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# WBCS GAZETTE

A House Journal **APTI PLUS**



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01

## WEST BENGAL SPECIAL

### Sourav Ganguly

- Former Indian cricket team captain and president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been appointed as the **brand ambassador of West Bengal**.
- He **replaces Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan** who held the position previously.
- The announcement was made by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the Bengal Global Business Summit 2023 in Kolkata.
- He will be responsible for promoting West Bengal as a leading investment and tourism destination, advocating for its rich cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit, and inspiring the young generation.

02

## NATIONAL

### Encore

- **ENCORE**, a software system developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI), stands for "Enabling Communications on Real-time Environment".
- It plays a crucial role in streamlining and enhancing various aspects of candidate and election management, promoting transparency and efficiency in the Indian electoral process.
- The system provides a platform for real-time reporting of voter turnout during polling days. This information is disseminated to the public and stakeholders, enhancing transparency and accountability.

### Election Commission of India (ECI)

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a **constitutional body** responsible for conducting and regulating all elections in India, including **elections for the Parliament, state legislatures, the office of the President, and the office of the Vice-President**.
- It was **established in 1950 by Article 324 of the Constitution** of India and **consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners**.
- The ECI maintains the electoral rolls, registers political parties, monitors election expenditures, enforces the model code of conduct, and resolves election disputes. The ECI aims to ensure free, fair, and credible elections in the country.
- **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC):** Currently, Shri Rajiv Kumar, IAS (Retd.) is the CEC.

### AAINA Dashboard

- The **AAINA Dashboard for Cities**, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on November 13, 2023, marks a significant step towards enhancing transparency and accountability in urban governance across India.
- This initiative **aims to empower Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** by providing a platform for data-driven performance monitoring and benchmarking.
- It provides various features such as data visualization, data exploration, data transformation, data quality, and data governance.

- It is a powerful and user-friendly tool that helps users make data-driven decisions and improve their business performance.

### **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)**

- PM-JANMAN is a Government of India initiative **launched on November 15, 2023, with a total outlay of Rs. 24,104 crore.**
- The scheme aims to **improve the socio-economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** living in forests.
- The vision for PM-JANMAN is to reach all PVTG households and habitations and saturate them with basic facilities, leading to their overall development and integration into mainstream society.
- PM-JANMAN is expected to significantly improve the socio-economic conditions of PVTGs and help them integrate into mainstream society. It is also expected to contribute to the overall development of India.

### **AGNI Initiative**

- **The AGNI initiative, launched by the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS) under the Ministry of Ayush,** is a major initiative aimed at promoting research and innovation within the field of Ayurveda.
- It provides a platform for Ayurveda practitioners to report their innovative practices and experiences in various disease conditions.
- It encourages the sharing of knowledge and expertise, which can lead to the development of new and improved Ayurvedic treatments.
- It provides financial and technical support to practitioners who are researching new and innovative Ayurvedic treatments.



03

## INTERNATIONAL

### World Food India 2023

- The **Prime Minister inaugurated the second edition of the 'World Food India 2023'** mega food event in New Delhi.
- It is an international event organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, to showcase the country's strengths in the food processing industry and attract global investments.
- It aims to attract investments, technology, and knowledge to further develop the Indian food processing industry.
- It emphasizes the importance of sustainable food production, processing, and distribution, with a focus on reaching underserved communities.



### Adaptation Gap Report

- The **2023 Adaptation Gap Report, released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, presents a comprehensive assessment of the global progress on adaptation planning, financing, and implementation.
- The report reveals that adaptation finance flows are insufficient to meet the adaptation needs and costs of developing countries, and that adaptation planning and implementation are lagging behind the rising climate impacts.
- The report reveals that the adaptation finance gap - the difference between estimated adaptation financing needs and costs and finance flows - has grown over the past years and is at least 50% bigger than previously thought.

### Agartala-Akhaura rail line project

- Agartala-Akhaura rail line project is a 15.064-km-long railway line that **connects the Indian city of Agartala with the Bangladeshi town of Akhaura.**
- The line was **inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on November 1, 2023.**
- It is expected to reduce travel time between Agartala and Dhaka from 12 hours to 7 hours. It will also boost trade between the two countries by providing a direct route for goods transport. It was funded by the Indian government at a cost of Rs 862.5 crore.
- It is part of India's Look East policy, which aims to improve relations with countries in Southeast Asia. It is also seen as a symbol of cooperation between India and Bangladesh.



### Payment Aggregator

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced new regulations categorizing entities facilitating cross-border payments for import and export of goods and services as Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB).
- A **payment aggregator is a service provider that allows merchants to process payments from multiple channels** and methods, such as credit cards, debit cards, e-wallets, bank transfers, etc.
- A cross-border payment aggregator is a payment aggregator that operates across different countries or regions, enabling merchants to accept payments from customers in different currencies and jurisdictions.
- Cross-border payment aggregators can offer benefits such as lower fees, faster settlement, wider reach, and compliance with local regulations. However, they also face challenges such as currency fluctuations, fraud risks, tax issues, and legal complexities.

### GST Amnesty Scheme

- The Finance Ministry introduced the **GST Amnesty Scheme to address the concerns of taxpayers who missed the appeal deadline for Goods and Services Tax (GST) demand orders.**
- The scheme is open until January 31, 2024, allowing eligible taxpayers a specific timeframe to file appeals beyond the original deadline. Taxpayers can submit appeals even if they missed the original deadline of March 31, 2023, providing them with a more flexible timeline for resolving tax disputes.
- Entities are now required to pre-deposit 12.5% of the tax demand, up from the previous 10%, possibly indicating an effort to ensure a more substantial commitment from taxpayers seeking benefits.
- The scheme offers specific benefits, including exemptions for female employees earning less than Rs. 25,000, a provision for one late payment of Rs. 1,000 for each return, and a one-time opportunity for non-filers to catch up on their GST filings.

### Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

- Indian Prime Minister announced the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme for five more years, starting from January 1, 2024.
- This scheme provides free food grains to millions of eligible beneficiaries across the country, and the extension is a significant step towards ensuring food security for the most vulnerable sections of society.
- Under the scheme, each beneficiary will be entitled to receive 5 kg of free food grains per month, including rice and wheat.

### Ladakh Sea Buckthorn

- **Ladakh Sea Buckthorn, a medicinal plant that grows in the Himalayan region, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.** The GI tag is a sign that identifies a product as originating from a specific region and having a distinct quality or reputation.
- Ladakh Sea Buckthorn is known for its high nutritional value and medicinal properties. It is used to treat various ailments such as cold,



cough, fever, skin diseases, digestive disorders, and inflammation. It also helps in boosting immunity, reducing cholesterol, and preventing cancer.

- The GI tag will help the local farmers and producers of Ladakh Sea Buckthorn to protect their intellectual property rights and promote their brand in the national and international markets.

**05**

**DEFENCE and SECURITY**

**Project Kusha**

- Developed by DRDO for long-range air defence, Project Kusha aims to detect and destroy various threats at ranges up to 350 km.
- Incorporates advanced long-range surveillance and fire control radars for detecting and tracking aerial threats.
- Equipped with interceptor missiles designed for specific ranges – 150 km, 250 km, and 350 km.
- Aims to provide reliable "area air defence" to cover substantial airspace and protect against multiple threats simultaneously.



**Light Combat Helicopter Prachand**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) plans to procure 156 'Made-in-India' Prachand attack helicopters.
- Prachand, also known as the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), is designed for deployment on both the China and Pakistan fronts by the IAF and the Indian Army.
- Powered by HAL's Shakti engine, it stands as the **only global helicopter capable of operating at altitudes exceeding 5,000 to 6,000 meters**, while



carrying a substantial offensive payload.

- Equipped with a potent 20mm nose-mounted cannon (1,000 rounds per minute) for light armour penetration, alongside 70mm rockets and Dhruvastra air-to-ground missiles designed to target hardened enemy shelters in high-altitude and diverse terrains.

### Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR

- The 4th edition of the **Bilateral Exercise BONGOSAGAR-23** and the 5th edition of **Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Bangladesh Navy** were conducted in the Bay of Bengal
- The exercise aimed at enhancing cooperation, interoperability, and mutual understanding between the two naval forces.
- These engagements build a foundation of trust, understanding, and cooperation between the navies, strengthening relationships and facilitating effective collaboration in addressing common maritime challenges.

### Exercise Surya Kiran

- Exercise Surya Kiran-XVII was the 17th edition of the **annual joint military training exercise between India and Nepal**.
- It was conducted from November 24 to December 6, 2023, in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.
- It helped in enhancing interoperability between the two armies, enabling them to work together effectively in addressing common security challenges in the region.
- The Surya Kiran series of exercises began in 2011 and is held alternatively in India and Nepal. It typically focuses on counter-insurgency operations, jungle warfare, and disaster management in mountainous regions.

### Nirbhay Cruise Missile

- **Nirbhay is a long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile** developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is designed to be launched from a variety of platforms, including land, sea, and air, and can carry conventional or nuclear warheads.
- The Nirbhay has a length of 6 metres, a diameter of 0.52 metres, and a wingspan of 2.7 metres.
- It weighs about 1,500 kg and has a range of up to 1,500 kilometres. The missile is powered by a turbofan engine and can fly at a speed of up to 0.7 Mach.
- The Nirbhay is equipped with a variety of guidance systems, including inertial navigation, GPS, and terrain-following radar. This allows the missile to accurately hit targets in a variety of weather conditions and terrain.

### Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023

- **The ninth edition of Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023 was held in Pune, Maharashtra** from November 16th to 29th, 2023, fostering cooperation between the Indian and Sri Lankan armies.
- Objectives focus on Sub Conventional Operations under the UN Charter, specifically counter-terrorist operations. The exercise involves raids, search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, etc.



- Training elements cover various areas like Army Martial Arts Routine (AMAR), combat reflex shooting, yoga, drone utilization, and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS).

### Exercise AUSTRAHIND-23

- **The Indian Armed Forces took part in the second edition of Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND-23.** The exercise was conducted in Perth, Australia from 22nd November to 06th December 2023.
- **Exercise AUSTRAHIND was instituted in 2022 and the first edition was conducted in Mahajan, Rajasthan.** It is planned to be an annual training event to be conducted alternatively in India and Australia.
- The exercise promotes inter- operability while undertaking multi-domain operations in Urban and Semi-Urban terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations on peace keeping operations.

### Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR

- It was a **joint military exercise between the Indian and US armies.**
- The exercise was **held at Umroi Cantonment in Meghalaya, India,** from November 21 to December 11, 2023. It was the 14th edition of the exercise.
- The exercise is a critical component of the growing defence cooperation between India and the US. It helps foster mutual understanding and trust between the two armies and enables them to work together effectively to address common security challenges.

