

# WBCS GAZETTE

A House Journal **APTI PLUS**



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

APRIL 2024



Indian Passport



World Immunization  
Week



Clouded Tiger Cat



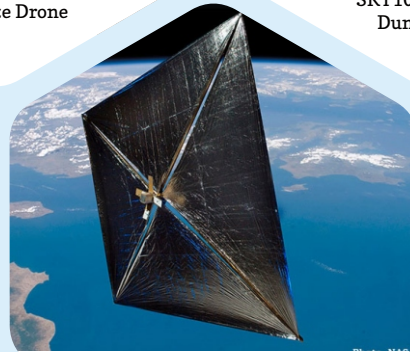
Kamikaze Drone



SKT105E Electric  
Dump Truck



Shenzhou-18  
Mission



NASA's Advanced Composite  
Solar Sail System  
Mission

A MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ASPIRANTS OF WBCS EXAMINATION



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## NATIONAL

### Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)

- The granting of 'Navratna' status to the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** by the government is a significant milestone that highlights the agency's important role in advancing India's renewable energy agenda.
- As a Navratna company, IREDA gains greater autonomy and financial independence. The agency can now make investment decisions up to ₹1,000 crore without seeking prior approval from the government.
- **It was established in 1987**, it specializes in providing financial assistance for renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, biomass, and other sustainable energy initiatives. With Navratna status, IREDA is better positioned to drive India's transition towards cleaner and more sustainable sources of energy.



### Clean Energy Transition Report

- The recent report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember sheds light on India's clean energy transition, emphasizing the performance disparities among different states.
- **Karnataka and Gujarat are recognized for their strong performance in integrating renewable energy sources and decarbonizing their power sectors.** These states serve as models for successful clean energy transition within India.
- States like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh are identified as lagging behind in the clean energy transition. These states face challenges in deploying renewable energy and strengthening distribution companies.



### Permanent Education Number (PEN)

- The School Education Department in Andhra Pradesh has mandated the use of the Permanent Education Number (PEN) for students starting from the academic year 2024-25.
- The **PEN is a unique identification number assigned to each student by the Union Ministry of Education through the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) portal**, which covers over 14.89 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and 26.5 crore children.

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## INTERNATIONAL

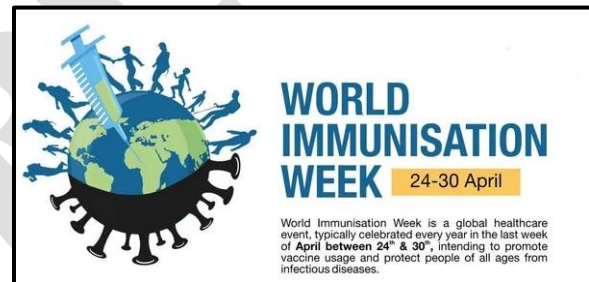
### Indian Passport

- The recent study by **Compare the Market AU** highlights interesting findings about passport affordability and accessibility globally.
- The study ranks the **UAE passport as the most affordable globally, followed by the Indian passport in the second position in terms of cost-effectiveness.**
- The Indian passport is noted for its low acquisition cost and yearly expenses, making it an economically viable option for passport holders.
- The Indian passport emerges as the most economical choice in terms of yearly expenses, with passport holders spending only \$1.81 per year on average for its validity. This affordability surpasses countries like South Africa and Kenya.
- The study dispels the myth that the United States passport is the most expensive globally. Instead, Mexico holds the title for the most expensive passport, followed closely by Australia.



### World Immunization Week

- **World Immunization Week observed annually from April 24 to 30**, is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness about the critical importance of vaccination in preventing diseases and protecting communities.
- The **theme for World Immunization Week 2024 is "Humanly Possible: Immunization for All."** This theme highlights the collective effort needed to ensure equitable access to life-saving vaccines for everyone, regardless of their circumstances.
- World Immunization Week was **established by the World Health Assembly in 2012** and is celebrated in over 180 countries simultaneously. The goal is to synchronize global efforts in promoting vaccination.



### Green Hydrogen Summit

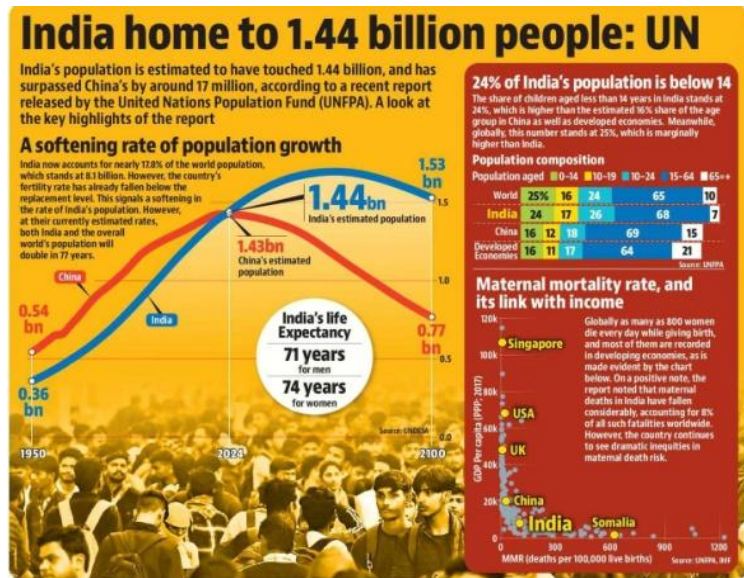
- The second annual Green Hydrogen Summit was held on April 16, 2024.
- It was **hosted by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC (Masdar)** as part of the World Future Energy Summit.
- The purpose of the summit was to accelerate the development of the global green hydrogen economy and support the energy transition.
- The summit brought together policymakers, industry leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs to discuss the latest advancements, challenges, and policy frameworks in green hydrogen production, infrastructure, utilization, and investment.
- **Green hydrogen is a clean-burning fuel produced by splitting water molecules through electrolysis using renewable energy sources like solar or wind power.** This process separates the hydrogen from the oxygen in water, resulting in pure hydrogen gas with zero carbon emissions during production.
- Green hydrogen is seen as a promising fuel for the future because it has the potential to decarbonize various sectors, including transportation, power generation, and industry.

### United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Report

- **The recent report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** provides comprehensive insights into India's population demographics and associated challenges.



- India's estimated population is approximately 144 crore, making it the most populous country globally, surpassing China.
- Within India's population, approximately 24% fall within the 0-14 age bracket.
- The age distribution includes 17% of the population within the 10-19 age range and 26% within the 10-24 age group.
- The 15-64 age group constitutes 68% of the population, and 7% are aged 65 years and above.
- Life expectancy is reported to be 71 years for men and 74 years for women.
- Child marriage remains a concern, with a percentage of 23 between 2006-2023.
- Maternal deaths in India have declined significantly but still account for 8% of global maternal fatalities.



### Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024

- According to the Forbes 38th Annual World's Billionaires List 2024, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), is the sole Indian to feature in the top 10 billionaires globally. **Ambani secured the 9th spot on the prestigious list.**
- There are a total of 2,781 billionaires worldwide from 77 different countries. The combined wealth of these billionaires amounted to \$14.2 trillion, marking a \$2 trillion increase from the previous year.
- The countries with the highest number of billionaires are:
  - United States of America, with 813 billionaires and a combined wealth of \$5.7 trillion.
  - China, with 406 billionaires and a combined wealth of \$1.3 trillion.
  - India, with 200 billionaires and a combined wealth of \$954 billion.

#### Top 10 Billionaires in the World (as per Forbes 2024):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Bernard Arnault & family (France): \$233 billion | • Warren Buffett (USA): \$133 billion  |
| • Elon Musk (USA): \$195 billion                   | • Bill Gates (USA): \$128 billion      |
| • Jeff Bezos (USA): \$194 billion                  | • Steve Ballmer (USA): \$121 billion   |
| • Mark Zuckerberg (USA): \$177 billion             | • Mukesh Ambani (India): \$116 billion |
| • Larry Ellison (USA): \$114 billion               | • Larry Page (USA): \$114 billion      |

#### Top 10 Indian Billionaires (as per Forbes 2024):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Mukesh Ambani: \$116 billion (9th globally)             | • Kushal Pal Singh: \$20.9 billion (92nd globally)     |
| • Gautam Adani: \$84 billion (17th globally)              | • Kumarmangalam Birla: \$19.7 billion (98th globally)  |
| • Shiv Nadar: \$36.9 billion (39th globally)              | • Radhakrishna Damani: \$17.6 billion (107th globally) |
| • Savitri Jindal & Family: \$33.5 billion (46th globally) | • Lakshmi Mittal: \$16.4 billion (113th globally)      |
| • Dilip Shanghvi: \$26.7 billion (69th globally)          |  |
| • Cyrus Poonawala: \$21.3 billion (90th globally)         |  |

### Clouded Tiger Cat

- The discovery of the clouded tiger cat (*Leopardus pardinoides*) in Brazil's rainforests represents a significant finding in wildlife conservation and biodiversity.





a town, region, or country.

- GIs indicate that certain qualities, reputations, or characteristics of the product are essentially linked to its geographical origin.
- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This act came into force on 15th September 2003, providing a legal framework for the registration and protection of geographical indications in India.
- **Darjeeling tea became the first product in India to receive a GI tag.**

### Monetary Policy

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its monetary policy decisions for the first bi-monthly cycle of the fiscal year 2024-25.
- The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), by a majority vote of 5:1, has opted to maintain the key policy rates unchanged. **Governor Shaktikanta Das confirmed this decision, highlighting that the policy repo rate will remain at 6.50%.**
- **The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act of 1934 (amended in 2016).** It determines the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) to maintain price stability (inflation targeting) while keeping economic growth in mind.
- Composition of Monetary Policy Committee: Six members: Three officials from the RBI, including the Governor (chairperson) and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- Policy Rates Unchanged:
  - Policy Repo Rate: 6.50%
  - Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate: 6.25%
  - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate: 6.75%
  - Bank Rate: 6.75%
  - Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
  - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): 4.50%
  - Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): 18.00%

### Kathiya Gehu

- **The indigenous wheat variety from the Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh**, known locally as Kathiya Gehu, has achieved a significant milestone by receiving the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Kathiya Gehu is the first farm produce from Uttar Pradesh to be granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, highlighting its cultural and agricultural importance.
- **Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a leader in acquiring GI tags**, with Kathiya Gehu being the 69th product to receive this recognition. This achievement showcases India's diverse cultural and agricultural heritage.







## DEFENCE & SECURITY

### Kamikaze Drone

- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) unveiled a new "kamikaze drone" similar to Russia's Lancet drone.
- This type of drone is designed for targeted attacks and explodes on impact.
- Equipped with electro-optical systems for targeting and a built-in warhead
- This drone signifies Iran's continued investment in drone technology, particularly for offensive capabilities.



