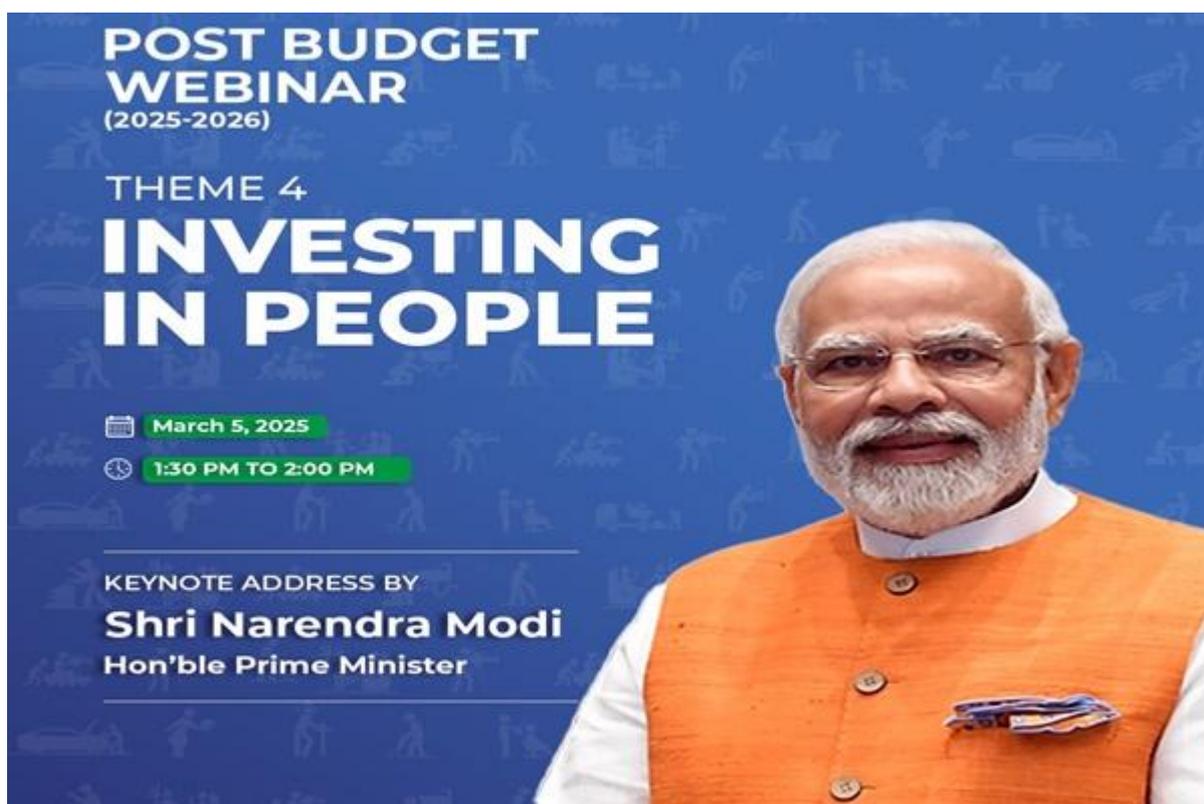


Daily Current Affairs

05 March 2025

Post-Budget Webinar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the **Post-Budget Webinar on Employment** via video-conferencing. The key themes of the webinar include Investing in People, the Economy, and Innovation.
- He will also address the gathering on the occasion. Employment generation has been one of the key focus areas of the government.



- Driven by the vision of the Prime Minister, the government has taken multiple steps to **promote job growth and create greater avenues for employment**. The webinar will foster collaboration among the government, industry, academia, and citizens, encouraging discussions to help translate the transformative Budget announcements into effective outcomes.

- The deliberations will aim at **paving the way for sustainable and inclusive growth**, leadership in technology and other sectors, and a skilled, healthy workforce working towards realizing the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the “**Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan at the National Workshop** of Women Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions in New Delhi.
- The Abhiyan is a **comprehensive and targeted capacity-building initiative** aimed at strengthening Women-Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions across the nation. It **focuses on sharpening their leadership acumen**, enhancing their decision-making capabilities, and reinforcing their role in grassroots governance. During his address, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh emphasized the vital role of women leaders in transforming rural governance.



