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Important Days



➤ **What is the theme of International Mountain Day 2024?**

- A) Mountains Matter for Biodiversity
- B) Mountains: Guardians of Water and Life
- C) Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future – Innovation, Adaptation, and Youth
- D) Promoting Sustainable Mountain Ecosystems
- E) Protecting the Fragile Mountain Ecosystem



Answer

**C) Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future –
Innovation, Adaptation, and Youth**



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** International Mountain Day, observed annually on December 11.
- **Location:** Global observance to highlight the critical role of mountains in ecosystems and livelihoods.



Important Days



History and Significance:

- **Established:** By the United Nations (UN) in 2003.
- **Origin:** Based on Chapter 13 of Agenda 21, “Sustainable Mountain Development,” adopted during the Earth Summit 1992.
- **Significance:**
 - Mountains host 15% of the global population and half of the biodiversity hotspots.
 - Rivers originating in mountains provide freshwater for over half the world's population.
 - Critical for climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods.



Important Days



Theme for 2024:

- “Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future – Innovation, Adaptation, and Youth.”
- **Focus Areas:**
 - **Innovation:** Climate-smart agriculture, technological advancements, and sustainable solutions.
 - **Adaptation:** Reforestation, water conservation, renewable energy to combat climate change.
 - **Youth Engagement:** Empowering young people for conservation and innovative practices.



Important Days



Mountains and Their Importance in India:

- **Himalayas:**
 - Regulate monsoons and protect against Siberian winds.
 - Essential for agriculture and climate regulation in India.
- **Biodiversity Hotspots:**
 - Indian mountain ranges like the Himalayas and Western Ghats are rich in flora and fauna.
- **Tourism Hub:**
 - Popular destinations: Darjeeling, Sikkim, Ladakh.
 - Features include trekking, spiritual retreats, and UNESCO World Heritage sites like Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.



Important Days



Threats:

- **Unsustainable practices:** Deforestation, overgrazing, mining.
- **Ecological imbalances:** Leading to **floods, landslides, desertification, and biodiversity loss.**

Call for Sustainable Development:

- Promote **reforestation** and preserve indigenous species.
- Encourage **eco-tourism** and regulate tourism to minimize environmental impact.
- Support local communities in adopting **sustainable practices.**



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **United Nations (UN)**
 - **Founded:** 24 October 1945
 - **Headquarters:** New York City, USA
 - **Secretary-General:** António Guterres
- **India**
 - **Major Mountain Ranges:** Himalayas, Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, Aravalli Range, Vindhya Range



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Title	International Mountain Day 2024
Observation Date	December 11, 2024
Theme for 2024	“Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future – Innovation, Adaptation, and Youth.”
Established by	United Nations in 2003.
Origin	Based on Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 during Earth Summit 1992.
Significance	Promotes awareness of mountain ecosystems and sustainable development.
Importance in India	Himalayas regulate monsoons, sustain agriculture, and boost biodiversity & tourism.
Major Threats	Deforestation, overgrazing, mining, and ecological imbalances.
Call to Action	Reforestation, eco-tourism, and community-led conservation practices.



Important Days



➤ **When was the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) established?**

- A) 1945
- B) 1946
- C) 1950
- D) 1953
- E) 1960

Answer
B) 1946



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** The 78th UNICEF Foundation Day marks 78 years since the establishment of UNICEF on December 11, 1946.
- **Occasion:** Commemorates UNICEF's pivotal role in improving the welfare of children globally.



Important Days



Historical Background:

- **Founding Year:** UNICEF was founded by the United Nations General Assembly under the leadership of Ludwik Rajchman.
- **Initial Mission:** Provide emergency aid, focusing on food and healthcare for children in postwar Europe and China.
- **Expanded Focus (1950):** Shifted to long-term developmental needs, addressing poverty, education, and healthcare in developing nations.
- **Permanent Status (1953):** Became a permanent part of the UN system, advocating for children's rights globally.



Important Days



Significance:

- Advocates for **children's rights**, ensuring protection from exploitation, abuse, and violence.
- Improves **health and nutrition** by addressing malnutrition and immunizing children against diseases.
- Ensures **education access** for marginalized children, bridging the gap between privileged and underprivileged groups.



Important Days



Major Achievements:

- **Polio Eradication:** Played a key role in ensuring global vaccination.
- **Universal Immunization:** Saved millions from preventable diseases.
- **Emergency Relief:** Provided aid during natural disasters and conflicts.
- **Gender Equality:** Focused on improving education and healthcare access for girls.



