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1. The "Nijaat" campaign was launched by which state's police, which has won IACP 2022 Award?

- (a) Chhattisgarh police
- (b) Tamil Nadu Police
- (c) Telangana Police
- (d) Uttar Pradesh Police
- (e) Uttarakhand Police

Ans (a)

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the US-based international organisation has selected the anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign "Nijaat" of Chhattisgarh police for "Leadership in Crime Prevention" award in the institutional category. The prestigious IACP 2022 Award has selected the de-addiction drive "Nijaat", which was executed following the directive by chief minister Bhupesh Baghel to act tough against drug peddlers, and bootleggers and check to smuggling of drugs.

A successful singular campaign, "Nijaat" witnessed the striking results to achieve a drug-free society with missionary zeal. The campaign was launched by the Chhattisgarh police under the leadership of the IPS officer Santosh Kumar Singh who pioneered the drive with intensified efforts in districts of Korea, Rajnandgaon and presently continuing in Korba.

2. The largest open-air theatre "Dhanu Yatra" has recently begin in which state?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Goa
- (e) Bihar

Ans (a)

The "Dhanu Yatra" festival, the largest open-air theatre festival began after a gap of two years, in Bargarh at the Odisha. The vibrant Dhanu Yatra is associated with the culture of Odisha. The Festival is being held from December 27 to Jan 6, 2023. Several artists from 130 cultural troupes from across the country are scheduled to perform during the festival. Around 3,000 artistes of 130 cultural troupes from across the country is participating in the festival. However, Kansa is the central attraction of the Dhanu Yatra.

Dhanu Yatra, the eleven day long annual extravaganza places Bargarh in the Cultural Map of India.

3. Who has named as first woman Police Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) Sanjukta Parashar
- (b) Laxmi Singh

- (c) Meera Chadha
- (d) Ruveda Salam
- (e) Kanchan Chaudhary

Ans (b)

The Uttar Pradesh government has appointed IPS officer Laxmi Singh as the new Noida Police chief, making her the first woman officer to head a Police Commissionerate in the state.

The 2000-batch officer, who replaced Alok Singh in Gautam Buddha Nagar.

Alok Singh, a 1995-batch IPS officer, has been posted as an additional director general of police (ADGP) at the DGP office in state capital Lucknow.

Laxmi has previously served as the IG/DIG of the Special Task Force (STF) in Gautam Buddha Nagar from January 1, 2018 to March 5, 2018.

Thereafter, she was made IG of the police training school in Meerut from March 2018 to May 26 in 2020 before being moved as IG Range Lucknow.

4. Tamil Nadu Government has announced the which projects to restore the state animal original habitat?

- (a) Nilgiri langur Project
- (b) Arabian tahr Project
- (c) Nilgiri Tahr Project
- (d) Hemitragu Project
- (e) Lion-tailed macaque Project

Ans (c)

Tamil Nadu Government has announced the "Nilgiri Tahr Project", India's first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at restoring the state animal's original habitat and stabilizing its population.

The "Nilgiri Tahr Project" is a five-year program with a budget of Rs 25.14 crore.

It will also have a dedicated team chaired by the project director to deal with species conservation.

The team will explore the possibility of undertaking captive breeding of the animals for re-introduction in forest patches where it has become locally extinct.

5. Union Minister of Roads Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the country's second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari Bridge in which state?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Goa
- (d) Haryana
- (e) Uttarakhand

Ans (c)

Union Minister of Roads Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the country's second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari Bridge in Goa.

Right-hand side (4-lane corridor) across the Zuari River and approaches from Bambolim to Verna were thrown open for vehicular traffic.

Gadkari also launched the PWD Goa App for integrated operations management.

Through the insurance scheme of the Government of Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has given Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the workers who died during the construction of the bridge.

6. "Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee – National Institute of Water and Sanitation (DSPM – NIWAS)" has been inaugurated in which state?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Karnataka
- (e) Mizoram

Ans (c)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid foundation stone and projects worth more than Rs 7800 crore in West Bengal.

He also virtually inaugurated Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee – National Institute of Water and Sanitation (DSPM – NIWAS).

It will serve as an apex body in the country on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the country, serving as a hub of information and knowledge for Central, State and local governments.

He has also inaugurated Joka-Taratata stretch of Purple Line of Kolkata Metro.

These projects will add 190 MLD new STP capacity in West Bengal.

These projects will benefit areas of North Barrackpore, Hooghly-Chinsura, Kolkata KMC area-Garden Reach & Adi Ganga (Tolly Nala) and Mahestala town.

7. Which Indigenously developed payment application has celebrated its sixth anniversary on 30th December 2022?

- (a) Google pay
- (b) BHIM
- (c) Phonepe
- (d) YONO SBI
- (e) Bharatpe

Ans (b)

Indigenously developed payment application BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) celebrated its sixth anniversary.

BHIM App was launched on 30th December 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

BHIM stands for Bharat Interface for Money.

It is a biometric payment systems app using the Aadhar platform and is based on a Unified Payment Interface (UPI) to facilitate e-payment directly through the bank.

It was named after the great Dalit leader Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar.

8. "Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India: 2021-22"- Web publication has released by which government entity?

- (a) SBI
- (b) NHB
- (c) SIDBI
- (d) RBI
- (e) SEBI

Ans (d)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published a web publication on the activities of the Indian banking sector called "Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India: 2021-22".

The publication includes details of priority sector advances for scheduled commercial banks, except regional rural banks, together with entity-specific information on the main categories of liabilities and assets, along with their maturity profile, income, and expenses.

The consolidated balance statement of rural cooperative banks is also shown, broken down by state.

The publication may be viewed using the link "Time Series Publications" under the Database on Indian Economy.

9. Recently, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution issued a notification to provide free food grains to all eligible households under which act for one year?

- (a) Grain Food Products Act, 1973
- (b) National Food Adulteration Act, 1954
- (c) National Food Grain Act, 1955
- (d) National Food Security Act, 2013
- (e) Pure Food & Drug Act, 1967

Ans (d)

Recently, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution issued a notification to provide free foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains) to all eligible households under the National Food Security Act, 2013, for one year from January 1, 2023.

The government, however, discontinued the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

10. Election Commission of India has developed a prototype of a remote electronic voting machine (RVM) for which category of people?

- (a) Non Resident Indians
- (b) Domestic Migrant Workers
- (c) Citizens above 80 years
- (d) Persons with Disabilities
- (e) All of the Above

Ans (b)

The Election Commission of India has developed a prototype of a remote electronic voting machine (RVM) for domestic migrant voters.

It has invited political parties for a demonstration.

If implemented, migrant voters do not need to travel to their home district to exercise their franchise and this will be a major move to increase voter participation.

11. Which state has won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers?

- (a) Haryana (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Odisha (d) Jharkhand
- (e) Uttar Pradesh

Ans (a)

Hockey Haryana's women's team won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers after defeating Madhya Pradesh (2-0) in the final at Bhubaneswar.

In the final match, Pooja and Gurmail Kaur scored a goal each for Haryana to end the contest in their favour.

Odisha stepped up to claim third place after beating Hockey Jharkhand 2-1 in the 3rd and 4th place encounter.

Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games (Women) to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.

12. Which international organization has accepted the proposal for International Year of Millets 2023, sponsored by Government of India?

- (a) UNICEF (b) UNGA
- (c) UNHRC (d) UNDP
- (e) WTO

Ans (b)

The Government of India sponsored the proposal for International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 which was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The declaration has been instrumental for the Government of India to be at the forefront in celebrating the IYM.

PM Narendra Modi has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a "People's Movement" alongside positioning India as the "Global Hub for Millets".

In April 2018, Millets were rebranded as "Nutri Cereals", followed by the year 2018 being declared as the National Year of Millets, aiming at larger promotion and demand generation.

On 6th December 2022, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets – 2023 at Rome, Italy.

With respect to states, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Rajasthan have been allocated the month of January for carrying out specific activities for sensitization and promotion of IYM.

13. Who has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank?

- (a) Partha Pratim Sengupta
- (b) Annie George Mathew
- (c) Ajay Kumar Srivastava
- (d) B Chandra Reddy
- (e) Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliyar

Ans (c)

Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank with effect from January 1, 2023 from his current posting as executive director.

He started his banking career as a probationary officer in 1991 with Allahabad Bank where he worked in various capacities in different parts of the country.

14. Inacio Lula da Silva has recently sworn in as President of which country for third time?

- (a) Mexico (b) Canada
- (c) Portugal (d) Brazil
- (e) Spain

Ans (d)

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took office for a third term as Brazil's president.

Vowing to fight for the poor and the environment and "rebuild the country" after leader Jair Bolsonaro's administration.

The 77-year-old veteran leftist, who previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010, took the oath of office before Congress.

It is the first time since the end of Brazil's 1965-1985 military dictatorship that an incoming leader has not received the yellow-and-green presidential sash from his predecessor.

Foreign dignitaries including 19 heads of state were in attendance as Lula.

15. ISRO and Andhra University will set up an equipment along beaches to predict which natural event?

- (a) Rip Currents (b) Earthquake
(c) Tsunami (d) Typhoon
(e) Febrile Reflux

Ans (a)

Indian Space and Research Organization, National Centre for Earth Sciences and the Andhra University have researched and concluded that constant rip current zones at blue flag-certified Rushikonda beach and RK Beach have become a danger to the beach visitors.

Between 2012 to 2022 over 200 people drowned in the sea at various beaches in and around Visakhapatnam and 60 percent of deaths occurred in RK Beach.

16. The recently launched Fifth volume of the Reserve Bank of India has been prepared by a team of writers led by whom?

- (a) Giorgio Riello (b) Latika Chaudhary
(c) Jared Rubin (d) Dr Tirthankar Roy
(e) Anand V Swamy

Ans (d)

The fifth volume of the Reserve Bank of India's history is released.

This volume encompasses the 11-year period from 1997 to 2008.

With this volume, the history of the Reserve Bank of India is now updated up to 2008.

The Reserve Bank had initiated the process of preparation of this volume in 2015 under the guidance of an Advisory Committee chaired by Dr Narendra Jadhav, former Member of Parliament and former Principal Adviser & Chief Economist of the Reserve Bank.

17. Who has won silver at the World Chess Blitz Championship 2022?

- (a) Koneru Humpy
(b) Harika Dronavalli
(c) Tania Sachdev

(d) Vidit Gujrathi

(e) Vaishali Rameshbabu

Ans (a)

Former World rapid champion Koneru Humpy produced a superlative performance to claim India's first-ever silver medal from the World blitz chess championship that concluded in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Humpy defeated China's Zhongyi Tan to win Silver in the 17th and final round.

Fourth-seeded Humpy scored an impressive 12.5 points, just half a point behind the gold medal winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.

Humpy is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anand.

18. Prajjwala Challenge has been launched by which ministry to invite ideas, solutions, and actions that can transform rural development?

- (a) Ministry of Road Transport
(b) Ministry of Rural Development
(c) Ministry of Child Development
(d) Ministry of Home Affairs
(e) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Ans (b)

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) has launched the Prajjwala Challenge.

The Prajjwala Challenge has been launched to invite ideas, solutions, and actions that can transform rural development.

19. India's first underwater metro will become operational by December 2023, in which city this underwater metro is being built?

- (a) Kochi
(b) Kolkata
(c) Mumbai
(d) Chennai
(e) Daman

Ans (b)

India's first underwater metro service, The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC) said that the East-West Metro Corridor project, will be completed by December 2023.

With this, another feather is being added to the crown of Kolkata Metro, the first metro railway in the country.

Kolkata Metro, which started its journey in 1984, is being expanded to cover the whole city and its outskirts.

The underwater metro, which will be running through the Hoogly river will connect the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata.

20. On 1st January 2023, which country has become the fully integrated European Union Member?

- (a) Slovenia
- (b) Serbia
- (c) Croatia
- (d) Zagreb
- (e) Bosnia

Ans (c)

On 1st January 2023, Croatia adopted the Euro and removed dozens of border checkpoints to become the 27th nation to join Europe's passport-free travel area (world's largest).

Adopting the euro will make travelling and doing business easier, removing the hassle of currency exchange for Croats going abroad.

Croatia joined the European Union in 2013, but to adopt the Euro it had to fulfil strict economic conditions (having a stable exchange rate, controlling inflation and sound public spending).

21. Recently RBI which government bank has kept as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Bank of Baroda
- (c) Bank of India
- (d) Central Bank of India
- (e) Punjab National Bank

Ans (a)

The list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2021 was released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The RBI continues to classify SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), in accordance with the 2020 list of D-SIBs.

22. What is the rank of India in terms of coffee exports in Asia, as the Coffee shipments from India rose 1.66 percent to 4 lakh tonne in 2022?

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans (c)

Coffee shipments from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter, rose 1.66 per cent to 4 lakh tonne in 2022 on rise in instant coffee exports and re-exports.

In 2021, the coffee exports was stood at 3.93 lakh tonne.

In value terms, coffee export was higher at Rs 8,762.47 crore in 2022 as against Rs 6,984.67 crore in the previous year. India ships both Robusta and Arabica varieties, besides instant coffee.

According to the Board's latest data, shipment of Robusta coffee declined marginally to 2,20,974 tonne in 2022 from 2,20,997 tonne in the previous year.

23. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute in which city?

- (a) Coimbatore
- (b) Devanahalli
- (c) Karimnagar
- (d) Kurnool
- (e) Guntur

Ans (b)

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli in Karnataka and inaugurated the residential and administrative complexes of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

The residential complexes of ITBP inaugurated by Shri Amit Shah include Residential Quarters, Joint Building, Barracks for 120 Jawans, Staff Officers' Mess and Officers' Mess.

CDTI would help in fulfilling all these objectives for the CAPFs as well as the police of neighboring States, which has been running since 1956.

Shri Amit Shah said the centers built in Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ghaziabad and Rajasthan have made huge contributions and now the Government of India will work towards bringing equality among all these centers through coordination and support of BPR&D.

24. The NCISM and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences have launched "SMART" program. What does "S" stands for in the abbreviation of "SMART"?

- (a) Scope
- (b) Scopula
- (c) Scoping
- (d) Scopine
- (e) Scopace

Ans (a)

The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences have launched "SMART" (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals).

The program aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.

These two prominent institutions under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively.

The proposed initiative is conceptualised with an objective to identify, support and promote innovative research ideas in healthcare research areas.

It includes Osteoarthritis, Iron Deficiency Anaemia, Chronic Bronchitis, Dyslipidemia, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Obesity, Diabetes Mellitus, Psoriasis, Generalised Anxiety Disorder and Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).

25. A function "Jashn – e – Chillai Kalan" has been organised by which armed force in Kashmir Valley on the occasion of Chillai Kalan?

- (a) CISF (b) BSF
(c) SSB (d) CRPF
(e) CAPF

Ans (d)

On the occasion of Chillai Kalan in the Kashmir Valley, 44 Bn CRPF organized a function "Jashn – e – Chillai Kalan" at HMT Complex, Zainakote, Srinagar.

During this competition, 54 participants (including 12 Female participants) from Schools/colleges & other educational institutions were present along with their guardians & teachers.

All the participants were awarded with appreciation certificates, prizes and the winners and runner ups of each event were awarded with the trophies.

Further winners and runner ups from each event will be nominated for grand competition that is to be organized subsequently.

Rishi Raj Sahay, Commandant 44 Bn, CRPF inaugurated the event.

Some popular festivals held in the Jammu region are Bahu Mela (celebrated from March to April and from September to October), Jhiri Mela (celebrated from October to November), and Purmandal Mela (a three-day fair).

26. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation has celebrated its 65th foundation day on which day of January?

- (a) 1 January (b) 2 January
(c) 3 January (d) 4 January
(e) 5 January

Ans (a)

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Headquarters in New Delhi has marked the 65th Foundation Day of the Organisation, which is celebrated on 1st January every year.

DRDO Chairman Dr S V Kamat addressed the DRDO fraternity on the occasion.

He reaffirmed DRDO's commitment towards R&D excellence and briefed about the development of cutting edge technologies for self-reliance in defence.

On the occasion of the day, a DRDO monograph 'Infrared Signatures, Sensors and Technologies' authored by Dr Kamal Nain Chopra, a former DRDO Scientist, was also released by the Chairman DRDO.

DRDO was established in 1958 after combining Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).

Starting with 10 laboratories, DRDO has now grown to a network of 52 laboratories which are deeply engaged in developing defence technologies covering various disciplines.

27. Recently launched book "Breaking Barriers" has been authored by whom?

- (a) TV Mohandas Pai
(b) Kaki Madhava Rao
(c) K Pradeep Chandra
(d) S Mahpara Ali
(e) Rajesh K Srivastava

Ans (b)

Former IAS officer Kaki Madhava Rao has authored a new book titled "Breaking Barriers: the Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary" which addresses the details about the dynamics of civil services at the ground level and also fills the gap in the knowledge about micro policies and governance.

The book is published by Emesco Books Private Limited.

K Madhava Rao is a 1962 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, who retired as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (AP).

He was born in Pedamaddali village of Krishna district, AP in 1939.

He also served in the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) as a Director and as a member of a sub-committee, the Board for Financial Supervision.

28. Rabindra Sangeet exponent, Sumitra Sen has passed away recently. In which year she was

honoured with the Sangeet Mahasamman award by West Bengal government?

- (a) 1998 (b) 2020
(c) 1981 (d) 2012
(e) 1999

Ans (d)

Noted Rabindra Sangeet exponent, Sumitra Sen has passed away at the age of 89.

She will be remembered for her rendition of songs like Jokhon Porbe Na Mor, Sokhi Vabona Kahare Bole and Mone Ki Dwidha.

She was honoured with the Sangeet Mahasamman award by West Bengal government in 2012.

29. To take voter turnout over 90%, "Mission-929" by Election commission, has been launched in which state in January 2023?

- (a) Assam (b) Kerala
(c) Tripura (d) Odisha
(e) Rajasthan

Ans (c)

The Election Commission (EC) is focusing on 929 polling booths across Tripura, setting a target of 92 per cent voter turnout in the assembly elections due early this year.

These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 per cent, which was the average across 3,328 booths in the 2018 assembly polls.

The EC is also working on 'Mission Zero Poll Violence' to make the assembly elections peaceful.

According to the ECI, these booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 percent in the 2018 assembly polls.

Except for these booths almost all the booths in the state recorded a voter turnout of 91% or more.

The voter turnout was 89.5% in the 2018 Tripura assembly election.

30. Global Family Day is celebrated on which day of January every year?

- (a) 01 January (b) 02 January
(c) 03 January (d) 04 January
(e) 05 January

Ans (d)

Global Family Day is celebrated on January 1, each year.

The day creates a sense of unity, community and brotherhood across nations and cultures through the idea of families.

This day is celebrated to discourage unwarranted negative attitudes towards other cultures, nations, which may breed hatred, encourage social aloofness and lead to violence.

The day highlights the need for all nations to exist in harmony, regardless of cultural or religious differences.

The day highlights the importance of family and urges the extension of the idea to a universal scale.

31. Who has become the first women officer to be operationally deployed in Siachen?

- (a) Shiva Chauhan
(b) Punita Arora
(c) Mitali Madhumita
(d) Pankaj Jhingan
(e) Divya Ajith Kumar

Ans (a)

Captain Shiva Chauhan from the Corps of Engineers has been posted at a frontline post in Siachen Glacier, in first such operational deployment of an woman Army officer at the world's highest battlefield.

The officer was posted at the Kumar post, located at an altitude of around 15,600 feet in Siachen.

Capt Shiva Chouhan hails from Rajasthan, is a Bengal Sapper Officer. Chouhan lost her father at the age of 11 and her mother, a housewife, took care of her studies.

She did her schooling from Udaipur and graduated from NJR Institute of Technology, Udaipur, in civil engineering.

Covering a distance of 508 kms, Capt Chouhan successfully led the Sura Soi Cycling Expedition from Siachen War Memorial to Kargil War Memorial conducted on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas in July 2022.

32. The Defence Ministry has started the process for the procurement of 100 more K9-Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers which are built in India by which company?

- (a) Larsen & Toubro (b) DRDO
(c) HAL (d) BARC
(e) BHEL

Ans (a)

The Defence Ministry has started the process for the procurement of 100 more K9-Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers which are built in India by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) using technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defence.

At the height of tensions in eastern Ladakh in 2020, the Army deployed one regiment of K-9 Vajra tracked

self-propelled howitzers there to augment its long-range fire power in the backdrop of a massive build-up of forces by China across the Line of Actual Control.

Buoyed by their performance, the Army is looking at eventually procuring 200 additional guns.

The induction of Dhanush, K-9 Vajra and M777 Ultra Light Howitzers has enhanced the reach of artillery firepower on the northern borders.

33. Which state government has announced to set up of Rs 101 crore CM's Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh for the destitute in the state?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand
(c) Haryana (d) Uttar Pradesh
(e) Arunachal Pradesh

Ans (a)

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced to set up of Rs 101 crore CM's Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh for the destitute in the state.

Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has informed that 40 Congress MLAs agreed to contribute Rs one lakh each from their first salary for the fund and also requested the MLAs from BJP and other parties to contribute.

34. India's first green hydrogen blending operation in the piped natural gas (PNG) network has started in Gujarat. The project is a joint effort of Gujarat Gas and which company?

- (a) ONGC (b) NTPC
(c) NHPC (d) IOC
(e) Coal India

Ans (b)

India's first green hydrogen blending operation in the piped natural gas (PNG) network at NTPC Kawas, Gujarat.

The project is a joint effort of NTPC and Gujarat Gas (GCL).

