

JANUARY 2024 TO JULY 2024

TOP 100
CURRENT AFFAIRS
FOR CDS EXAMS

COMPLETE 7
Months CA in 90
Minutes



CDS | AFCAT | CAPF | NDA

By: Sandeep Bansal

Q. Recently, India did an “Operation Karuna” to assist which of the following countries?

- A. Myanmar**
- B. Bangladesh**
- C. Ukraine**
- D. Sri Lanka**



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- **Answer: (A)**
- **India launched Operation Karuna to assist cyclone-hit Myanmar, where Indian naval ships carried emergency relief materials to Yangon.**
- **The Indian Naval Ships Shivalik, Kamorta, and Savitri arrived in Yangon with emergency relief materials such as food supplies, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, and hygiene items.**



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Operation Karuna

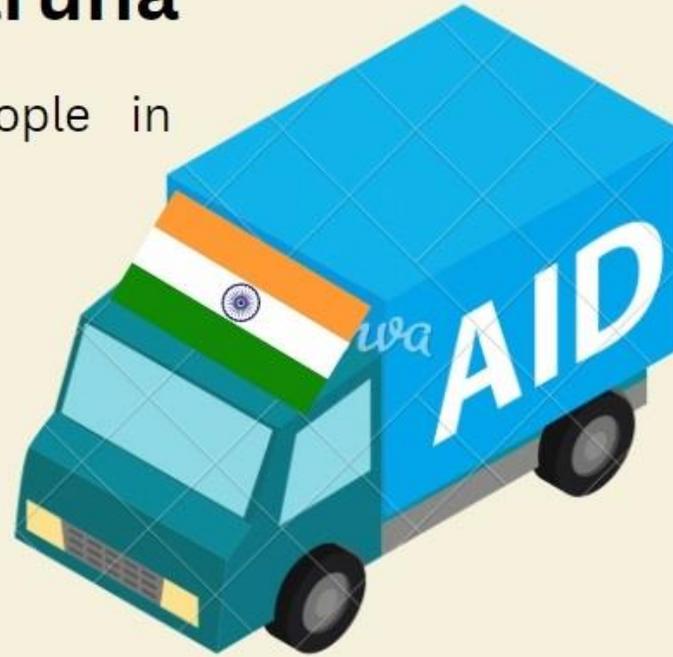
To provide **humanitarian assistance** for people in **Myanmar**, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.



What was the need?

Cyclone Mocha caused **widespread devastation** in Bangladesh and Myanmar

It resulted in loss of life and property in both these countries



Elements of Operation Karuna



Ships

INS Shivalik, Kamorta, and Savitri were used in sending emergency relief material



Relief Materials

It included food supplies, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, and hygiene items



Geopolitics

It ensures India's commitment to ensuring security and growth for all in the region



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Q. Which of the following two countries conducted the military exercise “Desert Cyclone 2024”?

- A. Oman and UAE**
- B. India and Saudi Arabia**
- C. UAE and France**
- D. India and UAE**



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- **Answer: (D)**
- **The Joint Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024' between India and UAE held from January 2 to January 15 in Rajasthan.**
- **The joint drills under 'Desert Cyclone 2024' will enhance interoperability by learning and sharing best practices in urban operations.**
- **The first-ever India-UAE Joint Air Forces exercise took place in September 2008 at the Al-Dhafra base in Abu Dhabi.**



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Q. Which set of countries was associated with the term 'Lithium Triangle'?

- A. India-Pakistan-Afghanistan**
- B. Thailand-Laos-Myanmar**
- C. Bolivia-Chile-Argentina**
- D. Columbia-Paraguay-Brazil**



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **The Lithium Triangle is characterized by a triangular shape and spans across regions in Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile.**
- **The term "Lithium Triangle" denotes a geographic region in South America renowned for hosting substantial lithium reserves.**
- **Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile are assessed to possess 58 percent of the world's known lithium reserves.**
- **India was set to acquire five lithium blocks in Argentina spotted by KABIL.**
- **To invest Rs 200 crore over 5 years for exploration and development.**



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)”:

- 1. India became the latest country to joined this project.**
- 2. The Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO), function as the world’s largest radio telescope.**
- 3. An array of thousands of antennas will be installed in remote radio-quiet locations in South Korea and Austria.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 and 3**
- B. Only 3**
- C. Only 1 and 2**
- D. All 1, 2, and 3**



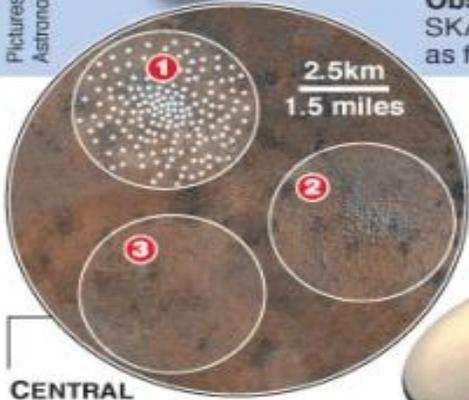
- **Answer: (C)**
- **India became the latest country to join this project.**
- **India, through the Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) and some other institutions, has been involved in the development of SKA since its inception in the 1990s. (Hence, statement 1 is correct).**
- **The Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO), function as the world's largest radio telescope. (Hence, statement 2 is correct).**
- **The SKAO was not a single telescope but an array of thousands of antennas.**
- **An array of thousands of antennas, were to be installed in remote radio-quiet locations in South Africa and Australia. (Hence, statement 3 is incorrect).**
- **India's main contribution to the SKA was in the development, and operation, of the Telescope Manager element, the "neural network" or the software that made the telescope work.**

World's biggest radio telescope

Australia and South Africa are competing to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), a huge \$2.5bn radio telescope which will be 50 times more sensitive and 10,000 times faster than any other telescope on the planet



Pictures: SPDO/Swinburne Astronomy Productions



Combined collecting area totals one square kilometre, but is made up of 3,000 receptors spiralling out from concentrated central core over distance of 5,000km

Radio frequency signals detected in deep space will be processed by supercomputer with power of around 1bn personal computers

CENTRAL LOCATION: Contains around half of total collecting area. Three types of antenna used

3 Low frequency aperture arrays
70-200MHz

1 Medium frequency aperture arrays
200-500MHz

2 High frequency arrays:
500MHz-10GHz

SKA expected to expand research on evolution of galaxies, dark energy, extra-terrestrial life and formation of black holes

Central computer will generate exabyte of data every day – more than twice information sent around internet daily

Source: Square Kilometre Array consortium © GRAPHIC NEWS



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Q. In which of the following places does the defence minister laid the stone of the first all-Sainik school for girls?

- A. Lucknow**
- B. Ambala**
- C. Mathura**
- D. Purulia**



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School at Vrindavan in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh on January 01, 2024.**
- **The first all-girls Sainik School, with a strength of approx. 870 students have been inaugurated under the initiative of establishing 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership mode with NGOs/Private/State Government Schools in all State/Union Territories, of which 42 have been set up.**
- **These are in addition to the existing 33 Sainik Schools already functioning under the erstwhile pattern.**



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Q. Which of the following cities was NOT included in the list to receive the tag of 'International Wetland City'?

- A. Bhopal**
- B. Varanasi**
- C. Indore**
- D. Udaipur**



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- **Answer: (B)**
- **India has proposed the inclusion of three cities – Indore, Bhopal, and Udaipur – for the designation of 'International Wetland City' under the Ramsar Convention.**
- **This acknowledgment underscores the cities' commitment to preserving urban and peri-urban wetlands, crucial for sustaining local communities.**
- **Notably, Indore boasts the Sirpur Ramsar wetland site, Bhopal features the Bhoj Ramsar wetland, and Udaipur is adorned with numerous picturesque lakes that draw in tourists.**

WETLANDS COVER 4.9% OF INDIA'S AREA

Photo: iStock

Isro prepared a national wetlands atlas on the basis of satellite image



It mapped **2,31,195** wetlands in India during 2017-18

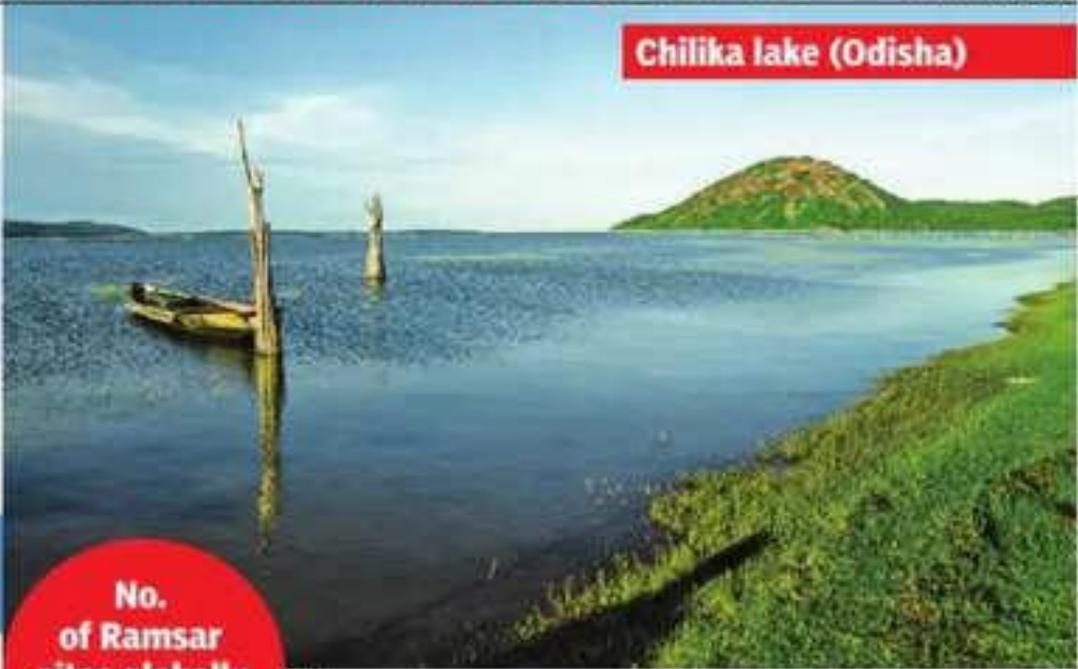


They comprise around **4.9%** of the total geographic area of India



Numbers of wetland sites under Ramsar Convention: 75

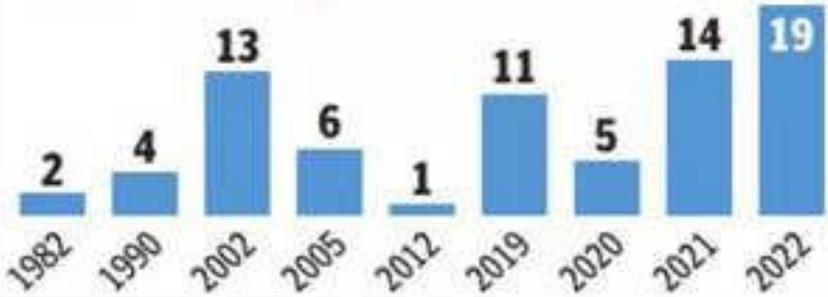
75 sites cover an area of **13,26,677** hectares



Chilika lake (Odisha)

No. of Ramsar sites globally **2,466**

Year-wise designation of 75 Ramsar sites



India's prominent wetlands

- 1 Chilika lake areas Odisha
- 2 Wular lake J&K
- 3 Renuka Himachal Pradesh
- 4 Sambhar lake Rajasthan
- 5 Deepor Beel Assam
- 6 East Kolkata wetlands West Bengal
- 7 Nal Sarovar Gujarat
- 8 Harika Punjab
- 9 Rudra Sagar Tripura
- 10 Bhoj wetland Madhya Pradesh



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Q. Consider the following information regarding the “Exercise Sea Dragon-24”:

- 1. Indian Navy's P8I aircraft participated in the exercise.**
- 2. The exercise aims to enhance synergy and interoperability amongst participating navies from US, Australia, South Africa and Japan.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. Neither 1 Nor 2**

- **Answer: (A)**
- **Indian Navy's P8I aircraft participated in the exercise. (Hence, statement 1 is correct).**
- **The exercise aims to enhance synergy and interoperability amongst participating navies from US, Australia, South Korea and Japan. (Hence, statement 2 is incorrect).**
- **News Context: The navy's participation in the fourth edition of Ex Sea Dragon 24, an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise spearheaded by the US Navy.**



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EXERCISE SEA DRAGON-24

Indian Navy's P8I aircraft landed at Guam, a US island territory in Western Pacific, to participate in Exercise Sea Dragon – 24.

- It is an elite multinational maritime exercise that encourages professional exchanges and teamwork among participating navies.
- Participating countries: India, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and the US.

Anti-submarine warfare (ASW)

- It is defined as a branch of underwater warfare that employs surface warships, aircraft or submarines to find, track and deter, damage or destroy enemy submarines. The first step is to detect, track and identify followed by destruction/degradation of the submarine.



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Q. Who among the following persons became the first Indian Woman Arjuna Awardee For Equestrian Sports?

- A. Fouaad Mirza**
- B. Hriday Chheda**
- C. Divyakriti Singh**
- D. Indrajit Lamba**



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **Divyakirti Singh made history becoming the first Indian woman in equestrian sports to win the coveted Arjuna Award.**
- **The 23-year-old from Jaipur is the sole representative from Rajasthan this year.**
- **The only woman to achieve the honour.**
- **Divyakirti Singh is an Indian equestrian athlete.**
- **She won a gold medal in the team event in Equestrian Dressage at the 2022 Asian Games held at Hangzhou, China.**



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**Q. Recently, "Ugram" term was seen in the news.
It was related to?**

- A. An all-weather Unmanned Aerial Vehicle manufactured indigenously.**
- B. A state-of-the-art indigenous assault rifle.**
- C. An expedition vessel**
- D. New advanced UAV to the defence forces**



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- **Answer: (B)**
- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched Ugram, a state-of-the-art assault rifle of the 7.62 x 51 mm calibre, which has been indigenously designed, developed and manufactured in collaboration with a private industry partner.**
- **The assault rifle was designed for the operational requirements of armed forces, paramilitary and state police entities.**



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “Operation Sarvashakti”:

- 1. The Indian Army was initiated 'Operation Sarvashakti'.**
- 2. The aim of this operation against China in the territory of Arunachal Pradesh.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. Neither 1 Nor 2**



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- **Answer: (A)**
- **The Indian Army was initiated this 'Operation Sarvashakti'. (Hence, statement 1 is correct).**
- **The aim of this operation was against Pakistan proxy groups along the Pir Panjal mountain ranges in the Union Territory. (Hence, statement 2 is incorrect).**
- **Pakistani-backed terrorist organisations have been actively attempting to revive terrorism in the Rajouri Poonch sector, resulting in the loss of approximately 20 soldiers in recent attacks.**
- **Sarvashakti was based on Operation Sarpvinash, which took place in 2003 in the area south of Pir Panjal. Operation Sarpvinash was executed collaboratively by the Indian Army and the Rashtriya Rifles.**
- **News Context: Recently, "Operation Sarvashakti would be to carry out combined counter-terrorist operations from both sides of the Pir Panjal ranges where the formations of the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps along with the Nagrota-headquartered White Knight Corps would be carrying out simultaneous operations."**

Q. Recently concluded the first ever 'The Beach Games 2024'. Which of the following states became the overall champion?

- A. Maharashtra**
- B. Goa**
- C. Madhya Pradesh**
- D. Tamil Nadu**



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **Madhya Pradesh emerged as the overall champion at the inaugural Diu Beach Games 2024, securing a remarkable 18 medals, including 7 golds.**
- **In a spectacular display of talent, Madhya Pradesh emerged as the undisputed overall champion at the first-ever Beach Games 2024 hosted in Diu.**
- **Maharashtra won 14 medals including 3 gold, while Tamil Nadu, Uttarkhand and hosts Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Diu & Daman secured 12 medals each. Assam won 8 medals, out of which 5 were Gold.**



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Q. Recently, the Indian Army indigenously developed an end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem. What was the name of the ecosystem?

- A. SARTHAK**
- B. SIDDHANT**
- C. SAMBHAV**
- D. SAHYOG**



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **In line with the ethos of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the Indian Army has indigenously developed an "end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem" to provide secure communication with instant connectivity on the move.**
- **The ecosystem -- SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version) -- operates on the state-of-the-art contemporary 5G technology and will represent a "significant leap forward in India's defence capability",.**
- **It was developed in close collaboration with national centres of excellence from academia and industry.**

Q. Which of the following two countries conducted the “Exercise Cyclone”?

- A. India and USA**
- B. France and Germany**
- C. Saudi Arabia and Oman**
- D. India and Egypt**



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- **Answer: (D)**
- **The Indian Army contingent comprising 25 personnel reached Egypt to take part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE.**
- **The Exercise was conducted at Anshas, Egypt.**
- **The first edition of the exercise was conducted last year in India.**
- **Exercise CYCLONE was designed to develop bilateral military cooperation and strengthen bond between two armies through conduct of discussions and rehearsal of tactical military drills.**



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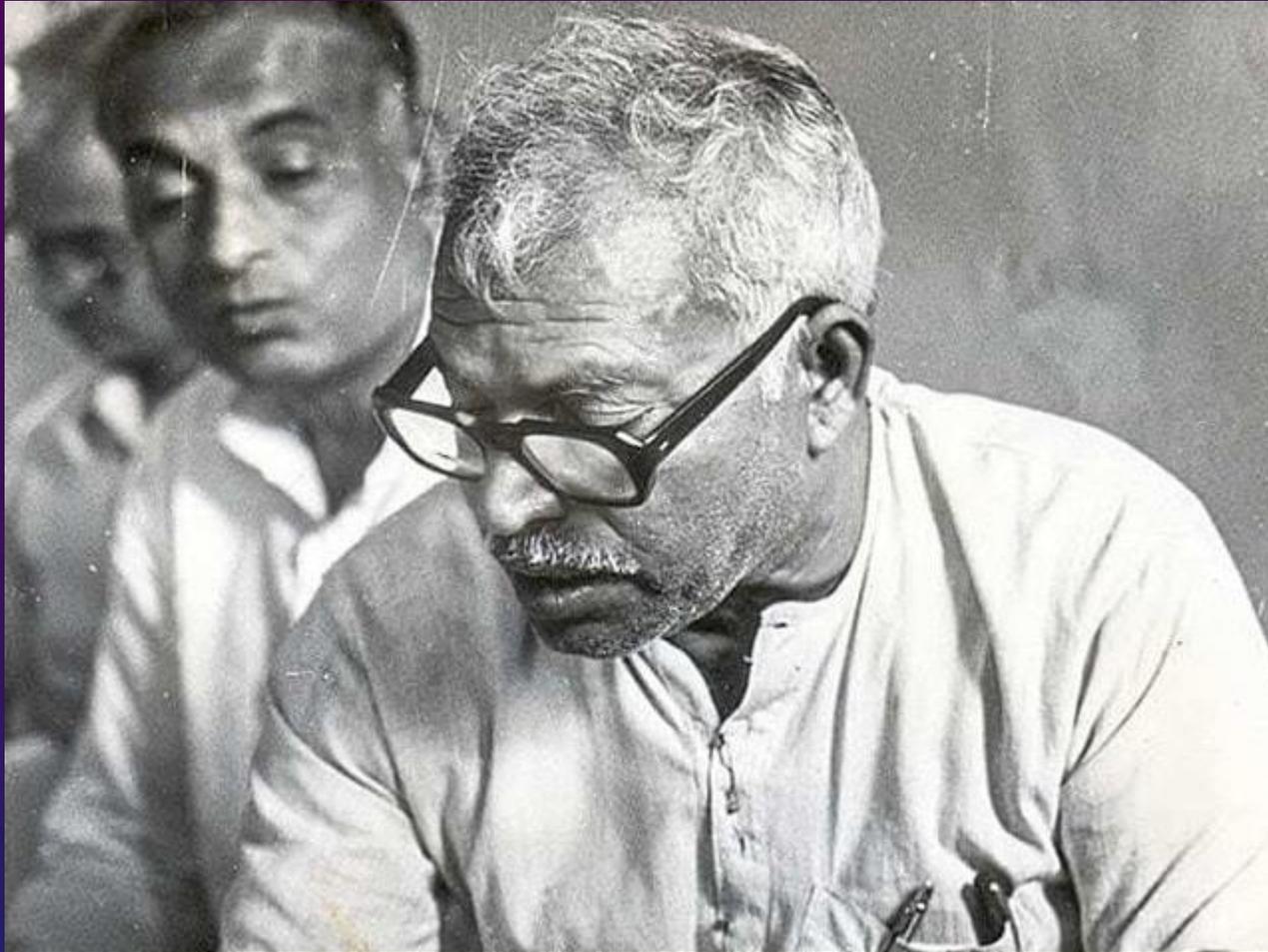
Q. Recently, who among the following persons conferred with the nation's highest honour, Bharat Ratna, posthumously?

