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Current Affairs



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Ques : ADB Approves _____ Loan to Expand Metro Rail Network & Urban Mobility in Nagpur

एडीबी ने नागपुर में मेट्रो रेल नेटवर्क और शहरी गतिशीलता का विस्तार करने के लिए _____ के ऋण को मंजूरी दी

- (a) USD 100 Million
- (b) USD 200 Million
- (c) USD 300 Million
- (d) USD 400 Million
- (e) USD 500 Million

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- **ADB Approves USD 200 Million Loan to Government of Maharashtra** For the Nagpur Metro Urban Mobility Project, to expand metro rail corridors and enhance **transport connectivity in Nagpur, Maharashtra.**
- Under this Project, **43.8 kilometers (km) of elevated metro rail corridors** with **32 stations** will be constructed.
- The combined network will cover 83.8 km, expecting to serve 590,000 daily passengers by 2031 and 730,000 by 2041.

About Asian Development Bank :

- Established : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Manila, Philippines
- Members : 68
- Chief Economist : Albert Park
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa

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Ques : _____ Cancels Licence of Uravakonda Co-Operative Town Bank, AP

_____ ने आंध्र प्रदेश के उरावकोंडा को-ऑपरेटिव टाउन बैंक का लाइसेंस रद्द कर दिया

- (a) NABARD / नाबार्ड
- (b) RBI / आरबीआई
- (c) EPFO / ईपीएफओ
- (d) SEBI / सेबी
- (e) SIDBI / सिडबी

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **cancelled** the **Certificate of Registration (CoR) (license) of Uravakonda Cooperative Town Bank Limited based in Andhra Pradesh (AP)**, due to inadequate capital and earning prospects
- It has failed to comply with the requirements of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

RBI in News :

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightened norms related to cash payout service at banks, making it mandatory for lenders to keep a record of recipients.
- Cashfree Payments, a company specialising in banking solutions and payments, received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) nod to operate as a payment aggregator-cross border (PA-CB).
- According to a Bloomberg report, India's central bank Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sold Rs.34 billion (\$406 million) of bonds in the secondary market, likely to absorb excess cash in the banking system resulting from inflows into the nation's debt after being included in a global index.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee to review the fee structure for white-label ATMs (WLAs). The committee is headed by Indian Banks' Association chief executive Sunil Mehta.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has developed new standards for lenders to follow before categorising loan accounts as fraudulent.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in a notification allowed resident individuals to open Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) at GIFT City in Gujarat under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed banks to use ratings by Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited for loans up to Rs.250 crore.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the certificates of registration (CoR) of 2 Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Star Finserv India and Polytex India, due to irregular lending practices.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) KLEMS [Capital (K), Labour (L), Energy (E), Material (M) and Services (S)] database, Employment growth rate rose to 6% in FY24 against 3.2% in FY23.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of Banaras Merchantile Co-operative Bank Limited, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP) over inadequate capital and earnings prospects.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Arnab Kumar Chowdhury and Charulatha S. Kar as executive directors.
- RBI has joined Project Nexus, a multilateral initiative aimed at enabling instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).
- RBI Announces SAARC Currency Swap Framework For 2024-27. The total corpus of the Rupee support is Rs.250 billion.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has unveiled three major initiatives: the Pravaah portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App, and a FinTech Repository
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted two variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions totaling Rs.44,430 crore, aiming to absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system.

Ques : Who has been re-elected as International Olympic Committee Member from India?

भारत की ओर से अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति के सदस्य के रूप में पुनः किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Nita Ambani / नीता अंबानी
- (b) PT Usha / पीटी उषा
- (c) Mary Kom / मैरी कॉम
- (d) Ashwini Nachappa / अश्विनी नचप्पा
- (e) Dutee Chand / दुती चंद

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** announced that **Nita Ambani** has been **re-elected unanimously** as the IOC member from India at the **142nd session**.
- **Nita Ambani** is the **founder of Reliance Foundation** and won unanimously with 100 per cent of the vote.
- Nita Ambani was first appointed to join the prestigious body in 2016, at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games.
- Since then, as India's first woman to join the IOC, Nita Ambani has made great strides for the association, whilst also championing India's sporting ambitions and Olympic vision.
- This includes recently hosting the first IOC session in Mumbai for over 40 years, in October 2023, which was hailed as showcasing the new, ambitious India to the world.

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Ques : How much amount has been allocated by the Ministry of Railways for installing Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system "Kavach" for the financial year 2024-25?