- He added that the **government is fully committed to undertaking capacity and confidence-building measures** to further strengthen women’s leadership in the country, particularly in gram panchayats. He stressed the need for the empowerment of women for a Justice Equitable Society. Mr Singh highlighted

that nearly **1.4 million women across the country** are associated with Panchayati Raj Institutions today.



- He made these remarks while addressing the inaugural event of **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyaan at the National Conference** for Elected Women Representatives in New Delhi. Mr Singh said that the government has taken several initiatives, including **the Lakhpati Didi and Namu Drone Didi schemes, to empower women**. He also stressed the need for skill development in Panchayati Raj institutions to instil confidence among women.
- **More than 1,200 elected Women Representatives participated** in the event, which was organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in commemoration of International Women's Day, to be observed on the 8th of March. During the **event, 23 elected Women Representatives received** awards for the extraordinary work they have done in their panchayats.

Health Minister J P Nadda

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda chaired the ninth meeting of the **Mission Steering Group (MSG) of the National Health Mission (NHM)**, in New Delhi. The **Mission Steering Group is the highest policy-making** and steering institution under the NHM, providing broad policy direction and governance for the health sector.



- Addressing the meeting, Mr Nadda commended the NHM for its achievements and thanked the Steering Group for its role in ensuring the outputs of different initiatives and schemes. It was appraised that **India has achieved the National Health Policy (NHP) target of Maternal Mortality Rate-MMR 100 deaths per one lakh live births**. The Health Ministry added that **between 1990 and 2020, MMR in India declined 83 per cent**, which is much higher than the Global MMR decline.



- **69 per cent decline was observed in Infant Mortality Rate** in the country during this period, while the Global IMR decline was 55 per cent. More than **1.76 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** are operational in the country today. In the last 5

years, annual footfall at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs has increased from **13.49 crore in 2019-20 to over 121 crore in 2023-24.**

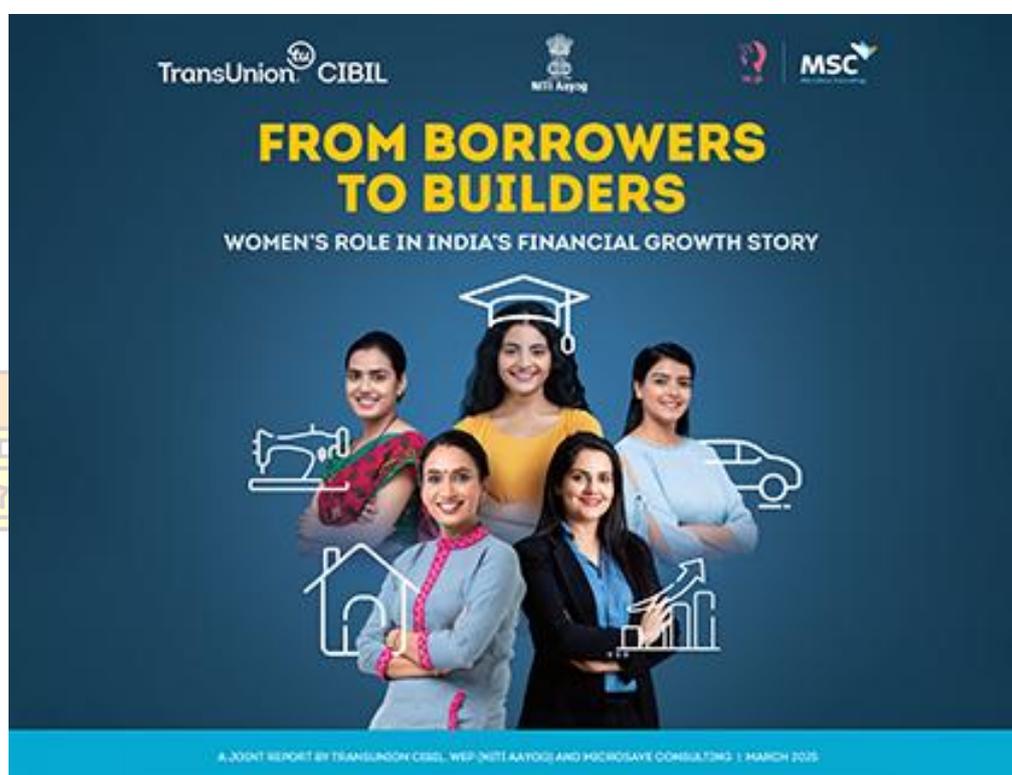
- The number of **Non-Communication Disease screenings** increased from 10.94 crore in **2019-20 to 109.55 crore in 2023-24.** It added that under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program, an 18 percent reduction was observed in the incidence of TB from 2015 to 2023, which is more than double the global reduction.



