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Important Days



➤ **When was World Soil Day officially designated by the UN General Assembly?**

- A) December 1, 2013
- B) December 2, 2013
- C) December 3, 2013
- D) December 4, 2013
- E) December 5, 2014

Answer

E) December 5, 2014



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Soil day is observed on December 5 every year**
- **Theme: "Soil and Water: A Source of Life"**
- World Soil Day aims to highlight the significance of maintaining healthy soil and advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.



Important Days



History:

- The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) recommended establishing an international day for celebrating soil in 2002.
- **In June 2013, the FAO Conference unanimously endorsed it, urging its official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly.**
- **On December 5, 2014, the UN General Assembly officially designated it as the first World Soil Day.**



Important Days



International Volunteer Day – December 5

- **International Volunteer Day is celebrated on December 5 every year**
- **Theme: "If everyone did..."**
- This day highlighted the contributions of volunteers worldwide and recognises the impact of their selfless actions on communities and societies.
- International Volunteer Day, **established by the United Nations in 1985.**



SPORTS



➤ **What sport is Sheetal Devi associated with?**

- A) Badminton
- B) Archery
- C) Wrestling
- D) Boxing
- E) Shooting



Answer
B) Archery



Explanation

- Sheetal Devi, an Indian para archer, won the prestigious award of Best Youth Athlete at the fourth edition of the Asian Awards in Riyadh.
- She hailed from Loidhar village, Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir



Her Achievements:

- **Hangzhou Asian Para Games – China:**
 - Solo – Gold
 - Team Compound – Gold
 - Compound Doubles – Silver
- **Pilsen World Archery Championship – Silver**
- **She closely missed the title I Bangkok 2023 Asian Para Archery Championships, giving victory to Nur Syahidah Alim.**
- **World No 1 Ranking in Compound Women this year.**



Asian Awards:

- The Asian Paralympic Committee organizes the Asian Awards, which reward remarkable achievements of Asian para athletes and administrators.
- The biannual Asian Award is presented in six categories:
- Best Male Athlete, Best Female Athlete, Best Youth Athlete, Best Team Performance, Best Photography and Exemplary Asian Official.
- In addition, the Asian Order was presented to six recipients for their contributions to Asian Paralympic sport.



Asian Order Recipients:

- The Asian Order was given to six distinguished persons for their outstanding contributions to Asian Paralympic sport.
- Shaikh Mohamed Duaij Al Khalifa, President of NPC Bahrain
- Mr. Manabu Aso of Japan
- Mr. Mukhtorkhon Tashkhodjaev, President of NPC Uzbekistan
- Mr. Chen Weiqiang, Executive Secretary General of HAPGOC, are among the recipients.



Special Recognition For Exemplary Service

- Mr. Jung Jin Owan of the Republic of Korea
- Mr. Yasushi Yamawaki of Japan



➤ **Who won the 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award for the best sportsperson of Kerala?**

- A) M. Sreeshankar
- B) P. T. Usha
- C) Anju Bobby George
- D) Saina Nehwal
- E) Sunil Chhetri

Answer

A) M. Sreeshankar



Explanation

- Olympian M. Sreeshankar, the long jump silver medallist in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, has won the 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award for the best sportsperson of Kerala.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a plaque.
- He hailed from Palakkad, Kerala



His Achievements:

- Sreeshankar ranked No. 4 in this year's World long jump list.
- Asian Games , China and Asian Championships, Thailand – Silver
- Paris Diamond League – Bronze
- 2022 Commonwealth Games, Britain - Silver
- World Championships 2022, USA – 7th place



➤ **What is the location of the Kolhapur-based Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat
- C) Karnataka
- D) Madhya Pradesh
- E) Tamil Nadu

Answer

A) Maharashtra



Explanation

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of Kolhapur-based Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited.**
- **“Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur is prohibited from conducting the business of ‘banking’ which includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with immediate effect, according to RBI.**
- This bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.



