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Aparchit Super Current Affairs Best 350+ MCQ With Facts January 2023 Set 01 By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal sir

Q. Who has become the 79th chess Grandmaster of India?

- A) Prithu Gupta
B) Parimarjan Negi
C) Raunak Sadhwani
D) M Pranesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Tamilnadu's M Pranesh (16) has clinched the title in the Rilton Cup, the first tournament of the FIDE Circuit, here to become India's 79th chess Grandmaster
- ✓ After beating GM Frode Olav Olsen Urkedal of Norway, Pranesh attained the required 2500 ELO ratings and won the Rilton Cup in the final round to claim the title.
- ✓ With this, he also becomes India's first Grandmaster of year 2023.

CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2022

- 16-year-old from Tamilnadu, M Pranesh became India's 79th chess grandmaster .
- Kolkata-based chess player, Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster.
- Aditya Mittal Becomes India's 77th Chess Grandmaster.
- Magnus Carlsen (From Norway) wins Meltwater Champions Chess Tour 2022.
- R Praggnanandhaa and P V Nandhidhaa won the titles in the Open and women's sections respectively in the Asian Continental Chess championship held in New Delhi.
- D Gukesh becomes youngest to beat World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen.
- Pranav Anand from Bengaluru, Karnataka became India's 76th Chess GrandMaster.
- Alireza Firouzja wins Sinquefield Cup & The Grand Chess Tour.
- Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi wins 28th Abu Dhabi Masters.
- 4th edition of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament will be held in Kolkata.
- Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has defeated world champion, Magnus Carlsen, in the FTX Crypto Cup in Miami, an international chess Championship.
- 2026 Chess Olympiad to be hosted by Uzbekistan.
- Chess prodigy V Pranav (from Tamil Nadu) becomes India's 75th Grandmaster.
- Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand becomes FIDE deputy president.



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- Aravindh Chithambaram has emerged winner in the 41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open in Spain.
- India's GrandMaster D. Gukesh (From Chennai) wins Gijon Chess Masters.
- 44th Chess Olympiad: All India Chess Federation (AICF) and Tamil Nadu government sign MoU.
- Viswanathan Anand (Tamil Nadu) became India's first grandmaster in 1988.
- S Vijaylakshmi is India's first woman grandmaster in chess.
- Abhimanyu Mishra has become the youngest-ever chess Grandmaster in the world

Q. Reserve Bank of India will issue Sovereign Green Bonds of how much rupees in two tranches on January 25 and February 9?

- A) Rs 6,000 crore A) Rs 8,000 crore
C) Rs 1,000 crore D) Rs 5,000 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India on 6 January said that maiden Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) would be issued in two tranches of Rs 8,000 crore each on January 25 and February 9
- ✓ The central government is issuing these sovereign green bonds as part of its total market borrowing. These bonds are being issued to promote green infrastructure.
- ✓ The Central Government had released the framework of Sovereign Green Bond on 9 November 2022.
- ✓ Sovereign green bonds worth Rs 8000 crore will be issued on January 25, 2023. In this, green bonds worth Rs 4000 crore will be issued for 5 years and sovereign green bonds worth Rs 4000 crore will be issued for 10 years.
- ✓ Apart from this, Sovereign Green Bonds worth Rs 8000 crores will be issued as the next instalment on 9 February 2023. In which green bonds worth Rs 4000 crore will be issued for 5 years and sovereign green bonds worth Rs 4000 crore will be issued for 10 years.
- ✓ What are Sovereign Green Bonds?
- ✓ These are bonds that are used by the government to finance projects that have a positive impact on the environment.
- ✓ The Green Bond was launched in 2007 by the European Investment Bank and the World Bank.
- ✓ A Green Bond is an instrument that helps in raising funds for green projects.



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- ✓ Funds from these bonds will be invested in public sector projects that help reduce carbon intensity.
- ✓ These bonds fall into 9 broad categories. Some of these are projects like renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, green building.
- ✓ The government aims to attract foreign investors through these bonds.
- ✓ Being asset linked, it becomes easier for the government to raise money through these bonds.

Q. Who has been elected as the Speaker of the US House of Representatives?

- A) Nancy Pelosi**
- B) Kevin McCarthy**
- C) Paul Ryan**
- D) John Boehner**

Answer : B

- ✓ Republican leader Kevin McCarthy has been elected as the speaker of the US House of Representatives.
- ✓ He was serving as the House Minority Leader in the House
- ✓ The US Parliament has elected Kevin McCarthy of the Republican Party as the speaker of the House of Representatives after 15 rounds of voting. McCarthy is the 55th speaker of the US House of Representatives.
- ✓ Kevin McCarthy, 57, has replaced Nancy Pelosi, 82, the leader of the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives.
- ✓ Kevin McCarthy has become the third most senior US position after US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris
- ✓ About Kevin McCarthy
- ✓ Kevin McCarthy is a member of the Republican Party.
- ✓ He was elected as the House Minority Leader from 2019 to 2023.
- ✓ He previously served as the House Majority Leader from 2014 to 2019 under Speakers John Boehner and Paul Ryan.
- ✓ McCarthy has been elected as a member of the US Parliament 9 times. He was born in Bakersfield, California.

Q. India will host a special virtual Summit on 12th and 13th of January 2023 called 'Voice of Global South Summit'. What is the theme of this summit?

- A) Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose**
- B) Cohesive and Responsive**
- C) Stability, Shared Security**
- D) Realizing Opportunities**



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Answer : A

- ✓ India will host a special virtual Summit on 12th and 13th of January 2023 called 'Voice of Global South Summit'.
- ✓ The theme of the Summit is 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose. More than 120 countries have been invited for this summit.
- ✓ The initiative is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas and India's philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
- ✓ The summit is India's attempt to provide a common platform to discuss concerns affecting developing countries.
- ✓ India will work to ensure that the valuable inputs generated by participating countries in the Voice of the Global South deliberations receive due cognizance globally.

Q. In which state of India, the world's first palm-leaf manuscripts museum has been inaugurated?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ World's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum in Thiruvananthapuram
- ✓ Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala has opened the world's first museum of palm leaf manuscripts, enriching the state culturally and educationally.
- ✓ The museum, which opened last week, has 187 manuscripts chronicling a mine of stories based entirely on primary sources.
- ✓ These documents are written on clean and clear palm leaves, which are furnished in the record rooms. In that period these palm leaves were treated before writing the description.
- ✓ The museum is a repository of curious nuggets of administrative, socio-cultural and economic facets of the Travancore kingdom which lasted for 650 years till the end of the 19th century.
- ✓ It had been the Central Vernacular Records Office since 1887 before becoming a museum.



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Q. Who has launched the themes of the Y20 summit, logo, and website in New Delhi in the curtain raiser event of Y20 Summit India?

- A) Narendra Modi
B) Piyush Goyal
C) Anurag Thakur
D) Amit Shah

Answer : C

- ✓ Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has launched the themes of the Y20 summit, logo, and website in New Delhi in the curtain raiser event of Y20 Summit India.
- ✓ Youth 20 (Y20) is the official youth engagement group of G20.
- ✓ It provides a platform that allows youth to express their vision and ideas on the G20 priorities.
- ✓ During the event, panel discussions of young achievers will also take place in the second session.
- ✓ India is hosting the Y20 summit for the first time. In Youth 20 Engagement Group, India's key focus is to bring young leaders from all across the globe together and discuss ideas for a better tomorrow and draft an agenda for action.

Q. Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar has inaugurated Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity in which state?

- A) Odisha
B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Rajasthan
D) Goa

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar has inaugurated 'Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity', India's first festival of inclusion in Goa.
- ✓ To showcase how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone.
- ✓ The Purple Fest will feature a variety of thrilling live performances, sporting events, major exhibitions, immersive experience zones, accessible movie screenings, and talks on important topics such as inclusive education, tourism, employment, and independent living.
- ✓ Purple Fest is the first festival of its kind in Goa. It is an inclusive event that aims to highlight how we can work together to make the world a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

Q. Which state government has begun caste surveys in different parts of the State?

- A) Bihar
B) Jharkhand
C) Odisha
D) Uttar Pradesh



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Answer : A

- ✓ The Bihar government has begun caste surveys in different parts of the State.
- ✓ Chief Minister Nitish Kumar made it clear that only castes, not sub-castes along with the economic status of each family will be cataloged.
- ✓ The economic condition of each family will be duly mentioned in the survey.
- ✓ This caste survey will help in taking the required measures for the upliftment of the deprived sections.
- ✓ In the first phase, the number of all the families of the state will be counted and recorded.
- ✓ In the second phase of the survey to be held from April 1 to 30, data will be collected regarding the people living in the houses, their caste, and socio-economic status.
- ✓ The survey will end on 31 May 2023. About five lakh people have been employed to carry out this entire process.
- ✓ The state government will spend Rs 500 crore from its contingency fund for this exercise.

Q. A Military Tattoo and Tribal Dance Festival – Aadi Shaurya – Parv Parakram Ka, will be held at which city on January 23 & 24, 2023?

- A) Bengaluru B) New Delhi
C) Hyderabad D) Chennai

Answer : B

- ✓ A Military Tattoo and Tribal Dance Festival – Aadi Shaurya – Parv Parakram Ka will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in New Delhi on January 23 & 24, 2023.
- ✓ The two-day festival will showcase the prowess of the Armed Forces and the ethnic beauty of India's tribal culture.
- ✓ As part of the Republic Day Celebrations 2023 and to mark the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (celebrated as Parakram Diwas), this festival will showcase the prowess of the Armed Forces and the ethnic beauty of India's tribal culture.

Q. Union Minister Purushottam Rupala has inaugurated how many Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) and Centralised Call Center in Thiruvananthapuram Kerala recently?

- A) 15 B) 23
C) 29 D) 33

Answer : C



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- ✓ India's economy is expected to grow 7.0% in the financial year 2023, according to the first advance estimates by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in January 2023.
- ✓ It had pegged India's growth at 8.7% in the fiscal year 2022.
- ✓ The economy grew 9.7 percent in the first half (April-September) of FY23, the data for which was released on November 30.
- ✓ The RBI and the World Bank have projected 6.8 per cent and 6.9 percent GDP growth, respectively, in FY23.
- ✓ The economy grew 8.7 percent in FY22. In FY23, gross value added (GVA) at basic prices is expected to grow at 6.7 percent.