- **21 per cent reduction was also observed in mortality due to TB.** During the meeting, the Health Minister also commended the role of ASHA workers in the healthcare system and stressed the need for their further empowerment and welfare through revised incentives for routine activities, and providing enhanced honorariums.

NITI Aayog Launches Report

- NITI Aayog released a report called **“From Borrowers to Builders: Women’s Role in India’s Financial Growth Story.”** The report, launched by NITI Aayog CEO **Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam**, shows that more women in India are taking loans and checking their credit scores.
- By December **2024, 27 million women were monitoring** their credit, which is 42% more than the previous year. This increase shows that women are becoming more aware of financial matters.

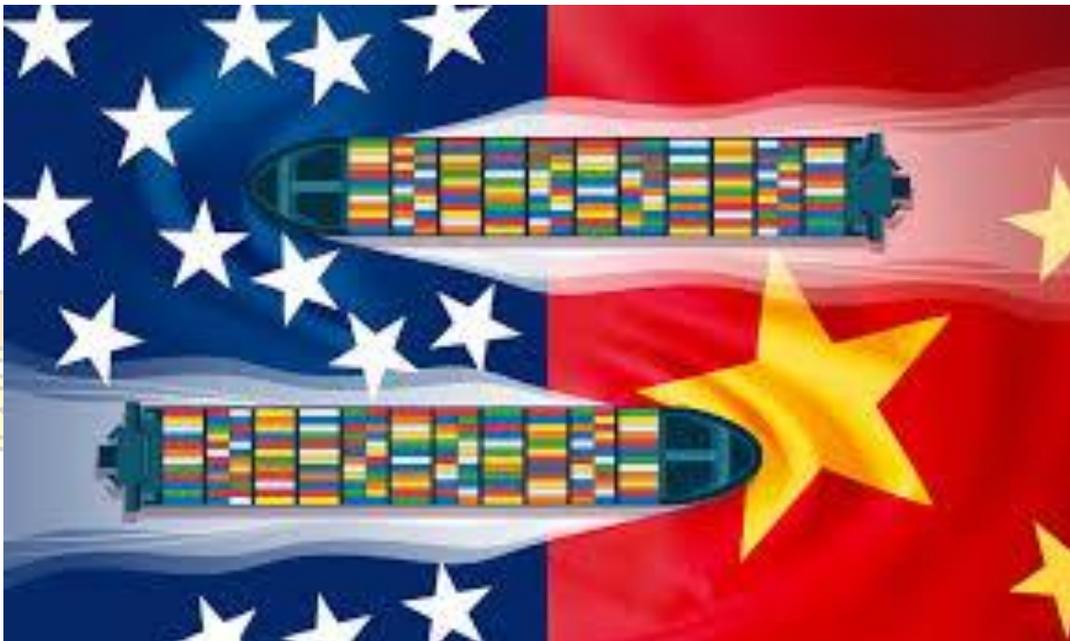


- The report was prepared by **TransUnion CIBIL, NITI Aayog’s Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), and MicroSave Consulting (MSC).**
- The percentage of women checking their credit reports increased from 17.89% in 2023 to **19.43% in 2024.** **Women** in non-metro areas are becoming more financially active, with **48% growth, compared to 30% growth in metro cities.**
- Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana accounted for 49% of all women self-monitoring credit, with the southern region leading at 10.2 million women.
- Northern and central states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh have shown the highest growth in active women borrowers.

