

K A R A T

JUDICIAL TIMES

February 2024

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(FEBRUARY 2024)

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NATIONAL NEWS

- 1. PM inaugurates, dedicates to the nation and lays the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 20,000 crores in Tamil Nadu.**
 - The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of development projects worth more than Rs 20,000 crores in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.
 - The development projects include rail, road, oil and gas, and shipping sectors in Tamil Nadu.
 - Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri R N Ravi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri M K Stalin, Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Shri L Murugan were among others were present on the occasion.
 - The DFRP, developed at a cost of Rs. 400 crore, is equipped with a unique design, which is the only of its kind in the world and can reprocess both carbide and oxide fuels discharged from the fast reactors.
- 2. Modi govt raises Sukanya Samridhi Yojana interest rate ahead of Lok Sabha election 2024.**
 - The Government recently raised the interest rates on the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) scheme by 20 basis points to 8.2 per cent from the existing 8 percent.
 - SSY is a savings scheme launched in 2015 under the Government of India's "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign, which aimed to promote the education of girl children.
 - SSY is a small-deposit scheme tailored specifically for the girl child.
 - This scheme enables guardians to open a savings account for their girl child with an authorized commercial bank or India Post branch.
- 3. PM Modi to inaugurate 'India's longest sea bridge' in Mumbai:**
 - The ambitious infrastructure project, the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 January, Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde.

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- The MTHL project is 22 km long, touted to be India's longest and the world's 12 longest sea bridge.
 - The project consists of an approximately 22 km long 6-tier (3+3-lane, 2 emergency lane) bridge connecting Shivdi in Mumbai city and Nhava on the mainland.
 - Build at the cost of ₹17,843 crore, the six-lane bridge is among the most expensive projects.
 - The MTHL will have interchanges at Sewri in Mumbai and Shivaji Nagar, Jassi, and Chirle on National Highway 4B on the Navi Mumbai end.
4. **Bharatmala Phase 1 deadline extended by six years to FY28.**
- The government has recently extended the deadline for completion of the highway development project Bharatmala Phase-I to 2027-28.
 - Bharatmala Pariyojana is a centrally-sponsored project, approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in 2017.
 - It was to be completed by 2022 to enhance road connectivity and facilitate economic growth by constructing and upgrading highways across India.
 - The Cabinet Committee had approved the first phase of Bharatmala Pariyojana in 2017 and was to cost Rs 5.35 trillion.
5. **VP Jagdeep Dhankhar to inaugurate Startup Expo in Kathua.**
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate the Startup Expo in Kathua.
 - Twenty-five startups from Northern States will showcase their products at the expo.
 - Six women Entrepreneurs will also participate in the startup expo.
 - The theme of the expo is Emerging Startup Trends in North India.
 - Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, a lot of development took place in the field of startups in the last nine years.
 - The number of Startups in the country has grown to over one lakh from about 350 in 2014.
6. **15th Tribal Youth Exchange Program to conclude in FinMin allows 30th tranche of electoral bonds.**

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- The Centre has approved the issuance of the 30th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale.
 - The window for purchase and encashment of electoral bonds will be available till January 11.
 - Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency to political funding.
 - The sale of the first batch of electoral bonds happened in March 2018.
 - The latest window – the 30th tranche – comes ahead of the general elections due later this year.
- 7. India to become world's largest metallurgical coal importer by 2026.**
- India will become the largest metallurgical coal importer in the world by 2026.
 - According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), global metallurgical coal trade will increase by about 2% to 353 million tonnes (MT) in 2026.
 - Rise in India's metallurgical coal imports will be aided by growing industrialization, higher steel consumption and limited availability of coking coal.
 - The IEA predicted that rising imports from other countries will balance off a decline in metallurgical coal imports into China of roughly 28 MT, or 28% compared to 2023
 - IEA said imports into India will increase by 2026, by 16 MT (or 21%).
 - According to IEA, the global metallurgical coal imports are expected to have increased by about 11% y-o-y to 352 MT in 2023.
- 8. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates all-girls Sainik school in Mathura.**
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated India's first all-girl Sainik School at Vrindavan in the Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh.
 - Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School has been opened under the initiative of opening 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership mode with NGOs/private/state government schools in all states/union territories.
 - Training at the CBSE-affiliated school will be given by ex-servicemen.
 - It has a strength of around 870 students.
 - The main objective behind opening 100 new Sainik Schools is to provide quality education to the students in tune with the National Education Policy (NEP).

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- The inspiration for setting up the Sainik Schools came from the Royal Indian Military College (RIMC) and Royal Indian Military Schools.
- 9. **Shri Amit Shah launched the portal developed by NAFED and NCCF for registration, procurement and payment of tur dal producing farmers in New Delhi.**
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah launched the portal developed by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) for registration, procurement and payment of tur dal producing farmers in New Delhi.
- Shri Amit Shah addressed the national symposium organized on 'Self-reliance in Pulses'.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Arjun Munda, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs Shri Ashwini Choubey, Minister of State for Cooperation Shri B. L. Verma and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion.
- The portal will be launched at a national symposium on 'self-reliance in pulses' to be held here in the capital.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. India and Russia Sign Protocol for Consultations Over the Next 4 Years (2024-2028).

- A Protocol on Consultations signed by India and Russia for the period of the next four years (2024- 28).
- The protocol aims to enhance progress in various domains, including economic cooperation, energy trade, connectivity, military-technical cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.
- The protocol was signed during the official visit of India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, to Russia.
- In addition to the protocol, India and Russia signed two important agreements to advance the implementation of the Kudankulam nuclear power projects in India.

2. Russia and NASA Extend Joint ISS Flights Until 2025.

- Russian and United States (US) space agencies have agreed to keep working together to deliver crews to the International Space Station (ISS) until at least 2025.
- Aim : "To guarantee the presence of at least one representative of Roscosmos on the Russian segment and the presence of at least one representative of NASA on the American segment."
- The station was designed between 1984 and 1993.
- ISS partners the United States, Russia, Europe, Canada and Japan - are for the moment only committed to operate the orbiting laboratory until 2024, though US officials have stated they want to continue until 2030.

3. South Korea launches 'workation' visa for foreigners.

- South Korea introduced a new visa for foreigners allowing them to visit the country on a working holiday or workation.
- The "workation" or "digital nomad" visa allows foreign nationals to visit South Korea on a working holiday.
- Foreign nationals with an annual income twice as much as South Korea's per capita gross national income will be eligible to apply for the visa.
- It will be given to those having a work experience of over a year in one industry and are eligible for remote work.

4. Kyrgyzstan Declared 'Snow Leopard' As National Symbol.

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- Kyrgyzstan has officially declared the snow leopard as its national symbol.
- The Kyrgyz Republic states that “snow leopard is not only a symbol of natural wealth and cultural prosperity but also an indicator of the stability and health of the mountain ecosystem”.
- The Cabinet of the Kyrgyzstan government will develop a logo, explore symbol usage at different levels, and define its ideological content.

5. North Korea poised to admit first known tourists since 2020.

- A group from Russia is poised to be the first known tourists allowed into North Korea since anti-pandemic border lockdowns began in early 2020, according to a post from Russian provincial authorities and a Western tour guide.
- Tourism is largely unaffected by UN Security Council resolutions that restrict business with North Korea over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

6. South Korea passes law banning dog meat trade.

- The slaughter and sale of dogs for their meat is to become illegal in South Korea after MPs backed a new law.
- The legislation, set to come into force by 2027, aims to end the centuries-old practice of humans eating dog meat.
- Dog meat stew, called "boshintang", is considered a delicacy among some older South Koreans, but the meat has fallen out of favour with diners and is no longer popular with young people.
- Under the new law the consumption of dog meat itself will not be illegal.

7. India-UAE Business Summit held as part of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024.

- India-UAE Business Summit held as part of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024
- UAE's President His Highness (H.H.) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the chief guest at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, further emphasising the growing cooperation and strengthening relations between the two nations.
- Shri Piyush Goyal, H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, and Shri Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel ceremonially launched the UAE - India CEPA Council (UICC) website as part of the inaugural session.

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8. **US-UK launch massive airstrikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen after Red Sea shipping attacks.**

- The United States and the United Kingdom joined forces to launch a retaliatory attack against Iran-based rebel group Houthis in Yemen shortly after the group claimed responsibility for a string of attacks against cargo ships and vessels travelling through the Red Sea.
- The airstrikes by US and UK, aimed at destroying Houthi bases in Yemen, has further escalated the conflicts in the area in the midst of the Israel-Hamas war.
- A US official, who asked not to be identified before a formal announcement, confirmed the strikes. Heavy explosions were reported in the Yemeni capital of Sana'a and the port city of Al Hudaydah.

9. **Rajasthan CM Sharma holds meeting with Czech PM Petr Fiala in Jaipur.**

- Nims University Rajasthan proudly marked a historic occasion as it welcomed the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, E Prof. Petr Fiala to the University.
- The focal points of this distinguished visit were the foundation stone laying ceremony for the 'Petr Fiala Global Institute of Research Innovation' and the inauguration of the 'Marik Institute of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Cybernetics' within the university campus.
- The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, including Eliška Zygova, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in India, Tomas Pojar - National Security Advisor of the Czech Republic, and other notable figures from both nations, emphasizing the diplomatic and collaborative importance of the occasion.