### Sagar Kavach

- **The 'Sagar Kavach' Exercise is conducted biannually by the Indian Coast Guard** to assess and validate coastal security mechanisms and operational procedures.
- Involves multiple agencies including the Indian Navy, Coastal Police/State Police, Intelligence Bureau, Customs, CISF, Department of Port, and Department of Fisheries.
- Indian Coast Guard established under the Coast Guard Act 1978, operates under the Ministry of Defence and has jurisdiction over India's territorial waters, contiguous zone, and exclusive economic zone.

### Exercise KAZIND-2023

- Exercise KAZIND-2023 is a joint **military exercise between India and Kazakhstan.**
- The 7th edition was held from October 30th to November 11th, 2023 **in Otar, Kazakhstan.**
- It focuses on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.

The Table provides a list of important Indian bilateral military exercises.

Exercise Name	Participant Nations
Sampriti	India & Bangladesh
Mitra Shakti	India & Sri Lanka
SLINEX	India & Sri Lanka

Maitree Exercise	India & Thailand
Siam Bharat	India & Thailand
Vajra Prahar	India & US
Yudh Abhyas	India & US
Cope India	India & US
Nomadic Elephant	India & Mongolia
Garuda Shakti	India & Indonesia
IND-INDO CORPAT	India & Indonesia
Samudra Shakti	India & Indonesia
Shakti Exercise	India & France
Varuna Exercise	India & France
Garuda Exercise	India & France
Dharma Guardian	India & Japan
JIMEX	India & Japan
Surya Kiran	India & Nepal
Hand-in-Hand Exercise	India & China
SIMBEX	India & Singapore
AUSINDEX	India & Australia
Indo-Thai CORPAT	India & Thailand
AUSTRA HIND	India & Australia
IN-BN CORPAT	India & Bangladesh
Table Top	India & Bangladesh

Prabal Dostyk	India & Kazakhstan
Khanjar	India & Kyrgyzstan
Ekuverin	India & The Maldives
IMBEX	India & Myanmar
IMCOR	India & Myanmar
Al Nagah	India & Oman
Naseem Al Bahr	India & Oman
Eastern Bridge	India & Oman
Exercise Indra	India & Russia
Ajeya Warrior	India & UK
Konkan	India & UK
Indradhanush	India & UK
Eastern Bridge	India & Oman
Lamitiye	India & Seychelles
VINBAX	India & Vietnam

**06**

**SCIENCE**

**Aerogels**

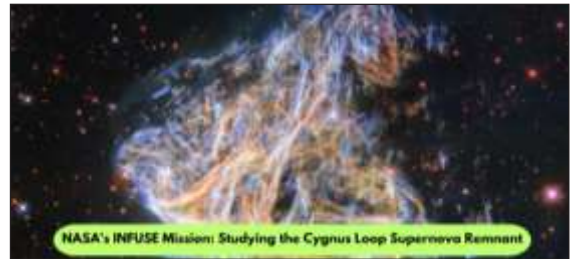
- **Researchers from IIT Madras and Tel Aviv University developed graphene-modified silica aerogels, removing over 76% of pollutants in wastewater at parts per million levels.**
- **Aerogels are lightweight, porous materials with fascinating properties. They are often called "frozen smoke" due to their transparent, wispy appearance and unbelievably low density.**



- Aerogels, with their low density, high porosity, and unique properties, offer applications in insulation, environmental remediation, electronics, and aerospace.
- Challenges include cost and scalability, while ongoing research focuses on functionalizing aerogels for specific biomedical, energy, and catalytic applications.

### INFUSE Mission

- NASA's INFUSE mission focuses on studying supernova remnants, such as the Cygnus Loop, to unravel mysteries related to new star formation, galaxy evolution, and the creation of life-supporting elements.
- INFUSE, the Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Experiment aims to provide crucial insights into the nature of supernova remnants, paving the way for future suborbital missions and space telescopes to delve deeper into these cosmic phenomena.
- The mission's observations using INFUSE technology are expected to enhance our understanding of the universe by unravelling the secrets held within swirling clouds of gas and dust left behind by massive star explosions.



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**07**

**SPORTS**

**Lionel Messi**

- **Lionel Messi won a record eighth Ballon d'Or in 2023**, solidifying his status as one of the greatest footballers of all time. This incredible feat was driven by his instrumental role in Argentina's World Cup triumph, their first since 1986.
- **Aitana Bonmati also made history by winning her first Ballon d'Or Féminin**, recognizing her outstanding performances for FC Barcelona and the Spanish national team.
- **The Ballon d'Or continues to be a highly anticipated event in the football world**, celebrating the achievements of exceptional players like Messi and Bonmati. Their dedication, talent, and perseverance serve as an inspiration to aspiring athletes and football fans worldwide.



**Ballon d'Or 2023: All award winners - Complete list**

Award	Winner
Ballon d'Or	Lionel Messi (Inter Miami, Argentina)
Ballon d'Or Féminin	Aitana Bonmatí (FC Barcelona Femení, Spain)
Kopa Trophy for the best male U-21 player	Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid, England)
Yachine Trophy for the best male goalkeeper	Emiliano Martínez (Aston Villa, Argentina)
Gerd Müller Trophy for the highest-scoring male striker	Erling Haaland (Manchester City, Norway)
Sócrates Award to acknowledge humanitarian work	Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid, Brazil)
Club of the Year	Manchester City and FC Barcelona Femení

**Meg Lanning**

- After a glorious career that spanned 13 years and saw her lift seven World Cup trophies, **Australia captain Meg Lanning has decided to call it quits from international cricket.**
- Lanning made her debut for Australia in 2008 and went on to play 241 matches across all formats. She is the highest run-getter for Australia in women's cricket history and the second-highest in the world.
- Lanning led Australia to four consecutive T20 World Cup titles from 2014 to 2020 and three ODI World Cup titles in 2009, 2013 and 2017. She is widely regarded as one of the greatest captains and batswomen of all time.



## Cricket World Cup 2023

- Australia won the Cricket World Cup final in 2023, defeating India on November 19th at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. This marked their sixth World Cup victory and cemented their status as a dominant force in the sport.
- Indian batsman Virat Kohli emerged as the leading run-scorer of the tournament, displaying exceptional form and consistency.
- **Mohammed Shami's bowling brilliance:** Indian bowler Mohammed Shami claimed the most wickets in the tournament, showcasing his pace and skill throughout the competition.

ICC Cricket World Cup 2023	
Event	Men's World Cup 2023
Edition	13 <sup>th</sup>
Date	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 – 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Format	One Day International
Host Country	India
Total Team	10
Total Matches	48
Winner	Australia
Runner-up	India
Player of the Tournament	Virat Kohli
Man of the Match	Travis Head
Most Runs	Virat Kohli (765 runs)
Most Wickets	Mohammed Shami (24)
Tournament Format	Round-Robin and Knockout
Mascot	'Blaze' and 'Tonk'
Theme Song	Dil Jashn Bole
Brand Ambassador	Shahrukh Khan

## Angelo Mathews

- Angelo Mathews, a Sri Lankan cricketer, became the first player in international cricket history to be dismissed "timed out" during the 2023 World Cup match against Bangladesh.
- The controversial dismissal occurred after Mathews took more than two minutes to take strike, prompting an appeal from Bangladeshi captain Shakib Al Hasan, which was upheld by the umpire.
- Mathews' delay was attributed to difficulty securing his helmet strap, highlighting potential equipment issues and the need for clear protocols for such situations



08

## GEOGRAPHY and ENVIRONMENT

### Global Coalition for Plastics Sustainability

- The Global Coalition for Plastics Sustainability (GCPS) is a group of countries that advocates for a globally coordinated approach to address plastic pollution. They push for a circular economy for plastics, which aims to minimize plastic waste and maximize the use of recycled materials.
- The GCPS currently consists of 19 countries, including China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and India.
- The coalition also advocates for policies and standards that support the transition to a more sustainable plastics system.

### Cyclone Michaung

- Cyclone Michaung was a strong tropical cyclone that formed in the Bay of Bengal in November 2023. It was the ninth depression and the sixth named cyclonic storm of the 2023 North Indian Ocean cyclone season.
- The name cyclone “miachung” was given by Myanmar.
- It caused widespread flooding and damage in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Michaung formed from a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal. It intensified rapidly due to favourable environmental conditions, including warm sea surface temperatures and low wind shear.
- The Indian government has launched a major relief and recovery effort in the affected areas. This includes providing food, shelter, and medical aid to those in need, as well as rebuilding damaged infrastructure.

### Cyclone

- A cyclone is a large air mass that rotates around a strong centre of low atmospheric pressure. Cyclones can cause heavy rain, strong winds, and sometimes thunderstorms.
- Cyclones are formed when warm, moist air rises over the ocean and creates a low-pressure area below. The surrounding high-pressure air moves in to fill the gap, and then gets heated and rises as well. This cycle continues and forms clouds and storms.
- The direction of rotation of a cyclone depends on the hemisphere: **it is counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.**
- Cyclones are also known by different names in different regions, such as hurricanes, typhoons, or tropical cyclones.



09

## APPOINTMENTS

### Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey

- Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty for the Advance Cell of the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
- The 16th Finance Commission, responsible for deciding the tax-sharing formula between the Centre (central government) and states, is scheduled to be formed before the end of the year. The Fifteenth Finance Commission, chaired by NK Singh.
- **The commission will cover five years beginning in 2026-27**, and the report is expected to be taken up by the government during the presentation of the Budget for the financial year 2026-27.

#### Finance Commission of India

- It is a constitutional body, **established by the President of India under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution** at every five years or earlier, as required.
- The Finance Commission consists of a **chairman and four other members, who are appointed by the President**. The qualifications, conditions of service and tenure of the members are determined by the Parliament through a law.
- The chairman of the Finance Commission is usually a person who has had experience in public affairs, while the other members are selected from among persons who have expertise in finance, economics, law or administration.

#### Finance Commission of India

- **The Finance Commission is required to submit its report to the President**. The report contains its recommendations on various matters related to the financial relations between the centre and the states, such as:
  - The distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the centre and the states, and among the states themselves.
  - The principles that should govern the grants-in-aid given by the centre to the states.
  - The measures needed to augment the consolidated fund of a state to supplement its resources.
  - Any other matter referred to it by the President in the interest of sound finance.
- **The recommendations of the Finance Commission are advisory in nature and not binding on the government**. However, they are usually given due weightage by the government while formulating its budget and policies.
- The government is required to lay the report of the Finance Commission before both houses of Parliament along with an explanatory memorandum on its action taken on its recommendations.