The power generation company stated that the first molecular of green hydrogen from the project was set in motion by P Ram Prasad, Head of Project, Kawas in presence of other senior executives of NTPC Kawas and GCL.

35. Which edition of Indian Science Congress has been inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in January 2023?

- (a) 101 (b) 108
(c) 105 (d) 106

(e) 104

Ans (b)

Through video conferencing, Indian Science Congress's 108th edition was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University is hosting the five-day 108th session of ISC as it commemorates its centennial.

He emphasised the nation's expanding energy requirements and urged the scientific community to develop any advances in the area that would help the nation.

36. Defence minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the Siyom bridge in which state?

- (a) Nagaland (b) Meghalaya
(c) Tripura (d) Sikkim
(e) Arunachal Pradesh

Ans (e)

Defence minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the Siyom bridge in Arunachal Pradesh, along with 27 other infrastructure projects completed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Built at a cost of 724 crore rupees, these projects will hugely augment India's border infrastructure, mostly along the Chinese border, from Ladakh to Arunachal. 21 other bridges, three roads and three additional infrastructure projects in Arunachal Pradesh, J&K, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Punjab and Rajasthan, were virtually inaugurated by Rajnath Singh from the Siyom bridge site. Singh also virtually inaugurated the 27 other projects of the BRO.

Out of these, eight have been constructed in Ladakh, four in Jammu and Kashmir, five in Arunachal Pradesh, three each in Sikkim, Punjab and Uttarakhand and two in Rajasthan.

37. Which company has topped profit making public sector enterprises in 2021-22?

- (a) NTPC (b) NMDC
(c) ONGC (d) Power Grid
(e) Indian Oil Corporation

Ans (c)

The net profit of operating public sector enterprises jumped 50.87 per cent to 2.49 lakh crore during 2021-22, with ONGC, Indian Oil Corp, Power Grid, NTPC and SAIL emerging as the top five performers.

The net profit of operating central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) stood at 1.65 lakh crore in the previous fiscal. The Public Enterprises Survey 2021-22 also revealed that the net loss of loss-making

CPSEs narrowed to 0.15 lakh crore in FY 2021-22 from 0.23 lakh crore in FY 2020-21, showing a decrease of 37.82 per cent. Major loss-making CPSEs include Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), Mahanagar Telecom Nigam Ltd (MTNL), Air India Assets Holding Ltd, Eastern Coalfields Ltd and Alliance Air Aviation Ltd.

The top five CPSEs contributing to the central exchequer were Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

38. Who has inaugurated Samvidhan Udyan in Jaipur in January 2023?

- (a) Narendra Modi (b) Droupadi Murmu
(c) Amit Shah (d) Jagdeep Dhankhar
(e) Rajnath Singh

Ans (b) The President of India Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Samvidhan Udyan, Mayur Stambh, National Flag Post, Statue of Mahatma Gandhi, and Maharana Pratap at Raj Bhavan, Jaipur on 3rd January 2023.

The President of India virtually inaugurated the Transmission System for Solar Energy Zones in Rajasthan and laid the foundation stone for the 1000 MV Bikaner Solar Power Project of SJVN Limited.

39. Which country has taken over Presidency of Council of European Union for first six months of 2023?

- (a) Switzerland (b) Germany
(c) Sweden (d) Stockholm
(e) Denmark

Ans (c)

Sweden assumed the Presidency of the European Union Council for the first six months of the year on January 1, 2023, succeeding the Czech Republic, which led the Council in the second half of 2022.

Sweden is taking up the Presidency of the Council for the third time. The EU Council Presidency is rotated every six months among EU Member States.

In recent years, India's relations with Europe have qualitatively strengthened, with volatile international dynamics, including simultaneous tensions with China and the need for greater cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, adding a renewed strategic element to the partnership.

40. Recently, Ministry of Home Affairs has established established a High Powered Committee

(HPC) to address issues related to the protection of Ladakh's culture, language, land, and employment opportunities. The committee will be chaired by whom?

- (a) Sanjay Jaiswal (b) Ajay Mishra
(c) Giriraj Singh (d) Nityanand Rai
(e) Nisith Pramanik

Ans (d)

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in India has established a High Powered Committee (HPC) to address issues related to the protection of Ladakh's culture, language, land, and employment opportunities.

The committee has been formed with the goal of promoting inclusive development and employment generation in the region, as well as empowering the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil. The committee will be chaired by Shri Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs. The establishment of the HPC reflects the Indian government's commitment to addressing the concerns of the people of Ladakh and ensuring that the region's unique culture and way of life are preserved.

With its strategic location and importance, Ladakh plays a vital role in the security and stability of the region, and the HPC will work to ensure that the needs of the people of Ladakh are met and that the region is able to contribute to the overall development of the country.

41. The Union Cabinet approved an initial outlay of how much for the National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2022?

- (a) Rs 19744 crore (b) Rs 18154 crore
(c) Rs 17485 crore (d) Rs 12953 crore
(e) Rs 11874 crore

Ans (a)

The Union Cabinet approved an initial outlay of Rs 19744 crore for the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Addressing the nation on its 75th Independence Day in 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a national mission for green fuels in line with the Centre's stated target of making India energy-independent before completing 100 years of Independence.

The mission will have four components that aim at enhancing domestic production of green hydrogen and promote the manufacturing of electrolyzers.

42. Who has been awarded by 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2023 in Science & Technology/ Education category?

- (a) Sanjeev Mehta (b) Dilip Loundo
(c) Vaikuntam Iyer (d) Ramjee Prasad
(e) Jagadish Chennupati

Ans (e)

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award: 27 Indians living overseas have been chosen by the Indian government for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA), for outstanding achievements both in India and abroad.

The award is the highest honour conferred upon Indians living abroad, including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) or organisations/institutions established and run by them.

Theme of 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award - As per the Ministry of External Affairs, the theme for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 will be "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal".

43. Who has been appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission?

- (a) Maithili Thakur (b) Sharda Sinha
(c) Manpreet Akhtar (d) Allah Jilai Bai
(e) Malini Awasthi

Ans (a)

Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission.

The singer will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process.

This recognition will give her (Maithili) more impetus to spread Bihar's folk music across continents and generate awareness about the importance of participating in the electoral process.

44. Which state has won World Habitat Award 2023 for its JAGA Mission?

- (a) Goa (b) Kerala
(c) Tripura (d) Odisha
(e) Karnataka

Ans (d)

Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state.

The awards recognise and highlight innovative, outstanding and revolutionary housing ideas, projects and programmes from across the world.

The Jaga mission is the land titling and slum upgrading program that aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers.

45. Which state has celebrated Imoinu Eratpa Festival?

- (a) Nagaland (b) Tripura
(c) Manipur (d) Assam
(e) Kerala

Ans (c)

Imoinu Day is celebrated in Manipur as a part of the Meitei Cultural ritual.

The traditional festival of Imoinu Day is celebrated on the 12th day of the Meitei Lunar Month of Wakching. Every year on this day, people of the valley serve dishes in odd numbers as part of the Imoinu Eratpa ritual.

They regard Imoinu Eratpa as a goddess of health, prosperity, abundance, and order of domesticity in Manipur.

46. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation has tied-up for Advanced Defence Technologies with which Indian Institute of Technology?

- (a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Chennai
(c) IIT Roorkee (d) IIT Delhi
(e) IIT Dhanbad

Ans (a)

IIT Madras Centre of Excellence working with DRDO on Advanced Defence Technologies including Combat Vehicle Technologies.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is operating a Research Centre dedicated to defence technologies jointly with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop advanced technologies for the national defence and security needs of the nation.

It was established by DRDO but IIT Madras has now taken over and converted it into a centre of excellence.

This Centre will undertake multidisciplinary directed basic and applied research in the following research

47. Who has been selected for Odakkuzhal Award 2022 for his collection of short stories titled Pranavayu?

- (a) Ambikasuthan Mangad (b) Ranjith Dileesh Nair
(c) Sreevalsan Menon (d) Manoj Dhanraj Pillai
(e) Vimmy Mariam George

Ans (a)

Writer Ambikasuthan Mangad has been selected for Odakkuzhal Award 2022 for his collection of short stories titled Pranavayu. The award consists of Rs 30,000, citation, and plaque. Instituted by the Guruvayurappan Trust, the award is being given for

the best collection of short stories in Malayalam. The award will be presented on the occasion of the 45th death anniversary of Mahakavi G Sankara Kurup, who established the Guruvayurappan Trust, on February 2 at the Ernakulam Samastha Kerala Sahithya Parishad building here. Literary critic Dr M Leelavathi will present the award to Ambikasuthan Mangad.

48. Who has been inaugurated the 18th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides at Pali, Rajasthan in January 2023?

- (a) Narendra Modi (b) Droupadi Murmu
(c) Amit Shah (d) Ashok Gehlot
(e) Nitin Gadkari

Ans (b)

The President of India Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 18th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides at Pali, Rajasthan on 4th January 2023. The President of India noted that the Bharat Scouts and Guides is the largest voluntary, non-political, uniformed youth organization and educational movement in the country. The Bharat Scouts and Guides work for the character-building of boys and girls without any distinction of creed, race, or gender. The organization is working with a spirit of dedication and service which promotes the welfare of humanity.

49. Which country has taken over the leadership of the Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) in January 2023?

- (a) Afghanistan (b) Australia
(c) India (d) Bangladesh
(e) Cambodia

Ans (c)

India has taken over the leadership of the Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) in January 2023. Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years. This is the result of the elections during the 13th APPU Congress held in August-September 2022. Asian Pacific Postal Union - There are 32 members in this international organisation from the Asia-Pacific. It is a specific department inside the UN. The sole Restricted Union of the Universal Postal in the area is this one. The Asia Pacific Postal Union's headquarters are in Bangkok, Thailand.

50. Which railway station of Uttar Pradesh has awarded by 5-star rating "Eat Right Station" certification?

- (a) Varanasi Cantt Railway Station
(b) Lucknow Railway Station
(c) Ayodhya Cantt Railway Station
(d) Kanpur Central Railway Station
(e) Mathura Railway Station

Ans (a)

Indian Railways' Varanasi Cantt Railway Station has been awarded a 5- star "Eat Right Station" certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.

This certification is granted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practices.

The "Eat Right Station" certification is awarded by FSSAI to railway stations that set benchmarks in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers.

The station is awarded a certificate upon a conclusion of an FSSAI-empanelled third-party audit agency with ratings from 1 to 5. The 5-star rating indicates full compliance by the station to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers.

51. The first G-20 meeting will be held in which city on 31st January?

- (a) Mahabalipuram (b) Puducherry
(c) Lakshadweep (d) Chennai
(e) Mumbai

Ans (b)

The first G-20 meeting will be held in Puducherry on 31st January. The G20 logo for the meeting was released by Lieutenant Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan at a function held at Beach Road Gandhi Tidal.

Dr Tamisai thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving all the states the opportunity to host the G-20 meetings. He released stickers, posters and badges and also inaugurated a selfie booth in the presence of Chief Minister Rengasamy.

These programs will be organised in different parts of the country in different segments.

Kolkata will host the first meeting on the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion.

Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai will host a meeting on education, while Guwahati will host the first sustainable financial meeting and Chandigarh will host the first financial architecture meeting.

52. Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium has been inaugurated in which state?

- (a) Odisha (b) Jharkhand
(c) Bihar (d) Uttar Pradesh
(e) Mizoram

Ans (a)

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated one of the largest hockey stadiums in India Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023. Built at an estimated cost of Rs 261 crore, the stadium, located in Sundargarh district, has been christened as Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex. It has been built in 50 acres in a record 15 months-time with a seating capacity of 20,000.

The stadium also has practice centres adjacent to it with certified turfs and lighting.

The State has also built a World Cup village, which has 225 rooms to house the players and officials, within nine months.

53. Name the women cricketer whose bronze sculpture has been built at Sydney Cricket Ground?

- (a) Lisa Sthalekar (b) Ellyse Perry
(c) Belinda Clark (d) Amelia Kerr
(e) Anjum Chopra

Ans (c)

Australia's Belinda Clark has become the first female cricketer to have a statue cast in her honour, a bronze sculpture of the trailblazing former captain unveiled outside Sydney Cricket Ground. Clark played 15 tests and over 100 limited overs matches between 1991-2005, and became the first cricketer to score a double-hundred in one-day internationals when she made an unbeaten 229 against Denmark in 1997. The 52-year-old's statue stands alongside Richie Benaud, Fred Spofforth, Stan McCabe and Steve Waugh as cricketers honoured with sculptures in the SCG precinct.

54. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has inaugurated "National Genome Editing & Training Centre" in which city?

- (a) Ennore (b) Mohali
(c) Indore (d) Surat
(e) Kanpur

Ans (b)

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today inaugurated "National Genome Editing & Training Centre" at National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) Mohali, Punjab. The Minister also, at the same time,

inaugurated a 4-day International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security 2023.

International Conference on Food and Nutritional

55. Recently launched book "Human Anatomy" has been authored by whom?

- (a) Dr R Venkataraman
(b) Dr Karan Puri
(c) Dr Romila Thapar
(d) Dr AK Dwivedi
(e) Dr Jeet Thayil

Ans (d)

A Medical book "Human Anatomy" in Hindi Manav sharir Rachna Vigyan was released by the Governor of Madhya Pradesh Shri Mangubhai Patel at the function which is a very useful book for the Medical students of all courses related to medical education written by Dr AK Dwivedi.

Dr AK Dwivedi is Homeopathic Doctor of Indore Professor & HOD Physiology SKRP Gujarati Homeopathic Medical College Indore and member of Scientific Advisory Board in the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH (Govt. of India).

The Foreword (Preface) of this book has been written by Dr Mohan Yadav, Minister of Higher Education in Madhya Pradesh Government and President of Madhya Pradesh Hindi Granth Academy, Bhopal.

56. Who has been honoured by the highest civilian honour that the Assam government, Asom Baibhav award 2022-23?

- (a) Atul Baruah
(b) Dr Tapan Saikia
(c) Shila Gowala
(d) Dr Jogesh Deuri
(e) Dayal Goswami

Ans (b)

Assam Govt announces recipients of Asom Bhaibav, Asom Sourav and Asom Gourav awards for 2022-23. These awards are the highest civilian awards of Assam state.

The recipients of the state's top civil honours for 2022-2023 were revealed by the Assam government. The Assam government presented awards in the Asom Baibhav, Asom Sourav, and Asom Gourav categories.

Dr Tapan Saikia has been awarded by the Asom Baibhav, the highest civilian honour that the Assam government can bestow.

Asom Bhaibav Award - The Asom Baibav award winner will earn a monetary prize of Rs 5 lakhs and

will be eligible to receive government-funded medical care for the rest of their lives.

57. "Octave" festival has been recently inaugurated in which state in January 2023?

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Kerala (d) Telangana
(e) Maharashtra

Ans (a)

Octave 2023 is a festival being held under the aegis of the South Zone Culture Centre, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu to showcase the indigenous art and culture of Northeast India. Octave 2023 was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu said that the perspective of the nation towards the Northeast has changed with the passage of time and the state have involved in the growth stories of India. The Northeast is moving towards development and advancement and is bubbling with capacities and aspirations. Festivals of Tamil Nadu -

Pongal (harvest festival), Chithirai festival, Adipperukku, Mamallapuram, Natyanjali dance festival, Mahamagam festival, Kanthuri festival, Velankanni festival, Navarathiri, Karthigal Deepam.

58. What is the theme of "First All India Annual State Minister Conference on Water" organized Ministry of Jal Shakti organized?

- (a) Water Vision@2027 (b) Water Vision@2028
(c) Water Vision@2029 (d) Water Vision@2030
(e) Water Vision@2031

Ans (a)

Ministry of Jal Shakti organized the "1st All India Annual State Minister Conference on Water" with the theme of "Water Vision@2027" in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 5th and 6th January 2023.

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivaraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat felicitated the occasion.

59. Who has recently become India's 79th Grandmaster in January 2023?

- (a) Tejas Bakre (b) Sriram Jha
(c) Pranesh M (d) Ankit Rajpara
(e) Krishnan Sasikiran

Ans (c)

Pranesh M became India's 79th Grandmaster, having completed his three norms prior to this event.

IM Pranesh M emerged as the winner of the Rilton Cup, the first tournament of the FIDE Circuit.

The 16-year-old from India, seeded 22nd, made a clean sweep of the field in Stockholm, winning eight games and finishing a full point ahead of IM Kaan Kukuksari (Sweden) and GM Nikita Meshkovs (Latvia).

Pranesh M is now the early leader of the FIDE Circuit with 6.8 circuit points that he gets for this victory.

The one who accumulates the most points by the end of the year qualifies for the 2024 FIDE Candidates.

60. Recently, Indian Space Research Organization has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which company to Boost Indian Space Tech Ecosystem?

- (a) Google (b) Microsoft
(c) Amazon (d) Blue Origin
(e) SpaceX

Ans (b)

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to help Indian Space tech start-ups with technology tools, go-to-market support, and mentoring to help them scale and become business ready.

Through this MoU, the space tech startups identified by ISRO will be onboarded onto the Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub.

With the help of Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub, space tech startup founders in India will have free access to the tech tools, and resources they need to build and run their businesses.

Microsoft and ISRO will also jointly organize knowledge-sharing and thought leadership sessions for the startups with space industry experts.

The collaboration will also support founders with go-to-market strategies, technical support, and opportunities to sell their solutions via Microsoft channels and the marketplace.

ISRO Chairman S Somanath said that ISROs collaborating with Microsoft will greatly benefit space tech startups in their analysis and processing of vast amounts of satellite data for various applications.

61. Who has author the recently launched book "Ambedkar: A Life"?

- (a) Shashi Tharoor (b) Mallikarjun Kharge
(c) Sunanda Pushkar (d) Rahul Gandhi
(e) Ashok Gehlot

Ans (a)

Parliamentarian and author, Shashi Tharoor's latest book Ambedkar: A Life was recently launched at the Kitaab Kolkata event.

In this new biography, Tharoor tells Ambedkar's story with great lucidity, insight, and admiration.

He traces the arc of the great man's life from his birth into a family of Mahars in the Bombay Presidency on 14 April 1891 to his death in Delhi on 6 December 1956.

He describes the many humiliations and hurdles Ambedkar had to overcome in a society that stigmatized the community he was born into, and the single-minded determination with which he overcame every obstacle he encountered.

62. General Atomic Aeronautical Systems Inc. has announced a strategic partnership with which company to manufacture main landing gear components?

- (a) Bharat Forge
- (b) Balkrishna Industries
- (c) Ashok Leyland
- (d) Hindalco Industries
- (e) Bharat Electronics

Ans (a)

General Atomic Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) and Bharat Forge Limited, India have announced a partnership to manufacture main landing gear components, subassemblies, and assemblies of remotely piloted aircraft.

Bharat Forge is the largest repository of metallurgical know-how, design, engineering expertise, and manufacturing prowess in India.

63. Which city will host first-ever Formula e World Championship race in February 2023?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Madurai
- (d) Lucknow
- (e) Raipur

Ans (b)

The first-ever ABB FIA Formula E World Championship race in India is will be held in Hyderabad.

The Formula E World Championship will be held from 11th February.

The first ticket for the Formula E World Championship was booked by Telangana Special Chief Secretary (Municipal Administration) Arvind Kumar. During the event, Akbar Ebrahim, President Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India, and other dignitaries were also present.

64. According to the first advance estimates by the National Statistical Office, India's economy is expected to grow by which rate in the current financial year?

- (a) 7.0%
- (b) 8.3%
- (c) 6.8%
- (d) 9.7%
- (e) 5.2%

Ans (a)

India's economy is expected to grow 7.0% in the current financial year, according to the first advance estimates by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

New Delhi had pegged India's growth at 8.7% in the last fiscal year that ended March 31, 2022.

Earlier last month, the Reserve Bank of India had lowered the country's GDP (gross domestic product) growth forecast to 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal from 7 per cent earlier.

The RBI had projected the real GDP growth for 2022-23 at 6.8 per cent, with the third quarter at 4.4 per cent and the fourth at 4.2 per cent.

65. This festival is recently the first inclusive festival celebrated in Goa for people with disabilities. The festival is -

- (a) Sao Joao
- (b) Shigmo
- (c) Sunburn
- (d) Purple Fest
- (e) Goa Carnival

Ans (d)

The Purple Fest, Celebrating Diversity, the state's first-ever inclusive festival for people with disabilities (PwDs), will take place in Goa. Panjim will host the festival from January 6-8, 2023, with all the fanfare.

The Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with the Goa Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society, will hold the Purple Fest.

66. Who has been elected as the Secretary General of Asian Pacific Postal Union?

- (a) Vinaya Prakash Singh
- (b) Padmagandha Mishra
- (c) Derek Osborn
- (d) Kwanjai Kajornwuttideth
- (e) Maneewan Innara

Ans (a)

According to the Ministry of Communications, Vinaya Prakash Singh, a former Member (Personnel), Postal Services Board, was elected as the union's Secretary General and will assume responsibility for the position for a four-year term following the successful elections held during the 13th APPU

Congress, which was held in Bangkok during the months of August and September 2022.

The Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU), which has its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, will be led by India starting this month

An international group of 32 Asia-Pacific nations makes up the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU).

The only restricted union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), a specialised organisation of the United Nations, in the area is the APPU.

67. Who has inaugurated 29 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU) and a Centralized call center in Thiruvananthapuram?

- (a) Mansukh Mandaviya
- (b) Nitinbhai Patel
- (c) Parshottam Rupala
- (d) Narendra Tomar
- (e) Sanjeev Balyan

Ans (c)

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated 29 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU) and a Centralized call center in Thiruvananthapuram. It is a major step for benefit of the livestock farmers in Kerala.