रेल मंत्रालय ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए स्वचालित ट्रेन सुरक्षा (एटीपी) प्रणाली "कवच" स्थापित करने के लिए कितनी राशि आवंटित की है?

- (a) 1112 crore
- (b) 1212 crore
- (c) 1312 crore
- (d) 1412 crore
- (e) 1512 crore

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- **Kavach** is an indigenously developed **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system and a highly technology-intensive system, which requires safety certification of the highest order.
- Kavach aids the loco pilot in train running within specified speed limits by **automatic application of brakes in case Loco Pilot fails** to do so and also helps the train safely run during inclement weather.
- Kavach has been **certified for highest level of Safety Integrity Level - SIL4 by Independent Safety Assessor** and reduces the probability of train collisions in block sections.
- Kavach has so far been **deployed on 1465 Route km and 144 locomotives (including Electric Multiple Unit rakes) on the South Central Railway**. Further, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Detailed Estimate on another 6000 RKms are approved on Indian Railways.
- Kavach 4.0 specification was approved by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO). This version covers all the major features required for the diverse railway network.
- The funds utilized on Kavach so far is **Rs 1216.77 Cr** and the allocation of funds during the **year 2024-25** stands at Rs 1112.57 Cr., Funds for Kavach is used for Kavach only.

Ques : Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary launched the 'Model Skill Loan Scheme' in _____

कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता राज्य मंत्री जयंत चौधरी ने _____ में 'मॉडल कौशल ऋण योजना' शुरू की

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Gurugram / गुरुग्राम

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- **Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary has launched the 'Model Skill Loan Scheme' in New Delhi.**
- **The scheme aims to empower the country's future-ready workforce. Under the scheme, education and upskilling opportunities will be provided to 25 thousand youth across the country.**
- **Under the new scheme, the loan amount limit has been increased to 7.5 lakh rupees which was 1.5 lakh rupees earlier.**
- **This scheme had been mentioned by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Union Budget 2024-25.**
- **The earlier Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Skill Development, notified in November 2015 to create a credit guarantee fund for courses aligned to the National Skill Qualification Framework, faced multiple challenges. As on March 31, 2024, loans amounting to Rs.115.75 crore had been extended to just 10,077 borrowers.**

Ques : According to the latest UK-based Henley Passport Index ranking, What is the rank of India ?

नवीनतम यूके स्थित हेनले पासपोर्ट इंडेक्स रैंकिंग के अनुसार, भारत का रैंक क्या है?

- (a) 81st
- (b) 82nd
- (c) 83rd
- (d) 84th
- (e) 85th

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- India has been ranked **82nd spot** on a global passport index, **allowing Indians visa-free entry to 58 countries**, including popular destinations like Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.
- According to the latest ranking by the UK-based Henley Passport Index, **India's passport now ranks at an improved 82nd spot**. The ranking is based on **data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.
- The Henley Passport Index is a global ranking of countries according to the travel freedom allowed by those countries' ordinary passports for their citizens.
- The **UAE** made it into the **Top 10 for the first time**, having added an impressive 152 destinations since the index's inception in 2006 its current visa-free score 185.
- **Singapore** occupied the **top spot** in the Index with its citizens having visa-free entry to 195 countries. It dethroned Japan from the first place, which is now at the second place along with Spain, France, Germany and Italy. The passports of all five countries allow visa-free access to 192 destinations.

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Ranking Of top 5 :

1. Singapore
2. France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain
3. Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden
4. UK, Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland
5. Portugal, Australia

India's Rankings in Different Indices:

- NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24 : Uttarakhand and Kerala (top), Bihar (worst)
- Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) : India (72nd), Singapore (topped)
- Global Liveability Index 2024 : Vienna (Austria) (topped)
- Most valuable and strongest Indian brands June 2024 : Tata Group (\$28.6 billion)
- Largest Domestic Airline Markets : India (3rd), United States (topped)
- Global Energy Transition Index 2024 : India (63rd), Sweden (topped)
- Report of Cost of Living City Ranking 2024 : Mumbai (Expensive city in India), Hong Kong (Hong Kong (sar)) (1st rank)
- 2024 Environment Performance Index (EPI) : India (176th), Estonia (top)
- Global Gender Gap index 2024 : India (129th), Iceland (top)
- Container Port Performance Index 2023 (CPPI 2023) : Visakhapatnam Port (19th rank), China's Yangshan Port (1st rank)
- Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index : Delhi (350th rank), New York ranks first
- Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 : India (39th), US topped
- Young University Rankings 2024 : Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) in Kottayam, Kerala, ranked 81(globally), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore (topped)
- World Migration Report 2024 : United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the top destination for Indian migrants
- The Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 : New York City (top), Mumbai (24th)and Delhi (37th)
- Global Electricity Review report : India (3rd), China (1st)
- World Press Freedom Index 2024 : India (159th), Norway topped