### Saima Wazed

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, Saima Wazed, was **elected Regional Director of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region**.
- Saima Wazed is a renowned psychologist with extensive experience in autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. She has held several prominent positions in Bangladesh, including serving as the





- Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Neurodevelopmental Disorders.
- Her election as Regional Director of the WHO's South-East Asia region is a significant achievement for Bangladesh and a testament to her expertise and dedication to public health.
- The Regional Committee for South-East Asia is the main decision-making body of WHO in the Region. It consists of delegates from the 11 Member States and Associate Members of the Region.

### Heeralal Samariya

- President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to **Heeralal Samariya as the new Chief of the Central Information Commission (CIC)**.
- The CIC is the apex body that oversees the implementation of the Right to Information Act 2005.
- Samariya has tenure of three years or until he attains the age of 65, whichever is earlier.



## 10

## AWARDS

### British Academy Book Prize

- **Nandini Das**, a 49-year-old Indian-born author and Professor in the English faculty at the University of Oxford, won the **2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding**.
  - Her winning book is titled "**Courting India: England, Mughal India, and the Origins of Empire**," which explores the origins of the British Empire by focusing on the first English ambassador in India, Sir Thomas Roe, in the early 17th century.
- **Other Shortlisted Work:** The shortlist for the prize also included a work titled "Black Ghost of Empire: The Long Death of Slavery and the Failure of Emancipation" by Kris Manjapra.
- The **British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding** was formerly known as the **Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize**. It was established in 2013 to recognize and celebrate outstanding works of non-fiction known for their rigour, scholarly excellence, and their contribution to global cultural understanding and appreciation.
- The British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding is an international non-fiction award with prize money of £25,000.



## Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development 2022 was jointly awarded to the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) in recognition of their remarkable contributions and tireless efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Indira Gandhi Prize is a prestigious award that recognizes the achievements of individuals or organizations in the fields of peace, disarmament, development, and a new international economic order.
- The award was established in 1986 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust (IGMT) in memory of Indira Gandhi, the third Prime Minister of India, who was known for her dedication to peace, disarmament, and social justice.



## Emmy Awards

- Vir Das won the Emmy for Best Comedy for "Vir Das: Landing" at the 51st International Emmy Awards and Ekta Kapoor received the Directorate Award.
- The Emmy Awards, established in 1948, recognize excellence in television and emerging media, distinct from film-focused awards.
- Award categories include Primetime, International, Daytime, Sports, News, Documentary, Technology, and Regional Emmys.
- Notable winners in the 2023 Emmy Awards include Karla Souza, Martin Freeman, Vir Das, and shows like "La Caida" and "Derry Girls season 3."



## Booker Prize

- Irish writer Paul Lynch won the prestigious Booker Prize for his novel "Prophet Song". The award ceremony took place in London where Lynch was presented with the 50,000-pound (\$63,000) literary prize.
- "Prophet Song" follows the story of a woman striving to safeguard her family amidst Ireland's collapse into totalitarianism and war.
- The judges praised the novel as "a triumph of emotional storytelling, bracing and brave." They highlighted Lynch's remarkable language skills, acknowledging his ability to achieve stunning feats with words.
- The book triumphed over five other finalists selected from a pool of 163 novels submitted by publishers from Ireland, the U.K., the U.S., and Canada.



## Serena Williams

- Tennis legend Serena Williams has been honoured with the prestigious CFDA Fashion Icon Award, becoming the first athlete to ever receive this accolade.

- The award was presented to her by Kim Kardashian at the 2023 Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) Fashion Icon Award, which was held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on November 6th, 2023.

11

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Tsunami Awareness Day

- World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed annually on **November 5th**.
- It was **established in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly** to raise awareness about tsunamis and to reduce the risk of tsunami-related disasters.
- The theme for World Tsunami Awareness Day 2023 is "Fighting inequality for a resilient future." It highlights the importance of addressing the underlying inequalities that make communities more vulnerable to tsunamis.

- A tsunami is a series of large waves **caused by a sudden displacement of water in the ocean or a large lake**.
- It can be triggered by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, or meteor impacts.
- It can travel **at speeds of up to 800 kilometres per hour** and can reach heights of tens of meters when it hits the shore.
- It can cause widespread damage and loss of life in coastal areas, especially if there is no warning system or evacuation plan in place.



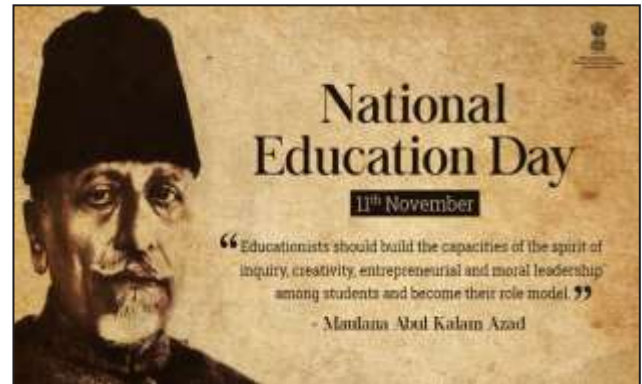
### National Ayurveda Day

- **National Ayurveda Day is celebrated every year on November 10** to promote the ancient Indian system of holistic healing.
- **The theme of Ayurveda Day 2023 is "Ayurveda for One Health,"** which reflects India's vision of global health and well-being as the host of the G20 summit.
- Ayurveda, meaning "science of life," is a comprehensive healthcare system originating in India over 5,000 years ago. It focuses on preventive and personalized medicine, emphasizing the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and spiritual health.

### National Education Day

- National Education Day is celebrated in India every year **on November 11th**.
- It commemorates the **birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, the first Education Minister of independent India.

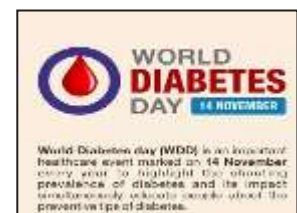
- Maulana Azad played a crucial role in shaping the education system in India. He believed that education was the key to progress and development, and he worked tirelessly to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, had access to quality education.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was one of the most prominent figures of the Indian independence movement and the first education minister of independent India.
- **He was born on 11 November 1888 in Mecca, Saudi Arabia**, to a family of scholars and theologians. He received his early education in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and English from his father and other teachers.
- He joined the revolutionary group Anjuman-i-Muhibban-i-Watan, which was inspired by the ideas of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani and Muhammad Abduh.
- He also started **publishing a weekly journal called Al-Hilal**, which criticized the British colonial policies and promoted the cause of freedom. He was arrested several times by the British authorities for his anti-imperialist writings and activities.
- Azad became a prominent leader of the Indian National Congress (INC) and **worked closely with Mahatma Gandhi**, Jawaharlal Nehru, and other leaders of the freedom struggle.



- He participated in various civil disobedience campaigns such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Khilafat Movement, the Salt Satyagraha, and the Quit India Movement. He was also elected as the president of the INC twice, in 1923 and 1940.
- After India attained independence in 1947, **Azad became the first education minister of the country**. He played a vital role in shaping India's educational policy and institutions.
- He **established the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), and other prestigious institutions**. He also promoted scientific research, cultural exchange, adult education, women's education, and minority education. He envisioned an education system that would foster national integration, social equality, democratic values, and human development.
- **Azad died on 22 February 1958 in Delhi after suffering a stroke**. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, posthumously in 1992.
- His birthday is celebrated as National Education Day in India every year. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest scholars, freedom fighters, and educationists of India.

## World Diabetes Day

- World Diabetes Day is a global campaign that aims to raise awareness and promote action on diabetes prevention, management, and care.
- It is **celebrated every year on November 14th**, the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin.
- **The theme for World Diabetes Day 2023 is "Access to Diabetes Care."** This theme emphasizes the importance of raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities for improving diabetes care and prevention, especially in low- and middle-income countries.



## Tribal Pride Day

- **Birsa Munda's birth anniversary falls on November 15 and is celebrated as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' (Tribal Pride Day) in India.**

- Tribal Pride Day was established by the Indian government in 2021. The purpose of celebrating this day is to acknowledge and honour the contributions and achievements of tribal communities.
- Tribal communities make up approximately 8% of India's population. They live in various parts of India and are known for their unique cultures, languages, and traditions.



- Birsa Munda was a tribal leader, freedom fighter, and religious figure from the Munda community.
- He was born on November 15, 1875, in Ulihatu, a village in the Bengal Presidency (presently in Jharkhand).
- He preached a message of resistance to British rule and the preservation of tribal culture. He also claimed to have visions from God, which gave him a divine mandate to lead his people.
- **In 1895, Birsa Munda led the Munda Rebellion, a widespread uprising against British rule.** The rebellion was successful in driving the British out of some areas, but it was eventually crushed by British forces.
- **Birsa Munda was arrested by the British in 1899 and charged with treason.** He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. He died in prison on June 9, 1900, at the age of 24.
- Birsa Munda is considered a hero by tribal people in India. He is remembered as a symbol of resistance to oppression and a champion of tribal rights.

## 12

## IMPORTANT GK FACTS IN NEWS

- **The prisoner's dilemma is a classic example of game theory**, which studies how rational agents make decisions in strategic situations. The dilemma involves two prisoners who are accused of a crime and are interrogated separately. Each prisoner has two options: to cooperate with the other prisoner by staying silent or to defect by betraying the other prisoner.
- Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings or beliefs of any class of citizens of India.
- **Aerogels are synthetic materials that have very low density and very low thermal conductivity.**
- Haemoglobin is a protein that contains iron and helps to transport oxygen in the blood. It is found in the red blood cells of most vertebrates and some invertebrates. Haemoglobin can bind to four oxygen molecules at a time and deliver them to different parts of the body.
- **Point Calimere is a coastal landmark in Tamil Nadu**, where the Coromandel Coast makes a sharp turn. It is home to a wildlife and bird sanctuary that protects various habitats and species, including the endangered blackbuck antelope and the migratory flamingo.
- **Mushrooms are a type of fungus** that grows in moist and dark environments. They have a stem, a cap, and gills on the underside of the cap. **Some mushrooms are edible and can be used as food or medicine, while others are poisonous and can cause illness or death.** Mushrooms reproduce by releasing spores that germinate into new fungi.
- **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Kerala.** It covers 55 square kilometres of the western slope of the Western Ghats. It was established in 1984 and is home to many animals, such as deer, elephant, boar and bison.

