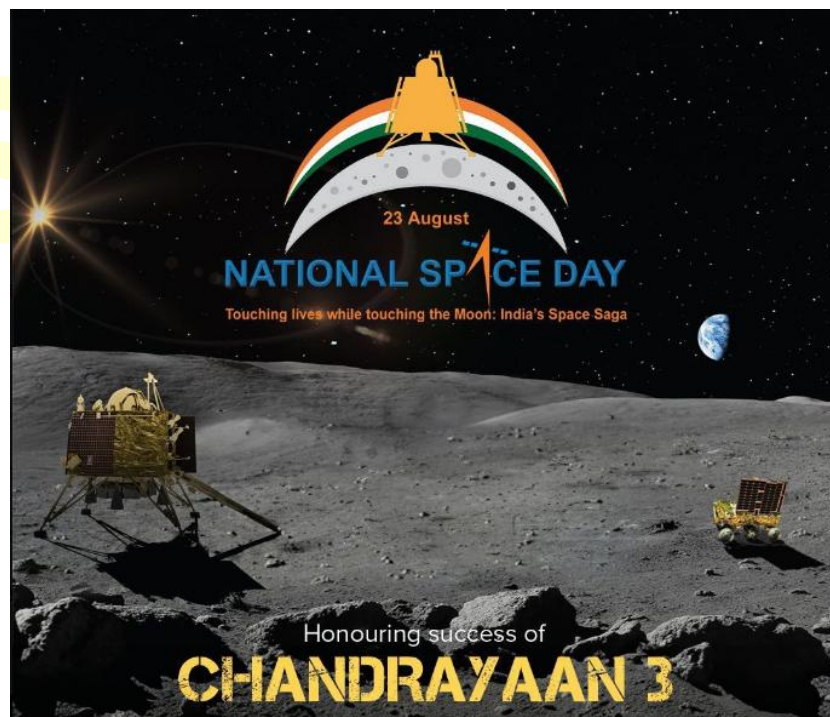


Daily Current Affairs

23 August 2025

National Space Day

- The second **National Space Day** is **being celebrated** across the country today. The day commemorates the successful soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission's **Vikram Lander and the deployment** of the Pragyan Rover on the Moon on 23rd of August 2023. On this day in 2023, the **Chandrayaan-3 mission accomplished the safe and soft landing** of the Vikram Lander on the lunar surface. With this, India became the fourth country to land on the moon and the first to land near the southern polar region of the moon.

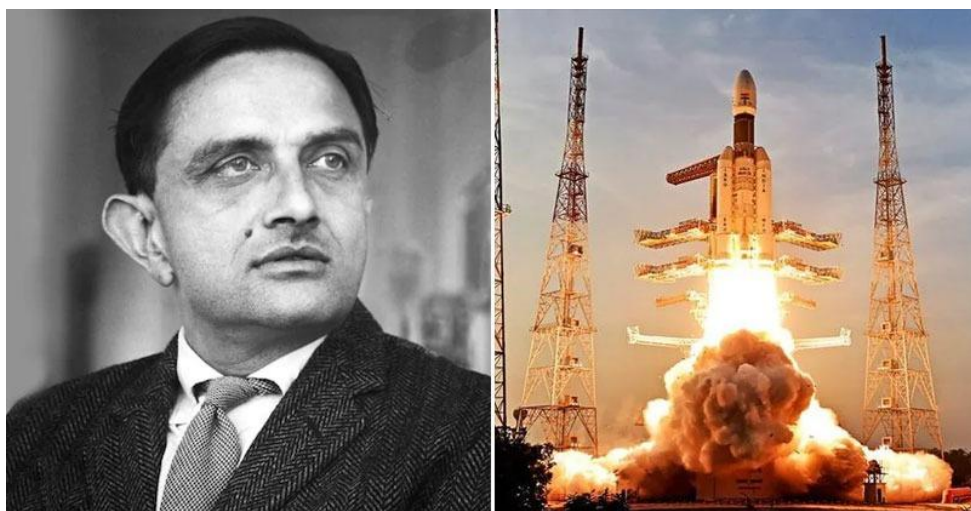


- The **soft landing was followed by a successful deployment** of the Pragyaan Rover. The landing site was named Shiv Shakti Point. To honour this achievement, the Government of India officially declared August 23rd as "National Space Day."
- The theme for this year's celebration is **Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities**". As part of the celebrations, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) hosted the National Space Meet 2.0 in New Delhi

yesterday. The meet brought together several Ministries, Private Stakeholders, Academia, Startups, and Experts to shape the next decade of India's space applications roadmap.