10. **Scientific ties between Nims and Czech Technical University.**

- With the inauguration of the Marik Institute of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Cybernetics at University campus, Nims University and the Czech Technical University (CTU) in Prague have launched the "Indo-Pacific-European Hub for Digital Partnership: Sustainable Wellbeing (INPACE)".
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed to cooperate on the "Trusted Digital Technologies"
- The project is part of the European Union's HORIZON-CL4-2023-HUMAN-01 programme.

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ECONOMICS

1. **RBI Reports Indian Banks Achieve Decadal High in Asset Quality Improvement.**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a report titled 'Trend and Progress of Banking in India'.
- As per the report, the Indian scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio improved in the second quarter of this financial year.
- According to the report, the consolidated balance sheet of SCBs grew by 12.2% in 2022-23.
- The improvement in asset quality is measured by GNPA ratios.
- The capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of SCBs was 16.8 per cent at end-September 2023, with all bank groups meeting the regulatory minimum requirement and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio requirement.

2. **RBI Grants Extension for the Implementation of Penalty Charge Norms on Loan Accounts.**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend the timeline for implementation of guidelines for lenders on penal charges in loan accounts by three months.
- In August, 2023 the RBI had issued fresh guidelines for lenders on penal charges in loan accounts to ensure that penal interest/ charges is not used as a revenue enhancement tool by them, over and above the contracted rate of interest.
- The central bank's instructions were supposed to come into effect from January 1, 2024.
- Accordingly, REs shall ensure that the instructions are implemented in respect of all the fresh loans availed from April 1, 2024 onwards.

3. **RBI Designates SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).**

- State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank, both domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs), will be required to set aside higher capital for the loans they make with effect from April 1, 2025, in the backdrop of their balance sheets growing bigger
- The central bank has prescribed higher additional Common Equity Tier (CET) 1 requirement for SBI (bucket 3 to bucket 4) and HDFC Bank (bucket 1 to bucket 2) at

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0.80 per cent (against 0.60 per cent up to March-end 2025) and 0.40 per cent (0.20 per cent), respectively, as a percentage of their Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs).

- SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank continue to be identified as D-SIBs.
 - For ICICI Bank, the additional CET 1 requirement continues at 0.20%.
 - Within the CRAR (capital to risk-weighted assets ratio) of 11.5% for banks, the CET-1 is at 5.5%.
- 4. RBI plans to introduce a new category of money changers.**
- In a move aimed at enhancing the ease of doing business and adapting to the evolving economic landscape, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed the introduction of a new category of money changers.
 - This new category, known as Forex Correspondents (FxCs), would operate through an agency model, conducting money-changing business on behalf of Category-I and Category-II Authorised Dealers.
 - The existing framework involves the issuance of licences to authorised dealers, which are banks authorised to engage in foreign exchange transactions and full-fledged money changers.
 - The proposed category of Forex Correspondents seeks to streamline and simplify the licensing framework for Authorised Persons (APs) under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).
- 5. White-Label ATM Expansion Propels 3.5% Growth in Total ATMs for 2022-23.**
- During 2022-23, the total number of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) (on-site and off-site) grew by 3.5%, primarily driven by an increase in the number of white-label.
 - Among the ATMs operated by SCBs at end-March 2023, the share of PSBs and PVBs was 63% and 35%, respectively, according to the Reserve Bank of India's Trends and Progress in Banking report.
 - Public Sector Banks (PSBs) continue to dominate the ATM landscape, with a notable increase from 75,653 in 2022 to 78,777 in 2023 for on-site ATMs.
 - The total number of PSB ATMs, combining on-site and off-site, stands at 1,38,423, highlighting their crucial role in providing widespread banking access.
- 6. Indian Overseas Bank Introduces Savings Account Portability online scheme.**
- Public sector bank Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has introduced 'Savings Account Portability Online', a scheme that is aimed at offering an easier savings account portability process for customers who move to different locations.

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- For individuals, who have to shift from one location to another due to career shifts, educational pursuits, or various life transitions, the new scheme will help avoid the cumbersome process of relocating bank accounts.
 - With the new online scheme, customers don't have to fill out those endless forms and wait for days and weeks for the account transfer to materialize
 - To initiate an account transfer, customers need to log in to the IOB website (www.iob.in) and access the 'Transfer of Savings Accounts' section.
7. **Karnataka Bank facilitates direct tax payments for customers.**
- Customers of Karnataka Bank can make direct tax payments through two channels - by visiting any branch of the bank or utilizing the internet banking services.
 - Online Payment for Indirect Taxes : In addition to direct taxes, Karnataka Bank had already been facilitating online payments for goods and services taxes, as well as customs duties.
 - Both the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) have given their approval for Karnataka Bank to collect both direct and indirect taxes.
8. **RBI permits ICICI Pru Mutual Fund to acquire 9.95% stake in Karur Vysya Bank.**
- Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) announces that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval to ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd (ICICI AMC) for acquiring an aggregate holding of up to 9.95% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
 - The approval is in reference to the application submitted by ICICI AMC to the RBI.
 - The approval granted by the RBI is subject to compliance with relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
 - It also adheres to RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023.
9. **RBI permits ICICI Pru Mutual Fund to acquire 10% stake in Federal, RBL Bank.**
- Federal Bank stated that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accorded approval to ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited (ICICI AMC) for acquiring up to 9.95 per cent stake in the bank.
 - The approval granted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is subject to the compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Master

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Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023.

- Meanwhile, RBI also accorded approval to ICICI AMC to acquire 9.95 per cent stake in RBL Bank and Equitas Small Finance Bank.
- 10. RBI Directs Banks to Conduct Annual Review of Accounts Inoperative for Over a Year.**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to annually review accounts that have not seen customer-induced transactions for over a year, and term deposit accounts where there is no explicit renewal mandate and the funds have not been withdrawn after maturity.
 - The instructions are part of fresh guidelines for inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits to reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits and frauds and improve grievance redressal.
 - Penalty Waiver for Inoperative Accounts: It also barred banks from levying penal charges for non-maintenance of minimum balance in any account classified as inoperative or for activation of inoperative accounts.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- 1. Pakistan conducts successful flight test of indigenously developed rocket system Fatah-II.**
 - Pakistan has successfully conducted the flight test of the indigenously developed rocket system known as Fatah-II
 - Fatah-II is a guided multi-launch rocket system developed by Pakistan.
 - Fatah-II is capable of hitting targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres.
- 2. NASA Reinitiates Spacecraft Mission to Study 'God of Chaos' Asteroid Apophis.**
 - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has relaunched the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft to intercept the 'God of Chaos' asteroid Apophis as it approaches Earth's orbit.
 - The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft has returned from deep space after collecting samples from the space rock Bennu.
 - The spacecraft has been renamed OSIRIS-APEX (Origin, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security-Apophis Explorer).
 - OSIRIS-APEX is now tasked with studying the asteroid Apophis, which is expected to have a close pass by Earth in 2029.
 - Apophis is known as the "God of Chaos" and is anticipated to fly by Earth on April 13, 2029, at a distance of about 20,000 miles.
- 3. Researchers develop 'electronic soil' that enhances crop growth by 50%.**
 - Scientists have developed an electrically conductive "soil" named eSoil, leading to a 50% increase in barley seedling growth in 15 days.
 - This soilless cultivation method, known as hydroponics, uses a root system that is stimulated electrically through a new cultivation substrate.
 - The team developed an electrically conductive cultivation substrate, tailored to hydroponic cultivation, that they call eSoil.
 - The eSoil is made of cellulose.
 - It is a biopolymer mixed with a conductive polymer called PEDOT.
- 4. India's ISRO to use Elon Musk's SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket to launch GSAT-20 satellite.**

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- For the first time, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a communication satellite on a SpaceX rocket.
 - Using SpaceX's services for the first time, ISRO will deploy its heavy communications satellite GSAT-20 via the Falcon-9 rocket in mid-2024.
 - This will be India's first partnership with a venture led by billionaire Elon Musk who also wants to expand his other businesses in the country.
 - GSAT-20 (renamed as GSAT-N2) is a high throughput Ka-band satellite.
 - Ka-band satellites deliver high-speed broadband internet connectivity and digital video and audio transmission.
5. **Ammonia gas leak in Chennai's Ennore.**
- Ammonia gas leaked from a fertiliser manufacturing unit in Ennore, north Chennai.
 - More than 50 people were kept under observation in hospitals as a result of the gas leak.
 - Residents experienced shortness of breath and nausea due to the gas leak.
 - The gas leak was plugged in by specialists within 20 minutes.
 - Ammonia (NH₃) is a pungent gas composed of nitrogen and hydrogen.
 - It is a poisonous gas with a familiar noxious odour.
6. **Israel Approves \$3.2 Billion Grant to Intel for Construction of \$25 Billion Chip Plan.**
- Israel's government agreed to give Intel Corp a \$3.2 billion grant for a new \$25 billion chip plant it plans to build in southern Israel.
 - The chip plant will be an expansion of Intel's existing Kiryat Gat site.
 - The \$3.2 billion grant constitutes 12.8% of the total investment in the new chip plant.
 - Intel has committed to purchasing \$16.6 billion (60 billion shekels) worth of goods and services from Israeli suppliers over the next decade.
 - The new facility is expected to generate several thousand jobs in the region.
 - The new plant is due to open in 2027 and operate through 2035.
7. **ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Unveils 'FEAST' Analysis Software for Indian Academia and Industries.**
- The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of the Indian space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed an analysis software 'FEAST' for Indian academia and industries.