Q. Which bank has partnered with the digital banking fintech company OPEN to launch a digital current account for its customers?

- A) Axis Bank B) Yes Bank
C) HDFC Bank D) ICICI Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ Private lender Axis Bank has partnered with the digital banking fintech company OPEN to launch a digital current account for its customers including SMEs, freelancers, homepreneurs, influencers and others.
- ✓ The current account holders will get access to Axis bank's over 250 banking services along with OPEN's financial automation tools for business management including payments, accounting, payroll, compliance, expense management and other such services.
- ✓ The authentication process of the digital current account will be completely online using PAN (permanent account number) and Aadhaar followed by a Video KYC (know your customer).

Q. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at which state recently?

- A) Karnataka B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Tamil Nadu D) Rajasthan

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli in Karnataka.



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- ✓ He also inaugurated the residential and administrative complexes of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

Q. India and which country have signed a number of agreements in various areas including on Defence and Military Cooperation between the two countries?

- A) Ethiopia
- B) Kuwait
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Cyprus

Answer : D

- ✓ India and Cyprus have signed a number of agreements in various areas including on Defence and Military Cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ A Letter of Intent on Migration and Mobility Partnership was also signed to provide a common framework of arrangement and cooperation to facilitate the mobility of students, academics, business people and professionals.
- ✓ During his three-day visit to Cyprus, Dr Jaishankar will call on the President of the House of Representatives Annita Demetriou.
- ✓ In the second leg of his visit to Austria, Dr. Jaishankar will meet the Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs Alexander Schallenberg.
- ✓ According to the External Affairs Ministry, this will be the first External Affairs Minister-level visit from India to Austria in the last 27 years.
- ✓ Cyprus
- ✓ Capital : Nicosia
- ✓ Currency : Euro
- ✓ President : Nicos Anastasiades

Q. Which of the following company through its subsidiary will complete the acquisition of Ford India's manufacturing plant in Sanand?

- A) Tata Motors
- B) Hyundai
- C) Maruti Suzuki
- D) Kia Motors

Answer : A

- ✓ Tata Motors to complete the acquisition of Ford India's manufacturing plant at Sanand through its subsidiary on 10th January 2023.



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- ✓ The subsidiary, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited (TPEML), on August 2022, announced that would acquire Ford India Pvt Ltd's (FIPL) Sanand plant in Gujarat for ₹725.7 crore.

Q. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the first phase of the New Zuari Bridge in which state?

- A) Odisha
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Goa
- D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the first phase of the New Zuari Bridge across River Zuari connecting Bambolim in North Goa to Verna junction in South Goa.
- ✓ Located on NH-17/NH-66 on the Panjim-Mangalore section in the state of Goa, the bridge will reduce the travel time between North and South Goa by minimizing the traffic blockades between the Bambolim-Agasaim-Cortalim-Sancoale to Verna Junction.

Q. According to Reporters without Borders (RSF), a total of 1,668 journalists have been killed worldwide in connection with their work of journalism over the past two decades (2003–2022). Which of the following country has the highest death tolls?

- A) Syria
- B) Kuwait
- C) Qatar
- D) Saudi Arabia

Answer : A

- ✓ According to Reporters without Borders (RSF), a total of 1,668 journalists have been killed worldwide in connection with their work of journalism over the past two decades (2003–2022), due to murders, contract killings, ambushes, war zone deaths, and fatal injuries.
- ✓ The report says that on average every year 80 journalists lost their lives. The total killed since 2000 is 1,787.
- ✓ The annual death tolls peaked in 2012 and 2013 with 144 and 142 journalists killed, respectively.
- ✓ These peaks, due in large measure to the war in Syria, were followed by a gradual fall and then historically low figures from 2019 onwards.



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- ✓ During the past two decades, 80% of media fatalities have occurred in 15 countries. The two countries with the highest death tolls are Iraq and Syria, with a combined total of 578 journalists killed in the past 20 years, or more than a third of the worldwide total.
- ✓ They are followed by Afghanistan, Yemen, and Palestine. Africa has not been spared, with Somalia coming next.

Q. India has assumed the presidency of the plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement for how many years from 1 January 2023?

- A) 1 year B) 2 year
C) 3 year D) 4 year

Answer : A

- ✓ India has assumed the chairmanship of the plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement for one year on 1st January 2023.
- ✓ At the 26th annual plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement, Eoin O'Leary (Ireland's ambassador) has handed over the chairmanship to Jaideep Mazumdar (India's ambassador).
- ✓ Jaideep Mazumdar is the permanent representative to the UN and international organizations in Vienna.
- ✓ India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on 08 December 2017 as its 42nd Participating State.
- ✓ About Wassenaar Arrangement
- ✓ The Wassenaar Arrangement was established in July 1996 at Wassenaar, Netherlands. It is a voluntary export control regime of 42 member countries. The member countries exchange information on transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies.
- ✓ The main aim of the Wassenaar agreement is to discourage its member countries from exporting conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies to countries which are a threat to global peace.

Q. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated Mega Dairy at Mandya in which state?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated Mega Dairy at Mandya in Karnataka.



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- ✓ The East-West corridor of the Kolkata Metro is 15 Km-long and spans from Salt Lake Stadium to Howrah.
- ✓ This metro line between Salt Lake Sector-5 to Salt Lake Stadium has Karunamayi, Central Park, City Center, and Bengal Chemical metro stations.
- ✓ It costs about ₹120 crore per kilometre to build the tunnel but the manufacturing cost of the tunnel underwater, which is deep in the Hooghly river costs increased to around 157 crores by per kilometre.
- ✓ First metro in India, Kolkata Metro which started its operation 24 October 1984 between Dum Dam to Tollygunge. It was started with the help of the Soviet Union.
- ✓ Largest metro rail in operation in India, Delhi Metro (390.14 km). It started operation on 24 December 2002.
- ✓ Smallest Metro- Ahmedabad metro (6 km)
- ✓ The metro rail systems in operation in India are in the cities of Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kolkata, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Noida, and Pune.

Q. Who has inaugurated the Rs 300 crore Angul-Balram rail line connecting Odisha's Talcher Coalfield recently?

A) Amit Shah

B) Piyush Goyal

C) Pralhad Joshi

D) Narendra Modi

Answer : C

- ✓ Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the Rs 300 crore Angul-Balram rail line connecting Odisha's Talcher Coalfield.
- ✓ The 14-km-long Angul-Balram rail link is the first phase of a total 68-km inner corridor connecting Angul with Putugadia, Jarapada, and Tentuloi, which will cater to coal mines of Talcher coalfields.
- ✓ The project was constructed by Mahanadi Coal Railway Ltd, a joint venture entity of MCL, IRCON International Ltd, and IDCO, an industrial infrastructure development agency of the Odisha government.
- ✓ The internal corridor is being implemented by Mahanadi Coal Railway Ltd (MCRL) in two phases.
- ✓ In phase two, the Balram-Putugadia-Jarapada-Tentuloi rail link would be completed.
- ✓ The project is likely to enable Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) to increase its daily dispatch of coal by around 40,000 tonnes



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Q. Non-banking financial company Shriram Finance Ltd. has secured a \$100 million loan from which of the following organizations?

- A) ADB
B) IMF
C) AIIB
D) NDB

Answer : A

- ✓ Non-banking financial company Shriram Finance Ltd. has secured long-term funding of \$100 million from Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance its purchase of new and used vehicles across India.
- ✓ The loan amount will be used by Shriram Finance to provide loans to customers to buy new or used BS VI-compliant vehicles and electric vehicles”, besides providing financial support to women entrepreneurs and under-developed states.
- ✓ Shriram Finance Limited is the largest retail NBFC in India. It was formed after the merger of mainly Shriram City Union Finance and Shriram Transport Finance

Q. The government has increased interest rates on various small savings schemes for the fourth quarter of the current Financial Year starting from 1st January 2023. The interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra has increased to how much percent from 7 percent?

- A) 7.2%
B) 7.3%
C) 7.4%
D) 7.5%

Answer : A

- ✓ Government has increased interest rates on various small savings schemes for the fourth quarter of the current Financial Year starting from 1st January 2023.
- ✓ The interest rate of five year National Saving Certificate has been increased to 7 percent from 6.8 percent.
- ✓ The interest rate on the senior citizen saving scheme increased to 8 percent from 7.6 percent. The Monthly Income Account Saving has also been increased to 7.1 percent from 6.7 percent.
- ✓ The interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra will now be 7.2 percent and will mature in 120 months.
- ✓ The interest rate of small savings deposit of one year time period has been increased to 6.6 percent from 5.5 percent.
- ✓ However, the interest rate on the Public Provident Fund scheme, Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme, and Saving Deposit have been kept unchanged



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Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Limited?

- A) Pramod Shukhla
B) Sundararaman Ramamurthy
C) Prakash Chauhan
D) Vinod Badaria

Answer : B

- ✓ Sundararaman Ramamurthy has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Limited
- ✓ He has been appointed for a five-year term with effect from January 4.
- ✓ In November, BSE received consent from regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to appoint Ramamurthy as MD and CEO of the exchange.
- ✓ The position has been vacant since July when the then MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan resigned from the post to join the National Stock Exchange (NSE). He was appointed as MD and CEO of NSE, in late July.
- ✓ Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- ✓ Founded : 1875
- ✓ HQ : Mumbai Maharashtra
- ✓ Chairman : Subhash Sheoratan Mundra
- ✓ MD & CEO : Sundararaman Ramamurthy
- ✓ Premchand Roychand founded the Bombay Stock Exchange(BSE)
- ✓ BSE became the first stock exchange to be recognized by the Government of India in 1956.
- ✓ The BSE is established in 1875, it is the oldest stock exchange of Asia, and also the tenth oldest in the world.
- ✓ Bombay Stock Exchange became the first stock exchange in India to launch commodity derivatives contracts in gold and silver.
- ✓ SENSEX(SENSitive indEX) is a free-float market-weighted stock market index of 30 well-established and financially sound companies listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Q. Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as Managing Director and CEO of which of the following bank?