- ‘Newsweek – World’s Best Hospitals 2024’ rankings : Medanta Gurugram
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, largest military spender in the world in 2023 : India (4th) , United States of America(1st)
- ‘Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024’ : GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL)
- Three Indian Banks namely, the State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank are featured in the list of top 50 largest banks in AsiaPacific Region by Assets – 2024.
- World Cybercrime Index 2024 : India(10th rank), Russia (1st)
- QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024 : Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi(20th globally), Harvard University of the United States (US) topped
- Global Unicorn Index 2024 : India's rank (3rd), USA (1st) • 2024 Global Hepatitis Report : India's rank (2nd),
- Forbes World’s Billionaires List: The Richest in 2024 : India's rank (9th), Bernard Arnault (1st)
- Real 500 list : Indian Oil Corporation (1st rank), China (1st)
- 2024 Hurun Global Rich List : Mukesh Ambani (10th), Elon Musk(1st)
- DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024 : India's rank (62), Singapore (1st)
- World Happiness Report 2024 : India (126), Finland (1st)
- 6th World Air Quality Report 2023 : India (3rd), Bangladesh (1st)
- Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024 : Life Insurance Corporation of India (1st)
- Business Environment Rankings (BER) 2024 : India (51), Singapore (1st)

EXAM
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Ques : Which government has launched the 'Shramik Basera' scheme?

किस सरकार ने 'श्रमिक बसेरा' योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- **Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel**, Chief Minister of **Gujarat**, launched the 'Shramik Basera' scheme.
- The scheme aims to provide temporary accommodation for around **15,000 construction workers** at a daily rent of Rs 5.
- The **Rs 1,500 crore project** aims to benefit around **3 lakh construction workers** over the next three years.
- The **Scheme aim to** Improve the living standards of unorganised sector and construction workers with amenities like clean water, kitchen, electricity, CCTV, toilets, street lights, security, and sanitation.
- **Accommodation is free for the children of labourers up to 6 years old.** Food provided under '**Shramik Annapurna Yojana**' and free health check-ups.

About Gujarat :

- Capital : Gandhinagar
- CM : Bhupendra Patel
- Governor : Acharya Devvrat

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Different Scheme in News :

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the NTR Bharosa pension scheme
- Uttar Pradesh Launched Upvan Yojna and Heritage Tree Adoption Scheme. Saplings and cuttings of tree are being provided by the state government for plantation in parks, along the road and other spaces right from cities to villages.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced a new scheme, 'Ladka Bhau' Yojana for the unemployed youth of the state.
- Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has introduced the Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastham scheme.
- Mahindra & Mahindra Sign MoU with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project.
- Assam government has announced a new scheme Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) to promote girl education and to end child marriage in the state.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the intra-state air service facility 'PM Shri Tourism Air Service.
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma launched the state government's Mukhya Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- Uttarakhand government has launched the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign to contain the raging forest fire in the state.
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan Bhajan Lal Sharma announced that the state government will develop the Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit with an investment of Rs 100 crore.

Ques : Who has been elected as the president of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)?

मुंबई क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन (एमसीए) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Shikhar Dhawan / शिखर धवन
- (b) Abhinav Pandey / अभिनव पांडे
- (c) Rishi Grover / ऋषि ग्रोवर
- (d) Ashish Shelar / आशीष शेलार
- (e) Ajinkya Naik / अजिंक्य नाइक

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- 37 years old, **Ajinkya Naik** has been **elected** as the **youngest president** in the history of the **Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)**.
 - **Naik defeated Sanjay Naik**, a candidate supported by Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar, by 107 votes in a one-sided election.
 - **Ajinkya Naik secured 221 votes**, while Sanjay Naik received 114 votes. The election was held following the passing of the former MCA President Amol Kale.
 - Naik, who was previously the MCA Secretary, cited his extensive experience and committee involvement as factors contributing to his victory.
-

Recent Appointment in different departments :

- Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak : President of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)
- Rajendra Prasad Goyal : Additional charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the NHPC Limited
- Cmde D.K. Murali : Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL)
- Sumant Sinha : Co-Chair of Global CEO Climate Leaders Alliance
- Deepa Malik : sub-regional representative for South Asia by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC)
- Roberta Metsola : President of the European Parliament
- Vikram Misri : 35th Foreign Secretary
- Justice Aalia Neelum : Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan
- Robert Jerard Ravi : BSNL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)
- Rajat Sharma : President of News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA)
- Gautam Gambhir : appointed as the India men's cricket team's head coach
- Soumya Swaminathan : Principal Adviser at the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)
- Rachel Reeves : UK's first female finance Minister
- Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi : 15th Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court
- Justice Sheel Nagu : Chief Justice (ACJ) of Punjab and Haryana High Court
- Elisa de Anda Madrazo (Mexico): president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- Pradeep Singh Kharola : Chairman and Managing Director of India Trade Promotion Organization.
- Dharendra Ojha : Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB)
- B.N. Gangadhar : Chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC)
- Ravi Agrawal : chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- Om Birla : speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha
- Sujata Saunik : first woman Chief Secretary (CS) of Maharashtra
- Tapan Kumar Deka : extension as Intelligence Bureau chief for one year
- Dr K Radhakrishnan : head of the government committee on restructuring NTA
- Mrinal Kumar Das : Director in the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

- Kapil Dev : President of the Professional Golf Tour of India
- Aksha Mohit Kamboj : VP of India Bullion Jewellers Association
- Atul Kumar Chaudhary : Secretary of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
- Sudhakararao Papa : Director (Enterprise) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)
- Mark Rutte : secretary-general of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
- Dr Kapil Dua : President of the Asian Association of Hair Restoration Surgeons (AAHRS)
- Dr PK Mishra : Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister
- Jyoti Vij : director general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(FICCI)
- Inder Pal Singh Bindra : Secretary of Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- Raj Priy Singh : Director of Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Rural Development
- Rakesh Mohan Joshi : vice-chancellor of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)
- Sushil Kumar Singh : Chairperson of Deendayal Port Authority
- Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee by Supreme Court : Justice Hima Kohli
- Rakesh Ranjan : Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
- Gaurav Banerjee : CEO of Sony India
- Justice Najmi Waziri : Chairperson of Equestrian Federation Of India's Ad-Hoc Administrative Committee
- Jetha Ahir : chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)
- Klaus Schwab : chairman of the board of trustees of WEF
- John Slaven : Vice Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI)
- Mahesh Rajaraman : Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
- Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri : Chief of Measurement Science and Analytics in Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)
- Sanjeev Puri : President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- David Salvagnini : Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer of NASA
- Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal : President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)
- Vivek Bipindada Kolhe : director of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-op Ltd.) New Delhi
- Subodh Kumar : Director in the Ministry of Ayush

- Dr. Mallika Nadda : Chairperson of Special Olympics Asia-Pacific Advisory Council
- Prof. Mohammad Rihan : Director General of the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)
- Sanjaya Kumar Mishra : President GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)
- Shashi Bhushan Singh : Secretary of National Jute Board
- Pratima Singh : Director of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- Krishna M Ella : President of Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA)
- Manoj Kumar : new Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)
- Justice Dinesh Kumar : Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) for a four-year term.
- Narpat Singh (IRTS) : Railway Adviser in the High Commission of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Narsingh Yadav : chairman of the Wrestling Federation of India's Athletes' Commission
- Nidhi S Jain : Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI).
- Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) : Professor Naima Khatoon
- Secretary of the Department of Posts : Vandita Kaul (replace Vineet Pandey)
- National Judicial Academy (NJC) Bhopal : Justice Aniruddha Bose
- As a Member of University Grants Commission (UGC) : Sachidananda Mohanty
- As member of 16th Finance Commission : Manoj Panda
- National women's hockey coach : Harendra Singh (replace Janneke Schopman)
- Head of committee to protect Delhi's forests : Justice Najmi Waziri

Ques : Angel tax was introduced in which year ?

एंजल टैक्स किस वर्ष लागू किया गया था?

- (a) 2008
- (b) 2009
- (c) 2010
- (d) 2011
- (e) 2012

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- **Union Minister for Finance proposed** to abolish ‘angel tax’ for all classes of investors, while presenting the **Union Budget 2024-25** in Parliament.
- It was first time introduced in 2012 to prevent black money laundering through share sales.
- It was levied on the capital raised via the issue of shares by unlisted companies from an Indian investor if the share price of issued shares is seen in excess of the fair market value of the company.
- The excess funds raised at prices above fair value are treated as income, on which tax is levied. It derives from section 56(2) (viib) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- It was levied at a rate of 30.9% on net investments in excess of the fair market value.