Important Days



Vision and Way Forward:

- **Vision:** Every child deserves a fair chance to thrive.
- **Goals:** Address systemic issues like poverty, inequality, and lack of access to essential services.
- **Call to Action:**
 - **Donations:** Financial contributions to sustain programs.
 - **Volunteerism:** Direct involvement in initiatives.
 - **Advocacy:** Raising awareness about children's welfare.
 - **Partnerships:** Collaborations for impactful solutions.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**
 - **Founded:** December 11, 1946
 - **Headquarters:** New York City, USA
 - **Current Executive Director:** Catherine M. Russell



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Title	78th UNICEF Foundation Day: A Celebration of Children's Rights and Well-being
Established	December 11, 1946, by the United Nations General Assembly.
Initial Mission	Emergency aid for children in war-affected nations.
Expanded Focus (1950)	Addressed long-term developmental needs like poverty, education, and healthcare.
Permanent UN Member (1953)	Solidified its role in global advocacy for children's rights.
Major Achievements	Polio eradication, universal immunization, emergency relief, and education programs.
Vision	A fair chance for every child by tackling systemic issues like poverty and inequality.



➤ Which country won the 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship in 2024?

- A) South Korea
- B) Japan
- C) China
- D) Kazakhstan
- E) India

Answer
B) Japan



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship.
- **Venue:** Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, India.
- **Date:** December 10, 2024.



Final Match:

- **Winner:** Japan defeated South Korea with a close score of 25-24 in the final.
- **Significance:**
 - This victory marked Japan's second championship title, their first win being in 2004.
 - The win ended South Korea's dominance, which included seven consecutive titles.



Key Players:

- **Japan:**
 - **Miyuki Nakayama:** Played a crucial role with decisive goals during critical moments.
 - **Yuki Tanaka:** Scored the winning goal in the final seconds.



Implications:

- **Qualification for World Championship:**
 - Both Japan and South Korea secured their spots in the 2025 World Women's Handball Championship to be held in Germany and the Netherlands.
- **Diplomatic Presence:** Ambassadors from Japan and South Korea attended the final match, highlighting the event's significance.



Other Matches:

- **Third Place Match:** Kazakhstan defeated Iran 28-22.
- **Fifth Place Match:** China beat India 41-30.
 - **Top Scorer for India:** Bhawana (9 goals).
- **Seventh Place Match:** Hong Kong defeated Singapore 33-18.



Static GK Information:

- **Asian Handball Federation**
 - **Founded:** 1974
 - **Headquarters:** Kuwait City, Kuwait



Tabular Summary:

Title	20th Asian Women's Handball Championship – Japan Triumphs Over South Korea
Champion	Japan
Runner-Up	South Korea
Final Score	Japan 25-24 South Korea
Venue	Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi
Defending Champion	South Korea (7-time consecutive champions)
Japan's Title Count	Second title (first won in 2004)
World Championship	Japan and South Korea qualify for the 2025 World Championship.
Third Place Match	Kazakhstan 28-22 Iran
Fifth Place Match	China 41-30 India



OBITUARY



➤ **At what age did legendary Gujarati singer Purushottam Upadhyay pass away?**

- A) 80
- B) 85
- C) 90
- D) 95
- E) 100

Answer
C) 90



OBITUARY



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Renowned Gujarati singer and composer **Purushottam Upadhyay** passed away on **December 11, 2024**, at the age of 90 in Mumbai.
- **Significance:** Upadhyay's demise marks the loss of an iconic figure in **Gujarati music** who left an indelible impact on the art world.



OBITUARY



Career Highlights:

- **Achievements:**
 - Recipient of **the Padma Shri** and **Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar**.
 - Created timeless songs like "**He Ranglo Jamyo**", "**Divaso Judaina Jay Che**", and "**Ae Jaashe Jarur Milan Sudhi**".
- **Legacy:**
 - Composed music for **over 20 films and 30 plays**, earning admiration beyond the Gujarati music fraternity.
 - His work highlighted the richness of the Gujarati language and culture globally.



OBITUARY



Mandates and Objectives:

- **World Homeopathy Day** serves to:
 - Promote awareness about the principles and benefits of homeopathy.
 - Highlight the potential advantages of using homeopathic medicine.
 - Break orthodox ideologies and encourage the use of homeopathy as a viable medical option.
 - Foster a global platform for discussions on alternative medical systems.
 - Celebrate the contributions of homeopathic medicine to the healthcare sector.



OBITUARY



Static GK Information:

- **Purushottam Upadhyay**
 - **Birthdate:** August 15, 1934
 - **Place of Birth:** Kheda, Gujarat
 - **Awards:** Padma Shri, Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar
- **Padma Shri**
 - **Type:** Fourth-highest civilian award in India.
 - **Established:** 1954



OBITUARY



Tabular Summary:

Title	Prime Minister Condoles the Demise of Legendary Gujarati Singer Purushottam Upadhyay
Demise Date	December 11, 2024
Age at Death	90 years
Significant Work	Songs: "He Ranglo Jamyo," "Divaso Judaina Jay Che," and compositions for 20+ films.
Awards	Padma Shri, Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar
Tributes	PM Modi called his death an "irreplaceable loss to the world of art."
Birthplace	Kheda, Gujarat



➤ Which position does Kerala hold in the India Skills Report 2025 for employability?