### Angara-A5 rocket

- Russia achieved a significant milestone with the successful test launch of its Angara-A5 space rocket on April 11, 2024, from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Far East of Russia.
- The Angara-A5 rocket achieved impressive performance, reaching an altitude of over 25,000 kilometres per hour within minutes of launch. This three-stage rocket stands 54.5 meters tall and weighs approximately 773 tons, with a payload capacity of 24.5 tons.
- Russia initiated the Angara project in 1991 to develop a domestically produced launch vehicle after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.



### Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)

- The Indian Army's acquisition of Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) from Russia represents a significant enhancement to its Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) capabilities.
- The Indian Army has acquired Igla-S MANPADS as part of a larger deal that includes 120 launchers and 400 missiles from Russia. This acquisition aims to replace outdated air defence systems and strengthen India's VSHORAD capabilities.
- The Igla-S systems are designed for deployment in high mountainous terrains along the northern border of India.

#### Igla-S portable anti-aircraft missile system

Designed to engage all types of aircraft and helicopters, as well as small airborne targets such as cruise missiles, at any time of day in visible conditions on collision and pursuit courses against background and artificial thermal interference.



500 to 6,000 m  
Firing range

10 to 3,500 m  
target altitude

no more than 12 s.  
mobile-to-combat position  
transition time

no more than 5 s.  
ready to start time  
from activation

Target speed:

up to 400 m/s  
on collision courses

up to 320 m/s  
on catch-up courses



## SCIENCE

### CAR-T Cell Therapy

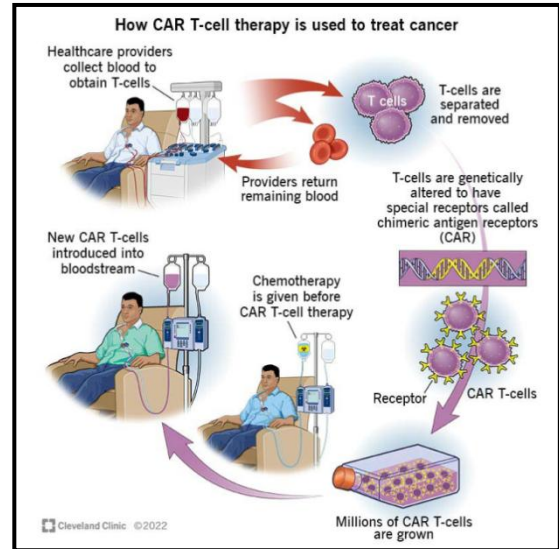
- President of India Launches India's First Home-Grown Gene Therapy For Cancer.

#### About CAR-T Cell Therapy

- CAR T-cell therapy is a **type of immunotherapy that uses a patient's immune system cells to fight cancer.**
- It's a relatively new and promising treatment for certain types of blood cancers, such as leukaemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

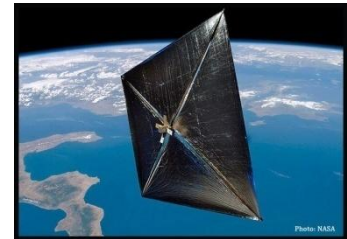
### How CAR-T Cell Therapy works?

- **T cell collection:** T cells are first extracted from a patient's blood through a process called apheresis. This is similar to a blood donation but specifically collects T cells.
  - T cells are one of the important types of white blood cells of the immune system and play a central role in the adaptive immune response.
- **CAR engineering:** The collected T cells are then sent to a lab where they are genetically modified to express a special receptor called a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR). This CAR helps the T cells recognize and attack specific proteins on the surface of cancer cells.
- **T cell expansion:** The modified T cells (CAR T cells) are then multiplied in large numbers in the laboratory to create an army of cancer fighters.
- **CAR T cell infusion:** Once there are enough CAR T cells, they are infused back into the patient's bloodstream through an intravenous (IV) line.
- **Attacking cancer cells:** The CAR T cells then travel throughout the body, identifying and destroying cancer cells that express the specific protein targeted by the CAR.



### NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System Mission

- The recent launch of NASA's **Advanced Composite Solar Sail System** spacecraft marks a significant advancement in space exploration through the utilization of solar sail technology.
- The spacecraft, equipped with a solar sail, was launched from New Zealand aboard Rocket Lab's Electron rocket.
- The primary objective is to demonstrate the effectiveness of solar sail propulsion, showcasing the capability to rise and lower orbit solely using sunlight pressure on the sail.
- Solar sail technology utilizes sunlight for propulsion, reducing the reliance on traditional fuel-based systems and enabling longer-duration missions at lower costs.



### SKT105E Electric Dump Truck

- **Sany India has launched the SKT105E Electric Dump Truck**, marking a significant milestone in the Indian mining industry as the first locally manufactured electric off-highway dump truck.
- The SKT105E has an impressive payload capacity of 70 tonnes and utilizes an advanced electric propulsion system, setting a new benchmark for energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- The zero-emission nature of the electric dump truck aligns with India's efforts to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Sany India's initiative supports India's sustainable development goals by contributing to a cleaner environment.



### VASA-1

- **Microsoft Research Asia's AI team has developed VASA-1, an innovative AI application** that converts still images into animated representations synchronized with speech or song, showcasing realistic facial expressions.

- The research aimed to animate static images by adding synchronized audio tracks while maintaining authentic facial expressions.
- VASA-1 achieved impressive success in this objective, generating animations that seamlessly synchronize with provided audio, as demonstrated by sample videos on the project page.
- The AI system was trained on a diverse dataset containing thousands of images with various facial expressions.



### Shenzhou-18 mission

- The **Shenzhou-18 spacecraft** nicknamed the "Divine Vessel," was launched by China from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre.
- After reaching orbit, the spacecraft will autonomously dock with the Tiangong space station, positioned approximately 400 km above Earth.
- Upon arrival at the Tiangong space station, the Shenzhou-18 crew will join the astronauts from the Shenzhou-17 mission.
- China's broader space exploration ambitions include plans to land astronauts on the Moon by 2030, with significant progress made in developing critical elements for crewed lunar missions.



### Llama 3

- Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has announced the launch of Meta AI, a **cutting-edge AI assistant powered by the state-of-the-art language model Llama 3**.
- This upgraded AI offering from Meta is set to enhance user experiences across popular Meta apps like WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and Messenger, as well as on the dedicated website, meta.ai.



### Men5CV vaccine

- **Nigeria became the first country to roll out the Men5CV vaccine, which targets five strains of meningococcal bacteria.** This is a critical step in combating meningitis in Africa, particularly in Nigeria, where the disease is a significant threat.
- Meningitis outbreaks are prevalent in the African Meningitis Belt, making Nigeria's initiative particularly significant. Last year, the region experienced a 50% surge in cases, emphasizing the urgent need for effective intervention strategies.
- The Men5CV vaccine offers comprehensive protection against the five major meningococcal strains, an improvement over existing vaccines that typically target only one strain. This advancement has the potential to significantly reduce meningitis cases and contribute to its eradication.
- Meningitis is a serious medical condition characterized by inflammation of the meninges, which are the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.

Nigeria has become the first country in the world to roll out the "revolutionary" new Men5CV vaccine against meningitis, announces the World Health Organization (WHO).



## SPORTS

### Usain Bolt

- **Usain Bolt, the legendary sprinter and Olympic gold medalist, has been appointed as the official ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States from June 1 to 29.**



- Bolt's exceptional athletic career includes winning three consecutive Olympic gold medals ('Triple-Triple') in 2008, 2012, and 2016 in the 100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay events. He holds world records in all three events and is celebrated as the fastest man alive.
- Bolt's role as ambassador involves promoting the T20 World Cup, particularly in the USA, where cricket is growing but still relatively untapped compared to other sports markets. He aims to boost interest in cricket and envisions the sport being included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.



## Laureus World Sports Awards 2024

- The Laureus World Sports Awards 2024, held in Madrid (Spain) honoured outstanding athletes from around the globe, celebrating their remarkable achievements in their respective sports.
- **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year:** Novak Djokovic, the world's top-ranked tennis player, was honoured as the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for the fifth time.
- **Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year:** Aitana Bonmatí, a football star from Barcelona and the Spanish national team made history as the first footballer to win the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year award.
- **Comeback of the Year:** Simone Biles, the American artistic gymnast and the most decorated gymnast in history with 37 World and Olympic medals, received the Comeback of the Year award for her remarkable return to competition and contributions to the sport.
- **Breakthrough of the Year:** Jude Bellingham, an English professional footballer playing for Real Madrid and the England national team, was recognized for his breakthrough performances in football.



## Saurav Ghosal

- **Saurav Ghosal's retirement from professional squash** marks the conclusion of a highly distinguished career in Indian sports.
- Ghosal's career spanned over two decades, during which he amassed 12 Professional Squash Association (PSA) titles, showcasing his consistency and prowess on the international stage.
- He achieved multiple medals at prestigious events like the Commonwealth Games (CWG) and Asian Games, solidifying his reputation as one of India's finest squash players.



## Deepika Soreng

- **Deepika Soreng, forward of the India Women's Hockey Team, was honoured with the prestigious Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year** during the Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023
- The year 2023 marked a significant milestone in Deepika's hockey career as she made her debut for the Indian team during the Women's Junior Asia Cup.
- Her exceptional skills and goal-scoring prowess were on full display as she emerged as the second-highest goal-scorer for the side, netting an impressive 7 goals in 6 matches.
- Deepika's role in the team's success was instrumental in helping India clinch the Gold medal in the prestigious tournament, further solidifying her position as a force to be reckoned with in the hockey arena.



## Wisden Cricketers' Almanack

- In the 2024 edition of the prestigious Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, Australian captain Pat Cummins and England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt have been crowned as the Wisden Leading Cricketers in the World.
- **Pat Cummins, the Australian skipper, has solidified his place as one of the premier fast bowlers globally, leading his team to remarkable achievements.** He played a pivotal role in Australia's ICC World Test Championship triumph and also led the team to their sixth ICC Cricket World Cup title.
- **Nat Sciver-Brunt demonstrated exceptional performances in the Ashes series.** Her all-round brilliance was instrumental in England's series wins, showcasing her batting prowess and bowling contributions across various formats.
- Australian players Mitchell Starc, Usman Khawaja, and Ashleigh Gardner were recognized for their standout performances in the Ashes series.
- The Wisden Almanack also acknowledged other standout performances, including the Wisden Trophy awarded to Travis Head for his remarkable Test performance and naming Hayley Matthews as the Wisden Leading T20 Cricketer.



## PERSON IN NEWS

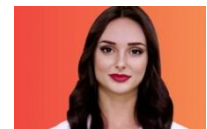
### Humza Yousaf

- Humza Yousaf, Scotland's first Muslim First Minister, and leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP), has stepped down from his position.
- Yousaf's resignation comes amid the collapse of the SNP's coalition with the Scottish Greens and mounting opposition no-confidence motions.
- **Scotland is a country that is part of the United Kingdom.** It is located in the northern part of the island of Great Britain and has many islands.
- The **capital of Scotland is Edinburgh** and the largest city is Glasgow.