The Minister noted that the scheme is promising and will transform the dairy sector from a subsistence-based farm livelihood to a commercially viable enterprise by giving gainful employment to the youth of Kerala.

These MVUs will be operated through a centralized call center with a uniform helpline No. 1962.

They will receive calls from livestock rearers or animal owners and veterinarians will prioritize all cases based on the emergency nature.

It will transmit them to the nearest MVU for attending at the farmer's doorstep.

Kerala is deploying 50 MVUs in different districts.

68. Which city has topped in rate of women Employment, as per a survey by Avtar?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Kolkata
- (e) Lucknow

Ans (a)

According to a survey by Avtar, a company that specializes in workplace inclusion, Chennai is India's top city for women's employment. Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai are the next best cities for women's employment.

According to criteria that support an ecosystem that is favourable for women's employment, the research ranks 111 cities.

The remaining Top 10 cities for women's employment are Ahmedabad, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, Coimbatore, and Madurai; each has a population of over a million people.

In another group of cities with a population under one million, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Erode, Salem, Tirupur, Puducherry, Shimla, Mangalore (officially Mangaluru), Thiruvananthapuram, and Belagavi are the top 10 cities.

69. New Book "Revolutionaries" on role in India's Freedom Struggle, has been authored by whom?

- (a) Vikram Sampath
- (b) Sanjeev Sanyal
- (c) Bibek Debroy
- (d) T. V. Mohandas Pai
- (e) Krishnamurthy Subramanian

Ans (b)

Revolutionaries, New Book by Sanjeev Sanyal: There are numerous viewpoints on history, and a lot of them are influenced by the author and his or her ideological goals.

Key Points -

The history that has been forced on Indians, who have lived under British colonial authority for more than 200 years and have been subject to constant outside aggression since the 11th century, is also not their own.

Herein lies the significance of Sanjeev Sanyal, an economist and banker by trade, who wrote The Ocean of Churn to refute the widely held belief that the seas played a little role in Indian history.

There were undoubtedly many other aspects to the Indian freedom movement, but the one that emphasises that it was predominately non-violent and that Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, among others, provided the leadership, continues to be the dominant one.

70. Recently, India has surpassed which country in terms of auto sales last year and become the third-largest auto market globally for the first time?

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) Japan
- (d) Germany
- (e) Chile

Ans (c)

In a major development, India has surpassed Japan in terms of auto sales last year to become the third-largest auto market globally for the first time.

India's total sales of new vehicles stood at around 4.25 million units, based on preliminary results, topping the 4.2 million sold in Japan.

While new vehicles that got delivered in India totaled 4.13 million during the period of January – November 2022, according to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers' data, December's sales volume reported by Maruti Suzuki, India's largest carmaker, led the total to hit the 4.25 million units mark.

The figure for sales of new vehicles in India may witness even bigger rise as the country further expects inclusion of pending fourth-quarter sales data for commercial vehicles, along with year-end results yet to be released by Tata Motors and other automakers.

In 2021, China continued to lead the global auto market, with 26.27 million vehicles sold. The US remained second at 15.4 million vehicles, followed by Japan at 4.44 million units.

71. What is the rank of Bangalore's Kempegowda International Airport in Cirium's list of the world's best-performing airports for 2022?

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans (b)

The COVID-19 epidemic created a difficult operational environment last year, causing delays, interruptions, and resource issues at numerous airports and airlines around the globe.

According to the most recent Cirium Aviation Analytics study, a number of airports worldwide thrived despite this environment.

Bangalore's Kempegoda International Airport and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport both ranked second and seventh in Cirium's list of the world's best-performing airports for 2022.

According to the data, 84.08% of the 201,897 flights that departed on time from Bangalore's Kempegoda International Airport and 81.84% of the 411,205 flights that departed on time from Delhi's IGI Airport.

72. As a part of the new Tourism policy "The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme" which two places of Karnataka have been promoted?

- (a) Coorg and Badami
- (b) Mysuru and Hampi
- (c) Gokarn and Udupi

(d) Jog falls and Murud

(e) Chikmagur and Bangalore

Ans (b)

Mysuru and Hampi are the two popular destinations in Karnataka to be promoted as a part of the new Tourism policy "The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme, which focuses on revving up destination tourism.

Mysuru and Hampi are among the 19 places identified across the eight states and UTs in India to be promoted under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme.

This destination has seen high football throughout the years and played an important role in the history of South India.

73. Which company has been ranked first in Services Sectors in PE Survey 2021-22?

- (a) Power Grid
- (b) NTPC
- (c) ONGC
- (d) NHPC
- (e) Coal India

Ans (a)

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has been ranked 1st in Services Sectors across categories Gross Block, Value Addition, Net Profit, Net Worth, Dividend Declaration, and Contribution to the Central Exchequer and has also been ranked 3rd among the Top 10 profit-making Cluses.

The results were published in the Public Enterprises Survey 2021-2022 by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

74. Who has been conferred with "Award for Global Leadership"?

- (a) Uday Lalit
- (b) Abhinav Chandra
- (c) N V Ramana
- (d) DY Chandrachud
- (e) Ranjan Gogoi

Ans (d)

The Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession (HLS CLP) has announced Chief Justice of India Dr DY Chandrachud as the 2022 recipient of its "Award for Global Leadership" in recognition of his lifetime service to the legal profession in India and across the world.

The award will be presented to him in a virtual event on 11th January 2023.

75. Keshari Nath Tripathi who has passed away recently, was former governor of which state?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Meghalaya

(e) Uttar Pradesh

Ans (b)

Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former West Bengal governor, Keshari Nath Tripathi passed away at 88. Born on November 10, 1934 in erstwhile Allahabad, Tripathi was also a senior advocate at the Allahabad High Court. He joined RSS when he was just 12 and later switched to Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

He was jailed in Naini Central Jail in 1953 for participating in the "Kashmir Andolan" and again in 1990 for taking part in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

A senior advocate of Allahabad high court, Tripathi served as a member of the UP Legislative Assembly six times. He represented the Jhansi seat between 1977-1980) and Allahabad South seat for five consecutive terms between 1989-2007). He also served as the Speaker of the UP Legislative Assembly thrice between 1991 and 2004.

76. President Droupadi Murmu has laid the foundation stone of state-owned energy firm "Bikaner Solar Power Project". What is the total capacity of the Power Project?

- (a) 2000 MV (b) 1000 MV
(c) 3000 MV (d) 1500 MV
(e) 2500 MV

Ans (b)

President Droupadi Murmu laid the foundation stone of state-owned energy firm SJVN's 1,000 MV Bikaner Solar Power Project. The event was done virtually by the President of India in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The project is being implemented by SJVN Limited through its owned subsidiary SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL).

The solar power project is being developed on 500 acres near the village of Banderwala, district Bikaner of Rajasthan. It is one of the highest solar yield areas in India.

77. Which state has become first in the country to go fully digital in its banking service?

- (a) Mizoram (b) Kerala
(c) Goa (d) Haryana
(e) Odisha

Ans (b)

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared Kerala as the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service and said this recognition would boost the state economy.

Vijayan said this achievement was possible due to social interventions through local self-government institutions along with infrastructure development and technological advances in the banking sector.

It is a joint venture between the Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL), Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and the state, in which the two companies hold 49% each and the state the remaining 2%.

A consortium led by Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) is executing the project and will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the 35,000-km-long network for the next seven years.

Funded by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), the project is estimated to cost Rs 1028.20 crore, which includes capital expenditure, administrative overheads and annual operational expenditure of Rs 104.4 crore.

78. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has signed which cricketer for its new campaign?

- (a) Virat Kohli (b) Suryakumar Yadav
(c) KL Rahul (d) Rohit Sharma
(e) Rishabh Pant

Ans (b)

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has announced the launch of its '360° Financial Protection with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance' digital-first campaign featuring cricketer Suryakumar Yadav.

According to the company, Yadav has emerged as a consistent and dependable batter in the white ball format since his international debut.

The campaign's central message is how ICICI Prudential Life Insurance offers a comprehensive suite of protection products providing all-around life cover that offers 360-degree financial protection in any critical situation.

Since his international debut, Suryakumar Yadav has quickly risen to emerge as one of the most consistent and dependable batters in the white ball format.

79. India's first-ever coal gasification-based Talcher Fertilizer Plant will be built in which state?

- (a) Chhattisgarh (b) Odisha
(c) Jharkhand (d) Bihar
(e) Mizoram

Ans (b)

Union Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya announced that India's first-ever coal gasification-

based Talcher Fertilizer Plant in Odisha will be ready to be dedicated to the nation by October 2024. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited the site on the second day and noted that the work in the plant in Talcher is in progress.

80. Who has been reappointed as chairman of BCCI's selection committee?

- (a) Chetan Sharma
- (b) Debashish Mohanty
- (c) Abey Kuruvilla
- (d) Bhagat Chauhan
- (e) Sunil Joshi

Ans (a)

Chetan Sharma was reappointed as the chairman of the senior selection committee, exactly two months after his entire panel was disbanded by the BCCI for the Indian team's semifinal exit in the T20 World Cup.

Salil Ankola, Shiv Sunar Das, Subroto Banerjee and Sridharan Sharath are new members of the selection committee.

The new committee has been picked by the Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjape and Sulakshana Naik.

The committee further recommended Chetan Sharma for the role of Chairman of the senior men's selection committee.

Salil Ankola, the former chief selector of the Mumbai cricket team, played 20 ODIs and 1 Test match between 1989 to 1997.

His Test debut came along with Sachin Tendulkar against Pakistan in 1989.

A domestic cricket veteran, Shiv Sundar Das played 23 Tests and scored 1326 runs. He also donned 4 ODI caps.

Das finished his first-class career with mammoth 10908 runs in 180 matches. He has worked with the Indian women's cricket team as the batting coach.

81. Who has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Paytm bank?

- (a) Surinder Chawla
- (b) Vaibhav Goel
- (c) Bhavesh Gupta
- (d) Sairee Chahal
- (e) Manju Agarwal

Ans (a)

Paytm Payments Bank has received banking regulator RBI's nod to appoint Surinder Chawla as its Managing Director and CEO.

The RBI, however, continues to bar Paytm Payments Bank from on-boarding new customers.

Before joining PPBL, Chawla was working with RBL Bank, where he served as Head – Branch Banking and focused on expanding the CASA base, fee revenue, and cross-selling across channels.

The company in its regulatory filing said that the latest appointment comes as part of PPBL's ongoing efforts to strengthen its leadership team, enhance its technology capabilities and drive financial inclusion in the country.

82. World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Diwas has celebrated on which day of January every year?

- (a) 08th January
- (b) 09th January
- (c) 10th January
- (d) 11th January
- (e) 12th January

Ans (c)

World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Diwas is celebrated on 10th January every year to promote awareness about the language across the world.

It is also the day when Hindi, India's national language, was spoken for the first time in the United Nations General Assembly.

It was on this day in 1975 that the first World Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur.

Since then, such conferences are organised in different parts of the world every year.

83. The recently launched book "Chief Minister's Diary No.1" contains the account of events of the first year in office of which state?

- (a) Goa
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Assam
- (e) Odisha

Ans (d)

Former Chief Justice of India and member of the Rajya Sabha Ranjan Gogoi has released a book titled "Chief Minister's Diary No.1" containing the account of events of the first year in office of Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The book featured accounts of daily activities he undertook as a chief minister.

Ranjan Gogoi is presently a member of the Rajya Sabha.

He served as the 46th Chief Justice of India for 13 months from 2018 to 2019.

84. Which university has bagged the "Overall Championship" at the 36th Inter University South

Zone Youth Festival at Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswa Vidyalayam (SPMVV) in Tirupati?

- (a) University of Kerala
- (b) University of Calicut
- (c) University of Delhi
- (d) University of Lucknow
- (e) Mahatma Gandhi University

Ans (a)

University of Kerala bagged the 'Overall Championship' at Padma Tarang, the 36th Inter University South Zone Youth Festival at Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswa Vidyalayam (SPMVV) in Tirupati. Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, came the runners-up. With more than 700 registered participants from universities across South India converging on the campus.

85. Which ministry is organizing Startup India Innovation Week from 10th January 2023 to 16th January 2023?

- (a) Ministry of Commerce
- (b) Ministry of Defence
- (c) Ministry of External Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Education
- (e) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

Ans (a)

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is organising Startup India Innovation Week from 10th January 2023 to 16th January 2023 to celebrate the Indian Startup Ecosystem as well as National Startup Day (16th January 2023).

Startup India Innovation Week 2023 aims to engage startup ecosystem stakeholders across the nation during 10th January-16th January 2023 and spur the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation in India.

86. Which country will host "The Voice of Global South" summit on January 12-13, where 120 countries will participate in the summit?

- (a) India
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) Brunei
- (d) Burma
- (e) Malaysia

Ans (a)

India will host "The Voice of Global South" Summit on January 12-13, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said.

As many as 120 countries will participate in the summit.

The virtual summit is significant as India currently holds the presidency of the G20 group and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier indicated that priorities would be shaped in consultation with developing countries.

87. Indian Tennis star Sania Mirza announced her retirement, in which year she became the first Indian to win a WTA singles title?

- (a) 2005
- (b) 2008
- (c) 2011
- (d) 2015
- (e) 2018

Ans (a)

Indian Tennis Player Sania Mirza (36-year-old), the former doubles World No 1, has confirmed her retirement from professional Tennis.

She announced that the Dubai Tennis Championships, a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) 1000 event in Dubai in February 2023 will be her last match.

Prior to her last appearance, she is going to play in women's doubles at the Australian Open in 16 to 29 January 2023 alongside Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina.

88. Which state has recently celebrated its traditional "Cherchera" festival in its capital city?

- (a) Jharkhand
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Uttar Pradesh
- (e) Bihar

Ans (b)

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel celebrated the Cherchera festival at Dudhadhari Math in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

The Cherchera festival of Chhattisgarh is celebrated on the full moon night of the "Paush" Hindu calendar month.

It is to celebrate the happiness and joy of taking crops to their homes after cultivation.

Chief Minister Baghel extended warm wishes to all the citizens of Chhattisgarh on the auspicious occasion.

89. Who has inaugurated the 120-feet-tall Polo Statue in Manipur?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Droupadi Murmu
- (e) N Biren Singh

Ans (c)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a 120-foot-tall statue of a polo player riding a polo at Marjing Polo Complex in Imphal, Manipur.

Manipur is known as the birthplace of the game polo.

Chief Minister of Manipur N Biren Singh was also present during the inauguration ceremony and gave a polo mallet and a painting of the game to Home Minister Amit Shah.

The union Home minister will proceed to Churachandpur, where he will inaugurate the hill district's first medical college and hospital.

He will proceed to Moirang in the Bishnupur district, where he will hoist the National Flag and address the public.

90. Athlete Gareth Bale has recently announced his retirement. He is associated with which sport?

- (a) Cricket
- (b) Football
- (c) Hockey
- (d) Tennis
- (e) Badminton

Ans (b)

Gareth Bale has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 33.

It brings an end to a career that saw Bale excel for Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur, Real Madrid and LAFC, while also establishing himself as one of the greatest players in Welsh football history.

Bale, who made his Wales debut in May 2006 in a friendly against Trinidad and Tobago, broke the previous Wales record of 28 goals set by Ian Rush. He has won Wales' player of the year award six times.

Bale played a Wales record of 111 games for his country and was a five-time Champions League winner with Real Madrid.

He helped the Welsh reach the 2016 and 2020 Euros before leading them in their first World Cup since 1958 at Qatar 2022.

91. Name the Kashmir's first Jnanpith awardee, who has recently passed away?

- (a) Rehman Rahi
- (b) Amin Kamil
- (c) Rasool Nazki
- (d) Ghulam Ahmad
- (e) Lalleshwari

Ans (a)

Professor Rehman Rahi, renowned poet and Kashmir's first Jnanpith awardee has passed away.

At the time of his death, the globally acclaimed poet was 98 years old.

He had started his career as a clerk in a government department in 1948 after which he continued his education and completed MA in Persian and English in 1950s and 60s.

He was an academic at Kashmir University for most part of his life.

Rahi had received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1961 for his poetry collection Nawroz-i-Saba and got the Padma Shri in 2000.

He received the highest literary honour of the country — Jnanpith award — in 2007 for his collection 'Siyah Rood Jaeren Manz' (In Black Drizzle).

92. Who has won the Best Director, Motion Picture award at 80th edition of 2023 Golden Globes show?

- (a) Kevin Costner
- (b) Steven Spielberg
- (c) Kate Capshaw
- (d) George Lucas
- (e) Amy Irving

Ans (b)

The 80th edition of 2023 Golden Globes show, hosted by Jerrod Carmichael, airs live on NBC and Peacock. The 80th Golden Globe Awards is the first edition of the annual spectacle to be on TV since an ethics, finance and diversity scandal involving the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the group behind the awards, led NBC to decide not to air the 2022 ceremony.

As in years past, the show will hand out honors in both film and TV categories.

93. Which payment company has got the in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India in January 2023 to operate as an online payment aggregator?

- (a) BharatPe
- (b) Paytm
- (c) PhonePe
- (d) BHIM
- (e) Google Pay

Ans (a)

Fintech platform BharatPe said it has received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator (PA).

The company said that an in-principle nod was awarded to Resilient Payments Private Ltd, a 100 percent subsidiary of Resilient Innovations Private Ltd (BharatPe).

94. Which Indian cricketer has become fastest player to reach 1500 runs in T20 international?

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) Surya Kumar Yadav
- (c) Rohit Sharma
- (d) Ishan Kishan
- (e) Raturaj Gaikwad

Ans (b)

Suryakumar Yadav has become the fastest player to reach 1,500 runs in T20 International cricket in terms of balls faced. The took only 843 balls to reach this landmark.

In 45 matches and 43 innings, Suryakumar has scored 1,578 runs at an average of 46.41.

He has three centuries and 13 half-centuries in the format, with the best individual score of 117.

However, he is the third-fastest batter to reach the 1,500-run mark in terms of innings.

The fastest batters to reach this landmark are Indian batter Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Australian veteran Aaron Finch and Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, who all took 39 innings to score 1,500 runs in T20 International cricket.

Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammed Rizwan reached the milestone in 42 innings and Suryakumar did so in 43 innings.

95. At the Digital India Awards 2022, which initiative of Government has won Platinum Award?

- (a) PM Jan Dhan (b) Ujjwala
(c) MANREGA (d) e-NAM
(e) Namami gange

Ans (d)

e-NAM, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has won the Platinum Award in the Digital Empowerment of Citizens Category in Digital India Awards 2022 held in New Delhi.

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu has conferred the Digital India Awards, 2022.

96. Who has appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Electronics Corporation of India Limited?

- (a) Arvind Kumar (b) Akshay Tripathi
(c) Anurag Kumar (d) Rajeev Kumar
(e) Raj Srivastava

Ans (c)

Anurag Kumar was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Kumar's appointment to the post till the date of his superannuation i.e 31-01-2026.

Kumar comes with several years of extensive experience in Project Management, Strategy Development & Implementation and Strategic Planning.

Over the years, he has garnered experience across diverse verticals including ITES, Telecom and Mass Manufacturing sectors, in areas such as business development, corporate planning and strategy, new

market entry, commercial management and negotiations, and engineering and operations management.

97. What is the rank of India in Henley Passport Index 2023?

- (a) 80 (b) 81
(c) 82 (d) 84
(e) 85

Ans (e)

According to the latest Henley Passport Index, Japan has retained its position as the most favourable passport in the world, allowing visa-free entry to 193 global destinations, which the country tops for the fifth consecutive year.

Singapore and South Korea came in a joint second on the ranking, followed by Germany and Spain, and then a slew of other European nations.

The Indian passport was ranked 85th, giving visa-free entry to 59 destinations worldwide.

In 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, the country ranked at 82nd spot, 84th, 85th and 83rd respectively.

Indian passport holders can travel visa-free to 59 destinations like Bhutan, Indonesia, Macao, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Iran and Qatar. However, some countries require visa-on-arrival.

98. Recently, India has signed a memorandum of understanding with which country to encourage cooperation in the training of diplomats?

- (a) Nicaragua (b) Paraguay
(c) Panama (d) Cuba
(e) Argentina

Ans (c)

India and Panama have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to encourage cooperation in the training of diplomats.

The MoU between India and Panama was signed by the External Affairs Minister of India Dr Subramanyam Jaishankar and the Foreign Minister of Panama Janaina Tewaney Mencomon.

The MoU was signed in Indore and the External Affairs Minister has noted that they have discussed the opportunities for greater economic, health, finance, and people-to-people linkage. Both leaders have also shared their perspectives on global situations.

99. Recently Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has released which theme for National Science Day 2023?

- (a) Global Science for Global Wellbeing

- (b) Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development
- (c) Future of STI: Impact on Education
- (d) Radiation and Radioisotopes in Healthcare
- (e) Science for the People and the People for Science

Ans (a)

Union Minister of State Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh released the theme for the "National Science Day 2023", titled "Global Science for Global Wellbeing" at National Media Centre.

100. What is the name India's first female pilot, who has recently pilot an Indian Sukhoi fighter jet?

- (a) Bhawana Kanth
- (b) Mohana Singh
- (c) Shivangi Singh
- (d) Avani Chaturvedi
- (e) Gunjan Saxena

Ans (d)

India's first female pilot, Avani Chaturvedi, to pilot an Indian Sukhoi fighter jet in aerial wargames in Japan.

For the first time, female officers would be travelling abroad to represent the nation.

