

New Year Edition
2024

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MANTRA

FEBRUARY 2024

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MONTHLY
Coverage of
CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Pan India strike of Truck Drivers and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

Bharat Ratna to Karpoori Thakur

The Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana

RBI Imposes Major Restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank

First meeting of the Social Audit Advisory Body (SAAB) held

ISRO Launches X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XpoSat)

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1. PAN INDIA STRIKE OF TRUCK DRIVERS AND THE BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA, 2023.

- Truck drivers across multiple states in India have declared a month-long strike starting from January 1, protesting against stricter punishment for hit-and-run cases under the newly enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) of 2023.
- The strike has led to road blockades and demonstrations, raising concerns about potential fuel shortages.
- The focal point of the agitation is Section 106 of the BNS, which prescribes severe penalties for causing death due to rash or negligent driving.

Issues

- Hit-and-Run Clause in BNS
- Section 106 (1): Imposes imprisonment of up to (?????) for causing death by a rash or negligent act.
- Section 106 (2): Specifies imprisonment of up to ten years for causing death by rash and negligent driving, coupled with escaping without reporting the incident promptly.

Comparison with Existing Laws

- BNS replaces Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), where the punishment for causing death by negligence is two years imprisonment or a fine, or both.
- BNS lacks the relief provision in Section 134 of the Motor Vehicles Act, (????), which mandates drivers to secure medical attention for the injured person in case of an accident.

Truck Driver Grievances

- Lack of consultation with truckers before implementing the new law.
- Steep penalties of imprisonment and fines deemed unaffordable by drivers earning modest monthly incomes.
- The absence of a detailed accident investigation protocol, leading to prejudiced judgments against truck drivers.

Gol's response to the strike

- Gol promised that the law wouldn't be implemented yet, and any decision to invoke Section 106 (2) of the BNS would be taken after consulting the transporters' union.



- But truck driver's associations in several states continue to hold demonstrations through roadblocks and have threatened to further intensify their protest in the coming days if the government fails to withdraw the penalties.

Road accidents data

- A total number of 4,61,312 road accidents were reported across the country in the calendar year 2022, claiming 1,68,491 lives. Of these, 56% of accidents and 60.5% of fatalities occurred on National and State Highways.
- Trucks accounted for 9% of total accident deaths and buses 3.5%. Hit-

and-run cases were 18.1% of total accident deaths.

- Significance of road transport in India
- Contribution to GDP: Road transport contributes 3.6% to India's GDP, with buses handling 85% of passenger traffic and trucks about 70% of freight movement.
- Increased Dependence: The sector's importance has grown with the development of more highways and expressways.
- Essential for Perishables: Trucks play a crucial role in transporting perishables, with price increases observed in some products within two days of the strike.

Way Forward

- Consultation and Inclusion: Truckers demand active involvement in the lawmaking process and assert that their perspectives should be considered.
- Enforcement Improvement: Calls for better enforcement of traffic regulations, addressing overloading, and monitoring tractor-trolley movement.
- Working Hours Regulation: Advocacy for implementing the permissible working hours stipulated by the Motor Transport Workers' Act, 1961.
- Accident Investigation Protocol: A comprehensive accident investigation protocol is needed to ensure fair judgments.

Q&A Section

1. Under Section 106(1), of The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 what is the

maximum Punishment for the Rash and Negligent Act?

- a) Up to 7 years b) Up to 14 years
c) Up to 5 Years d) Life Imprisonment
Ans c)

2. Who was the chief drafter of the Indian penal code?

- a) Stephen b) Macaulay
c) Anson d) James Burrough
Ans b)

3. The Motor Vehicles Act was passed in which year?

- a) 1985 b) 1986
c) 1987 d) 1988
Ans d)

- Q4. How many sections are there in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023?

- a) 356 b) 357
c) 358 d) 359
Ans c)

2. DELAY IN ISSUING ST CERTIFICATES FOR HATTI COMMUNITY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

- a) In the Trans-Giri area of Himachal Pradesh, the Hatti community attained Scheduled Tribe (ST) status several months ago; however, the delayed implementation of this classification has sparked discontent and anger within the community.
- b) Thousands of Hatti members gathered in Nahan district to protest, demanding the immediate issuance of ST certificates. The Kendriya Hatti Samiti and Hatti Vikas Manch led a march, submitting a memorandum to the Chief Minister's Office through the District Collector for swift action.

Who are the Hattis?

- The Hattis, known for their close-knit community, are deeply rooted in unique traditions and a distinct way of life.
- Primarily concentrated in the Shillai area of Himachal Pradesh's District (?????).
- Referred to as trans-Giri communities, indicating the influence of the Giri River on their geopolitical and socio-cultural landscape.

Name origin

- The community's name, Hattis, is derived from their traditional occupation of selling locally grown

produce in small markets known as "haats" in towns.

- Two Hatti clans, one in Trans-Giri and the other in Jaunsar Bawar, share similar customs, fostering a culture of frequent inter-marriages.

Geographical Homeland

- The Hatti homeland is situated along the Himachal-Uttarakhand border, encompassing the Giri and Tons river basins, both tributaries of the Yamuna.
- The Tons River serves as the border between the two states.
- Hattis in the trans-Giri area (Himachal Pradesh) and Jaunsar Bawar (Uttarakhand) were originally part of



the royal estate of Sirmaur until the separation of Jaunsar Bawar in 1814.

Occupation and Lifestyle

- The Hattis derive their name from their traditional occupation of selling home-grown crops, vegetables, meat, and wool at small-town markets called 'haats.'

- The community is known for its close-knit nature.

Cultural Traditions and Inter-marriages

- Two Hatti clans exist in Trans-Giri and Jaunsar Bawar, sharing similar traditions.
- Inter-marriages between the clans are common.

Caste System

- A fairly rigid caste system operates within the community.
- The Bhat and Khash are considered upper castes, while the Badhois are placed below them. Inter-caste marriages are traditionally discouraged.

Traditional Governance

- The Hattis are governed by a traditional council called 'khumbli,' similar to 'khaps' in Haryana, which decides community matters.
- Despite the establishment of the Panchayati raj system, the Khumbli's power remains unchallenged.

Population and Demographics

- According to the 2011 Census of India, the total tribal population of Himachal Pradesh is 3,92,126, constituting 5.7% of the state's total population.
- The Hatti community has an approximate population of 3 lakh

people residing in about 400 villages, comprising 154 Panchayats.

- Spread across 4 Vidhan Sabhas: Shillai, Renuka Ji, Pachhad, and Paonta Sahib.

Q&A Section

1. India, a country with great diversity has approximately distinct tribes?

- a) 645 b) 646
c) 647 d) 648

Ans a)

- Q2. Hatti community is mainly concentrated in which district of Himachal Pradesh?

