

A House Journal of **APTI PLUS**



APTI PLUS

Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.
CREATING CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE NATION

WBCS GAZETTE



JULY 2023



A MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS
FOR ASPIRANTS OF WBCS EXAMINATION

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WEST BENGAL

West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023

- The West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023 was passed in the assembly, replacing the governor with the chief minister as the Chancellor of state-aided universities.
- This is the second time the controversial bill was passed, previously not receiving the Governor's assent. The bill accentuates tensions between the State government and the governor.
- The bill is in line with Punchhi Commission recommendations to protect states' interests and limit the governor's functions to constitutional provisions.

NATIONAL

PM participated in the 125th birth of Alluri Seetharama Raju on 4th July

- Alluri Sitarama Raju was an Indian revolutionary who fiercely opposed British colonial rule.
- He organized a guerrilla campaign in the Eastern Ghats region of present-day Andhra Pradesh, rallying tribal communities against oppressive British forest laws.
- He was born around 1897 in Andhra Pradesh; he joined Mahatma Gandhi's Non-cooperation movement.
- He organized the Rampa Rebellion from 1922 to 1924. He was captured and executed by British forces in May 1924, marking the end of the rebellion.

Hul Diwas

- On June 30, the Prime Minister of India paid tribute to the Santhal rebellion of 1855-56.
- The Santhal Rebellion, also known as Hul (meaning revolution in Santhali language), was a historic uprising of the Santhal/Santal tribal community against the British colonial rule and the oppressive zamindars and moneylenders in 1855-56.
- The rebellion was led by the Murmu brothers; Sidho, and Kanhu. The rebellion was brutally suppressed by the British. However, the rebellion inspired many other tribal movements and is considered by some historians as the first war for Indian independence.
- Every year, June 30 is celebrated as Hul Diwas to commemorate the sacrifice and courage of the Santhal rebels.

National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCAEM)

- The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCAEM) was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.
- The mission aims to eliminate sickle cell anaemia from India by 2047, enhancing public awareness, reducing morbidity and mortality, and improving the quality of life for affected individuals.
- The mission involves screening, prevention, treatment, and research components. Challenges include a lack of awareness, resource shortages, ethical concerns, and the need for collaboration.
- Sickle cell anaemia, a genetic blood disorder affecting RBCs' shape and function, causes complications like pain, infections, and anaemia.

Lansdowne to be renamed Jaswantgarh

- The historic town of Lansdowne, located in the Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand, will soon get a new name.
- According to the state government, the town will be renamed Jaswantgarh, in honour of the Garhwali soldier Jaswant Singh Rawat, who fought bravely against the Chinese army in the 1962 war.
- The renaming process will be completed after getting approval from the central government and the President of India.

Mo Jungle Jami Yojana

The Odisha government launched the "Mo Jungle Jami Yojana" to effectively implement the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act 2006.

This scheme focuses on providing livelihood opportunities, food security, and forest rights to tribal populations. It includes establishing a state program management unit, forest rights cells, awareness campaigns, training, and monitoring.

National Research Foundation (NRF)

- The Union Cabinet approved the NRF Bill 2023, establishing the National Research Foundation (NRF) as a top-tier body guiding scientific research in India.
- Government initiatives aim to enhance innovation through digital transformation, skill development, AI strategy, and increased budget allocation, including the NRF. These actions are anticipated to elevate India's status as a global science and innovation leader.

No-confidence motion

- The Speaker of Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament, accepted a no-confidence motion moved by opposition parties against the ruling government.
- A no-confidence motion is a significant parliamentary procedure in which members express a lack of confidence in the Prime Minister-led government. This mechanism is crucial for accountability in India's parliamentary democracy, allowing members to hold the government responsible for its actions and policies.
- The process involves submitting the motion to the Speaker, subsequent examination, allocation of discussion time, debate, and a vote.
- If passed by a simple majority, the government must resign, showcasing the democratic principle of ensuring the government's legitimacy through parliamentary confidence.

Performance Grading Index 2.0

- The Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 report for States/UTs, assessing the status of school education in India.
- The PGI aims to promote evidence-based policy making, focusing on learning outcomes, access, infrastructure, equity, and governance.
- States and UTs are graded into levels based on indicators such as Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) data, National Achievement Survey (NAS), and other sources.

MERI MAATI MERA DESH

- The 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign, part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative, is set to celebrate India's 75th independence anniversary with a series of events nationwide.
- It aims to honour freedom fighters and unity while showcasing India's progress and potential across various fields. Citizens are encouraged to participate by sending soil samples from significant places to create an 'Amrit Vatika' in Delhi, symbolizing the country's diversity.
- Notable campaign components include memorial plaques for fallen heroes, planting indigenous saplings, saluting freedom fighters, and soil collection.

- The campaign intends to foster patriotism, responsibility, and a stronger national bond.

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)

- The Director of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), K.S. James, has been suspended by the Central Government due to recruitment irregularities.
- IIPS is an autonomous institution based in Mumbai, focused on research and training in population studies. Established in 1956, it researches fertility, mortality, migration, family planning, and demographic changes.
- The institute offers training programs, collects and analyzes data, provides policy support, publishes research, and collaborates globally.

Critical Minerals

- India's Union Minister of Mines, Pralhad Joshi, has unveiled the nation's inaugural report on Critical Minerals, spotlighting 30 essential minerals pivotal for sectors like defence, energy, and agriculture.
- The report signifies a significant stride in India's pursuit of self-sufficiency in mineral resources and supports the goal of achieving 'Net Zero' targets.
- Critical minerals are essential resources crucial for various industries, including technology, defence, and energy, due to their scarcity and strategic importance. Their availability plays a vital role in economic and national security.

Inland Waterways Transport Terminal

- Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, inaugurated the Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh, Assam, situated along the River Brahmaputra.
- The tourist-cum-cargo terminal, developed at a cost of ₹46.60 crores, is expected to be completed by February 2024 and is facilitated by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
- Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Construction Limited is the executing agency for the modern terminal project.

International Conference on Green Hydrogen

- The Government of India hosted the International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023) from July 5th to 7th in New Delhi, gathering global leaders across scientific, policy, academic, and industrial fields to discuss advancements in the green hydrogen value chain.
- Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh, inaugurated the conference with a focus on establishing a Green Hydrogen ecosystem and promoting a systemic approach to global decarbonization goals.

Bharat 6G Alliance

- The Department of Telecommunications has established the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) to foster innovation and collaboration in next-generation wireless technology.
- As the telecom sector continually evolves, from wire-line to mobile services like 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G, the B6GA aims to drive advancements in 6G through a collaborative platform involving public and private entities, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations.

G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit

- Mumbai hosted the G-20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting from July 4th to 5th, 2023.
- The Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh lead the G-20 Research Ministers' Meeting, as India advances the Research and Innovation Initiative (RIIG) during its 2023 Presidency with the theme "Research and Innovation for Equitable Society".

- This year, India conducted 5 RIIG meetings, focusing on themes like sustainable energy, circular bioeconomy, eco-innovations for energy transition, and sustainable blue-economy.

National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment

- The 3rd edition of the National e-Government Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) has been introduced by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) in India.
- This assessment framework evaluates the efficiency of e-Government services provided by States, Union Territories, and Central Ministries, aligning with the country's federalism and e-Governance diversity.
- The NeSDA initiative is conducted biennially by DARPG to gauge the performance of public e-Government services.

National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) successfully conducted the National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) in New Delhi.
- DPIIT is a government department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, overseeing initiatives to promote industry growth in India.

Startup20 Shikhar summit

- Under India's G20 presidency, the Startup20 Shikhar summit commenced in Gurugram, Haryana, organized by the Startup20 Engagement Group.
- The summit released a communique urging G20 leaders to collectively invest one trillion US dollars in the global startup ecosystem by 2030.

Polavaram project

- The Union government has approved providing Rs 12,911 crore to Andhra Pradesh for concluding the first phase of the Polavaram project.
- During a visit by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy to the project site, officials conveyed the Centre's green signal for the project's advancement. Notably, 80% of the work on the Polavaram irrigation project has already been accomplished.

State Disaster Response Funds

- The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has disbursed Rs. 7,532 crore to 22 State Governments for their respective State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) following recommendations from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- SDRF, established under the Disaster Management Act 2005, serves as the primary fund for disaster responses in states, with the Central Government contributing 75% in general states and 90% in North-East and Himalayan states.

Veer Savarkar International Airport

- Prime Minister virtually inaugurated the new integrated terminal building of Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair.
- The inauguration of this terminal, constructed at approximately Rs 710 crore, is aligned with the government's focus on enhancing connectivity infrastructure.
- The airport's development also includes an apron accommodating multiple aircraft, thus improving the island's connectivity by allowing parking for ten aircraft concurrently.

E-Mobility Conference

- NITI Aayog hosted an E-Mobility Conference alongside the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting.
- The event supported by Asian Development Bank, focused on policy support for India's electric mobility.

- Discussions involved national and international stakeholders exploring financing, regulatory, and policy avenues to drive India's decarbonization and electric mobility growth.

Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the "Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar" initiative during Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The initiative, led by the Ministry of Culture's National Mission on Cultural Mapping, aims to connect people with villages across India through a virtual platform.
- The project is a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

Antyodaya Shramik Suraksha Yojana

- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel introduced the Antyodaya Shram Suraksha Accident Insurance Scheme in the Kheda district.
- Geared towards worker financial security during accidents or death, the pilot scheme operates through the Indian Postal Department, Indian Post Payments Bank, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- This initiative aims to offer vital support to workers in times of need.

Ama Pokhari

- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Ama Pokhari' initiative to revive urban water bodies in the state, inaugurating it in Bhubaneswar.
- With a focus on natural and sustainable methods, the project aims to alleviate water scarcity.

Lisa

- Odisha Television (OTV) debuts India's initial AI news anchor named Lisa, a milestone introduced in Bhubaneswar. Lisa marks a pioneering stride in regional TV journalism, being the first AI anchor in Odisha.
- Created in partnership with a Mumbai-based startup, Lisa can communicate in various languages, underscoring the evolution of television reporting.

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				SUBRATA DAS RANK 166

Congratulations Toppers!

INTERNATIONAL

World Investment Report 2023

- The World Investment Report 2023 by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reveals that developing countries in Asia received \$662 billion in FDI in 2022, constituting half of global inflows.
- The report underscores the need for sustainable energy investment, recommending measures to close developing countries' renewable energy gap.
- UNCTAD, a UN agency established in 1964, addresses global trade, investment, development, and cooperation. It offers policy advice, technical support, and research on trade, finance, technology, and more. It has 195 member countries and headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Global Peace Index

- The 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) report, produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), ranks 163 nations based on peacefulness. The GPI assesses negative peace using domains of ongoing conflict, societal safety, security, and militarization.
- The top 10 peaceful countries include Iceland, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, Austria, Singapore, Portugal, Slovenia, Japan, and Switzerland.
- India improved its rank to 126th, while Afghanistan remains the least peaceful.
- Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) headquartered in Sydney, studies the link between peace, business, and prosperity and collaborates with global organizations to understand factors driving peacefulness.

Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG)

- India has joined the Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG), initiated by the UN Secretary-General in 2022. It aims to address urgent global crises related to food security, energy, and finance, coordinating a global response.
- The Champions Group includes Bangladesh, Barbados, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia, and Senegal, and India's membership reflects its growing global leadership and commitment to addressing contemporary challenges.
- India's participation will enhance the United Nations' efforts to find effective solutions for developmental issues, especially for developing countries.

International Seabed Authority

- The International Seabed Authority (ISA), established in 1994 under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, has outlined a two-year roadmap for implementing regulations regarding deep-sea mining.
- This intergovernmental organization, headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica, comprises 167 member nations and the European Union.
- The ISA's dual mission involves authorizing and controlling mineral-related activities in the international seabed while safeguarding the ecosystem of the seabed, ocean floor, and subsoil beyond national jurisdiction, all of which are considered the "Common Heritage of All Mankind."

Maitree Super Thermal Power Project

- Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) has successfully synchronized the 660-MW unit-2 of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Project (STPP), which has a total capacity of 1,320 MW, with the electricity grid in Bangladesh.

- The power station is situated in Rampal, Bangladesh. It's a joint venture between India's National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), known as Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company (BIFPCL).
- The financing for the project, amounting to £1.3bn (\$1.6bn), was provided through a loan from the Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of India. The power station's location is in proximity to the Sundarbans, a UNESCO heritage site known for its extensive mangrove forests.

Young Professional Scheme

- The UK-India Young Professional Scheme, part of the UK-India Mobility and Migration Partnership, offers Indian citizens aged 18 to 30 with graduate-level qualifications a chance to live and work in the UK for up to two years.
- British nationals will have similar opportunities in India under a reciprocal arrangement.
- The scheme allows flexible entry and exit during the visa's validity. Eligible candidates must possess a valid degree, passport, and financial proof, and meet specific requirements.
- The initiative is deemed crucial for strengthening the bilateral relationship between India and the UK, bolstering economic ties, and facilitating free trade agreement negotiations.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- The latest update of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.
- India successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years, indicating rapid progress.
- India saw significant improvements across indicators, with notable reductions in child mortality, lack of nutrition, sanitation, and more.
- The MPI monitors interconnected deprivations, informing policies to eliminate poverty's various aspects, from education to living standards.

Kui language

- The Odisha state cabinet has approved the inclusion of the Kui language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India, benefiting over 7 lakh people of the Kandh tribe.
- Kui is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken mainly by the Kandhas or Kondhs in hilly and forested areas of Odisha. With approximately 1 million speakers, this move aims to preserve, promote, and propagate the language and its associated culture, enabling content creation and research.

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

- Britain has officially signed the treaty to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), becoming the first new country to do so since its inception in 2018.
- The CPTPP is a trade pact among 11 countries including Australia, Canada, Japan, and New Zealand, aimed at reducing trade barriers, and tariffs, and promoting market access.
- The UK's membership in CPTPP is seen as a post-Brexit effort to deepen trade ties in the Asia Pacific region.

India - United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- During Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a joint statement was issued highlighting various aspects of their bilateral relations.
- Bilateral trade reached USD 85 billion in 2022, with the UAE becoming India's third-largest trading partner and India as Abu Dhabi's second-largest trading partner.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for currency used in cross-border transactions, interlinking payment systems, and establishing an Indian Institute of Technology in Abu Dhabi.

- Strengthening investment ties through Abu Dhabi Investment Authority's presence in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.
- Enhanced cooperation in energy, maritime security, and connectivity, and a commitment to combating extremism and terrorism.

Henley Passport Index

- India has improved its ranking on the Henley Passport Index 2023 by seven places, reaching the 80th position from last year's 87th. However, the number of countries offering visa-free access to Indian passport holders remains unchanged.
- The Henley Passport Index evaluates travel freedom for ordinary passport holders across 199 passports and 227 destinations
- Singapore holds the top spot with access to 192 travel destinations without a prior visa.

NATO Summit

- The NATO Summit in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania highlighted the alliance's renewed importance amid the ongoing war in Eastern Europe.
- Key aspects included Ukraine's presence and potential membership, the launch of the NATO-Ukraine Council, and the endorsement of a Defense Production Action Plan.
- Inclusion of Finland as the new member showcased NATO's commitment to expansion.
- NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is an intergovernmental military alliance comprising 31 member states from Europe and North America. Established after World War II through the North Atlantic Treaty, it functions as a collective security system, defending members against external attacks.
- NATO Headquarters is in Brussels, the Capital of Belgium.

Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)

- The 19th session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) was held in Rome, Italy.
- The session held from July 17-21, focuses on topics such as biodiversity, nutrition, human health, access and benefit-sharing for food and agriculture, and digital sequence information.
- Hosted at the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) headquarters, discussions encompass biodiversity for food and agriculture, genetic resources' role in climate change adaptation, forest genetic resources, microorganisms, invertebrates, and animal genetic resources.
- CGRFA, an FAO body established in 1983, addresses biodiversity management related to food and agriculture, covering both domesticated and non-domesticated species.

Global Education Monitoring Report 2023

- The Global Education Monitoring Report 2023, titled "Technology in education: a tool on whose terms?", issued by UNESCO, cautions against uncritical adoption of digital products in education due to lack of robust evidence on their value.
- It highlights the negative impact of excessive screen time on children's educational performance and well-being. The report endorses banning smartphones in schools if technology integration doesn't enhance learning or student well-being, citing distracting effects and improved academic performance from such bans.

Worldcoin

- Worldcoin, a cryptocurrency project co-founded by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, aims to establish a global digital identity and financial network through biometric verification.
- Worldcoin's unique feature is the "World ID," generated by scanning individuals' irises using a device called an orb. This data is encrypted and stored on a blockchain network, and participants receive Worldcoins as rewards.

- The initiative showcases both innovative potential and the challenges associated with implementing a global identity and financial system based on biometric data.

World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)

- Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to join the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF), a global network that emphasizes the role of culture in urban planning for equitable and sustainable communities.
- The WCCF promotes cultural exchange, research, and practical solutions for challenges like climate change and cultural tourism.
- Bengaluru's inclusion, as the 41st member, highlights its rising influence, innovation, and cultural identity. The city will collaborate with counterparts from other global cities and leverage this platform to address critical issues, share best practices, and foster a vibrant cultural life during its technological growth.

UNSG report on the impact of armed conflict on children

- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has excluded India from his yearly report on armed conflict's impact on children, acknowledging the government's efforts to enhance child protection.
- India's removal follows measures taken to safeguard children and includes recognition of a technical mission and child protection workshop.
- India had been featured in the report since 2010, alongside nations like Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Pakistan, among others.

23rd Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- India hosted the 23rd Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in a virtual format, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- SCO member states including China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan participated, while Iran, Belarus, and Mongolia joined as observers.
- The summit centred on the theme of India's Chairmanship of SCO-SECURE, symbolizing Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.

New Zealand

- New Zealand has achieved the distinction of becoming the first nation to prohibit thin plastic bags commonly used by shoppers for produce, along with plastic straws and utensils.
- The country's initiative against single-use plastics began in 2019 and is being extended further. In the past, the ban also covered thicker plastic shopping bags for groceries.

Digital Nomad Strategy

- Canada has introduced a "digital nomad strategy" aimed at attracting global talent by offering temporary arrangements for foreign job seekers.
- This initiative permits individuals with a foreign employer to work in Canada for up to 6 months, and if they receive a job offer, they can extend their stay even further, encouraging international professionals to contribute to Canada's workforce and economy.
- A digital nomad is a person who leverages technology to work remotely and frequently changes their location to explore different places while sustaining their lifestyle.

ECONOMICS

eSARAS Mobile App

- The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has introduced the eSARAS mobile App to boost the marketing of products crafted by women in Self-help Groups (SHGs).
- This initiative, under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), provides an enhanced platform for selling authentic handicrafts and handlooms produced by SHGs.
- The app enables customers to access a wide array of handmade products created by SHG women from across the country and facilitates direct communication for rating, reviewing, and sharing feedback with the SHG women.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council

- The 50th meeting of the GST Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister, discussed GST tax rates, trade facilitation, and compliance simplification.
- Notable recommendations include lower GST rates on uncooked snack pellets, exemption of certain medicines and food for rare diseases from IGST, revised rates on items like imitation zari thread, and inclusion of utility vehicles under compensation cess.
- Services such as satellite launches and goods transport will see changes in taxation, and the Council provided guidance on casino, horse racing, and online gaming taxation.
- New rules for the GST Appellate Tribunal and State-level coordination Committee were proposed.

Banks heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation (BHARAT)

- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has initiated a new campaign for banks under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) called BHARAT (Banks Herald Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation).
- The campaign was inaugurated on 15th July 2023 through a virtual meeting with the participation of over 100 banking officials from various public and private sector banks, regional rural banks, small finance banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and select cooperative banks.
- The campaign will continue for one month till 15th August 2023, with an objective of Rs 7200 crore as a loan amount under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).
- The AIF is a central sector scheme launched by the Government of India in 2020 to provide medium to long-term debt financing for investment in post-harvest infrastructure and community farming assets.

Export Preparedness Index (EPI)

- The NITI Aayog, India's policy think tank, released its third 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022' report, assessing the export readiness of Indian states and UTs.
- The index focuses on policy, business ecosystem, export infrastructure, and performance.
- Coastal states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat stood out as top performers due to proactive export-friendly policies.
- Tamil Nadu ranked first with a score of 80.89, followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat.

Advance Authorisation Scheme

- The Advance Authorisation Scheme, initiated by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), aims to boost exports by enabling duty-free import of inputs used in producing export goods.
- The scheme relies on input-output norms established by Sector-specific Norms Committees, reducing the time and cost associated with norms fixation.

- Under this scheme, exporters can import materials without customs duty, tax, or compensation cess, given the export of finished goods within a specified timeframe.
- The scheme aligns with the DGFT's objective to enhance India's exports and competitiveness while supporting domestic production and innovation.