- **Amangarh Tiger Reserve is located in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh** and borders Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand. The reserve has a rich biodiversity and hosts many wildlife species, such as tigers, leopards, elephants, and birds.
- **India has the second-largest cement sector globally**; Southern and western regions contribute over 60% of the total installed capacity.
- **Pusa-2090 is a new variety of rice developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)**. It has high yield potential, resistance to pests and diseases, and tolerance to drought and salinity.
- **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Odisha**. It is located near the Hirakud Dam, which attracts migratory birds in winter. The sanctuary is home to many species of wildlife, including leopards, gaurs, and four-horned antelopes. It is an important site for conservation and ecotourism.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. It administers the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, the Employees' Pension Scheme and the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India. The EPFO aims to provide social security and retirement benefits to its members.
- Scabies is a **parasitic infestation caused by tiny mites that burrow into the skin**, leading to itching, a rash, and potential complications.
- **The Kra Isthmus is the narrowest part of the Malay Peninsula, located in southern Thailand**. It is roughly 44 kilometres (27 miles) wide at its narrowest point, separating the Andaman Sea on the west from the Gulf of Thailand on the east.
- **The Antarctic ozone hole is a thinning of the ozone layer that occurs above the South Pole** during the Southern Hemisphere spring (August to November). The ozone layer is a region of the stratosphere that contains high concentrations of ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), a molecule that protects the Earth's surface from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.
- **White hydrogen, also known as natural hydrogen, gold hydrogen, or geologic hydrogen**, is a naturally occurring form of hydrogen found in the Earth's crust. It is formed through a natural geochemical process deep within the Earth, where water molecules react with certain minerals, releasing hydrogen gas.
- The Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area located in the Nallamala Forest in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.
- **The Pavana River is a river in Maharashtra**. It originates from the Western Ghats near Lonavala and flows for about 60 km before joining the Mula River in Pune City. The Pavana River is a tributary of the Bhima River, which is a major river in the Deccan Plateau.
- **The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Defence**. It is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, tunnels, causeways, helipads and airfields in border areas and friendly neighbouring countries.
- **Vitrimers are a new class of materials that combine the desirable properties of thermosets and thermoplastics**. This unique characteristic allows them to be reshaped and repaired without losing their overall structure.
- Indian Prime Minister announced the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme for five more years, starting from January 1, 2024. This scheme provides free food grains to millions of eligible beneficiaries across the country, and the extension is a significant step towards ensuring food security for the most vulnerable sections of society.
- **Deepfakes are synthetic media created using artificial intelligence (AI) to manipulate audio, video, and images**. They can be incredibly realistic, making it difficult to distinguish them from real content.
- **The Central Information Commission (CIC) is a statutory body established under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act)**. It functions as an independent and quasi-judicial body to adjudicate complaints and appeals filed by citizens who have been denied information under the RTI Act.
- Stubble burning is the practice of burning leftover straw and stubble after harvesting crops, particularly rice and wheat. This practice is prevalent in northern India, especially in states like Punjab, Haryana, and

Uttar Pradesh. While it may seem like a quick and easy way to clear fields for the next planting season, it has several negative consequences.

- **Aditya-L1 is a coronagraphy spacecraft designed and developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to study the Sun's atmosphere.
- The Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHEP) is a 2,000-megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydroelectric project under construction on the Subansiri River in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Vaigai Dam is a structure dam built across the Vaigai River in the Theni district of Tamil Nadu.
- **Klyuchevskoy volcano is the highest and most active volcano in Eurasia.** It is located on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia, about 100 kilometres from the Bering Sea. The volcano is part of the Volcanoes of Kamchatka UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **The Electoral Bonds Scheme is a financial instrument introduced in 2018** by the Indian government to improve transparency and accountability in political funding. It aims to prevent anonymous donations to political parties by replacing cash donations with bearer bonds that can be purchased from authorized branches of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- Project Cheetah is an ambitious conservation initiative undertaken by the Indian government to reintroduce cheetahs to their historical habitat in India. The project aims to establish a viable cheetah population in the country after it was declared extinct in 1952.
- **The Bhima River, also known as Chandrabhaga, is a vital waterway flowing through the heart of Western India.** Stretching for 861 kilometres, it originates in the Bhimashankar hills of the Western Ghats and traverses through Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Telangana states before merging with the mighty Krishna River.
- Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique that aims to increase precipitation by introducing substances into the atmosphere that can act as nuclei for the formation of ice crystals or water droplets. These substances, typically silver iodide or dry ice, are dispersed into clouds using aeroplanes, rockets, or ground-based generators.
- **Kali Tiger Reserve is a protected area and a tiger reserve located in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka.** The is home to diverse flora and fauna, including tigers, leopards, elephants, deer, and many species of birds. The reserve is named after the Kali River, which flows through it and provides water for the wildlife and the local communities.
- Ogasawara island is one of the islands in the Ogasawara archipelago, also known as the Bonin Islands. It is located in the Pacific Ocean, about 1000 kilometres south of Tokyo and 1600 kilometres northwest of Guam. It is a volcanic island with a subtropical climate, rich biodiversity and unique wildlife. It is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- **Lake Titicaca is a freshwater lake that lies on the border of Bolivia and Peru.** It is the largest lake in South America by volume and surface area. It is also the highest navigable lake in the world, at 3,810 meters above sea level. Lake Titicaca has a rich history and culture and is home to many indigenous communities and wildlife.
- **Walvis Bay is a coastal city in Namibia** that lies on a bay with the same name. It is the second-largest city in the country and has a rich history of colonial rule and guano mining.
- The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a space-based radio navigation system that provides geolocation and time information to a GPS receiver anywhere on or near the Earth where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites. It is owned by the United States government and operated by the United States Space Force.
- The Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) is an international effort to conserve wild tiger populations. It was launched in 2010 at the International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, by 13 tiger range countries (TRCs): Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

- **Mount Etna is an active volcano located on the east coast of Sicily in Italy.** It is the tallest and most active volcano in Europe, with a current height of approximately 3,357 meters (11,014 ft). Mount Etna has been erupting for centuries, and its eruptions have shaped the landscape of the surrounding area.
- The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. It was established in 1990 under the Juvenile Justice Act, of 2015, to regulate adoption in India and ensure the welfare of children seeking adoption.
- The **PM MUDRA Yojana** is a **flagship scheme launched by the Government of India in 2015 to provide financial assistance to micro-units in the non-farm sector.** The scheme is aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and creating employment opportunities across the country.
- **Brahmani River** is one of the three major rivers of the eastern Indian state of Odisha. It is formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers in the Ranchi district of Jharkhand. The river flows for a total of 799 kilometres (496 miles) before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in the state of Karnataka.** The sanctuary is located along the banks of the Nugu river, which provides water and habitat for many aquatic species.
- **Deepor Beel is a former channel of the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India.** It is now a vital wetland sanctuary that supports diverse wildlife and acts as a storm water reservoir for Guwahati city.
- The **PM SHRI scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Education** to transform 14,500 schools in India into model schools. The scheme was launched in September 2022 and is based on the vision of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). The scheme aims to provide quality education to all students and foster a culture of excellence and innovation in the schools.
- **Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), also known as monkey fever,** is a rare viral hemorrhagic fever endemic to the southwestern part of India, specifically in Karnataka.
- The **Kambala race is a traditional buffalo race held in the coastal districts of Karnataka.** It is a unique cultural event that is deeply rooted in the agricultural traditions of the region.
- **Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Karnataka.** The sanctuary also includes the Mandagadde Natural Bird Sanctuary, where migratory birds can be seen.
- Rat-hole mining is an unsafe, illegal method of extracting coal in narrow, unstable tunnels, prevalent in some regions despite its environmental and human hazards.
- The Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, also known as Vizag Zoo, is a large zoo located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The **Gulf of Aden is a deepwater gulf located between the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa.** It is a vital waterway for international trade, connecting the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- The Paris Club is an informal group of creditor countries, primarily from the West, that work together to find coordinated and sustainable solutions to the payment difficulties experienced by debtor countries.

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## BOOSTER DOSE

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) to close unremunerative branches without prior RBI permission,
- The most recent **Commodity Markets Outlook** was released by the World Bank.
- According to the study, the **Moon is around 40 million years older than the prior estimate of 4.425 billion years.**
- The Karnataka Forest Department, along with the Wildlife Trust of India, has launched the Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) system.
- **Exercise KAZIND-2023 is a joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan.** It is aimed at enhancing interoperability and cooperation between the two armies.



- Project Kusha is an ambitious initiative by the Indian government, led by the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), to develop a long-range air defence system for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- **The 15th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue, held in New Delhi** on November 1, 2023, marked a significant milestone in the defence cooperation between the two countries.
- Prachand, also known as the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), is designed for deployment on both the China and Pakistan fronts by the IAF and the Indian Army.
- **Indian Navy Sailing Championship (INSC) 2023 was held in Mumbai** from November 5th to November 9th, 2023.
- Russia's new nuclear-powered submarine, Emperor Alexander III, conducted a successful test launch of the Bulava ballistic missile, designed to carry nuclear warheads.
- **India ranks seventh globally in terms of average workweeks**, with employed individuals working an average of 47.7 hours per week, according to data from the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- Dispute between the State irrigation officials and the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) regarding the Medigadda barrage, a part of the Kaleshwaram project in Telangana.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the second edition of the 'World Food India 2023' mega food event in New Delhi.
- The **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd.'s venture into gold mining in Western Australia** to diversify its minerals portfolio and expand beyond its core focus on iron ore.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced new regulations categorizing entities facilitating cross-border payments for import and export of goods and services as Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB).
- The Finance Ministry introduced the GST Amnesty Scheme to address the concerns of taxpayers who missed the appeal deadline for Goods and Services Tax (GST) demand orders.
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has launched the domestic sailing of the first International Cruise Liner, 'COSTA SERENA,' in Mumbai, as part of the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiatives.
- **Israel and the United States jointly funded, developed, and produced the Arrow 3 missile.**
- India is set to acquire additional Hermes 900 StarLiner unmanned aerial vehicles from Elbit Systems, an Israeli defence technology company.
- A US nuclear-powered Ohio-class submarine has been deployed to the Middle East to deter any escalation of the Israel-Hamas conflict.
- The 4th edition of the Bilateral Exercise BONGOSAGAR-23 and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Bay of Bengal.
- India's agricultural exports have seen an 11.6% year-on-year decline in April-September.
- **Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty for the Advance Cell of the Sixteenth Finance Commission.**
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) introducing Insurance Surety Bonds as a financial assurance method for bidders in the road infrastructure sector.
- Krishi 24/7 is a platform that leverages artificial intelligence to monitor and summarize the latest developments in the agricultural sector from various sources and languages.
- Nirbhay is a long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The ninth edition of Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023 was held in Pune, Maharashtra from November 16th to 29th, 2023, fostering cooperation between the **Indian and Sri Lankan armies.**
- The Indian Air Force successfully landed the C-130J-30 Super Hercules at an unfeasible airstrip in Uttarakhand.
- **The 'Sagar Kavach' Exercise is conducted biannually by the Indian Coast Guard** to assess and validate coastal security mechanisms and operational procedures.