- Speaking on the occasion, ISRO Chairman, V. Narayanan highlighted India's remarkable space journey from the **rocket launches at Thumba in 1963** to today's global recognition of India's leadership in space. He said that capability augmentation and deeper private sector integration in line with space sector reforms will make significant contributions to Viksit Bharat 2047.
- **ISRO's Legacy and Milestones**
Early Foundations (1960s–70s)
1962: Formation of INCOSPAR by Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.
1969: ISRO was established.
1975: Aryabhata, India's first satellite, launched with Soviet help.



- **Indigenous Growth (1980s–90s)**

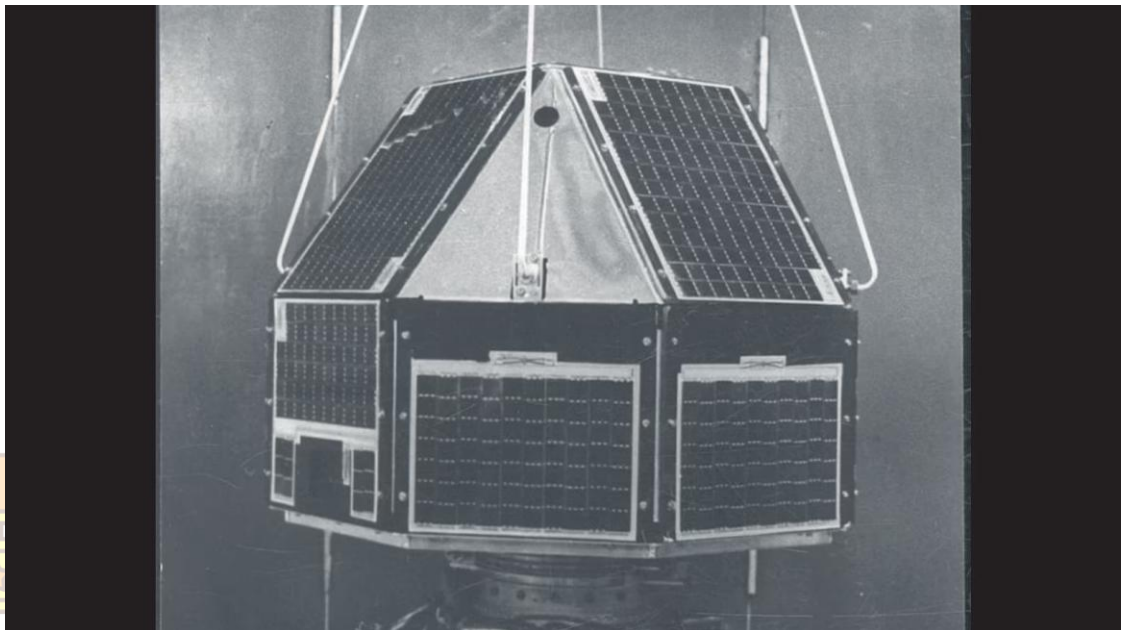
1980: Rohini Satellite launched by India's SLV-3.

1984: Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian in space.

- **Technological Maturity (1990s–2000s)**

INSAT and IRS series enhanced communication and remote sensing.

1994: Launch of PSLV, ISRO's reliable satellite carrier.



- **Space Exploration Era (2000s–2010s)**

2008: Chandrayaan-1 discovered water on the Moon.

2013: Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission) launched successfully on its first attempt.

2017: PSLV-C37 set a world record by launching 104 satellites in one go.

- **Modern Triumphs (2020s)**

2019: Chandrayaan-2 orbiter continues to transmit data.

2022: Launch of SSLV for small satellites.

2023: Chandrayaan-3's South Pole landing.

2023: Aditya-L1 mission to study the Sun.

2024: ISRO expands collaboration with private space players.

PM Modi To Embark On 4-day Visit To Japan And China

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a **four-day visit to Japan and China from 29th of this month**. Mr Modi will visit Japan from 29th to 30th of August to participate in **the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit**. This will be Prime Minister Modi's eighth visit to Japan, and the first Summit with Prime Minister of Japan Shigeru Ishiba.



