# YOUR FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER FOR LAW EXAMS



# **About Magazine**

"LawEx" is a carefully curated set of Current Events designed specifically for CLAT aspirants. To take you one step closer to realizing your dream, "LawEx" provides a fortnightly overview of the most significant current events related to politics, economics, science and technology, & sports with a wide range of infographics to ensure a smoother learning experience and enhanced retention of information.

# **Editor's Note**

The Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan launched "Jaadui Pitara" a play-based learning-teaching material to strengthen conceptual understanding amongst learners of three to eight years of age. Six extraordinarily massive galaxies, formed roughly 500-700 million years after the Big Bang have been discovered by James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). To know more, keep reading.

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CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE FROM INDIA AND THE WORLD

**QUICK BOOSTERS** 

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# **JADUI PITARA**

### WHY IN NEWS?

• As envisaged under National Education Policy 2020, the Ministry of Education has launched Learning - Teaching Material for Foundational Stage and 'Jadui Pitara'.

# About Jadui Pitara

- 'Jadui Pitara' is a play-based learning-teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3-8.
- It aimed at enriching the learning-teaching environment and making it more child-centric, lively and joyful for the Amrit Generation as envisioned in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020).
- It comprises playbooks, toys, puzzles, posters, flash cards, story books, worksheets as well as reflecting the local culture, social context and languages is designed to pique curiosity and accommodate the diverse needs of learners in the foundational Stage.
- 'Jadui Pitara' developed under the National Curriculum Framework is available in 13 Indian languages.

# **About National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**

- The NCF for foundational Stage (F.S.) was launched by Ministry of Education on October 20, 2022.
- The NCF is one of the key components of NEP 2020 that enables and energises this transformation, informed by the aims, principles, and approach of NEP 2020.
- The NCF has four sections -
  - I. NCF for School Education
  - II. NCF for Early Childhood Care and Education (Foundational Stage)
  - III. NCF for Teacher Education
  - IV. NCF for Adult Education
- The Foundational Stage refers to children in the age group of 3 to 8 years, across the entire range of diverse institutions in India.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Article 21A of the Constitution makes it obligatory on the State to provide free and compulsory education to children between the age of 6 and 14 years.
- Right To Education (RTE) Act, 2009 aims to provide primary education to all children aged 6 to 14 years and enforces education as a Fundamental Right.
- National Education Policy 2020 has been announced on 29.07.2020.
- The NEP 2020 envisages 5+3+3+4 curriculum pedagogical structure.



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# WHATSAPP CHATBOT POWERED BY CHATGPT FOR WELFARE SCHEMES

# WHY IN NEWS?

• A team called 'Bhashini' of the Ministry of Electronics and I.T. (MeitY) is developing a WhatsApp chatbot powered by ChatGPT, which helps the farmers in the country to get in touch with government schemes and programmes.

# **Key Points**

- The launch of the WhatsApp chatbot may take time as ChatGPT currently relies on input in English, and the support for local languages is limited. So to build a local language model for the WhatsApp chatbot, the Government's 'Bhasha Daan' initiative will be used.
- A user could simply ask a question using voice notes and receive a voice-based response generated by ChatGPT.
- The chatbot has been developed keeping in mind sections of India's rural and agrarian population that most depend on government schemes and subsidies.
- The model currently supports 12 languages in the test phase, including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, Odia, and Assamese. If a user were to send a voice note in any of these languages, the chatbot would successfully return a response.

# **Key Initiatives under Digital India Programme**

- DigiLocker
- Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG)
- MeriPehchaan
- Digital Village
- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA)
- Unified Payment Interface (UPI)
- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) 123 Pay
- Digital India GENESIS (Gen-next Support for Innovative Startups)
- Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme
- MeghRaj
- Indiastack.global

# **About ChatGPT**

- ChatGPT is a variant of GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer)
  which is a large-scale neural network-based language model.
  ChatGPT is based on GPT-3.5, a language model that uses deep
  learning to produce human-like text.
- It can generate responses to a wide range of topics, such as answering questions, providing explanations, and engaging in conversations.
- In addition to being able to "admit its mistakes, challenge false premises, and refuse unsuitable requests," the ChatGPT can also "answer follow-up questions."
- The chatbot was also trained using Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF).

# DID YOU KNOW?

- ChatGPT has been developed by the San Francisco-based firm OpenAI, in which Microsoft has reportedly made an investment of \$10 billion.

WhatsApp is owned by Meta Inc (formerly Facebook).

- 'Bard' is Google's AI Chatbot.
- Chinese tech giant Baidu is also planning to integrate its Al chatbot 'Ernie' into its search engine services from March.
- 'My AI' is Snapchat's AI Chatbot.

# Bhasha Daan Initiative

Bhasha Daan is an ambitious project that aims to crowdsource voice datasets in multiple Indian languages as part of Project BHASHINI. People can contribute on the project's website by recording themselves reading out a portion of text, by typing out a sentence that they hear, or by translating text in one language into another.

# **Digital India BHASHINI**

- Digital India BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India), an artificial intelligence (AI) led language translation platform, is a part of the National Language Translation Mission.
- A BHASHINI platform will make AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources available to MSMEs, Startups and Individual Innovators in the public domain.
- This mission aims to empower Indian citizens by connecting them to the Digital Initiatives of the country in their own language, thereby leading to digital inclusion.

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# **LIMITING WARMING BELOW 1.8°C**

# WHY IN NEWS?

- According to the new study published in Nature Communications, the UN-mandated Paris Agreement's target of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees celsius is probably insufficient to prevent an accelerated sea level rise over the next century.
- If the global temperature rise is not kept below 1.8°C, the world could witness an "irreversible loss" of west Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets and a rapid sea level rise.

# **Key Points**

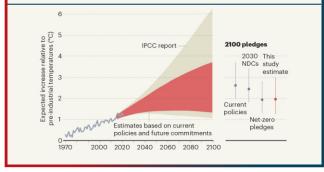
- Greenland and the Antarctica ice sheet will each likely contribute about 60-70 centimetres to the global mean sea level rise over the next 130 years under a high emission scenario, the findings showed.
- Reaching net zero carbon emissions before 2060 is critical to avoid this catastrophe. Missing the 2060 goal could cause the ice sheet to disintegrate and melt at an accelerated pace.
- The average global temperature has increased by slightly more than 1°C since 1880, according to the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- Over the past century, the global mean sea level has increased by about 20 centimetres. This could be partly attributed to the thermal expansion of seawater (increase in volume due to warming oceans), glacier and ice-sheet melt and changes in groundwater storage.
- By 2150, global sea level rise is estimated to rise by roughly 1.4, 0.5 and 0.2 metres under high, mid and low-emission scenarios, respectively.
- The increase could be avoided under a low greenhouse gas emission scenario, with temperatures staying below 1.5 °C.

# **Indian Initiatives to Tackle Climate Change**

- The Government of India launched National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on June 30 2008, outlining eight National Missions on climate change. These include:
  - 1. National Solar Mission
  - 2. National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
  - 3. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
  - 4. National Water Mission
  - 5. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system
  - 6. National Mission for a Green India
  - 7. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
  - 8. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change
- The India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) provides an integrated vision towards cooling across sectors encompassing, inter alia, reduction of cooling demand, refrigerant transition, enhancing energy efficiency and better technology options by 2037-38 through forging synergies with on-going programmes/ schemes of the Government.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Under Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), India is committed -
- To reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level
- To achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>3</sub>equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- To achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
- Indian Railways is also set to achieve a net zero target by 2030.



# **Global Initiatives**

- $\bullet \quad \text{Paris Agreement-seeks to keep the rise in global temperatures "well below" 2°C from pre-industrial times.}\\$
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. U.N. SDGs. There are 17 broad goals.
- COP 27 presidency launched "Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda" to build climate resilience for 4 billion people living in the most climate-vulnerable communities by 2030.



# CLAT TEST







# FOREIGN NATIONALS CAN NOT BE APPOINTED AS GUARDIANS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: DELHI HIGH COURT

# WHY IN NEWS?

• The Delhi High Court has ruled that foreigners cannot say that they have a "vested right" to be the legal guardian of a disabled person or that they are entitled to the same protections under Part III of the Indian Constitution as Indian citizens.