- The 'Trishakti Prahar' exercise is a remarkable display of India's commitment to boost synergy and operational efficiency among its Army, Air Force, and Navy branches.
- The Pamban Bridge, India's first vertical-lift railway sea bridge, stands as a marvel of engineering connecting Rameswaram on Pamban Island to Mandapam on the mainland in Tamil Nadu.
- The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has launched a new call centre called "Hello Naariyal" to help farmers with coconut harvesting and plant management operations.
- **The Indian Armed Forces took part in the second edition of Joint Military Exercise AUSTRALIND-23.** The exercise was conducted in Perth, Australia from 22nd November to 06th December 2023.
- Exercise Surya Kiran-XVII was the 17th edition of the annual joint military training exercise between India and Nepal.
- The Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range (NASM-SR) is the first indigenous air-launched anti-ship cruise missile developed for the Indian Navy by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **India assuming the chairmanship of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) for 2024.**
- The Prime Minister unveiled two new initiatives led by India at the Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit on 22nd November 2023. These are the Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository and a Social Impact Fund to support the growth of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in the Global South.
- **The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched a new accelerator program called Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE)** to support startups and small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on circular economy technologies and solutions in India and Australia.
- India to Develop International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay, Great Nicobar Island.
- The ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023, held in Indonesia from November 22nd to 26th, 2023, aimed to raise awareness about millet and create a market for these nutritious and sustainable grains in the ASEAN region.
- The US military has conducted a test launch of a Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, Saima Wazed, was elected Regional Director of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region.**
- The black-spotted croaker, also known locally as the **Ghol fish, was declared the state fish of Gujarat.**
- **The AI Safety Summit 2023, held in November 2023 at Bletchley Park, UK,** brought together leading experts from governments, research institutions, and technology companies to discuss the challenges and opportunities of safe and responsible artificial intelligence (AI) development.
- **Nandini Das, an Indian-born author and Professor in the English faculty at the University of Oxford, won the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding.**
- On World Cities Day, November 30th, 2023, Kozhikode in Kerala and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh were officially designated as UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) members. This recognition celebrates their commitment to harnessing the power of culture and creativity for sustainable development.
- Agartala-Akhaura rail line project is a 15.064-km-long railway line that connects the Indian city of Agartala with the Bangladeshi town of Akhaura. The line was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on November 1, 2023.
- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released its Adaptation Gap Report 2023,** which warns that the world is not prepared for the impacts of climate change.
- **The total GST collection reached a significant milestone of Rs 1,72,003 crore in October 2023.** This is the second-highest collection ever recorded, surpassed only by April 2023.
- Imperial College London, a prestigious and globally-ranked UK university, has announced its largest-ever scholarship program for Indian students: the Future Leaders Scholarship Programme. This initiative aims to support and nurture the brightest and most talented Master's students from India, providing them with the opportunity to pursue their academic aspirations at Imperial.
- **The State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2023, released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI),** provides valuable insights into the food safety landscape across the country. Here are some key highlights and insights from the report.

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) is launching a groundbreaking initiative, the "one nation, one registration platform," aimed at revolutionizing the way doctors are registered and regulated in India.
- The INFUSE (Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Experiment) mission is a NASA-led project aimed at studying supernova remnants like the Cygnus Loop. These remnants are the swirling clouds of gas and dust left behind after a massive star explodes.
- **ImmunoACT, an IIT Bombay incubated company,** received market approval from CDSCO for NexCAR19, the first CAR-T cell therapy made in India.
- **The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has released a report titled "Crowdfunding for Terrorism Financing".** The report analyzes how terrorists and violent extremists exploit crowdfunding platforms and social media to raise funds for their activities.
- The discovery of tellurium in the aftermath of a neutron star merger provides strong evidence for the theory that these mergers are responsible for the creation of most heavy elements in the universe.
- **COBRA is a unit of the CRPF that specializes in counter-insurgency and jungle warfare operations.** It was formed in 2008 to combat the Naxalite movement in India. COBRA has been involved in several successful operations against the Maoist rebels and other militants.
- The Indian government recently amended the Companies Act to allow certain Indian companies to directly list on select foreign stock exchanges.
- **ENCORE, which stands for "Enabling Communications on Real-time Environment," is a software system developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to streamline and enhance candidate and election management processes.**
- OPERATION CACTUS was the name of an Indian military operation in 1988 to save the Maldivian government from a coup attempt by mercenaries. The operation involved Indian paratroopers, naval ships and intelligence agents. It was a successful mission that restored peace and stability in the Maldives.
- **The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative, launched in 2022 by the Quad grouping (India, Australia, Japan, and the United States),** embodies their collective commitment to upholding a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.
- The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd., a public sector undertaking in India, is diversifying its portfolio by venturing into gold mining in Western Australia.
- President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Heeralal Samariya as the new Chief of the Central Information Commission (CIC). Samariya will head the apex body that oversees the implementation of the Right to Information Act.
- **A new campaign called "Abua Bir Dishom Abhiyan" has been launched by the Jharkhand government to grant land ownership rights to individuals and communities under the Forest Rights Act.**
- The Ministry of Personnel, in collaboration with the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), has launched a campaign called DLC Campaign 2.0 to enhance the "ease of living" of Central Government pensioners in India. DLC stands for Digital Life Certificate.
- **The Indian delegation's attendance at the 2nd World Local Production Forum in The Hague, Netherlands,** demonstrates India's active role in the global discussion on enhancing access to medicines and other health technologies.
- According to the latest WHO Global TB Report, the world is facing a serious challenge in tackling tuberculosis. The report shows that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted TB services and reversed the progress made in recent years. The report also warns that more funding and innovation are needed to end the TB epidemic by 2030.
- **The Loss and Damage Fund is a mechanism established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to address the impacts of climate change that go beyond adaptation.** The fund aims to provide financial and technical support to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, slow onset events, and non-economic losses.

- **The Tamil Nadu government has issued an order to implement 'Project Dolphin,'** a conservation initiative aimed at protecting the endangered marine mammals in the state's coastal waters.
- **The 6th Session of the India-Ethiopia Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,** from November 6th to 7th, 2023. This important meeting brought together officials from both countries to discuss ways to enhance bilateral trade and investment.
- **India and the Netherlands have signed a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) in Hague, Netherlands,** to cooperate on medical product regulation and improve the quality of medical products and healthcare services for both countries. This agreement marks a significant step towards strengthening bilateral ties in the healthcare sector.
- The International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2023 highlights India's Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) for commercial buildings as a remarkable example of energy efficiency in the construction sector, which distinguishes India from other developing economies.
- **Russia formally withdrew from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE).** This landmark treaty, signed in 1990, aimed to limit the number of key categories of conventional military equipment in Europe and mandate the destruction of excess weaponry.
- A remarkable **Iron Age geoglyph circle, dating back to 3,000 years ago, has been unearthed in Telangana.** This archaeological discovery reveals new insights into the ancient culture and artistry of the people who lived in this region.
- **The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released the State of Climate Services report in 2023.** The WMO releases this report annually, providing an overview of the progress and challenges in the field of climate services.
- National Ayurveda Day is celebrated every year on November 10 to promote the ancient Indian system of holistic healing. This year, **the theme of Ayurveda Day is "Ayurveda for One Health,"** which reflects India's vision of global health and well-being as the host of the G20 summit.
- The Ben Gurion Canal Project is a proposed ambitious project to build a sea-level canal through Israel, connecting the Gulf of Aqaba (Red Sea) to the Mediterranean Sea.
- On November 10th, 2023, the Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, and External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, met with their US counterparts, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in New Delhi for the fifth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.
- The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has unveiled the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, seeking to modernize regulations governing the broadcasting sector in India. This move comes in response to the rapidly evolving media landscape fueled by technological advancements and changing audience preferences.
- **The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has approved the "Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023,"** marking a significant shift in the government's approach to public communication. This policy empowers the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), the government's advertising agency, to effectively utilize the vast reach and engagement potential of digital media platforms.
- **The 6th High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue,** held on November 9th, 2023, in Vienna, Austria, marked another significant step in strengthening cooperation between India and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- **The AAINA Dashboard for Cities, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** on November 13, 2023, empowers Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) by providing a platform for data-driven performance monitoring and benchmarking.
- National Education Day in India is celebrated on November 11th every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India.
- **World Diabetes Day is celebrated every year on November 14,** the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2023 is "Access to Diabetes Care."

- Tribal Pride Day, also known as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, is celebrated annually in India on November 15th. This day is dedicated to celebrating the culture and heritage of India's tribal communities.
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)** is a Government of India initiative launched on November 15, 2023, with a total outlay of Rs. 24,104 crore. The scheme aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) living in forests
- India has signed a \$400 million policy-based loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support its urban reform agenda.
- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Ixchiq, making it the world's first vaccine for chikungunya.** This marks a significant breakthrough in the fight against this mosquito-borne virus, which causes fever, joint pain, and other debilitating symptoms.
- **The United Kingdom's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the world's first gene therapy treatment for sickle cell disease and transfusion-dependent  $\beta$ -thalassemia.** This groundbreaking therapy, known as Casgevy, offers new hope for individuals suffering from these debilitating blood disorders.
- **Cyclone Midhili** was a tropical cyclone that formed over the Bay of Bengal in October 2023. It made landfall on the Bangladesh coast on November 17th, 2023.
- The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), a part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), launched the NEST initiative in November 2023. It aims to promote sustainable and eco-friendly construction practices in the domestic housing sector.
- **Ladakh Sea Buckthorn, a medicinal plant that grows in the Himalayan region,** has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Ladakh Sea Buckthorn is known for its high nutritional value and medicinal properties. It is used to treat various ailments such as cold, cough, fever, skin diseases, digestive disorders, and inflammation.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently released the World Energy Employment 2023 report, offering valuable insights into the global energy workforce.
- **India has slipped 20 places to rank 103rd in the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2023.** The GTCI is a yearly report that measures how countries attract, develop, and retain talent. It is produced by INSEAD, The Adecco Group, and Tata Communications. The report shows that India faces challenges in creating a talent-friendly environment.
- **National Epilepsy Day is celebrated every year in India on November 17** to raise awareness about the brain disorder and bust myths surrounding the disease.
- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development 2022 was jointly awarded to the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) in recognition of their remarkable contributions and tireless efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **On November 18th, 2023, Mohamed Muizzu, newly elected President of the Maldives,** formally requested the Indian government to withdraw its military personnel from the country.
- The FBI issued a warning on November 16th, 2023, urging organizations to be on high alert for the Scattered Spiders hacking group.
- The 14th Emissions Gap Report 2023, titled "Broken Record: Temperatures Hit New Highs, Yet World Fails to Cut Emissions (Again)," was released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on November 20th, 2023.
- **The recent collaboration between the Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization (WHO)** marks a significant step forward in integrating Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) into global healthcare.
- The 54th International Film Festival of India commenced with a grand opening ceremony at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa.
- Researchers have discovered that **haemoglobin, a protein found in red blood cells that binds oxygen, is also present in the epidermis, our skin's outermost bodily tissue.**

