, and agriculture information. Community Radios, unlike public and commercial radio, are low-power stations operated by local communities in local languages, focusing on issues like nutrition and health. They can be set up by educational institutions, community-based organizations, registered societies, and trusts.

8. Recently, which shipyard has launched the first indigenously-built Talwar class frigate, 'Triput'?

- A. Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
- B. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- C. Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- D. Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)



- ✓ Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) launched the first indigenously-built Talwar class frigate, 'Triput.' Part of a 2016 India-Russia deal, Triput is among four Admiral Grigorovich class frigates, with two built in India via technology transfer. The Indian Navy already operates six of this class.
- ✓ INS Triput, 124m long and 15.5m wide, is powered by four gas turbines, reaching speeds of 28 knots with a 3200-ton displacement. It features stealth-enhancing hull design, advanced weapons and sensors, an Integrated Platform and Bridge Management System, and a robust air defense system with vertical launch long-range surface-to-air missiles.

9. What is the primary objective of the 'NPS Vatsalya Scheme'?

- A. To provide health insurance to tribal families
- B. To offer education loans to students for higher education
- C. To help parents and guardians plan for their children's future financial needs
- D. To plan for parents' retirement



- ✓ The finance minister announced NPS Vatsalya, a new scheme under the National Pension Scheme (NPS) to help parents and guardians plan for their children's future financial needs. Parents can open an account for their minor children, with funds accumulating until the child turns 18. Upon adulthood, the amount transfers to a standard NPS account and can be converted into a non-NPS plan.

10. What is the main purpose of the 'Skill Loan Scheme', recently mentioned in Union Budget 2024-25?

- A. To offer scholarships for higher education
- B. To provide institutional credit for skill development courses
- C. To fund start-up business
- D. To support home loans for skilled workers



- ✓ The finance minister announced a revision to the model Skill Loan Scheme, now facilitating loans up to Rs 7.5 lakh, backed by a government-promoted fund guarantee. Introduced in July 2015, the scheme offers institutional credit for skill development courses aligned with National Occupations Standards and Qualification Packs, conducted by NSQF-compliant training institutes. It applies to all Indian Banks' Association (IBA) member banks and RBI-advised financial institutions.

11. How much funding has been allocated for the IndiaAI Mission for 2024-25 by the Ministry of Electronics and IT?

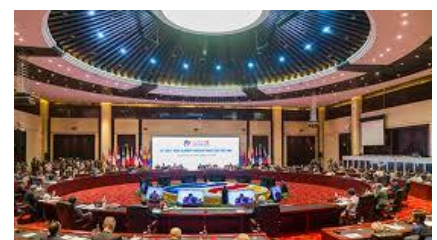
- A. Rs 551 crore
- B. Rs 558 crore
- C. Rs 547 crore
- D. Rs 548 crore



- ✓ In the Union Budget 2024, the Ministry of Electronics and IT received ₹551 crore for the IndiaAI Mission for 2024-25. Launched by the Government of India, the IndiaAI Mission focuses on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to boost economic growth, enhance governance, and improve citizens' quality of life. The mission aims to establish India as a global leader in AI innovation and adoption by developing advanced AI infrastructure, promoting AI applications, and supporting AI education and startups.

12. Recently, where was the 14th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting (EAS FMM) held?

- A. Beijing, China
- B. Vientiane, Lao PDR
- C. New Delhi, India
- D. Jakarta, Indonesia



- ✓ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with India in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on July 26, 2024. His three-day visit from July 25-27 included participation in ASEAN-India, East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meetings. The Lao PDR, as ASEAN chairman, hosted these events. Saleumxay Kommasith, Lao PDR's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, also attended. The conference saw foreign ministers from the 10 ASEAN member states.

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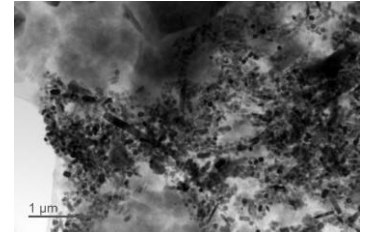
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<https://wp.me/p7JanY-ag8>

1. Recently, researchers have spotted 'Magnetofossils' in which region of India?

- A. Ladakh
- B. Assam
- C. Manipur
- D. Gujarat



- ✓ **Researchers have discovered magnetofossils, fossil remains of magnetic particles produced by magnetotactic bacteria, in rock varnish layers in Ladakh, India. These prokaryotic organisms align with the earth's magnetic field and are found in freshwater and marine habitats. They use the magnetic field to locate optimal oxygen levels. The bacteria contain iron-rich particles in small sacs acting as compasses, forming tiny crystals of magnetite or greigite. These crystals help them navigate changing oxygen levels in water.**