- a) Shillai b) Solan
c) Chamba d) Sirmour
Ans d)

3. Which part of the Indian Constitution has provisions related to Schedule tribes?

- a) Part IX b) Part X
c) Part XI d) Part XII

Ans b)

- Q4. Which is the oldest Tribe in India?

- a) The Jarawa b) The Gonds
c) The Bhils d) Munda

Ans a)

3. BHARAT RATNA TO KARPOORI THAKUR

- The posthumous award of the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honor, to former Chief Minister of Bihar, Karpoori Thakur, marks a significant recognition of his contributions to social justice and equality.
- Born into a family facing social discrimination, he witnessed firsthand the struggles of marginalized groups like the Dalits, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and women.
- His political career was driven by a relentless pursuit of equality and empowerment for these communities.
- Thakur's commitment to social justice extended beyond policy changes. He led by example, rejecting privileges associated with his position and

choosing a simple life that resonated with ordinary people. This authenticity added immense weight to his advocacy efforts.

- As Chief Minister, he implemented the Mandal Commission recommendations, reserving 26% of government jobs for OBCs.

Bharat Ratna

- The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India. Instituted on January 2, 1954, the



award is conferred in recognition of exceptional service towards the advancement of art, literature, science, and public service. The

Bharat Ratna, which translates to "Jewel of India" in English, is awarded by the President of India.

Key Features

- The Bharat Ratna is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions in various fields, including arts, literature, science, public service, and social work.
- The Bharat Ratna is not bound by any specific criteria, and there are no

formal recommendations or nominations for the award. The decision to confer the Bharat Ratna is made by the Prime Minister and the President of India.

Q&A SECTION

1. Prime minister of India who received the Bharat Ratna Posthumously?
 - a) Morarji Desai b) Rajiv Gandhi
 - c) Gulzarilal Nanda d) Indira Gandhi
 Ans b)

2. Bharat Ratna, highest civilian order of the country was instituted in

- a) 1952 b) 1953
- c) 1954 d) 1955

Ans c)

3. What was the original dimensions (diameter) of the Bharat Ratna medal?

- a) 33MM b) 34MM
- c) 35MM d) 36MM

Ans c)

4. Till date, how many women have received the coveted Bharat Ratna?

- a) 4 b) 5
- c) 6 d) 7

Ans b)

4. A BRIEF JOURNEY OF RAM MANDIR

Medieval Period

- Marathas demanded Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura from the Nawab of Awadh in 1751 and 1756.
- Later, with defeat in the third battle of Panipat (1761), the Marathas became irrelevant.

Amir Ali Amethawi in 1856, but British troops killed the attacker.

- 1858 FIR: Mohammad Salim filed an FIR against Nihang Sikhs for installing the Nishan Sahib, performing a havana, and writing 'Ram' inside the Babri Masjid.

British Period

- First judicial submission: Hafizullah in Faridabad court (1822) submitted the presence of a mosque built by Babar on the birthplace of Lord Ram, near Sita Rasoi.
- 1856 Attack: Hadiga-I-Shuhuda, written by Mirza Jan, records an attack on the Ram Janmabhoomi by

Post-Independence Period

- 1949 Petition: The UP government received a petition for temple construction. The Faizabad administration reported that the land belonged to the government.
- Hindu Mahasabha Resolution 1949: It called for the 'liberation' of Ram Janmabhoomi at Ayodhya, Krishna



Janmabhoomi at Mathura and Vishwanath at Kashi.

- Demolition Day 1992: A mob demolished the Babri Masjid, and the UP government was dismissed.

- Acquisition of Certain Areas at Ayodhya Act 1993: It gave the government the authority to acquire 67.03 acres of the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land.

- Presidential reference under Article 143 (1) of the Constitution to determine the old status of the temple was also raised.
- Justice Liberhan Commission Report 2009: It indicated demolition was not spontaneous. Consequently, a case was registered against the leaders. Later, they were acquitted.
- Allahabad High Court Judgement 2010: It divided the land in a 2:1 ratio to Shri Ram Lala Virajman and Nirmohi Akhara and Sunni Central Waqf Board, respectively. Later, it was challenged in the Supreme Court.
- Supreme Court Judgement 2019: A five-judge bench of the Supreme

Court unanimously awarded the entire disputed land to the Hindu petitioners for a Ram temple at Ayodhya. It also directed the allotting of alternate land for the mosque.

- Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust was formed following the judgment to carry out the construction.

Q&A SECTION

- Which stones are prominently used in the construction of the Ram Temple?
 - Makrana – Rajasthan
 - Kollur – Tamil Nadu
 - Red Granite – Andhra Pradesh
 - Shahbazpur – Madhya Pradesh

Ans a)

- What is the significance of the black stone (Shaligram Shila) used in the foundation of Ram temple?

- Represents the footprint of Lord Rama
- Considered a sacred pilgrimage site
- symbol of lord vishnu
- It is believed to be a meteorite

Ans c)

- When the Bhoomi Poojan and foundation stone of Ayodhya Ram temple was done?

- August 2, 2020
- August 5, 2020
- 2 July 2020
- July 5, 2020

Ans b)

- Who was the Prime Minister of India in 1992 when Babri Masjid was demolished?

- HD Deve Gowda
- Vishwanath Pratap Singh
- P.V. Narasimha Rao
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Ans c)

- When was Babri Masjid built?

- 1526
- 1527
- 1528
- 1530

Ans c)

5. THE PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHED THE PRADHAN MANTRI SURYODAYA YOJANA.

- Under the scheme, one crore households will receive rooftop solar power systems.
- In 2014, the government launched the Rooftop Solar Programme with a goal of 40 GW by 2022. This target was extended to 2026 as it could not be achieved on time.
- The new scheme, Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana, is an effort to

reach the 40 GW rooftop solar capacity goal.

Rooftop Solar Programme

- It was launched in 2014 and aims to increase India's rooftop solar capacity in residential areas.
- It provides financial assistance and incentives to distribution companies (DISCOMs) and individuals.

PM Launches Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana



- The goal is to achieve 40 GW of rooftop solar capacity by March 2026, currently in its second phase.
- Due to the program, rooftop solar has increased from 1.8 GW (2019) to 10.4 GW (2023).
- Consumers can avail benefits of the scheme through DISCOM tendered projects or the National Portal.
- India is the 3rd largest energy-consuming country in the world.

- India is the 5th largest solar country in the world.

Q&A SECTION

1. The region where all of the light from the source blockers is called:-
a) Antumbra b) Shadow
c) Umbra d) Penumbra
Ans c)
2. Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana will cover..... Households?