### AI News Anchor Sana

- India Today Group's **Artificial intelligence (AI) anchor, Sana, won the International News Media Association's (INMA) 2024 Global Media Award.**
- Sana is India's first AI news anchor, introduced in March 2023.
- Sana can communicate in multiple languages, potentially reaching a wider audience.



### Ishaq Dar

- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's appointment of Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister
- The appointment was formalized through a notification issued by the Cabinet Division, indicating a strategic reorganization within the government's hierarchy.
- Ishaq Dar previously served as Pakistan's Foreign Minister and has been a prominent figure within the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party.
- Ishaq Dar's inclusion in the Council of Common Interests (CCI), a key decision-making body chaired by Shehbaz Sharif, highlights his expanded role and influence within the government.



### Alok Shukla

- Alok Shukla has been awarded the **prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for 2024.** This award, often referred to as the "Green Nobel," recognizes his significant efforts in protecting forests

- The Goldman Environmental Prize is a highly respected annual recognition given to grassroots environmental leaders from six regions around the world. It acknowledges their exceptional contributions to environmental protection.
- Alok Shukla is an environmental activist and convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, which translates to "Save Chhattisgarh Movement."



### Raman Subba Row

- Raman Subba Row, a former England Test batsman, passed away.
- He began his cricketing journey at Cambridge University, where he demonstrated his talent as a first-class cricketer.
- Subba Row moved to Northamptonshire and eventually earned his first England cap in 1958. He went on to represent England in 13 Test matches.
- He served as England's tour manager to India and Sri Lanka in 1981 and later became the chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board (predecessor of ECB) from 1985 to 1990.



### Gina Justus

- Gina Justus, an English High School teacher at the Sharjah Girls Branch in the UAE, has won the regional Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in 2024.
- Gina Justus was recognized among a record-breaking number of nominations in the competition, with over 14,840 submissions from 141 countries globally. Her selection as the MENA regional winner highlights her significant contributions to education.
- The Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards is a prestigious global competition honouring outstanding primary and secondary school teachers who positively influence their students' educational journeys.



### Shane Watson

- "**The Winner's Mindset**," authored by **Shane Watson** (former Australian Cricketer), explores the mental aspects of achieving success through the lens of his cricketing career.
- The book's narrative is inspired by a tragic incident in 2014 when Watson witnessed the death of fellow cricketer Phillip Hughes after being struck by a bouncer during a match at the Sydney Cricket Ground.
- In "The Winner's Mindset," Watson shares his journey of self-discovery, exploring topics such as goal-setting, resilience, self-belief, and overcoming adversity. Through candid storytelling and practical advice, he offers readers actionable steps to cultivate a mindset that drives success.



### Prabowo Subianto

- **Prabowo Subianto has been officially declared Indonesia's president-elect** by the electoral commission after winning with 58.6% of the votes.
- Subianto's victory was challenged by two losing presidential candidates who alleged widespread fraud and state interference in the electoral process. However, the country's highest court rejected these challenges, leading to the official declaration of Subianto as the winner.



### Nalin Prabhat

- Nalin Prabhat, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1992 batch of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG).
- NSG is India's premier counter-terrorism and counter-hijack force.

Nalin Prabhat Appointed as Director-General of NSG





- He is serving as the Additional Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Jammu and Kashmir
- The appointment is approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister.

## Gita Sabharwal

- **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the new UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia.**
- Gita Sabharwal brings nearly three decades of experience in development, climate transition, sustainable peace, governance, and social policy. She has held notable positions in the UN and The Asia Foundation, working in countries like Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Maldives.
- As the UN Resident Coordinator, Sabharwal's primary responsibilities include representing the United Nations at the highest levels, coordinating UN support to address the country's needs and challenges, and leading the UN country team in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



## Bilquis Mir

- **Bilquis Mir has been selected as the first woman from India to serve as a jury member at the Summer Olympics in Paris 2024.**
- Mir's journey as a canoeist started in 1998 on Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir. Mir has served as the coach of India's women's canoeing team for the upcoming Games. Her involvement as both a competitor and a coach demonstrates her deep commitment and expertise in the sport.
- Mir's appointment is not just a personal achievement but also serves as an inspiration for aspiring athletes, particularly girls from Jammu and Kashmir and across India.



## Naima Khatoon

- **Professor Naima Khatoon's appointment as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) marks a historic milestone and symbolizes progress towards gender equality.**
- Khatoon's journey to the Vice-Chancellorship is characterized by academic excellence and perseverance.
- She has completed her PhD in psychology at AMU and steadily rose through the ranks, serving as a lecturer, professor, and principal of the Women's College.



## Narsingh Yadav

- The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has completed a mandated process by the United World Wrestling (UWW) to establish an Athletes Commission aimed at addressing wrestlers' grievances. Following elections, **Narsingh Yadav, a former Commonwealth Games gold medalist, was unanimously chosen as its Chairman.**
- Narsingh Yadav's journey in wrestling includes notable moments such as his participation in the 2016 Rio Olympics, where he faced doping-related challenges. Despite setbacks, he has made significant contributions to the sport, and his election as Chairman of the Athletes Commission highlights his continued involvement and commitment to wrestling in India.
- The **United World Wrestling (UWW), headquartered in Switzerland**, oversees global wrestling competitions, including the Olympics and World Championships.
- The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), based in New Delhi, governs wrestling within the country, organizing national and international events and supporting Indian wrestlers in major competitions.



## Pavuluri Subba Rao

- **Pavuluri Subba Rao, the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of Ananth Technologies has been honoured with the prestigious 'Aryabhata Award' by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI) for his significant contributions to the promotion of astronautics in India.**
- Rao's career began at ISRO, where he gained extensive experience in space technology. In 1992, he ventured into entrepreneurship by founding Ananth Technologies Limited, focusing on designing and developing advanced avionics for ISRO and the Defense sector.
- Under Rao's leadership, Ananth Technologies has been instrumental in India's space program, supplying critical components to numerous satellites and launch vehicles. The company's contributions have strengthened India's indigenous capabilities in aerospace and defence.



## Salman Rushdie

- **Salman Rushdie's book "Knife," highlights the experience of being stabbed at a public event in 2022 and how he overcame the near-fatal ordeal.**
- Rushdie lost sight in one eye due to the attack by a knife-wielding assailant at a New York arts gathering in 2022/.
- Salman Rushdie, born in Mumbai and raised in England, gained literary prominence with his Booker Prize-winning novel "Midnight's Children" in 1981.



## Mohammed Salem

- **Mohammed Salem, a 39-year-old Palestinian photographer with Reuters, won the 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award for his haunting image of a Palestinian woman with the dead body of her 5-year-old who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza.**
- The jury praised Salem's image as "composed with care and respect, offering at once a metaphorical and literal glimpse into unimaginable loss."
- The World Press Photo Foundation highlighted the dangers journalists face in covering conflicts, with 99 media workers killed in Gaza since the fighting began on October 7, 2023.



## Ratan Tata

- Ratan Tata received the KISS Humanitarian Award 2021 for his global humanitarian efforts. His dedication to philanthropy and humanitarian work is widely recognized, and this award further highlights his significant contributions to society.
- The KISS Humanitarian Award, established by Achyuta Samanta, serves as an important platform for honouring individuals and organizations dedicated to making a positive global impact.



## Alia Bhatt

- Alia Bhatt was named to TIME Magazine's '100 Most Influential People of 2024' list, highlighting her exceptional global impact and versatile talent.
- Alia's journey to global recognition gained momentum with her Hollywood debut in 2023's "Heart of Stone," marking a significant milestone in her career trajectory.
- Notable Indians on the list included Sakshi Malik, Dev Patel, Alia Bhatt, Satya Nadella, and Ajay Banga, each celebrated for their impactful contributions in their respective fields.



## Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

- Kuwait's Emir has appointed Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as the new Prime Minister, succeeding Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

- Over the course of his career, Sheikh Ahmad has held various significant positions, including roles at Kuwait's Finance Center and the Central Bank of Kuwait.
- He also served as chairman of the board for Burgan Bank and held several ministerial portfolios, such as Minister of Finance, Minister of Communications, Minister of Planning, Minister of State for Administrative Affairs, Minister of Health, and Minister of Oil.



## AWARDS

### Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar

- Amitabh Bachchan was honoured with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar.
- The Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony, held on April 24, commemorates the memory of Deenanath Mangeshkar, a theatre-music veteran. The award recognizes individuals who have made groundbreaking contributions to the nation and society.
- AR Rahman was also honoured during the event with Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar for his remarkable contribution to Indian music.



### Adwaita Nayar

- The World Economic Forum has named **Adwaita Nayar, co-founder of Nykaa and CEO of Nykaa Fashion, as a '2024 Young Global Leader'**.
- The Forum of Young Global Leaders celebrates individuals under 40 making a significant impact in their fields. Nayar's selection to this group reflects her exceptional leadership, innovative thinking, and commitment to positive change.
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international organization headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland. Founded by Klaus Schwab in 1971, the WEF is known for its annual meetings in Davos, Switzerland, where global leaders from various sectors convene to discuss and address global challenges.



### Simon Harris

- **Simon Harris, at 37, has been elected as Ireland's youngest-ever prime minister, succeeding Leo Varadkar who resigned for personal and political reasons.**
- Harris, a former health and higher education minister, secured a parliamentary vote of 88-69 with support from independent lawmakers and coalition partners Fianna Fail and the Green Party.
- Harris, known for his role in Ireland's COVID-19 response, expressed commitment to unity and collaboration in his leadership.



### John Alfred Tinniswood

- **John Alfred Tinniswood at 111 years old has earned the title of the world's oldest living man, as recognized by Guinness World Records (GWR).**
- He was born in 1912 in Merseyside, northern England. He has lived through significant historical events, including two world wars. Tinniswood had a diverse career, working as both an accountant and a postal service worker before retiring.
- Though Tinniswood holds the title of the world's oldest living man, he is not the oldest person ever recorded. Jiroemon Kimura of Japan remains the oldest man on record, living to 116 years and 54 days. Maria Branyas Morera of Spain, at 117 years old, is currently recognized as the oldest living person overall.







## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Autism Awareness Day

- World Autism Awareness Day is **celebrated annually on April 2nd**. It was first observed in 2008.
- This day was designated by the United Nations to promote awareness and advocate for the rights of people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental condition that affects how a person interacts with the world around them. It's characterized by challenges with social communication and interaction, along with restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour or interests.

### International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance

- International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed globally **on April 4th each year**.
- **Theme - 'Protecting Lives, Building Peace':**
- The idea of an International Mine Awareness Day originated in 1980 when the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) proposed the concept to raise awareness about the dangers of landmines and other explosive remnants of war.
- The United Nations General Assembly officially endorsed the proposal in 1982, leading to the first International Mine Awareness Day on April 4, 1983. Since then, the day has been observed annually to highlight the impact of landmines and promote efforts to mitigate their dangers.