- A. Pandit Birju Maharaj**
- B. Karpoori Thakur**
- C. Vikram Gokhale**
- D. Sandhya Mukherjee**



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- **Answer: (B)**
- **Former Chief Minister of Bihar Karpoori Thakur was conferred the nation's highest honour, Bharat Ratna, posthumously by the President of India Droupadi Murmu.**
- **The award comes 35 years after his death -- Karpoori Thakur died on February 17, 1988.**
- **Dubbed "Jan Nayak" by many in the state, Karpoori Thakur served as the Chief Minister of Bihar for a short while -- from December 1970 to June 1971 and from December 1977 to April 1979.**
- **The Centre's recognition for the state's first non-Congress Chief Minister meets a long-standing demand of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his Janata Dal United.**



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Name	Year	Field
Chakravarti Rajgopalachari	1954	Independence activist, Politician
Sir C. V. Raman	1954	Physicist
Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1954	Philosopher, Politician
Bhagwan Das	1955	Independence activist, author
Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya	1955	Civil engineer, Diwan of Mysore
Jawaharlal Nehru	1955	Independence activist, author, Politician
Govind Ballabh Pant	1957	Independence activist, Politician
Dhondo Keshav Karve	1958	Educator, social reformer
Bidhan Chandra Roy	1961	Physician, Chief Minister of West Bengal
Purushottam Das Tandon	1961	Independence activist, educator
Rajendra Prasad	1962	Independence activist, jurist, Politician
Zakir Hussain	1963	Independence activist, Scholar, Politician
Pandurang Vaman Kane	1963	Indologist and Sanskrit scholar
Lal Bahadur Shastri	1966	Posthumous, independence activist, Politician
Indira Gandhi	1971	Politician
V. V. Giri	1975	Trade unionist and Politician
K. Kamaraj	1976	Posthumous, independence activist,
Mother Teresa	1980	Catholic nun, founder of the Missionaries of Charity
Vinoba Bhave	1983	Posthumous, social reformer, independence activist
Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan	1987	Independence activist
M. G. Ramachandran	1988	Posthumous, film actor, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
B. R. Ambedkar	1990	Posthumous, chief architect of the Indian Constitution
Nelson Mandela	1990	Leader of the Anti-Apartheid movement
Rajiv Gandhi	1991	Posthumous, Politician
Vallabhbhai Patel	1991	Posthumous, independence activist, Politician
Morarji Desai	1991	Independence activist, Politician
Abul Kalam Azad	1992	Posthumous, independence activist, Politician
J. R. D. Tata	1992	Industrialist and philanthropist
Satyajit Ray	1992	Bengali Filmmaker
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam	1997	Aeronautical Engineer, Politician
Gulzarilal Nanda	1997	Independence activist, Politician
Aruna Asaf Ali	1997	Posthumous, independence activist
M. S. Subbulakshmi	1998	Carnatic classical singer
Chidambaram Subramaniam	1998	Independence activist, Minister of Agriculture
Jayaprakash Narayan	1999	Posthumous, independence activist and politician
Ravi Shankar	1999	Sitar player
Amartya Sen	1999	Economist
Gopinath Bodoloi	1999	Posthumous, independence activist, Politician
Lata Mangeshkar	2001	Playback singer
Bismillah Khan	2001	Hindustani classical shehnai player
Bhimsen Joshi	2008	Hindustani classical singer
C. N. R. Rao	2014	Scientist
Sachin Tendulkar	2014	Cricketer

Q. Recently, a melanistic tiger was seen for the first time in India. In which of the following Tiger Reserve it was seen?

- A. Satpura National Park**
- B. Nagarhole National Park**
- C. Simlipal National Park**
- D. Periyar Tiger Reserve**



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **An exclusive safari of melanistic tigers, the first-of-its-kind in the world, will be started near Baripada in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, which also houses the famed Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR).**
- **Similipal is the only place where melanistic (black stripe) tigers are found in the wild.**
- **Odisha's Simlipal Tiger Reserve is the only tiger habitat in the world with melanistic tigers, which have broad black stripes running across their bodies and thicker than those seen on normal tigers, so much so that their tawny skin colour is barely visible.**
- **According to the 2022 All India Tiger Estimation, 10 of the 16 tigers recorded in Similipal melanistic.**



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Q. Recently, the term SARVATRA was seen in the news. What does this term defined as?

- A. New Tank in the Indian Army**
- B. New make in India Pistol**
- C. New Indian Army's Mobile Bridge System**
- D. New Rocket Launcher in the Indian Army**



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **The Indian Army, operating under the Ministry of Defence, remains vigilant against external threats and places a high priority on state-of-the-art equipment, such as SARVATRA – a cutting-edge Multispan Mobile Bridging System.**
- **Crafted by the Armament and Combat Engineering Systems within the Defence Research and Development Organisation.**
- **SARVATRA represents a pinnacle of innovation in bridging solutions, ensuring seamless connectivity for the Indian Army.**
- **SARVATRA stands out as a symbol of innovation, meticulously designed to rapidly bridge gaps, particularly over water bodies, thereby significantly enhancing connectivity and logistical efficiency for the Indian Army.**
- **A product of collaboration between the Defence Research and Development Organisation and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML).**



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SARVATRA BRIDGE SYSTEM

Description

The DRDO Sarvatra is mobile bridging system developed by DRDO, ACE, R&DE. for the Indian army. It is a truck-mounted, multi-span, mobile bridging system, and the main production agency is Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), Bangalore.

It is a multi-span mobile bridging system consisting of five scissors bridges made of aluminum alloy with a span of 15 meters each mounted on separate mobile platforms. Each mobile platform is a Tatra T-815 VVN 8 x 8 chassis, drivable from both ends with required driving controls. A microprocessor based control system is utilized to deploy and operationalize the entire system. This bridge can be set up in less than two and half hours.

**Crew of Four
50 in Operation**



Payload

scissors-type folding bridge 22 ton

Dimensions:

Length 15 m

Width 4 m

Height 2.6 m

Several Partners are involved in producing the Sarvatra Bridge

- BEML Limited, Dantal Hydraulics
- Defence Research and Development Organization, Larsen and Toubro, Oscar Equipment



Defence Manufacturing India
One Nation, One Defence Business Platform



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Q. Recently, 'Salher, Panhala, Sindhudurg' was seen in the news. It was related to which of the following things?

- A. Ancient Weapons**
- B. Forts**
- C. Lakes**
- D. Tribal Languages**



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- **Answer: (B)**
- **India has proposed the inclusion of "Maratha Military Landscapes" in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.**
- **This nomination comprises 12 components, including forts like Salher, Shivneri, Lohagad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, along with Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.**
- **Notably, it was the sixth cultural property from Maharashtra to be nominated, having previously been listed in the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites in 2021.**
- **News Context: Recently, India nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.**



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “Bharat Ratna Award”:

- 1. ‘Bharat Ratna’ was instituted in the year 1954.**
- 2. Recently, PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh and MS Swaminathan were awarded.**
- 3. C. Rajagopalachari and Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan were the only two awarded in 1954.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 and 3**
- B. Only 1 and 2**
- C. Only 2 and 3**
- D. All 1, 2, and 3**

- **Answer: (B)**
- **'Bharat Ratna' was instituted in the year 1954. (Hence, statement 1 is correct).**
- **Recently, PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh and MS Swaminathan were awarded. (Hence, statement 2 is correct).**
- **C. Rajagopalachari, C. V Raman and Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan were awarded in 1954. (Hence, statement 3 is incorrect).**
- **The Centre had earlier announced the Bharat Ratna for Bharatiya Janata Party veteran Lal Krishna Advani and former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur.**
- **News Context: Recently, Former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, alongside renowned agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan, are the esteemed recipients of this prestigious accolade, acknowledging their unparalleled dedication to the progress of India.**



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Name	Year	Field
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Sir C. V. Raman	1954	Physicist
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Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya	1955	Civil engineer, Diwan of Mysore
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Pandurang Vaman Kane	1963	Indologist and Sanskrit scholar
Lal Bahadur Shastri	1966	Posthumous, independence activist, Politician
Indira Gandhi	1971	Politician
V. V. Giri	1975	Trade unionist and Politician
K. Kamaraj	1976	Posthumous, independence activist,
Mother Teresa	1980	Catholic nun, founder of the Missionaries of Charity
Vinoba Bhave	1983	Posthumous, social reformer, independence activist
Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan	1987	Independence activist
M. G. Ramachandran	1988	Posthumous, film actor, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu



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B. R. Ambedkar	1990	Posthumous, chief architect of the Indian Constitution
Nelson Mandela	1990	Leader of the Anti-Apartheid movement
Rajiv Gandhi	1991	Posthumous, Politician
Vallabhbhai Patel	1991	Posthumous, independence activist, Politician
Morarji Desai	1991	Independence activist, Politician
Abul Kalam Azad	1992	Posthumous, independence activist, Politician
J. R. D. Tata	1992	Industrialist and philanthropist
Satyajit Ray	1992	Bengali Filmmaker
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam	1997	Aeronautical Engineer, Politician
Gulzarilal Nanda	1997	Independence activist, Politician
Aruna Asaf Ali	1997	Posthumous, independence activist
M. S. Subbulakshmi	1998	Carnatic classical singer
Chidambaram Subramaniam	1998	Independence activist, Minister of Agriculture
Jayaprakash Narayan	1999	Posthumous, independence activist and politician
Ravi Shankar	1999	Sitar player
Amartya Sen	1999	Economist
Gopinath Bodoloi	1999	Posthumous, independence activist, Politician
Lata Mangeshkar	2001	Playback singer
Bismillah Khan	2001	Hindustani classical shehnai player
Bhimsen Joshi	2008	Hindustani classical singer
C. N. R. Rao	2014	Scientist
Sachin Tendulkar	2014	Cricketer

Q. Which country won the title of ICC Under-19 World Cup 2024?

- A. India**
- B. Australia**
- C. South Africa**
- D. Pakistan**



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- **Answer: (B)**
- **Australia, the defending champion, secured victory in the ICC Under-19 World Cup 2024 by defeating India in the final match.**
- **This marks Australia's fourth win in this tournament. Notably, it's the third consecutive time Australia has beaten India in the final.**
- **The player with the highest runs scored in the tournament was Uday Saharan from India, with a total of 397 runs, while the most wickets were taken by South Africa's Kwena Mafaka, who claimed 21 wickets.**

Q. Recently, “Weimar Triangle” was seen in the news. It consists of which of the following countries?

- A. Germany, UK, France**
- B. Russia, Portugal, United Kingdom**
- C. USA, Germany, United Kingdom**
- D. France, Poland, Germany**



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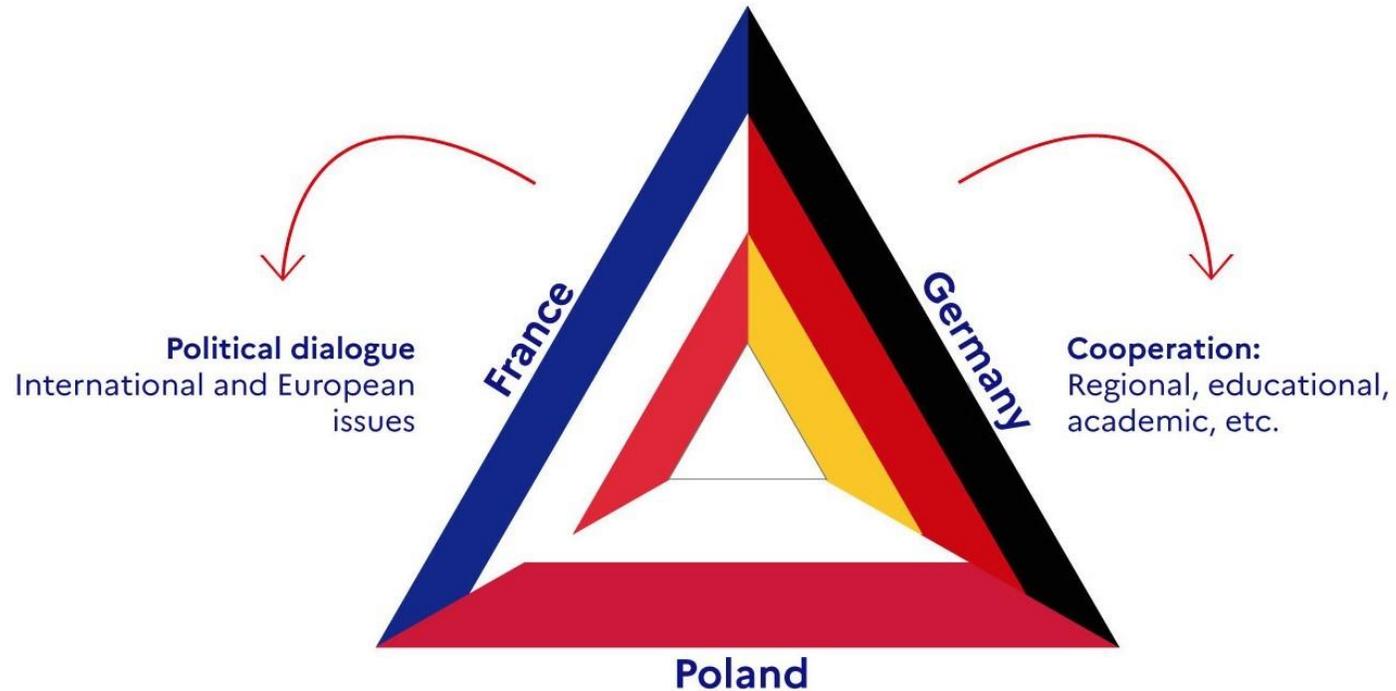


- **Answer: (D)**
- **The "Weimar Triangle" is a regional coalition formed in 1991 in Weimar, Germany, comprising France, Germany, and Poland.**
- **The primary objective of this alliance is to foster collaboration among the three nations on matters related to cross-border and European issues.**
- **Additionally, it was established to support Poland's transition away from Communist governance.**
- **Recently, The Foreign Ministers of Poland, France and Germany have discussed reviving the Weimar Triangle in a meeting in Paris.**
- **They announced a new cooperation agreement aimed at countering foreign disinformation campaigns.**
- **During discussions, the ministers explored the possibility of establishing a joint mechanism to identify and address potential internet attacks originating from Russia.**

1991: creation of the Weimar Triangle

What is the Weimar Triangle?

> A forum for dialogue and cooperation <



> Political dialogue <



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana”:

- 1. It aims to light up one crore households by providing free electricity every month.**
- 2. Under this scheme up to 200 units free electricity was provided.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. Neither 1 Nor 2**



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- **Answer: (A)**
- **It aims to light up one crore households by providing free electricity every month. (Hence, statement 1 is correct).**
- **Under this scheme up to 300 units free electricity was provided. (Hence, statement 2 is correct).**
- **This project, with an investment of over ₹ 75,000 crore.**
- **All stakeholders integrated to a National Online Portal.**
- **At the same time, the scheme was lead to more income, lesser power bills and employment generation for people.**



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Subsidy for residential households

Rs. 30,000/- per kW up to 2 kW

Rs. 18,000/- per kW for additional capacity up to 3 kW

Total Subsidy for systems larger than 3 kW capped at Rs 78,000

Suitable Rooftop Solar Plant Capacity for households

Average Monthly Electricity Consumption (units)	Suitable Rooftop Solar Plant Capacity	Subsidy Support
0-150	1 – 2 kW	Rs 30,000 to Rs 60,000/-
150-300	2 – 3 kW	Rs 60,000 to Rs 78,000/-
>300	Above 3 kW	Rs 78,000/-



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “SAMAR Air Defence System”:

- 1. It was a short-range, quick-reaction surface-to-air missile system.**
- 2. The missile operated in more than Mach 5 range.**
- 3. SAMAR was developed by the units of the Indian Air Force’s (IAF).**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 and 3**
- B. Only 2 and 3**
- C. Only 1 and 2**
- D. Only 3**



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- **Answer: (A)**
- The SAMAR (**Surface-to-Air Missile for Assured Retaliation**) air defense missile system.
- It was a short range, quick reaction **surface-to-air missile system. (Hence, statement 1 is correct).**
- The missile operated in **Mach 2 to 2.5 range. (Hence, statement 2 is incorrect).**
- SAMAR was developed in-house by the units of the **Indian Air Force's (IAF) Maintenance Command. (Hence, statement 3 is correct).**
- **News Context: Recently, It was fired for the first time during the Vayushakti Exercise.**



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Q. Recently, DRDO made a Laser Weapon named “DURGA-2”. What was the full form of DURGA-2?