- Since 2019, **women's share of business loans has increased by 14%**, and their share of gold loans has grown by 6%. By December 2024, women made up 35% of business borrowers.

US Trade War

- **US President Donald Trump** launched a **trade war against America's three biggest trading partners**, drawing immediate retaliation from Mexico, Canada and China. Just after last midnight, **Trump imposed 25 per cent taxes**, or tariffs, on Mexican and Canadian imports, though he **limited the levy to 10 per cent on Canadian energy**.



- Trump also doubled the tariff he slapped last month **on Chinese products to 20 per cent**. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaking at a press conference rejected the US justification for the tariffs. He said the United States launched a trade war against its closest partner and friend Canada. He said his country **would impose tariffs on more than \$100 billion of American goods over 21 days**.
- **Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum** said **Mexico** will respond to the new taxes with its retaliatory tariffs. China also announced retaliatory action yesterday which included **10 per cent to 15 per cent tariffs** on certain agriculture imports from the US.
- This is key because **China is the biggest market for these goods, such as American corn, wheat and soybeans**. US markets dropped sharply on Monday

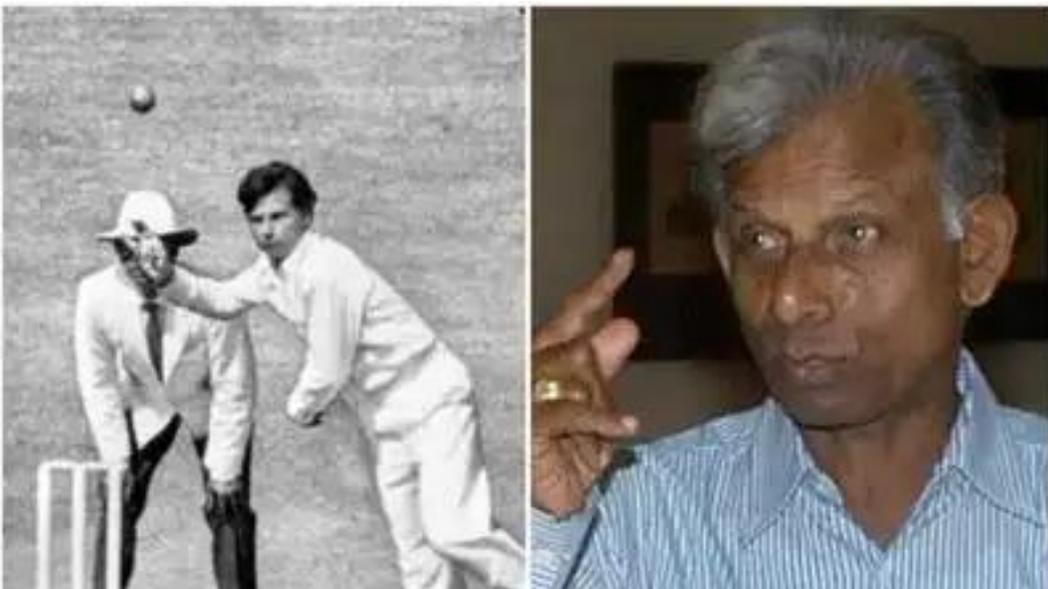
after Trump said there was “no room left” for negotiations that could lower the tariffs. Shares were mostly lower yesterday after the tariff took effect.

- **The Yale University Budget Lab estimates that Trump’s tariffs** amount to a tax hike of 1.4 trillion dollars to 1.5 trillion dollars over 10 years and would disproportionately hit the poor.



Padmakar Shivalkar

- **Legendary Mumbai spinner Padmakar Shivalkar** died due to age-related issues. He was 84. Considered **one of the best spinners to have** never played for India, Shivalkar featured in **a total of 124 first-class matches** and claimed 589 wickets at 19.69 between 1961-62 to 1987-88.



