

WBCS GAZETTE

Monthly Current Affairs and GK Essentials



APTI PLUS

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

DECEMBER 2024

Tribal Development in West Bengal



Lakshmi
Bhandar Scheme



Khadya
Sathi Scheme



Paschimanchal
Unnayan Affairs

TOPICS COVERED

WB Schemes in News
Sports
Important Days in News
National
International

Awards
Appointments
Static GK
Books and Authors
Security and Defence

Science and Technology
Economics
Practice Questions
WBCS Prelims Test ID 02



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WEST BENGAL SPECIAL

1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

Matir Katha

Context

- The West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited (WEBEL) has led Matir Katha- a digital tool successfully to help farmers.
- Matir Katha connects farmers with agricultural experts to improve productivity and income.

Key Features and Benefits

- **Reliable Support:** Farmers get help with **farming techniques, pest control, market prices and rural livelihoods**, backed by a 24/7 toll-free helpline.
- **Quick Solutions:** Workers use tablets to report crop issues and receive instant expert advice.
- **Soil Health Cards:** GPS-enabled cards provide precise soil quality recommendations.
- **Online Access:** Simplified licensing for seeds, fertilizers and subsidies through online applications.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Field data aids policy-making, while updates promote collective learning.
- **Tech in Action:** Krishi Prajukti Sahayak (KPS) uses tablets for GPS tracking, crop issue identification and field accountability.
- **Impact:** Matir Katha ensures **fairness, efficiency and transparency**, transforming farming in West Bengal.

West Bengal State Data Centre

Context

- Built by WEBEL, WBSDC makes e-governance work effectively in West Bengal.

Details

- **About:** The WBSDC is the central hub for storing and managing the state's digital services and government data securely.
- **Why it Matters:** It enables all government departments to deliver seamless online services, like applying for certificates or checking service statuses, from a single platform.

- **Citizen Benefits:** Faster service delivery, reduced delays and fewer visits to government offices with more tasks now online.
- **Government Benefits:** Minimizes paperwork, saves time and ensures secure data management.

West Bengal State Wide Area Network (WBSWAN)

Context

- WBSWAN is the backbone of e-governance, connecting government offices from the capital to villages.

Details

- **How it Works:** It links state, district and block offices through a fast communication network, enabling seamless data exchange without physical paperwork.
- **Importance:** Offices can digitally share information in seconds, reducing delays and improving efficiency.
- **Citizen Benefits:** Faster services as government offices work seamlessly together.
- **Government Benefits:** Lower costs, improved communication and a well-connected administration.

Lakshmi Bhandar Scheme

Context

- New guidelines have been issued for this scheme.

About the Scheme

- Aimed at empowering female household heads, this scheme provides basic income support to help cover daily expenses and boost economic independence.

Highlights

- **Financial Assistance:** ₹500/month for general category households and ₹1000/month for SC/ST households.
- **Eligibility:** West Bengal residents, aged **25-60**; SC/ST and casual laborers are eligible. General

category applicants with tax-paying family members or owning over 2 hectares of land are ineligible.

- **Application:** Available online/offline with required documents like Aadhaar, bank details and income proof.
- **Implementation:** Launched in July 2021; funds are directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts.
- **Recognition:** The scheme won the **SKOCH Award for Women and Child Development**, empowering nearly 2 crore women across West Bengal.

New Guidelines for Lakshmi Bhandar Scheme

Starting this year, women must adhere to updated rules to continue receiving benefits:

- **Aadhaar Linking:** Bank accounts must be linked with Aadhaar. Benefits will no longer be provided to joint account holders.
- **Single Account Only:** Only individual bank accounts are eligible.
- **Age Proof Required:** The scheme is for women aged 25–60. Benefits will stop if age proof isn't provided or if the age falls outside this range.
- **KYC Compliance:** Non-submission of bank account KYC will lead to discontinuation.
- **Eligibility Check:** Women with jobs or receiving other government benefits will lose their Lakshmi Bhandar allowance.

The government has issued 16 guidelines; non-compliance will result in the discontinuation of benefits.

Khadya Sathi Scheme

Context

- The Khadya Sathi Scheme ensures food security for deserving individuals outside the Centre's criteria- CM.

Khadya Sathi Scheme

- The Khadya Sathi Scheme provides subsidized food for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in West Bengal under the motto "Food for All."
- This scheme offers rice and wheat at ₹2 per kg. Benefits can be accessed with a digital ration card or its copy.

Key Details:

- **Eligibility:** Indian citizens from BPL or EWS categories in West Bengal, excluding government employees.

- **Documents:** Digital ration card, Voter ID, Aadhaar card, Income certificate and a passport-sized photo.
- **Application:** Apply online via 'Egiye Bangla' or offline at ration shops.

Benefits:

- **Rice:** ₹2 per kg (varies by category)
- **Wheat:** ₹2 per kg (varies by category)

Ration Distribution:

- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):** 21 kg rice, 14 kg wheat per family
- **Priority Household/Specific Priority Household:** 3 kg rice, 2 kg wheat per person
- **Rural and Urban Scheme I:** 5 kg rice per person
- **Rural and Urban Scheme II:** 2 kg rice per person

This welfare initiative aims to provide essential food items at affordable prices, improving the quality of life for underprivileged families.

Snehaloy Housing Scheme

Context

- The West Bengal Snehaloy Housing Scheme aims to provide affordable housing to residents, especially those without proper shelter.

Details

- The Snehaloy Housing Scheme was launched in 2020 to help citizens achieve their dream of owning a home.
- This initiative targets families who have previously expressed housing concerns via the Didi Ke Bolo portal.

Beneficiary Selection:

- The scheme is open to families that have not benefited from previous housing schemes. Applications will be processed by the District Magistrate, who will collect bank details, land details and personal information for submission to the Housing Department.

Land Provision:

- Financial support of ₹1.20 lakh will be provided to eligible families to construct a house on their own land or legally owned land. Families who have received benefits from other state housing schemes are ineligible.

Unit Cost:

- **Plain Areas:** ₹1,20,000 per unit
- **Hilly and Sundarban Areas:** ₹1,30,000 per unit

Benefits:

- The scheme will provide financial support through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

- ₹1.20 lakh will be given to help beneficiaries build homes.
- Financial aid will be distributed in **two installments** each year.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be **permanent residents of West Bengal**.
- Applicants must not be beneficiaries of other housing schemes in the state.

- The applicant should belong to the **economically weaker section** and have registered a complaint on the **Didi Ke Bolo portal**.

Required Documents:

- **Residence proof, age proof, Aadhaar card, economically weaker section certificate, bank details, passport-sized photo** and other necessary documents.

2. WEST BENGAL ECONOMY (GK)

- West Bengal is **India's sixth largest state in terms of economic size**.
- As of August 2024, West Bengal had a **total installed power generation capacity of 10,804.17 MW**, of which 5,997.95 MW was under state utilities, 2,959.88 MW under private sector and 1,846.34 MW under central utilities.
- Of the total installed power capacity, **8763.34 MW was contributed by thermal power, 1396.00 MW by hydropower and 644.83 MW by renewable power**.
- West Bengal is the **second-largest tea growing state in India**. Tea production in West Bengal stood at **426.59 million kg in FY24**.
- Between October 2019-June 2024, **FDI inflows in West Bengal stood at US\$ 1,661.09 million**.

West Bengal's 2024 Economy: Growth amid Challenges

- West Bengal's economic performance in 2024 reflects a combination of growth and ongoing challenges. The state's **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** is projected to increase by **10.5%** in the 2024-25 fiscal year outpacing the national average of **7.32%** reinforcing its position as the **fourth-largest economy in India**.

Key Growth Drivers

- The **manufacturing sector** recorded a growth of **7.8%** surpassing the national average. Major projects such as **Infosys' Rs 426 crore development centre** and **Rs 2,100 crore investments** in steel and poly films are creating thousands of jobs.
- The **IT sector** is buoyed by the development of a **200-acre Silicon Valley project** in New Town with a target of **Rs 27,000 crore investments and 75,000 jobs**.
- The **MSME sector** is thriving with credit targets set at **Rs 1.53 lakh crore** for 2024-25.
- The **shipbuilding industry** is expanding with investments from companies like **GRSE** and **Cochin Shipyard**.
- The **Bengal Shopping Festival 2024** generated significant sales enhancing the retail sector's growth.

Challenges

- A concerning trend of **corporate relocations** with over **2,200 companies** moving out of the state between 2019-2024.
- Declining contribution to **national GDP**; West Bengal's share decreased from **10.5% in 1960-61** to just **5.6% in 2023-24**.
- **Fiscal imbalance** with **revenue expenditure** increasing by **13.5%** while **capital expenditure** lagged behind leading to a **fiscal deficit of 3.7%**.
- Delayed infrastructural projects such as the **Tajpur deep sea port** remain a concern for long-term economic growth.

Outlook and Focus

- **Political tensions** in Bangladesh could affect trade with potential consequences for Indian exports.
- West Bengal is preparing for the **Bengal Global Business Summit 2025** aiming to attract further investments. However, experts urge **reforms** to eliminate political interference and ensure the efficient implementation of projects.
- In conclusion while West Bengal demonstrates impressive growth particularly in manufacturing and IT sectors addressing fiscal management political interference and

business environment challenges will be

crucial for sustainable development.

3. WEST BENGAL – OTHER SECTORS (GK)

Tribal Development in West Bengal

Introduction

- The **Tribal Development Department** of West Bengal was created on **28th November 2013** through a bifurcation of the then **Backward Classes Welfare (BCW) Department**, with the goal of ensuring the sustainable, integrated, socio-economic and holistic development of the **40 Scheduled Tribe communities** in the state.

Achievements (2023-24 up to 31.12.2023)

- Jai Johar (ST Old Age Pension):** Launched on **01.04.2020**, this universal pension scheme provides **Rs. 1,000 per month** to poor ST persons aged **60 years and above**. By 2023-24, **3,00,410 beneficiaries** have been registered.
- West Bengal Kendu Leaves Collectors Social Security Scheme, 2015:** Aimed at poor Kendu Leaves Collectors in **Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Purulia and Jhargram** districts, this scheme provides financial assistance for **accidental deaths, medical expenses and funeral costs**. Currently, **35,397 tribal members** are registered under the scheme.
- Collection of Kendu Leaves:** A total of **336,901.68 Quintals** of Kendu Leaves, a **Minor Forest Produce**, have been collected.
- Enhancement of Minimum Support Price (MSP):** The MSP for Kendu Leaves has increased from **Rs. 75 per chatta (2.5 Kg)** to **Rs. 170 per chatta**, ensuring fair compensation for collectors.
- West Bengal Lodha Sabar Development Board:** Established in **2022-23** for the **holistic development** of the Lodha and Sabar tribal communities.
- Shikshashree Scheme:** This fully **state-funded** scheme, introduced in **2014-15**, supports students of tribal communities in **classes V to VIII** with textbooks, stationery, etc. In **2023-24**, more than **1.9 lakh students** are expected to benefit.
- Santali Medium Schools:** Three Santali Medium Schools are being set up in **Paschim Medinipur and Malda** districts. Construction works at **Keshpur and Debra** are expected to be completed in **2023-24**.

- Academic Works:** Textbooks for Class XII subjects are being translated into **Santali language** (Olchiki script) to preserve and promote the Santali language.
- Community-Based Schemes:** A number of ST families are provided opportunities under schemes related to **agriculture, horticulture, pisciculture, animal husbandry and skill development**.
- MFP & MSP Scheme for Tribal Forest Produce Gatherers:** This scheme ensures fair prices for **12 forest products** like **Sal Leaves, Mahua Seeds, Neem Seeds** and others. Tribal collectors receive MSP through **LAMPS** or **women SHGs**.
- Training through IEC (Information, Education & Communication):** The department conducts awareness programs on entitlements, including **Aadhar camps, Duare Sarkar, Chokher Alo** and training in **scientific animal husbandry and sustainable agriculture** through LAMPS.
- Tribal Culture Preservation Activities:** Significant cultural events were observed, including **Hul Diwas (30th June), Biswa Adivasi Diwas (10th August)** in **14 districts** and the **Karam Utsav** of the **Oraon and Munda** communities (25th September 2023). The **Birth Anniversary of Birsa Munda** was celebrated in **16 districts** on **15th November**.

Self Help Group & Self Employment

Introduction

- The **Department of Self-Help Group & Self Employment** is mandated to coordinate activities of different stakeholder departments that form **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**, particularly those led by **women**. The Department also implements specific programs to provide **livelihood generation** for **SHG members and unemployed youths**, offering **credit linkages, interest subvention and coverage on accidents**.

Special Achievements during the Financial Year 2023-24 (up to 31.12.2023)

- West Bengal Swarojgar Sahayak Prakalpa (WBSSP)** provides **interest subvention** on loans received by **SHGs**, with the primary objective of reducing the interest burden on

SHGs to a meagre 2 percent. 1,00,659 SHGs have received interest subvention under this scheme.

- **Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasansthan Prakalpa (SVSKP)** is a self-employment scheme aimed at generating self-employment through the promotion of small-scale units in production, manufacturing, trade, service and other sectors, including agro-based industries, floriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry (excluding direct agriculture).
- To provide market linkage to SHGs and entrepreneurs, 22 District/Sub-District level Sabala Melas and a State Sabala Mela have been organized.
- The Department has participated in the **India International Trade Fair (IITF), 2023**, held in West Bengal.
- Under the Skill Development Training for self-employment and livelihood generation, 100 de-addiction vocational training programmes under the Shuddhi Project are being run by Kolkata Police.

Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs

- The primary aim of the Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs Department is to identify and address critical gaps hindering the integrated development of the red laterite zone in the western part of the State.
- The department covers 7 districts—Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Paschim Medinipur and Jhargram—covering an area of about 22.28 lakh ha. This region is predominantly inhabited by SC/ST communities, who are mainly dependent on agriculture and agriculture-related activities. The department implements schemes for improving the socio-economic conditions, health and educational status of the region.
- **2023-24 Jungle Mahal Utsav:** To develop and preserve the traditional culture of the backward communities in the Paschimanchal region, the Jungle Mahal Utsav is organized annually with mass participation.

4. WEST BENGAL MISCELLANEOUS

ST Population - Rank: West Bengal: Census 2011			
District	Percentage of ST	District	Percentage of ST
Bankura	10.25	Murshidabad	1.28
Bardhaman	6.34	Nadia	2.72
Birbhum	6.92	North 24 Parganas	2.64
Cooch Behar	0.64	Paschim Medinipur	14.88
Dakshin Dinajpur	16.43	Purba Medinipur	0.55
Darjiling Hill Area	-	Purulia	18.45
Hooghly	4.15	Siliguri	-
Howrah	0.31	South 24 Parganas	1.19
Jalpaiguri	18.89	Uttar Dinajpur	5.41
Kolkata	0.24	WEST BENGAL	5.8
Maldah	7.87		

DO YOU KNOW???

- UNESCO has officially recognized West Bengal as a premier heritage destination, applauding the state's significant contributions to preserving and promoting the world's intangible cultural heritage. This acknowledgment cements West Bengal's status as a global hub for those seeking to immerse themselves in its rich traditions, artistry, and historical significance.

Key Highlights of UNESCO Recognition:

- **Cultural Richness and Heritage:** West Bengal's diverse history, traditions, and crafts make it a unique cultural tapestry. UNESCO highlighted the state's remarkable blend of World Heritage Sites, intangible cultural heritage elements, and distinctive regional arts. The recognition underscores the state's position as a center of global cultural excellence.

- **Durga Puja:** Durga Puja, a celebration deeply ingrained in the cultural fabric of West Bengal, was inscribed by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2021. This festival, known for its grand processions, artistic displays, and cultural pride, has become a symbol of the state's vibrant cultural identity.
- **Santiniketan:** The recognition also extends to Santiniketan, the university town founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, which has been recognized by UNESCO for its contributions to education and cultural development. This addition further elevates West Bengal's cultural heritage portfolio.
- **Rural Craft and Cultural Hubs (RCCH):** UNESCO acknowledged the state's efforts in safeguarding traditional crafts through the RCCH initiative. This project, a collaboration between UNESCO New Delhi and the Department of MSME&T, Government of West Bengal, supports over 50,000 artisans across more than 35 traditional craft value chains. Crafts such as Patachitra, Dokra, and Terracotta are celebrated for their intricate artistry and the sustainable livelihoods they provide to local communities.
- **Sundarbans National Park:** As a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987, the Sundarbans National Park, with its unparalleled biodiversity, strengthens the state's heritage credentials. This park, the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the world, is also home to the Bengal tiger, adding to the state's cultural and natural legacy.
- **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway:** Another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, often called the "Toy Train," offers travelers a scenic journey through the rolling hills of Darjeeling. This historic narrow-gauge train route is a testament to colonial-era engineering and adds to the state's hill station heritage.

UNESCO's recognition places West Bengal firmly on the global map. With its World Heritage Sites, traditional crafts and vibrant living traditions, the state offers an unforgettable journey through history, art, and heritage, inviting travelers from around the world to explore its cultural riches.

List of Rivers in West Bengal

River Name	Origin	Major Tributaries	Major Cities/Towns
Ganges (Hooghly)	Gangotri Glacier Uttarakhand	Damodar, Rupnarayan, Jalangi	Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly
Teesta	Tso Lamo, Sikkim	Rangeet, Riang	Siliguri
Damodar	Chulha Pani Hill, Jharkhand	Barakar, Konar	Asansol, Durgapur
Ajay	Ajay Hills, Bihar	None	None
Mayurakshi	Trikut Hill, Jharkhand	None	Suri, Siuri
Subarnarekha	Piska/Nagri, Near Ranchi, Jharkhand	Kharkai	Ghatsila, Balasore
Rupnarayan	Joining of Dwarkeswar & Shilabati	None	Tamluk

Water Tourism Sites in West Bengal

Sl.No.	Site Name	Water body	District	Basin
1	Durgapur Barrage	Damodar River	Bankura	Ganga Basin
2	Mandarmani	Bay of Bengal	Medinipur	Ganga Basin
3	Rajbari Palace	Tista River	Jalpaiguri	Brahmaputra Basin
4	Hazarduari Palace	Bhagirathi River	Murshidabad	Ganga Basin
5	Darjeeling		Darjeeling	Brahmaputra Basin
6	Santragachi Jheel	Santragachhi jheel	Haora	Ganga Basin
7	Tapan Dighi Lake	Tapan Dighi lake	Dakshin Dinajpur	Ganga Basin

8	Coronation Bridge	Teesta River	Darjeeling	Brahmaputra Basin
9	Vidhyasagar Setu	Hooghly River	Haora	Ganga Basin
10	Nivedita Setu	Hooghly River	Haora	Ganga Basin
11	Howrah Bridge	Hooghly River	Haora	Ganga Basin
12	Vivekananda Setu	Hooghly River	Hugli	Ganga Basin
13	Diamond Harbour	Hooghly River	South 24 Parganas	Ganga Basin
14	Gangasagar	Bay of Bengal and Muriganga river	South 24 Parganas	Ganga Basin
15	Belur Math Temple	Hooghly River	Haora	Ganga Basin
16	Dakshineswar Temple	Hooghly River	North 24 Parganas	Ganga Basin
17	Sevoke Kali Mandir	Teesta River	Darjiling	Brahmaputra Basin
18	Bakreshwar	Bakreshwar river	Birbhum	Ganga Basin
19	Mayapur	Ganga River	Nadia	Ganga Basin
20	Jayanti	Jayanti River	Jalpaiguri	Brahmaputra Basin
21	Bakkhali	Bay of Bengal	South 24 Parganas	Ganga Basin
22	Digha	Bay of Bengal	Medinipur	Subernarekha Basin
23	Kalijhora	Teesta River	Darjeeling	Brahmaputra Basin
24	Sunderbans	Confluence of river Padma, Brahmaputra and Meghna	North 24 Parganas	Ganga Basin
25	Frazerganj	Bay of Bengal	South 24 Parganas	Ganga Basin
26	Nabadwip	Confluence of Bhagirathi and Jalangi rivers	Nadia	Ganga Basin



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NATIONAL

Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 passed

Context

- The Lok Sabha passed the **Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024** amid disruptions. Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** dismissed privatisation concerns as unfounded.

Key Highlights

- Statutory Powers:** Empowers the Railway Board with greater authority.
- Simplified Framework:** Merges the Railway Board Act, 1905, into the Railways Act, 1989.
- Better Connectivity:** Boosts superfast train operations and regional links like Thawe Junction in Bihar.

Minister's Clarifications

- No Privatisation:** Railways will remain government-owned.
- Decentralisation:** Full tendering powers given to zonal managers.
- Passenger Focus:** 13,000 new trains and 10,000 coaches planned for low-income travellers.

Legislative Need

- The amendment unifies old laws into a single framework, enhancing operational efficiency.

Indian Heritage at UNESCO Awards 2024

Context

- Two Indian projects were honoured at the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2024**.

Details

Abathsahayeswarar Temple, Tamil Nadu

- Award of Distinction:** Recognized for combining **traditional craftsmanship** with modern techniques to restore this 7th-century temple, mentioned in the Tamil text **Thevaram**.

BJPCI School, Maharashtra

- Award of Merit:** Celebrated for restoring the **1908 Gothic-style building**, preserving its heritage while ensuring modern functionality.

About the Awards

- Established in **2000** to honor excellence in **heritage conservation**.
- Categories include **Excellence, Distinction, Merit and Sustainable Development**.

India Maritime Heritage Conclave 2024

Context

- The 1st India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC 2024) was hosted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).

Details

- India is the **16th-largest maritime country** with a coastline of **7,516.6 km**.
- The country has **12 major ports** and over **200 minor and intermediate ports**.
- 95% of India's trade by volume** and **70% by value** is handled through maritime transport.
- 100% FDI** is allowed under the automatic route for port and harbour construction and maintenance.
- A **10-year tax holiday** is offered to enterprises developing, maintaining and operating ports and inland waterways.
- In FY24, India's key ports handled **817.97 million tonnes (MT)** of cargo- a **4.45% increase** from FY23.

Centre launches e-Maap Portal

Context

- National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap) Portal** was recently launched to promote **fair trade and consumer protection** by Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Features

- Offers **one-stop digital platform** for businesses and consumers.
- Automated workflows** for faster processing and real-time compliance tracking.
- Simplifies **registration, licensing and certification** for businesses.
- Provides **consumer grievance redressal** for measurement issues.

Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi

Context

- On **Good Governance Day** (December 25, 2024), Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the '**Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi**' initiative to empower grassroots governance, focusing on strengthening **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**.

Details

- The initiative is part of the broader '**Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur**' campaign aimed at enhancing governance at the village level.
- Objective:** To build capacity in **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** by equipping elected representatives and officials with tools for **effective governance and participatory planning**.

Focus Areas:

- Capacity-building** through **e-learning platforms, AI-powered chatbots and mobile apps**.
- Promotes **decentralized governance and citizen-centric decision-making**.
- Pilot States:** Odisha, Assam, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh.
- Launch Details:** Launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh on the occasion of **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 100th birth anniversary**, marking **Good Governance Day**.
- Aligning with Mission:** The initiative supports the government's broader vision of **decentralizing governance and fostering equitable and sustainable development** across rural India.