In 2019, the Government announced an exemption from the Angel Tax for startups on fulfillment of certain conditions. These are :

- The startup should be recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as an eligible startup.
- The aggregate amount of paid-up share capital and share premium of the Startup cannot be more than Rs.25 crores. This amount does not include the money raised from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Venture Capital Firms, and specified companies.

Ques : Military exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024 to be held in _____
सैन्य अभ्यास खान क्वेस्ट 2024 कहाँ आयोजित किया जाएगा

- (a) Mongolia / मंगोलिया
- (b) Tanzania / तंजानिया
- (c) Taiwan / ताइवान
- (d) Malta / माल्टा
- (e) Mozambique / मोज़ाम्बिक

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- The **Indian Army contingent** has embarked on its journey to participate in the multinational military exercise **KHAAN QUEST 2024**.
- This prestigious event is scheduled to take place from 27th July to 9th August 2024 **in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.
- The exercise serves as a platform for military forces worldwide to collaborate and enhance their peacekeeping capabilities.

KHAAN QUEST has a rich history dating back to **2003**. It initially began as a **bilateral event** between the United States and Mongolian Armed Forces. However, the exercise has grown significantly since its inception:

- In **2006**, KHAAN QUEST evolved into a **Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise**.
- The **2024 iteration** marks the **21st** occurrence of this multinational event.
- The previous edition was conducted in Mongolia from **19th June to 2nd July 2023**.

Apart from KHAAN QUEST, India and Mongolia conduct a bilateral military exercise called “**Nomadic Elephant**”. The **16th edition** of Nomadic Elephant was held at the **Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya)** in **July 2024**.

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About Mongolia :

- Mongolia is a landlocked country in North Central Asia. Russia surrounds it in the north and China in the south.
- Capital : Ulaanbaatar
- Currency: Tugrik
- Prime Minister : Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene

Recent Exercise :

- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent landed at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Darwin, Australia for participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2024.
- The Indian Army contingent departed for the 13th edition of IndiaThailand joint military Exercise MAITREE being conducted from the 1st to 15th of July at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province of Thailand.
- Indian Air Force and Egyptian Air Force conducted 4th edition of Exercise-HOPEX this year.
- The Indian Air Force's first multinational air exercise, Tarang Shakti2024, will be held in August.
- The 8th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-24) has started at Yokosuka, Japan. The JIMEX-24 exercise is being hosted by the Japan Maritime SelfDefence Force (JMSDF). The Japanese Navy is called the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.
- The second edition of India, Australia, Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop (TMSW) was conducted at INS Dronacharya, Kochi, India.
- 7th edition of the India-France Joint Military Exercise "Shakti" is scheduled to commence from May 13, to 26, 2024 at the Joint Training Node, Umroi in Meghalaya.
- Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on East Coast
- Exercise DUSTLIK 5th edition : between India-Uzbekistan (Army) at Termez District, Uzbekistan
- Gagan Shakti : Indian Air Force Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan
- Coastal Security Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' – Lakshadweep Islands
- 2nd edition of India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT 24) – Nacala, Mozambique.
- Exercise "TIGER TRIUMPH 2024" between India and USA – Eastern Seaboard

Ques : Recently, which country has unveiled the country's new air-to-surface missile dubbed “Wind Demon”?

हाल ही में, किस देश ने हवा से सतह पर मार करने वाली अपनी नई मिसाइल "विंड डेमन" का अनावरण किया है?

- (a) Iran / ईरान
- (b) Israel / इजराइल
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** recently **unveiled** the country's new air-to-surface missile dubbed “**Wind Demon**”.

About Wind Demon:

- It is an advanced air-to-surface cruise missile designed for precise, long-range attacks at a low cost.
- It was developed by the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- The missile can be launched from a helicopter or aircraft and is capable of striking both mobile and stationary targets according to a predetermined plan without the need for operator intervention.
- With a range of over 200 kilometers and a weight of 140 kg, this missile is distinguished by its remarkable accuracy, with a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of just 1 meter.

