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1. The 'Dhanu Yatra' festival, the largest open-air theatre festival began in which state recently?
- Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
 - Odisha
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Kerala

Answer: Odisha

The '**Dhanu Yatra**' festival, the largest open-air theatre festival began after a gap of two years, in Bargarh at the Odisha. The vibrant Dhanu Yatra is associated with the culture of Odisha. The Festival is being held from December **27 to Jan 6, 2023**. Several artists from 130 cultural troupes from across the country are scheduled to perform during the festival. Around 3,000 artistes of 130 cultural troupes from across the country is participating in the festival. However, Kansa is the central attraction of the Dhanu Yatra.

2. When is the birth anniversary of the first female teacher in Modern India, Savitri Bai Phule celebrated?
- 31 December
 - 4 January
 - 1 January
 - 3 January
 - None of these

Answer: 3 January

3rd January marks the birth anniversary of **Savitri Bai Phule, the first female teacher** in modern India. She was born in Naigaon, a tiny hamlet in Maharashtra, on January 3, 1831. Her life is celebrated throughout India as a beacon of women's rights. In 1840, she **married Jyotirao Phule at the age of nine years**.

3. Election Commission has proposed introduction of 'remote voting' for who among the following?
- Non Resident Indians
 - Overseas Citizens of India
 - International Migrants in India
 - Indian Diplomats in Foreign Countries
 - Domestic Migrants

Answer: Domestic Migrants

Election Commission has proposed introduction of '**remote voting**' for domestic migrants, using a multi-constituency electronic voting machine (EVM) that will retain all security features of the EVMs currently in use. This modified form of EVM can handle up to 72 multiple constituencies from a single remote polling booth.

4. New Jalpaiguri, which was in the news related to Vande Bharat Express, is located in which state?
- Assam
 - West Bengal
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Gujarat
 - None of these

Answer: West Bengal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the **Vande Bharat express** connecting **Howrah and New Jalpaiguri**. It is a railway station in Siliguri, West Bengal and is considered as the gateway to the northeast.

The Vande Bharat Express covers a distance of 564 km in 7.45 hours, will save three hours of travel time. The Vande Bharat express will be preferred by tea industry executives and tourists travelling to the Himalayas in North Bengal and Sikkim.

5. Which state police has received the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 2022 Award for the 'Nijaat' campaign?
- Tripura
 - West Bengal
 - Assam
 - Bihar
 - Chhattisgarh

Answer: Chhattisgarh

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the US-based international organisation has selected the anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign '**Nijaat**' of Chhattisgarh police for 'Leadership in Crime Prevention' award in the institutional category. The prestigious IACP 2022 Award has selected the de-addiction drive '**Nijaat**', which was executed following the directive by **chief minister Bhupesh Baghel** to act tough against drug peddlers, and bootleggers and check to smuggling of drugs. A successful singular campaign, '**Nijaat**' witnessed the striking results to achieve a drug-free society with missionary zeal.

6. In which city does PM Modi inaugurate the 108th Indian Science Congress?
- Nagpur
 - Ahmedabad
 - Patna
 - Lucknow
 - None of these

Answer: Nagpur

The 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC) will be held at R.T.M. Nagpur University in Nagpur, Maharashtra, from January 3-7, 2023. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Indian Science Congress through video conferencing on January 3, 2023. **ISC 2023 is the first major scientific event to be held in India this year.**

7. Recently, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) recommended DEXA as a selection criteria. What is DEXA?
- Bone density scan
 - Aerobic endurance fitness test
 - Local muscular endurance
 - Flexibility test
 - Balance test

Answer: Bone density scan

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that **Yo-Yo Test and DEXA** will be a part of the selection criteria. BCCI has also discussed the player's availability, workload management, and fitness parameters in the team review meeting along with the roadmap of the **ICC Cricket World Cup 2023**. ICC Cricket World Cup is scheduled in October and November, and it is to be **hosted by India**.