- The left-arm spinner made his debut at the age of 22 in Ranji Trophy and continued playing until he **was 48 and took 361 wickets in India's** premier domestic competition, including eleven 10-wicket hauls. Shivalkar also played 12 **List A matches and took 16 wickets**. He was honoured with the **CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017** by the Indian cricket board.

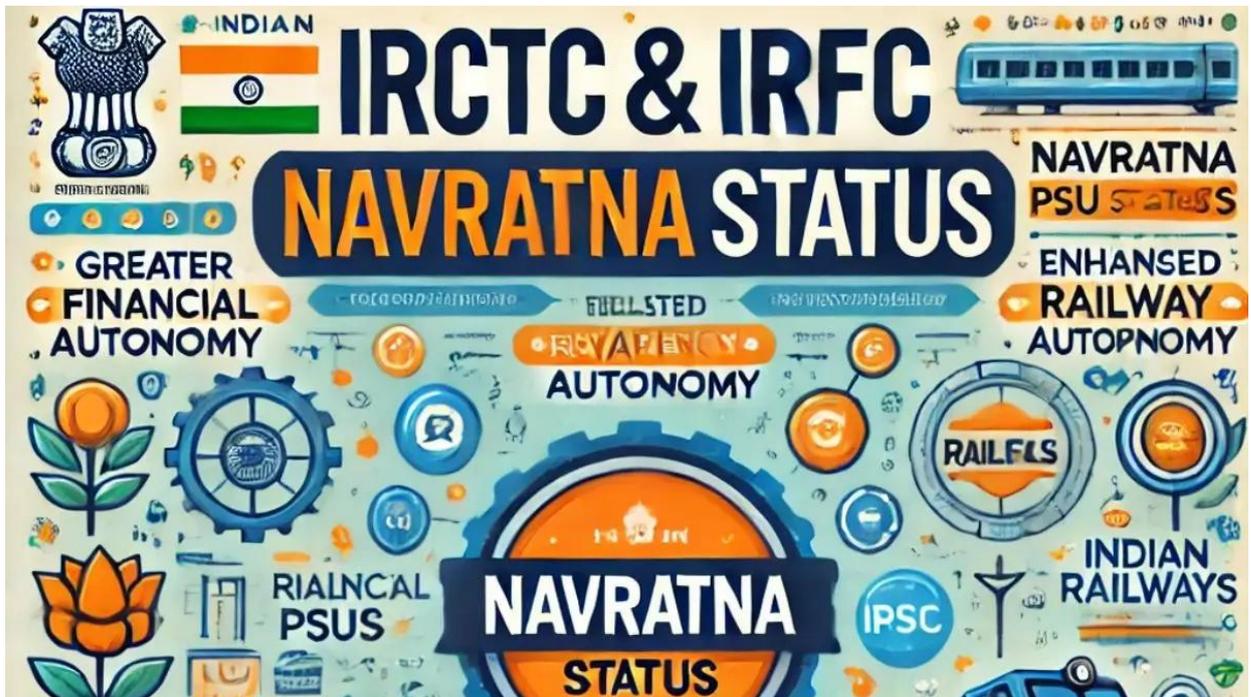
IRCTC, IRFC Upgraded To Navratna

- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** have been granted **Navratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** status by the Indian government.
- With this, all **seven listed railway PSUs have now attained** Navratna classification, providing them greater financial and operational autonomy. The move reflects the government's commitment to enhancing the efficiency and profitability of railway-owned enterprises.



- The seven railway PSUs classified as Navratna include,
- Container Corporation of India (Concor) – First to achieve Navratna status in July 2014.
- Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)
- IRCON International Limited
- RITES Limited
- RailTel Corporation of India

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) – Now a Navratna company.
- Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) – Now a Navratna company.