Explanation

- As such, it does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- **On liquidation, the Reserve Bank said that every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5,00,000 from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) subject to the provisions of DICGC Act, 1961.**



Explanation

- **DICGC has already paid Rs 41.60 crore of the total insured deposits under the provisions of Section 18A of the DICGC Act, 1961** based on the willingness received from the concerned depositors of the bank.
- **The RBI has directed the Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.**



Titbits

RBI:

Founded: 1935

Nationalised: 1949

Governor: Shakthikanta Das (25th)

Deputy Governor: M D Patra, M Rajeshwar, T Rabi
Shankar, J Swaminathan



- Which leading credit card issuer has been integrated into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay by NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL)?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) SBI Card
- D) Axis Bank
- E) Standard Chartered

Answer
C) SBI Card



Explanation

- **NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has successfully integrated SBI Card, one of India's leading credit card issuers, into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay.**
- Through the utilisation of Bharat BillPay, SBI Card customers gain the advantage of seamlessly handling their credit card bill payments across various Bharat BillPay-supported payment channels.



Credit card issuers already present in this category includes

- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- BoB Financial
- Federal Bank
- AU Small Finance Bank
- IndusInd Bank
- Canara Bank



Titbits

SBI Card:

MD and CEO: Abhijit Chakravorty

NPCI Bharat Billpay:

CEO: Noopur Chaturvedi



- **Which organization announced the seed fund scheme for start-ups focusing on urban development and disaster management?**
- A) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
 - B) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
 - C) Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)
 - D) Ministry of Urban Development
 - E) Startup India



Answer

C) Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)



Explanation

- **The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has announced a seed fund scheme to offer start-ups focusing on urban development and disaster management a financial assistance of up to Rs 1 crore each.**
- **It has launched the scheme in collaboration with ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).**
- The selected start-ups will receive seed funding for transforming an original idea into a prototype using space technology, ISRO facility support, including earth observation (EO) data, for validation of the concept, mentorship support, and access to a data algorithm as a transfer of technology from the Department of Space.



Opportunities for Startups in Urban Development:

- Urban planning
- Infrastructure management
- Telecommunication
- Navigation
- Broadband connectivity
- Water resources management
- Energy efficiency
- Climate and Weather monitoring
- Disaster risk reduction
- Public health, healthcare, and more.



Opportunities for Startups in Disaster Management:

- Geographical Information System (GIS)
- Early warning and monitoring systems
- Insurance and risk assessment
- Communication and navigation systems
- Climate change monitoring, search and rescue operations
- Space-borne sensors and instruments, among others.



Titbits

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN SPACE):

Founded: 2020

HQ: Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Chairman: Dr Pawan Kumar Goenka



➤ Which bank collaborated with Accenture to boost operational efficiency?

- A) State Bank of India
- B) Union Bank of India
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Punjab National Bank
- E) ICICI Bank



Answer

B) Union Bank of India



Explanation

- Union Bank of India collaborated with Accenture to boost operational efficiency
- The program will enable the public sector bank to develop robust data visualisation and reporting capabilities including interactive dashboards and reports for business, operational and regulatory purposes.



Titbits

Union Bank of India:

HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Non-Executive Chairman: Srinivasan Varadharajan

MD and CEO: A Manimekhalai

Accenture (Irish American Company):

Founded: 1989

HQ: Dublin, Ireland

Chair and CEO: Julie Sweet



➤ **Approximately, what is the daily cost of the MaxProtect floater policy for two adults?**

- A) Rs 15 per day
- B) Rs 20 per day
- C) Rs 26 per day
- D) Rs 30 per day
- E) Rs 35 per day

Answer

C) Rs 26 per day



Explanation

- **ICICI Lombard has introduced MaxProtect**, the latest addition to its range of customer-focused products.
- This product is designed to provide a cost-effective, inflation-adjusted solution to address the healthcare requirements of both individuals and families.
- MaxProtect delivers a comprehensive and advanced level of protection, **ranging from Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 crores, with an unlimited option available.**
- **Annual premiums start at Rs 9,367 for a floater policy worth Rs 1 crore covering two adults, approximately equivalent to Rs 26 per day, making it accessible to a broad range of customers.**



MaxProtect Classic plan

- It encompasses a range of medical services, including advanced treatments, donor expenses, hospital stays (excluding suites), unlimited sum insured reset benefits, domiciliary hospitalisation, and unlimited teleconsultation.