- A rare metal, tantalum, has been detected in the sand of the Sutlej river in Punjab by a group of scientists from the IIT Ropar.
- Vir Das won the Emmy for Best Comedy for "Vir Das: Landing" at the 51st International Emmy Awards and Ekta Kapoor received the Directorate Award.
- **The AGNI initiative is a project of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush that aims to foster research and innovation in Ayurveda. It is a valuable effort to advance the knowledge and practice of this ancient system of medicine.**
- **The Psyche mission is a NASA project that aims to explore the origin of planetary cores by studying a metal-rich asteroid named Psyche.** The asteroid is located in the main belt between Mars and Jupiter and is thought to be the exposed core of an early planet.
- **A new portal, Amplifi 2.0, was launched by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.** It aims to provide data on various aspects of Indian cities, such as population, infrastructure, governance, and environment.
- **November 25th is observed as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW).** It is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness and promoting action to end violence against women and girls around the world.
- India celebrates its Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas, on November 26th every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949.
- **Irish writer Paul Lynch won the prestigious Booker Prize for his novel "Prophet Song".** The award ceremony took place in London where Lynch was presented with the 50,000-pound (\$63,000) literary prize.
- ABHA ID, also known as Ayushman Bharat Health Account or Health ID, is a **unique 14-digit identifier that allows individuals to create a personal health record and access healthcare services digitally.**
- The **FASTER 2.0 portal, launched by the Chief Justice of India,** serves as a crucial tool in streamlining the release of prisoners by ensuring efficient communication of judicial orders.
- The film **"Drift" directed by Anthony Chen, received the prestigious ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal** at the 54th International Film Festival of India.
- **India will chair the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) for the year 2024** a significant development that reflects the country's prominent position in the global sugar sector.
- **World Vegan Day is observed annually on November 1<sup>st</sup>.** The day is dedicated to raising awareness about veganism and its benefits for animals, humans, and the environment.
- **World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed annually on November 5<sup>th</sup>.** It was established in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly to raise awareness about tsunamis and to reduce the risk of tsunami-related disasters.
- Infant Protection Day 2023 is a day to raise awareness and promote action for the safety and well-being of infants around the world. It falls on the 7th of November 2023.
- World Radiography Day 2023 was observed on November 8th, 2023, and the theme for this year was "Celebrating patient safety."
- World Science Day for Peace and Development 2023 was observed on November 10th, 2023. This year's theme was "Building Trust in Science."
- **Children's Day in India was observed on November 14th, 2023.** This day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, who was known for his fondness for children.
- World Diabetes Day 2023 was observed on November 14th, 2023 with the theme "Access to diabetes care."
- The 16th of November 2023 marks the International Day for Tolerance, a day to celebrate and promote respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.
- **World Toilet Day 2023 was celebrated on November 19th, with the theme "Accelerating Change."** It aimed to raise awareness about the global sanitation crisis and inspire action to reach the 3.5 billion people still living without safely managed sanitation.

- **International Men's Day 2023** was a global event that took place on **November 19th, 2023**. The 2023 theme "Zero Male Suicide", calls for more action and support to prevent male suicide, which is a leading cause of death among men worldwide.
- **On November 20th, 2023, the world celebrated Universal Children's Day 2023**. This day is dedicated to promoting the rights and welfare of children everywhere. It also marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the United Nations in 1989.
- **World Television Day 2023 is celebrated on November 21<sup>st</sup>; it marks the anniversary of the first World Television Forum in 1996**. The theme for this year is "Accessibility", which highlights the importance of making television accessible to everyone, regardless of their abilities, disabilities, or location.
- AI, or artificial intelligence, has been chosen as the word of the year by the Collins Dictionary, reflecting its growing importance and impact in various fields and aspects of life. Another word that made it to the list is Bazball, a new sport invented by English coach Brendon McCullum, which combines elements of cricket and baseball.
- **Chile has become the 95th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).**
- Kasaragod district of Kerala has achieved the distinction of becoming the first district in India to officially declare its tree, flower, bird, and species.
- **Uttarakhand is set to become the first state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).**
- A 10 year-old-Bangalore kid, Vihaan Talya Vikas, won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year (WPY) competition in the under-10 category.
- Deenanath Rajput, a former engineer who transitioned into social work, received the prestigious Second Rohini Nayyar Prize for his exceptional dedication to rural development.
- **The State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has appointed cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its official Brand Ambassador.**
- **Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the UN Panel of Auditors for the year 2024.**
- Former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the brand ambassador of West Bengal. This was announced by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during the seventh Bengal Global Business Summit in Kolkata on November 21, 2023.
- A recent report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) reveals that Indians are among the most hardworking people in the world, averaging 48 hours per week at their jobs. This places them in the 6th position in the global ranking of working hours.
- **According to the Othering and Belonging Institute (OBI) at the University of California, Berkeley, India ranks 117th out of 129 countries in the 2023 World Inclusiveness Index.** This index measures the inclusiveness of nations across four dimensions: religion, gender, race, and LGBTQ
- China has approved the world's first passenger-carrying flying taxi, the EH216-S AAV, manufactured by Chinese company EHang. This is a significant step forward in the development of urban air mobility (UAM) technology.
- Pakistan successfully conducted a training launch of its Ghauri Weapon System.
- **The Euclid mission is a crucial endeavour undertaken by the European Space Agency (ESA) as part of its Cosmic Vision Programme.** This ambitious mission aims to delve into the profound mysteries of the Universe, exploring its origin, evolution, and fundamental laws.
- Chandigarh Smart City Limited (CSCL) has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven interactive chatbot named 'BIRBAL' to enhance citizen-centric services.
- **Lionel Messi won a record eighth Ballon d'Or in 2023, solidifying his status as one of the greatest footballers of all time.**
- Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has been suspended by the ICC with immediate effect because of extensive government interference in the board's administration.
- **The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced its latest inductees into the prestigious ICC Hall of Fame, welcoming Aravinda de Silva, Diana Edulji, and Virender Sehwag as the Class of 2023.**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that the upcoming Men's U19 World Cup, originally scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka, will now be hosted by South Africa. This decision comes after the ICC provisionally suspended Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) in November 2023 due to government interference in the administration of the sport.
- **Professor Saleemul Huq, a leading expert on climate change and a renowned figure in the fight for climate justice, passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh at the age of 71.**
- Noted musician, art researcher, writer, and former professor at Delhi University, Dr. Leela Omchery, passed away on November 1st, 2023, at the age of 94 in New Delhi.
- **S. Venkitaramanan, the 18th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), passed away on November 18, 2023, at the age of 92 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**
- Subrata Roy, the Sahara Group's founder, died in Mumbai, Maharashtra at 75 years old.
- Justice M. Fathima Beevi, the first woman judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court of India, passed away on November 23, 2023, at the age of 96.
- **Australia won the Cricket World Cup final in 2023, defeating India** on November 19th at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. This marked their sixth World Cup victory and cemented their status as a dominant force in the sport.
- **Kerala was honoured with the Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023.**
- **72nd Miss Universe- Sheynnis Palcois from Nicaragua. Indian participant was Shweta Sarda.**
- HCL tech founder Shiv Nadar tops Harun India Philanthropy list.
- International Emmy awards awarded Ekta Kapoor with directorate award.
- Asia university rankings 2024- iit bombay ranked among top 50 universities from India (ranked 40).
- Blue Dart express tied up with India Post to introduces automated digital parcel lockers at selected post offices.
- **Financial Action Task Force added Bulgaria to the grey list.**
- **Norway tired up with Uttarakhand to support india's hunger project.**
- **Russia formally withdrawn from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) citing NATO's expansion as a barrier to corporation.**
- United Kingdom has put forth plans to include India in and expanded list of safe states.
- A cargo ship named Galaxy Leader from Turkey to India has been hijacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels.
- According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, United States emerged as the foremost aid provider in 2022.
- ISRAEL officially declared LASHKAR-E-TAIBA as a terrorist organisation.
- **The Afghanistan embassy in New Delhi has officially announced its permanent closure** due to challenges from indian government.
- Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupted.
- The National Medical Commission has planned to assign unique identification number to every doctor in the country by the end of 2024. The initiative is to create a National Medical Register.
- The participation of women in india's workforce has increased reaching 37 percent during the 2022-23 fiscal year. Previously it was 23%.
- Mitti Cafe inaugurated within the premises of supreme court. this is entirely managed by individuals with disabilities.
- 'Bharat Atta' brand launched by government of india to support farmers and ensure essential commodities remain affordable for consumers.
- **Ghol fish has been officially declared as the state fish of gujarat.**
- Telangana unveiled world's first 3D printed temple situated in Burugupally.



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14

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**Q1. Who is the primary authority responsible for releasing the Commodity Markets Outlook 2023?**

- A) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- B) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- C) World Health Organization (WHO)
- D) World Bank

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

The Commodity Markets Outlook is typically released by the World Bank, providing valuable insights into global commodity markets. The Commodity Markets are expected to face significant challenges and opportunities in 2023, as the world recovers from the pandemic and transitions to a low-carbon economy. The demand and supply of commodities will be influenced by various factors, such as economic growth, trade policies, climate change, geopolitics, technology, and consumer preferences.

**Q2. "One nation, One registration" platform for doctors nationwide will be launched by which of the following?**

- A) National Medical Commission
- B) Medical Council of India
- C) Dental Council of India
- D) Health Ministry

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

The National Medical Commission (NMC) is responsible for the "one nation, one registration" platform for doctors nationwide. This platform, also known as the National Medical Register (NMR), aims to streamline and centralize doctor registrations, eliminating duplication and red tape while providing the public with easy access to information on all physicians practising in India.

**Q3. Who has emerged as India's leading wicket-taker in the ODI World Cup recently?**

- A) Kuldeep Yadav
- B) Mohammed Siraj
- C) Mohammed Shami
- D) Jasprit Bumrah

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Mohammed Shami was a dominant force in the 2023 World Cup, securing an impressive 24 wickets in just 7 matches. His consistent performances and ability to take crucial wickets at key moments were instrumental in India's journey to the final.

**Q4. What is the Collins Word of the Year for 2023?**

- A) War
- B) Earthquake
- C) AI
- D) Humanity

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

The word "AI" has been chosen as the Collins Word of the Year 2023 due to its **increased usage and impact on our daily lives**. Lexicographers at Collins Dictionary observed a significant acceleration in the use of the term, reflecting its growing relevance and ubiquity. The selection emphasizes how AI has **transitioned from a futuristic concept to an everyday reality**, similar to how email, streaming, and other technologies have become ingrained in our modern lives.

