

## 1. International News

**Q1. Which country officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 102nd member in January 2022?** (a) Barbados

- (b) Antigua and Barbuda
- (c) Saint Kitts and Nevis
- (d) Dominica

**Answer: (b) Antigua and Barbuda**

**Explanation:** Antigua and Barbuda joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** as the 102nd member by signing the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement. The ISA is an Indian-led global initiative aimed at mobilizing efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.

**Q2. Google recently acquired which Israeli cybersecurity startup for approximately \$500 million to expand its cloud security offerings?** (a) SentinelOne

- (b) Cybereason
- (c) Siemplify
- (d) Wiz

**Answer: (c) Siemplify**

**Explanation:** Alphabet Inc.-owned **Google** acquired **Siemplify**, a leading security orchestration, automation, and response (SOAR) provider. This acquisition is intended to bolster Google Cloud's Chronicle security operation platform amid a surge in global cyberattacks.

## 2. National News

**Q3. Which High Court became the first in India to transition into a "Paperless Court" in early January 2022?** (a) Delhi High Court

- (b) Bombay High Court
- (c) Kerala High Court
- (d) Madras High Court

**Answer: (c) Kerala High Court**

**Explanation:** The **Kerala High Court** became the first paperless court in India. Inaugurated by Justice DY Chandrachud, the initiative ensures that case files are made available to judges in electronic form, aiming for a more efficient and eco-friendly judicial process.

**Q4. India's first "Open Rock Museum," displaying around 35 different types of rocks from various parts of India, was inaugurated in which city?** (a) Pune

- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Dehradun
- (d) Bengaluru

**Answer: (b) Hyderabad**

**Explanation:** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated **India's first Open Rock Museum** at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad. The museum features rocks ranging from 3.3 billion years to 55 million years old, representing the Earth's history.

## 3. Economics & Banking

**Q5. Which Indian company launched the country's largest-ever foreign currency bond issuance abroad, raising \$4 billion?** (a) Adani Group

- (b) Tata Motors
- (c) Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)
- (d) HDFC Bank

**Answer: (c) Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)**

**Explanation:** **Reliance Industries** raised \$4 billion through a jumbo bond sale in three tranches (10, 30, and 40 years). This was the largest-ever foreign currency bond issuance from India and marked a significant milestone in Indian corporate fundraising.

**Q6. Which insurance company launched the "#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao" campaign to increase awareness about health insurance for tax saving?** (a) LIC of India

- (b) SBI General Insurance

- (c) HDFC ERGO  
(d) ICICI Lombard

**Answer: (b) SBI General Insurance**

**Explanation:** SBI General Insurance launched the '#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao' campaign to educate citizens on how buying health insurance can help them save tax under Section 80D of the Income Tax Act, while also providing health security.

#### 4. Appointments & Resignations

**Q7. Who was appointed as the President of the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) in January 2022?** (a) Nisha Biswal

- (b) Atul Keshap  
(c) Taranjit Singh Sandhu  
(d) Richard Verma

**Answer: (b) Atul Keshap**

**Explanation:** Former US envoy to India, Ambassador Atul Keshap, was appointed as the President of the USIBC. He succeeded Nisha Biswal and is tasked with strengthening the business and commercial ties between India and the United States.

**Q8. The Government of India re-appointed whom as the Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)?** (a) Ashok Gulati

- (b) Vijay Paul Sharma  
(c) Ramesh Chand  
(d) Abhijit Sen

**Answer: (b) Vijay Paul Sharma**

**Explanation:** Vijay Paul Sharma was re-appointed as the Chairman of the CACP, an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture that recommends Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various crops.

#### 5. Awards & Honors

**Q9. Which district in Odisha declared itself "Child Marriage Free," becoming the first in the state to achieve this status?** (a) Puri

- (b) Ganjam  
(c) Cuttack  
(d) Khordha

**Answer: (b) Ganjam**

**Explanation:** The Ganjam district administration declared the district child marriage free after verifying records of all villages and ensuring no child marriages occurred over the previous two years. They also increased the incentive for reporting child marriage to ₹50,000.