MaxProtect Premium plan

- It stands out for its extensive features, such as global coverage, access to air ambulance services, and a unique claim protector feature.



Titbits

ICICI Lombard:

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company is a joint venture between ICICI Bank (64%) - India's second largest bank and Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited (36%) - a financial services company based in Toronto.

Founded: 2001

HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD: Bhargav Dasgupta



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who is presently the First Lieutenant of the warship INS Chennai, as announced by the Indian Navy?

- A) Commander Prerana Deosthali
- B) Commander Prerna Deosthale
- C) Commander Ananya Singh
- D) Commander Vikram Sharma
- E) Commander Ravi Kumar

Answer

B) Commander Prerna Deosthale



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Commander Prerna Deosthale is presently the First Lieutenant of warship, INS Chennai announced by the Indian Navy.**
- **Prerana Deosthali was also appointed as the commanding officer of INS Trinkat based in Goa.**
- **Lieutenant Commander Prerana is the first lady Observer on Tupolev Tu-142, a maritime reconnaissance aircraft** followed a stint on the P8I, also a reconnaissance aircraft.
- **She hails from Mumbai and joined the Indian Navy in 2009.**



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who is the first woman officer from the armed forces to be appointed as an Aide-De-Camp (ADC) to a Governor?**

- A) Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi
- B) Wing Commander Deepika Misra
- C) Lieutenant Colonel Nandini Kapoor
- D) Captain Anjali Sharma
- E) Major Priya Rajput

Answer

A) Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi has become the first woman officer from the armed forces to be appointed as an Aide-De-Camp (ADC) to a Governor.**
- **Mizoram Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati selected Sqn Leader Manisha Padhi, a 2015 batch Indian Air Force (IAF) Officer, as his ADC.**
- **An Aide-De-Camp (ADC), a Fresh expression to denote personal assistant to a Governor who can be seen moving around with the Constitutional authority even on official tours.**
- **Every Governor has two ADCs, one from the armed forces and the other is a police officer.**
- **In Mizoram, the second ADC is Zonun Thara, a state police officer.**



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who is the new Chairman of Max Life Insurance, a material subsidiary of Max Financial Services?**

- A) Rajiv Anand
- B) Anil Kapoor
- C) Sanjay Gupta
- D) Naina Lal Kidwai
- E) Aditya Puri

Answer

A) Rajiv Anand



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Max Life Insurance, a material subsidiary of Max Financial Services, has a new Chairman, Rajiv Anand.**
- This follows the stepping down of Analjit Singh from the Chairmanship and membership of the Board of Directors of Max Life Insurance.



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

Max Life Insurance:

Formerly known as Max New York Life Insurance Company.
It is a 80:20 joint venture between Max Financial Services and Axis Bank.

Max New York Life (MNYL) was the first private sector insurance company to be incorporated in India on July 11, 2000.

On November 15, 2020, MNYL received its certification of registration from IRDAI.