2. Which ministry recently launched SIMS 2.0, the upgraded Steel Import Monitoring System?

- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. Ministry of Power
- C. Ministry of Steel
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology



इस्पात मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
STEEL

- ✓ **The Ministry of Steel launched the 'Steel Import Monitoring System' (SIMS) 2.0 Portal, featuring a robust data entry system for consistent and authentic data, promoting transparency and accountability. Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries released the second volume of "Safety Guidelines for Iron and Steel Sector," aiming to enhance safety standards and reduce accidents.**
- ✓ **SIMS, introduced in 2019, provides detailed steel import data, aiding policy-making and industry growth. SIMS 2.0, with API integration and database connections, improves quality control, risk management, and Customs' analysis of steel imports, benefiting the domestic steel industry.**

3. Recently, the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) discovered 1600 tonnes of lithium resources in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Rajasthan



- ✓ **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the discovery of 1,600 tonnes of lithium resources in Karnataka's Mandya and Yadgiri districts. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), under the Department of Atomic Energy, identified these resources through preliminary surveys and subsurface exploration in the Marlagalla area.**

- ✓ **Lithium, a highly sought-after element globally, was first discovered in 1817 by Johan August Arfvedson. Derived from the Greek word "lithos" meaning stone, lithium is the metal with the lowest density, reacts vigorously with water, and is toxic in nature.**

4. Recently, which country has unveiled the country's new air-to-surface missile dubbed "Wind Demon"?

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



- ✓ **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) recently unveiled the "Wind Demon," an advanced air-to-surface cruise missile designed for precise, long-range attacks at low cost. Developed by IAI, it can be launched from helicopters or aircraft to strike mobile and stationary targets without operator intervention. The missile has a range of over 200 kilometers.**

5. Which country has emerged as the top recipient of Indian government aid to foreign countries, according to the Union Budget 2024-25?

- A. Nepal
B. Bhutan
C. Maldives
D. Bangladesh



- ✓ **The Ministry of External Affairs allocated ₹4,883 crore for aid in the 2024 union budget, strategically using financial assistance to meet foreign policy goals. Key allocations include the highest aid to Bhutan, and significant increases for Nepal and Sri Lanka. Despite past diplomatic tensions, Afghanistan and Maldives maintain previous aid levels. Myanmar receives aid as part of regional assistance. Africa, Central Asia, South Asia, and Latin America benefit from India's multilateral and bilateral aid programs. The Chabahar Port Project in Iran continues to receive ₹100 crore annually, unchanged for the past three years.**

6. What is the main objective of the 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' initiative?

- A. To improve nutritional standards in schools
B. To enhance early childhood care and education in Anganwadi centres
C. To promote adult education
D. To develop infrastructure for secondary education



- ✓ **Launched on May 10, 2023, the 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' (PBPB) initiative aims to upskill Anganwadi workers to enhance early childhood care, education, and nutrition services for children under six. By June 2024, 11,364 State Level Master Trainers and 1,877 Anganwadi Workers have been trained.**

- ✓ The program focuses on transforming Anganwadi centres into learning hubs with quality infrastructure and play equipment. It includes two curriculum frameworks: "Navchetana" for children from birth to three years, emphasizing holistic stimulation, and "Aadharshila" for children aged three to six years, covering all developmental domains. Special attention is given to Divyang children.

7. 'Cassava villages' are located in which Northeastern state?

- A. Nagaland
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam
- D. Mizoram



- ✓ In Mokokchung district, Nagaland, 'Cassava villages' are replacing plastics with compostable bioplastic bags made from Cassava starch, produced by the MSME Ecostarch. Cassava, a tropical crop native to South America, is known for its high starch content, making it ideal for bioplastics and bioethanol production.

8. SAMADHAN Portal was launched by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Labour & Employment
- D. Ministry of Urban Development



श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
**MINISTRY OF LABOUR &
EMPLOYMENT**

- ✓ The Ministry of Labour & Employment launched the SAMADHAN Portal to address industrial disputes for workmen, employers, and trade unions under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. It promotes efficiency and transparency through online filing, faster disposal, and internal monitoring. The portal also covers cases under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

9. Recently, which ministry has unveiled a comprehensive report titled "Economic Case for Investment in the Well-being of Adolescents in India"?

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Rural Development



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

सत्यमेव जयते

- ✓ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare released a report titled "Economic Case for Investment in the Well-being of Adolescents in India," highlighting key areas for investment in adolescent health.

India has the largest adolescent population (253 million) globally. Between 2000 and 2019, the adolescent mortality rate dropped by over 50%, and fertility rates fell by 83%.