#### 6. Defense News

**Q10. India participated in the multi-national exercise "Sea Dragon-22" at which location in January 2022?** (a) Andaman Islands

- (b) Guam, USA  
(c) South China Sea  
(d) Bay of Bengal

**Answer: (b) Guam, USA**

**Explanation:** Exercise Sea Dragon-22 is a US-led multi-national exercise focused on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training. India participated alongside the USA, Australia, Canada, Japan, and South Korea at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

#### 7. Sports

**Q11. Which country's cricketer Bhanuka Rajapaksa announced his retirement from international cricket in early January 2022?** (a) Bangladesh

- (b) Sri Lanka  
(c) South Africa  
(d) Pakistan

**Answer: (b) Sri Lanka**

**Explanation:** Sri Lankan batter Bhanuka Rajapaksa handed in his retirement letter to the national cricket board citing family obligations. (Note: He later reconsidered and withdrew his retirement following requests from the board).

## 8. Books & Authors

**Q12. Who is the author of the recently released book "Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India"? (a) Shashi Tharoor**

- (b) Dhirendra K. Jha
- (c) Ramachandra Guha
- (d) Jairam Ramesh

**Answer: (b) Dhirendra K. Jha**

**Explanation:** Journalist **Dhirendra K. Jha** authored this book, which explores the life of Nathuram Godse and the organizations that influenced his extremist views leading to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

## 9. MOUs & Partnerships

**Q13. India signed an MoU with which country for the construction of a bridge over the Mahakali River at Dharchula? (a) Bhutan**

- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Nepal
- (d) Myanmar

**Answer: (c) Nepal**

**Explanation:** The Union Cabinet approved the MoU with **Nepal** to build a bridge over the Mahakali River. This project is expected to improve connectivity between India's Uttarakhand and Nepal's Sudurpashchim province.

## 10. Government Schemes

**Q14. The "Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future" was launched as the theme for which upcoming national day? (a) National Mathematics Day**

- (b) National Science Day 2022
- (c) National Technology Day
- (d) National Education Day

**Answer: (b) National Science Day 2022**

**Explanation:** Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched the theme for **National Science Day 2022**, observed on February 28 every year to commemorate the discovery of the "Raman Effect" by Sir C.V. Raman.

**Q15. Under the "India Semiconductor Mission" (ISM), what is the maximum financial support provided by the government for setting up semiconductor fabs? (a) 25% of the project cost**

- (b) 50% of the project cost
- (c) 75% of the project cost
- (d) 100% of the project cost

**Answer: (b) 50% of the project cost**

**Explanation:** The **India Semiconductor Mission** provides financial support of up to 50% of the project cost on a pari-passu basis to eligible applicants to build a robust semiconductor ecosystem in India.

## 11. Science & Environment

**Q16. The "IHU" (B.1.640.2) variant of the Coronavirus was first discovered in which country?**

- (a) South Africa
- (b) France
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) Israel

**Answer: (b) France**

**Explanation:** Scientists in France discovered a new **COVID-19 variant** named **IHU (B.1.640.2)** at the IHU Mediterranean Infection institute. While it contained 46 mutations, it did not become a dominant strain globally compared to Omicron.

**Q17. Which organization recently approved "OmiSure," India's first home-grown testing kit to detect the Omicron variant of COVID-19? (a) NITI Aayog**

- (b) ICMR
- (c) CSIR
- (d) AIIMS

**Answer: (b) ICMR**

**Explanation:** The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** approved the OmiSure kit, manufactured by Tata Medical and Diagnostics. It uses S-gene target failure (SGTF) to detect the Omicron variant.

**Explanation:** The **World Day of War Orphans** is observed on January 6 to raise awareness about the plight of children orphaned by conflict and to highlight the challenges they face in their daily lives.

## 12. Miscellaneous

**Q18. Neil Nongkynrih, who passed away in January 2022, was the founder of which famous musical group? (a) Indian Ocean**

(b) Shillong Chamber Choir

(c) Euphoria

(d) Agnee

**Answer: (b) Shillong Chamber Choir**

**Explanation:** Renowned pianist and Padma Shri awardee **Neil Nongkynrih** passed away in Mumbai. He was the founder of the Shillong Chamber Choir, which won the reality show 'India's Got Talent' in 2010.

**Q19. Which state topped the list of highest number of Open Defecation Free (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II? (a)**

Tamil Nadu

(b) Telangana

(c) Gujarat

(d) Karnataka

**Answer: (b) Telangana**

**Explanation:** **Telangana** stood first in the country with 96.74% of its villages being declared ODF Plus, followed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

**Q20. "World Day of War Orphans" is observed every year on which date? (a) January 4**

(b) January 5

(c) January 6

(d) January 7

**Answer: (c) January 6**