- A) Canara Bank
B) Indian Overseas Bank
C) Bank of Baroda
D) Indian Bank



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Answer : B

- ✓ Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.
- ✓ Prior to taking up the new role, Srivastava was serving as an executive director in the bank.
- ✓ He replaced Partha Pratim Sengupta whose tenure ended on 31 December 2022.
- ✓ He started his banking career as a probationary officer in 1991 with Allahabad Bank where he worked in various capacities in different parts of the country
- ✓ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)
- ✓ Founded : 1937
- ✓ Founder : M. Chidambaram Chettyar
- ✓ Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- ✓ MD & CEO : Ajay Kumar Srivastava
- ✓ Tagline : Good People to Grow With

Q. Who has won India's first-ever Silver medal in the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan?

- A) Koneru Humpy B) Tania Sachdev
C) Vaishali Rameshbabu D) Harika Dronavalli

Answer : A

- ✓ Former world rapid champion Koneru Humpy has won India's first-ever Silver medal in the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Humpy defeated China's Zhongyi Tan to win Silver in the 17th and final round.
- ✓ Fourth-seeded Humpy scored an impressive 12.5 points, just half a point behind the gold medal winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Humpy is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anand.

Q. Which state has clinched the title by defeating Odisha 6-5 in the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18 qualifier title in Bhubaneswar?

- A) Haryana
B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Maharashtra
D) Tamil Nadu



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Answer : B

- ✓ In hockey, Madhya Pradesh clinched the title by defeating Odisha 6-5 in the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18 qualifier title in Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ Jamir Mohammad was the star of the final, scoring a hat-trick, while Ali Ahmed, Mohammad Zaid Khan, and Captain Ankit Pal scored one goal each for Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Haryana claimed third place in the competition with a win against Jharkhand 2-0 in the 3rd and 4th place clash. Amandeep and Roshan scored goals for Haryana.
- ✓ With this, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana, and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year

Q. Which state has won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers after defeating Madhya Pradesh 2-0 in the final at Bhubaneswar?

- A) Haryana
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- ✓ Hockey Haryana's women's team has won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers after defeating Madhya Pradesh 2-0 in the final at Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ In the final match, Pooja and Gurmail Kaur scored a goal each for Haryana to end the contest in their favour.
- ✓ Odisha stepped up to claim third place after beating Hockey Jharkhand 2-1 in the 3rd and 4th place encounter.
- ✓ Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.

Q. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Samvidhan Udyan, Mayur Stambh, National Flag Post, statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Maharana Pratap at which city?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Samvidhan Udyan, Mayur Stambh, National Flag Post, statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Maharana Pratap at Raj Bhavan, Jaipur on January 3, 2023.



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- ✓ On the occasion, she virtually inaugurated the Transmission System for Solar Power Sectors in Rajasthan and laid the foundation stone of the 1000 MW Bikaner Solar Power Project of SJVN Limited
- ✓ The President said that women are continuously moving forward from Panchayat to Parliament House on their own.
- ✓ He said that it is a record to have more than 100 women in the Parliament of the country for the first time.

Q. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Siom bridge along with 27 other infrastructure projects completed by the Border Roads Organization in which state?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Uttarakhand

Answer : C

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Siom bridge along with 27 other infrastructure projects completed by the Border Roads Organization in Arunachal Pradesh on 3 January.
- ✓ Built at a cost of Rs 724 crore, these projects will vastly enhance India's border infrastructure, mostly along the Chinese border, from Ladakh to Arunachal.
- ✓ The Siom bridge on Along-Yinkiong road will facilitate rapid induction of troops, heavy equipment like howitzers and mechanised vehicles in forward areas of Upper Siang district, Tuting and Yinkiong areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Q. Who became the first woman officer to be operationally deployed at the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier?

- A) Shiva Chauhan
- B) Pallavi Singh
- C) Pooja Singh
- D) Arpana Singh

Answer : A

- ✓ Fire and Fury Corps officer Captain Shiva Chauhan became the first woman officer to be operationally deployed at the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier.
- ✓ Siachen Glacier
- ✓ The Siachen glacier lies in the Karakoram Range .It is 75 km (47 miles) long, which makes it the second longest nonpolar glacier in the world, after Fedchenko Glacier in Tajikistan.



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- ✓ Strategic Significance of Siachen Glacier
- ✓ The Siachen Glacier is the highest battleground on earth, where India and Pakistan have fought intermittently since 1984. The Glacier is of strategic significance for India namely
- ✓ Operation Meghdoot was launched by the Indian Armed Forces to take control of Siachen Glacier on the morning of April 13, 1984 before the Pakistani army did so.

Q. The Government of India sponsored the proposal for International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 which was accepted by the ___.

- A) UNESCO
- B) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- D) United Nations Trusteeship Council (UNTC)

Answer : C

- ✓ The year 2023 is being observed all over the world as the International Year of the millets. The Government of India aims to make the International Year of the millets a 'People's Movement' and position India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'. India is the largest producer of millets in the world
- ✓ The Government of India proposed to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to declare 2023 as the International Year of the Millets.
- ✓ The proposal was accepted and passed by the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2021 and 2023 was declared as the International Year of Millets.
- ✓ Celebration of the International Millet Year in India
- ✓ In the month of January 2023 the government of India and its ministries in collaboration with the state government will undertake a series of events to celebrate the International Years of Millets.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries which will be organizing Millet Fair-cum-exhibitions in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare along with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will participate in a trade show on millets in Belgium.
- ✓ The Indian High Commission in Nigeria has planned a Millets Food Festival and a Millets Food preparation competition in January 2023.
- ✓ Millet is one of the oldest known foods to humans. However its consumption in the world has declined due to the emphasis given to wheat and rice by the governments.



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- ✓ It is also called coarse cereals or nutri cereals due to its high nutritive value. To increase the consumption of millets in India the government of India declared millets as nutri-cereals and 2018 was declared as the National Millets Year in India.
- ✓ The Government of India has set a target of production of 205 lakh tonnes of Nutri Cereals in the country by 2022-23.
- ✓ Rajasthan is the largest producer of nutri-cereals in India followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Q. Which of the following organization has builds the K9-Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers?

- A) DRDO
- B) HAL
- C) Larsen & Toubro
- D) BHEL

Answer : C

- ✓ Defence Ministry has started the process for procurement of 100 more K9-Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers which are built in India by Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- ✓ The howitzers are built using technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defense. The K9-Vajra is a 155 mm, 52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer.

Q. What is the total investment made by the Department of Science & Technology in the Science and Technology system in 2022-23?

- A) Rs 2002 crore
- B) Rs 4002 crore
- C) Rs 6002 crore
- D) Rs 8002 crore

Answer : C

- ✓ The total investment made by the Department of Science & Technology in Science and Technology system in 2022-23 is Rs 6002 crore.
- ✓ In the last 8 years, the investment has doubled from about Rs 2900 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 6002 crore in 2022-23.
- ✓ The Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) has increased more than three times in the last 10 years, as per the year-end review report of the Ministry



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- FSSAI is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.
- FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Rajesh Bhusan
- CEO : G Kamala Vardhana Rao

Q. Which nation recently adopted Euro as its currency?

- A) Croatia
- B) Armenia
- C) Belarus
- D) Denmark

Answer : A

- ✓ Croatia has formally embraced the euro as its currency, making it the 20th member state of the European Union.
- ✓ The Balkan country joined the EU about a decade ago but had to wait until now to become a Eurozone member.
- ✓ When the clock struck midnight, Finance Minister Marko Primorac and National Bank Governor Boris Vuji took the first euro notes from a Croatian cash machine.

Q. Which Department under the 'Ministry of Finance notifies changes in rates on small savings schemes?

- A) Department of Expenditure
- B) Department of Economic Affairs
- C) Department of Revenue
- D) Department of Financial Services

Answer : B

- ✓ Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic Affairs announces modifications in rates on modest savings plans.
- ✓ The government recently raised the interest rates on many minor savings plans, including the senior citizen savings scheme, for the January-March quarter.



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- ✓ The PPF will continue to earn 7.10%, while the Sukanya Samridhi account programme will earn 7.6%.
- ✓ Public Provident Fund (PPF).
- ✓ The Public Provident Fund was introduced by the National Savings Institute of the Ministry of Finance in 1968. The aim of the scheme is to mobilize small savings by offering an investment with reasonable returns along with income tax benefits. The latest amendment in PPF is the Public Provident Fund Amendment Scheme, 2017.
- ✓ Eligibility: Public Provident Fund (PPF) account can be opened by resident Indian Individuals above the age of 18 years and individuals on behalf of minors.
- ✓ Maturity Period: 15 years. But the same can be extended within one year of maturity for further 5 years and so on.
- ✓ Investment Limits: An individual can open account with INR 100/- but has to deposit minimum of INR 500/- in a financial year and maximum INR 1,50,000/- . Investments can be made in lump sum or in a maximum of 12 installments per year.
- ✓ Minimum investment: Rs 500/year
- ✓ Maximum investment: Rs. 1,50,000/year
- ✓ Deposit Frequency: Deposit into a PPF account has to be made at least once every year for 15 years but a maximum of 12 investment is allowed each year.
- ✓ PPF Withdrawal: One can close a PPF account only upon maturity i.e. after completion of 15 years. However the scheme permits partial withdrawals from year 7 i.e. on completing 6 years.

Q. The incubation Centre at the National Research Development Corporation has been inaugurated in which city?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Chennai
- C) New Delhi
- D) Bengaluru

Answer : C

- ✓ Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science and Technology, has inaugurated the Incubation Centre at the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Centre will provide StartUps with multifaceted assistance



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Q. In which state of India did the first IVF unit for animals start?

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Bihar
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Gujarat

Answer : D

- ✓ Gujarat's Amreli, India received its first In vitro fertilization (IVF) mobile device on January 1, 2023. Purushottam Rupala, union minister, launched the mobile IVF lab.
- ✓ The IVF mobile van, according to the minister, was "dedicated in a collaborative endeavor of the Government of India and Amar Dairy."

Q. Which country took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first six months of 2023?

- A) Finland B) Germany
C) Italy D) Sweden

Answer : D

- ✓ Sweden assumed the Presidency of the European Union Council for the first six months of the year on January 1, 2023, succeeding the Czech Republic, which led the Council in the second half of 2022.
- ✓ Sweden is taking up the Presidency of the Council for the third time.
- ✓ The EU Council Presidency is rotated every six months among EU Member States.

