



# Best 300+ MCQs

December 2023

## Current Affairs PDF

### 1. Jal Itihas Utsav is organized by which ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- (b) Ministry of urban and Housing affairs
- (c) Ministry of women and child development
- (d) Ministry of finance
- (e) Ministry of aviation

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** The Ministry of Jal Shakti will host 'Jal Itihas Utsav' on December 1st at Shamsi Talab, Jahaz Mahal in Mehrauli, Delhi.

The main aim is to make people more aware of protecting water heritage sites, instill a sense of ownership and encourage tourism and restoration of these historical structures.

The Jal Shakti Ministry said that Lt. Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena and Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are expected to be present at the event.

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## 2. Which portal has been recently launched by the ministry of urban and Housing affairs?

- (a) Samagra portal
- (b) Samadhan portal
- (c) Deeksha portal
- (d) Amplifi 2.0 portal
- (e) Disha portal

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** The Amplifi portal, which stands for Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive, and Future-Ready Urban India, wants to share information about Indian cities. It gathers information from different cities in India and puts it all in one place. This helps students, researchers, and people involved in decision-making to use the data when making decisions. Right now, 258 urban local bodies (ULB) have joined, and data for 150 cities is on the portal. It shows various details about these cities, like how much diesel they use and the water quality test results.

The Ministry worked with the National Institute of Urban Affairs and PwC India to develop it. Instead of just using data, it now focuses on the actual data using a long list of indicators. This helps experts in different areas study detailed data across 14 sectors making it easier to collect and analyze certain information.

### 3. High level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR is launched by which?

- (a) Indian Navy
- (b) Indian Army
- (c) BSF
- (d) CRPF
- (e) Delhi police

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** On November 29, 2023, the Indian Navy reached an important achievement by hosting the first MAHASAGAR, Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region, a virtual meeting to enhance safety and development in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Leaders from navies and maritime agencies of important coastal regions participated, promoting a joint maritime strategy to tackle shared challenges.

On its one-year anniversary, the Indian Navy's initiative MAHASAGAR, stands as a significant achievement in encouraging virtual meetings among Maritime Heads for the security and growth of everyone in the region.

**4. NLC India Limited, a government company under the Ministry of Coal, signed a MoU (Memorandum of understanding) with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) and Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF) in which field?**

- (a) Women empowerment
- (b) Education
- (c) Semiconductor
- (d) New technologies
- (e) Youth employment

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** NLC India Limited, a government company under the Ministry of Coal, signed a MoU (Memorandum of understanding) with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) and Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF) in Chennai.

This collaboration aims to provide job-oriented skill development training to 540 young individuals from families affected by NLC India Limited's projects in Neyveli.

The company plans to invest Rs 1.12 lakh per candidate in this free residential training program. It will help them to acquire technical skills and secure job opportunities in leading companies.

**5. V R Lalithambika who received a top French award called the Légion d'honneur was used to lead which institute?**

- (a) DRDO
- (b) BHEL
- (c) ISRO
- (d) HAL
- (e) GAIL

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** V R Lalithambika, who used to lead the Human Spaceflight Program at ISRO, received a top French award called the Légion d'honneur on Tuesday.

She got this honor because of her important work in strengthening space collaboration between France and India. The Ambassador of France to India, Thierry Mathou, gave her the award on behalf of the French government.

This award was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, and it is the most important award given by the French Republic to civil **Ans.** People receive it for outstanding service to France, no matter where they're from.

## 6. Who received the top French Literary honour?

- (a) Sashi Tharur
- (b) Arshia Sattar
- (c) Laxmi Nayar
- (d) S. Something
- (e) R. Narayan

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Famous author and translator Arshia Sattar was honored with the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French government, a prestigious honor.

The award ceremony took place at the Consulate General of France in Bengaluru on November 28, where it was presented by Thierry Mathou, the ambassador of France to India.

Arshia Sattar, who is 63 years old and lives in Bengaluru, has made important contributions to Indian literature and mythology. She is well-known for translating epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Honored with the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters is a prestigious recognition that puts Arshia Sattar in esteemed company.

## 7. Armed force medical college of which city received the President's colour?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Pune
- (e) Telangana

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** President Droupadi Murmu will give the highest honor, the President's Colour, to the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) in Pune today.

She'll also virtually open the Armed Forces Centre for Computational Medicine 'Prajna'.

The President's Colour is a significant recognition for any military unit, and this event is part of AFMC's celebration of its 75th year of outstanding service to the nation.

AFMC is a top-notch institution in the Armed Forces Medical Services and one of the country's leading medical colleges.

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### 8. Border Security Force is celebrating its Raising Day on which date?

- (a) 30th November
- (b) 1st December
- (c) 2nd February
- (d) 8th December
- (e) 10th January

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** On December 1 every year, the Border Security Force (BSF) of India celebrates its Raising Day. This day marks the creation of BSF, which is India's main border-guarding organization established on December 1, 1965.

BSF, known as the First Line of Defence for Indian Territories, is a paramilitary force responsible for protecting India's land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh in times of peace. Their role includes preventing transnational crime.

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## 9. Which edition of the Coast Guard Commander Conference is inaugurated by the defence minister?

- (a) 38th
- (b) 20th
- (c) 10th
- (d) 15th
- (e) 40th

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 40th coast guard commander conference. He has urged the Indian Coast Guard to keep working hard to strengthen the country's coastal defenses and maritime abilities.

Speaking at the 40th Coast Guard Commanders Conference in New Delhi, he praised them for leading in search and rescue and pollution response.

He also highlighted the importance of fighting against drug trafficking. During the conference he learned about the Coast Guard's ongoing projects, readiness, and future from Director General Rakesh Pal.

The three-day conference focuses on addressing current maritime challenges and enhancing coastal surveillance.

### 10. Welcome to Paradise book is written by which personality?

- (a) Ravina Tondon
- (b) Twinkle Khanna
- (c) Sashi Tharur
- (d) Sudha Mutry
- (e) Alia Bhatt

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Twinkle Khanna celebrated the release of her latest book, 'Welcome to Paradise,' in Mumbai on November 28, surrounded by Bollywood friends and family. In this book, the renowned artist explores heartfelt stories of loneliness, heartbreak, and deception, skillfully mixing brightness, darkness, and clever humor.

During the launch, Twinkle interacted with readers, autographing copies of her book. Akshay Kumar expressing pride for his wife in a standout Instagram post where he declared himself "Proud, prouder, proudest" while capturing the actor waiting in line for her autograph.

**11. Which country becomes the first country in South Asia to register same sex marriage?**

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Myanmar
- (e) Bhutan

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Nepal has witnessed its initial same-sex marriage, as a trans-woman and a gay man legally tied the knot in the Lamjung district.

Nepal has officially documented its first same-sex marriage, and this comes five months after the Supreme Court legalized it.

According to PTI, a 35-year-old trans-woman named Maya Gurung and a 27-year-old gay man, Surendra Pandey, got legally married in Dordi Rural Municipality in the Lamjung district of Western Nepal. This was confirmed by Sanjib Gurung, the president of Blue Diamond Society.

## 12. World's AIDS day is observed on which day?

- (a) 1st December
- (b) 2nd February
- (c) 4th December
- (d) 8th December
- (e) 10th January

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** World AIDS Day started in 1988, and this year today on 1st of December marks its 35th anniversary. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) created it to focus on the worldwide AIDS problem and bring it to people's attention.

World AIDS Day is important because it helps spread the word about HIV/AIDS, teaching people how it spreads and ways to prevent it. It also fights against the unfair treatment and judgment that people with the virus often face.

Theme 2023 - "Let communities lead".

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### 13. Nagaland statehood day is celebrated on which day?

- (a) 2nd February
- (b) 6th August
- (c) 8th December
- (d) 1st December
- (e) 20th November

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Today is a special day for Nagaland as it celebrates its 61st Statehood Day. Back on December 1, 1963, Nagaland became the 16th state of India.

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio will lead the state-level function in Kohima, where he will talk to the people and launch digital training and disaster risk reduction establishments.

There will also be a photo exhibition called "Nagaland at 60," and a performance by the 15th NAP (IR) Mahila Band, the finalists of India's Got Talent 2023, along with cultural presentations.

Also, the Governor La Ganesan has sent warm greetings to everyone on this special day.

The Governor mentioned in a message that celebrating the 61st Statehood Day is an important milestone. It marks the historical journey of the people of Nagaland and their shared dreams for a lively state.

#### 14. Which Indian city is going to get India's largest circular railway?

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Bangalore
- (e) Kerala

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** A new circular railway expanding 287 kilometers around Bengaluru and connecting major nearby towns, is set to become India's largest network, as mentioned by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The goal of this project is to reduce traffic congestion and enhance connectivity in the region. The government has allocated Rs 7 crore for alignment study of this circular railway, aiming to improve local train services alleviating congestion on existing rail networks, and complement the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project and Namma Metro initiatives.

### 15. Which edition of Global Ayurveda Festival is going to be held in Thiruvananthapuram?

- (a) 4th
- (b) 3rd
- (c) 2nd
- (d) 5th
- (e) 8<sup>th</sup>

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate the 5th Global Ayurveda Festival in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. This event, taking place from December 1 to 5, 2023, focuses on the theme 'Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda'.

GAF 2023, the biggest Ayurveda meeting ever, will bring together practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders from around the world to discuss the influence of Ayurveda in healthcare.

Representatives from more than 70 countries will attend the event. They will highlight the increasing acknowledgment of Ayurveda's importance in dealing with worldwide health issues.

**16. The Ministry of Finance reported a 15% increase in the government's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for November, totaling how much amount?**

- (a) 1.65 lakh crore
- (b) 1.68 lakh crore
- (c) 1.55 lakh crore
- (d) 1.44 lakh crore
- (e) 1.20 lakh crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** As of December 1, the Ministry of Finance reported a 15% increase in the government's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for November, totaling Rs 1.68 lakh crore.

However, this figure shows a 2% drop from October's GST collection of Rs 1.72 lakh crore. Despite the slight decrease the monthly GST collection has remained above Rs 1.5 lakh crore for nine months in a row.

Although November's total GST collections decreased slightly from October, the year-on-year growth exceeded 15%, making it the highest in 2023 to 2024.

As per the 2023-24 Budget, the Central government expects a 12% increase in GST collections for the current fiscal year. In the starting eight months, the gross GST collected is Rs 13.32 lakh crore, showing an 11.9% increase from the same period last year.

**17. As per NPCI data, the amount of UPI transaction volume for the month of November 2023 is?**

- (a) 17.40 lakh crore
- (b) 15.67 lakh crore
- (c) 16.89 lakh crore
- (d) 12.67 lakh crore
- (e) 17.69 lakh crore

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Digital payments through the United Payments Interface (UPI) exceeded 11 billion for the second month in a row, with the country seeing 1,124 crore UPI transactions in November. Data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) indicates a slight decrease from October's 1,141 crore transactions but a substantial 54% increase compared to the 730.95 crore transactions recorded in November 2022.

Moreover, the transactions in November 2023 amounted to INR 17.40 lakh crore, slightly higher than the INR 17.16 lakh crore recorded in October 2023. Year-on-year, the growth was 46% higher than the transaction volume of INR 11.90 lakh crore.

This is the second consecutive time that UPI transaction volume has crossed the INR 17 lakh crore mark. It remained above INR 15 lakh crore in July, August, and September

### 18. The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting is scheduled to be held in which country?

- (a) India
- (b) Norway
- (c) Austria
- (d) Ghana
- (e) Mozambique

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Minister of state for Defense Ministry, Ajay Bhatt is going to visit Accra, Ghana on December 5-6, 2023, for an official visit. He will be there for a United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting.

The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting plans to talk about the problems UN peacekeepers are dealing with.

India consistently leads by sending the most troops and equipment to these missions. Further the defence minister will have one-on-one talks with other Ministers, discussing defense collaboration to enhance partnerships. He will also connect with the Indian community in Accra during his visit.

**19. Cyclone 'Michaung' is expected to strike the eastern coast of the country in the month of December 2023. The name Michaung is given by which country?**

- (a) China
- (b) India
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Bhutan
- (e) Nepal

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Cyclone 'Michaung' is expected to strike the eastern coast of the country. The IMD has given an update on the current situation of the cyclone. The name Michaung is given by Myanmar. According to MD Sunanda from the Visakhapatnam Cyclone Warning Centre, It is expected to get stronger, turning into a deep depression and eventually a cyclonic storm within the next 48 hours. The Cyclone Warning Centre also forecasts increased winds and rainfall along the North Tamil Nadu coast and South Andhra coast starting from December 3.

## 20. The INTERPOL General Assembly started its 91st meeting in which country?

- (a) India
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) UAE
- (d) USA
- (e) Austria

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** The INTERPOL General Assembly started its 91st meeting in Vienna a hundred years after the organization began in the capital of Austria.

Karl Nehammer, who is the Federal Chancellor of Austria, officially opened the conference. This year, over 1,000 police and law enforcement leaders from more than 160 countries have come together to talk about making international police cooperation stronger. They aim to address the increasing transnational crime happening worldwide.

The General Assembly is the governing body of INTERPOL, making decisions on what the organization will do and how it will spend money in the next year. It will talk about stopping environmental crimes, preventing child sexual abuse, and catching people involved in financial crimes, with detailed reports on each.

**21. The United Arab Emirates announced its commitment to contribute \$30 billion to a new fund focused on addressing climate issues. The name of this fund is.**

- (a) Alterra fund
- (b) Climate Action fund
- (c) ESG fund
- (d) All in one fund
- (e) Earth fund

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** The United Arab Emirates announced its commitment to contribute \$30 billion to a new fund focused on addressing climate issues. This fund, called Alterra, has influential partners like BlackRock, Brookfield, and TPG joining in as initial supporters.

Alterra aims to attract \$250 billion in investments by 2030. Its main focus is to enhance access to funding, particularly for developing nations in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania, collectively known as the Global South.

The fund also aims to guide private markets towards investments that tackle climate challenges. It will be actively involved in areas such as transitioning to cleaner energy, reducing industrial carbon emissions and advancing climate technology.

The COP, a yearly meeting that brings together leaders, scientists, environmentalists, activists, business figures, and others, is taking place in the Emirates this year from November 30 to December 12.

**22. SEBI, the market regulator, has extended the deadline for linking the SEBI Complaint Redressal (SCORES) platform with the online dispute resolution platform till when?**

- (a) 31st December 2023
- (b) 1st April 2024
- (c) 1st January 2024
- (d) 31st September 2024
- (e) 1st December 2024

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** SEBI, the market regulator, has extended the deadline for linking the SEBI Complaint Redressal (SCORES) platform with the online dispute resolution platform. Initially set for December 4, the new deadline is now April 1, 2024.

In a notice dated September 20, 2023, SEBI stated that market entities should request SCORES authentication and Application Programming Interface (API) integration by December 4, the original deadline, to comply with the circular.

The deadline for applying for SCORES authentication has now been extended to April 1, 2024.

SEBI is like the regulator of India's stock markets. It's similar to the SEC in the U.S. Their main job is to make sure investors are safe and help the stock market grow. They also handle anything related to the securities market.

### 23. Sign language video KYC service is launched by which financial entity?

- (a) HDFC
- (b) Paytm Payments Bank
- (c) Axis bank
- (d) Amazon Pay
- (e) PayU

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** On 1 of December 2023, Amazon Pay, a fintech company, introduced a video-based service for Know Your Customer (KYC) using sign language, specially designed for customers with unique needs.

This service facilitates communication in sign language between the company's employees and customers facing hearing or speech challenges.

The aim is to simplify the KYC process for those who rely on sign language and to make digital payments more accessible.

Amazon Pay has trained over 120 employees for this video KYC service and created interactive modules, aligning with their commitment to customer satisfaction and financial inclusion.

**24. The Mitra Shakti 2023 joint military exercise, involving the Indian and Sri Lankan Armies, observed in which city?**

- (a) Pune
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- (e) Himachal Pradesh

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** The Mitra Shakti 2023 joint military exercise, involving the Indian and Sri Lankan Armies, finished at Pune's southern command foreign training node. The 12-day exercise aimed to help both armies understand each other's strategies and tactics better.

The exercise had troops from both the Indian Army and Air Force, demonstrating a strong teamwork involving different parts of the military.

In the joint exercise, the participants practiced military drills, tactics, and best methods. This helped create a dynamic learning setting, making a better grip of each other's military abilities.

The main significance of joint military exercises in military diplomacy as it helps build relationships, trust, and confidence between nations.

**25. The Military Literature Festival is coming back for its second district-level edition in Amritsar. In which year is this festival going to be organized?**

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2024
- (c) 2026
- (d) 2028
- (e) 2027

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** The Military Literature Festival is coming back for its second district-level edition in Amritsar. This event is organized by the Military Literature Festival Association and led by Lt.Gen TS Shergill (retd.). It aims to raise awareness about the important role of the armed forces and inspire the youth.

The festival is planned for early 2024, considering student's exam schedules and other logistical factors. The next edition, set to start in Chandigarh on December 2 with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann inaugurating.

This edition focuses a lot on Punjab and its history. It looks at the military history of the region discussing Maharaja Ranjit Singh's strategy and how he added places like Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Baltistan, and Ladakh to India through conquest.

**26. Somali refugee \_\_\_\_\_ is getting the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate for helping displaced kids get education. Fill in the blank?**

- (a) Mira Desai
- (b) Nargis Fatima
- (c) Abdul Rojak
- (d) Abdullahi Mire
- (e) Jorge Kristopher

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Somali refugee Abdullahi Mire is getting the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate for helping displaced kids get education.

He grew up in Kenya's Dadaab camps and gave over 100,000 books to children and youth there.

The award ceremony is on December 13, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award, established in 1954 to honor the memory of Fridtjof Nansen, a Norwegian scientist and explorer. He was also the first High Commissioner for Refugees for the League of Nations. This award is given each year to someone or a group that has done exceptional work in helping refugees.

The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award includes a special medal and a money prize of \$100,000 USD.

**27. Henry Kissinger, a diplomat, passed away at the age of 100. He belonged to which country?**

- (a) Australia
- (b) USA
- (c) Netherlands
- (d) Mozambique
- (e) China

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Henry Kissinger, a U.S. diplomat during the Cold War, passed away at the age of 100. He played an important role in improving relations with China, making arms control agreements with the Soviet Union, and concluding the Vietnam War. However, he faced criticism for his stance on human rights.

Kissinger was very influential in the 1970s during the Cold War. He worked as a national security adviser and secretary of state under President Richard Nixon.

Even after Nixon resigned in 1974 due to the Watergate scandal, Kissinger continued as a key diplomat under the next president, Gerald Ford.

He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973.

**28. Union Minister of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal has inaugurated the Sahitya Akademi Book Fair in which city?**

**केंद्रीय संस्कृति राज्य मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल ने किस शहर में साहित्य अकादमी पुस्तक मेले का उद्घाटन किया है?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated Sahitya Akademi Book Fair

Union Minister of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal has inaugurated the Sahitya Akademi Book Fair in New Delhi.

The Sahitya Akademi Book Fair will continue till 9th of this month and feature a host of cultural programs and rendezvous with prominent writers.

The Minister said that books played an important role in nation-building and the constitution makers were all voracious readers. He added that the decision to put equality before liberty as a fundamental right in the constitution was due to a greater understanding of the society achieved from reading various constitutions and important books.

**29. Which state government has launched "Mission Daksh" to minimize school dropout?**  
**किस राज्य सरकार ने स्कूल छोड़ने वालों की संख्या को कम करने के लिए "मिशन दक्ष" शुरू किया है?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Bihar / बिहार
- (e) Meghalaya / मेघालय

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bihar government launched "Mission Daksh" to minimize school dropout.

Bihar government has launched its ambitious scheme to minimize school dropout.

The scheme, called Mission Daksh (Dynamic Approach for Knowledge and Skill) aims at offering special Hindi, Mathematics, and English classes to weak students of classes 3-8 across the state.

A teacher will teach only five students, who cannot read and write Hindi and English fluently and are not good at basic Mathematics.

Daksh classes were run successfully between 3.30 pm and 4.15 pm in over 60,000-plus schools across the state. An estimated five lakh teachers taught over 25 lakh students.

**About Bihar**

- **Capital** – Patna
- **Chief Minister** – Nitish Kumar
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**30. Angkor Wat temple has become the eighth Wonder of the World. It is located in which country?**

**अंगकोरवाट मंदिर दुनिया का आठवां अजूबा बन गया है। यह किस देश में स्थित है?**

- (a) Cambodia / कंबोडिया
- (b) India / भारत
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Vietnam / वियतनाम
- (e) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia becomes 8th wonder of the world

Angkor Wat temple, located in the northern province of Siem Reap in Cambodia has become the eighth Wonder of the World. The unofficial title Eighth Wonder of the World is sometimes given to buildings, structures, projects, designs, or even people who are thought to be comparable to the seven Wonders of the World.

**About Angkor Wat temple**

- Lakhs of devotees from across the globe visit Angkor Wat temple every year. It is the largest religious monument in the world, comprising some 1,200 square metres of intricately carved bas reliefs.
- Angkor Wat also holds the Guinness World Records for being the largest religious structure in the world.
- The Angkor Wat was built in the 12th century as a Hindu temple by the Khmer Emperor Suryavarman II.
- The temple was dedicated to Lord Vishnu, and gradually converted into a major Buddhist temple by his successor Jayavarman VII, who also built the famous Buddhist temple of Bayon nearby.
- Angkor is also famous for its statue of eight-armed Vishnu, also believed and worshipped by the locals as their protecting deity.
- The Hinduism to Buddhism transition is evident in the intricate carvings that adorn the temple walls at Angkor Wat. They depict scenes from Hindu and Buddhist mythology.
- They include the well-known Angkor Wat Temple and the Bayon Temple in Angkor Thom, which has numerous sculptural decorations.
- Angkor Wat spans 400 km and includes forested areas, contains the magnificent remains of the Khmer Empire's various capitals from the 9th to the 15th centuries.
- It is considered to be one of the most significant archaeological sites of Southeast Asia.

**31. The World's first portable hospital, 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' was unveiled in which city?**

**विश्व का पहला पोर्टेबल अस्पताल, 'आरोग्य मैत्री एड क्यूब' का अनावरण किस शहर में किया गया?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (d) Gurugram/ गुरुग्राम
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** World's first portable hospital 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' unveiled in Gurugram

The World's first portable hospital, 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' was unveiled in Gurugram.

Designed indigenously under the Project 'BHISHM', the modular trauma management and aid system is made up of 72 detachable mini-cubes, each being a specialized station for emergency response and humanitarian efforts.

It can handle bullet injuries, burns, head, spinal and chest injuries, minor surgeries, fractures and major bleeding.

It can treat as many as 200 patients. These cubes are light and portable, and can be rapidly deployed anywhere, from airdrops to ground transportation.

**32. India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council with the highest tally. Where is the headquarters of IMO?**

**भारत को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुद्री संगठन (आईएमओ) परिषद में सर्वोच्च संख्या के साथ फिर से चुना गया। IMO का मुख्यालय कहाँ है?**

- (a) New Delhi, India / नई दिल्ली, भारत
- (b) Berlin, Germany / बर्लिन, जर्मनी
- (c) Paris, France / पेरिस, फ्रांस
- (d) Sofia, Bulgaria / सोफिया, बुल्गारिया
- (e) London, UK / लंदन, यूके

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India re-elected to International Maritime Organization

India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council with the highest tally and the term of council will be for the biennium 2024-25.

India's re-election falls under the category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade", alongside Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The highest votes are indicative of the government's determination to strengthen India's varied contributions to international maritime operations.

The council is the executive organ of IMO and is responsible, under the assembly, for supervising the work of the organization.

**About International Maritime Organization (IMO)**

- The International Maritime Organization is a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping.
- Founded- 17 March 1958
- Headquarters- London, United Kingdom
- Secretary-General - Kitack Lim (South Korea)

**33. Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with Water.org for helps people get access to safe water and sanitation through affordable financing, such as small loans?**

किस लघु वित्त बैंक ने छोटे ऋण जैसे किफायती वित्तपोषण के माध्यम से लोगों को सुरक्षित पानी और स्वच्छता तक पहुंच प्राप्त करने में मदद के लिए **Water.org** के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited / एयू स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited / कैपिटल स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (c) Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited / फिनकेयर स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (d) Shivalik Small Finance Bank / शिवालिक स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक
- (e) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank / उज्जीवन स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partners Water.org to offer sanitation loan

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with Water.org, a global non-profit organisation that helps people get access to safe water and sanitation through affordable financing, such as small loans.

Under the partnership, Water.org will assist Ujjivan SFB in identifying areas that require financing for clean water and hygienic sanitation.

Water.org will provide technical assistance, market assessment, development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material, monitoring and evaluation support.

To support the cause, Ujjivan SFB will be offering loans to existing as well as new customers starting from Rs 6,000 up to Rs 1,00,000 to enable them to construct and/or renovate water and sanitation facilities.

**About Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited**

•Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited is one of the leading small finance banks. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank began operations in February 2017 and currently serves 79+ lakh customers through its 700 branches and 21,000+ employees spread across 26 states and union territories in India.

**About Water.org**

•Water.org is a global nonprofit organization based in US. With operational footprint in more than 11 countries, the organization focuses on creating access to safe, cost-effective drinking water & sanitation facilities for under privileged section of the society.

•Water.org pioneers in extending market-driven financial solutions to address the global water crisis. We have empowered more than 60 million people with access to safe water or sanitation, and the hope, health, and opportunities they being.

**34. Who has been appointed as Chairman of the India Debt Resolution Co Ltd (IDRCL)?**

**भारत ऋण समाधान कंपनी लिमिटेड (आईडीआरसीएल) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Vumlunmang Vualnam / वुमलुनमंग वुअलनाम
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Narayan Sheshadri / नारायण शेषाद्रि
- (e) Raghu Srinivasan / रघु श्रीनिवासन

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Narayan Sheshadri appointed as IDRCL chairman

Former KPMG managing partner Narayan Seshadri has been appointed as chairman of the India Debt Resolution Co Ltd (IDRCL).

Ex. IDRCL chairman Diwakar Gupta resigned to take up a post at parent National Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd (NARCL).

NARCL and IDRCL aim to address the mounting problem of bad loans and non-performing assets (NPAs) in the Indian banking sector.

Seshadri, a chartered accountant, is a financial sector veteran with experience in buying and turning around distressed companies. He is currently an independent director in the company and will take over immediately.

**35. Who was honoured by Sharon Stone at the Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah?**

**जेद्दा में रेड सी इंटरनेशनल फिल्म फेस्टिवल में शेरोन स्टोन द्वारा किसे सम्मानित किया गया?**

- (a) Anushka Sharma / अनुष्का शर्मा
- (b) Ranveer Singh / रणवीर सिंह
- (c) Priyanka Chopra / प्रियंका चोपड़ा
- (d) Vicky Kaushal / विककी कौशल
- (e) Aishwarya Rai / ऐश्वर्या राय

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Ranveer Singh honoured by Sharon Stone at Red Sea Film Festival

Ranveer Singh was honoured by Sharon Stone at the Red Sea International Film Festival. The festival was held in Jeddah.

Ranveer received the honour for his contributions towards cinema.

Alongside him, actor Diane Kruger and actor-writer Abdullah Al-Sadhan will be honoured as well.

 **ambitious baba**.com

**36. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is all set to launch its first XPoSat mission. What is the full form of the XPoSat mission?**

**भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) अपना पहला XPoSat मिशन लॉन्च करने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार है। XPoSat मिशन का पूर्ण रूप क्या है?**

- (a) X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite
- (b) X-Ray Polymer Satellite
- (c) X-Ray Polygraphy Satellite
- (d) X-Ray Polarization Satellite
- (e) X-Ray Power Satellite

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** ISRO to launch 'XPoSat' Satellite

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch its first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat); the mission aims to explore the polarization of powerful X-ray sources.

The primary payload Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX) developed by Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru (RRI).

According to ISRO, while space-based X-Ray astronomy has been established in India, focusing predominantly on imaging, time-domain studies, and spectroscopy, the upcoming XPoSat mission marks a major value addition.

This research, supplementing traditional time and frequency domain studies, introduces a novel dimension to X-Ray astronomy, generating anticipation and excitement within the scientific community.

The XPoSat spacecraft is designated for observation from Low Earth Orbit (non-sun synchronous orbit of ~650 km altitude, low inclination of approximately six degree), carrying two scientific payloads. With these two payloads, the XPoSat mission is capable of simultaneous studies of temporal, spectral, and polarization features of the bright X-Ray sources. The mission objectives include measurement of X-Ray polarization in the energy band of 8-30 keV emanated from X-Ray sources, long-term spectral and temporal studies of cosmic X-Ray sources in the energy band of 0.8-15 keV. The mission life is expected to be approximately five years. The payloads onboard XPoSat will observe the X-Ray sources during the spacecraft's transit through the Earth's shadow, i.e., during the eclipse period.

The XPoSat will be launched by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.

**37. Shane Dowrich has announced his retirement from international cricket. Shane Dowrich played for which of the following National Cricket team?**

शेन डाउरिच ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट से संन्यास की घोषणा कर दी है। शेन डाउरिच निम्नलिखित में से किस राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट टीम के लिए खेले हैं?

- (a) England / इंग्लैंड
- (b) New Zealand / न्यूजीलैंड
- (c) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (d) West Indies / वेस्ट इंडीज
- (e) Ireland / आयरलैंड

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** West Indies' Dowrich announces retirement from cricket

Former West Indies wicketkeeper-batsman Shane Dowrich (32-year) has retired from international cricket.

He played in 35 tests, scoring 1570 runs with a high score of 125 not out against Sri Lanka in 2018. Dowrich made his Test debut against Australia in 2015 and went on to play 35 Tests. His only ODI came against Bangladesh in 2019, and he was set to add to it in the upcoming ODI series against England.

His last outing for the West Indies was against New Zealand in December 2020. The 32-year-old played 35 Tests, scoring 1570 runs with the best of 125 not out against Sri Lanka. As a wicketkeeper, he also recorded 85 catches and five stumpings.

**38. The World Computer Literacy Day is marked annually on which day?**

**विश्व कंप्यूटर साक्षरता दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 2 December / 2 दिसंबर
- (b) 6 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 5 December / 5 दिसंबर
- (d) 4 December / 4 दिसंबर
- (e) 3 December / 3 दिसंबर

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 2 December - World Computer Literacy Day

The World Computer Literacy Day is marked annually on December 2.

It is observed to celebrate the advancements in computer technology and promote digital literacy, especially amongst marginalized communities.

The theme for 2023 is believed to be: Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies.

World Computer Literacy Day was started in 2001 by NIIT Limited (National Institute of Information Technology), an Indian multinational skills and talent development corporation.

The company was then dedicated to the cause of educating more women and children by providing them with computer literacy skills. Since its inception in 1981, NIIT has spread to over 30 countries. Rajendra Singh Pawar and Vijay K. Thadani, the founder of NIIT launched World Computer Literacy Day.

**39. The National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on which day?**

**राष्ट्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 2 December / 2 दिसंबर
- (b) 6 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 5 December / 5 दिसंबर
- (d) 4 December / 4 दिसंबर
- (e) 3 December / 3 दिसंबर

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 2 December - National Pollution Control Day

The National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on December 2.

It is marked in the memory of those who lost their lives in the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy that took place on December 2 and 3.

The theme for National Pollution Control Day 2023 is "Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet"

It is estimated that at least 4,000 people died when a pesticide plant by American chemical company Union Carbide's pesticide plant began leaking the toxic methyl isocyanate gas into a populated area in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

**40. The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed every year on which day?**  
**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दासता उन्मूलन दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 2 December / 2 दिसंबर
- (b) 6 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 5 December / 5 दिसंबर
- (d) 4 December / 4 दिसंबर
- (e) 3 December / 3 दिसंबर

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 2 December - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed every year on 2 December.

It was established by the United Nations General Assembly on December 2, 1986.

This observance recognizes the efforts of all those who continue to fight against modern manifestations of slavery like trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the most severe forms of child labour, forced marriage and enlistment of children into the armed forces.

Theme 2023 - Fighting Slavery's Legacy of Racism through Transformative Education

On this day, organizations, governments, and individuals come together to fight against the deplorable practice of slavery in any form across societies.

The United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, adopted by the General Assembly on December 2, forms the basis of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

**41. Indian Navy Day is celebrated every year on which day?**

**भारतीय नौसेना दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 2 December / 2 दिसंबर
- (b) 6 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 5 December / 5 दिसंबर
- (d) 4 December / 4 दिसंबर
- (e) 3 December / 3 दिसंबर

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 4 December - Indian Navy Day

India celebrates Indian Navy Day every year on December 4.

This day holds a special place in the hearts of Indians, who celebrate the occasion with great pride and vigour. This is the day when the Indian Navy proudly shows its strength, commitment and resilience. The Indian Navy celebrates Navy Day on December 4, in memory of "Operation Trident" launched by the Indian Navy against Karachi Harbour during the India-Pakistan war in 1971.

The operation was started in response to Pakistan's operation Chengiz Khan, which was a preemptive airstrike against an Indian airbase in the western sector.

The Indian Navy bravely gave a blunt reply to Pakistan's attack through Operation Trident. After Operation Trident, the Indian Navy also launched Python and Operation Cactus.

It is also a day to remember the brave soldiers who lost their lives during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.

**42. Dr. Christy Fernandez passed away recently at the age of 73. Who was he?**

**डॉ. क्रिस्टी फर्नांडीज का हाल ही में 73 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Former Secretary to President
- (b) Former Secretary to Prime Minister
- (c) Former Secretary to Niti Aayog
- (d) Former NSA
- (e) Former Chief of ISRO

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Former IAS officer Christy Fernandez passes away

Former Secretary to the President Prathibha Patil, Dr. Christy Fernandez passed away in Kochi. He was 73.

A Gujarat cadre IAS officer, Dr. Fernandez, served as the Principal Secretary of Urban Development, at the Government of Gujarat, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Secretary, of the Ministry of Tourism.

He was also the Chairman and Managing Director of several Public Sector Companies.

He served as the Secretary to former President Pratibha Patil and had contested the 2014 Lok Sabha election as an independent candidate from Ernakulam.

**43. Which edition of the India Internet Governance Forum IIGF'23 has been conducted under the overarching theme 'Moving Forward–Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda' in New Delhi?**

**नई दिल्ली में भारत इंटरनेट गवर्नेंस फोरम IIGF'23 का कौन सा संस्करण व्यापक विषय 'मूविंग फॉरवर्ड-कैलिब्रेटिंग भारत के डिजिटल एजेंडा' के तहत आयोजित किया गया है?**

- (a) 1st
- (b) 2nd
- (c) 3rd
- (d) 4th
- (e) 5th

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India Internet Governance Forum IIGF'23 held in New Delhi

The third edition of the IIGF has been conducted under the overarching theme 'Moving Forward–Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda' in New Delhi.

The first two editions of the IIGF were convened in 2021 and 2022.

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing together representatives from various groups, considering all to be at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

#### **About IIGF**

- The India Internet Governance Forum is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF).
- The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing representatives together from various groups, all at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
- The Indian chapter of the United Nations IGF, called India IGF or IIGF, was created in 2021, and is supported by a 14-member multi-stakeholder Committee(s) representing Government, Civil Society, Industries, Technical community, Think Tanks, Industry Associations, etc.

**44. Union Minister R.K. Singh has inaugurated the National Conference on "Energy Transition in India - Road Travelled and Opportunities Ahead" in which city?**

**केंद्रीय मंत्री आर.के. सिंह ने किस शहर में "भारत में ऊर्जा परिवर्तन - सड़क यात्रा और आगे के अवसर" विषय पर राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन किया है?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Gandhinagar / गांधीनगर
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** RK Singh inaugurates National Conference on "Energy Transition in India"

Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R.K. Singh has inaugurated a two-day National Conference on "Energy Transition in India - Road Travelled and Opportunities Ahead" in Gandhinagar.

Organized as a part of the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, the event is being attended by more than 250 Indian and foreign representatives of power and renewable energy sector.

The two-day conference was focused on scaling up renewable energy, generation and consumption by considering challenges related to grid integration, financing tools and developing supporting infrastructure.

The main objective of this conference is to move forward with an ambitious vision of promoting clean energy and facilitating the energy transition.

India is committed to reducing the emission intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030 compare to 2005 level.

80 percent of the carbon emission burden lies with developed countries, which account only one-third of the world's population.

**45. In December 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the statue of \_\_\_\_\_ at Rajkot Fort in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district.**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने महाराष्ट्र के सिंधुदुर्ग जिले के राजकोट किले में \_\_\_\_\_ की प्रतिमा का अनावरण किया।**

- (a) Subhas Chandra Bose / सुभाष चंद्र बोस
- (b) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj / छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज
- (c) Maharana Prata / महाराणा प्रताप
- (d) Mahatma Gandhi / महात्मा गांधी
- (e) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar / भीमराव रामजी अम्बेडकर

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** PM Modi unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district.

Mr. Modi paid homage to the rich maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who constructed several coastal and sea forts, including the Sindhudurg Fort.

The Maratha empire founder's seal inspired the new naval ensign that was adopted last year when PM Modi commissioned the first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant.

**46. What is the rank of India in the World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2023?****विश्व डिजिटल प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता रैंकिंग 2023 में भारत का स्थान क्या है?**

- (a) 5th
- (b) 15th
- (c) 41st
- (d) 49th
- (e) 74th

**Ans. d****Sol.** World Digital Competitiveness Ranking: India ranked 49th; topped by US

The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) unveiled its 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR) revealing India's position at 49th among 64 economies.

According to IMD's study, India has made significant in terms of cybersecurity knowledge but lacks on fronts like technology and future readiness.

This ranking shed light on crucial elements contributing to a nation's digital prowess, a quality gaining paramount importance as technology continues to reshape societies globally.

According to IMD, the United States has reclaimed the top spot in this year's ranking, solidifying its position as a "digital nation" that actively integrates digital technologies, including AI, across governmental, corporate, and individual domains.

The Netherlands secured the second position, advancing four places, while Singapore, leading in the technology factor, secured the third spot.

Denmark, the previous overall leader, slipped to fourth place due to declines in future readiness and technology factors. Switzerland, excelling in the knowledge factor, maintained its top position, completing the top five.

In the Asia-Pacific region, India has descended to the 12th position among 14 countries, a drop from its consistent 11th place in the previous four years. On a global scale, among the 27 nations with populations exceeding 20 million, India now ranks 18th, a decline of two positions from the previous year.

**Recent index**

- **Global Unicorn Rankings** - Rank 1. USA, Rank 2. China, Rank 3. India
- **Inclusiveness index by US varsity** - India ranked 117th; topped by - New Zealand
- **Global Pension Index 2023** - India ranked 45; Topped by Netherland
- **Global Hunger Index 2023** - India ranked 111th
- **Global Innovation Index 2023** -India at 40th; topped by Switzerland

**47. Which word has been chosen by the Oxford University Press as its word of the year for 2023?**

**ऑक्सफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी प्रेस ने किस शब्द को 2023 के लिए वर्ष का शब्द चुना है?**

- (a) Peace
- (b) Rizz
- (c) Artificial Intelligence
- (d) Situationship
- (e) World

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** The word "Rizz" chosen as the Oxford Word of the Year 2023

Often associated with celebrities and other famous figures, "rizz" has been chosen by the Oxford University Press as its word of the year.

It's a term Gen Z has mainly embraced, and it beat out words such as "prompt," "situationship" and "Swiftie" that were considered by Oxford University Press, which publishes the Oxford English Dictionary.

While Merriam-Webster's word of the year was "authentic," rizz was also under consideration. Collins Dictionary selected "artificial intelligence" as their word of the year in November

Last year, the slang term "Goblin mode" took the prize as Oxford's 2022 word of the year. Oxford described it as a type of behavior when someone is "unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations."

**What does Rizz mean?**

- Under Oxford's definition, it's a noun that means style, charm, attractiveness or the ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner. Oxford said rizz was a shortened form of the word charisma
- The word 'rizz' can also be used as a verb, often in the phrase 'rizz up', which means 'to attract, seduce, or chat up (a person).'

**48. In December 2023, which insurance company has launched a special scheme, named Jeevan Utsav?**  
**दिसंबर 2023 में किस बीमा कंपनी ने जीवन उत्सव नाम से एक विशेष योजना शुरू की है?**

- (a) Bajaj Allianz Insurance / बजाज आलियांज इंश्योरेंस
- (b) Life Insurance Corporation of India / भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
- (c) SBI Life Insurance / एसबीआई लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (d) Max Life Insurance / मैक्स लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (e) Edelweiss Insurance / एडलवाइस इंश्योरेंस

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** LIC introduces new whole life insurance policy Jeevan Utsav

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a special scheme, named Jeevan Utsav.

LIC's Jeevan Utsav is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, whole life insurance plan based on the selected Premium Paying Term (Regular Income to Flexi Income), 10% of the Sum Assured is paid back annually after the specified years.

The fact that this plan offers life insurance coverage for the duration of the policyholder's life is a plus point.

This plan is available for age starting from 90 days to 65 years. It gives guaranteed lifelong income and lifelong risk cover.

**Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- SEBI unveiled **Investor Risk Reduction Access platform**
- Federal Bank introduces **UPI lite for small-value digital payments**
- SIDBI launches '**Sumpoorn**' **MSME Economic Activity Index** with Jocata
- HSBC India launches **e-bank guarantee services** for MSMEs
- AU Small Finance Bank launches '**Planet First-AU Green Fixed Deposit**'

**49. Who has been appointed as director general of the Dehradun-based Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)?**

**देहरादून स्थित भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान और शिक्षा परिषद (ICFRE) के महानिदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Vumlunmang Vualnam / वुमलुनमंग वुअलनाम
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Kanchan Devi / कंचन देवी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Kanchan Devi first woman DG of Doon-based ICFRE

Kanchan Devi, an IFS officer from the 1991 batch of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, was appointed as director general of the Dehradun-based Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).

This marks a historic moment as Kanchan becomes the first woman officer to hold this prestigious position in the premier council under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

The ICFRE, headquartered in Dehradun, plays a crucial role in advising the Government of India, state governments, and various stakeholders, including farmers, industries, and academicians, on forestry research and technologies. It addresses emerging challenges in the field of forest conservation.

**Recent Appointment**

- **Chairman of India Debt Resolution Co Ltd (IDRCL)** - Narayan Seshadri
- **Interim CEO at OpenAI** - Mira Murati (replace Sam Altma)
- **Indian envoy to the Caribbean Community** - Amit S Telang
- **Advisor to board of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)** - Ajay Kumar
- **UK Foreign Secretary** - David Cameron

**50. Which of the following has bagged the "ISSA Vision Zero 2023" Award at the 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health in Sydney, Australia?**

**निम्नलिखित में से किसने सिडनी, ऑस्ट्रेलिया में सुरक्षा और स्वास्थ्य पर 23वें विश्व कांग्रेस में "आईएसएसए विजन जीरो 2023" पुरस्कार जीता है?**

- (a) NABARD / नाबार्ड
- (b) FSSAI / एफएसएसएआई
- (c) BIS / बीआईएस
- (d) ESIC / ईएसआईसी
- (e) FCI / एफसीआई

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** ESIC bagged "ISSA Vision Zero 2023" Award at the 23rd World Congress

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has bagged the "ISSA Vision Zero 2023" Award at the 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Sydney, Australia "Vision Zero" is a transformational approach for the prevention of accidents at workplaces integrating the three dimensions of safety, health, and well-being at all levels of work. ESIC had great success in outreach in the field of safety and health at workplaces by aligning the prevention strategy besides post-accidental mechanism for medical care and cash benefits to the workers and their dependents.

The award also underlines the improvements that have been made in the service delivery of the ESI Corporation as well as increase in its administrative and operational efficiency using IT-enabled initiatives

#### **Recent Awards**

- **Champions of Change Award by the Interactive Forum on Indian Economy** - Dr. Somdutta Singh
- **19th Kalakar Puraskar' Award** - Apolinaris D'Souza
- **Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023** - Kerala
- **Businessline's Changemaker of the Year' 2023 Award** - Reserve Bank of India
- **Iconic changemaker of the year** - Amul

**51. Who has become the first Indian woman to bag the Qatar WISE Prize 2023?****कतर वाइज पुरस्कार 2023 जीतने वाली पहली भारतीय महिला कौन बन गई हैं?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Sania Saifi / सानिया सैफी
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Safeena Husain / सफीना हुसैन

**Ans. e****Sol.** India's Safeena Husain honoured with Qatar WISE Prize 2023

Safeena Hussain, founder of 'Educate Girls,' has become the first Indian woman to bag the WISE Prize worth 5 lakh USD for mobilizing 14 lakh out-of-school girls in Indian villages to get back to mainstream education.

The prize, awarded by the Qatar Foundation at the 11th Edition of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Summit earlier this week in Doha, is one of the most prestigious awards in education.

Safeena said, Sixteen years back, when 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' was unheard of, I had decided to set up Educate Girls, an NGO to bring out-of-school girls back to mainstream education. Even in the 21st century, there are villages in India where goats are considered assets but girls are considered liability.