# **Key Points**

- A division bench was hearing a plea moved by a father whose adopted son has "severe mental retardation" with a disability certified to be 90% disability. The petitioner and his son are citizens of the USA but hold Overseas Citizenship of India cards.
- The petitioner challenged the validity of the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Rules, 2001 and Board of Trust Regulations, 2012. The provisions allow only Indian citizens to be a guardian of a person.
- The High Court ruled that the Act does not specify the essential qualifications that a guardian must possess, leaving it to be determined by rules and regulations that may be framed. However, the High Court directed the Local Level Committee to examine and evaluate the circumstances.
- The Committee may consider the appointment of an Indian citizen as a statutory guardian.

# DID YOU KNOW?

- The Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution from Articles 12 to 35.
- The idea of fundamental rights derived from the Constitution of the USA (i.e., Bill of Rights).
- Some of them are available only to citizens, while others are available to all persons, whether citizens, foreigners or legal persons like corporations or companies.
- Article 15, Article 16, Article 19, Article 29, and Article 30 are available to citizens only.
- Article 14, Article 20, Article 21, Article 21A, Article 22, Article 23, Article 24, Article 25, Article 26, Article 27, and Article 28 are available to citizens as well as foreigners.



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# **WORLD PANGOLIN DAY 2023**

# WHY IN NEWS?

• World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in February, and this year, the day falls on February 18, 2023.

# **Key Points**

- As per the recent report, over 1,200 pangolins, also known as the scaly anteaters, were poached and trafficked in India over the past four years from 2018 to 2022.
- This report is released jointly by the World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF India), and TRAFFIC, a non-governmental organisation which monitors illicit global wildlife trade.

# **About Pangolin**

- Pangolins belong to the family Manidae and in India, they are the only known mammals with large keratin scales covering their skin. They are toothless, nocturnal, live in burrows, and feed mainly on ants and termites.
- Globally there are eight pangolin species, four each in Africa and Asia.
  - 4 Species in Africa: Black-bellied pangolin, White-bellied pangolin, Giant Ground pangolin and Temminck's Ground pangolin.
  - 4 Species in Asia: Indian pangolin, Philippine pangolin, Sunda pangolin and the Chinese pangolin.
- India is home to two species Indian pangolin Manis crassicaudata and Chinese pangolin Manis pentadactyla.
  - Indian Pangolin is found across the Indian subcontinent (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).
  - Chinese pangolins are found in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Taiwan, China, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- In India, Chinese pangolins are found in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and West Bengal.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

- World Wide Fund for Nature Founded: April 29 1961 | Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland | President: Pavan Sukhdev | Director General: Kirsten Schuijt
- TRAFFIC Founded: 1976 | Founded by: World Wide Fund for Nature |
   John A Burton (Director) | Rick Scobey (Executive Director)

### **Protection Status**

- As per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s red list of animals, Indian pangolin and Chinese pangolin have been listed in the 'endangered (EN)' and 'critically endangered' categories respectively.
- In India, pangolins, both Indian and Chinese, are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 that prohibits its hunting, trade or any other form of utilisation.
- All pangolin species are listed in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix I.





# INDIA'S FIRST HYBRID-SOUNDING ROCKET

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India's first hybrid-sounding rocket by private players was launched from Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu.
- Martin Foundation, in association with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India, launched the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission 2023.

# **Key Points**

- The organisations mentioned that 5,000 students were involved in the project. The selected students designed and constructed a student satellite launch vehicle (rocket) and 150 PICO satellites (satellites at a mass below 1 kg) research experiment cubes that contained different payloads.
- The rocket can be used for research in weather, atmospheric conditions and radiation.

# **About Hybrid Rocket**

- Hybrid rocket is a bipropellant rocket engine that uses propellants in two different states (liquid and solid), whichh when reacted, create exhaust gases suitable for rocket propulsion.
- They also serve as easily affordable platforms to test or prove prototypes of new components or subsystems intended for use in launch vehicles and satellites.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Vikram-S, India's first privately-developed rocket, lifted off from Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) launchpad in Sriharikota.
- Vikram-S is developed by Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited.
- The launch of Vikram-S, named as a tribute to the father of India's space programme Vikram Sarabhai, is the first launch after the space segment was thrown open to private players in 2020. This mission was titled 'Prarambh'.
- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has been operating as a single-window, autonomous nodal agency of Department of Space (DOS) to boost the private space sector economy in India.
- Antrix Corporation handles ISRO's commercial deals for satellites and launch vehicles with foreign customers.



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# SAGAR PARIKRAMA PHASE-III

# WHY IN NEWS?

 Phase III programme of 'Sagar Parikrama' was started on 19th February 2023 from Hazira Port, Gujarat and ended on 21st February 2023 at Sasson Dock, Mumbai.

# About Sagar Parikrama

- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and National Fisheries Development Board has launched the 'Sagar Parikrama' program to facilitate interaction with fishermen, coastal communities and stakeholders so as to disseminate information on various fisheries-related schemes and programs being implemented by the Government.
- Sagar Parikrama program is celebrated in all coastal States/U.T.s through a pre-decided sea route down right from Gujarat, Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands to have interaction program with fishermen, fisher communities and stakeholders in these locations to know the problems of Coastal Fisher folk.
- Phase I Programme of 'Sagar Parikrama' was organized in Gujarat, started on 5th March, 2022 from Mandvi and ended on 6th March 2022 at Porbandar, Gujarat.
- Phase II The voyage Sagar Parikrama as Phase –II
  programme started on 22nd September 2022 from Mangrol
  to Veraval and ended at Mul Dwaraka, on 23rd September
  2022 from Mul Dwaraka to Madhwad.

# Other Schemes and Programs for the Fisheries Sector

- 1. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
- Implementation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)
- 3. Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fishers and fish farmers
- 4. Palk Bay Scheme
- 5. "Matsya Setu" App

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

- India is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest overall fish producer, and the 4<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of fish and fisheries products.
- Gujarat is the leading state in marine fish production, sharing 16.67 per cent of the country's total marine fish productions.
- Maharashtra state is 6<sup>th</sup> position in Marine fish production in India which contributes to 4.33 lakh tonnes.
- India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> major producer of fish through aquaculture in the world.
- India ranks 1st in inland capture fish production.



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# JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE DISCOVERED SIX MASSIVE GALAXIES

# WHY IN NEWS?

• James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has discovered six extraordinarily massive first-generation galaxies, formed roughly 500-700 million years after the Big Bang, according to a new study published in the journal Nature.

# **Key Points**

- The team spotted the six monster galaxies using the Cosmic Evolution Early 44 Release Science programme of JWST.
- The programme studies the formation of the earliest galaxies when the Universe was less than five per cent of its current age.
- Researchers turned the telescope to a patch of the sky close to the Big Dipper, which appears to harbour a group of stars that form a pattern in the night sky. Hubble space telescope first observed this region in the 1990s.
- The discovery of six massive galaxies that existed between 500 million and 700 million years after the big bang has completely challenged the existing theories about the origins of galaxies.
- According to the current theory of galaxy formation, galaxies started off as small clusters of gas and dust that collapsed under gravity and gradually grew in size, forming stars along the way.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

- The James Webb Space Telescope, the successor of the Hubble Telescope, is the space science observatory.
- It was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to see further into our origins: from the formation of stars and planets, to the birth of the first galaxies in the early Universe.
- JWST is currently at its observing spot, Lagrange point 2 (L2), nearly 1 million miles (1.6 million km).
- JWST is an international partnership between National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), European Space Agency (ESA) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA).











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# 'MISSION SHAKTI' SCHEME

# WHY IN NEWS?

• The Supreme Court has sought more information from the Government about Mission Shakti, intrigued by a possible chronic shortage in protection officers to deal with domestic violence cases.

# **Key Points**

 Around 4.4 lakh cases of domestic assault are pending across a sample 801 districts. Though most of these districts have 'onestop centres', established under Mission Shakti, to receive victims, there is still a lack of clarity about how many of them actually employ protection officers to effectively help the traumatised survivors.

### **About Mission Shakti**

- The Government of India has launched 'Mission Shakti' an integrated women empowerment programme as umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The scheme seeks to make women economically empowered, exercising free choice over their minds and bodies in an atmosphere free from violence and threat. It also seeks to reduce the care burden on women and increase female labour force participation by promoting skill development, capacity building, financial literacy, access to micro-credit etc.
- 'Mission Shakti' has two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'.
- 'Sambal' sub-scheme is for safety and security of women.
   The components of 'Sambal' sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) with a new component of Nari Adalats women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families.
- 'Samarthya' sub-scheme is for the empowerment of women. The components of 'Samarthya' sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel have been included with modifications. In addition, the existing schemes of National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under umbrella ICDS have now been included in Samarthya. A new component of Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment has also been added in the Samarthya Scheme.