- A. Dual-Use Ray Gun Assembly**
- B. Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array**
- C. Dynamic Unified Radiation Generating Array**
- D. Directed Ultraviolet Radiation Generating Apparatus**

- **Answer: (B)**
- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is working on a laser weapon named DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array).**
- **A lightweight directed-energy weapon (DEW) with a power of 100 kilowatts.**
- **DURGA-2 was versatile, and designed for deployment on land, naval vessels, and aircraft.**
- **It can counter drone or ballistic missile threats swiftly, either in the air or at their source, leveraging the speed of light.**



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Q. Recently, India's First Spy satellite was seen in the news. Which of the following organizations developed this satellite?

- A. ISRO**
- B. TASL**
- C. DRDO**
- D. NASA**

- **Answer: (B)**
- **India's first spy satellite built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will be launched in a SpaceX rocket by April and will be used by the armed forces to obtain secret information.**
- The ground control centre, located in **Bengaluru**, is set to become operational shortly.
- Its primary function involved **guiding and processing imagery transmitted by the satellite.**
- According to the report, this centre was established through a collaboration with the **Latin-American company Satélogic.**
- Additionally, imagery from the **TASL satellite will be authorised for sharing with allied nations.**

Countdown to Launch



TASL satellite can provide imagery

with **0.5 m** resolution

Ground control station and imagery processing centre will be ready shortly

TASL can produce **25 such** satellites annually

It will develop multiple payloads as per requirements of armed forces

Has export potential; inquiries received from friendly foreign nations

BCCL



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Q. Recently, the Gaganyaan Mission Astronaut names were announced. Which of the following persons was NOT on the list?

- A. Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair**
- B. Ajit Krishnan**
- C. Seethepalli Shrinivas**
- D. Shubhanshu Shukla**



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **The four Air Force pilots identified for India's human space flight mission Gaganyaan.**
- **However, the names of Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, and Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla were announced.**
- **The Gaganyaan mission was the most expensive scientific mission ever undertaken by India and is going to cost about ₹ 10,000 crore.**
- **The mission was expected to help develop several game-changing technologies.**
- **If successful, India would become the fourth country in the world to send an astronaut into space on an indigenously-made rocket.**
- **The tall feat has only been achieved by the US, China, and Soviet Russia so far.**
- **The last entrant in human space flight on its capabilities was China, way back in 2003.**

MISSION GAGANYAAN



*Group Captain
Prasanth Nair*

*Group Captain
Ajit Krishnan*

*Group Captain
Angad Pratap*

*Wing Commander
Shubhanshu Shukla*



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Q. Who among the following persons became the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force?

- A. Sadhana Nair**
- B. Suman Kumari**
- C. Shikha Jain**
- D. S Geetajali**



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- **Answer: (B)**
- **A sub-inspector named Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force.**
- **She recently completed an eight-week sniper course at Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT) in Indore and achieved an 'instructor grade'.**
- **Suman volunteered for the sniper course after witnessing the threat of sniper attacks from across the border while commanding a platoon in Punjab.**



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Q. Recently, which of the following countries formally became the 32nd member of NATO?

- A. Ukraine**
- B. Sweden**
- C. Finland**
- D. Cyprus**



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- **Answer: (B)**
- **Sweden** became the **32nd member of NATO** in the shadow of **Russia's invasion of Ukraine**, turning the page on two centuries of non-alignment and capping two years of torturous diplomacy.
- **Finland and Sweden** launched a joint bid quickly after the invasion of Ukraine, which itself had unsuccessfully sought to join **NATO** -- an alliance that under **Article 5**, considers an attack on one member an attack on all.



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Q. Who among the following actors won the “Best Actor Award” in the Oscars 2024 ceremony?

- A. Bradley Cooper**
- B. Paul Giamatti**
- C. Jeffrey Wright**
- D. Cillian Murphy**



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- **Answer: (D)**
- **Cillian Murphy was named Best Actor for Oppenheimer.**
- In the highly anticipated Best Actor category, Cillian Murphy of Oppenheimer clinched the trophy, marking the fifth victory for the Christopher Nolan film.
- Christopher Nolan's directorial **Oppenheimer** movie bagged **seven Oscars, including 'The Best Picture' Award, 'Best Director', and 'Best Actor'.**
- The movie has won nominations in 13 categories at the **96th Academy Awards, which took place on March 11 in Los Angeles.**

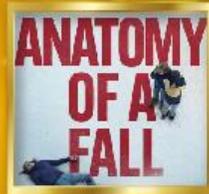
Here are all the seven Oscar Awards Oppenheimer won:

- **Academy Award for Best Picture:** Oppenheimer
- **Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role:** Cillian Murphy
- **Academy Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role:** Robert Downey Jr.
- **Academy Award for Best Directing:** Christopher Nolan
- **Academy Award for Best Music (Original Score):** Oppenheimer (Ludwig Göransson)
- **Academy Award for Best Cinematography:** Oppenheimer (Hoyte van Hoytema)
- **Academy Award for Best Film Editing:** Oppenheimer (Jennifer Lame)
- **Best Actress:** Emma Stone (Poor Things)



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Oscars 2024: Full list of Winners



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Q. Recently, who among the following persons won the Pritzker Architecture Prize 2024?

- A. Riken Yamamoto**
- B. David Chipperfield**
- C. B.V Doshi**
- D. Yvonne Farrell**



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Answer: (A)

- **Japanese architect Riken Yamamoto** has been named the winner of this year's **Pritzker Architecture Prize** for his buildings that are a "background and foreground to everyday life".
- Yamamoto, who is the **53rd Pritzker Architecture Prize** laureate and the **ninth from Japan**, was honored for his buildings that aim to foster community.
- The prize was established by **Jay A Pritzker and his wife Cindy in 1979** to honour living architects whose work demonstrates talent, vision, and commitment to humanity and the built environment.
- **Balkrishna Doshi** is the **first Indian architect to win a Pritzker Prize (2018)**.



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Q. Recently, which of the following missiles was tested with the MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry capability) technology?

- A. Agni- VI**
- B. Astra Mk3**
- C. K-5**
- D. Agni-V**



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- **Answer: (D)**
- **India tested Mission Divyastra - the first flight test of an indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technologies.**
- **This technology ensured that a single missile could deploy multiple warheads at different locations.**
- **With the test of Mission Divyastra, India has joined the select group of nations that have MIRV capability.**
- **The United States was the first country to develop the MIRV technology, developing an MIRVed Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) in 1970 and a submarine-launched ballistic missile a year later.**
- **The then-Soviet Union later designed its MIRV-enabled intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).**

India's MIRV punch

India has joined select group of nations that have Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology

Agni-5 missile uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine

5,000km range

USING MULTIPLE WARHEADS

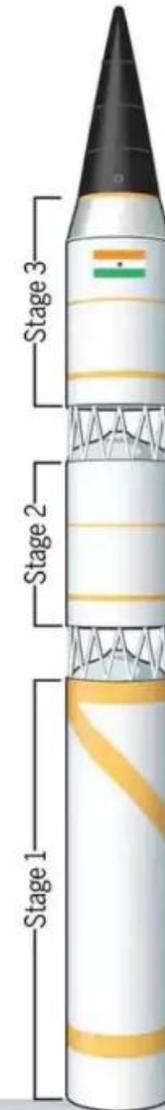
- MIRVs can cause more destruction than missiles that carry single warhead.
- It will allow Agni-V to deliver multiple nuclear warheads against different targets across hundreds of kilometres

India completed its nuclear trial in 2018 when nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Arihant, completed its first deterrence patrol

India's nuclear doctrine, promulgated in 2003, commits to a 'no first use' posture, with weapons to be used only in retaliation against a nuclear attack

Proud of our DRDO scientists for Mission Divyastra, the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology."

—NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister



DRDO tests Agni-5 missile with MIRV tech

- Operational range: **5,000km**
- Height: **17m**

What is MIRV tech?

- MIRV stands for Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicles
- This technology allows a single missile to carry multiple warheads, each capable of being aimed at a different target.

India joins select group of nations

- Only the US, UK, Russia, France and China have MIRV technology
- Development and deployment of MIRV tech is a closely guarded subject



TEAM NISHTHA
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Q. Who among the following teams won the Ranji Trophy 2023-2024 season?

- A. Madhya Pradesh**
- B. Saurashtra**
- C. Vidarbha**
- D. Mumbai**



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Answer: (D)

- **Mumbai won the record-extending 42nd Ranji Trophy title as they defeated Vidharbha by 102 runs in the final at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.**
- **Mumbai won the Ranji Trophy after a gap of 8 years.**
- **The BCCI founded the championship in 1934.**
- **The Saurashtra cricket team holds the present title of the 2022–23 edition.**



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Q. Recently, what was the rank of India according to the Global Human Development Index, according to UNDP's latest report?

- A. 108th**
- B. 125th**
- C. 134th**
- D. 142nd**



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **India ranked** on the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) climbed one spot in 2022 to **134 out of 193 countries**, with a slight increase in its **HDI value to 0.644**.
- Despite progress, there's a need for enhanced focus on **women-led development**, as highlighted by the UNDP.
- According to the **2023/24 Human Development Report**, titled **'Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World,'** HDI is projected to reach record highs in 2023 after declines in 2020 and 2021.
- Categorized as **'Very High', 'High', 'Medium', and 'Low Human Development**.
- **China and Sri Lanka, ranked at 75 and 78**, respectively, in the High Human Development category compared to India, which stands at **134**.
- **India** also ranks below **Bhutan (125) and Bangladesh (129)**, despite all three being categorized under **'Medium Human Development'**.

DIMENSIONS

INDICATORS

DIMENSION INDEX

Long and healthy life



• Life expectancy at birth

• Life expectancy index

Knowledge



• Expected years of schooling
• Mean years of schooling

• Education index

A decent standard of living



• GNI per capita (PPP \$)

• GNI index

HDI
Human Development Index



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Q. Recently, The Indian Army set up a new unit called “STEAG”. What was the full form of “STEAG”?

- A. Special Tactics and Engineering Assault Group**
- B. Strategic Training and Equipment Acquisition Group**
- C. Surveillance and Target Engagement Analysis Group**
- D. Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group**



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Answer: (D)

- **Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)**, an elite unit of the Indian Army recently raised in Delhi.
- It was headed by a **Colonel-rank officer** from the **Corps of Signals**, with a **primary aim to enhance the communication infrastructure of the force**.
- This unit, with a strength of **nearly 280 personnel**, undertakes research, and evaluation of futuristic communication technologies like **6G, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and quantum computing** for defence applications because of the changing nature of the field.
- **STEAG** was mandated to nurture technologies spanning the complete spectrum of wired and wireless systems
- The primary aim was to **enhance the communication infrastructure of the Indian Army**.



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Q. Recently, India launched an 'Operation Indravati' which was seen in the news. It was related to which of the following countries?

- A. Haiti**
- B. Israel**
- C. Somalia**
- D. Russia**



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Answer: (A)

- **India launched 'Operation Indravati' to evacuate its citizens stranded in war-torn Haiti** amid the intense fighting between the armed groups and the government.
- The **Caribbean nation of Haiti** has been plagued by **widespread gang violence for over two years** since the **July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise**.
- In the power vacuum that followed the assassination, the **country's de facto leader, Prime Minister Ariel Henry**, assumed power, with the support of several nations.
- There are **between 75 and 90 Indians in Haiti**.



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How gangs came to dominate Haiti

The spiral of gang violence sparked by the still-unsolved assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021 has left much of the poverty-stricken Caribbean country on the brink of collapse

■ Gangs control 80% of capital

■ Acute hunger affecting 4.35m, almost half of population

■ More than 1,200 murders to date in 2024

U.S. Puerto Rico (U.S.) Dominican Rep. HAITI Port-au-Prince

50km 30 miles

2km 1.25 miles

Jovenel Moïse

PORT-AU-PRINCE

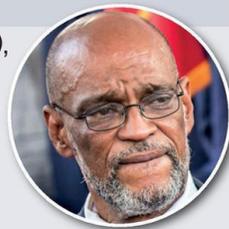
Parliament Prison Civile de la Croix des Bouquets

National Penitentiary Presidential palace

■ **Jan 2010:** Haiti devastated by 7.0-magnitude earthquake that kills more than 300,000 people

■ **Jul 2021:** President **Jovenel Moïse** shot dead by group of foreign mercenaries, mostly Colombians

Ariel Henry (right), designated by Moïse as prime minister shortly before his death, takes over as caretaker leader



■ **Jan 2023:** Government fails to hold elections, citing unprecedented levels of gang violence. Opposition to Henry increases

■ **Feb 25, 2024:** Henry travels to Kenya to build support for multinational security force to shore up order

■ **Feb 29:** Armed gangs controlled by former police officer **Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier** (right), carry out series of coordinated attacks across Port-au-Prince



■ **Mar 1:** Henry secures agreement from Kenya to deploy 1,000 police officers to Haiti

■ **Mar 2-4:** Gangs storm two prisons – freeing more than 4,000 inmates – and lay siege to international airport. State of emergency declared

■ **Mar 5:** Henry's return flight forced to divert to Puerto Rico after Dominican Republic denies access for security reasons

■ **Mar 12:** **Ariel Henry announces he will resign once transitional council is created**



Q. Consider the following correct statements about the “Abel Prize”?

- A. This prize is awarded in the field of Economy.**
- B. Michel Talagrand was the winner of the 2023 Abel Prize.**
- C. Karen Uhlenbeck was the first woman to win this award in 2019.**
- D. This prize was given by the Swedish government.**



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Answer: (C)

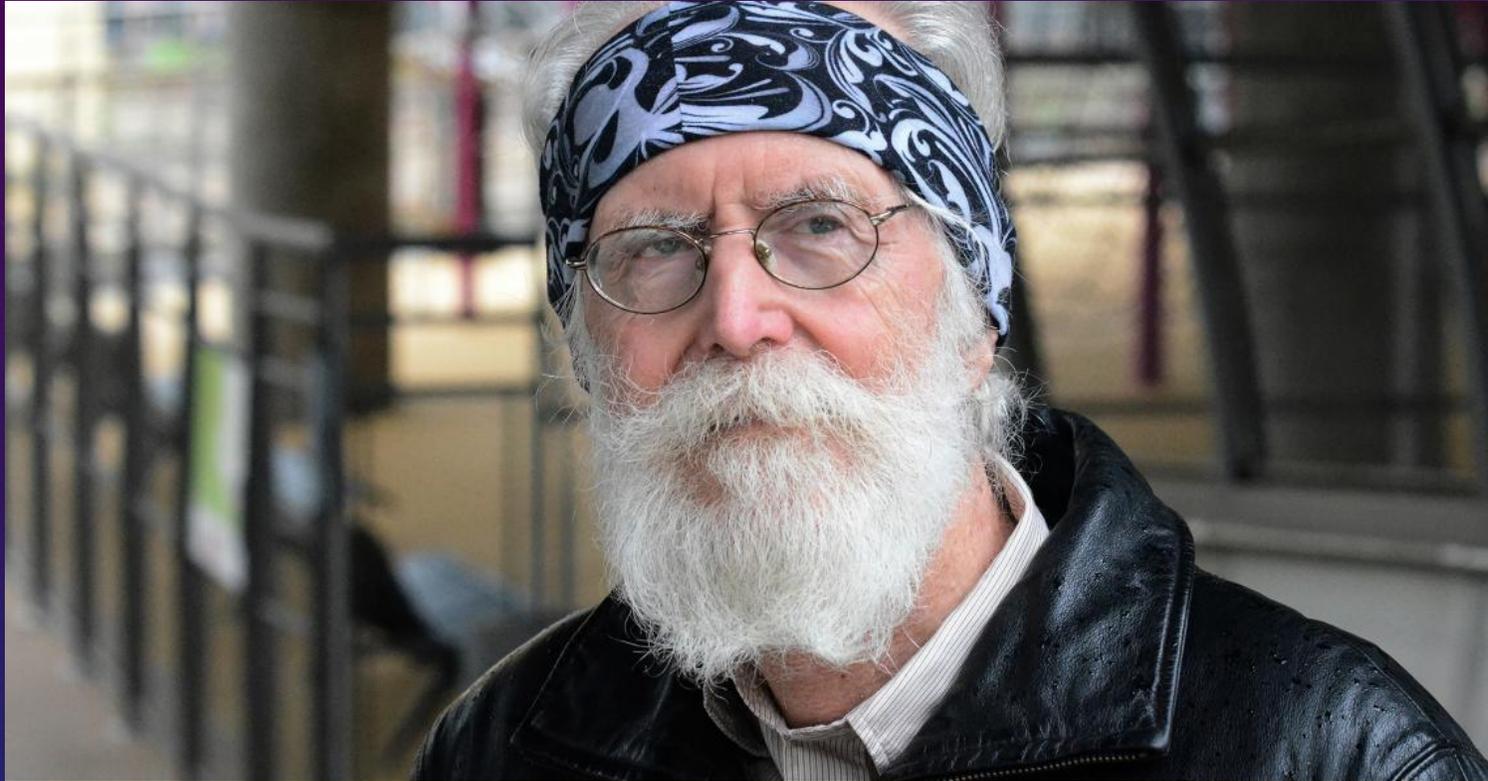
- This prize is awarded in the **field of Mathematics**.
- Recently, **French mathematician Michel Talagrand** was announced as the **winner of the 2024 Abel Prize**.
- He received the prestigious prize “for his groundbreaking contributions to **probability theory and functional analysis, with outstanding applications in mathematical physics and statistics.**”
- The prize carries a cash award of **6 million Norwegian kroner (\$7,03,000)** and has been awarded annually since **2003**.
- **Karen Uhlenbeck** was the first woman who win this award in **2019**. (Statement is correct).
- This prize was given by the **Norwegian government**.



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The
ABEL
PRIZE



Q. Recently, who among the following was awarded the Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award in Hockey for the year 2024?

- A. Ajit Pal Singh
- B. Sardara Singh
- C. Ashok Kumar
- D. Ignace Tirkey



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **The prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award, which carries a prize money of Rs 30 lakh, was won by his son, Ashok Kumar.**
- **He was an Indian former professional field hockey player.**
- **He is the son of the Indian hockey player Dhyan Chand.**
- **Ashok Kumar was a member of the Indian team that won the 1975 World Cup.**



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the ‘Dosti-16’:

- 1. India, Mauritius and Sri Lanka participated in the “Dosti-16” exercise.**
- 2. ICGS Samarth and ICGS Abhinav participated from India.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. Neither 1 Nor 2**

- **Answer: (B)**
- **Coast guard personnel from India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka have embarked on a four-day trilateral exercise to identify emerging maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region. (Hence, statement 1 is incorrect).**
- **ICGS Samarth and ICGS Abhinav participated from India. (Hence, statement 2 is correct).**
- **Bangladesh participated in this exercise as an observer.**
- **News Context: Recently, The exercise 'DOSTI-16' was held in the Maldives.**

Q. Recently, the 'NICEST Programme' was seen in the news. It was related to which of the following things?

- A. Combat Climate Change
- B. Advancing Space Exploration
- C. Moon Exploration for School Children
- D. Combating Ozone Depletion



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- **Answer: (A)**
- **The National Information System for Climate and Environment Studies (NICES), operated by ISRO and other ministries, invites Indian researchers to combat climate change.**
- Potential areas include Space-based ECVs, Climate Indicators, Climate Change Challenges, and Weather Extremes.
- **The National Information System for Climate and Environment Studies (NICES) program was launched in 2012.**
- Its primary objective is to **generate and disseminate long-term Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)** derived from Indian and other Earth observation satellites.