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Defence Related News :

- As many as 16,000 Remote Pilot Certificates (RPCs) have been issued for operating drones in the country, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol told the Rajya Sabha.
- Airbus and Tata are joining forces to manufacture India's first FAL (Final Assembly Line) H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026.
- China sent a new Earth observation satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.
- Drone Destination and the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a cutting-edge drone training centre at NSIC in New Delhi.
- Europe's latest rocket, the Ariane 6, successfully completed its maiden flight, delivering satellites into orbit and restoring the continent's autonomous access to space.
- India has unveiled its first indigenously designed and developed light battle tank that will be capable of delivering devastating firepower at high altitude battlefields and operating in all-weather conditions. the 25-ton tank named 'Zorawar' is the result of a public-private partnership between DRDO and L&T.
- Russia has approved the schedule for the creation of a Russian orbital station by 2033.
- Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari has inaugurated the newly established Weapon Systems School (WSS) at Air Force Station Begumpet, Hyderabad.
- The Bangladesh Navy has signed a deal with the Indian Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for an 800-tonne ocean-going tug—a major contract to be signed under a \$500-million line of credit.
- Adani Defence & Aerospace – the defence arm of the Adani Group – has signed an agreement with the Thales Group to manufacture 70mm rockets in India.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy in a ceremony held in New Delhi.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the third and final landing experiment of its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) 'Pushpak' at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), based in Bengaluru, has received a Request for Proposal (RFP) from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the procurement of 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs) Prachand, estimated to cost Rs 45,000 crore.
- The Indian Army has received the first batch of Indigenous man-portable suicide drones also known as the 1st Indigenous Loitering Munition (LM), Nagastra-1, with the capability of precise strikes on enemy training camps and launch pads.
- The Gautam Adani-group stepped up its presence in the defence segment by joining hands with Edge Group, one of the world's leading advanced technology and defence group. Aims to establish a global platform leveraging the defence and aerospace capabilities.
- The Vice Chief of the Indian Army, Upendra Dwivedi has launched Vidyut Rakshak, a new Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled integrated generator tracking, protection, and control system.
- The Space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced a joint Indo-French infrared earth observation satellite mission, TRISHNA (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for HighResolution Natural Resource Assessment), to monitor surface temperature and water management around the world.
- The China National Space Administration's (CNSA) Chang'e-6 lunar probe made a soft landing on the moon's far side to collect and return samples from the rarely explored far side of the moon, a first of its kind in human lunar exploration history.
- ISRO, through its Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), has introduced the PraVaHa software, a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) tool aimed at facilitating aerodynamic design and analysis for aerospace vehicles.
- A Russian cosmonaut became the first person to spend a cumulative 1,000 days in space. Oleg Kononenko, 59, reached the record while on his current mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the **RudraM-II air-to-surface missile** from the Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the Odisha coast at approximately 1130 hours.
- **NASA** has successfully launched the first of two climate satellites into orbit, designed to study heat emissions at Earth's poles. The satellite, part of the **PREFIRE** (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) mission, was carried by Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the company's Launch Complex 1 in Mahia, New Zealand.
- After analyzing the archived data from NASA's Magellan mission, scientists say they observed new lava flows on Venus, suggesting that the planet was volcanically active between 1990 and 1992.
- South Korea plans to make a Mars landing by 2045 and spend 100 trillion won (\$72.6 billion) until then on space exploration, President Yoon Suk Yeol said at the launch of the country's first space agency.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Wipro 3D have successfully manufactured a 3D-printed rocket engine, the PS4, set to power the fourth stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- Earth Cloud Aerosol and Radiation Explorer (EarthCARE) satellite, a joint mission of ESA (European Space Agency) and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), has been successfully launched.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), a leading Indian shipyard, has emerged victorious in the bidding process for a new research vessel for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Ques : World's Forests 2024 Report published by _____
विश्व के वन 2024 रिपोर्ट _____ द्वारा प्रकाशित।

- (a) WHO
- (b) UNDP
- (c) FAO
- (d) IMF
- (e) WTO

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- State of the **World's Forests 2024**, released by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** recently, has brought both relief and concern regarding the state of the world's forests.
- It highlighted a decline in deforestation rates compared to previous decades, with several countries showing significant improvements. The data also reveals a disturbing picture of the challenges forests face due to climate change.
- In 2020, the global forest covered approximately 4.1 billion hectares (ha), or 31 per cent of the land area.
- Russia, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America, and China account for 54 per cent of the global forest area, in descending order.
- Another 10 countries, including Australia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Peru, and India, contribute about two-thirds of the global forest area
- The report estimated that between 1990 and 2020, approximately 420 million ha of forest were converted to land use.

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- The global mangrove area was recorded to be 14.8 million ha, out of which South and Southeast Asia contributed almost 44 per cent of the total global area.
- India gained 2,66,000 hectares of forest annually from 2010-2020, ranking third globally in forest area gains.

Top Countries for Forest Area Gains:

- China: 1,937,000 hectares
- Australia: 446,000 hectares
- India: 266,000 hectares
- Others in the Top Ten: Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, United States, France, Italy, Romania.

About the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) :

- Established: 1945
- Members: 194 countries and the European Union.
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- UN Specialized Agency: Focused on defeating hunger and improving food security.