Q. How many people will be awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards this year?

- A) 12 B) 20
C) 27 D) 25

Answer : C

- ✓ Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards have been announced for this year. 27 people were chosen on January 2, 2023, the highest honour for overseas Indians.
- ✓ The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention will be held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from January 8 to 10, 2023.
- ✓ The President will present the honours during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas festivities' valedictory session.
- ✓ A jury-cum-awards committee led by the vice president selected the honorees.



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Q. Who has been appointed as the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission of India?

- A) Shatrughan Sinha B) Manoj Vajpayee
C) Maithili Thakur D) Pawan Singh

Answer : C

- ✓ Election Commission named folk singer Maithili Thakur as Bihar's state icon on January 2, 2023.
- ✓ Thakur, who studied Indian classical and folk music, was recently awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for her contribution to Bihar folk music in 2021.
- ✓ The singer will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process

Q. Who sworn in as 39th president of Brazil?

- A) Jair Bolsonaro B) Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva
C) Fernando Haddad D) Simone Tebet

Answer : B

- ✓ Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has been sworn in as the 39th president of Brazil following the 2022 Brazilian general election.
- ✓ 77-year-old Lula narrowly defeated Jair Bolsonaro in October to win an unprecedented third presidential term after a hiatus that saw him spend a year and a half behind bars on corruption convictions that were later overturned

Q. India's unemployment rate rises at ____% in Dec 2022.

- A) 7.34% B) 7.89%
C) 8.30% D) 8.85%

Answer : C

- ✓ According to the data, released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate in December 2022 has been increased to a 16-month high at 8.30% from 8% in November 2022.
- ✓ The urban unemployment rate has been increased to 10.09% in December from 8.96%.
- ✓ While, the rural unemployment rate has been slipped to 7.44% from 7.55%.
- ✓ In December, the unemployment rate rose to 37.4% in Haryana, followed by Rajasthan (28.5) and Delhi (20.8%)..



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Q. Which state received the largest outlay in the total expenditure of Rs 13,000 crore on cleaning the Ganga since 2014?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union government spent more than Rs 13,000 crore on cleaning the Ganga since 2014.
- ✓ The Ganga Council recently met in Kolkata and Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the meeting through video conference.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh received the largest outlay among states at 4,205 crore. Bihar is in second place at 3,516 crores.
- ✓ Bengal (1,302 crore), Delhi (1,253) and Uttarakhand (1,117) are the other regions in the top five states

Q. As per a recent UN survey, which region has the highest unemployment rate in the world?

- A) African
B) Arab
C) South-Asian
D) North-American

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the latest UN survey, the Arab region registered a 12 per cent unemployment rate in 2022, which is the highest in the world.
- ✓ Poverty measured against national lines also surged, affecting 130 million people in Arab countries. More than one-third of the region's population is affected, excluding Libya and Gulf Cooperation Council countries.
- ✓ The survey showed an expected 3.4 per cent growth next year throughout the Arab region

Q. What is the name of the difference between the total revenue and total expenditures of a country in a year?

- A) Fiscal Deficit
B) Revenue Deficit
C) Primary Deficit
D) Budget Deficit

Answer : A

- ✓ Fiscal Deficit is the difference between the total revenue and total expenditures of a country in a year.
- ✓ The Fiscal Deficit at the end of November touched 59 per cent of the full year budget estimate.



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- ✓ According to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the fiscal deficit was ₹978,154 crore in the April-November period 2022-23

Q. What is the target of number of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres under the Ayushman Bharat?

- A) 4.5 Lakh
- B) 1.5 Lakh
- C) 2.5 Lakh
- D) 3.5 Lakh

Answer : B

- ✓ The government has achieved the target of starting 1.5 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres across the country, as per the Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ✓ Under Ayushman Bharat, the government had set a target of transforming existing 1.5 lakh Sub-Health Centres (SHCs) and rural and urban Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across the country as AB-HWCs by December 2022

Q. Aung Suu Kyi is the former leader of which country?

- A) Thailand
- B) Myanmar
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Nepal

Answer : B

- ✓ A military court in Myanmar sentenced the country's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to a further seven years in prison on charges of corruption.
- ✓ This has increased her total jail term to 33 years.
- ✓ The court ruling found Suu Kyi guilty of corruption in relation to purchase, repair and rental of a helicopter for use during natural disasters and state affairs

Q. Which country commenced its annual war-game 'Zolfaghar-1401', in the coastal area of the Gulf of Oman?

- A) UAE
- B) Iran
- C) Qatar
- D) Israel

Answer : B

- ✓ Iran has recently commenced its annual drill in the coastal area of the Gulf of Oman and near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.



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- ✓ Commandos and airborne infantry would participate in the war-games, dubbed 'Zolfaghar-1401' along with drones, fighter jets, helicopters, military transport aircraft and submarines.
- ✓ The strait is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf and is crucial to global energy supplies.

Q. Which of the following entity has urged stock exchanges to set up Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform?

- A) RBI
B) SEBI
C) NITI Aayog
D) SIDBI

Answer : B

- ✓ Markets regulator SEBI has asked stock exchanges to set up an Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform
- ✓ The platform will give investors an opportunity to square off their position or cancel pending orders in case of disruption of trading services.
- ✓ There is a rise in instances of glitches in systems of trading members, some of which lead to disruption of trading services.

Q. What is the target for agricultural and processed food products from India for 2022-23?

- A) USD 15.56 billion
B) USD 13.56 billion
C) USD 23.56 billion
D) USD 43.56 billion

Answer : C

- ✓ India's agricultural and processed food products exports rose by 16 per cent in the first eight months (April-November) of the current financial year 2022-23 on an annual basis.
- ✓ For the year 2022-23, an export target of \$23.56 billion has been fixed for the agricultural and processed food products basket.
- ✓ At present, the agricultural exports attained 74 per cent of its annual export target.

Q. What is the name of the fund to be launched by the Government of India for catalysing deep tech start-ups?

- A) Digital India Innovation Fund
B) Start Up Integration Fund
C) Deeptech Innovation Fund
D) Bharat Innovation Fund



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Answer : A

- ✓ The Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar announced Government of India is going to launch a Digital India Innovation Fund.
- ✓ The Fund aims to catalyse Deep-tech Startups.
- ✓ He announced this during his address in the event of 'New India for Young India: Techade of Opportunities' program at the Catholic Bishop House Campus in Kerala

Q. According to the government of India's Public Enterprise survey 2021-22, which is the most profitable Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) in 2021-22?

- A) ONGC
- C) SAIL

- B) Indian Oil Corporation
- D) NTPC

Answer : A

- ✓ According to the government of India's Public Enterprise survey 2021-22, ONGC was the top profit making central public sector enterprises (CPSE) in 2021-22. After ONGC the other most profit making CPSE were Indian Oil Corporation, Power Grid, NTPC and SAIL.
- ✓ The net profit of operating public sector enterprises jumped 50.87 per cent to Rs 2.49 lakh crore during 2021-22. It was Rs 1.65 lakh crore in 2020-21.
- ✓ The net loss of loss-making CPSEs reduced to Rs 0.15 lakh crore in 2021-22 from Rs 0.23 lakh crore in 2020-21, showing a decrease of 37.82 per cent.
- ✓ Major loss-making CPSEs were Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), Mahanagar Telecom Nigam Ltd (MTNL), Air India Assets Holding Ltd, and Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
- ✓ Total gross revenue from the operations of operating CPSEs during 2021-22 was Rs 31.95 lakh crore as against Rs 24.08 lakh crore in 2020-21, showing an increase of 32.65 per cent.
- ✓ Dividend declared by operating CPSEs in 2021-22 stood at Rs 1.15 lakh crore, as against Rs 0.73 lakh crore in 2020-21, an increase of 57.58 per cent.
- ✓ The survey attributed the revenue rise in 2021-22 to better performance by the petroleum (refinery and marketing), crude oil and transport, and logistics segments.
- ✓ Petroleum (refinery and marketing), trading and marketing, and power generation, together contributed 69.08 per cent to the gross revenues in 2021-22.



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- ✓ The contribution of all CPSEs to the central exchequer by way of excise duty, custom duty, GST, corporate tax, interest on central government loans, dividend, and other duties and taxes stood at Rs 5.07 lakh crore in 2021-22, as against Rs 4.97 lakh crore in 2020-21, showing an increase of 2.14 per cent.
- ✓ The top five CPSEs contributing to the central exchequer were Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- ✓ Besides, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure of all CSR eligible CPSEs (160) stood at Rs 4,600 crore in 2021-22 compared to Rs 4,483 crore in 2020-21, an increase of 2.61 per cent.
- ✓ The top five CPSEs contributing the highest under CSR were ONGC, NTPC, Indian Oil Corporation, NMDC and Power Grid.

Q. Which financial Institutions has agreed to provide a \$1.22 billion loan to the government of India for Infrastructure development in various states?

- A) ADB
B) AIIB
C) World Bank
D) NDB

Answer : A

- ✓ The Manila based Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide a \$1.22 billion loan to the government of India for Infrastructure development in various states.
- ✓ An agreement to this effect was signed between the Indian Government and ADB in New Delhi on 3 January 2023. India is the largest borrower of ADB.
- ✓ The agreements would cover projects for improving the power sector and highways in the Northeastern states of Tripura and Assam, metro rail connectivity in the southern city of Chennai, and improvement of key economic areas in the western state of Maharashtra.

Q. Koustav Chatterjee has recently become the 78th Chess Grandmaster of India. He hails from which state?

- A) Maharashtra
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Karnataka
D) West Bengal

Answer : D



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- ✓ 19 year old Koustav Chatterjee of West Bengal became India's 78th chess Grandmaster, securing the third and final GM norm at the MPL 59th National Senior Chess Championship 2022 being held in New Delhi. He is the 10th Grandmaster from West Bengal.
- ✓ **Chess rating System**
- ✓ Chess rating system is used in chess to estimate the strength and skill of a player.
- ✓ In chess, the Elo rating system is used to grade the players by International chess governing body FIDE.
- ✓ The highest rating for a chess player is Grand Master or GM followed by International Masters or IM and then Masters etc.
- ✓ Players are invited to various chess tournaments in the world depending upon their grading.
- ✓ FIDE
- ✓ The International Chess Federation or French acronym FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) is an international organization that was set up on 20 July 1924 in Paris, France.
- ✓ Headquarters of FIDE: Lausanne, Switzerland

Q. The government has exempted public sector entities from the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norm which mandates at least____ public float for all listed companies.