Other Key Initiatives Unveiled

iGOT Karmayogi Platform Enhancements:

- Introduction of a new **dashboard** and the **1600th e-learning course**.
- Enhances the **monitoring and progress** of training efforts in government ministries.

CPGRAMS Annual Report 2024:

- Review of the **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**.
- Resolution of 25 lakh grievances** annually with **multilingual support and advanced tracking**.

Single Simplified Pension Application Form:

- Combines nine separate forms into one streamlined digital format.
- Real-time tracking** and **Aadhaar-based e-signatures** to simplify pension processing.

Compendium of Pension Related Instructions, 2024:

- Consolidates all pension rules, ensuring clarity and simplicity in the process.

Foundation Stone for Ken-Betwa River Linking Project

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for the **Ken-Betwa river linking project** in **Khajuraho**.

Details

- The Project is aimed to channel excess water from the **Ken river** in **Madhya Pradesh** into the **Betwa river**.
- The project is expected to bring **new prosperity** to the **Bundelkhand region** by addressing water scarcity and boosting regional development.

Historical Background

- The idea for this project was first proposed following a feasibility study by the **National Water Development Authority (NWDA)** in **1995**, initially estimated at a cost of **₹1998.74 crore**.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** was signed in **2005** between **Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh** and the **Union Government** for a **detailed feasibility report**, which was completed in **2014**. **Environmental approval** was finally granted in **2023**, clearing the way for the project's implementation.

Project Overview

- The project is set to benefit nearly **4.4 million people** across **12 districts of Madhya Pradesh** and **2.1 million people** in **10 districts of Uttar Pradesh** by providing **drinking water**. With an estimated cost of **₹44,605 crore**, it will also support **irrigation** for over **1 million hectares of farmland** across **2,000 villages**.
- The project is expected to generate **103MW of hydropower** and **27MW of solar energy**, making it a significant step in improving **water management and energy production** in the region.

Go-To Global Destinations for 2025

Context

- Madhya Pradesh has been recognized by the **Wall Street Journal** as one of the “Go-To Global Destinations for 2025”.

Details

- This recognition highlights the state's rich heritage, unmatched wildlife and stunning natural beauty.
- With **14 UNESCO World Heritage Sites** (including **3 permanent** and **11 tentative**), **9 Tiger Reserves** and a vibrant cultural landscape, Madhya Pradesh offers travelers unique and unforgettable experiences.
- The **Wall Street Journal** specifically highlights **Khajuraho**, **Panna** and **Bandhavgarh** for their cultural significance, exceptional wildlife and scenic landscapes, showcasing the state's diverse tourism offerings.

Youngest Female to complete the Seven Summits Challenge

Context

- Kaamya Karthikeyan, a 17-year-old from Mumbai, made history on December 24, 2024, as the youngest female to complete the Seven Summits Challenge, scaling the highest peaks across all seven continents.

Summit Sequence

- Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa)
- Mount Elbrus (Europe)
- Mount Kosciuszko (Australia)
- Mount Aconcagua (South America)
- Mount Denali (North America)
- Mount Everest (Asia)
- Mount Vinson (Antarctica)

Final Antarctic expedition

- Challenging journey
- Undertaken with her father, Commander S Karthikeyan

Scrapping of 'No-Detention Policy' in Schools

Context

- The Central Government has abolished the 'No-Detention Policy' for class 5 and 8 students who fail exams.

Background

- In 2023-24, Delhi scrapped the 'no-detention' policy, marking the first academic year without it.
- This decision follows the amendment of the Right to Education (RTE) Act in 2017, which gave states and the Centre the authority to retain or remove the policy.

Details:

No-Detention Policy:

- Introduced under the RTE Act (2009) to prevent holding back or expelling students until Class 8.
- Aimed at reducing dropouts and promoting inclusivity by allowing students to complete elementary education without the fear of failure.

RTE Act Amendment (2017):

- Allowed states and the Centre to decide on detaining students. If a student fails in Classes 5 or 8, they get a re-exam within two months. If they fail again, they are held back.

Reasons for Amendment:

- Concerns over poor academic performance and lack of assessments under the no-detention policy.

States Retaining vs. Scrapping Policy:

- **Retained:** States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- **Scrapped:** Delhi, Punjab, MP, Rajasthan, **West Bengal**, Bihar and Gujarat.

Delhi's Experience:

- In 2023-24, nearly 20% of Class 8 students in Delhi failed after the policy was scrapped.

India's first Bio-Bitumen-based National Highway Stretch

Context

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway

stretch on NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

- This project is a significant step towards sustainability in road construction.

Details

Bio-Bitumen Stretch:

- India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch developed on NH-44 using lignin-based bio-bitumen technology.

Technology and Sustainability:

- **Lignin, a sustainable binder, replaces traditional bitumen,** addressing bitumen scarcity and reducing dependence on imports (currently 50% of total supply).
- This innovation helps meet global sustainability goals by mitigating stubble burning, generating revenue for bio-refineries and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70% compared to fossil-based bitumen.

CNG from Biomass:

- 400 projects across India to produce CNG from biomass, particularly rice straw, which helps reduce pollution and provides a cheaper alternative to petrol.
- These projects also benefit farmers by creating value from agricultural waste, reducing stubble burning, and promoting sustainable farming practices.

New Nyaya Sanhita

Context

- The New Nyaya Sanhita aims to improve the efficiency of the Indian legal system by ensuring quicker and fairer justice delivery through specific timelines for various legal processes.

Details:

Faster and Fair Resolution:

- **The new laws ensure timely resolution of cases with defined time limits:**
 - Preliminary enquiry: 14 days
 - Further investigation: 90 days
 - Document supply to victim/accused: 14 days
 - Commitment for trial: 90 days
 - Filing discharge applications: 60 days
 - Framing of charges: 60 days
 - Judgment pronouncement: 45 days
 - Mercy petitions: 30 days before Governor, 60 days before President

Fast-Track Investigations:

- Offences against women and children will be investigated within 2 months of the information being recorded.

Limited Adjournments:

- Courts can grant a maximum of two adjournments to prevent delays.

Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill passed

Context

- The Parliament passed the **Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024** to streamline and improve the licensing processes for aviation personnel, enhancing the governance of the civil aviation sector in India.

Highlights of the Bill

Replacement of the Aircraft Act, 1934:

- The bill replaces the **Aircraft Act of 1934**, updating the legal framework governing the civil aviation sector.

Statutory Authorities:

- The bill establishes three key statutory authorities:
 - **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA):** Responsible for regulatory functions and overseeing aviation safety.
 - **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS):** Responsible for overseeing aviation security.
 - **Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau:** Responsible for investigating aircraft accidents.

Union Government's Role:

- The bill empowers the **Union government** to issue directions to these authorities and review their orders in the public interest.

Empowerment to the Central Government:

- The central government is authorized to make rules related to:
 - **Regulation of aircraft-related activities** such as licensing, certification, and inspection.
 - **Regulation of air transport services.**
 - **Implementation of the International Civil Aviation Convention of 1944.**
 - **Regulation of radio telephone operator certificates** and licenses under the International Telecommunication Convention.

Appellate Mechanism:

- Retains provisions for penalties from the **Aircraft Act, 1934**, for rule violations and the appointment of adjudicating officers.
- Introduces a **two-tier appellate system**: Appeals from the **First Appellate Officer** will be heard by a **Second Appellate Officer** of higher rank.
- **Central government** will handle appeals against orders issued by **DGCA** or **BCAS**. No further appeals will be allowed against the central government's orders.
- This bill aims to provide a modernized, efficient and robust regulatory framework for India's fast-growing aviation sector.

Atal Innovation Mission

Context

- Atal Innovation Mission has been extended till 2028.

All about Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- The Atal Innovation Mission was **launched by NITI Aayog in 2016** to foster innovation and entrepreneurship across India.
- The primary goal of AIM is to create an ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship at various levels, including schools, universities, research institutions, MSMEs and industries.

Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)

- ATLs are established to promote creativity and an innovative mindset in schools.
- These labs are equipped with cutting-edge technologies such as **3D printers, robotics and the Internet of Things (IoT)**.

- AIM is setting up state-of-the-art ATLs in schools across all districts in India to ensure widespread access.

Atal Tinkering Challenges

- Regular challenges are conducted at schools and through AIM to encourage students to develop innovative solutions to address local and national issues.
- These challenges aim to keep students actively involved in creating real-world solutions and fostering problem-solving skills.

Atal Incubators

- Atal Incubators are established in universities and industries to promote entrepreneurship.
- These incubators support start-ups by providing resources, mentorship **and a conducive environment for innovation and growth**.

Atal Community Innovation Centres (CICs)

- CICs are set up to extend the benefits of technology to underserved regions, **including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, aspirational districts, tribal, hilly and coastal areas**.
- The aim is to **bridge the gap and promote inclusive growth in these regions**.

Mentor of Change Program

- The Mentor of Change initiative encourages collaboration between government bodies, academic institutions, industry leaders, individuals and NGOs with a societal focus.
- The program aims to create a vibrant innovation ecosystem by leveraging the expertise and resources of various stakeholders.

INTERNATIONAL

UK Universities set to establish Campuses at Gift City, Gujarat

Context

- UK'S Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University have applied to set up international campuses in GIFT City.

About GIFT City

- GIFT City is a financial and technology hub in India that aims to be a global business district.
- It is India's first operational **Greenfield Smart City** and international financial services centre, promoted by the Government of Gujarat. GIFT City is located on the **banks of the Sabarmati River.**
- It includes commercial, financial and residential complexes.

World's largest Dam on Brahmaputra by China

Context:

- China has approved the construction of the **world's largest dam** on the **Brahmaputra River (Yarlung Zangbo)** in Tibet, near India's border, raising regional concerns over water flow and stability.
- **Location:** Planned at a massive gorge in Tibet, where the Brahmaputra makes a U-turn before entering **Arunachal Pradesh.**

Concerns for India:

- Control over Brahmaputra's flow, affecting downstream nations like India and Bangladesh.
- Risk of **flooding border areas** during potential hostilities.
- Strategic implications for water resources and security.

Significance for China:

- Hydropower potential equivalent to **three Three Gorges Dams.**
- Revenue generation: **20 billion yuan** annually for Tibet.
- Strategic importance for **energy, national security** and **South Asia cooperation.**

India to chair the 68th Session of The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Context:

- India has been chosen to chair the **68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**, marking the first time it has held this important position.
- The CND is the principal policy-making body of the United Nations (UN) on drug-related matters.

Details:

Chairmanship of Shambhu S. Kumaran:

- **Shambhu S. Kumaran**, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, has assumed the CND chairmanship.

CND's Role:

- The **CND** monitors global drug trends, supports balanced drug policies, and oversees the implementation of international drug control conventions.
- It operates under the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** and serves as the governing body of the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).**

Purpose of CND:

- The **CND** reviews global drug issues and takes action through **resolutions and decisions.**
- It was established in **1946** by the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** to supervise the application of international drug control treaties and later became the governing body of the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** in **1991.**

CND Structure:

- The **CND** is composed of **53 Member States** elected by **ECOSOC** for a four-year term.
- The seats are distributed among regional groups, including **African States, Asian States, Latin American and Caribbean States, Eastern European States,** and **Western European and other States.**

India's Role and Challenges:

- India's fight against narcotics involves **law enforcement, advanced detection technologies,** and **international cooperation.**

- Evolving trends in **drug trafficking** and the emergence of **new psychoactive substances** require continuous adaptation and innovation in **enforcement strategies**.

UN Peace building Commission (PBC)

Context

- India has been re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the 2025–2026 term.
- India's current term was set to expire on December 31.
- As a founding member and major contributor to UN Peacekeeping, India remains committed to global peace and stability.

Role of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

- The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an **intergovernmental advisory body supporting peace efforts in conflict-affected countries**.
- **Established in 2005** it enhances international capacity for peacebuilding. **Currently chaired by Mr. Sérgio França Danese (Brazil)**.
- PBC is **focused on post-conflict recovery and rebuilding institutions in conflict-affected countries**.
- **Composed of 31 member states**, elected from the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council.
- Tasks include advising on and proposing strategies for sustainable peace, reconstruction, and recovery.

Focus areas include:

- Supporting reconstruction and institution-building.
- Ensuring predictable financing for early recovery activities.
- Promoting integrated approaches to security, development, and human rights.
- Coordinating efforts among relevant actors to extend attention to post-conflict recovery.

India's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping

- India is one of the largest contributors of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping missions.
- **Currently, India deploys approximately 6,000 military and police personnel to UN operations in:**
 - Abyei
 - Central African Republic
 - Cyprus
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Lebanon
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Western Sahara
- India's contributions underscore its leadership in global peace efforts and commitment to post-conflict recovery.

India's Continued Engagement with the PBC

- With this re-election, India continues to contribute to the PBC's core mandate of fostering post-conflict recovery and promoting sustainable development.
- India's engagement helps enhance global efforts towards lasting peace and stability in conflict-affected regions.

Moldova joins International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Context

- Moldova signed the ISA Framework Agreement to highlight its commitment to expanding renewable energy and solar initiatives globally.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- **Global Initiative:** Formed to promote solar energy solutions and address climate change.
- **Founding:** Collaboration between India and France during COP21 in Paris (2015).
- **Treaty-Based Organisation:** Includes 104 member countries and 16 signatory countries, primarily located between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- **Framework Agreement:** Came into force in 2017 and amended in 2020 to allow all UN member states to join.
 - Non-tropical countries can join but lack voting rights.
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana, India.
- **Mission:** Guided by the 'Towards 1000' strategy:
 - Mobilize USD 1,000 billion in solar energy investments.
 - Provide energy access to 1,000 million people.
 - Install 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity by 2030.

About Moldova

- **Location:** Landlocked country in Eastern Europe, bordered by Romania (west) and Ukraine (east).
- **Geographical Features:**
 - Prut River forms the western border.

- Dniester River forms the eastern border.
- 88% of the country lies in the Bessarabia region.
- **Capital City:** Chişinău – Moldova’s largest city, home to about one-third of the population.
- **Economic Status:** Europe’s second-poorest country in GDP per capita, after Ukraine.

Golan Heights

Context

- Israel's government has approved a plan to encourage the expansion of settlements in the occupied Golan Heights.



The Economist

Golan Heights

- **Location:** A rocky plateau in south western Syria, 60 km south of Damascus.
- **Borders:** Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Mount Hermon, Wadi Al-Ruqqd River, and Yarmouk River.
- **Size:** Covers 1,150 sq km, approximately 44 miles (71 km) north-south and 27 miles (43 km) east-west.

Source of Contention

- Syria controlled the Golan Heights until 1967.
- During the Six-Day War (1967), Israel occupied and annexed the Golan in 1981.
- Druze offered Israeli citizenship but the majority refused, maintaining Syrian identity.
- Approximately 20,000 Israeli settlers live there.
- Israel's annexation is not internationally recognized; Syria seeks the return of the territory.
- Syria attempted to reclaim it during the 1973 Middle East conflict but was unsuccessful.
- The region has been mostly peaceful since the 1974 peace treaty.
- High-level discussions in 2000 failed to resolve the issue.

Claims to the Golan Heights

- Both sides seek control due to the Golan's water resources and fertile land.
- Israel views it as a buffer zone amidst Syria's civil conflict and concerns over Iranian presence.
- Syria insists the Golan is occupied territory and demands its return.

UN Arrangement

- The UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) monitors the region with support from UNTSO.
- A 400 sq km “Area of Separation” divides Israeli and Syrian forces.
- The 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement established the Alpha and Bravo Lines for Israeli and Syrian troops.
- The Area of Limitation extends 25 km beyond the Separation Area, restricting troops and weaponry.
- One crossing point connects both sides, primarily used by UN forces and limited civilians before the Syrian civil war.

Strategic Importance

- Over 30 Israeli settlements are in the Golan, considered illegal under international law.
- The land is fertile, ideal for agriculture.
- The Golan's water resources supply one-third of Israel's water.
- Damascus, the Syrian capital, is visible from the Golan Heights.

Switzerland to suspend MFN Clause for India under DTAA from January 1, 2025

Context

- Switzerland suspended the Most Favored Nation (MFN) clause under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with India.

Details

- Most Favoured Nation (MFN) is a status in international trade where a country agrees to treat another country equally, offering the lowest tariffs, highest import quotas, minimal trade barriers, and other favorable terms, ensuring that no country is treated less advantageously than others with MFN status, as per the principle of non-discrimination.
- The MFN clause in the India-Switzerland DTAA is a provision that ensures equal treatment for both countries in the context of

tax benefits. Under this clause, if India or Switzerland enters a DTAA with a third country and grants that country a more favorable tax rate or benefit, the same advantage must automatically be extended to the other partner (in this case, India or Switzerland).

- For instance, if Switzerland agreed to a reduced withholding tax rate on dividends, interest, or royalties with another country (say 5 percent), India would automatically be entitled to the same lower rate under the MFN clause.



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SCIENCE

Kisan Kavach

Context

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology revealed **Kisan Kavach**, India's **first indigenous anti-pesticide bodysuit**.

Details

- This innovation, developed by **BRIC-in Stem** in collaboration with **Sepio Health Pvt. Ltd.**, provides comprehensive protection with a full-body suit, mask, head shield and gloves.
- Priced at ₹4,000, it is washable, **reusable and can last up to two years with 150 washes.**
- The suit's advanced fabric deactivates harmful pesticides upon contact, ensuring maximum safety.



Pesticides: A Double-Edged Sword

- **Need for Pesticides:** Pesticides are essential to address challenges like shrinking land and crop pests, which cause 15–25% yield loss in major crops.
- **Adverse Impacts:** Improper use of pesticides poses significant risks to human health, particularly through skin contact during spraying, leading to fatalities. Between 2015 and 2018, pesticide misuse caused 442 fatalities.

Reducing Pesticide Usage: Key Government Strategies

- **Insecticides Act (1968):** Regulates pesticide use to protect human and animal health. The Central Insecticides Board (CIB) guides technical aspects, and harmful pesticides can be banned.
- **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP):** Focus on sustainability, food safety and product quality to improve farming practices and working conditions.
- **Promoting Bio-pesticides:** The government encourages biopesticides like *Bacillus thuringiensis* and *Trichoderma* for sustainable crop protection, with simplified registration guidelines.
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** Focuses on sustainable pest control methods, including biological control and plant-origin pesticides like neem formulations.

Pesticides/ Formulations Banned in India	
Pesticides Banned for manufacture, import and use	
1 Alachlor	24 Lindane
2 Aldicarb	25 Linuron
3 Aldrin	26 Maleic Hydrazid
4 Benzene Hexachloride	27 Menazon
5 Benomy	28 Methoxy Ethyl Mercury Chloride
6 Calcium Cyanide	29 Methyl Parathion
7 Carbaryl	30 Metoxuron
8 Chlorbenzilate	31 Nitrofen
9 Chlordane	32 Paraquat Dimethyl Sulphate
10 Chlorofenvinphos	33 Pentachloro Nitrobenzene
11 Copper Acetoarsenite	34 Pentachlorophenol
12 Diazinon	35 Phenyl Mercury Acetate
13 Dibromochloropropane	36 Phorate
14 Dichlorovos	37 Phosphamidon
15 Dieldrin	38 Sodium Cyanide
16 Endosulfan	39 Sodium Methane Arsonate
17 Endrin	40 Tetradifon
18 Ethyl Mercury Chloride	41 Thiometon
19 Ethyl Parathion	42 Toxaphene
20 Ethylene Dibromide	43 Triazophos
21 Fenarimol	44 Tridemorph
22 Fenthion	45 Trichloro acetic acid
23 Heptachlor	46 Trichlorfon

Conclusion:

- The Kisan Kavach suits, along with efforts to reduce chemical pesticide use and promote biopesticides, mark significant progress towards a safer and more sustainable agricultural future in India.

Geoscience Museum

Context

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Geological Survey of India's (GSI) state-of-the-art Geoscience Museum at the Victoria Market Building in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

Highlighting Earth's Geological Marvels

- The Gwalior Geoscience Museum features two galleries:
- **Gallery I: Planet Earth: Its Uniqueness in Diversity**, showcasing natural phenomena such as volcanoes, meteorites, and magnetic fields, with rare specimens like Antarctic rocks, Himalayan fossils, dinosaur eggs, and volcanic rocks from Japan.
- **Gallery II: Evolution of Life on Earth**, documenting ancient ecosystems, evolutionary milestones, and extinction events using fossils and immersive exhibits.

Geological Survey of India (GSI)

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) established in 1851 under the Ministry of Mines is a scientific organization headquartered in Kolkata. Its primary functions include geological mapping mineral exploration geotechnical studies natural hazard assessments and geo-environmental research. GSI provides crucial geological information for mineral exploration and use planning disaster management and infrastructure development. It also conducts studies on geodynamic processes like plate tectonics earthquakes and climate change. GSI has significantly contributed to India's development by mapping the country assessing mineral resources such as coal iron ore and gold and exploring the geological evolution of the Indian subcontinent. Additionally, GSI maintains a national geoscience museum and promotes public awareness about geology.

India's first Diabetes Biobank

Context

- India has established its first diabetes biobank. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) partnered with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) to set up this biobank in Chennai.

Details

- The diabetes biobank is a vital repository of population-based biological samples intended to support scientific research on diabetes and related disorders.
- This initiative is aimed at advancing the understanding of diabetes, **particularly the various types of diabetes prevalent in India** and will play a crucial role in scientific research related to the disease.
- Objective:** To gather, process, store, and distribute biospecimens for diabetes research with ICMR's oversight.
- Key Studies: ICMR-INDIAB:** A national study (2008-2020) on diabetes prevalence across India. **Registry of Youth-onset Diabetes:** Focuses on Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes in young individuals.
- Biobank Role:** Helps identify biomarkers for early diagnosis and personalized treatments. Supports longitudinal studies on diabetes progression.
- Technological Integration:** Essential for specimen storage, data management, and sharing.
- Global Comparison:** Similar to the UK Biobank, but focused on India's specific diabetes challenges.

Further Information:

- ICMR-INDIAB Findings:** 10.1 crore Indians have diabetes; high rates of metabolic NCDs; need for increased physical activity and awareness.
- Registry Study:** 5,546 youth participants show a high prevalence of T1D and T2D with early complications.
- Future Impact:** The biobank will enable better diabetes management and contribute to global research.

BIOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

10th International Forest Fair

Context

- The 10th International Forest Fair began in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on December 17, 2024. The event focuses on sustainable forestry practices, community empowerment, and stakeholder collaboration in the forestry sector.

Details

- Event Duration:** The fair runs from December 17 to December 23, 2024, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Theme:** "Women Empowerment through Minor Forest Produce." Highlights the role of women, who make up 50% of the workforce in managing minor forest produce.
- Focus:** Promotes sustainable forest practices, empowers local communities, and facilitates discussions among government officials, traders, producers, scientists, and policymakers.

First-Ever Satellite tagging of a Ganges Dolphin

Context

- In a **historic move for wildlife conservation**, the first-ever **Ganges River Dolphin** has been tagged in Assam.
- This initiative is part of **Project Dolphin**, aimed at understanding and conserving the species, and is funded by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and the **National CAMPA Authority**.