### National Maritime Day

- National Maritime Day is celebrated annually on April 5th to honour the contributions of seafarers and recognize the significance of maritime trade and commerce.
- The first National Maritime Day in India was observed on April 5, 1964. This day commemorates the historic voyage of the first Indian-owned ship, "SS Loyalty", which sailed from India to the United Kingdom in 1919.
- **World Maritime Day 2024 Theme: The theme for World Maritime Day in 2024** is "Navigating the future: safety first!" This theme highlights the importance of prioritizing safety in maritime operations, including the safety of seafarers, vessels, and marine environments.

### World Health Day

- World Health Day is observed worldwide on April 7th each year.
- **Theme - 'My health, my right':** The theme for World Health Day 2024 emphasizes the importance of individual rights to health.
- On April 7, 1948, the World Health Organization (WHO) was established following the adoption of its constitution.

### World Homeopathy Day

- World Homeopathy Day is celebrated **annually on April 10th** to raise awareness about homeopathic medicine.
- World Homeopathy Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr Samuel

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Hahnemann, a German physician and the founder of homoeopathy. He was born on April 10, 1755, in Paris, France.

- Homoeopathy is a holistic system of medicine based on the principle of "like cures," where a substance that causes symptoms in a healthy person can be used in a diluted form to treat similar symptoms in a sick person.

## National Pet Day

- National Pet Day, celebrated annually **on April 11th**
- It aims to raise awareness about animal welfare and the importance of responsible pet ownership. It encourages people to celebrate the bond they share with their pets and promotes the well-being of all animals.
- The initiative for National Pet Day was launched in 2006 by Colleen Paige, an animal welfare advocate and pet lifestyle expert.

## National Safe Motherhood Day

- National Safe Motherhood Day is observed **on April 11th** each year to raise awareness about maternal health and reduce maternal mortality rates.
- National Safe Motherhood Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of Mahatma Gandhi and a symbol of maternal care and welfare.
- The concept of National Safe Motherhood Day was proposed by the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRAI) to draw attention to maternal health issues and advocate for safe motherhood practices. In response to WRAI's advocacy efforts, the Government of India officially declared April 11th as National Safe Motherhood Day in 2003.

## World Haemophilia Day

- **World Haemophilia Day is observed annually on April 17th.** It is an important global initiative aimed at raising awareness about haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
- The World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) established World Haemophilia Day in 1989. The WFH is an international organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders.
- April 17th was chosen as the date for World Haemophilia Day to honour the birthday of Frank Schnabel, the founder of the World Federation of Hemophilia.
- **Hemophilia is a rare genetic disorder that affects how your blood clots.** People with haemophilia lack sufficient amounts of specific clotting factors, proteins in the blood responsible for forming clots and stopping bleeding. This deficiency leads to prolonged bleeding after injuries, surgeries, or even spontaneous internal bleeding.

## World Liver Day

- **World Liver Day is observed annually on April 19th** to raise awareness about liver health and liver-related diseases. It serves as an important platform to promote preventive measures and encourage healthy lifestyles to maintain optimal liver function.
- **This year's theme, "Keep your liver healthy and disease-free,"** highlights the significance of proactive measures and regular health screenings to prevent and manage liver disorders.
- World Liver Day was first observed in 2010 by the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) to address the growing global burden of liver diseases.

### Key functions and roles of the liver

- The liver helps detoxify the body by metabolizing and neutralizing toxins, drugs, and metabolic waste products.
- It regulates blood sugar levels by storing glucose as glycogen or converting glycogen back into glucose when needed.

- The liver synthesizes proteins, including blood clotting factors, albumin, and various hormones.
- **It regulates cholesterol levels and produces bile**, which aids in fat digestion.
- The liver stores essential nutrients such as glycogen (for energy reserves), vitamins (e.g., vitamins A, D, and B12), and minerals (e.g., iron and copper). It also regulates nutrient levels in the blood.
- The liver plays a crucial role in the breakdown of old or damaged red blood cells, recycling their components (like iron), and synthesizing new blood proteins.
- As an accessory digestive organ, the liver produces bile, which is stored and concentrated in the gallbladder. Bile aids in the emulsification and breakdown of dietary fats, facilitating their digestion and absorption in the intestines.
- The liver synthesizes and metabolizes hormones, including insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1), which is essential for growth.
- The liver plays a role in the body's immune system by filtering blood and removing bacteria, viruses, and other foreign particles.
- The liver maintains blood composition by regulating the levels of various substances, including glucose, cholesterol, and amino acids.

### World Heritage Day

- World Heritage Day, also known as International Day for Monuments and Sites, is **celebrated on April 18th** each year to promote awareness of cultural heritage and the importance of preserving historical monuments and sites.
- The idea for World Heritage Day was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982. They suggested April 18th as a symbolic date to commemorate the heritage of monuments and sites worldwide.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved the concept of World Heritage Day during its 22nd General Conference in 1983. Since then, it has become an internationally recognized observance.

### National Civil Service Day

- **National Civil Service Day, celebrated on April 21st annually**, is an occasion to recognize and appreciate the contributions of civil servants to the country's administration.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India addressed the first batch of civil servants of the country after independence. In 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel announced the observance of National Civil Service Day every year to honour the dedication and service of civil servants towards the nation.
- The first National Civil Service Day was officially observed on April 21, 2006, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

### World Earth Day

- World Earth Day celebrated annually on April 22nd, is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about environmental conservation and sustainability.
- The concept of Earth Day can be traced back to 1970 when it was first celebrated in the United States. The event was conceptualized by Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator, along with Denis Hayes, a Harvard student, to raise awareness about environmental issues.
- **Theme for 2024: The theme for World Earth Day 2024 is "Planet vs Plastics,"** highlighting the urgent need to address the global plastic pollution crisis.
- World Earth Day is now observed in more than 193 countries, making it one of the largest civic observances in the world.

### World Book and Copyright Day

- World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated on April 23 each year,



- This day, also known as World Book Day, is observed globally by UNESCO and related organizations to honour authors, books, and reading.
- The date of April 23 was chosen during UNESCO's General Conference in 1995 to pay tribute to books and authors worldwide.

### English Language Day

- UN English Language Day is celebrated on April 23 each year.
- The date was selected because it coincides with the birthday and death anniversary of William Shakespeare, the renowned English poet and playwright. William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564, and passed away on April 23, 1616.

### National Panchayati Raj Day

- National Panchayati Raj Day is observed on April 24.
- The Day marks the enactment of the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution on June 17, 1992, which came into force on April 24, 1993. This amendment aimed to promote democratic governance at the grassroots level by strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions in rural areas.
- The idea of decentralizing power and establishing a democratic system at the grassroots level was first recommended by the National Development Council in the early 1950s. The 73rd Amendment provided constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions, ensuring greater participation of local communities in decision-making processes.

### World Malaria Day

- World Malaria Day, observed globally on April 25, aims to raise awareness about malaria prevention and control efforts.
- The Day was established in May 2007 during the 60th session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) to highlight the need for intensified action to combat malaria, particularly in endemic regions.
- Malaria is caused by a parasite called Plasmodium, transmitted through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.

### World Intellectual Property Day

- World Intellectual Property Day, observed on April 26 each year, highlights the significance of intellectual property (IP) rights in fostering innovation and creativity.
- The theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2024 is **"IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity."** This theme highlights the link between intellectual property and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the role of innovation and creativity in addressing global challenges.
- The origins of intellectual property protection date back to the signing of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property in 1883. This convention aimed to safeguard inventions, trademarks, and industrial designs, providing a framework for international IP protection.



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## World Day for Safety and Health

- World Day for Safety and Health at Work, observed on April 28 annually, focuses on promoting occupational safety and health practices globally.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the Occupational Safety and Health Convention on April 28, 1971, setting international standards for workplace safety. In 2003, the ILO designated April 28 as World Day for Safety and Health at Work to promote global awareness and action on occupational safety issues.

## Ayushman Bharat Diwas

- It is celebrated annually on April 30th to commemorate the Ayushman Bharat Yojana—a healthcare initiative aimed at improving access to quality and affordable healthcare for all citizens, especially those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Ayushman Bharat Yojana, also known as Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), was launched by the Government of India in September 2018. It is the world's largest government-funded healthcare program, providing health insurance coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.



## IMPORTANT GK FACTS IN NEWS

- **Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) Program:** ABHA assigns a unique 14-digit number to individuals to digitally link all their health records within the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission ecosystem, facilitating easy access and management of health information.
- **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL):** KABIL is a joint venture established by central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to secure critical minerals for India. Its primary goal is to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals for the Indian domestic market, thereby enhancing the country's mineral security.
- **White Blood Cells (WBCs):** Also known as leukocytes, WBCs are essential components of the blood and the immune system. They play a crucial role in defending the body against infections and foreign invaders by identifying and eliminating pathogens and other harmful substances.
- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):** UNEP, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, is the leading global environmental authority responsible for setting the global environmental agenda. It works towards promoting environmental sustainability, addressing environmental challenges, and facilitating international cooperation on environmental issues.
- **Xylem Tissue:** Found in vascular plants, xylem tissue is responsible for conducting water and dissolved nutrients upward from the roots to other parts of the plant, such as the stems and leaves. It provides structural support and helps in maintaining the plant's hydration and nutrient distribution.
- **Ligament:** Ligaments are fibrous connective tissues that connect bones to other bones, providing stability and support to joints. They play a crucial role in maintaining the structural integrity of joints and preventing excessive movement or dislocation of bones during physical activities, thereby reducing the risk of injuries.
- **CAR T-cell Therapy:** This type of immunotherapy utilizes the patient's immune system cells to combat cancer. It has shown promise in treating certain blood cancers like leukaemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

- **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF):** Established in May 2022, this framework involves collaboration among 14 Indo-Pacific countries, including India, Australia, and Japan, to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the region.
- **International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI):** Founded in 2019 by India at the UN Climate Action Summit, ICDRI focuses on addressing threats posed by climate change and natural disasters to global infrastructure.
- **Miyawaki Method:** Developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, this technique aims to rapidly create dense, native forests on degraded land by planting a diverse mix of native species close together, mimicking natural forest ecosystems.
- **Operation Meghdoot:** Launched in 1984, this military operation aimed to secure control of the strategically important Siachen Glacier region in Ladakh. It was notable for being the first military operation fought at such a high altitude (over 5,000 meters).

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## BOOSTER DOSE

- **"Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond" Book:** The Vice-President released the book titled "Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond" authored by Prof. Raman Mittal and Dr. Seema Singh, highlighting the intersection between law and spirituality.
- **Home Voting by Election Commission of India:** The Election Commission of India



(ECI) introduced home voting for elderly voters above 85 years and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with a 40% benchmark disability during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to facilitate their participation in the electoral process.

