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Important Days



➤ **When the National Energy Conservation Day was first celebrated?**

- A) 1985
- B) 1991
- C) 2000
- D) 2005
- E) 2010

Answer
B) 1991



Important Days



Explanation

- **National Energy Conservation day is celebrated on December 14 every year since 1991.**
- **This day is observed to spread the message on the importance of conserving energy and to showcase the achievements of the nation in energy efficiency and conservation.**
- **The National Energy Conservation Day and the Awards are being organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under Ministry of Power, Government of India, which is mandated as per the Energy Conservation Act 2001, to regulate and promote energy efficiency and its conservation in India.**



Important Days



Explanation

- **National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards** introduced in 2021, to recognize the outstanding contributions in energy efficiency.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as a part-time member in the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)?

- A) Anne George Mathew
- B) Parama Sen
- C) Rakesh Kumar
- D) Sunita Sharma
- E) Rajiv Kumar

Answer
B) Parama Sen



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- The Centre has appointed Parama Sen, Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry, as a part-time member in Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Parama Sen replaces Anne George Mathew, Additional Secretary in Finance Ministry, who demitted office this year.
- PFRDA includes Chairman, 3 Whole time members, 3 part time members.



APPOINTMENTS



Newly appointed part time members are,

- Rahul Singh, Department of Personnel and Training
- Pankaj Sharma, Department of Financial Services
- Parama Sen, Department of Expenditure



APPOINTMENTS



Pension Scheme Growth:

- The assets under management of India's National Pension System (NPS) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) are showing a robust CAGR of over 20 per cent over last the five years and on course to cross the Rs 11-lakh-crore mark this fiscal.
- NPS assets had touched the Rs 10-lakh-crore mark on August 25 this year.
- Enrolments under APY crossed 6 crore, including over 70 lakh in the current financial year.



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority **(PFRDA):**

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is the regulatory body for overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India.

It operates under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance in the Government of India.

Founded: 23 August 2003

HQ: New Delhi

Chairman: Deepak Mohanty



AWARDS



➤ **What is Javed Akhtar's notable contribution to the film industry?**

- A) Acting
- B) Music composition
- C) Film direction
- D) Lyricist and screenwriter
- E) Cinematography



Answer

D) Lyricist and screenwriter



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar will be felicitated with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival.**
- The award ceremony will take place at Rukmini Auditorium in MGM University campus of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on January 3, 2024.
- **In the recently released book called Talking Life: Javed Akhtar in Conversation with Nasreen Munni Kabir, veteran lyricist and writer Javed Akhtar finally addressed the allegations that two of his classics, Zanjeer and Sholay.**



AWARDS



Explanation

- He is the **co-writer of Hindi cinema classics** such as “Zanjeer”, “Deewaar”, “Sholay”, “Don”, “Kaala Patthar” and “Mr India”.
- He is the **lyricist for songs** such as “Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum” for “Silsila” (1981), “Ek Ladki Ko Dekha” for “1942: A Love Story” (1994), and “Jashn-e-Bahara” for “Jodhaa Akbar” (2008).



AWARDS



Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award

- It includes a momento, a certificate, a monetary award of **Rs 2 Lakh**.

Ajanta Ellora Fim Festival

- It is an annual event organized in collaboration with **Nath Group, Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra, and the Government of India**



➤ **What is the financial value of the MisrSat 2 satellite project?**

- A) \$50 million
- B) \$62 million
- C) \$72 million
- D) \$85 million
- E) \$95 million

Answer

C) \$72 million



Explanation

- **China jointly with Egypt launched MisrSat 2 satellite, valued at \$72 million into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, on the Long March-2C carrier rocket.**
- **This project is signed in 2019 between the Egyptian Space Agency and the China National Space Administration.**
- **It is a optical remote sensing satellite.**
- **It's primary purpose is to bolster the Egypt's sustainable goals (Egypt Vision 2030) in farming, natural resources, urban planning and coastal change monitoring.**



Explanation

- This project made **Egypt the first country in Africa to achieve the satellite development and launch**
- **Along with MirSat 2, china launched other two satellites such as, Starpool 02 A and Starpool 02 B, designed and developed by Chinese startup Ellipspace.**



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

China:

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

President: Xi Jinping

Egypt:

Capital: Cairo

Currency: Egyptian Pound

President: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

Prime Minister: Moustafa Madbouly



➤ **What is the primary goal of the 'Race to Resilience' campaign?**

- A) Achieve carbon neutrality by 2030
- B) Increase climate awareness in urban areas
- C) Enhance climate resilience in vulnerable communities by 2030
- D) Promote renewable energy in cities
- E) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industries



Answer

C) Enhance climate resilience in vulnerable communities by 2030



Explanation

- **India has joined the United Nations 'Race to Resilience', a global campaign to mainstream the idea of climate resilience in cities across India during the COP28 event in Dubai.**
- **The Climate Centre for Cities (C-Cube) at the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), an autonomous institution under the ministry of housing and urban affairs, will spearhead this initiative.**
- **'Race to Resilience' is a global platform to bring together non-state actors, investors, businesses, cities, regions, and civil society to increase the resilience of the most vulnerable to the climate crisis by 2030.**



Explanation

- **Since 2020, the C-Cube has developed and implemented the ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF), a first-of-its-kind city assessment framework on climate-relevant parameters for Indian cities.**
- Currently, the third round of the assessment is in progress for 220 cities across India.
- Under the CSAF framework, **C-Cube has developed and delivered 26 training modules to improve aspects of urban planning, green cover, and biodiversity; energy and green buildings; mobility and air quality; water management and waste management.**



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Note:

- It is estimated that 40% of India's population will be residing in the urban areas by 2030.