# DID YOU KNOW?

- Under Mission Shakti India successfully conducted its firstever Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile Test in 2019 from Dr AP J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- In this mission, a fast-moving Indian orbiting target satellite
  in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) was neutralised with pinpoint
  accuracy. This was a highly complex mission, conducted at
  extremely high speed with remarkable precision.
- The successful conduct of Mission Shakti made India the fourth nation after the US, China and Russia in the world with the capability to defend its assets in outer space.
- A ballistic missile defense interceptor, the Prithvi Delivery Vehicle Mark-II (PDV MK-II), developed by India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), struck and destroyed an Indian Microsat-R satellite in a flight that lasted just over half a minute.
- An ASAT weapon is anything that destroys or physically damages a satellite. ASAT missiles can be air, sea or landbased.





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# HOW TO UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS

# "Believe you can and you're halfway there." - Theodore Roosevelt

Preparing for a competitive exam like CLAT can be overwhelming, especially when you're a newbie in the field of competition. Digging the stats of the previous years' results over the internet or taking reviews of the exam from your relatives can sometimes send chills down your spine. You might get to hear things like the exam is highly competitive, and you have to fight tooth and nail to grab a seat in the top NLUs or you should better stop wasting your time for such a challenging course and go for an easier career option.

In such a situation, you may find yourself swinging between the dimensions of hope and despair. First of all, you must remember that such opinions are covered like a cloak by people to hide their failures or to disappoint others on occasion.

You must believe in your ability to accomplish amazing things. The CLAT exam is indeed challenging and it's easy to become discouraged or overwhelmed during the preparation phase but your decision to attempt the CLAT exam clearly demonstrates your willingness to work hard and strive for success. No one else knows your capabilities and strength of intentions better than you. Having confidence in your abilities will help you approach the exam with a positive and determined mindset.

Also, success is never always easy or quick. There will be obstacles and setbacks along the way, but cultivating an optimistic mindset can make a significant difference in your preparation. Achieving such a mindset is no rocket science. Just before starting your study session, you should remind yourself that you can do it and you will do it. While attempting CLAT mock tests, you should celebrate small victories and acknowledge the progress you're making towards your goals.

Secondly, having a specific response to the question "Why do you want to crack the CLAT Exam?" might serve as a strong motivator to keep you committed and focused during your CLAT exam preparation. Having a clear and compelling response to this "WHY" can help you stay focused, motivated, and committed to achieving your goals. It can give you a sense of purpose and direction, and help you stay on track even when faced with challenges or setbacks. If you have a clear reason for this "Why" you can use that as a source of inspiration to keep going.

One of the greatest & most compelling responses to this "WHY" can be "to make your parents proud". Certainly, you can never repay the sacrifices made by your parents for you, but by studying hard and performing well on the CLAT exam, you have the biggest opportunity to make your parents' eyes glimmer with pride. Remember that your success is not just about you, but also about your loved ones who have supported you along the way. By studying hard and doing well on the CLAT exam, you can make them proud and give them a reason to celebrate.

Lastly & most importantly, this exam is the greatest opportunity for you to achieve your personal and professional goals. A decent rank in the CLAT exam can open doors to a wide range of opportunities in the legal field including admissions to top NLUs & a coveted job in a prestigious law firm.

So by putting in the effort now, you can set yourself up for a bright future and achieve the life you envision for yourself.

All the Best!



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# WORLD'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE MILITARY (REAIM 2023)

# WHY IN NEWS?

• The world's first international summit on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in the military (REAIM 2023) was held in the Netherlands on 15 and 16 February.

### **Themes of REAIM 2023**

- Mythbusting AI: Breaking Down the Characteristics of A.I.
- Responsible Deployment and use of A.I.
- Governance Frameworks

# **Key Points**

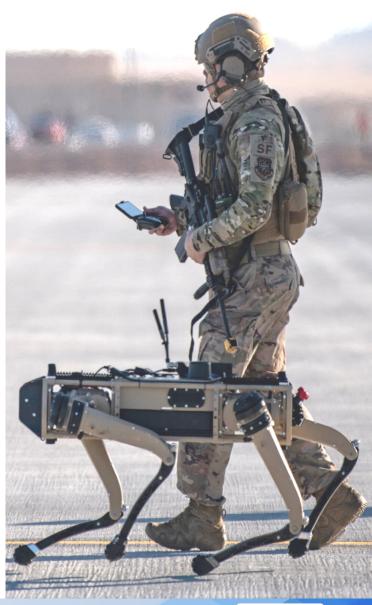
- The REAIM 2023, co-hosted by South Korea, hosted 80 government delegations and over hundreds of researchers and defence contractors.
- It is the first global attempt to prevent the proliferation of lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS) and insert ethics, responsibility, accountability and the moral factor into a rapidly developing weaponisation technology that has the potential for cataclysmic damage.
- The aim is for nations to sign up for a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty-kind of agreement. REAIM 2023 concluded in a Call to Action to the world.
- India has not signed the Call to Action at least not yet though China and U.S. have.

# India and A.I. in Military

- The Indian defence establishment, on its part, now has a Defence Artificial Intelligence Council (DAIC) led by the defence minister to provide overall guidance and support.
- Defence minister Rajnath Singh, incidentally, had earlier declared that "25 defence-specific Al products" will be developed by 2024.
- A Defence Al Project Agency (DAIPA) has also been created under the secretary (defence production), with Rs loo crore earmarked annually for Al-enabled projects.
- The Indian Navy has 30 ongoing Al projects encompassing autonomous systems, maritime domain awareness, perimeter security, decision-making, predictive inventory maintenance and management.
- Apart from setting up an "Al core group", the Navy is also creating an Al centre of excellence at INS Valsura in Jamnagar, which already has a modern lab on Al and Big Data analysis.
- An Al centre of excellence has been established at the Military College for Telecommunication Engineering in Mhow.
- Application-oriented research in Al is also being conducted at two dedicated DRDO labs, Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) and DRDO Young Scientist Laboratory (DYSL)-Al, both at Bengaluru.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Lethal Autonomous Weapons, which refer to advanced robotic systems of the future, will be capable of hitting targets without human intervention or approval.
- A person activates an autonomous weapon, but they do not know specifically who or what it will strike, nor precisely where and/or when that strike will occur.
- This is because an autonomous weapon is triggered by sensors and software, which match what the sensors detect in the environment against a 'target profile'.



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# **RUSSIA SUSPENDS NEW START TREATY**

# WHY IN NEWS?

• On February 21, Russia suspended its participation in the New START Treaty, the last remaining nuclear arms control agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation.

# **About Treaty**

- The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), signed in 1991, expired in late 2009, and another treaty, the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT or Moscow Treaty), was signed in 2002.
- The New START treaty, which replaced the 2002 pact, was signed in 2010 by former U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and came into force in February 2011. It was extended for five years when current U.S. President Joe Biden took office in 2021
- It was the last remaining nuclear weapons control agreement between the two powers who together hold 90% of the world's nuclear arsenal
- Under the Treaty, America and Russia cannot deploy more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads and more than 700 long-range missiles and bombers. It also limits each country to 800 deployed and non-deployed launchers and delivery vehicles.

# U.S.-RUSSIAN STRATEGIC ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS









# **INDIA - GERMANY TIES**

# WHY IN NEWS?

- India and Germany agreed on a vision statement to enhance cooperation on innovation and technology during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with visiting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.
- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz recently concluded its official two-day visit to India from 25th February to 26th February.