Urea Gold

- Prime Minister of India during an event in Rajasthan has launched 'Urea Gold', a new urea fertilizer coated with sulfur, aimed at improving soil quality, reducing farming costs, and enhancing environmental performance.
- The coating modifies urea's release pattern, enhancing nitrogen use efficiency and providing a steady nitrogen supply to plants, thereby lowering the need for frequent applications and saving on costs.
- It improves soil health, reduces nitrate leaching and runoff, boosts crop yield and quality, and contributes to environmental protection by mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

National Multidimensional Poverty Index

- The Niti Aayog's report 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress of Review 2023' was unveiled by its Vice-Chairman, revealing India's reduction in multidimensional poverty from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21, benefiting around 135 million people.
- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan saw significant poverty reduction.
- The report noted improvements in key indicators due to government initiatives and emphasized using the National MPI as a policy tool. However, regional disparities and gender inequalities persisted.

Circular economy

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC), consisting of 39 multinational corporations from various sectors. This initiative aims to promote a circular economy model, shifting from the linear "take-make-waste" paradigm to a sustainable approach.
- The circular economy emphasizes reusing, repairing, remanufacturing, and recycling resources to minimize waste and environmental impact.
- India has implemented policies like Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to promote waste management and sustainability.

Digital Payments Index (DPI)

- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India experienced a 13.24% surge in digital payments during the fiscal year 2022-23. This increase is attributed to substantial growth in payment infrastructure and performance across the nation.
- The Digital Payments Index (DPI), introduced by the RBI in 2021, benchmarks the digitization extent of payments. It encompasses indicators grouped into parameters such as payment enablers, infrastructure, performance, and consumer-centricity.
- The DPI's significance lies in evaluating India's digital payments progress, offering insights for policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders.

PM-PRANAM Scheme

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its nod to the PM-PRANAM scheme, allocated ₹3,70,128.7 crore over three years until March 2025, aiming to bolster sustainable agriculture through nutrient-based biofertilizers.
- PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Generation, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM) strives to maintain soil health with balanced fertilizer utilization.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Sagar Nidhi

- Scientists from Bangladesh and Mauritius have joined India's research vessel Sagar Nidhi in a collaborative ocean expedition under the Colombo Security Conclave framework. The joint effort aims to research ocean data, predict marine environment changes, and manage ocean parameter variations.
- The Colombo Security Conclave, involving India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh, and Seychelles as observers, focuses on maritime security, counterterrorism, and cybersecurity, addressing security concerns in the Indian Ocean.

Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23)

- The seventh edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) was held in Visakhapatnam from July 5 to 10, 2023. This exercise marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, which began in 2012.
- JIMEX aims to enhance operational procedures and interoperability between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.
- The exercises include tactical drills, weapon firings, helicopter operations, and various maritime warfare exercises. The participating vessels include INS Delhi, INS Kamorta, INS Shakti, maritime patrol aircraft, helicopters, and fighter aircraft.

SALVEX Exercise

- The 7th edition of the Indian Navy - US Navy (IN - USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise was held from June 26 to July 6, 2023, in Kochi.
- Participating ships included INS Nireekshak and USNS Salvor, along with Specialist Diving and EOD teams.
- The 10-day exercise encompassed joint training, enhancing interoperability, and sharing best practices in maritime salvage and EOD operations.

Cluster Munitions

- The US has recently announced that it will provide Ukraine with cluster munitions, a controversial type of weapon that has been banned by more than 100 countries.
- Cluster munitions are designed to cover a large area with explosive submunitions, or bomblets, that can destroy multiple targets at once.
- They are often used against enemy troops, vehicles, or infrastructure. However, they also pose a serious threat to civilians, both during and after the conflict.

Op Southern Readiness 2023

- INS Sunayna, an Indian naval ship, recently visited Seychelles as part of the multinational maritime security exercise known as Op Southern Readiness 2023.
- Op Southern Readiness 2023 is a joint initiative of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), aimed to enhance cooperation and counter-piracy while ensuring the safety and freedom of navigation in the region.
- The CMF is a coalition of 38 countries that work together to ensure maritime security and stability in international waters.
- The CMF's participation is voluntary and flexible, allowing each nation to decide how and when to join or leave the coalition. The CMF's headquarters are located in Bahrain.

Sagar Sampark

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has launched the indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) also known as 'SAGAR SAMPARK'.
- It is a land-based augmentation system that enhances the accuracy and reliability of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) by providing corrections to the GNSS signals.
- Its service will assist mariners in navigating safely and will minimize the possibility of collisions, groundings, and accidents in the port and harbour areas. This will result in smooth & effective movement of vessels.

Hwasong-18

- North Korea has tested its latest missile, the Hwasong-18, a three-stage solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). This marks North Korea's first solid-fueled ICBM, enhancing its nuclear retaliatory posture and offensive military strategy.
- Solid-fueled missiles offer rapid launch readiness and mobility, making them responsive to sudden orders. The three-stage design involves boost, midcourse, and terminal stages for precision targeting.
- ICBMs like Hwasong-18 are strategic weapons used for deterrence, capable of delivering nuclear or conventional warheads over long distances, targeting various military installations.

Exercise Northern/Interaction-2023

- China and Russia are conducting joint military drills in the Sea of Japan's central region as part of the Northern/Interaction 2023 exercise, aiming to enhance strategic cooperation and regional stability against security challenges.
- China and Russia have significantly increased joint military exercises, notably after Russia's Ukraine invasion, shaping the power dynamics in Northeast Asia and reflecting their strategic partnership's evolving significance.

Nomadic Elephant 2023

- The annual joint military exercise "Nomadic Elephant - 2023" between India and Mongolia was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- This exercise alternates between the two countries and aims to enhance military relations, interoperability, and camaraderie.
- The focus of this edition, the 15th in the series, is on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under a United Nations mandate.

Operation Broader Sword

- 'Operation Broader Sword': Collaborative effort between India and the US to counter the illicit shipment of drugs via international mail.
- This bilateral multi-agency operation focuses on curbing unauthorized pharmaceuticals, devices, and precursor chemicals. Expanding on the achievements of Operation Broadsword, it aims to prevent the trafficking of illegal medical products, enhancing enforcement measures.

SCIENCE

Euclid space telescope

- Euclid Telescope was developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) in collaboration with the Euclid Consortium. It was launched on July 1, 2023.
- Euclid is a wide-angle space telescope equipped with a 600-megapixel camera to record visible light, a near-infrared spectrometer, and a photometer. These instruments are used to determine the redshift of galaxies and measure their shapes.
- The primary objective of Euclid's mission is to study and understand dark energy and dark matter by accurately measuring the accelerating expansion of the universe. It aims to investigate the relationship between distance and redshift of galaxies to refine our understanding of dark energy's role in the universe's expansion.

OpenKylin

- China has launched the OpenKylin 1.0 computer operating system, a Linux-based system developed by a consortium of Chinese companies led by China Electronics Corp.
- OpenKylin aims to reduce China's reliance on US technology and offers a unique desktop environment called UKUI.
- The operating system manages hardware, software, and user interactions, addressing state security and privacy concerns.

Chandrayaan-3

- India has launched the third lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3, aiming to achieve a successful soft landing on the moon's South Pole. The previous attempt, Chandrayaan-2, faced a setback in 2019 due to a software glitch causing a loss of communication and control during the descent.
- Chandrayaan-3 is an adapted version of its predecessor, using the same orbiter from Chandrayaan-2, but featuring an improved lander and rover design with enhanced performance, more fuel, and thrusters for smoother landing.
- The mission's primary goal is to showcase India's lunar landing capabilities and operate a rover for scientific research on lunar features such as terrain, mineralogy, seismology, and thermal characteristics.

Bhashini

- Indian Prime Minister proposed sharing India's AI-based language platform, Bhashini, with Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) members to enhance communication and cooperation.
- Bhashini, launched in 2022, is an AI-based language platform designed to enable access to digital services and content in Indian languages.

Enterovirus

- Enterovirus infections have become a significant health concern in Europe, including countries like Croatia, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the UK, and Northern Ireland.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported cases, including severe complications and deaths among newborns, prompting concerns of a potential pandemic due to rapid deterioration.
- Enteroviruses, a group of viruses causing a range of infections in humans, have led to increased mortality, especially among newborns, raising alarm globally.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

- Indo-Japanese researchers have developed a novel treatment for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a genetic disease impacting only males.
- It is caused by the absence of the dystrophin enzyme, resulting in muscle degeneration and reduced life expectancy.
- Current treatments include gene therapy, steroids, and physical therapies, while this new approach offers promising hope for managing DMD symptoms.

STARFIRE

- The STARFIRE algorithm developed by scientists at Raman Research Institute (RRI) is a significant advancement in radio astronomy.
- It estimates and maps Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) signals in space, aiding future space-based astronomy missions to operate optimally amidst RFI, improving data quality.
- It analyzes RFI effects at different altitudes, enhancing mission planning and customization of antenna properties for improved sensitivity.
- STARFIRE's mathematical flexibility offers insights into cosmic signals, elevating space-based astronomy's potential to study the early Universe.

Scrub typhus

- The Kerala State Health Department has issued an alert about scrub typhus, a bacterial infection caused by *Orientia tsutsugamushi* transmitted through infected chiggers.
- Common symptoms include persistent high fever, severe headaches, rash, enlarged lymph nodes, and an eschar at the bite site.
- Scrub typhus can be fatal if untreated and has a mortality rate of 1% to 30%. Preventive measures include wearing protective clothing, using insect repellents, and maintaining hygiene to avoid chigger bites.
- No vaccine is currently available, so raising awareness, implementing preventive strategies, and ensuring prompt treatment is crucial in reducing the impact of scrub typhus.

Bacteriophages

- Scientists are exploring the potential of bacteriophages to cure infections caused by bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics.
- Bacteriophages, a type of virus targeting specific bacteria, show potential in combatting antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections. With advantages like specificity, adaptability, and safety, they offer an alternative to antibiotics.
- These viruses were discovered in the early 20th century and have applications in medicine, biotechnology, and food safety.

Aeolus wind satellite

- The European Space Agency (ESA) intentionally crashed its Aeolus wind satellite on Earth in July 2023 after exceeding its expected orbital life.
- Launched in 2018, Aeolus has collected valuable data on global wind patterns, improving weather forecasts, and climate models, and understanding atmospheric dynamics.
- The satellite measures wind profiles using the Atmospheric Laser Doppler Instrument (ALADIN), which emits ultraviolet laser light and measures Doppler shifts in backscattered signals to determine wind speed and direction.
- The mission's significance lies in its direct and continuous measurement of Earth's winds on a global scale, enhancing our knowledge of atmospheric circulation.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

- The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed a MERS-CoV case in Abu Dhabi.

- MERS-CoV is a severe respiratory illness, spreading from camels to humans and sometimes human-to-human. Originating in Saudi Arabia in 2012, it belongs to the same virus family as SARS and COVID-19.