- **Suvidha Portal:** The ECI launched the Suvidha portal to streamline the process of obtaining permissions and facilities for political parties and candidates during the election period, ensuring transparency and efficiency.
- **Exercise DUSTLIK 2024:** India and Uzbekistan conducted a joint military exercise named Exercise DUSTLIK 2024 in Termez, Uzbekistan, to enhance bilateral military cooperation and interoperability between the two nations.
- **26th World Energy Congress:** The 26th World Energy Congress was held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, with the theme "Redesigning Energy for People and Planet," focusing on sustainable energy solutions for global challenges.
- **Sharavathi Pumped Storage Power Project:** The Sharavathi Pumped Storage Power Project in Karnataka aims to address the power crisis by providing a flexible solution to meet fluctuating electricity demands, contributing to the state's energy security.
- **ZiG Currency in Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe launched ZiG, a new gold-backed currency, to stabilize its economy and restore economic stability after years of significant challenges.
- **SCORES 2.0 by SEBI:** SEBI launched SCORES 2.0 to enhance the investor complaint redressal system in the securities market, aiming to streamline the complaint resolution process and improve efficiency.
- **Collaboration between PhonePe and Singapore Tourism Board:** PhonePe collaborated with The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) to enable PhonePe users to make

payments via the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Singapore, enhancing the payment experience for Indian visitors.

- **Proposal for Digital India Trust Agency by RBI:** The RBI is considering establishing a Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) to combat the spread of unlawful lending apps and cyber fraud incidents in the digital lending sector.
- **Partnership between PhonePe, eSewa, and Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara:** PhonePe partnered with eSewa and the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara to promote and facilitate digital payments through UPI using Fonepay Network in Nepal.
- **Online Payment Aggregator:** Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS) received approval from the RBI to operate as an online payment aggregator, expanding its services in the digital payment space.
- **Cred:** Cred has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its Payment Aggregation (PA) business. This approval allows Cred to expand its services beyond credit card bill payments to include merchant payments, in line with RBI guidelines for payment aggregators. The move aims to develop an offline payments business, diversifying Cred's offerings.
- **Removal of Age Limit for Health Insurance Policies:** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has removed the age limit for health insurance policies from April 1. This decision enables individuals of any age to purchase new health insurance policies, promoting wider market participation and expanding access to comprehensive coverage in the health insurance sector.
- **Clean Energy Transition:** The World Bank has proposed a \$1 billion line of credit to the State Bank of India to support India's clean energy transition. The investment focuses on

expanding battery storage systems and electric mobility initiatives to meet renewable energy targets and reduce fossil fuel dependency, highlighting a significant commitment to sustainability.

- **IRDAI's Climate Strategy 2030 Document:** IRDAI has unveiled its Climate Strategy 2030 document on Earth Day, aiming to address India's increasing demand for green financing. The strategy focuses on promoting sustainable practices and integrating climate risk considerations into insurance operations, contributing to climate resilience and environmental sustainability.
- **Seng Khihlang Festival:** The 34th Seng Khihlang festival, a significant event for followers of the Khasi Indigenous Faith, recently concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya. The festival celebrated the unity and traditions of the indigenous community, showcasing their cultural heritage and spiritual practices.
- **North Korea's Missile Testing:** North Korea disclosed the testing of a new anti-aircraft missile and a super large strategic cruise missile in the West Sea of Korea. These tests represent a significant escalation in tensions with neighbouring countries and highlight the challenges of maintaining regional stability in East Asia.
- **International Rainbow Tourism Conference:** Nepal organized the first International Rainbow Tourism Conference, signalling progress in promoting diversity and inclusivity within the country's tourism industry. The conference aims to position Nepal as a welcoming destination for the sexual minority community in South Asia, fostering inclusivity and tolerance.
- **Indonesia's Presidential Election Results:** Indonesia's electoral commission has declared Prabowo Subianto as the president-elect following challenges to his landslide victory by two losing presidential candidates,

confirming the outcome of the election and ensuring a smooth transition of power.

- **Hindi Radio Broadcast in Kuwait:** The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has launched the first-ever Hindi radio broadcast in Kuwait, strengthening cultural ties between the two nations and providing a platform for Indian expatriates to connect with their language and culture.
- **'India's Nuclear Titans' Book:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar received a copy of the book 'India's Nuclear Titans,' which traces India's evolution into a nuclear state. The book highlights the contributions of key figures like Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, Abdul Kalam, and K. Subrahmanyam, shedding light on India's nuclear journey.
- **PayU's Authorization as Payments Aggregator:** PayU, a digital financial services provider, has obtained in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a Payments Aggregator (PA) under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007. This authorization allows PayU to expand its payment services, contributing to the growth of digital payments in India.
- **India's First Transshipment Port:** The government has approved the Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala to operate as India's first transshipment port. This designation allows for the efficient transfer of cargo from large vessels to smaller ones, aligning with India's aspirations to become a manufacturing hub and reducing reliance on foreign transshipment ports.
- **'Poorvi Leher' Exercise:** The Indian Navy recently conducted a large-scale exercise named 'Poorvi Leher' along the East Coast to validate operational procedures and evaluate readiness in addressing maritime security challenges. Such exercises are crucial for maintaining readiness and enhancing capabilities to safeguard India's maritime interests.

- **India's Defense Budget:** India's defence budget allocation for 2023 positioned the country as the fourth largest military spender globally, amounting to \$83.6 billion. This substantial allocation reflects India's commitment to bolstering its defence capabilities, especially in light of regional security challenges.
- **Indian Student Teams at NASA HERC:** Two Indian student teams excelled at the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC), with the KIET Group of Institutions (Delhi-NCR) winning the "Crash and Burn" award and Kanakia International School (Mumbai) receiving the "Rookie of the Year" award. This achievement highlights India's talent and innovation in the field of space exploration.
- **Randeep Hooda:** Actor Randeep Hooda was honoured with the Lata Mangeshkar Award in Mumbai for his remarkable contributions to Indian cinema, particularly his portrayal in the film "Swatantrya Veer Savarkar". This award recognizes his talent and dedication to the craft of acting.
- **Max Verstappen:** Max Verstappen dominated the Chinese Grand Prix, leading from start to finish and extending his lead in the 2024 World Championship for Red Bull Racing. This victory solidifies Verstappen's position as a top contender in Formula 1 racing.
- **Dommaraju Gukesh:** Indian chess prodigy Dommaraju Gukesh, at just 17 years old, made history by winning the FIDE Candidates tournament, and becoming the youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship. Gukesh's achievement showcases India's prowess in chess at a global level.
- **'Nandini' Dairy Brand's Sponsorship of Cricket Teams:** 'Nandini', the dairy brand of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), will sponsor the cricket teams of Scotland and Ireland in the 2024 T20 World Cup, aiming to strengthen its international presence. This sponsorship enhances brand visibility and promotes Karnataka's dairy products on the global stage.
- **Kaushik Rajashekara:** Kaushik Rajashekara, a professor at the University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering, has been elected as an International Fellow of the prestigious Engineering Academy of Japan. This recognition honours his significant contributions to power conversion and electrification of transportation, showcasing India's talent on the global stage.
- **Yuzvendra Chahal:** Yuzvendra Chahal, representing Rajasthan Royals, has become the highest wicket-taker in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL), achieving an impressive record of 200 wickets in 153 matches. This accomplishment reflects his skill and consistency as a premier spinner in the league.
- **Saurav Ghosal:** Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal has announced his retirement from professional squash after a successful two-decade-long career. His retirement marks the end of an era in Indian squash and highlights his contributions to the sport on both national and international stages.
- **Usain Bolt:** Usain Bolt, the iconic sprinter, has been named the official ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup. His involvement adds prestige and excitement to the event, showcasing cricket's global appeal and attracting a broader audience.
- **Aramco-FIFA Strategic Partnership:** Saudi Arabia's Aramco and FIFA have formed a strategic global partnership until 2027, with Aramco designated as FIFA's Major Worldwide Partner in the energy sector. This partnership strengthens ties between football and the energy industry, particularly for major events like the FIFA World Cup and FIFA Women's World Cup.
- **Sana Mir:** Pakistani cricket legend Sana Mir has been appointed as the ambassador for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier. Her involvement brings valuable



experience and leadership to the event, promoting women's cricket and inspiring young players.

- **Yuvraj Singh:** Indian cricket icon Yuvraj Singh has been appointed as an ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, enhancing the tournament's profile and generating excitement among fans worldwide.
- **World's Largest Mobile Operator by Data Traffic:** Reliance Jio, India's leading telecom operator, has surpassed China Mobile to become the world's largest mobile operator by data traffic consumption. This achievement highlights Jio's significant impact on the global telecommunications industry.
- **BrahMos Missiles to the Philippines:** India's delivery of the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines marks a milestone in defence cooperation between the two nations. The BrahMos missile technology enhances the defensive capabilities of the Philippines armed forces and contributes to regional security.
- **S&P Global Report on Indian Banks:** A recent S&P Global report highlighting the positions of State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank among the top 50 banks in the Asia-Pacific region highlights the notable progress made by Indian banks in the regional financial landscape.
- **Largest Stellar Black Hole:** European astronomers have made a groundbreaking discovery in our Milky Way galaxy – a stellar black hole named 'BH-3'. This colossal celestial object possesses a mass 33 times greater than our Sun and is situated just 2,000 light-years away from Earth. This finding expands our understanding of the universe's vastness and complexity.
- **Rohit Sharma:** Rohit Sharma, the former captain of the Mumbai Indians, has reached a significant milestone in the Indian Premier League (IPL) by participating in his 250th IPL match. He joins the esteemed company of MS Dhoni as only the second player to achieve this feat, underscoring his enduring impact and longevity in the cricketing world.
- **Best Airport Staff Award:** GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) has been recognized with the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax. This accolade acknowledges the airport's commitment to providing exceptional customer service and further solidifies its reputation as a leading aviation hub in the region.
- **Duvvuri Subbarao:** Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Duvvuri Subbarao sheds light on the intricacies of the relationship between the RBI and the government in his book titled "Just a Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career." Through his memoir, Subbarao delves into the tensions and challenges encountered during his tenure, offering valuable insights into the workings of India's central banking system.
- **CDP-SURAKSHA Digital Platform:** The Indian government has introduced CDP-SURAKSHA, a digital platform designed to facilitate the efficient distribution of subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP). This initiative aims to streamline subsidy disbursement processes, enhance transparency, and support the growth of the horticulture sector.
- **Passing of K.G. Jayan:** K.G. Jayan, a revered figure in the world of Carnatic music, has passed away at the age of 90. Known for his exceptional musical talents and contributions to Malayalam cinema, Jayan leaves behind a rich legacy that continues to inspire and resonate with audiences worldwide.
- **Sardar Dalip Singh:** Squadron Leader Sardar Dalip Singh Majithia, a distinguished veteran of the Indian Air Force, passed away at the

age of 103. His remarkable service and contributions to the nation's defence exemplify the courage and dedication of India's armed forces personnel.