8. Which country has taken over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first six months of 2023?
- Finland
 - Sweden
 - Italy
 - Germany
 - None of these

Answer: Sweden

Sweden has taken over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first six months of the year, on January 1, 2023,

It followed Czech Republic, which headed the Council in the second half of 2022. This is the third time that Sweden has taken over the Presidency of the Council. The EU Council Presidency rotates every six months between the Member States of the EU.

9. Name the author of the book "Breaking Barriers: the Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary".
- U. Sagayam
 - Hari Chandana Dasari
 - Kaki Madhava Rao
 - D Subbarao
 - Smita Sabharwal

Answer: Kaki Madhava Rao

Former IAS officer **Kaki Madhava Rao** has authored a new book titled "**Breaking Barriers: the Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary**" which addresses the details about the dynamics of civil services at the ground level and also fills the gap in the knowledge about micro policies and governance. The book is published by Emesco Books Private Limited. K Madhava Rao is a 1962 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, who retired as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (AP). He was born in Pedamaddali village of Krishna district, AP in 1939. He also served in the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) as a Director and as a member of a sub-committee, the Board for Financial Supervision.

10. How many people will be awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards this year?
- 12
 - 20
 - 27
 - 25
 - None of these

Answer: 27

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards have been announced for this year. **27 people were chosen on January 2, 2023**, the highest honour for overseas Indians. The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention will be held in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, from January **8 to 10, 2023**. The President will present the honours during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas festivities' valedictory session. A jury-cum-awards committee led by the vice president selected the honorees. The Chief Guest of the event and the **President of Guyana, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali**,

11. Election Commission's launches 'Mission-929' to take voter turnout in _____ to over 90
- Nagaland
 - Sikkim
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Assam
 - Tripura

Answer: Tripura

The Election Commission (EC) is focusing on 929 polling booths across Tripura, setting a target of **92 per cent voter turnout** in the assembly elections due early this year. These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 per cent, which was the average across 3,328 booths in the 2018 assembly polls. **The EC is also working on 'Mission Zero Poll Violence' to make the assembly elections peaceful.**

12. Where is the 'Institute of Mathematical Sciences' located?
- Mumbai
 - Mysuru
 - Chennai
 - Panaji
 - None of these

Answer: Chennai

Department of Posts under Tamilnadu Circle released a Special Cover on 60 Years of The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc).

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences is a premier research institute in Chennai, India founded by **Alladi Ramakrishnan in 1962**. Since its inception, members of the institute have engaged in research in fundamental and interdisciplinary sciences.

13. _____ becomes the first country in Asia and second in the world to launch Hydrogen powered Train
- Pakistan
 - India
 - China
 - Bangladesh
 - Nepal

Answer: China

China's CRRC Corporation Ltd. Launched a **hydrogen urban train**, and it is the **first in Asia** and the second such train in the world. Germany introduced green trains a few months back. The hydrogen trains have a speed of 160 km per hour and the operational range without refueling is 600 km.

The trains launched by Germany have a record of 1175 km range set. The Indian Railway on the other hand is moving fast to induct the **'World's Greenest Train'** soon.

India will get its first-ever Indigenous Hydrogen trains by December 2023. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed that Indian Railways is working on new environment-friendly trains and the engineers are designing them.

14. Which player has recently become the fastest bowler in India?

- a. Jaspreet Bumrah
- b. Umran Malik
- c. Mohammed Shami
- d. Navdeep Saini
- e. None of these

Answer: Umran Malik

Umran Malik, India's pace phenom, hit 155 kmph on the speed radar in the first T20I against Sri Lanka to become the fastest Indian bowler, surpassing Jasprit Bumrah's record. Bumrah holds the record for 153.6kmph

15. Who has assumed the charge as the Secretary General of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU)?

- a. Dr. V. G. Somani
- b. Dr. S. Eswara Reddy
- c. Dr. P.B.N. Prasad
- d. Dr. Ravi Kant Sharma
- e. Dr. Vinay Prakash Singh

Answer: Dr. Vinay Prakash Singh

India has taken over the leadership of the **Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU)** in January 2023. **Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years.** This is the result of the elections during the 13th APPU Congress held in August-September 2022.