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Q. Recently, Bindyarani Devi was seen in the news. She was related to which sport?

- A. Archery
- B. Shooting
- C. Football
- D. Weightlifter



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- Answer: D
- Bindyarani Devi at IWF World Cup 2024:
- Won bronze medal in women's 55kg category (lifted 196kg).
- Previously won silver at 2022 Commonwealth Games.



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Q. Recently, PRATYUSH's name was seen in the news. It was related to which of the following things?

- A. Tank
- B. Ship
- C. Satellite
- D. Telescope

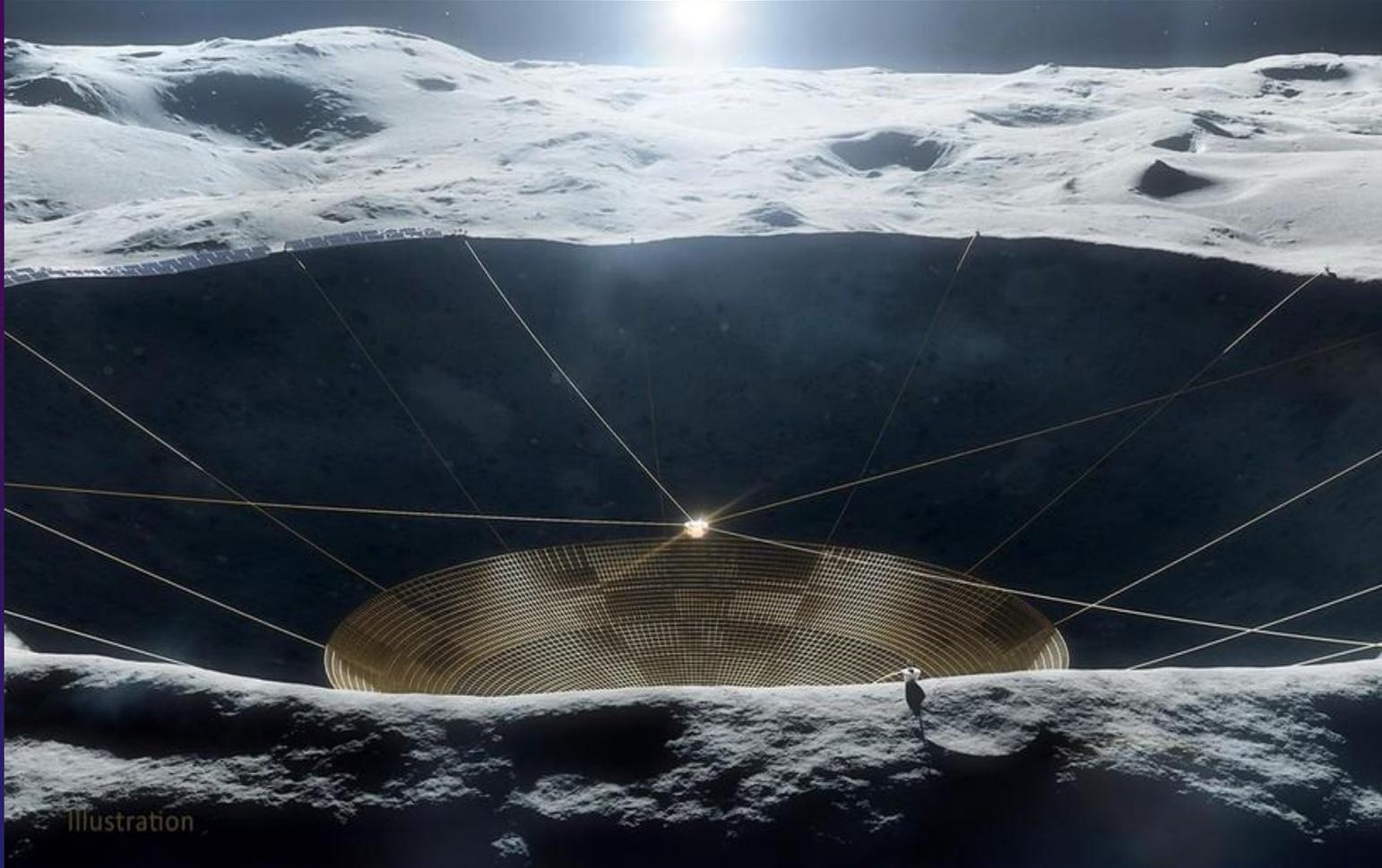


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- **Answer: (D)**
- **PRATUSH (Probing Reionization of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen) is a telescope developed by the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**
- **Astronomers are exploring the deployment of telescopes on and around the moon to address challenges encountered by instruments on Earth, including atmospheric interference and radio noise.**
- **The mission aims to unveil the Cosmic Dawn of the Universe, providing insights into the formation of the first stars, their characteristics, and the light they emitted.**
- **PRATUSH will carry specialized instruments to detect this faint signal, operating within a frequency range of 30-250 MHz.**



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Q. Recently, Who was the first Indian woman chosen as a jury member for the upcoming Summer Olympics?

- A. Sana Sheikh
- B. P T Usha
- C. Bilquis Mir
- D. Karlam Maheshwari



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **Bilquis Mir, from Jammu Kashmir, has made history as the first Indian woman appointed as a jury member for the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris.**
- **Bilquis Mir, a certified jury member, previously served as a jury member at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.**
- **Nominated by the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association, the former canoeist is set to officiate at the Paris Olympics.**
- **Both disciplines fall under underwater sports, with canoeing/kayaking making its debut as a demonstration sport in the 1924 Paris Olympics.**



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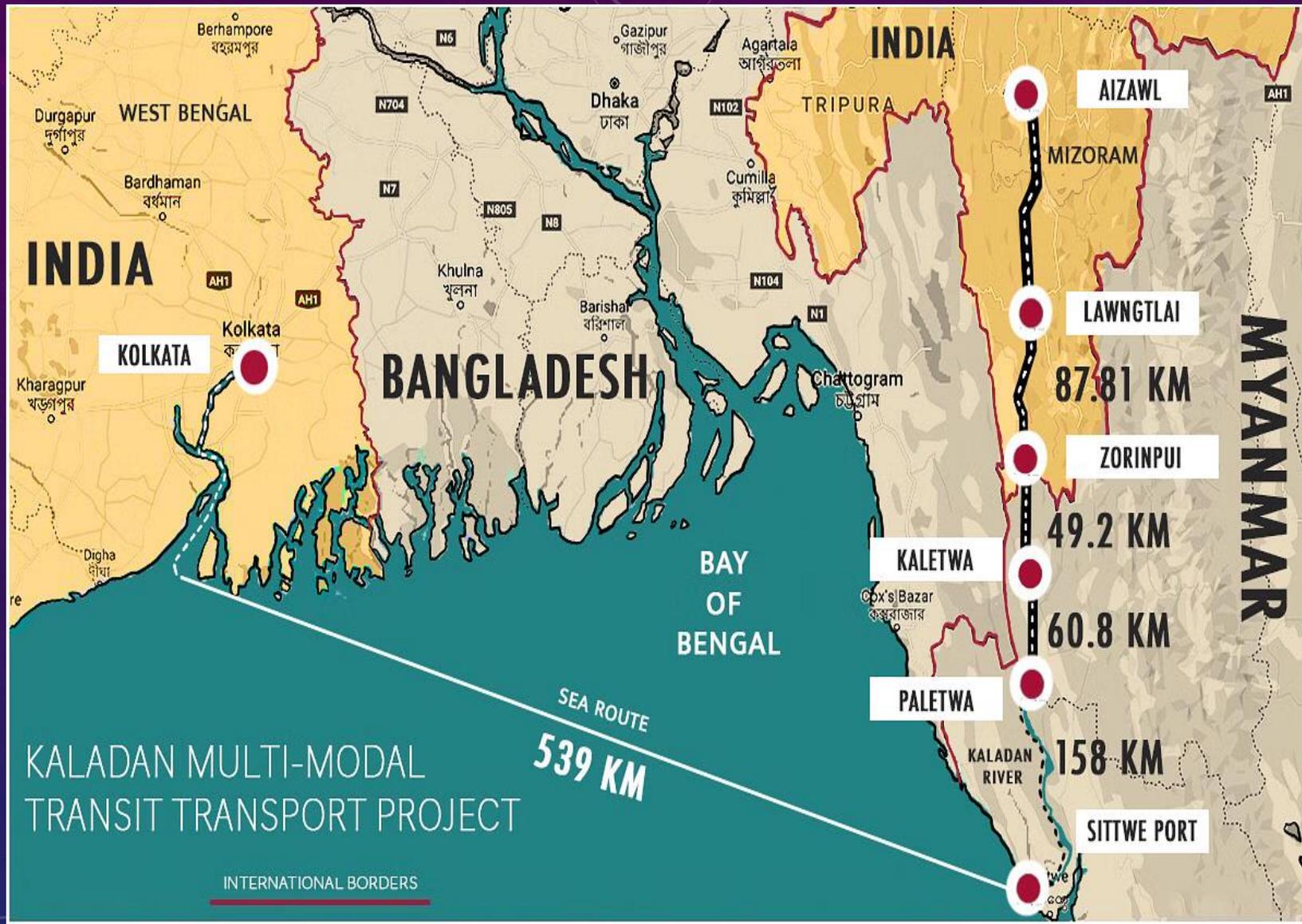
Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “Sittwe port”:

- 1. It is a deepwater port situated in Sri Lanka.**
- 2. It is part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP).**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. Neither 1 Nor 2**

- **Ans- B**
- **Sittwe Port in Myanmar:**
- **Location:** Deepwater port in Myanmar (Statement 1 incorrect).
- **Project:** Part of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) (Statement 2 correct).
- **Funding:** Grant assistance from India.
- **Goal:** Connect India's east coast to northeast states via Sittwe Port.
- **Route:** Mizoram -> Paletwa (Myanmar, road) -> Sittwe (Myanmar, IWT) -> Indian ports (maritime)
- **News:** India Ports Global (IPGL) to take over operations.



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “START Programme”:

- 1. This programme is designed by ISRO for School students.**
- 2. Recently, GUJCOST was appointed as the Nodal Centre for ISRO’s START programme.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. Neither 1 Nor 2**

- **Answer: (B)**
- The START program targets graduate and senior undergraduate students studying physical sciences and technology. **(Hence, statement 1 is incorrect).**
- It's a part of ISRO's initiative to help Indian students become experts in space science and technology.
- Recently, GUJCOST was appointed as the Nodal Centre for ISRO's START programme. **(Hence, statement 2 is correct).**
- The programme will cover various domains of space science, including Astronomy & Astrophysics, Heliophysics & Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy.
- **News Context:** The Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) was designated as the Nodal Centre for the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)' programme by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Q. Recently, who among the following women became the first UK's Woman High Commissioner to India?

- A. Jessica Lapenn
- B. Lindy Cameron
- C. Kelly Craft
- D. Mary Beth Leonard



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- **Answer: (B)**
- **Ms. Lindy Cameron CB OBE** was appointed as the **British High Commissioner to the Republic of India**, succeeding **Mr. Alex Ellis CMG**, who moved to another diplomatic service position.
- **Mr. Ellis became Britain's next ambassador to Spain.**
- Ms. Cameron assumed her role in **April 2024.**
- " This appointment occurred **70 years after India appointed Vijaylakshmi Pandit as its high commissioner in London in 1954.**
- Pandit, the **sister of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru**, served in that capacity until **1961.**
- **India is the UK's 12th-largest trade partner.**



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Q. Recently, Which of the following nations conducted the exercise 'Dustlik'?

- A. India and Malaysia
- B. Sri Lanka and Indonesia
- C. India and Mongolia
- D. India and Uzbekistan

- **Answer: (D)**
- **The Indian Army contingent departed today for the 5th edition of India- Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK.**
- **The Exercise was conducted at Termez, the Republic of Uzbekistan.**
- **Exercise DUSTLIK is a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan.**
- **Last edition was conducted at Pithoragarh (India) in February 2023.**

Q. Recently, launched Operation 'True Promise'. It was related to which of the following countries?

- A. Russia
- B. USA
- C. India
- D. Iran



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- **Answer: D**
- **Iran launched numerous drones and missiles towards Israel.**
- **The Revolutionary Guards of Iran cited Operation 'True Promise' as retaliation against Israeli actions.**
- **The attack was triggered by an Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus resulting in the death of seven IRGC members, including two generals, and six others.**
- **Israel intercepted Iranian drones and missiles using its extensive geography.**
- **The interception occurred from the Mediterranean and Red Seas, as well as neighboring countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Greece, and within occupied Palestine.**



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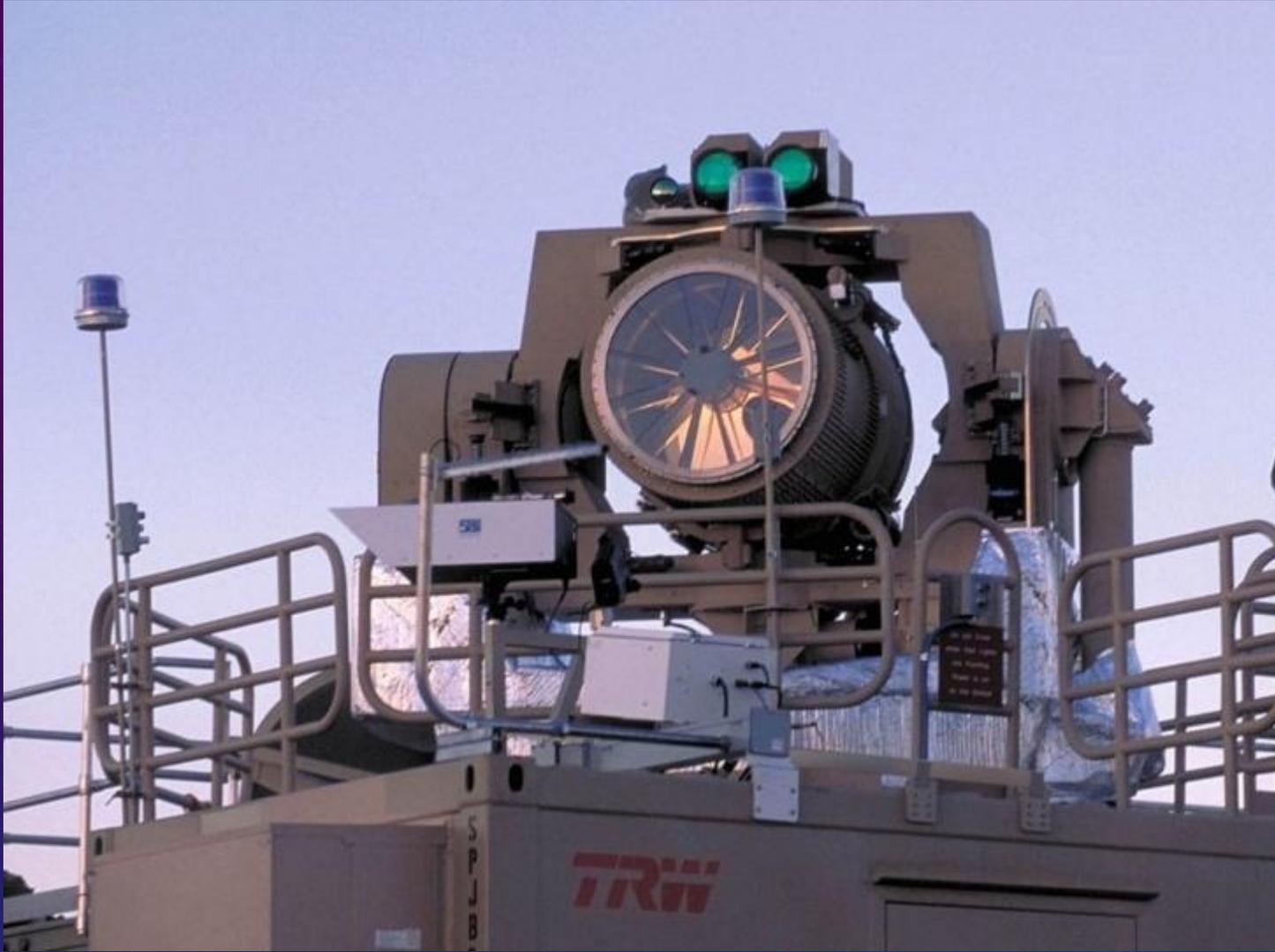


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Q. How many of the following statements about the DURGA-2 system are CORRECT?

- 1. It damages its target using focused energy by means of lasers, microwaves or particle beams.**
 - 2. They transmit lethal beams at the speed of sound.**
- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 Nor 2

- **Answer: (A)**
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** is reportedly in the testing phase of its **DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system**.
- This technology is designed to **incapacitate or eliminate targets by directing focused energy through lasers, microwaves, or particle beams**. (Hence, statement 1 is correct).
- Similar systems are possessed by countries such as **Russia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Israel, and China**.
- They transmit lethal force at the **speed of light (about 300,000 kilometers per second)**. (Hence, statement 2 is incorrect).
- This advancement will empower us to develop state-of-the-art platforms, **weaponry, sensors, and networks crucial for effectively combating and emerging victorious in future conflicts**.
- **News Context:** Recently, The DRDO is reported to be testing a prototype of its **DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system**.



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Q. Recently, India has opened the first-ever Hindi radio broadcast in which of the following countries?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. USA
- C. Kuwait
- D. France



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- **Answer: (C)**
- **Kuwait's Ministry of Information** initiated the **first-ever Hindi radio broadcast in Kuwait**, with support from the Indian Embassy.
- The **Hindi program** airs on **Kuwait Radio FM 93.3 and AM 96.3 every Sunday**.
- The Indian Embassy commended Kuwait's Ministry of Information for this initiative, emphasizing its role in enhancing bilateral ties.
- Diplomatic relations between **India and Kuwait were established in 1962**, following Kuwait's independence from **Britain in 1961**.
- Notably, the **Indian Rupee served as the legal tender in Kuwait until 1961**.

Q. Which of the following statements regarding the Shompen tribe is INCORRECT?

- A. They belong to Arunachal Pradesh.
- B. The tribe's social structure is patriarchal.
- C. According to the Census (2011), the estimated population of Shompen is 229.
- D. Monogamy is the general rule in this tribe.