- A) First
- B) Third
- C) Fifth
- D) Seventh
- E) Tenth

Answer
C) Fifth



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India Skills Report 2025 rankings for employability.
- **Location:** Kerala ranks fifth among Indian states, showcasing a strong talent pool and inclusivity.



Kerala's Performance:

- **State Ranking:** Kerala secures 5th position in employability nationally, after Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Top Age Group:** Kerala ranks second in employability for the 18-21 age group and third in B.E./BTech and polytechnic employability.
- **City Highlights:**
 - Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi are top-ranked cities in Kerala for computer and English skills.
 - These cities are highly preferred work locations.



Key Insights from India Skills Report 2025:

- **State-wise Employability:**
 - Telangana leads with an employability rate of 85.45%, followed by Haryana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.
- **Skill Rankings:**
 - Kerala ranks third in fostering computer skills.
- **AI Skill Leadership:**
 - India leads globally in AI skill penetration, with demand for AI professionals projected at **1 million by 2026.**



RANKING



Kerala's Skilling Initiatives:

- **ASAP (Additional Skill Acquisition Program):**
 - Trained over **2.5 lakh youth** with industry-relevant skills and advanced technology training.



Broader Employment Trends:

- **Youth Employment:** Kerala has the highest youth employment rate in India at 29.9%.
- **National AI Trends:**
 - India's AI sector is expanding at a CAGR of 45%, with a 14-fold increase in professionals since 2016.



RANKING



Static GK Information:

- **Kerala**
 - **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram
 - **Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan
 - **Governor:** Arif Mohammed Khan



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

Title	Kerala Ranks Among Top States for Employability in India
Rank in India Skills Report	Fifth, with a 71% employability rate.
Top Cities	Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi: Preferred work locations for computer and English skills.
Skilling Initiative	ASAP (Additional Skill Acquisition Program): Trained 2.5 lakh students.
AI Skill Leadership	India leads globally, with rapid growth in AI talent demand.
National Employability	Telangana ranks first; Kerala excels in youth employability and technical skills.



RANKING



➤ Which Indian university achieved the highest rank among Indian institutions in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) IIT Kharagpur
- D) IIT Kanpur
- E) University of Delhi

Answer
B) IIT Delhi



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Release of the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025, focusing on universities' environmental, social, and governance contributions.
- **Location:** Global ranking with notable recognition of Indian institutions, particularly the IITs.



RANKING



Key Highlights:

- **Key Highlights:**
 - **IIT Delhi is the top-ranked Indian university**, achieving the **171st position** globally, an improvement of **255 ranks** from the previous year (426th in 2024).
 - The rankings evaluate universities on sustainability metrics like environmental impact, social responsibility, and governance.



IIT Delhi's Achievements:

- **Recognized for:**
 - Green campus initiatives.
 - Innovative research in reducing carbon footprints.
 - Sustainability-focused collaborations and projects.
- Significant improvement underscores IIT Delhi's commitment to **integrating sustainable practices** into academic and operational frameworks.



Other Indian Performers:

- **IIT Kharagpur:** Ranked 202nd globally, improving by 147 ranks from last year.
- **IIT Bombay:** Ranked 234th globally, with a 69-rank improvement.
- **IIT Kanpur:** Achieved a major leap, rising by 277 ranks to secure the 245th position.
- **University of Delhi:** Despite a dip, it continues to represent non-technical Indian institutions in the rankings.



RANKING



Static GK Information:

- **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)**
 - **Founded:** 1961
 - **Location:** New Delhi, India
 - **Director:** Rangan Banerjee
- **QS Rankings Organization**
 - **Founded:** 1990
 - **Headquarters:** London, United Kingdom
 - **CEO:** Nunzio Quacquarelli



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

Title	QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025 – IITs Lead the Charge
Top Indian Performer	IIT Delhi: 171st globally, an improvement of 255 ranks from 2024 (426th).
Ranking Focus	Environmental impact, social responsibility, and governance.
Notable Institutions	IIT Kharagpur (202nd), IIT Bombay (234th), IIT Kanpur (245th), IIT Madras (277th).
IIT Delhi's Success Factors	Green campus initiatives, carbon footprint reduction, and clean energy research.
Other Rankings	University of Delhi (299th), VIT (396th), Manipal University (401st).



➤ What is S&P Global's GDP growth forecast for India in FY25?

- A) 6.6%
- B) 6.8%
- C) 6.9%
- D) 7.0%
- E) 5.4%

Answer
B) 6.8%



Event and Context:

- **Event:** S&P Global retains its 6.8% GDP growth forecast for India in FY25.
- **Context:** This follows a weaker-than-expected **5.4% growth in Q2FY25**, and the RBI lowering its forecast to **6.6%**.



Key Projections by S&P Global:

- **GDP Growth:**
 - **FY25:** 6.8% (0.2% higher than RBI's 6.6% forecast).
 - **FY26:** Expected growth of 6.9%.
- **Monetary Policy:**
 - S&P anticipates the RBI to reduce the repo rate by 50 basis points in 2025 due to easing inflation.
 - Retail inflation is forecasted to average 4.5% in FY25, slightly lower than RBI's estimates.