# **Key Highlights**

- India and Germany acknowledge that digital technologies and solutions could address key development needs and highlight the potential of these digital solutions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in other parts of the developing world.
- Both leaders discussed progress on the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP), which India and Germany had launched during Narendra Modi's visit to Berlin for the 6th Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC).
- The GSDP is an umbrella partnership that provides political guidance and steer to robust ties in climate action and SDGs.
- Under this, Germany will also place €10 billion in new and additional commitments under their development cooperation portfolio in India.
- During the IGC, India and Germany also agreed to cooperate on Green Hydrogen. The Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force was constituted in September 2022, and an Action Plan is close to finalisation.
- On "Triangular Development Cooperation", during the sixth IGC, India and Germany agreed to work on development projects in third countries. The four projects, announced in May 2022, are now in different stages of implementation:
  - I. Cameroon: Potato Seed Production through Rooted Apical Cuttings (RAC) Technology.
  - II. Malawi: Agri Business Incubator Models for Women in Agriculture & Food Systems
  - $III.\ Ghana: Developing\ Bamboo-Based\ Enterprises\ for\ Sustainable\ Livelihood\ and\ Income\ Generation\ in\ Ghana$
  - IV. Peru: Development of a geospatial portal prototype for planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru (MIDIS) interventions and social programs.
- Germany has come on board the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

# **Background**

 India and Germany share a long history of cooperation in science and technology, research and innovation, institutionalised under the framework of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on 'Cooperation in Scientific Research and Technological Development', signed in May 1974.





# **INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INDEX 2023**

# WHY IN NEWS?

India ranks 42nd among 55 leading global economies on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2023.

# **Key Highlights**

- According to the report-
- As India's size and economic influence grows on the world stage,
   India is ripe to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to
   transform their economy through IP-driven innovation.
- India has maintained continued strong efforts in copyright piracy through the issuing of "dynamic" injunction orders.
- India not only has generous R&D and IP-based tax incentives but also has a strong awareness-raising effort regarding the negative impact of piracy and counterfeiting.
- India is a global leader in targeted administrative incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs.
- The 2021 dissolution of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board, combined with the long-standing issue of an underresourced and overstretched judiciary, raises serious concerns about rights holders' ability to enforce their IP rights in India and to resolve IP-related disputes.
- The United States of America topped the Index, followed by the United Kingdom and France.

# **About Index**

- International IP Index 2023 is released by the U.S. Chambers of Commerce.
- The Index evaluates the IP framework in each economy across 50
  unique indicators which industry believes represent economies
  with the most effective IP systems.
- The indicators create a snapshot of an economies overall IP ecosystem and span nine categories of protection: patents, copyrights, trademarks, design rights, trade secrets, commercialisation of IP assets, enforcement, systemic efficiency, and membership and ratification of international treaties.

# **About IP**

- IP refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions, literary and artistic works, symbols, names, and images used in commerce.
- The main types of IP include patents for inventions, trademarks for branding, copyrights for artistic and literary works, trade secrets for confidential business information, and industrial designs for product appearance.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

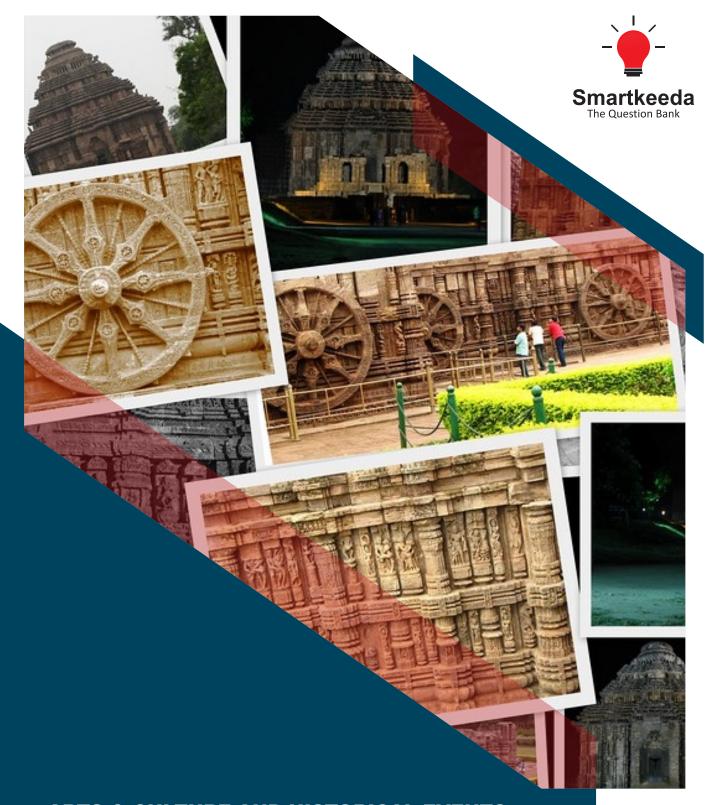
- India is a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and committed to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement).
- The WTO's Agreement on TRIPS, negotiated during the 1986-94 Uruguay Round, introduced intellectual property rules into the multilateral trading system for the first time.
- India is also a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). WIPO is the global forum for IP services, policy, information and cooperation.
- India is also a member of the Madrid System since 2013.
- Madrid System functions under the Madrid Agreement (1891) and the Madrid Protocol (1989). It is administered by the International Bureau of the WIPO.
- The system was basically introduced to provide convenience in the system of registration of marks. Every region has a different system for registration of trademarks.

Slow F	rog	ress	5
India's		Rank	Score (%)
ranking and scores	2019	36	36.04
and scores	2020	40	38.46
u A A	2021	40	38.40
	2022	43	38.64
	2023	42	38.64
	Source	: Internation	nal IP Index report





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# **NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY 2023**

### **CONTEXT**

- National Science Day is observed every year on February 28.
- Theme for 2023 Global Science for Global Wellbeing

# **Background**

- In 1986, the Government of India, under then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, designated February 28 as National Science Day to commemorate the announcement of the discovery of the "Raman Effect".
- In 1928, an Indian scientist named Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman invented what is now known as the Raman Effect.
- In 1930, he was given the Nobel Prize for his significant invention, which was the first Nobel Prize given in India in the field of science.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

- India celebrated the first National Science Day on February 28, 1987.
- National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is the nodal agency to support and coordinate celebration of the National Science Day throughout the country, particularly in scientific institutions and research laboratories.
- CV Raman, received the highest civilian award of India, Bharat Ratna, in 1954.

### What is Raman Effect?

- The Raman Effect refers to the phenomenon in which when a stream of light passes through a liquid, a fraction of the light scattered by the liquid is of a different colour. This happens due to the change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules.
- In general, when light interacts with an object, it can
  either be reflected, refracted or transmitted. One of the
  things that scientists look at when light is scattered is if
  the particle it interacts with is able to change its energy.
  The Raman Effect is when the change in the energy of
  the light is affected by the vibrations of the molecule or
  material under observation, leading to a change in its
  wavelength.
- The Raman effect forms the basis for Raman spectroscopy which chemists and physicists use to gain information about materials.
- Spectroscopy is the study of the interaction between matter and electromagnetic radiation.





# **DISCOVERY OF 1300-YEAR-OLD BUDDHIST STUPA IN ODISHA**

# WHY IN NEWS?

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered a 1,300-year-old stupa right in the middle of a mining site in Odisha's Jajpur district at a Khondalite mining site.
- The site is the place from where Khondalite stones were supplied for the beautification project around the 12th Century Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri.

# **Key Points**

- The stupa could be 4.5-metre tall, and initial assessment showed it may belong to the 7 th or 8 th century.
- The archaeological asset was found at Parabhadi which is situated near Lalitagiri, a major Buddhist complex, having a large number of stupas and monasteries.
- Khondalite is quartz-manganese-rich garnet-rhodonite schist.[2] It may also contain sillimanite and graphite. Feldspar may occur in some cases.[1]

# **About Khondalite**

- Khondalite, a type of metamorphic rock, is composed of feldspar, quartz, and mica. It is commonly used as a decorative stone in construction and is particularly prized for its durability and resistance to weathering.
- These rocks are named after the Khondalite Group of rocks, which is believed to have formed around 1.6 billion years ago during the Proterozoic era.
- Khondalite stones were widely used in ancient temple complexes. They are proposed to be used widely to maintain aesthetic value of some projects such as heritage security zone, Jagannath Ballav pilgrim centre, Puri lake development project, Atharnala heritage project and Matha Development Initiative.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

- During the fourth Buddhist Council, Buddhism was divided into two sects namely 'Mahayana Buddhism' and 'Hinayana Buddhism'.
- Mahayana sect believes in the heavenliness of Buddha and Idol worship of Buddha.
- Hinayana follows the original teaching of Buddha. It emphasizes individual salvation through self-discipline and meditation.
- Stupas were burial mounds prevalent in India from the vedic period.
- Other Stupas in India
  - Sanchi Stupa Madhya Pradesh
  - Piprahwa Stupa Uttar Pradesh
  - Do-drul Chorten Stupa Sikkim
  - Ramabhar Stupa Uttar Pradesh
  - Dhamek stupa Uttar Pradesh



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# MASTERING THE CHALLENGES AND SUCCEEDING THE CLAT EXAM

The **Common Law Admission Test (CLAT),** a central National-Level Law entrance test, is a gateway to the world of Law for Law Aspirants in India. CLAT is now the single largest Law Entrance Exam in India and is preferred by those passing the  $12^{TH}$  Standard & opting for Law as a career option. It offers you the opportunity to secure a seat in one of the 23 NLUs (National Law Universities) of India (except for NLU DELHI which takes admissions via its separate AILET exam in India). **NLUs** or **National Law Universities** are considered the IITs of Law as they are known to provide quality legal education to Law Aspirants. These top Law colleges in India use CLAT exam scores for admission to 5-year integrated **LLB** and one-year **LLM** programmes.