16. Which state hosted the 'National Scout and Guide Jamboree'?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Gujarat
- e. None of these

Answer: Rajasthan

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the **18th National Scout and Guide Jamboree**, at Rohat in the Pali district of Rajasthan.

The First National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides was organized at Hyderabad in the year 1953. Rajasthan hosted the Jamboree after 66 years. Over 35,000 scouts and guides from all over the country participated in the 7-day-event.

17. Folk singer Maithili Thakur has been appointed as the state icon for which of the following state by the Election Commission?

- a. Tripura
- b. Jharkhand
- c. Assam
- d. Bihar
- e. Meghalaya

Answer: Bihar

Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission. The singer will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process. This recognition will give her (Maithili) more

impetus to spread Bihar's folk music across continents and generate awareness about the importance of participating in the electoral process.

18. Who is the first female officer to be appointed in the Siachen Battlefield?
- Puja Singh
 - Arti Shah
 - Shivani Singh
 - Shiva Chouhan
 - None of these

Answer: Shiva Chouhan

After a month of **grueling** training at Siachen Battle School with other soldiers, Captain Shiva Chouhan of the **Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps** became the first woman officer to be operationally deployed at the **world's highest battlefield, Siachen.**

19. Sumitra Sen passed away recently at the age of 89. Who was she?
- Writer
 - Politician
 - Journalist
 - Singer
 - Social Worker

Answer: Singer

Noted Rabindra Sangeet exponent, Sumitra Sen has passed away at the age of 89. She will be remembered for her rendition of songs like Jokhon Porbe Na Mor, Sokhi Vabona Kahare Bole and Mone Ki Dwidha. Her rendition of Aaj Jyotsna Raate Shobai Gechhe Bone in Ritwik Ghatak's classic movie Komal Gandhar has remained a steadfast interpretation of the song. She was honoured with the **Sangeet Mahasamman** award by West Bengal government in 2012.

20. Which state houses the world's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum?
- Karnataka
 - Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Odisha
 - None of these

Answer: Kerala

The world's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum has been inaugurated in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala. It is a repository of administrative, socio-cultural and economic facets of Travancore spanning a period of 650 years till the end of the 19th century. The museum also serves as a reference point for historical and cultural research for academic and non-academic scholars.

21. Who is the author of the book titled 'Ambedkar: A Life'?

- a. Amartya Sen
- b. Arvind Subramanian
- c. Shashi Tharoor
- d. Chetan Bhagat
- e. Pulapre Balakrishnan

Answer: Shashi Tharoor

Parliamentarian and author, Shashi Tharoor's latest book **Ambedkar: A Life** was recently launched at the Kitaab Kolkata event. In this new biography, Tharoor tells Ambedkar's story with great lucidity, insight, and admiration. He traces the arc of the great man's life from his birth into a family of Mahars in the Bombay Presidency on 14 April 1891 to his death in Delhi on 6 December 1956. He describes the many humiliations and hurdles Ambedkar had to overcome in a society that stigmatized the community he was born into, and the single-minded determination with which he overcame every obstacle he encountered.

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

- a. R Praggnananda
- b. Koneru Humpy
- c. Harika Dronavalli
- d. Magnus Carlsen
- e. None of these

Answer: Magnus Carlsen

Magnus Carlsen, a Norwegian grandmaster, achieved an unprecedented achievement by winning both the World Rapid and World Blitz chess championships in Almaty. For the third time in his career, the 32-year-old has held all three global chess championship titles - Classical, Rapid, and Blitz. No other player has ever won both the **Rapid and Blitz titles** in the same year as 2022.