Growth Drivers:

- **Urban Consumption:** Strong demand and spending in urban areas.
- **Service Sector:** Steady growth in the services industry.
- **Infrastructure Investments:** Ongoing projects boosting economic activity.



Challenges and Risks:

- **Manufacturing Weakness:** Challenges in manufacturing remain a concern.
- **Agricultural Growth:** Sluggish growth in agriculture.
- **Post-Pandemic Recovery:** Public and household balance sheet weaknesses.



Government's Stance:

- The Indian government is aiming for **6.5–7% GDP growth** in FY25, anticipating a stronger performance in the second half of the fiscal year.



Static GK Information:

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Established:** 1 April 1935
 - **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **S&P Global**
 - **Headquarters:** New York City, USA
 - **Founded:** 1860
 - **CEO:** Douglas L. Peterson



Tabular Summary:

Title	S&P Global Maintains 6.8% Growth Forecast for FY25
FY25 GDP Growth Forecast	6.8%, retained by S&P Global despite weaker Q2 performance (5.4%).
Monetary Policy Outlook	RBI expected to cut repo rate by 50 basis points in 2025 due to easing inflation.
Growth Drivers	Urban consumption, service sector expansion, and infrastructure investments.
Inflation Forecast	Retail inflation expected to average 4.5% in FY25, slightly lower than RBI estimates.
Challenges to Growth	Weak manufacturing, sluggish agriculture, and post-pandemic balance sheet issues.
Government's Target	Aims for 6.5–7% GDP growth, expecting a stronger second half of FY25.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister of Syria after the fall of Bashar al-Assad?**

- A) Bashar al-Assad
- B) Mohammed al-Bashir
- C) Hayat Tahrir al-Sham
- D) Ahmed Jibril
- E) Khaled Khoja

Answer

B) Mohammed al-Bashir



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Appointment of Mohammed al-Bashir as caretaker Prime Minister of Syria.
- **Location:** Syria, following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime.



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- Al-Bashir will serve as the transitional leader until **March 1, 2025.**
- Responsible for restarting institutions and establishing a **constitutional framework.**



APPOINTMENTS



Background of Mohammed al-Bashir:

- Former head of the **Syrian Salvation Government (SSG)** in Idlib.
- Previously held the position of **development minister** in SSG.
- Strong affiliations with **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)**, the rebel group instrumental in Assad's downfall.



APPOINTMENTS



Historical Context:

- The Syrian Civil War, which began in **2011**, transitioned from an uprising to a full-scale war.
- Rebel forces recently succeeded in toppling **the Assad regime**.
- Key cities like **Damascus and Aleppo** were captured during the rebel offensive.



APPOINTMENTS



Current Situation in Syria:

- Life in Damascus is gradually returning to normal, with businesses and banks reopening.
- The transition is monitored amidst **Israeli airstrikes** on Syrian military bases.

Military and Rebel Movements:

- **The lightning offensive** led by rebel groups collapsed Syrian military forces.
- **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)** played a pivotal role in the rebel victory.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **Syria**
 - **Capital:** Damascus
 - **Currency:** Syrian Pound (SYP)
 - **President:** Formerly Bashar al-Assad (ousted)
 - **Interim Prime Minister:** Mohammed al-Bashir



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Details	Information
Title	Syrian Fighters Name Mohammed al-Bashir as Interim Prime Minister
Caretaker Prime Minister	Mohammed al-Bashir
Government Duration	Until March 1, 2025
Previous Role	Head of Syrian Salvation Government (SSG); Development Minister in SSG
Political Affiliations	Strong ties with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)
Current Actions	Restarting institutions, meeting old officials, preparing constitutional system
Historical Context	Civil war began in 2011, significant casualties, and foreign involvement
Current Situation in Syria	Businesses reopening; monitored amidst Israeli airstrikes
Rebel and Military Movements	Rebel offensive toppled Assad; Syrian military collapsed



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Until which year has Jayen Mehta's tenure as Amul's Managing Director been extended?**

- A) 2026-2027
- B) 2027-2028
- C) 2028-2029
- D) 2029-2030
- E) 2030-2031

Answer

D) 2029-2030



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Jayen Mehta's tenure as Managing Director of Amul (GCMMF) has been extended until 2029-2030.
- **Context:** Mehta took over as interim MD in **January 2023**, succeeding **R.S. Sodhi**, and his extended leadership ensures stability for Amul for the next five years.



APPOINTMENTS



Jayen Mehta's Career Highlights:

- **Joined GCMMF:** In 1991, holding pivotal roles such as brand manager, group product manager, and general manager in the marketing department.
- **International Role:**
 - Member of the Standing Committee of Marketing at the International Dairy Federation (IDF).
- **Impact:** Played a key role in shaping the Amul brand into one of India's most recognized names in the dairy industry.