The WISE prize was established in 2009 by the Qatar Foundation.

**Recent Awards**

- **Sharon Stone Award at Red Sea Film Festival** - Ranveer Singh
- **Dhahan Prize for Punjabi literature** - Deepti Babuta (first woman to bag)
- **JCB Prize for Literature** - Perumal Murugan (for Fire Bird novel)
- **Maharashtra's Lata Mangeskar Award 2023** - Suresh Wadkar
- **First 'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award'** - Salman Rushdie

**52. Which of the following has won the National Award for Empowering Individuals with disabilities?**

**निम्नलिखित में से किसने विकलांग व्यक्तियों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार जीता है?**

- (a) Amazon India
- (b) Flipkart
- (c) Myntra
- (d) Tata Neu
- (e) Jio Mart

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Amazon won National Award for empowering individual with disabilities

Amazon India received the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for fostering an inclusive environment for individuals with disabilities awarded by Gol.

The award underscores their commitment to diversity and inclusion, making significant strides in empowering persons with disabilities.

Amazon India's focus on inclusivity includes diverse workplace representation.

**53. Who has become the fastest Indian to accomplish 4,000 runs in men's T20 cricket?**

**पुरुष टी20 क्रिकेट में सबसे तेज़ 4,000 रन पूरे करने वाले भारतीय कौन बन गए हैं?**

- (a) Virat Kohli / विराट कोहली
- (b) Rohit Sharma / रोहित शर्मा
- (c) KL Rahul / केएल राहुल
- (d) Ruturaj Gaikward / ऋतुराज गायकवाड़
- (e) Suryakumar Yadav / सूर्यकुमार यादव

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Ruturaj Gaikward becomes the fastest Indian to 4,000 T20 runs

Ruturaj Gaikwad has become the fastest Indian to accomplish 4,000 runs in men's T20 cricket. He accomplished this remarkable feat in only 116 innings.

He achieved the feat in the fourth T20I against Australia at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.

The fastest to achieve this landmark is the legendary Chris Gayle, who accomplished it in just 107 innings.

Gaikwad's name sits among illustrious company, with players like Shaun Marsh (113 innings) and Pakistan's star batter Babar Azam (115 innings) also ahead of him in this regard.

The 26-year-old only needed seven runs to achieve 4,000 runs in the shortest format of the game.

**54. Who has become India's 84th grandmaster?****भारत के 84वें ग्रैंडमास्टर कौन बन गए हैं?**

- (a) R Praggnanandhaa / आर प्रज्ञानानंदः
- (b) Aravindh Chithambaram / अरविंद चितंबरम
- (c) Alexandr Predke / एलेक्ज़ेंडर प्रेडके
- (d) Abhijeet Gupta / अभिजीत गुप्ता
- (e) Vaishali Rameshbabu / वैशाली रमेशबाबू

**Ans. e****Sol.** Vaishali Rameshbabu becomes India's 84th grandmaster

Vaishali Rameshbabu has become India's 84th grandmaster after surpassing 2500 rating during the 2023 IV Elllobregat Open. Vaishali is now the third female grandmaster from India after Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli. Vaishali and her younger brother R. Praggnanandhaa is now the first sister-brother pair to be grandmasters. She defeated Turkish FM Tamer Tarik Selbes (2238) in the second round to surpass rating and has started the tournament with two consecutive wins.

She is now the current world number 11 in women's ranking with a live rating of 2501.5 and India's number two. In the memorable year, Vaishali has won FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023 and qualified for Candidates 2024.

**Recent Grand Masters of India**

- 83rd - Aditya S Samant (Maharashtra)
- 82nd - Vuppala Prraneeth (Telangana)
- 81st - Sayantan Das (West Bengal)
- 80th - Vignesh N R (Tamil Nadu)
- 79th - Pranesh M (Tamil Nadu)
- 78th - Koustav Chatterjee (West Bengal)

**55. Which company has acquired ICC cricket rights for Australia till 2027?**

**किस कंपनी ने 2027 तक ऑस्ट्रेलिया के लिए ICC क्रिकेट अधिकार हासिल कर लिए हैं?**

- (a) Tata
- (b) Amazon
- (c) Jio
- (d) Yes Bank
- (e) Dream11

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Amazon acquires ICC cricket rights for Australia till 2027

E-commerce giant Amazon's streaming service Prime Video has signed a four-year deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC) to provide exclusive live broadcast rights in Australia for ICC cricket, which will be available on Prime Video Australia.

The partnership will see Prime Video Australia exclusively stream all men's and women's events, including the Men's and Women's Cricket World Cups, T20 World Cups, Champions Trophy, U19s, and the World Test Championship Final.

The deal includes streaming rights in Australia for 448 live games from 2024 to 2027.

The new partnership, which begins in January 2024, will give cricket fans across Australia exclusive access to all matches in every tournament of elite ICC competition in all cricket formats, at no extra cost to a Prime membership.

**56. World Soil Day is observed every year on which day?**

**विश्व मृदा दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 2 December / 2 दिसंबर
- (b) 6 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 5 December / 5 दिसंबर
- (d) 4 December / 4 दिसंबर
- (e) 3 December / 3 दिसंबर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 5 December - World Soil Day

World Soil Day is observed every year on 5 December.

Objective - To highlight the significance of maintaining healthy soil and advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.

Theme for 2023 - Soil and water, a source of life

The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) recommended establishing an international day for celebrating soil in 2002.

In December 2013, the UN General Assembly designated 5 December 2014 as the 1st official World Soil Day.

**57. International Volunteer Day is celebrated every year on 5 December. What is the theme of International Volunteer Day 2023?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक दिवस हर साल 5 दिसंबर को मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक दिवस 2023 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Positive difference
- (b) Volunteer power
- (c) The value of collective
- (d) The Power of Collective
- (e) Selfless action to Volunteer

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 5 December - International Volunteer Day

International Volunteer Day is celebrated every year on 5 December.

Objective - To highlight the contributions of volunteers worldwide and recognize the impact of their selfless actions on communities and societies.

Theme 2023 - The Power of Collective

International Volunteer Day, established by the United Nations in 1985, provides an opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of millions of volunteers who dedicate their time, skills, and resources to make a positive difference.

**58. Which company has signed a three-year MoU with India's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) to extend advisory and mentoring support to healthcare innovators and entrepreneurs?**

**किस कंपनी ने हेल्थकेयर इनोवेटर्स और उद्यमियों को सलाह और सलाह देने के लिए भारत के बायोटेक्नोलॉजी इंडस्ट्री रिसर्च असिस्टेंस काउंसिल (BIRAC) के साथ तीन साल के समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) Astellas Pharma / एस्टेलस फार्मा
- (b) Eisai / ईसाइ
- (c) Pfizer / फाइजर
- (d) GSK plc / जीएसके पीएलसी
- (e) Takeda / ताकेदा

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Takeda partnered with BIRAC in India for healthcare innovation

Takeda has signed a three-year MoU with India's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) to extend advisory and mentoring support to healthcare innovators and entrepreneurs. The partnership, announced at the Global Bio-India 2023 event, is a blueprint for how public and private entities can collaborate for substantial advances in healthcare.

BIRAC is a public sector enterprise set up by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. The partnership will allow Takeda to extend advisory and mentoring support to innovators and entrepreneurs while assisting them from ideation to market deployment of new-age healthcare solutions.

**59. According to government data, 18 crore 50 lakh beneficiaries enrolled under PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana & PM Suraksha Bima Yojana during the last three years. In which year PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana was launched?**

सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान 18 करोड़ 50 लाख लाभार्थियों ने पीएम जीवन ज्योति बीमा योजना और पीएम सुरक्षा बीमा योजना के तहत नामांकन किया। प्रधानमंत्री जीवन ज्योति बीमा योजना किस वर्ष शुरू की गई थी?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2016
- (c) 2017
- (d) 2019
- (e) 2020

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 18 crore 50 lakh beneficiaries enrolled under PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana & PM Suraksha Bima Yojana during last three years. Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad has informed the Rajya Sabha that a total of 18 crore and 50 lakh beneficiaries were enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) during the last three years. These two insurance schemes are for poor and individuals from underprivileged backgrounds, thereby reducing their financial vulnerability. Earlier these two schemes were incurring losses and after a review, the annual premium for the PMSBY was increased from 12 rupees to 20 rupees for accidental death cum disability cover of 2 lakh rupees.

The premium of PMJJBY was increased to 436 rupees from 330 rupees earlier for a life cover of 2 Lakh rupees in case of death due to any reason.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana & Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana are the Government-backed Life insurance scheme in India. It was originally mentioned in the year 2015 Budget speech by the then-Finance Minister, late Arun Jaitley in February 2015. It was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 May in Kolkata.

**60. The Eleventh edition of the Bangladesh Book Fair begins in which city?**

**बांग्लादेश पुस्तक मेले का ग्यारहवाँ संस्करण किस शहर में शुरू हुआ?**

- (a) Dhaka / ढाका
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Kolkata / कोलकाता
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 11th Bangladesh Book Fair begins in Kolkata

The Eleventh Bangladesh Book Fair begins at College Square, Kolkata.

65 publishing houses are participating in this year's event.

This would help the publishers to reach out to more people in Kolkata who are interested in Bangladeshi literature, as many publishers do not get the opportunity to participate in Kolkata International Bookfair.

The fair will continue till December 13.

**61. In December 2023, Revanth Reddy takes oath as the chief minister of which of the following state?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, रेवंत रेड्डी ने निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में शपथ ली?**

- (a) Mizoram / मिजोरम
- (b) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (c) Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश
- (d) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Revanth Reddy takes oath as CM of Telangana

Telangana Congress president and newly minted Kodangal MLA Revanth Reddy takes oath as the chief minister of the state.

The Congress had swept into power, defeating the incumbent BRS by bagging 64 seats in the 119-house assembly

Reddy will be the second man to occupy the CM's chair in the state, which was formed in 2014.

Born in Mahboobnagar district, Anumula Revanth Reddy started his career in politics with the ABVP while he was a student. He was also associated with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (now changed to Bharat Rashtra Samithi).

Reddy has been an MLA thrice, twice from the TDP and once from the Congress, which he joined in 2017.

### **About Telangana**

- **Established** – 2 June 2014
- **Capital** – Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister** – Revanth Reddy (replace K. Chandrashekar Rao)
- **Governor** – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**62. Which country has adopted the 'One Province, One Policy' approach to tackle financial risks at the provincial level?**

किस देश ने प्रांतीय स्तर पर वित्तीय जोखिमों से निपटने के लिए 'एक प्रांत, एक नीति' दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है?

- (a) India / भारत
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** China Adopts 'One Province, One Policy' Approach to Financial Risk Management

China's National Financial Regulatory Administration, led by Li Yunze, is introducing a groundbreaking approach to tackle financial risks at the provincial level.

This move comes in the wake of concerns about the country's economic struggles, exacerbated by the lingering effects of restrictive Covid Zero policies and a persistent property crisis.

Li Yunze's directive of "one province, one policy" underscores the commitment to customize risk management approaches. This shift aims to enhance the effectiveness of financial policies by acknowledging and addressing the unique challenges faced by individual provinces.

Li Yunze emphasized the need for a more targeted and flexible approach to financial risk management. Instead of adopting a one-size-fits-all strategy, provinces are urged to formulate their own policies tailored to address specific challenges and risks.

The second-largest global economy has faced challenges this year, with the anticipated rebound from Covid Zero policies falling short of expectations.

Compounded by a prolonged property crisis, local and central authorities have provided substantial support. However, concerns linger about the concentration of government debt at the local level, prompting a reevaluation of financial risk management strategies.

**About China**

- **Capital** – Beijing
- **Currency** – Yuan
- **President** - Xi Jinping

**63. In December 2023, which company has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the 8th company to surpass Rs.6 lakh crore market capitalization?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, किस कंपनी ने 6 लाख करोड़ रुपये के बाजार पूंजीकरण को पार करने वाली 8वीं कंपनी बनकर एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि हासिल की है?**

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Vodafone Group
- (c) LIC
- (d) Bharti Airtel
- (e) SBI

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bharti Airtel Becomes the 8th Company to Surpass ₹6 Lakh Crore Mcap

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications companies, achieved a significant milestone by becoming the 8th company to surpass Rs.6 lakh crore.

This surge was attributed to the positive market sentiment following the Bharatiya Janata Party's resounding victory in state elections.

The company's stock witnessed a 2% increase during trade, contributing to a year-to-date gain of 28%.

Bharti Airtel joins the league of other Indian giants, including Reliance Industries, TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HUL, Infosys and ITC, with a market capitalization exceeding Rs.6 lakh crore. However, ITC recently witnessed an 8% decline, causing its valuation to drop below this significant mark.

**64. In December 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence which of the following bank?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने निम्नलिखित में से किस बैंक का लाइसेंस रद्द कर दिया?**

- (a) Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank Ltd / अभ्युदय सहकारी बैंक लिमिटेड
- (b) Saraswat Co-operative Bank / सारस्वत सहकारी बैंक
- (c) Cosmos Co-operative Bank / कॉसमॉस सहकारी बैंक
- (d) Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank / शंकरराव पुजारी नूतन नागरी सहकारी बैंक
- (e) Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank / शामराव विठ्ठल सहकारी बैंक

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** RBI cancels licence of Shankarrao Pujari Bank in Maharashtra

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited in Kolhapur city.

The Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.

According to RBI, the licence was cancelled as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects and it does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

The bank has also failed to comply with various other sections of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

As per the data submitted by the bank, 99.85 per cent of the depositors are entitled to receive full amount of their deposits from DICGC.

As on July 24, 2023, DICGC has already paid ₹41.60 crore of the total insured deposits under the provisions of Section 18A of the DICGC Act, 1961, based on the willingness received from the concerned depositors of the bank.

**65. According to which rating agency, India will become the world's third-largest economy by 2030?**

**किस रेटिंग एजेंसी के अनुसार, भारत 2030 तक दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन जाएगा?**

- (a) IMF
- (b) S&P Global Ratings
- (c) World Bank
- (d) Moody
- (e) Fitch Rating

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India set to become third-largest economy by 2030: S&P  
India will become the world's third-largest economy by 2030, a report released by S&P Global Ratings.

In 2026-27, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow 7 percent. India is currently the fifth largest economy in the world behind the US, China, Germany and Japan.

In its "Global Credit Outlook 2024", S&P said that India would be the fastest-growing emerging market in the world. Still, its paramount test will be whether the country can become the next big global manufacturing hub.

S&P said India is expected to grow at 6.4 percent in 2023-24 as compared to 7.2 percent in the previous financial year. The growth rate will remain at 6.4 percent in 2024-25 before climbing to 6.9 percent in the next and 7 percent in 2026-27.

**66. Which movie has won the ALT Environment Film Festival?****किस फिल्म ने ALT पर्यावरण फिल्म महोत्सव जीता है?**

- (a) The Mummy
- (b) Animal
- (c) Deep Rising
- (d) The Meg
- (e) Captain Phillips

**Ans. c****Sol.** Jason Momoa's 'Deep Rising' movie won ALT Environment Film Festival

Jason Momoa produced "Deep Rising" and director Luke Griswald-Tergis' "Pleistocene Park" are the top winners at the All Living Things Environment Film Festival.

ALT EFF focuses on imperative topics of climate change and the environment at large through the lens of cinema.

The festival, which runs till 19 December, is screening over 60 films from 50 countries with shows in across 20 cities in India

"Deep Rising," produced by Momoa and directed by Matthieu Rytz, won the best international feature, while the best of the festival award by the Habitat Trust went to Griswald-Tergis' "Pleistocene Park" at an event.

**67. Which organization has been honoured with India Business Leader Award recently?**

**हाल ही में किस संगठन को इंडिया बिजनेस लीडर अवार्ड से सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Tata Advanced Systems / टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स
- (b) Indian Space Research Organisation / भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन
- (c) Mahindra Aerospace / महिंद्रा एयरोस्पेस
- (d) Boeing Rotorcraft Systems / बोइंग रोटारक्राफ्ट सिस्टम
- (e) Skyroot Aerospace / स्काईरूट एयरोस्पेस

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** ISRO and team Chandrayaan-3 honoured at India Business Leader

Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed on the Lunar South Pole, marking India as the first country to achieve this feat. The mission's accomplishment solidified India's status as a space superpower and earned ISRO a prestigious award at the India Business Leader Awards.

Chandrayaan-3 endured extreme lunar conditions, showcasing Indian scientific resilience and ingenuity. The Chandrayaan-3 mission endured extreme conditions, including lunar nights with temperatures dropping to minus-280 degrees Celsius. Its Vikram rover navigated uncharted lunar terrain to successfully complete its objectives. On August 23, India's Chandrayaan-3 made a successful lunar landing, marking a significant achievement as India became the first country to reach the Lunar South Pole. This mission, a testament to India's scientific capabilities, solidified its status as a space superpower. In recognition, ISRO and the Chandrayaan-3 team have been awarded "Outstanding Contribution to Brand India" at the 19th India Business Leader Awards (IBLA), held in Mumbai.

**68. In December 2023, which company has delivered the largest survey vessel built in India, INS Sandhayak to the Indian Navy?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, किस कंपनी ने भारत में निर्मित सबसे बड़े सर्वेक्षण पोत, INS संधायक को भारतीय नौसेना को सौंप दिया है?**

- (a) Hindustan Shipyard / हिंदुस्तान शिपयार्ड
- (b) Shipping Corporation of India / भारतीय जहाजरानी निगम
- (c) Cochin Shipyard / कोचीन शिपयार्ड
- (d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers / गार्डन रीच शिपबिल्डर्स एंड इंजीनियर्स
- (e) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders / मझगांव डॉक शिपबिल्डर्स

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** GRSE delivers India's largest survey vessel INS Sandhayak to Navy

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers has delivered the largest survey vessel built in India, INS Sandhayak to the Indian Navy on Navy Day.

INS Sandhayak is the first in a series of four Survey Vessels (Large) being built by GRSE. The Naval vessel was launched on 05 December 2021.

INS Sandhayak is the first of four advanced Survey Vessels (Large) or SVLs. It is a new version of a previous ship with the same name, which was a survey vessel in the Indian Navy from 1981 to 2021. The new INS Sandhayak and its companions are more advanced than the older vessels, which have all been decommissioned.

GRSE has partnered with the Indian Navy for the last 62 years after delivery of the first indigenously-built warship INS Ajay in 1961. Since then, GRSE has delivered 70 more warships to the Indian Navy.

These survey ships are capable of full-scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic survey of port and harbour approaches as well as the determination of navigation channels and routes.

In addition, the Sandhayak-class of SVLs can undertake surveys of maritime limits and collection of oceanographic and geographical data for defence applications. Such data adds muscle to India's maritime capabilities.

**69. M. Sreeshankar has been honored with the prestigious 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award for emerging as the best sportsperson of Kerala. Which sports event is he related to?**

**एम. श्रीशंकर को केरल के सर्वश्रेष्ठ खिलाड़ी के रूप में उभरने के लिए प्रतिष्ठित 35वें जिमी जॉर्ज फाउंडेशन पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया है। वह किस खेल आयोजन से संबंधित है?**

- (a) Long jump / लंबी छलांग
- (b) Shotput / गोला फेंक
- (c) Wrestling / कुश्ती
- (d) Wushu / वुशु
- (e) Boxing / बॉक्सिंग

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Olympian M. Sreeshankar Clinches 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award

Olympian M. Sreeshankar has been honored with the prestigious 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award for emerging as the best sportsperson of Kerala.

This recognition comes as a testament to Sreeshankar's outstanding achievements, including securing the long jump silver medal in both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

M. Sreeshankar's triumph in being named the best sportsperson of Kerala in the 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award is a testament to his dedication, skill, and consistent excellence in the field of athletics.

#### **About the Award**

- The Jimmy George Foundation Award, now in its 35th edition, is a distinguished accolade in Kerala's sporting community.
- The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a plaque, symbolizing the recognition of exceptional contributions to the field of sports.

**70. National Microwave Oven Day is observed every year on which day?**

**राष्ट्रीय माइक्रोवेव ओवन दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 7 December / 7 दिसंबर
- (b) 6 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 5 December / 5 दिसंबर
- (d) 4 December / 4 दिसंबर
- (e) 3 December / 3 दिसंबर

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 6 December - National Microwave Oven Day

National Microwave Oven Day is observed every year on 6 December.

Objective - To create awareness about the things that a microwave oven can perform and explore ways by which we can simplify our kitchen work.

In 1945, Percy Spencer – a self-taught engineer, realised that while working with active radar, a candy bar placed inside his pocket was melting.

He used the same technique to make popcorn in a microwave. However, that became a funny story to be told later – the popcorn test blew up in his coworker's face

After multiple trials, microwaves came to be used in the households. It got a negative reputation in the early days because of leaks in some of the models – however, soon microwaves became a necessity in the kitchen.

## 71. India observes Mahaparinirvan Divas every year on December 6 in memory of \_\_\_\_\_.

भारत \_\_\_\_\_ की याद में हर साल 6 दिसंबर को महापरिनिर्वाण दिवस मनाता है।

- (a) Subhas Chandra Bose / सुभाष चंद्र बोस
- (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel / सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल
- (c) Swami Vivekananda / स्वामी विवेकानंद
- (d) Dr BR Ambedkar / डॉ. बीआर अंबेडकर
- (e) Jyotirao Phule / ज्योतिराव फुले

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 6 December - DR. BR Ambedkar's Mahaparinirvan Diwas

India observes Mahaparinirvan Divas every year on December 6 in memory of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar or Dr BR Ambedkar. On April 14, 1891, BR Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, was born. Dr BR Ambedkar, fondly known as Baba Saheb was a jurist, economist, politician and social reformer who inspired several social movements later. Dr BR Ambedkar, who campaigned against social discrimination against Untouchables (Dalits), was the first law minister of independent India.

In 1990, Dr Ambedkar was conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award. Baba Saheb died on December 6, 1956, after he had converted to Buddhism fulfilling his declaration of "I will not die a Hindu"

"Mahaparinirvan" is a Sanskrit term that means the ultimate nirvana or liberation.

**72. Dinesh Phadnis passed away recently at the age of 57. Who was he?**

**दिनेश फडनीस का हाल ही में 57 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Politician / राजनेता
- (c) Actor / अभिनेता
- (d) Social Worker / सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता
- (e) Film Director / फिल्म निर्देशक

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** CID actor Dinesh Phadnis passed away

CID actor Dinesh Phadnis passed away at the age of 57.

He had been suffering from extensive liver damage.

Dinesh Phadnis gained widespread recognition for his portrayal of the character Fredericks in 'CID.'

He dedicated nearly two decades to the show, which was led by actor Shivaji Satam as ACP Pradyuman.

'CID' aired in 1998 and has been one of India's longest-running television series.

In addition to his role in 'CID,' Dinesh Phadnis made a cameo appearance in the popular TV show 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah.'

**73. Firozabad Municipal Corporation in Uttar Pradesh has approved the proposal to rename Firozabad as \_\_\_\_\_.**

**उत्तर प्रदेश में फ़िरोजाबाद नगर निगम ने फ़िरोजाबाद का नाम बदलकर \_\_\_\_\_ करने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी है।**

- (a) Ganga Nagar / गंगा नगर
- (b) Suraj Nagar /सूरज नगर
- (c) Chandra Nagar / चंद्र नगर
- (d) Firoz Nagar / फ़िरोज़ नगर
- (e) Yamuna Nagar / यमुनानगर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** UP Municipality passed proposal to rename Firozabad as Chandra Nagar. Firozabad Municipal Corporation in Uttar Pradesh has approved the proposal to rename Firozabad as Chandra Nagar. Firozabad is famous for the construction of bangles. It is located 40 kilometres from Agra and 250 km from the capital city on the east side. Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow is about 250 km east from here. Two towns come under Tundla and Shikohabad under the Firozabad district.

Earlier the Indian Railways in October announced the renaming of three railway stations -Pratapgarh, Antu and Bishnathganj -- in the Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh.

Railways informed that the Pratapgarh station was renamed as 'Maa Belha Devi DhamPratapgarh Junction', Antu as Maa Chandika Devi Dham Antu, and Bishnathganj as 'Shanidev Dham Bishnathganj'.

Varanasi's Manduadih Rail Station has also been renamed as Banaras.

Uttar Pradesh government also renamed the Jhansi railway station as Veeranagana Laxmi Bai railway station.

Previously, the state government had renamed Mughalsarai and Allahabad railway stations as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction and Prayagraj Junction stations respectively.

**74. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, which city declared safest in India for 3rd consecutive year?**

**राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो (NCRB) की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, कौन सा शहर लगातार तीसरे वर्ष भारत में सबसे सुरक्षित घोषित किया गया?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Kolkata / कोलकाता
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Kolkata declared safest in India for 3rd consecutive year: NCRB report

Kolkata emerged as the safest city in India for the third consecutive year, recording the least number of cognisable offences per lakh population among metropolises, according to the report published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The eastern metropolis, which reported 86.5 cases of cognisable offences per lakh people in 2022, was followed by Pune (280.7) and Hyderabad (299.2).

Cognisable crimes are those for which cases are registered under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and SLL (Special and Local Laws).

According to the NCRB report, Kolkata had registered 103.4 cases of cognisable crimes per lakh people in 2021, which dropped to 86.5 this year. In 2020, the count was 129.5.

In 2021, Pune and Hyderabad had reported 256.8 and 259.9 cognisable offences per lakh population, respectively.

The rankings were issued after comparison among 19 cities with over 20 lakh population.

Kolkata, however, recorded an increase in crimes against women as the number of cases rose from 1,783 in 2021 to 1,890 in 2022.

The crime rate against women in Kolkata was at 27.1 per lakh population, greater than Coimbatore's 12.9 and Chennai's 17.1.

This year, the eastern metropolis also witnessed a drop in violent crimes with only 34 murder cases being reported, down from 45 last year.

The NCRB report 'Crime in India 2022' is based on data collected from 36 states and Union territories and central agencies.

## 75. Which ministry has launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application "Gram Manchitra"?

किस मंत्रालय ने भौगोलिक सूचना प्रणाली (जीआईएस) एप्लिकेशन "ग्राम मंचित्र" लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Ministry of Culture / संस्कृति मंत्रालय
- (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests / पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय
- (c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs / आवास और शहरी मामलों के मंत्रालय
- (d) Ministry of Education / शिक्षा मंत्रालय
- (e) Ministry of Panchayati Raj / पंचायती राज मंत्रालय

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched "Gram Manchitra"

Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application "Gram Manchitra" (<https://grammanchitra.gov.in>).

This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology.

It provides a single/ unified Geo Spatial platform to better visualize the various developmental works to be taken up across the different sectors and provide a decision support system for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

Ministry has also launched mActionSoft, a mobile based solution to help in capturing photos with Geo-Tags (i.e. GPS Coordinates) for the works which have asset as an output.

**76. In December 2023, India has extended a \$250 million Line of Credit for modernisation of agriculture for which country?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, भारत ने किस देश के लिए कृषि के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए 250 मिलियन डॉलर की ऋण सुविधा प्रदान की है?**

- (a) Malaysia / मलेशिया
- (b) Maldives / मालदीव
- (c) Kenya / केन्या
- (d) Vietnam / वियतनाम
- (e) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** India provides \$250 million Line of Credit to Kenya for agricultural modernization

India has extended a \$250 million Line of Credit for modernization of agriculture in Kenya.

Under this initiative, both sides will carry out joint military exercises and will collaborate on counter-terror projects.

Government of India has undertaken to encourage Indian companies to invest in the Kenyan agri sector inclusive of "equipment and technology".

Both sides noted that enhancing bilateral agricultural cooperation would increase bilateral trade and contribute to food security in Kenya," the Joint Statement declared.

The two sides also agreed to cooperate in cyber security, anti-money laundering, small arms and light weapons, drugs and human trafficking.

**About Kenya**

- Capital- Nairobi
- Currency- Kenyan Shilling
- Continent - Africa
- President- William Ruto
- Official languages- Swahili, English

**77. Traditional dance form 'Garba' has been included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO. Garba is associated which of the following state?**

**पारंपरिक नृत्य शैली 'गरबा' को यूनेस्को द्वारा अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक विरासत की सूची में शामिल किया गया है। गरबा निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य से संबंधित है?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (e) Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Garba of Gujarat makes it to UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list

Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' has been included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list. Kolkata's Durga Puja was the last one added two years ago.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed 'Garba of Gujarat' on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 18th session, taking place in Kasane, Botswana.

The inclusion has been made under the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The international cultural body described the 'Garba' as a ritualistic and devotional dance performed throughout the State of Gujarat and across India.

"Garba is celebrated for nine days during the festival of Navaratri. The festival is dedicated to the worship of the feminine energy or Shakti. The cultural, performative, and visual expressions of this feminine energy are expressed through the Garba dance.

**About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes cooperation among nations through education, science, culture, and communication.
- **Formation** - 16 November 1945
- **Headquarters** - Paris, France
- **Director General** - Audrey Azoulay (France)
- **Member countries** - 193

**78. The world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor 'JT-60SA' inaugurated in which country?**

**विश्व के सबसे बड़े और सबसे उन्नत परमाणु संलयन रिएक्टर 'JT-60SA' का उद्घाटन किस देश में किया गया?**

- (a) India / भारत
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** World's biggest experimental nuclear fusion reactor JT-60SA inaugurated in Japan

The world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor 'JT-60SA' started its official operations in Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture.

JT-60SA is a joint initiative between the European Union and Japan

The experimental nuclear fusion reactor is quite a new technology. However, some say that it is the answer to humanity's future energy needs by establishing nuclear fusion as a clean energy source.

Notably, fusion differs from fission, the technique currently used in nuclear power plants. The process includes fusing two atomic nuclei instead of splitting one.

The JT-60SA reactor is a six-storey-high machine, which is kept in a hangar in Naka north of Tokyo. It comprises a doughnut-shaped "tokamak" vessel set to contain swirling plasma heated up to 200 million degrees Celsius.

**About Japan**

- **Capital** – Tokyo
- **Currency** – Yen
- **Prime Minister** - Fumio Kishida

**79. Who has been appointed as Vice Chief of Naval Staff?****नौसेना स्टाफ के उप प्रमुख के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Anish Dayal Singh / अनीश दयाल सिंह
- (b) Dinesh Tripathi / दिनेश त्रिपाठी
- (c) M A Ganapathy / एम ए गणपति
- (d) Umesh Mishra / उमेश मिश्रा
- (e) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal / सुबोध कुमार जायसवाल

**Ans. b****Sol.** Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi appoints as VC of Naval Staff

The Government of India has appointed Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi as the new Vice Chief of Naval Staff. Currently, at the helm of the Indian Navy's Western Command headquartered in Mumbai, Vice Admiral Tripathi is set to assume his new responsibilities on January 4, 2024.

The present Vice Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral SJ Singh, will be stepping into the role of the new Western Naval Commander. Vice Admiral Tripathi has served in various prestigious roles, including Chief of Personnel at the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy).

An alumnus of Sainik School Rewa and the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, he joined the Indian Navy in July, 1985. Specializing in Communication and Electronic Warfare, Tripathi has held key roles on frontline warships, such as Signal Communication Officer and Electronic Warfare Officer.

He has also served as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of Guided Missile Destroyer INS Mumbai.

Notable commands include Indian naval ships including Vinash, Kirch, and Trishul.

- **Command of The Eastern Fleet** - Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar
- **Deputy Chief of Naval Staff** - Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti (replace Sanjay Mahendru)
- **Interim director of Enforcement Directorate (ED)** - Rahul Navin (replace Sanjay Kumar Mishra.)
- **DG of Railway Protection Force** - Manoj Yadav (replace Sanjay Chander)

**80. Who has been appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Development Finance Corporation (IDFC board) by US president Joe Biden?**

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति जो बिडेन द्वारा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास वित्त निगम (आईडीएफसी बोर्ड) के निदेशक मंडल के सदस्य के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Sadhna Saxena Nair / साधना सक्सैना नायर
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Deven Parekh / देवेन पारेख

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Deven Parekh appointed to IDFC board

President Joe Biden has nominated prominent Indian-American global venture capitalist Deven Parekh as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Development Finance Corporation, a development finance institution and agency of the US government.

Parekh is the managing director at software investment firm Insight Partners. His nomination will be for a period of three years.

By statute, the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) Board of Directors includes four members recommended to the President from Senate and House leadership.

In 2020, Parekh was nominated to the Board of Directors of the DFC by then-President Donald Trump.

Parekh also served on the Overseas Private Investment Corporation board from 2016 to 2018 and was a member of the United States Export-Import Bank advisory board from 2010 to 2012.

**Recent Appointment (Indian Origin)**

- **Chief Financial Officer of Tesla** -Vaibhav Taneja (Indian-origin)
- **As special agent in FBI in US** - Shohini Sinha (Indian-American)
- **President's Export Council by US Prez.** - Shamina Singh (Indian-American businessman)
- **Deputy CEO of US Finance Agency** - Nisha Biswal (Indian-American)

**81. Who has become the first woman medical officer in the Indian Army to be deployed at Siachen?**

**सियाचिन में तैनात होने वाली भारतीय सेना की पहली महिला चिकित्सा अधिकारी कौन बन गई हैं?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Neeli Bendapudi / नीली बेंदापुडी
- (c) Gitanjali Rao / गीतांजलि राव
- (d) Geetika Koul / गीतिका कौल
- (e) Deepika Misra / दीपिका मिश्रा

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Captain Geetika Koul becomes first woman medical officer to be deployed at Siachen

Captain Geetika Koul has become the first woman medical officer in the Indian Army to be deployed at Siachen, the world's highest battlefield.

This achievement follows her successful completion of rigorous induction training at the esteemed Siachen Battle School, which includes high-altitude acclimatization, survival techniques, and specialized medical procedures.

Captain Geetika Koul from the Snow Leopard Brigade becomes the first woman medical officer of the Indian Army to be deployed at the world's highest battlefield, Siachen after successfully completing the induction training at Siachen Battle School. Siachen, located in the northern Himalayas, poses challenges due to its strategic importance, harsh climate, and demanding terrain.

### **Recent Appointment**

- **CM of Telangana** - Revanth Reddy
- **DG of Dehradun-based Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)** - Kanchan Devi
- **Chairman of India Debt Resolution Co Ltd (IDRCL)** - Narayan Seshadri
- **Interim CEO at OpenAI** - Mira Murati (replace Sam Altma)
- **Indian envoy to the Caribbean Community** - Amit S Telang

**82. Who has become the first Indian to operate the Mars rover with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)?**

**एरोनॉटिक्स एंड स्पेस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (NASA) के साथ मार्स रोवर संचालित करने वाले पहले भारतीय कौन बन गए हैं?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Sadhna Saxena Nair / साधना सक्सैना नायर
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Akshata Krishnamurthy / अक्षता कृष्णमूर्ति

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Akshata Krishnamurthy becomes first Indian to operate Mars rover

Akshata Krishnamurthy is an Indian woman who created history as she became the first person from the country to operate the Mars rover with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States. Akshata is a PhD holder from the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). She is among the few Indians who joined NASA for a full-time opportunity. Akshata's journey began 13 years ago when she came to the United States with a dream to work at NASA and lead science and robotic operations on Earth and Mars. However, she was discouraged from having unrealistic goals as she was a foreign national on a visa. People told her to have a different plan or change her field entirely. However, Akshata blocked those comments and persevered until she reached the goal.

**83. Who has taken charge as Executive Director of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)?**  
**भारतीय दिवाला और दिवालियापन बोर्ड (आईबीबीआई) के कार्यकारी निदेशक के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला है?**

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Joshit Ranjan Sikidar / जोशित रंजन सिकिदार
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Jithesh John / जितेश जॉन
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Jithesh John took charge as Executive Director of IBBI

Jithesh John took charge as Executive Director of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

John has a postgraduate degree in Economics. He has completed more than 21 years in Government of India in various capacities.

He has also worked in various sectors such as financial, energy, infrastructure, and small and medium enterprises. IBBI is a key institution in implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

### **Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **MD of State Bank of India** - Vinay M. Tonse (till 2025; for 2 years)
- **Director of Jio Financial Services** - Isha Ambani, Anshuman Thakur, and Hitesh Kumar Sethia
- **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta) effect from 1 Jan 2024
- **Executive Director of Bank of Maharashtra** - Rohit Rishi (replace Asheesh Pandey)
- **Executive Director of RBI** - Manoranjan Mishra

**84. Who is the author of the novel titled 'Zeba: An Accidental Superhero'?**

**'ज़ेबा: एन एक्सीडेंटल सुपरहीरो' नामक उपन्यास के लेखक कौन हैं?**

- (a) Anushka Sharma / अनुष्का शर्मा
- (b) Huma Qureshi / हुमा कुरेशी
- (c) Priyanka Chopra / प्रियंका चोपड़ा
- (d) Katrina Kaif / कैटरीना कैफ
- (e) Aishwarya Rai / ऐश्वर्या राय

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Huma Qureshi launches 1st novel 'Zeba'

Popular Bollywood actor Huma Qureshi has now turned author with her debut novel titled 'Zeba: An Accidental Superhero'.

Set in a fantasy land with its own geo- and socio-political spin, she launched her book at the 12th edition of the Bangalore Literature Festival (BLF).

The book is a fantasy fiction novel set very specifically between 1992 and 2019. It talks about a make-believe kingdom and an evil king and how this girl, Zeba, who has these superpowers, manages to defeat him."

**Recent Books**

- **Welcome to Paradise** - Twinkle Khanna
- **Breaking the Mould** - Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- **The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success-** Vivek Agnihotri
- **The Day I Became a Runner** – S Chattopadhyay
- **Tales from the Home of Wags & Wiggles** – V Raghavan

**85. How many gold medals have won by India at the IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023 in Yerevan, Armenia?**

**येरेवन, आर्मेनिया में IBA जूनियर विश्व मुक्केबाजी चैम्पियनशिप 2023 में भारत ने कितने स्वर्ण पदक जीते हैं?**

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India bags 3 gold, 5 silver, and 1 bronze medals in IBA Junior World Boxing

India bagged three gold, five silver, and one bronze medals at the IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023 in Yerevan, Armenia.

Akansha won gold in 70 kg category, Pari clinched gold medal in 48 kg weight category, while Nisha won gold in 52 kg category.

In 52 kg weight category, Vini won silver medal, while Srishti Sathe won silver medal in 63 kg weight category.

In the boys' category, Jatin won the silver medal in the 54 kg category.

**86. The International Civil Aviation Day is observed every year on which day?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 7 December / 7 दिसंबर
- (b) 6 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 5 December / 5 दिसंबर
- (d) 4 December / 4 दिसंबर
- (e) 3 December / 3 दिसंबर

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 7 December - International Civil Aviation Day 2023

The International Civil Aviation Day is observed every year on 7 December across the globe.

The day aims to raise awareness of the importance of civil aviation and its significant contribution to the world economy as well as other fields.

Theme 2023 - Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development

The celebration of the day is linked to the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which is the regulatory body behind effectively managing international travel, security, and cooperation. ICAO is a United Nations body, which was formed 75 years ago and aims to maintain aviation safety worldwide

The celebration day of International Civil Aviation was established in 1994 while commemorating the 50th anniversary of signing the Convention on International Civil Aviation by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Later in 1996, the United Nations General Assembly declared December 7 to be observed as International Civil Aviation Day. The date marks the establishment of ICAO on December 7, 1944.

**87. India has signed a USD 175 million loan agreement with which organization to improve the connectivity and resilience of roads in Madhya Pradesh?**

**भारत ने मध्य प्रदेश में सड़कों की कनेक्टिविटी और लचीलेपन में सुधार के लिए किस संगठन के साथ 175 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के ऋण समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) International Monetary Fund / अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष
- (b) Asian Development Bank / एशियाई विकास बैंक
- (c) New Development Bank / न्यू डेवलपमेंट बैंक
- (d) African Development Bank / अफ्रीकी विकास बैंक
- (e) World Bank / विश्व बैंक

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India signed loan agreement with ADB to improve Madhya Pradesh roads

The central government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a USD 175 million loan to improve the connectivity and resilience of roads in Madhya Pradesh.

This project will enhance connectivity in the state road network across 14 districts in Madhya Pradesh.

Since 2002, ADB has supported road development in Madhya Pradesh upgrading more than 9,000 kilometers of state highways and major district roads.

This project continues these efforts and will connect rural areas to growth centres and industrial corridors and establish roads that are better, safer, and more climate-resilient.

The project will upgrade about 500 kilometres of state highways and major district roads to a standard two-lane feature.

**Recent Loan approved by ADB**

- ADB approved \$181 Million to **Improve Ahmedabad's Peri-urban Areas**
- ADB and Fourth Partner Energy Collaborate **for Solar Power Plant worth Rs 120 cr in Tamil Nadu**
- ADB approves USD 40.5 mn loan for **childhood development in Meghalaya**
- India, ADB signed \$200 million loan deal **to enhance urban services** in Rajasthan.
- India, ADB signed \$130 million loan MoU **to boost horticulture** in Himachal Pradesh
- India, ADB signed \$295 million loan pact **to upgrade the state highways** in Bihar
- India, ADB signed \$200 million loan deal **to enhance urban services** in Rajasthan

**88. Recently, which company has acquired AI-led doubt-solving platform Doubtnut?**

**हाल ही में, किस कंपनी ने AI के नेतृत्व वाले संदेह-समाधान प्लेटफॉर्म डाउटनट का अधिग्रहण किया है?**

- (a) Vedantu
- (b) BYJU's
- (c) Allen Career Institute
- (d) Unacademy
- (e) LinkedIn

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Allen Career Institute acquires doubt solving platform Doubtnut

Test prep firm Allen Career Institute has acquired AI-led doubt solving platform Doubtnut.

The company did not disclose the specifics of the deal but sources pegged the value of the transaction at USD 10 million.

This strategic move reflects Allen's commitment to building technology led learning solution focused on improving students' learning outcome.

Allen will offer its curriculum and academic offerings to Doubtnut's student base. The startup reaches some 32 million students every month.

Allen was founded by Rajesh Maheshwari in 1988, Allen has a pan-India base with more than 200 classroom centres across 53 cities. Allen prepares stiffened for competitive exams like NEET, AIIMS, JEE Main, and JEE Advanced.

**89. Mansukh Mandaviya addresses the inaugural session of the 59th Fertilizer Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in which city?**

**मनसुख मंडाविया ने किस शहर में 59वें फर्टिलाइजर एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया के वार्षिक सेमिनार 2023 के उद्घाटन सत्र को संबोधित किया?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 59th Fertiliser Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in New Delhi

Union Mansukh Mandaviya addresses the inaugural session of the 59th Fertilizer Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in New Delhi.

India is the first nation to introduce Nano fertilizers such as Nano DAP and Nano Urea through the Indian Research ecosystem.

The government has set up two lakh Model Retail outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras.

NAMO Drone Didi scheme, which was recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make drone spraying services accessible to farmers at affordable prices.

**90. Which bank has been recognized as “Bank of the Year (India)” by Financial Times owned The Banker?**

**फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स के स्वामित्व वाले द बैंकर द्वारा किस बैंक को "बैंक ऑफ द ईयर (भारत)" के रूप में मान्यता दी गई है?**

- (a) Federal Bank / फेडरल बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) IndusInd Bank / इंडसइंड बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) Kotak Mahindra Bank / कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Federal Bank Named “Bank of the Year (India)” by Financial Times

Federal Bank, a leading financial institution, has been recognised as “Bank of the Year (India)” by Financial Times owned The Banker, one of the only three global awards that considers the work of banks spanning 120 countries.

This prestigious recognition is a testament to the Bank’s unwavering commitment to innovation, customer-centric services, and its outstanding contributions to the banking industry over the past year.

One of the standout initiatives that garnered attention was the introduction of the Digital Personal Loan by Federal Bank. This innovative product allows customers to seamlessly apply for and receive loans entirely online.

Recognizing the challenges faced by customers in rural areas in accessing banking services, Federal Bank launched the ‘Bank on the Go’ initiative. This groundbreaking initiative involves a mobile vehicle equipped with banking kiosks that travel to different locations.

Federal Bank has also embraced cutting-edge technology to enhance customer support, introducing “Feddy”, an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot. Feddy operates across multiple touchpoints, including the company website, WhatsApp, Alexa, and Google Maps.

#### **About Federal Bank**

- Federal Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Kochi, Kerala.
- The bank has 1,336 branches spread across different states in India.
- It also has representative offices abroad in Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Dubai.
- Founded- 23 April 1931
- Founder- K.P Hormis
- CEO- Shyam Srinivasan

**91. In December 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent in its monetary review meeting. This is \_\_\_\_\_ in a row that the MPC has maintained the status quo.**

**दिसंबर 2023 में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने अपनी मौद्रिक समीक्षा बैठक में पॉलिसी रेपो रेट को 6.5 फीसदी पर अपरिवर्तित रखा है। यह लगातार \_\_\_\_\_ है जब एमपीसी ने यथास्थिति बरकरार रखी है।**

- (a) Fourth Time / चौथी बार
- (b) Fifth Time / पांचवीं बार
- (c) Sixth Time / छठी बार
- (d) Third Time / तीसरी बार
- (e) Seventh Time / सातवीं बार

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** RBI keeps policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent in latest MPC meet

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent in its monetary review meeting.