- **Kristalina Georgieva:** The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has chosen Kristalina Georgieva to serve a second five-year term as IMF Managing Director, commencing on October 1, 2024. This decision reflects confidence in Georgieva's leadership and vision for advancing global economic stability and prosperity.
- **World Literary Prize:** Mamta Sagar received the World Literary Prize in April 2024 from the World Organization of Writers (WOW) for her significant literary contributions. Her work is noted for its exploration of identity politics, feminism, and issues related to language and cultural diversity, reflecting her impact and influence in the literary world.
- **Dipendra Singh:** Dipendra Singh Airee of Nepal achieved a remarkable feat by hitting six sixes in a single over during the Men's T20I Premier Cup match against Qatar. This achievement puts him in elite company alongside players like Yuvraj Singh and Kieron Pollard, who have also accomplished this rare feat in cricket history.
- **IPL Record:** Sunrisers Hyderabad set a new record in the Indian Premier League (IPL) by scoring the highest runs in a single match. They scored 287 runs in 20 overs during their match against Royal Challengers Bangalore at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, showcasing their batting prowess in the tournament.
- **Rohit Sharma:** Rohit Sharma, a star batter for India and Mumbai Indians (MI), became the first Indian cricketer to hit 500 sixes in T20 cricket. He achieved this milestone during an IPL match against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at Wankhede Stadium, highlighting his exceptional batting skills and dominance in the format.
- **Avantika Vandanapu:** Avantika Vandanapu, an Indian-American actress acclaimed for her role in the 2024 adaptation of "Mean Girls," received the prestigious "South Asian Person of the Year" award from Harvard University. This recognition celebrates her contributions to the arts and her efforts in promoting South Asian representation in the global media industry.
- **Rashmi Kumari:** Rashmi Kumari secured her 12th national women's singles title in the 51st National Carrom Championship organized by the Madhya Pradesh Carrom Association. Her victory demonstrates her excellence and dominance in the sport of carrom.
- **Renewable Energy Park:** The Adani Group's initiative to construct the world's largest renewable energy park in Khavda, Kutch district, Gujarat, signifies a significant advancement in sustainable energy development. This project highlights the growing focus on renewable energy sources and efforts to mitigate climate change.
- **Pavadia's Re-election to INCB:** Pavadia was re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for a third term through a secret ballot. This re-election, with the highest number of votes in a competitive election, reflects confidence in their leadership and commitment to international drug control efforts.
- **Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni:** Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni became the first Indian monk to receive the American President's Gold Volunteer Service Award for his contributions to public welfare and humanity. The award ceremony, held on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., recognizes his dedication to serving others and promoting social good.
- **Gairdner Global Health Award:** Dr Gagandeep Kang, an Indian researcher, has been honoured with the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for her significant contributions to global health research. This award recognizes her pioneering work in the field of infectious

diseases and public health, highlighting her impact on improving healthcare outcomes worldwide.

- **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)**  
**Ranking:** JNU has been ranked 20th for Development Studies in the QS World University Rankings 2024 by Subject. This ranking reflects the university's strong academic reputation and research contributions in the field of development studies, both nationally and internationally.
- **Swigert Jr. Award:** India's Chandrayaan-3 mission team has been awarded the prestigious 2024 John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration. This award recognizes their exceptional efforts in advancing space exploration and pushing the boundaries of scientific discovery.
- **Nodal Centre for START Programme:** The Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) has been designated as the Nodal Centre for the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)' programme by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). This initiative aims to promote space science education and awareness among students and the general public.
- **Sumit Nagal:** Sumit Nagal has become the first Indian player to win an ATP Masters 1000 match on clay courts, a significant milestone in Indian tennis history. This achievement highlights Nagal's talent and determination in the sport.
- **Guinness World Record:** British citizen John Alfred Tinniswood, aged 111 years, has been confirmed as the world's oldest man by Guinness World Records. This recognition celebrates his longevity and serves as a testament to his remarkable life.
- **Alexei and Yulia Navalny:** Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and his wife, Yulia Navalnaya, have been honoured with the Freedom Prize of the Media from the Ludwig Erhard Summit. This award acknowledges their significant contributions to freedom of expression, dialogue, and democracy in Russia.
- **Russell Cook:** Russell Cook, also known as the "Hardest Geezer," has successfully completed a run across the full length of Africa, crossing the finish line in Tunisia after 352 days. This remarkable feat demonstrates his endurance and resilience.
- **World's Most Powerful Laser:** Romania has unveiled the world's most powerful laser, marking a significant milestone in laser technology. This advancement has potential applications in various fields, including scientific research, medicine, and industry.
- **Disaster Declaration:** Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi have declared a state of disaster due to severe drought, highlighting the critical humanitarian crisis gripping southern Africa. This declaration highlights the urgent need for international assistance and support to address food and water shortages in the region.
- **Rakesh Mohan:** Rakesh Mohan, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been appointed as a member of the World Bank Group's Economic Advisory Panel. This appointment reflects his expertise in economics and policymaking, contributing to the World Bank's efforts to promote global economic development.
- **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi:** Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the President of Egypt, has been sworn in before parliament for his third term, which is expected to be his final six-year term as the leader of Egypt. This marks a significant political milestone in Egypt, the most populous country in the Arab world.
- **Ayushmann Khurrana:** Ayushmann Khurrana, a well-known Indian actor, has collaborated with the Election Commission of India (ECI) to encourage young people to participate in the Lok Sabha elections. This partnership likely involves campaigns or initiatives aimed at raising awareness about



the importance of voting, especially among the youth demographic, to increase voter turnout and engagement in the democratic process.

- **Dr. Karthik Kommuri's Honor at National Fame Awards:** Dr. Karthik Kommuri has been recognized at the National Fame Awards 2024 for his exceptional patient care and commitment to contemporary practices in orthodontics and dentistry. This acknowledgement highlights his contributions to the field of dentistry and his dedication to providing high-quality care to his patients.
- **Passing of Barbara Rush:** Barbara Rush, a renowned Golden Globe-winning actress known for her extensive career spanning seven decades, has passed away at the age of 97. Her death marks the end of an era in Hollywood, and she leaves behind a legacy of memorable performances and contributions to the film industry.
- **India-Nepal Collaboration for Sanskrit Promotion:** India and Nepal have joined forces to promote Sanskrit research and education through various initiatives, such as organizing an International Sanskrit Conference and establishing a study centre. This collaboration aims to preserve and revitalize the ancient language and its cultural significance in both countries.
- **Geographical Indication Tags for Tripura Products:** Three traditional products from Tripura, namely Matabari pera prasad, Rignai pachara textiles, and Risa, have been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition helps protect the unique identity and heritage of these products, boosting their market value and promoting economic development in the region.
- **Dosti-16 Trilateral Exercise:** India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka have recently conducted the 'Dosti-16' trilateral exercise in the Maldives, focusing on collaboration and interoperability among their coast guards. Such exercises strengthen regional security cooperation and enhance maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.
- **WHO's CoViNet Initiative:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched CoViNet, a global initiative aimed at strengthening the detection, monitoring, and assessment of various coronaviruses worldwide. This initiative is crucial for enhancing global preparedness and response to emerging infectious diseases, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- **International Culture Award:** Professor Meena Charanda, the Principal of Kalindi College at Delhi University, has been honoured with the prestigious 'International Culture Award' for 2024. This recognition celebrates her remarkable achievements in the field of education and social service, highlighting her contributions to promoting cultural understanding and exchange on an international level.
- **Miraj's Sitar and Tanpuras:** The town of Miraj in Maharashtra, known for its traditional instrument making, has been awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its sitars and tanpuras. This recognition protects the authenticity and quality of these instruments made in the region.
- **World Cybercrime Index:** Russia and Ukraine rank highest. **India** ranked 10th, with high scores in impact, professionalism, and technical skills.
- **Vedanta's BALCO:** Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), owned by Vedanta, became the first Indian company to be certified with the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) Performance Standard. This signifies BALCO's commitment to sustainable and ethical aluminium production.
- **HAL Delivers Dornier Planes:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) delivered two Dornier 228 aircraft to Guyana. This deal

strengthens India's position as a leading exporter of defence equipment.

- **Hardik Pandya and Salima Tete:** Cricketer Hardik Pandya and para-athlete Salima Tete were named the Player of the Year for their outstanding performances in 2023.
- **Akashteer Systems:** The Indian Army inducted the 'Akashteer' air defence systems, bolstering the country's air defence capabilities.
- **Gagan Shakti Exercise:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) commenced its ten-day mega exercise 'Gagan Shakti,' showcasing its operational readiness and combat prowess.
- **Sharfuddoula:** Bangladesh's Sharfuddoula became the country's first umpire to be

included in the ICC Elite Umpire Panel, a prestigious achievement in the cricketing world.

- **NATO Anniversary:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) celebrated its 75th anniversary on April 4th, marking a significant milestone in collective defence efforts.
- **Delhi Airport Ranking:** Delhi Airport's inclusion among the top 10 busiest airports in the world signifies India's growing importance in global travel.
- **Mary Kom Steps Down:** Boxing legend Mary Kom stepped down as the Chef-de-Mission for the Paris Olympics.



## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**Q1. India has agreed to help which country in promoting research and education in the Sanskrit language?**

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Nepal
- C) Bhutan
- D) Mauritius

**Q2. The concept of 'Directive Principles of State Policy' in the Indian Constitution is borrowed from which country's constitution?**

- A) United States of America
- B) Ireland
- C) Australia
- D) Canada

**Q3. Who was the first Indian to become the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)?**

- A) Dr. Nagendra Singh
- B) Sir Benegal Narsing Rau
- C) Justice R. S. Pathak
- D) Justice Dalveer Bhandari

**Q4. The 'Right to Education' under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution guarantees free and compulsory education to children between the ages of:**

- A) 3-10 years
- B) 6-14 years
- C) 10-18 years
- D) 14-18 years

**Q5. The term "citadel" in the context of Harappan cities refers to:**

- A) A central marketplace
- B) A massive palace complex
- C) A fortified area on an elevated mound
- D) A solely religious district

**Q6. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the parliamentary form of government in India?**

- A) Collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers to the Parliament
- B) Existence of dual executive (President and Prime Minister)
- C) Sovereignty of the Parliament
- D) Fixed tenure of the Prime Minister

**Q7. The Indian Penal Code (IPC) was enacted under the governor-generalship of:**

- A) Lord Mountbatten
- B) Lord Cornwallis
- C) Lord William Bentinck
- D) Lord Macaulay

**Q8. Which schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes?**

- A) Ninth Schedule
- B) Fifth Schedule
- C) Tenth Schedule
- D) Twelfth Schedule

**Q9. Which of the following states does not have a bicameral legislature?**

- A) Karnataka
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Telangana
- D) Uttar Pradesh

**Q10. Which mountain range in the Darjeeling Himalayan region is known for hosting Sandakphu, the highest peak in West Bengal?**

- A) Kanchenjunga Range
- B) Singalila Range
- C) Darjeeling Range
- D) Chola Range

**Q11. Who was the first woman Chief Minister of an Indian state?**

- A) Sucheta Kriplani
- B) Indira Gandhi
- C) Jayalalithaa
- D) Mamata Banerjee

**Q12. When a specific region is included in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, which of the following outcomes accurately reflects its consequence?**

- A) It prohibits the transfer of land from tribal people to non-tribal individuals.
- B) It establishes a local self-governing body within that area.
- C) It designates the area as a Union Territory.
- D) The state containing such regions is classified as a Special Category State.