Two of the female fighter pilots participated in the French Air Force's wargames with the female officers as part of foreign contingents visiting India.

From January 16 to January 26, Veer Guardian 2023 will take conducted in Japan at the Sayama Iruma Air Base, Omitama Hyakuri Air Base, and surrounding airspace.

According to Avani Chaturvedi's classmate and one of the first three female fighter pilots, Squadron Leader

Bhawana Kanth, the Su-30MKIs employed by the Indian Air Force are among the best and most deadly platforms equipped with homegrown weapon systems.

Veer Guardian 2023 will be held in Japan from January 16 to January 26 at Sayama Iruma Air Base, Omitama Hyakuri Air Base, and adjoining airspace.

101. Recently Defence Acquisition Council has cleared the proposal for procurement of VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system by which organisation?

- (a) DRDO
- (b) ISRO
- (c) HAL
- (d) BARC
- (e) BHEL

Ans (a)

In an effort to shore up the air defence systems all along the Line of Actual Control(LAC) facing China, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared the proposal for procurement of VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system under design and

development by the Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO).

In view of the recent developments along the Northern borders(China) there is a need to focus on effective Air Defence (AD) weapon systems which are man portable and can be deployed quickly in rugged terrain and maritime domain.

Procurement of VSHORAD, as a robust and quickly deployable system, will strengthen the Air Defence capabilities.

102. Famous footballer Hugo Lloris who has announced his retirement was former captain of which football team?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) France
- (c) Argentina
- (d) Belgium
- (e) England

Ans (b)

France team captain Hugo Lloris has announced his decision to retire from international football at the age of 36.

Lloris represented France in four World Cups and three Euros and captained Les Blues to the World Cup trophy in 2018.

The Tottenham Hotspur shotstopper led his team to the World Cup final in Qatar, where they were beaten by Argentina on penalties.

The 36-year-old holds many records and is France's most capped player with 145 appearances to his name. Lloris made his debut for Les Blues back in November 2008.

He was handed the armband two years after his international debut and would go on to captain France in 121 matches.

103. Recently, NASA has named which Indian-American space expert as chief technologist?

- (a) Paul Shrivastava
- (b) Nagi Naganathan
- (c) AC Charania
- (d) Harish-Chandra
- (e) Srikant Datar

Ans (c)

An Indian-American aerospace industry expert has been appointed as NASA's new chief technologist to serve as principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and programmes at the space agency's headquarters.

AC Charania joined the space agency in his new role on January 3.

He replaces another Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal, who served as acting chief technologist prior to the former's appointment.

Prior to joining NASA, he served as vice president of product strategy at Reliable Robotics, a firm that works to bring certified autonomous vehicles to commercial aviation.

His previous experience also includes working at Blue Origin to mature its lunar permanence strategy, Blue Moon lunar lander program, and multiple technology initiatives with NASA.

104. Which project of Kerala has recognized as the best practices model at the National Conference on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises?

- (a) Year of Enterprises
- (b) Sustainable Urban
- (c) Service Delivery
- (d) Life Mission
- (e) Both (c) and (d)

Ans (a)

The "Year of Enterprises" Project was recognized as the best practices model at the National Conference on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.

The "Year of Enterprises" aimed to create 100000 enterprises and has successfully created 118509 enterprises and got investment worth 7261.54 crores.

105. Recently, a joint air exercise "Veer Guardian-2023" has been started between India and which country?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Singapore
- (c) China
- (d) North Korea
- (e) Chile

Ans (a)

The Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) and the Indian Air Force will participate in the joint air exercise "Veer Guardian-2023" starting on January 12 at Hyakuri Air Base in Japan.

106. A recently authored book "Jadunama" by Arvind Mandloi is based on whose life?

- (a) Salim Khan
- (b) Javed Akhtar
- (c) Shabana Azmi
- (d) Amitabh Bachchan
- (e) Farhan Akhtar

Ans (b)

Jadunama, a book written on veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar by Arvind Mandloi, was released.

Jadunama is about a writer, poet, lyricist, and political activist.

It is also about this one man's struggle since childhood to become what he is today and to create a hallmark of success in everything he does.

Javed Akhtar was recipient of several awards during his lifetime, notable among those being the Padma Shri (1999); Awadh Samman Uttar Pradesh (2001); the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Ekta Puraskar (2005); and the Padma Bhushan (2007).

107. In January 2023, Aadi Shaurya - Parv Parakram Ka Tribal Dance Festival and Military Tattoo has organised in which city?

- (a) Chandigarh
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) Indore
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Patna

Ans (d)

The 23rd of January 2023 will see the Aadi Shaurya – Parv Parakram Ka Tribal Dance Festival and Military Tattoo at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.

The two-day celebration, according to the Defence Ministry, would display the strength of the Armed Forces and the cultural beauty of India's tribal cultures.

108. Which state government has started a caste survey in state?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Mizoram
- (e) Rajasthan

Ans (c)

Caste surveys have been started by the Bihar government in several regions of the State.

Nitish Kumar, the chief minister, made it clear that only castes, not subcastes, as well as the economic standing of each household, would be categorized.

109. Recently, Uttarakhand Government has approved how much horizontal reservation to domicile women of the state in the government jobs bill?

- (a) 10 percent
- (b) 20 percent
- (c) 30 percent
- (d) 40 percent
- (e) 50 percent

Ans (c)

Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd) has approved the 30 percent horizontal reservation to domicile women of the state in the government jobs bill.

The state assembly of Uttarakhand passed the Uttarakhand Public Services (Horizontal Reservation for women) Bill on 29th November 2022.

The consent of the Governor has now made the bill into an act. The Uttarakhand Public Services (Horizontal Reservation for women) Bill 2022 provides women of the state with 30 percent horizontal reservation in public sectors and posts. The beneficiaries need to be women with a domicile certificate of Uttarakhand.

According to the Bill, if enough women are not available to fill the reserved seats, they will be filled with qualified male candidates in the order of proficiency.

Horizontal Reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, the transgender community, or individuals with disabilities.

The vertical reservation applies separately for each of the groups specified under the law, the horizontal reservation is always applied separately to each vertical category.

110. What is the name of India's largest student-run festival which has recently begun at IIT Madras?

- (a) Kesari 2023 (b) Saarang 2023
(c) Naahar 2023 (d) Marathan 2023
(e) Mandook 2023

Ans (b)

The 28th edition of Saarang, India's largest student-run festival begins at IIT Madras on 11th January 2023.

Saarang 2023 will feature more than 100 events with participation from 500 colleges across the country.

The Saarang 2023 is one of the largest student-run festivals held completely in physical mode.

It is expected to see over 80,000 people at the festival.

The fest will be held till 15th January 2023.

111. What is the outlay of the Centre's incentive scheme to promote RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions?

- (a) Rs 2600 crore (b) Rs 2000 crore
(c) Rs 3000 crore (d) Rs 4800 crore
(e) Rs 1000 crore

Ans (a)

The Union Cabinet has approved the incentive scheme for the promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (person-to-merchant) for the current financial year.

The approved incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (P2M) in FY 2022-23 has a financial outlay of Rs 2600

crore.

Under the said scheme, acquiring banks will be provided financial incentive, for promoting Point-of-Sale (PoS) and e-commerce transactions using RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (P2M) for the current financial year FY 2022-23.

In the financial year 2021-22, the government had approved an incentive scheme in compliance with the budget announcement of FY22 to give a further boost to digital transactions.

112. Santhi Kumari has been appointed as first woman chief secretary of which state?

- (a) Karnataka (b) Telangana
(c) Maharashtra (d) Odisha
(e) Chhattisgarh

Ans (b)

Senior IAS Officer A Santhi Kumari has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Telangana. Santhi Kumari took charge as the first women Chief Secretary of the State at the Secretariat in BRK Bhavan.

Santhi Kumari will take charge over incumbent Somesh Kumar, who was relieved from the Telangana government by the Union Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

113. Which state's tourism board has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with chapters of 8 countries of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin?

- (a) Rajasthan (b) Haryana
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu
(e) Telangana

Ans (c)

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with chapters of 8 countries of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) at the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention.

The event was held at MP Tourism Pavilion at Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore.

The MoUs were signed with France Metropole Paris, Mauritius, Reunion Island, Martinique, Sri Lanka, GOPIO International, Malaysia, and Mauritius.

The MoU was signed by Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture and Managing Director of Tourism Board Sheo Shekhar Shukla on behalf of the Tourism Board and Presidents of 8 countries of GOPIO.

The MoUs have been executed to boost cooperation in the development of the tourism sector of the state, promotion, and publicity of tourist places.

The MoU aims to strengthen, promote and develop cooperation in research, promotion, and tourism development.

114. Which company has invented a "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust"?

- (a) NTPC (b) DRDO
(c) ONGC (d) CMPDI
(e) Coal India

Ans (d)

Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) has invented a "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust" and obtained a patent for the same in December 2022.

This system is developed to be used in mines, thermal power plants, railway sidings, ports, and construction sites where coal and other minerals or fugitive materials are stored in the open sky.

The system will reduce the dust generation from open source as well as provide noise attenuation.

Coal/Lignite PSUs under the Ministry of Coal consistently strive to produce quality coal in an environmentally responsible manner to meet the energy needs of the country.

Coal/Lignite PSUs are adopting various measures to prevent or mitigate air pollution caused by coal mining and allied activities.

The present invention is related to the synchronized application of windbreaks (WB) and vertical greenery systems (VGS) for reducing the generation and dispersion of fugitive dust.

115. Recently, which international organization in its 33rd edition of report, has stated that Indian authorities had "intensified and broadened" their crackdown on activist groups and the media throughout year 2022?

- (a) Amnesty International
(b) Greenpeace
(c) Agenzia Nazionale
(d) UNHCR
(e) Human Rights Watch

Ans (e)

Recently, the Human Rights Watch in its World Report 2023 (33rd edition) said that Indian authorities had "intensified and broadened" their crackdown on activist groups and the media throughout year 2022.

It also claimed that the current Central ruling party used abusive and discriminatory policies to repress minorities.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1978 as "Helsinki Watch," initially aimed at investigating rights abuses in countries that signed the Helsinki Accords.

Currently, its ambit has expanded to about 100 countries worldwide.

It is headquartered in New York City.

Helsinki Accords (1975) was a major diplomatic agreement signed in Helsinki, Finland, at the conclusion of the first Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (now Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe).

116. Recently, the Prime Minister of India has flagged off the world's longest river cruise MV Ganga Vilas in which city?

- (a) Prayagraj (b) Patna
(c) Kolkata (d) Varanasi
(e) Kanpur

Ans (d)

Recently, the Prime Minister of India flagged off the world's longest river cruise, MV Ganga Vilas in Varanasi.

During the event, the Prime Minister also inaugurated Tent City in Varanasi and laid the foundation stones for several other inland waterways projects.

The cruise will be managed by private operators, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), under the Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways (MoPSW) has supported the project.

It will explore forty historic sites on the banks of the river Ganga including, Mahabodhi temple, Hazarduari Palace, Katra Masjid, Bodh Gaya, Chandanagar church, Char Bangla Temple and more. Besides connecting National Waterway 1 (NW-1) which includes Ganga and National Waterway 2 (NW-2) on Brahmaputra, the cruise will cross 27 river systems.

117. For the first time in India, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has specified the identity standards for which grain which will be enforced with effect from 01 August 2023?

- (a) Basmati Rice (b) Aestivum Wheat
(c) Jasmine Rice (d) Bengal Gram
(e) Chickpeas

Ans (a)

For the first time in India, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has specified the identity standards for Basmati Rice which will be enforced with effect from 01 August 2023.

Basmati has its origin from India (and some parts of Pakistan); it is a premium variety of rice cultivated in the Himalayan foothills of the Indian subcontinent.

It is universally known for its long grain size, fluffy texture and unique inherent aroma and flavour.

It is cultivated in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, UT of Jammu and Kashmir and western Uttar Pradesh.

118. IT giant Cognizant has appointed whom as its new Chief Executive Officer?

- (a) Vinita Bali
- (b) Archana Deskus
- (c) Ravi Kumar
- (d) Sandra Shetty
- (e) John Dineen

Ans (c)

IT giant Cognizant has announced Ravi Kumar as its new Chief Executive Officer, replacing the outgoing Brian Humphries, effective immediately.

He was the president and COO of Infosys until October 2022, before leaving the company to join Cognizant the following week as President of Cognizant Americas.

Mr Humphries had resigned from the post that he held for four years, a move that has been linked to Cognizant's recent underperformance, including revenue decline in the third quarter of 2022.

119. United Arab Emirates has named whom as head to COP28 Climate Talks?

- (a) Mohamed Al Shamisi
- (b) Sultan Al-Jaber
- (c) Khaldoon Al Mubarak
- (d) Reem Al Hashimy
- (e) Mohammed bin Zayed

Ans (b)

The United Arab Emirates has named a veteran technocrat who both leads Abu Dhabi's state-run oil company and oversees its renewable energy efforts to preside over the upcoming United Nations climate negotiations in Dubai.

Emirati authorities nominated Sultan al-Jaber, a confidant of UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who serves as CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.

120. What will be the percentage of ethanol blending in gasoline in the phased roll-out of E20, that will begin on April 1 2023?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 18%
- (c) 12%
- (d) 30%
- (e) 25%

Ans (a)

The phased roll-out of E20 (20 per cent ethanol blending in gasoline) will begin on April 1, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said. The fuel will be available at select outlets and will not require changes to car engines.

The proposed roll-out will give further impetus to the government's plans of achieving the level of 20 per cent ethanol blending in the overall petrol supply in the country by ethanol supply year 2025-2026.

India has increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53 per cent in 2013-14 to 10.17 per cent in 2022.

To achieve 20 per cent blending by 2025, the country needs 10.2-11 billion litres of ethanol.

This would require a production capacity of around 14.5 billion litres because some production has to be kept aside for starch and chemical industry.

121. Which bank has launched e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in association with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) SBI Card
- (d) Union Bank of India
- (e) ICICI Bank

Ans (a)

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in association with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).

India's largest lender said this facility will bring about a revolutionary change in the banking ecosystem, where bank guarantee is frequently used in large volumes.

By using the NeSL's platform, the bank customers and other beneficiaries will instantly get an e-Bank Guarantee without additional verification

NeSL's Digital Document Execution (DDE) platform, which provides e-Stamp and e-Sign functions, will facilitate the e-Bank Guarantee process.

Beneficiaries will instantly receive an e-Bank Guarantee on NeSL's platform without further verification.

Currently, the bank issues these guarantees with physical stamping and wet signatures.

The introduction of e-BG will replace this function with e-stamping and e-signature.

122. The Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated on which day of January since 1953?

- (a) 13th January (b) 14th January
(c) 15th January (d) 16th January
(e) 17th January

Ans (b)

The Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated on 14th January since 1953, the First Indian Commander in Chief (C-in-C) of Indian Army- Field Marshal KM Cariappa, who led Indian Forces to Victory in the 1947 war, had formally retired from the Services.

The Day is celebrated as Armed Forces Veterans Day and dedicated to our esteemed Veterans.

The First Armed Forces Veterans Day was celebrated on January, 14, 2016 and it was decided to commemorate this day every year by hosting such interactive events in the honor of our Armed Forces Veterans and their families.

This year 7th Armed Forces Veterans Day celebrates on 2023

123. Which day has celebrated on 15th January 2023 recently?

- (a) Indian Air Force day
(b) Indian Navy day
(c) Indian Army day
(d) Sena Medal day
(e) Vir Chakra day

Ans (c)

Indian army day 2023 is celebrated on 15th January 2023 and it mark the 75th anniversary of the Indian army day.

Every year on January 15, India celebrates its Army Day. It is the day on which Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa (then a Lieutenant General) took over as the first Commander in Chief of the Indian Army from the last British Commander in Chief of India, General Francis Bucher in the year 1949.

Parades, medal presenting and other ceremonies are organized to celebrate the Army Day.

With "Service before self" as its motto, the Indian Army is the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces.

Originally, the Indian army was formed under the British rule on April 1, 1895 and was called as British Indian Army.

After India got its independence in the year 1947, it was only on January 15, 1949, when the country got its first Indian chief.

Lt Gen K M Cariappa took over as commander-in-chief of the Indian Army in 1949 from General Francis Butcher, the last British commander in chief of India.

The transfer of power from the British to India signifies an important moment in the Indian history and is celebrated as Army Day.

This day also honors the soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the country.

124. It is a festival of music, poetry, art, craft, food, culinary techniques, indigenous herbs and culture celebrated in Majuli, Assam. It is -

- (a) Monpa (b) Dasara
(c) Nabanna (d) Mongeet
(e) Wangala

Ans (d)

Mongeet is a festival of music, poetry, art, craft, food, culinary techniques, indigenous herbs, and culture celebrated in Majuli, Assam.

The Mongeet festival started in the year 2020 as a movement of arts and music and it aims to nurture the upcoming musical talents of Assam.

It was started by actor Adil Hussain and Kaushik Nath, an actor-director-turned-entrepreneur.

Mongeet festival will be held on 15th, 16th, and 17th January at Dekasang, Majuli and on 19th and 20th January at Dekasang, Sadiya.

This edition of the Mongeet festival will witness Montulika, a creative painting workshop, and Monmritikka, a special workshop on the rich art and sculpture of Assam.

It is the only festival from Assam that is designed to promote music, art, culture, and food.

This Festival aims to educate people about the culture of Assam and introduce the rich musicians of the state to the world.

125. A Special Education Program "Saharsh" has been launched by which state government?

- (a) Odisha (b) Meghalaya
(c) Mizoram (d) Tripura
(e) Manipur

Ans (d)

The 'Saharsh' was launched in 40 schools of the state on a pilot basis in August last year.

This year, it will be extended to all government and aided schools in Tripura from the second week of January.

A similar program, which was found to be effective in social and economic development in research

studies of Harvard and Columbia Universities is being contextualized with local realities of India before being implemented in Tripura.

On the inauguration of the 49th state-level science, mathematics, and environment exhibition, Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath informed that the state government has been working to make Tripura self-reliant and prosperous.

The school education department has introduced 36 reforms in the last five years and the higher education department has 19 reforms.

The 'Saharsh' initiative is aimed at empowering children to learn with happiness.

The state government has trained 204 schools for the 'Saharsh' curriculum while 200 more will be trained in the future.

126. The Indian Coast Guard ship "Kamla Devi" is designed and built by which company?

- (a) NHPC (b) BEML
(c) GRSE (d) HSL
(e) BHEL

Ans (c)

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship "Kamla Devi" the Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) which is designed, built, and delivered by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd to Indian Coast Guard was commissioned in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Indian Coast Guard ship Kamla Devi is officially the fifth and last vessel of the series of FPVs designed and built by GRSE as per the specifications of the Indian Coast Guard.

127. Who has bagged gold medal in 23rd National Sqay Championship organized by the SQAY Federation of India?

- (a) Hanaya Nisar (b) Falak Mumtaz
(c) Faizan Ahmad (d) Safeena Beigh
(e) Pardeep Kumar

Ans (b)

Falak Mumtaz, an 11-year-old girl from Jammu and Kashmir has bagged a gold medal in National Sqay Championship.

Falak Mumtaz has achieved a gold medal in the National Sqay Championship which was held in Jammu. She is currently studying sixth standard at Aisha Ali Academy in Kulgam.

The 23rd National Sqay Championship was organized by the SQAY Federation of India and hosted by Jammu and Kashmir SQAY Association at Indoor Stadium Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu.

In the 23rd National Sqay Championship, players from all over Jammu and Kashmir performed very well and bagged 1st place in the overall medal tally.

11-year-old Falak Mumtaz won a gold medal at the 23rd National Sqay Championship. Andhra Pradesh bagged 2nd place and Odisha was in 3rd place.

128. Recently Union Minister Piyush Goyal has launched MAARG portal for startup mentorship. What does "R" stands for in "MAARG"?

- (a) Resilience (b) Resistance
(c) Resistible (d) Resistless
(e) Resituates

Ans (a)

The MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth) platform will be launched by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The Commerce Ministry said MAARG, a portal to facilitate mentorship for start-ups across diverse sectors, and geographies, will go live on January 16.

It will facilitate mentorship between start-ups and entrepreneurs across sectors, stages, and functions, the ministry said. The matchmaking phase of the portal will allow start-ups to connect with mentors and discuss their mentorship needs.

129. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced which project to provide essential medical supplies to developing countries?

- (a) Swasthya Maitri (b) Sehat Maitri
(c) Aarogya Maitri (d) Health Maitri
(e) Well Being

Ans (c)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a new "Aarogya Maitri" project under which India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis and proposed to set up a "centre of excellence" to facilitate development solutions to these countries.

In his opening address at the concluding session of the Voice of Global South virtual summit, Modi also said that India will launch a "science and technology initiative" to share its expertise with other developing nations.

He announced that New Delhi will institute new scholarships for students from developing countries to pursue higher education in India.

130. Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav has inaugurated the Regional

Office of Employees provident Fund Organization in which city?

- (a) Jaipur (b) Indore
(c) Lucknow (d) Alwar
(e) Patna

Ans (d)

Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav inaugurated the Regional Office of Employees provident Fund Organization (EPFO) at Alwar, Rajasthan.

The Regional Office will help more than 2 lakh workers, 12,000 establishments, and 8,500 pensioners from Alwar and the neighboring districts of Bharatpur and Dholpur.

The major industrial areas served by Regional Office are Bhiwadi, Khushkhera, Tapukara, Karoli, Neemrana, Behror, Gheelot, and Khairthal.