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- **Answer: (A)**
- The Shompen people, one of the world's most isolated tribes residing in Great Nicobar Island's dense rainforest, are among India's least studied Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- With a population estimated at 229 in the 2011 Census, the exact number remains unknown.
- Shompen families are typically led by the eldest male, with monogamy being the norm, though polygamy is permitted.
- Recently, members of the Shompen tribe exercised their democratic right by voting for the first time in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency elections.

Q. Recently, Anshu Jamsenpa was seen in the news. She was related to which of the following states?

- A. Sikkim**
- B. Manipur**
- C. Arunachal Pradesh**
- D. Nagaland**



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- **Answer: C**
- **Anshu Jamsenpa, the first woman from Arunachal Pradesh's Nyishi tribe, has scaled Mount Everest.**
- **The Nyishi tribe is the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **They consider themselves descendants of Abo Tani, believed to be the first human, aligning with the Tani Group of Tribes, including the Adi, Gallo, and Apatani.**
- **Their society lacks a caste system and rigid class distinctions.**
- **Polygyny is practiced within the Nyishi tribe.**
- **Their major festival is Longte.**



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Q. Recently, which of the following companies/organizations launched the World's First Rocket with single piece 3D-printed Engine?

- A. NASA**
- B. JAXA**
- C. Agnikul**
- D. Space X**



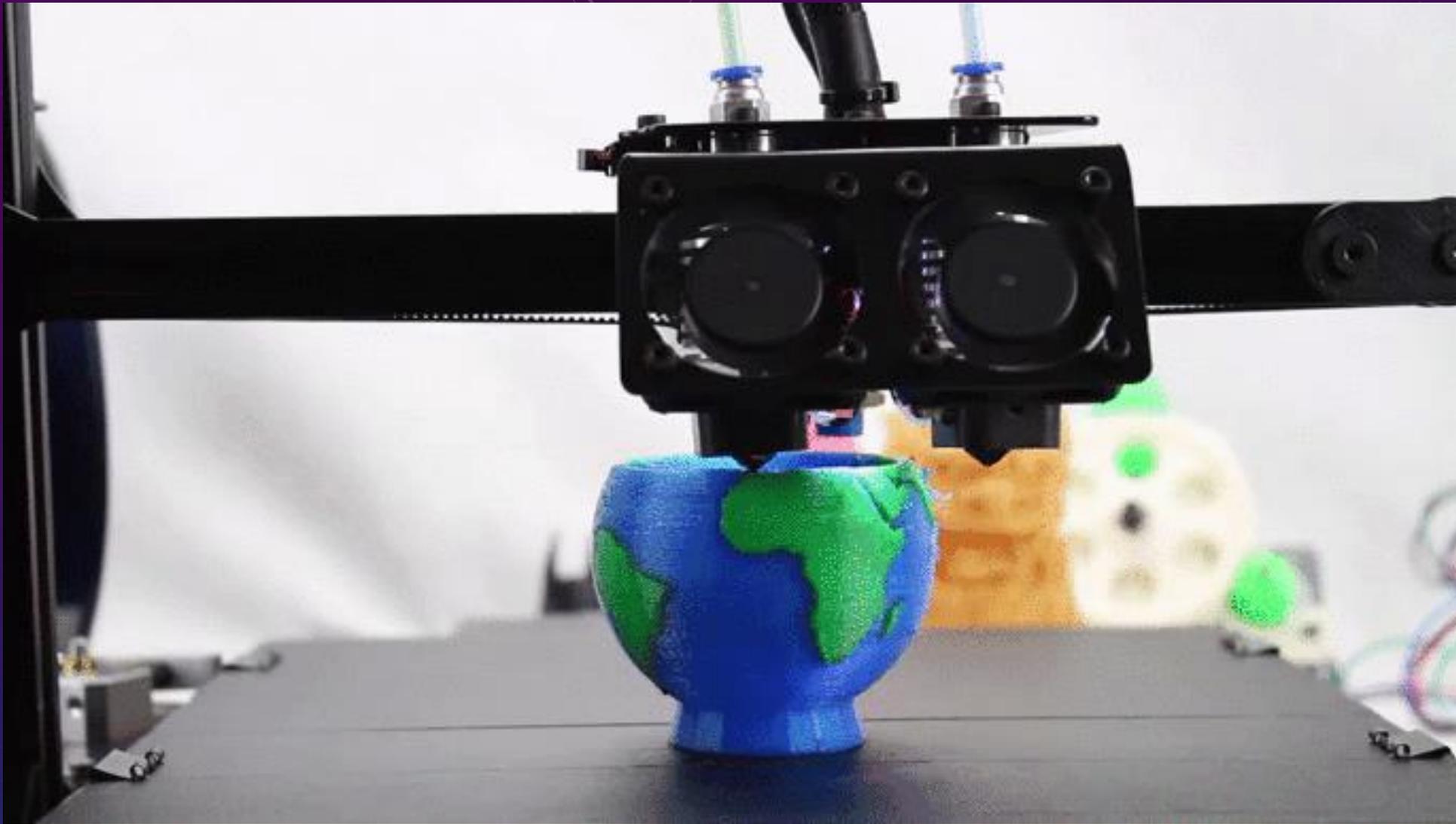
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Answer: C

- The **Rocket Agnibaan SOrTeD** is India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket, made using **3D printing**.
- This test flight, designed by **Agnikul**, aims to **showcase homegrown technologies, gather flight data, and ensure system functionality for the Agnibaan orbital launch vehicle**.
- Agnibaan is a **two-stage rocket that can carry payloads of 30-300 kg up to 700 km**.
- It can reach both low and high-inclination orbit and is mobile, supporting over 10 launch ports.
- The launch took place from the **Dhanush launchpad at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, India's first privately developed launch site**.



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “Exercise Red Flag 2024”:

- 1. The 'Red Flag' exercise was hosted in the UK.**
- 2. It is a multi-national air combat exercise designed to create a comprehensive learning environment by simulating realistic combat scenarios.**
- 3. Indian Army and Indian Navy both took part in the Red Flag Exercise.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 and 3**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Only 1 and 2**
- D. All 1, 2, and 3**

Answer: B

- The 'Red Flag' exercise was hosted in **Alaska, United States. (Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect).**
- It is a **multi-national air combat exercise designed to create a comprehensive learning environment by simulating realistic combat scenarios. (Hence, Statement 2 is correct).**
- **Indian Air Force** took part in the Red Flag Exercise. (Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect).
- The Nevada exercise is organized by the **US Air Force Warfare Center**, while the Alaska exercise is managed by the **Pacific Air Forces**, the air component command of the **US Indo-Pacific Command.**



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Q. Recently, in which of the following places India's first constitution park will be opened?

- A. Kochi**
- B. Jaipur**
- C. Kolkata**
- D. Pune**



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Answer: D

- **The Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group collaborated to inaugurate Pune's first Constitution Park.**
- **The ceremony was led by Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh, who emphasized the importance of citizens' constitutional duties for India's progress by 2047.**
- **He highlighted the global significance of the Indian Constitution, which protects Fundamental Rights and emphasizes Fundamental Duties.**

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “KAVACH System”:

- 1. It is built by the DRDO.**
- 2. It is an indigenously developed Automatic Tank Protection (ATP) system.**
- 3. It is a set of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification devices.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only One**
- B. Only Two**
- C. Only Three**
- D. None of the above**



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Answer: A

- Kavach was developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) under Indian Railways (IR), in collaboration with Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd, HBL Power Systems Ltd, and Kernex Microsystems. (Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect).
- It is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. (Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect).
- Kavach consists of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) devices installed in locomotives, signaling systems, and tracks. (Hence, Statement 3 is correct).
- These components communicate using ultra-high radio frequencies to control train brakes and alert drivers, all based on pre-programmed logic.
- Kavach is designed to assist locomotive pilots in avoiding Signal Passing At Danger (SPAD) incidents and preventing overspeeding.
- Recently, RailTel Corporation of India signed an MOU with a tech firm for exploring and delivering KAVACH (train collision avoidance system) implementation projects in India and other countries.



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Q. Which of the following statements about the Five Eyes Intelligence-sharing Network are correct?

- 1. It is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network involving over 20 different agencies from five English-speaking countries.**
- 2. The member countries of the network are Australia, Canada, Israel, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 Nor 2

Answer: A

- The **Five Eyes Intelligence-sharing Network** is a multilateral network involving over **20 different agencies** from five English-speaking countries. **(Hence, Statement 1 is correct).**
- The member countries are **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.** **(Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect).**
- It focuses on both surveillance and signals intelligence (SIGINT).
- Originating from the post-war 1946 UKUSA Agreement, it was designed for cooperative sharing of SIGINT.
- Intelligence documents shared among these countries are classified as '**Secret—AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US Eyes Only,**' which **inspired the network's name, 'Five Eyes.'**
- **News Context:** Recently, **4 countries on 3 continents, which are part of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing network, accused India of running espionage operations and India has denied the allegations.**



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Q. Recently, Tejaswin Shankar's name was seen in the news. He is related to which sports?

A. High Jump

B. Shot Put

C. Javelin Throw

D. Gymnastic

Answer: A

- India's Tejaswin Shankar secured victory in the men's High Jump event at the USATF Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA.
- The national record holder cleared 2.23 meters on his first attempt, earning the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour – Silver event.
- This jump matched his season-best performance.



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Q. The Pyrenees Mountains, recently in the news, serve as a natural border between which two countries?

- A. France and Netherland**
- B. Turkey and Russia**
- C. Spain and France**
- D. Switzerland and Austria**



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Answer: C

- French President hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping for private talks at the Pyrenees' Tourmalet Pass.
- The Pyrenees Mountains form a natural border spanning 500 km from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, created by the collision of Iberia with Eurasia.
- Politically divided between Spain and France, with Andorra located between them, the mountains feature the highest point, Aneto Peak, at 3,404 m.
- They also merge with the Cantabrian range in Spain.



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Q. Recently, Bambi Bucket Operations was seen in the news. It is related to which of the following things?

- A. Tunnel Operations**
- B. Combat Forest Fires**
- C. Aerial firefighting**
- D. Water rescue operations**

Answer: B

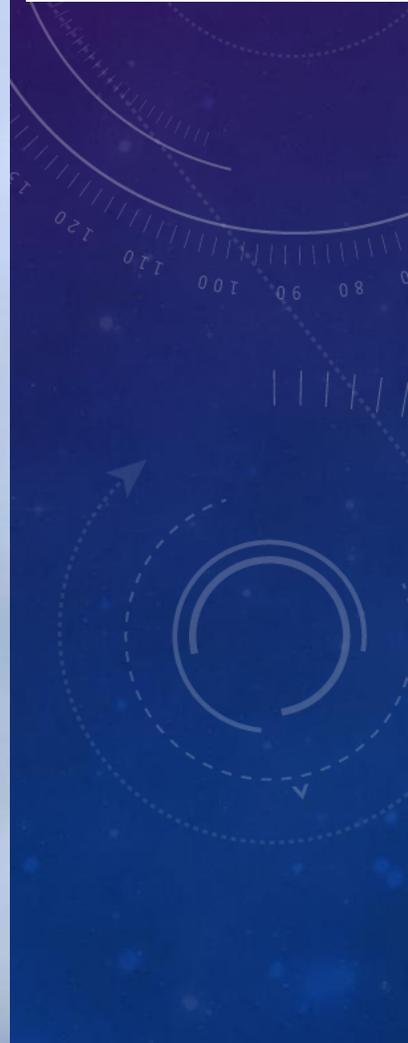
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has been actively supporting the state's efforts to combat forest fires.
- In response to the **ongoing fires in the Pauri Garhwal sector of Uttarakhand**, the IAF deployed **Mi17 V5 helicopters for Bambi Bucket operations**.
- This specialized firefighting technique involves suspending a container beneath a helicopter, filling it with water from a nearby source, and then releasing it over the affected areas.
- **Bambi Buckets** play a crucial role in extinguishing wildfires in remote and inaccessible terrain.
- Helicopters are widely utilized globally for such **firefighting operations due to their adaptability and effectiveness**.



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Q. Recently, the Darfur region was seen in the news. It is located in which country?

- A. Ukraine**
- B. Iran**
- C. Sudan**
- D. Palestine**



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Answer: C

- **Darfur, a region in western Sudan, has been ravaged by violent conflict and humanitarian crises.**
- **Ethnic tensions between Arab and African communities in Darfur have resulted in widespread violence and human rights abuses.**
- **Recently, the UN warned of imminent starvation in Darfur, Sudan, exacerbated by escalating violence worsening the country's hunger crisis.**
- **Since April 2023, civil war has intensified in Darfur, leading to a dire humanitarian situation.**
- **According to the World Food Programme, people in Darfur are resorting to eating "grass and peanut shells" to survive.**



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Q. In which state was the 'School on Wheels' initiative recently launched?

A. Manipur

B. Himachal Pradesh

C. West Bengal

D. Uttarakhand



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Answer: A

- Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey inaugurated the 'School on Wheels' at a function held in Imphal.
- This initiative aims to provide educational opportunities to children living in the camps.
- This initiative is being run by Vidya Bharati Shiksha Vikas Samiti Manipur.



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Q. Recently, which of the two forces conducted a bilateral exercise called “Shakti”?

- A. India and UK**
- B. France and India**
- C. India and Malaysia**
- D. Seychelles and India**



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Answer: B

- **India and France** are set to conduct the **7th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Shakti' in Meghalaya.**
- This bilateral exercise between the **Indian Army and the French Army** was established in **2011.**
- It focuses on enhancing military cooperation, **counter-terrorism tactics, and interoperability between the two forces.**



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Q. Recently, “FLiRT” was seen in the news. It was related to?

- A. New AI Language**
- B. New Covid Variant**
- C. New Satellite**
- D. New Cryptocurrency**

- **Answer: B**
- New COVID variants, collectively known as FLiRT, have emerged in India.
- The FLiRT variants (KP.2 and KP1.1) are descendants of the Omicron JN.1 variant.
- These variants are characterized by:
 - Increased transmissibility.
 - Potential to evade immunity from vaccines and previous infections.

FLiRT variants spread through:

- Respiratory droplets, Contact with contaminated surfaces.
- KP.2 is more infectious than its predecessor, JN.1.

Q. Recently, Which of the following space organizations announced to construct of the first railway station on the Moon?

- A. Space X**
- B. ISRO**
- C. ESA**
- D. NASA**



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Answer: D

- **NASA** has announced its ambitious project to develop the **first lunar railway system, named FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track)**.
- This system is designed to transform payload transport on the **Moon, aiming for reliability, autonomy, and efficiency crucial for sustaining lunar bases.**
- The initiative supports **NASA's Moon to Mars program and mission concepts such as Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2).**



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the “NISAR Satellites”

- 1. It is jointly developed by the ESA and ISRO.**
- 2. It is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, called the L-band and the S-band.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. Neither 1 Nor 2**

Answer: B

- **NISAR stands for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar and is an Earth-observation satellite.**
- **It is jointly developed by NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under a partnership agreement signed in 2014. (Hence, statement 1 is incorrect).**
- **The satellite will be launched into a polar Sun-synchronous dawn-dusk orbit.**
- **NISAR is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, the L-band and the S-band. (Hence, statement 2 is correct).**
- **The S-band payload has been made by ISRO, while the L-band payload has been made by NASA.**
- **News Context: Recently the ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said that the NISAR satellite will be able to monitor tectonic movements accurately and can fully map the earth twice a month.**



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Q. Recently, Exercise Tarkash was seen in the news. In which of the following places this exercise was held?

A. Visakhapatnam

B. Kolkata

C. Meghalaya

D. Uttarakhand



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- **Answer: B**
- The **India-U.S. joint exercise** in conducting coordinated operations in urban counter-terrorism contingencies concluded in **Kolkata**.
- This marks the **seventh edition of the Indo-U.S. joint counter-terrorism exercise**.
- The exercise involves the elite **National Security Guard (NSG)** and the **U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF)**.
- The previous edition of the exercise was conducted in **Chennai**.



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Q. Recently, Which of the following countries manufactured Igla-S Air Defence Systems and delivered it to India?

- A. Israel**
- B. Russia**
- C. France**
- D. UK**

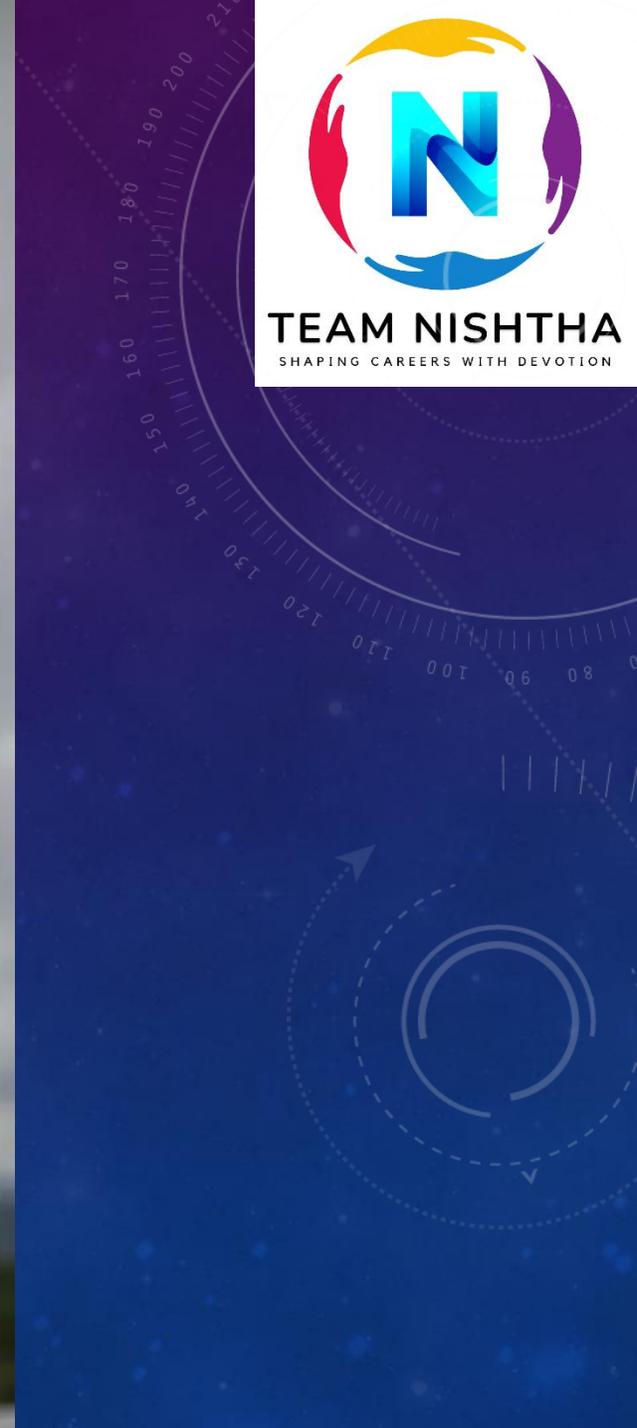


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- **Answer: B**
- **The Indian Army has received the first batch of Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) from Russia.**
- **This is part of a larger deal for 120 launchers and 400 missiles.**
- **Igla-S systems are designed to intercept low-flying aircraft and can detect and counter air threats like cruise missiles and drones.**
- **The systems were contracted last year under the fourth tranche of Emergency Procurements (EP).**
- **They are being assembled in India by Adani Defence Systems And Technologies Limited (ADSTL) through technology transfer from Rosoboronexport.**
- **VSHORADS is an indigenous MANPAD designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.**



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- Q. Recently, Project BHISHM was seen in the news. What is the full form of Project BHISHM?**
- A. Bharat Hydrocarbon Initiative for Sustainable Management**
 - B. Bharat High-tech Infrastructure for Sahyog and Modernization**
 - C. Bharat Health, Industrial for Safety and Health Management**
 - D. Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri**

Answer: D

- The Indian Air Force tested **BHISHM portable cubes**, an **advanced Indigenous mobile hospital**, in Agra for airdrops.
- These cubes are part of **Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri)**.
- The project is designed to treat up to **200 casualties**.
- It consists of **72 small cubes** equipped with advanced **medical equipment and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags**.
- The system integrates **Artificial Intelligence** and **data analytics** for **effective coordination and real-time monitoring of medical services in the field**.
- The cubes are **robust, waterproof, and lightweight**, designed **for various configurations**.
- They are ideal for **diverse emergency scenarios**.