- a) 2 Crore b) 3 Crore
c) 4 Crore d) 1 Crore
Ans d)

3. India has extended the target to achieve 40 GW rooftop solar capacity by?
a) 2024 b) 2025
c) 2026 d) 2027
Ans c)

4. The efficiency of practically used solar cells is approximately?
a) 25% b) 30%
c) 15% d) 20%
Ans c)

- Q5. India's first solar powered village is
a) Jamnagar b) Modhera
c) Morbi d) Vadodara
Ans b)

6. RBI IMPOSES MAJOR RESTRICTIONS ON PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK

With effect from February 29, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a big step and placed significant business restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank. Following a thorough external assessment of the bank's systems, significant supervisory concerns and chronic non-compliances were found, prompting the regulatory action.

- Prohibitions on Banking Operations: The RBI directive prohibits Paytm Payments Bank from accepting fresh deposits, credit transactions, or top-ups in customer accounts, including prepaid instruments such as wallets and FASTags, after February 29.

- Continued App Operation, Limited Paytm Bank Services: While the Paytm app is expected to continue normal operations, services linked to the Paytm Bank will only be available until February 29 or until the exhaustion of the available balance.
- Termination:-The nodal accounts of Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications Ltd., and Paytm Payments Bank Ltd., have been terminated by the central bank as part of the regulatory measures.
- Termination of Nodal Accounts: The RBI has directed the immediate termination of the Nodal Accounts of One97 Communications Ltd and

Paytm Payments Services Ltd., ensuring completion no later than February 29, 2024.

Q&A SECTION

1. Paytm was founded in which year?
a) August, 2010
b) September, 2010
c) October, 2010
d) November, 2010
Ans a)

- Q2. Which is the biggest IPO of India till date?
a) LIC b) Paytm
c) Yes Bank d) SBI
Ans a)



- Q3. The Reserve Bank Of India was established through Act,
a) The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1933 (II of 1933)
b) The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1935 (II of 1935)
c) The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (III of 1934)
d) The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (II of 1934)
Ans d)

Q4. Which was India's first Payment Aggregator?

- a) NPCI b) Paytm
c) Billdesk d) RBI

Ans c)

Q5. Which was the first bank in India to be nationalized?

a) SBI

b) Bank of India

c) Punjab National Bank

d) HDFC bank

Ans a)

7. BRICS TO ENLARGE ITS MEMBERSHIP PORTFOLIO

- The alliance of emerging-market countries known as BRICS—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—is about to experience major growth on January 1.
- According to South Africa's representative to the bloc, invitations to join have been accepted by Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, and Egypt, thereby increasing the number of members in the organization
- Representatives from the new invitees participated in a recent BRICS sherpa meeting in Durban, South Africa, indicating their acceptance of the invitation.

- The five countries are set to send officials to the next sherpa meeting in Moscow on January 30.

BRICS Evolution

- The term "BRIC" was coined in (????) to highlight robust economic growth in Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- South Africa joined in 2010, expanding the group to include another continent and adding the letter "S."

Future Prospects

- Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, aims to become a BRICS member within the next two years, according to the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar.

Q&A SECTION

1. When was the term 'BRIC' coined for the first time?

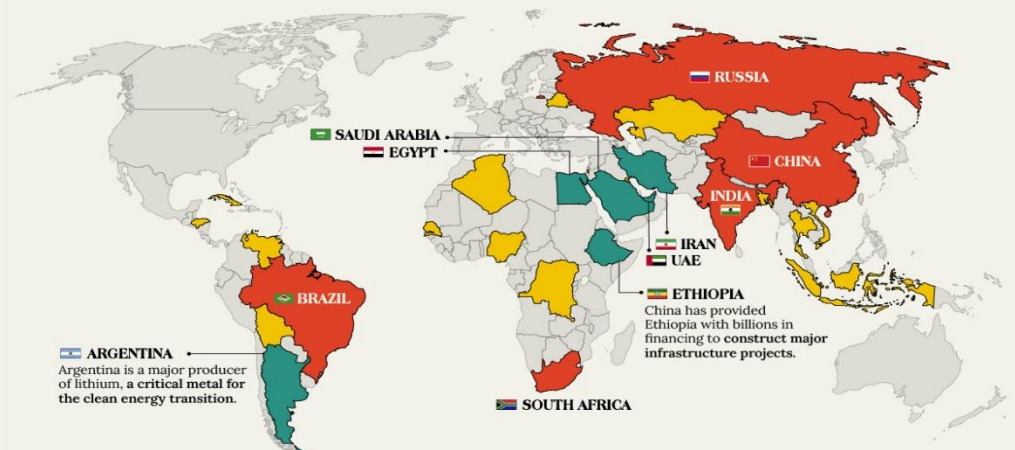
- a) 2001 b) 2002
c) 2003 d) 2004

Ans a)

VISUALIZING THE 2023 BRICS EXPANSION

BRICS, a bloc of developing countries formed in 2010, is set to welcome six new members at the beginning of 2024.

▲ Members ▲ New Members ▲ Applied for membership



Q2. When did Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participate in the 15th BRICS Summit under South Africa's chairship?

- a) 15 August 2023 b) 20 August 2023
c) 23 August 2023 d) 30 August 2023

Ans c)

3. After the expansion of the BRICS, the total membership increases to ..._

- a) 10 b) 11
c) 12 d) 13

Ans b)

4. When did the first BRICS Summit take place?

- a) January 2009 b) February, 2009
c) March, 2009 d) June, 2009

8. The SC has asked the central govt. To come up with a plan to save Great Indian Bustards (GIBs).

- The Great Indian Bustard is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world often found associated in the same habitat as blackbuck.
 - GIBs are the largest among the four bustard species found in India, the other three being MacQueen's bustard, lesser florican and the Bengal florican.
 - The GIB is Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, and comes under the Appendix I of CITES, and Schedule (??????) of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - Threats to the GIB include widespread hunting for sport and food, and activities such as mining, stone quarrying, excess use of pesticides, grassland conversion and power projects along with the expansion of roads and infrastructures such as wind-turbines and power cables.
- About the Habitat of Great Indian Bustard**
- The Great Indian Bustard's habitat includes Arid and semi-arid grasslands with scattered short scrub, bushes and low intensity cultivation in flat or gently undulating terrain. It avoids irrigated areas.
 - GIBs' historic range included much of the Indian sub-continent but it has now shrunken to just 10 percent of it.
 - GIBs are considered the flagship bird species of grassland and hence barometers of the health of grassland ecosystems.
 - In 2020, the Central government had told the 13th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

(CMS) held in Gandhinagar, that the GIB population in India had fallen to just 150.

Q&A SECTION

1. Which state has a great Indian bustard as its state bird?

- a) Rajasthan b) Haryana
c) Gujarat d) Maharashtra

Ans a)

2. "Project Great Indian Bustard" is launched by?