23. Who among the following became the first bowler to take a hat-trick in the opening over at Ranji Trophy history?

- a. Umesh Yadav
- b. Jaydev Unadkat
- c. Jasprit Bumrah
- d. Ishant Sharma
- e. Mohammed Shami

Answer: Jaydev Unadkat

Saurashtra's Jaydev Unadkat made a slice of Ranji Trophy history, becoming the first bowler to take a hat-trick in the opening over. The left-arm pacer destroyed Delhi by adding two more in the next over in a career-best eight-wicket haul in the Elite Group B match in Rajkot.

24. Which article of Indian Constitution deals with the right to freedom of speech and expression

- a. Article 14
- b. Article 16
- c. Article 19
- d. Article 22
- e. None of these

Answer: Article 19

Article 19(2) lists down eight grounds on which the right to freedom of speech and expression can be reasonably restricted.

The Supreme Court has ruled with a 4:1 majority that statements made by a minister, even if these statements are traceable to any affairs of the State or for protecting the government, **cannot be attributed to the government.**

25. Union Cabinet approves naming of Mopa airport in Goa after _____.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee
 - Manohar Parrikar
 - Inder Kumar Gujral
 - H. D. Deve Gowda
 - Vishwanath Pratap Singh

Answer: Manohar Parrikar

The Union Cabinet has approved the naming of Greenfield International Airport at Goa's Mopa as **Manohar International Airport** after former Defence Minister and Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar. The airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2022 at Mopa Goa. The airport will be named after the late Manohar Parrikar to honor his contribution to building modern Goa.

26. For which mission did Odisha win the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023?
- Kaliya mission
 - Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana
 - Amnesty scheme
 - Jaga Mission
 - None of these

Answer: Jaga Mission

Odisha won the UN- Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for **the Jaga mission**. The mission is a 5T initiative of the state. The awards recognize and showcase innovative, exceptional, and game-changing concepts, initiatives, and programmes from throughout the world. **The Jaga mission is a land titling and slum rehabilitation initiative that attempts to improve slum residents' lives.**

27. Which start-up built the 'AzaadiSAT' satellite, which is made by 750 school girls?
- Dhruv Aerospace
 - Pixxel
 - Space Kidz India
 - Astra
 - None of these

Answer: Space Kidz India

Space Kidz India, a Chennai-based space tech start-up is set to launch their satellite made by 750 girls from government schools aboard an **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launch vehicle.

A targeted launch date of January 16 has been set for the satellite named **AzaadiSAT**. Space Kidz India selected 10 girl students from 75 government schools across the country for this mission. The project is also supported by Niti Aayog.

28. Cristiano Ronaldo has recently joined which club?

- a. Al Nassr
- b. Manchester United
- c. Juventus
- d. Al- Shabab
- e. None of these

Answer: Al Nassr

Cristiano Ronaldo has agreed to terms with Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr on a two-year contract; the attacker was a free agent after his contract with Manchester United was amicably ended. Al Nassr, founded in 1955, is headquartered in the Saudi city of Riyadh and competes in the country's highest tier, the Saudi Professional League (SPL), which comprises 18 clubs.

29. 'Bailey Suspension Bridge' has been inaugurated in which state/UT?

- a. Arunachal Pradesh
- b. Jammu and Kashmir
- c. Assam
- d. Karnataka
- e. None of these

Answer: Jammu and Kashmir

In Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually launched the **Bailey Suspension Bridge across the Chenab River**. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed the 240-foot-high Bailey Suspension Bridge a month ahead of schedule. The new Bailey suspension reinforced bridge was initiated in October 2022.

30. In which city/region will India deploy the largest platoon of women peacekeepers in the UN mission?

- a. Mogadishu
- b. Kyiv
- c. Tehran
- d. Abyei
- e. None of these

Answer: Abyei

India will deploy a platoon of women **peacekeepers to UN Mission in Abyei**. According to the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, this would be India's largest single unit of women Peacekeepers in a UN Mission since it deployed the first-ever all-women force in Liberia in 2007. The deployment in Abyei will also signal India's intention to dramatically increase the number of Indian women serving in peacekeeping contingents.