**Q5. What is the title of the book for which Nandini Das won the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding?**

- A) India and England: A Historical Perspective
- B) Courting India: England, Mughal India, and the Origins of Empire
- C) Empire Building: The English in Mughal India
- D) The Mughal Connection: Early British Diplomacy

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

The British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding 2023 was awarded to Nandini Das, a Professor in the English faculty at the University of Oxford and an Indian-born author. She wrote "Courting India: England, Mughal India, and the Origins of Empire," a book that examines the beginnings of the British Empire through the lens of Sir Thomas Roe, the first English ambassador in India, in the early 1600s. The author uses sources from both Indian and British perspectives to create a vivid and nuanced account of the initial interactions and conflicts between the two cultures.

**Q6. The Election Commission of India has designed software for complete Candidate and election management through 'ENCORE'. What is the full form of "ENCORE"?**

- A) Election Communications on Real-time Environment
- B) Enabling Communications in a Real-time Environment
- C) Election Community on Real-time Environment
- D) Enabling Communications on Real-time Election

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

ENCORE stands for Enabling Communications in Real-time Environment. It's an in-house software developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to manage various aspects of elections, including candidate registrations, voter interactions, election-related communication, and real-time data analysis.

**Q7. World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed annually on which day?**

- A) 4 November
- B) 5 November
- C) 6 November
- D) 7 November

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed annually on **November 5th**. This year's theme is "**Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future**", highlighting the disproportionate impact of tsunamis on vulnerable communities and the need for equitable risk reduction strategies.

**Q8. Who has become the first batter to be 'Timed Out' in International Cricket?**

- A) Sadeera Samarawickrama
- B) Shakib Al Hasan
- C) Virat Kohli
- D) Angelo Mathews

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Angelo Mathews, a Sri Lankan cricketer, became the first player in international cricket history to be dismissed "timed out" during the 2023 World Cup match against Bangladesh. The controversial dismissal occurred after Mathews took more than two minutes to take strike, prompting an appeal from Bangladeshi captain Shakib Al Hasan, which was upheld by the umpire.

**Q9. Who among the following has won the men's Ballon d'Or award for a record-extending eighth time?**

- A) Cristiano Ronaldo
- B) Sadio Mané
- C) Robert Lewandowski
- D) Lionel Messi

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Lionel Messi clinched his record-extending eighth Ballon d'Or award after fulfilling his lifelong ambition of leading Argentina to victory in the World Cup in Qatar last year. At 36, Messi, who won his first Ballon d'Or in 2009, now holds eight titles, surpassing Cristiano Ronaldo's five awards, making him the most decorated player in the award's history. He secured this accolade ahead of Manchester City forward Erling Haaland and his former PSG teammate Kylian Mbappe.

**Q10. Which organization has released the Adaptation Gap Report 2023?**

- A) World Health Organization (WHO)
- B) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- C) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- D) World Trade Organization (WTO)

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released its Adaptation Gap Report 2023, which warns that the world is not prepared for the impacts of climate change. The report estimates that the annual cost of adaptation in developing countries will reach \$140-300 billion by 2030, and \$280-500 billion by 2050. The report calls for urgent action to scale up adaptation finance, enhance adaptation planning and implementation, and integrate adaptation into all policies and sectors.

**Q11. What defines a gig worker?**

- A) Full-time employment with a single company
- B) Independent contractors taking short-term jobs
- C) Employees working remotely for a fixed salary
- D) Seasonal workers employed on a contract basis

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Gig workers are a type of workers who do not have a regular or permanent employment relationship with any organization. They work on their terms, choosing the projects, clients, and hours that suit them best. They are also known as independent contractors, freelancers, or self-employed professionals. Gig workers offer various kinds of services or skills, such as writing, graphic design, programming, delivery, tutoring, and more. They usually find work through online platforms, referrals, or personal networks.

**Q12. What was the GST collection amount in October 2023, in lakh crore rupees?**

- A) 1,45,867 crore

- B) 1,49,507 crore
- C) 1,72,003 crore
- D) 1,60,122 crore

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

The government collected Rs 1,72,003 crore in October 2023 through GST, which is the second-highest monthly collection ever, following the Rs 1.87 lakh crore collected in April 2023. This represents a significant increase of 13% compared to the same month last year, which is a positive sign for the Indian economy. It indicates that the economy is recovering well and that the government is taking steps to improve its finances.

**Q13. Who has been proposed to head the South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organisation?**

- A) Anshika Singh
- B) Saima Wazed
- C) Vasudha Gupta
- D) Sheetal Sharma

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Saima Wazed, a clinical psychologist and the daughter of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been nominated to head the World Health Organization South-East Asia Region. This information is confirmed by multiple reliable sources, including the official website of the WHO South East Asia Region Office.

**Q14. Who was sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner in November 2023?**

- A) Abhishek Singhvi
- B) Heeralal Samariya
- C) Parth Jindal
- D) Harshvardhan Bansal

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

In November 2023, **Heeralal Samariya** was sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India. He took the oath of office on Monday, November 6th, 2023, at

the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to Samariya, who was previously serving as an Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission (CIC). He became the **first person from the Dalit community to hold the post of CIC.**

**Q15. Who won the Booker Prize for the novel "Prophet Song"?**

- A) James Joyce
- B) Samuel Beckett
- C) Paul Lynch
- D) W.B. Yeats

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

The Booker Prize, one of the most prestigious literary awards in the world, went to Irish writer Paul Lynch for his novel "Prophet Song". Lynch received the 50,000-pound (\$63,000) prize in London, where the ceremony was held. His novel tells the tale of a woman who fights to protect her family in a dystopian Ireland ravaged by war and dictatorship.

**Q16. Which state has bagged the prestigious Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Odisha
- D) Kerala

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Kerala, the picturesque state in southern India, has been honoured with the prestigious Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023. This award recognizes the state's commendable efforts in promoting sustainable and inclusive tourism practices. The award was presented by the Responsible Tourism Partnership and the International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT). Kerala won the award in the "Best for Local Sourcing - Craft and Food" category.

**Q17. The study of pollen grain is called \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Pomology

- B) Palynology
- C) Phonology
- D) Mycology

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Palynology, the fascinating study of pollen grains and spores, dives into the microscopic world of plant reproduction and its far-reaching implications. Palynology is the scientific discipline that examines pollen grains and spores, including their structure, classification, distribution, and applications in various fields. These microscopic reproductive units, often invisible to the naked eye, hold valuable information about plant life and past environments.

**Q18. Red rot of sugarcane is caused by \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Colletotrichum falcatum
- B) Cercospora percoruata
- C) Alternaria alternate
- D) Phylophthora infestans

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Red rot in sugarcane is caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum falcatum*. This pathogen attacks sugarcane, causing red discoloration in affected tissues and damaging the stalks. It spreads through infected planting material or via spores in water and soil. Red rot leads to significant yield losses in sugarcane crops and is managed through practices like using disease-free seeds and employing cultural and chemical controls to mitigate its impact on cultivation.

**Q19. Cactus is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Hydrophite
- B) Mesophite
- C) Xerophyte
- D) Epiphyte

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Xerophytes are plants adapted to arid environments, characterized by limited water availability. Cacti are prime examples of xerophytes due to their remarkable

adaptations for conserving water. They have specialized structures like thick, waxy skin to reduce water loss, modified leaves (or spines) to minimize surface area and thus water loss through transpiration, and the ability to store water in their stems for extended periods, enabling them to thrive in dry climates.

**Q20. What is the theme for World Tsunami Awareness Day 2023?**

- A) Building Resilient Communities
- B) Unity for Disaster Preparedness
- C) Fighting inequality for a resilient future
- D) Global Cooperation Against Natural Disasters

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed annually on November 5th. It was established in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly to raise awareness about tsunamis and to reduce the risk of tsunami-related disasters. The chosen theme for World Tsunami Awareness Day 2023 is "Fighting inequality for a resilient future." This theme emphasizes addressing social and economic disparities to ensure that all communities, regardless of their socio-economic status, have equal access to resources and preparedness measures against tsunamis.

**Q21. Viruses that infect bacteria are called \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Bacteriophages
- B) Basophils
- C) Basal body
- D) Basidiospores

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Bacteriophages are viruses that infect and replicate within bacteria. They're composed of genetic material (either DNA or RNA) encapsulated in a protein coat. Upon infecting a bacterial cell, bacteriophages inject their genetic material, hijacking the bacterial machinery to replicate themselves. This process often leads to the lysis (rupture) of the bacterial cell, releasing newly formed phages to infect other bacteria. Bacteriophages have

applications in biotechnology, such as in phage therapy to combat bacterial infections, and they are also significant in genetic research and molecular biology.

**Q22. Dwarf plants can be made taller by applying\_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Gibberellins
- B) Auxins
- C) Cytokinins
- D) Dormin

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Gibberellins are plant hormones that regulate various growth processes, including stem elongation. When applied to dwarf plants, Gibberellins can stimulate stem elongation, leading to increased height. This hormone promotes cell elongation and division, influencing plant growth. In the case of dwarf plants, which naturally have reduced height due to genetic factors or hormone deficiencies, the application of Gibberellins can promote their vertical growth, making them taller by stimulating elongation in stems and other plant parts.

**Q23. Kalazar is transmitted by\_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Black flies
- B) Sandfly
- C) Tsetse fly
- D) Mites

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

The disease is caused by the protozoan parasite *Leishmania donovani*, which is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected sandflies belonging to the genus *Phlebotomus* in the Old World or *Lutzomyia* in the New World. These sandflies become infected after feeding on an infected human or animal host. Once the parasite enters the human body through the sand fly bite, it affects the internal organs, particularly the spleen, liver, and bone marrow, leading to the symptoms of kala-azar.

**Q24. Life originates from chemosynthesis was proved in the laboratory by\_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Pasteur
- B) Sager
- C) Aristotle
- D) Miller

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

The Miller-Urey experiment, conducted by Stanley Miller and Harold Urey in the 1950s, simulated the conditions of early Earth's atmosphere. They aimed to understand how life's building blocks, such as amino acids (the basic units of proteins), might have formed spontaneously. They created an environment with gases believed to be present in the primordial Earth's atmosphere, such as methane, ammonia, hydrogen, and water vapour. By subjecting these gases to electrical sparks to mimic lightning, they generated various organic compounds, including amino acids, which are essential for life. This experiment supported the hypothesis that organic molecules crucial for life could have emerged under early Earth's conditions through processes like chemosynthesis.