- a) Govt. of India
b) Govt. of Rajasthan
c) Govt. of Odisha
d) Govt. of Haryana

Ans b)

3. In which schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 Great Indian



Bustard has got its mention? Replace (?????) with the correct answer.

- a) Schedule I b) Schedule II
c) Schedule III d) Schedule IV

Ans a)

4. What is the scientific name of the Great Indian Bustard?

- a) Ardeotis nigriceps
b) Passeridae
c) Cygnus Atratus
d) Columbidae Columbiformes

Ans a)

9. Cabo Verde Achieves Malaria-Free Status

The World Health Organization (WHO) declares Cabo Verde as a malaria-free country, making it the third nation in the WHO African region, alongside Mauritius and Algeria, to achieve this status.

About Malaria

- Malaria is a leading cause of human morbidity and mortality.
- Despite huge progress in tackling the disease, there are still 212 million new cases of malaria and 430,000 malaria-related deaths worldwide

each year according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

- Malaria is caused by the Plasmodium parasite.



- The parasite can be spread to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes.
- There are many different types of plasmodium parasites, but only 5 types cause malaria in humans.
- About Government of India Initiatives to Reduce Malaria.
- India's progress in fighting malaria is an outcome of concerted efforts to ensure that its malaria programme is country-owned and country-led, even as it is in alignment with globally accepted strategies.

- At the East Asia Summit in 2015, India pledged to eliminate the disease by 2030.
- Following this public declaration, India launched the five-year National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination.
- This marked a shift in focus from malaria "control" to "elimination".
- The plan provides a roadmap to achieve the target of ending malaria in 571 districts out of India's 678 districts by 2022.

Q&A SECTION

1. Malaria is caused by Plasmodium

- a) Parasite
 - b) Virus
 - c) Fungus
 - d) None
- Ans a)

2. Where is the headquarters of WHO?

- a) Italy
 - b) Sweden
 - c) Geneva
 - d) None
- Ans c)

3. At the East Asia Summit in 2015, India pledged to eliminate the disease by

- a) 2028
 - b) 2029
 - c) 2030
 - d) 2031
- Ans c)

4. The term plasmodium was discovered by:-

- a) Sir Ronald Ross
 - b) Golgi
 - c) Charles Laveran
 - d) Patrick Manson
- Ans c)

5. Who is the primary host of malaria parasites?

- a) Man
 - b) Rat
 - c) Anopheles
 - d) None
- Ans a)

10. ISRO Launches X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XpoSat)

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its inaugural X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XpoSat) to study X-ray polarization and investigate (?????) sources such as Black holes, Neutron stars, and Magnetars. The mission was propelled into Low Earth Orbit via the PSLV-C58 rocket.

X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat):

Objective:

- Designed to study X-ray polarization in the medium X-ray band, providing crucial insights into the radiation mechanisms and geometry of celestial sources.

Significance for Astrophysics:

- Essential for understanding the physics underlying celestial bodies and their radiation processes.

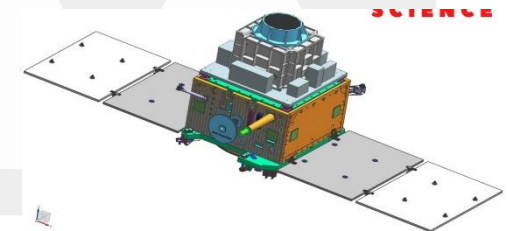
Payloads:

Carries two main payloads

- **POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays):** Observes approximately 40 bright astronomical sources.
- **XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing):** Studies the electromagnetic spectrum produced by different types of matter.

Development:

- Entirely constructed by two Bengaluru-based institutes—ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre and Raman



Research Institute.

- Development initiated in 2008, with a formal agreement signed with ISRO in 2015.

Global Context:

Only the world's second mission dedicated to X-ray polarization in the medium X-ray band.

NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE), launched in 2021, was the first such mission by a space agency.

National Contribution:

- Marks India's third space-based observatory, succeeding the recently launched solar mission Aditya-L1 and AstroSat, launched in(????).

Q&A SECTION

1. When was the Aditya-L1 and astroSat mission launched?

- a) 2014 b) 2015
c) 2016 d) 2017
Ans b)

2. X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XpoSat) to study X-ray polarization and investigate sources. Replace with the correct type of source

- a) Gama b) Cosmic
c) Meta d) Alpha
Ans c)

- Ans b)
3. Where is the Headquarter of ISRO situated?

- a) New Delhi b) Srihariota
c) Bengaluru d) Kerala
Ans c)

4. The point where Aditya L-1 headed towards?

- a) Lagrange Point-1

- b) Lagrange Point- 2
c) Lagrange Point- 3
d) Lagrange Point- 4
Ans a)

5. Who is the Chairman of the ISRO?

- a) S. Somnath b) UR Rao
c) Madhavan Nair d) None
Ans a)

11. NEURALINK, A NEUROTECHNOLOGY COMPANY, HAS EMBEDDED THE FIRST COMPUTER CHIP IN A HUMAN BRAIN

- Neuralink has developed a fully implantable Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) that allows direct communication between brain and computer.
- Neuralink's first product will be Telepathy, which will allow users to control a computer or phone just by thinking.
- A BCI is a system that deciphers brain signals and translates them into commands for external technologies.
- **Signal Acquisition:** BCIs capture brain signals through electrodes or sensors.

- **Signal Processing:** Acquired signals undergo processing and represent specific brain activities. Translation: Processed features are translated into commands, enabling actions like cursor movement or prosthetic limb control, facilitating interaction with external devices.

- **Applications of BCI:** Enhancing Healthcare: Aid to individuals with severe neuromuscular disorders or physical injuries like paralysis, or Parkinson's.

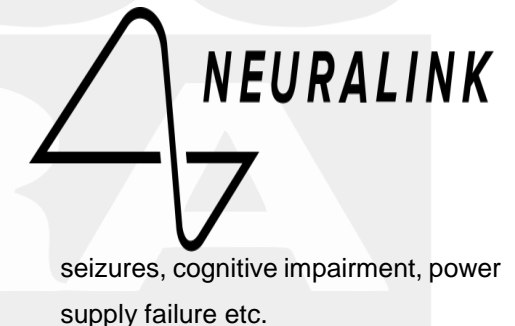
- **Enhancing Human Capabilities:** Restore capabilities such as vision,

motor function, and speech and moderate aging effects.

- **Advancing National Defense:** Improved battlespace awareness, enhanced management of autonomous systems etc.

- **Challenges: Technical Challenges:** Difficulties in brain signal acquisition due to its complex nature. Ethical Concerns: Safeguarding sensitive brain data, preventing unauthorized access, concerns regarding informed consent etc.