Now let us understand "Why CLAT is a difficult nut to crack?". CLAT is a National-Level Law Entrance Exam that attracts thousands of candidates every year. The number of seats available is limited, and thus the competition is very high. More than 60,000 students appear for the CLAT exam every year intending to secure a seat in the top NLUs. One needs to secure a good rank to get a seat in the top NLUs of the country. For the majority of Law aspirants, passing CLAT means getting into one of India's top five National Law Schools, having a combined capacity of around 500 students. There are a total of around 3361 seats in the National Law Universities of India, so the competition to grab one is immense. With a selection ratio of just 0.5%, CLAT is considered one of the toughest entrance exams in India.

Secondly, the CLAT exam covers various areas of Law, including the English language, legal reasoning, mathematics, logical reasoning, and general knowledge. The preparation strategy for the exam itself requires many trials by the students as it's not a conventional exam but a very dynamic one. The exam requires the student not only to be aware of current affairs but also to develop a flair for Law writing and legal knowledge. The questions in the CLAT exam are passage-based and require good critical thinking and analytical skills to analyze them. The legal reasoning section, in particular, involves intricate legal concepts and principles that can be challenging to understand.

The study pattern required is also not homogenous like for example NEET. NEET has 3 sections - Physics, Biology, and Chemistry equally divided and students can plan to give attention according to their strengths and weakness. CLAT is not like NEET or IITJEE, Period. The exam is unequally divided and Legal Reasoning takes the highest proportion of time in the exam as well as marks. If you do not like the Legal section, you cannot clear the CLAT exam. Similarly, if you cannot read fast, then you will not be able to clear the English and Critical Reasoning portion of the exam within the required time limit. A significant portion of preparation time is taken by GK that comes from unexpected corners and a person has to do the entire Current affairs of a year plus solid revision of static Gk topics. This makes it tough for candidates to secure a good rank and get admission to their preferred Law school.

However, the career scope after completing your degree from the top NLUs that offer admission on the basis of CLAT score is vast, and the salaries can be very lucrative, particularly for those who excel in the field and have a passion for Law.

So let's come to the burning question which must have arisen in your mind by now on CLAT, "how to clear the CLAT exam in 2024/2025?"

### How to Clear CLAT Examin 2024/2025?

The rules of the game have changed considerably since the new pattern of CLAT was unveiled in the year 2020. The exam unlike other exams like NEET/IIT/CUET requires first and foremost a very **good reading speed**. The pattern is not likely to be reversed in the future and it's important for all the aspirants of CLAT 2024/25 to be ready according to the needs and pattern of the exam. The ideal time of preparation for CLAT is 1 year or more but a student can **crack it in 6 months** as well if he/she has **good concentration** and **reading speed**. The CLAT exam is not to be taken at par with Boards or other Competitive exams due to the sheer difference in the nature of exams. Do not for a moment think that since you are a board topper, you can also crack CLAT, though past success will be a help in boosting confidence. As a **mentor** of the CLAT Exam since 2019 and **AIR 1272** rank holder in 2023, I will share with you all certain section-wise strategies in this CLAT blog to further your prospects in the exam.

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# **English Section**

This is the first section of the exam & requires its own mini-strategy. Questions are predominantly asked from **Comprehensions** which are fairly long and require a good analysis. The questions need to be answered by the candidates in a **max time span of 25 minutes** in order to complete the remaining sections on time. The English section is among one of the three most important reading sections of CLAT which include Legal and Critical Reasoning. Apart from reading speed candidates have to **master English Literary** devices in order to score good marks in the exam. The first thing to do as a student is to check your comprehension reading speed. Try solving at least **5 English passages** every day and you will come to know where you stand with regard to your reading speed. If your reading speed is too slow, try to find out the reason. It could be your vocabulary, your limited reading list, or your confidence issues with regard to English. If you do have around 1 year, then you can increase your reading speed to at least twice what you possess currently.

### **Legal Section**

The next most important section for the CLAT exam is the Legal Reasoning section both by its depth as well as its size. The Lengthiest section with the highest number of marks given in a particular section i.e. 40 marks. The section has an intense focus on questions ranging from Current Legal issues like the Criminal Procedure Identification Act, and the Right to Privacy to standard questions on the topic of Cruelty given in the Indian Penal Code. The section requires absolute mastery over legal terms and Legal theory. After mastering the basics, the candidate has to revise current affairs from legal new sites such as Live Law, Bar and Bench as questions are asked from burning topics in CLAT. The tip to master the Legal section lies in the ability to master quick reading speed and fast analysis of legal terms in passages. The section can easily fetch 30+ marks in CLAT as more than 75% of the questions are of moderate or easy level. The ability to crack CLAT is directly proportional to cracking the legal section in the CLAT exam.

# **Critical Reasoning**

"Analytical and critical reasoning is the rational process through which you "obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data", while exercising logical thinking in analyzing issues and making proper decisions, to ultimately solve problems." – McGill University

Critical Reasoning in CLAT is confused by many to be identical to English but it is not the same. The Critical Reasoning section of CLAT requires analytical and reasoning abilities in a very short span of time.

The answer has to be deciphered from the passage in the exam and the task is not easy considering the time provided. Let's say one manages to mark the English and Legal section in 1 hour 10 minutes, then he has only 30 minutes for critical reasoning. The questions come from a wide range of topics and general reading abilities will be an aid in this section of the CLAT exam as well. The first and foremost thing a student can do to learn about critical reasoning is to go first and watch the free videos on our Youtube channel "LawEX by Smartkeeda" and increase your score in this section. The next thing that can be done is reading from GMAT study materials which are available in abundance on the Internet. 'Do the work' is the mantra for this section as it gets better with each question. Yes, with each Question!

### **Current Affairs**

This section of CLAT is most unpredictable and questions can come from any prominent news portal, newspaper, or Static GK. The ideal time for preparation for this section of CLAT is one year with a time devotion of one hour each. A candidate may devote around **15 minutes each** day for the static Gk portion of CLAT which can come in handy if the paper is scheduled on those lines.

• The current affairs of CLAT can be covered from various sources like **Smartkeeda** GK updates, test series, Current affairs modules, newspapers, websites, etc.











- The current affairs of CLAT can be covered from various sources like **Smartkeeda** GK updates, test series, Current affairs modules, newspapers, websites, etc.
- Basic knowledge of Static Gk will be a great advantage in taking your scores to the next level.
- One of the best GK tips is to make a habit of reading the newspaper daily.
- Do not try to remember everything from everywhere. Keep a reading list for GK confined to 2 or max 3 resources and revise it.
- The art of note-making is indispensable and you need to make short notes for awards, ceremonies, and important indexes/indices.

### **Mathematics**

This section of Maths in CLAT is done only by less than 10% of candidates in paper with 80% accuracy or more and the precise reason for the same is the complex nature of questions asked in the desired time frame. The section requires extreme practice as questions are asked from DI sets, charts, and graphs. The Maths section of CLAT is the deciding factor in the final selection of the top 3 Universities in CLAT as there is fierce competition in those brackets of colleges. The resources that you can use for good scores in the Maths section for the CLAT exam are – Free PDFs provided by Smartkeeda, Tests for entire topic coverages, etc.

# **Summing up**

In conclusion, cracking the CLAT exam requires a well-rounded approach that encompasses both hard work and smart strategies. The journey of preparing for the exam may seem daunting, but the key is to remain committed and focused, embrace challenges, and never lose sight of the bigger picture. With the right mindset, you can easily secure the top rank and fulfill your dream of getting admission to a top Law school.