Titbits

United Nations:

The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization whose stated purposes are to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and serve as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

UN Charter Signed: 26 June 1945

Charter came into Force: 24 October 1945

Members: 193 member states + 2 Observer States

Secretary General: Antonio Guterres



➤ Which particular import duty will be eliminated for over 80% of India's exports to Oman, according to the analysis by GTRI?

- A) 2%
- B) 3%
- C) 4%
- D) 5%
- E) 6%

Answer
D) 5%



Explanation

- **India with its free trade pact with Oman, particularly in sectors such as petroleum, steel, electronics and textiles, as over 80 per cent of its exports to the country currently face a 5% import duty will be eliminated, according to an analysis by research body Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).**
- **The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that could significantly boost exports to the country annually valued at \$4.3 billion.**



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



The following export products are benefitted from FTA:

- Motor gasoline (\$1.7 billion)
- Iron, Steel and products (\$235 million)
- Electronics (\$135 million)
- Machinery (\$125 million)
- Aluminium oxide (\$126 million)
- Textiles and Garment (\$110 million)
- Alumina calcined (\$105 million)
- Plastics (\$64 million)
- Boneless meat (\$50 million)
- Essential oils (\$47 million)
- Ferro Silico Manganese (\$43 million)
- Paper, Board (\$30 million)
- Motor cars (\$28 million)

Note: India's merchandise imports from Oman, at \$7.9 billion in 2022-23



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Key imports from the Oman are as follows,

- Petroleum products (\$4.6 billion), Urea (\$1.2 billion), which account for 73 per cent of imports,
- Propylene and Ethylene Polymers (\$383 million)
- Pet Coke (\$265 million)
- Gypsum (\$115 million)
- Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (\$417 million)
- Iron and Steel (\$62 million)
- Unwrought Aluminium (\$95 million)



Titbits

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI):

GTRI aims to create high quality and jargon-free outputs for Governments and Industry on issues related to trade, technology and investment from the perspective of development and inequality reduction.

Founded: 2013

Import Duty:

Import duty is a type of tax levied on the import and specific exports of a nation's customs authorities. The value of goods will generally decide the amount of import duty that will be imposed.

Import duty may also be known as a customs duty, tariff, import tax or import tariff.



➤ How much is the loan amount that the Government of India is set to receive from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to enhance the power supply in Uttarakhand?

- A) \$100 million
- B) \$150 million
- C) \$200 million
- D) \$250 million
- E) \$300 million

Answer
C) \$200 million



Explanation

- **The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed agreement for availing of a \$200 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to improve the quality, efficiency, and reliability of power supply in the state of Uttarakhand.**
- **The project will strengthen power system infrastructure and help Uttarakhand in achieving its goal of providing 24x7 power to its residents.**



Explanation

- This Project will modernise Dehradun city's power network infrastructure by **introducing an advanced and climate-resilient underground cable system comprising 537 km subterranean cables, 354 ring main units, and 99 compact substations.**
- **The Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific, financed by the Government of Japan through ADB, will provide a \$2 million grant to support livelihood enhancement, training, and awareness-raising activities of the project.**



Titbits

Asian Development Bank:

Formed: 19 December 1966
HQ: Mandaluyong, Manila, Philippines
Members: 68 Countries
President: Masatsugu Asakawa

Uttarakhand:

Summer Capital: Bhararaisain
Winter Capital: Dehradun
Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
Governor: Gurmit Singh



➤ Who originally designed and constructed INS Tarmugli, the fast attack craft being re-inducted?

- A) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- D) Goa Shipyard Limited
- E) Cochin Shipyard Limited

Answer

B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers



Explanation

- **The Indian Navy will be re-inducting a refurbished 22-year-old fast attack craft, INS Tarmugli, in a ceremonial commissioning ceremony at the naval dockyard, Visakhapatnam.**
- It was gifted to Maldives seventeen years ago and returned to India in May this year.
- It was **commissioned in the Indian Navy as INS Tillanchang, a Trinkat Class ship**, she was in active service till 2006, and thereafter gifted to the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) by the Govt of India.