This is for the fifth time in a row that the MPC has maintained the status quo.

The Monetary Policy Committee, MPC's has unanimously decided to keep key rates unchanged. The Standing Deposit Facility rate remains at 6.25 percent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 percent.

Attributing the declining inflation as reason behind maintain status quo the policy stance, the RBI Governor informed that, real GDP growth projection for the current year 2023-24 has been revised from earlier 6.5 per cent to 7 percent.

Real GDP growth for Quarter one of 2024-25 is projected at 6.7 per cent, for Quarter 2 at 6.5 per cent and for Quarter 3 at 6.4 per cent.

The central bank has also proposed to hike the limit of UPI transactions in hospitals and educational institutions from one lakh rupees to 5 lakhs.

The MPC has decided by a majority of 5 out of 6 members to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns to the target, while supporting growth.

**92. What is the rank of India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Forbes 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' list 2023?**

**फोर्ब्स 2023 की 'विश्व की 100 सबसे शक्तिशाली महिलाओं' की सूची में भारत की वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण का स्थान क्या है?**

- (a) 32
- (b) 22
- (c) 42
- (d) 70
- (e) 53

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Nirmala Sitharaman & 3 other Indians among Forbes list of 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' of 2023

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HCL Corporation Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal and Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw are the four Indians among the 100 named in Forbes' annual list of 'The World's Most Powerful Women of 2023.

Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fifth year in a row, ranking at number 32. This is the 64-year-old BJP leader's best ranking so far — in 2022, she had ranked at 36, while she was 37 in 2021, 41 in 2020 and 34 in 2019.

While Malhotra was ranked 60th, Mondal took the 70th spot and Mazumdar-Shaw the 76th. They had made it to the prestigious list last year also at 53rd, 67th and 72nd spots respectively.

Politicians topped the list, occupying the first four spots, with Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, at the number 1 position. She is followed by European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, US Vice President Kamala Harris and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Musician Taylor Swift ranked number 5 on the list, her highest spot so far, along with fellow musicians Beyoncé and Rihanna, media mogul Oprah Winfrey, philanthropists Melinda French Gates and MacKenzie Scott, and the fashion doll Barbie which saw a resurgence in popularity, driven by the eponymous movie.

The list comprised six categories — politics and policy, business, finance, media and entertainment, philanthropy and technology. While 18 women were named in the politics and policy category, 37 were selected in business, 19 in finance, 12 in media and entertainment, six in philanthropy.

**93. State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire a 20 percent stake in SBI Pension Funds for how much rupees?**

**भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (SBI) कितने रुपये में SBI पेंशन फंड में 20 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी का अधिग्रहण करेगा?**

- (a) 220 crore
- (b) 230 crore
- (c) 240 crore
- (d) 250 crore
- (e) 260 crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** SBI to acquire 20 percent stake in SBI Pension Funds for Rs 230 crore

The Executive Committee of the Central Board (ECCB) of the State Bank of India (SBI) has accorded final approval to the Bank for acquiring 20 percent stake held by SBICAPS (SBI Capital Markets Ltd) in SBIPFPL (SBI Pension Funds Private Ltd).

The acquisition, which will be completed by December 15, 2023, is for a cash consideration of ₹229.52 crore, as per SBI's regulatory filing.

SBICAPS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI. Post-acquisition, SBI will have 80 percent stake in SBIPFPL, with the balance being held by SBI Funds Management Ltd. The latter is a joint venture of SBI (62.53 percent) and Amundi (36.73 percent).

As at March-end 2023, SBIPFPL had assets under management aggregating Rs 3,39,006 crore. It posted a net profit of Rs 53.50 crore in FY23.

**94. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Max Life Insurance?**

**मैक्स लाइफ इश्योरेंस के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Rajiv Anand / राजीव आनंद
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Tablesh Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Max Life Insurance appoints Rajiv Anand as Chairman

Max Life Insurance, a material subsidiary of Max Financial Services, has a new Chairman, Rajiv Anand.

This follows the stepping down of Analjit Singh from the Chairmanship and membership of the Board of Directors of Max Life Insurance.

Before this elevation, Anand, a non-executive director of Max Life, was nominated by Axis Bank Ltd as Chairman of Max Life Insurance.

Max New York Life (MNYL) was the first private sector insurance company to be incorporated in India on July 11, 2000, within a week after IRDAI permitted the incorporation of private sector insurance companies. On November 15, 2020, MNYL received its certification of registration from IRDAI.

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** - Jithesh John
- **MD of State Bank of India** - Vinay M. Tonse (till 2025; for 2 years)
- **Director of Jio Financial Services** - Isha Ambani, Anshuman Thakur, and Hitesh Kumar Sethia
- **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta) effect from 1 Jan 2024
- **Executive Director of Bank of Maharashtra** - Rohit Rishi (replace Asheesh Pandey)

**95. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Swiggy India?**

**स्विगी इंडिया के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Ganesan Kannabiran / गणेशन कन्नाबीरन
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Anand Kripalu / आनंद कृपालु
- (d) Harshvardhan Bansal / हर्षवर्द्धन बंसल
- (e) Anant Maheshwari / अनंत माहेश्वरी

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Anand Kripalu appoints as CEO of Swiggy India

Foodtech major and grocery delivery start-up Swiggy has appointed former Diageo India Managing Director and Chief Executive, Anand Kripalu, to its board as an Independent Director and Chairman of its board.

The appointment comes after Swiggy had also appointed three independent directors ahead of its planned IPO in 2024.

Delhivery founder and CEO Sahil Barua, TAFE chairman and managing director Mallika Srinivasan and Shailesh Haribhakti & Associates chairman Shailesh Haribhakti were brought in as independent directors in February.

Kripalu's experience from working at large consumer companies such as Unilever, Cadbury PLC, Mondelez and Marico and spirits maker Diageo, will help Swiggy leverage his expertise in the industry.

**Recent Appointment**

- **First Indian to operate Mars rover** - Akshata Krishnamurthy
- **First woman medical officer to be deployed at Siachen** - Captain Geetika Kouls
- **CM of Telangana** - Revanth Reddy
- **DG of Dehradun-based Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)** - Kanchan Devi
- **Interim CEO at OpenAI** - Mira Murati (replace Sam Altma)

**96. Who has been appointed as the head of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Board?****ब्रिटिश ब्रॉडकास्टिंग कॉर्पोरेशन (बीबीसी) बोर्ड के प्रमुख के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Vumlunmang Vualnam / वुमलुनमंग वुअलनाम
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Samir Shah / समीर शाह
- (e) Lokesh M / लोकेश एम

**Ans. d****Sol.** Indian-origin Samir Shah appoints head of BBC Board

A British-Indian has been picked by the U.K. Government to head the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) as its next chair.

Samir Shah, a 71-year-old former BBC non-executive director and media executive, was born in Aurangabad and moved to the U.K. in 1960.

He will head the public broadcaster as it faces questions over its independence and financial challenges with the renewal of its charter.

The previous BBC chair, Richard Sharp, stepped down in June over his failure to disclose that he had helped arrange a £800,000 loan to former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Mr Shah, who has worked in media for over four decades and currently runs and owns Juniper TV, a media company, has connections to the Conservative Party.

**Recent Appointment (Indian Origin)**

- **Member of Board of Directors of the International Development Finance Corporation** -Deven Parekh (Indian-American)
- **Chief Financial Officer of Tesla** -Vaibhav Taneja (Indian-origin)
- **As special agent in FBI in US** - Shohini Sinha (Indian-American)
- **President's Export Council by US Prez.** - Shamina Singh (Indian-American businessman)
- **Deputy CEO of US Finance Agency** - Nisha Biswal (Indian-American)

**97. Who has been awarded Singapore's Highest Arts Award 'Cultural Medallion'?**

सिंगापुर के सर्वोच्च कला पुरस्कार 'सांस्कृतिक पदक' से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Deepak Shenoy / दीपक शेनॉय
- (b) Meira Chand / मीरा चंद
- (c) Raghu Ram Pillarisetti / रघु राम पिल्लरीसेट्टी
- (d) Shanti Lakra / शांति लकड़ा
- (e) Deepika Misra / दीपिका मिश्रा

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Indian-Origin Novelist Meira Chand Receives Singapore's Highest Arts Award

81-year-old Indian-origin writer Meira Chand was among the three Singaporeans conferred the Cultural Medallion, the city-state's most prestigious arts accolade, in recognition of their artistic excellence and contribution to enriching the country's arts and culture scene.

Meira Chand, fellow novelist Suchen Christine Lim and Malay dance veteran Osman Abdul Hamid received the award from President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at a ceremony held at the Istana.

The award comes with an SGD 80,000 (approximately Rs 49 lakh) grant for each recipient to support their artistic pursuits.

A Singaporean of Swiss-Indian parentage, Meira Chand, along with Lim, is the first English-language female writer to be conferred the award since Ho Minfong in 1997.

Meira Chand is an award-winning novelist known for her depiction of multicultural societies. Her 'The Painted Cage' (1986) was longlisted for the prestigious Booker Prize.

The Cultural Medallion, instituted in 1979 by late President and then Minister of Culture Ong Teng Cheong, is the city-state's "highest arts accolade, honouring individuals whose artistic excellence, contribution, and commitment have enriched and distinguished Singapore's arts and culture scene.

Last year, 56-year-old Tamilian Hindu Aravinth Kumarasamy was conferred the prestigious award.

**Recent Awards**

- **ALT Environment Film Festival** - Jason Momoa's 'Deep Rising' movie
- **National Award for empowering individual with disabilities** - Amazon India
- **ISSA Vision Zero 2023** - Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
- **Qatar WISE Prize 2023** - India's Safeena Husain
- **Dhahan Prize for Punjabi literature** - Deepti Babuta (first woman to bag)

**98. Who has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023?**

**2023 के लिए टाइम पत्रिका का एथलीट ऑफ द ईयर किसे नामित किया गया है?**

- (a) Novak Djokovic / नोवाक जोकोविच
- (b) Rafael Nadal / राफेल नडाल
- (c) Roger Federer / रोजर फ़ेडरर
- (d) Lionel Messi / लियोनेल मेसी
- (e) Carlos Alcaraz / कार्लोस अल्कराज

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Inter Miami's Lionel Messi named Time Athlete of the Year for 2023

Lionel Messi, the captain of Argentina, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023.

Messi won the Ballon d'Or for a record-breaking eighth time and, by moving to Inter Miami, raised awareness of the sport in the US.

Messi joins the likes of Simone Biles, Michael Phelps, LeBron James, and the United States women's national team to win the award.

New York Yankees right fielder Aaron Judge won the award in 2022.

**99. Which city will host the World Weightlifting Championships 2026?****कौन सा शहर विश्व भारोत्तोलन चैंपियनशिप 2026 की मेजबानी करेगा?**

- (a) New Delhi, India / नई दिल्ली, भारत
- (b) Berlin, Germany / बर्लिन, जर्मनी
- (c) Paris, France / पेरिस, फ्रांस
- (d) Ningbo, China/ निंगबो, चीन
- (e) London, UK / लंदन, यूके

**Ans. d****Sol.** China's Ningbo to host World Weightlifting Championships 2026

The Chinese city of Ningbo will host the 2026 World Weightlifting championships, following the 2024 edition in Manama (Bahrain) and the 2025 edition in Forde (Norway).

The International Weightlifting Federation announced in a statement after a vote by the IWF Executive Board, meeting in Doha, Qatar, that Ningbo has experience in successfully staging international sports events.

Ningbo, located in China's eastern coastal province of Zhejiang, is not far from the cities of Shanghai and Hangzhou.

The venue of the championship will be the Ningbo Olympic Sports Centre, which was built in 2019 with a 10,000-seat capacity, reports Xinhua. The IWF Executive Board also announced that the IWF World Youth Championships will take place in Lima, Peru in 2025, and the IWF World Junior Championships will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 2025.

**100. Meta and which company have launched a new group called the AI Alliance advocating for an “open-science” approach to AI development?**

**मेटा और किस कंपनी ने AI विकास के लिए "ओपन-साइंस" दृष्टिकोण की वकालत करते हुए AI एलायंस नामक एक नया समूह लॉन्च किया है?**

- (a) Microsoft / माइक्रोसॉफ्ट
- (b) Apple / ऐप्पल
- (c) Infosys / इंफोसिस
- (d) Samsung / सैमसंग
- (e) IBM / आईबीएम

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Meta and IBM launched 'AI Alliance' to promote open-source AI development

Facebook's parent company, Meta, and IBM has launched a new group called the AI Alliance advocating for an “open-science” approach to AI development that puts them at odds with rivals Google, Microsoft and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI.

These two diverging camps – the open and the closed – disagree about whether to build AI in a way that makes the underlying technology widely accessible.

The AI Alliance – led by IBM and Meta and including Dell, Sony, the chipmakers AMD and Intel and several universities and AI startups – is “coming together to articulate, simply put, that the future of AI is going to be built fundamentally on top of the open scientific exchange of ideas and on open innovation, including open source and open technologies”, Gil said in an interview with the Associated Press before its unveiling.

**101. Shaun Davis has passed away recently at the age of 57. Who was he?**

**शॉन डेविस का हाल ही में 57 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया है। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Bodybuilder / बॉडीबिल्डर
- (c) Theatre artist / थिएटर कलाकार
- (d) Social Worker / सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता
- (e) Historian / इतिहासकार

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Former Mr. Universe Shaun Davis passes away at 57

Former Mr Universe bodybuilder Shaun Davis has died at the age of 57.

In his bodybuilding career, he won a string of titles including Mr Britain and Mr Europe before being named Mr Universe in 1996.

Mr. Davis, who hailed from Derbyshire, in east England, weighed a whopping 334lbs (151 kg) at the height of his Mr. Universe success and earned the title of 'Dinosaur'.

102. Global cyber security company Kaspersky and which IIT have signed an agreement to jointly work on cybersecurity-related research and educational initiatives at the institute?

वैश्विक साइबर सुरक्षा कंपनी कैस्पर्सकी और किस आईआईटी ने संस्थान में साइबर सुरक्षा से संबंधित अनुसंधान और शैक्षिक पहल पर संयुक्त रूप से काम करने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) IIT Guwahati / आईआईटी गुवाहाटी
- (b) IIT Delhi / आईआईटी दिल्ली
- (c) IIT Madras / आईआईटी मद्रास
- (d) IIT Kanpur / आईआईटी कानपुर
- (e) IIT Roorkee / आईआईटी रुड़की

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Kaspersky, IIT Delhi partner for cybersecurity talent development in India

Global cyber security company Kaspersky and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) have signed an agreement to jointly work on cybersecurity-related research and educational initiatives at the institute.

Under the agreement, Kaspersky and IIT Delhi will exchange knowledge and expertise, develop educational materials, organise and promote events to raise cybersecurity awareness, and sponsor merit (academic) awards or prizes to encourage IIT Delhi students to pursue careers in ICT and Cybersecurity.

This partnership will enhance the IIT Delhi graduates' desirability on the job market by adding IIT Delhi's educational and scientific activities of new training courses and programs that provide the graduates with relevant competencies that are in demand.

#### **IITs in News**

- Airbus tie-up with IIT Kanpur to promote aerospace education
- IIT Guwahati signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy
- IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model for knee X-ray
- University of Jaffna & IIT Madras sign MoU for promote research initiatives

103. In December 2023, A wax statue of Constitution architect Baba Saheb Ambedkar was installed in which wax museum on the occasion of Mahaparinirvan Day?

**दिसंबर 2023 में, महापरिनिर्वाण दिवस के अवसर पर संविधान निर्माता बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर की मोम की प्रतिमा किस मोम संग्रहालय में स्थापित की गई थी?**

- (a) Melody World Wax Museum / मेलोडी वर्ल्ड वैक्स संग्रहालय
- (b) K Dev Bhoomi Wax Museum / के देवभूमि मोम संग्रहालय
- (c) Jaipur Wax Museum / जयपुर वैक्स संग्रहालय
- (d) Mayapuri Wonder Wax / मायापुरी वंडर वैक्स
- (e) Mother's Wax Museum / माँ का मोम संग्रहालय

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Wax statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar installed in Jaipur Wax Museum

A wax statue of Constitution architect Baba Saheb Ambedkar was installed in Jaipur Wax Museum, Nahargarh Fort on the occasion of Mahaparinirvan Day. The wax statue has been placed in the set of Rashtrapati Bhavan along with the statue of India's second great personality, 'missile man' and Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The height of the statue is 5 feet 11 inches, while the weight is about 38 kg. After this wax statue of Baba Saheb, a total of 43 celebrities have been installed in the Jaipur Wax Museum. It is noteworthy that Jaipur Wax Museum is the first wax museum in the world which is located in a "heritage site", Nahargarh Fort.

Founder-director of the museum - Anoop Srivastava

104. Indian Oil Corp. Ltd and which company have agreed to jointly promote Surya Nutan, IndianOil's innovative indoor solar cooking system?

इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड और कौन सी कंपनी संयुक्त रूप से इंडियन ऑयल के इनोवेटिव इनडोर सोलर कुकिंग सिस्टम सूर्या नूतन को बढ़ावा देने पर सहमत हुए हैं?

- (a) Jubilant Ingrevia / जुबिलेंट इंग्रेविया
- (b) TAAL Enterprises / ताल इंटरप्राइजेज
- (c) EKI Energy / ईकेआई एनर्जी
- (d) Expleo Solns / एक्सप्लो सोलन्स
- (e) Dominion Energy / डोमिनियन एनर्जी

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** EKI Energy, Indian Oil to jointly promote indoor solar cooking system

EKI Energy Services, a carbon credits developer and supplier, and Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IndianOil) have agreed to jointly promote Surya Nutan, IndianOil's innovative indoor solar cooking system.

Toward that objective, it has developed "Surya Nutan," a stationary, rechargeable, and always kitchen-connected indoor cooking solution based on IndianOil's patented technology.

Under the terms of their agreement, IndianOil will share the technology of "Surya Nutan" with EKI to enhance its production and distribution, supported by carbon finance. EKI will oversee the end-to-end management of 'Surya Nutan' encompassing manufacturing, marketing, installation, and the provision of after-sales services.

This will be achieved by leveraging carbon finance, corporate social responsibility, or any other similar means.

105. Ibu Volcano has been seen in the news recently. In which country is it located?

इबू ज्वालामुखी हाल ही में खबरों में देखा गया है। यह किस देश में स्थित है?

- (a) Iran / ईरान
- (b) Maldives / मालदीव
- (c) India / भारत
- (d) Mauritius / मॉरीशस
- (e) Indonesia / इंडोनेशिया

**AAAns. e**

**Sol.** Indonesia's Ibu volcano erupts, ash up to 1,200m

The Ibu volcano on Halmahera Island in the eastern Indonesian province of North Maluku erupted.

Local time for about 90 seconds, throwing ash up to 1,200 metre above its peak, according to the country's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG).

Standing as high as around 1,300 metre above sea level, Ibu volcano is classified in the second danger level, below the highest level of IV. Located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, Indonesia is one of the countries with the most volcanoes in the world.

### About Indonesia

- Capital - Jakarta
- Currency - Rupiah
- Official language - Indonesian
- President - Joko Widodo

106. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed enhancing the limit of UPI transactions undertaken for medical or healthcare and educational services from ₹1 lakh to \_\_\_\_\_ per transaction.

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने चिकित्सा या स्वास्थ्य सेवा और शैक्षिक सेवाओं के लिए किए गए UPI लेनदेन की सीमा को ₹1 लाख से बढ़ाकर \_\_\_\_\_ प्रति लेनदेन करने का प्रस्ताव दिया है।

- (a) 2 lakh
- (b) 3 lakh
- (c) 4 lakh
- (d) 5 lakh
- (e) 10 lakh

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** UPI transaction limit for medical, educational services to be hiked to ₹5 lakh

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed enhancing the limit of UPI transactions undertaken for medical or healthcare and educational services from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh per transaction.

The limit for various categories of UPI transactions has been reviewed from time to time. It is now proposed to enhance the UPI transaction limit for payment to hospitals and educational institutions.

This will enable the users who are comfortable with making payments through UPI to continue using the platform for high-value payments as well. The transaction limit would no longer be a bottleneck which refrains the user from using UPI, especially when it comes to payments which are urgent in nature. Currently, the transaction limit for UPI is capped at ₹1 lakh, except in a few categories like capital markets (AMC, broking, mutual funds, etc.), collections (credit card payments, loan repayments, EMI), Insurance, etc. where the transaction limit is ₹2 lakh

In December 2021, the transaction limit for UPI payments for Retail Direct Scheme and IPO subscriptions was increased to ₹5 lakh.

107. Which bank has collaborated with Accenture to design and develop a scalable and secure enterprise data lake platform to boost its operational efficiency?

किस बैंक ने अपनी परिचालन दक्षता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक स्केलेबल और सुरक्षित एंटरप्राइज़ डेटा लेक प्लेटफ़ॉर्म को डिज़ाइन और विकसित करने के लिए एक्सेंचर के साथ सहयोग किया है?

- (a) Bank of Baroda / बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
- (b) Indian Overseas Bank / इंडियन ओवरसीज बैंक
- (c) Union Bank of India / यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
- (d) Karnataka Bank / कर्नाटक बैंक
- (e) Karur Vyasya Bank / करूर व्यास बैंक

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Union Bank collaborates with Accenture to boost operational efficiency

Union Bank of India has collaborated with Accenture to design and develop a scalable and secure enterprise data lake platform to boost its operational efficiency. This will also enhance its ability to offer customer-centric banking services and manage risk. Accenture will work with the Bank to build new AI and machine learning models that can help generate actionable insights for improved business forecasting, facilitate personalized offers for customers and enable intelligence for fraud detection, prevention, and mitigation. The program will enable the public sector bank to develop robust data visualization and reporting capabilities including interactive dashboards and reports for business, operational, and regulatory purposes, per the Bank's statement.

#### Recent MoU in Banking Sector

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partners Water.org to offer sanitation loan
- Karnataka Bank ties up with HDFC Life to offer life insurance products
- Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India
- Kotak Bank partnered with NeSL to issue electronic Bank Guarantee
- IndusInd Bank partnered with Viamericas to enhance Fast Remit platform

108. NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL) has successfully integrated with which card issuers company into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay?

**NPCI भारत बिलपे (NBBL) ने भारत बिलपे की क्रेडिट कार्ड श्रेणी में किस कार्ड जारीकर्ता कंपनी के साथ सफलतापूर्वक एकीकृत किया है?**

- (a) Mastercard / मास्टरकार्ड
- (b) Visa / वीज़ा
- (c) American Express / अमेरिकन एक्सप्रेस
- (d) RuPay / रुपये
- (e) SBI Card / एसबीआई कार्ड

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** SBI Card joins Bharat BillPay in the credit card category

NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has successfully integrated SBI Card, one of India's leading credit card issuers, into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay.

This integration marks a significant advancement, streamlining the credit card bill payment process for millions of customers. Noteworthy credit card issuers already present in this category include Kotak Mahindra Bank, BoB Financial, Federal Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Canara Bank.

SBI Card has an extensive customer base, totaling around 1.68 crores. Through the utilization of Bharat BillPay, SBI Card customers gain the advantage of seamlessly handling their credit card bill payments across various Bharat BillPay-supported payment channels.

This includes online platforms through banks or payment apps, as well as the extensive network of physical outlets enabled by Bharat BillPay.

The collaboration enables customers to utilize Bharat BillPay's diverse payment modes, ensuring smooth and secure transactions. Additionally, the settlement system of Bharat BillPay adds an extra layer of assurance, guaranteeing a seamless and dependable payment experience for all users.

109. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is \_\_\_\_\_ largest insurer in the world, according to a ranking based on life and accident & health reserves of companies in 2022 by S&P Global Market Intelligence.

एसएंडपी ग्लोबल मार्केट इंटेलिजेंस द्वारा 2022 में कंपनियों के जीवन और दुर्घटना और स्वास्थ्य भंडार पर आधारित रैंकिंग के अनुसार, भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम (LIC) दुनिया में \_\_\_\_\_ सबसे बड़ा बीमाकर्ता है।

- (a) Second
- (b) Third
- (c) Fourth
- (d) Fifth
- (e) Sixth

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** LIC fourth largest insurer in the world based on reserves: S&P Global study

Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is the fourth largest insurer in the world, according to a ranking based on life and accident & health reserves of companies in 2022 by S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The state-owned insurer is ranked after Allianz SE, China Life Insurance Company, and Nippon Life Insurance Company.

According to the report, LIC's reserves stood at \$503.7 billion. Germany's Allianz SE (\$750.20 billion), China Life Insurance Company (\$616.90 billion), and Nippon Life Insurance Company (\$536.80 billion) are the top three insurance companies in the world.

The S&P list of the top 50 global life insurance companies was dominated by European firms, taking 21 spots. On an individual country basis, the US has the highest number of life insurers on the list, with eight companies headquartered in the region, followed by the UK with seven companies.

Out of the top 50 companies, Asian firms followed their European counterparts with 17 of them featuring on the list. China and Japan share the top spots in Asia with five companies headquartered in the two countries. The top 50 companies were ranked on their life and accident & health reserves, one of the key financial strengths of a life insurer.

North America had 12 spots on the list with eight companies based in the US, two in Canada, and two in Bermuda.

110. Recently, Mohammed Al Ramsi has been appointed Chairman of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC 23). He is from which country?

हाल ही में, मोहम्मद अल रामसी को विश्व रेडियो संचार सम्मेलन 2023 (WRC 23) का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया है। वह किस देश से है?

- (a) Iran / ईरान
- (b) Iraq / इराक
- (c) UAE / यूएई
- (d) Syria / सीरिया
- (e) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 appoints UAE's Mohammed Al Ramsi as Chairman United Arab Emirates' Mohammed Al Ramsi has been appointed Chairman of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC 23).

The event is being held in Dubai, UAE, from November 20th to December 15th, 2023.

WRC is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) every four years to revise the global use of radio-frequency spectrum, geostationary-satellite, and non-geostationary-satellite orbits.

This year, more than 4,000 government officials and 900 international organizations from 193 countries are attending the conference

#### **Recent Appointment**

- **Head of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Board** - Samir Shah
- **Chairman of Swiggy India** - Anand Kripalu
- **First Indian to operate Mars rover** - Akshata Krishnamurthy
- **First woman medical officer to be deployed at Siachen** - Captain Geetika Kouls
- **CM of Telangana** - Revanth Reddy

111. In December 2023, Lalduhoma was sworn in as the Chief Minister of which of the following states?

**दिसंबर 2023 में, लालदुहोमा ने निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में शपथ ली है?**

- (a) Mizoram / मिजोरम
- (b) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Telangana / तेलंगाना
- (e) Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Lalduhoma takes oath as Chief Minister of Mizoram

Veteran politician and Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader Lalduhoma sworn in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram at Raj Bhawan in Aizawl.

Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati administered the oath to Mr Lalduhoma.

The 74-year-old Lalduhoma joined politics in 1984 when he was elected as Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) on Congress ticket. He has walked the political corridor for almost 40 years before assuming the Chief Ministership.

In this year's elections, he led the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) to a decisive victory bagging as many as 27 seats in the 40-member House.

The ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) was reduced to 10 seats while the BJP got 2 seats.

**About Mizoram**

- Formation - 20 February 1987
- Capital - Aizawl
- Chief Minister - Lalduhoma
- Governor - Hari Babu Kambhampati
- High Court - Gauhati High Court

112. Who has been named as the CEO of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine?

**टाइम पत्रिका ने किसे वर्ष 2023 का सीईओ नामित किया है?**

- (a) Sundar Pichai / सुन्दर पिचाई
- (b) Tim Cook / टिम कुक
- (c) Satya Nadella / सत्या नडेला
- (d) Shantanu Narayen / शांतनु नाराय
- (e) Sam Altman / सैम ऑल्टमैन

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** TIME ranks Sam Altman as CEO of the Year

Sam Altman was named CEO of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine.

Sam Altman marked '10-out-of-10 crazy thing to live through' when he had to spend a rather strange Thanksgiving- losing a company he co-founded, only to be reinstated after five frantic days.

Sam Altman co-founded OpenAI developed ChatGPT, a revolutionary tool, launched in November 2022. ChatGPT became one of the most rapidly adopted technology ever.

TIME eulogized American singer Taylor Swift being made Person of the Year as, the editors pointed out, since 1927, the 'person chosen has typically been a ruler over traditional domains of power.

He—and yes, usually it has been a “he”—is very often a politician or a titan of industry. Fourteen US Presidents, five leaders of Russia or the Soviet Union, and three Popes have all been recognized.

Athlete of the Year - Lionel Messi

113. International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled the logo for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 in Men's and Women's cricket. Which of the following countries will host the Women's T20 World Cup 2024?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट परिषद (ICC) ने पुरुष और महिला क्रिकेट में आगामी T20 विश्व कप 2024 के लिए लोगो का अनावरण किया है। निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा देश महिला टी20 विश्व कप 2024 की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) India / भारत
- (b) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश
- (c) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (d) South Africa / दक्षिण अफ्रीका
- (e) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** ICC launches new vibrant logo for Men's and Women's T20 World Cup 2024

International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled the logo for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Men's and Women's cricket next year. While the men's event is set to take place from June 4 to June 30, 2024 in the West Indies and USA. While, Women's T20 World Cup will happen in Bangladesh. The new logo, according to ICC, captures the inherent drama the shortest form brings with it. It also showcases the relentless energy in T20 cricket even as the new brand identity incorporates textures and patterns inspired by host country.

**About International Cricket Council (ICC)**

- The International Cricket Council is the global governing body of cricket.
- It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 by representatives from Australia, England and South Africa.
- It was renamed as the International Cricket Conference in 1965, and took up its current name in 1987.
- **Formation** - 15 June 1909
- **Headquarters** - Dubai, UAE
- **Chairman** - Greg Barclay (New Zealand)
- **Deputy Chairman** - Imran Khwaja (Singapore)
- **CEO** - Geoff Allardice (Australia)
- **General Manager** - Wasim Khan
- **Membership** - 108 members

114. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan has inaugurated the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Avionics Expo 2023 in which city?

चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ (सीडीएस), जनरल अनिल चौहान ने किस शहर में हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड एवियोनिक्स एक्सपो 2023 का उद्घाटन किया है?

- (a) Varanasi / वाराणसी
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Bhubaneswar / भुवनेश्वर
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Gen. Anil Chauhan inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Avionics Expo

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan has inaugurated the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Avionics Expo 2023 in New Delhi.

Chauhan said the aviation sector needs to keep up with a rapidly changing world and new technological innovations.

He added that military affairs are headed to convergence warfare where different technologies converge to make battles more automated and autonomous.

CDS Chauhan also stressed on the need for Aatma-Nirbharta in the aviation sector to reduce import dependency, boost the economy, and better handle geo-political and economic instabilities.

115. International Day Against Corruption or International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is celebrated every year on which day?

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी दिवस या अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी दिवस (IACD) हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 7 December / 7 दिसंबर
- (b) 8 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 9 December / 9 दिसंबर
- (d) 10 December / 11 दिसंबर
- (e) 11 December / 11 दिसंबर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 9 December - International Anti-Corruption Day

International Day Against Corruption or International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is celebrated every year on December 9.

Objective - To raise awareness among the general public on the impact of the prevailing malice in many countries.

Theme 2023 - UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption

Corruption is such a malpractice that threatens the social and economic development of societies across the world, which is why this day aims to educate people on this crucial issue.

As an initial step in combating corruption, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption on October 31, 2003.

The authorities also designated the date of December 9 as World Anti-Corruption Day to raise awareness about corruption and the role of the Convention in preventing it. Following the same, the observance of the day was first officially held on 9 December 2005.

116. PM Narendra Modi has sanctioned an ambitious urban flood mitigation project for which city, with a budget allocation of Rs 561.29 crore under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने राष्ट्रीय आपदा न्यूनीकरण निधि (एनडीएमएफ) के तहत 561.29 करोड़ रुपये के बजट आवंटन के साथ किस शहर के लिए एक महत्वाकांक्षी शहरी बाढ़ शमन परियोजना को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** PM Modi approves India's first project to tackle urban floods

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned an ambitious urban flood mitigation project for Chennai, with a budget allocation of Rs. 561.29 crore under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).

This announcement arrives as Chennai grapples with the devastating aftermath of Cyclone Michaung. Torrential rains have left the city submerged in water, highlighting the critical need for improved flood prevention measures.

The 'Integrated Urban Flood Management Activities for Chennai Basin Project' represents a proactive measure to address the challenges posed by urban flooding.

117. What is the India's rank in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023?

जलवायु परिवर्तन प्रदर्शन सूचकांक (सीसीपीआई) 2023 में भारत की रैंक क्या है?

- (a) 4th
- (b) 1st
- (c) 2nd
- (d) 7th
- (e) 10th

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India ranked 7th in Climate Change Performance Index 2023

India has been placed 7th in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI). The country improved one rank from the previous one and also remained among the highest performers.

According to a report released during the global climate conference (COP-28) in Dubai, India maintained its top 10 position for the fifth year in a row. India ranked 7th in this year's Climate Change Performance Index, up one spot from the previous one, and also remained among the highest performers.

India has received a high ranking in the greenhouse gas emissions and Energy Use categories, but a medium in Climate Policy and Renewable Energy, as in the previous year.

The Index evaluates the climate mitigation efforts of 63 countries and the European Union, covering over 90 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

China, the largest polluter came in at number 51 while the US, the second biggest emitter came in at number 57.

India's past performance in the CCPI ranking shows significant improvement from 31st rank in 2014 to seventh in 2023.

#### **Recent index**

- **World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2023** - India ranked 49th; topped by US
- **Global Unicorn Rankings** - Rank 1. USA, Rank 2. China, Rank 3. India
- **Inclusiveness index by US varsity** - India ranked 117th; topped by - New Zealand
- **Global Pension Index 2023** - India ranked 45; Topped by Netherland
- **Global Hunger Index 2023** - India ranked 111th

118. Who has addressed the 2nd Edition of the flagship Financial Technology event - Infinity Forum 2.0?

**प्रमुख वित्तीय प्रौद्योगिकी कार्यक्रम - इन्फिनिटी फोरम 2.0 के दूसरे संस्करण को किसने संबोधित किया है?**

- (a) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़
- (b) S Jaishankar / एस जयशंकर
- (c) Ashwini Vaishnaw / अश्विनी वैष्णव
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** PM Modi addressed financial technology event "Infinity Forum 2.0" Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 2nd Edition of the flagship Financial Technology event - Infinity Forum 2.0. The event is hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, GIFT City, under the aegis of the Union Government. Organized as a pre-cursor event to Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, the 2nd edition of the Infinity Forum 2.0, was held in hybrid mode, with an invite-only in-person event scheduled in GIFT City and for virtual participation from participants across the globe. The Infinity Forum is a global thought leadership platform on financial services, where progressive ideas, pressing problems, and innovative technologies from across the world get Discovered, Discussed, and Developed into solutions and opportunities. The 1st edition of the Forum was organized in December 2021 and witnessed over 95 thousand registrations across more than 80 countries and a 'FinTech Showcase' with more than 100 virtual exhibitors hosted alongside the main event.

**PM Modi in News**

- PM Modi inaugurated 2nd edition of 'World Food India 2023' in New Delhi
- PM Modi dedicated projects worth ₹5950 Crore in Gujrat
- PM Modi inaugurated 7th Edition of Indian Mobile Congress
- PM Modi chairs meeting of 43rd edition of PRAGATI
- PM Modi launched Bengaluru Metro's Purple Line operations

119. Who has inaugurated the new office premises of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Mumbai Bench?

**केंद्रीय प्रशासनिक न्यायाधिकरण (CAT), मुंबई बेंच के नए कार्यालय परिसर का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?**

- (a) Dr DY Chandrachud / डॉ. डीवाई चंद्रचूड़
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मू
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** New branch of CAT, Mumbai Bench inaugurated by CJI Chandrachud

The new office premises of Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai Bench at Nishtha Bhawan, New Marine Lines, near Churchgate Station, Mumbai-400020; has been inaugurated by Chief Justice of India Dr DY Chandrachud.

He commended the Central Government's support in establishing judicial infrastructure.

He has further elaborated the creation of the Tribunals by 42nd amendment with the objective of combating the delays and backlog faced by the Courts.

120. Which country will host the 37th session of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in February 2024?

कौन सा देश फरवरी 2024 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र के खाद्य और कृषि संगठन (एफएओ) के एशिया प्रशांत क्षेत्रीय सम्मेलन (एपीआरसी) के 37वें सत्र की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) Malaysia / मलेशिया
- (b) Maldives / मालदीव
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Mauritius / मॉरीशस
- (e) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Sri Lanka to host FAO conference in 2024

Sri Lanka will host the 37th session of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in February 2024.

The conference will enable ministers of agriculture and high officials from 46 member countries across the Asia Pacific region to discuss challenges and priorities related to food and agriculture, promoting regional coherence.

According to the FAO, by hosting the event, Sri Lanka demonstrates the country's dedication to the growth of sustainable agriculture, not just at home but across the region, and showcases its commitment to being partner in sustainable agricultural development.

**About Sri Lanka**

- **Legislative capital** - Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **Executive and Judicial capital** - Colombo
- **Currency** - Sri Lankan rupee
- **President** - Ranil Wickremesinghe
- **Prime Minister** - Dinesh Gunawardena

121. In December 2023, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the license of \_\_\_\_\_-based Urban Co-operative Bank in Uttar Pradesh.

दिसंबर 2023 में, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने उत्तर प्रदेश में \_\_\_\_\_-आधारित शहरी सहकारी बैंक का लाइसेंस रद्द कर दिया।

- (a) Moradabad/ मुरादाबाद
- (b) Allahabad/ इलाहाबाद
- (c) Sitapur/ सीतापुर
- (d) Lucknow/ लखनऊ
- (e) Kanpur/ कानपुर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** RBI has canceled the license of Sitapur-based Urban Co-operative Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the license of Sitapur-based Urban Co-operative Bank in Uttar Pradesh.

The bank's license was canceled due to lack of adequate capital and prospects of earning. The RBI has prohibited the bank from any banking, including depositing money and repaying its customers. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of ₹5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). As per the data submitted by the bank, 98.32 percent of the depositors are entitled to receive full amount of their deposits from DICGC.

**About Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

- **Founded** - 1 April 1935
- **RBI Nationalized** - 1 January 1949
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **RBI set up** - Hilton Young Commission
- **1st Governor** - Sir Osborne Smith (Australia)
- **1st Indian Governor** - CD Deshmukh
- **25th Governor** - Shaktikanta Das

122. According to the Industry Chamber CII, India's economy is to grow at how much percent in the FY 2023-24?

उद्योग चैंबर सीआईआई के अनुसार, वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था कितने प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ेगी?

- (a) 6.4%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 6.6%
- (d) 6.7%
- (e) 6.8%

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India's economy to grow at 6.8% in FY24, accelerate to 7% in FY25: CII

Industry chamber CII expects the country's economy to grow at 6.8 percent in the current fiscal and accelerate to 7 percent in 2024-25, driven by the government's continued focus on infrastructure development and promotion of ease of doing business.

The expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.8 percent will be more than the 6.5-6.7 percent estimated earlier by the industry body.

India's economy recorded a growth of 7.7 percent in the first half of the current fiscal ended in September.

#### Updated GDP List

- CII – 6.8% (FY24), 7% (FY25)
- UBS – 6.3 % (FY24)
- World Economic Outlook by IMF – 7.2% (FY23), 6.1% (FY24), 6.3% (FY25)
- Economic Survey – 7% (FY23), 6.5% (FY24)
- World Bank – 6.9% (FY23), 6.3% (FY24), 6.4% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- Moody– 6.7% (FY23), 6.1% (FY24), 6.3% (FY25)
- NACER – 7.4% (FY23), 6.5% (FY24)
- S&P – 6% (FY24), 6.9% (FY25), 6.9% (FY26), 7% (FY27)
- ICRA – 6.9% (FY23), 6% (FY24)
- IMF – 6.3% (FY24), 6.3% (FY25)
- ADB – 7% (FY23), 6.3% (FY24), 6.7% (FY25)
- RBI – 6.8% (FY23), 6.5% (FY24)

123. In December 2023, Author Tshering Tashi has been conferred with the Sahitya Akademi's 'Premchand Fellowship'. He is from which country?  
दिसंबर 2023 में, लेखक शेरिंग ताशी को साहित्य अकादमी की 'प्रेमचंद फ़ेलोशिप' से सम्मानित किया गया है। वह किस देश से है?

- (a) China / चीन
- (b) Nepal / नेपाल
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Vietnam / वियतनाम
- (e) Japan / जापान

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Bhutanese author Tshering Tashi conferred with Sahitya Akademi's Premchand Fellowship

Noted Bhutanese author Tshering Tashi was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi's 'Premchand Fellowship'.

Based in Bhutan's capital Thimphu, Mr. Tashi is a writer known for his works in the field of creative non-fiction.

He has written numerous books on Bhutan and has made his country accessible, engaging, and interesting for the youth. He is also the co-director of the Bhutan Echoes Literary Festival.

Tashi is the co-author of The Bodhisattva King, Bold Bhutan Beckons, Symbols of Bhutan, and is an independent author of works like Mysteries of the Raven Crown, Legacy of Gongzim Ugyen Dori, and Myth and Memory – Untold Stories of Bhutan.

**About Premchand Fellowship**

- The 'Premchand Fellowship' is named after popular Hindi writer Munshi Premchand and was instituted by the Sahitya Akademi in 2005 on his 125th Birth Anniversary
- It is given to "a person of eminence in the field of culture and literature" doing research on Indian literature or to creative writers from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries other than India.
- The period of the research ranges from one month to three months. The visiting fellow needs to submit a comprehensive report of their visit which is to be placed before the executive board and are requested to deliver lectures on the topic of their specialisation in universities and institutions dealing in the discipline.
- Mr. Tashi is the 12th recipient of the fellowship. Pakistani Urdu writer Intizar Hussain was the first recipient of the fellowship.

**Recent Awards**

- **Bank of the Year (India) Award by Financial Times** - Federal Bank
- **CEO of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine** - Sam Altman (co-founded OpenAI developed ChatGPT)
- **Person of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine** - Taylor Swift (American singer)
- **Athlete of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine** - Lionel Messi
- **Singapore's Highest Arts Award 'Cultural Medallion'** - Indian-Origin Novelist Meira Chand

124. \_\_\_\_\_ has conducted a Table-Top Exercise (TTX) for the Women Officers of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.

\_\_\_\_\_ ने नई दिल्ली के मानेकशाँ सेंटर में एसोसिएशन ऑफ साउथ-ईस्ट एशियन नेशंस (ASEAN) की महिला अधिकारियों के लिए एक टेबल-टॉप एक्सरसाइज (TTX) आयोजित की है।

- (a) Indian Army / भारतीय सेना
- (b) Indian Air Force / भारतीय वायु सेना
- (c) Indian Navy / भारतीय नौसेना
- (d) Indian Coast Guard / भारतीय तट रक्षक
- (e) Defense Ministry / रक्षा मंत्रालय

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Indian Army conducted Table-top Exercise for Asean Women Peacekeepers

In a landmark initiative to promote gender inclusivity and enhance the capabilities of women military personnel in peacekeeping operations, the Indian Army conducted a Table-Top Exercise (TTX) for the Women Officers of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.

The Exercise is part of ongoing efforts of Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) to strengthen international cooperation and capacity-building in peacekeeping missions, with specific focus on empowering women in the field. CUNPK is a premier institution of the Indian Army to impart training in peacekeeping operations. CUNPK had earlier conducted ASEAN Women Military Officers Course from 18th to 29th September 2023.

This TTX is a follow-up exercise of ongoing joint military training between India and ASEAN member states. The Exercise underscores India's shared commitment to the world peace, stability, and gender equality.

This Exercise served as a platform for participants to simulate and strategise responses to complex peacekeeping scenarios, reflecting real-world challenges. It also included exposure to complex operational peacekeeping environment and methods to ensure women peace and security.

125. In December 2023, Vishnu Deo Sai became the new Chief Minister of which of the following states?

दिसंबर 2023 में, विष्णु देव साई निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य के नए मुख्यमंत्री बने है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Telangana / तेलंगाना
- (e) Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Vishnu Deo Sai becomes the new CM of Chhattisgarh

Former Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vishnu Deo Sai has become the new Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

He will be the central Indian State's fourth Chief Minister, and the first tribal leader to hold the post. He is also the first to hail from a region beyond the Other Backward Class-dominated central plains in Chhattisgarh's 23-year-old history.

A prominent tribal face of the BJP, Sai will take over as the next Chhattisgarh CM before January 3, 2024 — when the tenure of the Chhattisgarh Assembly ends.