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**BHISHM
'AROGYA MAITRI
HEALTH CUBE**



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Q. Which country has recently established its first space agency and aims to achieve a Mars landing by 2045?

- A. Malaysia**
- B. Singapore**
- C. South Korea**
- D. Mauritius**



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- **Answer: C**
- **South Korea has announced plans for a Mars landing by 2045 and will invest 100 trillion won (\$72.6 billion) in space exploration.**
- **This initiative was revealed by President Yoon Suk Yeol during the launch of the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA).**
- **The establishment of KASA aims to elevate South Korea to one of the top five space powers.**
- **KASA will support the aerospace sector, including a planned lunar lander mission set for 2032.**
- **Additionally, South Korea intends to conduct at least three more space launches by 2027.**

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Q. Who was recently awarded the Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award 2024?

- A. Sandeep Joshi**
- B. Rameshchandra Shah**
- C. Krishna Prakash**
- D. Seeni Viswanathan**



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Answer: C

- **Krishna Prakash**, renowned for leading **Mumbai Police's counterterrorism unit, Force One**, has been honored with the **Annual Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award at the Sab Me Ram Shashwat Shri Ram event in Mumbai**.
- Known as a "**super cop**," **Prakash** heads the elite **Force One** and is a **two-time Guinness World Record holder**.
- His third record involved initiating the **maximum number of letters sent through postcards to Lord Ram**, fostering direct connections between the common people and the divine.



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Q. Who among the following Cosmonaut became the 1st Person To Spend 1,000 Cumulative Days In Space?

- A. Oleg Kononenko**
- B. Sally Ride**
- C. Chris Hadfield**
- D. Sunita Williams**



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- **Answer: A**
- **Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko** has become the **first person to spend 1,000 days in space.**
- The 59-year-old achieved the milestone, having made five journeys to the **International Space Station** dating back to **2008.**
- **His current trip to the ISS began Sept. 15, 2023**
- **Kononenko first took the cumulative space-time record in February 2024**
- **He surpassed the total of 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds set by fellow Russian.**
- The **International Space Station** is one of the few areas in which the **United States and Russia** still cooperate closely following **Moscow's invasion of Ukraine** in Feb. 2022.
- **Roscosmos announced in December** that its cross-flight program with **NASA transporting astronauts to the ISS had been extended until 2025.**

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Q. Which South American country recently became the first to adopt UPI technology?

- A. Brazil**
- B. Peru**
- C. Argentina**
- D. Colombia**



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Answer: B

- **Peru will soon implement a UPI-like instant payments system as NPCI International Payments Limited (the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India) signed an agreement with Peru's central bank to develop the technology.**
- **Additionally, NPCI has partnered with the Bank of Namibia to develop instant payment systems in African nations.**
- **In January 2024, NPCI launched the UPI-PayNow linkage, allowing remittances between India and Singapore to be directly received into bank accounts. In February, NPCI partnered with Lyra, an e-commerce and proximity payments company, to enable UPI acceptance in France.**
- **During the same month, UPI services were also rolled out in Sri Lanka and Mauritius.**



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Q. Who among the following person becomes the First Woman To Pilot a New Spacecraft On a Maiden Crewed Test Flight?

- A. Sunita Williams**
- B. Christina Koch**
- C. K. Megan McArthur**
- D. Jessica Meir**



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Answer: A

- **Indian-origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, along with Butch Wilmore, has become one of the first to fly to space aboard the Boeing Starliner in its inaugural crewed mission.**
- **The 59-year-old Williams made history as the first woman to fly on the maiden voyage of a new human-rated spacecraft.**
- **The crew launched aboard the United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.**
- **The Starliner mission is intended to carry astronauts and cargo for future NASA missions to low Earth orbit and beyond.**



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Q. Recently, Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuary was seen in the news. It is related to which state?

- A. Rajasthan**
- B. Arunachal Pradesh**
- C. Bihar**
- D. Uttar Pradesh**



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Answer: C

- **India** has recently added two bird sanctuaries from Bihar, **Nagi, and Nakti**, to the **Ramsar Sites list**, bringing the total number to **82**.
- These new "**Wetlands of International Importance**" are man-made reservoirs located in the Jhajha forest range of Jamui District, Bihar.
- The addition of these sites was announced in conjunction with World Environment Day.
- Both sanctuaries are surrounded by **dry deciduous forests**.
- With these additions, **India now matches China with 82 Ramsar Sites**.
- The UK holds the highest number, with **175 such sites**, followed by **Mexico with 144**.



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Q. India and France are collaborating on a space mission named TRISHNA. What is the aim of this mission?

- A. To study the solar flares and their impact on Earth's communication systems.**
- B. To map the lunar surface for potential resource extraction.**
- C. To monitor Earth's surface temperature, water resources and energy balance.**
- D. To study the composition of the Martian atmosphere.**

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- **Answer: c) To monitor Earth's surface temperature, water resources, and energy balance.**
- On World Environment Day, ISRO unveiled details about its collaboration with the **French national space agency CNES** for the upcoming **TRISHNA mission**, which stands for **Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment**.
- **TRISHNA** is designed to **provide high spatial and temporal resolution monitoring of Earth's surface temperature, emissivity, and other biophysical and radiation variables for surface energy budgeting on both regional and global scales.**
- This mission will offer significant scientific and societal benefits.
- The **key objectives of TRISHNA** include detailed monitoring of the **energy and water budgets of the continental biosphere, assessing terrestrial water stress and water usage, and observing water quality and dynamics in coastal and inland waters.**
- Additionally, TRISHNA will aid in **detecting sub-surface fires and evaluating geothermal resources.**

Q. Who recently became the first female helicopter pilot of the Indian Navy?

- A) Priya Paul**
- B) Anamika B Rajeev**
- C) Archana Kapoor**
- D) Mohana Singh**



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- **Answer: B**
- **Sub Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev** made history at **INS Rajali, Arakkonam, by becoming the first woman in the Indian Navy to pilot a helicopter.**
- This significant achievement occurred during the **passing out parade of the 102nd Helicopter Conversion Course.**
- **Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar** awarded "**Golden Wings**" to **21 officers** at the event, marking the completion of **Stage I training for the 4th Basic Helicopter Conversion Course.**

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Q. Recently, Exercise JIMEX-24 was conducted between which of the following countries?

- A. India and Malaysia**
- B. India and Australia**
- C. Indonesia and France**
- D. Japan and India**



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- **Answer: D**
- **JIMEX is a bilateral naval exercise between the navies of India and Japan, initiated in 2012 in Japan.**
- **The 7th JIMEX was hosted by the Indian Navy off Visakhapatnam in July 2023.**
- **The 8th edition, JIMEX-24, has commenced at Yokosuka, Japan, and is hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF).**
- **The Indian Navy's indigenously built stealth frigate INS Shivalik is participating, while the JMSDF is represented by the guided missile destroyer JS Yugiri.**
- **Additionally, DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual military exercise conducted between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force.**

Q. What is 'Nagashtra-1,' which was recently in the news?

[A] Man-portable suicide drones

[B] Earth observation satellite

[C] Nuclear ballistic submarine

[D] Exoplanet



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- **Answer: A**
- **The Indian Army has acquired Nagastra-1, a distinctive man-portable suicide drone designed to safely target launch pads, enemy camps, and infiltrators.**
- **Using Emergency Procurement Powers, the Army ordered 480 loitering munitions from Solar Industries' Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL).**
- **After successful pre-delivery inspections, 120 units have been delivered to an Army Ammunition Depot, as reported by defense sources.**
- **The indigenous Nagastra-1 drone is equipped with day/night cameras and a 1 kg explosive warhead.**

Q. Recently which of the following countries became the 6th Country to have its own Deep Sea Mission?

- A. USA**
- B. India**
- C. Russia**
- D. France**



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- **Answer: B**
- **Union Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh India is set to become the sixth country to have its own deep-sea mission.**
- **Chairing a meeting to discuss the ministry's 100-day action plan, Singh expressed pride and happiness on the progress of the deep-sea mission and India being among the very few nations to achieve this feat.**
- **He lauded the National institute of Ocean Technology's (NIOT) efforts for the development of Matsyayaan 6000, which can dive 6,000 metres deep into the ocean.**

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Q. In which of the following lakes did Central Railway install the first-ever Floating Solar Plant?

- A. Loktak lake**
- B. Naini jheel**
- C. Bhimtal lake**
- D. Nashik Lake**



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Answer: D

- Central Railway has inaugurated India's first floating solar plant, a 10 MWp installation on Igatpuri Lake in the Western Ghats.
- This initiative represents a significant milestone in Indian Railways' efforts to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Loktak Lake

- Located in Manipur, India.
- Largest freshwater lake in northeastern India.

Naini Jheel

- Situated in Nainital, Uttarakhand, India.
- A kidney-shaped natural freshwater lake.

Bhimtal Lake

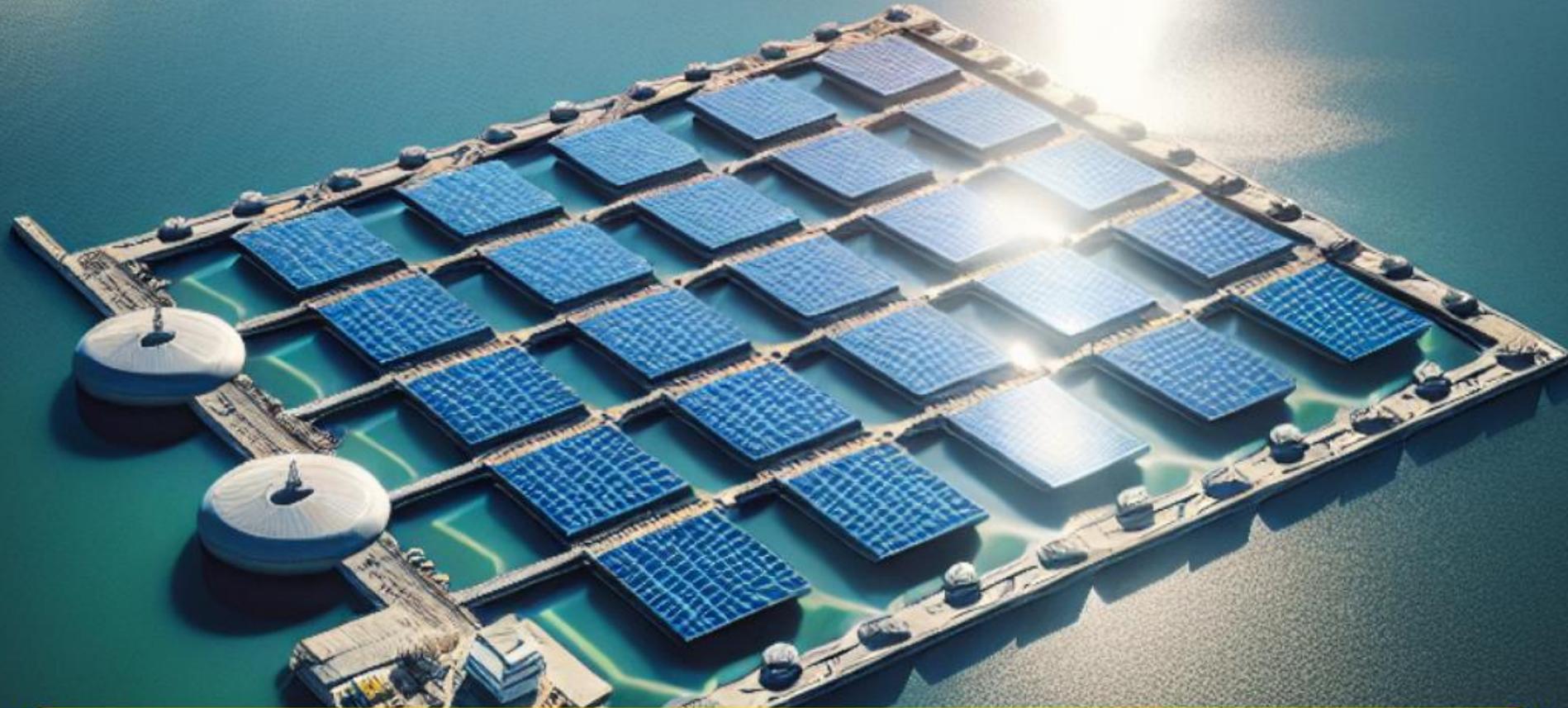
- Located in Bhimtal, Uttarakhand, India.
- Larger than Naini Lake and part of the Kumaon region.



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Central Railway Has Installed a Floating Solar Plant

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Q. Which of the following statements about the ULLAS initiative are correct?

- 1. It is a central sector scheme.**
 - 2. It was launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries**
-
- A. 1 only**
 - B. 2 only**
 - C. Both**
 - D. none**



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- **Answer: D**
- It is a **centrally sponsored** scheme
- It was launched by the **Ministry of education.**
- The program, aimed at **non-literates aged 15 and above**, runs from **FY 2022-23 to 2026-27**. ULLAS-NILP features **five components: Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education**. It is delivered through volunteer support and online platforms.
- **In the news: Ladakh** has achieved **full functional literacy** under the **ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (ULLAS-NILP)**.

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Q. Exercise HOPEX is a joint military exercise between the Indian Air Force and which country's Air Force?

- A. Egypt**
- B. US**
- C. Maldives**
- D. Mauritius**



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- **Answer: A**
- **In news:** The Indian Air Force's (IAF) **Rafale fighter jets** are currently participating in **Ex-HOPEX in Egypt**.
- Previously, the IAF completed the **'Red Flag'** exercise in **Alaska**.
- The **C-17 Globemaster** and **IL-78 tankers** are participating in the exercise.
- The **location** of the exercise is **Egypt**.

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**Q. Which Indian City has been named 4th Indian
'World Craft City' by World Craft Council?**

- A. Dehradun**
- B. Indore**
- C. Gandhinagar**
- D. Srinagar**



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- **Answer: D**
- Srinagar has achieved the status of **‘World Craft City’** from the World Craft Council (WCC), making it the **fourth city** in India to earn this recognition. This honor comes **three years after Srinagar was included in the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN)** for its contributions to crafts and folk arts.
- This designation highlights and promotes the **preservation of traditional crafts and cultural heritage**. It also boosts **tourism** by attracting visitors interested in local crafts, while fostering global cultural and craft exchanges.
- Jaipur and Mamallapuram received their titles in 2015, with Mamallapuram being specifically recognized for its stone carving craft. Mysore followed in 2018.

Q. What was the theme for International Yoga Day 2024?

- A. "Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home"**
- B. "Yoga for Humanity"**
- C. "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"**
- D. Yoga for Self and Society’.**



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Answer: D

- **2021: Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home**
- **2022: Yoga for Humanity**
- **2023: Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**
- The **10th International Day of Yoga 2024** was celebrated nationally in **Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**.
- To support visually impaired individuals, the Ministry of AYUSH introduced a '**Common Yoga Protocol Book in Braille**'. Additionally, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is hosting a special initiative called '**Yoga for Space**' to commemorate the occasion.

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Q. Greenfield Port Vadhavan will be constructed in which state?

- A. Karnataka**
- B. Maharashtra**
- C. Kerala**
- D. Andhra Pradesh**



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Answer: B

- **In News:** Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the development of an all-weather, greenfield, deep draft Major Port at Vadhavan in Palghar District of Maharashtra.
- **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV):** The Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), an SPV established by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), will oversee the port's construction, with JNPA holding a 74% stake and MMB holding 26%.



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Q. The Nyoma-Chushul region, recently in the news due to flash floods, is located in which state or union territory?

- [A] Sikkim**
- [B] Ladakh**
- [C] Assam**
- [D] Uttarakhand**



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- **Answer: B**
- **In a tragic incident, five Army personnel lost their lives during the night in the Nyoma-Chushul area of Eastern Ladakh.**
- **The mishap occurred when a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and four jawans were returning after a tank exercise.**
- **Their T-72 tank got stuck in the Shyok River near Saser Brangsa due to a sudden increase in the water level.**
- **The T-72 tank, designed and developed by the Soviet Union, began production in 1971 as their main battle tank.**
- **The Shyok River originates from the Rimo Glacier, part of the Siachen Glacier in Ladakh.**
- **It flows along the Karakoram range, enters the Gilgit-Baltistan area, and merges with the Indus River at Keris, east of Skardu (Gilgit-Baltistan).**



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POWERING UP THE BORDER



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Q. Svalbard, recently mentioned in the news, is an archipelago situated in which ocean?

[A] Atlantic Ocean

[B] Arctic Ocean

[C] Pacific Ocean

[D] Indian Ocean



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- **Answer: B**
- Scientists are investigating hydrothermal vents on **Svalbard's Knipovich Ridge, a 500-km-long ridge in the Arctic Ocean.**
- **Svalbard, an Arctic archipelago** under Norwegian sovereignty, was **discovered in 1596 by Willem Barentsz.**
- Located between the **North Pole and Norway**, it covers an area of 61,022 sq. km, with much of it being glaciated.
- **Spitsbergen, the largest island**, is part of Svalbard, which experiences **Arctic conditions such as the midnight sun and polar night due to its location within the Arctic Circle.**



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Q. Who among the following persons became the First Woman Director General Of Medical Service (ARMY)?