Details

Tagging Event:

- The first **Ganges River Dolphin** was tagged in **Assam** as part of a collaborative effort by the **MoEFCC**, **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, **Assam Forest Department** and **Aaranyak**.
- The tagging, a **first for the species**, marks a significant step in **conservation efforts**.

Tagging Purpose:

- The **satellite tagging** aims to gather data on the dolphin's **movement patterns**, **seasonal**

migration, range and habitat utilization, especially in **disturbed river systems**.

- This information will help fill crucial **knowledge gaps** about the species.

Ecology of Ganges River Dolphin:

- **India's National Aquatic Animal**, the **Ganges River Dolphin**, is nearly blind and relies on **echolocation**.
- It resides predominantly in India, but its population has drastically **declined**.
- The species is **elusive**, surfacing for only brief moments, making it challenging to study.
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered, listed in **Schedule-I** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act** and included in **CITES Appendix I**, which covers the most endangered species.

Project Dolphin:

- The tagging is part of **Project Dolphin**, supported by **MoEFCC** and **National CAMPA Authority**.
- This project aims to develop a **conservation action plan** and address **knowledge gaps** to ensure the **long-term survival** of the species.

Significance of Tagging:

- The tagging will contribute to **evidence-based conservation strategies** for the dolphin, an **apex predator** and **umbrella species** in river ecosystems.
- The dolphin's health is crucial for maintaining the **entire river ecosystem**.

Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

Details

- **Tiger Reserves in India:** These are areas designated under **Project Tiger (1973)** for tiger conservation, focusing on preserving tigers and their habitats. They include core and buffer zones, with the core area legally designated as a national park or sanctuary.
- **Current Status:** India has 57 tiger reserves, covering about 82,000 sq km, home to 3,167 tigers, **over 70% of the global tiger population**.

Formation of Tiger Reserves:

- Identified based on viable tiger populations and suitable habitats.
- Proposals undergo ecological assessments and are **submitted to the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Ministry of Environment for approval**.
- Once approved, the reserve is **notified under the Wildlife Protection Act** and receives funding and technical support from the **Project Tiger initiative**.

Further Information

- **Project Tiger's Origin:** Launched in 1973 to counter the tiger population decline due to poaching and habitat loss. It started with nine reserves and has expanded over the years.
- **Environmental Impact:** A 2023 study found tiger reserves helped prevent over 5,800 hectares of forest loss, reducing 1 million metric tons of CO2 emissions between 2007-2020.

57th Tiger Reserve in India

Context

- India's **57th tiger reserve has been established at the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh** after receiving approval from the

List of other 56 Tiger Reserves in India

Sl.	Tiger Reserves in India (Name)	State/Uts	Sl.	Tiger Reserves in India (Name)	State/Uts
1	Bandipur Tiger Reserve	Karnataka	29	Satpura Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh
2	Corbett Tiger Reserve	Uttarakhand	30	Anamalai Tiger Reserve	Tamil Nadu
3	Amanagarh Buffer Tiger Reserve	Uttar Pradesh	31	Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve	Chattisgarh
4	Kanha Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh	32	Satkosia Tiger Reserve	Odisha
5	Manas Tiger Reserve	Assam	33	Kaziranga Tiger Reserve	Assam
6	Melghat Tiger Reserve	Maharashtra	34	Achanakmar Tiger Reserve	Chattisgarh
7	Palamu Tiger Reserve	Jharkhand	35	Kali Tiger Reserve	Karnataka
8	Ranthambore Tiger Reserve	Rajasthan	36	Sanjay Dhubri Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh
9	Simlipal Tiger Reserve	Orissa	37	Mudumalai Tiger Reserve	Tamil Nadu
10	Sunderban Tiger Reserve	West Bengal	38	Nagarhole Tiger Reserve	Karnataka
11	Periyar Tiger Reserve	Kerala	39	Parambikulam Tiger Reserve	Kerala
12	Sariska Tiger Reserve	Rajasthan	40	Sahyadri Tiger Reserve	Maharashtra

13	Buxa Tiger Reserve	West Bengal	41	Biligiri Ranganatha Temple Tiger Reserve	Karnataka
14	Indravati Tiger Reserve	Chattisgarh	42	Kawal Tiger Reserve	Telangana
15	Namdapha Tiger Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh	43	Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve	Tamil Nadu
16	Nagarjunsagar Tiger Reserve	Andhra Pradesh	44	Mukundara Tiger Reserve	Rajasthan
17	Dudhwa Tiger Reserve	Uttar Pradesh	45	Nawegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve	Maharashtra
18	Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve	Tamil Nadu	46	Amrabad Tiger Reserve	Telangana
19	Valmiki Tiger Reserve	Bihar	47	Pilibhit Tiger Reserve	Uttar Pradesh
20	Pench Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh	48	Bor Tiger Reserve	Maharashtra
21	Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve	Maharashtra	49	Rajaji Tiger Reserve	Uttarakhand
22	Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh	50	Orang Tiger Reserve	Assam
23	Panna Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh	51	Kamlang Tiger Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh
24	Dampa Tiger Reserve	Mizoram	52	Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve	Tamil Nadu
25	Bhadra Tiger Reserve	Karnataka	53	Guru Ghasidas National Park	Chhattisgarh
26	Pench Tiger Reserve	Maharashtra	54	Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh
27	Pakke Tiger Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh	55	Dholpur Karauli	Rajasthan
28	Nameri Tiger Reserve	Assam	56	Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve	Chhattisgarh

Ratapani Tiger Reserve

The **Ratapani Tiger Reserve**, located in the **Raisen district** of **Madhya Pradesh**, in the **Vindhya Range** in central India, is one of the finest **teak forests** in the state and is less than 50 kilometres from the capital **Bhopal**. It has been a **wildlife sanctuary** since 1976. The total **forest area** is around 824 square kilometres, and the landscape is undulating, with **hills, plateaus, valleys** and **plains**. Two large **reservoirs**, namely **Barna Reservoir** and **Ratapani Dam** (Barrusot lake), are among the major **waterbodies** adjacent to or inside the sanctuary. The forest of Ratapani is **dry deciduous** and **moist deciduous**, with **teak (Tectona grandis)** as the main tree species. About 55% of the area is covered by teak. The remaining mixed forests consist of various **dry deciduous** species. **Bamboo (Dendrocalamus strictus)** overlaps the two aforementioned forest types and covers about one-quarter of the forest area. **Bhimbetka rock shelters** are located within this tiger reserve. These **rock shelters** were inhabited by man hundreds of thousand years ago, and some of the **rock paintings** of the **Stone Age** are more than 30,000 years old. It has been declared a **World Heritage Site** by **UNESCO**. The tourist places include **Bhimbetka, Delawari, Ginnorhgarh Fort, Ratapani Dam, KairiMahadeo** and **Kherbana Mandir**.

India's Tiger population

Context

- India's tiger population has witnessed a significant rise, reaching 3,682 in 2022, up from 2,967 in 2018.
- This reflects a 6% annual increase in consistently monitored areas, marking a key achievement in wildlife conservation.

Highlights of the Increase in Tiger Population

Growth in Tiger Numbers:

- The tiger population grew by 6% annually, with consistent monitoring since 2018.
- The total tiger count rose from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022.

Regional Growth:

Central Indian and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex:

- Tiger numbers increased from 1,033 in 2018 to 1,439 in 2022.
- States involved: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand.

Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex:

- Tiger population rose from 646 in 2018 to 819 in 2022.
- States involved: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

Sundarbans:

- Tiger population increased from 88 to 101.

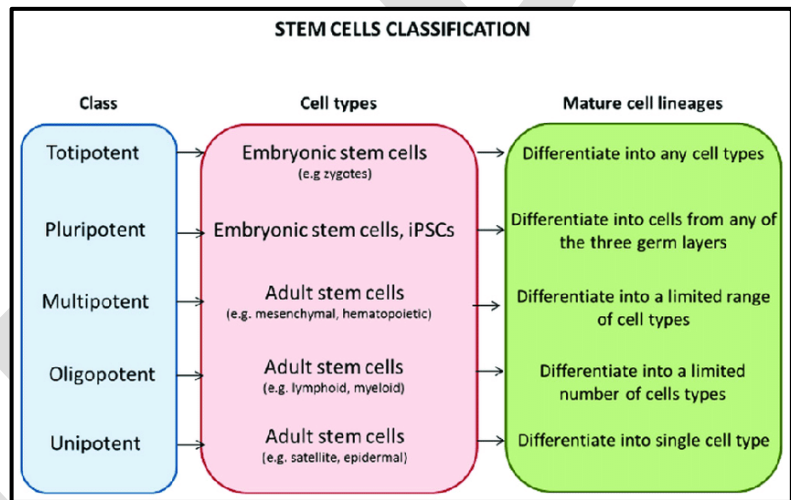
Challenges:

- Decline in tiger population observed in **Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Arunachal Pradesh** (from 29 to 9 tigers in 2022).
- However, growth in **Madhya Pradesh** (from 526 to 785 tigers) and **Maharashtra** (from 312 to 444 tigers).

Stem Cells

Stem Cells

- **About:** Stem cells are unique cells capable of developing into specialized cell types in the body.
- **Production:** Blood stem cells are produced in the bone marrow, generating any blood cell type required by the body. They constantly divide and replace older blood cells, producing billions of new cells daily.
- **Inadequate production:** Insufficient stem cell production can lead to health issues such as infections, anemia, or bleeding.



Stem Cell Transplantation (SCT)

- **About:** SCT, or bone marrow transplant, involves transferring healthy stem cells to replace damaged ones in a patient.
- **Engraftment:** After infusion, the stem cells travel to the bone marrow, forming new blood cells (white, red, platelets), a process known as "engraftment."

C3 VS C4 PLANTS

Characteristic	C3 Plants	C4 Plants
Definition	Utilize the C3 pathway or Calvin cycle for the dark reaction of photosynthesis	Employ the C4 pathway or Hatch-Slack Pathway for the dark reaction of photosynthesis
Season	Cool-season plants, commonly found in cool and wet areas	Warm-season plants, commonly found in dry areas
Product	Produces a 3 carbon compound - phosphoglyceric acid	Produces a 4 carbon compound - Oxaloacetic acid
Presence	Comprise approximately 95% of total green plants on Earth	Account for about 5% of plants on Earth
Conditions	Abundant in temperate conditions	Abundant in tropical conditions
Kranz anatomy	Leaves do not have Kranz anatomy	Leaves possess Kranz Anatomy
Chloroplast	Bundle sheath cells do not contain chloroplasts	Bundle sheath cells contain chloroplasts

CO2 Acceptors	Possess only one CO2 acceptor	Possess two CO2 acceptors
Secondary Acceptor	Do not consist of secondary CO2 acceptor	Consist of secondary CO2 acceptor
Photosynthesis	Occurs only when stomata are open	Occurs even when stomata are closed
Peripheral Reticulum	Chloroplasts do not consist of the peripheral reticulum	Chloroplasts consist of the peripheral reticulum
Temperature	Optimum temperature for photosynthesis is very low	Optimum temperature for photosynthesis is high
Efficiency	Less efficient in photosynthesis	More efficient in photosynthesis
Photorespiration	High photorespiration rate	Absence of photorespiration
CO2 Fixation	Slow CO2 fixation	Comparatively faster CO2 fixation
Mesophyll Cell	Dark reaction occurs only in mesophyll	Initial steps occur in mesophyll cells, and main steps take place in bundle sheath cells
CO2 Composition Point	High carbon dioxide composition point	Low carbon dioxide composition point
Growth	Occurs when the soil temperature is between 4-7 degrees	Occurs when the soil temperature is between 16-21 degrees
Examples	Wheat, Oats, Rice, Sunflower, Cotton	Maize, Sugarcane, Amaranthus

Basic differences in National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves

Distinction Between National Park, Sanctuary and Biosphere

National Park	Sanctuary	Biosphere Reserve
Habitat for particular wild animal species	Generally species-oriented such as citrus, pitcher plant etc.	Hitched to the whole ecosystem, i.e. totality of all forms of life, i.e. ecosystem-oriented.
In India, most common average size is 100-500 sq. km. (in about 40 per cent cases) and 500-1000 sq. km. (about 15 per cent cases). The general size range is 0.04 to 3162 sq. km.	Size range is 0.61 to 7818 sq. km. Most common (in about 40 per cent) is 100-500 sq. km. in 25 per cent, the size varies between 500 and 1000 sq. km.	Size range over 5670 sq. km.
Boundaries fixed by legislation.	Boundaries are not sacrosanct	Fixed by legislation
Except the buffer zone, no biotic interference	Limited biotic interference	Except the buffer zone, no biotic interference
Tourism permissible	Permissible	Normally not permissible
Research and scientific management lacking	Lacking	Managed
So far no attention to gene pools and conservation	So far no such attention	Attention given

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PLANT HORMONES

PLANT HORMONES		
HORMONE	FUNCTION	LOCATION
 Gibberellins	Increase the speed of seed germination; promote stem elongation; induce early blooming of flowers; increase fruit size	Shoot and root apical meristems; seeds
 Auxins	Stimulate stem elongation; control seedling orientation; stimulate root branching; promote fruit development	Apical meristems; immature plant tissue
 Ethylene	Increases the speed at which fruit ripens; stimulates leaf dropping and the death of flowers	All parts of the plant including the fruits
 Abscisic acid	Inhibits growth and reproduction; inhibits seed germination; stimulates closure of stomata	Leaves; fruits; root tips; seeds
 Cytokinins	Cause rapid cell division, in conjunction with auxin; induce seed germination; initiate new branches from lateral buds	Roots and fruits, primarily

ENZYMES

Enzyme	Activity
Protease	Breaks down protein to peptides and amino acids.
Amylase	Breaks down carbohydrates, starches, and sugars.
Lipase	Breaks down fats and oils to be absorbed in the intestine.
Lactase	Breaks down lactose that is found in milk sugars.
Alpha Galactosidase	Breaks down complex polysaccharide sugars found in legumes and cruciferous vegetables that can cause bloating and gas.
Cellulase	Breaks down fiber to help digest fruits and vegetables.
Maltase	Breaks down maltose sugars to glucose for energy.
Sucrase	Breaks down sucrose to fructose and glucose for energy.

INNATE VS ADAPTIVE IMMUNITY

Innate immunity

First line of defence against pathogens
Acts rapidly (hours/days), vital to triggering of adaptive responses
Triggered by threat/damage
Activated by microbial general patterns and damage
Acts through pathogen class-specific mechanisms of neutralisation/control
No recall response on subsequent exposure to same threat

Adaptive immunity

Second line of defence against pathogens
Relatively slow to develop (days/weeks)
Triggered by exposure to specific antigen
Very focused, targets a specific pathogen
Acts through antigen-specific and non-specific effectors
Rapid recall response on subsequent exposure to same antigen (immunological memory)



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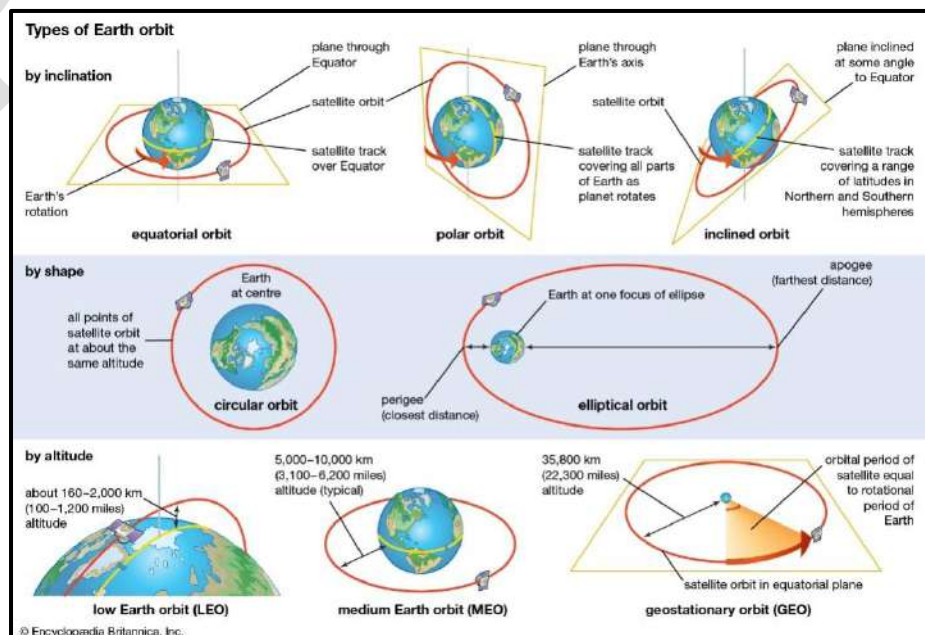
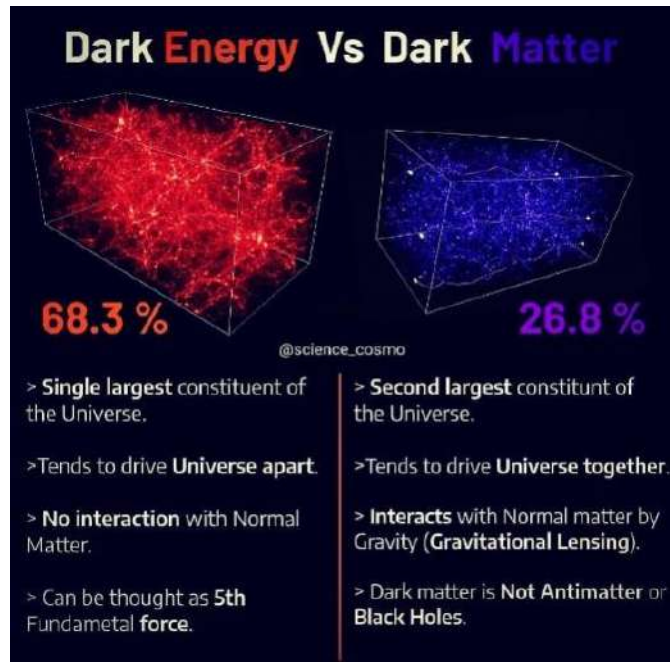
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LEARN FROM THE BEST FACULTY MEMBERS

GENERAL SCIENCE [STATIC GK]

- **Quantum Tunnelling:** Tunnelling is a quantum phenomenon where an object, like an electron or atom, passes through an energy barrier it classically shouldn't be able to, due to its insufficient energy, owing to the wave nature of matter.
- **Neutron Star:** The dense remnant of a star that has exploded in a supernova, composed almost entirely of neutrons and possessing extreme gravitational forces.
- **Meta-materials:** are synthetic materials with unique properties that are not found in nature. They manipulate electromagnetic waves to create phenomena like invisibility cloaks and super lenses.
- **Chimera:** An organism or tissue that contains at least two different sets of DNA, most often originating from the fusion of as many different zygotes (fertilized eggs).
- **Pheromones:** Chemical substances secreted by animals or insects to communicate and trigger behaviors like mating, marking territory or signaling danger, as seen in ants creating trails, moths attracting mates and honeybees alerting threats.
- **Synchrotron Radiation:** Emitted when charged particles are accelerated in circular paths, used in material analysis and medical imaging.
- **Tardigrades:** Microscopic organisms capable of surviving extreme conditions, including space exposure.
- **Exoplanets:** Planets outside our solar system, many of which are potential candidates for hosting life.
- **When light enters a denser medium,** its speed decreases, and it bends towards the normal due to refraction.
- **Magnetic field strength around a current-carrying wire decreases** as the distance from the wire increases.
- **Doubling the amplitude of a sound wave** increases its energy by a factor of four.
- **Supersonic Boom** is the



shockwave produced when a jet plane exceeds the speed of sound, creating a loud explosive noise.

- **Ramjets** use the forward motion of the aircraft to compress air without moving parts, effective at high speeds.
- **Mach Number** is the ratio of an object's speed to the speed of sound in the surrounding medium.

How gravitational microlensing works

When a gravitational wave approaching the earth is interrupted by the presence of a black hole, the signal gets modified as shown.

BLACK HOLE ACTING AS GRAVITATIONAL LENS

SOURCE OF GRAVITATIONAL WAVES IN THE DISTANT UNIVERSE

DETECTOR

ORIGINAL GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE SIGNAL

AFTER LENSED BY THE BLACK HOLE

- A good fraction of the universe consists of dark matter
- If dark matter is made of black holes, they will interact with gravitational waves passing in their vicinity
- This effect will change the shape of the gravitational wave signals that are received on earth
- Scientists can use these signatures to infer the presence of black holes

WHAT IS LIGO?

The advanced Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (or LIGO) is at the centre of the path-breaking find:

The LIGO experiment is an example of extreme engineering chasing an impossible dream

The twin LIGO installations — one in Livingston, Louisiana, and the other in Hanford, Washington — are located 3,000km apart

Two "blind" L-shaped detectors with 4km long vacuum chambers that can accommodate 11 Boeing 747-400 commercial airliners

When a gravitational wave comes through, it stretches space in one direction, and squeezes space in the other direction

By measuring the interference of the laser as they bounce between the different points, physicists can measure very precisely whether the space in between has stretched or compressed

- Built 3,000km apart, operating in unison
- To make the smallest measurement ever attempted by science — a motion 10,000 times smaller than an atomic nucleus
- Caused by the most violent and cataclysmic events in the Universe occurring millions of light years away
- Can detect gravitational waves in a volume of 1 billion cubic light years — covering about 1 million Milky Way type galaxies
- To detect a gravitational wave we should be able to tell when something changes in length by a few parts in 10 to the power 23
- LIGO makes the smallest measurement ever attempted — a motion 10,000 times smaller than an atomic nucleus
- It's like trying to hear a song being hummed in a very, very noisy party

WHAT ARE GRAVITATIONAL WAVES?
Ripples in space time, that carry gravitational energy in space

HOW WERE THEY DETECTED?
Using (LIGO), scientists detected the collision of two massive black holes

WHAT CAUSES THEM?
Acceleration or deceleration of massive cosmic objects.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DISCOVERY?
A brand new way to study the universe

FEW OF THE THINGS SCIENTISTS HOPE TO OBSERVE THANKS TO THE GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

- Stars Exploding
- Black holes colliding
- Rate at which the universe is expanding
- Possibly the origin of the big bang which created the universe

DEFENCE & SECURITY

Exercises in News

Exercise	Details
SLINEX 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLINEX 24 (Sri Lanka - India Exercise 2024) was conducted from 17th to 20th December 2024 at Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command. • Initiated in 2005, SLINEX is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka. The 11th edition took place in 2024. • Activities included replenishment at sea, VBSS drills, surface firing, flying operations and asymmetric threat response. • 2024 exercise was conducted from Visakhapatnam. • INS Sumitra and SLNS Sayura took part in the exercise.
CINBAX Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first edition of CINBAX, a Joint Table Top Exercise, has begun between the Indian Army and the Cambodian Army at the Foreign Training Node, Pune.