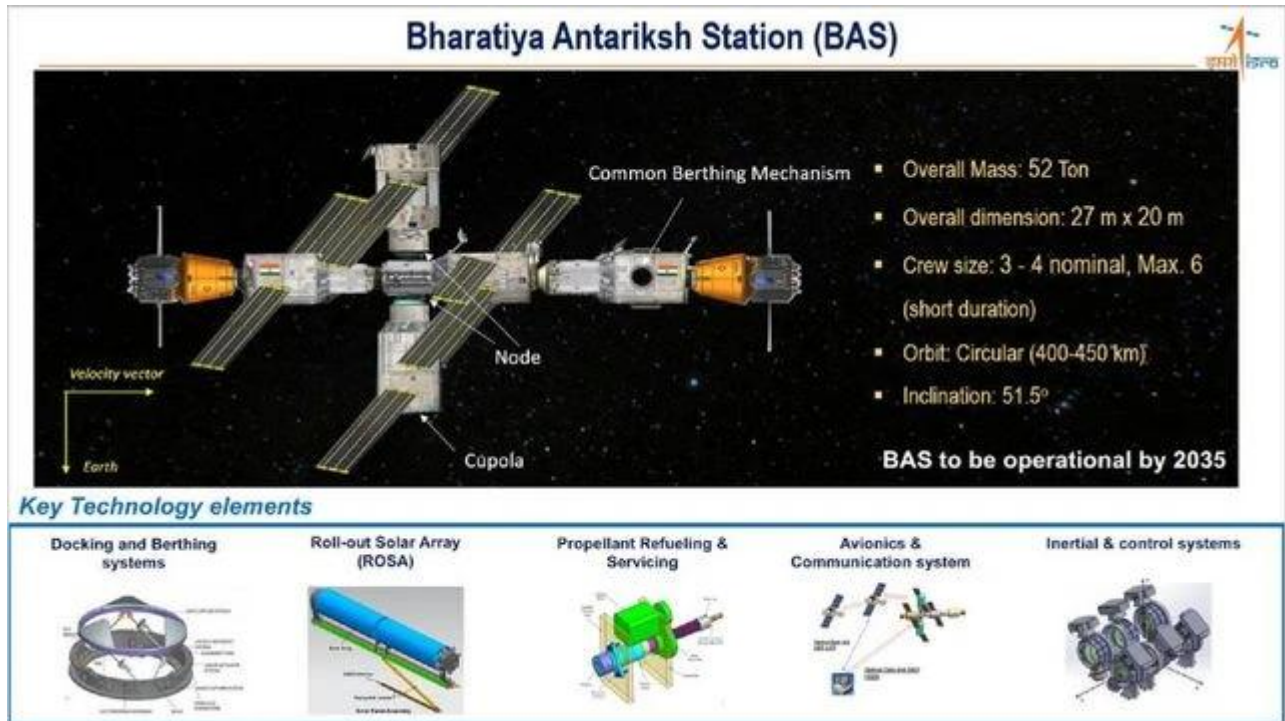
- During Mr Modi's visit, the two Prime Ministers will review the special strategic and global partnership between India and Japan, including defense, security, **trade and economy, technology and innovation**. They will also discuss issues of regional and global importance. In the second leg of his visit, Prime Minister **Modi will travel to China from 31st August to 1st next month** to attend the Shanghai Cooperation organization Summit in Tianjin.
- On the sidelines of the Summit, **Prime Minister Modi is expected to hold bilateral meetings with several** global leaders. India has been a member of SCO since 2017. It held the presidency of the Council of Heads of State of SCO during 2022-23.

