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Important Days

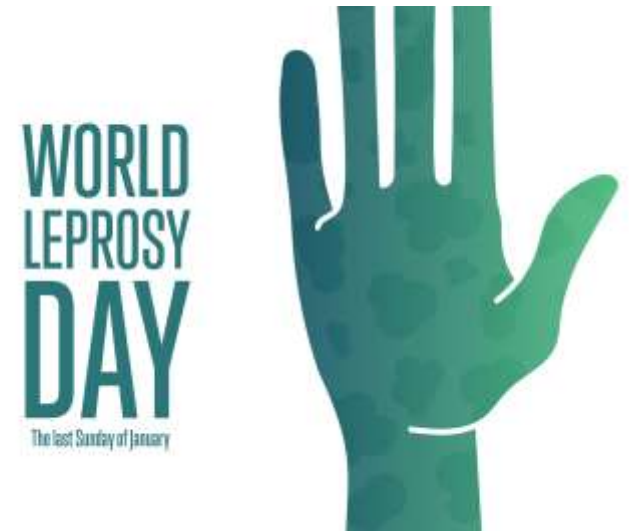


➤ **What is the theme of World Leprosy Day?**

- A) Leprosy Awareness Day
- B) End Stigma, End Discrimination
- C) Beat Leprosy
- D) Eradicating Leprosy Together
- E) Leprosy: A Global Challenge

Answer

C) Beat Leprosy



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Leprosy day is observed on Last Sunday of January.**
- **Theme: "Beat Leprosy".**
- **World Leprosy Day helps to create awareness about the disease and eliminate the stigma and discrimination faced by those who suffer from the disease.**



SPORTS



➤ In which weight category did Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra win the U.S.-based National Boxing Association's intercontinental title?

- A) Lightweight
- B) Featherweight
- C) Super featherweight
- D) Middleweight
- E) Heavyweight

Answer

C) Super featherweight



Explanation

- **Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra won the U.S.-based National Boxing Association's intercontinental super featherweight title after defeating American Gerardo Esquivel at Toppenish City, Washington.**
- **Before the win against Esquivel, Jangra, who made his professional boxing debut in 2021, registered knockout wins in four out of his six fights.**
- **He had a decent run in the amateur circuit as well and won a Commonwealth Games silver medal in the 2014 Glasgow edition.**



SPORTS



Note:

- The National Boxing Association (NBA) is a Florida-based sanctioning body for professional bouts.



➤ In which city was the shooting World Cup held where Sonam Maskar won the silver medal?

- A) New Delhi, India
- B) Moscow, Russia
- C) Cairo, Egypt
- D) Tokyo, Japan
- E) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Answer
C) Cairo, Egypt



Explanation

- **Sonam Maskar won the women's air rifle silver as she was beaten by 0.9 point by Anna Janssen of Germany in the shooting World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.**



➤ **Who was named the International Wushu Federation's female athlete of the year in the Sanda category?**

- A) Shahrbanu Mansouriyan Semiromi
- B) Wu Xiaowei
- C) Naorem Roshibina Devi
- D) Wu Xiaoxuan
- E) Chen Xiexia

Answer

C) Naorem Roshibina Devi



Explanation

- **Two-time Asian Games medallist Naorem Roshibina Devi was named International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) female athlete of the year in the Sanda category.**
- **Roshibina, who won a bronze and a silver in the 2018 and 2022 Asian Games respectively, polled 93545 votes to beat Shahrbanu Mansouriyani Semiromi (88179) of Iran and Wu Xiaowei (46753) of China.**



➤ **Who acquired an entire stake in Vidal Healthcare Services?**

- A) Bajaj Finance
- B) Bajaj Finserv Health
- C) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- D) Bajaj Auto
- E) Bajaj Electricals



Answer

B) Bajaj Finserv Health



Explanation

- **Bajaj Finserv Health, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv, acquired an entire stake in Vidal Healthcare Services at an enterprise value of Rs 325 crore.**
- **It is a partner with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and a key player in facilitating healthcare transactions on the unified health interface network as well.**
- **On completion of the deal, Vidal and its subsidiaries shall become wholly-owned subsidiaries of Bajaj Health, the companies said in a statement.**
- **The acquisition is likely to help expand Bajaj Health's capabilities in better servicing hospitalization needs of customers.**



Note:

- Mumbai-based Vidal Healthcare is a leading healthcare administrator and its wholly-owned subsidiary Vidal Health Insurance TPA services premium of over Rs 5,000 crore, covering 130 million lives.
- Bajaj Finserv is the holding company of all non-auto businesses of the Bajaj Group and is the core investment company of the group.
- The group serves over 200 million customers with its diversified portfolio that includes savings products, consumer and commercial loans, mortgages, auto financing, securities brokerage services, general and life insurance, and investments.