Vishnu Deo Sai belongs to a tribal community. He hails from the influential Sahu (Teli) community which has a sizable presence in the Durg, Raipur, and Bilaspur divisions.

Vishnu Deo Sai served as the BJP's Chhattisgarh president from 2006 to 2010 and again from January to August 2014. After the BJP lost power in the state in 2018, he was again given the responsibility to lead the party in Chhattisgarh in 2020. He was replaced with Arun Sao, an OBC leader, in 2022, just a year ahead of the assembly polls.

Vishnu Deo Sai began his political career as a member of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly between 1990-98 before Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh. He was a member of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly from 1990-1998 from the Tapkara constituency.

The assembly elections in Chhattisgarh was held in two phases, with the first on November 7 featuring 223 candidates and the second seeing 958 candidates put their electoral fates to the test on November 17. Of the 90 assembly constituencies in Chhattisgarh, the the BJP bagged 54 while the Congress won 35.

**About Chhattisgarh**

- **Capital** – Raipur
- **Chief Minister** – Vishnu Deo Sai (replace Bhupesh Baghel)
- **Governor** – Biswabhusan Harichandan

126. Which of the following countries has won the 12th edition of Admiral's Cup 2023 held at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala?

निम्नलिखित में से किस देश ने भारतीय नौसेना अकादमी, एझिमाला में आयोजित एडमिरल कप 2023 का 12वां संस्करण जीता है?

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) India / भारत

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Italy won Admiral's Cup 2023 held at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala

The 12th edition of 'Admiral's Cup' Sailing Regatta concluded with a glittering closing ceremony at Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala.

Team Italy represented by Midshipman Avallone Antonio & Midshipman Creati Carlo Leonardo won the Admiral's Cup 23.

Team India represented by Midshipman PPK Reddy and Cadet GY Reddy was the Runners-Up and Team United Kingdom & Germany represented by Officer Cadet Lucy Bell and Midshipman Aaron Middleton from United Kingdom and Cadet Beckman Carl & Cadet Hinz Anton from Germany shared the third position.

Seaman Gorkunov Petr from Russia stood first in the individual position in the men's category followed by Midshipman Avallone Antonio from Italy and Midshipman PPK Reddy from India at second and third positions respectively.

Officer Cadet Lucy Bell from United Kingdom stood first in the individual position in women's category followed by Cadet Sangla Elma Salsadila from Indonesia and Cadet Jhanvi Singh from India at second and third positions respectively.

43 participants skillfully navigated challenging wind and weather conditions in Laser Radials boats.

The event saw participation from 20 countries and Indian teams.

127. Which company has introduced to the world its newest language model (LLM) called "Gemini"?  
किस कंपनी ने "जेमिनी" नामक अपना नवीनतम भाषा मॉडल (एलएलएम) दुनिया के सामने पेश किया है?

- (a) Microsoft / माइक्रोसॉफ्ट
- (b) Apple / ऐप्पल
- (c) Adobe / एडोब
- (d) Google / गूगल
- (e) Meta / मेटा

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Google launches its largest and 'most capable' AI model, Gemini

Google has introduced to the world its newest language model (LLM) called Gemini.

This new LLM can seamlessly understand, operate across, and combine different types of information, including text, code, audio, images, and video.

Google claims that Gemini is their most capable and general-purpose AI model to date. However, there's more to it than meets the eye.

Gemini isn't just one model; it's actually a family of AI models that come in three sizes: Gemini Ultra, Gemini Pro and Gemini Nano

According to Google, its new flagship AI model, Gemini, has arrived in its first iteration, version 1.0, and comes in three distinct sizes, each tailored to specific needs. It has the flexibility to run on everything from data centres to mobile devices.

128. The Human Rights Day is celebrated around the world on which day?

**विश्व भर में मानवाधिकार दिवस किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 7 December / 7 दिसंबर
- (b) 8 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 9 December / 9 दिसंबर
- (d) 10 December / 11 दिसंबर
- (e) 11 December / 11 दिसंबर

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 10 December - Human Rights Day

The Human Rights Day is celebrated around the world on December 10 every year.

It focuses on the fundamental rights and liberties of people and advocates for the rights that transcend nationality, gender, ethnicity, race, sexuality, religion, or any other distinctions.

Theme 2023 - Freedom, Equality and Justice for All

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

1950, Human Rights Day was formally established after the adoption of the UNGA Resolution 423. As per the resolution, all the states and interested organizations were invited to celebrate the day and commemorate the proclamation of the UDHR.

129. International Day of Commemoration of the Victims of Crime of Genocide is observed every year on which day?

**नरसंहार के अपराध के पीड़ितों की स्मृति का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 7 December / 7 दिसंबर
- (b) 8 December / 8 दिसंबर
- (c) 9 December / 9 दिसंबर
- (d) 10 December / 11 दिसंबर
- (e) 11 December / 11 दिसंबर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 9 December - International Day of Commemoration of the Victims of Crime of Genocide

International Day of Commemoration of the Victims of Crime of Genocide is observed every year on 9 December.

Theme 2023 - A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

By UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/323 of September 2015, 9th December became the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.

130. Naeem Sayyed, a well-known actor known for his comic roles, passed away at the age of 67. He was also known as \_\_\_\_\_ by fans?

अपनी हास्य भूमिकाओं के लिए जाने जाने वाले प्रसिद्ध अभिनेता नईम सैय्यद का 67 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। प्रशंसकों द्वारा उन्हें \_\_\_\_\_ के नाम से भी जाना जाता था?

- (a) Junior Chacha / जूनियर चाचा
- (b) Junior Mahmood / जूनियर महमूद
- (c) Junior Majnu / जूनियर मजनू
- (d) Junior Raja / जूनियर राजा
- (e) Junior Sayyed / जूनियर सैय्यद

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Naeem Sayyed aka Junior Mehmood passes away

Naeem Sayyed, a well-known actor known for his comic roles, passed away at the age of 67.

He also known as Junior Mahmood by fans, had a prolific career that included many critically acclaimed films.

For the unversed, Junior Mehmood was a part of Nakuul Mehta and Disha Parmar starrer Pyaar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyara Pyara.

Junior Mehmood was a well-known actor who appeared in films such as Caravan, Mera Naam Joker, and Haathi Mere Saathi.

131. Which of the following states has launched the 'Maha Lakshmi scheme' that provides free travel for women, girls, and transgender persons?  
निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य ने 'महा लक्ष्मी योजना' शुरू की है जो महिलाओं, लड़कियों और ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों के लिए मुफ्त यात्रा प्रदान करती है?

- (a) Kerala / केरल
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Telangana rolls out free bus travel scheme for women, transgenders

The Congress government in Telangana has launched the 'Maha Lakshmi scheme' which provides free travel for women, girls, and transgender persons.

As per an official release, the Transport Department of the Government of Telangana has announced the launch of the '6 Guarantees-Maha Lakshmi' scheme.

The Maha Lakshmi scheme was announced by the Congress party on September 18, in its Manifesto for Telangana.

According to the scheme, the Congress party will provide free bus travel for women in Telangana while also providing ₹2500 to women every month under the Mahalaxmi Yojana.

The Maha Lakshmi scheme aims to provide free travel for girls, women of all age groups, and transgender persons in state-run Palle Velugu and express buses operated by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) within the borders of Telangana State.

The scheme is specifically designed for the benefit of girls, women of all age groups, and transgender persons who are domiciled in Telangana.

Chief Minister of Telangana, A. Revanth Reddy also launched the Rajiv Aarogyasri Scheme - enhanced to ₹10 lakh - in Hyderabad.

The Rajiv Arogyasri Scheme provides financial protection, to families living below the poverty line, up to ₹10 lakh in a year for the treatment of serious ailments requiring hospitalization and surgery and also financial coverage up to ₹10 lakh for high end procedures.

#### **About Telangana**

- **Established** - 2 June 2014
- **Capital** - Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister** - Revanth Reddy (replace K. Chandrashekar Rao)
- **Governor** - Tamilisai Soundararajan

132. Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district of Telangana has secured the top position in the first delta rankings of the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) has announced by which of the following?

तेलंगाना के कुमुराम भीम आसिफाबाद जिले ने एस्पिरेशनल ब्लॉक प्रोग्राम (एबीपी) की पहली डेल्टा रैंकिंग में शीर्ष स्थान हासिल किया है। एस्पिरेशनल ब्लॉक्स प्रोग्राम (एबीपी) की घोषणा निम्नलिखित में से किसके द्वारा की गई है?

- (a) Finance Ministry / वित्त मंत्रालय
- (b) RBI / आरबीआई
- (c) Bureau of Indian Standards / भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो
- (d) NITI Aayog / नीति आयोग
- (e) NASSCOM / नैसकॉम

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** NITI Aayog releases the 1st Delta Ranking of ABP

Tiriyani Block of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana has secured the top position in the first delta rankings of the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) announced by NITI Aayog.

The second position was bagged by Kaushambi block of Kaushambi District, Uttar Pradesh.

The rankings were announced in a virtual event at NITI Aayog which saw participation of 329 districts and 500 aspirational blocks from across the country.

The ranking of the blocks has been calculated based on the performance of blocks and progress achieved in the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the month of June 2023.

In addition to ABP, the ADP rankings were also announced for the month of October 2023 which saw Rayagada (Odisha) and Jamui (Bihar) achieving the first and second ranks respectively. The top rankers in the thematic and overall categories of ADP were felicitated.

**About Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**

- The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched on January 7, 2023.
- ABP focuses on improving governance to enhance the quality of life of citizens in the most difficult and relatively underdeveloped blocks of India.
- 500 blocks from 329 districts across 27 states and 4 Union Territories of India are part of the programme.
- The Programme strategy is based on convergence of existing schemes, defining outcomes, and monitoring them on a constant basis
- In consultation with various stakeholders, 40 key performance indicators (KPIs) were chosen to measure progress of the blocks which have been grouped into 5 themes.
- The baseline data of March 31, 2023 and of the first quarter on June 30, 2023 of 500 Aspirational Blocks was sourced through Management Information System of 11 ministries. The 1st Delta rank has been calculated based on improvement made in the first quarter.

133. Invest India will host which edition of the World Investment Conference in New Delhi?

इन्वेस्ट इंडिया नई दिल्ली में विश्व निवेश सम्मेलन के किस संस्करण की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) 27th
- (b) 28th
- (c) 24th
- (d) 25th
- (e) 26th

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Invest India to host 27th World Investment Conference in New Delhi

Invest India will host the 27th edition of World Investment Conference in New Delhi.

Under the theme "Empowering Investors: IPAs Pioneering Future Growth," the conference is set to be the largest ever, bringing together over 1000 attendees, 50 Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), and various multilateral agencies.

The conference, organized by Invest India and serving as the flagship event of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), will be a platform for global investment promotion and innovation stakeholders.

It aims to foster collaboration, trade, investments, and knowledge sharing among IPAs, international organizations, academia, the private sector, and startups.

134. UNICEF's Generation Unlimited will collaborate with which Indian ministry to launch the "Green Rising" initiative at the COP28 Summit?

यूनिसेफ की जेनरेशन अनलिमिटेड COP28 शिखर सम्मेलन में "ग्रीन राइजिंग" पहल शुरू करने के लिए किस भारतीय मंत्रालय के साथ सहयोग करेगी?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare / स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
- (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests / पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय
- (c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs / आवास और शहरी मामलों के मंत्रालय
- (d) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy / नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय
- (e) Ministry of Jal Shakti (Water) / जल शक्ति मंत्रालय (जल)

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** UNICEF in collaboration with India to launch "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 Summit in Dubai

UNICEF's Generation Unlimited, in collaboration with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change will unveil the "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 in Dubai.

The global "Green Rising" initiative and the "Green Rising India Alliance" marks a collaborative effort involving UNICEF, Generation Unlimited, and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partners.

The main goal is to mobilize millions of young people worldwide, encouraging their active participation in green initiatives addressing and adapting to the severe impacts of climate change on their communities.

The "Green Rising" initiative focuses on engaging youth for impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level, aligning with the global effort to address the severe impacts of climate change.

The global "Green Rising" initiative and the "Green Rising India Alliance" marks a collaborative effort involving UNICEF, Generation Unlimited and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partner.

**About United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**

- **Founded** - 1946
- **Headquarters** - New York City, USA
- **Director General** - Catherine M. Russell
- **Membership** - 192

135. Which company has joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati to empower India's micro-enterprises with knowledge about government schemes, and digital credit?

सरकारी योजनाओं और डिजिटल क्रेडिट के बारे में भारत के सूक्ष्म उद्यमों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए किस कंपनी ने लघु उद्योग भारती के साथ हाथ मिलाया है?

- (a) Tata Capital / टाटा कैपिटल
- (b) U GRO Capital / यू ग्रो कैपिटल
- (c) Dhani Capital / धानी कैपिटल
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** U GRO Capital joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati to empower MSMEs

A leading DataTech NBFC focused on MSME lending, U GRO Capital has joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati (an organization dedicated to supporting and promoting micro-enterprises) to empower India's micro-enterprises with knowledge about government schemes, and digital credit.

This Strategic Partnership Aims to Educate Small Businesses on Government Schemes and Promote Digital Credit across the Country.

India's MSMEs have long been the backbone of the country's economy, contributing significantly to employment generation, industrial production, and overall economic growth.

This collaboration is set to bring a positive and transformative impact on micro-enterprises in India, promoting their growth and success.

Under this partnership, U GRO Capital, along with Laghu Udyog Bharati, will host a series of seminars, workshops, and events in over 100 micro markets across India.

These events are aimed at educating and empowering the network of small businesses empaneled with Laghu Udyog Bharati.

**Recent MoU in Banking Sector**

- Union Bank collaborates with Accenture to boost operational efficiency
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partners Water.org to offer sanitation loan
- Karnataka Bank ties up with HDFC Life to offer life insurance products
- Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India
- Kotak Bank partnered with NeSL to issue electronic Bank Guarantee
- IndusInd Bank partnered with Viamericas to enhance Fast Remit platform

136. IDFC FIRST Bank has launched a youth-centric “FIRST SWYP” credit card in partnership with which company?

**IDFC FIRST बैंक ने किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी में युवा-केंद्रित "FIRST SWYP" क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च किया है?**

- (a) Mastercard / मास्टरकार्ड
- (b) Visa / वीज़ा
- (c) American Express / अमेरिकन एक्सप्रेस
- (d) RuPay / रुपये
- (e) CapitalOne / कैपिटलवन

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** IDFC FIRST Bank launches “FIRST SWYP” credit card

IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced a youth-centric “FIRST SWYP” credit card in partnership with Mastercard.

This card can be used as a no-interest charge card and has curated features -- flexible bill repayments through EMIs, a benefit-laden referral program, and exclusive and relevant merchant partnerships.

The card will address demands of new-age customers, blending benefits across their favorite categories of spends and lifestyle-related offers and innovative propositions, it added.

The new card is the Bank’s second youth-focused credit card. It had earlier launched “FIRST Millennia Credit Cards”.

#### **About IDFC First Bank**

- **Founded** - October 2015
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **MD & CEO** - V. Vaidyanathan
- **Executive Director** - Madhivanan Balakrishnan

#### **Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- LIC introduces new whole life insurance policy **Jeevan Utsav**
- SEBI unveiled **Investor Risk Reduction Access platform**
- Federal Bank introduces **UPI lite for small-value digital payments**
- SIDBI launches '**Sumpoorn**' **MSME Economic Activity Index** with Jocata
- HSBC India launches **e-bank guarantee services** for MSMEs

137. Who has become the new President of the industry association FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) for 2023-24?

**2023-24 के लिए उद्योग संघ FICCI (फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन चैंबर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री) के नए अध्यक्ष कौन बने हैं?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Vumlunmang Vualnam / वुमलुनमंग वुअलनाम
- (c) Anish Shah / अनीश शाह
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Raghu Srinivasan / रघु श्रीनिवासन

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Anish Shah takes over as FICCI President for 2023-24

Group CEO of Mahindra Group and Managing Director of M&M, Anish Shah has become the new President of the industry association FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry).

Shah succeeded Subhrakant Panda as FICCI President at the apex chamber's just-finished 96th Annual Convention in the capital.

Shah earned a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Harsha Vardhan Agarwal, Emami Limited's Vice Chairman and Managing Director, has been promoted to Senior Vice President at FICCI.

Before joining Mahindra Group, Shah was President and CEO of GE Capital India from 2009 to 2014, where he oversaw the company's restructuring, including the rescue of its SBI Card joint venture.

#### **Recent Appointment**

- **Chairman of World Radiocommunication Conference 2023** - Mohammed Al Ramsi (UAE)
- **Head of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Board** - Samir Shah
- **Chairman of Swiggy India** - Anand Kripalu
- **First Indian to operate Mars rover** - Akshata Krishnamurthy
- **First woman medical officer to be deployed at Siachen** - Captain Geetika Kouls

138. Who has been elected as the speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly?

**मध्य प्रदेश विधानसभा का अध्यक्ष किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Jagdish Devda / जगदीश देवड़ा
- (b) Dr Mohan Yadav / डॉ. मोहन यादव
- (c) Rajendra Shukla / राजेंद्र शुक्ल
- (d) Narendra Singh Tomar / नरेंद्र सिंह तोमर
- (e) Shivraj Singh Chauhan / शिवराज सिंह चौहान

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Mohan Yadav becomes the new CM of Madhya Pradesh

The newly elected BJP MLAs in Madhya Pradesh have elected Dr Mohan Yadav as the new chief minister of the state. Earlier this month, the BJP scored a landslide victory in Madhya Pradesh by winning 166 seats.

Outgoing finance minister and two-time MLA Jagdish Devda from Mandsaur and outgoing public relations minister MLA Rajendra Shukla from Rewa have been elected as deputy chief ministers.

Mohan Yadav is a member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from the Ujjain Dakshin constituency in Ujjain district

He first became an MLA in 2013 from the same seat. He won the assembly elections from the same seat in 2018 and 2023.

Mohan Yadav is also a cabinet minister in Shivraj Singh Chouhan's government.

Mohan Yadav has won the 2023 elections by more than 13000 votes.

Mohan Yadav has several educational degrees including BSC, LLB, MA, MBA, and PhD.

Ex-union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has been elected as the speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly.

**About Madhya Pradesh**

- **Capital** – Bhopal
- **Chief Minister** – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)
- **Deputy CM** - Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla
- **Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly** - Narendra Singh Tomar
- **Governor** – Mangubhai C. Patel

139. Kashvi Gautam has become the most expensive uncapped player of all time in the Women's Premier League (WPL) Auction 2024. Kashvi Gautam has been acquired by which team for Rs 2 crore?  
**काशवी गौतम महिला प्रीमियर लीग (डब्ल्यूपीएल) नीलामी 2024 में अब तक की सबसे महंगी अनकैप्ड खिलाड़ी बन गई हैं। काशवी गौतम को किस टीम ने 2 करोड़ रुपये में खरीदा है?**

- (a) UP Warrior / यूपी वारियर्स
- (b) Delhi Capitals / दिल्ली कैपिटल्स
- (c) Gujarat Giants / गुजरात दिग्गज
- (d) Mumbai Indians / मुंबई इंडियंस
- (e) Royal Challengers Bangalore / रॉयल चैलेंजर्स बैंगलोर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Kashvi Gautam became most expensive uncapped star of all time in WPL auction India's young player Kashvee Gautam has bagged a huge profit in the star auction ahead of the 2024 season of Women's Premier League (WPL 2024). Kashvi became the most valuable uncapped player of all time in the Women's Premier League. The young star, who had a base price of Rs 10 lakh, was acquired by Gujarat Giants for Rs 2 crore. The Chandigarh star was snapped up by Gujarat after a fierce bidding war with UP Warriors. Within minutes Gautham owns Vrinda Dinesh's record of fetching Rs 1.3 crore in this auction itself. **Who is Kashvi Gautam?** Kashvi Gautam first became famous in Indian cricket in 2020. The Chandigarh pacer shocked everyone by taking 10 wickets against Arunachal Pradesh in the domestic U-19 ODI. This performance included a hat trick.

140. Indian women's doubles pair of \_\_\_\_\_ have secured their second Super 100 title with a straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui at the Guwahati Masters 2023.

**भारतीय महिला युगल जोड़ी \_\_\_\_\_ ने गुवाहाटी मास्टर्स 2023 में चीनी ताइपे की सुंग शुओ यू और यू चिएन हुई पर सीधे गेम में जीत के साथ अपना दूसरा सुपर 100 खिताब हासिल किया है।**

- (a) Ashmita Chaliha and Ashwini Ponnappa / अश्मिता चालिहा और अश्विनी पोनप्पा
- (b) Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa / तनीषा क्रैस्टो और अश्विनी पोनप्पा
- (c) Tanya Hemanth and Tanisha Crast / तान्या हेमंथ और तनीषा क्रैस्ट
- (d) Gayatri Gopichand and Ashwini Ponnappa / गायत्री गोपीचंद और अश्विनी पोनप्पा
- (e) Ashmita Chaliha and Tanisha Crasto / अश्मिता चालिहा और तनीषा क्रैस्टो

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Ashwini-Tanisha duo clinches women's doubles title in Guwahati Masters 2023

Indian women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa have secured their second Super 100 title with a straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui at the Guwahati Masters 2023.

The second-seeded Indian combination, which finished runners-up at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow, beat the world no. 81 combination 21-13 21-19 in a 40-minute final.

This was the third title for the Indian pair, which had clinched the Abu Dhabi Masters Super 100 and Nates International Challenge this year.

Ashwini, 34, and 20-year-old Tanisha started playing together only in January and were part of India's Asian Games squad which competed in Hangzhou, China in September-October.

The BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300. One more category of the tournament, the BWF Tour Super 100 level, also offers ranking points

Each of these tournaments offers different ranking points and prize money. The highest points and prize pool is offered at the Super 1000 level.

141. Which of the following has been conducted Exercise 'Prasthan' Off Mumbai Coast?

निम्नलिखित में से किसके द्वारा मुंबई तट पर 'प्रस्थान' अभ्यास आयोजित किया गया है?

- (a) Indian Army / भारतीय सेना
- (b) Indian Air Force / भारतीय वायु सेना
- (c) Indian Navy / भारतीय नौसेना
- (d) Indian Coast Guard / भारतीय तट रक्षक
- (e) Both a and c / ए और सी दोनों

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Indian Navy Conducts Exercise 'Prasthan' Off Mumbai Coast

The Indian Navy, along with other defence state and civil agencies completed a two-phased exercise 'Prasthan' in the Offshore Development Area, off the Mumbai coast.

The exercise, which is conducted every six months, was held on the R12A (Ratna) Platform of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) around 83 km away from Mumbai harbour.

The 'Prasthan' is conducted to validate measures and procedures to address various contingencies that may arise in the oil production platforms.

142. Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated every year on which day?

यूनिवर्सल हेल्थ कवरेज दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 12 December / 12 दिसंबर
- (b) 13 December / 13 दिसंबर
- (c) 9 December / 9 दिसंबर
- (d) 10 December / 11 दिसंबर
- (e) 11 December / 11 दिसंबर

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 12 December - Universal Health Coverage Day

Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated every year on 12 December.

As per WHO, Universal health coverage (UHC) means all people can access a full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial issues.

Theme for 2023 - Health For All: Time for Action

It includes all essential health services, from prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.

Countries need to have robust primary health care (PHC).

On 12 December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed a resolution urging countries to implement universal health coverage.

In 2017, the UNGA proclaimed 12 December as UHC Day.

**143. International Mountain Day 2023 is observed every year on December 11. What is the theme of International Mountain Day 2023?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस 2023 हर साल 11 दिसंबर को मनाया जाता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस 2023 का विषय क्या है?**

- (a) Women Move Mountains
- (b) Biodiversity Super Year
- (c) Mountains Matter for Youth
- (d) Restoring Mountain Ecosystems
- (e) MountainsMatter

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 11 December - International Mountain Day

International Mountain Day 2023 is observed every year on December 11.

Objective - To increase awareness and call for nature-based solutions, best practices, and investments that can enhance the resilience and adaptability of mountain ecosystems.

Theme 2023 - Restoring Mountain Ecosystems

The history of International Mountain Day dates back to 1992 when Agenda 21 “Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development” of Chapter 13 was adopted by the United Nations during its Conference on Environment and Development.

While it brought a major milestone in the history of mountain development, it was finally in 2002 that the UN General Assembly declared the UN International Year of Mountains and designated December 11 as International Mountain Day from 2003 onwards.

144. United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Day is observed every year on which day?

संयुक्त राष्ट्र अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाल आपातकालीन निधि (यूनिसेफ) दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 12 December / 12 दिसंबर
- (b) 13 December / 13 दिसंबर
- (c) 9 December / 9 दिसंबर
- (d) 10 December / 11 दिसंबर
- (e) 11 December / 11 दिसंबर

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 11 December - UNICEF Day

United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Day is observed every year on 11 December.

UNICEF aims to “protect the rights of every child, everywhere”. It is considered to be one of the most recognizable charities in the world, with several celebrity ambassadors and a staff of over 13,000 people.

UNICEF was first formed as the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund on December 11, 1946, to meet the needs of children affected by World War II.

By the 1950s, UNICEF expanded its mandate and began addressing “the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries everywhere

145. Joe Solomon passed away recently at the age of 93. He was related to which sport?

जो सोलोमन का हाल ही में 93 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस खेल से संबंधित थे?

- (a) Hockey / हॉकी
- (b) Tennis / टेनिस
- (c) Badminton / बैडमिंटन
- (d) Football / फुटबॉल
- (e) Cricket / क्रिकेट

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Former West Indies batter Joe Solomon passed away

The former West Indies and Guyana batter Joe Solomon passed away at the age of 93.

Solomon played 27 Tests for West Indies between 1958 and 1965, scoring 1326 runs at an average of 34.

Though he was a late starter in first-class cricket, debuting at 26, he proved his credentials quickly, as his first three innings in first-class cricket were centuries: 114 not out against Jamaica, 108 against Barbados, and 121 against the touring Pakistanis.

From there, he was drafted straight into the West Indies squad to tour India; in his fourth Test, he scored an unbeaten 100 in Delhi, and averaged 117 in the series.

Solomon, though, is perhaps most remembered for his role in the tied Test against Australia at the Gabba in 1960. With six runs to win off the final eight-ball over, and with three wickets remaining, Australia looked set to steal an already dramatic Test.

146. Consider the following statements-

- (i) A total of Rs 8,790 crore worth of loans have been disbursed so far to beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme, according to recent government data.
- (ii) This scheme is available pan-India in all urban and rural local bodies.
- (iii) All street vendors in rural and urban areas are eligible for benefits under the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

Find the correct statements

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Only iii
- (d) All are correct
- (e) All are incorrect

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Loans worth Rs 9,790 crore disbursed under PM SVANidhi scheme: Govt

A total of Rs 9,790 crore worth of loans have been disbursed so far to beneficiaries of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, according to government data.

The scheme was launched during the COVID-19 outbreak as a micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors that aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans up to Rs 50,000. This scheme is available pan-India in all urban local bodies. All street vendors in urban areas are eligible for benefits under the PM SVANidhi Scheme, irrespective of the date on which they started vending.

Loans disbursed to PM SVANidhi beneficiaries stood at Rs 2,039 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal, Rs 1,248 crore in 2021-22, Rs 1,866 crore in 2022-23, and Rs 4,637 crore up to December 5 of the current 2023-24 fiscal, taking the total to Rs 9,790 crore. As of December 5, 2023, 56,58,744 street vendor beneficiaries have been disbursed loans under this scheme.

Under the PM SVANidhi Scheme, a working capital loan of up to Rs 10,000 was introduced initially.

Considering the requirement for an enhanced loan, a second loan amount of up to Rs 20,000 with effect from April 09, 2021, and a third loan of up to Rs 50,000 with effect from June 1, 2022, were introduced.

147. Who has launched the 'Viksit Bharat@2047 - Voice of Youth across the nation virtually?

पूरे देश में आभासी तौर पर 'विकसित भारत@2047 - युवाओं की आवाज' किसने लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (c) Rajnath Singh / राजनाथ सिंह
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** PM launched 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' Workshop

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Viksit Bharat@2047 - Voice of Youth' and also addressed the Vice Chancellors and Heads of other Higher Education Institutes including students across the nation virtually.

Governor of Assam Gulab Chand Kataria hosted the programme at IIT Guwahati where around 1000 students, Vice Chancellors and the Heads of Institutions from about 61 Higher Educational Institutions of Assam attended physically. About 45 Higher Educational Institutions and about 600 colleges also participated in the virtual mode. It is a Sankalp of the Prime Minister to take our nation to be developed by 2047. He informed that the Centre as well as the State government has enhanced the budgetary allocation in Education to provide better quality education to our students. Education can take us to our set goals of a developed nation by 2047.

148. Rays Power Infra has inked an initial pact with which state government to build a 500 MW solar park in the state?

रेज़ पावर इंफ्रा ने राज्य में 500 मेगावाट का सौर पार्क बनाने के लिए किस राज्य सरकार के साथ प्रारंभिक समझौता किया है?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (e) Uttarakhand / उत्तराखंड

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Rays Power Infra to build 500 MW solar park in Uttarakhand

Rays Power Infra has inked an initial pact with the Uttarakhand government to build a 500 MW solar park in the state.

The collaboration underscores the company's dedication to advancing sustainable energy initiatives and aligning with the Uttarakhand government's vision for an environmentally responsible future.

This strategic partnership epitomizes our commitment to advancing solar energy solutions in India. The 500 MW solar park will not only fulfill a significant portion of the state's power demands but will also act as a catalyst for economic growth and environmental preservation.

Rays Power Infra has initiated the development and execution of solar parks and plants, aggregating to 2 GW, with expected commissioning in the next 24 months.

**Recent MoUs signed by State Government**

- UK & Tamil Nadu partners on smart tech sustainable resource management
- Ashok Leyland signs MoU with UP Govt to set up integrated e-bus plant
- Odisha Govt signs MoU with six public sector banks to provide banking
- Maharashtra signs MoU with Germany's professional association football
- The Jharkhand govt signed MoU with TCPL Green Energy Solutions Private Ltd. to set up the country's "first" hydrogen fuel project in Jamshedpur.

149. Recently, which country has unveiled two new nuclear-powered submarines "Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander"?

हाल ही में, किस देश ने दो नई परमाणु ऊर्जा संचालित पनडुब्बियों "क्रासोयार्स्क और एम्परर अलेक्जेंडर" का अनावरण किया है?

- (a) India / भारत
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Russia unveiled two new nuclear-powered submarines

President of Russia, Vladimir Putin has unveiled two new nuclear-powered submarines "Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander". The Emperor Alexander III is the seventh Borei-class atomic-powered submarine to enter the service. Each of them is armed with 16 nuclear-tipped Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles. The Krasnoyarsk is a nuclear-powered submarine of the new Yasen type. It is armed with cruise missiles and torpedoes, and is designed to hunt for enemy submarines and is also capable of attacking ground targets.

**About Russia**

- Capital – Moscow
- Currency – Rubel
- President – Vladimir Putin

150. Intellect Design Arena Ltd has signed a ₹80 crore, five-year deal with which bank to deploy Intellect's eMACH.ai powered Cash Management System?

**Intellect Design Arena Ltd ने Intellect के eMACH.ai संचालित कैश मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम को तैनात करने के लिए किस बैंक के साथ ₹80 करोड़, पांच साल के समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) Punjab National Bank / पंजाब नेशनल बैंक
- (c) UCO Bank / यूको बैंक
- (d) Indian Bank / इंडियन बैंक
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Intellect signs ₹80-crore deal with Indian Bank to deploy cash management system

Intellect Design Arena Ltd, the Chennai-based FinTech company for financial and insurance clients, has signed a ₹80 crore, five-year deal with Indian Bank to deploy Intellect's eMACH.ai powered Cash Management System.

The partnership is a pivotal moment - adding another feather to Intellect's growing footprint in the Indian BFSI industry, rendering the capabilities of a cognitive enterprise for revolutionizing transaction banking.

Indian Bank, with a network of 4,900 ATMs and 5,798 domestic branches, serves over 100 million customers with 41,000 employees and \$140 billion worth of assets.

As part of the project 'INDLEAP', the Indian Bank has taken on the objective of digital transformation by leveraging technology wherever possible with transaction banking and supply chain management being the key growth engines.

Through this implementation, Intellect provides Omni-channel access across desktop and mobility; treasury persona-aligned dashboard to drive Contextual Banking experience; coverage of payments across electronic and physical channels, and coverage of multi-modal collections offerings for Indian corporates.

#### **Recent MoU in Banking Sector**

- U GRO Capital joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati to empower MSMEs
- Union Bank collaborates with Accenture to boost operational efficiency
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partners Water.org to offer sanitation loan
- Karnataka Bank ties up with HDFC Life to offer life insurance products
- Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India

151. Which bank has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income?

किस बैंक ने महिलाओं के लिए आय के स्वतंत्र स्रोत के साथ एक विशेष बचत बैंक उत्पाद (नारी शक्ति बचत खाता) लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Bank of India / बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
- (b) Punjab National Bank / पंजाब नेशनल बैंक
- (c) UCO Bank / यूको बैंक
- (d) Bank of Maharashtra / बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Bank of India Unveils Nari Shakti Savings Account

Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.

The savings account has features such as personal accident insurance cover of up to ₹1 crore, discounted health insurance and wellness products, and rebates on locker facilities for gold and diamond SB A/C holders, among others.

Additionally, the account offers a concessional rate of interest on retail loans and waiver of processing charges on these loans, free issuance of credit cards and a higher usage limit of up to ₹5 lakh on POS.

The Nari Shakti savings account is conceptualized as a financial savings tool to support working women (18 years and above), with an independent source of income, enabling them to become self-reliant and enjoy a higher degree of financial freedom.

For each New Nari Shakti account opened, the bank said it will make a contribution of ₹10 towards the CSR fund, which will be utilised for the socio-economic development of underprivileged women and the girl child.

This account can be opened at all 5132 domestic branches and also through digital platforms.

**About Bank of India (BOI)**

- Founded- 7 September 1906
- Founder- Ramnarain Ruia
- Headquarters- Mumbai
- MD & CEO - Rajneesh Karnatak
- Tagline - Relationship beyond Banking

**Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- IDFC FIRST Bank launched youth-centric **"FIRST SWYP"** credit card in partnership with Mastercard.
- LIC introduces new whole life insurance policy **Jeevan Utsav**
- SEBI unveiled **Investor Risk Reduction Access platform**
- Federal Bank introduces **UPI lite for small-value digital payments**
- SIDBI launches **'Sumpoorn' MSME Economic Activity Index** with Jocata

**152. Who has been elected as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan?**

**राजस्थान के मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में किसे चुना गया है?**

- (a) Vasundhara Raje / वसुंधरा राजे
- (b) Vasudev Devnani / वासुदेव देवनानी
- (c) Premchand Bairwa / प्रेमचंद बैरवा
- (d) Bhajan Lal Sharma / भजन लाल शर्मा
- (e) Diya Kumari / दीया कुमारी

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bhajan Lal Sharma becomes CM of Rajasthan

Bhajan Lal Sharma is the next Chief Minister of Rajasthan, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He won the recently concluded elections from the Sanganer assembly seat, defeating Congress's Pushpendra Bhardwaj with over 48,081 votes.

Bhajan Lal Sharma's name as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan was proposed by BJP's Vasundhara Raje, who was also among the contenders for the top post.

Besides, Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa have been named as Bhajan Lal Sharma's two deputy chief ministers.

MLA Vasudev Devnani will be the Speaker. He hails from Ajmer and has previously served as the state Education Minister.

The BJP's Bhajan Lal Sharma's political journey in Rajasthan has been marked by significant achievements. He has served as the State General Secretary for the BJP four times.

He won the Sanganer assembly seat with an impressive margin, securing 145,162 votes against his Indian National Congress (INC) opponent, Pushpendra Bhardwaj, who polled 97,081 votes.

He is a first-time MLA and has been associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

**About Rajasthan**

- **Capital** – Jaipur
- **Chief Minister** – Bhajan Lal Sharma (replace Ashok Gehlot)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa
- **Speaker of Rajasthan Assembly** - Vasudev Devnani
- **Governor** – Kalraj Mishra

**Recently elected Chief Ministers**

- **CM of Rajasthan** - Bhajan Lal Sharma
- **CM of Chhattisgarh** - Vishnu Deo Sai
- **CM of Telangana** - Revanth Reddy
- **CM of Madhya Pradesh** – Mohan Yadav
- **CM of Mizoram** - Lalduhoma

153. Donald Tusk was elected as the new Prime Minister of which country?

**डोनाल्ड टस्क को किस देश का नया प्रधान मंत्री चुना गया?**

- (a) England / इंग्लैंड
- (b) Poland / पोलैंड
- (c) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (d) South Africa / दक्षिण अफ्रीका
- (e) Ireland / आयरलैंड

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Donald Tusk elected as PM of Poland

Donald Tusk elected as new Prime Minister of Poland

Members of the Polish Parliament backed Donald Tusk to become Poland's Prime Minister after current leader Mateusz Morawiecki lost a confidence vote in the country's Parliament.

Tusk previously served as the Prime Minister of Poland from 2007 to 2014 and as president of the European Council from 2014 to 2019.

Tusk was also the president of the European People's Party from 2019 to 2022.

**About Poland**

- Capital - Warsaw
- Currency - Zloty
- Official language – Polish
- Prime Minister - Donald Tusk

**Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**

- Prime Minister of Luxembourgish - Luc Frieden
- Prime Minister of Spain - Pedro Sanchez (re-elected)
- Prime Minister of Slovakia - Robert Fico (4th time)
- President of Ecuador - Daniel Noboa
- President of Gabon – Gen Brice Oligui

154. Nahida Akter has won the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for November 2023. She is from which country?

नाहिदा अख्तर ने नवंबर 2023 के लिए ICC महिला प्लेयर ऑफ द मंथ का पुरस्कार जीता है। वह किस देश से हैं?

- (a) Afghanistan / अफ़ग़ानिस्तान
- (b) Nepal / नेपाल
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Pakistan / पाकिस्तान
- (e) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Travis Head, Nahida Akter won ICC Player of the Month awards for November

Australian batter Travis Head and Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Nahida Akter have won the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month, respectively for November 2023. Nahida is the first Bangladesh women's player to win the award.

The first ODI encounter of the series saw Akter claim three wickets and 30 with a consistent spell of pressure bowling. With Pakistan chasing down a lowly 82 for victory, the spinner kept the contest competitive, claiming the wickets of Sidra Ameen, Bismah Maroof and Aliya Riaz to trouble the tourists in their charge to victory.

Head played a major role in his side's ODI World Cup glory with Player of the Match contributions (62 & 137) in both the semifinal victory over South Africa, and the win over India in Ahmedabad in the summit clash.

#### ICC Men's Player of the Month

- July 2023 - Chris Woakes (England)
- August 2023 - Babar Azam (Pakistan)
- September 2023 - Shubman Gill (India)
- October 2023 - Rachin Ravindra (New Zealand)
- November 2023 - Travis Head (Australia)

#### ICC Women's Player of the Month

- July 2023 - Ashleigh Gardner (Australia)
- August 2023 - Arlene Kelly (Ireland)
- September 2023 - Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka)
- October 2023 - Hayley Matthews (West Indies)
- November 2023 - Nahida Akter (Bangladesh)

155. Asad Shafiq has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He is from which country?

असद शफीक ने क्रिकेट के सभी प्रारूपों से संन्यास की घोषणा कर दी है। वह किस देश से है?

- (a) Afghanistan / अफ़ग़ानिस्तान
- (b) Nepal / नेपाल
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Pakistan / पाकिस्तान
- (e) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Asad Shafiq announces retirement from all forms of cricket

Pakistan Test batter Asad Shafiq has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after experiencing a dip in his passion for the game.

Asad formed the backbone of the Pakistan Test batting line-up from 2010 to 2020 scoring 4660 runs in 77 games at a healthy average of 38.19 including 12 hundreds and 27 fifties.

After the spot-fixing scandal of 2010 in England, Asad was seen as the perfect image of Pakistan cricket, clean and non controversial and throughout his career he preferred to keep away from the media and limelight.

Asad, who also played 60 ODIs and 10 T20 Internationals, indirectly also admitted that perhaps in Pakistan cricket there was a tendency to select players on likes and dislikes.

#### Recently Retired Players

- Gurkeerat Singh Mann – International Cricket – India
- Meg Lanning – International Cricket – Australia
- Sunil Narine - International cricket – West Indies
- David Willey - International Cricket - England
- Sorannarin Tippoch - International Cricket - Thailand
- Alastair Cook - International Cricket - England
- Steven Finn - All forms of Cricket - England

156. Which edition of the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023 begins in Hanoi, Vietnam?

संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास VINBAX-2023 का कौन सा संस्करण हनोई, वियतनाम में शुरू हुआ?

- (a) 2nd
- (b) 3rd
- (c) 4th
- (d) 5th
- (e) 6th

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 4th edition of the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023 begins in Hanoi

A contingent of 45 personnel from the Indian Armed Forces has arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam, to participate in the fourth edition of the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023. The exercise is scheduled to take place from the 11th to the 21st of December 2023.

Comprising 39 personnel from an Engineer Regiment of the Bengal Engineer Group and six personnel from the Army Medical Corps, the Indian contingent aims to contribute expertise in engineering and medical operations. On the other side, the Vietnam People's Army contingent will also be represented by an equal number of personnel.

The VINBAX exercise, initiated in 2018, is an annual training event that alternates between India and Vietnam. The first edition took place in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, and the most recent edition occurred at Chandimandir Military Station in August 2022.

The primary objective of VINBAX-2023 is to enhance collaborative partnerships, promote interoperability, and share best practices between the Indian and Vietnamese armed forces. The exercise falls under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, specifically focusing on Peacekeeping Operations.

#### Recent Exercise

- 14th edition of **Exercise Vajra Prahar 2023** between India & USA – Umroi, Meghalaya
- **9th edition of Mitra Shakti 2023** between India and Sri Lanka – Aundh, Pune
- **7th edition of 'Exercise KAZIND-2023'** between India and Kazakhstan – Otar, Kazakhstan
- **Coastal Security Exercise Sagar Kavach** - Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry
- **Cambrian Patrol 2023 Military Exercise in UK** - Indian Army won gold medal
- Indian Navy hosts **HADR CHAKRAVAT Exercise 2023** - Goa

157. Who has been recognized as the International Anti-Corruption Champion by the US State Department for his dedicated efforts against corruption in government welfare programs in India?

**भारत में सरकारी कल्याण कार्यक्रमों में भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ समर्पित प्रयासों के लिए अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग द्वारा किसे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी चैंपियन के रूप में मान्यता दी गई है?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Sadhna Saxena Nair / साधना सक्सैना नायर
- (c) Nikhil Dey / निखिल डे
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Raghu Srinivasan / रघु श्रीनिवासन

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Nikhil Dey named as International Anti-Corruption champion by US Govt.

Indian social activist Nikhil Dey has been recognized as the International Anti-Corruption Champion by the US State Department for his dedicated efforts against corruption in government welfare programs in India.

He has been acknowledged for his noteworthy support of social movements that oppose corruption in government welfare programs in India by encouraging transparency and accountability, public audits, and participatory democracy.

Dey's work has led to significant anti-corruption and transparency reforms in India, particularly in Rajasthan. Dey's efforts as a co-founder of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) contributed to anti-corruption and transparency reforms in India, assisting the state of Rajasthan in establishing public policies that promote accountability and transparency.

158. Consider the following statements about the Vyas Samman

(i) Pushpa Bharati has been selected for the 33rd Vyas Samman 2023.

(ii) The award is given by the Reliance Foundation Institute.

(iii) The award is given to an outstanding Hindi literary work by an Indian citizen published during the last 15 years.

(iv) It carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.

Find the INCORRECT statements

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Only i & ii
- (d) Only ii, iii & iv
- (e) Only iii, iv & i

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 33rd Vyas Samman to be conferred Pushpa Bharati

Noted Hindi writer Pushpa Bharati's 2016 memoir, Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein, has been selected for the 33rd Vyas Samman 2023.

Born in Moradabad of Uttar Pradesh in 1935, Bharati did her MA in Hindi literature from Prayag University in 1955. In a career spanning decades, Bharati has authored and edited books across genres, garnering critical acclaim.

The award is given to an outstanding Hindi literary work by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years. It carries a cash prize of ₹4 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.

The award is given by the KK Birla Foundation Instituted. The award was instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991. It is given annually to an outstanding work of Hindi literature by an Indian citizen published in the last 10 years.

After considering the works published during 2013-2022, a selection committee headed by eminent litterateur Prof Ramji Tiwari picked Bharati's Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein for the prestigious award.

Besides the Vyas Samman, the KK Birla Foundation has also instituted Saraswati Samman and Bihari Puraskar.

The Saraswati Samman, which carries a cash prize of ₹15 lakh, is given to an outstanding literary work by an Indian citizen in any of the languages included in Schedule VIII to the Constitution of India and published during a period of 10 years.