**Q13. Consider the following statements with reference to the Hills/Ranges in the eastern part of India:**

1. Manipuri Hills is also known as Lushai Hills.
2. Dafla, Miri, Abor, Mishmi are part of Shiwaliks.

**Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q14. Which is the tallest mountain on Earth if measured from the centre of the Earth?**

- A) Mount Everest
- B) Mount Kilimanjaro
- C) Mount Chimborazo
- D) Mount Denali

**Q15. Which district of West Bengal is known for its historical significance and silk industry?**

- A) Murshidabad
- B) Birbhum
- C) Bankura
- D) Hooghly

**Q16. Which stage of river development is most likely associated with landforms like V-shaped valleys and rapids?**

- A) Mature Stage
- B) Youthful Stage
- C) Late Old Stage
- D) Early Old Stage

**Q17. Identify the correctly matched pair(s):**

1. Copper: Karnataka
2. Bauxite: Odisha
3. Chromite: Odisha

**Select from the options below:**

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q18. Which of the following states or union territories form the Water Divide between the Indus and Ganga River Systems?**



- A) Haryana and Punjab
- B) Rajasthan and Haryana
- C) Delhi and Uttar Pradesh
- D) Haryana and Delhi

**Q19. Which river flows along the eastern edges of the Chotanagpur Plateau, traversing a rift valley before converging with the Hugli? Historically dubbed the 'sorrow of Bengal,' the river is:**

- A) Kosi
- B) Sarda
- C) Damodar
- D) Mahananda

**Q20. Which city is the second-largest urban agglomeration in West Bengal after Kolkata?**

- A) Asansol
- B) Siliguri
- C) Howrah
- D) Durgapur

**Q21. In which of the following types of forests in India are teak, sal, shisham, and hurra trees most likely to be found?**

- A) Tropical Deciduous Forests
- B) Tropical Semi-Evergreen Forests
- C) Montane Forests
- D) Littoral and Swamp Forests

**Q22. Which of the following statements regarding the Tropic of Cancer is/are correct?**

1. It traverses only eight states within India.
2. It does not intersect with any coastal states in India.
3. The combined area of Indian states located north of the Tropic of Cancer exceeds the area of those situated to the south of it.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 only
- C) 3 only
- D) 1 and 3 only

**Q23. Which historical city, once the capital of the Kalinga Empire, is situated on the banks of the Mahanadi River?**

- A) Bhubaneswar
- B) Cuttack
- C) Puri
- D) Konark

**Q24. An astronaut on the International Space Station (ISS) drops a hammer and a feather at the same time. In the microgravity environment, which object will hit the ground first?**

- A) Hammer
- B) Feather
- C) Both will hit at the same time
- D) Neither will hit the ground

**Q25. Which division of West Bengal includes the districts of Alipurduar, and Cooch Behar?**

- A) Burdwan Division
- B) Medinipur Division
- C) Jalpaiguri Division
- D) Malda Division

**Q26. When sodium metal reacts with water, hydrogen gas is produced. What is the oxidizing agent in this reaction?**

- A) Sodium (Na)
- B) Water (H<sub>2</sub>O)
- C) Hydrogen gas (H<sub>2</sub>)
- D) None of the above

**Q27. In the context of agriculture, which statement accurately defines "truck farming"?**

- A) Agriculture focused on vegetable cultivation
- B) Production of heavy machinery for industries
- C) Agriculture specializing in cash crop cultivation
- D) Breeding birds primarily for meat and egg production

**Q28. During cellular respiration, glucose is broken down to release energy. How many ATP molecules are produced per molecule of glucose undergoing complete aerobic respiration?**

- A) 2
- B) 4
- C) 36

D) 38

**Q29. As per the Census 2011, which State has the highest percentage of tribal population in the country?**

- A) Mizoram
- B) Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Chhattisgarh
- D) Madhya Pradesh

**Q30. What is the geographical extent of West Bengal in terms of latitude and longitude?**

- A) Between 22 degrees 30 minutes and 26 degrees 45 minutes north latitude
- B) Between 21 degrees 25 minutes and 27 degrees 13 minutes north latitude
- C) Between 80 degrees 30 minutes and 88 degrees 55 minutes east longitude
- D) Between 85 degrees 50 minutes and 89 degrees 50 minutes east longitude

**Q31. Which of the following elements is a noble gas?**

- A) Helium (He)
- B) Lithium (Li)
- C) Beryllium (Be)
- D) Boron (B)

**Q32. Einstein's theory of relativity states that the speed of light is constant in a vacuum. What does this imply about the relationship between mass and energy?**

- A) Mass and energy are independent.
- B) Mass can be converted into energy and vice versa.
- C) Energy can only be converted into mass.
- D) Mass is a form of stored energy.

**Q33. During protein synthesis, messenger RNA (mRNA) carries the genetic code from DNA in the nucleus to ribosomes in the cytoplasm. What is the role of transfer RNA (tRNA) in this process?**

- A) tRNA carries amino acids to the ribosome.
- B) tRNA transcribes the DNA code into mRNA.
- C) tRNA translates the mRNA code into a protein sequence.
- D) tRNA replicates DNA in the nucleus.

**Q34. What is the main principle behind nuclear power plants?**

- A) Fission of heavy nuclei to release energy.
- B) Fusion of light nuclei to release energy.
- C) Chemical reactions between elements to generate electricity.
- D) Conversion of solar energy into electricity.

**Q35. Which industry is located at Chittaranjan in West Bengal?**

- A) Steel
- B) Automobiles
- C) Locomotive
- D) Electronics

**Q36. Alkanes are a class of hydrocarbons with only single bonds between carbon atoms. How does the boiling point of alkanes change with increasing chain length?**

- A) Boiling point remains constant.
- B) Boiling point decreases.
- C) Boiling point increases.
- D) The effect is unpredictable.

**Q37. During cell division (mitosis), chromosomes replicate and are equally distributed to daughter cells. What is the significance of mitosis in maintaining genetic information?**

- A) It allows for genetic variation between offspring.
- B) It ensures that daughter cells have the same number of chromosomes as the parent cell.
- C) It repairs damaged DNA in the cell.
- D) It enables the production of sex cells (gametes).

**Q38. What is the main difference between wave diffraction and refraction?**

- A) Diffraction bends waves around obstacles, while refraction bends waves as they travel through different media.
- B) Diffraction only affects light waves, while refraction affects all types of waves.
- C) Diffraction creates new waves, while refraction doesn't.
- D) Diffraction strengthens waves, while refraction weakens them.

**Q39. The human immune system has two main branches: innate and adaptive immunity.**

**How does the adaptive immune system differ from the innate immune system?**

- A) Innate immunity is specific to a particular pathogen, while adaptive immunity is not.
- B) Adaptive immunity provides a faster response, while innate immunity develops over time.
- C) Innate immunity involves antibodies, while adaptive immunity uses phagocytes.
- D) Innate immunity is non-specific, while adaptive immunity develops specific memory.

**Q40. Which city in West Bengal is the terminus of an oil pipeline from Assam and hosts a large oil refinery and petrochemical industry?**

- A) Asansol
- B) Durgapur
- C) Haldia
- D) Siliguri

**Q41. What is the main principle behind lasers?**

- A) Stimulated emission of radiation
- B) Spontaneous emission of radiation
- C) Absorption of light by atoms
- D) Reflection of light by mirrors

**Q42. Polymers are large molecules made up of repeating units called monomers. What is an example of a natural polymer?**

- A) Nylon
- B) Cellulose
- C) Teflon
- D) Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

**Q43. During DNA replication, the double helix unwinds and each strand serves as a template for the synthesis of a new complementary strand. What enzyme is responsible for catalyzing this process?**

- A) DNA polymerase
- B) Helicase
- C) Ligase
- D) RNA polymerase

**Q44. Which Harappan city site exhibits a town layout plan featuring a distinct citadel and lower city?**

- A) Mohenjodaro

- B) Harappa
- C) Kalibangan
- D) All of the above

**Q45. Which region of West Bengal is known for the production of oranges and pineapples?**

- A) Darjeeling
- B) Murshidabad
- C) Bankura
- D) Nadia

**Q46. Arrange the following in the correct increasing order of acidic strength: Water, Acetic acid, Hydrochloric acid.**

- A) Water < Acetic acid < Hydrochloric acid
- B) Water < Hydrochloric acid < Acetic acid
- C) Acetic acid < Water < Hydrochloric acid
- D) Hydrochloric acid < Water < Acetic acid

**Q47. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 marked the beginning of British colonial rule in India. Who was the British commander during this battle?**

- A) Robert Clive
- B) Warren Hastings
- C) Lord Cornwallis
- D) Siraj-ud-Daulah

**Q48. Globalization primarily involves:**

- A) Encouraging isolationism
- B) Promoting protectionism
- C) Facilitating international integration
- D) Emphasizing national self-sufficiency

**Q49. Which of the following is true about a food web in an ecosystem?**

- A) It consists of only one linear chain of energy flow.
- B) It represents a simplified model of trophic interactions.
- C) It includes multiple interconnected food chains.
- D) It excludes decomposers and detritivores.

**Q50. What is the primary oilseed crop cultivated in West Bengal?**

- A) Groundnut
- B) Mustard
- C) Sunflower
- D) Sesame

## ANSWERS

**Q1. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** India and Nepal signed an agreement to collaborate on promoting research and education in the Sanskrit language. The agreement includes initiatives such as organizing joint conferences, establishing a study centre, and supporting traditional Gurukul institutions in Nepal.

**Q2. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Constitution of Ireland. These principles provide guidance to the state in policy-making and governance, aiming to establish social and economic justice in the country.

**Q3. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Dr. Nagendra Singh was the first Indian to serve as the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) from 1985 to 1988.

**Q4. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Article 21A provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years as a fundamental right.

**Q5. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The citadel served as a fortified area, often housing elite members of society, religious structures, and administrative buildings. Its elevated position provided a strategic advantage.

**Q6. Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Unlike a presidential form of government, the tenure of the Prime Minister in India is not fixed and depends on the support of the majority in the Lok Sabha.

**Q7. Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The Indian Penal Code (IPC) was drafted by the first Law Commission of India and enacted under the governor-generalship of Lord Macaulay in 1860.

**Q8. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes.

**Q9. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Telangana does not have a bicameral legislature. It has a unicameral legislature with only one house, the Legislative Assembly. The 6 states of India are those that have bicameral legislature they are (Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Telangana, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh).

**Q10. Answer: B) Singalila Range**

**Explanation:** The Singalila Range is a prominent mountain range within the Darjeeling Himalayan region. It forms the border between Darjeeling district in West Bengal and Nepal. Sandakphu, the highest peak in West Bengal at 3,636 meters, is located within this range.

**Q11. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Sucheta Kriplani was the first woman Chief Minister of an Indian state, serving as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from 1963 to 1967.

