

1. Which city is the host of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas?

- A. Madurai
- B. Bhubaneswar
- C. Kolkata
- D. Noakhali



- ✓ Odisha will host the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar from January 8 to 10, 2024. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi approved the proposal from the Ministry of External Affairs. The event will be held at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, attended by President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and other dignitaries. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa on January 9, 1915, and recognizes the contributions of the Indian diaspora. The last event was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

2. Which country recently hosted the Exercise Kakadu?

- A. Australia
- B. United States
- C. India
- D. Japan



- ✓ The Quad countries—India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S.—conducted back-to-back naval exercises, focusing on anti-submarine warfare. 'Exercise Malabar' took place off the coast of Visakhapatnam from Oct.8 to 18. It was termed the most comprehensive edition yet, with complex operational scenarios. The earlier 'Exercise Kakadu,' hosted by Australia, involved nearly 3,000 personnel from 30 nations. The Indian Navy contributed a P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft for the exercise.

3. What is the primary objective of the SPADEX mission?

- A. To build larger spacecraft
- B. To develop indigenous technology for docking two spacecraft
- C. To send humans to Mars
- D. To explore the deep sea



- ✓ The Indian Space Agency has acquired two 400kg satellites for the SPADEX mission, which focuses on space docking experiments. These satellites will be launched into slightly different orbits by a single rocket. The mission aims to develop technology and demonstrate docking between two spacecraft, named Chaser and Target. This experiment is crucial for future missions like Chandrayaan-4 and the proposed Bharatiya Antariksha Space Station.

4. Which state emerged as the overall champion at the 27th All India Forest Sports Meet 2024?

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



- ✓ The 27th All India Forest Sports Meet concluded in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh emerged as the overall champion, winning 174 medals. Kerala finished second with 103 medals, and Madhya Pradesh secured third place with 88 medals. Nearly 3,000 athletes from various states and Union Territories participated. Around 300 competitions were held across 26 disciplines during the five-day event.

5. Recently, where was the 16th BRICS Summit 2024 held?

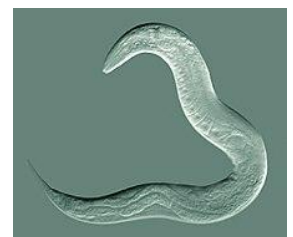
- A. Beijing, China
- B. Salvador, Brazil
- C. Kazan, Russia
- D. New Delhi, India



- ✓ The 16th annual BRICS summit took place in Kazan, Russia, from October 22 to 24, 2024. BRICS originally included Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In 2024, BRICS admitted four new members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE. BRICS now represents nearly half of the world's population and a quarter of the global economy. The group acts as a counterbalance to institutions like the World Bank and IMF, dominated by Western countries. The term "BRIC" was first used in a 2001 Goldman Sachs paper predicting their rise among the world's largest economies.

6. What is Caenorhabditis elegans?

- A. Nematode
- B. Spider
- C. Invasive weed
- D. Orchid



- ✓ Gary Ruvkun, while accepting the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, praised Caenorhabditis elegans (C. elegans), a tiny nematode worm. C. elegans is a small, simple organism used in research for its precise structure and fast growth (3-5 days). It was the first multicellular organism to have its full genome sequenced and neural wiring mapped. It has two sexes: hermaphrodite and male. Nematodes are abundant, living as parasites or in free-living forms in diverse environments like soil and marine ecosystems.

7. Recently, a new genus of jumping spiders named Tenkana was discovered in which region of India?

- A. Ladakh
- B. Northeast India
- C. Southern India
- D. None of the Above



- ✓ A new genus of jumping spiders, 'Tenkana,' was discovered across southern India. The genus includes two known species and a new species, Tenkana jayamangali, from Karnataka. The name "Tenkana" comes from Kannada, meaning "south," reflecting its southern India and northern Sri Lanka presence. These spiders prefer dry, ground habitats and are found in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.

8. Where was the All India Civil Defence and Home Guards conference held?

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. Jaipur
- C. Bhopal
- D. Patna



- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 14th All India Civil Defence and Home Guards conference at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar. The conference was held after 19 years. More than 60 senior officials and 1,200 members from different states participated in this event. The focus was on discussing the draft Civil Defence Bill and Model Home Guard Bill. The conference aims to enhance efficiency through modern technology in civil defense and home guard operations across India.

9. What is Anguiculus dicaprio, which was recently discovered in the Western Himalayas?

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



- ✓ Scientists have discovered a new snake species in the Western Himalayas, named Anguiculus dicaprio after actor Leonardo DiCaprio. It belongs to the Colubridae family, which includes over 1,800 snake species. The new species has many small teeth, grows about 22 inches long, and features a broad collar with dark brown spots. It has a robust skull and steeply domed snout, living at around 6,000 feet elevation.
- ✓ Commonly known as 'DiCaprio's Himalayan snake,' it is found in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Nepal. These snakes are most active from late May to August and are non-venomous.

10. Which state won the National Para-Swimming Championship 2024 with 392 points?

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



- ✓ **Karnataka won the 24th National Para-Swimming Championship with 392 points. Maharashtra finished second with 378 points, and Rajasthan took third with 248 points. The National Para-Swimming Championship 2024 took place in Panaji, Goa.**

11. Which organization has recently launched the Amazon Future Engineer Program in 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)?

- A. National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)
- B. CBSE
- C. ISRO
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology



- ✓ **The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) and Amazon launched the third phase of the Amazon Future Engineer Program in 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS). The program was implemented in schools across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, and Tripura. It focused on training in emerging technologies like blockchain, artificial intelligence, block programming, and coding. The objective was to prepare tribal students for STEM careers through modern technological literacy.**

12. Which organization members recently adopted the Rome Declaration on Water Scarcity in Agriculture?

- A. Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI)
- B. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- C. Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS)
- D. Water and Agriculture Information Centre (WAIC)



- ✓ **Member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Heads of Delegations and partners of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) adopted the Rome Declaration on Water Scarcity in Agriculture during the High-level Rome Water Dialogue. This event occurred alongside FAO's annual World Food Forum.**
- ✓ **The declaration aims to tackle water scarcity, which is worsened by the climate crisis. WASAG was launched at the 2016 UN Climate Conference in Marrakesh to help countries with water scarcity challenges. The initiative focuses on supporting nations in managing water scarcity issues effectively.**

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