- **Safety:** Preventing unintended effects such as tissue damage,



Q&A SECTION

1. When was Neuralink incorporated?

- a) June, 2016
b) July, 2016
c) August, 2016
d) September, 2016
Ans a)

2. Who is the CEO of neuralink?

- a) Elon Musk b) Jared Birchall
c) Paul Merolla d) None

Ans b)

3. When did Neura link successfully implanted the first chip in a human being?

- a) Jan, 2024 b) Feb, 2024

c) Dec, 2023

Ans a)

d) Nov, 2023

4. Neuralink is based in which city?

- a) California b) Alabama
c) New York d) Miami

Ans a)

12. DRDO CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT-TEST OF NEW GENERATION AKASH MISSILE OFF ODISHA COAST

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha at 1030 hrs on January 12, 2024.
- The flight-test was conducted against a high-speed unmanned aerial target at very low altitude. During the flight-test, the target was successfully intercepted by the weapon system and destroyed.
- It has validated the functioning of the complete weapon system consisting of the missile with indigenously developed Radio Frequency Seeker,

Launcher, Multi-Function Radar and Command, Control & Communication system.

- The system performance was also validated through the data captured by a number of Radars, Telemetry and Electro Optical Tracking System deployed by ITR, Chandipur.
- The flight-test was witnessed by senior officials from DRDO, Indian Air Force (IAF), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- The AKASH-NG system is a state-of-the-art missile system capable of intercepting high speed, agile aerial threats. The successful flight test has paved the way for User trials.

Q&A SECTION

1. DRDO, was established in which year?

- a) 1956 b) 1957
c) 1958 d) 1959

Ans c)

2. What is the expected range of the AAKASH new generation Missile?

- a) Up to 85 km b) Up to 90 km
c) Up to 80 km d) Up to 95 km

Ans b)

3. In which year the first version of the AKASH MK-1 missile was flight tested?

- a) 1987 b) 1988
c) 1989 d) 1990

Ans d)



4. Which is the longest range missile of the Indian Army?

- a) Agni-V b) Agni-IV
c) Brahmos d) Prithvi

Ans a)

13. THE FIRST-EVER IUCN ASSESSMENT OF THE HIMALAYAN WOLF PUBLISHED

Major Findings: Declining Population:

IUCN's assessment has flagged a 'continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat' of Himalayan wolves. Estimated total population of 2,275–3,792 (227–378 in India) mature individuals.

Major threats

Depredation Conflict: Due to Habitat modification and encroachment and depletion of wild prey populations.

Hybridization with Dogs: Especially in Ladakh and Spiti where populations of feral dogs are increasing.

Illegal Hunting: For trade in its fur and body parts including paws, tongues, heads, etc.

About Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus ssp. chanco*)

Habitation: High altitude (above 3,900m) in the Himalayas (Nepal and India) and the Tibetan Plateau. Possess genetic adaptations to cope with hypoxic conditions.

Characteristics: Thick fur with brown coloration on the back and tail with paler yellows on the face, limbs, and underside. Larger than the Indian and European wolves. Prefer wild over domestic prey.

Conservation Status

IUCN's Red List: Vulnerable

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

Q&A SECTION

1. Where is the Headquarters of IUCN?

- a) Gland, Switzerland
- b) Geneva, Switzerland
- c) Rome, Italy
- d) Paris, France

Ans a)

2. What is the scientific name of the Himalayan Wolf?

- a) *Canis lupus chanco*
- b) *Canis lupus*
- c) *Canis serve*
- d) None of the above

Ans a)

3. In which of the following countries Himalayan wolves are not found?



- a) China
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Bhutan
- d) Nepal

Ans b)

4. In India Himalayan wolves are mainly found in Ladakh andvalley?

- a) Spiti
- b) Kangra
- c) Parvati
- d) Yumthang

Ans a)

14. INDIA-PAKISTAN NUCLEAR INFORMATION EXCHANGE

India and Pakistan recently exchanged lists of their nuclear installations and facilities through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad, adhering to the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between the two countries.

- **Origins:** The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988, by the then

Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Rajiv Gandhi of India.

- **Enforcement:** It officially came into force on January 27, 1991.
- **Historical Context:** The recent exchange marks the 33rd consecutive sharing of lists between the two nations, with the inaugural

exchange occurring on January 1, 1992.

Background

- **Trigger Event:** The negotiation and signing of the agreement were prompted, in part, by the tensions arising from the 1986-87 Brass-tacks military exercise conducted by the Indian Army. Operation Brass-tacks



took place in the Indian state of Rajasthan, near the Pakistan border.

Mandate

- **Notification Requirement:** The agreement mandates that both countries inform each other about nuclear installations and facilities covered under the agreement on January 1 of each calendar year, fostering a confidence-building security environment.

- Pathways to India-Pakistan Dispute Resolution

- **Enhanced Communication Channels:** Establishing secure and direct communication channels at

various levels to facilitate open dialogue and crisis management.

- **LoC De-escalation Strategies:** Implementing and reinforcing ceasefire agreements, reducing troop deployments, and establishing joint mechanisms for investigating violations along the Line of Control.

Q&A SECTION

1. Who is called the father of India's nuclear programme?

- a) Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam
- b) Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha

- c) C.N.R. Rao
 - d) None of the above
- Ans b)

2. Which country has the most no. of nuclear warheads in the world?

- a) Russia
- b) U.S.A.
- c) China
- d) None

Ans a)

3. In which year India conducted its first successful test of a nuclear bomb?

- a) 1974
 - b) 1975
 - c) 1976
 - d) 1977
- Ans a)

4. What was the enforcement date of the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan?

- a) Jan 24, 1991
- b) Jan 25, 1991
- c) Jan 27, 1991
- d) Jan 26, 1991

Ans c)

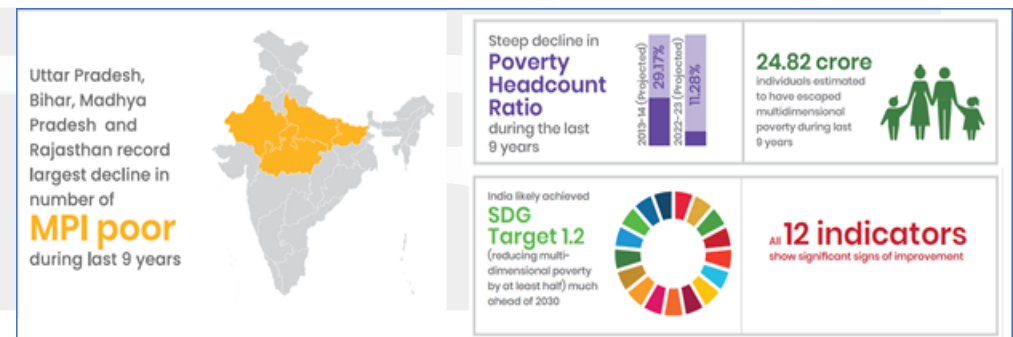
15. More than 24 crore people have come out from Multidimensional Poverty in Last 9 years: NITI Aayog:

The NITI Aayog estimates that in the past nine years, about 24 crore Indians have been lifted out of poverty.

