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1.What is the rank of India in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2025 ?

- [A] 128th
- [B] 130th
- [C] 135th
- [D] 139th

Correct Answer: B [130th]

The 2025 Human Development Report (HDR) by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ranked India 130th out of 193 countries and territories. The report uses the Human Development Index (HDI), which measures health, education, and income, not just economic growth. The 2025 HDR, titled "A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)," focused on the impact of AI on human progress. India's HDI value rose from 0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023, staying in the medium category but nearing high development. India's life expectancy increased to 72 years and schooling years also improved. India's per capita Gross National Income (GNI) rose from \$6,951 to \$9,047 based on Purchasing Power Parity (PPP 2021). India showed over 53 percent HDI growth since 1990, outpacing global and South Asian averages. Among neighbours, China, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan ranked higher, while Nepal, Myanmar, and Pakistan ranked lower.

2.INS Tamal belongs to which class of frigates ?

- [A] Shivalik class
- [B] Talwar class
- [C] Krivak-III class
- [D] Kolkata class

Correct Answer: C [Krivak-III class]

In response to the recent terror attack in Pahalgam and rising tensions with Pakistan, the Indian Navy is enhancing its maritime strength by inducting INS Tamal. INS Tamal is a stealth guided missile frigate with advanced features designed for modern naval warfare. It is an upgraded Krivak-III class warship built under a \$2.5 billion India-Russia defence deal for four stealth frigates. Two of these frigates are being built in Russia, and the other two at Goa Shipyard Limited in India. INS Tushil, the first warship of this class, joined the Indian Navy in December 2024. INS Tamal will be the last imported warship, marking India's shift to building its own warships. The remaining two frigates, INS Triput and INS Tavasya, are being constructed in India under a technology transfer agreement worth around Rs 13,000 crore.

3. Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Karnataka

Correct Answer : D [Karnataka]

Public trespassing in the ecologically sensitive Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) in Khanapur taluk has raised major concerns among conservationists recently. Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Western Ghats in the Belgaum district of Karnataka. It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in December 2011 to protect its rich biodiversity. The sanctuary is named after the historic Bhimgad Fort, built by Shivaji Maharaj in the 17th century to defend against Portuguese forces. It borders Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhagwan

Mahaveer Sanctuary, Mollem National Park, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, and Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary.

4.IXPE (Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer) is a joint mission of which two space agencies ?

- [A] National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Space Agency (ESA)
- [B] European Space Agency (ESA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- [C] National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Italian Space Agency
- [D] Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Italian Space Agency

Correct Answer: C [National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Italian Space Agency]

NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) recently solved the mystery behind X-ray emissions in black hole jets. IXPE is a joint satellite mission by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Italian Space Agency, launched on December 9, 2021. It is the first satellite designed to measure the polarisation of X-ray light, helping scientists study extreme cosmic environments. The mission focused on blazars, which are a type of active galactic nucleus with a supermassive black hole ejecting a powerful jet of particles aimed toward Earth.

5.Scientists have recently traced evidence of ancient wildfires (palaeofires) in the Godavari Basin from which geological period?

- [A] Jurassic Period
- [B] Permian Period
- [C] Cambrian Period
- [D] Triassic Period

Correct Answer: B [Permian Period]

Scientists recently found signs of ancient wildfires, called palaeofires, from the Permian Period about 250 million years ago in the Godavari Basin. Palaeofires are wildfire events recorded in ancient rocks, helping us understand Earth's past vegetation, climate changes, and coal formation. The study covered a long geological timescale, from the Late Silurian to the present Quaternary Period. Researchers used methods like Palynofacies analysis, Raman Spectroscopy, Rock-Eval Pyrolysis, and Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy to study tiny fossils and charcoal. They clearly identified charcoal formed on-site (in situ) and transported charcoal (ex situ), solving a major geological debate. They also found that sea-level changes affected how fire residues were preserved—more intact during sea-level drops (regressive) and more scattered during sea-level rise (transgressive).

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