APPOINTMENTS



Interim Role and Leadership:

- Took over as interim MD in January 2023, following **R.S. Sodhi's** departure.
- Initially appointed as a temporary leader, his tenure has now been confirmed until 2029-2030, marking a phase of stability and growth for Amul.



APPOINTMENTS



About R.S. Sodhi:

- Served as Amul's MD from 2010 to January 2023.
- Transitioned to Reliance Retail Ventures (RRVL) in April 2023, where he focuses on grocery and consumer brand growth.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)**
 - **Founded:** 1973
 - **Headquarters:** Anand, Gujarat
 - **MD:** Jayen Mehta (tenure extended until 2029-2030)



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Title	Amul Extends Jayen Mehta's MD Tenure by 5 Years
Tenure Extension	Jayen Mehta's MD tenure extended until 2029-2030.
Interim Role	Appointed interim MD in January 2023, succeeding R.S. Sodhi.
Career Highlights	Joined GCMMF in 1991, held key marketing roles, and shaped the Amul brand.
International Role	Member of the International Dairy Federation's Standing Committee on Marketing.
Predecessor	R.S. Sodhi, now with Reliance Retail Ventures since April 2023.



AWARDS



➤ **Who received the Lifetime Achievement award in the 2024 Champions of the Earth?**

- A) Sonia Guajajara
- B) Madhav Gadgil
- C) Gabriel Paun
- D) Lu Qi
- E) SEKEM Initiative

Answer

B) Madhav Gadgil



AWARDS



Event and Purpose:

- **Event:** The 2024 Champions of the Earth awards were announced on December 10, coinciding with Human Rights Day and Resilience Day at COP16.
- **Purpose:** To honor exceptional leaders and organizations for their contributions to combat land degradation, drought, and desertification.



AWARDS



About the Award:

- **Established:** In 2005, it is the United Nations' highest environmental honor.
- **Focus for 2024:** Restoring degraded land, building drought resilience, and preventing desertification.



AWARDS



Lifetime Achievement: Madhav Gadgil (India):

- **Role:** Renowned Indian ecologist who influenced environmental policies and grassroots activism.
- **Contribution:**
 - Seminal work in conserving **the Western Ghats**, a biodiversity hotspot.
 - Advocated sustainable development through research and local community engagement.



AWARDS



Other 2024 Laureates:

- **Sonia Guajajara (Brazil):**
 - Awarded for Policy Leadership.
 - Advocated for Indigenous rights and secured recognition of 10 Indigenous territories.
- **Amy Bowers Cordalis (United States):**
 - Recognized for Inspiration and Action.
 - Focused on restoring the Klamath River ecosystem and sustainable fishing.
- **Gabriel Paun (Romania):**
 - Also honored for Inspiration and Action.
 - Protected the Carpathian biodiversity and exposed illegal logging.



AWARDS



Other 2024 Laureates:

- **Lu Qi (China):**
 - Awarded for Science and Innovation.
 - Led the world's largest afforestation project to combat desertification.
- **SEKEM Initiative (Egypt):**
 - Honored for Entrepreneurial Vision.
 - Pioneered sustainable agriculture and desert transformation.



AWARDS



Static GK Information:

- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**
 - **Founded:** 1972
 - **Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya
 - **Executive Director:** Inger Andersen



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Title	2024 Champions of the Earth: Honoring Bold Environmental Leadership
Award Purpose	UN's highest environmental honor for leadership in combating land degradation.
Lifetime Achievement	Madhav Gadgil (India): Western Ghats conservation and grassroots engagement.
Policy Leadership	Sonia Guajajara (Brazil): Advocated for Indigenous rights, combating deforestation.
Inspiration and Action	Amy Bowers Cordalis (US) and Gabriel Paun (Romania): Advocacy and biodiversity.
Science and Innovation	Lu Qi (China): Reversed desertification, led afforestation projects.
Entrepreneurial Vision	SEKEM Initiative (Egypt): Sustainable farming and desert transformation.



➤ **What is the length of the Hyperloop test track completed by IIT Madras?**

- A) 200 meters
- B) 410 meters
- C) 1 kilometer
- D) 11.5 kilometers
- E) 100 kilometers

Answer

B) 410 meters



Event and Location:

- **Event:** IIT Madras has successfully completed the construction of a 410-meter-long Hyperloop test track.
- **Significance:** This achievement represents a major step forward in India's exploration of high-speed transportation technology.



Hyperloop Technology:

- **Concept:** Proposed by Elon Musk in 2012, Hyperloop is a high-speed transportation system utilizing vacuum-sealed tubes to reduce air resistance and friction.
- **Speed:**
 - **Maximum:** Up to 1,100 km/h.
 - **Operational:** Around 360 km/h.
- **Advantages:**
 - Environmentally friendly with low energy consumption.
 - Drastically reduced travel times, especially in congested corridors like Mumbai-Pune.



Project Phases:

- **Phase 1:** Construction of an **11.5-kilometer test track** for technology validation and certification.
- **Phase 2:** Expansion to a **100-kilometer track** for commercial implementation.