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- Purpose of FEAST Software : FEAST is designed for use in performing Finite Element Analysis (FEA) of various structures, including rockets, aircraft, satellites, buildings, etc.
 - Functionality of FEAST : The software predicts how a component or structure reacts to real-world forces such as structural loads, thermal conditions, and other physical effects.
8. **Reliance Jio and IIT-Bombay Collaborate to Develop 'BharatGPT' AI for India.**
- Reliance Jio Infocomm, an Indian telecom operator in India, is set to launch a groundbreaking initiative in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay – the 'Bharat GPT' program.
 - Announced by Akash Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Jio, this program aims to leverage the power of large language models and generative artificial intelligence (GPT) to transform various sectors in the country.
 - The Bharat GPT program is part of Jio's broader vision, known as "Jio 2.0". Its main aim is to create a comprehensive ecosystem of development.
9. **Tata Motors introduces 1st pure Electric Vehicle architecture called 'acti.ev'.**
- Tata Motors introduced the first pure electric vehicle (EV) architecture called 'acti.ev', which will underpin its future portfolio of EVs such as Punch, Sierra, Harrier and Curvv.
 - Punch.ev will be the first product based on this pure electric architecture, which will spawn a slew of vehicles with multiple body styles and sizes.
 - The 'acti.ev' architecture will be different from the electrified modular architecture (EMA) that Tata Motors will be sourcing from Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) for the development of 'Avinya' range of cars.
 - Tata Motors' EV arm signed a licensing pact with JLR in November 2022 for the electrified modular architecture (EMA).
10. **SpaceX's Falcon 9 Successfully Launches First Batch of Starlink Satellites Capable of Beaming Phone Signals from Space.**
- Elon Musk's SpaceX launched its first batch of Starlink satellites with direct-to-cell capability aboard the Falcon 9 spacecraft.

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- A total of 21 Starlink satellites were sent into low-Earth orbit from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.
- The mission incorporated the deployment of the initial six Starlink satellites equipped with Directto-Cell capabilities.
- They have advanced modems onboard, known as eNodeBs.

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DEFENCE CURRENT AFFAIRS

- 1. Indian Navy's Elite Marine Commandos Effectively Rescue 21 Crew Members, Including 15 Indians, from MV Lila Norfolk.**
 - The Indian Navy's elite marine commandos successfully rescued 21 crew members, including 15 Indians, from the Liberian-flagged vessel MV Lila Norfolk.
 - The merchant vessel MV Lila Norfolk sent a distress message on the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) portal, reporting a boarding by five unknown armed personnel.
 - The rescue operation involved deploying a range of assets, including a warship (INS Chennai), maritime patrol aircraft, helicopters, P-8I aircraft, and long-range aircraft, along with Predator MQ9B drones.
- 2. Indian Navy Introduces New Design for Admirals' Epaulettes Inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.**
 - The Indian Navy unveiled a new design for Admirals' epaulettes, drawing inspiration from the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
 - The unveiling of the epaulettes, a shoulder piece worn to show the rank of an officer, came three-and-a-half weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an announcement on it
 - The force stated that the golden button reiterates "our resolve to do away with Ghulami ki Maansikta (slave mentality)"
 - The octagon represents the eight cardinal directions, indicative of an all-round long-term vision.
- 3. DRDO conducts successful flight-test of New Generation AKASH missile.**
 - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
 - The flight-test was conducted against a high-speed unmanned aerial target at a very low altitude.
 - During the flight test, the target was successfully intercepted by the weapon system and destroyed.

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- It has validated the functioning of the complete weapon system consisting of the missile with indigenously developed Radio Frequency Seeker, Launcher, Multi-Function Radar and Command, Control and communication system.
4. **Indian Navy receives first UAV from Adani Defence and Aerospace, strengthening maritime surveillance.**
- The Navy received the first medium altitude long endurance (MALE) drone made in India by Adani Defence & Aerospace (ADA) in collaboration with Israeli firm Elbit.
 - Named Drishti 10 Starliner, the UAV was handed over by ADA at a flag-off ceremony led by the chief of naval staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, at the Adani Aerospace.
 - The UAV is based on the Hermes 900 platform of Elbit and has been 70% indigenised by ADA following a technology transfer from Adani Elbit Advanced Systems India Ltd, a joint venture between Adani Group and Elbit.
5. **Indian Navy foils second hijacking bid in Arabian Sea in 24 hours.**
- The Indian Navy stated that its offshore patrol vessel INS Sumitra rescued an Iranian-flagged fishing vessel (FV) hijacked by armed pirates off the Somali coast, the second such action in the last 24 hours in the Arabian Sea where the security situation has deteriorated significantly due to the resurgence of piracy, and missile and drone attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels.
 - FV Al Naemi, the second Iranian-flagged vessel to be rescued by INS Sumitra, was carrying a crew of 19 Pakistani nationals.
 - The Indian warship had on January 28 responded to a distress call from FV Iman, intercepted it and rescued the boat and its crew of 17 Iranians from Somali pirates.
 - INS Sumitra is currently deployed along the east coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden for antipiracy operations.
 - Last week, guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam responded to a distress call by Marshall Islands-flagged merchant vessel Marlin Luanda, which was struck by a missile in the Gulf of Aden.
 - Specialist firefighting crews embarked on the vessel and helped douse the fire on board.

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- Challenges in the distant seas, including the Arabian Sea, have emerged as a new front in recent weeks, with Red Sea tensions escalating and the resurgence of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Somali coast.
 - The navy has stepped up surveillance in the Arabian Sea substantially and deployed task groups consisting of around 10 warships in the face of rising threats.
6. **India, Saudi Arabia joint military exercise to begin from January 29-February 10.**
- The inaugural edition of Joint Military Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' between India and Saudi Arabia will be held from January 29 to February 10 in Rajasthan, the Indian Army stated on January 27.
 - The exercise aims to enhance synergy, interoperability and jointmanship by learning and sharing best practices between the Armies of both nations.
 - Earlier in January, India and Saudi Arabia signed a bilateral agreement under which New Delhi has been allocated a quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims for the annual Haj pilgrimage in 2024.
7. **IndiGo receives IFSC Gift City approval to set up an aircraft leasing 2nd edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise Exercise Cyclone II Commenced in Egypt.**
- The Indian Army contingent comprising 25 personnel reached Egypt to take part in the IndiaEgypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE.
 - Cyclone is an annual exercise held alternatively in India & Egypt.
 - It is the 2nd edition of the Exercise Cyclone which will be conducted at Anshas, Egypt from 22nd January to 1st February 2024.
 - Aim of the Exercise : To acquaint both the sides with each other's operating procedures in the backdrop of Special Operations in desert/ semi desert terrain under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.
 - Participants : The Indian contingent is being represented by troops from the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and an Egyptian contingent comprising 25 personnel is being represented by Egyptian Commando Squadron and Egyptian Airborne Platoon.

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8. 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' commenced in Himachal Pradesh.

- The 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise Khanjar started at the Special Forces Training School in Himachal Pradesh's Bakloh.
- The exercise is being conducted from January 22 to February 3, 2024 (13-day exercise).
- Aim of the exercise: To exchange experiences and best practices in Counter Terrorism and Special Forces Operations in Built-up Area and Mountainous Terrain under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.
- Participants: The Indian Army contingent comprising 20 personnel is being represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and the Kyrgyzstan contingent comprising 20 personnel is represented by Scorpion Brigade.

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SPORTS NEWS

- 1. Australian batter David Warner announces retirement from One Day International cricket.**
 - Australian batter David Warner has announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs).
 - The 2-time ODI World Cup Winner had previously announced that he would be ending his Test career after Australia's upcoming Test against Pakistan in Sydney.
 - However, the opener has said that he will keep himself available for selection in the Champions Trophy in 2025.
 - Warner is Australia's sixth-highest run scorer in the ODI format and is only second to former captain Ricky Ponting's tally for most Centuries for Australia in ODIs.
- 2. In Men's Chess, Dommaraju Gukesh secures spot at a prestigious Candidates tournament.**
 - In Men's Chess, Dommaraju Gukesh has secured his spot at the prestigious Candidates tournament, which will take place in Toronto from April 2 to 25, 2024.
 - Gukesh became the third Indian to make the Candidates tournament, joining R Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi.
 - This is the first time in history that three Indians are playing the Candidates.
 - The winner gets the chance to take on China's Ding Liren in the next World Chess Championship.
- 3. Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates the Beach Games held at Ghoghala Beach in UTs of Diu.**
 - Beach Games was inaugurated by Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur at Ghoghla Beach in the Diu.
 - The beach games, which started on January 4, will be played till January 11.
 - Due to this festival, beach games will also be promoted in other beach states and union territories of the country.
 - Organizing this festival will establish new dimensions and will also promote culture and tourism in the Union Territory

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- More than twelve hundred players are participating in these competitions from States and Union Territories.
- 4. Tata Steel Chess tournament 2024 to begin at Wijk aan Zee in Netherlands.**
 - Tata Steel Chess tournament 2024 will begin at Wijk aan Zee in the Netherlands.
 - First Round of the tournament will start at 8:30 p.m.
 - It will be available on chess.com/TV and chess24's Twitch and YouTube channels.
 - Some of the strongest players in the world are gathering in the tournament also called the "Wimbledon of Chess".
 - Viswanathan Anand was the record winner for a long time until he was replaced by Magnus Carlsen.
 - 5. India wins its first Gold medal at Zagreb Open 2024 Wrestling Tournament in Croatia.**
 - Reigning Asian champion Aman Sehrawat won the Gold medal in Men's 57kg at the Zagreb Open 2024 Wrestling Tournament in Croatia.
 - He defeated China's Zou Wanhao via technical superiority in the 57kg final, to win India's first medal in this edition of the Ranking Series.
 - Meanwhile, another Indian wrestler Yash Tushir was defeated by USA's Quincy by 15-4 in the round of 16 of the men's 74kg category.
 - Nonetheless, the competition will feature Freestyle wrestlers Vicky and Sumit competing in the men's 97kg and 125kg weight classes, respectively.
 - 6. India on top of medals table in Asian Shooting Championship in Jakarta with 07 Gold, 06 Silver, and 06 Bronze medals.**
 - Media_SAI In Women's shooting, Rhythm Sangwan bagged the Bronze medal in the 25-meter Pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia.
 - With this medal, Rhythm confirmed the 16th Paris Olympic quota for the Indian shooting contingent.
 - Also, this is the sixth Paris quota in the pistol events for India and the second in women's 25m Pistol.
 - Rhythm ended the tournament with an impressive performance collecting a total of five medals, 1 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze medals.