Rare Disease

- The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, has granted an exemption from GST tax for cancer-fighting drugs, medicines addressing rare diseases, and food products meant for special medical purposes.
- A rare disease is a medical condition that affects a small portion of the population. These diseases often have limited research, understanding, and treatment options due to their uncommon occurrence.

SPORTS

AIFF Players of the Year 2023

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced the winners of the Player of the Year awards for 2022-23, with Lallianzuala Chhangte and Manisha Kalyan bagging the top honours in the men's and women's categories respectively.
- Lallianzuala Chhangte play for Mumbai City FC and the Indian national football team. He became the second player from Mizoram to win the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year award after Jeje Lalpekhlu in 2016.
- Manisha Kalyan plays for the Indian national football team, and won her second consecutive AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year award, becoming the third Indian female footballer to achieve this feat after Bala Devi and Bembem Devi.
- The other winners of the AIFF awards were Akash Mishra, who won the AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23, and Shilji Shaji, who won the AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23.

India won SAFF Championship 2023 title

- India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship 2023 title after defeating Kuwait in the final at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium. This victory marked India's 9th SAFF Championship trophy out of 14 editions.
- The tournament also recognized individual achievements:
 - Fairplay Award: Nepal football team
 - Best Goalkeeper: Anisur Rahman Zico
 - Highest Goal-Scorer: Sunil Chhetri (6 Goals)
 - Most Valuable Player: Sunil Chhetri
- The SAFF Football Championship is a prestigious biennial tournament that showcases the best of South Asian football. It is organized by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) to foster cooperation and development among its member associations.

Neeraj Chopra

- Neeraj Chopra, the javelin Olympic gold medalist, secured his second consecutive Diamond League title with a throw of 87.66m on June 30, triumphing despite cold weather and a muscle injury.
- Julian Weber of Germany secured second place with a best throw of 87.03m.
- The Lausanne Diamond League 2023 holds significance as a highly anticipated event in the world of athletics.

25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023

- India achieved its best-ever performance at the 25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand, concluding on July 16.
- The Indian contingent secured a total of 27 medals – 6 gold, 12 silver, and 9 bronze – placing third in the overall rankings behind China and Japan.
- Notable achievements included Jyothi Yarraji's gold in women's 100m hurdles and silver in women's 200m finals.
- Indian shot putters Abha Khatua and Manpreet Kaur contributed with silver and bronze, respectively, in women's shot put.
- In the 800m category, Indian runners secured silver medals in both men's and women's events.


Wimbledon tennis championships

- Carlos Alcaraz, a 20-year-old from Spain, secured his first Grand Slam title by defeating world number one Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon Men's singles final.
- Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova clinched her maiden Grand Slam title by triumphing over Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in the Women's singles final.
- The Wimbledon Tennis Championships, held in London, UK, is the oldest and most prestigious tennis tournament globally, occurring annually in late June and early July.
- It's one of the four Grand Slam events, played on natural grass courts.


Kuldeep Yadav

- Leg spinner Kuldeep Yadav made history as the fastest Indian bowler to secure 50 wickets in T20 Internationals, achieving this milestone in his 30th T20I match.
- He surpassed Yuzvendra Chahal's previous record of reaching 50 wickets in 34 matches.
- Overall, Kuldeep ranks as the third fastest to reach this milestone after Ajantha Mendis and Mark Adair.

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GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

Gambusia fish

- Andhra Pradesh has introduced Gambusia fish into various water bodies to combat mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue.
- Gambusia fish are known for their larvivorous nature, consuming mosquito larvae and exhibiting prolific breeding. While effective in controlling mosquito populations, concerns about their invasiveness and potential disruption to local ecosystems exist.
- IUCN classifies this fish as 'Least Concern'.

India's biggest natural arch

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) uncovered India's largest natural arch, formed around 184 million years ago, during a coal survey in Odisha's Sundargarh district.
- The GSI's state unit aims to designate this discovery in the Kanika range of Sundargarh as a Geo Heritage Site, potentially making it the country's largest natural arch with such recognition.
- Presently, India hosts two smaller natural arches, one in Tirumala hills and the other in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

OBITUARIES

Alan Arkin Passed away

- Oscar-winning American actor Alan Arkin, known for his roles in "Little Miss Sunshine" and iconic films like "The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming," has passed away at 89 in California, USA.
- His celebrated career included Academy Award nominations, a Tony Award for his Broadway work, and memorable performances in movies such as "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter" and "The In-Laws."

Namboothiri passed away

- Renowned artist Namboothiri, famous for his illustrations and sculptures, passed away at 97 in Kerala's Kottakkal. Born in 1925, he chaired Kerala Lalithakala Akademi and received the Raja Ravi Varma Award in 2003.
- His artistic influence extended to film, earning him the Kerala State Film Award for 'Uttarayanam' in 1974.



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APPOINTMENTS

DG Rakesh Pal

- Rakesh Pal has been appointed as the 25th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard.
- Rakesh Pal's distinguished service has been acknowledged with prestigious awards such as the Tatrakshak Medal in 2013 and the President Tatrakshak Medal in 2018, reflecting his exceptional contributions to the Indian Coast Guard.
- Established in 1977, the Indian Coast Guard operates under the Ministry of Defence, ensuring coastal security, conducting search and rescue operations, protecting the marine environment, and combating illegal activities at sea.

S. Phangnon Konyak

- S. Phangnon Konyak, a member of the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland, made history as the first woman from her state to preside over the Upper House.
- She was nominated along with three other women as Vice-Chairpersons by Rajya Sabha Chairman for the Monsoon Session.
- The panel of vice-chairpersons aids the Chairman and Deputy Chairman in effectively conducting Rajya Sabha business. They ensure smooth proceedings, maintain decorum, and can preside over sessions in the Chairman's absence.

Qu Dongyu

- Qu Dongyu has been re-elected unopposed for a second term as head of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), continuing his leadership in this role.
- Qu's extensive background in agricultural sciences and government positions has contributed to his continued stewardship of the FAO.
- The FAO, established in 1945 and headquartered in Rome, is a UN-specialized agency dedicated to combating hunger, enhancing nutrition, and ensuring global food security with a membership of 195 entities, including countries and the EU.

Kapil Sharma

- Zupree, the gaming platform owned by Cashgrail Private Limited, has named comedian and actor Kapil Sharma as its brand ambassador.
- Kapil Sharma will feature in a comprehensive ad campaign, including a new ad film, promoting Zupree's "India ka Apna Game" campaign. This campaign emphasizes the widespread appeal of Ludo.

Tushar Mehta

- The reappointment of Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General for India (SGI) has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet for a 3-year term.
- He becomes the Additional Solicitor General in 2014. He assumed the role of Solicitor General in 2018 and has received extensions twice.
- The SGI, subordinate to the Attorney General, holds the second-highest legal position in the country.

Brajendra Navnit

- The Government of India has granted a 9-month extension to Brajendra Navnit's tenure as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO until March 31, 2024.
- The extension is sanctioned by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister.

Sreenivasa Reddy

- Former Apple executive Sreenivasa Reddy to become Google's new India policy head, leveraging his manufacturing and policy expertise.
- He will replace Archana Gulati.

Ajit Agarkar

- Ajit Agarkar has been appointed by the Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI) as the new chairman of the Senior Men's Selection Committee, taking over from Chetan Sharma.
- With his extensive cricket background, Agarkar has represented India in Tests, ODIs, and T20Is, and also held key roles in coaching and selection.

K Rajaraman

- K Rajaraman, a senior IAS officer and Telecom Secretary from the 1989 batch has been chosen as the new Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) by the central government.
- His appointment is effective for 3 years, or until he turns 65, or until further directives.
- Rajaraman succeeds Injeti Srinivas, who held the position since July 2020 for a 3-year term.

Justice S K Singh

- Justice Sheo Kumar Singh has been appointed by the Central government as the Acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) following the retirement of Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel on July 6, 2023.
- The NGT, headquartered in New Delhi, was established by the National Green Tribunal Act 2010, to expeditiously address environmental cases, reflecting the constitutional right to a healthy environment.

Ruchira Kamboj

- Ruchira Kamboj, India's UN permanent ambassador, has taken the chair of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD), highlighting its pivotal role in addressing social challenges.
- India's membership in this session extends until 2027, with the theme focusing on "Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies" to advance the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and eradicate poverty.

Jim Skea

- Professor Jim Skea from the United Kingdom has been elected as the new chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a leading United Nations body on climate change science.
- With nearly 40 years of climate science experience, Skea will guide the IPCC through its 7th assessment cycle, marking the first time women candidates ran for this position.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established the IPCC.

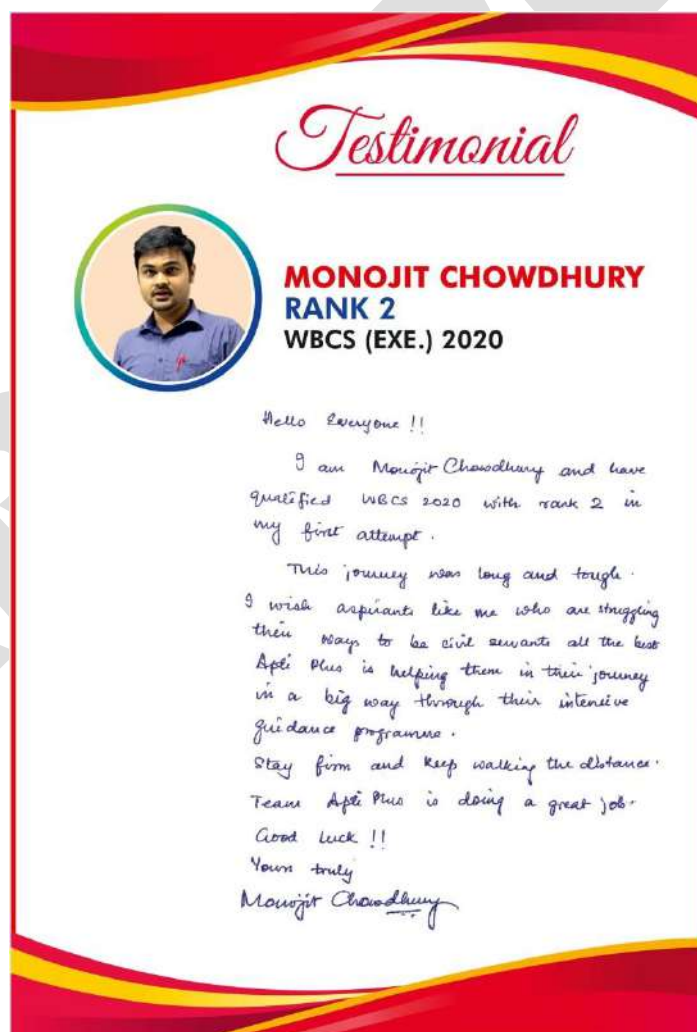
AWARDS

Byculla Station

- The historic Byculla Railway Station in Mumbai received the UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award for its meticulous restoration.
- The station's historical significance is closely tied to the introduction of the first locomotive in Mumbai in 1852.
- This award is part of UNESCO's efforts to promote exemplary heritage conservation practices in the Asia-Pacific region, emphasizing knowledge-sharing, capacity building, and youth engagement in safeguarding cultural heritage.

