

1) Who has launched the "Ugram" assault rifle for Indian Army?

- A. CSIR
- B. DRDO
- C. BARC
- D. NIF

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched the "Ugram (ferocious)" assault rifle for the Indian Army.
- It was unveiled by Shailendra Gade, the Director General of the Armament and Combat Engineering (ACE) system of the DRDO during a program organised at Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune, Maharashtra.
- Ugram assault rifle is 7.62 x 51 mm caliber, weights less than four kilograms, and has a 500-meter firing range. It has a 20-round magazine and fires in full auto mode.

Ans-B

2) Indian Railways has set to become the world's largest green railway by which year?

- A. 2028
- B. 2030
- C. 2035
- D. 2047

- Indian Railways has achieved 6,577 route kilometers electrification in the calendar year 2023.
- Till December 2023, 61,508 route Kms have been electrified, which is 93.83 percent of total BroadGauge route of 65,556 kms.
- The Indian Railways has set a target to become the world's largest green railway by 2030.
- So far, the Indian Railways has achieved 100 per cent railway electrification in at least 14 states/UTs.

Ans-B

3) As per ILO's report, What was the Global Unemployment rate in 2023?

- A. 4.9%
- B. 5.0%
- C. 5.1%
- D. 5.2%

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) released a report named 'World Employment and Social Outlook Report 2024' on 10 January 2024.
- The global unemployment rate was 5.1% in 2023.
- ILO claimed in its report that the global unemployment rate is expected to increase to 5.2 percent in the year 2024.
- Report estimates that the number of unemployed people will increase to 2 million.
- The main reason for the rising unemployment rate is the increase in unemployment in advanced economies.

Ans-C

4) Padma awardee Ustad Rashid Khan passed away.
He was associated with

- A. Painting
- B. Dance
- C. Music
- D. Literature

- Renowed Hindustani classical singer and music maestro, and Padma awardee, Ustad Rashid Khan (55) passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- He was born on 1st July 1968, in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- He belongs to Rampur-Sahaswan gayaki (style of singing) which is related to the Gwalior gharana.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2006 and Padma Bhushan in 2022 in the field of arts.
- He has received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 20096 for his contribution to Hindustani vocal music.

Ans-C

5) Who has recently unveiled 'Drishti 10 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)'?

- A. Sanjay Bhalla
- B. R Hari Kumar
- C. Dinesh K Tripathi
- D. Tarun Sobti

- Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar has unveiled the 'Drishti 10 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle' (UAV) at a ceremony held at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad.
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was built indigenously by Adani Defense and Aerospace.
- It is an advanced Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours of endurance and 450 kg payload capacity.
- The UAV system is approved with NATO's STANAG 4671 (Standardized Annex 4671) certification for all-weather airworthiness.

Ans-B

6) Vietnam will invest \$2 billion for EV facility in which state of India?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Haryana
- D. Kerala

- Vietnamese EV giant VinFast Auto has confirmed a \$2 billion investment to set up an integrated electric vehicle facility in Tamil Nadu, India.
- India is the third largest automobile market in the world.
- To invest in this, Vinfast Auto has earmarked an initial investment of \$500 million for the first phase, which is spread over a period of 5 years.
- Chief Minister MK Stalin said that this investment of the auto company will provide 3000+ job opportunities in the state.

Ans-B

7) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, India will have a \$30 billion economy by which year?

- A. 2035
- B. 2040
- C. 2045
- D. 2047

- During the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that by 2047, India will have a \$30 billion economy globally.
- According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, India will become a five trillion dollar economy by 2028. Then, the size of the Indian economy will cross five billion dollars.
- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has estimated the size of the Indian economy to be \$35 billion by 2047.
- According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the size of the Indian economy is currently \$3.7 billion.

Ans-D

8) Red Ant Chutney, which recently got a GI tag, belongs to which state?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. West Bengal
- D. Odisha

- Kai Chutney, also known as Red Ant Chutney, from Odisha, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag due to its unique taste and texture.
- Insects and worms have been consumed for their numerous health benefits since ancient times in India and other parts of the world.
- This rare delicacy is made with Red Weaver Ants and comes from the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, where it has been a quintessential part of their culinary culture.
- Kai chutney is a classic coarse chutney made with spices, herbs and Weaver Red Ants.

Ans-D

9) Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated 12 National Highway projects worth over ₹1464 crore in

A. Kerala

B. Maharashtra

C. Telangana

D. Tamil Nadu

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and lays foundation stone of 12 National Highway projects with a total length of 105 km worth over Rs 1464 Crore in Kerala.
- The proposed projects aim to enhance seamless connectivity between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, ensuring swift and trouble-free transportation.
- This initiative holds the promise of reducing overall transportation costs.