Ques : Parandur Airport located in which state ?

परंदूर हवाई अड्डा किस राज्य में स्थित है?

- (a) Kerala / केरल
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- The **Steering Committee on Greenfield Airports** of the Union Government has **granted approval** of **site clearance** to the **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO)** for the **development of a greenfield airport at Parandur**, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- **Chennai city's second airport**, which is 70km away from Chennai.
- The greenfield airport will be **constructed in four phases** at an estimated cost of Rs 32,704 crore.
- The airport, which **consists of 3 terminal buildings**, will have the capacity to cater to 100 million passengers annually.
- The first phase of construction is scheduled to start in January 2026 and be completed by December 2028 and then the remaining phases will be developed, with the last phase coming to an end by December 2046.

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Ques : Who is hosting COP29 Climate Finance Action Fund?
COP29 क्लाइमेट फाइनेंस एक्शन फंड की मेजबानी कौन कर रहा है?

- (a) Spain / स्पेन
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) Brazil / ब्राजील
- (d) UK / यूके
- (e) Azerbaijan / आज़रबाइजान

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- **Azerbaijan, hosting COP29** from November 11 to 22 this year, has announced the creation of a Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF).
- This **fund will be raised from fossil fuel producers to support green projects** in developing countries and help member nations meet the 1.5°C temperature target.
- It plans to **attract \$1 billion** and secure at least 10 contributing countries.
- 50% of CFAF will be used for climate projects, including clean energy technology and climate resilience. The remaining 50% will support nations in meeting their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- The fund will be headquartered in Baku, with an independent audit committee providing quarterly reports.

About Azerbaijan :

- Capital : Baku
- Currency : Azerbaijani Manat
- President : Ilham Aliyev

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Ques : India has recently launched a Technology Security Initiative with which country?

भारत ने हाल ही में किस देश के साथ प्रौद्योगिकी सुरक्षा पहल शुरू की है?

- (a) Spain / स्पेन
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) Brazil / ब्राजील
- (d) UK / यूके
- (e) Azerbaijan / आज़रबाइजान

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- **India and the United Kingdom** have **launched a new technology security initiative to deepen defence collaboration** and boost economic ties between the two countries.
- The initiative was launched during the visit of the **United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary David Lammy's** visit to India.
- During his India visit, David Lammy met the Indian External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar and the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
- The India -UK Technology Security Initiative was earlier negotiated by the National Security Advisors of both countries.
- Under the Technology Security Initiative, both countries will work together on crucial technologies like Critical Minerals, Telecom, Semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, Biotech, and Advanced Materials.

About the United Kingdom :

- The United Kingdom is a sovereign country that consists of four countries: England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
- Capital : London
- Currency : Pound Sterling
- Prime Minister : Keir Starmer

Ques : Kargil Diwas, also known as Kargil Vijay Diwas, is celebrated annually on _____

कारगिल दिवस, जिसे कारगिल विजय दिवस के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, प्रतिवर्ष _____ को मनाया जाता है

- (a) 24 July
- (b) 25 July
- (c) 26 July
- (d) 27 July
- (e) 28 July

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- **Kargil Diwas, also known as Kargil Vijay Diwas**, is celebrated annually on **July 26** to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War.
- On the **25th anniversary** of the Kargil Vijay Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Drass sector in the Union Territory of Ladakh to pay homage to the martyrs at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass.
- The day celebrates the courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers who valiantly defended the nation's sovereignty.
- It was fought between India and Pakistan between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir and along the Line of Control (LOC).
- **Operation Vijay**: The Indian Army fought bravely and recaptured the famous 'Tiger Hill' and other important posts around under 'Operation Vijay' by evicting the Pakistani troops in the 1999 Kargil War
- At first, the Indian side used the Bofors FH-77B howitzers to shoot down enemy positions nested at the top of the mountains.