Mary Kom

- Boxing icon Mary Kom has been recognized as the Global Indian Icon of the Year at the UK-India Awards in Windsor.
- The award ceremony, organized by India Global Forum (IGF) as part of UK-India Week, also honoured filmmaker Shekhar Kapur with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to cinema across both nations.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Asteroid Day

- World Asteroid Day is observed on June 30 every year, the Day was designated by the United Nations. This date commemorates the anniversary of the Tunguska asteroid impact that occurred over Siberia on June 30, 1908.
- Asteroids are celestial rocks smaller than planets that orbit the sun. They vary in size, ranging from as small as 10 meters across to as large as 530 km in diameter. They are remnants of the formation of our solar system.

National Doctor's Day

- On July 1st, National Doctor's Day 2023 was observed throughout India, celebrating the theme "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands."
- This annual event honours the birth anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, born on July 1st, 1882, in Patna, British India.
- The first Indian Doctor's Day was held in 1991 to commemorate Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy's legacy.

World Zoonoses Day

- World Zoonoses Day is observed on June 6th each year, commemorating the historic 1885 vaccine administered by French biologist Louis Pasteur, known for pasteurization.
- The theme for World Zoonoses Day 2023 is "One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses, Stop the Spread".
- Zoonotic diseases are infections that can be transmitted between animals and humans. These diseases can spread through direct contact with infected animals, their waste, or contaminated environments. Some common examples of zoonotic diseases include rabies, influenza, Ebola, and COVID-19.

World Population Day

- World Population Day on July 11, 2023, is globally observed to raise awareness.
- The theme for this year is "Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities"

World Malala Day

- World Malala Day, observed on July 12th, honours Malala Yousafzai in Pakistan.
- She bravely advocated for girls' education despite the Taliban's rule banning it in 2007 and survived a Taliban assassination attempt in 2012. Malala continued her impactful advocacy, standing up for education and gender equality.

World Youth Skills Day

- World Youth Skills Day, observed on July 15th, highlights the importance of nurturing skills among global youth.
- The theme for 2023 is "Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future."
- The day was introduced by the UN in 2014 to emphasize skill development, education, and training for young people.

World Snake Day

- World Snake Day, observed on July 16, 2023, aimed to raise awareness and protect snakes in India.

- The event is crucial in dispelling misconceptions about snakes, sensitizing the public to their ecological importance, and reducing snake-human conflicts.
- Snakes are limbless, carnivorous reptiles with vital roles in ecosystems as predators and disease preventers. They provide economic benefits, and medicines, and contribute to plant reproduction.

Nelson Mandela International

- Nelson Mandela International Day 2023, celebrated on July 18, pays global tribute to Mandela on his birthday, following the theme "The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food and Solidarity."
- The day was first started in 2009, with the event beginning in New York, marking a yearly observance to honour Mandela's legacy and promote social causes.
- This year's theme emphasizes climate, food, and solidarity, reflecting Mandela's enduring impact.

World Chess Day

- World Chess Day is observed on July 20th annually, marking the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.
- This day commemorates the founding of FIDE by chess organizations from several countries, including Argentina, Czechoslovakia, France, and more.
- The celebration honours the strategic and intellectual aspects of chess, fostering a global appreciation for the game's rich history and competitive spirit.

International Moon Day

- International Moon Day observed on July 20th, marks the anniversary of Neil Armstrong's historic landing on the Moon during the Apollo 11 mission.
- This day serves as a reminder of humanity's achievements in space exploration and encourages international collaboration in this endeavour.

World Brain Day

- World Brain Day observed on July 22nd annually, serves as a global initiative to raise awareness about preventing, treating, and rehabilitating brain disabilities.
- The 2023 theme, "Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind," underscores the importance of inclusivity.
- Initiated by the World Federation of Neurology, the Day emphasizes the significance of equitable brain health care worldwide.

National Broadcasting Day

- National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23, commemorating the first-ever broadcast by the Radio Club of Bombay in June 1923, marking a milestone in entertainment and news accessibility.
- The All India Radio (AIR) was officially established on July 23, 1927, after the foundation laid by the Indian Broadcasting Company.

Kargil Vijay Diwas

- Kargil Vijay Diwas, observed on July 26th annually, marks India's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil War.
- The Kargil conflict stemmed from tensions over control of the Siachen Glacier and escalated after Pakistan's covert intrusion. Operation Vijay was launched by India to drive out intruders, involving over 200,000 Indian troops.
- The day symbolizes India's strength in defending territorial sovereignty, pays tribute to soldiers' sacrifices, and signifies the nation's commitment to peace while being prepared to protect its borders.

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

- The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, observed on July 26th annually, was established by UNESCO in 2015 to raise awareness about the importance of mangrove ecosystems and advocate for their sustainable management.
- Mangroves play a vital role in supporting coastal communities, biodiversity, and protection against natural disasters.
- The day aims to highlight the ecological significance of mangroves and the threats they face, such as shrimp farming, deforestation, and urban development.

World Nature Conservation Day

- World Nature Conservation Day, observed on July 28th, is a global awareness initiative focused on the preservation of nature.
- In 2023, the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet" underscores the vital role of forests in supporting both human communities and the environment.
- This day serves as a reminder of the importance of sustainable practices to ensure the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants.

World Hepatitis Day

- World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on July 28 to raise awareness about the global impact of viral hepatitis. The event focuses on prevention, testing, treatment, and supporting those affected by hepatitis.
- The theme for World Hepatitis Day 2023 is "One life, one liver," emphasizing awareness of viral hepatitis.
- Hepatitis poses significant health risks, including liver cirrhosis and cancer, leading to substantial mortality rates and economic burdens on healthcare systems. Chronic hepatitis also contributes to social stigma and discrimination, affecting individuals' quality of life.

International Tiger Day

- International Tiger Day is observed on July 29th and raises awareness about tiger conservation and the challenges they face. The day emphasizes the need to protect tigers from habitat loss, poaching, and illegal trade.
- The dwindling population of tigers, declining by 93% from historic numbers, underscores the urgency of conservation efforts.
- The day highlights tigers' role in maintaining ecological balance and the need for united efforts to ensure their survival.

World Day Against Trafficking

- World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is recognized on July 30th and serves as an annual occasion to raise awareness about the plight of trafficking victims and advocate for their rights.
- The theme for 2023, "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind," highlights the importance of addressing and assisting all those affected by trafficking.
- This day aims to combat human trafficking and ensure a better future for those vulnerable to its horrors.

BOOSTER DOSE

- Csaba Korosi, the President of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- The Maharashtra government has expressed its inability to grant “additional reservations” to transgender persons in education and public employment, as per a clarification sought by the Bombay High Court.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) listed the popular sugar substitute aspartame as “possibly carcinogenic to humans”.
- A new study published in the journal Nature found that Ocean release naturally produced short-lived halogens like chlorine, bromine and iodine which contribute to 8-10 % cooling of this planet.
- Senegal signed the Just Energy Transition Partnership deal, announced on June 22, 2023, after South Africa, Indonesia & Vietnam to fasten the process of providing electricity access to all its citizens by 2025.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is developing a set of rules for financial influencers, or 'finfluencers', who use social media to share their opinions and experiences on money and investment matters.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) celebrated its 75th Foundation Day on July 1, 2023, with a grand ceremony that was graced by the President of India.
- The Union finance ministry announced that the gross GST revenue collected in June 2023 was Rs 1, 61,497 crore.
- Indian Naval ships INS Rana and INS Sumedha undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with French Navy ship FS Surcouf in the Bay of Bengal on 30th June 2023.
- India added more than 1000 species of flora and fauna to its database in 2022. In Kerala state, a maximum number of new animals and plants were discovered.
- The National Anti-Doping Agency, India (NADA India) and the South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU aims to enhance regional cooperation and coordination in the fight against doping in sports.
- The Secretary of the Department of Consumer Affairs strongly recommended internet platforms not to involve in unfair trade practices by introducing dark patterns into their web dashboards to manipulate customer choice and breach consumer rights.
- The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is a UN agency that oversees the exploitation of the ocean floor. It is currently working on a set of rules that would allow countries and companies to mine the seabed for minerals and metals that are essential for green technologies.
- Researchers from Bioversity International have devised a tool named Diversity for Restoration (D4R) for promoting restoration programmes in India.
- International Buddhist Confederation, on the occasion of Guru Purnima day 2023, organise a programme at the National Museum, Delhi, a place where Sakhyamuni's Holy relic is enshrined.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Bharat 6G Alliance, a platform to bring together stakeholders from academia, industry, government and civil society to foster innovation and collaboration in the development of 6G technology.
- The 80th session of the International Maritime Organisation’s Maritime Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) was organized on 3rd July 2023.
- The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress in New Delhi.
- The Orkney Islands' consideration of separating from the United Kingdom (U.K.) and becoming a self-governing territory, potentially under Norway.
- In more than 125,000 years, the 4th of July 2023 was recorded as the hottest day on Planet.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 200 million in additional financing for the Rajasthan secondary towns development sector project to improve water supply and sanitation systems.

- Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has been invited as the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade in France.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar-Tanzania was signed between India and Zanzibar- Tanzania.
- In Himachal Pradesh, at least 60 sheep and goats died and another 250 fell sick due to a viral disease named Peste Des Petits Ruminants.
- The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi handed over Honey Bee-Boxes and Toolkits to 130 beneficiaries on 4th July 2023, as part of the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana' of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The 3rd edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) portal was launched by the Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). The portal showcases the performance of States, Union Territories (UTs), and selected Central Ministries in delivering e-Governance services to citizens.
- A state of emergency was declared in Peru's Moquegua region due to the activity of the Ubinas volcano.
- The Election Commission of India and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Panama City to establish the institutional framework for their ongoing cooperation in the field of election management and administration.
- The Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) work on an early warning system called the 'farmers distress index' is in the final stages and the index will be handed over to the central government in the next two-three months.
- A team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Science has made a breakthrough discovery that could explain the origin of the anomalous "gravity hole" in the Indian Ocean.
- China has launched its computer operating system, named OpenKylin. The system is designed to reduce China's reliance on US technology, and it was developed by a consortium of Chinese companies led by China Electronics Corp.
- SCORES platform is an online system that enables investors to lodge and track their complaints against companies and market intermediaries.
- The Katra-Banihal route, which will link the Kashmir valley with the rest of India, is nearing completion as around 95% of the work has been done, according to a statement by the Northern Railways.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently issued a circular to all banks and card issuers, asking them to enable customers to choose among different card networks such as Visa, Mastercard, RuPay, etc. when they apply for a credit or debit card. This move is aimed at enhancing customer convenience and promoting competition among card networks.
- In a historic development, soldiers from the Punjab Regiment participated in the Bastille Day Parade in Paris, France after 107 years.
- A new initiative by the Centre aims to empower women at the grassroots level by setting up women-only courts in villages. These courts, called Nari Adalats, will act as an alternative forum for resolving disputes related to domestic violence, property rights and other issues that affect women in a patriarchal society.
- Israel's parliament, the Knesset, approves a bill that aims to limit the oversight powers of the Supreme Court.
- At the 3rd G20 Culture Working Group, In Hampi, Karnataka, Guinness World Record was set for the largest display of Lambani items.
- Peru is facing a health crisis as more people are diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare condition that causes the immune system to attack the nerves and sometimes leads to paralysis.
- The 50th GST Council meeting approved the issuance of an order to make an e-way bill compulsory for the intra-state movement of gold, gold jewellery and precious stones.
- The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution against Religious Hatred, which was presented by Pakistan on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

- India approved plans to buy 26 Rafale fighter aircraft and three Scorpene class conventional submarines for the Indian Navy from France. The proposals were approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).
- Archaeologists found a 3,000-year-old sealed corridor at Chavin de Huantar, a 900 BC UNESCO World Heritage site in Peru.
- A new report by the World Health Organization found that Aspartame, a common sweetener in soda and other beverages, may increase the risk of liver cancer.
- Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar led a three-member Election Commission of India (ECI) delegation to Cartagena, Colombia to attend the 11th meeting of the Executive Board of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB).
- Italy is planning to buy German-made Leopard 2 Battle Tanks to boost its ground forces in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- In a recently agreed Cultural Property Agreement between USA and India, both countries agreed to work towards preventing the illegal trafficking of cultural artefacts. A total of 105 stolen cultural artefacts would be transported to India from the USA.
- A study in the New England Journal of Medicine reports promising clinical trial results for the Alzheimer's drug donanemab, an antibody targeting the protein amyloid-beta, known to accumulate in the brains of patients and contribute to neuron damage.
- The Coal Ministry of India has announced a plan to invest INR 6,000 crore in coal gasification projects, which can help reduce the country's dependence on imported natural gas, methanol, ammonia, and other products. The plan aims to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030.
- In Andhra Pradesh, on the Rudragiri hillock, a 1300 AD Kakatiya era Mural was found superimposed on prehistoric Mesolithic-era artwork. This Ramayana mural depicts the fierce battle scene between the Vanara brothers Vali and Sugriva.
- The state of Andhra Pradesh has recently released millions of Gambusia fish in many water bodies of the state in a bid to control malaria, dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases.
- The United Nations' report on women's empowerment and gender parity reveals a concerning reality where only 1% of women worldwide live in countries that have achieved both high women's empowerment and gender parity.
- The first-ever Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on July 17.
- In a major setback for the rural housing sector, 23 states and union territories have lost 1.44 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme to Uttar Pradesh, as they failed to meet the deadline for completing the construction of the allotted units.
- India achieved a remarkable milestone in its immunisation programme by reaching an all-time high of 93% coverage for the third dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT3) vaccine in 2022, according to the latest report by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The European Union (EU) has enacted a new Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR) to prevent foreign subsidies that impair competition in the EU market.
- A new agreement has been signed by Indian Navy with the Ministry of Culture to revive/rejuvenate the 2,000-Year-Old Shipbuilding Technique and construction of the stitched ship. This technique is also known as Tankai's method or the "stitched shipbuilding method."
- Julius Robert Oppenheimer is known as the "Father of the Atomic Bomb" for his role in organising the Manhattan Project, the research and development effort that resulted in the first nuclear weapons.
- The "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for the Livestock Sector was launched by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. The scheme was introduced to revitalize the rural economy by empowering Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in the Livestock sector.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is exploring the possibility of allowing pension funds to invest in sovereign green bonds (SGBs), which are issued by the government to finance projects that have environmental benefits.

- As of June 2023, India has 176.49 GW of renewable energy capacity installed as informed by Union Power Minister R. K. Singh.
- The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023, proposes to pay a monthly amount to every eligible person who is not earning a regular wage or receiving a pension. The bill also outlines the criteria for eligibility, the sources of funding, and the mechanism for implementation of the scheme.
- The Union Social Justice Ministry has introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order and include two synonyms for the Mahar community in Chhattisgarh to the State's Scheduled Castes list.
- China successfully carried out a trial test on the main engine of the Long March-10.
- The Indian Government's Smart Cities Mission has extended its deadline to 2024, providing cities with more time to complete their projects. As part of their efforts to display their accomplishments, the 100 cities involved in the initiative are implementing a "labelling strategy."
- The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, which was passed by the State Assembly on July 24, is the first legislation of its kind in India. It covers all platform-based gig workers who are residents of Rajasthan or work in the State for at least 90 days a year.
- The Union Government introduced the J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha to open the way for the reservation of seats for Kashmiri Pandits and migrants from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) received criticism from Kashmir's regional parties.
- An attempted coup in Niger, a West African nation, where mutinous soldiers claimed to have ousted President Mohamed Bazoum.
- Semicon India 2023 is a premier demonstration of India's chip design innovation and semiconductor prowess. Prime Minister inaugurated the event at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The government is selling a 5.36% stake in Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) through an offer-for-sale (OFS). The government currently holds a 78.20% stake in RVNL.
- INDIAai and Meta India have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to create a framework for collaboration and cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) celebrated its 75th Foundation Day on July 1, 2023, with a grand ceremony that was graced by the President of India.
- Markarian 421 is a supermassive black hole that is located about 400 million light-years away from Earth. It is one of the brightest sources of gamma rays and X-rays in the sky because it has a powerful jet of high-energy particles that is pointing directly towards Earth.
- The Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) was launched by the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs. The initiatives aim to enhance the efficiency and liquidity of the corporate debt markets.
- The official merger of Project Tiger and Project Elephant was announced on June 23, 2023. A new division called 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division' was established under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Leg spinner Kuldeep Yadav made history as the fastest Indian bowler to secure 50 wickets in T20 Internationals, achieving this milestone in his 30th T20I match.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways hosted the third edition of the 'Global India Maritime Summit' on July 18, 2023, in Mumbai.
- Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal launched 'Bharat Dal' at Rs 60/kg (1 kg pack) and Rs 55/kg (30 kg pack), offering subsidised chana dal to the public.
- World Mining Congress 2023 held in Brisbane, Australia.
- Twitter Launches New 'X' Logo to Replace Blue Bird.
- Iceland is the world's most peaceful country according to the 2023 Global Peace Index.
- Chennai's Greater City Police introduced India's first 'Police Drone Unit' to enhance aerial surveillance and swiftly identify criminal incidents.
- The National Law University (NLU), Delhi launched Eklavya – a 'Research Affiliate' programme, under its new academic initiatives.

- The Rajasthan Government has announced the minimum income guarantee to provide social security to citizens of Rajasthan.
- Ker Puja is a Hindu religious festival and a state holiday in the north-eastern state of Tripura celebrated every year in the month of July.
- The Government of Odisha cabinet approved the inclusion of the Kui language in the 8th schedule.
- The Assam government has decided to ban packaged drinking water bottles of less than one litre from October 2, 2023.
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (CM) Shri Bhupesh Baghel launched an ambitious rural housing scheme named Gramin Awas Nyay Yojana
- The government of Himachal Pradesh (HP) has launched "Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojana", a collateral-free loan scheme for women that will empower them.
- The government of Rajasthan introduces India's first gig workers' rights bill 2023.
- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) inked a \$200 million loan to extend the Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project, aimed at boosting water supply, sanitation, urban resilience, and heritage preservation in selected towns.
- Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik becomes the 2nd longest-serving CM in India after replacing West Bengal's Jyoti Basu.
- The World Bank has approved USD 1.5 billion (around ₹12,600 crore) in financing to accelerate India's low-carbon energy infrastructure.
- Bank of India becomes 1st bank to offer Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme.
- World Bank Approved USD 200 Million Loan To Increase Renewable Energy in Himachal Pradesh.
- Punjab National Bank Launched India's First Virtual Branch in Metaverse.
- RBI Cancelled Licences Of 2 Cooperative Banks - Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank & Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank due to Inadequate Capital.
- Tamil Nadu's electronics exports nearly tripled in one year to \$5.37 billion in FY23 from \$1.86 billion in the previous year.
- By 2075, India's economy will overtake the United States to become the second-largest in the world: Goldman Sachs.
- The first-ever "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for the livestock sector has been developed to revitalize the rural economy by leveraging MSMEs.
- Adani group to build the world's largest 20 GW hybrid renewable energy park in Gujarat.
- Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte has surprised the political arena by revealing his resignation, ending his nearly 13-year tenure as the longest-serving leader in the Netherlands' history.
- First-ever IIT campus to be established outside of India- MoU for setting up IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar-Tanzania.
- Ajay Bhatnagar was appointed as special director of CBI.
- The name of the full moon in July is Buck Moon or Thunder Moon.
- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission serves as the regulatory body for all trading activities within India's carbon market.
- T Kameshwar Rao was appointed as the Chief Financial Officer of SBI.
- Lt.Gen MU Nair appointed as National Cybersecurity Coordinator.
- Under Foreign Trade Policy 4 new Towns of Export Excellence (TEE) have been identified with the existing 39 TEE. The new Towns added are Faridabad Moradabad and Mirzapur Varanasi.
- Swarnima scheme aims to provide social and financial security for women entrepreneurs from backward classes.
- Indore Municipal Corporation became the first urban body to get EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) credit for recycling banned single-use plastic items.
- India wins the 34th International Biology Olympiad held in UAE.
- Indian women's team defeated Spain to win the Torneo del Centenario hockey tournament.
- Amazon India to open a first-ever floating store in Dal Lake.
- Ganeshan Kannabiran was appointed as the new Director of NAAC.