131. Union Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal handed over whose statue of 9th to 10th century to the Archaeological Department at Chittorgarh Fort in Rajasthan?

- (a) Shiva Idol (b) Nataraja Idol
(c) Buddha Idol (d) Brahma Idol
(e) Vishnu Idol

Ans (b)

Union Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal handed over the 9th to 10th century Nataraja Idol of the Archeological Department official in Chittorgarh Fort in Rajasthan.

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal noted that there are only 13 idols of ancient importance that could be brought to India by the year 2023 but after 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought 229 idols to India.

132. Who has become the first woman officer to be posted at Border Roads Organisation?

- (a) Priya Jhingan (b) Mitali Madhumita
(c) Surbhi Jakhmola (d) Anjana Bhaduria
(e) Swati Singh

Ans (c)

Captain Surbhi Jakhmola of the Indian Army's 117 Engineer Regiment will be the first woman officer to be posted on a foreign assignment at the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The officer will be sent to Bhutan as part of Project Dantak.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is an executive road construction force in India that supports the Indian armed forces.

The deployment of BRO comes just days after the Indian Air Force deployed woman fighter pilot squadron leader Avani Chaturvedi to Japan for the exercise Veer Guardian 2023.

BRO builds and maintains road networks along India's borders and in friendly neighbouring countries.

It is also included in the armed forces Order of Battle, ensuring their support at all times.

BRO was established on May 7, 1960.

In order to improve border connectivity, BRO was transferred entirely to the ministry of defence in 2015. It is responsible for maintaining the road network in the border areas of India.

133. Which Indian batsman has become the fifth-highest run-scorer in history of ODI cricket by overtaking Mahela Jayawardene?

- (a) Virat Kohli (b) Rohit Sharma
(c) K L Rahul (d) Shikhar Dhawan
(e) Surya Kumar Yadav

Ans (a)

Star cricketer Virat Kohli became the fifth-highest run-scorer in history of ODI cricket, overtaking Sri Lankan legend Mahela Jayawardene to enter into top-five.

At the time of becoming the fifth-highest run-scorer, Virat had 12,652 runs in 268 ODIs at an average of 57.78, with 45 tons and 65 half-century. His best score in the format is 183.

As per records, the highest run-scorer in ODI history is Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar, who has scored 18,426 runs at an average of 44.83.

He has 49 centuries and 96 fifties in this format, with the best of 200*.

Followed by Sachin, Sri Lankan great Kumar Sangakkara (14,234 runs in 404 matches), Australian great Ricky Ponting (13,704), Sri Lankan all-rounder Sanath Jayasuriya (13,430 in 445 matches) and Virat

134. The central government is going to launch a National Urban Technology Mission to enable technological improvements in municipal providers. How many years is this project?

- (a) Five Years (b) Six Years
(c) Seven Years (d) Eight Years
(e) Nine Years

Ans (a)

The Centre is about to launch a five-year National Urban Technology Mission which is able to infuse technological improvements in municipal providers

and infrastructure of 4,500 city native bodies within the nation.

The mission, to be spearheaded by the ministry of housing and urban affairs, can have three main sub-heads.

A be aware ready for the approval of the expenditure finance committee (EFC) pegs the mission outlay at Rs 15,000 crore for 5 years.

135. Under which campaign, the state government of Rajasthan has implemented the policy for Blindness Control with the objective of "Right to Sight"?

- (a) Swasthya Rajasthan
- (b) Viruj Rajasthan
- (c) Nirogi Rajasthan
- (d) Yogya Rajasthan
- (e) Sehat Rajasthan

Ans (c)

Under its campaign of Nirogi Rajasthan, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has implemented the policy for Blindness Control with the objective of "Right to Sight".

With this, Rajasthan has become the first state to have such a policy.

This policy has been brought with an aim to bring light in the lives of more than 3 lakh people suffering from visual impairment in the State.

The prevalence rate of blindness in the country was 1.1% in 2020 and the initiatives under the Blindness Control Policy will help to bring it down to 0.3 percent.

Under the policy for Blindness Control, the state government will mandatorily run Keratoplasty Centre and Eye Bank in all the government medical colleges. The government funded private organizations and NGOs that are collecting cornea will have to provide the collected cornea to the government institutions on priority.

136. Who has been appointed as chief economist of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development?

- (a) Clare Lombardelli
- (b) Mathias Cormann
- (c) Julie Bishop
- (d) Scott Morrison
- (e) Malcolm Turnbull

Ans (a)

Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, Clare Lombardelli, has been appointed as the new Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Chief Economist. She will

lead the OECD's economic work, replacing France's Laurence Boone, who has held the post since 2018.

A British national, Clare holds a Master's Degree in Economics from London School of Economics and Political Science and Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University.

Clare has worked in government since 2005, after starting her career as an economist at the Bank of England.

During this time her roles have included Principal Private Secretary to the Chancellor, Private Secretary for Economic Affairs to the Prime Minister and Budget Director.

She has also worked as a technical adviser for the International Monetary Fund.

She will step down from the Treasury after the Spring Budget.

Her roles at the UK Treasury have included Deputy Director for Labour Market Policy (2007-2010), Principal Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (2012-2015), and Director of Strategy, Planning and Budget (2015-2018).

137. Recently, the renowned bull-taming competition has organised in the Tamil Nadu village of Avaniyapuram. This sport is known as -

- (a) Chaturanga
- (b) Jallikattu
- (c) Kambala
- (d) Chaupar
- (e) Maramadi Bull Surfing

Ans (b)

The renowned Jallikattu bull-taming competition got underway on Sunday in the Tamil Nadu village of Avaniyapuram.

Aneesh Sekhar, the district collector of Madurai, as saying that preparations had been made to ensure a successful Jallikattu.

ensuring the players' and bulls' safety.

Bulls are protected in the play area by three levels of barricading, as are spectators.

138. Which international organisation has released "Global Risks Report 2023"?

- (a) Young Global Leaders
- (b) World Wide Fund for Nature
- (c) World Economic Forum
- (d) Water Environment Federation
- (e) American Water Works Association

Ans (c)

The world faces a set of risks that feel both wholly new and eerily familiar.

The Global Risks Report 2023 explores some of the most severe risks we may face over the next decade. As we stand on the edge of a low-growth and low-cooperation era, tougher trade-offs risk eroding climate action, human development and future resilience.

The World Economic Forum taking place in Davos, Switzerland released the 18th edition of the Global Risk Report 2023 based on the 2022-2023 Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS).

139. Which state government has recently restored the old pension scheme in January 2023?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Maharashtra
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Himachal Pradesh
(e) Telangana

Ans (d)

The Himachal Pradesh government restored the old pension scheme in its first cabinet meeting. The cabinet decided to provide OPS to all government employees who are presently covered under the defined contributory pension scheme, also referred to as NPS.

This scheme will benefit about 1.36 lakh NPS employees in the state.

The State Cabinet in its first meeting presided over by the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu held in Shimla passed a resolution thanking the people of Himachal Pradesh for reposing their confidence in the policies and programs of congress.

Congress government has fulfilled a key poll promise by providing the Old Pension scheme (OPS) to all government employees.

140. R'Bonney Gabriel has recently been crowned as Miss Universe 2022. She hails from which country?
(a) Russia (b) United States
(c) Canada (d) Britain
(e) Brazil

Ans (b)

R'Bonney Gabriel of the United States was crowned Miss Universe 2022 on January 15, 2023.

Divita Rai of India, who finished in the top 16, was unable to advance in the beauty contest held in New Orleans.

Venezuela and the Dominican Republic were the other two countries in the top three.

R'Bonney Gabriel is an American model who was crowned Miss USA 2022 earlier this year.

Her full name is R'Bonney Nola Gabriel, and she is of Filipino descent from her father's side.

R'Bonney Gabriel is the first Filipina-American winner in the history of Miss Universe.

141. Which company has bagged media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL for a whopping Rs 951 crore for five years?
(a) Viacom 18 (b) Star Network
(c) Network18 (d) Zee Network
(e) Dream 11

Ans (a)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced that Viacom 18 have grabbed the media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL for a whopping Rs 951 crore for five years.

The auction for the T20 League was conducted by the cricket board in Mumbai.

The global rights comprise three categories linear (TV), digital and combined (TV and digital).

In the men's IPL, separate rights are sold across regions.

The inaugural Women's IPL is likely to begin in the first week of March.

Five teams will compete and all the matches will be held in Mumbai.

142. Who has won the Malaysia Open Super 1000 women's singles titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia?
(a) Tulissy Sekaran (b) Akane Yamaguchi
(c) Susi Susanti (d) P Pattabongse
(e) Camilla Martin

Ans (b)

Akane Yamaguchi and Viktor Axelsen won the Malaysia Open Super 1000 women's and men's singles titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Yamaguchi, the reigning world champion, registered a come-from-behind win over world no. 4 An Se Young to clinch the Super Series Premier title.

Yamaguchi won her maiden Super Series Premier title at the China Open in 2017.

China's Chen Qingchen-Jia Yifan, the world no. 1 pairing in women's doubles, blew away South Korea's Baek Hana-Lee Yulim 21-16, 21-10 in 52 minutes.

In mixed doubles, the world no. 1 pairing of Zheng Siwei-Huang Yaqiong, carrying on their last season's dominating display, claimed the season's first Super Series Premier title.

143. The first 15 meetings of the Business 20 (B20) India Inception Meeting will be held in which city from January 22nd to 24th, 2023?
(a) Chennai (b) Mumbai

- (c) Gandhinagar (d) New Delhi
(e) Kolkata

Ans (c)

The first 15 meetings of the Business 20 (B20) India Inception Meeting will be held in Gandhinagar from January 22nd to 24th, 2023.

India has been assumed as the G20 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The G20 chairman for India is a historic event as it comes while celebrating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

144. Which football club have won the Spanish Super Cup in January 2023?

- (a) Real Madrid (b) Liverpool
(c) Inter Milan (d) Barcelona
(e) Manchester United

Ans (d)

Barcelona have won the Spanish Super Cup for the first time since the competition was revamped and moved to Saudi Arabia with a 3-1 victory over Real Madrid.

It was also Barcelona's first title since former player Xavi took over as the team's coach in 2021 and since Lionel Messi left for Paris Saint-Germain.

Barcelona have now won the Super Cup a record 14 times. Madrid have 12 to their name.

The Super Cup used to be played between the Spanish league champion and the Copa del Rey winner. Now the runners-up in both competitions also participate.

Madrid played as the league champion and Barcelona as the league runner-up.

The current contract to play the Super Cup in Saudi Arabia runs through the 2024-25 season.

145. The second edition of DotFEST Festival has been organized in which state?

- (a) Odisha (b) Nagaland
(c) Mizoram (d) Assam
(e) West Bengal

Ans (a)

The second edition of 'Dot Fest,' a part of city festivals commemorating the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023, will be held in Odisha from January 15 to 29, 2023.

The event will be organized with a slew of activities including Bollywood superstars and international storytellers.

As part of the festival, six main festivals and activities will be held, including Bhubaneswar live, an international cuisine festival, the story-telling festival

BhuFesto, Ekamra walks, a night flea market, and the 'Sebe-O-Ebe' picture show.

146. Mukarram Jah Bahadur who passed away recently was descendants of which royal dynasty?

- (a) Qutb Shahi dynasty
(b) Asaf Jahi dynasty
(c) Bahmani Sultanate
(d) Musunuri Nayakas
(e) Kakatiya dynasty

Ans (b)The titular eighth Nizam of Hyderabad Mukarram Jah has recently passed away. Mukarram Jah was born on October 6, 1933 in France, to Prince Azam Jah and Princess Durru Shehvar, the imperial princess of the Ottoman Empire.

He was educated in the Doon School in Dehradun and later at Harrow and Peterhouse, Cambridge.

He also studied at the London School of Economics and at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

He was descendants of Asaf Jahi royal dynasty.

On April 6, 1967, he was coronated as Asaf Jah the Eighth, after the death of Mir Osman Ali Khan in February 1967.

147. Name the writer who won the first-ever Federal Bank Literary Award 2022 for his autobiography 'Oranweshananthinte Katha'?

- (a) Mukul Rohatgi (b) M K Nambiar
(c) K Venugopal (d) Harish Salve
(e) Ram Jethmalani

Ans (c)Noted writer K Venugopal bagged the first-ever Federal Bank Literary Award 2022 for his autobiography "Oranweshananthinte Katha".

Balagopal Chandrasekhar is the current chairman and independent director of Federal Bank in January 2023."Oranweshananthinte Katha" was chosen by a panel comprising writer and literary critic K C Narayanan, Sunil P Ilayidom and P K Rajashekharan from the 10 works which were shortlisted for the award. Judging panel member P K Rajashekharan commented that the essence of the book brought back the memory of the most-intense political timeline in the modern history of Kerala.

148. What is the theme of the 53rd annual meeting of the World Economic Forum 2023?

- (a) Working Together, Restoring Trust
(b) The Great Reset
(c) Stakeholders for a sustainable world
(d) Cooperation in a Fragmented World
(e) Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture

Ans (d) The 53rd edition of the World Economic Forum (WEF) has begun at Davos in Switzerland.

The meeting will continue till 20th January.

The theme for this year's WEF meeting is "Cooperation in a Fragmented World". According to the WEF's annual Global Risks Report, recession threat, cost-of-living crisis and debt distress is likely to dominate the outlook for at least two years. WEF Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab said, they see the manifold political, economic and social forces creating increased fragmentation on a global and national level.

149. As per the announcement made by Earth Sciences

Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh by which year India will be covered by Doppler Weather Radar Network?

- (a) 2025 (b) 2027
(c) 2028 (d) 2031
(e) 2035

Ans (a) As per the Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh at 148th Foundation Day of India Meteorological Department, The entire country will be covered by Doppler Weather Radar Network by 2025 to predict extreme weather events more accurately. He dedicated 4 Doppler Weather Radar Systems to the Western Himalayan States of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Doppler weather radar, commonly known as Weather Surveillance Radar (WSR), is a type of radar used to find precipitation, determine its motion, and also the type of precipitation (rain, snow, hail, etc.).

150. Which Indian film has won the Critics Choice Awards 2023 in the Best Foreign Language Film category?

- (a) Andhadhun (b) Black
(c) Bandit Queen (d) RRR
(e) Bombay

Ans (d)

The Critics Choice Awards 2023 was recently held in Los Angeles. The SS Rajamouli's film RRR has won two major nods, including Best Foreign Film and Best Song at the prestigious awards.

151. In January 2023, which edition of the bilateral naval exercise between India and France named 'VARUNA' commenced on the Western Seaboard on the 16th of January 2023?

- (a) 21st (b) 22nd
(c) 23rd (d) 24th

(e) 25th

Ans (a)

According to the Ministry of Defence, the 21st edition of "Varuna" the bilateral naval exercise between India and France commenced on the western seaboard.

This edition of the exercise will witness participation of indigenous guided missile stealth destroyer INS Chennai, guided missile frigate INS Teg, maritime patrol aircraft P-8I and Dornier, integral helicopters and MiG29K fighter aircraft.

The French Navy will be represented by the aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle, frigates FS Forbin and Provence, support vessel FS Marne and maritime patrol aircraft Atlantique.

The exercise will be conducted over five days from 16 to 20 January 2023 and will witness advanced air defence exercises, tactical manoeuvres, surface firings, underway replenishment and other maritime operations.

152. Which state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd for the development of Floating and Ground Mounted based Renewable Energy Projects in state in January 2023?

- (a) Meghalaya (b) Tripura
(c) Mizoram (d) Manipur
(e) Nagaland

Ans (b)

NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd and the Tripura government have joined forces to develop large-scale renewable energy projects in the state.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NTPC's renewable energy arm and Tripura government on Monday (16 January) for development of floating and ground mounted based renewable energy projects in the state.

TREDA is the nodal agency for implementing renewable energy projects in Tripura.

153. Recently, Pankaj Kumar Singh was appointed as the Deputy National Security Adviser in National Security Council Secretariat for a period of how many years?

- (a) One years (b) Two years
(c) Three years (d) Four years
(e) Five years

Ans (b)

Retired director general of the Border Security Force (BSF), Pankaj Kumar Singh was appointed as the

Deputy National Security Adviser in National Security Council Secretariat for a period of two years. Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed on a re-employment contract.

Singh had retired as the BSF chief on December 31, 2022.

When Singh took charge of the BSF on August 31, 2021, he had created history of a son and a father holding the top post of a paramilitary force during their services.

Singh had earlier served with the Union government as Inspector General of the CRPF in Chhattisgarh and IG (Operations) at CRPF headquarters in Delhi.

Before becoming BSF DG, he also served in the BSF as chief of the Eastern Frontier, he played an instrumental role in bringing down cattle smuggling through West Bengal and Assam borders.

Between 2015 and 2021, cattle smuggling on the Indo-Bangla border dropped by 87%. When he became DG of the BSF, he had to negotiate the contentious amendment to BSF jurisdiction which was increased to 50km from the border as many states opposed it.

He has served in the Rajasthan Police as well as in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), during which he cracked an infamous sex scandal that had rocked Jammu and Kashmir, besides being involved in solving several cases related to corruption.

154. Recently, Sweden's state-owned mining company ____ has discovered Europe's largest deposit of rare earth metals.

- (a) SSAB
- (b) Boliden AB
- (c) LKAB
- (d) Vattenfall
- (e) Ericsson

Ans (c)

Recently, Sweden's state-owned mining company LKAB has discovered Europe's largest deposit of rare earth metals.

The store, situated in Kiruna located in the northern region of Sweden, holds a stockpile of over 1 million metric tons of rare earth oxides.

This discovery bolsters Europe's ambition to rely less on imported raw materials needed for the green transition.

Currently, no rare earths are mined in Europe and it mostly imports them from other regions.

155. Which ministry has presented the National Start up Awards 2022 on the occasion of National Start-up Day?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Ministry of Defence
- (c) Ministry of Statistics
- (d) Ministry of Commerce
- (e) Ministry of Education

Ans (d)

Recently, on the occasion of National Startup Day (16th January), Startup India Innovation week culminated along with National Start up Awards 2022.

National Startup Awards 2022 given by Ministry of Commerce and Industry acknowledges startups and enablers who have been instrumental in revolutionizing the development story of India.

Startup India organized industry-focused webinars on the topic "Championing the billion-dollar dream".

The Start-up ecosystem in India ranks third after that of the United States (US) and China.

According to the India Venture Capital Report 2021 published by Bain and Company, the number of cumulative start-ups has grown at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 17% since 2012.

Bengaluru, in particular, has been dubbed the "Silicon Valley of India" due to the large number of technology companies based in the city

156. Recently which district of Kerala has become first constitution literate district in India?

- (a) Alappuzha
- (b) Kottayam
- (c) Palakkad
- (d) Kollam
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram

Ans (d)

In a first of its kind initiative in Kerala State, the target to declare Kollam a totally Constitution literate district on August 14 midnight, has been taken up.

Kollam has become the first constitution literate district in the country, the feat which was achieved by educating families on the basic principles of the Constitution as part of The Citizen, a constitution literacy campaign.

Conducting: The campaign was jointly organised by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA).

Initiative: As part of the campaign, the entire population of Kollam above the age of 10 will be briefed on the preamble of the Constitution and the historical background of the document, its basic

principles, fundamental rights of citizens, and legal remedies.

Idea behind the campaign: The idea of the campaign is to equip the people to uphold constitutional values in personal life, family life, and socio-political, economic, and cultural life. Participants: Everyone, including government institutions, private establishments, socio-cultural organisations, and educational institutions, will be made participants in the campaign.

157. Which union territory has been declared as a "Free Area" for purpose of the "Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009"?

- (a) Delhi (b) Chandigarh
(c) Ladakh (d) Puducherry
(e) Jammu & Kashmir

Ans (e)

Jammu and Kashmir's governments have declared the union territory as a "Free Area" for purposes of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009.

According to the notification issued by the government, the declaration has been made in the exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (5) of section 6 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act 2009.

158. The National Council for Education Research and Training has released India's first national assessment regulator, named as -

- (a) PARAKH (b) PADHAI
(c) SHIKSHA (d) SEEKHA
(e) EDUCATION

Ans (a)

The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) has released India's first national assessment regulator, PARAKH, which will work on setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards in the country.

The PARAKH regulator aims to set up assessment guidelines for all boards to help remove disparities in the scores of students enrolled with different state boards.

PARAKH stands for The Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development. It is established within the education survey division of the NCERT.

159. Leading scientist AD Damodaran, who has passed away recently, was the former director of which research organisation?

- (a) DRDO (b) CSIR
(c) ISRO (d) ICMR
(e) ICAR

Ans (b)

AD Damodaran, leading scientist and former director of the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), passed away in Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 87.

He also served as the Chairman of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment.

Damodaran joined CSIR-NIIST as director in May 1985 and served in that capacity for 12 years.

He was also the chairman of the public sector Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation (Keltron) and an expert in Intellectual Property Rights, food nutrition, nutraceuticals and advanced materials.

160. Recently, RBI has released a report stating that the Gross Fiscal Deficit of states is expected to decrease to what percent of Gross Domestic Product in 2022-23, from 4.1% in 2020-21?

- (a) 2.1% (b) 4.2%
(c) 5.1% (d) 3.4%
(e) 6.5%

Ans (d)

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India has released a report stating that the Gross Fiscal Deficit of states is expected to decrease to 3.4% of Gross Domestic Product in 2022-23 from 4.1% which was in 2020-21. This is due to a broad-based economic recovery and an increase in revenue collections.

The report titled "State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2022-23" is a comprehensive analysis of the financial position of the Indian states, including the trends and challenges in their revenue and expenditure.