	<p>About CINBAX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CINBAX is a planning-based exercise designed to simulate joint Counter Terrorism (CT) operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. • The exercise will focus on the creation of a Joint Training Task Force for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, along with planning operations in a Counter Terrorism environment. • Additionally, it will highlight Indian-made weapons and equipment, promoting 'Atmanirbharta' (self-reliance) and indigenous defense capabilities.
<p>AGNI WARRIOR (XAW-2024) Joint Exercise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 13th edition of AGNI WARRIOR (XAW-2024), a bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces, concluded at the Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra). <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Army: Personnel from the Regiment of Artillery • Singapore Armed Forces: Personnel from the Singapore Artillery <p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance mutual understanding of drills and procedures, aiming to achieve jointness as a multinational force under the United Nations Charter. <p>Key Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint firepower planning and execution • Utilization of New Generation Equipment by both armies
<p>'Poorvi Prahar' Tri-Service Exercise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Army is conducting a high-intensity tri-service exercise, 'Poorvi Prahar', in the forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh. • Location: Forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh. • Objective: Enhance combat readiness in mountainous terrain and explore Army-Navy coordination. • Focus: Operational readiness, modern warfare simulations. • Technologies Used: Swarm Drones, First Person View (FPV) Drones, Loitering Munitions • Benefits: Improves real-time awareness, precise strikes, mission flexibility. • Key Outcome: Strengthened India's Armed Forces' ability to conduct integrated joint operations across all domains (land, air, sea) with enhanced communication and decision-making capabilities.
<p>Exercise Desert Knight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India, France, and the UAE have launched the Desert Knight air combat exercise over the Arabian Sea. • Exercise Desert Knight is a trilateral initiative born from a framework established in 2022 by the foreign ministers of the three countries. The exercise involves advanced aircraft, including Sukhoi-30MKIs, Rafael and F-16s, engaging in large-force operations and intensive combat manoeuvres, conducted 350-400 km southwest of Karachi. This exercise is part of a broader strategic collaboration that spans defence, technology, energy, and the environment and aims to strengthen defense ties, particularly in the Indo-Pacific and Persian Gulf regions.
<p>Sanyukt Vimochan 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Army successfully conducted the Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, Sanyukt Vimochan 2024, in Ahmedabad and Porbandar. <p>Sanyukt Vimochan 2024 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event: Multilateral annual joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise. • Conducted By: Konark Corps, Indian Army. • Location: Ahmedabad & Porbandar, Gujarat. • Objective: Enhance interagency cooperation and disaster response. • Activities: Tabletop exercise on cyclone scenarios, multi-agency demonstration at Porbandar beach.

- **Participants:** Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and international officials from nine countries.
- **Significance:** Strengthened national disaster response and contributed to global HADR dialogue.

Command Structure of the Indian Army

Serial Number	Operational Command	Headquarters
1	Central Command	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
2	Eastern Command	Kolkata, West Bengal
3	Western Command	Chandi Mandir, Haryana
4	South Western Command	Jaipur, Rajasthan
5	Northern Command	Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir
6	Southern Command	Pune, Maharashtra
7	Training Command	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Ministry of Defence YEAR END REVIEW 2024

Aatmanirbharta in Defence

- **Positive Indigenisation List (PIL):** The fifth PIL, released in July 2024, includes 346 critical items for import substitution. Over 2,972 items from previous PILs, worth ₹3,400 crore, have already been indigenized.
- **Record Defence Production:** Indigenous defence production reached ₹1,26,887 crore in FY 2023-24, marking a 16.7% growth. The private sector contributed 20.8%, with a target of ₹3 lakh crore by 2029.
- **Record Defence Exports:** Exports hit ₹21,083 crore in FY 2023-24, a 32.5% increase, with contributions from the private sector (60%) and DPSUs (40%). The target is ₹50,000 crore by 2029.

Indian Light Tank 'Zorawar'

- Designed by DRDO and manufactured by L&T, the Indian Light Tank 'Zorawar' excelled in high-altitude and desert trials, showcasing precision and operational efficiency.

Major inductions

INS Arighaat

- Commissioned on August 29, 2024, this advanced Arihant-class submarine features cutting-edge indigenous systems, surpassing its predecessor in technology and engineering.

INS Tushil

- Commissioned on December 9, 2024, in Russia, this stealth-guided missile frigate of the Krivak III class is equipped for blue water operations across all naval dimensions.

LCH Prachand

- Fully inducted by February 2024, the Light Combat Helicopters showcased exceptional performance during Ex Gagan Shakti in April 2024.

Defence Budget

- In the **Union Budget** for FY 2024-25, the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** was allocated ₹6.22 lakh crore (approx. \$75 billion), the highest allocation among all Ministries. This represents an 18.43% increase from FY 2022-23 and 4.79% more than FY 2023-24.

Breakdown:

- **27.66%** for capital expenditure.
- **14.82%** for revenue expenditure on sustenance and operational preparedness.
- **30.66%** for pay and allowances.
- **22.70%** for defence pensions.
- **4.17%** for civil organisations under MoD.

Highlight:

- **75% of the capital procurement budget** is earmarked for the domestic industry, reinforcing the push for **self-reliance in defence**.

OROP 10th Anniversary

Context

- On November 7, 2024, India celebrated the 10th anniversary of One Rank One Pension (OROP).

Details

- Implemented as a response to a long-standing demand, OROP honours the **veterans and ex-service personnel** for their sacrifices in safeguarding the nation.
- Over the last decade, **lakhs of pensioners and their families** have benefited from this landmark initiative, reaffirming the **government's commitment** to the **well-being of the armed forces**.

Defence appointments in 2024

Appointee	Designation	Key Statement/Details
Shri Rajnath Singh	Raksha Mantri (Defense Minister)	Assumed charge for a second consecutive term. Focus on strengthening security, achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing, modernisation of Armed Forces and welfare of soldiers.
Shri Sanjay Seth	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence	Strived to fulfill several initiatives aimed at strengthening the nation's security.
General Upendra Dwivedi	Chief of the Army Staff	Took over as the Chief of the Army Staff.
Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi	Chief of the Naval Staff	Took over as the Chief of the Naval Staff.
Air Chief Marshal AP Singh	Chief of the Air Staff	Took over as the Chief of the Air Staff.
Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary	Assumed the office of Defence Secretary.
Shri Sanjeev Kumar	Secretary (Defence Production)	Took over as Secretary (Defence Production).
DG Paramesh Sivamani	Director General of Indian Coast Guard (26th)	Took over as the 26th Director General of Indian Coast Guard.

Border Roads Organisation

Sela Tunnel:

- Dedicated to the nation by the **Prime Minister** during the **Viksit Bharat Viksit North East programme** in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, March 2024.
- Constructed at **13,000 feet altitude** on the road connecting Tezpur, Assam, to Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Built at a cost of **Rs 825 crore**, it provides **all-weather connectivity** to Tawang across Sela Pass on the Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang Road.
- Enhances **Armed Forces' preparedness** and boosts **socio-economic development** in the border region.

Shinkhun La Tunnel:

- The **Prime Minister** witnessed the first blast of the tunnel during the **25th Kargil Vijay Diwas** at the **Kargil War Memorial**, Dras, July 2024.
- Features a **4.1 km Twin-Tube tunnel** at **15,800 feet** on the **Nimu-Padum-Darcha Road**.

- Once completed, it will be the **world's highest tunnel**.
- Facilitates efficient **armed forces movement** and supports **Ladakh's economic and social development**.

Mudh-Nyoma Airfield:

- Foundation stone** laid by **Raksha Mantri** in **September 2023**.
- Located **46 km** from the **LAC** at an altitude of **13,700 feet**.
- The **2.7 km airfield** will be one of the **world's highest fighter bases** upon completion in **November 2025**.

Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road:

- Connectivity** established in **March 2024** on the **298-km route**, providing an **alternate path to Leh from Manali**.
- Approximately **201 km** of the road has been **black-topped**.

Launch of 'Rashtraparv' Website & Mobile App

Context

- The **Ministry of Defence** launched the 'Rashtraparv' website and mobile app to provide citizens with easy access to information about national festivals organized by the ministry.

Details

- The platform aims to offer a **convenient and efficient** way for the public to stay informed about various **national events** and celebrations, making details accessible at their fingertips.

Features and Purpose

- The website and app will provide real-time updates and comprehensive information on national festivals, enhancing the **user experience** with a **user-friendly interface**. The initiative focuses on keeping the public informed about significant events, ensuring **national participation** and promoting **national pride**.

Republic Day 2025 Tableaux

Context

- The **Ministry of Defence** has announced the theme for the Republic Day 2025 tableaux as "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" (Golden India: Heritage and Development).
- This theme will be reflected in the creative and cultural exhibits displayed during the

Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path, showcasing India's rich cultural heritage and its development journey.

Details

Participating States and Union Territories:

- Only 15 states and Union Territories have been selected to showcase their tableaux:
- Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Union Ministries and Departments:

- 11 ministries and departments of the Union government will also present their tableaux during the parade.

States and UTs not selected:

- These states and UTs will have the opportunity to showcase their displays at *Bharat Parv*, an event held at the Red Fort from January 26 to 31, 2025.

Selection Process:

- The selection process was conducted fairly, transparently and on a merit-based system.
- Proposals were invited from all states, Union Territories and Union government ministries.
- An Expert Committee, consisting of professionals in art, culture, music, architecture and choreography, evaluated the entries.
- Criteria for selection included originality, creativity, aesthetic composition and a balance between heritage and development. Proposals with repetitive ideas were excluded.

ECONOMY

Indian Banking and Financial Sector in 2023-24

Context

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that banks' profitability increased for the sixth consecutive year.

Details

- The financial position of Indian banks remained good in 2023-24.
- The RBI reported that banks' profitability increased for the sixth consecutive year.

- This was supported by declining non-performing assets (NPAs) and robust macroeconomic fundamentals.
- The banking and non-banking financial sectors showed strong growth in credit as well as deposits. This underscores their resilience in challenging global conditions.

Key Findings

Profitability Metrics

- Banks' profitability improved for the **sixth consecutive year** in 2023-24.
 - Return on Assets (RoA): 1.4% in H1:2024-25.

- **Return on Equity (RoE):** 14.6% in H1:2024-25.
- Scheduled commercial banks' net profit grew by **32.8%** to ₹3,49,603 crore.

Asset Quality

- Gross NPAs declined to a **13-year low of 2.7%** by March 2024 and further to **2.5%** by September 2024.
- Net NPAs reduced to **0.57%** by September 2024, supported by improved loan-loss buffers.
- NBFCs' GNPA ratio dropped to **3.4%** by September 2024.

Sector Growth

- Consolidated balance sheet of scheduled commercial banks (excluding RRBs) increased by **15.5%** in 2023-24.
- NBFCs exhibited **double-digit credit growth**, with stronger balance sheets and improved profitability.

Capital Strength

- Banks maintained strong capital and liquidity buffers, with CRAR well above regulatory requirements.
- Satisfactory leverage ratios reflect financial stability.

Sector Composition

- The commercial banking sector included **141 banks**: 12 PSBs, 21 PVBs, 45 FBs, 12 SFBs and others.
- Of these, **137 banks** were classified as scheduled banks.

Regulatory Measures

- RBI tightened rules for credit cards, personal loans and NBFC borrowing.
- Banks addressed bad loans by selling them to asset reconstruction companies or writing them off.
- Emphasis on strengthening **risk management, IT governance** and vigilance against suspicious activities.

Outlook

- RBI stressed the need for **prudent growth strategies** for banks and NBFCs.
- NBFCs were urged to enhance customer grievance mechanisms and avoid exorbitant interest rates.

Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI)

Context

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the formation of an eight-member committee, **FREE-AI**.

Details

- **Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI)** is tasked with developing a framework for the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the financial sector.
- The committee aims to study AI adoption, review global regulatory approaches and recommend governance measures for ethical AI integration in financial services.

Details

- **Committee Name:** FREE-AI
- **Chairperson:** Pushpak Bhattacharyya, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay
- **Committee Mandate:**
 - Study current AI adoption levels in financial services.
 - Review global regulatory and supervisory approaches on AI in the financial sector.
 - Recommend a framework for responsible and ethical adoption of AI, focusing on governance.
 - Identify potential risks associated with AI in the financial sector and propose frameworks for evaluation, mitigation and monitoring.
- **Report Submission Deadline:** Within **six months** from the first meeting of the committee.

India's rankings across Key Global Economic Indexes in 2024

The following table summarizes India's performance across key global economic indexes for 2024:

Global Index 2024	India's Global Rank	Data	Source
Largest Global Economy	5	GDP: \$3.94 billion thousand	IMF
Global (Military) Power Ranking	4	Power Score: 0.1023;	Global Firepower

		Military Spending: \$74.0 billion	Military Strength
Largest Gold Reserves	8	Gold Reserves (in tonnes): 840.76	World Gold Council
Global Wealth Report: Countries with growing millionaire population	11	Growth percentage: 22%	UBS
Sustainable Trade Index	23	Sustainability Score: 24	IMD and Hinrich Foundation
Global Competitiveness Index	39	Competitiveness Score: 57.17	IMD
Global Innovation Index	39	-	WIPO
World Talent Ranking	58	Talent Score: 40.47	IMD
Largest Stock Exchange (as per market cap)	5	Market Cap: \$5,055,163.02	WFE

India's Electronics and Smartphone Sector

Context

- CRISIL a credit rating agency highlighted the growth of India's electronics and smartphone export sector.
- Despite strong growth in exports India's share of the global electronics market remains small with the country heavily dependent on imports particularly from China.

Details

Smartphone Exports:

- India's smartphone exports grew at a **50% CAGR between 2019 and 2023** making it the **second-largest mobile handset manufacturer by volume.**

Global Electronics Market:

- The global electronics market is **valued at \$4.3 trillion in 2023 with China dominating over 50% of global exports.** India's share is currently less than 1% but it is expected to rise to 6% by 2030.

Electronics Exports Growth:

- Mobile phone **exports in fiscal 2024 grew by 40% reaching \$15 billion.** India's total electronics exports including components like semiconductors are steadily increasing.

Market Segments:

- **Mobile Phones & Accessories:** 43% of India's electronics market.
- **Consumer Electronics:** 12% (includes TVs, refrigerators, air conditioners etc.).
- **Semiconductors & Components:** 11% (driven by demand in mobile and consumer electronics).
- **Automotive Electronics:** 12% with growth expected from EV adoption.

- **Industrial Electronics:** 12% including power electronics and automation.
- **Other Segments:** LED lighting (3%), IT hardware (4%) and strategic electronics (16%).

Import Dependence:

- India remains heavily reliant on imports especially components like integrated circuits. **Between fiscal 2018 and 2023 electronics imports** grew at a 12% CAGR with China holding a 70-75% share.

PLI Schemes Impact:

- The **PLI scheme for electronics manufacturing** launched in 2020 attracted ₹11,324 crore in investment with ₹8,282 crore invested by June 2024.
- The **PLI scheme for IT hardware** launched in 2021 saw investments from 27 companies totalling ₹2,955 crore with ₹464.66 crore invested by June 2024.

Outlook:

- The growing investment and increasing domestic production signal reduced reliance on imports and stronger confidence in India's electronics manufacturing capabilities.

India's First-ever Taxonomy of Green Steel

Context:

- India is on a path to decarbonize its steel sector, aligning with its broader target of achieving net-zero emission intensity by 2070.
- In line with this commitment Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, unveiled India's Taxonomy of Green Steel at an event held at Vigyan Bhavan.

Salient Features of the Green Steel Taxonomy:

- **Definition of Green Steel:** Steel produced with CO₂ equivalent **emission intensity below 2.2 tonnes per tonne of finished steel (tfs).**

Greenness Rating:

- **Five-star:** Emission intensity lower than 1.6 t-CO₂e/tfs.
- **Four-star:** Emission intensity between 1.6 and 2.0 t-CO₂e/tfs.
- **Three-star:** Emission intensity between 2.0 and 2.2 t-CO₂e/tfs.
- Steel with emissions higher than 2.2 t-CO₂e/tfs is ineligible for green rating.
- **Review of Star Rating:** The threshold for defining star ratings **will be reviewed every three years.**

Scope of Emissions:

- **Scope 1 and 2:** Direct emissions from operations and energy consumption.
- **Limited Scope 3:** Includes emissions from processes like sintering, pellet making, and the embodied emissions in purchased raw materials. Excludes upstream mining, downstream emissions, and transportation.

Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV):

- The **National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST)** will be the nodal agency for MRV and issuing green steel certificates and ratings.
- Certificates will be issued on a yearly basis, with more frequent MRV allowed as per plants' needs.

National Mission on Green Steel and Green Steel Public Procurement Policy:

- **Stakeholder Consultation:** A draft of the National Mission on Green Steel (NMGS) and Green Steel Public Procurement Policy (GSPPP) was presented during the event.

Importance of Green Steel:

- Green steel is crucial for reducing the carbon footprint of the steel industry, which is one of the largest industrial emitters of CO₂.
- The taxonomy defines clear benchmarks for steel producers to follow, providing clarity and consistency in the industry's sustainability efforts.
- It also opens up new opportunities for India's steel sector in the global market by aligning with international low-carbon standards.

Windfall Tax

Context

- The Indian government has announced the immediate removal of the windfall tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), crude oil, petrol, and diesel. This decision is aimed at providing relief to oil producers and refiners.

What is a Windfall Tax?

- A **windfall tax** is an additional levy on unexpected or extraordinary profits made by companies.
- India introduced this tax in July 2022 in response to the sharp rise in global crude oil prices.
- The goal was to capture excess revenue generated by oil companies due to unexpectedly high profits.

Expected Outcomes:

- The scrapping of the tax is expected to improve the financial performance of oil companies and could potentially incentivize higher production.
- The move aligns with the government's broader strategy to support growth in the **energy sector** and enhance exports.

CCEA approval for PAN 2.0 Project

Context

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the PAN 2.0 project for the Income Tax Department.

Key Benefits of the PAN 2.0 Project

- **Ease of Access and Speedy Service Delivery:** Improved quality and faster service delivery for taxpayers.
- **Single Source of Truth and Data Consistency:** Ensures accurate and consistent data management.
- **Eco-friendly Processes and Cost Optimization:** The project promotes sustainable practices and reduces costs.
- **Security and Infrastructure Optimization:** Enhances security and ensures infrastructure is more agile.

Technology-Driven Transformation

- The PAN 2.0 project aims to re-engineer taxpayer registration services with a focus on

technology, transforming PAN/TAN services for a better digital experience.

Upgrading PAN/TAN Ecosystem

- The project upgrades the current PAN/TAN 1.0 ecosystem, consolidating core and non-core activities, including PAN validation services.

Alignment with Digital India Vision

- The PAN 2.0 project aligns with the government's Digital India vision by enabling PAN as a universal identifier across all digital systems of specified government agencies.

All about PAN Card

- PAN (Permanent Account Number) is a **10-digit unique alphanumeric number** assigned by the Income Tax Department to track financial activities of individuals and entities.
- **Purpose:** PAN is mandatory for all types of payment and serves as a proof of identity. It is permanent and remains valid regardless of changes in address or employment status.

Issuance of PAN Card

- **Issuing Authorities:** PAN cards are issued by the Income Tax Department in collaboration with authorized PAN agencies such as UTI ITSL and Protean eGov Technologies Limited.
- **Process:** The issuance operates on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to maintain efficiency and effectiveness in managing and processing PAN applications.

Structure of a PAN Card

- **Format:** The PAN consists of 10 characters in the format AAAAXXXXB.
 - First 3 characters: Alphabetic series (AAA to ZZZ).
 - Fourth character: Cardholder type (e.g., 'P' for individuals, 'C' for companies).
 - Fifth character: Surname or entity name.
 - Last 4 digits: Numeric sequence.
 - Final character: Check alphabet.

Types of PAN Cards

- **For Organizations/Companies:** Includes company name, PAN, hologram and QR code without photograph.
- **For Individuals:** Includes the individual's photograph, signature, date of birth, and PAN details.
- **For Trusts and Societies:** Includes entity name and other details without individual identifiers.

History of PAN in India

- **Pre-PAN Era:** The GIR number was used, which was only valid within specific wards and not nationally.
- **Introduction of PAN:** Introduced in 1972 and made mandatory for tax-paying individuals in 1976. The system evolved in 1995 to include centralized records and prevent duplication.

Eligibility for PAN Card

- **Indian Residents:** Professionals, businessmen, tax-liable individuals, import/export persons, registered associations, and trusts are eligible.
- **NRIs and Foreigners:** Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), and foreigners eligible under the Income Tax Act can apply.
- **Minors:** Parents can apply for PAN on behalf of their minor children.

Jurisdiction and PAN Assignment

- **Jurisdiction:** PAN is linked to an Assessing Officer code, defining the jurisdiction for tax purposes.
- **Obligations:** Individuals, businesses, trusts, and any tax-liable persons must apply for PAN as per the Income Tax Act, Section 139A.

Consequences of Not Having a PAN Card

- **Tax Implications:** Those without PAN face a flat 30% tax on income and wealth.
- **Restrictions:** Without PAN, individuals cannot purchase high-value items like vehicles or properties, open bank accounts, or engage in large financial transactions.

New Design of PAN Cards (Post-2017)

- **QR Code:** A Quick Response code is included for easy verification.
- **Updated Layout:** Changes include the location of PAN, signature, and additional details like the cardholder's father's name and date of birth.

PAN Application Fees

- **Domestic Applications:** ₹93 (excluding GST) for an Indian communication address.
- **International Applications:** ₹864 (excluding GST) for a foreign communication address.

Coking Coal & Critical Minerals

Context

- NITI Aayog suggested the government include coking coal in the list of critical minerals and give special dispensation to its mining to enhance domestic production and provide coking coal security for India's steel sector.

Coking Coal

- A type of bituminous coal with high carbon, low ash, and low moisture, used to produce metallurgical coke for steelmaking.

Global Production

- **China:** 62% of global production (2022)
- **Australia:** 15%
- **Russia:** 9%
- **USA:** 5%

Coking Coal in India

- India holds vast reserves but depends on imports for 85% of its demand.
- **Challenges**
 - **Public Sector:** PSU washeries operate at <32% capacity, with low yields (35-36%).
 - **Private Sector:** Private washeries use >75% capacity, yielding higher returns.
 - **Imports:** ISPs imported 58 million tonnes in FY 2023-24, spending ₹1.5 lakh crore.

Critical Minerals

- Critical minerals are essential for economic development and national security. Their limited availability or concentration in specific regions can lead to supply chain vulnerabilities.

List of Critical Minerals

- *Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorus, Potash, Rare Earth Elements (REE), Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium, and Cadmium.*

Significance

- **Economic Growth:** Minerals like cobalt, nickel, and lithium are crucial for industries such as telecommunications and electric vehicle batteries. Lithium demand grew by 30% in 2023.

- **Clean Energy:** Rare Earth Elements are key for green technologies like solar panels, wind turbines and batteries.
- **National Security:** Cobalt is vital in military technologies like smart bombs, aircraft and missiles.

Concerns

- **Geopolitical Risks:** A few countries dominate extraction and processing. China controls 60% of rare earths and 50-70% of lithium and cobalt processing.
- **Supply Chain Vulnerabilities:** Critical mineral dependencies, such as the Lithium Triangle (Argentina, Chile, Bolivia), pose risks.
- **Unsustainable Mining:** Mining and processing practices may not be sustainable, raising concerns about environmental and social impacts.