Collaborators:

- **Avishkar Hyperloop Team:**
 - Composed of 76 students from IIT Madras, focusing on core areas such as propulsion, vacuum systems, and aerodynamics.
- **TuTr:** A startup incubated at IIT Madras, contributing expertise in **system design and integration**.
- **Indian Railways:** A key partner in advancing the project.



Future Implementation:

- The first full-scale Hyperloop system in India is planned for **the Mumbai-Pune corridor**, reducing travel time to just **25 minutes**.



Static GK Information:

- **IIT Madras**
 - **Founded:** 1959
 - **Location:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - **Director:** V. Kamakoti
- **Hyperloop Technology**
 - **Proposed By:** Elon Musk (2012)
 - **Operational Speed:** Around 360 km/h
 - **Maximum Speed:** Up to 1,100 km/h



Tabular Summary:

Title	IIT Madras Completes 410-Meter Hyperloop Test Track
Test Track Length	410 meters, completed by IIT Madras.
Hyperloop Technology	Proposed by Elon Musk in 2012; enables high-speed travel via vacuum-sealed tubes.
Phase 1 Goal	Construction of 11.5 km test track for validation and certification.
Phase 2 Goal	Expand to 100 km, leading to the first commercial Hyperloop system.
First Full-Scale Project	Planned for the Mumbai-Pune corridor, reducing travel time to 25 minutes.
Collaborators	Avishkar Hyperloop team (76 students), TuTr startup, and Indian Railways.
Speeds	Maximum: 1,100 km/h; Operational: 360 km/h.



➤ **What is the primary objective of the collaboration between Aditya L1 and Proba-3 missions in 2025?**



- A) Studying Earth's magnetosphere
- B) Observing solar flares
- C) Detailed study of the Sun's corona
- D) Measuring cosmic radiation
- E) Researching interplanetary weather patterns

Answer

C) Detailed study of the Sun's corona



Event and Collaboration:

- **Event:** Aditya L1 (India) and Proba-3 (European Space Agency) will collaborate for solar research starting in 2025.
- **Objective:** The primary goal is to conduct detailed studies of the Sun's corona using advanced coronagraphs.



Key Instruments:

- **Aditya L1:** Equipped with the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC).
- **Proba-3:** Features the ASPIICS (Association of Spacecraft for Polarimetric and Imaging Investigation of the Corona of the Sun), a unique coronagraph.
- **Special Features of ASPIICS:**
 - Provides views of the corona from 1.08 to 3 solar radii.
 - Uses a 1.4-meter occulting disk to simulate solar eclipse conditions.



Missions Overview:

- **Aditya L1:**
 - **Launched:** September 2023.
 - Operational from Lagrange Point L1 (1.5 million km from Earth) since January 2024.
- **Proba-3:**
 - **Launched:** December 5, 2024.
 - First mission involving two satellites flying in formation to mimic a solar eclipse.



Collaborative Campaigns:

- **Planning:** Indian and ESA scientists met in Chennai to coordinate observation schedules and maximize scientific outcomes.
- **Expected Operations:** Joint observations will commence in **early 2025**, with synchronized campaigns conducted during key observation windows.



Significance:

- The collaboration will provide unprecedented insights into solar phenomena, including the dynamics of the corona, and enhance the capabilities of both Indian and European researchers.



Static GK Information:

- **European Space Agency (ESA)**
 - **Headquarters:** Paris, France
 - **Established:** 1975
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
 - **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
 - **Established:** 1969



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Tabular Summary:

Title	Aditya L1 and Proba-3 to Unite for Solar Research in 2025
Purpose of Collaboration	Joint solar observation campaigns to study the Sun's corona.
Aditya L1 Launch	September 2023.
Proba-3 Launch	December 5, 2024.
Aditya L1 Instrument	Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC).
Proba-3 Instrument	ASPIICS, simulating solar eclipse conditions.
Proba-3 Specialty	First mission with two satellites flying in formation.
Operation Start	Early 2025 after satellite separation.
Key Meeting	Indian and ESA scientists convened in Chennai for campaign planning.



➤ **Where will the advanced radar system acquired from Russia be installed in India?**

- A) Pune, Maharashtra
- B) Hyderabad, Telangana
- C) Chitradurga, Karnataka
- D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- E) Jaipur, Rajasthan

Answer

C) Chitradurga, Karnataka



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India and Russia are finalizing a USD 4 billion deal for an advanced radar system.
- **Location:** The radar system will be installed in **Chitradurga, Karnataka**, a hub for advanced defence and aerospace technologies.



DEFENCE



Mandates and Objectives:

- Enhance India's **air defence and missile detection** capabilities.
- Integrate advanced technology into existing defence infrastructure to strengthen national security.



Technology:

- **Voronezh Series Radar:**
 - Tracks ballistic missiles and aircraft up to 8,000 kilometers.
 - Extends India's surveillance capabilities, previously available only to global superpowers.