- Today, the planning agency published a discussion paper titled "Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005 to 2006," which aims to examine the various ways in which poverty rates have decreased.
- According to the report, in the last nine years, the percentage of people living in poverty has decreased from over 29% to over 11%.
- It also stated that over the last nine years, about 6 crore people have

been lifted out of poverty in Uttar Pradesh, which has seen the biggest decrease in poverty among Indian states. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar come next.

- According to NITI Aayog, India will soon experience single-digit poverty this year, which is a tremendous accomplishment considering that over 50% of the population lived in poverty in 2005.
- It further stated that India will surpass its 2030 target by a significant margin in meeting its Sustainable



Development Goal (SDG) of halving multidimensional poverty.

- The Alkire and Foster (AF) technique is used by NITI Aayog's national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to estimate the drop-in poverty rates.

On the other hand, the global MPI consists of 10 indicators, whereas the national MPI has 12.

- These include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation,

drinking water, electricity, housing, assets, and bank accounts.

- The paper's latest estimates show that cooking fuel (43.90 per cent) and housing (41.37 per cent) continue to have the highest deprivation, while indicators like child and adolescent mortality (2.06 per cent), electricity (3.27 per cent) and bank account (3.69 per cent) maintain the lowest

deprivation levels based on NFHS-5 (2019-21).

Q&A SECTION

1. How many indicators are there in the multidimensional poverty index?
a) 10 b) 12
c) 11 d) 13
Ans b)
2. What is the international poverty line set by the World Bank?

- a) 2.15\$ per person per day
- b) 2.20\$ per person per day
- c) 2.25\$ per person per day
- d) 2.30\$ per person per day

Ans a)

3. Global MPI is a measure of multidimensional poverty covering developing countries?

- a) 105 b) 106
- c) 107 d) 108

Ans c)

4. Which of the following doesn't help in reducing income inequality?

- a) Inclusive growth
- b) Proportional taxation
- c) Land reforms and the redistribution of surplus land.
- d) None of the above

Ans b)

16. ATAL SETU NHAVA SHEVA SEA LINK:

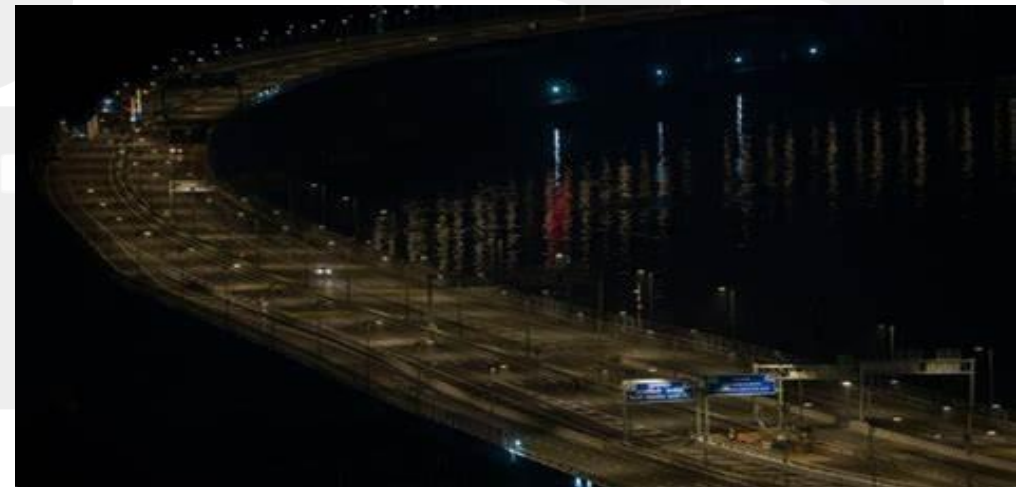
The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) officially known as Atal Setu Nhava Sheva Sea Link, a monumental 22 km sea bridge.

This mega-infrastructure project aims to revolutionize travel between Sewri and Chirle, promising a significant reduction in travel time.

About:- Atal Setu is the longest bridge in India and also the longest sea bridge in the country.

- The bridge is about 21.8 km long six-lane bridge having about 16.5 km length over sea and about 5.5 km on the land.

- The bridge has been named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The bridge originates from Sewri in Mumbai and ends at Nhava Sheva in Uran taluka in Raigad district.
- The project is financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), covering 80% of the total project cost, while the remaining portion is shared between the state and central governments.
- Earlier Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Bridge was the longest bridge in India, over the River Brahmaputra, in Assam. The 9.15 Km long river bridge.



Technologies Incorporated:- MTHL incorporates various innovative technologies, such as Reverse Circulation Drilling (RCD) piling, Orthotropic Steel Deck (OSD) bridge girders, and Open Road Tolling (ORT) system.

- RCD is used for the first time in India, an innovative technology employed for pile foundation laying, it minimizes noise disturbances compared to the traditional vertical drilling method.
- OSD is a construction method that combines strength and flexibility. This

technology allows the bridge's steel deck to withstand heavy loads, such as vehicles, while maintaining a lightweight structure.

- MTHL became the country's first project to adopt the ORT method of collecting tolls without requiring vehicles to stop or slow down

Benefits:-

- According to a study conducted by Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and JICA, the MTHL will bring down the average travel time between Sewri and Chirle from 61 minutes currently to less than 16 minutes.

- Close to 40,000 vehicles are expected to use the link every day in the opening year (2024).
- The project is expected to facilitate greater economic integration of Navi Mumbai with Mumbai, with benefits extending to Panvel, Alibaug, Pune, and Goa.

- The bridge also reduces the distance between Mumbai and Pune Expressway.

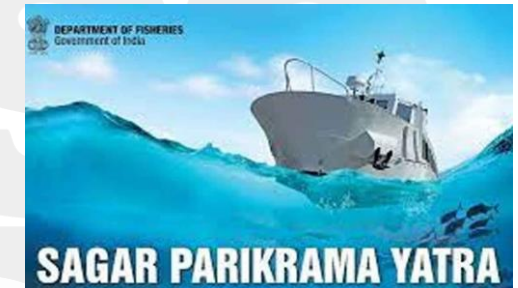
17. THE 10TH PHASE OF SAGAR PARIKRAMA

- The government's tenth phase of Sagar Parikrama, which is centered on the development of coastal areas and the welfare of fishing people, traveled to several locations in Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh between January 1st and January 6, 2024.
- This event is a big step toward solving the problems that fish growers and fishermen confront and helping to improve their financial situation.