India's Scenario

- **Import Dependence:** India relies heavily on imports for critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel.
- **Critical Mineral Deposits:** India has significant reserves of ilmenite, graphite, lithium (Jammu & Kashmir), and nickel (Odisha), but still faces challenges in exploration and extraction.
- **Challenges:** Lack of data, technological limitations (e.g., lithium extraction from clay), and limited domestic reserves hinder India's ability to exploit its critical minerals fully.

Initiatives for Critical Minerals

- **India-Australia Partnership:** Focused on critical minerals investment.
- **Mineral Security Partnership (MSP):** India joined to ensure a stable supply of energy minerals.
- **KABIL:** A joint venture to acquire critical mineral assets abroad, including lithium brine in Argentina.
- **Regulatory Changes:** Mines and Minerals Amendment Act (2023) to auction critical mineral areas.

SPORTS

Bumrah breaks record for fastest 200 Wickets by an Indian

Context

- **Jasprit Bumrah** became the fastest Indian bowler to reach 200 Test wickets during the

Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the MCG in Melbourne.

Details

- **Achievement:** Fastest Indian to 200 Test wickets (44 Tests).
- **Record:** Surpassed Mohammed Shami's record.

- **Performance:** Key role in Boxing Day Test, including four wickets.
- **Milestone:** Reached 200 wickets in 8484 deliveries.
- **Bowling Average:** Sub-20 (19.56), first to do so.
- **Global Ranking:** 4th fastest to 200 wickets (behind Waqar Younis, Dale Steyn, Kagiso Rabada).
- **World Test Championship:** 151 wickets, among top takers.

King Cup International Badminton open

Context

- Lakshya Sen secured third place at the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open in Bangkok, Thailand.

Details

- He defeated French player **Alex Lanier** in straight games.
- **Prize:** ₹36 lakh
- **Semi finals:** Lost narrowly to China's **Hu Zhe'an** (19-21, 19-21)
- **Bronze Match:** Dominated Lanier 21-17, 21-11
 - Started strong with a 6-1 lead.
 - After Lanier's comeback, Sen regained control, closing the first game 21-17 and the second game 21-11.
- Sen's performance underscored his resilience and solidified his position on the international stage, showing a bright future in badminton.

Koneru Humpy clinches second Women's World Rapid Chess title

Context

- **Koneru Humpy**, at 37, clinched her second Women's World Rapid Chess Championship title in New York, defying doubts of retirement. Her journey highlights resilience, balancing motherhood, and family support.



Details

- **Event:** 2024 Women's World Rapid Championship
- **Performance:**
 - Day 1: 2.5/4 points
 - Day 2: Won all 4 matches to take the joint lead
 - Final Score: 8.5/11 points, defeating Irene Sukandar in the last round
- **Significance:**
 - Second world title, tied with Ju Wenjun
 - Inspiration for young Indian chess players
 - Credits family for support through her career and motherhood

Indian Women's Results:

- Divya Deshmukh: 21st place (7 points)
- Padmini Rout: 26th place (6.5 point s)

Open Event:

- Winner: Volodar Murzin (Russia) with 10 points
- Top Indian: Arjun Erigaisi (5th place with 9 points)

Sachin Tendulkar named Honorary Cricket Member of Melbourne Cricket Club

Context

- Sachin Tendulkar has been named an Honorary Cricket Member of the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) in recognition of his legendary 24-year international career



About MCC Membership

- MCC is one of the most prestigious sports clubs worldwide.
- It manages the MCG, a world-renowned sporting venue.
- Honorary Membership is awarded for exceptional contributions to cricket.

Sachin Tendulkar's Cricketing Achievements

Test Career:

- Debuted at 16 against Pakistan in Karachi (November 1989).
- Played 200 Tests, scoring 15,921 runs at an average of 53.78.

- Holds the record for 51 Test centuries and 68 half-centuries.
- Took 46 Test wickets, earning the nickname "golden arm."

ODI Career:

- Debuted against Pakistan in Gujranwala (December 1989).
- Played 463 ODIs, scoring 18,426 runs at an average of 44.83.
- Notched 49 centuries and 96 half-centuries.
- Played his last ODI against Pakistan in March 2012.

T20 Career:

- Appeared in one T20I against South Africa in Johannesburg (December 2006).

Post-Retirement Contributions:

- Plays charity matches with other retired players.
- Continues to inspire as a global ambassador for cricket.

India wins Under-19 Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024

Context

- India emerged as champions of the inaugural ACC Under-19 Women's T20 Asia Cup, defeating Bangladesh by 41 runs in the final at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Key Highlights

- **Player of the Match & Player of the Series:** Gongadi Trisha (India) scored 52 runs off 47 balls in the final and topped the tournament with 159 runs in five innings.
- **Tournament Format:** Six teams were divided into two groups, with India and Bangladesh advancing to the final from the Super Four stage.
- **Group Stage:** India defeated Pakistan by 9 wickets in their group match.
- **Teams:** Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka (Group A); India, Pakistan, Nepal (Group B).

India to host 2025 ISSF Junior World Cup

Context

- India has been selected to host the 2025 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup for Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun events.

Key Details

- India was officially confirmed as the host on December 20, 2024. This milestone underscores India's growing prominence in shooting sports and marks the ninth top-level ISSF event in the country over the past decade.
- **Previous Events:** India has hosted numerous ISSF events, including the 2023 Senior ISSF World Cup and the 2024 ISSF World Cup Final.
- **Significance:** The 2025 Junior World Cup will be the first of its kind in India, enhancing the country's reputation as a global shooting sports hub.

New Delhi to host 2025 Para Athletics World Championships

Context

- New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium has been confirmed as the venue for the 2025 Para Athletics World Championships, scheduled from September 26 to October 5, 2025.
- This marks the first time India will host this prestigious event, the largest in para-athletics.

Key Details

- **Date & Venue:** 26 September – 5 October 2025 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- **Significance:** This is the 12th edition of the championships and the fourth time it will be held in Asia.
- **Pre-Event:** A World Para Athletics Grand Prix will also be held from March 11–13, 2025, at the same venue, serving as a trial event.

Richa Ghosh equals record for Fastest Fifty in Women's T20Is

Context

- Richa Ghosh smashed a blistering fifty off just 18 balls during the 3rd T20I against West Indies at Navi Mumbai's Dr DY Patil Sports Academy.
- With this, she joined Australia's Phoebe Litchfield and New Zealand's Sophie Devine as the record-holder for the fastest fifty in women's T20Is.

Key Highlights

- **Record Knock:** 18-ball 50, equaling the record for the fastest in women's T20Is.
- **Final Score:** Richa was dismissed for 54 off 21 balls, including 3 fours and 5 sixes.
- **India's Total:** India posted 217/4, their highest-ever T20I score, surpassing their previous best of 201/5.
- **Captain's Contribution:** Smriti Mandhana's 77 anchored India's innings.
- **Dominant Finish:** Richa's explosive knock helped India finish strong with a strike rate of 257.14, setting a challenging target for the West Indies.

World Basketball Day: Celebrating Unity and the Legacy of Dr. James Naismith

Context

- Observed annually on December 21, World Basketball Day honors the sport's development and its impact on millions globally. It highlights basketball's role in promoting unity, teamwork, and peace through collaboration, transcending boundaries of culture, language, and geography.

History and Significance

- **Invented by Dr. James Naismith:** On December 21, 1891, Naismith, a Canadian physical education instructor, created basketball at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, to keep students active during winter.
- **United Nations Recognition:** In 2023, the UN declared December 21 as World Basketball Day to celebrate the sport's ability to unite people across nationalities and cultures.
- **Promotion of Peace and Diplomacy:** The day focuses on how basketball fosters cooperation, promotes peace, and encourages understanding and friendship through sport.

Basketball's Global Impact

- **450 Million Players:** Today, basketball is played by over 450 million people worldwide, with strong followings in North America, Europe, and Asia.
- **Olympic History:** First introduced in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, basketball became a regular part of the Games. Women's basketball debuted in the 1976 Montreal Games.

- **Growing in Africa:** The Basketball Africa League (BAL), founded in 2019, is expanding the sport's reach across the continent.

Interesting Facts

- **Women in Basketball:** Women started playing basketball just a year after its invention in 1892.
- **Basketball's Origins:** Initially, fruit baskets were used to catch the ball, and a soccer ball was used. This changed in 1900 when backboards and string baskets were introduced to prevent interference from spectators.
- **Global Sport:** Basketball remains a grassroots sport, enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels.

Timeline

- **1891:** Naismith coined the term "basketball."
- **1895:** The first intercollegiate basketball competition was played between Minnesota School of Agriculture and Hamline College.
- **1949:** The NBA was formed after the merger of the Basketball Association of America and National Basketball League, with 17 teams in its inaugural season.
- World Basketball Day not only celebrates the game's legacy but also its enduring power to connect and inspire people across the globe.

India climbs to 5th in FIH Hockey World rankings after Champions Trophy Silver

Context

- India's men's hockey team has risen to 5th position in the International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Rankings after a strong performance at the 2024 Champions Trophy, according to the International Hockey Federation (FIH). India finished as runners-up in the tournament held in Breda, Netherlands, marking their second consecutive silver medal in the prestigious event.

Key Points

- **Australia** remains at the top with 1906 points, 23 points ahead of **Argentina** in second (1883 points).
- **Belgium** is third with 1709 points, and the **Netherlands** is fourth with 1654 points.

- **India**, with 1484 points, has moved up to 5th, surpassing **Germany**, who now sit in 6th place with 1456 points.
- Teams in the top 20 generally remain unchanged, with **Austria** and **Egypt** moving up to 18th and 19th, respectively, while **France** has dropped to 20th.

Champions Trophy Final

- India lost 1-3 to Australia in a shootout after a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation time.
- Australia's **Blake Govers** scored in the 24th minute, and **Vivek Prasad** equalized for India in the 42nd.
- Australian goalkeeper **Tyler Lovell** made three crucial saves in the shootout to secure the title for Australia.
- This marks India's second consecutive silver medal in the tournament, with **Netherlands** securing the bronze.

38th National Games: Mascot, Logo, and key details unveiled

Context

- The mascot for the 38th National Games, named "Maui," was revealed at Maharana Pratap Sports College in Raipur, Dehradun.
- "Maui" is inspired by the Monal, the state bird of Uttarakhand, symbolizing the state's unique heritage and motivating athletes to aim for greatness.

Logo and Tagline

- The logo, also inspired by the Monal, reflects the natural beauty and diversity of Uttarakhand.
- The Games' official tagline, "Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak" (From Resolve to Zenith), was also unveiled, emphasizing determination and excellence.

Event Details

- Uttarakhand will host the 38th National Games from January 28 to February 14, 2025.
- Over 10,000 athletes, officials, and coaches from across India, including institutional teams like the Services, will compete in 38 sports.

Inclusion of Traditional Sports

- Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha announced the inclusion of traditional sports like yoga and mallakhamb in the Games.

- This decision was approved after a request from Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama.

Nat Sciver-Brunt sets record for fastest century in Women's Test Cricket

Context

- Nat Sciver-Brunt scored the fastest century in Women's Test history on Day 1 of Test between England and South Africa at Mangaung Oval, Bloemfontein.
- She reached her three-figure score in just 96 balls, making her the first batter to score a Test century in under 100 balls.

Breaking Previous Record

- Sciver-Brunt surpassed Chamani Seneviratna's previous record of 106 balls, set in 1998 against Pakistan.
- Shafali Verma holds the third spot, with a century off 113 balls against South Africa earlier in 2024.

Bumrah surpasses Kapil Dev for most wickets against Australia in Australia

Context

- **Jasprit Bumrah** overtook **Kapil Dev** to become the Indian bowler with the most international wickets against Australia in Australia.
- Bumrah achieved this milestone during the fourth day of the fourth Test at **Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).**

Details

Bumrah's Performance:

- Bumrah took **4/56** in 24 overs at an economy rate of **2.33** in Australia's second innings.
- He dismissed **Sam Konstas, Travis Head, Mitchell Marsh,** and **Alex Carey.**

Stats Comparison:

- **Bumrah** has taken **75 wickets** in **21 matches** in Australia at an average of **19.74**, with best figures of **6/33** and three five-wicket hauls.
- **Kapil Dev** took **72 wickets** in **31 matches** in Australia at an average of **25.44**, with best figures of **8/106** and five five-wicket hauls.

Indian Women's Hockey Team defends Junior Asia Cup title

Context

- India defeated China 3-2 in a penalty shootout in the final of the Women's Junior Asia Cup in Muscat.

Details

- Indian Captain: Jyoti Singh
- After a 1-1 draw in regular time, Kanika Siwach scored for India, while Jinzhuang Tan netted for China.
- Goalkeeper Nidhi's three crucial saves in the shootout secured the win.
- India's reward: Rs 2 lakh per player and Rs 1 lakh per support staff.

D. Gukesh becomes Youngest-ever World Chess Champion

Context

- At 18, D. Gukesh defeated China's Ding Liren in the 14th round to win the 2024 World Chess Championship in Singapore.

Details

- Record-Breaking Victory:** Gukesh surpasses Garry Kasparov to become the youngest-ever World Chess Champion, at 18—four years younger than Kasparov's record age of 22.
- Kasparov's Legacy:** Kasparov's reign as the youngest champion lasted nearly 40 years and he remains a chess legend for his dominance and influence on the game.

Shaheen Afridi becomes Youngest Bowler to reach 100 Wickets in all formats

Context

- Shaheen Afridi became the youngest bowler to complete 100 wickets in all formats of cricket (Tests, ODIs, T20Is) at 24 years and 248 days.

Details

- T20I Achievement:** Afridi took 3 wickets in the first T20I against South Africa in Durban, reaching 100 T20I wickets in his 74th match. He is now the third-quickest to reach this

milestone, behind Haris Rauf (71) and Mark Adair (72).

- Record:** Afridi is the fourth bowler to achieve 100 wickets in all formats, following Lasith Malinga, Tim Southee, and Shakib Al Hasan.
- Other Notable Achievements:** Afridi became the fastest fast bowler from a Full-Member Nation to reach 100 ODI wickets in the 2023 World Cup.

FIFA announces hosts for 2030 and 2034 World Cups

Context

- Morocco, Portugal and Spain will co-host the 2030 FIFA World Cup, marking the first time three countries will collaborate to host the tournament.

Details

- Centenary Edition:** To celebrate 100 years since the inaugural World Cup in Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay will each host one of the first three matches of the 2030 edition.
- 2034 World Cup:** Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 World Cup, which will be the first to feature 48 teams, expanding the tournament's format.
- 2026 World Cup:** The 2026 World Cup will be the first to be held in Canada, Mexico and the United States, with the new 48-team format.

India finishes Sixth at the Asian Women's Handball Championship 2024

Context

- India secured sixth place at the Asian Women's Handball Championship 2024, matching their best-ever finish, after a 41-30 loss to China in the 5th/6th playoff at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi Arena.



Details

- **Japan** stunned the reigning champions **South Korea** in a thrilling final, overturning a 12-9 deficit to win **25-24** and claim their second title, ending South Korea's seven-title streak.
- India, hosting the tournament for the first time, showed competitive spirit but fell short of their medal target, with standout performances from **Bhawana Sharma** and goalkeeper **Nina Shil**.
- **Kazakhstan** won **bronze** with a **28-22** victory over **Iran**, while **Hong Kong China** defeated **Singapore** 33-18 to secure **7th** place.
- The top four teams (**Japan**, **South Korea**, **Kazakhstan**, and **Iran**) qualified for the **IHF World Women's Handball Championship 2025** in Germany and the Netherlands.

Kush Maini secures FIA constructors' Championship with Invicta Racing

Context

- **Kush Maini** finished **13th** in the **2024 Formula 2** standings but made history by helping **Invicta Racing** secure the **FIA Constructors' World Championship** at the **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix**.

Details

- Maini became the **first Indian** to win the **Constructors' Championship**, with **five podiums** and a **race win** in **Hungary**.
- The Constructor's Championship - or, the **FIA Formula One World Championship for Constructors** - is one of the two world championships contested in **Formula 1**.
- The **F1 team** with the most championship points at the end of the season becomes the world champions.

Nine-year-old Aarit Kapil defeats Grandmaster Raset Ziatdinov

Context

- **Aarit Kapil**, a **9-year-old** from **Delhi**, made history by defeating **Grandmaster Raset Ziatdinov** of the **U.S.** at the **KIIT International Open** in **Bhubaneswar**.

Details

- At **9 years, 2 months, and 18 days**, Aarit became the **youngest Indian** to defeat a **Grandmaster** in a classical match and the **third youngest globally**.
- In a challenging game lasting **63 moves**, Aarit capitalized on a **critical mistake** by **Ziatdinov** to claim victory.
- Aarit's next challenges include the **Under-13 National Championship** and **Under-9 Nationals**.



Top Three Youngest to Defeat a Grandmaster:

1. **Ashwath Kaushik** (Singapore) - 8 years 2 months
2. **Leonid Ivanovic** (Serbia) - 8 years 11 months
3. **Aarit Kapil** - 9 years 2 months.

Bangladesh retain Asian Cricket Council under-19 Men's Asia Cup title

Context

- **Bangladesh** defeated **India** by 59 runs to retain the **Asian Cricket Council Under-19 Men's Asia Cup** title.

Details

- **India** opted to field first and bowled well, dismissing **Bangladesh** for 198 runs in 49.1 overs.
Key bowlers: **Yudhajit Guha** (2 wickets for 29 runs), **Chetan Sharma** (2 wickets for 48 runs), and **Hardik Raj** (2 wickets for 41 runs).
- In reply, **India** was bundled out for 139 runs in 35.2 overs.
- **Mohamed Amaan** top-scored with 26 runs.
- **Iqbal Hossain Emon** (3 wickets for 24 runs) was the standout bowler for **Bangladesh**.

Brief Scores:

- **Bangladesh:** 198 all out (49.1 overs)
- **Rizan Hossan** 47, **Mohammad Shihab James** 40
- **India:** 139 all out (35.2 overs)
- **Mohamed Amaan** 26, **Hardik Raj** 24

Men's Junior Asia Cup 2024

Context

- In the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2024 final, the **Indian hockey team** defeated **Pakistan 5-3** to claim their **record-extending fifth title** in Muscat, Oman.

Details

- Pakistan** took an early 3-1 lead, with **Sufyan Khan** scoring twice and **Hannan Shahid** adding another. However, **India** fought back, with **Araijeet Singh Hundal** playing a pivotal role. Hundal scored **four goals**, while **Dilraj Singh** added a fifth, bringing India to a 5-3 victory.
- This victory further solidified India's dominance in **junior international hockey**, with **Araijeet Singh Hundal's** performance being the highlight.

Sindhu and Lakshya Sen clinch titles at Syed Modi India International 2024

Context

- PV Sindhu** and **Lakshya Sen** emerged victorious at the **Syed Modi India International World Tour Super 300** Championship in Lucknow, with Sindhu claiming her third title and Lakshya winning his maiden crown.

Details

- PV Sindhu** defeated China's **Wu Luo Yu** 21-14, 21-16 in 47 minutes, marking her first title since the **2022 Singapore Open**.
- In **men's singles**, **Lakshya Sen** dominated **Jia Heng Jason Teh** 21-6, 21-7 in just 31 minutes to claim his first **Syed Modi** title.
- In **women's doubles**, **Trisha Jolly** and **Gayatri Gopichand Pullela** made history as the first Indian pair to win the title, beating China's **Bao Li Jing** and **Li Qian** 21-18, 21-11.
- In **mixed doubles**, Thailand's **Dechapol Puavaranukroh** and **Sapsiree Taerattanachai** defeated India's **Dhruv Kapila** and **Tanisha Crasto** 18-21, 21-14, 21-8.

Jay Shah becomes the youngest ICC Chairman in history

Context

- Jay Shah** took over as the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman**, becoming the **youngest-ever** and the **fifth Indian** to hold this prestigious position.

Details

- At **36**, **Jay Shah** succeeded **Greg Barclay** of New Zealand, who completed his four-year tenure. Elected unopposed in **August**, Shah's rise marks the third Indian in the last four ICC chairmanships.
- Since becoming **BCCI Secretary** in 2019, Shah has been pivotal in restoring India's influence in the ICC.
- His leadership helped India's board contribute **85% of ICC's global revenue**, a key factor in cricket's inclusion in the **Los Angeles 2028 Olympics**.
- He is expected to unlock new **revenue-generation** avenues for ICC's **108 member nations**.

Divith Reddy wins under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship

Context

- Divith Reddy**, an **eight-year-old chess prodigy** from **Hyderabad**, made headlines by winning the **Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship**.

Details

- Divith secured an impressive **9/11 points**, tying with **Satshetwik Swain**, but clinched the **gold** based on a superior **tiebreak score**.
- This victory adds to **India's growing reputation** in the world of chess, showcasing the nation's emerging young talent.



Bihar to host Khelo India Youth Games 2025 and Para Games

Context

- Bihar** will host the **Khelo India Youth Games 2025** in **April**, marking the state's debut on the

Khelo India map. This event will also feature the **Khelo India Para Games** for the first time.

accessible resource for athletes to maintain ethical sportsmanship.

Details

- The **Khelo India Youth Games** will be a landmark event in **Bihar**, which has also been chosen to host the **Khelo India Para Games**. The two games will be held with a **10-15 day gap**, following the model of the Summer Olympics. The **first Para Games** were held in Delhi last year.
- There are **38 Khelo India Centres** and a **State Centre of Excellence** in Bihar, supporting athlete development at all levels. This marks another significant step in **Bihar's contribution to India's sporting future**.

'Know Your Medicine' App

Context

- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, has launched a nationwide initiative to combat doping in sports by promoting the **'Know Your Medicine (KYM)' app** developed by the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India**.

Details

- **KYM app** is a tool designed to help athletes avoid inadvertent doping by providing critical information on medicines and their ingredients.
- The app is part of **NADA India's mission** to raise awareness about anti-doping.
- It allows users to verify whether a specific medicine or its ingredients contain any substances prohibited by the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**.
- The KYM app offers unique features such as **image and audio search** and allows users to select their **sport category** for more relevant information, making it a convenient and

West Bengal wins 4th National Finswimming Championship 2024

Context

- The **4th National Finswimming Championship 2024** concluded in New Delhi, with swimmers from across India showcasing their talents.

Details

- Held at the **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Swimming Pool**, the event featured **1500 participants** from **26 states and Union Territories**.
- **West Bengal** dominated, winning the **team title** with **151 medals** (67 gold, 43 silver, 41 bronze). **Karnataka** was the runner-up with **50 medals**.

Kho Kho World Cup

Context

- India is set to host the **inaugural Kho Kho World Cup** from **January 13 to January 19, 2025**, at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium** in New Delhi and **Noida Indoor Stadium**.
- This historic tournament will feature **24 countries** competing for the title of **Kho Kho World Champions**.

Details

- The tournament will include teams from **24 countries**, such as the **USA, England, Germany, Australia, and Brazil**, competing in a **league-cum-knockout format** for both men's and women's teams.
- Notably, **Indonesia** will field only a women's team, while others will have both squads.