Explanation

- The ship was **commissioned into MNDF as MCGS Huravee on 16 April 2006**, and served there till its decommissioning in May 2023.
- The vessel was originally **designed and constructed by Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers and was commissioned into the Indian Navy on March 17, 2001.**



- In which range does the air quality fall when categorized as 'very poor' according to the Air Quality Index (AQI)?

- A) 0-50
- B) 51-100
- C) 101-200
- D) 201-300
- E) 301-400

Answer
E) 301-400



Explanation

- **Delhi air quality remains 'very poor' and stood at 377 as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.**
- **Delhi has been experiencing air quality in the 'severe' to 'very poor' range over the last month.**

Air quality of various locations in Delhi:

- **The worst air quality was registered at Wazirpur where AQI stood at 430.**
- **Dilshad Garden area fell in the 'poor' range with AQI at 288.**
- **The National Capital recorded a maximum temperature of 24.8 degrees Celsius according to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).**



Air Quality Index:

- National Air quality index is assessed by Central Pollution Control Board
- It is composed of 7 pollutants such as,
 - Sulphur Dioxide
 - Nitrogen Dioxide
 - Carbon Monoxide
 - Ozone
 - Lead
 - Particulate Matter 2.5
 - Particulate Matter 10



Categories in Air Quality Range:

- Good – 0 to 50
- Satisfactory – 51 to 100
- Moderately Polluted – 101 – 200
- Poor – 201 to 300
- Very Poor – 301 to 400
- Severe – 401 to 500



Titbits

Central Pollution Control Board:

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Mo.E.F.C.C.). It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974.

The CPCB is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

HQ: New Delhi

Chairperson: Tanmay Kumar

Member Secretary: Dr Prashant Gargava



➤ **What specific areas will IFPRI support NITI Aayog's Agriculture Vertical in, according to the Sol?**

- A) Urban development and housing policies
- B) Education and skill development programs
- C) Healthcare and wellness initiatives
- D) Agriculture, rural development, trade, and climate change policies
- E) Infrastructure and transportation projects

Answer

D) Agriculture, rural development, trade, and climate change policies



Explanation

- **The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) signed a Statement of Intent (Sol), aiming to fortify policy and program frameworks contributing to India's developmental objectives.**
- The five-year Sol grants IFPRI to support NITI's Agriculture Vertical in crucial areas.
- The Sol activities include developing and tracking Rural Transformation Indicators, supporting the design and evaluation of flagship programs, providing policy analytical tools, and generating evidence on India's agri-food trade in regional and global contexts.



Explanation

- **IFPRI will provide policy analytics and support to NITI in mutually identified areas within the broader realm of food systems transformation, initially focusing on agriculture, rural development, trade, and climate change policies in India.**



Titbits

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI):

Founded: 1975

Location: Washington DC, US

Director General: Johan Swinnen



QUICK RECALL



- **National Energy Conservation day is celebrated on December 14 every year**
- **Parama Sen appointed part-time member of PFRDA board**
- **Javed Akhtar to be felicitated with Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival**
- **International affairs**
- **China launches MisrSat-2 satellite into space jointly with Egypt**
- **India joins UN's 'Race to Resilience' initiative at COP28**
- **Proposed India-Oman free trade pact to potentially lower import duties on 80% goods: GTRI**



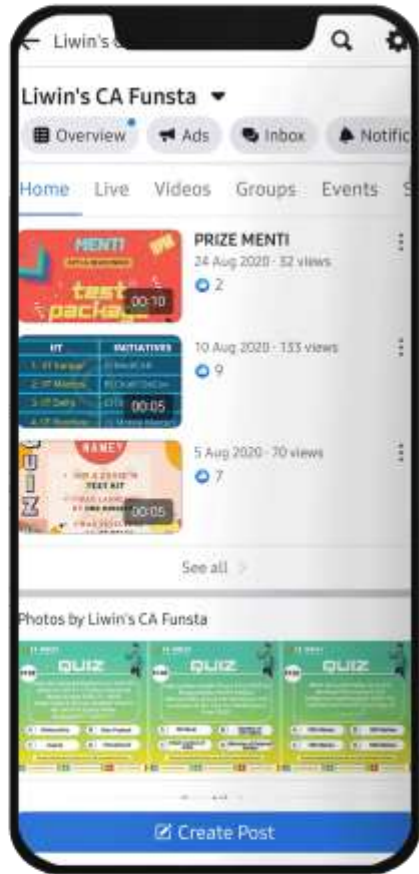
QUICK RECALL



- **Government of India and ADB sign \$200 million loan for Uttarakhand climate resilient power system development project**
- **Indian Navy to re-induct ship gifted & decommissioned by Maldives.**
- **Delhi tops the list of most polluted cities in India**
- **NITI Aayog and IFPRI sign Statement of Intent to strengthen policy frameworks for agricultural transformation and rural development**



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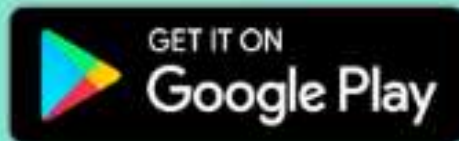
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