The Bihari Puraskar carries a cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh and is meant for Hindi/Rajasthani writers of Rajasthan.

**Recent Awards**

- **Sahitya Akademi's Premchand Fellowship** - Tshering Tashi (Bhutanese author)
- **Bank of the Year (India) Award by Financial Times** - Federal Bank
- **CEO of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine** - Sam Altman (co-founded OpenAI developed ChatGPT)
- **Person of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine** - Taylor Swift (American singer)
- **Athlete of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine** - Lionel Messi

159. Who has been awarded the “Order of Merit of the Italian Republic” (Merito della Repubblica Italiana), the country’s highest honour awarded to civilians?

नागरिकों को दिया जाने वाला देश का सर्वोच्च सम्मान "ऑर्डर ऑफ मेरिट ऑफ इटालियन रिपब्लिक" (मेरिटो डेला रिपब्लिका इटालियाना) से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?

- (a) Ayushmann Khurrana / आयुष्मान खुराना
- (b) Kabir Bedi / कबीर बेदी
- (c) Pankaj Tripathi / पंकज त्रिपाठी
- (d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni / महेन्द्र सिंह धोनी
- (e) Rajkummar Rao / राजकुमार राव

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Kabir Bedi awarded Italy’s highest honour “Order of Merit of the Italian Republic”

Kabir Bedi was awarded the “Order of Merit of the Italian Republic” (Merito della Repubblica Italiana), the country’s highest honour awarded to civilians, at a private ceremony held in Mumbai.

The “Order of Merit of the Italian Republic” stands as a testament to Italy’s appreciation for those who have made outstanding contributions to society, embodying the nation’s values of merit and excellence.

It is Established on March 3, 1951, the order is bestowed to individuals who have made significant contributions to various fields, including arts, literature, economy, public service, and social, philanthropic, and humanitarian activities.

160. Who has launched the book “Naye Bharat ka Samveda” in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में "नए भारत का सामवेद" पुस्तक का विमोचन किसने किया है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) M Venkaiahg Naidu / एम वैकैयाग नायडू
- (c) Ramnath Kovind / रामनाथ कोविंद
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Former President Ram Nath Kovind launches book “Naye Bharat ka Samveda”

Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has launched a book “Naye Bharat ka Samveda” in New Delhi.

The book is a compilation of speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Indian Constitution. In his keynote address, Kovind said that, if every citizen of the nation has adequate knowledge about the Constitution, then everything will be easy. He further added that the citizens will be able to understand that makers of the constitution were concerned about the last person of the society.

161. International Day of Neutrality is commemorated every year which day?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय तटस्थता दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 12 December / 12 दिसंबर
- (b) 13 December / 13 दिसंबर
- (c) 14 December / 14 दिसंबर
- (d) 10 December / 10 दिसंबर
- (e) 11 December / 11 दिसंबर

**Ans. a**

Sol. 12 December - International Day of Neutrality

International Day of Neutrality is commemorated every year on 12 December.

Objective - To raise awareness regarding the importance of neutrality in intergovernmental relations and to strengthen peace and security at the global level.

As per the United Nations, neutrality is the legal status arising from the abstention of a country from any kind of participation in a war between other states and maintaining an impartial attitude toward the belligerents.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved the proposal on February 2, 2017.

On December 12, 2017, the International Day of Neutrality was proclaimed. It also highlights the link between peacekeeping and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

162. What is Adani Green Energy Ltd current ranking in the global solar PV developer sector according to the Mercom Capital Gropup's Annual Global Report?

मर्कोम कैपिटल ग्रोपअप की वार्षिक वैश्विक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार ग्लोबल सोलर पीवी डेवलपर सेक्टर में अडानी ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड वर्तमान रैंकिंग क्या है?

- (a) 1st
- (b) 2nd
- (c) 3rd
- (d) 4th
- (e) 5th

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Adani Green Energy ranked 2nd-largest solar PV developer: Mercom

Adani Green Energy Ltd. with its total solar capacity of 18.1 GW ranked second after France-based Total Energies, which holds a total capacity of 41.3 GW.

Mercom Capital Group is a clean energy communications and research firm. It made the report based on data compiled from July 2022 to June 2023. This achievement aligns with their ambitious target of achieving 45 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2030. This recognition underscores our continued and unwavering commitment as one of the fastest growing renewable energy players in the world and on target to achieving our ambitious goal of 45 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030. The rankings by Mercom Capital, a premier clean energy communication and consulting firm, highlight Adani Group's significant contributions to the solar energy landscape.

163. The Art of Living has signed an MoU with which state government to the devastating water crises?

**आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग ने विनाशकारी जल संकट के लिए किस राज्य सरकार के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Goa / गोवा
- (d) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Punjab / पंजाब

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** The Art of Living signed an MoU with the Govt of Maharashtra for a powerful resolution to the devastating water crises. The Art of Living Social Projects takes immense pride in unveiling a strategic partnership to usher in transformative measures ensuring water positivity for the state of Maharashtra.

An MoU was signed in Mumbai between The Art of Living Social Projects and the Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Government of Maharashtra.

The Art of Living has already taken up the initiative to make India water-positive and made immense progress in rejuvenating 70+ rivers, their tributaries, and streams.

90,000+ groundwater recharge structures have been built across 8 states including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh

The Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyaan 2.0 is a collaborative initiative to pioneer groundbreaking practices across 85 tehsils in 30 districts. At its core, the mission seeks to revolutionize Maharashtra into a water-positive state by implementing comprehensive measures such as desilting streams and building various water conservation structures to increase groundwater levels.

#### **Recent MoUs signed by State Governments**

- Rays Power Infra to build 500 MW solar park in Uttarakhand
- UK & Tamil Nadu partners on smart tech sustainable resource management
- Ashok Leyland signs MoU with UP Govt to set up integrated e-bus plant
- Odisha Govt signs MoU with six public sector banks to provide banking
- Maharashtra signs MoU with Germany's professional association football

164. State-owned RITES Ltd has signed a pact with CFM Mozambique for the supply of how many diesel locomotives and incidental services at a total cost of USD 37,680,080?

राज्य के स्वामित्व वाले संस्कार लिमिटेड ने 37,680,080 की कुल लागत पर कितने डीजल लोकोमोटिव और आकस्मिक सेवाओं की आपूर्ति के लिए सीएफएम मोजाम्बिक के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) 10
- (b) 6
- (c) 27
- (d) 30
- (e) 19

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** RITES signed pact with CFM Mozambique for 10 diesel locomotive supply

State-owned RITES Ltd has signed a pact with CFM Mozambique for the supply of diesel locomotives and incidental services at a total cost of USD 37,680,080 (Rs 314.1 crore).

The pact has been signed for the supply of ten diesel locomotives.

Caminhos de Ferro de Mozambique is a state-owned company of Mozambique.

The pact is aimed to foster the India-Mozambique bilateral relationship.

**Recent MoU**

- THDC India inks pact to develop renewable energy projects in Karnatakas
- IBM inks 3 pacts with IT Ministry on semiconductor, AI, Q-computing
- SUN Mobility partners with Bluwheelz to deploy over 16,000 EVs
- India Global Forum signs with World Governments Summit to develop an Emerging Economies Programme
- DMRC sign with BEL to develop Communication Based Train Control system

165. Punjab government has launched the "Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar" scheme to deliver citizen-centric services at people's doorstep. Under the scheme, people will get how many services?

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਪੀਪੁਲਸ ਡੋਰਸਟੇਪ ਮੇਂ ਨਾਗਰਿਕ-ਕੇਂਦਰਿਤ ਸੇਵਾएं ਦੇਣੇ ਕੇ ਲਿਏ "ਭਗਵੰਤ ਮਾਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਤੁਹਾਦ ਬਵਾਰ" ਯੋਜਨਾ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕੀ ਹੈ। ਯੋਜਨਾ ਕੇ ਤਹਤ, ਲੋਗੋਂ ਕੋ ਕਿਤਨੀ ਸੇਵਾएं ਮਿਲੇਂਗੀ?

- (a) 25
- (b) 22
- (c) 43
- (d) 50
- (e) 10

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Punjab govt launched "Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar"

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched the "Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar" scheme.

The scheme is aimed to deliver citizen-centric services at people's doorstep.

Under the scheme, people will get 43 services, including the issuance of certificates of birth, marriage, death, income, residence, caste, rural area, border area, backward area, pension, payment of electricity bills, and land demarcation.

To avail of these services, people will have to dial helpline number 1076.

#### **About Punjab**

- **Capital** – Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister** – Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor** – Banwarilal Purohit

166. Which country has launched world's deepest and largest underground laboratory on Earth?

किस देश ने पृथ्वी पर दुनिया की सबसे गहरी और सबसे बड़ी भूमिगत प्रयोगशाला शुरू की है?

- (a) India / भारत
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** China launched the deepest lab on Earth

The world's deepest and largest underground laboratory became operational in China.

The 2,400-metre-deep physics laboratory is located in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The Deep Underground and Ultra-low Radiation Background Facility for Frontier Physics Experiments (DURF) is located beneath Jinping Mountain in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture.

The DURF has a total room capacity of 330,000 cubic metres.

The lab provides a major boost to the global search for dark matter, which is a hypothetical form of matter that appears not to interact with light or the electromagnetic field.

It is expected that the lab will open up new frontiers in deep-earth experiments as the extreme depth will help the scientists by blocking most cosmic rays that mess with the observation.

The underground laboratory has been launched after three years of extensive upgrades and expansion as it is the second phase of China Jinping Underground Laboratory.

The facility started construction in December 2020 and was jointly built by Tsinghua University and Yalong River Hydropower Development Company, Ltd.

**About China**

- **Capital** – Beijing
- **Currency** – Yuan
- **President** - Xi Jinping

167. According to the United Nations report, which country has surpassed Afghanistan to become the world's largest source of opium in 2023?

संयुक्त राष्ट्र की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, कौन सा देश 2023 में अफ़गानिस्तान को पीछे छोड़कर विश्व में अफ़ीम का सबसे बड़ा स्रोत बन गया है?

- (a) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Sudan / सूडान
- (d) Zimbabwe / जिम्बाब्वे
- (e) Myanmar / म्यांमार

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Myanmar surpassed Afghanistan as world's largest source of opium: UN report

Myanmar has surpassed Afghanistan to become the world's largest source of opium in 2023 after a third consecutive year of expanding cultivation fueled by the country's civil war, the United Nations report.

This has happened due to various factors such as domestic instability and a significant decline in opium cultivation in Afghanistan.

After the Taliban imposed a ban on drugs in 2022, opium cultivation in Afghanistan decreased by 95%, leading to a global shift in the opium supply to Myanmar.

The UNODC's report highlighted that political, social, and economic instability resulting from the 2021 coup in Myanmar prompted many individuals to turn to poppy farming.

This shift has resulted in a substantial increase in earnings for Myanmar farmers, with opium poppy farming now yielding about 75% higher profits. The average price of opium poppies has risen to approximately \$355 per kilogram, and the cultivation area has expanded by 18% year-on-year, reaching 47,000 hectares, marking the highest potential yield since 2001.

168. Consider the following statements about Mercer's Quality of Living City Index 2023

- (i) Pune ranked as the “most livable city in India”.
- (ii) New Delhi at 170th position.
- (iii) Vienna (Austria) has topped the index.
- (iv) Khartoum (Sudan) is at the bottom-most position.

Find the INCORRECT statements.

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Only i & ii
- (d) Only ii & iii
- (e) All are incorrect

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Hyderabad ranked as “most livable city in India” by Mercer

Hyderabad ranked 153rd in Mercer's Quality of Living City Index 2023, while Pune scored the 154th position and Bengaluru attained the 156th spot. Pune has the second best ‘quality of life’ in India after Hyderabad. Chennai at 161st, Mumbai at 164th, Kolkata at 170th, New Delhi at 172nd position. Vienna (Austria), Zurich (Switzerland), and Vancouver (Canada) are the top three cities in that order, according to the 2023 index.

Khartoum (Sudan) at the bottom-most position (241st spot).

This index evaluates the quality of life for employees working abroad, especially with families, and relies on data from over 500 cities all over the world.

The ranking is based on factors like climate, schools and education, disease and sanitation standards, violence and crime, physical remoteness and ease of communications, and socio-political environment.

**Recent index**

- **Climate Change Performance Index 2023** - India ranked 7th
- **World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2023** - India ranked 49th; topped by US\*
- **Global Unicorn Rankings** - Rank 1. USA, Rank 2. China, Rank 3. India
- **Inclusiveness index by US varsity** - India ranked 117th; topped by - New Zealand
- **Global Pension Index 2023** - India ranked 45; Topped by Netherland
- **Global Hunger Index 2023** - India ranked 111th

169. According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, what is India's retail inflation in November 2023?  
सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, नवंबर 2023 में भारत की खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति क्या है?

- (a) 5.5%
- (b) 5.2%
- (c) 5.4%
- (d) 5.1%
- (e) 5.6%

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Retail inflation surged to 5.5% in November amid rising food prices

India's retail inflation surged sharply to 5.55 percent in November after falling to a four-month low of 4.8 percent in October, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

The uptick in retail inflation has been attributed to a sharp rise in food prices. Notably, the food inflation for November registered at 8.70 percent. Despite the surge, the inflation figure remains within the Reserve Bank of India's acceptable range of 2-6 percent. In sequential terms, the inflation rate recorded a 0.54 percent increase, as per the released data. It may be noted that this marks the third consecutive month when retail inflation has stayed below 6 percent.

While inflation remains within the RBI's comfort zone, the surge in inflation could make the central bank's job difficult going forward.

In its most recent policy review, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the key rates unchanged, but warned that it would remain "highly alert" to undertake appropriate policy actions if the need arises.

Against this backdrop, the MPC decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 percent, but remain highly alert and prepared to undertake appropriate policy actions, as warranted.

Meanwhile, India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in October 2023 reached a 16-month peak, surging by 11.7 percent compared to a contraction of 4.1 percent in the corresponding period the previous year, as per government data.

#### **Recent CPI-based Retail inflation for India**

- **June 2023** – 4.81%
- **July 2023** – 7.44%
- **August 2023** – 6.83%
- **September 2023** – 5.02%
- **October 2023** – 4.87%
- **November 2023** – 5.5%

170. In December 2023, which finance company has been rebranded as Grihum Housing Finance?

दिसंबर 2023 में, किस वित्त कंपनी को गृहम हाउसिंग फाइनेंस के रूप में पुनः ब्रांड किया गया है?

- (a) Muthoot Finance / मुथूट फाइनेंस
- (b) Poonawalla Housing Finance / पूनावाला हाउसिंग फाइनेंस
- (c) Shriram Transport Finance Corporation Ltd. / श्रीराम परिवहन वित्त निगम लिमिटेड
- (d) LIC Housing Finance / एलआईसी हाउसिंग फाइनेंस
- (e) PNB Housing Finance Limited / पीएनबी हाउसिंग फाइनेंस लिमिटेड

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Poonawalla Housing Finance rebrands as Grihum Housing Finance

Poonawalla Housing Finance has been rebranded as Grihum Housing Finance with global private equity firm TPG now holding 99.02 percent stake in the housing finance company.

Before being promoted by Poonawalla Fincorp, the housing financier was a part of the Magma Group.

US-based alternative asset management firm TPG has committed total capital of ₹1,000 crore of which it infused ₹538 crore in Q2 FY24 under the first tranche.

The HFC has recorded a CAGR of around 28 percent in the last six years and has a network of 195 branches at present. Nearly 85 percent customers are women borrowers, including applicants and co-applicants. The net worth of the lender is over ₹1,800 crore.

171. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Tripura state to promote tourism in the state?

राज्य में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए त्रिपुरा राज्य का ब्रांड एंबेसडर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ayushmann Khurrana / आयुष्मान खुराना
- (b) Sourav Ganguly / सौरव गांगुली
- (c) Pankaj Tripathi / पंकज त्रिपाठी
- (d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni / महेन्द्र सिंह धोनी
- (e) Rajkummar Rao / राजकुमार राव

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Tripura appoints Ganguly as its tourism brand ambassador

BJP-led government in Tripura has inducted former cricketer Sourav Ganguly as a brand ambassador for the promotion of tourism in the state.

The former Indian cricket skipper Ganguly and Tripura tourism minister Susanta Choudhury signed an agreement at the historic Ujjayanta Palace of the erstwhile Manikya Dynasty, at Agartala.

As part of the agreement, Ganguly would shoot videos at the Ujjayanta Palace and at Chabimura in Gomati district, the two major tourist attractions.

The ancient Tripura Sundari temple, the Ujjayanta Palace, Neermahal Water Palace and Unakoti archaeological site are some of the major tourist spots in Tripura. The state is also trying to promote the colourful tribal culture in parts of the state for tourism.

This comes days after Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee appointed Ganguly as the state's brand ambassador. Tripura and Bengal share cultural and linguistic similarities as Bengali is a dominant language in both states.

#### **Recent Brand Ambassador**

- R Madhavan - The insurtech company Acko
- Pankaj Tripathi - UPI Safety Ambassador
- MS Dhoni - State bank of India
- Katrina Kaif - Swiss Watchmaker 'Rado'
- Chetan Bhagat - Henry Harvin Education
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni - Lay's

172. Which country has awarded the International Gender Equality Prize for 2023 to an NGO in Afghanistan that works to promote and protect the rights of women in Afghanistan?

किस देश ने अफगानिस्तान में एक गैर सरकारी संगठन को 2023 के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय लैंगिक समानता पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया है जो अफगानिस्तान में महिलाओं के अधिकारों को बढ़ावा देने और उनकी रक्षा के लिए काम करता है?

- (a) Maldives / मालदीव
- (b) Mauritius / मॉरीशस
- (c) USA / यूएसए
- (d) Eritrea / इरिट्रिया
- (e) Finland / फिनलैंड

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** International Gender Equality Prize 2023 went to an Afghanistan NGO

Finland awarded the International Gender Equality Prize for 2023 to an NGO in Afghanistan that works to promote and protect the rights of women in Afghanistan. The organization Afghan Women's Skills Development Center does important humanitarian work to promote the safety of Afghan women. Ever since the Taliban came into power, Afghanistan is an example of a country where women's human rights are systematically suppressed and girls have been denied access to secondary education and women to higher education.

Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo attended the ceremony and presented the EUR 300,000 Prize to the organization's representative, Mahbouba Seraj, in Tampere. In 2021, the Prize was awarded to the We Will Stop Femicide Platform, an organization that does groundbreaking work combating violence against women in Turkey and whose work has global relevance.

Finland has strongly supported gender equality and women's rights in Afghanistan for 20 years. Even today, we continue to provide this important support as widely as possible in the current situation. Finland will not forget Afghan women.

The task of the Afghan Women Skills Development Center is to provide Afghan women with training and to support their skills development and economic empowerment. The organisation operates in eight provinces around the country

Finland was one of the first countries in the world to extend the right to vote and stand for elections to all women and men in 1906.

Finland was also the first country to elect women to Parliament; 19 women were elected to the 200-seat Parliament in 1907.

173. Who has been honoured with the Diwali Power of One Award 2023?

**दिवाली पावर ऑफ वन अवार्ड 2023 से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) António Guterres / एंटोनियो गुटेरेस
- (b) Bill Gates / बिल गेट्स
- (c) Warren Buffett / वॉरेन बफेट
- (d) Ban Ki-moo / बान की-मू
- (e) Yoo Soon-taek / यू सून्-ताक

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon honoured with Diwali 'Power of One' Awards 2023

The former UN chief Ban Ki-moo was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2023 Diwali Stamp -- The Power of One Award ceremony organized by the Diwali Foundation USA.

The other awardees for the year 2023 are former permanent representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UN Ambassador Mirsada Colakovic, former permanent representative of South Korea to the UN Ambassador Kim Sook and 72nd UN General Assembly president and EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue Miroslav Lajcak.

Ban commended the work and "forward-thinking vision" of the Diwali Foundation USA "for advancing vital light in a world of increasing darkness".

Ban said the world of today "seems fractured like never before" as he cited the Covid-19 pandemic, climate crisis and regional conflicts, particularly "regional crisis as we see today in the Middle East and Ukraine".

Ban was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, serving two terms as the world's top diplomat from January 2007 to December 2016.

Diwali Foundation USA was established in 2017 to promote a peaceful and consensus-based process to achieve societal "good, as befits the high hopes and ideals of humanity enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

The Foundation established 'The Power of One' awards to celebrate and highlight the important work done in a peaceful manner, especially at the United Nations.

**174. Who will be honoured Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival?**

**अजंता-एलोरा फिल्म महोत्सव में पद्मपाणि लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट पुरस्कार से किसे सम्मानित किया जाएगा?**

- (a) Honey Irani / हनी ईरानी
- (b) Yash Chopra / यश चोपड़ा
- (c) Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan / नुसरत फतह अली खान
- (d) Javed Akhtar/ जावेद अख्तर
- (e) Kiran Bedi / किरण बेदी

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Javed Akhtar to be honoured at Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival

Veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar will be felicitated with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival.

Akhtar is the co-writer of Hindi cinema classics such as "Zanjeer", "Deewaar", "Sholay", "Don", "Mr India", etc. The award ceremony will take place at Rukmini Auditorium in the MGM University campus of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on January 2024.

### **Recent Awards**

- **International Anti-Corruption champion by US Govt.** - Nikhil Dey
- **Italy's highest honour "Order of Merit of the Italian Republic"** - Kabir Bedi
- **33rd Vyas Samman 2023** -Pushpa Bharati (for Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein)
- **Sahitya Akademi's Premchand Fellowship** - Tshering Tashi (Bhutanese author)
- **CEO of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine** - Sam Altman (co-founded OpenAI developed ChatGPT)

175. Which has organized the 15th edition of the 'Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting' (CBSOM-2023) in Gandhinagar?

गांधीनगर में 'क्षमता निर्माण वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की बैठक' (CBSOM-2023) के 15वें संस्करण का आयोजन किसने किया है?

- (a) Indian Army / भारतीय सेना
- (b) Indian Air Force / भारतीय वायु सेना
- (c) Indian Navy / भारतीय नौसेना
- (d) Indian Coast Guard / भारतीय तट रक्षक
- (e) Defense Ministry / रक्षा मंत्रालय

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Indian Coast Guard held 15th Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meet

The Indian Coast Guard has organized the 15th edition of the 'Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting' (CBSOM-2023) at GIFT City in Gandhinagar to understand the situation of maritime piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

The meeting was held as per the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia.

It brought together 19 international delegates from 15 countries, including key national stakeholders from India.

176. Which country has launched the world's first Methane powered rocket "Zhuque 2"?

किस देश ने दुनिया का पहला मीथेन संचालित रॉकेट "जुके 2" लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) India / भारत
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** China launched the world's first Methane powered rocket "Zhuque 2"

A Chinese company LandSpace Technology became the first in the world to launch satellites with rockets fuelled by methane and liquid oxygen.

The Zhuque 2 Y-3 blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.

The rocket was 49.5 metres in length, had a diameter of 3.35m, and had a lift-off mass of 220 tonnes, excluding the payloads.

Zhuque-2 Y-3 carried two 50kg test satellites developed by Chinese startup Spacety, one of which has adopted technologies from a company named Hongqing.

177. Chinese doctor Gao Yaojie passed away recently at the age of 95. She was known for?

**चीनी डॉक्टर गाओ याओजी का हाल ही में 95 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह किस लिए जानी जाती थीं?**

- (a) Exposed the Breast Cancer / स्तन कैंसर को उजागर करने के लिए
- (b) Exposed the AIDS epidemic/ एड्स महामारी को उजागर करने के लिए
- (c) Exposed the Covid Pandemic/ कोविड महामारी को उजागर करने के लिए
- (d) Exposed the Dengu Fever/ डेंगू बुखार को उजागर करने के लिए
- (e) Exposed the TB / टीबी को उजागर करने के लिए

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Exposed AIDS epidemic, Dr. Gao Yaojie passed away

Chinese doctor Gao Yaojie, known for having exposed the AIDS epidemic in the rural part of the country, died at the age of 95.

Yaojie was a gynecologist by training and was one of the first doctors who spearheaded the campaign against the AIDS epidemic in China.

Yaojie had exposed how businesses selling blood caused the spread of HIV in rural China.

According to a report by BBC, selling blood was a common practice in rural China, especially in the Henan province in the 1980s and 1990s. Poor farming communities engaged in selling blood to earn a living.

However, the practice was not properly monitored and at times, blood was also collected from HIV+ patients.

At that time, awareness for AIDS was not very high. Chinese authorities believed that HIV could only be transferred through sex or from mother to child during pregnancy. Yaojie came across an AIDS patient who didn't fall in either category but had received blood through transfusion.

**178. Which foundation has launched “Close the Gender Gap (CGG)” Initiative to Lead a Shift in Gender Equality and Promote Inclusive Workplace Policies?**

**लैंगिक समानता में बदलाव का नेतृत्व करने और समावेशी कार्यस्थल नीतियों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस फाउंडेशन ने "लिंग अंतर को बंद करें (सीजीजी)" पहल शुरू की है?**

- (a) Udaiti Foundation / उदैती फाउंडेशन
- (b) Reliance Foundation / रिलायंस फाउंडेशन
- (c) WISH Foundation / विश फाउंडेशन
- (d) KK Birla Foundation / केके बिड़ला फाउंडेशन
- (e) United For Humanity / मानवता के लिए संयुक्त

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Udaiti Foundation launched "Close the Gender Gap" initiative

The Udaiti Foundation launches “Close the Gender Gap (CGG)” Initiative to Lead a Shift in Gender Equality and Promote Inclusive Workplace Policies.

Objective - To drive transformative changes in gender representation and policies within the formal sector. The CGG platform marks a historic milestone by compiling longitudinal company-wise data from 2000 companies based on market capitalization, offering an unparalleled perspective on gender representation and policies.

The platform sheds light on gender dynamics within private sector organizations. Larger organizations have more women, but they hit the glass ceiling. Smaller firms however have more women in leadership.

When it comes to women’s leadership on boards, there is much ground to cover, 43% report one mandatory female Board member, plunging to a mere 11% with more than two female BoDs.

179. Which state government will set up PM College of Excellence in all districts of the state?

कौन सी राज्य सरकार राज्य के सभी जिलों में पीएम कॉलेज ऑफ एक्सीलेंस स्थापित करेगी?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (e) Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Madhya Pradesh govt to set up PM College of Excellence in all districts of the state

Madhya Pradesh government will set up PM College of Excellence in all districts of the state.

The decision to this effect was taken at the first Cabinet meeting chaired by new Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in Bhopal.

In Madhya Pradesh, the government will upgrade one college in every district out of total 570 government colleges as "PM College of Excellence". More than Rs 460 crore will be spent on the development of these colleges.

Apart from this, degree and mark sheets of students in all government and private universities will be uploaded in DigiLocker.

#### **About Madhya Pradesh**

- **Capital** – Bhopal
- **Chief Minister** – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)
- **Deputy CM** - Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla
- **Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly** - Narendra Singh Tomar
- **Governor** – Mangubhai C. Patel
- **Lok Shaba Seats** – 29
- **Rajya Sabha Seats** – 11
- **Legislative Assembly Seats** - 230

180. Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd (TPEVCSL) has signed an MoU with which company to install over 500 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country?

टाटा पावर ईवी चार्जिंग सॉल्यूशंस लिमिटेड (टीपीईवीसीएसएल) ने देश भर में 500 से अधिक इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ईवी) चार्जिंग पॉइंट स्थापित करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Hindustan Petroleum / हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम
- (b) Indian Oil Corporation / इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन
- (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation / तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस निगम
- (d) Reliance Petroleum / रिलायंस पेट्रोलियम
- (e) Bharat Petroleum / भारत पेट्रोलियम

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Tata Power ties up with Indian Oil to set up over 500 EV charging stations

Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd (TPEVCSL) has signed an MoU with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to install over 500 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country.

Tata Power will set up the stations at IOCL's retail outlets.

This strategic collaboration focuses on building a reliable and expansive intercity charging network, which will help alleviate range anxiety for EV owners travelling between cities. These EV charging points will be installed in major cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Pune, and Kochi, as well as across major highways such as the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Salem-Kochi Highway, Guntur-Chennai Highway and the Golden Quadrilateral. The customers will be able to use "Tata Power EZ Charge" and "IndianOil e-Charge" apps to locate and book the chargers.

IOCL envisages to provide 10,000 EV charging stations by 2024, transforming retail network to complete energy solutions outlets. With more than 6,000 EV charging stations at present, the company plans to keep expanding its reach.

Tata Power currently has a charging infra across over 420 cities in India, including over 62,000 home chargers, 4,900 public and semi-public charging points, and 430 bus charging stations.

#### Recent MoUs

- RITES signed pact with CFM Mozambique for 10 diesel locomotive supply
- THDC India inks pact to develop renewable energy projects in Karnatakas
- IBM inks 3 pacts with IT Ministry on semiconductor, AI, Q-computing
- SUN Mobility partners with Bluwheelz to deploy over 16,000 EVs
- India Global Forum signs with World Governments Summit to develop an Emerging Economies Programme

181. According to the report released by Bain & Company in collaboration with Flipkart, India's e-retail market estimated to reach over \$160 bn by which year?

फ्लिपकार्ट के सहयोग से बेन एंड कंपनी द्वारा जारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत का ई-रिटेल बाजार किस वर्ष तक \$160 बिलियन से अधिक तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2032
- (e) 2035

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India's e-retail market estimated to reach over \$160 bn by 2028: Report

E-retail in India is expected to scale beyond \$160 billion in value by 2028.

The market has experienced strong growth post-pandemic, with an estimated value of \$57–\$60 billion in 2023, according to the findings from the fourth (2023) edition of 'How India Shops Online', a report released by Bain & Company in collaboration with Flipkart.

This represents an annual addition of \$8–\$12 billion since 2020. The e-retail market is poised to grow in the coming years, with online spending currently only 5–6 per cent of total retail spending in India vs 23–24 per cent in the US and over 35 per cent in China, indicating massive headroom for growth.

Even as the online channel grows, the offline channel will continue to be crucial. Majority of India's retail spend (94–95 per cent) continues to be offline, with General Trade accounting for 87 per cent of the overall retail spend. On one side, scale retailers are growing offline presence; on the other, online-first insurgents are adopting omnichannel strategies to grow scale. In India, around 240 million shoppers are expected to participate in e-retail in 2023, with significant headroom to grow given more than 60 per cent of internet users are not shopping online vs. only around 20 per cent in the US and China.

182. Which of the following has signed an agreement to develop a multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) in Nagpur at a cost of Rs 673 crore?

निम्नलिखित में से किसने नागपुर में 673 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से मल्टी-मॉडल लॉजिस्टिक्स पार्क (एमएमएलपी) विकसित करने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) L&T
- (b) BRO
- (c) NHAI
- (d) IRCTC
- (e) None of above

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** NHAI inks pact to develop multi-modal logistics park at Nagpur

State-owned NHAI has signed an agreement to develop a multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) in Nagpur at a cost of Rs 673 crore.

This project is poised to be the first MMLP in Maharashtra under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

NHAI has signed an agreement with M/s DC Multi-Modal Park (Nagpur) Limited, an SPV of M/S DeltaBulk Shipping India Pvt Ltd, for the development of Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Nagpur.

The MMLP will be developed in an area of 150 acres under the Public Private Partnership model at an estimated cost of Rs 673 crore.

The MMLP will provide facilities, such as warehouses, cold storages, intermodal transfers, handling facilities for container terminals, and bulk/break-bulk cargo terminals, along with value-added services.

183. India is aiming to get 50,000 electric buses on its streets by 2027 with help from a joint finance mechanism with which country?

**भारत किस देश के साथ संयुक्त वित्त तंत्र की मदद से 2027 तक अपनी सड़कों पर 50,000 इलेक्ट्रिक बसें लाने का लक्ष्य बना रहा है?**

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Canada / कनाडा

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India's plan for 50,000 e-buses on its roads gets US support

India is aiming to get 50,000 electric buses on its streets by 2027 with help from a joint finance mechanism with the US.

The \$390 million fund will act as a guarantee for manufacturers seeking loans to expand production. India currently only has 12,000 e-buses in operation.

The payment security mechanism, established with \$150 million from the US government and philanthropic groups, and \$240 million from the Indian government, is the bedrock of risk management for building out the financial system for electric mobility at scale in India.

184. Germany's state-owned investment and development bank, KfW has signed an agreement to provide €500 million (around ₹4,500 crore) in financial assistance for the expansion of which city metro?

जर्मनी के राज्य के स्वामित्व वाले निवेश और विकास बैंक, KfW ने किस शहर के मेट्रो के विस्तार के लिए वित्तीय सहायता में €500 मिलियन (लगभग ₹4,500 करोड़) प्रदान करने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Bengaluru Metro / बेंगलुरु मेट्रो
- (b) Delhi Metro / नई दिल्ली मेट्रो
- (c) Hyderabad Metro / हैदराबाद मेट्रो
- (d) Ahmedabad Metro / अहमदाबाद मेट्रो
- (e) Mumbai Metro / मुंबई मेट्रो

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Germany to give €500 mn for Bengaluru Metro expansion

KfW, Germany's state-owned investment and development bank, is set to sign an agreement to provide €500 million (around ₹4,500 crore) in financial assistance for the expansion of the Bengaluru Metro.

The funding, which includes loan and grants, will help the metro's expansion plans as well as provide technical expertise to the metro project.

KfW, which is looking to expand its funding for green energy and sustainable mobility projects in India, is also financing metro projects in Mumbai and Nagpur among other cities.

The funding would be used to construct new lines for the Bengaluru Metro, also called Namma Metro.

KfW, which has been active in India since 1958, has also provided funds to other metro projects in the country. In 2016, it provided a €500 million loan to the Indian government for the construction of a "modern and sustainable metro system" in Nagpur.

KfW also provided funding for the expansion of the Mumbai metro in 2020 through the provision of a €545 million loan.

The credit package is made up of one development loan of €345 million and one promotional loan of €200 million. In addition, a financing agreement of €2.2 million was signed for accompanying technical support.

185. Who has been appointed as part-time member of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) board?  
पेंशन फंड नियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण (पीएफआरडीए) बोर्ड के अंशकालिक सदस्य के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Parama Sen / परम सेन
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Raghu Srinivasan / रघु श्रीनिवासन

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Parama Sen appointed part-time member of PFRDA board

The Centre has appointed Parama Sen, Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry, as a part-time member in Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

Sen, a 1994 batch Indian Audit and Accounts Services (IAAS) officer, replaces Anne George Mathew, Additional Secretary in Finance Ministry, who demitted office this year.

PFRDA has a chairman besides three whole-time members and three part-time members. The post of Member (Law), which fell vacant in May last year, remains to be filled.

The two other part-time members — Rahul Singh (Department of Personnel and Training) and Pankaj Sharma (Department of Financial Services) — were appointed last year

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Chairman of Max Life Insurance** - Rajiv Anand (replace Analjit Singh)
- **Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** - Jithesh John
- **MD of State Bank of India** - Vinay M. Tonse (till 2025; for 2 years)
- **Director of Jio Financial Services** - Isha Ambani, Anshuman Thakur, and Hitesh Kumar Sethia
- **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta) effect from 1 Jan 2024

186. Who has been appointed as CEO Indifi Technologies?

**इंडिफी टेक्नोलॉजीज के सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Sangram Singh / संग्राम सिंह
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Tablesh Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Sangram Singh appoints as CEO Indifi Technologies

Indifi Technologies, which focuses on lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), hired Axis Bank executive Sangram Singh as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Singh, who in the past has been also the chief executive of Axis Bank subsidiary and digital payments app Freecharge, will be responsible to scale up Indifi's core platform, and will overlook key functions including product, distribution, lending partnerships, treasury, risk and technology.

**About Indifi Technologies**

- Founded in 2015, Gurgaon-based Indifi provides debt financing to small businesses through term loans and credit lines. Its annual disbursements are around Rs 2,500 crore.
- At present, a little over 80% of its overall revenues comes from its term loan product, with another 15% from credit lines.
- The platform has an active loan book of Rs 2,000 crore, with almost half of it being funded from its in-house non banking finance company (NBFC).
- Till date, Indifi has disbursed over 96,000 loans across 400 cities, amounting to a total disbursement value of over Rs 5,100 crore.

187. Who has been appointed as CEO and MD of Stellantis India?

स्टेलेंटिस इंडिया के सीईओ और एमडी के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Abhishek Singhvi / अभिषेक सिंघवी
- (b) Aryama Sundaram / आर्यमा सुंदरम
- (c) Aditya Jairaj / आदित्य जयराज
- (d) Harshvardhan Bansal / हर्षवर्द्धन बंसल
- (e) Laxman Narasimhan / लक्ष्मण नरसिम्हन

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Aditya Jairaj appoints as CEO and MD of Stellantis India

Aditya Jairaj has been appointed as CEO and MD of Stellantis India, with effect from January 1, 2024.

Aditya, currently deputy managing director, Stellantis India and head – Jeep India, will succeed Roland Bouchara, who will be assigned to another function in Europe after six and a half years of leading Stellantis in India.

Since he was appointed the CEO and MD in 2021, Roland has successfully led Stellantis India's expansion, playing an instrumental role in establishing a robust foundation for Citroën and Jeep.

Before 2021, Roland successfully launched the Citroën brand in India and led the operations in his capacity as senior vice president of sales and marketing for the brand.

**Recent Appointment**

- **President of FICCI** - Anish Shah (replace Subhrakant Panda)
- **Senior Vice President of FICCI** - Harsha Vardhan Agarwal
- **Chairman of World Radiocommunication Conference 2023** - Mohammed Al Ramsi (UAE)
- **Head of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Board** - Samir Shah
- **Chairman of Swiggy India** - Anand Kripalu

188. Who was honored with the Karmaveer Chakra Medal and Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship by ICONGO in collaboration with the United Nations?

संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सहयोग से ICONGO द्वारा कर्मवीर चक्र पदक और रेक्स कर्मवीर ग्लोबल फ़ेलोशिप से किसे सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Dr. RG Patel / डॉ. आरजी पटेल  
(b) Dr. S. Eswara Reddy / डॉ. एस ईश्वरा रेड्डी  
(c) Dr. Ashvini Kumar Dwivedi / डॉ अश्विनी कुमार द्विवेदी  
(d) Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar / डॉ. हेमाचंद्रन रविकुमार  
(e) Dr. Ravi Kant Sharma / डॉ. रविकांत शर्मा

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar honored with the Karmaveer Chakra Medal

Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar was honored with the Karmaveer Chakra Medal and Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship by ICONGO in collaboration with the United Nations in New Delhi

These awards recognized Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar's exceptional contributions to Research & Development in Physical & Bio-Science and Microbiological Studies.

The Rex Karamveer Chakra Medal, considered one of the most prestigious civilian honors, is reserved for individuals who have exhibited outstanding contributions globally towards the well-being of humanity.

#### Recent Awards

- Diwali 'Power of One' Awards 2023 - Ban Ki-moon
- International Gender Equality Prize 2023 by Finland - Afghanistan NGO
- Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival - Veteran Javed Akhtar
- International Anti-Corruption champion by US Govt. - Nikhil Dey
- Italy's highest honour "Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" - Kabir Bedi

189. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by which year?

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) किस वर्ष तक पहली बार भारतीय अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को चंद्रमा पर भेजने की योजना बना रहा है?

- (a) 2030
- (b) 2035
- (c) 2040
- (d) 2047
- (e) 2050

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** First Indian astronaut on moon by 2040: ISRO

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.

Four test pilots from the Indian Air Force have been selected as astronaut designates for the mission.

ISRO aims to take the next step in space exploration with the Gaganyaan programme, planning to launch a crew of 2 to 3 Indian astronauts into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) for up to three days before safely returning them to a predefined site in Indian waters.

Currently, the astronaut designates are undergoing mission-specific training at the Astronaut Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru.

The inaugural manned space mission Gaganyaan involves developing critical technologies, including a human-rated (capable of safely transporting humans) launch vehicle (HLVM3), an Orbital Module comprising a Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM), and life support systems. Two identical un-crewed missions (G1 and G2) besides Integrated Air Drop Test, Pad Abort Test, and Test Vehicle flights will precede the Gaganyaan mission.

The first development flight of Test Vehicle (TV-D1) was launched on October 21, 2023, and it successfully demonstrated in-flight abort of the Crew Escape System, followed by Crew Module separation and its safe recovery from the Bay of Bengal by the Indian Navy.

**About Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**

- **Founded** - 15 August 1969
- **Headquarters** - Bangalore, Karnataka
- **Founder / 1st Chairman** - Vikram Sarabhai
- **10th Chairman** - S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975

190. National Energy Conservation Day is observed every year on which day?

राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा संरक्षण दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 12 December / 12 दिसंबर
- (b) 13 December / 13 दिसंबर
- (c) 14 December / 14 दिसंबर
- (d) 15 December / 15 दिसंबर
- (e) 16 December / 16 दिसंबर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 14 December - National Energy Conservation Day

National Energy Conservation Day is observed in India every year on December 14.

Objective - To raise public awareness about the value of energy efficiency and conservation.

Every year, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power spearheads the celebrations.

Since 1991, December 14 has been designated as the National Energy Conservation Day.

In 2021, the power ministry also observed the Energy Conservation Week from December 8 to 14 as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

191. India has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a \$200 million loan from the latter to improve the quality, efficiency, and reliability of power supply in which state?

भारत ने किस राज्य में बिजली आपूर्ति की गुणवत्ता, दक्षता और विश्वसनीयता में सुधार के लिए एशियाई विकास बैंक (एडीबी) से 200 मिलियन डॉलर के ऋण के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (e) Uttarakhand / उत्तराखंड

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India, ADB sign \$200 million loan agreement for Uttarakhand power system project

The Centre has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a \$200 million loan from the latter to improve the quality, efficiency, and reliability of power supply in the State of Uttarakhand.

The ADB funding for the project will strengthen power system infrastructure and help Uttarakhand in achieving its goal of providing 24x7 power to its residents.

The project will modernize Dehradun city's power network infrastructure by introducing an advanced and climate-resilient underground cable system comprising 537 km subterranean cables, 354 ring main units, and 99 compact substations.

Additionally, it will enhance the current power system by installing upstream substations and their associated power lines that will help meet increasing electricity demand, reduce network congestion, and improve power distribution reliability in urban and suburban areas.

**Recent Loan approved by ADB**

- India, ADB signed \$175 million loan deal to improve Madhya Pradesh roads
- India, ADB approved \$181 Million to Improve Ahmedabad's Peri-urban Areas
- India, ADB approves USD 40.5 mn loan for childhood development in Meghalaya
- India, ADB signed \$200 million loan deal to enhance urban services in Rajasthan.
- India, ADB signed \$130 million loan MoU to boost horticulture in Himachal Pradesh
- India, ADB signed \$295 million loan pact to upgrade the state highways in Bihar

192. The young entrepreneurs Kaivalya Vohra (21) and Aadit Palicha (22) have claimed the top spots in the Hurun India Top 100 Under 30 List 2023. Vohra & Palicha are the founder of which of the following company?

युवा उद्यमी कैवल्य वोहरा (21) और आदित पलिचा (22) ने हुरुन इंडिया टॉप 100 अंडर 30 लिस्ट 2023 में शीर्ष स्थान का दावा किया है। वोहरा और पलिचा निम्नलिखित में से किस कंपनी के संस्थापक हैं?

- (a) BigBasket / बिगबास्केट
- (b) Blinkit / ब्लिंकिट
- (c) Zomato / ज़ोमैटो
- (d) Zepto / ज़ेप्टो
- (e) Swiggy / स्विगी

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Zepto founders top Hurun India's list of 'Top 100 under 30

The young entrepreneurs Kaivalya Vohra (21) and Aadit Palicha (22), founders of the Quick Commerce app Zepto, have claimed the top spots in the Hurun India Top 100 Under 30 List 2023.

The list showcases 100 entrepreneurs aged 30 and below who have demonstrated exceptional prowess in their respective fields.

Zepto, the brainchild of Vohra and Palicha, stands out for its commitment to delivering a diverse array of products within minutes.

The app caters to a wide spectrum of consumer needs, ranging from online groceries and fresh produce to personal care items and electronics.

Earlier this year, the company secured \$200 million in funding which propelled Zepto's valuation to \$1.4 billion, marking it as the first Indian unicorn of 2023.

Following closely in the rankings is 24-year-old Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash, the visionary founder of Bhanzu—a research initiative that has positively impacted over 2 million students across India.

Beyond his entrepreneurial endeavors, Neelakantha has earned global acclaim as the world's fastest human calculator. His remarkable feat includes clinching India's first gold at the Mental Calculation World Championship.

The fourth and fifth positions on the list were secured by Rahul Rawat (24) of Space Technology Digantara and Anirudh Singla (24) of Content Marketing Pepper, further exemplifying the diverse talents emerging from India's youth.

193. Who among the following celebrities have NOT been included in the top 10 of Britain's 'World's Top 50 Asian Celebrities' list?