Strategic Benefits:

- Facilitates **early detection and tracking of threats.**
- Ensures **rapid deployment of countermeasures.**
- Provides India with a strategic edge in monitoring **regional and global threats.**



Make in India Initiative:

- **60% of components** will be manufactured domestically.
- Strengthens **India's self-reliance** in defence technology and fosters the domestic defence sector.

Economic Impact:

- Boosts **defence manufacturing** in India.
- Creates new industrial and economic opportunities, contributing to **the local economy**.



Geopolitical Context:

- The radar deal reinforces India's position amid **rising geopolitical tensions**.
- Highlights the enduring **India-Russia defence partnership**.

Key Developments:

- **High-level** talks between Indian officials and Russia's **Almaz-Antey**, the radar's manufacturer.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh's visit to Russia** to commission INS Tushil, an advanced frigate under the India-Russia collaboration.



Static GK Information:

- **Russia**
 - **Capital:** Moscow
 - **Currency:** Russian Ruble
 - **President:** Vladimir Putin
 - **Prime Minister:** Mikhail Mishustin
- **Chitradurga, Karnataka**
 - **Capital:** Bengaluru
 - **Chief Minister:** Siddaramaiah
 - **Governor:** Thawar Chand Gehlot



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Details	Information
Title	India set to sign USD 4 billion radar deal with Russia.
Technology	Voronezh Series Long-Range Radar.
Detection Range	Up to 8,000 kilometers.
Installation Location	Chitradurga, Karnataka.
Domestic Manufacturing	60% components to be manufactured in India.
Strategic Benefits	Early detection, rapid countermeasure deployment, enhanced monitoring capabilities.
Economic Impact	Boosts defence manufacturing, creates new industrial opportunities.
Geopolitical Relevance	Strengthens India's monitoring amid rising regional and global tensions.
Key Meetings	High-level discussions between Indian officials and Almaz-Antey.
Defence Minister's Visit	Rajnath Singh visited Russia for talks and commissioning of INS Tushil.



➤ **When will the 4th Eaglenest Bird Festival be held in Arunachal Pradesh?**

- A) January 10-12, 2025
- B) January 14-16, 2025
- C) January 17-19, 2025
- D) January 20-22, 2025
- E) January 25-27, 2025

Answer

C) January 17-19, 2025



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Unveiling of the new logo for the 4th Eaglenest Bird Festival.
- **Location:** Khellong and Thongre village, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Mandates and Objectives:

- The festival promotes **biodiversity, sustainable ecotourism, and community-driven conservation.**
- Highlights the region's **natural beauty** and strengthens **its cultural and spiritual heritage.**



Key Highlights of the Festival:

- **Event Dates:** January 17-19, 2025.
- **Significance:** A major event in Arunachal Pradesh's calendar to emphasize biodiversity conservation.
- **Key Attractions:**
 - Declaration of the Dalai Lama's historic trail, showcasing cultural and spiritual heritage.
 - Inauguration of an Eco Bio-Diversity Park, preserving historical and ecological importance.
 - Birdathon and trekking events to celebrate avian diversity and promote eco-tourism.



Cultural and Environmental Impact:

- Boosts awareness of **eco-friendly practices** and the importance of conservation.
- Enhances Arunachal Pradesh's visibility in **national and international tourism**.
- Strengthens local community involvement in **environmental preservation efforts**.



Static GK Information:

- **Arunachal Pradesh**
 - **Capital:** Itanagar
 - **Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu
 - **Governor:** Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (Retd.)



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Details	Information
Title	Arunachal CM Pema Khandu unveiled the new logo for the Eaglenest Bird Festival.
Event Dates	January 17-19, 2025
Location	Khellong and Thongre village, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh
Festival Significance	Highlights biodiversity, eco-tourism, and community-led conservation efforts.
Key Attractions	Dalai Lama's historic trail, Eco Bio-Diversity Park, Birdathon, adventure trekking events.
Theme	Celebration of biodiversity and conservation awareness.
Environmental Focus	Promotes eco-tourism and fosters community conservation involvement.
Cultural and Spiritual Focus	Highlights Dalai Lama's heritage and connection to Arunachal Pradesh.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ How many Indian languages, including Sign Language, are the YouTube channels launched by Google and NCERT available in?



- A) 10
- B) 15
- C) 21
- D) 29
- E) 35

Answer
D) 29



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एन सी ई आर टी
NCERT



Event and Collaboration:

- **Event:** Google has partnered with NCERT to launch **YouTube channels in 29 Indian languages**, including **Indian Sign Language**, to make free educational content accessible for students in **grades 1-12**.
- **Objective:** To bridge language barriers and ensure inclusivity in learning.



Key Highlights of the Initiative:

- **Languages:** Covers 29 Indian languages to address diverse linguistic needs.
- **Content:** Broad range of educational resources tailored for students, teachers, and parents, available in various subjects.
- **Inclusivity:** Indian Sign Language ensures accessibility for hearing-impaired students.