- ✓ Secondary school completion rates more than doubled from 22% in 2005 to over 50% in 2020. However, fatal road accidents among adolescents under 18 increased by 22.7% from 2021 to 2022. Recommended interventions are projected to boost India's economy by 10.1% of annual GDP.

10. Recently, India signed a 'Cultural Property Agreement' with which country to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking of antiquities?

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



- ✓ On July 26, 2024, India and the USA signed their first-ever Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) to combat the illicit trafficking of antiquities. The agreement, signed by Shri Govind Mohan and US Ambassador Eric Garcetti at the World Heritage Committee in New Delhi, aligns with the 1970 UNESCO Convention. The CPA aims to secure India's cultural heritage and return smuggled artifacts.

11. India's first integrated agri-export facility has recently been approved for which port?

- A. Cochin Port
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru Port
- C. Deendayal Port
- D. Mangaluru Port



- ✓ India's first Integrated Agri-Export Facility will be established at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai, enhancing agricultural export and import capabilities. Ports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal approved the project to be developed in a public-private partnership. The facility aims to streamline logistics, reduce wastage, and provide better prices for agricultural products. It will support the export of key items such as non-basmati rice, maize, spices, onion, and wheat. Sonowal emphasized that this initiative is a significant step toward empowering farmers and boosting India's agricultural sector.

12. Recently, which country has assumed the Chair of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (APDC) for 2024-25?

- A. India
- B. Indonesia
- C. Thailand
- D. Philippines



- ✓ India assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) for 2024-25 on July 25, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand, taking over from China. Rajendra Singh, Head of the National Disaster Management Authority, represents India. As chairman, he also chaired the 5th Board of Trustee meeting of the ADPC.
- ✓ Established in 1986, ADPC is a non-profit regional organization promoting disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific. It addresses the impacts of natural hazards and climate change, supporting global initiatives on climate and urban resilience. Founding members include China, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

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<https://wp.me/p7JanY-ag8>

1. What is the theme of this year's Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, recently chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

- A. Viksit Bharat@2047
- B. Viksit Samaj@2056
- C. Digital India@2034
- D. Make in India



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi. The theme is Viksit Bharat@2047, focusing on making India a developed nation. Discussions will include the approach paper for the Vision Document on Viksit Bharat, fostering participative governance and collaboration between the Centre and States to enhance the quality of life. The meeting will address states' roles in achieving this goal. With aspirations to become a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, attendees include Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, and NITI Aayog members.

2. What is the primary mission of the GROWTH-India Telescope?

- A. To study the sun
- B. To observe explosive transients and variable sources, including near-Earth asteroids
- C. To monitor weather patterns
- D. To track satellite movements



- ✓ The GROWTH-India Telescope recently made a remarkable observation, capturing a 116-meter, building-sized asteroid during its closest approach to Earth. As India's first fully robotic optical research telescope, its primary mission is to observe explosive transients and variable sources, including near-Earth asteroids.
- ✓ Located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh, at 4500 meters above sea level, it is among the highest observatory sites globally. Constructed through a partnership between the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and IIT Bombay, with support from DST and the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum, it is part of the international GROWTH network, providing continuous monitoring of celestial events.

3. Recently, where was the 33rd edition of the Olympics started?

- A. London
- B. Paris
- C. Beijing
- D. Chennai



- ✓ The 33rd edition of the Olympics began in Paris, featuring 32 different sports. The first-ever Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896, and the Games occur every four years.
- ✓ The five Olympic rings symbolize the 'five parts of the world' where the Olympic movement prevails. The Olympic motto, 'Citius-Altius-Fortius,' translates from Latin to 'Faster-Higher-Stronger' in English.

4. Which day is observed as 'World Hepatitis Day' every year?

- A. 28 July
- B. 27 July
- C. 25 July
- D. 24 July



- ✓ World Hepatitis Day, observed on 28 July, raises awareness about viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that can lead to severe liver disease and cancer. Millions die from hepatitis-related illnesses globally, highlighting the need for better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Hepatitis is typically caused by viral infections but can also result from autoimmune conditions, medications, drugs, toxins, and alcohol. The theme for World Hepatitis Day 2024 is "It's Time for Action".

5. Recently, India has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by which year?

- A. 2025
- B. 2030
- C. 2035
- D. 2040



- ✓ India has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030. Coal gasification is a thermo-chemical process that converts coal into carbon monoxide and hydrogen, producing syngas, dimethyl ether, ammonium nitrate, and methanol. Syngas can substitute for LPG and electricity generation, while dimethyl ether is an alternative for diesel engines, and ammonium nitrate can be used for explosives. This initiative aims to reduce reliance on imports, conserve foreign exchange, and support India's oil, gas, fertilizer, and petrochemical sectors. Currently, India imports about 83% of its oil, over 90% of its methanol, and 13-15% of its ammonia.