ब्रिटेन की 'विश्व की शीर्ष 50 एशियाई हस्तियों' की सूची में शीर्ष 10 में निम्नलिखित में से किस व्यक्तित्व को शामिल नहीं किया गया है?

- (a) Shreya Ghoshal / श्रेया घोषाल
- (b) Shah Rukh Khan / शाहरुख खान
- (c) Priyanka Chopra / प्रियंका चोपड़ा
- (d) Katrina Kaif / कैटरीना कैफ
- (e) Vijay / विजय

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Shah Rukh Khan tops UK's 2023 South Asian celebrity list

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, referred to as the King Khan of the Indian film industry, has topped a UK list of the 'Top 50 Asian Celebrities in the World'. The 58-year-old actor, who had double box-office success this year with action thrillers "Pathaan" and "Jawan", is currently preparing for the Christmas release of comedy-drama "Dunki". Popular actor Alia Bhatt came in second for her impact in Bollywood and Hollywood and also for being a strong role model for working mothers. Third-placed Priyanka Chopra Jonas, the most famous Indian on the planet, has been recognised for her ground-breaking work on the international stage, including with big-budget series "Citadel", Hollywood film "Love Again", humanitarian work and lighting up the red carpet globally. Fourth-placed Diljit Dosanjh confirmed his place as the biggest Punjabi star, with stunning work as an actor and singer. Fifth-placed Charli XCX from the UK was the biggest singing star internationally of a South Asian heritage. She is followed by Ranbir Kapoor (sixth) for delivering the year's most impactful movie performance with the blockbuster hit "Animal". Singer Shreya Ghoshal comes in at number seven with another award-winning year, which included magnificent songs in multiple languages, global arena shows and her turn as a judge on the popular singing reality series "Indian Idol" (season 14). Eighth placed Vijay is the biggest South Indian cinema star of 2023 with two hits ("Leo" and "Varisu") and for being an inspiration to countless fans with his humility. The highest-placed Pakistani on the list is actor Wahaj Ali (ninth), who delivered strong performances all year round, including in the record-breaking serial "Tere Bin". Canadian actor Iman Vellani is at number 10 for headlining Hollywood blockbuster "The Marvels" with a path-breaking role. The oldest star on the list is 81-year-old Amitabh Bachchan (35th) and the youngest is 20-year-old television star Sumbul Touqeer (44th).

194. Which bank has signed a 70-million-euro (about Rs 630 crore) Line of Credit (LoC) with German Development Bank KfW for promoting solar projects in the country?

किस बैंक ने देश में सौर परियोजनाओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए जर्मन विकास बैंक KfW के साथ 70 मिलियन यूरो (लगभग 630 करोड़ रुपये) की लाइन ऑफ क्रेडिट (LoC) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) Punjab National Bank / पंजाब नेशनल बैंक
- (c) UCO Bank / यूको बैंक
- (d) Indian Bank / इंडियन बैंक
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** SBI signed 70-million-euro LoC with KfW for solar projects

State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a 70-million-euro (about Rs 630 crore) Line of Credit (LoC) with German Development Bank KfW for promoting solar projects in the country. The Line of Credit (LoC) is specifically tailored to bolster Solar Photovoltaics (PV) projects in India, aligning with the nation's commitment to clean and renewable energy sources. This collaboration between SBI and KfW reflects a shared vision of promoting sustainable practices and reducing the carbon footprint through solar initiatives.

#### **Recent MoU in Banking Sector**

- SBI signed 70-million-euro LoC with Germany Bank' KfW for solar projects
- Reliance Industries partners with DBS Bank for financing programme
- Intellect signs ₹80-crore deal with Indian Bank to deploy cash management system
- U GRO Capital joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati to empower MSMEs
- Union Bank collaborates with Accenture to boost operational efficiency

195. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has collaborated with which bank to establish a financing programme customized to the requirements of the compressed biogas project initiated by RIL?

रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (आरआईएल) ने आरआईएल द्वारा शुरू की गई संपीड़ित बायोगैस परियोजना की आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप एक वित्तपोषण कार्यक्रम स्थापित करने के लिए किस बैंक के साथ सहयोग किया है?

- (a) South Indian Bank / साउथ इंडियन बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Yes Bank / यस बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) DBS Bank / डीबीएस बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Reliance Industries partners with DBS Bank for financing programme

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and DBS Bank India have collaborated to establish a financing programme customized to the requirements of the compressed biogas project initiated by RIL.

The financing will enable the ecosystem development for vendor partners to aggregate agri-residue as inputs for the Reliance compressed biogas production plants across India.

The company targets to establish 100 compressed biogas (CBG) plants in the next five years, consuming 5.5 million tonnes of agro-residue and organic waste. The move would help in mitigating nearly 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions and producing 2.5 million tonnes of organic manure annually.

Reliance Industries Limited is setting up world-class biogas facilities at multiple locations in Uttar Pradesh by using surplus agro residue and organic waste. These facilities will be linked to a network of biogas dispensing stations operated by Reliance Jio BP.

Reliance has set up a flagship CBG production facility in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, which is expected to cut down CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40,000 tonnes annually.

**About Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank**

- **Founded** - 1968
- **Headquarters** - Singapore
- **Chairman** - Peter Seah
- **CEO** - Piyush Gupta
- **DBS Bank India' CEO**- Surojit Shome

196. IDFC First Bank, LIC Cards, and which company have partnered to launch an exclusive co-branded credit card to meet the dynamic financial needs of the country?

**आईडीएफसी फर्स्ट बैंक, एलआईसी कार्ड्स और किस कंपनी ने देश की गतिशील वित्तीय जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए एक विशेष सह-ब्रांडेड क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च करने के लिए साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) Mastercard / मास्टरकार्ड
- (b) Visa / वीज़ा
- (c) American Express / अमेरिकन एक्सप्रेस
- (d) RuPay / रुपये
- (e) CapitalOne / कैपिटलवन

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** IDFC FIRST Bank, LIC Cards, and Mastercard to co-launch Credit card

IDFC First Bank, LIC Cards, and Mastercard have partnered to launch an exclusive co-branded credit card to meet the dynamic financial needs of the country.

Available in two variants -- LIC Classic and LIC Select -- the credit cards will let more than 27 crore policyholders across the country save in the form of reward points on every LIC insurance premium payment.

It will also come with other benefits, including up to Rs 50,000 cover for lost card liability and a personal accident insurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh.

The new partnership will create synergy by collaborating Brand LIC which signifies 'Trust' and IDFC First Bank which represents new age "Customer Centricity"

The cards will also feature travel benefits and protective covers, including future LIC insurance premiums.

#### **Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- Bank of India launched "Nari Shakti Savings Account"
- IDFC FIRST Bank launched youth-centric "FIRST SWYP" credit card in partnership with Mastercard.
- LIC introduces new whole life insurance policy Jeevan Utsav
- SEBI unveiled Investor Risk Reduction Access platform
- Federal Bank introduces UPI lite for small-value digital payments

197. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised India's economic growth forecast for FY24 to what percent from 6.3 percent?

एशियाई विकास बैंक (ADB) ने FY24 के लिए भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि का अनुमान 6.3 प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर कितने प्रतिशत कर दिया है?

- (a) 6.4%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 6.6%
- (d) 6.7%
- (e) 6.8%

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** ADB raises India FY24 growth forecast to 6.7%

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised India's growth forecast from 6.3 % to 6.7% for the Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24).

ADB's growth forecast for FY25 is unchanged at 6.7 percent.

Fixed investments – driven by increased capital spending by the central and state governments – will compensate for lower growth in private consumption expenditure and weaker-than-expected exports in FY24.

ADB kept its earlier forecasts on Indian inflation unchanged 5.5 percent in FY24.

Similarly, Morgan Stanley predicted the Indian economy to grow by 6.9 percent in the current fiscal year and Kotak Mahindra Bank revised its estimate to 6.8 percent. The two had projected the economy to grow 6.4 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively.

Nomura Asia revised its full financial-year forecast to 6.7 percent from 5.9 percent earlier and maintained its projection of 5.6 percent for FY25, citing a slowdown in public capex ahead of elections and sluggishness in rural demand and private capex.

#### Updated GDP List

- Kotak Mahindra Bank - 6.8% (FY24)
- Citigroup – 6.7%
- DBS – 6.8%
- ADB – 6.7% (FY24), 6.7% (FY25)
- Morgan Stanley - 6.9%(FY24)
- RBI – 7% (FY24)
- Nomura – 6.7% (FY24)
- CII – 6.8% (FY24), 7% (FY25)
- UBS – 6.3 % (FY24)
- IMF – 6.3% (FY24), 6.3% (FY25)

198. According to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, what is India's wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation in November 2023?

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, नवंबर 2023 में भारत की थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) आधारित मुद्रास्फीति क्या है?

- (a) -0.26%
- (b) 0.26%
- (c) -0.07%
- (d) 0.52%
- (e) -1.07%

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation came in at 0.26 percent, according to the data released by the released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It has returned to positive territory after seven months. Earlier in March, the WPI-based inflation was 1.34 percent. In October, the WPI inflation was -0.52 percent, the lowest in three months. In September, it was -0.07 percent. The rise in WPI-based inflation was led by food inflation. The index in this category rose steeply by 4.69 percent in November as compared to 1.07 percent in October and 1.88 percent in September. The positive rate of inflation in November 2023 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, minerals, machinery & equipment, computer, electronics & optical products, motor vehicles, other transport equipment and other manufacturing etc.

CPI-based inflation is projected at 5.4 percent for 2023-24, with Q3 at 5.6 percent and Q4 at 5.2 percent, according to RBI.

**Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India**

- June 2023 – (-) 4.12%
- July 2023 – (-) 1.36%
- August 2023 – (-) 0.52%
- September 2023 – (-) 0.26%
- October 2023 – (-) 0.52%
- November 2023 – 0.26%

199. India's Uma Sekhar has been elected to the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). Where is the headquarters of UNIDROIT?

भारत की उमा शेखर को इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर द यूनिफिकेशन ऑफ प्राइवेट लॉ (UNIDROIT) की गवर्निंग काउंसिल के लिए चुना गया है। UNIDROIT का मुख्यालय कहाँ है?

- (a) New Delhi, India / नई दिल्ली, भारत
- (b) Berlin, Germany / बर्लिन, जर्मनी
- (c) Paris, France / पेरिस, फ्रांस
- (d) Rome, Italy / रोम, इटली
- (e) London, UK / लंदन, यूके

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India's Uma Sekhar elected to Governing Council of UNIDROIT

In a historic moment for India, Ms. Uma Sekhar has secured a remarkable victory by garnering 45 out of 59 votes in the initial round of elections for the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) held in Rome, Italy.

This win not only signifies Ms. Sekhar's individual achievement but also elevates India to a prominent position on the Governing Council for the term spanning 2024-28.

Securing a position on the Governing Council required a minimum of 21 votes, and Ms Uma Sekhar's substantial support of 45 votes underscores the confidence and trust vested in her capabilities.

The Governing Council, comprising 25 positions occupied by distinguished legal experts, holds a pivotal role in shaping international legal frameworks.

The election featured a competitive field with 32 contestants, including representatives from influential nations such as the USA, China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and France. Notably, candidates from Russia, the USA, and China failed to secure positions, underscoring the significance of Ms Sekhar's successful bid for India.

**About UNIDROIT**

- UNIDROIT, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, functions as an independent intergovernmental organization headquartered in Rome, Italy.
- Its core mission involves studying the needs and methods for modernizing, harmonizing, and coordinating private and commercial law among States and groups of States.
- UNIDROIT actively formulates uniform law instruments, principles, and rules to achieve these objectives.

200. Recently, who among the following Indian tennis players have made it into the International Tennis Hall of Fame?

हाल ही में, निम्नलिखित में से किस भारतीय टेनिस खिलाड़ी ने इंटरनेशनल टेनिस हॉल ऑफ फेम में जगह बनाई है?

- (i) Sania Mirza /सानिया मिर्ज़ा
  - (ii) Leander Paes / लिंंडर पेस
  - (iii) Rohan Bopanna / रोहन बोपन्ना
  - (iv) Vijay Amritraj / विजय अमृतराज
- (a) Only i & ii
  - (b) Only ii & iii
  - (c) Only iii & iv
  - (d) Only ii & iv
  - (e) Only i & iii

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Leander and Vijay Amritraj make it to the Tennis Hall of Fame

Olympic medallist and multiple Grand Slam champion Leander Paes, along with two-time Davis Cup finalist Vijay Amritraj, has made it into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Leander makes it in the player category and Vijay in the contributor category for his multi-faceted role in the game.

They are the first two Indians to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Leander has won eight Grand Slam doubles titles and 10 mixed doubles titles. He is only one of three men in tennis history to complete a career Grand Slam in both doubles and mixed doubles.

Since 2006, Vijay Amritraj Foundation has provided education and basic needs for women and children in the Indian community.

The third person to be inducted would be Richard Evans, a tennis journalist who has reported on more than 200 Grand Slams and other tournaments. He has written 23 books.

201. Bipin Chandra has been honoured with the "Champions of Change Award by the Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (IFIE). He is the CEO of which company?

बिपिन चंद्रा को इंटरएक्टिव फोरम ऑन इंडियन इकोनॉमी (IFIE) द्वारा "चैंपियंस ऑफ चेंज अवार्ड" से सम्मानित किया गया है। वह किस कंपनी के सीईओ हैं?

- (a) HCL / एचसीएल /
- (b) Infosys Technologies / इंफोसिस टेक्नोलॉजीज
- (c) Wavesoft Technologies / वेवसॉफ्ट टेक्नोलॉजीज /
- (d) Esyasoft Technologies / एसियासॉफ्ट टेक्नोलॉजीज /
- (e) Wipro / विप्रो

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bipin Chandra Bags Champion of Change Award

Esyasoft Technologies' visionary Founder and CEO, Bipin Chandra, was honoured with the "Champions of Change Award (Karnataka)" by the Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (IFIE).

Esyasoft Technologies is a non-profit organization recognized by Govt of India, for its outstanding leadership and transformative impact.

Chandra received a Gold Medal and a Citation from the Governor of Karnataka, Shri Thawad Chand Gehlot as part of the felicitation.

Constitutional Jury members headed by Justice K G Balakrishnan, Former Chief Justice of India and Former Chairman of NHRC, selected the awardees.

202. Which bank has been recognized as the top performer of the 2023 Climate Assessment for Financial Institutions (CAFI) Awards in Climate Reporting by International Finance Corporation (IFC)?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वित्त निगम (आईएफसी) द्वारा जलवायु रिपोर्टिंग में वित्तीय संस्थानों के लिए 2023 जलवायु मूल्यांकन (सीएफआई) पुरस्कारों में किस बैंक को शीर्ष प्रदर्शनकर्ता के रूप में मान्यता दी गई है?

- (a) Federal Bank / फेडरल बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Yes Bank / यस बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) IndusInd Bank / इंडसइंड बैंक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Federal Bank as the top performer of the 2023 Climate Assessment for Financial Institutions (CAFI) Awards International Finance Corporation (IFC), a World Bank Group has recognized Federal Bank as the top performer of the 2023 Climate Assessment for Financial Institutions (CAFI) Awards for Climate Reporting.

Out of the 258 financial institutions globally participating in climate reporting through the CAFI tool, Federal Bank emerged as a standout performer.

Federal Bank secured two positions on the global stage i.e. Highest Climate Loan Amount Reported and Most GHG Mitigated category.

Furthermore, in the South Asian region, Federal Bank clinched four prestigious recognitions in the following categories:

- Most Transactions Reported
- Highest Climate Loan Amount Reported
- Most GHG Mitigated
- Best Achievement vs Climate Targets

These achievements underscore Federal Bank's proactive approach to addressing climate change and its commitment to measuring and investing in impactful climate projects.

Federal Bank is a premier private sector bank in India with a rich legacy spanning over nine decades. The franchise boasts of 16 million plus growing customers, 1400 plus branches and a global footprint. It houses Representative Offices in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, an IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City, Gujarat, and holds a significant role in handling one-fifth of total NR remittances to India.

**203. Which foundation has been honored with Telangana Business Awards for the Best Girl Child Empowerment Program Initiative of the Year?**  
**वर्ष की सर्वश्रेष्ठ बालिका सशक्तिकरण कार्यक्रम पहल के लिए किस फाउंडेशन को तेलंगाना बिजनेस अवार्ड्स से सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Unnati Foundation / उन्नति फाउंडेशन
- (b) Reliance Foundation / रिलायंस फाउंडेशन
- (c) KK Birla Foundation / केके बिड़ला फाउंडेशन
- (d) BBG Foundation / बीबीजी फाउंडेशन
- (e) Tata Foundation / टाटा फाउंडेशन

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** BBG Foundation becomes winner of Telangana Business Awards

In recognition of its outstanding commitment to empowering girls through education, BBG Foundation has been honored with the prestigious title of Best Girl Child Empowerment Program Initiative of the Year. The award was presented by Telangana Business Awards (TBA), a distinguished platform dedicated to recognizing excellence in various sectors.

Telangana Business Awards serves as a beacon for enhancing productivity and quality in companies, entrepreneurs, and service providers, acknowledging their remarkable achievements and performance in their respective fields.

The awards aim to promote business excellence by providing a structured framework for assessment.

BBG Bangaaru Thalli, a non-profit organization founded in 2019 by Mallikarjuna Reddy and a team of dedicated experts, is dedicated to revolutionizing girls' education in rural and educationally disadvantaged areas of India.

Focused on making a lasting impact in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the organization is passionately committed to mobilizing communities and empowering girl children. BBG Bangaaru Thalli stands out for its unwavering dedication to the cause, channeling both life and business profits toward the single-minded purpose of empowering 2,000,000 girls by the year 2040.

The organization believes in the transformative power of education and aims to unlock the potential of young girls, fostering a brighter future for individuals and the nation.

#### **Recent Awards**

- **Karmaveer Chakra Medal by ICONGO** - Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar
- **Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship by ICONGO** - Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar
- **Diwali 'Power of One' Awards 2023** - Ban Ki-moon
- **International Gender Equality Prize 2023 by Finland** - Afghanistan NGO
- **Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival** - Veteran Javed Akhtar

204. Who has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023 for his efforts in bringing together youth and people of Israel and the Arab world for a non-violent solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict?

**इज़राइल-फिलिस्तीन संघर्ष के अहिंसक समाधान के लिए इज़राइल और अरब दुनिया के युवाओं और लोगों को एक साथ लाने के प्रयासों के लिए किसे इंदिरा गांधी शांति पुरस्कार 2023 से सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Ali Abu Awwad and Elena Bashkirova / अली अबू अव्वाद और एलेना बश्किरोवा
- (b) Martha Argerich and Michael Barenboim / मार्था अर्गेरिच और माइकल बरेनबोइम
- (c) Elena Bashkirova and Ali Abu Awwad / एलेना बश्किरोवा और अली अबू अव्वाद
- (d) Elena Bashkirova and Daniel Barenboim / एलेना बश्किरोवा और डैनियल बरेनबोइम
- (e) Ali Abu Awwad and Daniel Barenboim / अली अबू अव्वाद और डैनियल बरेनबोइम

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Ali Abu Awwad and Daniel Barenboim won Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 has been jointly awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad for their efforts in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The International Jury of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace was chaired by former CJI T.S. Thakur.

Mr. Barenboim and Mr. Awwad have fostered meaningful, mutual social, and cultural understanding, and peaceful public cooperation via the tools of music, dialogue and people's participation. Maestro Barenboim is an Argentine-born distinguished classical pianist and conductor, renowned for performing with and directing some of the leading orchestras in the world. Apart from his musical achievements, he is also known for his relentless endeavour in using music to foster harmony in West Asia.

205. Ravindra Berde passed away recently at the age of 78. Who was he?

**रवीन्द्र बेर्डे का हाल ही में 78 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Politician / राजनेता
- (c) Actor / अभिनेता
- (d) Social Worker / सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता
- (e) Historian / इतिहासकार

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Singham actor Ravindra Berde passes away

Veteran Marathi actor Ravindra Berde passed away at the age of 78.

He was the brother of late actor Laxmikant Berde, who was a popular face in both Hindi and Marathi cinema, and appeared in films such as *Maine Pyar Kiya* and *Hum Aapke Hain Koun*.

Ravindra Berde worked actively in the Marathi cinema and also made a few special appearances in Hindi films like Anil Kapoor's *Nayak* and Ajay Devgn's *Singham*.

In *Singham*, he essayed the role of Zamindar Chandrakant.

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**206. In December 2023, the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare which airport as an international airport?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने किस हवाई अड्डे को अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा घोषित करने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी है?**

- (a) Vijayawada Airport / विजयवाड़ा हवाई अड्डा
- (b) Tirupati Airport / तिरुपति हवाई अड्डा
- (c) Hisar Airport / हिसार हवाई अड्डा
- (d) Dibrugarh Airport / डिब्रूगढ़ हवाई अड्डा
- (e) Surat Airport / सूरत हवाई अड्डा

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Surat joins the list of international airports

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport. Surat Airport will not only become a gateway for international travellers but will also facilitate seamless export-import operations for the thriving diamond and textile industries.

The airport's international status is paramount for enhancing economic growth, attracting foreign investment, and providing impetus for regional development.

The Surat airport may be named after former prime minister the late Morarji Desai, who hailed from Valsad and had been elected from the Surat Lok Sabha constituency from 1957 to 1980.

207. The Parliament has passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 bill to establish a central tribal university in which state named after tribal goddesses Sammakka and Sarakka?

संसद ने किस राज्य में आदिवासी देवी सम्मक्का और सरक्का के नाम पर एक केंद्रीय आदिवासी विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित करने के लिए केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2023 विधेयक पारित किया है?

- (a) Kerala / केरल
- (b) Jharkhand / झारखंड
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Central Tribal University to be set up in Telangana

The Parliament passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 bill to establish a central tribal university in Telangana.

The university will be built at a cost of ₹900 crore. The university is expected to be set up in Mulugu and is named after tribal goddesses Sammakka and Sarakka. As per the state and objects of the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University aims to fulfil regional aspirations by enhancing access and quality of higher education in Telangana.

The new university is expected to promote higher education and research along with tribal art, culture, customs, and technological advancements for the tribal population of India.

The establishment of a central tribal university was obligatory under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014. He also said that the delay in the establishment of the university was due to a lack of prompt cooperation from the Telangana state government.

The Central Universities Act, of 2009 was enacted to establish and incorporate central universities to support and improve the education and research ecosystem across the states of India.

#### **About Telangana**

- **Established** – 2 June 2014
- **Capital** – Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister** – Revanth Reddy (replace K. Chandrashekar Rao)
- **Deputy CM** - Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka
- **Governor** – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- **Speaker of Telangana Assembly** – Gaddam Prasad Kumar
- **Legislative Assembly Seats** - 119

**208. Indian Navy has signed an MoU with which IIT to promote technology development, innovative solutions, and joint R&D?**

**भारतीय नौसेना ने प्रौद्योगिकी विकास, नवीन समाधान और संयुक्त अनुसंधान एवं विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस आईआईटी के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) IIT Guwahati/ आईआईटी गुवाहाटी
- (b) IIT Delhi / आईआईटी दिल्ली
- (c) IIT Madras / आईआईटी मद्रास
- (d) IIT Kanpur / आईआईटी कानपुर
- (e) IIT Roorkee / आईआईटी रुड़की

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Indian Navy signed MoU with IIT Kanpur to promote technology development

Indian Navy has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&D. Rear Admiral K Srinivas, Asst Chief of Materiel (Dockyard & Refits) and Professor Subramaniam Ganesh, Officiating Director IIT Kanpur concluded this MoU.

IN and IIT Kanpur share common interest in academic exchange of scientific research activities in the field of Engineering related to defence technologies. The MoU would serve as a broader framework and enable both sides to enhance capacity building, provide solutions to field-level issues and enhance training effectiveness through exchange of faculty/ guest lectures. The structured collaboration focuses on joint Research and Development initiatives involving teams from Centre of Excellence (Marine Engg) at INS Shivaji, Lonavla and IIT Kanpur.

**IITs in News**

- Global cyber security company Kaspersky and IIT Delhi signed an agreement to jointly work on cybersecurity-related research and educational initiatives at the institute.
- Airbus tie-up with IIT Kanpur to promote aerospace education
- IIT Guwahati signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy
- IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model for knee X-ray.

## 209. Who has inaugurated the Surat Diamond Exchange?

**सूरत डायमंड एक्सचेंज का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?**

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (c) Rajnath Singh / राजनाथ सिंह
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मू
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** PM Modi inaugurated Surat Diamond Exchange

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Surat diamond exchange, a complex that has overtaken Pentagon as the world's largest office.

It covers a constructed area of 6.7 million square feet and was completed in July at a cost of ₹ 32 billion. The US landmark, which opened in 1943, has an area of 6.5 million square feet.

The bourse comprises a state-of-the-art 'Customs Clearance House' for Import-Export; a jewellery mall for retail jewellery businesses; and a facility for international banking and safe vaults.

While Mumbai has long been the center of exports for diamonds in India, Surat, also known as “Diamond City,” dominates in processing of the precious gems, with about 90% of the world's rough diamonds cut and polished there before they are sold to buyers in places like the US and China.

The new bourse aims to centralize the industry under one roof.

The new complex is located inside the Diamond Research and Mercantile City, a business district modeled after the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or Gift City, another one of PM Modi's flagship projects. It has nine 15-story towers and about 4,700 offices. About 130 offices are already in use, according to Nagjibhai Sakariya, president of the Surat Diamond Bourse.

**210. Which country will impose green tax on air passengers from 2025?**

**कौन सा देश 2025 से हवाई यात्रियों पर ग्रीन टैक्स लगाएगा?**

- (a) Denmark / डेनमार्क
- (b) Mauritius / मॉरीशस
- (c) USA / यूएसए
- (d) Eritrea / इरिट्रिया
- (e) Finland / फिनलैंड

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Denmark introduces green tax on air passengers from 2025

Denmark has agreed to impose a tax on air passengers to help finance the airline industry's transition to greener practices, which will be gradually phased in from 2025.

The government in November proposed imposing an average tax of 100 Danish crowns (\$14.35) on air travel to help finance the industry's green transition, which aims to enable all domestic flights to use 100% sustainable fuels by 2030.

Under the agreement, the tax by 2030 will reach around 50 Danish crowns (\$7.35) per passenger for intra-European flights, 310 crowns for medium-distance flights, and 410 for long-distance.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a study has found that aviation contributes to 3.5% of climate change.

The research indicates that two-thirds of this impact result from various factors, including contrails, nitrogen oxides, water vapor, sulfate aerosol, soot, and other aerosols.

The remaining one-third is attributed to the cumulative heat-trapping effects of long-lived CO2 emissions, totaling 32.6 billion tonnes between 1940 and 2018, roughly equivalent to the total global CO2 emissions in 2010.

The goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 is not only crucial for the aviation industry but also aligns with the Paris Agreement's objective to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees

**About Denmark**

- Capital- Copenhagen
- Currency- Danish krone
- Prime Minister - Mette Frederiksen

**211. Delhi Education Minister Atishi has inaugurated which edition of the National School Games at Chhatrasal Stadium in New Delhi?**

**दिल्ली की शिक्षा मंत्री आतिशी ने नई दिल्ली के छत्रसाल स्टेडियम में राष्ट्रीय स्कूल खेलों के किस संस्करण का उद्घाटन किया है?**

- (a) 10th
- (b) 40th
- (c) 67th
- (d) 51st
- (e) 22nd

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 67th National School Games started at New Delhi

Delhi Education Minister Atishi has inaugurated the 67th National School Games at Chhatrasal Stadium in New Delhi.

At the inauguration of the National School Games, Atishi stressed the need for integrating sports with education for nation-building.

Students from 44 units, including states, union territories and other boards, are participating to showcase their sporting skills and talent.

The Directorate of Education is hosting the games this year.

**212. Which insurance company has launched the 'Alpha Wealth' plan with comprehensive features to ensure financial security for the insured and their family?**

**किस बीमा कंपनी ने बीमाधारक और उनके परिवार के लिए वित्तीय सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए व्यापक सुविधाओं के साथ 'अल्फा वेल्थ' योजना लॉन्च की है?**

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance / बजाज आलियांज जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (b) Bharti AXA General Insurance / भारती एक्सा जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (c) Canara HSBC Life Insurance / केनरा एचएसबीसी जीवन बीमा
- (d) Royal Sundaram General Insurance / रॉयल सुंदरम जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (e) Universal Sompo General Insurance / यूनिवर्सल सोम्पो जनरल इंश्योरेंस

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Canara HSBC Life Insurance launches 'Alpha Wealth' plan with option to alter premiums  
 Canara HSBC Life Insurance has launched 'Alpha Wealth' plan with comprehensive features to ensure financial security for the insured and their family.

It also encourages long-term savings with loyalty additions and wealth boosters. The product offers an array of options by investing in a wide variety of funds - debt/equity/liquid available in the market.  
 The insurance plan is flexible in terms of providing to choose from three plan options based on the life stages: 'Alpha Invest Plus,' 'Alpha Premium Plus,' or 'Alpha Life Plus.'

### **Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- IDFC FIRST Bank, LIC Cards, and Mastercard to **co-launch Credit card**
- Bank of India launched **"Nari Shakti Savings Account"**
- IDFC FIRST Bank launched youth-centric **"FIRST SWYP"** credit card in partnership with Mastercard.
- SEBI unveiled **Investor Risk Reduction Access platform**
- Federal Bank introduces **UPI lite for small-value digital payments**

**213. Which bank has been authorized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the disbursement of pensions through e-PPOs on behalf of the Ministry of Railways?**

**रेल मंत्रालय की ओर से ई-पीपीओ के माध्यम से पेंशन के वितरण के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने किस बैंक को अधिकृत किया है?**

- (a) ICICI Bank / आईसीआईसीआई बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) IndusInd Bank / इंडसइंड बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) Bandhan Bank / बंधन बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** RBI authorizes Bandhan Bank to disburse pensions to railway employees

Bandhan Bank has been authorized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the disbursement of pensions through e-PPOs on behalf of the Ministry of Railways.

This authorization enables Bandhan Bank to disburse pensions to all employees of the Ministry of Railways who have retired from their service.

This mandate also provides the Bank access to around 50,000 average Indian Railways retirees every year across all offices including 17 zonal railways and 8 production units of Indian Railways.

Authorization to disburse pensions to retired employees of railways provides an opportunity to serve them with the best products and services of the bank. It also allows retired employees to enjoy the most competitive rates provided by Bandhan Bank.

This will provide the existing as well as new customers of Bandhan Bank an opportunity to avail the world-class banking services, competitive interest rates along with senior citizen privilege provided by the Bank.

Pensioners also get access to more than 1640 branches and best in best-in-class digital banking platform of Bandhan Bank.

Indian Railways is the largest employer in the country with an employee strength of nearly 12 lakhs.

#### **About Bandhan Bank**

- **Founded** - 2001
- **Founder** - Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- **Headquarters** - Kolkata
- **MD & CEO** - Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- **Chairperson** - Anup Kumar Sinha

**214. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (ICICI PruLife) has partnered with which Small Finance Bank for the distribution of life insurance products?**

**ICICI प्रूडेंशियल लाइफ इश्योरेंस (ICICI PruLife) ने जीवन बीमा उत्पादों के वितरण के लिए किस लघु वित्त बैंक के साथ साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank Limited / एयू स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (b) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited / कैपिटल स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड
- (c) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank/ उज्जीवन लघु वित्त बैंक
- (d) Shivalik Small Finance Bank / शिवालिक स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक
- (e) Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited / इक्विटास स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक लिमिटेड

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** ICICI Pru Life, Ujjivan SFB enter into Bancassurance tie-up

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (ICICI PruLife) and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) have entered into a bancassurance partnership for the distribution of life insurance products.

Objective - To increase access to insurance solutions for the aspiring middle-class, enabling them to secure their financial.

Under the partnership, Ujjivan SFB will offer the entire suite of ICICI PruLife's entire suite of protection, long-term savings and retirement products to its customers through its network of 700+ branches across 26 states and Union Territories.

This bancassurance partnership will help in bridging the demand gap for insurance services, and further strengthen Ujjivan SFB's position in offering insurance solutions for its customers.

MD & CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank - Ittira Davis

MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance - Anup Bagchi

What is Bancassurance?

- Bancassurance is an insurance distribution model where insurance companies partner with banks to sell policies

### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- SBI signed 70-million-euro LoC with Germany Bank' KfW for solar projects
- Reliance Industries partners with DBS Bank for financing programme
- Intellect signs ₹80-crore deal with Indian Bank to deploy cash management system
- U GRO Capital joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati to empower MSMEs
- Union Bank collaborates with Accenture to boost operational efficiency

**215. According to government data, 58 Airports in the country have been covered under the "Krishi Udan Scheme". In which year "Krishi Udan Scheme" was launched?**

**सरकारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, देश के 58 हवाई अड्डों को "कृषि उड़ान योजना" के तहत कवर किया गया है। "कृषि उड़ान योजना" किस वर्ष शुरू की गई थी?**

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2016
- (c) 2017
- (d) 2019
- (e) 2020

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 58 Airports covered under "Krishi Udan" Scheme: Govt

The Government has said that 58 Airports in the country have been covered under the Krishi Udan Scheme.

The Scheme was launched in 2020 on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products to help improve their value realization.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Dr V K Singh said this in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was also announced in 2021 focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North Eastern States, and tribal areas.

The scheme currently covers 25 airports focusing on North Eastern, Hilly and Tribal region besides 33 airports in other regions/ areas.

**216. Who has been crowned Miss India USA 2023 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey?**

**न्यू जर्सी में आयोजित वार्षिक प्रतियोगिता में मिस इंडिया यूएसए 2023 का ताज किसे पहनाया गया है?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Sadhna Saxena Nair / साधना सक्सेना नायर
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Rijul Maini / रिजुल मैनी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Indian-American medical student Rijul Maini crowned Miss India USA 2023

Rijul Maini, a medical student from Michigan, has been crowned Miss India USA 2023 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey.

While Sneha Nambiar from Massachusetts was declared as Mrs India USA and Saloni Rammohan from Pennsylvania won the title of Miss Teen India USA.

Maini, a 24-year-old Indian-American, is a medical student and model. She aspires to be a surgeon and hopes to serve as a role model to women everywhere.

Greeshma Bhat of Virginia was declared first runner-up and Ishita Pai Raikar of North Carolina was the second runner-up. 57 contestants from over 25 states participated in three different pageants - Miss India USA, Mrs India USA, and Miss Teen India USA. This year marks the 41th anniversary of the pageant which is the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India.

### **Recent Awards**

- **Champion of Change Award 2023** - Bipin Chandra (Founder and CEO of Esyasoft Technologies)
- **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023** - Ali Abu Awwad and Daniel Barenboim
- **Telangana Business Awards** - BBG Foundation
- **Karmaveer Chakra Medal by ICONGO** - Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar
- **Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship by ICONGO** - Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar

**217. Who has been honored with the Visionary Leader Icon Award 2023 by Advocates Association For Social Responsibility And Awareness (AASRAA)?**

**एडवोकेट्स एसोसिएशन फॉर सोशल रिस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी एंड अवेयरनेस (AASRAA) द्वारा विज़नरी लीडर आइकन अवार्ड 2023 से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Deepak Shenoy / दीपक शेनॉय
- (b) Neeli Bendapudi / नीली बेंदापुडी
- (c) Raghu Ram Pillarisetti / रघु राम पिल्लरीसेट्टी
- (d) Srinivas Naik Dharavath / श्रीनिवास नाइक धारावथ
- (e) Deepika Misra / दीपिका मिश्रा

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath receives Visionary Leader Icon 2023 Award

Real Vision Homes Pvt Ltd Chairman, Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath has been honored with the Visionary Leader Icon Award 2023 by Advocates Association For Social Responsibility And Awareness (AASRAA) at the 5th National Conventions in Delhi.

Real Vision Homes Pvt Ltd, a leading name in the real estate sector, takes immense pride in Founder Chairman Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath's well-deserved recognition as a visionary leader.

The award is a testament to his unwavering dedication, remarkable achievements, and commitment to excellence in both business and social endeavors.

The 5th National Summit of AASRAA served as the perfect platform to acknowledge and honor Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath's significant contributions.

#### **Recent Awards**

- **Diwali 'Power of One' Awards 2023** - Ban Ki-moon
- **International Gender Equality Prize 2023 by Finland** - Afghanistan NGO
- **Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival** - Veteran Javed Akhtar
- **International Anti-Corruption champion by US Govt.** - Nikhil Dey

**218. International Migrants Day is observed every year on which day?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रवासी दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 17 December / 17 दिसंबर
- (b) 18 December / 18 दिसंबर
- (c) 19 December / 19 दिसंबर
- (d) 20 December / 20 दिसंबर
- (e) 16 December / 16 दिसंबर

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 18 December - International Migrants Day

International Migrants Day is observed on December 18 to recognize the contributions of migrants and highlight the challenges they face.

The day sheds light on the socio-economic realities of migrants around the world.

Theme 2023 - Act Today for a Better Tomorrow for All: Improving the Health of migrants to Unleash the Power of Migration

On 4 December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed December 18 as International Migrants Day.

Over 281 million people were international migrants in 2020, according to a United Nations report. It added that over 59 million people were internally displaced by the 2021 end.

**219. Minorities Rights Day is observed every year on which day?**

**अल्पसंख्यक अधिकार दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 17 December / 17 दिसंबर
- (b) 18 December / 18 दिसंबर
- (c) 19 December / 19 दिसंबर
- (d) 20 December / 20 दिसंबर
- (e) 16 December / 16 दिसंबर

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 18 December - Minorities Rights Day

Minorities Rights Day is observed every year on 18 December.

It serves as a poignant reminder of the dedication to safeguarding the rights of religious, ethnic, racial, and linguistic minorities within the nation.

Theme for 2023 - Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion

The inception of Minorities Rights Day aligns with the adoption of the UN Declaration on December 18, 1992.

This day is celebrated by the National Commission for Minorities.

**220. Which of the following states has topped the "Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023" report in the Achievers category of Landlocked Group?**

**निम्नलिखित में से किस राज्य ने लैंडलॉक्ड ग्रुप की अचीवर्स श्रेणी में "लॉजिस्टिक्स ईज़ अक्रॉस डिफरेंट स्टेट (LEADS) 2023" रिपोर्ट में शीर्ष स्थान हासिल किया है?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Punjab / पंजाब
- (e) Haryana / हरियाणा

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Piyush Goyal released Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Piyush Goyal has released the "Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023" report in New Delhi.

The 5th edition of the LEADS annual exercise - LEADS 2023 report, provides insights into improvement of logistics performance at State/UT level.

This report, signalling a positive shift in States' performance across the key pillars - Logistics Infrastructure, Logistics Services and Operating and Regulatory Environment, empowers the State/UT Governments by providing region-specific insights for informed decision-making and comprehensive growth.

This report is based on a pan-India primary survey, conducted between May and July 2023, covering over 7,300 responses across 36 States/UTs.

Additionally, over 750 stakeholder consultations, facilitated by National, Regional, and State Associations, significantly contributed to this comprehensive evaluation  
Performance highlights from LEADS 2023

**Coastal Group**

- Achievers- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
- Fast Movers- Kerala, Maharashtra
- Aspirers- Goa, Odisha, West Bengal

**Landlocked Group**

- Achievers- Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh
- Fast Movers- Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand
- Aspirers- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand

**North-East Group**

- Achievers- Assam, Sikkim, Tripura
- Fast Movers- Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland
- Aspirers- Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram

**Union Territories**

- Achievers- Chandigarh, Delhi
- Fast Movers- Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Puducherry
- Aspirers- Daman & Diu/ Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh

The latest edition builds strengthening objectivity and precision in assessment by considering a wider spectrum of state initiatives, including the adoption of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for project planning, aligning State Logistics Policies with National Logistics Policy, besides developing City Logistics plans, etc.

**221. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated which edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam at Namoo Ghat in Varanasi?**

**प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने वाराणसी के नमो घाट पर काशी तमिल संगमम के किस संस्करण का उद्घाटन किया है?**

- (a) 1st
- (b) 2nd
- (c) 3rd
- (d) 4th
- (e) 5th

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** PM Modi inaugurates Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2.0 in Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the second edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam at Namoo Ghat in Varanasi. He also flagged off the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express between Varanasi and Kanyakumari. The second edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) will be held between December 17 to 30, 2023 and is part of the government's 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Yuva Sangam programme.' The overarching objective of this people-to-people connect programme is to revive the living bonds between Kashi and Tamil Nadu – two important centres of learning and culture in ancient India.

It aims to bring these two traditions of knowledge and culture closer together while building an understanding of shared heritage and strengthening ties between the people of these two regions. The Kashi Tamil Sangamam is expected to witness the participation of 1,400 dignitaries from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The first edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam was held from November 16 to December 16, 2022.

**222. The Government of India has signed a loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for how much rupees to support industrial corridor development in India?**

**भारत सरकार ने भारत में औद्योगिक गलियारे के विकास का समर्थन करने के लिए एशियाई विकास बैंक (एडीबी) के साथ कितने रुपये के ऋण समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) USD 100 million
- (b) USD 150 million
- (c) USD 200 million
- (d) USD 250 million
- (e) USD 500 million

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** India and ADB sign \$250 million loan for Industrial Corridor Development in India

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$250 million policy-based loan that will continue support to industrial corridor development to make manufacturing more competitive, strengthen national supply chains and links with regional and global value chains, and create more and better jobs.

This loan builds on the \$250 million Subprogramme 1 loan approved by ADB in October 2021 that helped strengthen policy frameworks for the Government of India's National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) and develop 11 industrial corridors. ADB's continued support to the effective implementation of the NICDP the government launched in 2016 and updated in 2020 to strengthen the planning and management of designated industrial economic clusters to attract private infrastructure and manufacturing investments.

The loan for the Subprogramme 2 will help in the integration of industrial corridors with transport, logistics, and urban facilities under the government's Prime Minister Gati Shakti platform.

It will promote gender equality in manufacturing and corridor development, as well as conduct training and upskilling of workers in industrial corridors.

**Recent Loan approved by ADB**

- India, ADB signed \$200 million loan agreement **for Uttarakhand power system project**
- India, ADB signed \$175 million loan deal **to improve Madhya Pradesh roads**
- India, ADB approved \$181 Million to **Improve Ahmedabad's Peri-urban Areas**
- ADB and Fourth Partner Energy Collaborate **for Solar Power Plant worth Rs 120 cr in Tamil Nadu**
- India, ADB approves USD 40.5 mn loan for **childhood development in Meghalaya**

**223. Which IIT has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd to launch of Kotak School of Sustainability?**

**कोटक स्कूल ऑफ सस्टेनेबिलिटी को लॉन्च करने के लिए किस आईआईटी ने कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक लिमिटेड के साथ साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) IIT Guwahati/ आईआईटी गुवाहाटी
- (b) IIT Delhi / आईआईटी दिल्ली
- (c) IIT Madras / आईआईटी मद्रास
- (d) IIT Kanpur / आईआईटी कानपुर
- (e) IIT Roorkee / आईआईटी रुड़की

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with IIT Kanpur to launch Kotak School of Sustainability

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd to launch of Kotak School of Sustainability.

The collaboration aims to provide leadership solutions for sustainability and prepare future generations to champion the cause of sustainable development.

The Kotak School of Sustainability is touted as India's first full integrated institution dedicated to sustainability education. Funded by Kotak Mahindra Bank through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, the school is poised to play a crucial role in shaping the future of sustainability initiatives in the country.

It will have dedicated centres of excellence (COEs) covering different aspects of sustainability such as clean energy, environment, ecology, circular economy, climate finance, sustainable societies and policy.

The total project cost is around Rs 200 crore. Kotak will be contributing Rs 70 crore in the first phase.

The Kotak School of Sustainability marks our commitment to contribute to growing India's skilled workforce towards achieving the goal of long-term sustainable development, including its net-zero target by 2070.

### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- ICICI Pru Life, Ujjivan SFB enter into Bancassurance tie-up
- SBI signed 70-million-euro LoC with Germany Bank' KfW for solar projects
- Reliance Industries partners with DBS Bank for financing programme
- Intellect signs ₹80-crore deal with Indian Bank to deploy cash management system
- U GRO Capital joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati to empower MSMEs

**224. IndusInd Bank has introduced 'Indus Solitaire Program,' a community banking initiative meticulously crafted for the diamond industry. In which year IndusInd Bank was founded?**

**इंडसइंड बैंक ने 'इंडस सॉलितेयर प्रोग्राम' शुरू किया है, जो हीरा उद्योग के लिए सावधानीपूर्वक तैयार की गई एक सामुदायिक बैंकिंग पहल है। इंडसइंड बैंक की स्थापना किस वर्ष हुई थी?**

- (a) 1929
- (b) 1939
- (c) 1954
- (d) 1994
- (e) 2000

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** IndusInd Bank introduces 'Indus Solitaire Program' for the Diamond Industry

IndusInd Bank has introduced its 'Indus Solitaire Program,' a community banking initiative meticulously crafted for the diamond industry. This curated banking program will be offered through the bank's flagship branches in prime locations across various cities with a concentration in Mumbai and Surat.