- Professor Thalappil Pradeep won Eni Award for scientific research.
- Sei Lankan origin author Shankari Chandran won Miles Franklin literary award for the book Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens.
- Narendra Modi awarded with 41st Lokmanya Tilak National Award.
- Madhya Pradesh to launch India's first online gaming academy named 'MP State Esports Academy'.
- India ranked 2nd after China at ISSF junior world championship held in South Korea. India got 17 medals in total.
- Subhankar Sharma is associated with golf.
- Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark has won Tour De France bicycle racing championship.
- 83rd Grandmaster of India- Aditya Samant
- Handball Association of India to get official recognition from Union Sports Ministry.
- Nagaland officially declared a Lumpy Skin disease-positive state. The disease is poxviral in cattle.



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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Which of the following city to be renamed as Jaswantgarh?

Wellington
Lawrencepur
Lansdowne
Dalhousie

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C) Lansdowne. The Lansdowne Cantonment Board in Uttarakhand plans to rename the hill station to Jaswantgarh in tribute to Sino-Indian War 1962 hero Rifleman Jaswant Singh. Originally called Kalundanda, the town was named Lansdowne after Lord Henry Lansdowne in 1890.

Q2. Which of the following ministries has recently launched the eSARAS mobile App?

The Union Ministry of Rural Development
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Ministry of Science and Technology
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answer: A

Explanation: The correct answer is A) the eSARAS mobile App and its launch by the Union Ministry of Rural Development under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The eSARAS mobile App seems to be an initiative aimed at supporting the marketing of products created by women from Self-help Groups (SHGs).

Q3. Which of the following state has launched "Mo Jungle Jami Yojana"?

Gujarat
Madhya Pradesh
Odisha
Jharkhand

Answer: C

Explanation: The Odisha government introduced the "Mo Jungle Jami Yojana" in

July 2023, to implement the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 effectively. This initiative will cover 32,000 villages in 32 districts, benefiting around 7.4 lakh tribal families by recognizing their forest land rights.

Q4. Where is the Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) held in July 2023?

Mumbai
Chennai
Kolkata
Visakhapatnam

Answer: D

Explanation: D) Visakhapatnam. The seventh edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) took place from July 5th to July 10th, 2023. This exercise was hosted by the Indian Navy and was conducted in the vicinity of Visakhapatnam, India. The JIMEX exercises are aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation and interoperability between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

Q5. What is the concept of Input Tax Credit (ITC) under Goods and Services Tax (GST)?

It refers to a tax imposed on imports
It is the additional tax charged on luxury items
It allows businesses to claim credit for taxes paid on inputs used in production
It is the tax on the final sale of goods only

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C) It allows businesses to claim credit for taxes paid on inputs used in production. Input Tax Credit (ITC) is a mechanism that allows businesses to claim credit for the GST paid on the purchase of goods and services used in the production process. This credit can be set off against the GST liability on the final sale of goods and services.



Q6. Which of the following country has won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship 2023 title?

- Bangladesh
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- India

Answer: D

Explanation: India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship 2023 title by defeating Kuwait in a penalty shootout in the final held at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium. This victory allowed India to secure their 9th SAFF Championship trophy out of 14 editions.

Q7. Which of the following organization has released the World Investment Report 2023?

- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The World Investment Report 2023 was released by UNCTAD, which is an agency of the United Nations dealing with trade, investment, and development issues.

Q8. Which of the following country has invited the Prime Minister of India as the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade?

- Germany
- Italy
- Russia
- France

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C). Indian Prime Minister was invited as Guest of Honour at Bastille Day Parade in France. 14 July is celebrated as the National Day in France also known as Bastille Day as this day is the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille in 1789 during the French Revolution. French Revolution (1789-late 1790s) was

marked by radical political changes, ending monarchy and feudalism due to discontent with aristocracy and King Louis XVI's policies.

Q9. World Zoonoses Day is celebrated every year on July 6th. The theme for World Zoonoses Day 2023 is;

- One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses, Stop the Spread
- Environmental Conservation and Sustainability
- Global Health Awareness and Access to Healthcare
- Global Health, Health Equity, Healthcare Access

Answer: A

Explanation: World Zoonoses Day, observed on July 6th, commemorates Louis Pasteur's pioneering rabies vaccination. The 2023 theme, "One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses, Stop the Spread" underscores unified efforts to halt zoonotic diseases' transmission for both human and animal welfare.

Q10. Recently the World Health Organisation (WHO) listed "aspartame" as possibly carcinogenic to humans. What is aspartame primarily used as?

- A preservative in canned foods
- A colouring agent in beverages
- A low-calorie artificial sweetener
- A flavour enhancer in dairy products

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C) A low-calorie artificial sweetener. Aspartame is primarily used as a low-calorie artificial sweetener to replace sugar in various food and beverage products. It provides sweetness without the caloric content of sugar, making it a popular choice for people looking to reduce their calorie intake while still enjoying sweet-tasting foods and drinks.

Q11. Which of the following Ministry has released a report on Performance Grading Index 2.0?

- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Finance



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Education

Answer: D

Explanation: The Ministry of Education has introduced Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs in the 2021-22 academic year. This index evaluates the Indian education system, encompassing schools, teachers, and students, to drive improvements and evidence-based policies for quality education.

Q12. Which of the following organization release the Global Peace Index (GPI)?

United Nations (UN)
World Health Organization (WHO)
Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C) Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP). The Global Peace Index (GPI) report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace, which evaluates and ranks countries based on their levels of peace and security.

Q13. What is OpenKylin?

A New Smartphone Brand
China's Computer Operating System
An AI-powered Virtual Assistant
A Space Exploration Program

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is B) China's Computer Operating System. OpenKylin refers to the computer operating system developed and launched by China.

Q14. Which organization produces the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report?

World Bank
United Nations (UN)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

Answer: D

Explanation: The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was developed by the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The MPI is an innovative way of assessing poverty that goes beyond just measuring income or monetary aspects. It considers multiple dimensions of poverty, such as health, education, and standard of living, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of poverty's complexities.

Q15. What is Nano Urea?

A type of nanotechnology used in electronics
A nanoscale material used in sunscreen products
A revolutionary form of urea fertilizer
A new type of fuel made from nanomaterials

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C) A revolutionary form of urea fertilizer. Nano Urea is an innovative form of urea fertilizer that is designed to enhance nutrient efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and increase crop yields through the use of nanotechnology.

Q16. Which of the following state government has recommended the inclusion of the Kui language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India?

Bihar
Punjab
Jharkhand
Odisha

Answer: D

Explanation: The Odisha state cabinet has approved the inclusion of Kui, a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha tribe in hilly and forested areas, into India's 8th schedule of the Constitution. The language, also known as Kandh, Khondi, and others, has about 1 million speakers and is closely linked to Gondi and Kuvi. Its vulnerable status is noted by UNESCO.

Q17. Which organization has released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs?

Ministry of External Affairs

Reserve Bank of India
NITI Aayog
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: C

Explanation: The 3rd edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for India's States/UTs released by NITI Aayog, evaluates export readiness through comprehensive analysis. It emphasizes district-level export hubs, aiming to foster competitive federalism and cooperation for sustainable economic growth. The EPI uses four pillars to assess policy, business and export ecosystems, and actual export performance.

Q18. The India-Mongolia joint military exercise "Nomadic Elephant - 2023" was held at;

New Delhi, India
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Gobi Desert, Mongolia
Jaipur, India

Answer: B

Explanation: The India-Mongolia joint military exercise "Nomadic Elephant - 2023" was conducted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This annual exercise aims to strengthen military relations, promote interoperability, and foster camaraderie between the Indian and Mongolian armies through platoon-level training activities. It signifies the shared commitment to regional security and bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

Q19. Who won the final of the men's singles at the Wimbledon tennis championships 2023?

Novak Djokovic
Rafael Nadal
Roger Federer
Carlos Alcaraz

Answer: D

Explanation: Carlos Alcaraz, a 20-year-old from Spain, celebrated winning his first Grand Slam title by defeating Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon men's singles final in London. In the women's singles final, Czech Republic's

Marketa Vondrousova won her maiden Grand Slam title by defeating Tunisia's Ons Jabeur.

Q20. What is the term for an asteroid that enters Earth's atmosphere and burns up, creating a bright streak of light in the sky?

Meteoroid
Comet
Meteorite
Meteor

Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer is D) Meteor. World Asteroid Day is observed on June 30 every year. It is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about asteroids, and the potential risks they pose to Earth. When an asteroid (meteoroid) enters Earth's atmosphere and burns up, it produces a bright streak of light known as a meteor or a shooting star. If a fragment of the meteoroid survives and lands on Earth, it is called a meteorite.

Q21. What are "dark patterns" in the context of user experience?

Design patterns that use dark colour schemes for aesthetics
User interface elements that prioritize user convenience
Design techniques that manipulate users into taking unintended actions
Patterns used in security interfaces to enhance user safety

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C) Design techniques that manipulate users into taking unintended actions. Dark patterns are user interface design choices that intentionally lead users to perform actions they might not have intended or desired, often for the benefit of the company behind the interface.

Q22. Which of the Country has tested the Hwasong-18 missile?

Japan
Russia
China
North Korea



Answer: D

Explanation: North Korea conducted a test of its newly developed Hwasong-18, a three-stage solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

Q23. When is International Tiger Day celebrated?

June 15th

July 29th

August 12th

September 5th

Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is B) International Tiger Day, observed on July 29th, raises awareness about tiger conservation due to their declining population in the wild. Originating from the 2010 St. Petersburg Tiger Summit, it underscores the need for global cooperation to combat threats like habitat loss and poaching. The day highlights conservation efforts, promotes ecological balance, and encourages actions to safeguard these iconic big cats.

Q24. Who introduced the Digital Payments Index (DPI)?

Ministry of Finance

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is B) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported a 13.24% increase in digital payments during the fiscal year 2022-23, attributing it to enhanced payment infrastructure and performance. The Digital Payments Index (DPI), introduced by RBI in January 2021, uses indicators categorized into parameters such as payment enablers, infrastructure, performance, and consumer-centricity, with varying weights. It measures the extent of digital payment digitization in India based on these indicators.

Q25. On Hul Diwas, Prime Minister remembered the Santhal rebellion and sacrifice made by Adiwasis in their fight

against British colonial authorities. The Santhal Rebellion was a significant indigenous uprising that took place in which region of India?

Punjab

Kerala

Bihar and Bengal

Gujarat

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C) Bihar and Bengal. The Santhal Rebellion, also known as the Santhal Hool, was a significant indigenous uprising that took place in the regions of Bihar and Bengal (now present-day Jharkhand and West Bengal) in the mid-19th century. This rebellion was led by the Santhal tribal community against the exploitative practices of landlords, moneylenders, and the British administration in the area. In Jharkhand, June 30 is celebrated as Hul Diwas, it marks the beginning of the Santhal rebellion.

Q26. What is the purpose of the World ID generated by Worldcoin?