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7. Indian Shooter Yogesh Singh Wins Gold in Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol at Asia Olympic Qualifiers.

- Indian shooters continued with winning gold in the Asia Olympic Qualifiers with Yogesh Singh winning the top prize in individual as well as team event of the men's 25m centre fire pistol competition in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Yogesh claimed the individual gold medal after shooting 573, finishing ahead of silver winner Muad Al Balushi of Oman (570) and Indonesia's Anang Yulianto (567).
- The other two Indian participants in the event, Pankaj Yadav (567) and Akshay Jain (564), ended fourth and sixth.
- The Indian trio aggregated 1704 to bag the team gold ahead of shooters from Oman and Indonesia.
- In the women's event, the Indian trio of Shreyasi, Manisha Keer and Bhavya Tripathi, however, won the silver medal in the women's trap team event with a total of 328, finishing behind China and ahead of Kazakhstan.

8. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa surpasses Viswanathan Anand to become India's number-one Chess player.

- India Chess Wizard Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa defeated World Chess Champion Ding Liren in the Tata Steel Masters in Wijk aan Zee, in the Netherlands.
- As a result of this victory, Praggnanandhaa became only the second Indian after Vishwanathan Anand to defeat a reigning champion.
- He also overtook Anand to become India's new number one Chess player in terms of live ratings.

9. Tamil Nadu has won the gold medal in rhythmic yoga at the Khelo India Youth Games.

- Tamilnadu won gold in rhythmic yoga followed by West Bengal and Maharashtra.
- In the women's section, West Bengal won the gold followed by Maharashtra and Tamilnadu.
- In the Khelo India Youth Games, in the Squash single girls category round 16, Pooja Arthi, Deepika and Shameena Riaz from Tamilnadu have moved to the next round
- The four-day Mallar Kambu competition will be held in Tiruchirappall

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- Yashi Jain and Chhavi Sharan from Rajasthan, Khushboo and Unnati Tripathi from Uttar Pradesh and Nirupama Dubey from Maharashtra have also moved to the next round.
- Tavneet Singh Mundra from Madhya Pradesh, Ansh Tripathy, Karan Yadav and Aryan Pratap Singh from Uttar Pradesh, Sandesh, Meyyappan and Arihant from Tamilnadu, Avalokit Singh from Rajasthan have moved to the next round after round robin in Squash Boys Category.

10. Sakshi Malik: India's Olympic medal winner quits With 127 medals, Maharashtra leads the Khelo India Games medal tally followed by Haryana.

- In the Khelo India games, Maharashtra ranks first in the medal tally with a total of 127 medals including 44 gold, 39 silver, and 44 bronze medals followed by Haryana scoring 94 medals including 33 gold, 19 silver, and 42 bronze medals.
- Tamil Nadu stood third with a total of 82 medals including 29 gold, 19 silver, and 34 bronze medals.
- In the Football semi-finals boys Meghalaya beat Jharkhand 5-3 and in another semi-finals, Punjab beat Odisha 1-0
- In the Kho Kho semi-finals girls, Odisha beat Delhi 27 -18 and Maharashtra beat Gujarat 27 -16.
- In Boys Kho Kho, Maharashtra beat Karnataka 29 -23 and Delhi beat Gujarat 43-28.
- In Shooting, - Skeet boys all the medal winners were from Punjab. Gurfateh Singh Sandhu, Zorawar Singh Bedi, and Harazeez Singh Alwa from Punjab won the gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively.
- In Shooting Skeet Girls, Devyani Rathore and Yashaswi Rathore both from Rajasthan won gold and silver medals respectively. Venkat Lakshmi Lekhu from Tripura won the bronze medal.

11. ICC lifts suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket after two-months.

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has lifted the suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket with immediate effect
- Sri Lanka Cricket has been reinstated as a member of the International Cricket Council after a twomonth suspension

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- Sri Lanka Cricket was suspended for violation of responsibilities as an ICC Member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government interference in the governance, regulation, and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Braille Day: 4th January.
2. World Day of War Orphans: 6th January.
3. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Or NRI Day: 9th January.
4. World Hindi Day: 10th January.
5. National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2024: 11th January.
6. National Youth Day: 12th January.
7. Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya Foundation Day: 21st January.
8. International Day of Education: 24th January.
9. National Girl Child Day: 24th January.
10. National Voters Day: 25th January.

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APPOINTMENTS

1. HDFC Bank Board Grants 3-Year Extension to Atanu Chakraborty as Chairman World Day of War Orphans: 6th January.
2. Power Grid Appoints Ravindra Kumar Tyagi as New Managing Director.
3. Former Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya was appointed as head of the 16th Finance Commission.
4. Kia India appoints Gwanggu Lee as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
5. Pole Vaulter Katie Moon becomes ambassador for Mumbai Marathon.
6. Shashi Singh Elected as President of All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA).
7. Kuwait emir appoints Sheikh Mohammed Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah as prime minister of Kuwait.
8. Senior IAS officer Vikas Sheel appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank.
9. Canara Bank's Chief General Manager, P Santhosh, appointed as MD & CEO of National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, Natarajan Sundar resigns as MD.
10. Vice Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi Assumes Role as the New Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.

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DEATHS

1. Brazil's 4-time FIFA World Cup champion Mario Zagallo passed away.
2. 'India's oldest' sloth bear in captivity passed away in Bhopal zoo.
3. Urdu poet Munawwar Rana passes away.
4. Rallying-Spanish rider Falcon dies after Dakar Rally crash.
5. Veteran classical singer Swarayogini Dr Prabha Atre dies at 91.
6. Hertha Berlin president Bernstein dies aged 43.
7. Former Olympic pole vaulter, world champ Shawn Barber dies at 29.
8. Rana Talwar, first Asian to head a global bank, passes away at 76.
9. Dr Nitya Anand, man who discovered India's first oral contraceptive pill 'Saheli', dies at 99.
10. Italy's All-Time Leading Goal Scorer and World Cup Winner Luigi Riva Passed Away.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQ'S

1. Which state/UT inaugurated India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) school?
 - a) Telangana
 - b) Kerala
 - c) Karnataka
 - d) Punjab
2. The world's first hundred percent Ethanol fuelled Car has been developed by which company?
 - a) Maruti Suzuki
 - b) Toyota
 - c) Mahindra and Mahindra
 - d) Tata Motors
3. Which country hosted the 19th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)?
 - a) Kenya
 - b) Ethiopia
 - c) Nigeria
 - d) Gabon
4. Which country is set to hold a referendum to recognize the country's Indigenous people in its constitution?
 - a) Greece
 - b) Australia
 - c) Sri Lanka
 - d) China
5. 'GREAT' Grant, which was seen un the news, is associated with which Union Ministry?
 - a) Ministry of Textiles
 - b) Ministry of Home Affairs
 - c) Ministry of MSME
 - d) Ministry of Rural Development
6. Tharman Shanmugaratnam has been elected as President of which country?
 - a) Singapore
 - b) Malaysia

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- c) Maldives
d) Mauritius
7. Which scheme has been granted National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold) for Application of Emerging Technologies?
a) PM KISAN
b) SVAMITVA
c) Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
d) Mission Karmayogi
8. MQ-9B Predator Drone, that was in news recently, was developed by which country?
a) Israel
b) Russia
c) United States
d) Germany
9. What does the Language Diversity Index (LDI) measure?
a) The total number of languages spoken in a country
b) The decline in the number of mother-tongue speakers worldwide
c) The probability that two people chosen at random have the same mother tongue
d) The linguistic diversity of a country's population
10. The Cabinet granted approval for allocation of Rs. 1164 crore for the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2017 in which states?
a) Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
b) Punjab and Rajasthan
c) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
d) West Bengal and Odisha
11. 'Operation Muskaan', which was seen in the news, was implemented in which city?
a) Indore
b) Mumbai
c) Ahmedabad
d) Guwahati
12. Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) directed which state to release Cauvery water?
a) Kerala
b) Tamil Nadu