APPOINTMENTS

Posts	Details						
MD & CEO of J&K Bank	Amitava Chatterjee, currently DMD of SBI, will assume the role of MD & CEO of J&K Bank for three years starting December 30, 2024, succeeding Baldev Prakash.						
India's 38th Revenue Secretary	Arunish Chawla has taken over as India's 38th Revenue Secretary, following Sanjay Malhotra's exit.						
5 Indian States Get New Governors	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>State</th> <th>New Governor</th> <th>Previous Governor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	State	New Governor	Previous Governor			
State	New Governor	Previous Governor					

	<p>Manipur Ajay Kumar Bhalla Anusuiya Uikey</p> <p>Kerala Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Arif Mohammed Khan</p> <p>Bihar Arif Mohammed Khan Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar</p> <p>Odisha Hari Babu Kambhampati Raghubar Das</p> <p>Mizoram General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh Hari Babu Kambhampati</p>
President of Boxing Federation of India (BFI)	Ajay Singh
Asian Boxing Body Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ajay Singh (BFI President): Appointed as a board member. • Hemanta Kumar Kalita (BFI Secretary General): Member of the Olympic Commission. • Digvijay Singh (BFI Treasurer): Member of the Finance and Audit Committee. • Narender Kumar Nirwan (BFI Vice President): Member of the Constitution Commission. • D.P. Bhatt (BFI Disciplinary Chairman): Member of the Sports and Competition Commission. • Karanjeet Singh: Member of the Medical Commission. • Lovlina Borgohain: Member of the Athletes' Commission, representing athlete voices in Asia and globally, focusing on improving training infrastructure, fair opportunities, and robust support systems for boxers. <p>Note: India is hosting World Boxing Cup Final and World Boxing Congress in 2025.</p>
Chairperson of NABL	Dr. Sandip Shah has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), a board under the Quality Council of India (QCI).
New Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance	Arunish Chawla has been appointed as the new Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, succeeding Ajay Seth. Chawla, currently the Secretary of the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court	The Centre has appointed Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
NHRC Chairperson	Former Supreme Court judge V. Ramasubramanian has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), succeeding Justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra.
Brand Ambassador for Kho Kho World Cup	Salman Khan has been named the brand ambassador for the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup , set to be held in New Delhi from January 13 to 19, 2025 . The event will feature teams from 24 countries , aiming to boost Kho Kho's global visibility.
Nepal's Ambassador to India	Nepal's President, Ram Chandra Paudel , has reappointed Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma as the Resident Ambassador to India .
Resident Ambassador to Malaysia	Netra Prasad Timilsina has been appointed as the Resident Ambassador to Malaysia , under Article 282(1) .
Country Manager and Vice President for India.	Google has appointed Preeti Lobana as its new Country Manager and Vice President for India .
MD & CEO of Trans Union CIBIL	Bhavesh Jain is the new MD & CEO of TransUnion CIBIL , succeeding Rajesh Kumar .
Chief of BrahMos Aerospace	Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi has been appointed as the new Chief of BrahMos Aerospace , the organization behind the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system.

Next Ambassador of India to Brazil	Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Dinesh Bhatia has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Brazil.
High Commissioner to Maldives	G. Balasubramanian, a distinguished Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Maldives.
Festival Ambassador for Arunachal Rang Mahotsav	Pankaj Tripathi has been appointed as the Festival Ambassador for Arunachal Rang Mahotsav .
Mentor for Women's Cricket Operations by the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA)	Mithali Raj , former captain of India's women's cricket team, has been appointed as the mentor for Women's Cricket Operations by the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA).
Next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India	K Sanjay Murthy has been appointed as the next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India , succeeding Girish Chandra Murmu . Murthy is currently serving as the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education .
Secretary General of Interpol	Valdecy Urquiza , Brazilian Federal Police Commissioner, has been elected as the new Secretary General of Interpol during the organization's 92nd General Assembly in Glasgow, Scotland .
Dubai Sports Council Ambassadors	The Dubai Sports Council has appointed four global sports icons as Sports Ambassadors , including former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh and tennis star Sania Mirza .
51st Chief Justice of India	Justice Sanjiv Khanna succeeds Justice D.Y. Chandrachud as the 51st Chief Justice of India.
President-Elect of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)	Harsha Vardhan Agarwal
New MD & CEO of Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)	FSIB recommends Rahul Bhave , Deputy MD of IFCI Ltd, for MD & CEO position.
Chairman of India Yamaha Motor	India Yamaha Motor appoints Itaru Otani as Chairman .
CEO and MD of Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)	Praveena Rai assumes charge as CEO and MD of Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX).
Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council.	Retired Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur has been appointed chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council. The Internal Justice Council comprises five members appointed by the Secretary-General.
Bhutan confers royal honour on Indian educationist Arun Kapur	Renowned Indian educationist Arun Kapur, who set up schools in India, Bhutan and Oman, has been conferred the title 'Dasho', 'Bura Marp' (red scarf) and 'Patang' (ceremonial sword) by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel at the 117th Bhutanese National Day celebrations.
Acting secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)	Devajit Saikia has been made the acting secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), replacing Jay Shah, who has taken over as International Cricket Council's new chairman from 1 December 2024. Saikia, a former first-class cricketer, was already the BCCI joint-secretary.
President of the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA)	India's Nandan Kumar Jha has been elected as the president of the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA), a global body for the governance and promotion of mind sports. The IMSA, which has over 200 member countries, works with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other affiliate global sports federations to integrate mind sports into

	mainstream global sports.
Secretary General of World Agriculture Forum	Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes, who has been leading the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), stepped into a new role as the Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF).

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Important Day/News
November 15	Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 555th birth anniversary .
November 15	Birsa Munda Jayanti , also called Janjatiya Gaurav Divas or Tribal Pride Day , celebrates the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda , a prominent tribal leader and freedom fighter.
November 15	Jharkhand Foundation Day. This day marks the formation of Jharkhand as the 28th state of India in 2000 .
November 20	Awaas Diwas 2024- 8th anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)
November 21	World Fisheries Day. Celebration began in 1997 with the establishment of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers in New Delhi.
November 21	National Philosophy Day/World Philosophy Day. Celebrated every year on the third Thursday of November. Established by UNESCO in 2002 .
November 21	World Television Day. Proclaimed by the UN in 1996 , following the inaugural World Television Forum on November 21-22 .
24th November	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom Day
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. 2024 marks 25 years since the UN's official designation of the day.
November 26	Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas. Marks the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1949.
November 26	National Milk Day - Marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien-the Father of the White Revolution in India.
25 to 29 November	Aviation Safety Awareness Week . <u>Trivia</u> : Airports Authority of India (AAI) Chairman: Vipin Kumar
November 30	Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare. Established at the 20th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, this day honors victims and reinforces global commitment to eradicating chemical weapons.
November 29	International Jaguar Day. Commemorates the adoption of the Jaguar Corridor Initiative, protecting jaguar habitats across 18 countries from Mexico to Argentina. Jaguar: Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List since 2002.
December 01	World AIDS Day. Inception in 1988
December 02	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 3	140th birth anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President.
December 03	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 3	Death anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand , India's legendary hockey player and three-time Olympic gold medalist , known as the " Hockey Wizard ".
December 4	Indian Navy Day commemorates the success of Operation Trident during the 1971 Indo-Pak War .
December 4	International Cheetah Day. Established by the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) , the day honors Khayam , a cheetah cub rescued by Dr. Laurie Marker .
December 04	International Day of Banks
December 05	World Soil Day. The UN General Assembly designated 5th December 2014 as the first

	World Soil Day , honoring the birth anniversary of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, a key supporter of the cause.
December 05	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
December 6	Mahaparinirvan Diwas. Marks the death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar .
December 6	All India Civil Defence and Home Guards Day. Marks the formation of the Home Guard force . It was first established in the Bombay Province on December 6, 1946.
December 7	Armed Forces Flag Day . Honours Army, Navy and Air Force personnel.
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day . First celebrated in 1994 to mark the <u>50th anniversary</u> of the Chicago Convention, which set international aviation standards.
December 9	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime.
December 9	International Anti-Corruption Day. The UN General Assembly designated December 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day through Resolution 58/4 , adopting the UNCAC .
December 10	World Human Rights Day. On December 10, 1948 , the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights .
December 11	International Mountain Day , established by the UN in 2003 .
December 11	78th UNICEF Foundation Day marks the anniversary of the establishment of the UNICEF.
December 12	International Day of Neutrality for promoting global peace and security.
December 12	Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day. Global movement advocating for Health for All , initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) .
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day. Introduced in 1991 by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to promote energy conservation.
December 16	Vijay Diwas. Commemorates India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
December 17	Pensioners Day in India: Honouring D.S. Nakara's Fight for Pension Rights
December 18	International Migrants Day. 2024 Theme : "Honouring the contributions of migrants and respecting their rights.
December 18	Minorities Rights Day to commemorate the adoption of the United Nations' 1992 Statement on the Rights of Individuals belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.
December 19	Goa Liberation Day. Marks the freedom of Goa from Portuguese rule in 1961.
19 to Dec. 24	Good Governance Week 2024
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day
December 20	61st Raising Day of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
19 to Dec. 24	Good Governance Week 2024
December 21	First-Ever World Meditation Day. Established by the UN General Assembly in 2005.
December 22	National Mathematics Day- the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
December 23	The National Farmers Day in India is also known as Kisan Divas is celebrated every year on 23 December, on the birthday of the 5th Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh , also a farmer's leader, who introduced many policies to improve the lives of the Indian farmers.
December 24	National Consumer Day in India - commemorates the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. 2024 Theme : Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice
December 25	Good Governance Day , also known as Sushashan Diwas . Aims to raise awareness about the importance of accountability in government.
December 26	Day of Valor and Righteousness to honor the heroic sacrifice of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the young sons of Guru Gobind Singh.
December 27	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness. It highlights the urgent need to invest in systems that can prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks .

IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES IN THE NEWS

Personality	Details
Aisake Valu Eke	Tonga government elected Aisake Valu Eke as new Prime Minister.
Osamu Suzuki	Osamu Suzuki, the visionary leader of Suzuki Motor has passed away.
Nirmala Sitharaman, Roshni Nadar Malhotra and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	Forbes 2024 list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women
Mikheil Kavelashvili	Mikheil Kavelashvili becomes Georgia's New President
MT Vasudevan Nair	Noted writer and Jnanpith award winner MT Vasudevan Nair who created timeless classics passed away.
Manmohan Singh passed away	India's 13th Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014, is credited with major achievements like liberalizing India's economy, overseeing significant GDP growth, and improving India's global standing, while being the fourth longest-serving Prime Minister in Indian history. He played a pivotal role in the historic Indo-US nuclear deal in 2008.
Jimmy Carter passed away	39th President of the United States from 1977 to 1981.
Shyam Benegal Passes Away	Shyam Benegal is regarded as one of the greatest filmmakers. He was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2005 and the Padma Shri (1976) and Padma Bhushan (1991) for his contributions to the arts. His films, including <i>Ankur</i> (1973), <i>Nishant</i> (1975), <i>Manthan</i> (1976), and <i>Bhumika</i> (1977), made him a key figure in the new wave film movement. His "Muslim Women Trilogy" (<i>Mammo</i> , <i>Sardari Begum</i> , <i>Zubeidaa</i>) won National Film Awards for Best Feature Film in Hindi.
Easterine Kire	Easterine Kire has bagged the Sahitya Akademi award for 2024 for her English work of fiction, <i>Spirit Nights</i> (Simon&Schuster). Kire's tale is inspired by a story of darkness narrated by the Rengma Naga and Chang Naga tribes of Nagaland.
Michelle Bachelet	Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile, has been awarded the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development, by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
Pooja Sharma	Pooja Sharma, who has performed funeral rites for over 4000 people, has been named on BBC's list of 100 inspiring and influential women across the globe for the year 2024. Her name features alongside the likes of Indian-origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, actor Sharon Stone and Olympic athletes Rebeca Andrade and Allyson Felix.
Yamandú Orsi	Yamandú Orsi has been elected as Uruguay's next president.
Duma Boko	Duma Boko, from the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), has been announced as Botswana's new president.

AWARDS

AWARD	DETAILS
Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Droupadi Murmu presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar celebrates accomplishments in seven categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Art and Culture 2. Bravery 3. Innovation 4. Science and Technology 5. Social Service

	<p>6. Sports 7. Environment</p> <p>Award Recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The honorees include seven boys and ten girls from 14 states and Union Territories. Each awardee was presented with a medal, certificate and citation booklet. Keya Hatkar (14), recognized for her advocacy in disability awareness and inclusivity. Ayaan Sajad (12), honored for his contributions to Kashmiri music as a Sufi singer. Vyas Om Jignesh (17), lauded for memorizing over 5,000 Sanskrit shlokas. Saurav Kumar (9), recognized for saving three girls from drowning. Ioanna Thapa (17), honored for rescuing 36 residents from a fire. Sindhoora Raja (15), awarded for creating self-stabilizing devices for Parkinson's patients. Risheek Kumar (17), recognized for launching Kashmir's first cybersecurity firm. Hembati Nag, a judo player from a Naxal-affected area, who won a silver medal at the Khelo India National Games. Anish Sarkar, a chess prodigy and the youngest FIDE-ranked player at just three years old.
<p>Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Award for Leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. Jaishankar was honored with the Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was honored with the Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award for Public Leadership by the South Indian Education Society for his exceptional contributions to India's foreign policy and global leadership.
<p>Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Award</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM Narendra Modi received Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer from Kuwait. The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer is the highest national award of Kuwait. It is conferred by the Kuwaiti government on Heads of State, Sovereigns of foreign countries and on members of foreign royal families as a sign of friendship and goodwill. <p>PM Modi's International Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom of Barbados (2024): Strengthening India-Barbados ties. Order of Excellence (Guyana, 2024): Pandemic contributions and Caribbean relations. Dominica Award of Honour (2024): Advancing diplomacy. Order of the Niger (Nigeria, 2024): Boosting bilateral cooperation. Order of St. Andrew (Russia, 2024): Strengthening strategic ties. Order of the Druk Gyalpo (Bhutan, 2024): Enhancing India-Bhutan friendship. Grand Cross of Honour (Greece, 2023): Strengthening diplomacy. Legion of Honour (France, 2023): Deepening Indo-French ties. Order of the Nile (Egypt, 2023): Promoting peace and cooperation. Order of Logohu (PNG, 2023): Strengthening Indo-Pacific ties. Legion of Merit (USA, 2020): Advancing strategic cooperation. Order of the Renaissance (Bahrain, 2019): Commerce and cultural ties. Order of Zayed (UAE, 2019): Enhancing bilateral ties. Nishan Izzuddeen (Maldives, 2019): Maritime cooperation. Grand Collar (Palestine, 2018): Strengthening relations. Amir Amanullah Khan Award (Afghanistan, 2016): Developmental contributions. King Abdulaziz Sash (Saudi Arabia, 2016): Strengthening ties.
<p>Miss India USA 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caitlin Sandra Neil, was crowned Miss India USA 2024 Caitlin Sandra Neil, a Chennai-born Indian American teenager, was crowned Miss India USA 2024 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey. Miss India

	<p>USA, established in 1980 by Dharmatma Saran's India Festival Committee, is a beauty pageant for Indian-origin women in the U.S. The winner represents the U.S. at Miss India Worldwide.</p>
'Rashtriya Tansen Samman.'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Padma Shri Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri, an eminent tabla player from Kolkata, received the 2023 'Rashtriya Tansen Samman.' • The Tansen Sangeet Samaroh in Gwalior, celebrating its 100th anniversary, honors Hindustani classical music legend Tansen. It features the Tansen Award, established in 1980, with a Rs. 5 lakh prize. The Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman was also awarded to Sanand Nyas Sanstha of Indore for 35 years of promoting classical music and culture.
Best FIFA Football Awards 2024	<p>The Best FIFA Football Awards 2024 were held in Doha, Qatar.</p> <p>The Best FIFA Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Player: Vinicius Jr (48 points), Rodri (43), Bellingham (37) • Women's Player: Aitana Bonmati (52 points), Barbra Banda (39), Hansen (37) • Men's Goalkeeper: Emiliano Martinez (26 points), Ederson (16), Simon (13) • Women's Goalkeeper: Alyssa Naeher (26 points), Cata Coll (22), Earps (11) • Men's Coach: Carlo Ancelotti (26 points), Xabi Alonso (22), de la Fuente (11) • Women's Coach: Emma Hayes (23 points), Jonatan Giraldez (20), Elias (13) • Puskás Award: Alejandro Garnacho (26 points), Benzia (22), Omedi (16) • Marta Award: Marta (22 points), Oshoala (20), Karchaoui (16) • Fan Award: Guilherme Gandra Moura • Fair Play Award: Thiago Maia <p>Best FIFA Men's 11, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goalkeeper: Emiliano Martinez • Defenders: Dias, Carvajal, Rudiger, Saliba • Midfielders: Bellingham, Rodri, Kroos • Forwards: Haaland, Yamal, Vinicius Jr <p>Best FIFA Women's 11, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goalkeeper: Alyssa Naeher • Defenders: Paredes, Batlle, Bronze, Girma • Midfielders: Bonmati, Horan, Portilho, Guijarro • Forwards: Hansen, Paralluelo
Jamsetji Tata Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Biocon Group, was awarded the prestigious Jamsetji Tata Award by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ). • She was awarded the Jamsetji Tata Award for her outstanding contributions to India's biosciences sector. Instituted by ISQ in 2004 and named after Tata Group founder Jamsetji Tata, the award honors business leaders for exceptional quality, innovation and societal commitment.
'Sword of Honour' Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ram temple project in Ayodhya has received the 'Sword of Honour' from the British Safety Council for excellence in safety standards. • The Ram temple project in Ayodhya has received the 'Sword of Honour' from the British Safety Council for excellence in safety standards. It recognizes outstanding safety management and compliance with global safety standards.
34th Vyas Samman 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindi writer Suryabala has been awarded the 34th Vyas Samman 2024. • She was awarded for her novel Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary. Published in 2018, the novel explores cultural conflicts and identity struggles of Indian youth in America. • The Vyas Samman, established in 1991 by the KK Birla Foundation recognizes exceptional Hindi literary works from the last decade with a ₹4 lakh prize, citation and plaque. • KK Birla Foundation also offers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saraswati Samman: ₹15 lakh for exceptional literary works in any Schedule VIII language, published in the last 10 years. ○ Bihari Puraskar: Recognizes outstanding literary contributions by Indian authors.

<p>Global Sustainability Film Awards (GSFA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kumbaya Story, an Indian film, won the Transforming Society Short Film category at the 13th tve Global Sustainability Film Awards, hosted at BAFTA, London. • The tve Global Sustainability Film Awards (GSFA) honors exceptional films from the business, non-profit, media and creative sectors that inspire audiences with real-world solutions for a sustainable future.
<p>UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Indian heritage conservation projects—the Abathsahayeswarar Temple in Tamil Nadu and BJPCI in Maharashtra—won the 2024 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. • Established in 2000, these awards recognize efforts to restore and conserve heritage structures, highlighting sustainability, technical excellence and cultural significance. • Award Categories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Award of Excellence ○ Award of Distinction ○ Award of Merit ○ Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts ○ Special Recognition for Sustainable Development
<p>National Panchayat Awards 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Panchayat Awards 2024 honored 45 outstanding Panchayats for their contributions to sustainable and inclusive growth. • The awards mark the 73rd anniversary of the 1992 Constitutional Amendment Act, which granted Panchayats constitutional status as local self-governance institutions.
<p>2024 Champions of the Earth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2024 Champions of the Earth were awarded to six individuals and organizations for their leadership and sustainable solutions to combat land degradation, drought and desertification. • The Champions of the Earth, the UN's top environmental honor, recognizes leaders across sectors. Awarded annually since 2005. The 2024 focus is on combating land degradation, desertification and drought.
<p>JC Daniel Award 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filmmaker Shaji N Karun has been awarded the JC Daniel Award 2023 for his lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema. • The J.C. Daniel Award, Kerala's highest honor in Malayalam cinema, was established by the Kerala government in 1992. Presented annually by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, it recognizes individuals for their exceptional contributions to Malayalam cinema. Recipients are selected by a jury appointed by the Academy and the Department of Cultural Affairs.
<p>Golden Globe Nomination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payal Kapadia is the first Indian director to earn a Golden Globe nomination for Best Director (Motion Picture). • "All We Imagine As Light" is nominated for Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language). • The Golden Globe Awards, established in 1944, recognize excellence in international film and television. Presented by the Golden Globe Foundation, which represents international journalists covering American entertainment, the ceremony funds entertainment-related charities and scholarships including the Young Artist Awards.
<p>ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has been awarded the prestigious ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024. • India has received the prestigious ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024, presented by Dr. Mohammed Azman, President of the International Social Security Association, at the Regional Social Security Forum in Riyadh. The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) also earned five Certificates of Merit for its innovative social security practices, enhancing service delivery, communication and inclusivity for its diverse workforce.
<p>55th International</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 55th International Film Festival of India took place from 20 to 28

<p>Film Festival of India (IFFI)</p>	<p>November, 2024 at Panaji, Goa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards & Winners • Golden Peacock (Best Film): <i>Toxic</i> - Saulė Bliuvaitė (Lithuania) • Silver Peacock (Best Director): <i>The New Year That Never Came</i> - Bogdan Muresanu (Romania) • Silver Peacock (Best Actor – Male): <i>Holy Cow</i> - Clément Faveau (France) • Silver Peacock (Best Actor – Female): <i>Toxic</i> - Vesta Matulytė, Ieva Rupeikaitė (Lithuania) • Special Jury Award: <i>Holy Cow</i> - Louise Courvoisier (France) • Best Debut Feature Film: <i>Familiar Touch</i> - Sarah Friedland (USA) • Best Debut Director of Indian Film: <i>Gharat Ganpati</i> - Navjyot Bandiwadekar (India) • ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal: <i>Crossing</i> - Levan Akin (Georgia) • Best Web Series (OTT): <i>Lampan</i> - Nipun Dharmadhikari (India) • Indian Film Personality of the Year: Vikrant Massey (India)
<p>2024 OPCW-The Hague Award</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Chemical Council (ICC) was awarded the prestigious 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award. • The Indian Chemical Council (ICC) received the 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award at the 29th OPCW Conference in The Hague. This is the first time the award has been given to a chemical industry body, highlighting India's commitment to chemical safety and compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The award recognizes significant contributions to CWC goals.
<p>Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar For 2022 and 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2022 and 2023 was awarded to 82 young artists in music, dance, and theatre. • Notable awardees include Samit Mallick, Mandakranta Roy, and Beluru Raghunandan among others. • The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (UBKUP), established by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2006, honors exceptional young performing artists across India. Named after Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan, the award recognizes talent in music, dance, drama, folk and tribal arts, puppetry and other performing arts, aiming to inspire and encourage young practitioners. Eligibility: Artists up to the age of 40 years.
<p>Coal India Limited Honoured with Green World Environment Award 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context: • Coal India Limited (CIL), under the Ministry of Coal, has proudly won the 2024 Green World Environment Award in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) category. • The award was given by The Green Organization, which began in 1994 and is an independent, non-political, non-profit environment group, dedicated to recognizing, rewarding and promoting environmental best practices and CSR around the world.
<p>43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) was held recently. • The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 'One Health' Pavilion at the 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) in New Delhi won a Special Appreciation Medal for its innovative design and impactful presentation of India's healthcare initiatives.

BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

BOOK	AUTHOR
The Unyielding Judge: The Life and Legacy of Justice A.N. Grover	Gauri Grover
BRING IT ON: The Incredible Story of My Life	Para-athlete, Dr. Deepa Malik.
Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness	Dr. Dinesh Shahra

Beyond the Higgs Boson : The W Boson and Dr Ashutosh Kotwal's Quest for the Unknown

Manik Kotwal Jerry Pinto

Why Bharat Matters

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar

BOOKS & AUTHORS [STATIC GK]

Book	Author	Publication Year
The Discovery of India	Jawaharlal Nehru	1946
The Argumentative Indian	Amartya Sen	2005
India After Gandhi	Ramachandra Guha	2007
Freedom at Midnight	Larry Collins & Dominique Lapierre	1975
The Wonder That Was India	A.L. Basham	1954
The Partition of India	K.K. Aziz	1989
In the Footsteps of the Buddha	J. C. Sarkar	1940
My Experiments with Truth	Mahatma Gandhi	1927
Wings of Fire	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	1999
The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy	1997
Train to Pakistan	Khushwant Singh	1956
Indira Gandhi: A Biography	Pupul Jayakar	1982
Gitanjali	Rabindranath Tagore	1910
The White Tiger	Aravind Adiga	2008
A Fine Balance	Rohinton Mistry	1995
The Last Mughal	William Dalrymple	2006
India: A Million Mutinies Now	V.S. Naipaul	1990
Untouchable	Mulk Raj Anand	1935
Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie	1981
The Inheritance of Loss	Kiran Desai	2006
India Unbound	Gurcharan Das	2000
The Elephant Vanishes	Haruki Murakami	1993 (translated from Japanese to English)

STATIC GK

Largest National Park in India

Hemis National Park, the largest in India at 3,350 sq. km, is located in Eastern Ladakh and is known for its wildlife, including snow leopards, leopards, Asiatic ibex, Tibetan wolves, Eurasian brown bears and red foxes.

First Indian woman to climb Mount Everest

Bachendri Pal was the first Indian woman to summit Mount Everest on May 23, 1984.

First Indian to win an Oscar for Best Actor

Bhanu Athaiya for *Gandhi* (1982) – First Indian to win an Oscar in a competitive category.

Largest producer of milk in India

Uttar Pradesh is the largest milk producing state in India, contributing around 18% of the country's total milk production. In the financial year 2023, Uttar Pradesh produced over 36 million metric tons of milk.

India's First Green Express Highway

The 135 km-long Eastern Peripheral Expressway is also called the Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal Expressway and is the first green national highway in the country.

First woman president of the Indian National Congress

Sarojini Naidu was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress Party in 1925, the first ever woman to assume that position.

First city to host the G20 summit in India

New Delhi, 2023

First female astronaut of India

Kalpana Chawla was the first Indian-born woman to travel to space.

India's first and largest solar park

Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan is India's largest solar park and the world's largest solar power plant at a single location.

Largest zoo in India

Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Chennai

Largest state by area in India

Rajasthan

Most ancient language of India

Sanskrit

Longest-running film in India

In 2001, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge overtook Sholay (1975), which had run for over five years at the Minerva theatre, as the longest-running film in Indian cinema history.

First Indian woman to win the Booker Prize

Arundhati Roy was the first Indian woman to win the Booker Prize in 1997 for her debut novel, The God of Small Things.

Largest producer of spices in India

Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of spices in India, with a production volume of over 3 million metric tons in 2023.

Largest river island in India

Majuli, Assam

India's first and only UNESCO Global Geopark

Dinosaur Fossil National Park in Bagh, Madhya Pradesh.

First Indian to win a Wimbledon title

Leander Paes(1996) and Mahesh Bhupathi were the first Indian tennis players to win at Wimbledon.

First Indian to receive the Bharat Ratna

C. Rajagopalachari (1954)

Country with which India shares the longest border

Bangladesh

Largest dam in India

Tehri Dam (height - 260.5 meters) of Uttarakhand on the Bhagirathi River.

World's tallest statue

Statue of Unity, Gujarat (182 meters)

India's first supercomputer

Param 8000 developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing(CDAC) in 1991.

First cricket stadium in India

Eden Gardens, Kolkata (established in 1864)

Highest railway station in India

Ghum Railway Station in West Bengal is India's highest railway station, standing at an altitude of 2,258 meters (7,407 ft).

India's first wind-solar hybrid project

In Jaisalmer, Rajasthan in May 2022.

First nuclear test conducted by India

Conducted on May 18, 1974 in Pokhran, Rajasthan, and was codenamed Operation Smiling Buddha.

India's first integrated steel plant

Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)

India's first multilingual newspaper agency

Hindusthan Samachar

First woman Chief Minister of an Indian state

Sucheta Kripalani (Uttar Pradesh, 1963)

Largest delta in the world

Sundarbans, India-Bangladesh

First Indian to win an Olympic gold medal

Abhinav Bindra (2008, Beijing Olympics, Shooting)

First Indian to reach Mount Everest without supplementary oxygen

Phu Dorjee

First female combat pilot in India

Squadron Leader Avani Chaturvedi

World's largest producer of Tea

China

First Himalayan State To Have Atlas For Disaster Management

Himachal Pradesh

World's first woman and youngest pilot to fly solo across both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in a light-sport aircraft

Aarohi Pandit

India's longest tunnel

The Chenani-Nashri Tunnel (Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel) is India's longest road tunnel at 9.28 km, located on National Highway 44 in Jammu & Kashmir, and the

first with a fully integrated tunnel control system.

World's highest railway station,

Tanggula Railway Station is situated in Amdo County of the Tibet Autonomous Region

Highest battle ground in the world

Siachen Glacier, Jammu and Kashmir

State with the highest number of national parks

Madhya Pradesh

Smallest district in India by area

Mahe (Union Territory of Puducherry)

State with the highest forest cover in India

Madhya Pradesh - a total area of 94,689 sq km, which constitutes 30.7% of the

state's overall geographical expanse.

Largest saltwater lake in India

Chilika Lake, Odisha

Largest producer of pulses in India

Rajasthan

Largest coalfield in India

Jharia coalfield, located in Jharia, Dhanbad, Jharkhand.

CURRENT ONE LINERS

Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav 2024

A three-day cultural festival showcasing Northeast India's heritage, will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from December 6-8, organized by NEHHDC: North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited and CPSE: Central Public Sector Enterprise

Mass Varmam Therapy

An ancient Indian practice focused on manipulating vital energy points in the body, believed to regulate physical and mental health by targeting 108 points, categorized into 12 major (Padu Varmam) and 96 minor (Thodu Varmam) points, crucial for energy flow and organ function.

Ocean Anoxic Event 1a

Occurred during the Cretaceous period (145-66 million years ago), marking the time when Earth's oceans became depleted of oxygen. This has led to severe disruption of marine ecosystems.

Tirzepatide

Tirzepatide, sold under the brand name Zepbound, is the first drug approved for the treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)

Dark Comets

Celestial bodies that lack the characteristic bright tails of traditional comets.

Opinion Trading

A platform where users may gamble real money on the outcome of future events such as sports scores, election results or cryptocurrency trends.

Automated & Intelligent Machine-aided Construction (AIMC)

The system combines smart machines and real-time data sharing.

Trichloroethylene (TCE) and Perchloroethylene (PCE)

The US EPA has banned trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) under the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce health and environmental risks, aligning

with President Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative.

Shanan Hydel Project

India's first megawatt-capacity hydroelectric project located in Joginder Nagar in Mandi District, Himachal Pradesh and built on the Uhl River, a tributary of the Beas.

Abathsahayeshwarar Temple

The 1,300-year-old Abathsahayeshwarar Temple in Thukkatchi, Tiruvarur district, Tamil Nadu, built by the Cholas and later renovated during the Nayak period, has been awarded the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction 2023 for its exemplary cultural heritage conservation.

India's e-waste

According to data presented by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India witnessed a surge in electronic waste (e-waste) generation over the past five years, rising from 1.01 million metric tonnes (MT) in 2019-20 to 1.751 million MT in 2023-24.

Henderson Doctrine

States that all issues arising from the same subject matter in litigation should be resolved in a single suit.

Dulcibella camanchaca

A new predatory amphoid species that has been classified in the Eusiridae family.

Atacama Trench

Peru–Chile Trench, also known as the Atacama Trench, is an oceanic trench in the eastern Pacific Ocean, about 160 kilometers off the coast of Peru and Chile.

Disease X

Disease X is not a specific illness but represents an unknown pathogen that could cause a significant health crisis and the term was introduced after the West African Ebola epidemic (2014–2016)

FIDE or the International Chess Federation

FIDE, the International Chess Federation founded in 1924 and based in Switzerland, governs international chess

Golan Heights

A rocky plateau in the Levant region of Western Asia that was captured by Israel from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War. The location is a hilly area overlooking the upper Jordan River Valley to the west, bordered by the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee to the west, Mount Hermon to the north, the seasonal Wadi Al Ruqqād River to the east, and the Yarmūk River to the south.

competitions and unites nearly 200 national federations under the motto "Gens una sumus" ("We are one family").

Social Dialogue Report

International Labour Organisation (ILO) released the Social Dialogue Report.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Founded in 1977, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), an UN-specialized agency headquartered in Rome, aims to improve rural livelihoods through investments in agriculture, food security, and income generation.

Lonar Lake

Lonar Lake, located in Buldhana district, Maharashtra, is an alkaline lake and lagoon formed in a meteorite impact crater during the Pleistocene Epoch, with evidence of impact confirmed by plagioclase transformation into maskelynite.

Subaru Telescope

The Subaru Telescope, located at Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii, is an 8.2-meter telescope of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, named after the Pleiades star cluster, and held the largest monolithic primary mirror until 2005.

Sjögren's Disease

Sjögren's disease is an autoimmune disorder that targets moisture-producing glands, causing dry eyes, mouth, joint pain, fatigue, and potential complications in organs like the lungs, kidneys, and nervous system. It affects 1 in 1,000 people globally, with a higher prevalence in women and typically in those aged 30-40. Diagnosis can be delayed, often leading to prolonged suffering. Treatment focuses on symptom management, including salivary stimulants, lubricating drops, and immunosuppressive drugs for systemic issues, but hormone therapy is ineffective.



WBCS PRELIMS MOCK TEST

TEST ID - 03

- Q1. The Durand Line is a border that separates which two countries?**
- A) India and Pakistan
B) India and Afghanistan
C) Pakistan and Afghanistan
D) Afghanistan and Iran
- Q2. Which Indian state does NOT share a border with Bhutan?**
- A) West Bengal
B) Assam
C) Arunachal Pradesh
D) Meghalaya
- Q3. The Duns are a characteristic feature of which region?**
- A) Western Ghats
B) Eastern Ghats
C) Himalayan region
D) Deccan Plateau
- Q4. The Khardung La pass is situated on which range?**
- A) Pir Panjal
B) Zaskar
C) Ladakh
D) Great Himalayas
- Q5. Which nomadic group inhabits the valleys of the Uttarakhand Himalayas and migrates to 'Bugyals' during summer months?**
- A) Gaddis
B) Bakarwals
C) Bhotias
D) Gujjars
- Q6. In which Indian state is the Bhor Ghat mountain passage located?**
- A) Karnataka
B) Goa
C) Maharashtra
D) Gujarat
- Q7. Which of the following statements about the Bhabar belt is NOT true?**
- A) It is a narrow belt parallel to the Shivalik foothills.
B) Streams and rivers deposit heavy materials of rocks and boulders in this zone.
C) It is located to the south of the Terai belt.
D) Streams and rivers sometimes disappear in this zone
- Q8. In which region of India is Red Sanders predominantly found?**
- A) Western Ghats
B) Eastern Ghats
C) Himalayan region
D) Indo-Gangetic Plain
- Q9. Which feature is characteristic of the Malabar coast?**
- A) Deltas
B) Kayals
C) Estuaries
D) Lagoons
- Q10. Which channel separates the Lakshadweep Islands from the Maldives?**
- A) Nine Degree Channel
B) Ten Degree Channel
C) Eight Degree Channel
D) Seven Degree Channel
- Q11. On which island is India's only active volcano located?**
- A) Barren Island
B) North Andaman Island
C) South Andaman Island
D) Little Andaman Island
- Q12. Which river originates from the Siachen Glacier?**
- A) Indus River
B) Nubra River
C) Zaskar River
D) Shyok River
- Q13. Which type of soil covers the most area in India?**
- A) Laterite Soil
B) Black Soil
C) Alluvial Soil
D) Red Soil
- Q14. Which type of soil is known as "self-ploughing" soil?**
- A) Alluvial Soil
B) Black Soil

- C) Laterite Soil
- D) Red Soil

Q15. Which of the following statements about Red Soils is incorrect?

- A) They are acidic mainly due to the nature of the parent rocks.
- B) They are poor in lime, magnesia, phosphates, nitrogen, and humus.
- C) They are rich in potash and potassium.
- D) The red colour is due to the presence of high levels of humus.

Q16. Under what climatic conditions are Laterite soils formed?

- A) High temperature and heavy rainfall with alternate wet and dry periods
- B) Low temperature and moderate rainfall
- C) Extreme cold and dry conditions
- D) Humid tropical conditions with consistent rainfall

Q17. At which city does the Yamuna River meet and join the Ganga River?

- A) Haridwar
- B) Rishikesh
- C) Allahabad
- D) Varanasi

Q18. Which river has formed the Majuli Island, the world's largest riverine island?

- A) Ganga
- B) Brahmaputra
- C) Meghna
- D) Padma

Q19. At which mountain peak does the Brahmaputra River take a 'U' turn before entering India?

- A) Kanchenjunga
- B) Namcha Barwa
- C) Nanga Parbat
- D) Annapurna

Q20. Which of the following is NOT a right bank tributary of the Indus River?

- A) Shyok
- B) Gilgit
- C) Kurram
- D) Beas

Q21. Which river does the Nimoo Bazgo Dam harness for hydroelectric power generation?

- A) Chenab
- B) Jhelum
- C) Indus
- D) Sutlej

Q22. Which river meets the Alaknanda River at Rudraprayag?

- A) Mandakini
- B) Nandakini
- C) Pindari
- D) Bhagirathi

Q23. Which Indian state does the Mahananda River originate from?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Bihar
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Sikkim

Q24. Which of the following is the largest tributary of the Yamuna River?

- A) Chambal River
- B) Betwa River
- C) Ken River
- D) Tons River

Q25. Which of the following national parks are located on the banks of the Gandak River?

- A) Valmiki National Park and Kanha National Park
- B) Chitwan National Park and Corbett National Park
- C) Valmiki National Park and Chitwan National Park
- D) Kaziranga National Park and Chitwan National Park

Q26. From which place does the Godavari River rise?

- A) Raigarh
- B) Trimbakeshwar
- C) Ahmednagar
- D) Aurangabad

Q27. Hampi, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located on the banks of which river?

- A) Godavari
- B) Pranahitha
- C) Tungabhadra
- D) Kaveri

Q28. Which river's flow is controlled by Wular Lake?

- A) Indus River
- B) Chenab River
- C) Jhelum River

D) Ravi River

Q29. Which river does the Alamatti Dam harness?

- A) Krishna River
- B) Godavari River
- C) Cauvery River
- D) Narmada River

Q30. Which of the following is NOT a tributary of the Penna River?

- A) Jayamangali
- B) Kunderu
- C) Sagileru
- D) Tungabhadra

Q31. What is the name of the waterfall formed by the Narmada River near Jabalpur?

- A) Gersoppa Falls
- B) Dudhsagar Falls
- C) Dhuandhar Falls
- D) Chitrakoot Falls

Q32. On the banks of which river, also known as Dakshin Bhagirathi, is the famous Sabarimala temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa located?

- A) Pamba River
- B) Narmada River
- C) Godavari River
- D) Kaveri River

Q33. Which monsoon primarily affects the south-eastern coast of India?

- A) South-west monsoon
- B) North-east monsoon
- C) North-west monsoon
- D) South-east monsoon

Q34. What is the name of the hot local wind that causes intense heat during summers in the northern parts of India?

- A) Loo
- B) Kalbaisakhi
- C) Norwesters
- D) Mango Showers

Q35. Which of the following atmospheric pressure patterns is associated with La Niña events?

- A) Higher pressure in the eastern Pacific and lower pressure in the western Pacific
- B) Lower pressure in the eastern Pacific and higher pressure in the western Pacific

C) Higher pressure in both the eastern and western Pacific

D) Lower pressure in both the eastern and western Pacific

Q36. What is the local name for norwesters in Assam?

- A) chinooks
- B) Tea Showers
- C) Monsoon storms
- D) Spring storms

Q37. What are the thunderstorms called in Karnataka due to their effect on coffee plantations?

- A) Mango showers
- B) Cherry blossoms
- C) Tea showers
- D) Kalabaisakhis

Q38. Which type of plants are adapted to the climatic conditions of Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests?

- A) Hydrophytic plants
- B) Xerophytic plants
- C) Mesophytic plants
- D) All of the above

Q39. What is the primary objective of the Joint Forest Management (JFM) program in India?

- A) To involve local communities in the protection and management of forests.
- B) To increase timber production for commercial use.
- C) To replace natural forests with monoculture plantations.
- D) To enhance urban green spaces.

Q40. Which of the following states does the National Waterway 1 (NW 1) pass through?

- A) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal
- B) Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand
- C) Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha & West Bengal
- D) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha & West Bengal

Q41. The Indian wild date is a common tree in which of the following forests?

- A) Tropical Evergreen Forests
- B) Tropical Deciduous Forests
- C) Tropical Thorn Forests

D) Montane Forests

Q42. In which year was the Forest Survey of India (FSI) established?

- A) 1975
- B) 1981
- C) 1990
- D) 1985

Q43. As per Indian State of Forest Report, Forest Cover (FC) includes patches of land that meet which of the following minimum criteria?

- A) Tree canopy density of more than 15% and area of more than 1 hectare
- B) Tree canopy density of more than 5% and area of less than 1 hectare
- C) Tree canopy density of more than 10% and area of more than 1 hectare
- D) Tree canopy density of more than 20% and area of more than 1 hectare

Q44. Which Northeast Indian state has the highest forest cover as a percentage of its geographic area?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Mizoram
- D) Manipur

Q45. Which of the following states recorded the highest positive change in forest cover (FC) in India (area-wise)?

- A) Telangana
- B) Odisha
- C) Karnataka
- D) Andhra Pradesh

Q46. Which of the following cities has the smallest forest cover?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Kolkata
- C) Chennai
- D) Ahmedabad

Q47. What are the names given to the old and new alluvial deposits found in the belt south of Tarai?

- A) Bhabhar and Kankar
- B) Bhangar and Khadar
- C) Khadir and Bangar
- D) Bhabhar and Khadir

Q48. Which of the following is the local name for the Western Ghats in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu?

- A) Sahyadri
- B) Nilgiri hills
- C) Anaimalai hills
- D) Cardamom hills

Q49. Which is the highest peak of the Peninsular plateau?

- A) Anaimudi
- B) Dodabetta
- C) Mullayanagiri
- D) Anamudi

Q50. What is the total approximate area of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep?

- A) 16 sq km
- B) 28 sq km
- C) 32 sq km
- D) 40 sq km

Q51. Which type of forests are the most widespread in India?

- A) Tropical Rainforests
- B) Tropical Deciduous Forests
- C) Coniferous Forests
- D) Mangrove Forests

Q52. Which tree species is most dominant in Tropical Deciduous Forests of India?

- A) Sal
- B) Bamboo
- C) Teak
- D) Mahogany

Q53. According to the State of Forest Report 2021, what is the current forest cover of India as a percentage of its total geographical area?

- A) 25.89%
- B) 21.71%
- C) 23.14%
- D) 26.45%

Q54. Which state in India has the largest forest cover area-wise?

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

Q55. Which state in India recorded the highest increase in mangrove cover?

- A) Odisha
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) West Bengal

Q56. According to the 2011 census, which state/UT in India has the highest sex ratio?

- A) Kerala
- B) Puducherry
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Karnataka

Q57. Where is the Raman Research Institute located?

- A) Bangalore
- B) Mumbai
- C) Chennai
- D) Hyderabad

Q58. Where is the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology situated?

- A) Bangalore
- B) Kolkata
- C) Mumbai
- D) Chennai

Q59. Which of the following is a benefit of mulching in gardening?

- A) Improving soil fertility
- B) Enhancing soil structure
- C) Suppressing weed growth
- D) All of the above

Q60. What term is used to describe lands that become unsuitable for cultivation due to the formation of gullies or ravines?

- A) Barren lands
- B) Arid lands
- C) Bad lands
- D) Desert lands

Q61. Which region in India is known for growing three crops of paddy in a year, namely Aus, Aman, and Boro?

- A) Punjab
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Assam
- D) Gujarat

Q62. Which of the following crops are typically sown during the Rabi season in India?

- A) Paddy and maize
- B) Cotton and jute
- C) Wheat and barley
- D) Sugarcane and groundnut

Q63. What is the closest big galaxy to the Milky Way?

- A) Andromeda
- B) Triangulum

- C) Centaurus A
- D) Messier 87

Q64. Where is the asteroid belt located in our solar system?

- A) Between Earth and Mars
- B) Between Mars and Jupiter
- C) Between Jupiter and Saturn
- D) Between Saturn and Uranus

Q65. What causes auroras to occur in the Earth's atmosphere?

- A) Cosmic rays
- B) Charged particles from the Sun
- C) Geothermal activity
- D) Ozone Pollution

Q66. Which planet is the brightest in the solar system?

- A) Mercury
- B) Venus
- C) Mars
- D) Jupiter

Q67. Where is the Dhala crater located?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Gujarat

Q68. Which era is known as "the Age of the dinosaurs"?

- A) Paleozoic Era
- B) Mesozoic Era
- C) Cenozoic Era
- D) Precambrian Era

Q69. What is the average density of the Earth's crust?

- A) 4.2 g/cm³
- B) 2.7 g/cm³
- C) 4.5 g/cm³
- D) 5.8 g/cm³

Q70. Where is the Central Tobacco Research Institute located?

- A) Rajamundry
- B) Delhi
- C) Kolkata
- D) Nagpur

Q71. Which element is the most abundant in the Earth's crust?

- A) Silicon (Si)
- B) Oxygen (O)

- C) Aluminum (Al)
- D) Iron (Fe)

Q72. What does the Mohorovicic discontinuity (Moho) separate?

- A) Mantle and outer core
- B) Crust and asthenosphere
- C) Inner core and outer core
- D) Mantle and lithosphere

Q73. What percentage of the Earth's volume is occupied by the mantle?

- A) 50%
- B) 67%
- C) 83%
- D) 90%

Q74. Which of the following is NOT a source of heat in the outer core?

- A) Compression of the core
- B) Crystallization of the inner core
- C) Radioactive decay
- D) Volcanic eruptions

Q75. The Lehmann Discontinuity separates which two layers of the Earth?

- A) Crust and Asthenosphere
- B) Crust and Mantle
- C) Outer Core and Inner Core
- D) Crust and Outer Core

Q76. What characteristic of P-waves allows them to travel through both solids and liquids?