Founded: 2001

Chairman: Rajiv Anand

MD and CEO: Prashant Tripathy

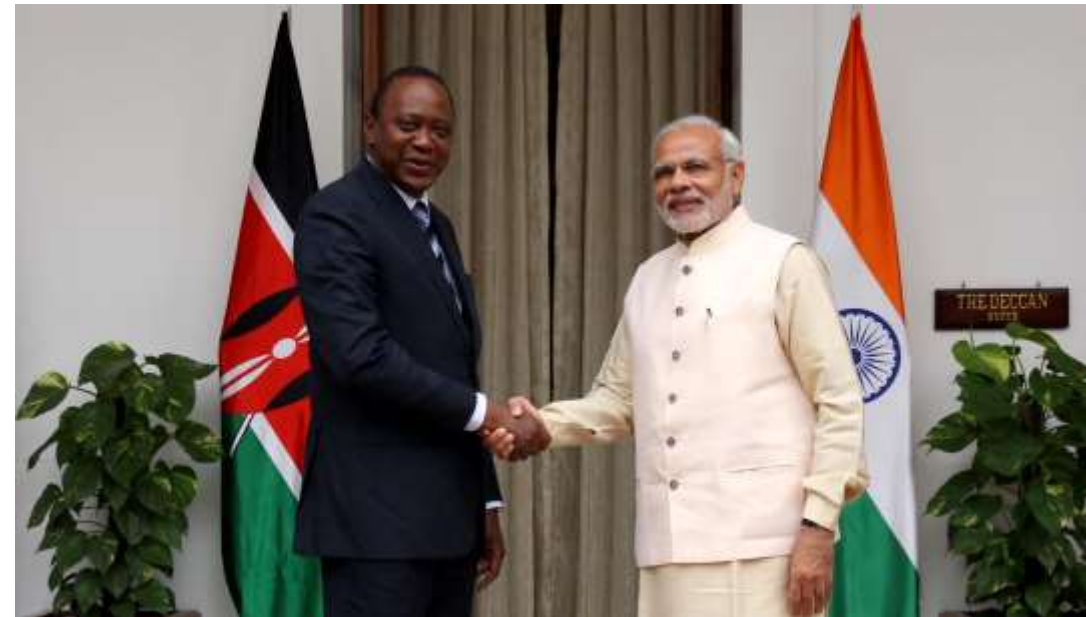


➤ **What is the total worth of India-Kenya bilateral trade?**

- A) 2.5 billion USD
- B) 3 billion USD
- C) 3.2 billion USD
- D) 3.39 billion USD
- E) 4 billion USD

Answer

D) 3.39 billion USD



Explanation

- **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare addressed the India - Kenya Trade and Investment Forum in the presence of Dr William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya.**
- He urged Indian and Kenyan enterprises to cooperate in pharmaceuticals and healthcare sectors for the mutual benefit of both the countries.
- **Dr Ruto is currently on a state visit to India.**



Note:

- **India has also opened its EXIM bank in Nairobi which will serve 15 countries in the region.**
- **India is a global front runner in the field of generic medicines on a scale, commanding a 20% share in global supply by volume.**
- India has grown to become a premier destination for medical value travel.
- The Government of India has launched a portal to promote Medical Value Travel.



Background:

- India is the 3rd largest trading partner of Kenya, after China and the UAE.
- India - Kenya bilateral trade is worth 3.39 billion USD with Indian exports worth 3.274 billion and imports worth 116.6 million.
- According to the Kenya Investment Authority, India is one of the top investors in Kenya.
- Kenya is important member of the AU Committee of 10 Heads of State responsible for preparation of common African position on UNSC reforms.
- Kenya has extended (reciprocal) support for India's candidature for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council for term 2028-29.



Background:

- India and Kenya are also founding members of IORA.
- India is the fifth largest source of inbound tourists for Kenya.
- Many Kenyans travel to India for medical treatment of critical ailments every year. It is understood that 90% of international medical travel from Kenya is to India, followed by Thailand and Turkey.
- In 2022, the Indian Mission issued 4000 medical visas to Kenyans.
- Under Vaccine Maitri, Kenya was given 1.12 million doses of Covishield in March 2021 (1.02 million under COVAX alliance and 100,000 as gift).
- A MoU for establishing a tertiary care hospital in Eldoret, Kenya was signed between Apollo Hospital and Baler Healthcare, Kenya.



Titbits

Kenya:

Capital: Nairobi

Currency: Kenyan Shilling

President: William Ruto



➤ What is the purpose of the "Gram Manchitra" application?