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- c) Karnataka
d) Andhra Pradesh
13. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is set to construct 25-mw solar power plant in which state?
a) Gujarat
b) Rajasthan
c) Tamil Nadu
d) West Bengal
14. Which country is set to hold a referendum to recognize the country's Indigenous people in its constitution?
a) Greece
b) Australia
c) Sri Lanka
d) China
15. Which country/countries are the hosts of Asia Cup 2023 tournament?
a) Sri Lanka and Pakistan
b) India and Bangladesh
c) Nepal and Bangladesh
d) Pakistan and Afghanistan
16. Who has been chosen as the chair of groups of ministers (GoMs) on GST System Reforms?
a) P Chidambaram
b) Subramaniam Swamy
c) Ajit Pawar
d) Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary
17. As per Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry, how many Khelo India Centres will be established within a year?
a) 100
b) 500
c) 1000
d) 2000
18. When is the 'National Small Industry Day' observed in India?
a) August 25
b) August 30

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- c) September 1
d) September 3
19. Who is the first woman to head the Railway Board of India?
a) Jaya Verma Sinha
b) Soma Mondal
c) Madhabi Puri Buch
d) Rekha Sharma
20. Nilachal Flyover, which was seen in the news, is located in which state?
a) Assam
b) Sikkim
c) Arunachal Pradesh
d) West Bengal
21. Tharman Shanmugaratnam has been elected as President of which country?
a) Singapore
b) Malaysia
c) Maldives
d) Mauritius
22. Which city is the host of 'International Aerospace Conference'?
a) Pune
b) Gwalior
c) Bengaluru
d) Hyderabad
23. Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) is located in which state/UT?
a) Maharashtra
b) Gujarat
c) Karnataka
d) Rajasthan
24. The 12 feet high statue of Mahatma Gandhi was inaugurated recently along with 'Gandhi Vatika' in which city?
a) New Delhi
b) Surat
c) Mumbai
d) Kolkata

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25. MQ-9B Predator Drone, that was in news recently, was developed by which country?
- Israel
 - Russia
 - United States
 - Germany
26. What is the primary purpose of the National Carbon Registry launched by the UNDP in August 2023?
- To facilitate carbon credit trading between countries
 - To track emissions and invest in emission-reducing projects
 - To provide customizable software for carbon management
 - To promote digital public infrastructure for climate challenges
27. COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), is an initiative of which organization?
- World Health Organization (WHO)
 - Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
 - Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
 - Johns Hopkins University
28. "Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol" is a patriotic song written by?
- Nazrul Islam
 - Rabindranath Tagore
 - Jibanananda Das
 - Sukanta Bhattachary
29. India has decided to settle WTO Poultry Dispute with which country?
- Japan
 - USA
 - China
 - Pakistan
30. Which state has approved Rs 256.46 Crore for Chambal River Bridge and Road Construction Projects?
- Rajasthan
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Maharashtra
31. Which state raised the OBC quota to 27% in local bodies?

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- a) Gujarat
b) Assam
c) Jharkhand
d) Madhya Pradesh
32. The ancient city of Kalhu is located in which present-day country?
a) Greece
b) China
c) Iraq
d) USA
33. As per Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry, how many Khelo India Centres will be established within a year?
a) 100
b) 500
c) 1000
d) 2000
34. Which state has decided to create a fact-checking unit to curb fake news on social media?
a) Karnataka
b) Kerala
c) Tamil Nadu
d) West Bengal
35. In the August, the number of UPI transactions performed which milestone?
a) 5 billion
b) 10 billion
c) 15 billion
d) 20 billion
36. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Mera Bill-Mera Adhikar Scheme'?
a) Ministry of Finance
b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
c) Ministry of MSME
d) Ministry of Home Affairs
37. 'International Literacy Day' is observed on which day?
a) July 8
b) August 8

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- c) September 8
- d) October 8

Answer C

38. Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) is located in which state/UT?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Gujarat
- c) Karnataka
- d) Rajasthan

Answer B

39. The 12 feet high statue of Mahatma Gandhi was inaugurated recently along with 'Gandhi Vatika' in which city?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Surat
- c) Mumbai
- d) Kolkata

40. Tharosaurus indicus, dinosaur fossils from the Middle Jurassic period, was recently discovered in which region?

- a) Deccan Plateau, India
- b) Thar Desert, India
- c) Gobi Desert, China
- d) Indus Valley, Pakistan

41. Who are the main beneficiaries of 'Project Naman' launched by the Indian Army?

- a) Active-duty soldiers
- b) Foreign nationals
- c) Veterans and families of deceased personnel
- d) High-ranking military officials

42. Hero Kim Kun Ok, which was recently in the news, is which type of defense equipment?

- a) Fighter Jet
- b) Submarine
- c) Tank
- d) Missile

Answer B

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43. Which state has extended Social Security to Transgender Community through Universal Pension Scheme?
- Tamil Nadu
 - Jharkhand
 - Kerala
 - Goa
44. Which country has announced plans to finalize the route for the 'Power of Siberia 2' pipeline?
- Russia
 - Japan
 - Ukraine
 - Belarus
45. Which company is the official sponsor of Indian contingent at Hangzhou Asian Games?
- Byju's
 - Amul
 - Odisha state
 - Tata
46. Which institution released the 'Draft Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns'?
- Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Ministry of Consumer Affairs
 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - Ministry of MSME
47. Scientists of which country has recently grown human kidneys inside pig embryos?
- USA
 - Russia
 - China
 - Japan
48. Indian Airforce has received First C-295 Transport Plane from which company?
- Airbus
 - Boeing
 - Dassault Aviation
 - HAL
49. Which organisation has announced plans to build World's Highest Fighter Airfield, at Ladakh?

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- a) Indian Airforce
 - b) Airports Authority of India
 - c) National Highways Authority of India
 - d) Border Roads Organisation
50. Which department launched 'Recognition Scheme for ISPs Promoting Rural FTTH Broadband'?
- a) Department of Telecommunications
 - b) Department of Post
 - c) Department of Electronics
 - d) Department of Expenditure
51. Cabinet declared which day as 'National Space Day' in India?
- a) August 20
 - b) August 23
 - c) August 25
 - d) August 27
52. The DFL (Deutsche Fußball Liga) has entered into a collaboration with which Indian state?
- a) Kerala
 - b) Maharashtra
 - c) Odisha
 - d) Goa
53. As per Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry, how many Khelo India Centres will be established within a year?
- a) 100
 - b) 500
 - c) 1000
 - d) 2000
54. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned 3.32 crore grant for safe public transport travel in which city?
- a) Chennai
 - b) Hyderabad
 - c) Pune
 - d) Mysuru
55. What is India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) percent in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal (2023-2024)?

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- a) 5.8 per cent
b) 6.8 per cent
c) 7.8 per cent
d) 8.8 per cent
56. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Mera Bill-Mera Adhikar Scheme'?
- a) Ministry of Finance
b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
c) Ministry of MSME
d) Ministry of Home Affairs
57. Utkela Airport has been inaugurated in which state/UT?
- a) Odisha
b) West Bengal
c) Assam
d) Arunachal Pradesh
58. Tharman Shanmugaratnam has been elected as President of which country?
- a) Singapore
b) Malaysia
c) Maldives
d) Mauritius
59. Which city is the host of 'International Aerospace Conference'?
- a) Pune
b) Gwalior
c) Bengaluru
d) Hyderabad
60. 'Kinzhal Missile', that was recently making news, is developed by which country?
- a) USA
b) France
c) Russia
d) Israel
61. A new global data platform 'Marine Sand Watch' has been developed under which institution?
- a) World Bank
b) UNEP

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- c) UNFCCC
 - d) WWF
62. Which country's Supreme Court has decriminalized abortion across the country?
- a) Qatar
 - b) Mexico
 - c) Chile
 - d) Italy
63. Which country has launched 'Deccan High-Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition'?
- a) Sri Lanka
 - b) India
 - c) Bangladesh
 - d) Nepal
64. Which institution organised the '2023 Regional Cooperation and Integration Conference'?
- a) WEF
 - b) IMF
 - c) ADB
 - d) NITI Aayog
65. Which institution has developed the 'Military Combat Parachute System' of India?
- a) HAL
 - b) BHEL
 - c) DRDO
 - d) ISRO
66. When is World Physiotherapy Day observed every year?
- a) September 5
 - b) September 8
 - c) September 10
 - d) September 15
67. India has decided to settle WTO Poultry Dispute with which country?
- a) Japan
 - b) USA
 - c) China
 - d) Pakistan

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68. 'Medal of the City of Paris' has been revoked from whom?
- Mahmoud Abbas
 - Michael Jackson
 - Rafael Nadal
 - Hocine Ziani
69. Which state has approved Rs 256.46 Crore for Chambal River Bridge and Road Construction Projects?
- Rajasthan
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Maharashtra
70. 'Air Quality and Climate Bulletin' is released by which organisation?
- WMO
 - IMF
 - UNFCCC
 - IMO
1. What is the main objective of extending the Digital India project with a substantial outlay of ₹14,903 crore?
- To provide financial support to rural communities
 - To promote traditional industries and crafts
 - To enhance India's technological capabilities and digital transformation
 - To improve agricultural productivity
2. How many IT professionals are targeted for reskilling and upskilling under the extended Digital India project?
- 1 lakh IT professionals
 - 2.5 lakh IT professionals
 - 5.25 lakh IT professionals
 - 10 lakh IT professionals
3. What is the estimated total cost of the PM-eBus Sewa scheme?
- Rs 10,000 crore
 - Rs 30,000 crore
 - Rs 50,000 crore
 - Rs 57,613 crore