To match a person's eyes with their facial features

To connect the person to their social media profiles

To verify if the person is an AI bot or a real human being

To track the person's location in real-time

Answer: C

Explanation: OpenAI CEO Sam Altman introduced Worldcoin, a cryptocurrency initiative, aiming to establish a novel digital identity through biometric verification, co-founded with the research group behind ChatGPT. Worldcoin's key innovation, the World ID, is generated by scanning individuals' irises with an orb, encrypting the image on a blockchain network, ensuring privacy and enabling access to services. The World ID generated by Worldcoin aims to verify whether a person is an AI bot or a real human being.

Q27. What is the main principle of the circular economy model?



Maximizing linear production and consumption
Reducing resource efficiency
Reusing, recycling, and regenerating resources
Encouraging planned obsolescence

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is c). The circular economy model focuses on reducing waste and promoting sustainability by designing systems that prioritize reusing, recycling, and regenerating resources. It aims to create a closed-loop system that minimizes environmental impact and maximizes resource efficiency compared to the traditional linear economy.

Q28. What is the purpose of the UK-India Young Professional Scheme?

To promote cultural exchange between the UK and India
To provide scholarships for higher education
To facilitate international trade agreements
To offer work opportunities for young professionals between the UK and India

Answer: D

Explanation: The UK launched the UK-India Young Professional Scheme, allowing Indians aged 18-30 with graduate-level qualifications to apply for two-year work and residence visas. As part of the UK-India Mobility and Migration Partnership, the scheme aims to create bilateral opportunities, offering 3,000 places for 2023, requiring applicants to meet financial, educational, and visa-related criteria, and travel to the UK within six months of application.

Q29. Which of the following railway station has received UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award?

Byculla Station
Howrah Station
Bhopal Station
Pune Station

Answer: A

Explanation: Mumbai's Byculla Railway Station received UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award after extensive

restoration by 'I Love Mumbai' NGO, with architects Abha Lamba and Minal Bajaj. The award underscores the station's historical importance and cultural heritage conservation contribution.

Q30. What are ghost particles?

Spirits from the afterlife
Subatomic particles that are difficult to detect
Particles that emit visible light
A type of dark matter

Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is B) Subatomic particles that are difficult to detect. Ghost particles, also known as neutrinos, are subatomic particles that have very little mass and no electric charge. They interact weakly with matter, making them challenging to detect and often referred to as "ghost particles."

Q31. Gambusia fish are commonly known for their ability to:

Produce bioluminescence
Generate electric shocks
Control mosquito populations
Adapt to extreme cold temperatures

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is c). Gambusia fish, also known as mosquitofish, are widely recognized for their role in controlling mosquito populations by feeding on mosquito larvae and pupae in water bodies.

Q32. In the Henley Passport Index for 2023, what is India's ranking in terms of global passport power?

15
47
80
105

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is c). In the Henley Passport Index for 2023, India ranks 80th in terms of global passport power, indicating the number of countries Indian



passport holders can visit without a visa or with a visa on arrival.

Q33. What is the primary cause of Sickle Cell Anaemia?

Bacterial infection

Genetic mutation

Vitamin deficiency

Environmental exposure

Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is B) Genetic mutation. Sickle Cell Anaemia is caused by a genetic mutation in the haemoglobin gene, leading to the production of abnormal haemoglobin known as haemoglobin S (HbS). This mutated haemoglobin causes red blood cells to become rigid and take on a sickle shape, leading to various health complications.

Q34. Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrated on which date?

June 26

July 26

August 15

September 26

Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is b). Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on July 26 every year to commemorate the success of the Indian armed forces in the Kargil War of 1999.

Q35. Neeraj Chopra is known for excelling in which sports event?

Shot put

Discus throw

Javelin throw

High jump

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C). Recently Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra secured his second consecutive Diamond League title in Lausanne, Switzerland, by throwing 87.66m. The Lausanne Diamond League is a highly anticipated event in the athletics calendar.

Q36. Who is the first woman Member of the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland to preside over the Rajya Sabha?

Phangnon Konyak

Mary Kom

Grace Dangmei

Asem Roja

Answer: A

Explanation: S. Phangnon Konyak, a Rajya Sabha member from Nagaland, achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first woman from her state to preside over the Upper House of Parliament. She was nominated along with three other women Parliamentarians as Vice-Chairpersons for the Monsoon Session by Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Q37. Which of the following state Government has introduced the Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023?

Gujarat

Rajasthan

Karnataka

Kerala

Answer: B

Explanation: The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, the first of its kind in India, was passed by the State Assembly. It aims to provide registration, social security, and welfare benefits to gig workers in Rajasthan, covering aggregators and primary employers through a Welfare Board and funding mechanism.

Q38. What evidence supports the existence of dark matter?

Gravitational lensing

Solar flares

Radioactive decay

Magnetic fields

Answer: A

Explanation: The correct answer is A) Gravitational lensing. Gravitational lensing occurs when the presence of a massive object, like a galaxy or a galaxy cluster, bends the path of light from background objects, causing them to appear distorted. The observed



distortions are consistent with the presence of unseen mass, which is attributed to dark matter.

Q39. What is the main function of bacteriophages?

- To enhance bacterial growth and reproduction
- To serve as a food source for bacteria
- To cause bacterial infections in humans
- To infect and destroy bacteria

Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer is D). The main function of bacteriophages is to infect and destroy bacteria. Bacteriophages are viruses that specifically target and infect bacteria, using them as hosts for their replication. This process ultimately leads to the destruction of the bacterial host as new phage particles are produced.

Q40. How are transactions verified and added to the blockchain in a cryptocurrency network?

- Through government agencies
- By banks and financial institutions
- Through a decentralized network of computers using consensus mechanisms
- Through physical paperwork

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C) Through a decentralized network of computers using consensus mechanisms. In a cryptocurrency network, transactions are verified and added to the blockchain through a decentralized network of computers. This network collectively validates the transactions using consensus mechanisms like Proof of Work (PoW) or Proof of Stake (PoS). These mechanisms ensure that transactions are legitimate and secure without relying on centralized entities like government agencies or banks. The blockchain acts as a distributed ledger where transactions are recorded in a transparent and tamper-resistant manner. This process eliminates the need for intermediaries and enhances the security and transparency of the cryptocurrency network.

Q41. What is the primary objective of the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign?

- To celebrate India's cultural diversity
- To honour the martyred men and women of the nation
- To promote environmental conservation
- To encourage agricultural development

Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is B. The 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign aims to honour the martyred individuals of the nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign ahead of Independence Day 2023 to honour national martyrs. Amid the ongoing Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the campaign includes inscriptions in village panchayats and an 'Amrit Kalash Yatra.' This journey will carry soil and saplings from across the country to create an 'Amrit Vatika' near the National War Memorial, symbolizing unity and excellence in 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.'

Q42. Which of the following state has decided to ban packaged drinking water bottles of less than one litre from October 2023?

- Gujarat
- Assam
- Kerala
- Karnataka

Answer: B

Explanation: The Assam government has decided to ban packaged drinking water bottles of less than one litre from October 2, 2023.

Q43. Which country has become the first country in the world to ban thin plastic bags at supermarkets?

- USA
- New Zealand
- Australia
- Ireland

Answer: B

Explanation: New Zealand achieved a global milestone by becoming the first nation to prohibit thin plastic bags in supermarkets starting from July 1, 2023. The ban encompasses single-use bags under 70



microns thickness, including those for produce and bakery items. Additionally, the country's campaign against single-use plastics, initiated in 2019, has been expanded to cover plastic straws and utensils.

Q44. Recently the Prime Minister virtually inaugurated the new integrated terminal building of Veer Savarkar International Airport. What is the location of Veer Savarkar International Airport?

Mumbai
Chennai
Kolkata
Port Blair

Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer is D) Port Blair. Veer Savarkar International Airport is located in Port Blair, which is the capital city of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India.

Q45. Who are Finfluencers?

Professional fitness trainers
Financial influencers who provide advice and insights on personal finance and investment
Fictional characters in movies and TV shows
Food bloggers

Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is B) Financial influencers who provide advice and insights on personal finance and investment. Finfluencers, short for "financial influencers," are individuals who use social media platforms to share their knowledge and opinions about personal finance, investment strategies, budgeting, and other financial topics.

Q46. Who recently became the fastest Indian bowler to complete 50 wickets in T20 Internationals, achieving this milestone in his 30th T20I match?

Yuzvendra Chahal
Hardik Pandya
Arshdeep Singh
Kuldeep Yadav

Answer: D

Explanation: Leg spinner Kuldeep Yadav made history as the fastest Indian bowler to

secure 50 wickets in T20 Internationals, achieving this milestone in his 30th T20I match.

Q47. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047 in which state?

Uttar Pradesh
Gujarat
Rajasthan
Madhya Pradesh

Answer: D

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047 in Lalpur village of Madhya Pradesh.

Q48. Who was re-appointed as the Solicitor General of India for a term of three years?

Mukul Rohatgi
Harish Salve
Tushar Mehta
Kapil Sibal

Answer: C

Explanation: Senior advocate Tushar Mehta has been reappointed as the Solicitor General of India for another three-year term.

Q49. Which city's police has established a 'Drone Police Unit' to assist cops in aerial surveillance?

Bengaluru
New Delhi
Chennai
Mumbai

Answer: C

Explanation: Chennai's Greater Police inaugurated India's inaugural 'Police Drone Unit' for aerial surveillance, utilizing nine AI-equipped drones across three categories to aid in managing events, real-time vehicle checks, and suspect identification

Q50. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Senior Men's Selection Committee by the Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI)?

Ashish Nehra

Anil Kumble
Rahul Dravid
Ajit Agarkar

Explanation: Former Indian cricketer Ajit Agarkar has been appointed as the Chairman of the Senior Men's Selection Committee by the BCCI, with the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) making the decision.

Answer: D

The advertisement features a central blue semi-circle with the text "WBCS Exe-Gr.A" and "West Bengal Civil Service" below it. Surrounding this central element are six colorful callouts: "Classes With 1:1 Mentorship" (orange), "Online & Offline Class Tests & Test Series" (blue), "1 Year Addl. Support If Pattern Changed" (green), "Study Materials With CA Magazine" (brown), "Regular Interaction With Officers" (green), and "Prelims, Mains & Interview" (red). Below the central text, two bullet points state: "2 YEARS ADDL. SUPPORT AFTER COURSE COMPLETION*" and "22+ SELECTION IN WBCS 2020 INCLUDING RANK -2". At the bottom left, contact information for Kolkata is provided: "KOLKATA ELGIN ROAD: 81007 65577 SALT LAKE: 88203 41777". At the bottom right, there is a website link "www.aptiplus.in", social media icons for YouTube, Telegram, Instagram, and Facebook, and the text "visit us" and "find us on".



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