- A) 25 per cent
- B) 20 per cent
- C) 30 per cent
- D) 15 per cent

Answer : A

- ✓ The government of India has exempted public sector entities from the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norm which mandates at least 25 per cent public float for all listed companies.
- ✓ The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022 was notified by the government on 2 January 2023.
- ✓ According to the notification "any listed entity in which the Central Government or State Government or public sector company, either individually or in any combination with others, holds directly or indirectly, majority of the shares or voting rights or control of such listed entity, are exempted from any or all of the provisions of this rule".
- ✓ Listed Company means that the capital instrument of the company (shares, debenture or bonds etc) is listed on any stock exchange and it can be bought and sold in the market



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Q. Which company commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat?

- A) Reliance Industries B) TATA Group
C) Adani Group D) NTPC Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat. The piped natural gas (PNG) blended with green hydrogen gas is being supplied through the Gujarat Gas limited piped natural gas (PNG) network in the NTPC Kawas township, Surat.
- ✓ In April 2022 the NTPC signed an agreement with Gujarat Gas for blending of green hydrogen in the piped natural gas (PNG) to be supplied to the NTPC Kawas Township.
- ✓ Green Hydrogen refers to the breaking down of the water molecule into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable sources of energy.
- ✓ The Central government owned NTPC provides the green hydrogen produced at its 1 megawatt (MW) floating solar project of NTPC Kawas in the Surat district of Gujarat for blending purposes.
- ✓ Initially, the percentage of hydrogen blending in the PNG shall be around 5% and after successful completion, it will be increased. The Hydrogen blended PNG will be used for cooking purposes

Q. Who assumed the charge as the Secretary General of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU)?

- A) Vinay Prakash Singh B) Ravindra Bhat
C) Ashok Kumar Pradhan D) Abhishek Singhvi

Answer : A

- ✓ Dr Vinay Prakash Singh assumed the charge as the Secretary General of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) on 1 January 2023.
- ✓ This is the first time that an Indian is leading an international organization in the postal sector. Dr Singh will remain in office for 4 years
- ✓ Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) is an intergovernmental organization of 32-member countries of the Asian-Pacific region. APPU is the only Union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in the region, which is a specialized agency of the United Nations.



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- ✓ The headquarters of the Asian Pacific Postal Union is in Bangkok, Thailand.

Q. MOIL has registered its best December production of__ manganese ore .

- A) 1,21,987 tonnes B) 1,31,456 tonnes
C) 1,41,321 tonnes D) 1,51,567 tonnes

Answer : C

- ✓ MOIL has registered its best December production of 1,41,321 tonnes of manganese ore in December, 2022.
- ✓ MOIL has registered an increase of 18 percent in production as compared to November 2022.
- ✓ Along with this, sales of 1,64,235 tonnes have also been done for the month of December with an increase of about 91 percent as compared to November 2022.
- ✓ Besides this, the company has increased prices in an effective range of 2.7-15%.
- ✓ About MOIL
- ✓ It is a Schedule-A, Miniratna category-1 Company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India.
- ✓ It is the largest producer of manganese ore in the country with about 45% market share, operating eleven mines in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The company aims to almost double its production to 3 million tonnes by 2030.
- ✓ It is also looking for business opportunities in the state of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Odisha apart from other regions of the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Q. Which state government has abolished the revenue/Patwari policing system?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Uttarakhand
C) Bihar D) Himachal Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ The Uttarakhand government has abolished the revenue/Patwari policing system in the state. This was notified by the Pushkar Singh Dhami government on 3 January 2023. All the revenue villages will now be under the regular policing system.
- ✓ According to the Chief Minister's Office the law and order in 1,800 revenue villages of Uttarakhand will now be handled by the state police.



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- ✓ It was introduced by the British in the hilly state 150 years back. Under the system the civil officials/patwari of the Revenue department had the power to investigate and arrest the offenders just like police.
- ✓ According to the government the revenue police lacked the necessary skill required for criminal investigations hence a need was felt to transfer the areas of revenue police to regular police in a phased manner

Q. Who has launched the world's longest river cruise, which will travel from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh?

- A) Draupadi Murmu B) Nitin Gadkari
C) Narendra Modi D) Hardeep Singh Puri

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the world's longest river cruise, which will travel from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh on 13 January 2023. This will be the single largest river journey by a single river ship in the world.
- ✓ The cruise, which has been named 'Ganga Vilas cruise will cover 4000 Kilometers along 27 river systems, including Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly, Brahmaputra, and West Coast Canal in 50 days
- ✓ The Ganga Vilas cruise will start from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh. In Bangladesh it will cover an 1100 Kilometers route before entering India again.
- ✓ This will be possible under the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route, which has already opened trade and transit channels connecting the two countries on Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers.
- ✓ 50 significant tourist destinations will be visited throughout the journey, including some historical monuments, the iconic Varanasi Ganga Aarti, and protected areas like Kaziranga National Park, Assam and the Sundarbans Delta in West Bengal during the cruise.
- ✓ Who will operate the cruise?
- ✓ The Varanasi-Dibrugarh cruise is expected to be run on a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The government's Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has signed an agreement with Antara Luxury River Cruises and JM Baxi River Cruises for the initiative. The ticket price would be decided by the operators without Centre's intervention.
- ✓ Union Minister for Port, Shipping and Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal



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Q. Which country has become the first country in Asia and second in the world to launch Hydrogen powered urban trains?

- A) France
B) India
C) Russia
D) China

Answer : D

- ✓ China became the first country in Asia and second in the world to launch Hydrogen powered urban trains. Germany was the first country to introduce hydrogen powered trains in September 2022.
- ✓ Chinese company CRRC Corporations Ltd built a train that has a top speed of 160 KM per hour and can run without refuelling for 600 Km . The German Coradia iLint serial train developed by French company Alstom has set a record 1175 Km range without refuelling.
- ✓ According to the Chinese officials, the operation of the train will reduce CO2 emissions compared to diesel traction by 10 tons per year.
- ✓ Hydrogen powered Trains
- ✓ Hydrogen is considered to be the green fuel of the future. The Hydrogen fuel cell is environment friendly and it does not emit any greenhouse gasses. The hydrogen fuel cell uses hydrogen and air to generate electricity. The combination of air and hydrogen will produce water as a by-product which will be released by the Train.
- ✓ India is committed to achieve zero net carbon emission by 2070.
- ✓ Hydrogen Train in India
- ✓ As per Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, India will most likely get its first-ever indigenous Hydrogen trains by December 2023. As per the minister, like Vande Bharat Express, the Indian Railways is working on the new environment-friendly trains and the engineers are designing it. "The design process is already going on and we should be able to roll out the first hydrogen train in the country by December 2023," he added.

Q. Every year January 1 is observed as which day globally?

- A) World Environment Day
B) Global Family Day
C) World Yoga Day
D) World Ocean Day

Answer : B



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- ✓ A total of 250 buses have already been deployed by DTC and now the remaining 50 buses have been launched fulfilling MHI's commitment of providing 300 electric buses to DTC.
- ✓ FAME India Scheme
- ✓ To improve the infrastructure required for the large-scale use of electric vehicles, the Government formulated a Scheme namely FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) in 2015.
- ✓ Under this scheme, by the year 2022, 60-70 lakh hybrid and electric vehicles are targeted to be put on the roads across the country.
- ✓ This will reduce the consumption of about 950 crore litres of petrol and diesel, which will also save Rs 62 thousand crores spent on this.
- ✓ The main objective of this scheme is to reduce pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Phase-II of FAME India Scheme is being implemented for a period of 3 years from April 1, 2019.
- ✓ Ministry of Heavy Industries had notified Phase-II of FAME India Scheme for three years from April 2019 to March 2022. However, the government has extended the FAME II scheme for 2 years. So now this scheme will be applicable till March 2024.
- ✓ The Phase-I of this Scheme was launched for a period of 2 years from 1st April 2015, which was extended from time to time and the last extension was allowed up to 31st March 2019.

Q. The second phase of the Sari Festival "VIRAASAT"- Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India will begin from 3- 17 January 2023 in which city?

A) Chennai

B) Mumbai

C) New Delhi

D) Hyderabad

Answer : C

- ✓ The second phase of the Sari Festival "VIRAASAT"- Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India will begin from 3- 17 January 2023 in New Delhi . The Union Ministry of Textile is organising the festival.
- ✓ Over 90 participants from different parts of India the will display a wide variety of sarees like handloom Saris of Jamdani, Ikat, Pochampally, Banaras Brocade, Tussar Silk (Champa), Baluchari, Bhagalpuri Silk, Tangail, Chanderi, Lalitpuri, Patola, Paithani etc
- ✓ The first phase of "VIRAASAT"- Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India started on 16th December 2022 and concluded on 30th December 2022. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Finance Minister



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Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on 16th December 2022, along with Hon'ble Minister of State Smt. Darshana Jardosh and other women parliamentarians

Q. Which state government has launched CM's Sukhashray Sahayata Kosh?

- A) Uttarakhand
B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Bihar
D) Himachal Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched CM's Sukhashray Sahayata Kosh with an outlay of Rs 101 crore on 1 January 2023.
- ✓ All the Ministers and Congress MLA will contribute their first salary to the fund. The Congress party has 40 MLA in the 68 member Himachal Legislative Assembly. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government was sworn in on 11 December 2022.
- ✓ Aim of the CM's Sukhashray Sahayata Kosh
- ✓ The scheme will aim to provide the facility of higher education to needy children and destitute women.
- ✓ The state government will bear the expenditure on skill development education, higher education, and vocational training of such children. They will also be given financial assistance as per their requirement so that they can lead a respectable life.