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4. How much is the estimated investment in the seven ambitious railway projects approved by the Union Cabinet?
 - a) ₹20,000 crore
 - b) ₹25,000 crore
 - c) ₹32,500 crore
 - d) ₹50,000 crore

5. What is the primary goal of the multi-tracking projects under the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) model?
 - a) Expansion of luxury train services
 - b) Boosting employment in urban areas
 - c) Elevating operational efficiency and reducing congestion in the rail network
 - d) Promoting tourism along railway routes

6. Which ministry oversees the functioning of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)?
 - a) Ministry of Finance
 - b) Ministry of Labour and Employment
 - c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 - d) Ministry of Home Affairs

7. In which Russian port has India's contribution to cargo handling been significant?
 - a) Vladivostok
 - b) Saint Petersburg
 - c) Kaliningrad
 - d) Murmansk

8. What percentage of the cargo handled at Murmansk port did India account for in the first seven months of 2023?
 - a) 15%
 - b) 25%
 - c) 35%
 - d) 45%

9. Adille Sumariwalla recently secured a prominent position in the global track and field governing body. What is the position he has been elected to?
 - a) President of World Athletics
 - b) Secretary-General of World Athletics
 - c) Treasurer of World Athletics

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- d) Vice President of World Athletics
10. What is the main objective of the Gruha Lakshmi Yojana launched by the Karnataka Government?
- To provide financial assistance to men heads of households.
 - To provide financial assistance to women heads of households.
 - To promote women's entrepreneurship in the state.
 - To support women's education and skill development.
11. What is the main reason for the Dutch economy entering a recession in the second quarter of the year?
- Decrease in government spending
 - Decline in interest rates
 - Increase in consumer spending
 - Drop in consumer spending and exports
12. What is ICRA Ratings' forecast for India's GDP growth in the first quarter (Q1) of fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24)?
- 7.2%
 - 8.5%
 - 9.0%
 - 6.8%
13. Which Greek leader extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi for the historic visit?
- Kyriakos Mitsotakis
 - Katerina Sakellaropoulou
 - Alexis Tsipras
 - George Papandreou
14. During the visit, what areas of cooperation are expected to be discussed between the Indian and Greek leaders?
- Agricultural development
 - Space exploration
 - Cultural exchanges
 - Maritime transport, defense, trade, and investments
15. What factors contribute to the positive growth observed in the services sector during Q1 FY24?
- Reduced investment activity

- b) Decline in demand
 - c) Increased capital expenditure
 - d) Catch-up in services demand and improved investment activity
16. What was the percentage of microfinance loans held by standalone MFIs in FY23?
- a) 30%
 - b) 35%
 - c) 40%
 - d) 45%
17. Which state is the Yadadri Thermal Power Station located in?
- a) Maharashtra
 - b) Telangana
 - c) West Bengal
 - d) Karnataka
18. Sunil Bharti Mittal referred to Africa as:
- a) A technological hub
 - b) A cultural epicenter
 - c) A global superpower
 - d) The last continent of hope
19. Which state led the microfinance sector in terms of Assets Under Management (AUM)?
- a) Maharashtra
 - b) Bihar
 - c) Kerala
 - d) Gujarat
20. What is the name of the co-branded hotel credit card launched by HDFC Bank and Marriott Bonvoy?
- a) HDFC Bonvoy Card
 - b) Marriott HDFC Travel Card
 - c) Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card
 - d) HDFC Marriott Rewards Card
21. What is the primary pollutant that SCR Catalysts aim to reduce?
- a) Carbon monoxide (CO)
 - b) Sulfur dioxide (SO₂)
 - c) Particulate matter (PM)
 - d) Nitrogen oxide (NO_x)

22. Which network's platform is the Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card part of?
- Mastercard
 - Visa
 - American Express
 - Discover Global Network
23. What is the name of YES BANK's newly introduced mobile banking app?
- YES Mobile
 - YES Banking Pro
 - IRIS by YES BANK
 - YES Finance Connect
24. Which bank has introduced the UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile application?
- HDFC Bank
 - Axis Bank
 - ICICI Bank
 - Canara Bank
25. Who is the current Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?
- Raghuram Rajan
 - Urjit Patel
 - Shaktikant Das
 - Nirmala Sitharaman
26. Who signed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for exchange of White Shipping Information on 23 August 2023?
- Chief of the Air Force
 - Chief of the Army Staff
 - Chief of the Naval Staff and Commandant of Philippine Coast Guard
 - Chief of the Coast Guard
27. Which technological initiative of RBI Innovation Hub powers the newly introduced lending products by Axis Bank?
- Digital Agricultural Platform
 - Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Portal
 - Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC)
 - Innovative Credit Card System

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28. In which Indian state will the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) pilot project be initially rolled out by Axis Bank?
- a) Maharashtra
 - b) Uttar Pradesh
 - c) Madhya Pradesh
 - d) Rajasthan
29. What does the UDGAM acronym stand for in the context of the RBI's portal?
- a) Unclaimed Deposits Global Asset Management
 - b) User Data Generation and Analysis Module
 - c) Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Access Information
 - d) Universal Database for General Account Management
30. Which organizations collaborated with RBI to develop the UDGAM portal?
- a) United Nations and World Bank
 - b) International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - c) Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS), and select banks
 - d) International Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders
31. World Mosquito Day is observed to commemorate the contributions of Sir Ronald Ross. What did British doctor Sir Ronald Ross discover on August 20, 1897?
- a) The connection between mosquitoes and dengue
 - b) The life cycle of mosquitoes
 - c) The link between mosquitoes and zika virus
 - d) The connection between female Anopheles mosquitoes and malaria transmission

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ANSWER KEY

Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.
1.	B	26.	B	51.	B	76.	D
2.	B	27.	A	52.	B	77.	C
3.	B	28.	D	53.	C	78.	D
4.	B	29.	B	54.	B	79.	B
5.	A	30.	A	55.	C	80.	D
6.	A	31.	A	56.	A	81.	B
7.	B	32.	C	57.	A	82.	A
8.	C	33.	C	58.	A	83.	D
9.	C	34.	A	59.	B	84.	C
10.	A	35.	B	60.	C	85.	C
11.	B	36.	A	61.	B	86.	B
12.	C	37.	C	62.	B	87.	D
13.	C	38.	B	63.	B	88.	B
14.	B	39.	A	64.	C	89.	C
15.	A	40.	B	65.	C	90.	D
16.	C	41.	C	66.	B	91.	D
17.	C	42.	B	67.	B	92.	C
18.	B	43.	B	68.	A	93.	D
19.	A	44.	A	69.	A	94.	C
20.	A	45.	B	70.	A	95.	C
21.	A	46.	B	71.	C	96.	C
22.	B	47.	C	72.	D	97.	C
23.	B	48.	A	73.	C	98.	C
24.	A	49.	D	74.	C	99.	C
25.	C	50.	A	75.	B	100.	D

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TRANSLATION : HINDI

1. कानून का शासन" मर्दानगी का सर्वोच्च कानून है। अन्य सभी कानून विषय के अधीन हैं और "कानून के शासन" से इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता है। यह सत्यापित करने वाले सभी कानूनों में सबसे प्राथमिक है- मानव जाति की अधिकतम तर्कसंगत उपलब्धि। "कानून का शासन" एक निःस्वार्थ वास्तविकता है जो दुनिया के सबसे विश्वासघाती लुटेरे को मैत्री और समझौते में संगठित रहने, साझा अहंकार और विकास के लिए सहयोग करने के लिए सहमत करती है।
2. कानून का शासन एक प्रागैतिहासिक धारणा है, और लगभग 350 ईसा पूर्व प्लेटो और अरस्तू जैसे प्राचीन यूनानी सत्य-शोधकों द्वारा इस पर विचार किया गया था। तब तक कानून के शासन की धारणा को कई लेखकों, दार्शनिकों और अन्य लोगों ने आत्मसात कर लिया था। बाद में, 1885 में, विक्टोरियन युग के प्रोफेसर ए.
3. कानून वे मूल्य हैं जो यह सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि लोग जीवन में सभी अच्छी चीजों की सराहना कर सकें। कानून कुछ अपरिहार्य उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति करता है। कानून न केवल व्यवस्था कायम रखता है, बल्कि यह व्यवस्था को बोधगम्य बनाता है। कानून एक लोकतांत्रिक कट्टरपंथी व्यवस्था के पोषण और संरक्षण में प्रमुख बुनियादी बातों में सहायता करता है। कानून पक्षपातपूर्ण प्रबंधन द्वारा प्रभाव के कार्यान्वयन पर एक बड़ा प्रतिबंध लगाता है और तानाशाही के खिलाफ किलेबंदी का मुख्य रूप है।
4. डाइसी के दृढ़ता से व्यक्त विचारों में, सैद्धांतिक रूप से, मंत्रियों, पुलिस अधिकारियों, या अन्य कार्यकारी अधिकारियों को नागरिकों के अधिकारों और स्वतंत्रता में हस्तक्षेप करने के लिए व्यापक शक्तियां प्रदान करने वाले कानून बनाने से संसद को रोकने के लिए कुछ भी नहीं है। इसलिए, डाइसी के अनुसार, एक मंत्री को अक्सर किसी मुद्दे को निर्धारित करने या विशेषाधिकार देने की शक्ति दी जाएगी, इस शक्ति का प्रयोग 'यदि मंत्री उचित समझे' तो किया जाएगा, अब यहां चुनौती यह है कि, वास्तव में यह कैसे निर्धारित किया जाए विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त शक्ति का मंत्री दुरुपयोग नहीं करेगा, क्योंकि वह किसी को जवाब देने के लिए बाध्य नहीं है। मंत्रीगण बिल्कुल यही करते थे। बांग्लादेश में मंत्रियों द्वारा किसी भी नियम को संसद द्वारा मंजूरी देना आम बात है। जहां भी उन्हें लगा कि विवेक है, वहां मनमानी की गुंजाइश है।
5. अधिकारों के विधेयक की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि घटकों के व्यापक दर्शन निजी व्यक्ति के विशेषाधिकारों को निर्धारित करने वाले न्यायिक निर्णयों का परिणाम हैं। पुराना दृष्टिकोण यह था कि, नागरिक जो कुछ भी करना चाहते हैं वह करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं, सिवाय इसके कि वे कानून का