**Q25. Cyanide poisoning causes death in seconds' because\_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) It causes Lysis of red
- B) It denatures enzymes of the heart muscle
- C) It causes cardiac arrest
- D) It breaks the electron

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Cyanide is a potent poison that interferes with the functioning of the electron transport chain, a crucial process in cellular respiration. This disruption prevents cells from utilizing oxygen effectively to produce energy (ATP). The electron transport chain, essential for ATP synthesis, is halted by cyanide's interference, leading to rapid cellular dysfunction and ultimately causing systemic failure. This disruption affects various organs, including the heart and brain, leading to rapid and severe consequences like cardiac arrest and neurological damage, which can result in

death within a very short period after exposure to cyanide.

**Q26. In nuclear reactors, the speed of neutrons is slowed down by \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Heavy water
- B) Ordinary water
- C) Zinc rods
- D) Molten caustic soda

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Heavy water, which is a form of water containing a higher proportion of deuterium (a heavy isotope of hydrogen), is used as a moderator in some types of nuclear reactors. The role of a moderator is to slow down fast neutrons produced during nuclear fission reactions. Neutrons released in fission reactions move at high speeds initially, and to sustain the chain reaction efficiently, these fast neutrons need to be slowed down. Heavy water accomplishes this by colliding with the fast neutrons, reducing their speed to a level where they are more likely to cause additional fission events, enabling a controlled and sustained nuclear reaction in the reactor core.

**Q27. Ethanol containing 5% water is known as \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Absolute alcohol
- B) Dilute alcohol
- C) Power alcohol
- D) Rectified spirit

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Rectified spirit refers to ethanol that has been purified or rectified to a high degree, often through distillation processes. It typically contains a high percentage of ethanol and a small amount of water, usually around 5% water content. This level of purification makes rectified spirit suitable for various applications, including in the production of alcoholic beverages, pharmaceuticals, and laboratory purposes. Absolute alcohol refers to pure ethanol without any water content, while dilute alcohol generally implies a lower concentration of ethanol compared to rectified

spirit. Power alcohol typically refers to ethanol used as a fuel or for industrial purposes.

**Q28. Deficiency of which one of the following causes xerophthalmia \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Vitamin B3
- B) Vitamin B12
- C) Vitamin A
- D) Vitamin C

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Xerophthalmia is a medical condition resulting from a severe deficiency of Vitamin A. Vitamin A is crucial for maintaining eye health, particularly for the functioning of the retina and the production of the pigment rhodopsin, which is essential for low-light and colour vision. A lack of Vitamin A can lead to a range of eye problems, including night blindness, dryness of the conjunctiva and cornea (xerosis), and in severe cases, damage to the cornea (keratomalacia), which can result in blindness. Ensuring an adequate intake of Vitamin A through a balanced diet that includes sources such as liver, eggs, dairy products, and certain fruits and vegetables is essential for preventing xerophthalmia and maintaining good eye health.

**Q29. Chromatography technique is used for the separation of \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Small sample of mixture
- B) Plant pigments
- C) Dyestuff
- D) All

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Chromatography is a versatile technique employed for separating and analyzing mixtures. It can be used to separate small samples of various mixtures, including plant pigments, dyes, and a wide array of compounds. The principle behind chromatography involves the differential partitioning of components between a mobile phase (such as a solvent) and a stationary phase (a solid or liquid), causing the components to move at different rates and

thus allowing their separation based on their various properties like size, polarity, and affinity for the stationary phase. Therefore, chromatography is a broadly applicable method used across multiple fields for separating, analyzing, and identifying different substances within mixtures.

**Q30. The term 'Carbon footprint' means \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) A region which is rich in coal mines
- B) The amount of reduction in the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> by a country
- C) The use of Carbon in manufacturing industries
- D) The amount of greenhouse gases produced by our day-to-day activities

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

A carbon footprint measures the total amount of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and other gases emitted into the atmosphere directly or indirectly as a result of human activities. These activities include but are not limited to transportation, energy consumption, industrial processes, and the use of fossil fuels for heating and electricity. Understanding and calculating carbon footprints are crucial for assessing and managing the environmental impact of human actions, aiming to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change. It's a measure used to evaluate the overall contribution of an individual, organization, event, or product to global warming and climate change based on their emissions of greenhouse gases.

**Q31. It is reported that there is an ongoing decrease in the pH value of ocean water because of global warming. It happens due to:**

- A) Larger uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> by ocean water
- B) Lesser uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> by ocean water
- C) Larger uptake of atmospheric nitrogen by ocean water
- D) Lesser uptake of atmospheric nitrogen by ocean water.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

As the Earth's atmosphere accumulates more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) due to human activities like burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes, a significant portion of this CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed by the oceans. When CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in seawater, it forms carbonic acid through a series of chemical reactions, leading to a reduction in the pH of the ocean water. This process is known as ocean acidification.

With increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the oceans act as a sink, absorbing more CO<sub>2</sub>. As a result, the concentration of carbonic acid in seawater rises, causing a decline in pH levels. Ocean acidification poses a threat to marine life, particularly organisms like corals, shellfish, and plankton that rely on carbonate ions to build their shells or skeletons. This ongoing decrease in pH due to increased CO<sub>2</sub> absorption is a concerning aspect of climate change impacting ocean ecosystems.

**Q32. Which one among the following groups is the most abundant in terms of the number of species identified?**

- A) Fungi
- B) Green plants
- C) Bacteria
- D) Insects

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Among the options provided, insects, belonging to the class Insecta, are the most abundant in terms of identified species. Insects represent an incredibly diverse group within the animal kingdom, with estimates suggesting that there are potentially millions of insect species worldwide, though a vast number remain undiscovered or unidentified. This enormous diversity is due to their adaptive abilities, varied ecological niches, and high reproductive rates, making them the most numerous and diverse group of organisms on the planet.

**Q33. If the temperature rises, the coefficient of viscosity of the liquid:**

- A) Decreases
- B) Increase
- C) Remains unchanged



D) None of these

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

In most cases, as the temperature of a liquid increases, its viscosity decreases. This relationship between temperature and viscosity is observed in many liquids. When the temperature rises, the kinetic energy of the molecules within the liquid also increases, leading to greater molecular motion. This increased molecular motion disrupts the cohesive forces between the molecules, making it easier for them to flow past each other. Consequently, the liquid becomes less viscous, meaning it flows more easily. However, it's important to note that this behaviour may not be consistent across all liquids, as there are exceptions and variations based on the specific characteristics of different liquids.

**Q34. Which one of the following is not a result of surface tension?**

- A) Nearly spherical drop of rain
- B) Capillary rise
- C) Removal of dirt by soap or detergent
- D) Flow of liquid

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Surface tension is the property of a liquid's surface that arises due to the cohesive forces between its molecules. It causes the surface of a liquid to behave like an elastic membrane, minimizing its surface area and giving rise to various effects such as capillary rise, the nearly spherical shape of raindrops, and the removal of dirt by soap or detergent. However, the flow of liquid itself is not directly caused by surface tension. While surface tension affects the behaviour of the liquid's surface, the flow of liquid occurs due to other factors such as gravity, pressure gradients, or external forces applied to the liquid. Surface tension primarily influences how liquids interact with surfaces and objects and affects phenomena at the liquid's interface, but it's not the driving force behind the bulk movement or flow of the liquid itself.

**Q35. If the temperature inside a room is increased, the relative humidity will:**

- A) Increase
- B) Decrease
- C) Remain unchanged
- D) None of these

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Relative humidity (RH) is the measure of the moisture content in the air compared to the maximum amount of moisture that the air at that temperature can hold. As the temperature rises, the air's capacity to hold moisture also increases. Therefore, if the moisture content remains constant while the temperature increases, the relative humidity decreases because the air can now hold more moisture at a higher temperature. Conversely, if the temperature inside a room decreases while the moisture content remains constant, the relative humidity would increase because cooler air has a lower capacity to hold moisture.

**Q36. The temperature of water at the bottom of a waterfall is higher than that at the top because \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Water at the bottom has greater potential energy.
- B) The surface at the bottom provides heat
- C) The kinetic energy of falling water is converted into heat
- D) Falling water absorbs heat from the surroundings

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

When water falls from a height in a waterfall, it gains kinetic energy due to its downward movement. As the water crashes into the bottom pool or surface, this kinetic energy is converted into other forms of energy, including mechanical energy (which causes the splashing and turbulence) and a small amount of heat. However, this conversion of kinetic energy into heat is usually not sufficient to significantly raise the temperature of the water at the bottom compared to the top.

In most cases, the water at the bottom of a waterfall tends to be cooler because of the splashing and turbulence, which increase the surface area exposed to the air and promote evaporation. This evaporation process leads to cooling, and coupled with the mixing of air and water, contributes to the lower temperature at the bottom of the waterfall compared to the top.

**Q37. Ice is packed in sawdust because \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Saw dust does not stick to the ice
- B) Saw dust will not get melted easily
- C) Saw dust is a poor conductor of heat
- D) Saw dust is a good conductor of heat

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Sawdust, being an insulator and a poor conductor of heat, serves as an effective material to insulate and slow down the melting of ice. Insulators like sawdust create a barrier that reduces the transfer of heat between the environment and the ice. This means that external heat doesn't easily reach the ice, helping to maintain its lower temperature and slowing the rate of melting. Compared to materials that are good conductors of heat (like metals), sawdust has a lower thermal conductivity, which helps in minimizing heat transfer. As a result, using sawdust as insulation around ice helps preserve its solid state for a longer duration by impeding the melting process caused by external heat sources.

**Q38. The image formed on the retina of a human eye is \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Virtual and inverted
- B) Virtual and erect
- C) Real and erect
- D) Real and inverted

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

The human eye functions similarly to a camera, forming real images on the retina. When light rays from an object pass through

the eye's lens, they converge to form an inverted image on the retina. This inversion of the image occurs due to the way light rays refract and intersect within the eye's optical system. Despite the image being inverted on the retina, the brain interprets and processes this information, allowing us to perceive the world right-side-up. The brain corrects the inversion, and we see objects in their correct orientation, despite the image formed on the retina being inverted.

**Q39. How many members of the Lok Sabha must support a motion of 'no confidence' in the government, before it can be admitted by the Speaker?**

- A) 20
- B) 25
- C) 35
- D) 50

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

In the Lok Sabha, a motion of no confidence can only be admitted by the Speaker if it is supported by **at least 50 members**. This requirement is stipulated under Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

**Q40. Kalhan's Rajatarangini is the history of :**

- A) Kashmir
- B) Harsha's reign
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Chandragupta's reign

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Rajatarangini, authored by Kalhana, is a significant historical text that primarily focuses on the history of the Kashmir region. It covers the history, culture, and rulers of Kashmir from ancient times up to the 12th century CE. Rajatarangini is valued as an essential source of information for understanding the history and socio-political aspects of the Kashmir Valley during that period.



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