Keyperson:

- **Girish Rao, chairman and managing director of Vidal Health**
- **Devang Mody, chief executive of Bajaj Finserv Health**



Titbits

Bajaj Finserv:

Bajaj Finserv Limited is an Indian non-banking financial services company, headquartered in Pune.

It is focused on lending, asset management, wealth management and insurance

CMD: Sanjeev Bajaj



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

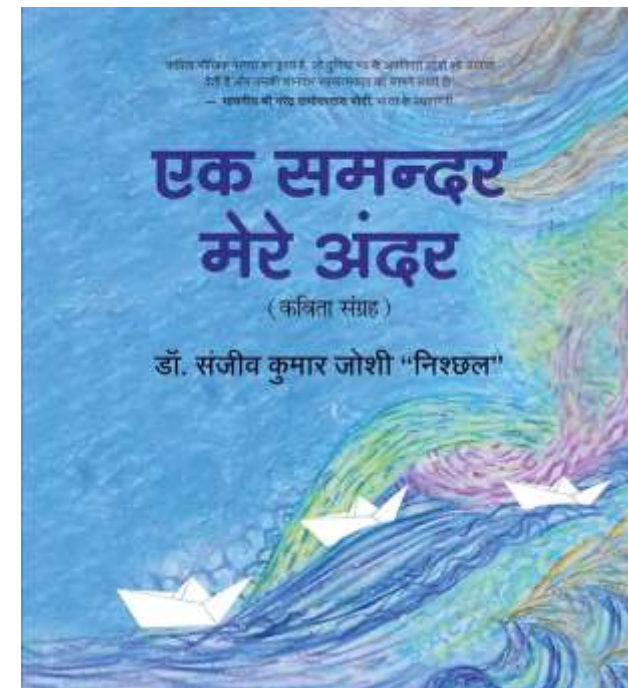


➤ Who is the author of the book 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar'?

- A) Ajit Doval
- B) General Anil Chauhan
- C) Sanjeev Joshi
- D) Narendra Modi
- E) Chief Justice of India

Answer

C) Sanjeev Joshi



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Explanation

- **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan unveiled the book 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar,' authored by Sanjeev Joshi, the Deputy CEO of BrahMos Aerospace.**
- **Comprising 75 poems, the book was officially introduced at a ceremony held at the India International Centre.**



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who is the new Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Puducherry?**

- A) Sharat Chauhan
- B) Rajeev Verma
- C) Ramesh Kumar
- D) Anjali Gupta
- E) Sanjay Singh



Answer

A) Sharat Chauhan



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Sharat Chauhan, Principal Commissioner, Finance, Planning and Investment Department, Arunachal Pradesh, is the new Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Puducherry.**
- **The outgoing Chief Secretary, Rajeev Verma, has been posted as Adviser to the Administrator in Chandigarh.**
- **Dr. Chauhan belongs to the 1994 AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.**



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- His previous portfolios include Director, Deputy Commissioner (Transport and Tourism, Andaman District), Director (International Health & Cooperation, Medical Education, Reproductive & Child Health) and Deputy Director, AIIMS, Commissioner –cum- Secretary to Chief Minister of Goa and Secretary (Finance and Health & Family Welfare, Goa).
- Dr. Chauhan has also served as an Executive Officer to the Regional Director of World Health Organisation (WHO), South East Asia Region



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

Puducherry:

Governor: Tamilisai Soundarrajan



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who officially began his second term as prime minister of Bhutan?**

- A) Tshering Tobgay
- B) Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- C) Lotay Tshering
- D) Jigme Thinley
- E) Sangay Ngedup



Answer

A) Tshering Tobgay



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Bhutan's liberal politician Tshering Tobgay, leader of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), officially began his second term as prime minister.**