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CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE FROM INDIA AND THE WORLD

**QUICK FACTS** 



- 1. With the demand for foreign planting materials of fruits like 9. apple, avocado and blueberry rising over the years, the Government of India is planning to set up 10 'Clean Plant Centres', on the lines of those in developed countries such as the selected crops. These centers will be set up under the 'Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program', which was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2023-24.
- 2. To promote coastal tourism in Karnataka, the country's first Marina will be constructed at Byndoor in the Udupi district.
- 3. According to the United Nations' (UN) new report "Trends in Maternal Mortality", India recorded the second highest number of maternal deaths in 2020, coming second at 24,000 to only in MMR in India, between 2000 and 2020. In 2020, India's MMR stood at 103, a vast improvement from 384 at the turn of the century.
- Madhya Pradesh completed the second Bird Survey Dharoi 2023 on the wetland spread over 107 square kilometres at the trijunction of Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts Conservation Society of Gujarat (BCSG) and Adams Nature Retreat Resort (ANRR), Polo Forest, in collaboration with the Gujarat forest department.
- 5. The Kerala government entered into an agreement with the United Nations (UN) Women to boost women-friendly activities in the State's tourism sector. Under the agreement, the Responsible Tourism Mission is to be implemented in the State.
- 6. So far, we have all read about the Earth having four layers. The fifth layer' innermost inner core', recently revealed by scientists, is made of the same material as the inner core (iron and nickel). The idea that the Earth could hold a fifth layer was proposed in 2002.
- 7. Kerala became the first State in the country to use robotics technology for cleaning all its commissioned manholes by pressing into service the robotic scavenger Bandicoot in the temple town of Guruvayur.
- 8. In line with the expanding military cooperation with South East Asian nations, an Indian Navy Kilo class conventional submarine, INS Sindhukesari, docked in Jakarta, Indonesia, for the first time from February 22 to 24. The submarine, which was on operational deployment, travelled through the Sunda Strait and undertook the maiden docking in Indonesia for Operational Turnaround (OTR).

- The 2023 ICC T20 Women's World Cup was won (6th time) by Australia after defeating South Africa. The 2023 ICC T20 Women's world cup was held in South Africa.
- US, Netherlands and Israel, to boost domestic production of the 10. India has joined Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C). In November 2021, AIM4C was launched by the US and the UAE with an aim to accelerate investment and support for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation.
  - 11. As a part of the National Education Policy (NEP) drafted in 2020 and a part of the budget allocation in 2022, the Ministry of Education will set up India's first National Digital University. The National Digital University will offer diploma, certificate and degree courses. It is expected to begin its operations in the next academic year 2023-24.
- Nigeria. However, there has been an overall reduction of 73.5% 12. The first semiconductor plant in India will be built in Dholera Special Investment Region near Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It will be a joint venture between India's Vedanta Limited and Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Foxconn.
- 4. Fifteen teams of birdwatchers from Gujarat, Rajasthan and 13. Former IAS officer BVR Subrahmanyam has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog to replace the current CEO Parameswaran Iyer.
  - in north Gujarat. The bird survey was jointly organised by Bird 14. INS Sumedha participated in the Naval Defence Exhibition called the NAVDEX, and International Defence Exhibition called the IDEX conducted in Abu Dhabi.
    - 15. As part of a military-to-military exchange program between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army, the fourth edition of biennial training Exercise DUSTLIK 2023 was conducted in Uttarakhand,
    - 16. India-Japan joint training exercise "Dharma Guardian" was conducted in Japan from 17 February - 2 March. It is the 4th edition of the joint military exercise "Dharma Guardian" between India and Japan.
    - 17. The country's first solid waste-to-hydrogen plant will be set up in Pune at a cost of over Rs 430 crore. It will treat 350 tonnes of solid garbage every day to produce 10 tonnes of hydrogen. This is the first attempt in India to extract hydrogen from waste.
    - 18. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to Haryana Police at the Haryana Police Academy in Karnal. The President's Colour is an honour given to any military or police unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation. At first, Uttar Pradesh Police received the award in 1952 from then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.





- 19. The Border Roads Organisation will construct the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet to connect Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh. The Centre has already made 'Project Yojak' of BRO to execute this ambitious project. This tunnel is to be completed by 2025.
- 20. Computer scientist Hari Balakrishnan was awarded the 2023 Marconi Prize. Dr. Balakrishnan has been cited for fundamental contributions to wired and wireless networking, mobile sensing, and distributed systems. The Marconi Prize is a top honour for computer scientists and is awarded by the U.S.-based Marconi Foundation.
- become the first public sector coal-based power generating station in the South and the first among the State PSUs in the country to have a flugas desulphurization (FGD) plant.
- 22. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) along with the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers will take up field trials on NHAI projects for the use of Phosphor-Gypsum in National Highway construction to achieve a circular economy in the use of Gypsum.
- 23. The road to Jammu and Kashmir's Sinthan Top has been opened in order to promote tourism to the lesser-known destination. Sinthan Top is a high mountain pass that is located between the Breng valley in Anantnag district and Kishtwar of J&K which connects Kashmir to Chenab Valley.
- 24. The Union Cabinet extended by one-and-a-half year the term of the 22nd Law Commission which is mandated to identify laws which are "no longer relevant" and recommend for their repeal. According to an official release, the term of the panel has been extended up to August 31, 2024. The Commission's three year term ended on February 20.
- territories to fix the minimum age for admission in Class 1 as six years in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- 26. India's real-time retail payment system Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has allowed for quick digital payments through apps like BharatPe and Paytm, and its equivalent network in Singapore called PayNow, were integrated to enable 33. North India's first nuclear power plant will come up in Haryana in faster remittances between the two countries at a competitive rate. Singapore has become the first country with which crossborder Person to Person (P2P) payment facilities have been launched
- 27. The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways laid the Foundation Stone of the world's largest and unique Divyang Park - Anubhuti Inclusive Park in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

- 28. India has been elected as the Chair of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development in 2023. For the 62nd session, the priority theme of the session is decided as "Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies to accelerate Progress on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication." Commission for Social Development is one of the key commissions tasked with monitoring and carrying out the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six main organs of the United Nations.
- 21. Singareni Thermal Power Plant (STPP) in Telangana is set to 29. The Prime Minister of India extended his wishes to the people of Arunachal Pradesh on its 37th Statehood Day. Popularly known as the 'Land of the Dawn-lit-Mountains', Arunachal Pradesh is India's remotest State and the first Indian soil to greet the rising sunArunachal Pradesh became a full-fledged State on 20 February 1987. Till 1972, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA). The capital of the State is Itanagar. Itanagar is named after 'Ita fort', meaning 'fort of bricks', built in the 14th Century AD.
  - 30. The burgeoning demand for the popular Teja variety of red chilli, famous for its culinary, medicinal and other wide-ranging uses, in the export market is proving to be a boon for the Khammam Agriculture Market, housing Telangana's second largest chilli market yard.
  - 31. Aero India 2023 was Organised at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru from 13th Feb-17th Feb, 2023. The theme for this year is 'The runway to a billion opportunities' and the focus is on showcasing India's growth in aerospace and defense capabilities. This year, Aero India was organised by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on behalf of the Department of Defence Production of the Ministry of Defence.
- 25. The Union ministry of education has directed all states and Union 32. A snow leopard has been sighted for the first time at the height of about 11,120 feet in the Darma valley in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. Snow leopards are usually found at a height of more than 12,000 feet. Also known as the Ounce, the snow leopard is listed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
  - the village of Gorakhpur in the Fatehabad district. In a bid to increase India's nuclear capacity, bulk approval of the installation of 10 nuclear reactors has been given by the Government of







INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

QUICK FACTS



- 1. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has confimed the first 9. Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak in Equatorial Guinea. Marburg Virus Disease (MVM) is a highly virulent disease that causes haemorrhagic fever, with a case fatality rate of up to 88%. Marburg is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads through human-to-human transmission via direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids, and with surfaces and materials contaminated with these fluids.
- 2. The Carabao cup, also known as EFL cup, is a major football trophy played in England. In 2023, the trophy was won by Manchester United. Liverpool is the most successful club in the competition. The team has won more than nine championships.
- 3. An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent comprising 145 Air Warriors will participate in Exercise Cobra Warrior. The exercise is scheduled from 06 March 2023 to 24 March 2023 at the Waddington Air Force Base of the Royal Air Force in the United Kingdom. The Exercise Cobra Warrior is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, United States of America and Singapore would also be 12. Scientists have discovered a new type of quasicrystal, one with participating alongside Royal Air Force and IAF.
- 4. An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent comprising of 110 Air Warriors participated in Exercise Desert Flag VIII. This is the first occasion when the LCA Tejas participated in an international flying exercise outside India. This exercise was has held at Al Dhafra airbase of United Arab Emirates. Exercise Desert Flag is a multilateral air exercise in which Air Forces from UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, Republic of Korea, and the USA participated.
- 5. Meta is releasing its generative AI model called "LLaMA" to drive research into what it called an "important, fast-changing field," in the wake of OpenAI's viral success with ChatGPT.
- 6. The Russian space agency, Roscosmos, has successfully launched a Soyuz spacecraft to bring back three astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) after their Soyuz capsule sprang a coolant leak. The two Russian and an American astronaut will board the empty Soyuz spacecraft to return to Earth.
- 7. Former CEO of MasterCard Ajay Banga has been nominated to be the next president of the World Bank following the early resignation of outgoing President David Malpass.
- International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on 21 February to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. In 1999, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved the idea of celebrating International Mother Language Day.