- The **Indian government classifies PSUs into three categories**,
 Maharatna – The largest and most financially independent PSUs.
 Navratna – High-performing mid-tier PSUs with greater investment autonomy.
 Miniratna (Category I & II) – Smaller PSUs with moderate operational independence.
- **Eligibility for Navratna Status** : A PSU must, Be a Miniratna-I company.
- Have an “Excellent” or “Very Good” MoU rating in at least three out of the last five years. Score 60+ points based on six performance indicators:
- **Net Profit to Net Worth** : Manpower Cost to Total Cost of Production, PBDIT (Profit before Depreciation, Interest & Taxes) to Capital Employed, Profit before Interest & Taxes to Turnover, Earnings Per Share (EPS), Inter-Sectoral Performance

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Title Of Report Released By NITI Aayog On Women's Role In Financial Growth

- A. "Women's Empowerment through Financial Inclusion"
- B. "From Borrowers to Builders: Women's Role in India's Financial Growth Story"
- C. "Financial Growth and Women's Participation"
- D. "Women's Financial Literacy and Empowerment"

ANSWER: B

2. Where Is Tesla Opening Its First Showroom In India

- A. Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chennai
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: D

3. Which Former US President Introduced Policy Requiring Federal Agencies To Offer Language Assistance To Non-english Speakers

- A. Ronald Reagan
- B. Bill Clinton
- C. George H.W. Bush
- D. Barak Obama

ANSWER: B

4. Who Holds The Record For Playing The Most Odis In Cricket History

- A. MS Dhoni
- B. Ricky Ponting
- C. Virat Kohli
- D. Sachin Tendulkar

ANSWER: D

5. Which Team Won The 90th Edition Of The Ranji Trophy

- A. Karnataka
- B. Vidarbha
- C. Saurashtra
- D. Delhi

ANSWER: B

6. Who Has Been Re-elected As The Chairman Of The Bar Council Of India (BCI) For The Seventh Consecutive Term

- A. Kapil Sibal
- B. Harish Salve
- C. Manan Kumar Mishra
- D. Ranjan Gogoi

ANSWER: C

7. Who Was Conferred With The Icon Of Excellence Award At The Forbes India Leadership Awards

- A. Sourav Ganguly
- B. N. Srinivasan
- C. Jay Shah
- D. Rahul Dravid

ANSWER: C

8. What Is The Theme For World Hearing Day 2025

- A. Changing Mindsets: Empower Yourself to Make Ear Hearing Care a Reality for All
- B. Listen with Care: Protect Your Hearing
- C. Preventing Hearing Loss: A Global Effort
- D. Healthy Ears, Healthy Life

ANSWER: A

9. Kirkuk Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

10. Uiam Lake Seen In The News, Is Located In Which State

- A. West Bengal
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: D

11. What Is The Theme For National Safety Day 2025

- A. Safety & Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat
- B. Focus on Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence
- C. A Safe Workplace for All
- D. Prevention is Better Than Cure

ANSWER: B

12. Which Ministry Has Launched Swavalambini Initiative To Promote Women Entrepreneurship In India

- A. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ANSWER: B

13. Juanga Tribe Is Primarily Found In Which State

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: C

14. Rushikulya River Flows Through Which State

- A. Odisha
- B. Karnataka
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: A

15. Cabinet Declared Which Day As 'National Space Day' In India

- A. August 20
- B. August 23
- C. August 25
- D. August 27

ANSWER: B

16. Name Of India's First Indigenously Developed Air-launched Anti-ship Missile System Recently Tested By DRDO

- A. BrahMos-NG
- B. Naval Anti-Ship Missile (NASM-SR)
- C. Nirbhay
- D. Varunastra

ANSWER: B

17. From Which Location Was India's First-of-its-kind Naval Anti-ship Missile Successfully Test-fired

- A. Gujarat
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: C

18. Which Country Has Introduced The Blue Visa For A 10-year Residency Permit Focused On Environmental Sustainability

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Qatar
- C. Oman
- D. UAE

ANSWER: D

19. Substance European Union Declare Harmful To Humans If Swallowed

- A. Sugar
- B. Nicotine
- C. Caffeine
- D. Aspirin

ANSWER: C

20. Bell's Palsy, Affects Which Part Of The Body

- A. Arms
- B. Face
- C. Foot
- D. Spine

ANSWER: B