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala, along with Minister of State Dr. L Murugan, actively participated in the yatra, interacting with fishermen, fish farmers, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Campaigns on the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme and other initiatives were conducted across coastal districts, disseminating information

and promoting financial inclusion among beneficiaries.

- State fisheries officials, fishermen representatives, scientists, entrepreneurs, and other key figures accompanied the event, fostering dialogue and collaboration.
- Since its inception in March 2022, Sagar Parikrama has covered nine coastal states and Union Territories, leaving a trail of positive impact.



- Phase X focused on the remaining coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, aiming to empower communities across Nellore, Prakasam, Bapatla, Krishna, and other regions.

18. FIRST MEETING OF THE SOCIAL AUDIT ADVISORY BODY (SAAB) HELD

- SAAB is a first of its kind advisory body in India. It is set up in the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD).
- NISD functions under the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment

(DoSJE), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

- It will guide the Ministry in institutionalizing social audits for its various schemes.

- It will promote capacity building of the members of the Social Justice Cell of the Social Audit Units.
- About Social Audit (SA):



- SA is a process of examination and assessment of a programme/scheme.
 - It is conducted with the active involvement of people and comparing official records with actual ground realities.
 - Key guiding principles of SA:
 - Access to information (Jaankari); Participation (Bhagidari);
 - Protection of citizens (Suraksha); etc.
 - Implementation of SA:
 - The Union Government has introduced the provision of SA in many flagship programmes, like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural
 - Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), etc.
 - DoSJE has established the National Resource Cell for Social Audit (NRCSA) to ensure SA through dedicated Social Audit Units at the state level.
 - Meghalaya is the first state to operationalise a social audit law.
- Significance: Promote transparency and accountability, strengthen institutions at the grassroots level etc.
- Challenges:**
- Lack of awareness among stakeholders, apathetic attitude of implementing agency etc.

19. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF COACHING CENTRE 2024.

- These guidelines were forwarded to the states/UTs for consideration, recognizing that education falls under the Concurrent List and coaching institutes are in the jurisdiction & regulated by the states/UTs.
- Need of Regulation Due to recent cases of loss of lives due to fire, suicides cases, etc as well as due to methodology & charging exorbitant fees from students.
- To take action against misleading ads by Coaching Centers/ Institutions
- Under Consumer Protection Act, 1986. To provide career guidance and psychological counseling for the mental well-being of the students.
- Also, National Education Policy (2020) focuses on regular formative assessment for learning rather than the summative assessment that encourages 'coaching culture'.
- Major Guidelines States/UTs were urged to Develop Online Registration Portal for Coaching Centers. Coaching Centre to be registered within 3 months from date of implementation of guidelines.
- No coaching center shall Engage tutors having less qualification than graduation.
- No coaching center shall Make misleading promises or guarantee of rank or good marks to parents/students for enrolling them in the coaching center.
- Coaching center shall have a website with updated details of the qualification of tutors, courses/ curriculum, etc.



सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Education
 Government of India

20. 'ONE VEHICLE, ONE FASTAG' INITIATIVE

About the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative:

- The National Highways Authority of India suggested tagging users to complete the Know Your Customer (KYC) process by the end of January 31 to avoid deactivation.
- The move aims to enhance the efficiency of the Electronic Toll Collection system and provide seamless movement at the Toll Plazas.
- The new arrangement of 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' has also been introduced to discourage user behavior of using single FASTag for multiple vehicles or linking multiple FASTags to a particular vehicle.
- The initiative had been taken after the recent reports of multiple FASTags being issued for a particular vehicle and FASTags being issued without KYC in violation of RBI's mandate.
- It is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion.
- It is a RFID passive tag used for making toll payments directly from the customers linked prepaid or savings/current account.
- It is affixed on the windscreen of the vehicle and enables the customer to drive through toll plazas, without stopping for any toll payments.
- The toll fare is directly deducted from the linked account of the customer.
- It is also vehicle specific and once it is affixed to a vehicle, it cannot be transferred to another vehicle.
- FASTag can be purchased from any of the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) Member Banks.

- If a FASTag is linked to the prepaid account, then it needs to be recharged/ topped-up as per the usage of the customer.



21. 9TH EDITION OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH'S PAKKE PAGA HORNBILL FESTIVAL (PPHF), IS IN LINE:

(a) Background: The first-ever PPHF was held on January 16-18, 2015, with the aim of recognising the efforts of the Nyishi hunters-turned-conservationists of hornbills.

About Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival: -

- It is declared a state festival.
- It centers around wildlife conservation, especially hornbills found in the Pakke Tiger Reserve.
- The reserve harbors four hornbill species – Oriental Pied, Great Indian, Rufous-necked and the endangered Wreathed Hornbill.
- The week-long event generates awareness on preserving these iconic birds.
- PPHF also spotlights the role of indigenous Nyishi tribes in protecting hornbills after having earlier hunted them.
- The Nyishi is the largest tribal group in Arunachal Pradesh.



- It forges connections between forests, wildlife and local communities.
- The first PPHF was organized in 2015 with the goal to recognize Nyishi conservation efforts.
- This year, the festival's theme is Domutoh Domutoh, Paga hum Domutoh.
- It translates to 'Let Our Hornbills Remain' in the Nyishi language.
- Significance: -
- Beyond promoting hornbill conservation, other key goals of launching the Hornbill Festival were generating alternate livelihood streams for locals.

22. South Africa moved to the International Court of Justice (ICJ):-

Recently, South Africa moved the International Court of Justice (ICJ), for an urgent order declaring that Israel was in breach of its obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention.

Background:- Amid international criticism of Israel for its continued bombing of Gaza, South Africa moved the International Court of Justice (ICJ), for an urgent order declaring that Israel was in breach of its obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention.

About International Court of Justice (ICJ): Establishment: 1945.

HQ: the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

- The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- The ICJ is a United Nations platform for resolving disputes between states.
- ICJ was established in 1945 by the United Nations charter and started working in April 1946.
- Unlike the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (USA). (Need for Reforms in UN).
- And not more than one judge shall be elected from one state, for the Court at a given time.
- **Qualifications:-** The candidate for the office of judge in the Court shall possess the following qualifications:-
 - He should be independent.
 - He should be a person of high moral character.
 - He must be qualified for the appointment of the highest judicial offices in his country
- The nature of the office of judge for the Court is elective.
- The General Assembly and Security Council shall conduct the election of the judges of the Court independently, but simultaneously.

Composition:

- The Court consists of fifteen judges.



The term of the office for the judge of the Court is nine years.