Q. Which city will become the first city in India to have hundred per cent sewerage facilities by May 2023?

- A) Chennai
B) New Delhi
C) Mumbai
D) Hyderabad

Answer : D

- ✓ Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023 .
- ✓ According to the Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, IT and Industries of Telangana, K. T. Rama Rao said that Hyderabad will become the first city in India to have hundred per cent sewerage facilities by next April-May.
- ✓ He made this statement on 1 January 2023 while inaugurating a flyover in Hyderabad.
- ✓ He said that 31 new Sewage treatment plants (STP) are being built in the city with an investment of Rs ₹3,866 crores.



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- ✓ Rao said, "Keeping the floods of October 2020 in mind, we have developed the Strategic Nala development program with around ₹1000 crores.
- ✓ We will finish the project by March-April 2023. Hyderabad will be the first city in India to have 100 per cent sewerage facilities by April-May"

Q. SMART' program for Ayurveda professionals launched to regulate and boost research and development in Ayurveda. What does R stands for in SMART ?

- A) Return B) Refinance
C) Risk D) Research

Answer : D

- ✓ In order to regulate Ayurvedic medical education and boost the research and development in Ayurveda, the government has launched 'SMART' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals) program on 2 January 2023.
- ✓ The SMART program has been jointly launched by the Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS). Both the Institutions come under the Union Ministry of Ayush.

Q. Which bank has launched a range of digital solutions to streamline the lifecycle of exports?

- A) Yes Bank B) ICICI Bank
C) HDFC Bank D) Axis Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Private lender ICICI Bank has launched a range of digital solutions to streamline the lifecycle of exports.
- ✓ Objective – To simplify the journey of exporters by decongesting the current time-intensive manual procedures
- ✓ The rationale behind the launch is to streamline several manual procedures and compliances for exporters and improve their operational efficiency.
- ✓ Facilities such as instant export finance and a current account to hold foreign currency are included in the suite of solutions.
- ✓ It will digitize the entire export life-cycle from the discovery of export markets, foreign exchange services to receipt of export incentives.



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ICICI BANK IN NEWS 2022

- Reserve Bank of India said SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs).
- SBI, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank to launch Rupay based Credit card on UPI platform by March 2023.
- ICICI bank has announced a new bank account “The HomeVantage Current Account (HVCA)” for Indian students in UK.
- ICICI Bank’s board of directors has reappointed Sandeep Bakshi as the MD and CEO for a period of 3 years.
- ICICI Bank launches ‘Smart Wire’, an easy online solution for inward remittances..
- ICICI Bank launches 'ICICI Bank Mine' comprehensive banking program.
- ICICI Bank and NMDFC ink an Agreement for development of banking software.
- Defence ministry gives approval to HDFC, ICICI, and Axis to offer finances for international purchases.
- ICICI Bank launched a digital platform 'Campus Power' for the student ecosystem.
- ICICI Bank Partners with ZestMoney to Expand 'Cardless EMI' Facility.
- ICICI Bank and Santander UK Partner for business ease between India and UK.
- ICICI Bank launched India’s ‘open-for-all’ digital ecosystem for MSMEs.
- ICICI Bank’s Sandeep Bakhshi named Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21.
- ICICI Bank launches online platform 'Trade Emerge' for exporters and importers.
- ICICI Bank surpasses HUL to occupy 5th spot in m-cap.
- RBI approves re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO.
- ICICI Bank, HSBC and Standard Chartered enters India’s 1st swaption deal.
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) BANK
- Founded : 1994
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline : Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka



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Q. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Central Sector Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) Scheme with an outlay of how many rupees up to 2025-26?

- A) Rs 1578.87 crore B) Rs 2539.61 crore
C) Rs 3467.21 crore D) Rs 4289.51 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding the Central Sector Scheme “Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development” (BIND).
- ✓ The BIND scheme is aimed to bring modernization to the public broadcaster Prasar Bharati i.e. All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD).
- ✓ The outlay of the scheme is Rs.2,539.61 crore and is for the time period upto 2025-26.
- ✓ Prasar Bharati played a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic in disseminating important public health messages and awareness to the public.
- ✓ At present, DD operates 36 TV channels including 28 regional channels and AIR operates from more than 500 broadcasting centres.
- ✓ The Scheme will increase coverage of AIR FM transmitters in the country to 66% by geographical area and 80% by population up from 59% and 68% respectively.
- ✓ The Scheme also envisages free distribution of over 8 lakh DD Free Dish STBs to people living in remote, tribal, LWE, and border areas.

Q. Which railway station has been awarded a 5- star ‘Eat Right Station’ certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for providing quality and nutritious food to passengers recently?

- A) Gorakhpur railway station B) Sealdah railway station
C) Bangalore City Railway Station D) Varanasi Cantt Railway Station

Answer : D

- ✓ The Varanasi Cantt railway station has been awarded a 5- star ‘Eat Right Station’ certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for providing quality and nutritious food to passengers.



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- ✓ The “Eat Right Station” certification is awarded by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to the railway stations that set benchmarks (as per the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006) in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers.
- ✓ The 5-star rating indicates full compliance by the station to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers.
- ✓ The other railway stations with this certification include Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station (Delhi), Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Mumbai), Mumbai Central Railway Station (Mumbai), Vadodara Railway Station, Chandigarh Railway Station.

FSSAI IN NEWS 2022

- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station awarded ‘Eat Right Station’ with a certification by FSSAI.
- G Kamala Vardhana Rao has taken over the charge as the CEO of food regulator FSSAI.
- Bulandshahr prison foods becomes the 2nd jail in UP to be rated five star by FSSAI.
- Himalayan Yak has been approved as a ‘food animal’ by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).
- FSSAI awarded Bhopal Railway Station a 4-star ‘Eat Right Station’ certification for providing “high-quality, nutritious food to passengers”.
- Fatehgarh Central jail in Uttar Pradesh’s Farrukhabad district has earned a five-star rating from the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for the quality of food it serves to inmates.
- 4th State Food Safety Index 2022
- Released by : FSSAI
- Major states Top : Tamil Nadu
- 2nd : Gujarat
- 3rd : Maharashtra
- Smallest states Top : Goa
- UTs Top : Jammu and Kashmir.
- National Food laboratory of FSSAI Inaugurated in Raxaul, Bihar.
- FSSAI launched ‘Project Dhoop’, an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.



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- FSSAI is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.
- FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Rajesh Bhusan
- CEO : G Kamala Vardhana Rao

Q. Which of the following Union Territories will host the first G-20 meeting on January 31?

- A) Jammu and Kashmir
- B) New Delhi
- C) Puducherry
- D) Lakshadweep

Answer : C

- ✓ Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan said that the first G-20 meeting will be held in Puducherry on January 31.
- ✓ The Lt Governor released stickers, badges, and posters with the G20 logo and also inaugurated a selfie booth in the presence of Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy at an event.
- ✓ Representatives of different countries will participate in the meeting and many important decisions will be taken.
- ✓ These programs will be organized in different parts of the country in different segments. Kolkata will host the first meeting on the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion.

Q. In which of the following city the 36th Strategic Dialogue between India and France has been held?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Paris
- C) Mumbai
- D) Hyderabad

Answer : A

- ✓ India and France held the 36th Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi.
- ✓ The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral and global issues.



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- ✓ National Security Advisor Ajit Doval led the Indian delegation while the French delegation was led by Emmanuel Bonne, Diplomatic Advisor to the French President.
- ✓ The last edition of the Strategic Dialogue was to be held in Paris in November 2021.
- ✓ During the 36th Strategic Dialogue, both sides also agreed to deepen the most significant three pillars of the India-France strategic partnership, including defence to counter-terrorism, civilian nuclear energy, space, and cybersecurity
- ✓ FRANCE
- ✓ Capital : Paris
- ✓ Currency : Euro
- ✓ President : Emmanuel Macron
- ✓ Prime Minister : Elisabeth Borne

Q. Who has chaired the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Skill Development Mission in New Delhi?

- A) Dharmendra Pradhan B) Narendra Modi
C) Piyush Goyal D) Amit Shah

Answer : A

- ✓ Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan has chaired the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Skill Development Mission in New Delhi.
- ✓ The progress made in the skill development efforts and the road map ahead were discussed in the meeting.
- ✓ The minister also discussed various issues such as convergence of skill development schemes, skill gap analysis and skill mapping, connecting Indian youth to global opportunities, developing a curriculum to reflect emerging trends, etc
- ✓ About National Skill Development Mission
- ✓ It was launched in 2015 to provide a strong institutional framework to implement skill development efforts across the country and provide training to one crore youth every year.
- ✓ Aim – To provide a strong institutional framework at the Center and in all States for the implementation of skilling activities in the country.
- ✓ Under- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship



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Q. Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has chaired a high-level meeting to eliminate Kala-azar from the country by which year?

- A) 2024
B) 2025
C) 2026
D) 2023

Answer : D

- ✓ Health Minister chaired a high-level meeting to eliminate Kala-azar from the country by 2023
- ✓ Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has chaired a high-level meeting to review the status of Kala-Azar disease in the four endemic states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- ✓ Chaired a meeting with State Health Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal & Jharkhand to review the progress of elimination of Kala Azar disease in these States.
- ✓ During the high-level meeting, the Union Health Minister assured Centre's complete support in fight against eliminating the life-threatening disease by 2023.
- ✓ India is committed to eliminating Kala Azar from the country by 2023. 632 (99.8%) endemic blocks have already achieved elimination status.
- ✓ Only one block (Littipara) of Pakur district, Jharkhand, is in the endemic category. We are working holistically with the state government and other stakeholders to achieve elimination in Jharkhand,
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have achieved the Kala-azar elimination targets at the block level.
- ✓ What is Kala-azar
- ✓ It is also known as Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL), black fever and Dumdum fever.
- ✓ The disease is the second largest parasite killer in the world after Malaria.
- ✓ It is a Neglected Tropical Disease affecting about 100 countries including India.
- ✓ Symptoms
- ✓ Fever, weight loss, fatigue, anaemia, and swelling of the liver and spleen.

Q. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the three-day 'North East Krishi Kumbha-2023' in which state?

- A) Manipur
B) Meghalaya
C) Mizoram
D) Nagaland

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the three-day 'North East Krishi Kumbha-2023' in Meghalaya.



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- ✓ He also participated in the 49th Foundation Day celebration of the ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam.
- ✓ Tomar also presented awards to several progressive farmers to recognize and encourage their contributions to the development of agriculture.
- ✓ The event included live demonstrations and exhibition of recent technologies through 102 stalls, by the host institute and its regional centers along with all the ICAR institutes.