- World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on 20 February. The theme for World Day of Social Justice 2023 focuses on the recommendations available on the common agenda prepared to strengthen global solidarity and to rebuild trust in Government by "Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice".
- 10. Spain became the first European country to approve sick leave for women suffering from incapacitating periods on 16 February. Nowadays, women are provided time off during their periods in a few nations. Japan, Indonesia and Zambia, among other nations who have given menstrual leaves.
- 11. In a move to boost the transition to electric vehicles (EVs), the European Parliament has approved the law to ban the sale of new gas and diesel cars in the European Union (EU), starting in 2035. The new legislation sets the path towards zero CO, emissions for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in 2035.
- 12-fold symmetry, in the Sand Hills of north central Nebraska, USA, according to a recent study. It said that this quasicrystal was formed during an accidental electrical discharge, possibly by a lightning strike or a downed power line in a dune.
- 13. According to a new study, the Chinese practice of building embankments is also responsible for the flooding upstream of the Loess Plateau which is surrounded by the Yellow river. The mighty Yellow River, the 'mother river' of Chinese civilisation, has also been known as the 'River of Disaster' and 'China's sorrow' because of the devastating floods it has caused since prehistory.
- 14. The Japanese archipelago, one of the world's prominent island groups that lies just off the coast of Eurasia, now has 14,125 islands, according to the Japanese Government. This is double the 6,852 islands that was the official figure way back in 1987. Japan is primarily made up of four islands known as the 'Home Islands' — Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku.

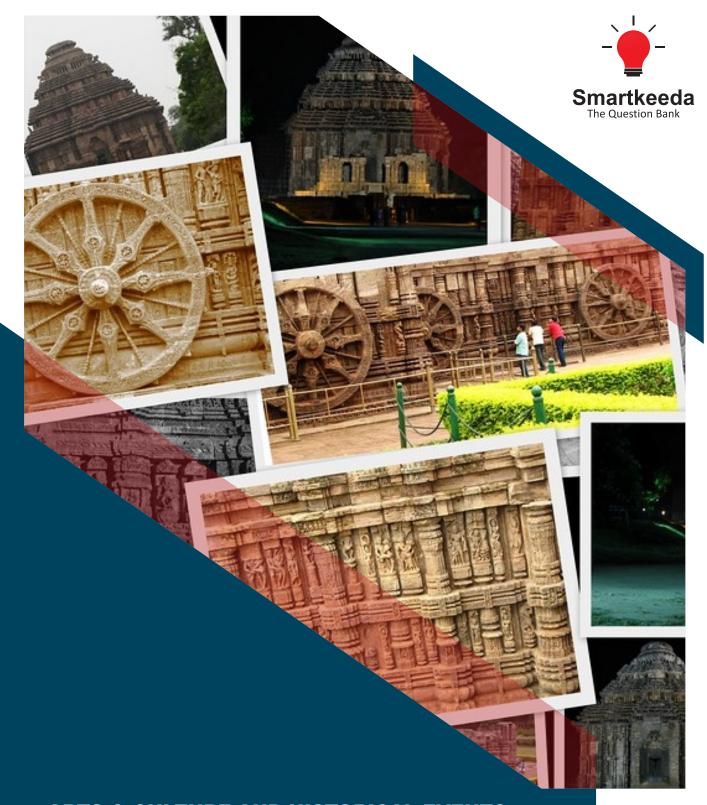












ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL EVENTS
OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE

**QUICK FACTS** 

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- For the first time ever, the year-long commemoration of the birth anniversary of Santh Sevalal Maharaj, the Spiritual & Religious Leader of Banjara Community is being celebrated by the Ministry of Culture. The yearlong commemoration under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav begins from 26th February, 2023. Santh Sevalal Maharaj was born on 15 February 1739 at Surgondankoppa in Shivamogga district of Karnataka. It is believed that there is a population of around 10 to 12 crore Banjara community across the country.
- 2. Losar Festival is one of the most significant celebrations in the Tibetan calendar. This year the Losar festival starts on 12 February and ends on 14 February, which coincides with the first day of the first month of the Tibetan lunar calendar. Losar marks the end of winter and the start of spring season. The end of Losar festival after three days is considered as the first day of New Year according to the Tibetan calendar. On this day, Tibetan exiles pay obeisance to the Dalai Lama.
- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (TRIFED) 's Aadi Mahotsav tribal festival was held in New Delhi. It is an annual tribal festival of TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- 4. The National Mission for Clean Ganga has allotted around Rs 650 crore to revive the dying Adi Ganga the original channel of River Ganga passing through the city of Kolkata. It has also been included in a multi-country river project on combating pollution. Adi Ganga was the river's main channel till the 17th century. Around 1750, a canal was dug to connect the main course of the river with the lower part of River Saraswati adjacent to Howrah. The resultant Hooghly became the main river stretch and Adi Ganga turned into a secondary tributary.

- 5. Excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department (TNSDA) at Keeladi, a tiny hamlet in the Sivaganga district in south Tamil Nadu, have pushed the Sangam age to 800 BCE. The Sangam age is a period of history in ancient Tamil Nadu which was believed to be from the third century BCE to the third century CF.
- The Classical dance legend Kanak Rele and the Mohiniyattam (classical dance form from the State of Kerala) exponent, who was awarded the first Guru Gopinath National Puraskaram of the Government of Kerala passed away.
- 7. NCP leader Ajit Pawar has directed members of his party not to organise raunchy public shows in the name of Lavani. Lavani is a traditional folk art form of Maharashtra in which women dancers wearing nine-yard-long sarees in bright colours, makeup, and ghunghroos perform on dholak beats on a stage before a live audience. The word Lavani comes from 'lavanya' or beauty.

FOR QUERIES



ALPHA | BETA | GAMMA



**TEST ZONE** 

# **PASSAGE - 1**

[1] has discovered six extraordinarily massive first-generation galaxies, formed roughly 500-700 million years after the Big Bang, according to a new study. These galaxies challenge our current understanding of galaxy formation as they should not have existed so early in their life, stated a study published in the journal Nature 22 February 2023.

The team spotted the six monster galaxies using the Cosmic Evolution Early 44 Release Science programme of [1]. The programme studies the formation of the earliest galaxies when the universe was less than five per cent of its current age. Researchers turned the telescope to a patch of the sky close to the Big Dipper, which appears to harbour a group of stars that form a pattern in the night sky.