It will also provide a range of exclusive benefits along with distinct features and enriched offerings to customers in the diamond industry. Through the 'Indus Solitaire Program,' IndusInd Bank is all set to offer a whole gamut of tailored banking services for the diamond industry, that includes 24\*7 locker access at specific branches, add-on family accounts, debit and credit cards that come with membership benefits at top-tier hotels, concierge services, complimentary golf lessons and movie tickets, zero cross-currency markup fee on foreign exchange, complimentary lounge access, along with an appealing rewards structure and overseas hospitalization coverage on credit cards and customized diamond industry employee salary account.

Furthermore, this programme offers a dedicated relationship, service, and wealth manager for handholding customers and providing them assistance with their diverse financial needs.

In alignment with the launch of its 'Indus Solitaire program,' IndusInd Bank also launched its new branch at the Surat Diamond Bourse, a diamond trade centre located in Surat and also the world's largest diamond trading hub and largest office building.

#### **IndusInd Bank**

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Founder** - S.P. Hinduja
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- **MD & CEO** - Sumant Kathpalia
- **Tagline** - We Make You Feel Richer

**225. Reliance General Insurance Company (RGICL) has introduced "Reliance Health Global," a healthcare policy designed to bring global healthcare within reach for Indians. Who is the CEO of Reliance General Insurance Company?**

**रिलायंस जनरल इश्योरेंस कंपनी (आरजीआईसीएल) ने भारतीयों की पहुंच के भीतर वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य सेवा लाने के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई एक स्वास्थ्य सेवा नीति "रिलायंस हेल्थ ग्लोबल" पेश की है। रिलायंस जनरल इश्योरेंस कंपनी के सीईओ कौन हैं?**

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Rakesh Jain / राकेश जैन
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Tablesh Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Reliance General Insurance unveils 'Reliance Health Global'

Reliance General Insurance Company (RGICL) has introduced "Reliance Health Global," a healthcare policy designed to bring global healthcare within reach for Indians.

The policy extends coverage not only within India but worldwide, providing a seamless experience for individuals accustomed to a global lifestyle and seeking access to top-notch healthcare services and infrastructure.

Reliance Health Global boasts a range of unparalleled features, reshaping the health insurance landscape. Beyond its comprehensive coverage for overseas treatment, including critical illnesses like Cancer and Bypass Surgery, the policy stands out for its exceptional domestic coverage.

The company further informed that in addition to planned hospitalisation, the policy encompasses travel, accommodation, and end-to-end Visa and Assistance Services, addressing emergencies such as Lost Passport or Emergency Cash.

Notably, the policy sets itself apart with a substantial sum-insured coverage of up to USD 1 million, providing a sense of security for those seeking treatment abroad.

Reliance Global Health policy covers pre and post-hospitalization, arranging Second Opinions, and offering Accidental Rehabilitation, the company said.

CEO of Reliance General Insurance - Rakesh Jain

#### **Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- IndusInd Bank introduces '**Indus Solitaire Program**' for the Diamond Industry
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance launches '**Alpha Wealth**' plan with option to alter premiums
- IDFC FIRST Bank, LIC Cards, and Mastercard to **co-launch Credit card**
- Bank of India launched "**Nari Shakti Savings Account**"
- IDFC FIRST Bank launched youth-centric "**FIRST SWYP**" credit card in partnership with Mastercard.

**226. ICRA has raised India's economic growth forecast for FY2024 to what percent from 6.2%?**

**ICRA ने वित्त वर्ष 2024 के लिए भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि का अनुमान 6.2% से बढ़ाकर कितने प्रतिशत कर दिया है?**

- (a) 6.3%
- (b) 6.4%
- (c) 6.5%
- (d) 6.6%
- (e) 6.9%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** ICRA revises India's FY24 GDP growth projection to 6.5% from 6.2% ICRA has revised its forecast for India's FY2024 GDP growth to 6.5 percent from 6.2 percent. Despite the upward revision, ICRA's GDP growth projection remains lower than the monetary policy committee's revised forecast of 7 percent for FY24. The credit rating agency said that global commodity prices have remained benign in the ongoing quarter, with the Bloomberg Commodity Index trending 10.2 per cent lower than the year-ago levels in Q3 (October-December) FY24 (till December 15), similar to the extent of deflation seen in Q2 (July-September) FY24.

**Updated GDP List**

- ICRA - 6.5% (FY24)
- Kotak Mahindra Bank - 6.8% (FY24)
- Citigroup - 6.7%
- DBS - 6.8%
- ADB - 6.7% (FY24), 6.7% (FY25)
- Morgan Stanley - 6.9% (FY24)
- RBI - 7% (FY24)
- Nomura - 6.7% (FY24)
- CII - 6.8% (FY24), 7% (FY25)
- UBS - 6.3 % (FY24)

227. "Children of Nobody" Film has won the Best Film award under the International Competition in Innovation Moving Images at the 29th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF). "Children of Nobody" is the film of which country?

"चिल्ड्रन ऑफ नोबडी" फिल्म ने 29वें कोलकाता इंटरनेशनल फिल्म फेस्टिवल (KIFF) में इनोवेशन मूविंग इमेजेज में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता के तहत सर्वश्रेष्ठ फिल्म का पुरस्कार जीता है। "चिल्ड्रन ऑफ नोबडी" किस देश की फिल्म है?

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) India / भारत
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Israel / इजराइल

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Israeli film 'Children of Nobody' won Best film award at KIFF Festival

Israeli film 'Children of Nobody' directed by Erez Tadmor, has won the Best Film award under International Competition in Innovation Moving Images at the 29th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF).

The prize distribution and closing ceremony were held at Rabindra Sadan. 219 films from 39 countries were screened at 23 locations across Kolkata.

The Best Director award was bagged by Carlos Daniel Malave. Anjan Dutta's 'Chalchitro Ekhon' bagged the Special Jury Award.

Director duo Sharmistha Maity and Rajdeep Paul's 'Mon Potongo' was awarded best film under Bengali Panorama category.

For the best film 'Royal Bengal Tiger Trophy' 51 lakh rupees were given as an award.

Apart from these Hiralal Memorial Trophy, Netpack Award were also given. The best short film and documentary were also awarded with Royal Bengal Tiger Trophy.

**228. Who has won his maiden Senior National 15-Red snooker title, beating Paras Gupta of Uttar Pradesh 6-2 in the final?**

**फाइनल में उत्तर प्रदेश के पारस गुप्ता को 6-2 से हराकर अपना पहला सीनियर राष्ट्रीय 15-रेड स्नूकर खिताब किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Pankaj Advani / पंकज आडवाणी
- (b) R Umadevi Nagaraj / आर उमादेवी नागराज
- (c) Chitra Magimairaj / चित्रा मागीमैराज
- (d) Md Hussain Khan / मोहम्मद हुसैन खान
- (e) Sourav Kothari / सौरव कोठारी

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Sourav Kothari clinched maiden Senior National Snooker title

Sourav Kothari of Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) won his maiden Senior National 15-Red snooker title, beating Paras Gupta of Uttar Pradesh 6-2 in the final.

Kothari beat Md Hussain Khan (RSPB) 5-0 in the semifinals and prevailed over Gupta 58-46, 72-34, 0-64, 59-25, 61-54, 21-57, 64-8, 64-25 in the final.

He had defeated his PSPB colleague Advani in the round of 32.

Kothari is a former national billiards champion, and last month finished runner-up to Advani in the IBSF world billiards final in Doha.

**229. Which state has topped the medal tally in the Khelo India Para Games 2023?**

**खेलो इंडिया पैरा गेम्स 2023 में पदक तालिका में कौन सा राज्य शीर्ष पर रहा है?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Punjab / पंजाब
- (e) Haryana / हरियाणा

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Haryana emerges best as Khelo India Para Games end with a bang

The first edition of the Khelo India Para Games concluded at New Delhi.

Haryana bagged top honours with a total of 105 medals including 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze medals.

Finishing second was Uttar Pradesh, with a total of 62 medals, including 25 gold, 23 silver and 14 bronze.

Tamil Nadu finished third with 20 gold, eight silver and 14 bronze medals.

Over 1,400 para-athletes from 32 states and Union Territories participated in the Khelo India Para Games which saw events in seven disciplines.

**230. Which country has won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2023 after defeating the UAE in Dubai?**

**दुबई में यूएई को हराकर किस देश ने अंडर-19 एशिया कप 2023 जीता है?**

- (a) India / भारत
- (b) Nepal / नेपाल
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Pakistan / पाकिस्तान
- (e) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Bangladesh won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2023

Bangladesh won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2023 after defeating the UAE by 195 runs in Dubai.

Wicketkeeper-batter Ashiqur Rahman Shibli continued his splendid run with a second century in five matches.

Opening the batting, Ashiqur smashed 12 fours and one six in his knock of 129 (149 balls) as Bangladesh posted 282/8 after hosts UAE opted to field.

In reply, UAE surrendered meekly to fold up for 87 in 24.5 overs as Bangladesh clinched the eight-nation tournament with five wins from as many games.

**231. Which state has won Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023 at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot?**

**राजकोट के सौराष्ट्र क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन स्टेडियम में किस राज्य ने विजय हजारे ट्रॉफी 2023 जीती है?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Punjab / पंजाब
- (e) Haryana / हरियाणा

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Haryana beats Rajasthan to win Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023

Haryana has emerged victorious in the 2023 Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot, securing their first-ever title with a 30-run triumph over Rajasthan.

Haryana, posting a total of 287/8 in 50 overs, faced a formidable challenge from Rajasthan.

Haryana's skipper, Ashok Menaria, showcased excellent leadership skills both with the bat and in managing his resources.

Opting to bat first, Ankit Kumar (88 off 91 balls) and Menaria (70 off 96 balls) set the stage with a crucial partnership of 124 runs for the third wicket.

**232. The 'Goa Liberation Day' is celebrated every year on which day?**

**'गोवा मुक्ति दिवस' प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 17 December / 17 दिसंबर
- (b) 18 December / 18 दिसंबर
- (c) 19 December / 19 दिसंबर
- (d) 20 December / 20 दिसंबर
- (e) 21 December / 21 दिसंबर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 19 December - Goa Liberation Day

The 'Goa Liberation Day' is celebrated every year to commemorate the liberation of the coastal state from Portuguese rule in the year 1961.

Liberation Day in Goa marks a historic event that resonates with resilience and freedom. It is a day to celebrate and remember how the people of Goa united for freedom and harmony.

On this day in 1961, the Indian Army captured Goa, which had been under Portuguese rule for about 451 years. Goa was also influenced by the Indian independence movement of the 19th century. In the 1940s, a small number of Goan citizens participated in Satyagraha.

The Portuguese refused to leave the region even after India gained independence from the British in 1947 because Goa was culturally and religiously distinct from the rest of India.

**233. 86-year-old Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah passed away recently. He was the Emir of which country?**

**86 वर्षीय शेख नवाफ अल अहमद अल सबा का हाल ही में निधन हो गया। वह किस देश के अमीर थे?**

- (a) Kuwait / कुवैत
- (b) Iraq / इराक
- (c) UAE / यूएई
- (d) Syria / सीरिया
- (e) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Kuwait Emir, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah passed away  
Kuwait's ruling emir, the 86-year-old Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, died.

After a three-year, low-key reign focused on trying to resolve the tiny, oil-rich nation's internal political disputes.

Kuwait's crown prince, Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was named the oil-rich country's new emir.

Sheikh Nawaf was sworn in as emir following the 2020 death of his predecessor, the late Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Sheikh Nawaf previously served as Kuwait's Interior and Defence Minister.

Kuwait, a nation home to some 4.2 million people which is slightly smaller than the U.S. state of New Jersey, has the world's sixth-largest known oil reserves.

**234. The Government of India signed a loan agreement with which organization for 37 billion Japanese Yen (\$250 million) for the construction of the 82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor?**  
**भारत सरकार ने 82 किलोमीटर लंबे दिल्ली-मेरठ रीजनल रैपिड ट्रांजिट सिस्टम (आरआरटीएस) कॉरिडोर के निर्माण के लिए 37 बिलियन जापानी येन (\$250 मिलियन) के लिए किस संगठन के साथ ऋण समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए?**

- (a) International Monetary Fund / अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष  
 (b) Asian Development Bank / एशियाई विकास बैंक  
 (c) New Development Bank / न्यू डेवलपमेंट बैंक  
 (d) African Development Bank / अफ्रीकी विकास बैंक  
 (e) World Bank / विश्व बैंक

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India signed an MoU with ADB \$250 million for Delhi-Meerut RRTS

The Government of India signed a loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for 37 billion Japanese Yen (\$250 million) for the construction of the 82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor.

Earlier, ADB had approved a \$1,049 million Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF) for the project in 2020 to support the construction of RRTS, the first of three priority rail corridors planned under the NCR Regional Plan 2021, to connect Delhi to other cities in adjoining states.

The RRTS will have multi-modal hubs to ensure smooth interchange with other transport modes. The first tranche of the ADB loan amounted to \$500 million with another \$500 million co-financed by AIIB.

Passing through the populated sections of the national capital region, the 82-km corridor will provide fast, safe, and high-capacity commuter transit services, expanding economic and employment opportunities in the region by cutting travel time from 3-4 hours to about 1 hour.

#### **Recent Loan approved by ADB**

- India and ADB sign \$250 million loan for **Industrial Corridor Development in India**
- India, ADB signed \$200 million loan agreement for **Uttarakhand power system project**
- India, ADB signed \$175 million loan deal to **improve Madhya Pradesh roads**
- India, ADB approved \$181 Million to **Improve Ahmedabad's Peri-urban Areas**
- ADB and Fourth Partner Energy Collaborate for **Solar Power Plant worth Rs 120 cr in Tamil Nadu**

**235. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the second Vande Bharat Express on \_\_\_\_\_.**

**प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने \_\_\_\_\_ पर दूसरी वंदे भारत एक्सप्रेस का उद्घाटन किया है।**

- (a) Delhi-Varanasi route / दिल्ली-वाराणसी मार्ग
- (b) Delhi - Kanyakumari route / दिल्ली - कन्याकुमारी मार्ग
- (c) Delhi-Katra route / दिल्ली-कटरा मार्ग
- (d) Delhi-Mumbai route / दिल्ली-मुंबई मार्ग
- (e) Delhi-Srinagar route / दिल्ली-श्रीनगर मार्ग

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** PM Modi inaugurates second Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the second Vande Bharat Express on the Delhi-Varanasi route. The train will depart from Varanasi at 6 am, reaching New Delhi at 2:05 pm every Wednesday to Monday. For its return journey to Varanasi, it will start from New Delhi at 3 pm and reach its destination at 11:05 pm on all days except Tuesday. Enhancing passenger comfort with innovative features the Vande Bharat Express offers superior passenger amenities, including onboard Wi-Fi infotainment, a GPS-based passenger information system, plush interiors, bio-vacuum toilets with touch-free conveniences, diffused LED lighting, charging points beneath every seat, individual touch-based reading lights, and concealed roller blinds.

The train will also have improved heat ventilation and air-conditioning system, which includes a UV lamp for germ-free air supply. The auto-climate air-conditioning system adjusts cooling based on climate conditions and occupancy. Starting its journey from the spiritual city of Varanasi, the train will pass through Prayagraj, Kanpur, and reach the national capital, New Delhi.

**236. According to a study by Motilal Oswal Financial Services, which company was the biggest wealth creator during the five years from 2018 to 2023?**

**मोतीलाल ओसवाल फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज के एक अध्ययन के अनुसार, 2018 से 2023 तक पांच वर्षों के दौरान कौन सी कंपनी सबसे बड़ी संपत्ति निर्माता थी?**

- (a) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (b) Tata Group / टाटा ग्रुप
- (c) Reliance Industries Limited / रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड
- (d) Infosys Technologies / इंफोसिस टेक्नोलॉजीज
- (e) ICICI Bank / आईसीआईसीआई बैंक

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Reliance biggest wealth creator: Motilal Oswal study

Reliance Industries Ltd was the biggest wealth creator during the five-year period from 2018 to 2023 while Adani Enterprises Ltd was the top all-around wealth creator, according to a study by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The study, based on the stock market performance of companies, said for the fifth time in succession, Reliance emerged as the largest wealth creator, adding ₹9,63,800 crore wealth over 2018-23.

It was followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) (₹6,77,400 crore wealth addition), ICICI Bank (₹4,15,500 crore), Infosys (₹3,61,800 crore) and Bharti Airtel (₹2,80,800 crore).

A low-profile company, Lloyds Metals, has emerged the fastest wealth creator with 2018-23 price CAGR of 79 percent. Adani Enterprises Ltd, the flagship incubator firm of the Adani Group, is a close second with a CAGR of 78 percent.

Capri Global is the most consistent wealth creator, outperforming the BSE Sensex in all the last five years with the highest price CAGR of 50 percent. Adani Enterprises has emerged as 9th biggest wealth creator, second fastest, and fifth most consistent.

It is followed by Varun Beverages, Adani Power, Tube Investments, and ICICI Bank. Reliance is ranked at No.10 on this list.

Reliance emerging as the largest wealth creator for the fifth time in succession has taken the company's overall No.1 tally to 10 in the last 17 five-year study periods. TCS and Infosys continuously remain among the top 5 wealth creators.

HDFC Bank does not feature in the top 10 list of wealth creators for the first time in several years.

PSUs' (public sector undertakings) wealth creation performance during 2018-23 is a significant improvement over the last two studies: 7 PSUs account for 6 percent of wealth created.

Two key factors have driven PSU wealth creation, turnaround by two banks (SBI and Bank of Maharashtra) and growth in the defense sector (Bharat Dynamics, Bharat Electronics and Hindustan Aeronautics).

**237. Who has inaugurated the Atal Health Fair in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the PNT Ground in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh?**

**उत्तर प्रदेश के लखनऊ में पीएनटी ग्राउंड में पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की स्मृति में अटल स्वास्थ्य मेले का उद्घाटन किसने किया है?**

- (a) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़
- (b) S Jaishankar / एस जयशंकर
- (c) Ajit Doval / अजीत डोभाल
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मू
- (e) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** VP Dhankhar inaugurated Atal Health Fair in Lucknow

Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated the two-day-long Atal Health Fair in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the PNT Ground in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee led Lucknow and the country for a long time.

Dhankhar advised youth to prioritize health for performance and success, emphasizing a nation-first approach.

The fair is hosting medical camps, conducted by 48 govt and private hospitals.

**238. Ministry of Education has collaborated with IIT Kanpur for the SATHEE portal to provide quality education. What is the meaning of the second "E" in "SATHEE"?**

शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए SATHEE पोर्टल के लिए आईआईटी कानपुर के साथ सहयोग किया है। "SATHEE" में दूसरे "E" का क्या अर्थ है?

- (a) Entrance
- (b) Examination
- (c) Engineering
- (d) Empower
- (e) Equality

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Ministry of Education started SATHEE Portal with IIT Kanpur

The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur has started the SATHEE (Self-Assessment, Test and Help for Entrance Examination) portal to provide quality education to every student who intend to participate in competitive Education such as JEE, NEET, and various State level Engineering and other Examinations.

Ministry of Education has written to all State/UTs to inform educators and students about this facility which can be used for competitive examinations preparation and for knowledge enhancement.

To support students preparing for JEE and other engineering examinations, a 45-day crash course of JEE has been launched on 21st November 2023 curated by IIT toppers, academicians, and subject experts. This crash course is available in 5 languages including English. All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has developed AI-based translation tool. This tool supports 22 Indian languages. Several workshops/Seminars have been organized in institutions/colleges to create awareness about this tool and its utility. As on 12th December, 2023, there are 60,000+ students registered on the SATHEE platform. The information was given by the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

**239. Which city has ranked first in the country for food adulteration cases, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)?**

**राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो (NCRB) के अनुसार, खाद्य पदार्थों में मिलावट के मामलों में कौन सा शहर देश में पहले स्थान पर है?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Hyderabad ranked 1st in food adulteration cases: NCRB report

Hyderabad has ranked first in the country for food adulteration cases, according to the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Telangana stands second, closely followed by Andhra Pradesh.

In 2022, a total of 291 cases of food adulteration were reported across 19 major cities in India.

Surprisingly, out of these cases, a staggering 246 were reported solely in Hyderabad, signalling a concerning trend in food safety within the city.

**240. Which bank will invest ₹49.99 crore in Ahmedabad-based Canpac Trends Private Limited?**

**कौन सा बैंक अहमदाबाद स्थित कैनपैक ट्रेन्ड्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड में ₹49.99 करोड़ का निवेश करेगा?**

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) Punjab National Bank / पंजाब नेशनल बैंक
- (c) UCO Bank / यूको बैंक
- (d) Indian Bank / इंडियन बैंक
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** SBI invests ₹49.99 crore in Canpac Trends

State Bank of India has executed transaction documents to purchase 3,70,644 shares (6.35 percent) of Ahmedabad-based Canpac Trends Private Limited at ₹1,349 per share, aggregating ₹49.99 crore.

The investment in Canpac Trends, which is in the paper packaging industry, is being made with the objective of capital appreciation.

The indicative period for completion of the acquisition is three months from the date of the transaction documents execution.

In the year ended March 2023, the company, which was incorporated in 2004, reported total income and net profit of Rs 389.72 crore and Rs 9.82 crore, respectively.

The company provides paper-based packaging solutions such as folding cartons, corrugated cartons, flexible packaging, paper bags and luxury boxes.

**241. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions have grown from 92 crore in FY 2017-18 to 8,375 crore in FY 2022-23 at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of \_\_\_\_\_ in terms of volume.**

**यूनिफाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफेस (UPI) लेनदेन मात्रा के संदर्भ में \_\_\_\_\_ की चक्रवृद्धि वार्षिक वृद्धि दर (CAGR) पर वित्त वर्ष 2017-18 में 92 करोड़ से बढ़कर वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 में 8,375 करोड़ हो गया है।**

- (a) 117 percent
- (b) 107 percent
- (c) 127 percent
- (d) 137 percent
- (e) 147 percent

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** UPI transactions rose by 147 percent in 5 years: Govt to Lok Sabha

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions have grown from 92 crore in FY 2017-18 to 8,375 crore in FY 2022-23 at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 147 percent in terms of volume.

Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad, in a written reply to Lok Sabha.

The UPI transactions have achieved 8,572 crore transactions during the current financial year till December 11.

The value of UPI transactions has grown from Rs 1 lakh crore in FY 2017-18 to Rs 139 lakh crore in FY 2022-23 at a CAGR of 168 percent.

UPI has been the major driving force in the overall growth of digital payment transactions in the country, accounting for 62 percent of digital payment transactions in FY 2022-23. The Year-on-Year growth in the value of banknotes in circulation has decreased from 9.9 percent in FY 2021-22 to 7.8 percent in FY 2022-23. UPI facilitates transactions by linking savings or current accounts through users' debit cards.

242. As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is contributing more than \_\_\_\_ of global growth.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (आईएमएफ) के अनुसार, भारत वैश्विक विकास में \_\_\_\_ से अधिक योगदान दे रहा है।

- (a) 16%
- (b) 26%
- (c) 36%
- (d) 10%
- (e) 25%

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** India is contributing more than 16% of global growth: IMF report

India is expected to contribute over 16 percent of global growth as economic reforms in key sectors like infrastructure and digitalization have made India a "star performer" among countries, as per the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

It's one of the fastest-growing large emerging markets and it's contributing, in our current projections, more than 16 percent of global growth this year.

A "strong push" by the government in logistics and infrastructure could navigate the economy through global headwinds.

**243. Which insurance company has been awarded the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2023 by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency?**

**किस बीमा कंपनी को ऊर्जा दक्षता ब्यूरो द्वारा राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा संरक्षण पुरस्कार (NECA) 2023 से सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance / बजाज आलियांज जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (b) Bharti AXA General Insurance / भारती एक्सा जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (c) Reliance Nippon Life Insurance / रिलायंस निप्पॉन लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (d) Royal Sundaram General Insurance / रॉयल सुंदरम जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (e) Reliance General Insurance / रिलायंस जनरल इंश्योरेंस

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Reliance Nippon Life Insurance won National Energy Conservation Awards

Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, India's leading private life insurer, has been recognized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Government of India, Ministry of Power) at the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2023.

This prestigious award comes in recognition of the company's efforts towards institutionalizing climate-friendly operations and driving sustainable business growth.

This recognition highlights the company's investment in environmentally conscious technologies that aid in optimizing resource utilization and energy efficiency.

The company's scale of operations allows it to harness these advantages for benefits at large scale and pass on operating efficiencies to customers through its new line of products.

**244. Which airline has made history by “becoming the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a single calendar year”?**

**किस एयरलाइन ने "एक ही कैलेंडर वर्ष में 100 मिलियन यात्रियों को ले जाने वाली पहली भारतीय एयरलाइन बनकर" इतिहास रच दिया है?**

- (a) Vistra / विस्तारा
- (b) Akasha / आकाश
- (c) SpiceJet / स्पाइसजेट
- (d) Air India / एयर इंडिया
- (e) IndiGo / इंडिगो

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** IndiGo becomes first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a year Indian airline IndiGo had made history by “becoming the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a single calendar year.”With this achievement, it has joined a select club of global carriers to operate on such scale. This development further cements IndiGo’s standing among the 10 largest airlines in the world by passenger traffic.In the past half-year, IndiGo has expanded its global presence by incorporating over 20 additional international routes into its network. Simultaneously, the airline has worked to enhance its domestic connectivity. Looking ahead, IndiGo has ambitious plans to continue this growth trajectory by including sought-after destinations such as Bali, Indonesia, and Medina, Saudi Arabia, to its network in the coming months.In November, IndiGo dominated the domestic market, holding a commanding 61.8% share of passengers carried, which was nearly six times higher than the second-ranking Air India.

**245. Who won the MRF Formula 2000 title in the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2023 at the Madras International Circuit?**

**मद्रास इंटरनेशनल सर्किट में एमआरएफ एमएमएससी एफएमएससीआई इंडियन नेशनल कार रेसिंग चैंपियनशिप 2023 में एमआरएफ फॉर्मूला 2000 का खिताब किसने जीता?**

- (a) T.S. Diljith / टी.एस. दिलजीत /
- (b) Deepak Ravikumar / दीपक रविकुमार
- (c) Chetan Surnineni / चेतन सुर्निनेनी
- (d) Gurunath Meiyappan / गुरुनाथ मयप्पन
- (e) Sandeep Kumar / संदीप कुमार

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Sandeep Kumar claimed MRF Formula 2000 crown

Sandeep Kumar won the MRF Formula 2000 title in the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2023 at the Madras International Circuit.

While Chetan Surnineni won the MRF Formula 1600 title

Also picking up the National titles in their respective categories were Gurunath Meiyappan (Race Concepts, Indian Touring Cars), Deepak Ravikumar (Performance Racing, Indian Junior Touring Cars) and T.S. Diljith (DTS Racing, Super Stock and Formula LGB 1300).

**246. Mitchell Starc of Australia has emerged as the most expensive player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the auction in Dubai. He was bought by which team for ₹24.75 crore?**

**दुबई में नीलामी में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के मिचेल स्टार्क इंडियन प्रीमियर लीग (आईपीएल) के इतिहास के सबसे महंगे खिलाड़ी बनकर उभरे हैं। उन्हें किस टीम ने ₹24.75 करोड़ में खरीदा था?**

- (a) Sunrisers Hyderabad / सनराइजर्स हैदराबाद
- (b) Royal Challengers Bangalore / रॉयल चैलेंजर्स बैंगलोर
- (c) Lucknow Super Giants / लखनऊ सुपर जाइंट्स
- (d) Kolkata Knight Riders / कोलकाता नाइट राइडर्स
- (e) Chennai Super Kings / चेन्नई सुपर किंग्स

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Mitchell Starc becomes most expensive player in IPL Auction 2024

Mitchell Starc of Australia has emerged as the most expensive player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the auction in Dubai.

He was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for ₹24.75 crore.

He broke the record of Pat Cummins who was picked up for ₹20.5 crore by Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Ten teams, 332 players, and only 77 available slots are in IPL 2024 auction.

Once MI and DC backed out, Gujarat Titans (GT) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) went ahead with an even bigger bidding war, crossing the ₹20.50 crore spent by SRH on Cummins. Eventually, GT backed out at ₹24.75 crore and KKR got Starc for a record-breaking prize.

Powell, who had a base price of ₹1 crore, was the first player to be sold in IPL 2024 auction.

**247. International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD) is observed every year on which day?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानव एकजुटता दिवस (IHSD) हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 17 December / 17 दिसंबर
- (b) 18 December / 18 दिसंबर
- (c) 19 December / 19 दिसंबर
- (d) 20 December / 20 दिसंबर
- (e) 21 December / 21 दिसंबर

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** 20 December - International Human Solidarity Day

International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD) is observed every year on December 20.

Objective - To raise public awareness regarding the importance of solidarity.

It highlights the goal of the United Nations and its member states to encourage new initiatives for poverty eradication.

It encourages debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the Millennium Declaration, published on September 18, 2000, 'solidarity' is identified as one of the fundamental values of international relations in the 21st century.

On December 20, 2002, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established the World Solidarity Fund intending to eradicate poverty and promote human and social development in developing nations, especially among the poorest segments of their populations. It was set up as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme in February 2003.

**248. Multinational professional services company Accenture has launched a generative AI studio in which city?**

**बहुराष्ट्रीय पेशेवर सेवा कंपनी एक्सेंचर ने किस शहर में एक जेनेरिक एआई स्टूडियो लॉन्च किया है?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Accenture opened genAI studio in Bengaluru

Multinational professional services company Accenture has launched a generative AI studio in India's tech capital Bengaluru.

The studio will develop a full stack of genAI capabilities for enterprises to leverage to optimize their business processes.

Accenture's data and AI team and clients will co-create solutions with a modern data and AI foundation, LLM (large language model) architecture, ecosystems partnerships, talent, and responsible AI frameworks.

The studio in Bengaluru offers robust generative AI capabilities combined with a wide range of world-class technology services, and in-depth industry knowledge that is the hallmark of Accenture's Advanced Technology Centers in India.

**249. Kuno Forest Festival has been celebrated in which state?**

**कुनो वन महोत्सव किस राज्य में मनाया गया है?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (e) Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Kuno Forest Festival celebrated in Madhya Pradesh

A five-day Kuno Van Mahotsav was celebrated in Ranipura village on the outskirts of Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh. The event aims to highlight the diverse flora and fauna, and the jungle of Kuno, while also advocating for cheetah conservation. It included local art, craft, folk music, dance forms, and adventure sports.

The main attraction of the forest festival was adventure games, jungle safari, hot air ballooning, parasailing, paragliding, cave excursion, folk music, village tour, etc.

Madhya Pradesh offers a diverse culture and rich wildlife, which also includes cheetah sightings during jungle safari in Kuno.

Tourists can also experience the taste of local food/cuisines.

**About Madhya Pradesh**

- **Capital** - Bhopal
- **Chief Minister** - Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)
- **Deputy CM** - Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla
- **Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly** - Narendra Singh Tomar
- **Governor** - Mangubhai C. Patel
- **Lok Shaba Seats** - 29
- **Rajya Sabha Seats** - 11
- **Legislative Assembly Seats** - 230

**250. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative with the introduction of the ERS mobile application. What is the full form of ERS?**

**भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (एनएचएआई) ने ईआरएस मोबाइल एप्लिकेशन की शुरुआत के साथ एक अभूतपूर्व पहल का अनावरण किया है। ERS का फुल फॉर्म क्या है?**

- (a) Emergency Response System Support
- (b) Emergency Response Signal System
- (c) Exit Response Support System
- (d) Emergency Response Safety System
- (e) Emergency Response Support System

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** NHAI Launched ERS Mobile App For Swift Emergency Response

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative with the introduction of the ERS (Emergency Response Support System) mobile application.

This technological advancement aims to revolutionize emergency management on national highways across the country.

The ERS app is poised to play a pivotal role in ensuring swift and effective responses to road accidents and other emergencies, thereby enhancing overall safety and security on Indian highways.

The ERS app's primary objective is to provide a rapid and seamless response mechanism during critical situations, such as accidents or medical emergencies, by connecting road users directly to the NHAI's command and control center.

**251. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was elected president of Egypt for the third term. What is the currency of Egypt?**

**अब्देल फतह अल-सिसी तीसरी बार मिस्र के राष्ट्रपति चुने गए। मिस्र की मुद्रा क्या है?**

- (a) Dollar
- (b) Pound
- (c) Euro
- (d) Peso
- (e) Krone

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Abdel Fattah El-Sisi elected as president of Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has secured a third six-year term leading the North African nation Egypt. Sisi won another term with 89.6 percent of the vote. Over 39 million Egyptians voted for the former army chief, who has ruled the nation for over a decade. This will be Sisi's final term in office as the Egyptian constitution only allows a president to sit for three terms. He was first sworn into office in 2014 after the overthrow of the country's first popularly elected president, Mohammed Morsi, and was reelected in 2018, both times winning with over 90 percent of the vote.

**About Egypt**

- Capital- Cairo
- Currency- Egyptian pound
- President - Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

**Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**

- Prime Minister of Poland - Donald Tusk
- Prime Minister of Luxembourgish - Luc Frieden
- Prime Minister of Spain - Pedro Sanchez (re-elected)
- Prime Minister of Slovakia - Robert Fico (4th time)
- President of Ecuador - Daniel Noboa
- President of Gabon - Gen Brice Oligui

**252. What is the percentage increase in unclaimed deposits in Indian banks from the previous year to March 2023?**

**पिछले वर्ष से मार्च 2023 तक भारतीय बैंकों में लावारिस जमा में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है?**

- (a) 5%
- (b) 18%
- (c) 28%
- (d) 35%
- (e) 25%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Unclaimed deposits in Indian banks rose by 28% at Rs 42k crore in 2023

The rate of unclaimed deposits in Indian banks has risen by 28% annual increase in unclaimed deposits with the banks to Rs 42,272 crore as on March 2023.

At the end of March 2023, the amount of unclaimed deposits in Indian banks was recorded at Rs 42,272 crore, while the previous year, there was Rs32,934 crore.

As much as Rs 36,185 crore unclaimed deposits were with public sector banks while Rs 6,087 crore were with private sector banks at the end of March 2023.

Banks send unclaimed deposits of account holders lying in their accounts for 10 or more years to RBI's Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund.

As per the RBI's direction, banks have been advised to display the list of unclaimed deposits in accounts that are inactive or inoperative for ten years or more on the banks' websites and find the whereabouts of the customers, or legal heirs in case of deceased account holders, in order to return unclaimed deposits to the rightful claimants.

A centralised web portal, Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Access Information (UDGAM), to search unclaimed deposits across multiple banks, has been set up by RBI.

Further, RBI has launched campaign '100 Days 100 Pays' for banks to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in each district within a 100-day timeframe, commencing from June 1, 2023 to September 8, 2023.

At the end of campaign, major 31 banks (which comprised of more than 90 percent of unclaimed deposit balances with the DEA Fund), have refunded Rs 1,432.68 crore in the campaign.

**253. The Government of India has launched the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2023-24 with digital discount. What is the issue price of this bond?**

**भारत सरकार ने डिजिटल छूट के साथ सॉवरेन गोल्ड बॉन्ड स्कीम 2023-24 लॉन्च की है। इस बांड का निर्गम मूल्य क्या है?**

- (a) ₹6,049 per gram
- (b) ₹6,249 per gram
- (c) ₹5,149 per gram
- (d) ₹4,119 per gram
- (e) ₹6,149 per gram

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Government launched Sovereign Gold Bonds 2023-24 with Digital Discount

The Government of India has launched the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2023-24 (Series III).

Stemming from the inaugural scheme in November 2015 under the Gold Monetization Scheme, this initiative aims to reduce the demand for physical gold. Open for subscription from December 18 to December 22, the scheme introduces a digital discount for online applications, enhancing the accessibility and attractiveness of secure gold investments to a diverse investor base. Investors opting for online applications and utilizing digital payment modes will benefit from a ₹50 discount per gram, reducing the issue price to ₹6,149 per gram during the subscription period. Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) are available for purchase by resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities, and charitable institutions. Denominated in multiples of grams, the minimum investment is set at one gram of gold, ensuring accessibility for a broad spectrum of investors.

Featuring an eight-year tenor, investors have the flexibility of premature redemption after the fifth year. The redemption price will be determined based on the simple average of the closing price of 999 purity gold, providing a predictable exit strategy for investors.

Individuals and HUFs are limited to a maximum subscription of 4 kg per fiscal year, while trusts and similar entities have a higher limit of 20 kg. In cases of joint holdings, the 4 kg limit applies to the first applicant.

Investors can make payments through cash (up to ₹20,000), demand draft, cheque, or electronic banking. The fixed interest rate of 2.50 percent per annum, payable semi-annually, ensures a stable return for investors.

**254. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance has partnered with which bank to offer insurance solutions to the bank's customers?**

**आदित्य बिड़ला सन लाइफ इश्योरेंस ने बैंक के ग्राहकों को बीमा समाधान प्रदान करने के लिए किस बैंक के साथ साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) South Indian Bank / साउथ इंडियन बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Yes Bank / यस बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) IDFC First Bank / आईडीएफसी फर्स्ट बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Aditya Birla Sun Life collaborates with IDFC First Bank for financial solutions

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance and IDFC First Bank have entered into a bancassurance partnership to offer insurance solutions to the bank's customers.

Under this collaboration, the insurer will leverage the extensive distribution network of IDFC First Bank.

Aditya Birla Sun Life will offer products and services, including those that focus on retirement planning, ensuring a steady source of second income and tax-free returns tailored to their life stages.

This collaboration will go a long way in enhancing accessibility, as well as making financial protection and planning easily available to a wider segment of customers served by IDFC FIRST Bank's extensive distribution network.

The partnership will provide customers with a one-stop-shop for their financial needs, including a range of insurance and banking products, and enhance the customer experience.

#### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with IIT Kanpur to launch Kotak School of Sustainability
- ICICI Pru Life, Ujjivan SFB enter into Bancassurance tie-up
- SBI signed 70-million-euro LoC with Germany Bank' KfW for solar projects
- Reliance Industries partners with DBS Bank for financing programme
- Intellect signs ₹80-crore deal with Indian Bank to deploy cash management system

**255. In December 2023, U GRO Capital has raised how much rupees from the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank FMO through rupee-denominated non-convertible debentures (NCDs)?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, यू ग्रो कैपिटल ने डच एंटरप्रेन्योरियल डेवलपमेंट बैंक एफएमओ से रुपये-मूल्य वाले गैर-परिवर्तनीय डिबेंचर (एनसीडी) के माध्यम से कितने रुपये जुटाए हैं?**

- (a) 100 crore
- (b) 150 crore
- (c) 200 crore
- (d) 250 crore
- (e) 350 crore

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** U Gro Capital raises ₹250 crore from Dutch Development Bank DataTech NBFC, U GRO Capital has raised ₹250 crore from the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank FMO through rupee-denominated non-convertible debentures (NCDs).

The association will help strengthen the fund's commitment towards greater financial inclusion in India. The MSME-lending-focused NBFC has provided credit to more than 80,000 small businesses. Prior to this, it had raised ₹240 crore from Denmark's Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU) in May 2023. This transaction is proof of U GRO Capital's ability to forge partnerships with and attract funding from reputed global DFIs (development finance institutions).

Of the NBFC's total borrowings, around 20 percent are from development financial institutions and impact funds such as ResponsAbility, Calvert Impact Capital, Enabling Capital, SIDBI, and others. Founder and MD of U Gro - Shachindra Nath.

**256. Which of the following digital payment startups recently secured final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as payment aggregators?**

**निम्नलिखित में से किस डिजिटल भुगतान स्टार्टअप ने हाल ही में भुगतान एग्रीगेटर के रूप में काम करने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) से अंतिम मंजूरी प्राप्त की है?**

- (a) Razorpay and JusPay / रेज़रपे और जसपे
- (b) Paytm and Pay U / पेटीएम और पे यू
- (c) PayU and Razorpay / पेयू और रेजरपे
- (d) Razorpay and Cashfree / रेजरपे और कैशफ्री
- (e) Cashfree and Paytm / कैशफ्री और पेटीएम

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Razorpay, Cashfree secured RBI nod for payment aggregator business

Digital payment companies Razorpay and Cashfree Payments have received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as payment aggregators, enabling the fintechs to onboard new merchants after a nearly one-year-old regulatory ban.

The company has received the Payment Aggregator (PA) license from the RBI. It will now onboard new merchants on its payment gateway.

In December last year, the RBI had asked Razorpay and Cashfree to stop onboarding new merchants.

Razorpay has received the final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007.

Other players such as PayU, Paytm, JusPay, among others, are yet to receive a nod from the regulator to onboard new merchants.

**257. Who has taken charge as Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services?****जेल और सुधार सेवाओं के महानिदेशक के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला है?**

- (a) Anish Dayal Singh / अनीश दयाल सिंह
- (b) Sujoy Lal Thaosan / सुजॉय लाल थाउसेन
- (c) M A Ganapathy / एम ए गणपति
- (d) Umesh Mishra / उमेश मिश्रा
- (e) Maheshwar Dayal / महेश्वर दयाल

**Ans. e****Sol.** Maheshwar Dayal Takes Over as Director General of Prisons

Senior IPS officer and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Maheshwar Dayal took charge as Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services.

He had served as Superintendent of Police (SP) in Virudhunagar, The Nilgiris and Nagapattinam districts and Deputy Commissioner of Police in Tirunelveli, Tiruchi and Gurgaon, Haryana.

He was also Commandant of Tamil Nadu Special Police, Tihar Battalion, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Central Industrial Security Force and Bureau of Civil Aviation.

Before becoming ADGP, he also served as Inspector General of Police (IG) Economic Offences of Tamil Nadu Police, IG, Anti-Naxal Commando force, Government of India, IG Anti-Naxal Operations, CRPF, Ranchi.

**Recent Appointment**

- **CEO and MD of Stellantis India** - Aditya Jairaj (replace Roland Bouchara)
- **President of FICCI** - Anish Shah (replace Subhrakant Panda)
- **Senior Vice President of FICCI** - Harsha Vardhan Agarwal
- **Chairman of World Radiocommunication Conference 2023** - Mohammed Al Ramsi (UAE)
- **Head of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Board** - Samir Shah

**258. Which country will host the first 32-team FIFA Club World Cup in 2025?**

**कौन सा देश 2025 में पहले 32-टीम फीफा क्लब विश्व कप की मेजबानी करेगा?**

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Canada / कनाडा

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** FIFA's 32-team World Cup for clubs could change the face of football

FIFA announced on Sunday that its revamped Club World Cup, to be held for the first time in 2025, will feature 32 teams and will be played from mid-June to mid-July.

The United States will host the 2025 edition of the expanded event, which will be held every four years thereafter.

The tournament will have eight groups of four with the top two teams from each group going through to the knockout stages -- the same format as the World Cup.

The current version of the FIFA Club World Cup -- an annual competition with seven teams -- will be discontinued after the tournament now being hosted by Saudi Arabia.

Europe will have 12 teams in the new competition and South America will have six, while Africa, Asia and North America will have four each.

**259. Who has been bestowed with an honorary doctorate by a leading International University?**

**एक अग्रणी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा डॉक्टरेट की मानद उपाधि से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Dr. RG Patel / डॉ. आरजी पटेल
- (b) Dr. S. Eswara Reddy / डॉ. एस ईश्वरा रेड्डी
- (c) Dr. Ashvini Kumar Dwivedi / डॉ अश्विनी कुमार द्विवेदी
- (d) Dr. Tapan Saikia / डॉ. तपन सैकिया
- (e) Dr. Nitin Mohan Lal / डॉ. नितिन मोहन लाल

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Dr. Nitin Mohan Lal received prestigious International Doctorate

Dr. Nitin Mohan Lal, a distinguished Psychologist, Reiki Grandmaster, NLP Practitioner, and Life Coach, has been bestowed with an honorary doctorate by a leading International University.

This accolade stands as a resounding recognition of Dr. Lal's exceptional contributions to the field of healing, mentorship, and transformative personal development.

This prestigious honor is a testament to Dr. Lal's unwavering commitment to empowering lives through a myriad of channels, including his courses, programs, healing sessions, and counseling services.

His diverse expertise encompasses a range of modalities, from the intricacies of Angelic healing to the profound principles of Reiki and NLP.

**260. Who has won the Women's Goalkeeper of the Year award in the FIH Annual awards?**  
**FIH वार्षिक पुरस्कारों में वर्ष की महिला गोलकीपर का पुरस्कार किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Gurjit Kaur / गुरजीत कौर
- (b) Deep Grace Ekka / दीप ग्रेस एक्का
- (c) Vandana Katariya / वंदना कटारिया
- (d) Monika / मोनिका
- (e) Savita / सविता

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** India's Hardik and Savita win accolades in FIH Annual awards

Indian men's hockey team midfielder Hardik Singh and women's side captain Savita have won the FIH Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year (women) awards respectively.