Q. The Foreign Ministers of the Group of Twenty (G20) countries are set to meet in which of the following city in March 2023?

- A) Chennai
B) Mumbai
C) New Delhi
D) Hyderabad

Answer : C

- ✓ The foreign ministers of the Group of Twenty (G20) countries are set to meet in New Delhi in March 2023.
- ✓ India assumed the Presidency of the G20 starting in December 2022.
- ✓ The 43 Heads of Delegations- the largest ever in G20-will be participating in the final New Delhi Summit in September next year.
- ✓ India's special invitee guest countries are Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain, and UAE.
- ✓ India is hosting G20 meetings across several cities around the country.
- ✓ Drawing inspiration from its G20 Presidency theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"-“One Earth One Family One Future, as well as the Prime Minister’s vision of an ‘all of government’” approach, India will host over 200 meetings in over 50 cities across 32 different workstreams

Q. How many monuments out of 3,693 centrally protected monuments of India have gone missing, as per the report of the Ministry of Culture?

- A) 30
B) 40
C) 50
D) 20

Answer : C

- ✓ 50 of India's 3,693 centrally protected monuments have gone untraceable, which flagged a matter of grave concern.



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- ✓ The report titled 'Issues relating to Untraceable Monuments and Protection of Monuments in India' was submitted to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture on December 8.
- ✓ According to the Ministry of Culture report titled 'Issues relating to Untraceable Monuments and Protection of Monuments in India' submit to the Parliamentary Standing Committee, 50 of India's 3,693 centrally protected monuments have gone missing.
- ✓ Rapid urbanization has engulfed 14 monuments. As many as 12 monuments have been submerged by the construction of reservoirs and dams, while 24 have gone missing.
- ✓ The missing monuments include: 11 in Uttar Pradesh, two each in Delhi and Haryana, and in states like Assam, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Q. Which insurance company has launched iTerm Prime Insurance plan catering to the need of self-employed individuals with a special 10% discount on the first-year premium?

- A) Bharti AXA Insurance B) Aegon Life Insurance
C) Bajaj Allianz Insurance D) Max Life Insurance

Answer : B

- ✓ Aegon Life Insurance has launched iTerm Prime Insurance plan catering to the need of self-employed individuals with a special 10% discount on the first-year premium.
- ✓ iTerm Prime offers a minimum sum assured of ₹25 lakhs, with no upper limit on a consumer's requirement.
- ✓ The product also offers a 'Special Exit Value' option that allows the policyholder to get all premiums back when they turn 55 years old.

Q. The Reserve Bank of India has lifted the restriction on which of the following non-banking financial companies on loan recovery through third-party services recently?

- A) PNB Housing Finance Limited
B) LIC Housing Finance
C) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
D) Shriram Transport Finance Corporation

Answer : C



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- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has lifted the restrictions it had imposed on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd.
- ✓ The restrictions prevented the company from effecting any recovery or repossession activity through outsourcing arrangements.
- ✓ On 22nd September 2022, the RBI had directed the non-banking finance company to immediately cease carrying out any recovery or repossession activity through outsourcing arrangements till further orders.
- ✓ Mahindra Finance could continue recovery or repossession activities through its own employees

Q. Which city police has won the 'Best Police Unit' award for 2021?

- A) Nagpur police
B) Gangapur police station
C) Valpoi police station
D) Kadmat Island police station

Answer : A

- ✓ Jalna district police and Nagpur city police in Maharashtra have bagged the 'Best Police Unit' awards for 2021 in the state.
- ✓ The award has been given under different classes for maintaining law and order and evolving community policing and administration.
- ✓ The Jalna police got the award in 'Class A' and the Nagpur police in 'Class B', as per the winners by Additional Director General of Police (law and order) Kulwant Sarangal.
- ✓ Police units with less than 6,100 Indian Penal Code cases are grouped in 'Class A', while those with more than 6,100 IPC cases are grouped in 'Class B'.

Q. Who has been conferred with Assam State's highest civilian award 'Assam Baibhav' for his contribution in cancer treatment?

- A) Dr. Ravi Kant Sharma
B) Dr. Tapan Saikia
C) Dr. S. Eswara Reddy
D) Dr. V. G. Somani

Answer : B

- ✓ Mumbai-based physician Dr. Tapan Saikia has been honored with the highest state civilian award, 'Assam Baibhav', for his contribution to cancer treatment.
- ✓ Assam Saurav (Assam's second-highest civilian award) has been conferred to Krishna Roy; Gilbertson Sangma; Nayanmoni Saikia; Dr. Binoi Kumar Saikia and Dr. Shashidhar Phukan.



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- ✓ AsomGaurav (third highest civilian award) has been conferred to 15 people

Q. National Birds Day is observed every year on which day?

- A) 04 January B) 03 January
C) 05 January D) 06 January

Answer : C

- ✓ National Birds Day is observed every year on 5 January.
- ✓ Objective – To raise awareness of the value of tiny tweets in the ecosystem
- ✓ National Bird Day, which has American origins, has been celebrated annually on January 5 since its inaugural event in 2002.
- ✓ This particular day was chosen because January 5 also happens to be the day of the yearly “Christmas Bird Count.” This yearly national holiday has been observed in the USA for quite some time.

Q. Which of the following bank has partnered with Microsoft in the next phase of its digital transformation recently?

- A) HDFC Bank
B) Yes Bank
C) ICICI Bank
D) Axis Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ HDFC Bank partnered with Microsoft for digital transformation
- ✓ The private sector lender HDFC Bank has partnered with Microsoft in the next phase of its digital transformation.
- ✓ Objective – To unlock business value by transforming the application portfolio, modernizing the data landscape, and securing the enterprise with Microsoft Cloud.
- ✓ The bank, as a part of its ‘future ready’ strategy, is developing in-house intellectual properties (IP) as well as partnering with several companies, including fintechs, to co-create technology IPs.
- ✓ The bank has leveraged Microsoft Azure to consolidate and modernize its enterprise data landscape by Federated Data Lake.



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HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2022

- HDFC Bank collaborates with Microsoft as part of its digital transformation.
- Reserve Bank of India said SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs).
- India's first Electronic Bank Guarantee issued by HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank has unveiled its state-of-the-art 'Bank on Wheel' van in Gujarat.
- HDFC Bank, Precision selected by RBI for retail payments test phase.
- HDFC Bank opened new SMS banking facility for its customers.
- HDFC Bank introduced "Vigil Aunty" to promote secure banking practices.
- HDFC Bank and Tata Neu, the "super app" of the Tata Group, announced their collaboration to introduce co-branded credit cards.
- HDFC leads credit card market while SBI tops chart in debit card market.
- HDFC Bank inks an agreement with TReDs platform M1xchange.
- HDFC Bank inaugurated an all-women branch in Kozhikode, north Kerala.
- According to Times of India report, HDFC Bank will be among the world's top 10 most valuable banks.
- Defence ministry gives approval to HDFC, ICICI, and Axis to offer finances for international purchases.
- HDFC Bank, a private sector bank, has signed a relationship with 100X.VC, a leading early-stage venture capital firm.
- HDFC has announced a collaboration with global information technology services and consulting firm, Accenture, to digitally transform its lending business.
- HDFC Bank and Retailio launched co-branded credit cards for chemists, pharmacies
- HDFC Bank launched industry first digital 30-minute new car loan 'Xpress Car Loans'.
- For Rs 184 crore, HDFC will sell a 10% interest in HDFC Capital to Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).
- HDFC Bank adjudged as Best Performing Bank in SHG Linkage by DAY-NRLM.
- HDFC Bank to launch "SmartHub Vyapar programme" & 'AutoFirst' app.
- HDFC Bank finances Asia's largest waste to energy plant in Indore- Gobar-Dhan plant.



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- Tata Group choose SBI, BoB and HDFC Bank to finance Air India's old debt.
- HDFC Bank named as Best Private Bank in India at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021.
- HDFC Bank wins the coveted CII award for 'Most Innovative Best Practice'.
- RBI Retains SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).
- HDFC Bank tie-up with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to offer banking services in rural areas.
- HDFC launches 'green and sustainable' deposits programme for retail clients..
- International Finance Corporation (IFC) lends \$250 million to HDFC Ltd to boost green housing finance.
- HDFC Bank launches 'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme'.
- HDFC Bank launches 'Salaam Dil Sey' initiative.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

Q. Bandhan Bank has launched its 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign. Who is the brand ambassador of this campaign?

A) Virat Kohli

B) Sourav Ganguly

C) Suryakumar Yadav

D) KL Rahul

Answer : B

- ✓ Bandhan Bank has launched its 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign featuring cricketer Sourav Ganguly as its brand ambassador.
- ✓ This is the first time that Bandhan Bank has appointed a pan-India brand ambassador.
- ✓ The campaign was conceptualized by Leo Burnett Orchard, which was brought in as the bank's creative agency in August 2022.
- ✓ The marketing campaign will be visible across TV, print, out-of-home (OOH), cinema, and digital media.
- ✓ BANDHAN BANK



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- ✓ Founded : 2001
- ✓ Founder : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- ✓ Headquarters : Kolkata
- ✓ MD & CEO : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- ✓ Chairperson : Anup Kumar Sinha

LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2022-23

- Sourav Ganguly : Bandhan Bank 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign
- Anushka Sharma : Puma
- Deepika Padukone : Pottery Barn
- Virat Kohli : Smart watch Noise
- Praseon Joshi : Uttarakhand State
- Lionel Messi : Byjus
- Janhvi Kapoor : Marico's Saffola Fittify
- Deepa Malik : Ambassador of Nikshay Mitra (TB Campaign)
- Suryakumar Yadav : UrbanGabru
- MS Dhoni : Navi Technologie
- Neeraj Chopra : Friendship Ambassador of Switzerland Tourism.
- Yuvraj Singh : T20 World Cup for the Blind
- Sourav Ganguly : Bandhan Bank
- Smriti Mandhana : Gulf Oil Lubricants
- Ram Charan : Hero MotoCorp
- Rohit Sharma & Ritika Sajdeh : Max Life Insurance
- Vanessa Nakate : UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
- Shah Rukh Khan : UAE healthcare provider Burjeel Holdings
- Sunil Chhetri : Pintola
- Anushka Sharma : L'Oréal Paris
- Amitabh Bachchan : Dabur India
- Kiccha Sudeep : Punyakoti Dattu Yojana (Karnataka Govt)
- Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty : Mastercard