6. Mettur Dam is located in which district of Tamil Nadu?

- A. Salem
- B. Erode
- C. Dharmapuri
- D. Karur



- ✓ A warning has been issued to residents in low-lying areas near the Mettur Dam due to increased inflow. The Mettur Dam, built in 1934, is one of India's largest dams, located in Salem, Tamil Nadu, where the Kaveri River enters the plains. It is a masonry gravity dam with a length of 1700 meters, a maximum level of 120 feet, and a capacity of 93.4 tmc ft, creating the Stanley Reservoir.
- ✓ The dam supports the Mettur hydroelectric and thermal power plant, generating 32 MW. It irrigates 271,000 acres of farmland across Salem, Erode, Namakkal, Karur, Tiruchirappalli, and Thanjavur districts.

7. 'Tell Umm Amer' is located in which region?

- A. London
- B. Moscow
- C. Palestine
- D. Iran



- ✓ The World Heritage Committee (WHC) has recently included Palestine site of Tell Umm Amer in the UNESCO World Heritage Site List and the List of World Heritage in Danger. Located on coastal dunes south of Gaza City, Tell Umm Amer, also known as the Monastery of Saint Hilarion, was founded in the fourth century by Hilarion the Great. It represents the first monastic community in the Holy Land and was strategically positioned on key trade routes between Asia and Africa. UNESCO, a UN specialized agency established in 1946, aims to foster international collaboration in education, science, and culture to promote peace and sustainable development.

8. Which day is observed as 'International Tiger Day' every year?

- A. 27 July
- B. 28 July
- C. 29 July
- D. 30 July



- ✓ International Tiger Day, observed on 29 July since 2010, raises public awareness about threats faced by tigers due to illegal hunting and habitat destruction. The day originated from an international summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2010, attended by 13 countries with significant tiger populations, including India. The summit aimed to address the dwindling tiger population caused by human encroachment and launched the TX2 goal to double the number of wild tigers by 2022. The 2024 theme, "Call for Action".

9. Recently, who became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting with a bronze at Paris?

- A. Vedika Sharma
- B. Manu Bhaker
- C. Anjali Bhagwat
- D. Manisha Keer



- ✓ Manu Bhaker of Haryana opened India's medal account at the 33rd Summer Olympics in Paris, winning a bronze in the 10-meter air pistol event on 28 July 2024. She became the first Indian woman shooter to win an Olympic medal in shooting. The Paris Olympics, held from 26 July to 11 August 2024, features 32 sports, with India competing in 16 disciplines. Bhaker, 22, scored 221.7 points to finish third in the eight-woman final. South Korean Oh Ye Jin won gold with an Olympic record of 243.2 points, and silver went to South Korean Yeji Kim with 241.3 points.

10. Recently, which country secured their first Women's Asia Cup title?

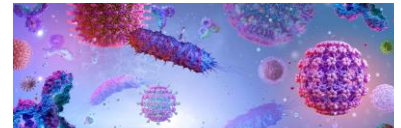
- A. China
- B. India
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bangladesh



- ✓ The host Sri Lankan women's cricket team won their maiden Women's Cricket Asia Cup, upsetting the defending champion Indian team. In the final of the 9th Women's Cricket Asia Cup, held on 28 July 2024 at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, the hosts defeated India by 8 wickets with 8 balls to spare. Sri Lanka became the third team to win the Women's Cricket Asia Cup, after India (seven times) and Bangladesh (once).

11. What is the main objective of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)?

- A. To provide free healthcare services
- B. To strengthen and maintain a decentralized laboratory-based IT-enabled disease surveillance system
- C. To promote vaccination programs
- D. To conduct medical research on rare diseases



- ✓ In the past year, 1,862 disease outbreaks were reported to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), with Kerala recording the highest number. The IDSP, launched in November 2004 with World Bank assistance, is a decentralized, state-based program by India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ Its objectives include monitoring disease trends and responding to outbreaks through trained Rapid Response Teams (RRTs). The program integrates surveillance activities at central, state, and district levels, utilizes ICT for data management, and strengthens public health laboratories. Weekly data collection on epidemic-prone diseases helps identify trends.

12. E-Upahaar Portal was developed by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Urban Development
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ Rashtrapati Bhavan will auction selected gifts presented to the President and former Presidents via the online portal E-Upahaar. Launched on July 25, 2024, by the President of India, E-Upahaar is designed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, to increase citizen engagement and support a noble cause, with proceeds going to children in need. Established in 1976, the NIC provides technology-driven solutions to Central and State Governments and operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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