APPOINTMENTS



About Tshering Tobgay:

- Tobgay is country's fourth freely elected prime minister since democracy was established in the Himalayan kingdom 15 years ago.
- A former bureaucrat and an advocate for Bhutan's Buddhist culture, he was previously prime minister from 2013 to 2018.
- He was also the leader of opposition in the parliament set up after the first free vote in 2008 until 2013



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

Bhutan:

Capital: Thimphu

Currency: Ngultrum

Prime Minister: Tshering Tobgay



➤ **What is the primary objective of the LABHA Yojana announced by the Odisha government?**

- A) To promote tourism in tribal areas
- B) To provide financial assistance to urban residents
- C) To offer subsidies for industrial development
- D) To ensure a minimum support price for minor forest produce
- E) To establish educational institutions in remote regions



Answer

D) To ensure a minimum support price for minor forest produce



Explanation

- **The Odisha government announced the launch of LABHA ('Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya') Yojana a 100% State-funded minimum support price (MSP) scheme for minor forest produce (MFP).**
- **From now on, the MSP of MFP will be determined every year by the State government.**
- **Under the scheme, a primary collector (a tribal person) will be able to sell the MFP, collected at the procurement centres by the Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation Limited of Odisha (TDCCOL), at the MSP.**



Explanation

- **Since 99% of primary collectors are tribals and the majority of them are women, the LABHA Yojana will integrate the efforts with Mission Shakti's Women SHGs (self help groups).**
- **Though the State government hopes to bring 30,000 tribal beneficiaries under the scheme, it's expected that the number will soon cross one lakh.**
- **The State government, to further benefit the tribals, is setting up a tamarind processing plant in Rayagada at an estimated investment of Rs 25 crore.**
- **The plant will use tamarind procured through the LABHA Yojana for value-addition.**



Note:

- The State Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Commission for the Preservation and Promotion of the Tribal Languages of the Scheduled Tribes of Odisha.
- There are 21 tribal languages in Odisha.
- The Naveen Patnaik Government wants to preserve, promote, develop, disseminate and safeguard of the tribal languages through this commission.
- It will encourage multilingual education, documenting and preserving tribal languages, promoting the use of those languages, protecting linguistic rights among several enriching activities for the development of the tribal languages.



Note:

- In the education system under the Multilingual Education (MLE) programme, all 21 recognized tribal languages by the State are included.
- The Commission will make efforts for inclusion of tribal languages like Ho, Mundari, Kui and Saora in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution by pursuing with the Centre which have been not including these languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution despite several initiatives by the State government



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Odisha:

Capital: Bhubaneswar
Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik
Governor: Raghubar Das



➤ **Which Indian state consistently maintains the highest Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Karnataka
- E) Kerala

Answer

C) Tamil Nadu



Explanation

- **Among India's large states, Tamil Nadu consistently maintains the highest Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education (colleges and universities) for five academic years between 2017-18 and 2021-22.**
- **According to the recently released All India Survey on Higher Education by the Ministry of Education, Tamil Nadu's GER was 47 per cent.**
- **Gross Enrollment Ratio: The number of students enrolled in higher education as a percentage of the eligible population aged 18 to 23 years**



Explanation

- **The all-India average GER was 28.4 per cent in the 2021-22 period.**
- **GER is a key indicator of the level of participation in higher education within a given population. Higher GER values indicate greater enrolment in higher education among the specified age group.**



Other States\UT's in GER:

UT's:

- Chandigarh – 64.8%
- Puducherry – 61.5%
- Delhi – 49%

States:

- Tamilnadu – 47%
- Himachal Pradesh – 43.1%
- Uttarakhand – 41.8%
- Kerala – 41.3%



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Note:

- GER has increased to 28.4 per cent in 2021-22 from 27.3 per cent in 2020-21 and 24.6 per cent in 2017-18.
- In 2014-15, the GER was 23.7.