Functioning: The ICJ decides disputes in accordance with international law as reflected in international conventions, international custom, general principles of law recognized by civilized nations, judicial decisions, and writings of the most highly qualified experts on international law.

23. IMPORTANT DAYS OF JANUARY 2024

Sr. No.	Date	Day
1.	3rd January	International Mind Body Wellness Day
2.	4th January	World Braille Day
3.	5th January	National Birds Da
4.	6th January	World Day of War Orphans
5.	8th January	Earth's Rotations Day
6.	9th January	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
7.	10th January	World Hindi Day
8.	12th January	National Youth Day
9.	16th January	National Startup Day
10.	20th January	Penguin Awareness Day
11.	23rd January	Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti
12.	24th January	National Girl Child Day
13.	25th January	National Voters Day
14.	30th January	Martyrs Day or Shaheed Diwas

24. LEGAL GLOSSARY

Sr. No.	Legal Maxims	Meaning
1.	<i>Ab Initio</i>	From the beginning
2.	<i>Actionable per se</i>	The very act is punishable
3.	<i>Actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea</i>	An act does not make one guilty unless it is accompanied by a guilty mind.
4.	<i>Amicus Curiae</i>	A friend of court
5.	<i>Audi alteram partem</i>	No man shall be condemned unheard
6.	<i>Alibi</i>	At another place
7.	<i>Bona fide</i>	Bona vacantia
8.	<i>Caveat actor</i>	Let the doer beware
9.	<i>Caveat emptor</i>	Let the buyer beware
10.	<i>Caveat venditor</i>	Let the seller beware
11.	<i>Damnum sine injuria</i>	Damages without injuries
12.	<i>De novo</i>	To make something a new
13.	<i>De facto</i>	In fact
14.	<i>De jure</i>	By law
15.	<i>De minimis</i>	About minimal things

25. MONTHLY MCQs

- Who has been appointed as the first female neutral umpire by the ICC for a bilateral series?
 - Sue Redfern
 - Nida Dar
 - Shivani Mishra
 - Mary Waldron
- Which country has initiated the process of investing \$2 billion in food parks in India?
 - Netherland
 - Mauritius
 - USA
 - UAE.
- Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the National Street Food Festival 2023 in which city?
 - Bengaluru
 - New Delhi
 - Chennai
 - Greater Noida
- Which edition of the Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone, between India & UAE, will be conducted from 02 Jan to 15 Jan 2024 in Rajasthan?
 - 1st
 - 2nd
 - 3rd
 - 4th
- Which edition of the Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone, between India & UAE, will be conducted from 02 Jan to 15 Jan 2024 in Rajasthan?
 - 1st
 - 2nd
 - 3rd
 - 4th
- With whom has Tata signed an agreement to set up India's first private helicopter assembly line?
 - Airbus
 - Boeing
 - Lockheed Martin
 - GE Aviation

7. Which state government has recently launched 'Road Safety Force'?
- a) Bihar b) Punjab
c) Uttar Pradesh d) Haryana
8. Indian Army is organizing joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' with which country
- a) Saudi Arabia b) Qatar
c) Bahrain d) Oman
9. Which Indian company has received approval for generic medicines from the US health regulator?
- a) Sun pvt. b) Cipla Limited
c) Zydus d) Lupine
10. Who inaugurated the All-India Campaign 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman'?
- a) Jagdeep Dhankhar
b) Rajnath Singh
c) Amit Shah
d) S Jaishankar
11. Who has directed the documentary film 'To Kill a Tiger' nominated for Oscar 2024?
- a) Christopher Nolan b) Nisha Pahuja
c) David Oppenheim d) Andy Cohen
12. The Gujarat government will introduce a submarine service for tourists in the state, to help them explore marine life in Dwarka, an ancient city believed to be lost under the sea. For this project Gujarat government has signed MoU with which company?
- a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
b) Hindustan Shipyard
c) ABG Shipyard
d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
13. Two-time Asian Games medallist Naorem Roshibina Devi has been named International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) Female Athlete of the Year. She is from which state?
- a) Tripura b) Mizoram
c) Assam d) Manipur
14. Tableau 'India: Mother of Democracy' has clinched the First Spot at the Republic Day Parade 2024. This tableau belonged to which ministry/organization?
- a) Ministry of Culture
b) Ministry of Environment and Forests
c) Election Commission of India
d) Ministry of Education
15. Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated which edition of the 4th National Chilika Birds Festival?
- a) 1st b) 2nd c) 3rd d) 4th
16. When is National Girl Child Day celebrated every year?
- a) 22 January b) 23 January
c) 24 January d) 25 January
17. Where is Asia's largest aviation expo, Wings India 2024, being organized?
- a) Lucknow b) Jaipur
c) Chennai d) Hyderabad
18. Who has become India's number one chess player, leaving behind Vishwanathan Anand?
- a) Rameshbabu Praggnanand
b) Gukesh D
c) Vidit Gujarati
d) Pentala Harikrishna
19. Which country will host the 'Global Peace Summit' on Ukraine?
- a) USA b) France
c) Switzerland d) Japan
20. Which state has organized the fourth edition of the annual Orange Festival 2024?
- a) Tripura b) West Bengal
c) Nagaland d) Bihar
21. Who won the Best Director-Motion Picture award at the Golden Globes 2024?
- a) Cillian Murphy
b) Christopher Nolan
c) Matthew Macfadyen
d) Ludwig Goransson
22. Consider the following statements concerning the Australian Open 2024:
- I. Rohan Bopanna wins the men's doubles final teaming up with his partner Matthew Ebden.
II. Zheng Qinwen won the women's single title.
III. Jannik Sinner won the men's singles title.
IV. Matthew Ebden is from Belarus.
- How many of the statements given above are INCORRECT?
- a) Only one b) Only two
c) Only three d) All are correct
23. On which lake was the training program organized under the 'Amrit Heritage Capacity Building' scheme?
- a) Mansarovar Lake
b) Pulicat Lake

- c) Chilka Lake

d) Sardar Sarovar Lake
24. Which airport has been selected for the prestigious Excellence Award by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI)
- in the recent National Convention on Quality Concepts 2024 in Nagpur, Maharashtra?

(a) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- (b) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru

(c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad

(d) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport
25. Which of the following cities has organized the International Camel Festival?
- a) Jaipur

b) Udaipur

c) Chittorgarh

d) Bikaner

Answer key

1. (a)	2. (a)	3. (b)	4. (a)	5. (d)	6. (a)	7. (b)	8. (b)	9. (c)	10. (a)	11. (b)	12. (a)	13. (d)	14. (a)	15. (d)
16. (c)	17. (d)	18. (a)	19. (c)	20. (c)	21. (b)	22. (b)	23. (c)	24. (d)	25. (d)					