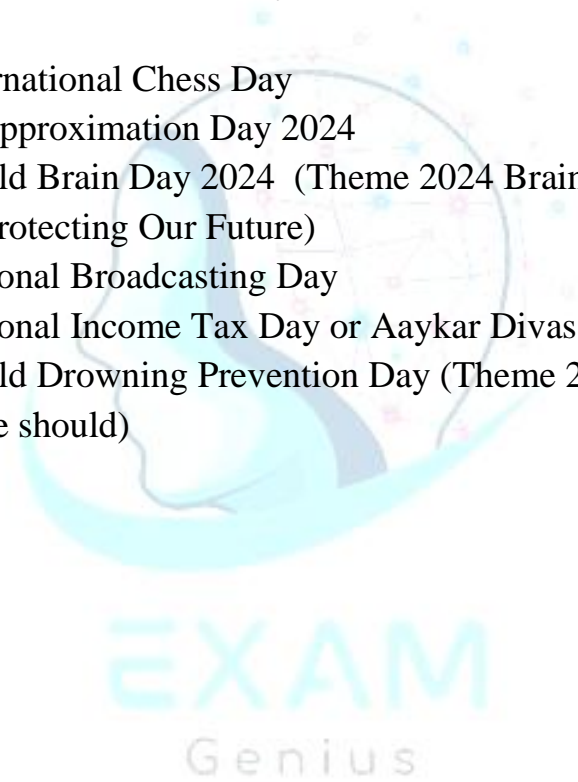
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- Israel provided their Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to India during the conflict.
- The war came to an end on July 26, 1999, when India successfully pushed back the Pakistani forces from the occupied positions.
- As per official figures, around 500 Indian soldiers laid down their lives while at least 1,000 Pakistani troops were also killed.
- The Indian Air Force launched **Operation Safed Sagar** to bombard the posts occupied by the Pakistani intruders in these mountainous areas. It was the first time since the 1971 war with Pakistan that the Indian Air Force was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir (At that time, Kargil was in the state of Jammu and Kashmir)

Important days :

- 1 July : National Doctor's Day (Theme 2024 – Healing Hands, Caring Hearts.)
- 1 July : Chartered Accountants Day (CA Day)
- 1 July : National Postal Worker Day
- 2 July : World Sports Journalist Day
- 2 July : World UFO Day
- 3 July : International Plastic Bag Free Day
- 3 July : Disobedience Day
- 5 July : **Pet Remembrance Day**
- 6 July : World Zoonoses Day (Theme 2024 – One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses)
- 10 July : Chronic Disease Awareness Day
- 10 July : Global Energy Independence Day
- 10 July : National Fish Farmer's Day
- 11 July : World Population Day (Theme 2024 – Leave no one behind, count everyone)
- 12 July : International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms
- 12 July : World Malala Day

- 15 July : World Youth Skill Day (Theme 2024 – Youth Skills for Peace and Development)
- 17 July : World Day for International Justice
- 17 July : World Emoji Day
- 18 July : Nelson Mandela International Day (Theme 2024 – Combatting poverty and inequality is in our hands)
- 18 July : World Listening Day (Theme 2024 – Listening to the Weave of Sound)
- 19 July : National Football Day
- 20 July : International Moon Day (Theme 2024 – Illuminating the Shadows)
- 20 July : International Chess Day
- 22 July : Pi Approximation Day 2024
- 22 July : World Brain Day 2024 (Theme 2024 Brain Health and Prevention: Protecting Our Future)
- 23 July : National Broadcasting Day
- 24 July : National Income Tax Day or Aaykar Divas
- 25 July : World Drowning Prevention Day (Theme 2024 – Anyone can drown, no one should)



IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

- The **Ministry of Railways** has received a record **allocation of over Rs.2.55 lakh crore** in financial year **2024-25**, which is a jump of 5.85% from the previous year's Rs.2.41 lakh crore, according to Union Budget documents.
- Fintech firm One 97 Communications, which owns the brand **Paytm**, has **partnered with Axis Bank** to provide **point of sales solutions and card payment machines** to banks and its merchant network.
- In a significant achievement for India's naval capabilities and the **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'** initiative, **Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL)** **successfully launched the first indigenous P1135.6 Frigate**, named **Tripud**.
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders, M/s Merlinhawk Aerospace and M/s Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation (KELTRON)** For Collaboration towards development of composite Doors and Hatches for use in Naval Ships, Counter UAV Solution.
- **Indian Navy** joins hands with **Indian Oil** to **test hydrogen fuel cell buses**. Indian Oil has handed over a state-of-the-art green hydrogen fuel cell bus to the Indian Navy for trials and performance testing as part of the government's green initiative.
- The world of economics lost a brilliant mind and compassionate soul. **C.T. Kurien**, a distinguished **economist and former professor of Madras Christian College**, **passed away** at the age of 93.
- **Kamala Pujari**, the renowned **Padma Shri awardee** and pioneering organic farmer, **passed away** at the age of 74 due to kidney-related ailments.
- **Elon Musk** said that he would **move the headquarters** of two of his businesses, the social media platform X and the rocket manufacturer SpaceX, **to Texas**, escalating an increasingly contentious fight with California.