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- Sourav Ganguly : DreamSetGo
- Rishabh Pant : Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand
- Vaani Kapoor : Noise X-Fit 2 smartwatch
- Shahid Kapoor : PokerBaazi
- Ravi Shastri : FanCode
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Garuda Aerospace
- A. R. Rahman : India/UK Together Season of Culture
- Deepika Padukone : Louis Vuitton
- Robin Uthappa : Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI)
- Amir Khan : PharmEasy, a consumer healthcare “super app,”
- Shubman Gill & Ruturaj Gaikwad : My11Circle
- Mary Kom : Lupin
- Vidya Balan : Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- Shahrukh Khan : Thums Up
- Rishabh Pant : Dish TV India
- Tanishka Kotia & Riddhika Kotia : ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ scheme for the Gurugram, Haryana
- Shah Rukh Khan : Gaming app A23
- Manoj Tiwari : Khadi and other handicrafts of Bihar
- Pankaj Tripathi : Krishi Network
- Akshay Kumar : Uttarakhand ahead of the 2022 Assembly Elections.
- Disha Patani : Bata India
- Amitabh Bachchan : MediBuddy
- Neeraj Chopra : GoodDot
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma : Universal Acceptance Steering Group
- RajKummar Rao : RenewBuy

Q. Which state has won the UN-Habitat’s World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state?

A) Odisha

B) Assam

C) Meghalaya

D) Kerala



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Answer : A

- ✓ Odisha won the UN-Habitat World Habitat Awards 2023 for the state's 5T (Transparency, Technology, Teamwork, Time, Transformation) initiative Jaga Mission
- ✓ Jaga Mission is a land ownership and slum upgradation program aimed at empowering the lives of slum dwellers.
- ✓ Under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Odisha government has set an ambitious target of becoming the first slum-free state in India.
- ✓ The state of Odisha is spearheading the Jaga Mission program to upgrade all 2,919 slums.
- ✓ The initiative has provided land patta security to 1,75,000 families in the last five years.
- ✓ 100 percent households in 2,724 slums have been provided with piped water connections, 707 slums have been converted into fully livable housing, 100 percent households in 666 slums have individual toilets and 8 cities have become slum-free.
- ✓ Earlier in 2019, Odisha's Jaga Mission received the World Habitat Award for its success in providing land security for slum dwellers.
- ✓ World Habitat is a charity organisation recognized by the United Nations Department of Public Information.

Q. Who won the best director award at New York Film Critics Circle?

- A) Prashanth Neel B) Hanu Raghavapudi
C) SS Rajamouli D) Ayan Mukherji

Answer : C

- ✓ The New York Film Critics Circle awarded SS Rajamouli Best Director.
- ✓ The actor came to the event with members of his family. His film, RRR, received two Golden Globe nominations in 2023.
- ✓ SS Rajamouli is creating history with his favorite project, RRR, starring Jr NTR and Ram Charan, which has won multiple honors in the West

Q. The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) will be held in which city?

- A) Indore B) Ahmedabad
C) Chennai D) Dehradun

Answer : A



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- ✓ The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being organized in partnership with the Madhya Pradesh Government from 08-10 January 2023 in Indore.
- ✓ Theme 2023 : The theme of this PBD Convention is "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal"

Q. 'Bailey Suspension Bridge' has been inaugurated in which state/UT?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh B) Jammu and Kashmir
C) Assam D) Karnataka

Answer : B

- ✓ In Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually launched the Bailey Suspension Bridge across the Chenab River.
- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed the 240-foot-high Bailey Suspension Bridge a month ahead of schedule.
- ✓ The new Bailey suspension reinforced bridge was initiated in October 2022.

Q. In which city/region will India deploy the largest platoon of women peacekeepers in the UN mission?

- A) Mogadishu B) Kyiv
C) Tehran D) Abyei

Answer : D

- ✓ India will deploy a platoon of women peacekeepers to UN Mission in Abyei. According to the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, this would be India's largest single unit of women Peacekeepers in a UN Mission since it deployed the first-ever all-women force in Liberia in 2007.
- ✓ The deployment in Abyei will also signal India's intention to dramatically increase the number of Indian women serving in peacekeeping contingents.

Q. The former captain of the women's Australian cricket team, Belinda Clark bronze statue is unveiled in which stadium?

- A) Melbourne Cricket Ground B) Wankhede Stadium
C) Sydney Cricket Ground D) Lord's Cricket Ground

Answer : C



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- ✓ Former Australia captain Belinda Clark has been the first female cricketer to have a bronze sculpture of herself unveiled at the Sydney Cricket Ground. At the SCG, the statue joins those of Richie Benaud, Steve Waugh, Stan McCabe, and Fred Spofforth, among others.

Q. In which city does Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurate National Genome Editing & Training Centre?

- A) Punjab
B) Himachal Pradesh
C) Arunachal Pradesh
D) Sikkim

Answer : A

- ✓ Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister, today launched the "National Genome Editing & Training Centre" at the National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali, Punjab.
- ✓ The "National Genome Editing & Training Centre" (NGETC) is a one-of-a-kind institution that will serve as a national platform to adapt multiple genome editing technologies, including CRISPR-Cas9-driven genome alteration.

Q. The Union Government has approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an initial outlay of how many rupees?

- A) Rs 19,744 crore
B) Rs 26,876 crore
C) Rs 33,123 crore
D) Rs 11,766 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ The Union Government has approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an initial outlay of 19,744 crore rupees.
- ✓ The Mission aims to make India a Global Hub for the production, utilization, and export of Green Hydrogen.
- ✓ This Mission will play an important role in dealing with climate change. India will be the global hub of Green Hydrogen.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the launch of the National Hydrogen Mission during his Independence Day speech on the 15th of August 2021.
- ✓ He said, 50 lakh tonnes of green hydrogen will be produced per year, with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 Giga Watt.



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- ✓ The targets by 2030 are likely to bring in over 8 lakh crore rupees investments and create over 6 lakh jobs.
- ✓ The Mission will help save one lakh crore rupees in the import of fossil fuels. Through this mission, 50 million metric tonnes of carbon emissions will be averted annually.

Q. Which state government has signed an MoU with six UAE-based companies worth Rs 18,590 crore ahead of the Global Investors Summit?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government has signed MoU with six UAE-based companies worth Rs 18,590 crore ahead of the Global Investors Summit to be held in Lucknow in February 2023.
- ✓ This agreement will help in the creation of over 20,000 new employment opportunities.
- ✓ The two companies, Astha Green Energy Venture and Shree Siddharth Infratech and Services will invest in renewable energy worth Rs 4480 and Rs 8000 crore respectively to create 2560 and 4800 new jobs.

Q. The Gaan Ngai festival of the Zeliangrong community has been celebrated in which state?

- A) Nagaland B) Tripura
C) Meghalaya D) Manipur

Answer : D

- ✓ The Gaan Ngai festival is one of Manipur's major festivals, which is celebrated every year after harvesting.
- ✓ This festival also marks the end of the year when the farmers have stored their foodgrain in their granaries.
- ✓ During the festival, the Zeliangrong community shows their gratitude by offering to the almighty a good harvest and praying for a better and prosperous life in the coming year.
- ✓ It is a custom to produce new fire by rubbing dry wood and split bamboo pieces and distributing them to every household on the day of the festival to mark the beginning of the New Year.
- ✓ The Zeliangrong community comprises Rongmei, Liangmei, and Zeme tribes.
- ✓ List of Festivals of Manipur



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- ✓ Imoinu Eratpa festival
- ✓ Sangai Festival
- ✓ Amur Falcon Festival
- ✓ Lai Haraoba Festival
- ✓ Manipur Sangai Festival
- ✓ Lui Ngai Ni Festival
- ✓ Ningol Chakouba Festival
- ✓ Kachai Lemon Festival
- ✓ Shirui Lily Festival

Q. Who has chaired the Annual General Meeting of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society in New Delhi?

- A) Amit Shah B) Piyush Goyal
C) Narendra Modi D) Amit Shah

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the Annual General Meeting of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society in New Delhi.
- ✓ He underlined the need to widen the scope of research on modern Indian history by involving individuals and institutions to create awareness about the country's past.
- ✓ He also emphasized the need for institutions in the country, in general, to create their well-audited and researched recorded memory for the benefit of the present as well as future generations.
- ✓ The PM mentioned that the 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of Arya Samaj, is in 2024

Q. Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited has signed a corporate agency agreement with which company to offer Niva Bupa's select range of indemnity plans to its growing range of existing and past customers?

- A) Cholamandalam MS Insurance B) Bharti AXA Insurance
C) Sundaram Finance Limited D) Bajaj Allianz Insurance

Answer : C



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- ✓ Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited (formerly known as Max Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited) has signed a corporate agency agreement with Sundaram Finance Limited
- ✓ Objective – To offer Niva Bupa's select range of indemnity plans to its growing range of existing and past customers.
- ✓ This partnership can provide an opportunity to Sundaram Finance customers to secure themselves and their families against medical expenditures related to Covid-19 or any other critical illnesses.

Q. Who is the author of the book titled 'Ambedkar: A Life'?

- A) Shashi Tharoor
- B) Chetan Bhagat
- C) Arundhati Roy
- D) Arvind Adegga

Answer : A

- ✓ A book titled 'Ambedkar: A Life', authored by Shashi Tharoor has been launched at the Kitaab Kolkata event.
- ✓ The event was organized by Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) at the ITC Sonar presented by Shree Cement.
- ✓ The event was attended by bibliophiles young and old, members of Ehsaas Women and FICCI FLO.
- ✓ The biography of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar is neither the first one nor the last, but Shashi Tharoor's meticulously-researched work adds a new perspective to one of India's most revered icons and an intellectual giant.
- ✓ Other notable books of Shashi Tharoor – India: From Midnight to the Millennium (1997), Riot: A Love Story(2001), Why I Am A Hindu (2018), The Paradoxical Prime Minister (2018)



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