Titbits

Tamilnadu

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M K Stalin

Governor: R N Ravi



➤ **Who, along with BPCL's subsidiary BRPL, holds a total of 30% stake in the Mozambique LNG project?**

- A) ONGC Videsh (OVL) and GAIL (India) Limited
- B) Oil India (OIL) and Reliance Industries Limited
- C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
- D) ONGC Videsh (OVL) and Oil India (OIL)
- E) GAIL (India) Limited and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)

Answer

D) ONGC Videsh (OVL) and Oil India (OIL)



Explanation

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) will be importing 1 million tonnes (mt) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Mozambique.**
- **The African nation has initiated a \$20-billion LNG project, which is expected to commence operations by FY28.**
- **Bharat PetroResources (BRPL), which is a subsidiary of BPCL, through its Netherlands-based step-down subsidiary BPRL Ventures Mozambique has a 10% stake or participating interest (PI) in the LNG project.**



Explanation

- **BRPL along with ONGC Videsh (OVL) and Oil India (OIL) hold a total of 30 per cent stake in the project.**
- **Overall, the consortium has tied up a total of 11 MT of gas with various entities.**
- **So far, the oil marketing company has invested roughly \$900 million on the development side and another \$729 million on exploration.**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Note:

- India imports around 20 mtpa of natural gas from different suppliers.
- Of this, around 8.5 MTPA is from Qatar through a long- term contract valid till April 2028.



BPCL:

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is an Indian public sector undertaking (PSU) under the ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India.**
- **It operates three refineries in Bina, Kochi and Mumbai.**
- **BPCL is India's second-largest government-owned downstream oil producer, whose operations are overseen by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- **HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- **CMD: G Krishnakumar**
- **Subsidiaries: Indraprastha Gas Limited, Petronet LNG**



➤ **With which company has India's GAIL finalized a significant long-term LNG agreement?**

- A) Qatar Petroleum
- B) ExxonMobil
- C) Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Gas
- D) Chevron
- E) TotalEnergies



Answer

C) Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Gas



Explanation

- **India's GAIL has finalised a significant long-term LNG agreement with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Gas.**
- **Under the terms of the deal, GAIL is set to purchase approximately 0.5 million metric tonnes per year of LNG from ADNOC Gas for a duration of 10 years, with deliveries commencing in 2026.**
- **This move is in line with India's broader objective of increasing the share of natural gas in its energy mix from the current 6-7 per cent to 15 per cent .**



Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL):

- **GAIL, as a major player in India's natural gas infrastructure, owns and manages a network exceeding 16,000 km of natural gas pipelines nationwide.**
- **The company maintains a dominant position with a 70 per cent market share in gas transmission and over 50 per cent in gas trading in the country, solidifying its pivotal role in the country's energy landscape.**
- **HQ: New Delhi**
- **Maharatna Status: 1 February 2013**
- **Chairman: Sandeep Kumar Gupta**



➤ Which organization has established a benchmark in Green Hydrogen production by implementing one of India's first pilot projects aligned with the "National Green Hydrogen Mission"?

- A) NTPC Limited
- B) NHPC Limited
- C) THDC India Limited
- D) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
- E) Indian Oil Corporation Limited



टीएचडीसी इंडिया लिमिटेड
THDC INDIA LIMITED

Answer

C) THDC India Limited



Explanation

- **THDC India Limited, a leading Power Sector PSU, has also established a benchmark in Green Hydrogen production, by successfully implementing India's one of the first pilot project aligned with the "National Green Hydrogen Mission".**
- **The project developed at the office complex in Rishikesh, has been inaugurated by THDC's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) R. K. Vishnoi in the presence of THDC's Director (Personnel) Shallinder Singh and THDC's Director (Technical) Bhupender Gupta.**



Explanation

- **The pilot project will produce 50KG of Green Hydrogen on daily basis sourcing input energy from 1MW rooftop solar plant, the produced Green Hydrogen will be stored in two storage tanks and shall be utilized in night hours for illumination of THDC office Complex through a 70 KW PEM Fuel Cell.**
- **The Project will be India's largest electrolyser end fuel cell based pilot project.**
- **This notable achievement by THDC serves as a demonstration of key technologies involved in Green Hydrogen production, H2 storage, and features a PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) Hydrogen fuel cell-based microgrid system.**



THDC India Limited:

- **THDC India Limited (formerly Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited) is under the ownership of National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, Ministry of Power, Government of India.**
- **It was incorporated in July 1988 to develop, operate and maintain the Tehri Hydro Power Complex and other Hydro Projects.**
- **THDC India Limited is a Mini Ratna Category-I Enterprise.**
- **CMD: R.K Vishnoi.**



➤ Which organization's tableau secured the first prize at the Republic Day Celebration Parade 2024?