**Q12. Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Inclusion in the Fifth Schedule aims to protect tribal land rights by preventing the transfer of land from tribal individuals to non-tribal persons.

**Q13. Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is incorrect. Mizo Hills are known as Lushai Hills. The range is part of the Patkai range system and its highest point is 2,157 m high Phawngpui, also known as 'Blue Mountain'.

Statement 2 is correct. The Shiwaliks are known by different names in different areas-

Name of Shiwaliks - Region

1) Dafla, Miri, Abor and Mishmi Hills - Arunachal Pradesh

2) Churia Ghat Hills - Nepal The Purvanchal ranges include the Patkai Hills, Naga Hills, Mizo Hills and Manipur Hills.

**Q14. Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Mount Chimborazo, located in Ecuador, is the tallest mountain on Earth when measured from the centre of the Earth. Although Mount Everest is the highest point above sea level, Chimborazo's location is near the equator and the Earth's bulge at the equator makes it the farthest point from the Earth's centre.

(NOTE- Equatorial Diameter- 12756 and Polar Diameter- 12714)

**Q15. Answer: A) Murshidabad**

**Explanation:** Murshidabad district in West Bengal is historically significant and renowned for its silk industry, particularly Murshidabad silk, which is a traditional craft of the region.

**Q16. Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

In the youthful stage of river development, the river is characterized by its energetic flow and high erosive power. During this stage, the river cuts downward, forming V-shaped valleys through the process of erosion. The rapid erosion of the riverbed creates steep gradients, resulting in the formation of rapids and waterfalls.

Therefore, landforms like V-shaped valleys and rapids are most commonly associated with rivers in their youthful stage, where erosion is the dominant process shaping the landscape.

**Q17. Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

1. The highest copper mines are found at the Khetri mines of Rajasthan

2. There are two famous bauxite ore mines in Odisha. These are the Panchpatmali mines and Gandha Mardan mines.

3. Sukinda is a town in the Jajpur district, Odisha. Odisha accounts for about 98% of the total proved



chromite (chromium ore) reserves of the country, of which about 97% occur in the Sukinda Valley.

**Q18. Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

A divide refers to the elevated boundary that separates regions drained by distinct river systems, often termed a drainage or water divide. On one side of a divide, water flows into one body of water, while on the other side, it flows into another. Divides vary in elevation from a gentle rise in the terrain to the peak of a mountain range.

The states of Haryana and Delhi constitute a water divide between the Indus and Ganga River systems.

**Q19. Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

The Damodar River courses through the eastern fringes of the Chotanagpur Plateau, meandering through a rift valley before merging with the Hugli. It serves as a tributary to the Ganga River, with the Barakar being its primary tributary. Formerly dubbed the 'sorrow of Bengal,' the Damodar River has been harnessed by the Damodar Valley Corporation, a multipurpose project, to mitigate its impacts.

**Q20. Answer: A) Asansol**

**Explanation:** Asansol is the second largest city and urban agglomeration in West Bengal, following Kolkata in terms of population and economic significance. It is known for its industrial activities.

**Q21. Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Tropical Deciduous Forests are the most widespread forests in India, also known as monsoon forests. They cover areas receiving rainfall between 70-200 cm and are further divided into moist and dry deciduous forests.

Moist deciduous forests thrive in regions with rainfall between 100-200 cm, like the northeastern states, eastern slopes of the Western Ghats, and Odisha. They feature trees such as teak, sal, shisham, hurra, mahua, and sandalwood.

Dry deciduous forests occupy vast areas with rainfall ranging from 70-100 cm. During the dry season, trees shed their leaves, giving the forest a grassland-like appearance. Common trees in these forests include tendu, palas, amaltas, bel, and khair.

In regions with very low rainfall and overgrazing, like western and southern Rajasthan, vegetation cover is sparse.

**Q22. Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

The Tropic of Cancer intersects eight Indian states: Gujarat (Jasdan), Rajasthan (Kalinjarh), Madhya Pradesh (Shajapur), Chhattisgarh (Sonhat), Jharkhand (Lohardaga), West Bengal (Krishnanagar), Tripura (Udaipur), and Mizoram (Champhai), in sequential order. Notably, Gujarat and West Bengal are coastal states. Thus, statement 1 is correct, while statement 2 is incorrect.

The Tropic of Cancer, positioned approximately 23.5 degrees north of the Equator, acts as an imaginary demarcation line running through the heart of India, effectively bisecting the country into two latitudinal sections, each spanning about 15 degrees. Nevertheless, the northern sector is notably broader, encompassing nearly twice the land area compared to the southern segment. Hence the 3<sup>rd</sup> statement is correct.

**Q23. Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

One of the ancient cities of India, Cuttack, was once the capital of the Kalinga Empire, which ruled over a large part of eastern India. Cuttack is located on the banks of the Mahanadi River, which is one of the major rivers of India. The city is known for its rich cultural heritage, historical monuments, and artistic handicrafts. Cuttack is also famous for its silver filigree work, which is a delicate form of metalwork made with thin wires of silver. Cuttack is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city that attracts tourists from all over the world.

**Q24. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** In a vacuum, like the environment on the ISS, air resistance is negligible. This means gravity affects all objects equally regardless of their mass. As a result, both the hammer and feather will experience the same acceleration due to gravity and hit the ground (or the floor of the ISS in this case) at the same time.

**Q25. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The Jalpaiguri Division of West Bengal comprises districts like Alipurduar, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and Kalimpong. This division is located in the northern part of the state.

**Q26. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The correct answer is (b) Water (H<sub>2</sub>O).

In the reaction of sodium with water, sodium is oxidized to sodium ions (Na<sup>+</sup>), and water is reduced to hydrogen gas (H<sub>2</sub>). The substance that is reduced or gains electrons is the oxidizing agent. Therefore, in this reaction, water is the oxidizing agent.

**Q27. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Truck farming refers to a type of agricultural practice that specializes in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, and sometimes flowers. It typically involves the intensive production of high-value crops that are grown for market sale rather than for personal consumption or subsistence.

**Q28. Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Complete aerobic respiration involves multiple steps, including glycolysis, the Krebs cycle, and the electron transport chain. Each stage produces a different number of ATP molecules. In total, complete aerobic respiration of one glucose molecule yields 38 ATP molecules.

**Q29. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** According to the 2011 census, Mizoram had 1,036,115 people (nearly 95% of the total) classified as Scheduled Tribe, the highest concentration of protected tribal people in all states of India.

**Q30. Answer: D)**

**Explanation:** West Bengal is situated between 85 degrees 50 minutes and 89 degrees 50 minutes east longitude. This geographical extent places West Bengal in the eastern part of India, bordering Bangladesh to the east and extending from the Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south.

**Q31. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Noble gases are a group of elements in the periodic table characterized by their stable outer electron

shells, making them unreactive. Helium is the first element in the noble gas group.

**Q32. Answer: B**

**Explanation:**  $E=mc^2$  is one of the famous equations derived from Einstein's theory of relativity. It shows that mass and energy are equivalent and can be converted into each other under the right conditions.

**Q33. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** During protein synthesis, transfer RNA (tRNA) has a crucial role. It carries the appropriate amino acids to the ribosome, where they are linked together to form a polypeptide chain, which eventually folds into a protein. Each tRNA molecule is specific to one amino acid and carries an anticodon that matches the codon on the mRNA. This ensures that the correct amino acids are added in the correct sequence to form the desired protein. So, tRNA is essentially the "translator" between the genetic code and the protein structure.

**Q34. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Nuclear power plants operate on the principle of nuclear fission, where heavy nuclei (typically uranium-235 or plutonium-239) are split into smaller elements, releasing a large amount of energy in the process. This energy is used to heat water and produce steam, which then drives a turbine connected to an electricity generator. Nuclear fusion, on the other hand, is the process that powers the sun and stars, but it is not yet a viable source of large-scale energy production on Earth.

**Q35. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Chittaranjan, a town near Asansol in West Bengal, is famous for hosting the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW). CLW is one of the largest locomotive manufacturing units in India, producing electric locomotives for Indian Railways. The establishment of CLW has played a key role in the development of rail transport infrastructure in India.

**Q36. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** As the chain length (number of carbon atoms) in an alkane increases, the boiling point of the alkane also increases. This is because longer chains have a greater surface area, which leads to stronger London dispersion forces (a type of van der Waals force) between the molecules. These forces require more energy (in the form of heat) to overcome, leading to a higher boiling point. So, as we go down the group in the periodic table (with increasing molecular size), the boiling point of alkanes increases.

**Q37. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Mitosis is a type of cell division that results in two daughter cells each having the same number and kind of chromosomes as the parent nucleus. This is crucial for the growth, repair, and general maintenance of an organism. During mitosis, the chromosomes replicate and then separate to ensure that each daughter cell receives a complete set of chromosomes. This process maintains the genetic information from the parent cell to the daughter cells.

**Q38. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Both diffraction and refraction involve the bending of waves. Diffraction occurs when waves encounter an obstacle or a narrow opening, causing them to spread out and bend around it. Refraction occurs when waves travel through different media (e.g., light entering water) and bend due to the change in their speed.

**Q39. Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Innate immunity is the body's first line of defence. It is non-specific and generically responds to pathogens. It includes physical barriers like skin and mucous membranes, as well as immune cells like phagocytes and natural killer cells.

On the other hand, adaptive immunity is highly specific to each pathogen. It is slower to respond, but it has a memory component that allows for a faster and more effective response upon re-exposure to the same pathogen. This branch of the immune system involves cells such as T cells and B cells, and it is responsible for the production of antibodies.

So, the main difference between the two is that innate immunity provides a broad and immediate defence, while adaptive immunity provides a targeted and long-lasting defence.

**Q40. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Haldia, located at the mouth of the Hooghly River in West Bengal, is the terminus of an oil pipeline originating from Assam. The Haldia Refinery, operated by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), is one of the largest oil refineries in India. It processes crude oil brought through pipelines from Assam and also supports a thriving petrochemical industry in the region. Haldia's strategic location near Kolkata and its access to river transport make it a significant hub for oil and petrochemical-related activities.

**Q41. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Lasers (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) utilize stimulated emission. When an external light source excites atoms, they release photons. Stimulated emission occurs when another photon interacts with an excited atom, causing it to release another photon with the same properties (wavelength, phase). This cascading effect amplifies the light, creating a coherent and intense beam.

**Q42. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Cellulose is a natural polymer that is found in the cell walls of green plants. It's a complex carbohydrate (a polysaccharide) made up of thousands of glucose molecules linked together. It provides structural support to the plant cells.

On the other hand, Nylon, Teflon, and Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) are examples of synthetic polymers, which are man-made and not naturally occurring.

**Q43. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** DNA polymerase is the key enzyme responsible for building new DNA strands during replication. It uses the existing DNA strand as a template and free nucleotides in the cellular environment to synthesize the complementary strand.

**Q44. Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Mohenjodaro, Harappa, and Kalibangan are all major Harappan sites characterized by a similar town layout plan, comprising a high citadel area and a lower residential