AI-Powered Learning Tools:

- Google employs **AI** to enhance the learning experience by:
 - Analyzing video content to identify key concepts.
 - Providing definitions, images, and resources sourced from **Google's Knowledge Graph**.



Collaboration with NPTEL:

- Google has partnered with **the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)** to offer **credentialed courses** on YouTube.
- Certification for these courses can be obtained via **the NPTEL-SWAYAM portal**.



Google for India Initiative:

- In its **2023 event**, Google committed **Rs 33.2 crore** to enhance **AI literacy** for 5 million students, parents, and educators.
- Includes programs like the fellowship with **Rocket Learning** for early childhood education and the development of **AI-powered tutor Saheli** for children aged 3-6.



Static GK Information:

- **National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**
 - **Founded:** 1961
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Director:** Dinesh Prasad Saklani
- **National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)**
 - **Established:** 2003
 - **Initiative By:** IITs and IISc



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Title	Google Partners with NCERT to Launch YouTube Channels in 29 Indian Languages
Key Collaboration	Google and NCERT launch YouTube channels in 29 languages, including Sign Language.
Educational Reach	Free content for grades 1-12 across diverse subjects and linguistic backgrounds.
AI Tools	AI identifies concepts, provides definitions, images, and resources.
NPTEL Partnership	Offers credentialed courses on YouTube with certification via NPTEL-SWAYAM portal.
Google for India Initiative	Rs 33.2 crore commitment to enhance AI literacy for 5 million learners.
Fellowship Program	Focus on early childhood education, featuring AI tutor Saheli.



➤ Under the Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS), what is the insurance coverage amount for death or permanent total disability of fishers?

- A) Rs. 2,50,000
- B) Rs. 3,00,000
- C) Rs. 5,00,000
- D) Rs. 10,00,000
- E) Rs. 25,000

Answer

C) Rs. 5,00,000



Event and Program:

- **Sagar Parikrama Yatra** was launched on **March 5, 2022**, by the Department of Fisheries under the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- Aimed to promote **responsible fisheries**, interact with coastal communities, and disseminate information about government schemes.



Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS):

- Implemented under **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** to provide insurance coverage for fishers.
- **Coverage Details:**
 - **Rs. 5,00,000:** Death or permanent total disability.
 - **Rs. 2,50,000:** Permanent partial disability.
 - **Rs. 25,000:** Hospitalization expenses in the event of an accident.
- **Funding:** The premium is entirely borne by the Central and State Governments, with no contribution from the beneficiaries.



Significance of Sagar Parikrama:

- Covered **7440 km** across **12 coastal states/UTs**, visiting 113 locations in 80 districts.
- Concluded at **Ganga Sagar, West Bengal**, on January 11, 2024.
- Focused on promoting sustainability and protecting marine ecosystems.



Static GK Information:

- **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying**
 - **Established:** 2019
 - **Current Minister:** Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**
 - **Launched:** May 2020
 - **Objective:** Sustainable development of the fisheries sector in India.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Title	Sagar Parikrama Yatra and Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS)
Sagar Parikrama Launch Date	March 5, 2022
Coverage under GAIS	Rs. 5,00,000 for death/permanent total disability.
Funding for GAIS	Entire premium borne by Central and State Governments.
PMMSY Objectives	Promote sustainable aquaculture and fish production.
Sagar Parikrama Scope	Covered 7440 km, 12 coastal states/UTs, and 80 districts.
Conclusion	Ganga Sagar, West Bengal, on January 11, 2024.



QUICK RECALL



- **International Mountain Day observed on December 11, 2024, with a theme focusing on sustainability.**
- **UNICEF was established on December 11, 1946, initially to provide emergency aid post-WWII.**
- **Japan clinched the 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship by defeating South Korea 25-24.**
- **Purushottam Upadhyay, legendary Gujarati singer, passed away at 90 years on December 11, 2024.**
- **Kerala ranks 5th in employability with a 71% rate in India Skills Report 2025.**
- **IIT Delhi leads Indian institutions in QS Sustainability Rankings 2025, ranked 171st globally.**
- **S&P Global retains India's 6.8% GDP growth forecast for FY25, higher than RBI's 6.6%.**
- **Mohammed al-Bashir named Syria's interim Prime Minister post-Assad's regime collapse.**
- **Jayen Mehta's tenure as Amul MD extended until 2029-2030, ensuring leadership stability.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Madhav Gadgil awarded Lifetime Achievement for Western Ghats conservation efforts.**
- **IIT Madras completes 410-meter Hyperloop test track, marking a milestone in high-speed transport.**
- **Aditya L1 and Proba-3 will collaborate in 2025 to study the Sun's corona.**
- **India and Russia finalizing USD 4 billion radar deal under Make in India.**
- **4th Eaglenest Bird Festival scheduled for January 17-19, 2025, in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **Google and NCERT launch YouTube channels in 29 Indian languages for grades 1-12.**
- **GAIS provides Rs. 5,00,000 insurance coverage for fishers in case of death or total disability.**



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