- A) Longitudinal nature
- B) High frequency
- C) Vertical motion
- D) Low destructive potential

Q77. How does the destructive potential of S-waves compare to that of P-waves?

- A) S-waves are more destructive than P-waves
- B) S-waves are less destructive than P-waves
- C) S-waves and P-waves have equal destructive potential
- D) The destructive potential depends on the specific earthquake and cannot be generalized

Q78. What is the shadow zone for both P-waves and S-waves?

- A) A region between 103° and 142° from the epicenter
- B) A region beyond 142° from the epicenter

- C) A region within 103° from the epicenter
- D) There is no shadow zone for P-waves and S-waves"

Q79. What is the primary factor that allows the Van Allen radiation belts to trap charged particles around the Earth?

- A) The Earth's gravitational field
- B) The Earth's magnetic field
- C) The Earth's atmospheric composition
- D) The Earth's rotational speed

Q80. What is the primary cause of diastrophic movements in the Earth's crust?

- A) Erosion by wind and water
- B) Tectonic forces within the Earth
- C) Meteorite impacts
- D) Volcanic eruptions

Q81. Which type of rocks is most susceptible to granular disintegration?

- A) Fine-grained rocks with uniform mineral composition
- B) Coarse-grained rocks composed of different mineral types
- C) Metamorphic rocks
- D) Sedimentary rocks

Q82. Barchans and seifs are formed by which of the following processes?

- A) Water erosion
- B) Volcanic activity
- C) Glacial movement
- D) Wind action

Q83. Which characteristic of the Nilgiris and Western Ghats is mentioned as a contributing factor to debris avalanches and landslides in these regions?

- A) They are tectonically active
- B) They are composed of sedimentary rocks
- C) They have steep slopes with vertical cliffs and escarpments
- D) None of them

Q84. Which of the following landscape features is characteristic of a karst topography?

- A) Glaciers
- B) Sand dunes
- C) Sinkholes
- D) River deltas

Q85. In which year was Project Elephant launched?

- A) 1985
- B) 1990
- C) 1995
- D) 1992

Q86. Who proposed the Continental Drift Theory (CDT) in 1912?

- A) Charles Darwin
- B) Alfred Wegener
- C) James Hutton
- D) Harry Hess

Q87. Magnetic striping on the ocean floor provides evidence for which geological process?

- A) Continental drift
- B) Seafloor spreading
- C) Volcanic activity
- D) Earthquake propagation

Q88. In which year did the Bhopal Gas Tragedy occur?

- A) 1982
- B) 1984
- C) 1986
- D) 1988

Q89. Who were the scientists that suggested the theory of Plate Tectonics?

- A) Alfred Wegener and Harry Hess
- B) Tuzo Wilson and J. Tuzo Wilson
- C) Dan McKenzie and Robert Parker
- D) Arthur Holmes and Frederick Vine

Q90. Which of the following conditions is NOT necessary for the formation of a tropical cyclone?

- A) Large and continuous supply of warm and moist air that can release enormous latent heat.
- B) Strong Coriolis force that can prevent the filling of low pressure at the center.
- C) Unstable conditions through the troposphere that create local disturbances for cyclone development.
- D) Absence of strong vertical wind shear, which disrupts the development of tropical cyclones.

Q91. Where is the headquarters of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) located?

- A) Mumbai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Kolkata

- D) Bengaluru

Q92. Which type of drought is characterized by a prolonged period of inadequate rainfall?

- A) Agricultural Drought
- B) Hydrological Drought
- C) Ecological Drought
- D) Meteorological Drought

Q93. Which Indian state shares its borders with the most other states?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

94. Which Indian state is known as the "Sugar Bowl of India"?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Gujarat
- D) Tamil Nadu

Q95. Which is the longest lake in India?

- A) Wular Lake
- B) Chilka Lake
- C) Vembanad Lake
- D) Loktak Lake

Q96. Which city is considered the geographical center of India?

- A) Nagpur
- B) Bhopal
- C) Jabalpur
- D) Indore

Q97. Which city is the headquarters of the West Central Railway zone?

- A) Jabalpur
- B) Bhopal
- C) Gwalior
- D) Indore

Q98. Through how many states does the Tropic of Cancer pass in India?

- A) Seven
- B) Eight
- C) Nine
- D) Ten

Q99. On which date does the summer solstice occur in the Northern Hemisphere?

- A) March 21
- B) June 21
- C) December 22
- D) September 22

- Q100. Which is the smallest district in India by area?**
A) Mahe (Puducherry)
B) Daman (Daman and Diu)
C) Nicobars District (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)
D) North Goa District (Goa)
- Q101. Which is the longest beach in India?**
A) Marina Beach (Chennai)
B) Elliot's Beach (Chennai)
C) Puri Beach (Odisha)
D) Chandrabhaga Beach (Odisha)
- Q102. Which Indian lake is famous for its 'phumdis' (floating biomass)?**
A) Wular Lake
B) Chilka Lake
C) Loktak Lake
D) Dal Lake
- Q103. Through which two states does the Buckingham Canal pass?**
A) Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
B) Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
C) Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
D) Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
- Q104. In which Indian state is the Bara Shigri Glacier located?**
A) Jammu and Kashmir
B) Himachal Pradesh
C) Uttarakhand
D) Arunachal Pradesh
- Q105. Which water body does the Duncan Passage separate?**
A) Little Andaman from South Andaman
B) North Andaman from Middle Andaman
C) Great Nicobar from Little Nicobar
D) Car Nicobar from Nancowry Island
- Q106. Off the coast of which Indian state is Abdul Kalam Island located?**
A) West Bengal
B) Andhra Pradesh
C) Odisha
D) Tamil Nadu
- Q107. In which state is Mt. Gurushikhar located?**
A) Rajasthan
B) Gujarat
C) Haryana
D) Madhya Pradesh
- Q108. The famous Lonar Lake, known for its saline and alkaline characteristics, is located in which Indian state?**
A) Maharashtra
B) Rajasthan
C) Gujarat
D) Karnataka
- Q109. The Gulmarg, a popular hill station and skiing destination, is located in which Indian state/UT?**
A) Himachal Pradesh
B) Jammu and Kashmir
C) Uttarakhand
D) Sikkim
- Q110. Which river forms the famous Jog Falls in Karnataka?**
A) Cauvery
B) Krishna
C) Godavari
D) Sharavathi
- Q111. Which of the following is the correct density of population in India according to the 2011 census?**
A) 322 persons per sq km
B) 382 persons per sq km
C) 442 persons per sq km
D) 502 persons per sq km
- Q112. What is the term used to represent the ratio of total population to net cultivated area?**
A) Physiological density
B) Agricultural density
C) Population density
D) Cultivated density
- Q113. During which period is the growth of India's population referred to as the stagnant or stationary phase?**
A) 1881-1901
B) 1901-1921
C) 1921-1941
D) 1941-1961
- Q114. Which Indian river forms the famous Hogenakkal Falls?**
A) Godavari
B) Kaveri
C) Krishna
D) Tungabhadra

- Q115.** What geographical feature is associated with the location of the Kudremukh mines?
- A) Deccan Plateau
B) Indo-Gangetic Plain
C) Western Ghats
D) Eastern Ghats
- Q116.** In which state is the Jaduguda uranium mine located?
- A) Madhya Pradesh
B) Odisha
C) Chhattisgarh
D) Jharkhand
- Q117.** What is the primary cause of Blue Baby Syndrome?
- A) Lead contamination in water
B) Nitrate contamination in groundwater
C) Arsenic poisoning
D) Fluoride excess in drinking water
- Q118.** What is Darjeeling famously known as?
- A) King of the Hills
B) Queen of the Hills
C) Prince of the Hills
D) Princess of the Hills
- Q119.** What is the population density of West Bengal?
- A) 928 people per square km
B) 1028 people per square km
C) 1128 people per square km
D) 1228 people per square km
- Q120.** Which of the following protected areas is located in Kalimpong district?
- A) Buxa Tiger Reserve
B) Neora Valley National Park
C) Singalila National Park
D) Gorumara National Park
- Q121.** Which district in West Bengal is being described by the following characteristics?
1. Located on the banks of the Teesta River
 2. Contains deposits of dolomite
 3. Bordered in the north by Bhutan
- A) Darjeeling
B) Cooch Behar
C) Jalpaiguri
D) Alipurduar
- Q122.** In which district of West Bengal is the Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary located?
- A) South Dinajpur
B) North Dinajpur
C) Malda
D) Murshidabad
- Q123.** What is the rank of West Bengal in terms of size among the states of India?
- A) 13th
B) 10th
C) 14th
D) 12th
- Q124.** Which district of West Bengal is known for the folk culture of gombhira, a unique way of representing the joy and sorrow of daily life of common people?
- A) Murshidabad
B) Malda
C) Nadia
D) Birbhum
- Q125.** Which town in West Bengal is often referred to as the "Oxford of Bengal"?
- A) Shantiniketan
B) Nabadwip
C) Kolkata
D) Serampore
- Q126.** In which district of West Bengal is Palashi, the site of the historic Battle of Plassey, located?
- A) Murshidabad
B) Nadia
C) Burdwan
D) Hooghly
- Q127.** Which of the following dams is a significant hydroelectric project in Maharashtra, India?
- A) Sardar Sarovar Dam
B) Tehri Dam
C) Koyna Dam
D) Hirakud Dam
- Q128.** From which district in West Bengal was Gobindo Bhog Rice granted the GI (Geographical Indication) tag certificate?
- A) Nadia
B) Murshidabad
C) Purba Bardhaman
D) Hooghly
- Q129.** What is the significance of the Raniganj Coalfield in India's industrial history?

- A) It is the largest coalfield in India
- B) It was the first coalfield to be discovered in India
- C) It sparked the industrial revolution in India
- D) It is known for producing high-quality coking coal

Q130. Which state in India is home to the Sangai deer, which is its state animal?

- A) Assam
- B) Tripura
- C) Mizoram
- D) Manipur

Q131. In which Indian state are the living root bridges primarily located?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Nagaland
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

Q132. Which Indian state is known for Jampui Hills, a region famous for its orange cultivation and pleasant climate?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Tripura
- D) Mizoram

Q133. Which district in India has been described as the "connecting link between the plains of Bengal on the east and Chota Nagpur plateau on the west"?

- A) Purulia
- B) Paschim Medinipur
- C) Birbhum
- D) Bankura

Q134. The Polavaram project, a significant irrigation and hydropower project in India, is situated in which state?

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

Q135. On the bank of which river is the Visva Bharati University at Santiniketan situated?

- A) Ganges
- B) Teesta
- C) Kopai
- D) Damodar

Q136. Which district is ranked first in literacy among the districts of West Bengal?

- A) Kolkata
- B) Howrah
- C) Purba Medinipur
- D) Darjeeling

Q137. Where is the Mayurjharna Elephant Reserve (MER) located?

- A) Odisha
- B) Kerala
- C) Chhattisgarh
- D) West Bengal

Q138. Which of the following statements is true about North 24 Parganas?

- A) It is the largest district by area in West Bengal.
- B) It is the most populated district in West Bengal
- C) It has the highest literacy rate in West Bengal.
- D) It is the newest district formed in West Bengal.

Q139. Which city in India is often referred to as the "Ruhr of India"?

- A) Jamshedpur
- B) Durgapur
- C) Bhilai
- D) Rourkela

Q140. Gandikota, often referred to as the "Grand Canyon of India," is located on which river?

- A) Krishna
- B) Godavari
- C) Tungabhadra
- D) Penna

Q141. Which state shares the shortest boundary length with West Bengal?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Assam
- C) Odisha
- D) Bihar

Q142. Arrange the peaks in West Bengal in ascending order of their elevation above sea level:

- A) Tonglu < Phalut < Sandakphu < Sabargram
- B) Tonglu < Phalut < Sabargram < Sandakphu
- C) Tonglu < Sabargram < Sandakphu < Phalut

D) Tonglu < Sabargram <
Phalut<Sandakphu

Q143. What is the highest peak in the Buxa Hills?

- A) Sangchuli
- B) Banista Hill
- C) Torsa Hill
- D) Mahananda Peak

Q144. What is the northern part of Malda district called, lying north of the Kalindi River?

- A) Barind
- B) Diara
- C) Barendra bhumi
- D) Tal

Q145. Rourkela Steel Plant is located on the bank of which river?

- A) Brahmani
- B) Mahanadi
- C) Subarnarekha
- D) Damodar

Q146. In which district does the Ganges River split into two near Dhulian?

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

Q147. Which river interlinking project does the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Project connect?

- A) Godavari to Krishna
- B) Ganga to Yamuna
- C) Narmada to Tapi
- D) Kaveri to Godavari

Q148. Where does the Mahananda River originate?

- A) Dow Hills forest
- B) Sunderbans forest
- C) Simlipal forest
- D) Kaziranga forest

Q149. Itai-itai disease is caused by pollution from mining activities involving which metal?

- A) Lead
- B) Mercury
- C) Arsenic
- D) Cadmium

Q150. Melghat Tiger Reserve is located in which Indian state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) Rajasthan

Q151. Haliday Island Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which district?

- A) Jalpaiguri
- B) South-24 Parganas
- C) Darjeeling
- D) Hooghly

Q152. Which island in the Sundarbans is the largest and last inhabited in the Indian part?

- A) Sagar Island
- B) Hingalganj Island
- C) Gosaba Island
- D) Jambudwip Island

Q153. Which statement about West Bengal's agricultural production is incorrect?

- A) West Bengal ranks first in the production of Rice
- B) West Bengal stands second in potato production, after Uttar Pradesh.
- C) West Bengal is the second-largest fish-producing state in India.
- D) West Bengal ranks first in the production of Wheat and Pulses.

Q154. Which district in West Bengal is the highest producer of rice?

- A) Malda
- B) Murshidabad
- C) Burdwan
- D) Hooghly

Q155. Which district in West Bengal is the largest producer of tobacco?

- A) Murshidabad
- B) Cooch Behar
- C) Nadia
- D) Malda

Q156. Which minerals are found in the southern part of Purulia district?

- A) Gold and Silver
- B) Apatite and Magnetite
- C) Coal and Iron ore
- D) Bauxite and Limestone

- Q157. Where are the entire dolomite deposits located in West Bengal?**
A) Gorumara National Park
B) Darjeeling Hills
C) Buxa Tiger Reserve
D) Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary
- Q158. Where is the headquarters of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health located?**
A) Kolkata
B) Mumbai
C) New Delhi
D) Chennai
- Q159. In which year was the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) formed?**
A) 1947
B) 1948
C) 1950
D) 1952
- Q160. In which year, India's first underground metro rail service inaugurated?**
A) 1972
B) 1980
C) 1984
D) 1990
- Q161. Who inaugurated the first horse-drawn tram route in India?**
A) Mahatma Gandhi
B) Lord Ripon
C) Jawaharlal Nehru
D) Queen Victoria
- Q162. Where is Ghum located, which is India's highest railway station?**
A) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
B) Konkan Railway
C) Shimla-Kalka Railway
D) Nilgiri Mountain Railway
- Q163. What is the female sex ratio in West Bengal?**
A) 927 females per 1000 males
B) 950 females per 1000 males
C) 937 females per 1000 males
D) 967 females per 1000 males
- Q164. What percentage of India's total population does West Bengal account for?**
A) 5.64%
B) 7.54%
C) 9.42%
D) 8.81%
- Q165. Which states' coastal areas are referred to as the Coromandel Coast?**
A) Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
B) Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
C) Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
D) Odisha and West Bengal
- Q166. Where is Pipli Ghat Pass located?**
A) Aravalli Mountains
B) Western Ghats
C) Eastern Ghats
D) Vindhya Range
- Q167. Which atmospheric layer is almost free from clouds and associated weather phenomena, making conditions ideal for flying airplanes?**
A) Troposphere
B) Stratosphere
C) Mesosphere
D) Thermosphere
- Q168. In which atmospheric layer do meteorites typically burn up upon entering from space?**
A) Troposphere
B) Stratosphere
C) Mesosphere
D) Thermosphere
- Q169. Which layer of the Earth's atmosphere is primarily responsible for reflecting radio waves back to the Earth's surface?**
A) Troposphere
B) Stratosphere
C) Ionosphere
D) Mesosphere
- Q170. Which mountain pass connects Srinagar with Kargil and Leh?**
A) Nathu La pass
B) Zoji La pass
C) Rohtang Pass
D) Shipki La pass
- Q171. Arrange these mountain ranges from north to south:**
A) Zaskar, Ladakh, Karakoram, Pir Panjal
B) Karakoram, Ladakh, Zaskar, Pir Panjal
C) Ladakh, Karakoram, Zaskar, Pir Panjal

D) Pir Panjal, Zaskar, Karakoram, Ladakh

C) Aeolian processes
D) Glacial processes

Q172. In the context of Indian geography, what is Dolphin's Nose?

- A) A mountain peak in the Himalayas.
- B) A unique rock formation in Visakhapatnam
- C) A famous dolphin sanctuary in Kerala.
- D) A river delta formation in West Bengal.

Q179. For which industry are Ankleshwar, Khambhat, Kosamba, and Kathana well-known?

- A) Textile manufacturing
- B) Oil and natural gas production
- C) Diamond cutting and polishing
- D) Agricultural produce markets

Q173. Which state is home to the largest uranium reserves in India, found at the Tummalapalle mine?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Karnataka
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Odisha

Q180. Where is India's first oil refinery located?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Assam
- D) Rajasthan

Q174. What is the primary product extracted by the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)?

- A) Iron ore
- B) Bauxite
- C) Coal
- D) Copper

Q181. Where does the Nehru Trophy Boat Race take place?

- A) Dal Lake
- B) Chilika Lake
- C) Vembanad Lake
- D) Loktak Lake

Q175. Which mineral is the primary source of thorium in India?

- A) Bauxite
- B) Monazite
- C) Hematite
- D) Galena

Q182. Which is the westernmost point of India?

- A) Indira Point
- B) Siachen Glacier
- C) Guhar Moti
- D) Sir Creek

Q176. Which of the following is a right bank tributary of the Godavari?

- A) Purna
- B) Pranhita
- C) Pravara
- D) Sabari

Q183. Which biome, known for coniferous forests, is referred to as the taiga?

- A) Tropical Rainforest
- B) Temperate Grassland
- C) Boreal Forest
- D) Savannah

Q177. Which Indian state leads in the production of natural rubber?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala
- D) Assam

Q184. Umiam Lake, a scenic reservoir popular for water sports, is in which state of India?

- A) Meghalaya
- B) Kerala
- C) Uttarakhand
- D) Rajasthan

Q178. Eskers and drumlins are primarily associated with which type of geological process?

- A) Volcanic activity
- B) Fluvial processes

Q185. Which Indian city is often referred to as the "City of Waterfalls"?

- A) Ranchi
- B) Guwahati
- C) Shillong
- D) Dehradun

- Q186.** Tangri, the Markanda, the Saraswati, and the Chaitanya are tributaries of which river?
A) Brahmaputra
B) Luni
C) Ghaggar
D) Godavari
- Q187.** Who gave an account of the reversal of ocean currents and the monsoon winds over the north Indian Ocean?
A) Marco Polo
B) Ibn Battuta
C) Al Masudi
D) Zheng He
- Q188.** Which of the following is the second-largest mangrove forest in the Indian subcontinent?
A) Sundarbans
B) Bhitarkanika
C) Pichavaram
D) Vembanad
- Q189.** Where is Longwood Shola Reserve Forest located?
A) Kerala
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Karnataka
D) Andhra Pradesh
- Q190.** Which state in India is known for 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice', which recently received the Geographical Indications (GI) tag?
A) Andhra Pradesh
B) Telangana
C) Odisha
D) West Bengal
- Q191.** Which state in India is home to Pandavula Gutta, the newly designated Geo-heritage site?
A) Telangana
B) Andhra Pradesh
C) Karnataka
D) Maharashtra
- Q192.** In which year was the Geological Survey of India (GSI) established?
A) 1821
B) 1851
C) 1871
D) 1901
- Q193.** Which state in India produces the highest percentage of the country's total coffee output?
A) Kerala
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Karnataka
D) Andhra Pradesh
- Q194.** On which river is the Pong Dam constructed?
A) Ganga River
B) Yamuna River
C) Beas River
D) Sutlej River
- Q195.** Where is the Indroda Dinosaur and Fossil Park located?
A) Gujarat
B) Rajasthan
C) Madhya Pradesh
D) Maharashtra
- Q196.** Where is the headquarters of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) located?
A) New Delhi
B) Hyderabad
C) Mumbai
D) Chennai
- Q197.** Which government body is responsible for conducting the decennial Census in India?
A) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
B) Ministry of Home Affairs
C) Ministry of Rural Development
D) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Q198.** In which state was the maximum difference in literacy rate between females and males recorded as per the 2011 Census?
A) Kerala
B) Bihar
C) Rajasthan
D) Uttar Pradesh
- Q199.** In which year and place was the first jute mill in India established?
A) 1855, Rishra
B) 1860, Kolkata
C) 1875, Howrah
D) 1880, Bankura

Q200. Which mineral is primarily produced at the Zawar mines in Udaipur district of Rajasthan?
A) Gold

- B) Iron ore
C) Silver
D) Bauxite

ANSWERS

1. B	21. C	41. C	61. C	81. B	101. A	121. C	141. A	161. B	181. C
2. D	22. A	42. B	62. C	82. D	102. C	122. B	142. D	162. A	182. C
3. C	23. A	43. C	63. A	83. C	103. A	123. A	143. A	163. B	183. C
4. C	24. D	44. C	64. B	84. C	104. B	124. B	144. D	164. B	184. A
5. C	25. C	45. D	65. B	85. D	105. A	125. B	145. A	165. C	185. A
6. C	26. B	46. B	66. B	86. B	106. C	126. B	146. C	166. A	186. C
7. C	27. C	47. B	67. B	87. B	107. A	127. C	147. A	167. B	187. C
8. B	28. C	48. B	68. B	88. B	108. A	128. C	148. A	168. C	188. B
9. B	29. A	49. A	69. B	89. C	109. B	129. B	149. D	169. C	189. B
10. C	30. D	50. C	70. A	90. D	110. D	130. D	150. B	170. B	190. C
11. A	31. C	51. B	71. B	91. B	111. B	131. B	151. B	171. B	191. A
12. B	32. A	52. C	72. B	92. D	112. A	132. C	152. C	172. B	192. B
13. C	33. B	53. B	73. C	93. B	113. B	133. D	153. D	173. C	193. C
14. B	34. A	54. A	74. D	94. A	114. B	134. B	154. C	174. C	194. C
15. D	35. A	55. A	75. C	95. C	115. C	135. C	155. B	175. B	195. A
16. A	36. B	56. A	76. A	96. A	116. D	136. C	156. B	176. C	196. B
17. C	37. B	57. A	77. A	97. A	117. B	137. D	157. C	177. C	197. B
18. B	38. C	58. B	78. A	98. B	118. B	138. B	158. A	178. D	198. C
19. B	39. A	59. D	79. B	99. B	119. B	139. B	159. B	179. B	199. A
20. D	40. A	60. C	80. B	100. A	120. B	140. D	160. C	180. C	200. C



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