- A. Air Marshal Padma Bandopadhyay**
- B. Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair**
- C. Major General Madhuri Kanitkar**
- D. Commander Barbara Ghosh**



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Answer: B

- **Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair** has become the **first woman to be appointed the Director General of Medical Services.**
- She was also the **first woman to serve as the Director of General Hospital Services (Armed Forces)** as well as the **first woman to be the Principal Medical Officer of the Western Air Command.**
- She graduated from the **Armed Forces Medical College, Pune** with a distinguished academic record and was commissioned into the **Army Medical Corps** in **Dec 1985.**
- **WAC** also has a forward headquarters located at **Chandigarh** near the **Army's Western Command**



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Q. Which of the following countries became the world's first country to prepare a list of its entire animal species?

- A. Kenya**
- B. South Africa**
- C. Brazil**
- D. India**



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Answer: D

- **India** recently launched the "**Fauna of India Checklist Portal**," a significant initiative for wildlife protection.
- This comprehensive collection includes **1,04,561 species**, making **India** the first country in the world to document all its wildlife.
- The launch occurred in **Kolkata** on the **109th Foundation Day** of the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**.
- The '**Fauna of India Checklist Portal**' features **121 checklists** across **36 phyla** and provides detailed information on known taxa, including endemic, endangered, and scheduled species.



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Q. Which of the cities becomes India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'?

- A. Varanasi**
- B. Kolkata**
- C. Kozhikode**
- D. Lucknow**



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- **Answer: C**
- **Recently, Kerala's Kozhikode became India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature.'**
- **The UNESCO City of Literature program is part of the broader Creative Cities Network, launched in 2004, and currently comprises 350 UNESCO Creative Cities worldwide.**
- **This year's annual conference of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) has the theme "Bringing youth to the table for the next decade."**

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Q. Recently, Project Nexus was seen in the news. It is related to which organization?

- A. Indian Army**
- B. DRDO**
- C. ISRO**
- D. RBI**



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Answer: D

- Recently, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has joined **Project Nexus**, which was conceptualized by the Innovation Hub of the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**.
- **Project Nexus** is the **first BIS Innovation Hub** initiative in the **payments sector to advance towards live implementation**.
- The project aims to **improve cross-border payments by connecting various domestic instant payment systems (IPS) globally**.
- BIS will support **central banks and IPS operators from India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand** as they move toward the next phase of live implementation, with the **Bank of Indonesia serving as a special observer**.
- The platform is anticipated to go live by **2026**.



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Q. Recently “Exercise Maitree” was conducted between which of the following armed forces?

- A. India and Bangladesh**
- B. France and India**
- C. India and Thailand**
- D. Mongolia and India**



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Answer: C

- The **13th edition of the joint military exercise Maitree 2024 between the Indian Army and the Royal Thailand Army** culminated with a grand closing ceremony at Tak Province, Thailand.
- This bilateral exercise, initiated in 2006, aims to strengthen defense cooperation.
- **Seventy-six personnel from both armies, including members of the Ladakh Scouts, are participating.**
- The exercise focuses on counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in urban and jungle environments, as well as joint planning, tactical drills, and physical fitness.
- The latest edition in 2019 took place in Umroi, Meghalaya.



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SHARING STRENGTH, COUNTERING THREATS

A PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE & SECURE FUTURES

13TH EDITION INDIA - THAILAND JT EX MAITREE 2024



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Q. Recently, 'SEBEX 2,' was seen in the news. It is related to which things?

- A. Drones**
- B. Anti Tank Missiles**
- C. Submarines**
- D. Non-nuclear explosives**



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Answer: D

- **SEBEX 2** is recognized as one of the **most potent non-nuclear explosives globally**, utilizing a **high-melting explosive composition known as HMX**.
- Manufactured by **Economic Explosives Limited (EEL)** in **Nagpur**, a subsidiary of **Solar Industries**, **SEBEX 2** was developed under the **Make in India** initiative.
- It has been successfully certified and is **2.01 times more lethal than standard Trinitrotoluene (TNT)**.



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SEBEX 2: INDIA'S NEW EXPLOSIVE

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Q. Which two forces recently conducted an exercise called "Nomadic Elephant"?

- A. India and Saudi Arabia**
- B. Oman and India**
- C. Egypt and India**
- D. India and Mongolia**



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- **Answer: D**
- The **16th India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant** started at **Umroi, Meghalaya**.
- Nomadic Elephant is a joint military exercise conducted between the **Indian Army and the Mongolian Armed Forces**.
- Its purpose is to improve **cooperation and interoperability between the two armies, with a focus on counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations**.



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Q. India recently successfully test-fired the Rudram-1 missile. What type of strike missile is it?

- (a) Surface to Surface**
- (b) Air to Surface**
- (c) Air to Air**
- (d) ICBM**



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- **Answer: B**
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has recently successfully **test-fired Rudram-1, India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.**
- This **air-to-surface missile** has been developed for the **Indian Air Force** and is integrated with the **Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jet, which serves as its launch platform.**



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Q. Recently, 'Zorawar' was seen in the news. It is related to which things?

- A. Tank**
- B. Drone**
- C. Pistol**
- D. Anti Missile**



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- **Answer: A**
- According to **DRDO chairman Dr. Samir Kamath**, the indigenously **developed lightweight tank, Zorawar**, is expected to be inducted into the **Indian Army by 2027**.
- The **DRDO anticipates** that all necessary trials will be completed, making the tank ready for induction by that year.
- **Zorawar** has been designed and developed by **DRDO in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** and other smaller companies.
- The **Indian government approved the development of this lightweight tank for the Indian Army in March 2022, following the violent clash between Indian and Chinese forces in Galwan, Ladakh, in June 2020.**



Indigenous Zorawar Light Tank: Why is It Called 'Brave and Strong'?

Developed by L&T in collaboration with DRDO

Field Artillery
FV433, 105mm

Coaxial machine gun
7.62 mm

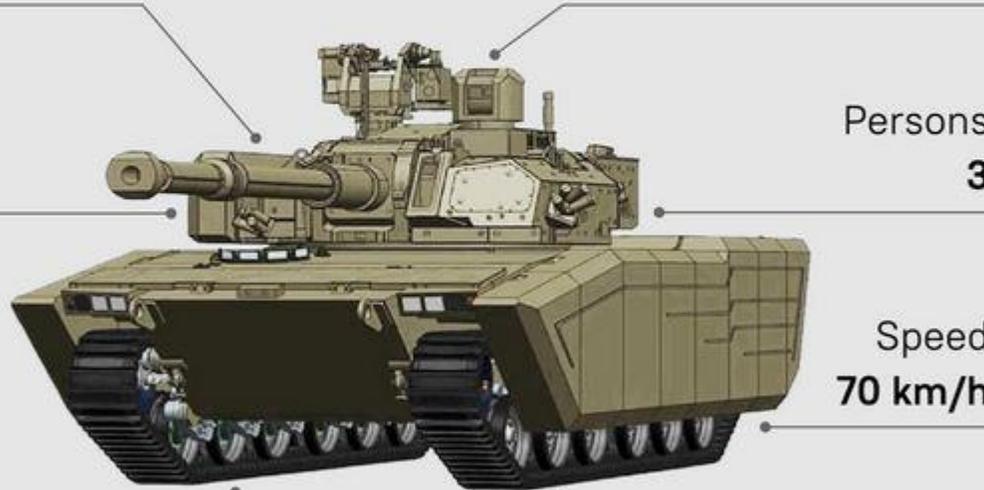
Mass
25 t

Persons
3

Speed
70 km/h

Horsepower
1000

Offroad
35/40 km/h



Source: DRDO

 **SPUTNIK**



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Q. Blue Line is a demarcation between which of the following countries?

- A. Russia and Ukraine**
- B. Israel and Palestine**
- C. Iran and Iraq**
- D. Lebanon and Israel**



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Answer: D

- The **Blue Line** is a demarcation line dividing Lebanon from Israel and the **Golan Heights**.
- It was published by the **United Nations on 7 June 2000** for the purposes of determining whether **Israel had fully withdrawn from Lebanon**.
- The **Blue Line**, described as "**temporary**" and "**not a border, but a line of withdrawal**," is at the center of a longstanding border dispute involving **Israel, Lebanon, and Hezbollah**.
- The **United Nations Security Council and NATO** established the **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** to oversee the situation in **Southern Lebanon**.
- Recently, the **UN** expressed deep concern over the escalating intensity of exchanges of fire across the **Blue Line**, which separates the **Lebanese and Israeli armed forces**.



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Q. Chandravalli Cave, recently in the news, is located in which Indian state?

- A. Haryana**
- B. Andhra Pradesh**
- C. Telangana**
- D. Karnataka**



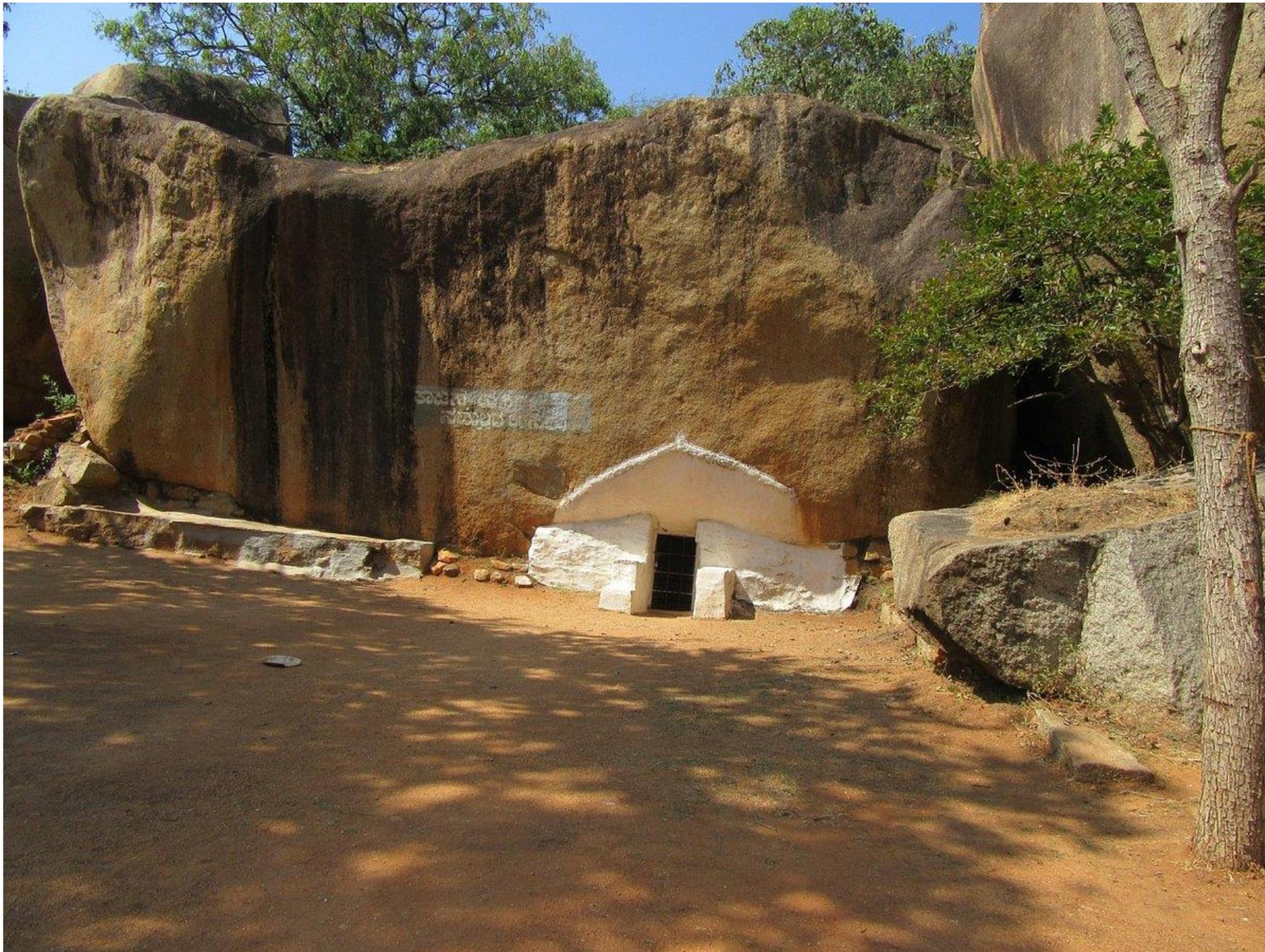
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- **Answer: D**
- **Chandravalli Cave**, located in **Karnataka**, is also known as **Ankali Math**, named after a saint from **Ankalagi in Belagavi district** who is believed to have settled there.
- The cave complex includes several chambers, such as a puja area with a **shivlinga**, a **drawing room**, a **bedroom**, and a **water outlet connected to an internal tank**.
- Excavations around the site, which is surrounded by three hills, have **uncovered coins, painted bowls, and earthen pots from various dynasties, including the Hoysala, Satavahana, and Vijayanagara**.
- Additionally, a **rock inscription of Mayurasharma**, the founder of the **first Kannada dynasty—the Kadamba dynasty—dating back to AD 450**, has been found.
- Recently, the remains of these ancient dynasties have been highlighted in the pitch-dark interiors of the **Chandravalli cave complex in Karnataka's Chitradurga district**.



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Q. Recently, Scientists have discovered World's oldest cave paintings in which country?

- A. Peru**
- B. Indonesia**
- C. Egypt**
- D. India**



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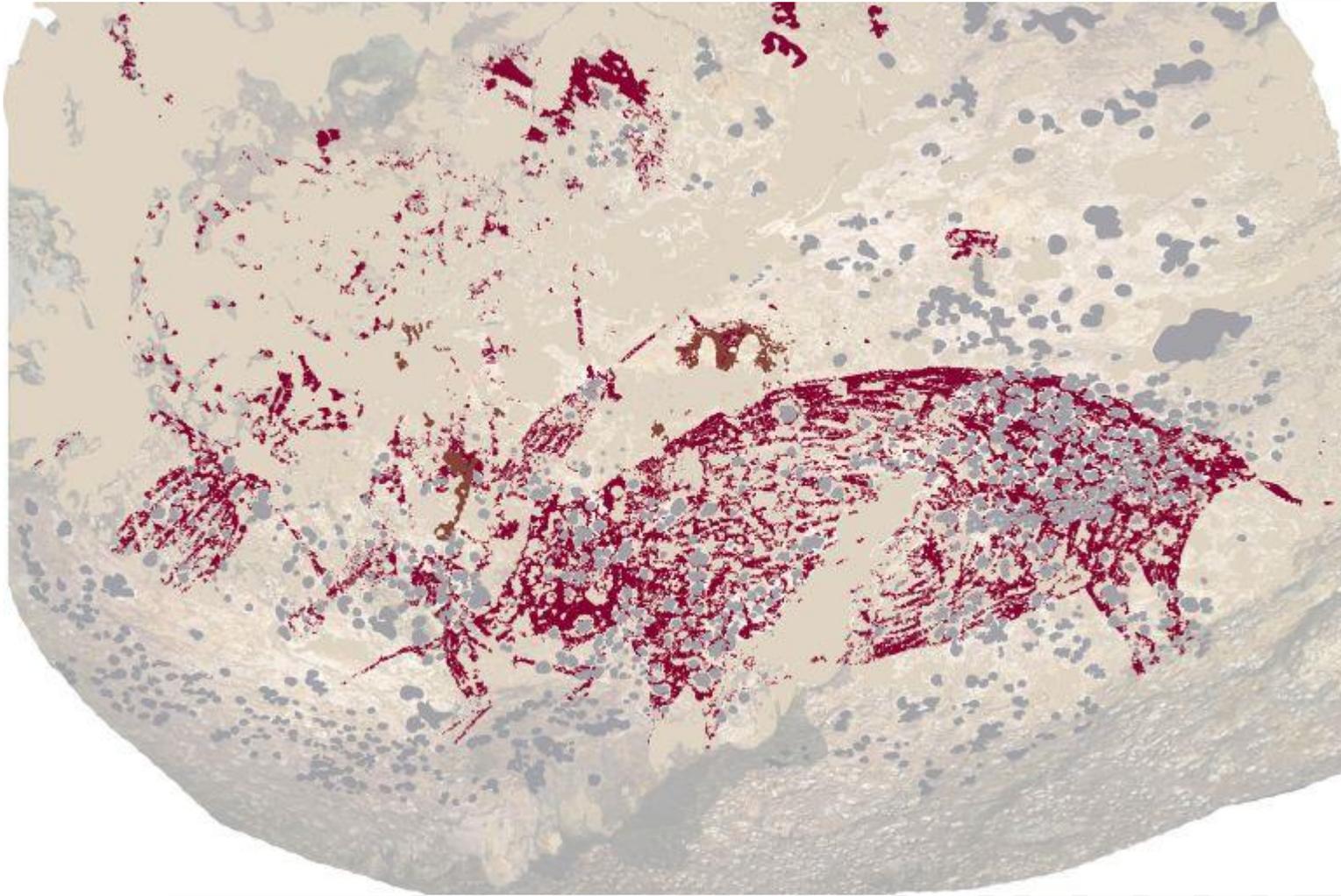


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- **Answer: B**
- Scientists have recently uncovered the **world's oldest cave paintings.**
- Previously, the oldest known cave art was from Leang Tedongnge cave in Sulawesi, dating back at least **45,500 years.**
- The newly discovered paintings are located on the **ceiling of Leang Karampuang cave in the Maros-Pangkep region of South Sulawesi, Indonesia.**
- The artwork, created with **dark red pigment, depicts three human-like figures interacting with a wild pig.**
- By employing a new dating technique using laser technology to analyze calcium carbonate crystals that formed over the painting, scientists have determined that these paintings are at least **51,200 years old**, making them the oldest confidently dated cave art discovered to date.



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Q. Recently, which of the following organizations launched an device “MeDevIS”?

- A. WHO**
- B. ISRO**
- C. Ministry of health and family welfare**
- D. Ministry of ayush**



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Answer: A

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recently launched an online platform called **MeDevIS, the Medical Devices Information System**.
- This is the **first global open-access clearinghouse for information on medical devices**.
- **MeDevIS** is designed to assist governments, regulators, and users in making informed decisions regarding the selection, procurement, and use of medical devices for diagnostics, testing, and treatment of various diseases and health conditions.
- By replacing the traditional paper-based literature search across multiple publications with inconsistent device names, **MeDevIS simplifies the process and reduces complexity**.



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Q. Recently, the “Exercise Pitch Black 2024” was hosted by which of the following countries’ Force?