161. Who has won the Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2022 for a book titled "Broke to Breakthrough" that detailed the story of the rise of dairy company Hatsun Agro?

- (a) Rohinton Mistry
(b) Freya Elavia
(c) Harish Damodaran
(d) Vikram Seth
(e) Sturla Gunnarsson

Ans (c)

Senior journalist Harish Damodaran's "Broke to Breakthrough" has won the Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2022.

This year's jury comprised noted academics and industrialists from multiple fields, including Manish Sabharwal, Vice-Chairman TeamLease (Chairman, Jury), Imran Jafar, Managing Partner & Co-founder of Gaja Capital, Dr Lakshmi Venu, MD of Sundaram-Clayton Ltd (SCL) etc.

162. Which state government has launched its education project, "Schools of Eminence" in January 2023?

- (a) Rajasthan (b) Haryana
(c) Maharashtra (d) Punjab
(e) Nagaland

Ans (d)

State government of Punjab has launched its first major education project, "Schools of Eminence".

Under the project, the AAP government will upgrade existing government schools into "Schools of Eminence" for classes 9 to 12.

The government plans to upgrade nearly 110 government schools as "Schools of Eminence" in Phase 1.

The AAP government in its first budget in June last year had set aside a fund of Rs 200 crore for "Schools of Eminence" and said that these schools will be equipped with superlative infrastructure and will be at par with international standards.

The project is inspired by Delhi's "Schools of Specialized Excellence", which also conduct admissions at the Class 9 level.

163. In January 2023, Telangana government has launched the second phase of which initiative?

- (a) Kanti Velugu (b) Arogya Lakshmi
(c) Aasara pensions (d) Haritha Haram
(e) Kakathiya

Ans (a)

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao will be formally launching the second phase of Kanti Velugu initiative, Eye Screening programme in Khammam district this morning.

The Programme is considered to be the world's largest eye screening programme.

Under the Kanti Velugu, free eye screening will be held at the special health camps for 100 days with 1500 medical teams.

The first phase of Kanti Velugu was conducted for eight months by 827 health teams.

The health camps will commence on January 19 in the rest of the state.

164. The second phase of Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) Ayodhya (b) Basti
(c) Lucknow (d) Gorakhpur
(e) Meerut

Ans (b)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the second phase of Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23 via video conferencing.

Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23 has been organized in Basti district, Uttar Pradesh by Harish Dwivedi, Member of Parliament from Basti since 2021.

The Khel Mahakumbh includes various competitions in both indoor and outdoor sports like wrestling, kabaddi, kho kho, basketball, football, hockey, volleyball, handball, chess, carrom, badminton, table tennis, etc.

There are several other competitions including essay writing, painting, rangoli making, etc are also organized during the Khel Mahakumbh.

165. According to the World Bank's "Global Economic Prospects report", which country in south asia has the weakest economy?

- (a) Sri Lanka (b) Afghanistan
(c) Pakistan (d) Nepal
(e) Bhutan

Ans (c)

World Bank forecast Pakistan's economic growth to slow further to two percent during the current year.

This will mark a drop of two percentage points from its June 2022 estimates, according to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects report.

Pakistan's economic output was not only declining itself but also bringing down the regional growth rate as well.

Forecasting Pakistan's GDP growth rate to improve to 3.2 per cent in 2024.

This pace reflects still robust growth in India, Maldives, and Nepal, offsetting the effects of the floods in Pakistan and the economic and political crises in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

166. Which UT has become the first in India to completely switch to a digital method of administration, leading the way in the digital transformation of governance?

- (a) Jammu & Kashmir
- (b) Daman & Diu
- (c) Lakshadweep
- (d) Chandigarh
- (e) Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Ans (a)

Jammu & Kashmir becomes the first union territory in India to completely switch to a digital method of administration, leading the way in the digital transformation of governance.

All governmental and administrative services in Jammu & Kashmir are currently only offered digitally.

The declaration was made during the meeting of the Committee of Secretaries.

Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta instructed the commissioner of IT during the meeting to make sure that all government services would only be accessible online.

167. What is the rank of India in Global Firepower Index?

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans (d)

The Global Firepower Index ranks the countries based on their potential military strength.

India is ranked fourth in the index.

The Global Firepower Index ranked 145 countries.

The countries were evaluated based on prolonged offensive and defensive military campaigns.

The Global Firepower Index is calculated using fifty individual factors from geography to logistical capability.

It also includes manpower, land forces, airpower, natural resources, naval forces, logistics and financials.

168. Which brand from India has featured in top 100 most valuable brands in the world?

- (a) Tata Group (b) Reliance
- (c) Flipkart (d) Adani Group
- (e) Larsen & Toubro

Ans (a)

Billionaire Jeff Bezos's e-commerce company Amazon has become the most valued brand, overtaking Apple, last year's topper.

Amazon has reclaimed the top spot as the world's most valuable brand despite its brand value falling 15 per cent this year from \$350.3 billion to \$299.3 billion.

According to brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance's report, "Global 500 2023", while Amazon is back at No 1, its brand value has fallen by over \$50 billion this year, with its rating slipping from AAA+ to AAA.

From India, over 150-year-old Tata Group is the only brand to feature in the top 100.

The conglomerate's brand value jumped up to 69 from 78 last year.

However, reasons for the ranking going up were not available.

Among Indian IT tech giants, Infosys jumped to the 150th slot from 158 last year.

According to the report, Infosys has seen an 84% increase in its brand value since 2020.

169. Which bank has been awarded with the Best Bank Award?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) State Bank of India
- (c) City Union Bank
- (d) Karur Vysya Bank
- (e) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

Ans (e)

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMB) has bagged the Best Small Bank award in the Best Banks survey for the year 2022.

The Best Banks survey was conducted by Business Today- KPMG (BT-KPMG Best Banks Survey).

The bank has won the Best Small Bank Award under the category of banks with a book size of less than Rs 1 Lakh crore.

The BT-KPMG is conducting the survey and awarding the best banks for the past 27 years with 37 parameters for declaring a bank as an awardee.

TBM has shown its performance to come up as a topper in the respective categories.

The award function was held in Mumbai, on 13th January 2023.

On behalf of TMB, MD and CEO Shri S Krishnan has received the awards from Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

170. Bharti Airtel Group announced that it will be investing Rs 2,000 crore for setting up a large hyperscale data centre in which city?

- (a) Chennai

- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) New Delhi
- (e) Kolkata

Ans (b)

Bharti Airtel Group announced that it will be investing Rs 2,000 crore for setting up a large hyperscale data centre in Hyderabad.

The announcement was made at the Telangana Lounge at Davos, Switzerland in the presence of Telangana Minister for IT and Industries K T Rama Rao.

The release added that the Bharti Airtel Group, through its data centre arm, Nxtra Data Centers, will invest the amount as capital investment for the infrastructure which will further attract investments from their customers.

A Hyperscale data center is essentially the premise that provides space, power and cooling for network infrastructure designed specifically for offering a portfolio of highly scalable applications and storage services to businesses.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently inaugurated Yotta D1 – India's second and North India's first hyper-scale data centre – in Greater Noida.

171. Which airport of India has won best sustainable Greenfield airport award?

- (a) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- (b) Kempegowda International Airport
- (c) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- (d) Manohar International Airport
- (e) Biju Patnaik International Airport

Ans (d)

The New Goa Manohar International Airport (MIA), built by the GMR Goa International Airport Ltd (GGIAL), a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited, won the prestigious "Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport" award under Aviation Sustainability and Environment at ASSOCHAM 14th International Conference-cum-Awards for Civil Aviation 2023 at New Delhi.

The award was presented for "excellent initiatives" taken by GGIAL in implementing sustainability as one of core concepts.

During the conference, Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia presented the award to the senior officials from GGIAL in the presence of industry dignitaries and participants.

The forum recognises the companies engaged in civil aviation initiatives that adopt best practices and technological advancement in their daily operations.

172. Recently, United Nations General Assembly has adopted which resolution that reaffirms the right of everyone to education?

- (a) Education for Democracy
- (b) Education for Autonomy
- (c) Education for Equality
- (d) Education for Republic
- (e) Education for Freedom

Ans (a)

The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted a resolution titled "Education for Democracy" that reaffirms the right of everyone to education.

The resolution, which was co-sponsored by India, recognises that "education for all" contributes to the strengthening of democracy.

The resolution encourages member states to integrate education for democracy into their education standards.

Earlier in 2015, a similar resolution was passed at the Assembly encouraging all UN entities to use education to promote peace, human rights, and democracy.

The resolution aimed at encouraging member states to integrate education for democracy into their education standards.

173. Who has been sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor in the state of Maryland?

- (a) Ria Persad
- (b) Sucharit Sarkar
- (c) Aruna Miller
- (d) Kiran Kedlaya
- (e) Kaushik Basu

Ans (c)

Aruna Miller has scripted history by becoming the first Indian-American politician to be sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor in the state of Maryland, adjoining the US capital.

Aruna, 58, a former delegate to the Maryland House, made history when the Democrat became the 10th Lieutenant Governor of the state.

The Lieutenant Governor is the state's highest official following the Governor and assumes the role when the Governor is out of state or incapacitated.

Moore became Maryland's 63rd governor, the state's first and the country's only current Black chief executive.

The newly sworn-in Lt Governor took her oath on the Bhagwat Gita.

She was part of a historic Democratic ticket that sailed to victory in November and also gives Maryland its first Black governor, its first Black attorney general and its first female comptroller.

174. As per Ernst & Young's report, by which year India will become \$26 trillion economy?

- (a) 2041
- (b) 2058
- (c) 2045
- (d) 2047
- (e) 2035

Ans (d)

Ernst & Young, released a report titled India@100: Realizing the potential of a USD26 trillion economy. According to the estimates Indian economy will reach GDP size of USD26 trillion by 2047, the 100th year of the country's independence.

The per capita income is expected to increase to USD 15000, putting the country among the ranks of developed economies.

Prudent macro-economic management focused on managing and stabilizing inflation and currency, ensuring predictability in policies and proactively de-risking the economy would remain important for India to continually attract domestic and global investors.

Simultaneously, enhancing ease of doing business, accelerating power sector reforms and energy independence, and enabling quality healthcare and education will not only increase business confidence but also ensure socio-economic development on a sustained basis.

175. Who has been ranked number one among Indians and second globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2023?

- (a) Satya Nadella
- (b) Sundar Pichai
- (c) Punit Renjen
- (d) Mukesh Ambani
- (e) Piyush Gupta

Ans (d)

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani ranked No.1 among Indians and second globally on the Brand Guardianship Index 2023, overtaking the likes of Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Google's Sundar Pichai.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang topped the list globally, with Microsoft's Satya Nadella occupying third place. The Brand Guardianship Index by Brand Finance, a leading global independent brand consultancy, is a global recognition of CEOs, who are building business value in a sustainable manner, by balancing the needs of all stakeholders — employees, investors, and the wider society.

The Brand Guardianship Index includes "equity" factors, which reflect current perceptions, "performance" factors which reflect the tangible results of these perceptions, and "Investment" factors which support future performance.

176. Dr Sanduk Ruit, who has won the ISA Award for Service to Humanity, a top civilian award of Bahrain, hails from which country?

- (a) India
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Syria
- (e) Afghanistan

Ans (b)

Himalayan Cataract Project Co-Founder Dr Sanduk Ruit has won the ISA Award for Service to Humanity, a top civilian award of Bahrain.

The award carries a cash prize of USD 1 million, a certificate of merit and a gold medal.

He is pioneer in delivering high-quality microsurgical procedures in remote eye camps. He made modern eye care affordable and accessible to countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

177. Who has been appointed as Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare?

- (a) Vipul Aggarwal
- (b) Preeti Singh
- (c) Praveen Sharma
- (d) Geetali Tare
- (e) Santosh Kumar

Ans (c)

Praveen Sharma has been selected for appointment as Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

As per the order issued from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Sharma has been appointed to the post under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years with effect from the date of taking over charge of the post or until further orders whichever takes place earlier.

Sharma is an Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE) officer of 2005 batch.

178. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stones of development projects worth more than Rs 38,000 crore in which city?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Kolkata
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Indore
- (e) New Delhi

Ans (c)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of development projects worth more than Rs 38,000 crore in different sectors in Mumbai.

It is a big step in infrastructure, urban travel, and healthcare ahead of civic polls.

This was PM Modi's first visit to Mumbai after Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde took office at June-end last year after replacing the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

179. Reserve Bank of India has guided inflation towards 4% target by which year?

- (a) 2024
- (b) 2025
- (c) 2026
- (d) 2027
- (e) 2028

Ans (a)

The Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.

Recent data indicated "the main objective of monetary policy is being passed – bringing inflation into the tolerance band".

The objective during 2023 is to tether inflation therein so that it aligns with the target by 2024.

Annual retail inflation rose 5.72% in December versus 5.88% in the previous month, dipping below 6% for a second straight month after having stayed above the central bank's tolerance band of 2%-6% for 10 months.

At current prices and exchange rates, therefore, India will be a \$3.7 trillion economy in 2023, maintaining its lead over the UK as the fifth largest economy of the world.

According to the IMF's calculations, India will move into fourth place in 2025 and into the third place in 2027 as a \$5.4 trillion economy, the bulletin noted.

180. Prabhaben Sobhagchand Shah has passed away recently. In which year she was awarded by Padma Shri?

- (a) 2022
- (b) 2020
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2015
- (e) 2014

Ans (a)

Padma Shri Awardee Prabhaben Sobhagchand Shah passed away on 18th January 2023 at the age of 92. Prabhaben Sobhagchand Shah was a social worker from the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu.

Prabhaben Sobhagchand Shah was also known as "Daman ki Divya".

She has organized canteens for the poor and coordinated the All India Women Council's "Vatta Banks" to assist Gujarat flood victims.

In 2022, Prabhaben Sobhagchand Shah received the Padma Shri which is India's 4th highest civilian award for social work in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Prabhaben Sobhagchand Shah was born on 20th February 1930 in Bardoli, Surat district, and settled in Daman in 1963.

She decided to be a social worker at the age of 12 and she established Gujarat medium school Bal Mandir.

In 1963, she established the women's association named Mahila Mandal and began to take part in various activities related to women and children who are deprived of education.

181. Which district has become first in the country to provide basic documents to all tribal?

- (a) Wayanad
- (b) Munnar
- (c) Madikeri
- (d) Ooty
- (e) Vagamon

Ans (a)

Kerala's Wayanad district has become the first district in the country to provide basic documents and facilities such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards, birth/death certificates, election ID cards, bank accounts and health insurance to all tribespeople.

Apart from the basic documents, other services such as income certificates, ownership certificates, age certificates, and applications for new pensions are also provided at the camps.

The drive was launched in November 2021 at Thondarnadu grama panchayat.

The campaign is aimed at ensuring basic documents to all citizens belonging to the Scheduled Tribes

communities and these documents are digitalised and saved in DigiLocker accounts opened for them.

182. Which is strongest brand in India and ranked ninth among the world's strongest brands, according to a report published by Brand Finance?

- (a) Reliance Jio
- (b) Infosys
- (c) Airtel
- (d) Wipro
- (e) HDFC Bank

Ans (a)

Reliance Jio has been ranked as the strongest brand in India and placed ninth among the world's strongest brands, according to the latest report "Global 500 – 2023" published by Brand Finance.

"Jio" was placed ninth among the world's strongest brands ahead of brands like EY, Coca Cola, Accenture and Porsche, and behind the likes of Google, YouTube, Deloitte and Instagram.

With a Brand Strength Index of 90.2, Jio is the only brand of India among the world's strongest 25 brands, according to the Brand Finance listing.

Brand Finance is headquartered in London.

Brand Finance defines a "Brand Strength Index" as essentially a modified Balanced Scorecard split between the three core pillars of the "Brand Value Chain" viz. Brand Inputs, Brand Equity and Brand Performance.

183. Recently, Nick Walker has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Cairn Oil & Gas. Cairn Oil & Gas is a unit of which company?

- (a) Vedanta Ltd
- (b) Hindustan Zinc
- (c) Hindalco Industries
- (d) Tata Steel Ltd
- (e) Bharat Aluminium Company

Ans (a)

Nick Walker has been announced as the Chief Executive Officer of Cairn Oil & Gas, A unit of Vedanta Ltd.

The appointment is effective from 5th January 2023.

Nick Walker has previously served as the President and CEO at Lundin Energy, a large European independent E&P company.

He has also worked with BP, Talisman Energy, and Africa Oil and has an international experience of 30 years in technical, commercial, and executive leadership roles.

About Cairn Oil & Gas -

Cairn Oil & Gas is the largest private crude oil producer in India.

It has been operating for over 2 decades and is well-positioned to reduce the country's energy import burden.

Cairn has been playing an active role in developing India's oil and gas resources.

With a portfolio of 6 blocks, of which 5 blocks are in India and one in South Africa, Cairn has made over 50 hydrocarbon discoveries in the last decade and operates the largest producing oil field in the Indian private sector

184. What will be driving the theme of Republic Day tableau 2023 of Navy?

- (a) Vision of the future
- (b) Nari Shakti
- (c) Eco-Friendly
- (d) Vocal for Local
- (e) Victory

Ans (b)

"Nari Shakti" (women power) will be driving the theme of this year's Republic Day tableau of Navy.

Not just the front of the tableau will feature a woman aircrew of a Dornier aircraft flying overhead, but Lt Commander Disha Amrith has been tasked with commanding its parade contingent.

The theme of the naval tableau would be "Indian Navy — Combat Ready, Credible, Cohesive and Future Proof".

The main section of the tableau will illustrate the 'Make in India' initiatives of the Navy.

In the rear section of the tableau, three models of autonomous unmanned systems being developed indigenously under IDEX-Sprint Challenge will be displayed.

185. What is the name of first joint exercise between Indian and the Egyptian Army, which has begun recently?

- (a) Exercise Shakti – I
- (b) Exercise Cyclone – I
- (c) Garuda Shakti – I
- (d) Exercise EGYINN – I
- (e) Ekuverin

Ans (b)

The first joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian and the Egyptian Army, "Exercise Cyclone – I" started on 14 January at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, said the Ministry of Defence.

The exercise aims to bolster defence co-operation between the two countries and focus on sharing professional skills and interoperability of special forces in desert terrain while undertaking counter

terrorism, reconnaissance, raids and other special operations.

"Cyclone – I" is the first exercise of its kind bringing the special forces of both the nations on a common platform.

The 14 days long exercise which is being carried out in the deserts of Rajasthan engages both the contingents to advance special forces skills such as Sniping, Combat Free Fall, etc.

186. Who has won National Sports Club of India Snooker Open Crown 2023?

- (a) Pankaj Advani (b) Aditya Mehta
(c) Laxman Rawat (d) Yasin Merchant
(e) Geet Sethi

Ans (c)

Laxman Rawat of PSPB overcame fellow PSPB challenger Aditya Mehta 9-6 in a best-of-17-frame final.

Laxman Rawat of PSPB emerged victorious in the "Baulkline" NSCI All India Snooker Open.

Previously, Laxman Rawat won the runner-up in the last edition of the All India Snooker Open losing to Sourav Kothari in the finals.

Laxman Rawat of the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) won the NSCI Snooker Open 2023 against Aditya Mehta.

Rawat was more consistent and managed to wrest the initiative and enjoy a 5-3 lead at the break.

Rawat was a bit scratchy, and Mehta did well to win frames to draw level at 5-all and stay in the fight.

Rawat gained the moment in the next three frames to surge to an 8-5 lead.

Aditya Mehta managed to take some time in the 14th frame.

However, Rawat was destined to win the game in the next frame.

187. Under the leadership of National AIDS Control Organization, which state's AIDS Control Society has organised an awareness program on HIV AIDS?

- (a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha
(c) Rajasthan (d) Bihar
(e) Telangana

Ans (b)

Odisha State AIDS Control Society organised an awareness program on HIV AIDS in coordination with the Department of Sports and Youth Services and Hockey India under the leadership of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), on 19th January 2023.

The spectators in the gallery included 4,800 students from various schools, Red Ribbon Club members from colleges, people from community, and participants from the Mission Shakti Department.

The event created the "Largest Human Red Ribbon Chain" at the East Gallery of the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Odisha continues to have a low HIV prevalence in the state with an adult prevalence of 0.14% and an estimated 52,108 people living with HIV (PLHIV).

188. Which small finance bank has bagged the prestigious Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022?

- (a) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
(b) Jana Small Finance Bank
(c) ESAF Small Finance Bank
(d) AU Small Finance Bank
(e) Equitas Small Finance Bank

Ans (c)

ESAF Small Finance Bank has bagged the prestigious Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022 for its contributions in advancing the goal of financial inclusion and supporting inclusive growth.

This award is a recognition of ESAF's unique spectrum of Financial Inclusion projects ESAF Dhansree, ESAF Udyog Jyothi, LSEDP (Local Sustainable Economic Development Project), ESAF Balajyothi, ESAF Vayojyothi and ESAF Garshom.

Financial inclusion is defined as the availability and equality of opportunities to access financial services.

It refers to a process by which individuals and businesses can access appropriate, affordable, and timely financial products and services.

189. What is the name of fifth Kalvari class submarine which has been commissioned recently?

- (a) INS Vela (b) INS Vagsheer
(c) INS Karanj (d) INS Vagir
(e) INS Kalvari

Ans (d)

Indian Navy has commissioned the fifth Kalvari class submarine Vagir in Jan 2023.

The Chief of the Naval Staff is Adm R Hari Kumar. These submarines are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with MS Naval Group, France.

