

1. Nine-day festival Brahmotsavam is celebrated at which temple annually?

- A. Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple
- B. Tirumala Tirupati Sri Venkateswara Temple
- C. Arulmigu Meenakshi Amman Temple
- D. Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple



- ✓ Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati is preparing for Brahmotsavam, a nine-day festival. It is celebrated at the Tirumala Tirupati Sri Venkateshwara Temple by the Swami Pushkarini Lake. The festival was initiated by Lord Brahma to thank Lord Venkateshwara for protecting mankind. In lunar months with an extra month, two Brahmotsavams are held: Salakatla and Navarathri.
- ✓ In 2024, only one Brahmotsavam (Salakatla) held due to the absence of Adhika Maasa. The Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam ritual, a traditional cleansing, occurs on Tuesdays before Brahmotsavam and other major festivals.

2. Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Karnataka
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Odisha



- ✓ Dhools have been found in Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary in the Kalyana-Karnataka region. Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary is located around the Chandrampalli Dam in Kalaburagi district, Karnataka. It is the first dry-land wildlife sanctuary in South India and was notified in 2011. The sanctuary features dry and moist deciduous forests, acacia and teak plantations. It is Karnataka's northernmost protected area, home to diverse flora and fauna, including sandalwood, red sanders, blackbuck, striped hyena, wolf, and fruit bats.

3. Claudia Sheinbaum took oath as first female president of which country?

- A. Bahamas
- B. Mexico
- C. Vietnam
- D. Jamaica



- ✓ Claudia Sheinbaum was sworn in as Mexico's first woman president. She pledged to strengthen women's rights and maintain Mexico as a secure destination for international investment. Sheinbaum, aged 62, is a scientist and former mayor of Mexico City. The oath-taking ceremony took place in Mexico's Congress, marking the beginning of her six-year term.

4. Which ministry released the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive issue of the publication "EnviStats India 2024: Environment Accounts"?

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



- ✓ **The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the 7<sup>th</sup> issue of "EnviStats India 2024: Environment Accounts."** EnviStats covers information on natural resources, environmental degradation, and government efforts for management. It follows the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework for compiling environmental accounts.
- ✓ **Coverage of mangroves increased by about 8% from 2013 to 2021. There has been a 72% increase in the number and a 16% increase in the area of protected lands from 2000 to 2023. The report also updates the Soil Nutrient Index using Soil Health Card data for 2023-24.**

5. Which country hosts the 9th edition of ICC women's T20 World Cup?

- A. Australia
- B. UAE
- C. England
- D. India



- ✓ **The 9th ICC Women's T20 World Cup started in Sharjah, UAE. The tournament runs from October 3rd to 20th, with ten teams participating. India is in Group A with Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Group B includes Bangladesh, England, Scotland, South Africa, and West Indies. India, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, seeks its first-ever ICC title in this event.**

6. Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated 'Banjara Virasat Museum' in which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Banjara Virasat Museum in Pohardevi, Washim, Maharashtra, highlighting the Banjara community's heritage. The four-story Banjara Virasat Museum showcases the rich heritage of the Banjara community through portraits of their leaders and historical legacies.**

7. New species of potter wasp, *Pseumenes siangensis*, was discovered in which northeastern state?

- A. Assam
- B. Nagaland
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Mizoram



- ✓ Entomologists discovered a new species of potter wasp in Arunachal Pradesh, named *Pseumenes siangensis*. It belongs to the genus *Pseumenes* within the subfamily Eumeninae and is mainly found in the Oriental region. These solitary wasps build small, pot-like mud nests for their larvae. The species was found in the Upper Siang District and named after Siang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh. At 30.2 mm in length, it has unique features and plays a role in controlling pest populations by feeding on caterpillars and insects.

8. Which organization has formulated a National Agriculture Code (NAC)?

- A. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- B. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- C. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- D. Ministry of Agriculture



- ✓ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is developing a National Agriculture Code (NAC) similar to the National Building and Electrical Codes. The NAC will cover the entire agriculture cycle, from crop selection to post-harvest operations. It will have two parts: general principles for all crops and crop-specific standards for paddy, wheat, oilseeds, and pulses. It aims to guide farmers, universities, and officials in agriculture. It will support quality standards, decision-making, and capacity building in Indian agriculture.

9. Which state recently launched a new governance model called the "co-district" initiative?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Assam
- C. Kerala
- D. Rajasthan

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

- ✓ Assam has launched the "co-district" initiative, a new governance model that replaces the traditional civil sub-division system. Co-district commissioners will have the same powers as district commissioners for more localized control. It is the first initiative of its kind in India, aiming to decentralize administration and improve accessibility to governance.

10. Recently, the third 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, Ashva was launched in which city?

- A. Visakhapatnam
- B. Mumbai
- C. Kolkata
- D. Chennai



- ✓ **The Third 25T Bollard Pull Tug, named Ashva, was launched on October 3, 2024, in Kolkata. Ashva is part of the Government of India's "Make in India" initiative. It was built following the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) classification rules. The tug will boost the Indian Navy's operational capabilities, aiding in critical tasks and enhancing maritime support infrastructure.**

11. Where was the "Drought Resilience +10 Conference 2024" held?

- A. Geneva, Switzerland
- B. Paris, France
- C. London, United Kingdom
- D. New Delhi, India



- ✓ **The Drought Resilience+10 (DR+10) Conference, held from September 30 to October 2, 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland, focused on enhancing global drought preparedness and resilience. It marked a decade since the first High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy and brought together policymakers, experts, and practitioners to discuss advancements in drought management.**
- ✓ **With droughts becoming more frequent due to climate change, the conference emphasized the need for effective policies and global mechanisms to address systemic drought risks and promote sustainable development.**

12. India recently signed an MoU with which country to enhance supply chains for critical minerals?

- A. Russia
- B. United States of America
- C. Australia
- D. France



- ✓ **India and the USA have signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand and diversify critical minerals supply chains, aiming to leverage their complementary strengths for resilience in the sector. This agreement focuses on equipment, services, policies, and best practices for the commercial development of critical minerals exploration and processing. The MoU is part of broader efforts to enhance innovation ecosystems and secure supply chains in semiconductors and clean energy, following discussions held during the 6th US-India Commercial Dialogue in October 2024.**

## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

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