- A. Royal Australian Force**
- B. Royal Malaysian Force**
- C. Royal Saudi Arabia Air Force**
- D. United Arab Emirates Air Force**



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Answer: A

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the prominent international Exercise Pitch Black 2024, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) at Base Darwin in Australia.**
- **This biennial multinational exercise, running from July 12 to August 2, 2024, is a key opportunity for boosting international military collaboration and demonstrating air combat capabilities.**
- **The 2024 Exercise Pitch Black will feature participation from countries across the Indo-Pacific and beyond, including:**
- **New Participants: Philippines, Spain, Italy, and Papua New Guinea, along with embedded personnel from Fiji and Brunei.**
- **Returning Participants: France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with embedded personnel from Canada and New Zealand.**



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Q. Recently, India sent humanitarian aid to landslide-hit Papua New Guinea through the FIPIC Agreement. What is the full form of FIPIC?

- A. Federation of Indo-Pacific Island Countries**
- B. Forum for Indo-Pacific Island Coordination**
- C. Federation for India-Pacific Island Collaboration**
- D. Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation**



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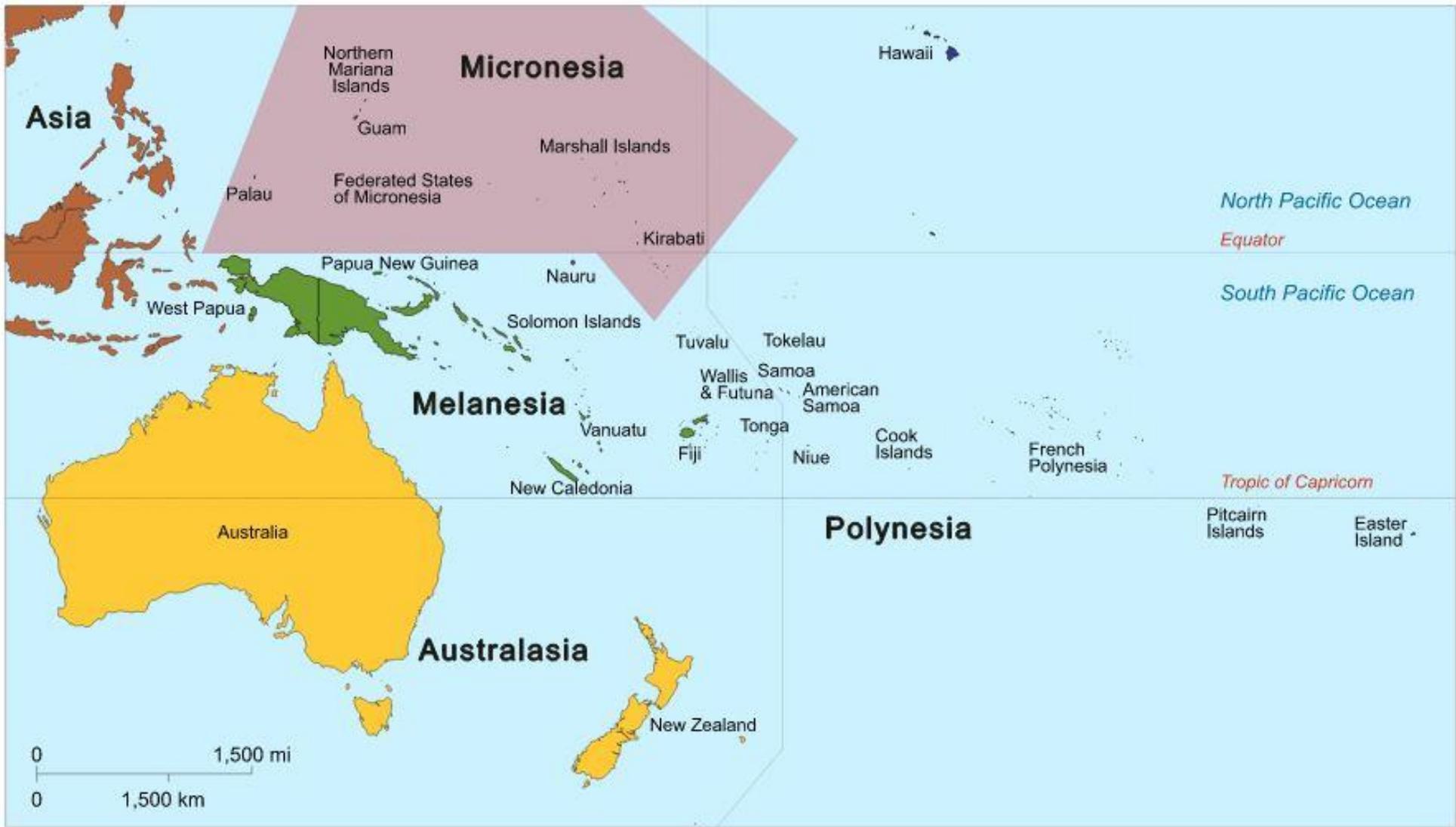
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Answer: D

- **India** recently sent humanitarian aid to **Papua New Guinea**, which was struck by landslides, highlighting the **FIPIC partnership**.
- FIPIC includes 14 island nations: **Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu**.
- Although these countries are relatively small in land area and geographically distant from **India**, **they possess large exclusive economic zones (EEZs)** that present significant opportunities for cooperation.
- This initiative underscores India's strategic engagement with **Pacific Island countries**, which are spread across the vast Pacific Ocean and hold substantial economic and geostrategic importance.
- The Prime Minister of India convened the first FIPIC summit in **Fiji in 2014**, marking a key milestone in India's Act East Policy a vision that extends beyond Asia to embrace the broader Indo-Pacific region.
- Capital of Papua New Guinea: **Port Moresby**.



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Q. Recently, SDG India Index 2023-24 was released. Which of the factors is NOT included in key sectors list?

- A. Climate action**
- B. Employment**
- C. Economic Growth**
- D. Poverty Eradication**



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- **Answer: B**
- The **SDG India Index**, developed by **NITI Aayog**, is a tool designed to measure and monitor India's progress towards the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- India's overall composite score has risen to **71**, indicating improvements in critical areas such as **poverty eradication, economic growth, climate action, and biodiversity conservation**.
- This index provides a benchmark for policymakers, helping them identify gaps and prioritize actions to achieve sustainable development by **2030**.
- The SDG India Index assesses national progress using **113 indicators** aligned with the National Indicator Framework.
- **Top Performers:** Kerala and Uttarakhand were the top-performing states, each achieving a score of 79 points.
- **Lowest Performer:** Bihar was the lowest performer with a score of 57 points, followed by Jharkhand with 62 points.
- **Front-Runner States:** A total of 32 states and union territories (UTs) are classified as front-runners. This group now includes 10 new entrants: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh.



71
India's SDG
Score for
2023-24



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Q. Who among the following players won the Wimbledon title 2024 in men's category?

- A. Carlos Alcaraz**
- B. Novak Djokovic**
- C. Daniil Medvedev**
- D. Lorenzo Musetti**



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- **Answer: A**
- **At the 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Championships, Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and Barbora Krejckikova of the Czech Republic secured the men's and women's singles titles, respectively.**
- **This victory marked Carlos Alcaraz's second consecutive Wimbledon singles title, while it was Barbora Krejckikova's first. Wimbledon is one of the four Grand Slam tournaments held each year, following the Australian Open and the French Open, and is distinguished as the only Grand Slam event played on natural grass.**
- **The US Open is the final Grand Slam tournament of the year.**
- **The 2024 men's singles final featured a repeat of the previous year's matchup, with Carlos Alcaraz facing Novak Djokovic of Serbia.**
- **Known as the All England Championship, Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, having first been held in 1877.**



Category	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up	Score
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic	6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4)
Women's Singles	Barbora Krejčíková	Jasmine Paolini	6-2, 2-6, 6-4
Mixed Doubles	Hsieh Su-Wei & Jan Zielinski	Santiago Gonzalez & Giuliana Olmos	6-4, 6-2
Women's Doubles	Taylor Townsend & Katerina Siniakova	Gabriela Dabrowski & Erin Routliffe	Not provided
Men's Doubles	Patten & Heliovaara	Max Purcell & Jordan Thompson	6-7 (7-9), 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (11-9)

Q. Recently, The term 'Moidam' of the Ahom Dynasty was seen in the news. It refers to which of the following things?

- A. Ancient mound-burial system**
- B. Traditional Ahom dance form**
- C. Dam system**
- D. Historical script used by the Ahoms**



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- **Answer: A**
- Recently, the **Ahom-era ‘Moidams’** in **Assam’s Charaideo district** were proposed for **UNESCO World Heritage status**.
- The **term ‘Moidam’** refers to the ancient mound-burial system of the **Ahom Dynasty, which governed Assam in northeastern India**.
- These **Moidams** act as the final resting places for **Ahom royalty, preserving both their remains and significant artifacts associated with them**.
- The **Charaideo Necropolis** consists of pyramid-like structures that quietly tell the story of **Ahom royalty, their legacies, and the passage of time, situated on elevated terrain**.



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Q. India has a target of achieving 20% ethanol blending by which year?

- A. 2025**
- B. 2030**
- C. 2045**
- D. 2050**



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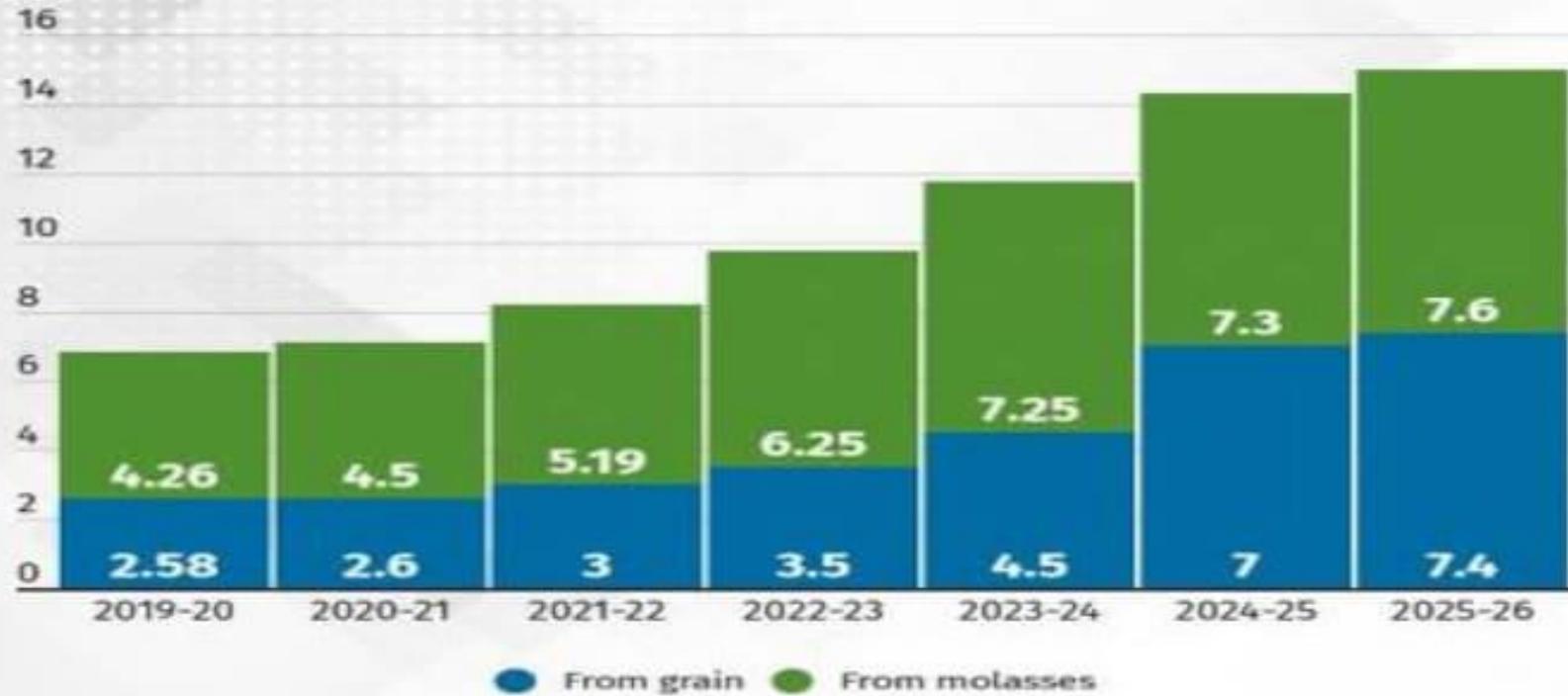
Answer: A

- **In the news: Cereal grains have surpassed sugarcane as the main source for producing ethanol blended with petrol.**
- **Ethanol is 99.9% pure alcohol blended with petrol. It's produced by fermenting sugars from cane juice, molasses, or grains, where starch is first converted into simpler Sugars.**
- **The 2018 National Policy on Biofuels set a target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2030. In 2014, ethanol blending was just 1.5% in India. Due to strong performance and government interventions, this target has been moved up to 2025-26.**



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ETHANOL CAPACITY REQUIREMENT



(in billion litres), Source: Niti Aayog



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Q. Which country named the Typhoon Gaemi?

- A. Japan**
- B. Malaysia**
- C. Singapore**
- D. China**



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Answer: A

- **In News:** Recently, **Typhoon Gaemi** devastated **Taiwan**, the Philippines, and southeastern China. The severe rains caused an oil tanker with **1.4 million liters** of oil to sink in **Manila Bay**.
- Oil spills happen when crude oil or refined petroleum is released into the environment, often due to transportation accidents or offshore drilling mishaps.
- These spills can have serious, lasting effects on ecosystems and human communities. **Spilled substances include gasoline, diesel, bunker fuel, and other oily by-products.** Gasoline is particularly harmful due to its lighter, more toxic nature compared to crude oil.



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Q. Multinational Army Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024 held in which country?

- A. Uzbekistan**
- B. Kazakhstan**
- C. Iran**
- D. Mongolia**



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- **Answer: D**
- **The Indian Army contingent** had set out to join the **multinational military exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024**, which had been scheduled to take place from **July 27 to August 9, 2024, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.**
- This esteemed event had provided a venue for military forces from around the globe to work together and improve their peacekeeping skills.



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Q. Recently budget 2024 announced to abolish the angel tax. What is it?

- A. A tax on gifts received by individuals from foreign sources.**
- B. A tax imposed on startups receiving investments above fair market value.**
- C. A tax on the income earned by angel investors in startups.**
- D. A tax levied on large corporations for acquiring small businesses.**



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Answer: B

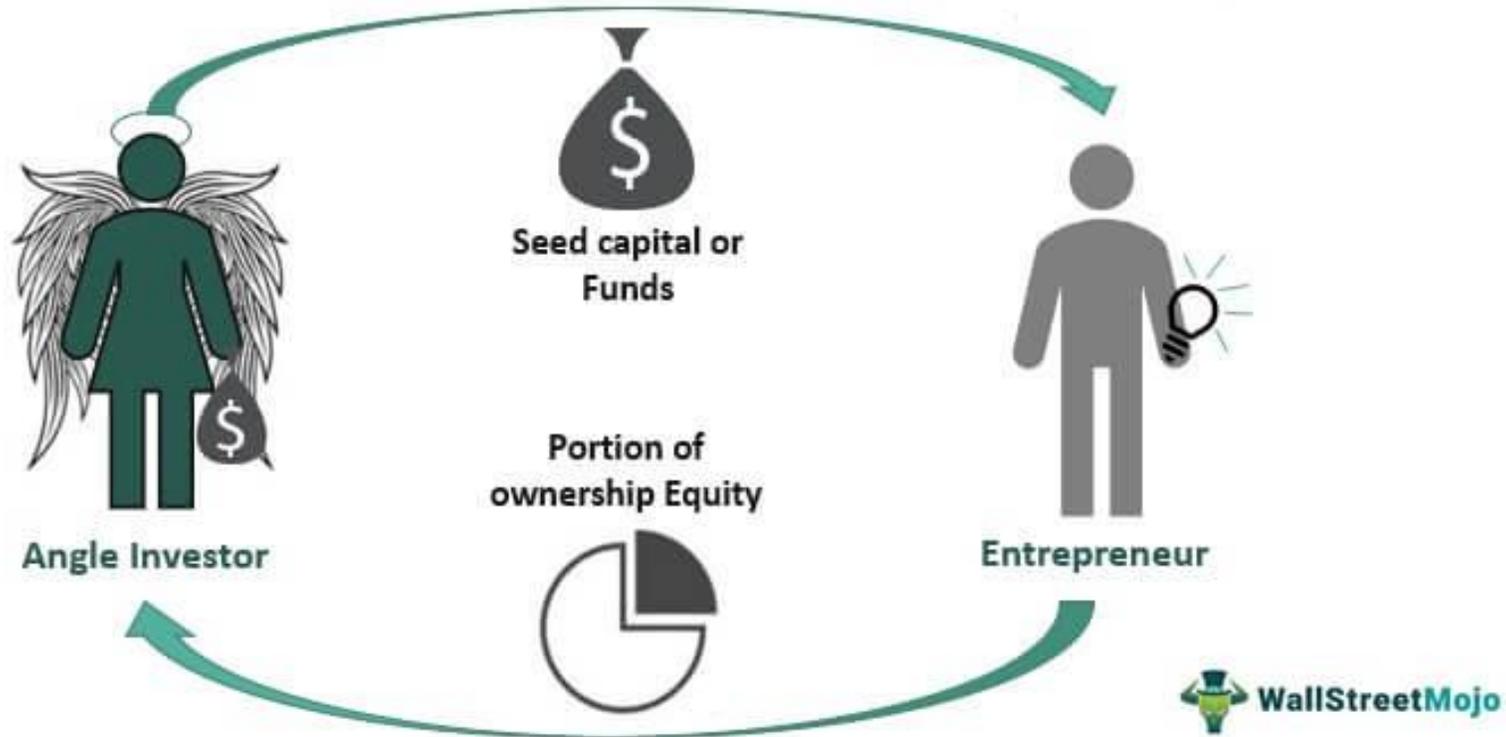
- **In news:** To support the Indian startup ecosystem, Budget **2024** announced the **elimination of angel tax for all types of investors**. This change will be implemented starting **April 1, 2025**.
- **Angel tax, introduced in 2012 under Section 56(2)(viib) of the Finance Act, is an income tax on funding received by unlisted startups if their valuation exceeds fair market value.**
- Initially applicable to **local investors**, the **2023-24** Budget expanded it to include **foreign investments**.
- Aimed at preventing **money laundering**, it has faced criticism for hindering innovation and fundraising.
- **The abolition of angel tax aims to strengthen the Indian startup ecosystem**, encourage entrepreneurship, and support innovation.
- It addresses investor concerns and **aims to boost foreign direct investment (FDI) by countering the decline in funding and the decrease in unicorns, which are privately-owned startups valued over \$1 billion.**



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Angle Investors

“Angle Investors are wealthy individuals who provide capital to promising early – stage business entities usually in exchange for a portion of their equity.”



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