Bharatiya Antariksh Station

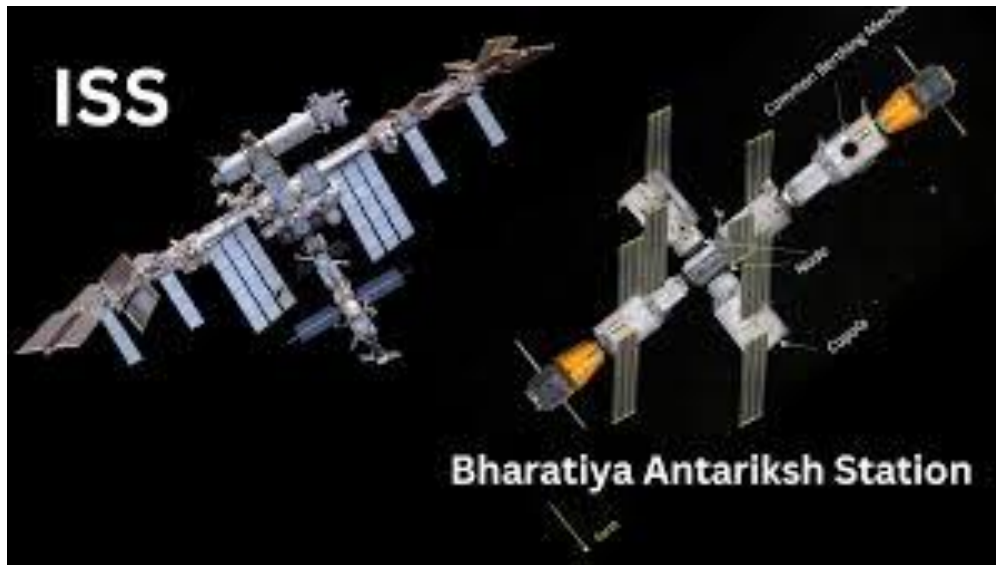
- ISRO unveiled a 1:1 scale model of the first module of the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)**, registering a crucial step towards establishing the country's own space station. The ambitious project is to launch the first module of BAS by 2028 and have the entire station operational by 2035.
- The **BAS will be an example of India's growing prowess in space technology**, enabling the country to join an elite group of nations operating orbital laboratories. At present, only two functional space stations exist, which include the **International Space Station (ISS)**, operated by five space agencies and **China's Tiangong space station**. The ISS is a collaborative project between NASA, Roscosmos, ESA, JAXA, and CSA, while Tiangong was launched in 2021 and is fully operational.



- The **BAS will comprise five modules**, each weighing around 52 tons, and will be assembled over five LVM3 launches between 2028 and 2035. The first module, the Base Module, is slated for launch in 2028, and the entire station will be operationalised by 2035. The project is part of the **revised Gaganyaan Programme**, which includes the development of the first module of BAS and four missions for demonstration and validation of various technologies for BAS by December 2028.



- The **Bharatiya Antariksh Station** will serve as a testing ground for long-duration human spaceflight missions, support India's long-term space goals, and provide a platform for conducting unique scientific experiments in microgravity. The launch will lead to breakthroughs in technological prowess and strengthen international partnerships. The **space station will also enhance India's position as a global leader** in space exploration, showcasing its capabilities in space technology.
- **Establishing a space station is a complicated task** that requires advanced engineering, reliable life support systems, and strategic planning. India will need to develop new technologies, ensure structural integrity, radiation protection, and maintain a stable environment for scientific experiments. The project also presents opportunities for Indian companies to access satellite manufacturing, servicing, and boost the aerospace sector.
- The **total funding for the Gaganyaan Programme** with the revised scope has been enhanced **to over Rs 20,000 crore**. The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Gaganyaan mission, which will include launch vehicle Mk III launches, deep space network support, and special tests.



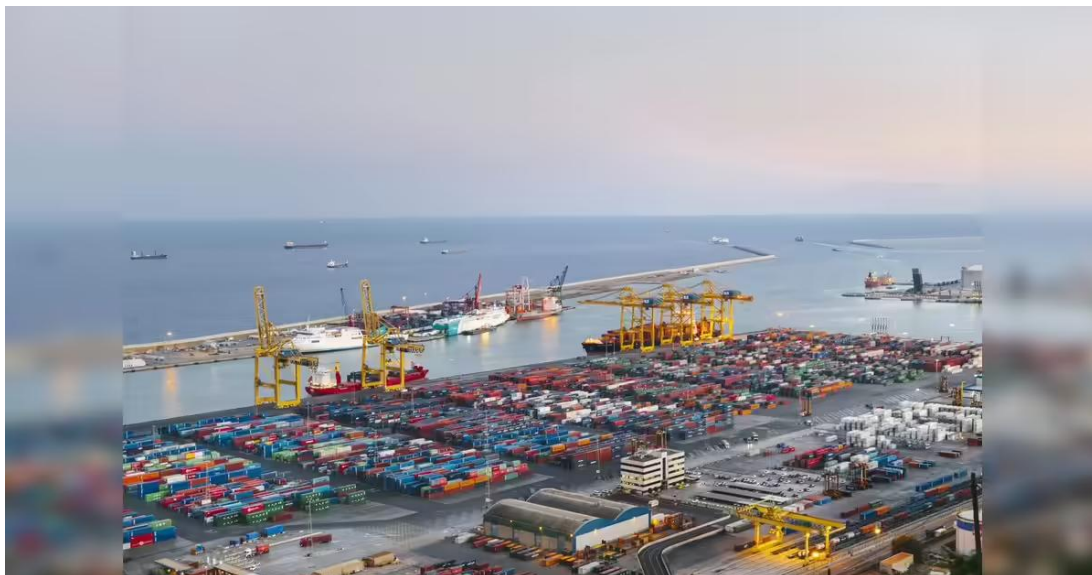
Parliament Passes Five Key Maritime Bills