- A) Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)
- B) Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
- C) National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)
- D) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)
- E) Ministry of Culture



इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Answer

**D) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
(IGNCA)**



Explanation

- **IGNCA announced that its tableau of Ministry of Culture has secured the first prize at the Republic Day Celebration (RDC) Parade 2024, marking a significant triumph in the realm of cultural representation.**
- **The tableau, a stunning blend of tradition and innovation, captivated audiences with its masterful use of the anamorphic technique alongside a rich display of Bharat's cultural heritage - often hailed as the mother of democracy.**



Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA):

- **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi is a premier government-funded arts organization in India.**
- **It is an autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Culture.**
- **The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts was launched on 19 November 1985 by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.**



Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA):

- **IGNCA is envisioned as a center for the study and experience of arts in the field of creative literature - written and oral; visual arts inclusive of architecture, sculpture, painting and graphics to general material culture, photography and film; and performing arts of music, dance and theatre.**
- **President: Ram Bahadur Rai**



➤ How many snow leopards were reported in India according to the SPAI Program?

- A) 518 individuals
- B) 618 individuals
- C) 718 individuals
- D) 818 individuals
- E) 918 individuals

Answer

C) 718 individuals



Explanation

- **Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav released the report on the Status of Snow leopards in India during the National Board for Wildlife meeting held in New Delhi.**
- **The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Program is the first-ever scientific exercise that reports Snow leopard population of 718 individuals in India.**



Explanation

- **The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is the National Coordinator for this exercise that was carried out with support the support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners, the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru and WWF-India.**
- **The SPAI systematically covered over 70% of the potential snow leopard range in the country, involving forest & wildlife staff, researchers, volunteers, and contributions from knowledge partners.**



Explanation

- **Covering approximately 120,000km² of crucial Snow leopard habitat across the trans-Himalayan region, including UTs of Ladakh and J & K, and states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The SPAI exercise was conducted from 2019 to 2023 using a meticulous two-step framework.
- The first step involved evaluating Snow leopard spatial distribution, incorporating habitat covariates into the analysis, aligning with the guidelines of the National population assessment of snow leopards in India by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 2019.



Explanation

- In the second step, Snow leopard abundance was estimated using camera traps in each identified stratified region.
- The Snow leopard occupancy was recorded in 93,392 km², with an estimated presence in 100,841 km².
- A total of 241 unique Snow leopards were photographed.
- Based on data analysis, the estimated population in different states are as follows: Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (9).



Explanation

- Consistent monitoring is essential to ensuring Snow leopards' long-term survival.
- For the same, states and UTs can consider adopting a periodic population estimation approach (every 4th year) in the Snow leopard range.
- These regular assessments will offer valuable insights for identifying challenges, addressing threats, and formulating effective conservation strategies.



QUICK RECALL



- **World Leprosy day is observed on January 30 this year**
- **Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra wins intercontinental title in U.S**
- **Sonam Maskar wins air rifle silver in Cairo World Cup**
- **Asian Games medallist Roshibina named female wushu sanda player of year by international federation**
- **Bajaj Finserv's healthtech arm to acquire Vidal Healthcare for Rs 325 crore**
- **NSA Ajit Doval, CDS Gen Chauhan release BrahMos deputy CEO's book**
- **Sharat Chauhan appointes as new Chief Secretary of Puducherry**
- **Bhutan's liberal Tobgay becomes prime minister after fourth free vote**



QUICK RECALL



- **Odisha launches LABHA, a 100% State-funded MSP scheme for minor forest produce**
- **Tamil Nadu tops in enrollment ratio for higher education among States**
- **BPCL ties up 1 million tonnes of LNG from upcoming Mozambique LNG project**
- **GAIL secures 10-year deal with ADNOC Gas, bolstering India's LNG supply**
- **THDC dedicates India's largest Green Hydrogen pilot project**
- **Ministry of Culture's Tableau on theme 'India: Mother of Democracy' clinches First Spot at Republic Day Parade 2024**
- **Bhupender Yadav releases the Status Report of Snow Leopards in India**



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