Four of the Kalvari class of submarines have already been commissioned into the Indian Navy.

190. A book titled "COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team" has been authored by whom?

- (a) R Sridhar (b) P Mhambrey
(c) R Kaushik (d) Bharat Arun
(e) Both (a) and (c)

Ans (e)

A book titled "COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team" authored by R Kaushik & R Sridhar.

The book reflects primarily on R Sridhar's seven-year coaching tenure with the Indian cricket team as its fielding coach.

This book isn't as technical as it is anecdotal.

It throws light, for instance, on how Virat Kohli overcame a dismal Test series in England in 2014 to smash four hundreds in as many matches in his next overseas outing, in Australia.

191. Which team has won the 14th CEC Ice Hockey Cup 2023 in the men's category, organized in Ladakh?

- (a) Friends Pashkum (b) Humas Warriors
(c) Wakha Mulbekh (d) Down Hill Kargil
(e) Motorpoint Arena

Ans (a)

In Ladakh, Friends Pashkum has lifted the 14th CEC Ice Hockey Cup 2023 by defeating Humas Warriors Drass by 2 goals.

In women's Category Down Hill Kargil lifted the Cup by defeating Wakha Mulbekh Women Team.

The event was held at Khree Sultan Choo Sports Stadium.

27 teams, including 4 Women teams, participated in the Tournament which is the result of the growing popularity of the Game in the District.

Cups and Trophy related with Hockey - Betan Cup, Rangaswami Cup, Dhyanchand Trophy, Aaga Khan Cup, Nehru Trophy, Begum Rasul trophy (Women), Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gold Cup, Lady Ratan Tata Trophy (Women), Gurunanak Championship (Women), Scindia Gold Cup, Murugappa Gold Cup, Wellington Cup & Indira Gandhi Gold Cup.

192. Lakshmi Vishwanathan, who passed away, was a renowned dancer of which of the following classical dances?

- (a) Bharatanatyam (b) Kathakali
(c) Kathak (d) Kuchipudi
(e) Mohiniyattam

Ans (a)

Renowned Bharatanatyam dancer and guru, writer and research scholar Lakshmi Vishwanathan died recently.

She was 78.

Born to K Vishwanathan, the brother of famous film director K Subramanyam and Alamelu Vishwanathan on January 27, 1944, Lakshmi gave her "arangetram" at the Rasika Ranjani Sabha in Mylapore when she was 7.

Among the many awards she received are the Kalaimamani from the Tamil Nadu government and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award from the President of India.

She also was awarded by titles like Nritya Chudamani (Sri Krishna Gana Sabha) and Nritya Kalanidhi (The Music Academy, Madras) as well as the Kalidas Samman.

She was a gold medallist in English literature from Madras University.

She authored four books — Kunjamma-Ode to a Nightingale (a biography of MS Subbulakshmi), Women of Pride-the Devadasi Heritage, Kapaliswara Temple and Bharatanatyam: The Tamil Heritage.

193. Which edition of the Aero India 2023 will be organized at the Air Force Station, Bengaluru in February 2023?

- (a) 15th (b) 14th
(c) 13th (d) 12th
(e) 16th

Ans (b)

The 14th edition of Aero India is to be held between February 13 and 15.

The last edition of the air-show was held amid the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and was reduced to a three-day event.

A large number of Indian and foreign aircraft, mainly military ones, are expected to take part along with display teams from India and abroad in the airshow which returns to its traditional five-day format this year.

194. Every year on 23rd of January Parakram Diwas is celebrated on the birth anniversary of which freedom fighter?

- (a) Chandra Shekhar Azad
(b) Subhas Chandra Bose
(c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(e) Lal Bahadur Shastri

Ans (b)

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti or Netaji Jayanti is a national event celebrated in India as Parakram Diwas on January 23 to mark the birth of prominent Indian freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. This year nation celebrates 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

For the first time, Netaji Jayanti was celebrated as Parakram Divas in 2021 on the occasion of his 124th birthday.

In West Bengal, Jharkhand, Tripura, and Assam, it is a recognised holiday.

195. Recently in January 2023, which two countries have tied up to begin common currency?

- (a) Ecuador and Colombia
- (b) Brazil and Argentina
- (c) Argentina and Peru
- (d) Venezuela and Chile
- (e) Mexico and Uruguay

Ans (b)

Brazil and Argentina has tied up for greater economic integration, including the development of a common currency

Countries are also decided to advance discussions on a common South American currency that can be used for both financial and commercial flows, reducing costs of operations and external vulnerability.

Brazil has suggested the new currency as "sur" (South).

Both presidents emphasized the need for a good relationship between Argentina and Brazil to strengthen regional integration, according to the article.

The leaders also emphasized strengthening the Mercosur trade bloc.

196. Indian Navy has carried out a six-day-long mega military exercise AMPHEX 2023 along with the Army and the IAF in which state?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Odisha
- (e) Karnataka

Ans (c)

Indian Navy has carried out a six-day-long mega military exercise along with the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

The "largest" biennial tri-services amphibious exercise AMPHEX 2023 was conducted from January 17 to 22.

The exercise is being conducted near the Naval Enclave at Suryaraopeta village in Kakinada rural Mandal off Kakinada coast.

197. Recently, which state government has inaugurated the 3-day International Craft Summit?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Goa
- (d) Odisha
- (e) Bihar

Ans (d)

Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated an "International Craft Summit" in Jajpur, Odisha. The International Craft Summit is the first-of-its-kind craft summit to feature pioneer craftspersons, culture, and art enthusiasts.

198. PM Modi has inaugurated a model of a memorial dedicated to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in which state/UT?

- (a) Lakshadweep
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Puducherry
- (d) Ladakh
- (e) Andaman & Nicobar

Ans (e)

On Parakram Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in a ceremony named "21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands".

The islands would be named after the 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. Ross Islands was renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep by the Prime Minister during his visit to the Island in 2018.

PM Modi also inaugurate a model of a memorial dedicated to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose virtually in Andaman to commemorate the freedom fighter's 126th birth anniversary. The model of the proposed memorial will be set up on Ross Island, which had been renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep in 2018.

199. Who has been appointed as the next director general in the Directorate of General of Civil Aviation?

- (a) Arun Kumar
- (b) Ravi Krishna
- (c) Vikram Dev Dutt
- (d) Devdutt Sharma
- (e) Kunal Chopra

Ans (c)

The appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Vikram Dev Dutt as the next director general in the Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

He will take over as the head of the aviation regulator on February 28, 2023.

He will be succeeding the incumbent DGCA chief Arun Kumar.

Earlier, Dutt had also served as the CMD of Air India. He had taken charge in January last year.

In 2022, Dutt was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Ltd as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.

Dutt is a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal

Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.

Kumar, a 1989-batch IAS officer, was leading the DGCA as its director general since July 2019.

200. Recently, who has claimed to have solved Sanskrit's biggest puzzle—a grammar problem found in the "Ashtadhyayi"?

- (a) Dr Tathagat Bhatia
- (b) Dr Ganesh Prasad
- (c) Dr Rishi Rajpopat
- (d) Dr Venkata Chaluvadi
- (e) Dr Veeraj Venkataramanan

Ans (c)

Recently, a Cambridge scholar Dr Rishi Rajpopat's has claimed to have solved Sanskrit's biggest puzzle—a grammar problem found in the "Ashtadhyayi".

201. Who has been awarded the PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar by President Murmu in the bravery category for saving the life of a woman by jumping into a river?

- (a) Rohan Ramchandra Bahir
- (b) Aadithya Suresh
- (c) Aditya Pratap Singh Chauhan
- (d) Shauryajit Ranjitkumar Khaire
- (e) Rishi Shiv Prasanna

Ans: (a)

This year, the PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) was conferred on 11 children selected for their exceptional achievement in the fields of art and culture (4), bravery (1), innovation (2), social service (1), and sports (3)

There were six boys and five girls among the awardees from 11 states and Union territories. Each awardee was given a medal, a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate. In the bravery category, Rohan Ramchandra Bahir was awarded for saving a woman's life by jumping into a river.

202. Who has been recently elected as the chairman of Intel replacing Omar Ishrak?

- (a) Leena Nair
- (b) Frank Yeary
- (c) Bayard Winthrop
- (d) Alexis Garcin

(e) James D. Robinson

Ans: (b)

Intel Chairman Omar Ishrak has stepped down and will be replaced by board director Frank Yeary, the company announced.

Yeary, an Intel director since 2009, also serves on the board of PayPal Holdings, Intel's Mobileye and a number of private companies.

Ishrak, who was CEO of medical device maker Medtronic for nearly nine years, became Intel's chairman in 2020. He will continue as an independent director on Intel's board, the company said.

203. Which E-commerce giant has appointed P Ganesh as its Chief Financial Officer?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Myntra
- (c) Flipkart
- (d) Alibaba
- (e) Nykaa

Ans: (e)

Nykaa appointment of P Ganesh as its Chief Financial Officer, effective from February 3.

In November, Arvind Agarwal had resigned as the Nykaa CFO to pursue other opportunities in the digital economy and startup space.

Currently, he is the CFO at Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd. or TAFE and has previously held leadership and senior management roles at the Godrej Group, Glenmark Pharma Ltd. and Pidilite Ltd.

204. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 26 lakh on which Ahmedabad-based bank for non-compliance with certain directions of the central bank?

- (a) Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank
- (b) Independence Cooperative Bank Limited
- (c) People's Cooperative Bank Limited
- (d) Mudhol Bank
- (e) Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank

Ans: (a)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 26 lakh on Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad for non-compliance with certain directions of the central bank.

This penalty has been imposed in exercise of the powers vested in RBI conferred under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

This action of the central bank is based on a deficiency in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

205. Who has been named by the White House as a special envoy for human rights in North Korea for the first time since 2017?

- (a) Cecilia Rouse
- (b) Brenda Mallory
- (c) Robert B. Downing
- (d) Julie Turner
- (e) Shalanda Young

Ans: (d)

The White House has nominated a special envoy for human rights in North Korea for the first time since 2017.

President Joe Biden nominated Julie Turner, a long-time diplomat and current director of the Office of East Asia and the Pacific in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the Department of State, the White House said in a statement.

She speaks Korean and has previously worked on North Korean human rights as a special assistant in the envoy's office, the statement said.

206. Recently fintech unicorn BharatPe has appointed Ambuj Bhalla as _____ in the company.

- (a) Chief Information Security Officer
- (b) Head of Internal Audit
- (c) Head of Compliance
- (d) Senior Area Sales Manager
- (e) Chief Financial Officer

Ans: (a)

BharatPe appointed three new executives in compliance and corporate governance roles amid a legal battle with former Co-founder and MD Ashneer Grover.

The fintech unicorn appointed Ambuj Bhalla as the Chief Information Security Officer, Rahul Bhatia as the Head of Internal Audit and Ravinder Oberoi as the Head of Compliance. Founded in 2018, BharatPe is currently serving 1 crore merchants across more than 400 cities. The company is a leader in UPI offline transactions, processing over 18 crore UPI transactions per month (with an annualized transaction processed value of over \$24 billion in payments).

207. Who has become the fastest bowler to take 500 wickets in the history of T20 cricket?

- (a) Rashid Khan
- (b) Jasprit Bumrah
- (c) Trent Boult
- (d) Pat Cummins
- (e) Mohammed Shami

Ans: (a)

Afghanistan all-rounder Rashid Khan has become the fastest bowler to take 500 wickets in the history of T20 cricket.

The 24-year-old reached the milestone after taking three wickets for MI Cape Town against Pretoria Capitals in SA20.

Rashid took 371 T20 matches to take 500 wickets.

Dwayne Bravo had taken 458 matches to reach the milestone.

208. 44th Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora, who passed away recently, was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in which year?

- (a) 2017
- (b) 2018
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2020
- (e) 2021

Ans: (d)

Former Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora passed away at the age of 61.

Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora PVSM, AVSM, ADC (25 June 1961 – 21 January 2023) was an officer of the Indian Air Force and served as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff from 1 October 2019 to 30 June 2021.

He was succeeded by Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari. Arora was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force in December 1981.

He had flying experience of over 2600 hours on Mig-21, Mig-29, and also helicopters.

He served as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Air Command from 30 September 2018 after superannuation of Air Marshal Ravinder Kumar Dhir, to 30 September 2019. He was succeeded by Air Marshal Surendra Kumar Ghotia.

In his career of over 38 years, he was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2011 and the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2020

209. Who has been appointed as the chairman of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) that markets milk and dairy products under the Amul brand?

- (a) Jayen Mehta
- (b) Valamjibhai Humal
- (c) Shamalbhai B Patel
- (d) Rakesh Kumar Agarwal
- (e) Mukesh Kumar Agarwal

Ans: (c)

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) that markets milk and dairy products

under the Amul brand announced the appointment of Shamalbhai B Patel as its chairman and Valamjibhai Humbal as vice chairman.

Shamalbhaji B Patel is the chairman of Sabarkantha District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd., Sabar dairy and related to dairy cooperatives of Gujarat since final 33 years.

Valamjibhai Humbal, has been chairman of Kutch District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd., Sarhad Dairy for the reason that final 14 years. Humbal's nomination was proposed by Mansinhbhai Patel, chairman, Surat milk union and supported by Vihabhai Sabhad, chairman, Surendranagar milk union.

210. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is hosting the 2nd International Conference in New Delhi on which theme?

- (a) Use of Technology and Elections Integrity
- (b) Use of Spectrum and Elections Integrity
- (c) Expanding the Possibilities
- (d) Change For Good
- (e) Role, Framework, and Capacity of Election Management Bodies

Ans: (a)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is hosting the 2nd International Conference on the theme 'Use of Technology and Elections Integrity' in New Delhi from 23rd to 24th January 2023.

The first international conference of the Cohort was organized from 31st October to 1st November 2022 in New Delhi on the topic 'Role, Framework, and Capacity of Election Management Bodies'.

In the first international conference of the Cohort, nearly 50 representatives from the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of 11 countries participated.

The two-day international conference will be inaugurated by the Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajiv Kumar.

The concluding session will be chaired by the Election Commissioner of India, Anup Chandra Pandey. Arun Goel, Election Commissioner of India will chair the first technical session.

211. Who will replace N Srinath as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of India's charitable foundation Tata Trusts from April 1, 2023?

- (a) Vijay Singh (b) Venu Srinivasan
- (c) Siddharth Sharma (d) Krishna Kumar
- (e) Pramit Jhaveri

Ans (c)

Former bureaucrat Siddharth Sharma has been appointed as the new CEO of Tata Trusts.

Former Ford Foundation officer Aparna Uppaluri has been made the Chief Operating Officer (COO).

The appointments for both the posts of CEO and COO will be effective from April 1, 2023.

Siddharth Sharma will replace N Srinath, who had stepped down from the post of CEO after his retirement last year.

Siddharth Sharma, 54 years old, has held important positions in different ministries of the Government of India for two decades.

He has also been the financial advisor to the 13th and 14th President. Later he joined Tata group.

He was heading the newly formed Sustainability portfolio there.

After Ford Foundation, Aparna Uppaluri is now going to be a part of Tata Trust and she has been made Chief Operating Officer.

Aparna, 48, is currently posted as Program Director for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka at the Ford Foundation.

212. Which men's cricket teams topped the ICC ODI rankings after defeating New Zealand in January 2023?

- (a) Australia (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) India (d) England
- (e) West Indies

Ans (c)

In Cricket, India has claimed the top spot in the ICC men's ODI ranking after a series against New Zealand at the Holkar stadium in Indore.

With the 90-run win over Tom Latham's side, in the third and final ODI last evening the Indian team overtook both England and New Zealand to capture the top spot in the ODI rankings with 114 points.

Chasing a target of 386 runs, New Zealand were all out 295 in 41.2 overs.

Devon Conway with 138 off 100 balls and Henry Nicholls with 42 runs from 40 deliveries, made valuable contribution for the Kiwis.

India secured a comprehensive eight wicket win in the second ODI in Raipur.

213. In January 2023, Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi, who passed away recently, was a renowned _____.

- (a) Politician (b) Classical Singer
- (c) Architecture (d) Classical Dancer
- (e) Journalist

Ans (c)

Renowned architect Balkrishna Vitthal Das Doshi passed away at the age of 95.

He had been an urban planner and educator for the past 70 years.

Doshi was the first Indian architect to be awarded the Pritzker Prize.

He was also awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects' Royal Gold Medal in 2022.

Earlier, he had also received Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

After completing his studies at the Sir J J School of Architecture in Mumbai, Doshi went to London in 1950 and worked under Le Corbusier for four years.

He worked at Corbusier's studio in Paris.

Later, Doshi returned to India to oversee Corbusier's projects like Villa Sarabhai.

Doshi's architectural skills can be seen in some of the most iconic buildings in India, including the Indian Institutes of Management in Bengaluru and Udaipur.

214. National Tourism Day is celebrated every year on which day of January to raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the Indian economy?

(a) 24 January (b) 23 January

(c) 26 January (d) 25 January

(e) 27 January

Ans (d)

National Tourism Day is celebrated every year on January 25 to recognize India's natural beauty and raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the Indian economy.

India is one of the top tourist attractions for visitors from all around the globe.

Hence tourism holds so much importance in India, both in cultural and economic terms.

Status of the Tourism Sector in India -

India provides a diverse portfolio of tourism, including eco-tourism, cruises, business, sports, educational, rural, and medical travel.

The Ministry of Tourism in India is responsible for formulating the country's national policies for developing and promoting tourism.

It also collaborates with local, national, and international organisations.

India ranks 6th according to World Travel and Tourism Council in terms of Travel & Tourism total contribution to GDP in 2021.

Also, India is currently ranked 54th in World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index (2021).

215. After Co-Win, Government of India has launched which program to digitise universal immunisation?

(a) U-WIN (b) ABHA

(c) UniVacc (d) Co-EPI

(e) Co-OPV

Ans (a)

After the success of the Co-WIN platform, the government has now replicated it to set up an electronic registry for routine vaccinations.

Named U-WIN, the programme to digitise India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been launched in a pilot mode in two districts of each state and Union Territory.

The platform will be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record her delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses and all vaccination events thereafter.

For pregnant women and children, vaccine acknowledgement and immunisation card linked to ABHA ID (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) will be generated and all states and districts can access a common database to track and vaccinate beneficiaries.

Besides, through the platform citizens can check nearby ongoing routine immunisation sessions, and book appointments.

216. Recently, Banwari Lal Purohit has inaugurated North India's largest floating Solar project in which city?

(a) Varanasi (b) Chandigarh

(c) Kota (d) Jaipur

(e) Noida

Ans (b)

Union Territory Administrator, Banwari Lal Purohit has inaugurated northern India's largest floating solar power project of 2000kWp worth Rs 11.70 crore at waterworks, Sector 39, Chandigarh.

The inauguration was held in the presence of MP Kirron Kher.

He also inaugurated a 500kWp floating solar project with fountains at Dhanas Lake.

These projects have been designed and executed by CREST (Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society) and will generate a minimum of 35 lakh units (kWh) of solar energy per year with 20% module efficiency.

217. Which state has celebrated its 53rd Statehood Day on 25th January 2023?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Rajasthan
(e) West Bengal

Ans (a)

Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 53rd Statehood Day with joy and enthusiasm across the state on 25th January 2023.

In 1971, on this day, Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of India.

218. India Energy Week 2023 will be hosted in which city from 6th to 8th February 2023?

- (a) Bengaluru (b) Mumbai
(c) Chennai (d) Noida
(e) New Delhi

Ans (a)

India Energy Week 2023 is going to be hosted in Bengaluru from 6th to 8th February 2023.

The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India Hardeep S Puri inaugurated the demo run of an Inland Water Vessel powered by Methanol blended Diesel (MD15).

Methanol is a low-carbon hydrogen carrier fuel that is produced from high-ash coal, agricultural residue, CO₂ from thermal power plants, and natural gas. It is the best pathway for meeting India's commitment to COP 21.

219. Who has been honoured with Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award?

- (a) Jitendra Abhisheki
(b) Dr Prabha Atre
(c) Sanjeev Abhyankar
(d) Rajeshwar Acharya
(e) Kishori Amonkar

Ans (b)

Hindustani vocalist Padma Vibhushan, Dr Prabha Atre was conferred with the the Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award at the hands of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The award was presented to her by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at Thane near Mumbai.

The Chief Minister felicitated Dr Atre at a function at Ram Ganesh Gadkari Rangayatan.

Shinde presented Dr Atre with a citation and Rs 1 lakh at the program, during which a symphony of 90 flutists was performed to mark her 90th birthday.

220. Recently, Indian Navy's "TROPEX 2023" maritime exercise held in the Indian Ocean. What does O stands for, in the abbreviation of "TROPEX"?

- (a) Operator (b) Operatic
(c) Operable (d) Operational
(e) Operation

Ans (d)

The 2023 edition of Indian Navy's major maritime exercise Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX), is currently underway in the Indian Ocean Region.

This operational level exercise is conducted biennially and witnesses participation not only by all Indian Navy units but also of Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard assets.

The first exercise of maritime surveillance was held in January 2019.

It is also called the biggest war game of the Indian Navy.

TROPEX 23 is being conducted over a duration of three months from Jan – Mar 23.

As part of the exercise, all surface combatants of the Indian Navy including Destroyers, Frigates, Corvettes as well as submarines and aircraft are put through complex maritime operational deployments to validate and refine the Navy's Concept of Operations including operational logistics and interoperability with other Services.