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उल्लंघन न करें। लेकिन यह स्पष्ट रूप से उल्लेख नहीं किया गया था कि कहां बाध्य होना है और किस कार्य के कारण कानून टूट सकता है। इसलिए, उदाहरण के लिए, यह जानने के लिए कि भाषण की स्वतंत्रता के लिए क्या आवश्यक है, नागरिकों को अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर सभी कानूनी सीमाओं को समझना चाहिए - सरकार के खिलाफ घृणास्पद भाषण देने से संबंधित कानून।

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TRANSLATION: ENGLISH

1. The “RULE OF LAW” is the uppermost law of manhood. All other laws are under subject and cannot deny with the “rule of law.” This is the most elementary of all laws verifying- the maximum rational accomplishment of mankind. The “rule of law” is an unselfish reality which agrees the most treacherous marauder on the world to live organized in amity and agreement, collaborating for shared egotism and evolution.
2. The rule of law is a prehistoric notion, and was deliberated by Ancient Greek truth-seekers such as Plato and Aristotle around 350 BC. Till then the perception of the rule of law has been absorbed by a number of writers, philosophers and others. Later on, in 1885, Victorian era Professor A. V. Dicey, in his graft ‘THE LAW of the Constitution’ proposition is attributed for propagating the rule of law and till now his propositions are deliberated as basic rule of the lawful.
3. Law is the values which safeguard that people can appreciate all the good things in life. Law accomplishes some indispensable purposes. Law does not only uphold order, it marks order conceivable. Law aids the key rudiments in the nurturing and conservation of a democratic radical system. Law delivers a major restriction on the implementation of influence by the partisan management and is the chief form of fortification against dictatorship.
4. Dicey’s strongly expressed views there is nothing, in theory, to stop Parliament enacting legislation providing ministers, police officers, or other executive officers with wide powers to interfere with the rights and liberties of citizens . So, according to Dicey, a minister will often be given the power to determine an issue or grant a privilege, the power to be exercised ‘if the minister sees fit’, now here is the challenge that, in reality how to determine having the privileged power, the minister will not misuse it, as he is not bound to give answer to anybody. That is exactly what ministers used to do. In Bangladesh, it is common practice for the Ministers to grant any rule by Parliament. Wherever they felt that there is discretion, there is room for arbitrariness.

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5. There is no need for a bill of rights because the wide-ranging philosophies of the constituents are the consequence of jurisdictional decisions determining the privileges of the private person. Outmoded view was that, citizens are free to do whatever they like to do except they do not breach the law. But it was not mentioned clearly where to bound and what deed may cause to break the law. So, In order to know, for example, what liberty of speech necessitates, citizens must comprehend all the legal limitations on freedom of expression - the law relating to remonstrance, to race abhorrence speech against the government.

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MCQ'S

1. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Invertebrates?
 1. They do not have backbones.
 2. They don't have an internal skeleton made of bones
 3. They have a fluid-filled, hydrostatic skeleton.Select the correct option from the codes given below:
 - a) Only 1 & 2
 - b) Only 2 & 3
 - c) Only 1 & 3
 - d) 1, 2 & 3

2. The Insu Resilience Global Partnership for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance Solutions was launched at which of the following?
 - a) COP21 in Paris
 - b) COP22 in Marrakesh
 - c) COP23 in Bonn
 - d) COP24 in Katowice

3. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Biofuels?
 - 1) Biofuels are non-renewable sources of energy
 - 2) Biofuels may be solid, liquid or gaseous in natureSelect the correct option from the codes given below:
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) Both 1 & 2
 - d) Neither 1 & 2

4. In which of the following year did Bhopal Gas Tragedy took place?
 - a) 1982
 - b) 1984
 - c) 1986
 - d) 1988

5. In India, Dugong (sea cow) is found in the bioserve site of ____:
 - a) Nokrek
 - b) Manas
 - c) Sundarban

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- d) Gulf of Mannar
6. Reduce, Reuse and ____ are the three R's to save the environment:
- Revise
 - Restore
 - Recycle
 - Recall
7. Which of the following weeds has been found useful to check water pollution caused by industrial affluent?
- Water hyacinth
 - Elephant grass
 - Parthenium
 - Both [A] and[B]
8. Which one of the following is correctly matched?
- Secondary consumer - Grass
 - Decomposer - Bacteria
 - Producer - Deer
 - Primary consumer - Leopard
9. What is the bubble like region in the interstellar medium known as ?
- Chromosphere
 - Heliosphere
 - Photosphere
 - Corona
10. What is the body's closest approach to the sun called ?
- Aphelion
 - Perihelion
 - Ellipse
 - Prograde
11. Which planet is named after the Roman God of Sea?
- Uranus
 - Neptune
 - Saturn
 - Jupiter

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12. Who proposed the Planetesimal Hypothesis?
- a) Chamberlin-Moulten
 - b) Kant-Laplace
 - c) Hubble-Hoyle
 - d) Jeans-Jeffrey
13. Which layer contains almost 67% of the Earth's mass?
- a) Crust
 - b) Mantle
 - c) Core
 - d) Outer crust
14. Which among the following is not a mechanically formed sedimentary rock?
- a) Conglomerate
 - b) Sandstone
 - c) Shale
 - d) Coal
15. Which among the following is not a Major plate?
- a) Australian plate
 - b) African plate
 - c) Carribean plate
 - d) South American plate
16. Which among the following is not a landform of second order?
- a) River valley
 - b) Continental shelf
 - c) Plateaus
 - d) Mountains
17. Who among the following argued that Fjords are tectonic in origin?
- a) Jens Esmark
 - b) Alexander Boldt
 - c) John Walter Gregory
 - d) Henry Hess
18. Which among the following is the largest Tepui?
- a) Auyantepui
 - b) Matawi Tepui

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- c) Autana Tepui
- d) Roraima Tepui

19. Which of the following is an example of Piedmont plateau?

- a) Tibetan Plateau
- b) Bolivian Plateau
- c) Malwa Plateau
- d) Ladakh plateau

20. Polavaram Project is located in which state?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

21. What is the approximate ratio of parts of Indian Coast belonging to Peninsular India to that belonging to Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands?

- a) 2:1
- b) 2.5:1
- c) 3:1
- d) 3.5:1

22. Sirhind Canal is located on which river?

- a) Sutlej
- b) Ravi
- c) Beas
- d) None of the above

23. Which among the following is major source of Salt in India?

- a) Salt Pan
- b) Salt Lake
- c) Salt Rocks
- d) None of them

24. Through which of the following north east states in India , the tropic of cancer passes?

- a) Tripura & Nagaland
- b) Tripura & Mizoram
- c) Meghalaya & Mizoram
- d) Assam & Tripura

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25. What was the first route of the super fast Rajdhani Express which was introduced in 1969?

- a) New Delhi to Mumbai Central
- b) New Delhi to Howrah
- c) New Delhi to Chennai Central
- d) New Delhi to Bangalore

26. Tropic of Cancer passes through which of the following group of Indian States:

- a) Gujarat, MP, Chattisgarh, Manipur
- b) Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Mizoram
- c) UP, MP, Bihar, Jharkhand
- d) Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh

27. Which among the following statements is/ are correct about our country India:

- 1. India has an area of about 3.28 million sq. km.
- 2. India is located in the south-eastern hemisphere.
- 3. The latitudinal extent of India is $8^{\circ}4'N$ and $37^{\circ} 6'N$ latitudes.
- 4. The longitudinal extent of India is $68^{\circ}7'E$ and $97^{\circ} 25' E$ longitudes.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 & 2
- c) 3 & 4
- d) 1, 3 & 4

28. Arrange the following cities of India from west to east

- 1. Bilaspur
- 2. Ranchi
- 3. Bhopal
- 4. Jodhpur

Choose the correct option from the codes given below :

- a) 4, 1, 2, 3
- b) 4, 3, 1, 2
- c) 3, 1, 2, 4
- d) 3, 4, 1, 2

29. Which institution has urged stock exchanges to set up Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform?

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- a) RBI
- b) SEBI
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Supreme Court