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said that the **Parliament has passed five key bills** in the just-concluded Monsoon Session, which overhauled colonial-era maritime laws and will boost the Blue Economy.
- **The new bills are the Bills of Lading 2025, the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill 2025, the Coastal Shipping Bill 2025, the Merchant Shipping Bill 2025, and the Indian Ports Bill 2025.**



- **The Bills of Lading, 2025, focuses on simplifying legal documents** to reduce disputes and improve the ease of doing business. The **Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, replaced a 1925 Act**, adopting Hague-Visby Rules for reduced

litigation and stronger international ties. The **Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025**, targets reviving India's 6 per cent modal share, saving around Rs 10,000 crore annually in logistics costs, and also reducing pollution and road congestion.



- **The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025**, overhauled an outdated 1958 act, enabling expeditious wreck removal and salvage operations, the minister further said. **The Indian Ports Bill, 2025**, replaced an old 1908 law, created a Maritime State Development Council for better national planning, gave more power to state maritime boards to manage smaller ports, and set up a way to resolve disputes at the state level.

Kerala Becomes India's 1st Fully Digitally Literate State

- Kerala recently achieved a landmark in India's digital journey by becoming the first fully **digitally literate State**. This milestone marks the successful completion of the first phase of the Digi Kerala project. The initiative aimed to bridge the digital divide by equipping citizens with basic digital skills. The State's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced this achievement after surveys and training across all local bodies.
- The **Digi Kerala project conducted surveys covering 1.5 crore people** from 83.46 lakh families. It identified 21.88 lakh digitally illiterate individuals. Nearly all—21.87 lakh or 99.98%—completed training and passed evaluations.
- This vast coverage ensured no demographic was left behind.



- The programme included **people of all ages, including senior citizens**. One notable participant was **104-year-old M.A. Abdullah Moulavi Baqavi** from Ernakulam district. Training was delivered through local bodies, denoting Kerala's strong decentralised governance. This grassroots approach ensured accessibility and community participation.
- **Digital literacy enables equitable access to e-governance services**. Citizens can now access welfare schemes like **Ayushman Bharat, PM-Kisan, and Jan Dhan digitally**. This reduces dependency on intermediaries and promotes financial inclusion. It also helps marginalised groups and women overcome barriers to digital access.



- With **digital skills**, citizens can engage more effectively with government platforms. They can file grievances, submit Right to Information requests, and participate in online civic activities. This encourages transparency and accountability in governance. It also empowers people to hold authorities responsible.
- **Kerala's success offers a replicable model for other States.** Unlike projects focusing solely on infrastructure, **Digi Kerala emphasises grassroots training.** This ensures that digital tools reach all citizens and are effectively used. The approach aligns with the broader goals of the Digital India mission.
- **Digital literacy promotes livelihood opportunities and self-help group** activities. It reduces exclusion of vulnerable groups by providing relevant skills. Small businesses and entrepreneurs benefit from enhanced digital capabilities. This contributes to inclusive economic growth and social upliftment.

4th Semicon India 2025

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **the fourth edition of Semicon India 2025 in New Delhi on 2nd September.** The three-day event aims to showcase the country's growing capabilities and ambitions in the microelectronics and **semiconductor value chain.**



- Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, S Krishnan, said, for the first time, the exhibition will feature four **International Pavilions from Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia**. He added that **350 exhibiting companies** from 18 countries and regions will showcase their products.
- Mr. Krishnan also mentioned that **nine states will participate in the event**. **SEMICON India 2025 aims** to catalyse global collaboration, support domestic innovation, and strengthen India's role as a trusted, scalable, and competitive electronics manufacturing hub.
- It represents one of the **country's strongest whole-of-nation efforts** toward building a world-class semiconductor industry. The event will also feature a dedicated Semiconductor Design Startup Pavilion, offering a platform for innovation-led chip design enterprises.

Asian Shooting Championships

- **Indian Olympian Elavenil Valarivan continued** her impressive form by clinching the gold medal in the women's **10m air rifle competition** at the 16th Asian Shooting Championships in Shymkent, Kazakhstan .