221. US President has nominated whom as North Korea Human Rights Envoy?

- (a) Julie Turner
(b) Antony Blinken
(c) Merrick Garland
(d) Deb Haaland
(e) Tom Vilsack

Ans (a)

The White House nominated a special envoy for human rights in North Korea, moving to fill a post that has been empty since 2017 amid debate over how rights issues fit with efforts to counter Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

President Joe Biden nominated Julie Turner, a long-time diplomat and current director of the Office of East Asia and the Pacific in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the Department of State.

The announcement comes amid a hardening line toward Pyongyang from the United States and South Korea, whose new conservative leader, Yoon Suk Yeol, has also turned his attention to human rights issues.

The special envoy position, and a similar one in South Korea, had become controversial as preceding administrations tried to bring North Korea to the negotiating table.

North Korea has repeatedly rejected accusations of human rights abuses and blames sanctions for a dire humanitarian situation. It accuses Washington and Seoul of using the issue as a political tool to smear Pyongyang's rep

222. The United Nations has cut its GDP growth forecast for India for calendar year 2023 to what percent?

- (a) 7.1%
- (b) 5.8%
- (c) 2.8%
- (d) 1.4%
- (e) 9.2%

Ans (b)

The United Nations (UN) has cut its GDP growth forecast for India for calendar year 2023 to 5.8 percent, citing the effect of tighter monetary policy and weak global demand.

Growth in India is expected to remain strong at 5.8 percent, albeit slightly lower than the estimated 6.4 percent in 2022, as higher interest rates and a global slowdown weigh on investment and exports, the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023.

The report is written by the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and the regional economic commissions for Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Western Asia.

On Indian inflation, the UN report said headline retail inflation is expected to average 5.5 percent in 2023, down from 6.7 percent in 2022.

As per the UN report's latest forecast, global economic growth is seen slowing down to 1.9 percent in 2023 – one of the lowest in recent decades – from 3.1 percent previously forecast. The UN estimates that global growth in 2022 was 3 percent.

223. President of India, Droupadi Murmu has approved how many Gallantry awards and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others?

- (a) 318
- (b) 514
- (c) 412
- (d) 711

(e) 252

Ans (c)

President of India, Droupadi Murmu has approved 412 Gallantry awards and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others.

These include six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumous, and 15 Shaurya Chakras including two posthumous.

These include one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 92 Sena Medals, including four posthumous, one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals.

224. Which railway station has been awarded with "Green Railway Station Certificate"?

- (a) Bhubaneswar Railway Station
- (b) Cuttack Railway Station
- (c) Chatrapur Railway Station
- (d) Visakhapatnam Railway Station
- (e) Sambalpur Railway Station

Ans (d)

East Coast Railways' Visakhapatnam railway station has received the prestigious 'Green Railway Station Certification' with the highest Platinum rating. The certificate has been awarded by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for adopting green concepts. It secured 82 out of 100 points in six environmental categories.

Visakhapatnam secured 82 out of 100 points in six environmental categories.

Visakhapatnam railway station falls under the Waltair division of the East Coast Railway. The railway station has performed well in various categories such as – sustainable facilities, health, hygiene, energy and water efficiency, smart green initiatives, innovation, and development.

Visakhapatnam railway station performed well in categories such as sustainable facilities, health, hygiene, energy and water efficiency, smart green initiatives, innovation and development.

225. Recently, Indian Railways has launched "Ideal Train Profile" for which purpose?

- (a) Maximize Seat Utilization
- (b) Maximize Food Delivery
- (c) Maximize Passenger Safety
- (d) Maximize Time Utilization
- (e) Maximize Railway Staff

Ans (a)

The Indian Railways has successfully concluded the trial of an Artificial Intelligence Programme it built to fix the endless problem of the Waiting list.

The Indian Railways has also introduced the Ideal Train Profile to maximize the capacity utilization and revenue generation in reserved mail express trains by regularly analyzing the demand pattern of every single train.

The Ideal Train Profile is seat capacity optimization decision support, which is done because the number of ticket class combinations on a single train journey can exceed 5,000. The Railways Ministry has announced that the pattern of demand for accommodation is not always on an end-to-end basis. The Pattern will also vary in all trains depending on various factors like its origin-destination pairs, date and timings, class of accommodation, or availability of alternate trains.

The pilot project was started on seven zonal railways including Eastern, Central, Northern, Southern, South Central, Western, and West Central Railway.

226. In the 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources which country has elected as Vice-Chair and represented Asia & Pacific region?

- (a) China (b) India
(c) Thailand (d) Vietnam
(e) Qatar

Ans (b)

In the 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) India was elected as Vice-Chair and represented Asia & Pacific region.

Dr B N Tripathi, Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR, and the National Coordinator, vice-chaired the Session and also act as Rapporteur.

The 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources was held in Rome from 18th January to 20th January 2023. In the 12th Session of ITWG, implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, monitoring of AnGR diversity, and preparing the 3rd Country Report were reviewed.

Earlier to the ITWG Session, the Global National Coordinators' Workshop was held at FAO Head Quarter, from 16-17th January 2023.

227. Which Broadcasting company has signed an MOU with National Media Authority of Egypt to facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and Co-Productions?

- (a) Doordarshan (b) All India Radio

- (c) DD Free Dish (d) Prasar Bharati
(e) Press Trust of India

Ans (d)

India and Egypt signed an MOU to facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and Co-Productions between Prasar Bharati and the National Media Authority of Egypt. The MoU was signed by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs, and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Egypt, Sameh Hassan Shoukry.

The MoUs were exchanged between the two countries in the presence of the Prime Minister of India and the President of Egypt following the delegation-level talks between the two sides at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

The MOU is part of the efforts by Prasar Bharati to expand the reach of DD India Channel to showcase the country's progress through programs focusing on the economy, technology, social development, and also the rich cultural heritage. Under the MoU, both broadcasters will exchange their programs of different genres like Sports, News, Culture, Entertainment, and many more areas on a bilateral basis and these programs will be telecast on their Radio and Television platforms.

228. Reserve Bank of India has approved appointment of whom as new CEO of JP Morgan Chase?

- (a) Prabdev Singh (b) Vijay Singh
(c) RK Krishna (d) HC Jehangir
(e) Mehli Mistry

Ans (a)

India's Central Bank has approved JP Morgan Chase & Co to appoint Prabdev Singh as the lender's Chief Executive Officer in the Country. The Reserve Bank of India approved a three-year term for Prabdev Singh last week.

Prabdev Singh has been JPMorgan's interim CEO since November.

He has replaced Madhav Kalyan who was named as the head of payments in the Asia Pacific.

The Wall Street firm, JPMorgan, traces its presence in India back to 1922 and started commercial banking operations in the country about 15 years ago.

JPMorgan has four commercial bank branches in the country.

Prabdev Singh is a trained engineer and has worked for a decade at HSBC Holdings Plc before joining JPMorgan in 2010.

229. Which country will commercialize world's first photonic-based quantum computer?

- (a) Australia (b) Japan
(c) China (d) Canada
(e) India

Ans (d)

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced a new federal investment to build and commercialise the world's first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer.

The investment of 40 million Canadian dollars (\$32 million) will enable Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc to develop the quantum computer.

Earlier this month, Canada launched its National Quantum Strategy, which invests an additional 360 million Canadian dollars (\$288 million) to help solidify Canada as a global leader in quantum technologies.

Founded in 2016, Xanadu, with the mission to build quantum computers that are useful and available to people everywhere, leads the development of PennyLane, an open-source software library for quantum computing and application development.

230. Who has been appointed as new General Manager of Central Railway?

- (a) Naresh Lalwani
(b) Arun Kumar Jain
(c) Anupam Sharma
(d) Tarun Prakash
(e) Sujeet Kumar Mishra

Ans (a)

Naresh Lalwani has been appointed General Manager of Central Railway. He is a senior officer from the 1985 batch of the Indian Railway Engineering Service.

He was Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer of Western Railway before becoming General Manager of Central Railway.

He succeeded Ashok Kumar Misra, General Manager of Western Railway, who was also in charge of Central Railway.

231. With which country recently India has concluded Veer Guardian 2023 exercise?

- (a) Japan (b) Russia
(c) Sri Lanka (d) Germany
(e) Britain

Ans (a)

The inaugural edition of the 16-day bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force has concluded in Japan.

The exercise, "Veer Guardian 2023", involved precise planning and skilful execution by both the air forces. The JASDF participated in the exercise with its F-2 and F-15 aircraft, while the IAF contingent participated with the Su-30 MKI aircraft.

The IAF fighter contingent was complemented by one IL-78 flight refuelling aircraft and two C-17 Globemaster strategic airlift transport aircraft.

Indian Air Force Founded: 8 October 1932, India;

Indian Air Force Air chief Marshall: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria;

Other Maritime Exercises between India & Japan:

Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX)

Malabar Exercise (India – US – Japan - Australia)

232. Data Privacy Day observed on which day of January every year?

- (a) 22 January (b) 28 January
(c) 25 January (d) 27 January
(e) 24 January

Ans (b)

Data Protection Day, or Data Privacy Day, is celebrated on January 28.

The aim is to create more awareness about the right to data protection and the various ways in which people can keep their data more safe.

Let's first understand the history and significance.

The world is slowly but steadily moving towards digitisation, but this also means our data is becoming more vulnerable.

This year, leading organisations are expected to invest heavily in updating more robust cybersecurity policies and procedures, enabling security automation, and monitoring attack surfaces.

Data Privacy Day is observed, January 28, to raise awareness of the value of online privacy, which has been proclaimed a fundamental right of a citizen.

The Council of Europe on April 26, 2006, decided to coin a Data Protection Day and announced that it will be observed each year on January 28.

233. Recently, a six-day mega event "Bharat Parv" event has been organized by which ministry at Red Fort?

- (a) Ministry of Culture
(b) Ministry of Mines
(c) Ministry of Tourism
(d) Ministry of Textiles
(e) Ministry of Defence

Ans (c)

The six-day mega event "Bharat Parv" Event is to be organized by the Government of India at the Lawns and Gyan Path in front of Red Fort, Delhi from 26th to 31st January 2023, as part of the Republic Day Celebrations.

"Bharat Parv" is under the Ministry of Tourism and has been designated as the nodal Ministry for the event.

234. Which statutory body has launched "Nidhi Aapke Nikat" massive outreach programme?

- (a) ESI
- (b) SBI
- (c) PFRDA
- (d) EPFO
- (e) Post Office

Ans (d)

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched a massive district outreach program in all the districts of the country through a revamped Nidhi Aapke Nikat program.

The aim of this program is to reach all the districts of the country on the same day i.e. 27th of every month. EPFO organized camps in 685 districts of the country. In the year 2015, Bhavishya Nidhi Adalat was rechristened as Nidhi Aapke Nikat and in the year 2019.

Central Provident Fund Commissioner in Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO): Neelam Shami Rao

Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Headquarters: New Delhi

Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Founded: 4 March 1952

235. Recently in January 2023, under which mission 11 crore rural families have provided water facility to every house?

- (a) Jal Jeevan Mission
- (b) Water for People
- (c) Water for India
- (d) Drinking Water
- (e) National Water Mission

Ans (a)

Over 11 Crore rural households in the country have access to tap water connections and more than 1.53 lakh villages in India have reported "Har Ghar Jal".

123 districts and more than 1.53 lakh villages of India have reported 'Har Ghar Jal' which means every household has access to clean drinking water through the tap.

Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August 2019 to provide every rural household with a tap water connection by 2024.

236. Orange Festival is celebrated in which state as, recently it has observed in the state?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Meghalaya
- (e) Arunachal Pradesh

Ans (b)

The third edition of the two-day Orange Festival has been organized in Nagaland's Rusoma village to mark the harvest of organic oranges in the district.

The orange festival was held from 24th to 25th January 2023.

The orange festival is held to display the harvested oranges from the village.

237. Which country has started flushing 1.25 million tons of wastewater from its nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean in 2023?

- (a) USA
- (b) Samoa
- (c) Japan
- (d) Australia
- (e) Canada

Ans (c)

Japan is expected to start flushing 1.25 million tons of wastewater from the embattled Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean in 2023, as part of a USD 76-billion project to decommission the facility.

The project received the Japanese cabinet's approval in 2021 and could take three decades to complete.

In March 2011, after a magnitude 9 earthquake, a tsunami flooded the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma and damaged its diesel generators.

The loss of power suspended coolant supply to reactors at the facility; the tsunami also disabled backup systems.

238. Recently, the which state government has airlifted 25 lakh doses of goat pox vaccine for early prevention of cattle from lumpy skin disease?

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Uttar Pradesh

Ans (c)

Recently, the Punjab State government has airlifted 25 lakh doses of goat pox vaccine to carry out a free vaccination campaign for early prevention of cattle from lumpy skin disease.

Lumpy Skin Disease(LSD) had affected the cattle on a large scale in July, 2022. About 1.75 lakh cattle were affected across the Punjab state and about 18,000 cattle died.

LSD is caused by infection with the Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV) in cattle or water buffalo.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that its mortality rate is less than 10%.

The first reported outbreak of LSD occurred in Zambia in 1929, and it was initially believed to be caused by poisoning or an allergic reaction to insect bites.

239. Which Indian-American astronaut has nominated by US President Joe Biden for the post of Air Force brigadier general?

- (a) Sirisha Bandla (b) Abhijit Banerjee
(c) Neeli Bendapudi (d) Raja Chari
(e) Dinesh D'Souza

Ans (d)

Indian-American astronaut Raja Chari was nominated by US President Joe Biden for the post of Air Force brigadier general.

The nomination has yet to be confirmed by the US Senate.

The senate approves all senior civilian and military appointments, according to the US Defense Department.

Brigadier General (BG) is a one-star General Officer rank of the United States Air Force.

Air Force Col. Raja J Chari for appointment to the grade of brigadier general.

Chari is currently serving as the Crew-3 commander and astronaut, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center, Texas.

240. The first ever India stack developer conference held in which city?

- (a) Chennai (b) Delhi
(c) Bengaluru (d) Indore
(e) Lucknow

Ans (b)

The inaugural India Stack Developer Conference was held on January 25 in New Delhi.

The conference focused on strategies for ensuring greater global adoption of Indian digital products.

More than 100 digital leaders from business, government, academia, startups, and unicorns attended the conference.

The Conference had also extended invitations to representatives from G20 nations and the G20 Secretariat.

About India Stack developer conference -

India Stack is the name given to the ambitious initiative by the Indian government to develop a single software platform with the goal of bringing the people of the nation online.

It is the collective name for a group of free and open artificial intelligences and digital products that will enable large-scale use of identity, data, and payment infrastructure by enterprises, governments, and other organizations.

241. Which team has won the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 by beating Belgium?

- (a) Netherlands (b) Australia
(c) England (d) Germany
(e) Spain

Ans (d)

Germany beat Belgium 5-4 in the penalty shootout to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.

This is Germany's third Hockey World Cup title after they won it in 2002 and 2006.

With this, they draw level with Netherlands and Australia.

Earlier in the day, the Netherlands beat Australia 3-1 to claim the bronze medal.

It was the first time since 1998 that Australia failed to finish on podium at the FIH World Cup.

242. Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas) on 30 January 2023 is observed as death anniversary of whom?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
(b) Nelson Mandela
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru
(d) Bhagat Singh
(e) Subhash Chandra Bose

Ans (a)

On January 30, 2023, India observed Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas to pay tribute to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country.

The day is also marked as the death anniversary of the nation's 'Bapu', Mahatma Gandhi.

On this day in 1948, Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in the compound of Birla House after one of his routine multi-faith prayer meetings.

Godse, a member of Hindu Mahasabha, blamed Gandhi for favouring the Muslim community during the partition of India in 1947.

Notably, Martyrs' Day is also observed in India on March 23 to pay respect to Bhagat Singh, Shivaram

Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar, who was hanged death on this day in 1931.

The significance of Shaheed Diwas lies in the fact that Mahatma Gandhi, who is known as the 'Father of the Nation', led major movements against British rule through a non-violent approach.

His death anniversary is observed as Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day, and his philosophy was based on the principles of non-violence, the fight for truth (satyagraha), and political and individual freedom (Swaraj).

243. Petr Pavel, former chairman of the NATO Military Committee has become the president of which country?

- (a) Slovakia (b) Czechia
(c) Poland (d) Hungary
(e) Austria

Ans (b)

Petr Pavel, a former chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) military committee, has become the new president of the Czech Republic.

A former military general, Pavel got more than 58 per cent of the vote, according to the Czech Statistics Office

244. According to ISRO, India's first mission to study the Sun, Aditya-L1, will be launched by which month in 2023?

- (a) March-April (b) May-June
(c) July-August (d) June-July
(e) February-March

Ans (d)

Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) handed over to ISRO, the Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC), the primary payload on board Aditya-L1, which is India's first dedicated scientific mission to study the Sun, to be launched by June or July.

The handing over ceremony was held in the presence of the ISRO Chairman S Somanath at the Centre for Research and Education in Science and Technology (CREST) campus of IIA.

In total Aditya-L1 has seven payloads, of which the primary payload – the VELC, is designed and fabricated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA, Bengaluru).

The other six payloads are being developed by the ISRO and other scientific institutions.

Understanding the effect of the Sun on the Earth and its surroundings has become very important now and Aditya-L1 aims to shed light on this topic. The payload will be taken to the R.

Rao Satellite Centre (Bengaluru), where it will be integrated with the Aditya-L1 satellite and will undergo further testing, evaluation and finally launched using the PSLV.

245. The nation observes the 158th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai. He is popularly known as -

- (a) Man of Iron (b) Punjab Kesari
(c) Light of Asia (d) Vishwa Kavi
(e) Jana Nayak

Ans (b)

The nation observes the 158th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai, popularly known as Punjab Kesari.

Lala Lajpat Rai was born on 28th January 1865 to his maternal grandparents in Dhudike.

On the occasion of the 158th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai, the cabinet minister announced a grant of Rs 12 lakh on the demand of the villagers.

Lala Lajpat Rai has made a huge contribution to the struggle for the independence of the nation.

He was also known as the leader of the Swadeshi movement.

He is popularly known as "Punjab Kesari" and played a pivotal role in the Indian Independence movement. People also called him "Punjab da Sher" which means "Lion of Punjab".

Lala Lajpat Rai was born on 28th January 1865 in an Agrawal Jain family as the eldest son of six children of Munshi Radha Krishna.

246. World Leprosy Day has been observed on which day of January 2023?

- (a) 27 January (b) 28 January
(c) 29 January (d) 30 January
(e) 31 January

Ans (c)

World Leprosy Day (WLD) is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. In 2023, World Leprosy Day is observed on 29 January.

This international day is an opportunity to celebrate people who have experienced leprosy, raise awareness of the disease, and call for an end to leprosy-related stigma and discrimination.

This date was chosen by French humanitarian, Raoul Follereau as a tribute to the life of Mahatma Gandhi, who did much work with persons affected by leprosy and died at the end of January in 1948.

The theme of World Leprosy Day 2023 is “Act Now, End Leprosy.” This year’s theme calls attention to three key messages:

Leprosy is curable with a combination of antibiotics known as Multi Drug Therapy (MDT).

This treatment is available for free across the world. If leprosy is not treated, it can lead to serious complications.

247. The cultural heritage of Odesa was designated as a World Heritage in Danger site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at the Paris meeting. This site is located in which country?

- (a) Russia (b) Germany
(c) Ukraine (d) India
(e) France

Ans (c)

The United Nations’ cultural agency, UNESCO has designated the historic centre of Odesa, a strategic port city on Ukraine’s Black Sea coast, a World Heritage in Danger site.

The status, awarded by a UNESCO panel meeting in Paris, is designed to help protect Odesa’s cultural heritage, which has been under threat since Russia’s invasion, and enable access to financial and technical international aid.

Earlier, UNESCO inscribed the Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib in Yemen and Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli in Lebanon to its list of World Heritage in Danger sites.

248. In January 2023, how much amount has been approved by the government of India to Uttarakhand under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme?

- (a) 1500 crore (b) 2800 crore
(c) 1700 crore (d) 2600 crore
(e) 2000 crore

Ans (d)

The Central Government has sanctioned 2,600 crore rupees to Uttarakhand under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) for the construction of new power lines, sub-stations, and underground power lines.

State Energy Secretary R Meenakshi Sundaram said that the State’s project has been approved in the Regional Power Committee meeting in New Delhi.

Shri Sundaram said, to strengthen the power supply system, the capacity of sub-stations will be increased in several districts including Dehradun. All power lines in Haldwani will be underground, he added.

249. Which state government has launched Ladli Bahina Scheme in January 2023?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Rajasthan
(c) Uttarakhand (d) Madhya Pradesh
(e) Haryana

Ans (d)

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched Ladli Bahina Scheme.

Under the new scheme state government will provide Rs 1000 per month to women from financially poor background in the state.

A sum of Rs 60,000 crore will be spent on this scheme in five years.

The CM also announced plans to construct a Narmada corridor and Narmada Lok on the lines of the Mahakal Lok at Ujjain’s Mahakaleshwar temple.

250. What is the name of the cluster of digital solutions like Aadhaar, UPI, Digi Locker, Co-Win, GeM, and GSTN?

- (a) Bharat e-platforms (b) India Stack
(c) e-Bharat (d) Digi Bharat
(e) None of these

Ans (b)

India Stack is a multi-layer cluster of digital solutions like Aadhaar, UPI, Digi Locker, Co-Win, GeM, and GSTN that have played a significant role in the digital transformation in India.

The first India Stack Developer Conference will be held in New Delhi, to ensure wider adoption of India’s digital goods all over the world. India Stack will be one of the focus areas at the World Government Summit 2023 which will be held at Abu Dhabi next month