30. Which state's women's U-18 team won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022?

- a) Kerala
- b) Haryana
- c) Telangana
- d) Punjab

31. Common Mormon, which was seen in the news recently, belongs to which species?

- a) Snake
- b) Butterfly
- c) Spider
- d) Turtle

32. Which sportsperson won both the World Rapid and World Blitz chess titles?

- a) R Praggnananda
- b) Magnus Carlsen
- c) Koneru Humpy
- d) Harika Dronavalli

33. Which Union Ministry launched a five-pronged energy efficiency plan to become carbon-neutral by 2030?

- a) Ministry of Coal
- b) Ministry of Railways
- c) Ministry of Steel
- d) Ministry of Tourism

34. Which state announced that no rhinos were poached in 2022, the first time since 2000?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Assam
- c) Bihar
- d) Odisha

35. Which country has banned most foreigners from buying homes, to tackle housing crunch faced by locals?

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- a) USA
- b) China
- c) Canada
- d) Germany

36. Which High Court has directed the city government to ensure free food and medical treatment to HIV-positive persons?

- a) Delhi High Court
- b) Bombay High Court
- c) Chennai High Court
- d) Allahabad High Court

37. India signed USD 1.2 billion loan agreements for infrastructure projects with which institution?

- a) World Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) AIIB
- d) IMF

38. Which institution commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project?

- a) ONGC
- b) NTPC
- c) PFC
- d) GAIL

39. As per the 'India Mobile Gaming Report 2022' which state is the top destination for mobile gamers?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Bihar

40. The central banking functions in India are performed by the

1. Central Bank of India
 2. Reserve Bank of India
 3. State Bank of India
 4. Punjab National Bank
- a) I, II

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- b) II
- c) I
- d) II, III

41. Development expenditure of the Central government does not include

- a) defence expenditure
- b) expenditure on economic services
- c) expenditure on social and community services
- d) grant to states

42. ICICI is the name of a

- a) chemical industry
- b) bureau
- c) corporation
- d) financial institution

43. Gilt-edged market means

- a) bullion market
- b) market of government securities
- c) market of guns
- d) market of pure metals

44. In the last one decade, which one among the following sectors has attracted the highest foreign direct investment inflows into India?

- a) Chemicals other than fertilizers
- b) Services sector
- c) Food processing
- d) Telecommunication

45. The currency convertibility concept in its original form originated in

- a) Wells Agreement
- b) Bretton Woods Agreement
- c) Taylors Agreement
- d) None of the above

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46. In the state of India, the State Financial Corporation have given assistance mainly to develop
- a) agricultural farms
 - b) cottage industry
 - c) large-scale industries
 - d) medium and small-scale industries
47. The central co-operative banks are in direct touch with
- a) Farmers
 - b) state co-operative banks
 - c) land development banks
 - d) central government
48. The first wholly Indian Bank was set up in
- a) 1794
 - b) 1894
 - c) 1896
 - d) 1902
49. States earn maximum revenue through
- a) land revenue
 - b) custom revenue
 - c) commercial taxes
 - d) excise duties on intoxicants
50. Excise duty is a tax levied on the
- a) import of goods
 - b) export of goods
 - c) production of goods
 - d) sale of goods

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ANSWER KEY

Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.
1.	D	26.	B
2.	C	27.	B
3.	B	28.	B
4.	B	29.	B
5.	D	30.	C
6.	C	31.	A
7.	A	32.	B
8.	B	33.	B
9.	B	34.	C
10.	B	35.	B
11.	B	36.	A
12.	A	37.	B
13.	B	38.	B
14.	D	39.	C
15.	C	40.	B
16.	A	41.	A
17.	C	42.	D
18.	A	43.	B
19.	C	44.	D
20.	C	45.	B
21.	B	46.	D
22.	D	47.	B
23.	B	48.	B
24.	B	49.	C
25.	D	50.	C

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CASE STUDY

1. **M. Hemalatha Devi & Ors V. B. Udayasri 2023 LiveLaw (SC) 902**

Facts: The matter under consideration of the Apex Court pertained to a consumer complaint filed by a home buyer against a builder. The builder (Appellant before the Apex Court) had challenged two orders of the Telangana High Court refusing to appoint an arbitrator. The High Court had rejected the application filed by the builder for appointment of an arbitrator under Section 11 of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 on the ground that the dispute was pending before the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum. The builder had also moved an application under Section 8 of the Arbitration Act for referring the dispute to arbitration. The District Consumer Forum dismissed the application on the ground that the dispute was non-arbitrable. The builder challenged this in the High Court in a review application, which was also subsequently dismissed.

Analysis:

The Court observed that the legislative intent behind amending S8 and S11 of the Arbitration Act was confined to limiting judicial intervention. Once the Court finds that there is a valid arbitration agreement, it has to refer the matter for arbitration. However this does not mean that where the matter itself is non-arbitrable, or is covered by a special legislation such as the Consumer Protection Act, it still has to be referred for arbitration, the Court observed.

The Apex Court also referred to the case of Emaar MGF Land Ltd. v. Aftab Singh, (2019) 12 SCC 751 where the Court had examined the scope of sub-section (1) to Section 8 (Power to refer parties to arbitration where there is an arbitration agreement.) the reasoning given in the above judgment would be equally applicable to Section 11 application before the High Court. Both the provisions incorporated in Section 8 and Section 11 of the Arbitration Act, 1996 [i.e., sub-section (1) and sub-section 6A respectively], seemingly restrict the scope of the examination by the concerned courts, in their reference to arbitration, or appointment of arbitrator, as the case might be, and the language being common

Held: The Supreme Court recently held that consumer disputes are non arbitrable disputes and a party cannot be compelled into arbitration just because they are a signatory to an arbitration agreement.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia observed that the Consumer Protection Act is a piece of welfare legislation with the primary purpose of protecting the interest of a consumer.

2. **Sunil Kumar Soni v. State of Rajasthan, 2023 (SC) 271**

Facts: The award debtor raised objections to the enforcement of the foreign seated arbitration award on the ground of non-stamping of the arbitration agreement. It contended that the underlying arbitration agreement, being unstamped, is not considered "valid" under Indian law, which governs the agreement. It relied upon the recent judgment of the Constitution bench of the Supreme Court in N.N. Global, wherein the Court held that an unstamped arbitration agreement is deemed "unenforceable," "invalid," "bereft of life," "non-est," and cannot be "acted upon" by a Court at the stage of referring disputes under Section 11 of the Arbitration Act,[1] to contend that the findings regarding the invalidity of an unstamped agreement should also apply to proceedings for the enforcement of foreign awards under Part - II of the Arbitration Act.

Law applied:

Constitution of India - Article 14- Doctrine of equality- there cannot be equality in the matter of illegality - can't claim benefit of illegal orders passed in the cases of other persons- denies relief to school teacher who secured bachelor's degree through distance education

Held: No Equality In Matter Of Illegality' : Supreme Court Denies Relief To School Teacher Dismissed For Degree Through Distance Education

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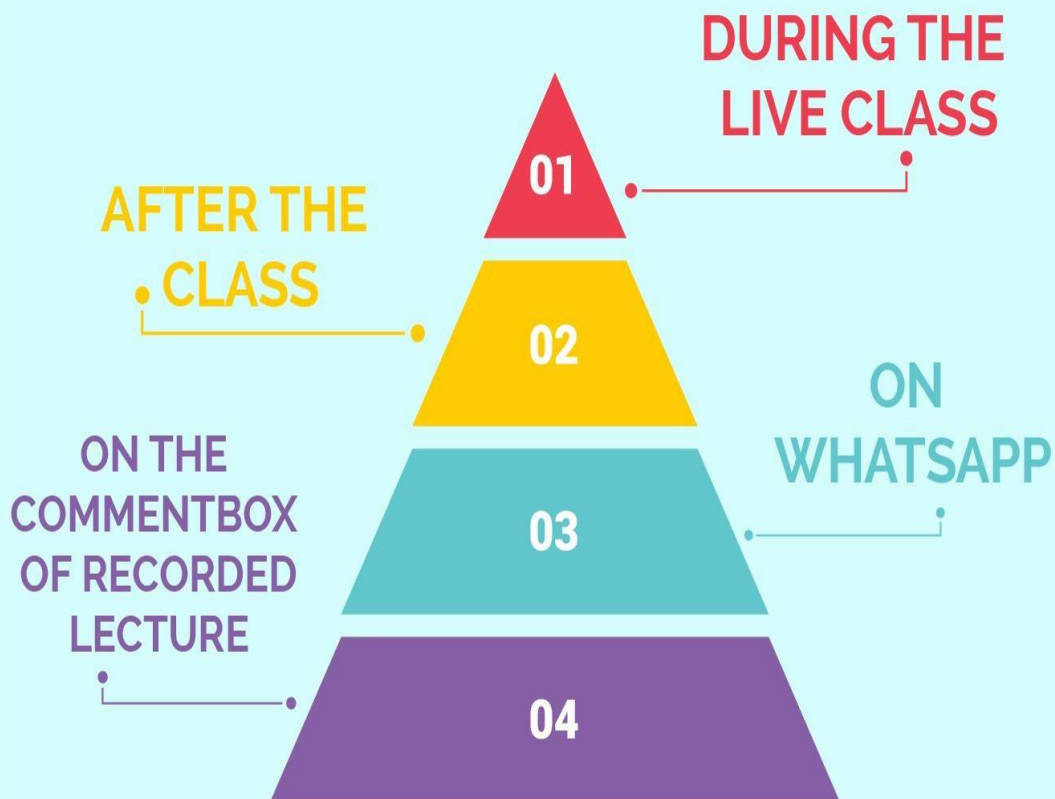
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