Ans-A

10) Indian Navy will host the "MILAN 24" exercise in

- A. Visakhapatnam
- B. Chennai
- C. Kolkata
- D. Kochi

- Indian Navy's multinational exercise, MILAN 24, is all set to be held in Visakhapatnam from 19 to 27 February 2024.
- MILAN is a biennial multi-national naval exercise that started in 1995 with the participation of four foreign countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand) under India's 'Look East policy'.
- The MILAN Exercise flourished under the Andaman and Nicobar command's aegis till its 10th edition.
- The 11th edition of this exercise was held in Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command with the theme 'Camaraderie-Cohesion-Collaboration'.

Ans-A

11) Who has become 1st Indian Woman Arjuna Awardee for Equestrian Sports?

- A. Sukrita Paul
- B. Darya Singh
- C. Divyakriti Singh
- D. Sudipti Hajela

- 23-year-old Divyakriti Singh Rathore of Rajasthan received the prestigious Arjuna Award from President Droupadi Murmu for her remarkably outstanding stint in Equestrian sports.
- Singh, the first Indian female to receive the Arjuna in the Equestrian sport, has mastered the tricks of the sport after rigorous practice over the years.
- Ranked No. 1 in Asia and No. 14 worldwide in the Global Dressage Rankings by the International Equestrian Federation, Divyakriti also scored a gold in team dressage event held last year at the Asian Games in China Hangzhou.

Ans-C

12) Who has launched the AI Odyssey to skill 1 lakh developers in India?

- A. Amazon
- B. SpaceX
- C. Google
- D. Microsoft

- Microsoft has launched an initiative that aims to skill one lakh developers in India in the latest AI technologies and tools.
- Through programs like AI Odyssey, Microsoft is offering opportunities for developers to build solutions for India's growth and showcase their talent to solve real-world problems, said the company.

Ans-D

13) Which is the World's slowest city to Drive in?

- A. London
- B. Dublin
- C. Toronto
- D. Milan

- London is the world's slowest city for drivers owing to 20mph speed limits, a study suggests.
- A journey of 10km in central London took an average of 37 minutes and 20 seconds last year, location technology company TomTom said- making it the longest time among 387 cities in 55 countries which were analysed.
- This also marks the second year in a row that London tops the slowest city ranking.
- Top five slowest cities include Dublin, Toronto, Milan and Lima.

Ans-A

14) Which bank has launched the "Samman Rupay Credit Card" for government employees?

A. IndusInd Bank

B. YES Bank

C. HDFC Bank

D. Federal Bank

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), IndusInd Bank has launched the UPI-enabled 'Samman RuPay Credit Card,' exclusively tailored for government sector employees.
- This initiative aligns with the recent RBI permission allowing RuPay credit cards to integrate with UPI payment applications.
- Other banks, such as HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, YES Bank, and Federal Bank, have also introduced virtual RuPay credit cards for use on UPI platforms.

Ans-A

15) Start-up India Innovation Week 2024 has been organised in

- A. 9th to 17th January
- B. 10th to 18th January
- C. 11th to 19th January
- D. 12th to 20th January

- Start-up India Innovation Week 2024 has been organised from January 10, 2024 to January 18, 2024 to celebrate the Indian start-up ecosystem and National Start-up Day (16 January 2024).
- 'Startup India Innovation Week' was organised by the 'Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade' (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The main objective of organising Startup India Innovation Week is to engage the stakeholders of the startup ecosystem in the country and to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation in India.
- India has emerged as a 'hotspot' for startups in the last few years. Currently, India is the third largest startup ecosystem in the world.
- As of 03 October 2023, there were 111 unicorn startups in India, with a total valuation of \$349.67 billion.

Ans-B

16) Who has been appointed as the Director General in the Defense Ministry?

- A. Senthil Pandian
- B. Samir Kumar Sinha
- C. Ritesh Pai
- D. Mani Pandey

- Senior IAS officer Samir Kumar Sinha has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.
- Sinha, a 1994-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is currently working in his AssamMeghalaya cadre.

Ans-B

17) "Basavaraju S" has been appointed as the Secretary to the Chief Minister of

- A. Manipur
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Karnataka

- The Chhattisgarh government on 9th January 2024, appointed 2007 batch IAS officer Basavaraju S as Secretary to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.
- Basavaraju has been given the additional charge as Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Protection, and Urban Administration and Development.
- Earlier, P Dayanand, a 2006 batch IAS officer, was also appointed as Secretary to the Chief Minister on December 19 after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took power in the state.
- With Raju's appointment, the Chief Minister will have two Secretaries.

Ans-C