- A) Weather forecasting
- B) Social media networking
- C) Planning at Gram Panchayat level
- D) Online education
- E) Agricultural marketing



Answer

C) Planning at Gram Panchayat level



Explanation

- **Ministry of Panchayati Raj had launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application “Gram Manchitra” (<https://grammanchitra.gov.in>).**
- **This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology.**
- **It provides a single/ unified Geo Spatial platform to visualize the various developmental works to be taken up across the different sectors and provide a decision support system for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).**
- **Ministry has launched mActionSoft, a mobile based solution to help in capturing photos with Geo-Tags (i.e. GPS Coordinates) for the works which have asset as an output.**



Explanation

- **Geo-tagging of the assets is done in all three stages viz. (i) before start of the work, (ii) during the work and (iii) on completion of work.**
- It will provide a repository of information on all works and assets related to natural resource management, water harvesting, drought proofing, sanitation, agriculture, check dams and irrigation channels etc.
- Assets geo-tagged using the mActionSoft application is available on Gram Manchitra, enhancing the visualization of various developmental works in the Gram Panchayats.



Titbits

Union Minister of Panchayati Raj,

Giriraj Singh

Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj,

Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil



➤ Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveil the Chhatrapati Shivaji Statue?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Pune
- C) Nagpur
- D) Sindhudurg district
- E) Rajkot

Answer

D) Sindhudurg district



Explanation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a Chhatrapati Shivaji Statue at Rajkot Fort in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended the Navy Day 2023 celebrations in Sindhudurg and inspected the Guard of Honour at Rajkot Fort in Sindhudurg district.
- The Indian Navy will display its operational prowess and capabilities through an **'Operational Demonstration' covering a spectrum of naval operations by ships and aircraft at the iconic Sindhudurg Fort.**
- **20 warships and 40 aircraft, including the MiG 29K, LCA Navy and MARCOS, will be major attractions on Navy Day.**



Sindhudurg Fort:

- **The fort was built in 1660 by Maratha Ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.**
- The Sindhudurg Fort meets the Navy's requirement to conduct an operational demonstration with its frontline assets.

Note:

- **Navy Day is celebrated on December 4 every year.**
- **The Indian Navy celebrates Navy Day on December 4 to commemorate "Operation Trident," the Navy's audacious attack on Karachi harbour during the 1971 War.**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Governor: Ramesh Bais



➤ **Who is set to take charge as the second Chief Minister of Telangana?**

- A) K. Chandrashekar Rao
- B) K. T. Rama Rao
- C) A Revanth Reddy
- D) Jana Reddy
- E) P. V. Narasimha Rao

Answer

C) A Revanth Reddy



Explanation

- **Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President A Revanth Reddy will take charge as the second Chief Minister of Telangana.**
- The Congress won 64 seats in the 119-seat Assembly, pushing the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to 39 seats.
- **First Chief Minister of Telangana: K Chandrashekar Rao.**



Titbits

Telangana:

Formed: 2 June 2014

Capital: Hyderabad

Chief Minister: A Revanth Reddy

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan



QUICK RECALL



- **World Soil Day is observed on December 5**
- **Sheetal Devi Won Best Young Athlete At Asian Paralympic Conference**
- **Jimmy George Award for Sreeshankar**
- **RBI cancels licence of Shankarrao Pujari Bank in Maharashtra**
- **SBI Card joins Bharat BillPay in the credit card category**
- **IN-SPACE launches seed fund for start-ups focused on urban development, disaster management**
- **Union Bank collaborates with Accenture to boost operational efficiency**
- **ICICI Lombard launches MaxProtect**
- **Commander Prerna Deosthalee will be the first woman officer of the Indian Navy to command Indian Naval Warship**



QUICK RECALL



- **Sqn Ldr Manisha Padhi is first woman ADC to governor from armed forces**
- **Max Life Insurance appoints Rajiv Anand as Chairman, Analjit Singh resigns**
- **Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya along with Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya address India - Kenya Trade and Investment Forum**
- **Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched Geographic Information System application “Gram Manchitra” to encourage the Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayat**
- **PM Modi unveils statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Maharashtra**
- **Revanth Reddy to swear-in as Telangana CM**



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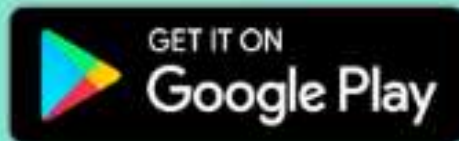
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