- The victory marks her **second consecutive individual medal at the continental event**, following her silver medal win at the 2024 Asian Championships in

Jakarta. The **26-year-old from Tamil Nadu showcased** an impressive display of composure in the final, shooting a formidable score of 253.6 points to secure the top spot. **This remarkable score sets a new national record** and is a testament to her consistent excellence on the global stage. She was joined on the **podium by Peng Xinlu of China, who took the silver medal**, and Kwon Eun-ji of South Korea, who claimed the bronze.

Kajal Dochak

- In Wrestling, India's **Kajal Dochak won a gold medal at the U20 World Championships**, while **Shruti and Sarika grabbed bronze medals** in the women's event at Samokov in Bulgaria yesterday. **Reigning Under-20 Asian champion, 17-year-old Haryana** wrestler Kajal battled past China's Yuqi Liu 8-6 in a stiff 72kg final. Sarika secured bronze in the women's 53kg category with a technical superiority win over Poland's Ilona Valchuk.



- **Shruti earned bronze in the 50kg category**, defeating Germany's Josephine Wrench 6-0. **In the men's Greco-Roman 60kg category**, Suraj clinched bronze by overcoming France's Lucas Go Grasso. So far, Indian wrestlers have won nine medals – two gold, four silver and three bronze – at the ongoing championships.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. National Space Day Celebrated For First Time In

- A. 2022
- B. 2023
- C. 2024
- D. 2025

ANSWER: C

2. ISRO Is Established in

- A. 1965
- B. 1968
- C. 1969
- D. 1970

ANSWER: C

3. In Which Year Mangalyaan Was Launched

- A. 2011
- B. 2013
- C. 2015
- D. 2017

ANSWER: B

4. Bharatiya Antariksh Station First Module Will Be Launched In

- A. 2026
- B. 2027
- C. 2028
- D. 2030

ANSWER: C

5. Bharatiya Antariksh Station Will Be Fully Operational In which year

- A. 2030
- B. 2032
- C. 2035
- D. 2040

ANSWER: C

6. Carriage Of Goods By Sea Bill, 2025, Replaced

- A. 1925 Act
- B. 1927 Act
- C. 1930 Act
- D. 1935 Act

ANSWER: A

7. India's 1st Fully Digitally Literate State

- A. Gujarat
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. West Bengal

ANSWER: B

8. Kajal Dochak Won A Gold Medal At U20 World Championships In Which Sport

- A. Shooting
- B. Tennis
- C. Wrestling
- D. Badminton

ANSWER: C

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

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

ANSWER: B

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

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

ANSWER: D

11. Elavenil Valarivan Won ____ Medal In Asian Shooting Championship

- A. Gold
- B. Silver
- C. Bronze
- D. None

ANSWER: A

12. 4th Semicon India 2025 Will be inaugurated in

- A. Hyderabad
- B. New Delhi
- C. Chennai
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: B

13. How Many Tejas Mark 1A Fighter Jets Has India Approved For Purchase Under The ₹62,000 Crore Deal In 2025

- A. 83
- B. 97
- C. 105
- D. 120

ANSWER: B

14. In Which Year Was The Mines And Minerals (Development And Regulation) Act Originally Enacted

- A. 1957
- B. 1962
- C. 1975
- D. 1980

ANSWER: A

15. Which City Became India's First To Get Portable Solar Panels Installed Between Railway Tracks

- A. Jaipur
- B. Mumbai
- C. Varanasi
- D. Ahmedabad

ANSWER: C

16. New NABL Medical Application Portal Has Been Launched For Laboratories Applying Under Which International Standard

- A. ISO 15189:2022
- B. ISO 17025:2017
- C. ISO 9001:2015
- D. ISO 13485:2016

ANSWER: A

17. Which Indian Institute Of Management Is Set To Be Established With ₹550 Crore Grant Under IIM Amendment Bill 2025

- A. IIM Patna
- B. IIM Ranchi
- C. IIM Guwahati
- D. IIM Nagpur

ANSWER: C

18. Name Of The Newly Launched Portal Aimed At Simplifying The Registration Process For Newspapers And Periodicals

- A. Media Mitra portal
- B. News Ease portal
- C. Samachar Setu portal
- D. Press Sewa portal

ANSWER: D

19. Which State Has Cabinet Approved Development Of A Greenfield Airport At Kota- Bundi

- A. Gujarat
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: C

20. Ghumura Is An Ancient Folk Dance That Originated In Which Of The Following States

- A. Odisha
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: A



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EXAMS