"The galaxies are in the same area in the sky but are not close to each other in three-dimensional space. Some are much further away than others," Labbé said. The stars appeared as bright and red "fuzzy dots". Red light typically means it is old. The team analysed these images further and found stellar masses greater than 10 billion solar masses, including one with a stellar mass of roughly 100 billion solar masses. One solar mass is the mass of our Sun. Some of these galaxies would have to be forming hundreds of new stars a year for the entire history of the universe, she added.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "[1] spots 6 monster galaxies harbouring tens to hundreds of billions of sun-sized stars' mass: Study", by Rohini Krishnamurthy]

1	. Which telescope's name has been replaced with '[1]' in t	the passage above?
	A Hubble Space Telescope	C James Webb Space Telescope
	B Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope	D Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory
2	2. Which of the following telescope is considered the succe	ssor of the Hubble Space Telescope?
	A ChandraX-ray Observatory	C Kepler Mission
	B Herschel Space Observatory	D James Webb Space Telescope
3	3. Who among the following was the propounder of Big Ba	ang Theory?
ı	A Georges Lemaitre	C Otto Schmidt
	B Laplace	D Carl Weizascar
4	I. James Webb Space Telescope is the result of an internat	ional collaboration between
	A NASA	C CSA
	<b>B</b> ESA	D All of these
5	5 was launched by NASA to unlock the	mysteries of the Sun's corona and solar wind.
ı	A JUICE	C Artemis
	B Parker Solar Mission	D James Webb Space Telescope
		Q.1 (C) $Q.2$ (D) $Q.3$ (A) $Q.4$ (D) $Q.5$ (B)

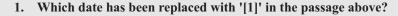
# \_-`•

# PASSAGE - 2

[1] has been marked as the celebration of the 'Raman Effect' inventory and later the Government of India referred to as [2]. Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman famously known as CV Raman on this day in 1928 announces the invention of the 'Raman Effect'. The development of science has profoundly transformed human life. Humans' lives have been made easier and better by science. Computers, mobile, and other robots have been created solely with the assistance of science. As a result, science plays a significant role in our lives. Additionally, India has made a significant contribution to science. India was recognized as a separate nation and home to many great scientists, many of whom were born there.

The Raman effect occurs when a light beam passing through a transparent material is scattered in such a way as to reveal information regarding the molecular structure of the material. The Nobel Prize was awarded to C.V. Raman for his significant invention. The Indian Government is providing assistance to scientists whose contributions to science have been significant to mark the anniversary of this invention.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "[2] Theme, History, Significance, Activities", by Sonika Nitin Nimje, NDTV]



A 25 February C 27 February

B 26 February D 28 February

# 2. Which day's name has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

A National Science Day

C Indian Science Congress

B National Youth Day

D International Science Day

3. In \_\_\_\_\_\_, C V Raman was awarded the Noble Prize, the first Nobel Prize given in India in science.

A 1935 C 1928
B 1940 D 1930

# 4. What is the theme of 'National Science Day 2023'?

A Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development

C Global Science for Global Wellbeing

B Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future

D Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work

# 5. International Science Day is observed every year on –

A 28 February C 8 March
B 10 November D 16 September

Q.1 (D) Q.2 (A) Q.3 (D) Q.4 (C) Q.5 (B)

Answers

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# **PASSAGE - 3**

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday announced that Moscow was suspending its participation in a major arms control agreement with the [1]. The [2] is the last remaining nuclear arms deal between Moscow and [1], and it was extended for five years in 2021. The [2] was signed in Prague in 2010 and came into force the following year. It caps the number of strategic nuclear warheads that the [1] and Russia can deploy, and limits the use of missiles that can carry atomic weapons.

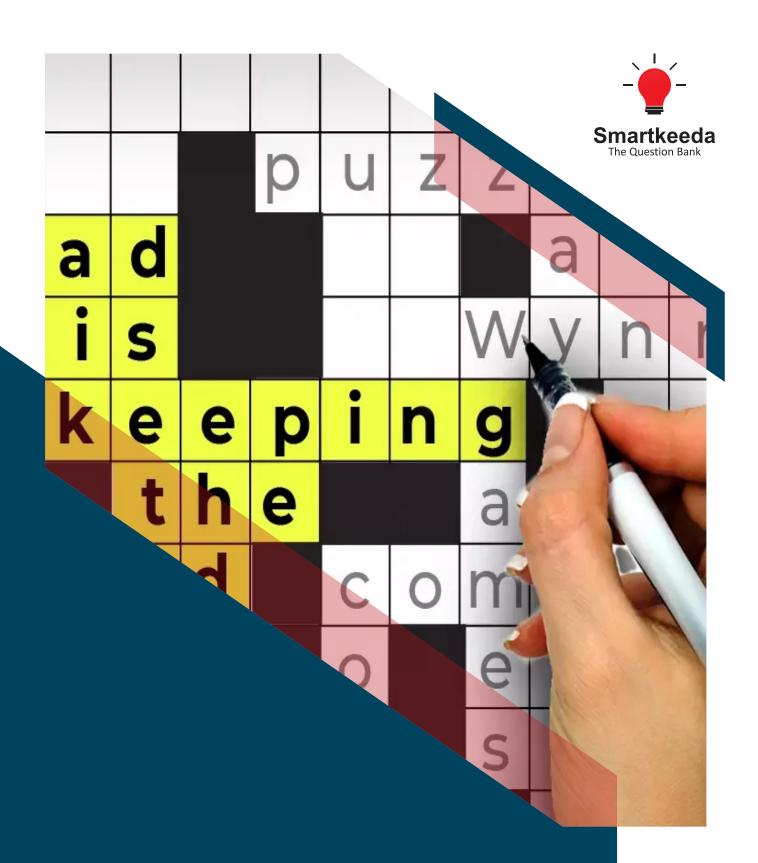
Speaking in his State of the Nation address, President Putin stressed that Russia was not fully withdrawing from the treaty yet. He said, Russia should stand ready to resume nuclear weapons tests if the [1] does so, a move that would end a global ban on nuclear weapons tests in place since Cold War times. He blamed the West for escalating the tension in the region, saying the [1] and its allies sought limitless power.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Russia decides to suspend participation in [2] for nuclear arms control with [1]", News on Air]

1. Which country's name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?		
A Ukraine	C France	
B United States	<b>D</b> Germany	
2. Which treaty's name has been replaced with '[2]' in the	e passage above?	
A New Start treaty	C Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty	
B Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty	
3. Which of the following country has the largest nuclear	weapons?	
A China	C Russia	
B United States	<b>D</b> France	
4. Which year was the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (	START I) signed?	
A 1998	C 1997	
B 1995	<b>D</b> 1991	
5. International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear	Weapons is observed every year on –	
A 26 September	C 5 November	
B 21 March	D 23 August	

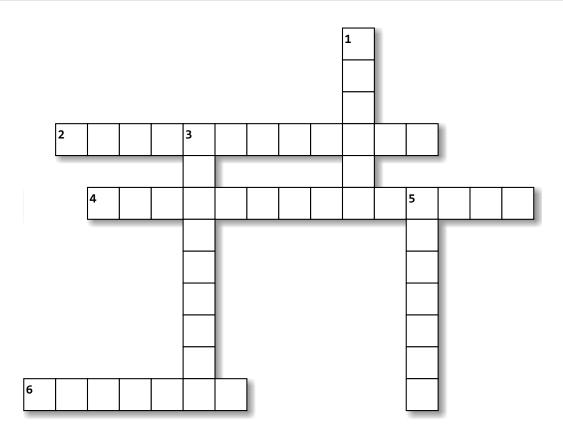
(A) **6.0** (D) **4.0** (S) **6.3** (A) **7.0** (B) **1.0** 





CROSSWORD CORNER

# **CROSSWORD - 1**



# Across

- 2. World's highest tunnel will be built
- 4. India-Japan joint training exercise
- **6.** India's first semiconductor plant

# Down

- 1. India's first State to use robotics technology for cleaning manholes
- 3. India's first Marina
- 5. Military exercise between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army

# **Answers**

Gujarat (

2 DUSTLIK

Karnataka

Shinkula Pass

4 Dharma Guardian





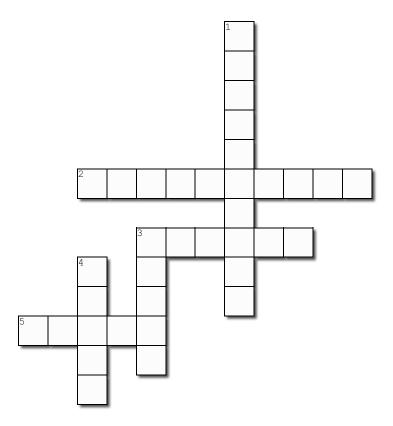






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# **CROSSWORD - 2**



# Across

- 2. World Day of Social Justice
- 3. A traditional folk art form of Maharashtra
- 5. Meta's generative AI model

# Down

- 1. International Mother Language Day
- 3. Known as Tibetan New Year
- **4.** Became first European country to provide menstrual leave

# **Answers**

13 Lavani (Across) and Losar (Down)

2 20 February

AMA Spain

1 S1 February



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