The awards were declared following a vote by an expert panel, National Associations -- represented by their respective national teams' captains and coaches, fans, and media.

This is Hardik's second big award this year as he was also conferred the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of the Year 2022. As for Savita, this is her third consecutive FIH Women's Goalkeeper of the Year award, having won the recognition in 2021 and 2022.

Xan de Waard of the Netherlands has been elected as the 2023 FIH Player of the Year in the women's category. Dutch goalkeeper Pirmin Blaak won the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awards among men, while the awards for FIH Rising Stars went to Teresa Lima (Spain) and Gaspard Xavier (France).

China women's head coach Alyson Annan and Germany men's head coach André Henning won the FIH Coaches of the Year awards, while Ayanna McClean (Trinidad-and-Tobago) and Ben Göntgen (Germany) were awarded with the FIH Umpires of the Year recognitions.

**261. Which naval establishment has received the 'Vir Chakra' on behalf of Late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury?**

**दिवंगत वाइस एडमिरल बेनाय रॉय चौधरी की ओर से किस नौसेना प्रतिष्ठान को 'वीर चक्र' प्राप्त हुआ है?**

- (a) INS Shivaji / आईएनएस शिवाजी
- (b) INS Sahyadri / आईएनएस सह्याद्री
- (c) INS Suvarna / आईएनएस सुवर्ण
- (d) INS Talwar / आईएनएस तलवार
- (e) INS Karma / आईएनएस कर्म

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** INS Shivaji received 'Vir Chakra' of late Vice Adm. Benoy Chowdhury  
INS Shivaji, Indian Navy's premier marine engineering training institute, has received the Vir Chakra medal awarded to Late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury, the only technical officer of the Indian Navy to be awarded the honour. Vice Admiral Dinesh Prabhakar, Distinguished Chair Marine Engineering at INS Shivaji, received the Vir Chakra on behalf of the Indian Navy from Pradipta Bose and Gargi Bose, the family members of Vice Admiral Chowdhury  
The Vir Chakra is an Indian wartime military bravery award presented for acts of gallantry on the battlefield, on land or in air or at sea.

Vice Admiral Chowdhury is the only technical officer of the Indian Navy, who has been decorated with this prestigious award.

Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury's gallantry is firmly rooted during the 1971 Indo-Pak War wherein, he was the Engineer Officer onboard erstwhile INS Vikrant.

During the course of deployment amidst the war, one of the boilers of Vikrant was rendered non-operational while the performance of the other three boilers were observed to be sub-optimal.

He along with his team undertook several innovative repairs at sea away from the base port without seeking any possible assistance from the British Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

**262. World Basketball Day is observed every year on which day?**

**विश्व बास्केटबॉल दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 17 December / 17 दिसंबर
- (b) 18 December / 18 दिसंबर
- (c) 19 December / 19 दिसंबर
- (d) 20 December / 20 दिसंबर
- (e) 21 December / 21 दिसंबर

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** 21 December - World Basketball Day

World Basketball Day is observed every year on 21 December.

Objective - To honour the development of a sport that has inspired millions of people worldwide with its athleticism, joy, and companionship.

In the areas of business, peace, and diplomacy, basketball is significant as it promotes a special environment of collaboration, physical activity, and interdependence that enables players to view one another first and foremost as fellow human beings

Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian physical education educator, invented basketball on December 21, 1891, at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA. He created the game to keep his students active throughout the winter.

The General Assembly declared August 25, 2023, to be World Basketball Day by adopting resolution A/RES/77/324.

**263. By which year does the government of India aim to increase the nuclear power capacity from 7480 MW to 22480 MW?**

**भारत सरकार का लक्ष्य किस वर्ष तक परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षमता को 7480 मेगावाट से बढ़ाकर 22480 मेगावाट तक करना है?**

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2032
- (e) 2035

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Govt to boost nuclear power capacity from 7480 MW to 22480 MW by 2032

The Government has initiated steps to increase the nuclear power capacity from 7480 MW to 22480 MW by 2031-32. The annual electricity generation from nuclear power plants has increased from 35334 Million Units (including infirm) in 2013-14 to 46982 Million Units (including infirm) in 2022-23. The installed nuclear power capacity in 2013-14 has also increased from 4780 MW to 7480 MW at present. At present 23 nuclear power reactors are installed. The total electricity generated from nuclear power plants during the last ten years (2013-14 to 2022-23) was about 411 BUs averting release of about 353 Million Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent to the environment.

Nuclear Power is a clean and environment friendly base load source of electricity generation, which is available 24X7. It has huge potential and can provide the country long-term energy security in a sustainable manner. Expansion of nuclear power capacity will help in the country's energy transition to meet the goal of a net zero economy by 2070.

**264. Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama has inaugurated the three-day International Sangha Forum 2023 in which city?**

**तिब्बती आध्यात्मिक नेता दलाई लामा ने किस शहर में तीन दिवसीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संघ फोरम 2023 का उद्घाटन किया है?**

- (a) Rajgir /राजगीर
- (b) Gaya / गया
- (c) Gautam Budh Nagar / गौतमबुद्ध नगर
- (d) Bodh Gaya / बोधगया
- (e) Sarnath / सारनाथ

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Dalai Lama inaugurates first International Sangha Forum in Bodh Gaya

Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama has inaugurated the three-day International Sangha Forum 2023 in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

Organized jointly by the Office of the Dalai Lama and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), the forum will be held at the International Convention Centre in Bodha Gaya, Bihar.

The event will see discussions among monks, nuns, and Bhikkhu scholars, that delve into the profound teachings of Buddhism. The event will also witness the coming together of practitioners of the Pali traditions of the Southeast and South Asian countries of India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, as well as those of the Sanskrit tradition from Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Russia, Mongolia and other parts of the world.

The ISF aims to foster dialogue on the intricate aspects of Vinaya rules and explore the evolving role of Buddhism in the 21st century.

265. Which organization has set up a task force to study the recommendations made by the Independent Experts Group for strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs)?

किस संगठन ने बहुपक्षीय विकास बैंकों (एमडीबी) को मजबूत करने के लिए स्वतंत्र विशेषज्ञ समूह द्वारा की गई सिफारिशों का अध्ययन करने के लिए एक टास्क फोर्स का गठन किया है?

- (a) International Monetary Fund / अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष
- (b) Asian Development Bank / एशियाई विकास बैंक
- (c) New Development Bank / न्यू डेवलपमेंट बैंक
- (d) African Development Bank / अफ्रीकी विकास बैंक
- (e) World Bank / विश्व बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** World Bank sets up task force to act on MDB reform plan

The World Bank has set up a task force to study the recommendations made by the Independent Experts Group, formed under India's G20 Presidency, for strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs).

The World Bank, which other MDBs looked up to, must take the lead in carrying forward the reform roadmap for MDBs so as to make these global institutions bigger, better, and bolder.

Both Ajay Banga and Nirmala Sitharaman discussed outcomes of the G20 India Presidency, evolution of the World Bank and its engagement with India in various sectors, besides issues of mutual interest.

World Bank has identified eight unique global challenges to focus on in the next few years as they affect many countries and require attention and Sitharaman expressed India's support for it.

Sitharaman stressed that the Country Climate and Development Report exercise of the World should take into account the country's priorities and circumstances.

#### **About World Bank**

- **Founded** - 1944
- **Headquarters** - Washington Dc
- **President** - Ajay Banga
- **MD & CFO** - Anshula Kant
- **Chief Economist** - Indermit Gill
- **Member Countries** - 189
- **World Bank Group** - 5 (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA and ICSID)

**266. Which bank and HDFC Life have entered into a corporate agency agreement to offer life insurance products to their respective customers?**

**किस बैंक और एचडीएफसी लाइफ ने अपने संबंधित ग्राहकों को जीवन बीमा उत्पाद पेश करने के लिए एक कॉर्पोरेट एजेंसी समझौता किया है?**

- (a) South Indian Bank / साउथ इंडियन बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Dhanalakshmi Bank / धनलक्ष्मी बैंक
- (d) Karnataka Bank / कर्नाटक बैंक
- (e) Karur Vysya Bank / करूर व्यास बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Karur Vysya Bank, HDFC Life enter into corporate agency tie-up

Private sector Karur Vysya Bank and HDFC Life have entered into a corporate agency agreement to offer life insurance products to their respective customers.

This corporate agency arrangement would enable customers of Karur Vysya Bank to avail HDFC Life's wide range of life insurance products which include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement, and critical illness.

Our corporate tie-up with HDFC Life will provide one more option to our customers while charting their insurance plans. Since HDFC Life offers claim intimation process online, our customers can avail the services without stepping out of their homes.

MD and CEO of Karur Vysya Bank - B Ramesh Babu

Karur Vysya Bank has 827 branches across 20 states and three union territories.

### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- Aditya Birla Sun Life collaborates with IDFC First Bank for financial solutions
- Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with IIT Kanpur to launch Kotak School of Sustainability
- ICICI Pru Life, Ujjivan SFB enter into Bancassurance tie-up
- SBI signed 70-million-euro LoC with Germany Bank' KfW for solar projects
- Reliance Industries partners with DBS Bank for financing programme

267. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's economy is projected to grow at how much percent FY24 and FY25?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) के अनुसार, भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था FY24 और FY25 में कितने प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ने का अनुमान है?

- (a) 6.1%
- (b) 6.2%
- (c) 6.3%
- (d) 6.4%
- (e) 6.5%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Indian economy to grow 6.3% in FY24 and FY25: IMF

India's economy is projected to grow at 6.3 percent in the current fiscal year and the next, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The country's digital public infrastructure and a strong government infrastructure program will continue to sustain growth. India has potential for even higher growth, with greater contributions from labour and human capital, if comprehensive reforms are implemented," the IMF said.

The IMF's growth projection for the current financial year, ending March 31, 2024, is lower than the 7 percent forecast by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Volatile food prices pushed up retail inflation to 5.55 percent in November from 4.87 percent the previous month. While this was within the RBI's tolerance band of 2 percent-6 percent, it remains above the target of 4 percent.

**Updated GDP List**

- IMF – 6.3% (FY24), 6.3% (FY25)
- ICRA – 6.5% (FY24)
- Kotak Mahindra Bank - 6.8% (FY24)
- Citigroup – 6.7%
- DBS – 6.8%
- ADB – 6.7% (FY24), 6.7% (FY25)
- Morgan Stanley - 6.9%(FY24)
- RBI – 7% (FY24)
- Nomura – 6.7% (FY24)
- CII – 6.8% (FY24), 7% (FY25)
- UBS – 6.3 % (FY24)

**268. The Defence Ministry has signed a ₹1,614.89 crore contract with which company for the procurement of six next-generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)?**

**रक्षा मंत्रालय ने भारतीय तट रक्षक (ICG) के लिए छह अगली पीढ़ी के अपतटीय गश्ती जहाजों (OPV) की खरीद के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ ₹1,614.89 करोड़ के अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders / मझगांव डॉक शिपबिल्डर्स
- (b) Hindustan Shipyard / हिंदुस्तान शिपयार्ड
- (c) ABG Shipyard / एबीजी शिपयार्ड
- (d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers / गार्डन रीच शिपबिल्डर्स एंड इंजीनियर्स
- (e) Cochin Shipyard Limited / कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Defence Ministry signs deal for 6 next-gen OPVs for Coast Guard

The Defence Ministry has signed a ₹16a14.89 crore contract with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai for the procurement of six next-generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

Out of the six vessels being procured, four would replace the existing ageing OPVs and the other two would augment the ICG fleet.

These modern and high-tech ships will play a critical role in enhancing surveillance, law enforcement, search and rescue, maritime pollution response, and other important capabilities including humanitarian assistance by the ICG.

These multirole state-of-the-art vessels will be indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured by MDL, and will be delivered in a total period of 66 months (5.5 years).

#### **Recent MoU in Defence Sector**

- India & France sign MoU for construction of three Scorpene submarine
- Defense ministry signs with HAL to upgrade Dornier Aircraft for ICG
- GE Aerospace signs MoU with HAL to produce fighter jet engines
- The Defence Ministry has signed a contract of 500 crore rupees with ICOMM Tele Limited to strengthen the Indian Army's communication system.
- Mazagon Dock signs deal with Germany to build diesel submarines

**269. Recently, the Government of India announced the National Sports Awards 2023. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding National Sports Awards 2023?**

- (i) C Shetty and Satwik Sai Raj Rankireddy to be honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.**
  - (ii) Table Tennis coach Jayanta Kumar Pushilal to be honoured with the Dronacharya Award in the regular category.**
  - (iii) Twenty-two sportspersons will receive the Arjuna Awards.**
  - (iv) Wrestling coach Lalit Kumar to be honoured with the Dronacharya Award in the lifetime category.**
- (a) Only i & ii
  - (b) Only ii & iii
  - (c) Only ii, iii & iv
  - (d) Only i, ii & iii
  - (e) All are correct

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sai Raj Rankireddy to get Khel Ratna Award

The Government of India has announced the National Sports Awards 2023.

Badminton players Chirag C Shetty and Satwik Sai Raj Rankireddy will be honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. Twenty-six sportspersons will receive the Arjuna Awards. They are Archers Ojas Pravin Deotale and Aditi Gopichand Swami, Para Archer Sheetal Devi, Athletes Sreeshankar M and Parul Chaudhary, Boxer Mohameed Hussamuddin, Chess player R Vaishali, Cricketer Mohammed Shami, Blind Cricketer Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy, Equestrian players Anush Agarwalla and Divyakriti Singh, Golfer Diksha Dagar, Hockey players Krishan Bahadur Pathak and P Sushila Chanu, Kabaddi players Pawan Kumar and Ritu Negi, Kho-Kho player Nasreen, Lawn Bowls player Pinki, Shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh and Esha Singh, Squash player Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu, Table Tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee, Wrestler Sunil Kumar and Antim, Wushu player N Roshibina Devi and Para Canoeing player Prachi Yadav. Wrestling coach Lalit Kumar, Chess coach R. B. Ramesh, Para Athletics coach Mahaveer Prasad Saini, Hockey coach Shivendra Singh and Mallakhamb coach Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar will be honoured with the Dronacharya Award in the regular category. Golf coach Jaskirat Singh Grewal, Kabaddi coach Bhaskaran E and Table Tennis coach Jayanta Kumar Pushilal will be honoured with the Dronacharya Award in the lifetime category. Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games, will be given to Manjusha Kanwar for Badminton, Vineet Kumar Sharma for Hockey and Kavitha Selvaraj for Kabaddi.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023 will be presented to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar as the overall winning university, Lovely Professional University, Punjab is the 1st runner up University and Kurukshetra University, Haryana is the 2nd runner up University.

The awardees will receive their awards from President Droupadi Murmu in a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the 9th January 2024.

**270. Natasha Chethan won the sub-junior girls' snooker title to record a double in the 90th National Billiards & Snooker Championships at the Nehru Indoor Stadium. She is from which state?**

**नताशा चेतन ने नेहरू इंडोर स्टेडियम में 90वीं राष्ट्रीय बिलियर्ड्स और स्नूकर चैंपियनशिप में डबल रिकॉर्ड बनाने के लिए सब-जूनियर लड़कियों का स्नूकर खिताब जीता। वह किस राज्य से है?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Karnataka / कर्नाटक
- (e) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Natasha Chethan won sub-junior snooker title

Karnataka's Natasha Chethan won the sub-junior girls' snooker title to record a double in the ongoing 90th National Billiards & Snooker Championships at the Nehru Indoor Stadium.

The Bengaluru teenager rallied to beat Gujarat's Aanya Patel 3-1 (35-57, 57-43, 55-42, 41-29) in the snooker final after defeating her for the sub-junior girls' billiards crown last week.

It was the second defeat of the day in a final for Aanya, who lost to Tamil Nadu's L Shruthi in the junior girls' billiards title category.

**271. Who has been awarded Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal for her distinguished services to the country?**

**देश के प्रति उनकी विशिष्ट सेवाओं के लिए भूटान के नेशनल ऑर्डर ऑफ मेरिट गोल्ड मेडल से किसे सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh / डॉ. पूनम खेत्रपाल सिंह
- (b) Dr. S. Eswara Reddy / डॉ. एस ईश्वरा रेड्डी
- (c) Dr. Ashvini Kumar Dwivedi / डॉ अश्विनी कुमार द्विवेदी
- (d) Dr. Tapan Saikia / डॉ. तपन सैकिया
- (e) Dr. Ravi Kant Sharma / डॉ. रविकांत शर्मा

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Poonam Khetrapal Singh awarded Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal

WHO Regional Director (South-East Asia) Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh has been awarded Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal for her distinguished services to the country.

The King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk honoured Singh, an Indian national, at Bhutan's 116th National Day celebration.

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, the first woman regional director of the WHO South-East Asia region, played a pivotal role in supporting transformative healthcare leadership in Bhutan from 2014 to 2024.

Her tenure witnessed remarkable strides, including Bhutan, becoming one of the first countries to eliminate measles and rubella ahead of schedule.

She made significant contributions to help Bhutan excel in COVID-19 vaccination.

**Recent Awards**

- **Prestigious International Doctorate** - Dr. Nitin Mohan Lal
- **National Energy Conservation Awards 2023** - Reliance Nippon Life Insurance
- **Visionary Leader Icon 2023 Award** - Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath
- **Miss India USA 2023** - Rijul Maini (Indian-American)
- **Mrs India USA 2023** - Sneha Nambiar (from Massachusetts)
- **Miss Teen India USA 2023** - Saloni Rammohan (from Pennsylvania)

**272. Which among the following has received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category?**

**निम्नलिखित में से किसे "औद्योगिक जल उपयोग दक्षता" श्रेणी के तहत FICCI जल पुरस्कार 2023 का 11वां संस्करण प्राप्त हुआ है?**

- (a) ReNew Power / रिन्यू पावर
- (b) TP renewable Microgrid / टीपी रिन्यूएबल माइक्रोग्रिड
- (c) JSW Energy / जेएसडब्ल्यू एनर्जी
- (d) NTPC Kanti / एनटीपीसी कांटी
- (e) Torrent Power / टोरेंट पावर

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** NTPC Kanti received FICCI Water Award 2023 for water use efficiency

NTPC Kanti has received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category. The prestigious accolade was presented during the inaugural event of the 9th Edition of India Industry Water Conclave held at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi.

The award acknowledges NTPC Kanti's notable water conservation efforts and efficient use of water resources in its operations. The company has also launched awareness campaigns to promote responsible water usage among employees and the local community.

The FICCI Water Awards, presented annually, play a pivotal role in acknowledging organizations across various sectors for their exemplary efforts in water conservation and management. By promoting best practices, these awards contribute to the broader goal of encouraging sustainable water management practices throughout India.

**273. Pradip Kumar Das has been bestowed with the esteemed "CMD of the Year" award under the Mini-Ratna category at the 13th PSE Excellence Awards. He is the CMD of which of the following organization?**

**प्रदीप कुमार दास को 13वें पीएसई उत्कृष्टता पुरस्कारों में मिनी-रत्न श्रेणी के तहत सम्मानित "सीएमडी ऑफ द ईयर" पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया है। वह निम्नलिखित में से किस संगठन के सीएमडी हैं?**

- (a) NABARD / नाबार्ड
- (b) IREDA इरेडा
- (c) PFRDA / पीएफआरडीए
- (d) SEBI / सेबी
- (e) SIDBI / सिडबी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das bagged 'CMD of the Year' award Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), Pradip Kumar Das has been bestowed with the esteemed "CMD of the Year" award under the Mini-Ratna category at the 13th PSE Excellence Awards, hosted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi.

This prestigious recognition marks the second consecutive financial year in which Shri Pradip Kumar Das has received this accolade, acknowledging his exceptional leadership that has boosted the company's growth, pioneering energy transition initiatives, and outstanding contributions for IREDA and Renewable Energy sector development.

IREDA also bagged runner-up accolades, emphasizing its commitment to operational, governance, socio-environmental excellence, and inclusivity.

**274. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has been awarded the Leif Erikson Lunar Prize for which mission?**

**भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) को किस मिशन के लिए लीफ़ एरिकसन चंद्र पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Mangalyaan- 2
- (b) Chandrayaan-2
- (c) Gaganyaan
- (d) Chandrayaan-3
- (e) ADITYA-L1

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Chandrayaan-3 Moon Mission Earns Leif Erikson Lunar Prize

For its indomitable spirit in advancing lunar exploration & contributing to understanding celestial mysteries and in celebration the first soft landing of Chandrayaan 3, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been awarded Leif Erikson Lunar Prize.

This is the first time that ISRO has received this award.

It is for the first soft landing of a spacecraft near the Lunar South Pole and ISRO's indomitable spirit in advancing lunar exploration.

On behalf of ISRO, this was received by the Indian Ambassador to Iceland Ambassador B Shyam from the Exploration Museum in Husavik (Iceland).

**275. Consider the following statements about the Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2023**

**(i) Neelam Saran Gour will get the award for her English Novel Requiem in Raga Janki.**

**(ii) The Sahitya Akademi founded on March 12, 1952.**

**(iii) Sanjeev will get Sahitya Akademi Award for his Hindi novel Manak Mati.**

**(iv) Nine books of poetry, six novels, five short story collections, three essays and one literary study have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards this year**

**Which is/are correct?**

(a) Only i

(b) Only ii

(c) Only i & ii

(d) Only i & iv

(e) All are correct

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2023 announced

Sahitya Akademi has announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Award 2023 in 24 Languages.

Sanjeev will get Sahitya Akademi Award for his Hindi novel Mujhe Pahachaano.

Neelam Saran Gour will get the award for her English Novel Requiem in Raga Janki.

Nine books of poetry, six novels, five short story collections, three essays and one literary study have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards this year.

The awards recommended by distinguished jury members in 24 languages were approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met under the Chairmanship of Madhav Kaushik, President of the Akademi.

The awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of award, that is between January 2017 and December 31, 2021

The award, in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and ₹1,00,000, will be presented at the award presentation function on March 12, 2024.

The Sahitya Akademi, founded on March 12, 1954 is an autonomous body under the Union Culture Ministry and is dedicated to the promotion of literature in Indian languages.

Languages	Title	Author Name
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Assamese	Dr. Pranavjyoti Deka Shrestha Galpa (Short Stories)	Pranavjyoti Deka
Bengali	Jabar Pari (Novel)	Swapnamoy Chakraborti
Bodo	Si-Ufari Sarni (Short Stories)	Vinod Sona Minj
Dogri	Daun Sadiyan Ek Seer (Poetry-Ghazal)	Vijay Verma
English	Requiem in Raga Janki (Novel)	Neelum Saran Gour
Gujarati	Sairandhree (Epic Novel)	Sandeep Joshi
Hindi	Mujhe Pahachano (Novel)	Sanjeev
Kannada	Mahabharata Anushandhana Bharata (Poetry)	Lakshmesh Tolpadi
Kashmiri	Yath Wavah Halis Toong Tsoley Zaley (Essay)	Manshoor Banhali
Konkani	Varsal (Short Stories)	Mahabaleshwar Sail
Maithili	Bodha Sanketan (Essays)	Basukinath Jha
Malayalam	Malayala Novelinete Deshakalanga (Literary Study)	E.V. Ramakrishnan
Manipuri	Yangkhoibagi Nanglo Helli (Poetry)	Sorokhaibam Gambhini
Marathi	Ringan (Novel)	Kusumkhatri Rana
Nepali	Nepali Lokshitya Ra Loksanskritiko Pariyochoa (Essay)	Juddhar Rana
Odia	Aprastuta Prutyu (Poetry)	Ashutosh Parida
Punjabi	Mann Di Chip (Poetry)	Swarnjit Savi
Rajasthani	Manak Mati (Poetry)	Gaje Singh Rajpurohit
Sanskrit	Shunye Meghghanam (Poetry)	Arun Ranjan Mishra
Santali	Jaba Baha (Short Stories)	Taraceen Baskey (Turia Chand Baskey)
Sindhi	Hathu Hikro Pahinjaro (Ghazal)	Vinod Asudani
Tamil	Neeraviyal (Poetry-Short-Stories)	Rajasekaran (Devibharathi)
Telugu	Rameshwaram Kaakulu Marikonni Kathalu (Short Stories)	T. Pattabhi Satyam
Urdu	Rajdev Ki Amrai (Novel)	Sadiqua Nawab Saher

**276. National Mathematics Day is celebrated annually on which day?**

**राष्ट्रीय गणित दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 22 December / 22 दिसंबर
- (b) 23 December / 23 दिसंबर
- (c) 19 December / 19 दिसंबर
- (d) 20 December / 20 दिसंबर
- (e) 21 December / 21 दिसंबर

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 22 December - National Mathematics Day

National Mathematics Day is celebrated annually on December 22 to honour the birth anniversary of the renowned Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan.

The day is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the importance of mathematics in our lives and to pay homage to one of the greatest mathematical minds in history.

National Mathematics Day is commemorated on the birthday of Srinivasa Ramanujan, born on December 22, 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu, India.

Ramanujan was largely self-taught and made significant contributions to mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions.

The idea of observing National Mathematics Day was first proposed by the then Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in 2012.

The day was subsequently declared National Mathematics Day to honour Ramanujan's legacy and to promote the importance of mathematics in education and research.

**277. Former chair of the National Commission for Women and Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. V Mohini Giri passed away recently. In which year did she receive Padma Bhushan?**

**राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग की पूर्व अध्यक्ष और पद्म भूषण पुरस्कार से सम्मानित डॉ. वी मोहिनी गिरी का हाल ही में निधन हो गया। उन्हें किस वर्ष पद्म भूषण प्राप्त हुआ?**

- (a) 2005
- (b) 2007
- (c) 2010
- (d) 2013
- (e) 2015

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Padma Bhushan awardee Mohini Giri passes away

Former chair of the National Commission for Women and Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. V Mohini Giri passed away. She started the War Widows Association in 1972, after the Indo-Pak war of 1971. An institution builder, her life was dedicated to women's rights, human rights and particularly the rights of widows. Dr. Giri was awarded the Padma Bhushan for her work in 2007.

A graduate in Political Science from University of Lucknow, Dr. Giri was the founder trustee of Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia, trustee of various organisations such as Navdanya, Justice Sunanda Bhandare Foundation and FAEA. She also served as the chairperson of both Central Social Welfare Board and National Commission for Women.

A documentary —Still We Rise: The Passion and Compassion of Mohini Giri'— directed by filmmaker Meera Dewan, commemorating 50 years of Guild for Service and the contribution of Dr. Giri, was screened in February.

**278. Recently, which state government has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) Campaign to Counteract Pneumonia?**

**हाल ही में, किस राज्य सरकार ने निमोनिया का मुकाबला करने के लिए सामाजिक जागरूकता और निमोनिया को निष्क्रिय करने की कार्रवाई (SAANS) अभियान शुरू किया है?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Manipur / मणिपुर
- (e) Meghalaya / मेघालय

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Manipur Initiates "SAANS" Campaign to Counteract Pneumonia

In Manipur, the State Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) Campaign 2023-24 at Imphal. The Minister also inaugurated the State Newborn Resource Centre at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) in Imphal.

In connection to the launching of SAANS Campaign 2023-24, the Minister said that Pneumonia is a common, preventable, treatable disease if precautionary steps are taken up at the right time. Since the disease is preventable, the Health Department is emphasizing spreading awareness to the people.

**About Manipur**

- **Capital** – Imphal
- **Chief Minister** – N. Biren Singh
- **Governor** - Anusuiya Uikey

**279. Which of the following has unveiled the 'Paat-Mitro' app for farmers?**

**निम्नलिखित में से किसने किसानों के लिए 'पाट-मित्रो' ऐप का अनावरण किया है?**

- (a) Cotton Corporation of India / भारतीय कपास निगम
- (b) Food Corporation of India / भारतीय खाद्य निगम
- (c) Food and Agriculture Organization / खाद्य और कृषि संगठन
- (d) Damodar Valley Corporation / दामोदर घाटी निगम
- (e) Jute Corporation of India / भारतीय जूट निगम

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Jute Corporation of India introduced 'Paat-Mitro' app for farmers

The Jute Corporation of India has unveiled the 'Paat-Mitro' app aimed at aiding jute cultivation and income generation.

It is Launched by Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, the application offers vital knowledge on jute farming.

It will also feature information on jute gradation parametres, farmer-centric schemes like 'Jute-ICARE', weather forecasts and procurement policies.

'Paat-Mitro' marks a significant step forward in supporting jute farmers and revitalizing the industry. With greater access to information, technical advancements, and market opportunities, Indian jute farmers can unlock a brighter future for themselves and contribute to the sustainable development of the sector.

280. India has invited France President Emmanuel Macron as chief guest for the January 26 Republic Day celebrations. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ a French leader will be the Chief guest at Republic Day celebrations in the national capital.

भारत ने 26 जनवरी के गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह के लिए फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रॉन को मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में आमंत्रित किया है। यह \_\_\_\_\_ एक फ्रांसीसी नेता राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि होंगे।

- (a) 5th time / 5वीं बार
- (b) 6th time / 6वीं बार
- (c) 7th time / 7वीं बार
- (d) 8th time / 8वीं बार
- (e) 3th time / तीसरी बार

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** French President Invited to India's Republic Day 2024

India has invited France President Emmanuel Macron as chief guest for the January 26 Republic Day celebrations.

Notably, this is the 6th time a French leader will be the Chief guest at Republic Day celebrations in the national capital.

Prior to Macron, former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was the Chief guest on India's Republic Day celebrations in 1976 and 1998, and former Presidents Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Francois Hollande in the years 1980, 2008, and 2016 respectively.

Earlier in July, PM Modi had visited France to attend the Bastille Day Parade. PM Modi participated in the Bastille Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour on the invitation of President Macron.

PM Modi had visited France to mark the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, a 241-member tri-service Indian armed forces contingent led by a military band also participated in the Parade." The Indian Army contingent was led by the Punjab Regiment, followed by a complement from the Rajputana Rifles Regiment.

Later in September, French President Macron had visited India in September to attend the G20 Summit held under India's Presidency.

#### **About France**

- Capital- Paris
- President- Emmanuel Macron
- Prime Minister- Elisabeth Borne
- Official language- French

**281. Which of the following state will host the 6th edition of Khelo India Youth Games in January 2024?**

**निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा राज्य जनवरी 2024 में खेलो इंडिया यूथ गेम्स के छठे संस्करण की मेजबानी करेगा?**

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (d) Himachal Pradesh / हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (e) Punjab / पंजाब

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Thakur sets to unveil Khelo India Youth Games logo and mascot  
Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Information & Broadcasting, Sh. Anurag Singh Thakur has launched the official logo, jersey, mascot, torch, and theme song for the Khelo India Youth Games Tamil Nadu in Chennai.

The 6th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games is scheduled from January 19 to 31, 2024.

The previous 5 editions of the Youth Games have been held in Delhi, Pune, Guwahati, Panchkula, and Bhopal.

The upcoming edition will take place in four cities of Tamil Nadu - Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore.

**282. Which bank has launched the Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG), signalling a significant step forward in trade finance digital transformation?**

**किस बैंक ने व्यापार वित्त डिजिटल परिवर्तन में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम आगे बढ़ाते हुए इलेक्ट्रॉनिक बैंक गारंटी (ई-बीजी) लॉन्च की है?**

- (a) ICICI Bank / आईसीआईसीआई बैंक
- (b) RBL Bank / आरबीएल बैंक
- (c) IndusInd Bank / इंडसइंड बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) Bandhan Bank / बंधन बैंक

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** RBL Bank Introduces Electronic Bank Guarantee on NeSL Platform

RBL Bank has launched the Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG), signalling a significant step forward in trade finance digital transformation.

The e-BG product builds on the framework enabled by NeSL, incorporating their expertise in e-Stamping and e-Sign. This integration eliminates the traditional physical signing and stamping processes, seamlessly transitioning into a secure and efficient digital format.

NeSL's e-BG substantially transforms the trade finance space and marks a milestone in the digitization of banking services. e-BG envisages online and paperless procurement of stamp duty and thus the e-BG can be issued digitally in a couple of minutes and is made available to beneficiaries instantly in a secure, digital, and paperless form.

**Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- Reliance General Insurance unveils '**Reliance Health Global**'
- IndusInd Bank introduces '**Indus Solitaire Program**' for the Diamond Industry
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance launches '**Alpha Wealth**' plan with option to alter premiums
- IDFC FIRST Bank, LIC Cards, and Mastercard to **co-launch Credit card**
- Bank of India launched "**Nari Shakti Savings Account**"

**283. Sandeep Batra has been reappointed as Executive Director (ED) of which bank?**

**संदीप बत्रा को किस बैंक के कार्यकारी निदेशक (ईडी) के रूप में पुनः नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) South Indian Bank / साउथ इंडियन बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Yes Bank / यस बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) ICICI Bank / आईसीआईसीआई बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Sandeep Batra reappoints as ED of ICICI Bank

Private sector lender ICICI Bank has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to re-appoint Sandeep Batra as the executive director (ED).

RBI vide its letter approved the re-appointment of Sandeep Batra as Executive Director of the bank with effect from December 23, 2023 to December 22, 2025.

The board of directors recorded that the current tenure of Batra as ED of the Bank as per RBI approval, which was for three years, ends on December 22, 2023. It unanimously approved the reappointment of Batra for a further period of two years with effect from December 23, 2023, to December 22, 2025.

**About Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank**

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **MD & CEO** - Sandeep Bakhshi
- **Tagline** - Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **CEO of Indifi Technologies** - Sangram Singh
- **Part-time member of PFRDA board** - Parama Sen (replace Anne George)
- **Chairman of Max Life Insurance** - Rajiv Anand (replace Analjit Singh)
- **Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** - Jithesh John
- **MD of State Bank of India** - Vinay M. Tonse (till 2025; for 2 years)

**284. Who has been appointed as the Director (Works) of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)?**

**नेशनल हाई-स्पीड रेल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (NHSRCL) के निदेशक (कार्य) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Ganesan Kannabiran / गणेशन कन्नाबीरन
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Parminder Chopra / परमिंदर चोपड़ा
- (e) Anant Maheshwari / अनंत माहेश्वरी

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Pramod Sharma appointed as Director (Works) of NHSRCL

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Pramod Sharma for the post of Director (Works) of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).

NHSRCL is an implementation agency for high-speed rail projects in India.

Appointed on a deputation basis, his term extends until he reaches 60 years or further orders.

Sharma is an Institution of Railway Signal Engineers (IRSE) officer of 1989 batch. Presently, he is serving as Principal Executive Director (Contract) of NHRSCCL.

NHSRCL was incorporated in 2016 to manage the High-Speed Rail Corridor in India. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways. The objective of this body is the development and implementation of high-speed rail projects in India.

**285. Who has become the new president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)?**

**भारतीय कुश्ती महासंघ (WFI) के नए अध्यक्ष कौन बने हैं?**

- (a) Abhishek Singhvi / अभिषेक सिंघवी
- (b) Aryama Sundaram / आर्यमा सुंदरम
- (c) Sanjay Singh / संजय सिंह
- (d) Harshvardhan Bansal / हर्षवर्द्धन बंसल
- (e) Laxman Narasimhan / लक्ष्मण नरसिम्हन

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Sanjay Singh becomes new president Wrestling Federation of India

Sanjay Singh has become the new president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

He beat Anita Sheoran in the 50-vote electoral college 42-7 to claim the post.

Associated with the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for the past 12 years as part of the governing council, Singh, who hails from Varanasi, was promoted to the post of joint secretary in 2019.

**286. Who has been named Health Ambassador for Salaam Bombay Foundation?**

**सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशन के लिए स्वास्थ्य राजदूत किसे नामित किया गया है?**

- (a) Anshika Singh / अंशिका सिंह
- (b) Amrita Raichand / अमृता रायचंद
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Ipsita Dasgupta / इप्सिता दासगुप्ता
- (e) Parul Goel / पारुल गोयल

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Amrita Raichand named Health Ambassador for Salaam Bombay Foundation

Amrita Raichand partners with Salaam Bombay Foundation, becoming a Health Ambassador for their Preventive Health Education Programme.

This incredible partnership is set to make a real difference in the lives of at-risk adolescents from the urban slums of Mumbai, promoting the importance of healthy living and simple nourishing recipes where it is needed most. The initiative focuses on advancing nutrition knowledge in underserved communities, mainly among Mumbai's urban slum adolescents.

**Recent Brand Ambassador**

- Sourav Ganguly - Tripura Tourism
- R Madhavan - The insurtech company Acko
- Pankaj Tripathi - UPI Safety Ambassador
- MS Dhoni - State bank of India
- Katrina Kaif - Swiss Watchmaker 'Rado'
- Chetan Bhagat - Henry Harvin Education
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni - Lay's
- Mohammed Shami - Sports brand Puma

**287. Who has assumed the charge of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India arm Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)?**

**कोल इंडिया की शाखा महानदी कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड (MCL) के अध्यक्ष-सह-प्रबंध निदेशक (CMD) का पदभार किसने ग्रहण किया है?**

- (a) Krishnan Sankarasubramaniam / कृष्णन शंकरसुब्रमण्यम
- (b) Rajiv Kumar / राजीव कुमार
- (c) Arun Kohli / अरुण कोहली
- (d) Uday A Kaole / उदय ए काओले
- (e) Laxman Narasimhan / लक्ष्मण नरसिम्हन

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Uday A Kaole Takes Over as CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd

Uday A Kaole has assumed the charge of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India arm Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

Before joining MCL as its CMD, Kaole was the Director (Technical) at Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL). Kaole has over 36 years of rich technical and administrative experience in the coal mining sector. He has a long experience of working in challenging underground coal mines operations, as well as in the opencast mines.

He had joined Coal India as Junior Engineering (Trainee) in 1987 and served at various important positions in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).

**288. Which airport has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by UNESCO's Prix Versailles?  
 यूनेस्को के प्रिक्स वर्सेल्स द्वारा किस हवाई अड्डे को 'इंटीरियर के लिए विश्व विशेष पुरस्कार 2023' से सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi / इंदिरा गांधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, दिल्ली  
 (b) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru / केम्पेगौड़ा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, बेंगलुरु  
 (c) Cochin International Airport, Kochi / कोचीन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, कोच्चि  
 (d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad / सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, अहमदाबाद  
 (e) Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru / मंगलुरु अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, मंगलुरु

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Bengaluru Airport Recognised As One Of World's Most Beautiful Airports

The Terminal-2 (T2) of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.

It is the only Indian airport to receive this recognition.

The Prix Versailles, established in 2015, focuses on "intelligent sustainability" as a cultural driver, acknowledging innovation, creativity, reflection of local heritage, ecological efficiency, and values of social interaction.

Encompassing 2,55,661 square metres, the terminal is built upon four foundational pillars: technological leadership, a terminal in a garden, environmental and ecological stewardship, and a celebration of Karnataka's rich heritage and culture.

Phase 1 of T2, inaugurated on November 11, 2022, is designed to accommodate 25 million passengers per annum.

**Recent Awards**

- **11th FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category** - NTPC Kanti
- **Leif Erikson Lunar Prize** - ISRO for Chandrayaan-3 Moon Mission
- **Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal** - Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh (WHO Regional Director (South-East Asia))
- **Prestigious International Doctorate** - Dr. Nitin Mohan Lal
- **National Energy Conservation Awards 2023** - Reliance Nippon Life Insurance

**289. Which company has been conferred with the prestigious National Energy Conservation Award 2023?**

**किस कंपनी को प्रतिष्ठित राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा संरक्षण पुरस्कार 2023 से सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Crompton / क्रॉम्पटन
- (b) Philips / फिलिप्स
- (c) Havells / हैवेल्ल्स
- (d) Bajaj Electricals / बजाज इलेक्ट्रिकल्स
- (e) Orient Electric / ओरिएंट इलेक्ट्रिक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** President awarded Crompton-Most Energy Efficient Appliance of the Year Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL), one of India's leading consumer electrical companies, has been conferred with the prestigious National Energy Conservation Award 2023.

The honor was conferred by the Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu and the Ministry of Power through its body viz. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day.

The company secured this achievement in the category of the Most Energy Efficient Appliance of the Year 2023 for its storage water heater.

#### **About Crompton**

- With a brand legacy of 80+ years, Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. is India's market leader in the category of fans and residential pumps.
- Over the years, the organization has continuously strived to produce a range of innovative products that cater to the modern consumer including superior quality and high-performance water heaters, anti-dust fans, antibacterial LED bulbs and a range of other categories like air coolers, food processors like mixer grinders, electric kettles and garment care like irons.
- The CGCEL's BEE 5-star rated storage water heater model, Arno Neo 3015, provides energy savings and advanced features for consumers

**290. In December 2023, who has received the 'Impact Fielder of the ODI Series' medal following India's 2-1 series win against South Africa?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, दक्षिण अफ्रीका के खिलाफ भारत की 2-1 सीरीज़ जीत के बाद 'वनडे सीरीज़ का प्रभाव क्षेत्ररक्षक' पदक किसे मिला है?**

- (a) Virat Kohli / विराट कोहली
- (b) Rohit Sharma / रोहित शर्मा
- (c) KL Rahul / केएल राहुल
- (d) Sai Sudharsan / साई सुदर्शन
- (e) Suryakumar Yadav / सूर्यकुमार यादव

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Sai Sudharsan awarded 'impact fielder of the ODI series

India's debutant Sai Sudharsan was awarded the 'Impact Fielder of the Series' medal by India's fielding coach Ajay Ratra after the KL Rahul-led side clinched the 3-match ODI series against South Africa 2-1. India defeated South Africa by 87 runs in the series decider as KL Rahul became only the second Indian captain after Virat Kohli to win an ODI series on South African soil.

Sudharsan was commended for a brilliant catch during the third ODI match, contributing to India's 78-run victory.

**291. The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with which retail company to enhance the outreach of the products of self-help groups (SHGs) of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)?**

**ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना-राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन (DAY-NRLM) के स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHG) के उत्पादों की पहुंच बढ़ाने के लिए किस खुदरा कंपनी के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) JioMart / जियोमार्ट
- (b) Flipkart / फ्लिपकार्ट
- (c) Meesho / मीशो
- (d) Snapdeal / स्नैपडील
- (e) Blinkit / ब्लिंकिट

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Ministry of Rural Development signed with JioMart to Self-Help Groups' Products

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Reliance Retail's JioMart as part of its efforts to enhance the outreach of the products of self-help groups (SHGs) of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). This will bring SHGs under MoRD's SARAS collection brand onto JioMart offering a range of handlooms and handicrafts products from traditional textiles to pantry, home décor, and beauty products.

This collaboration will enable SHGs to be on-boarded as sellers onto the e-commerce fold on JioMart. This initiative will further boost MoRD's provision under the SARAS collection to be available to a larger consumer base.

JioMart will also help set up and support them to navigate and operate their account on the marketplace.

Additionally, JioMart will jointly participate in trainings and workshops facilitated by MoRD to enable sellers to familiarise selling experience on the portal.

**Recent MoU**

- Tata Power ties up with Indian Oil to set up over 500 EV charging stations
- RITES signed pact with CFM Mozambique for 10 diesel locomotive supply
- THDC India inks pact to develop renewable energy projects in Karnataka
- IBM inks 3 pacts with IT Ministry on semiconductor, AI, Q-computing
- SUN Mobility partners with Bluwheelz to deploy over 16,000 EVs

**292. Which bank has approved \$300 million loan to Tamil Nadu to help 21 Urban Local Bodies?**

**किस बैंक ने 21 शहरी स्थानीय निकायों की मदद के लिए तमिलनाडु को 300 मिलियन डॉलर का ऋण स्वीकृत किया है?**

- (a) International Monetary Fund / अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष
- (b) Asian Development Bank / एशियाई विकास बैंक
- (c) New Development Bank / न्यू डेवलपमेंट बैंक
- (d) African Development Bank / अफ्रीकी विकास बैंक
- (e) World Bank / विश्व बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** World Bank provides \$300 million loan to Tamil Nadu to help 21 Urban Local Bodies

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a new program to support Tamil Nadu and provide around 2 million people with more and better access to water and sewerage services in cities.

The \$300 million Tamil Nadu Climate Resilient Urban Development Program will help 21 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) update their delivery systems and provide quality and efficient water supply and sewerage services to consumers.

The \$300 million loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will use the blended financing instrument of Program-for-Results (PforR) with Investment Project Financing (IPF) to link disbursement of funds directly to the achievement of results while providing technical assistance.

The Program loan has a maturity of 32 years with a grace period of 7 years.

Tamil Nadu is one of the most urbanised states in India and faces increasing impacts of climate shocks like floods and droughts. For its rapidly growing population, access to services like water and sanitation is essential for more climate-resilient cities.

### **Recent Loan Approved by World Bank**

- World Bank approves \$ 1.5 bn financing for India's low-carbon transition
- World Bank approves \$391 million for Assam, Tripura
- World Bank approves \$150-million loan for Resilient Kerala programme

**293. According to the recent Fitch Ratings data, what is the India's growth forecast for FY24?**

**हाल के फिच रेटिंग डेटा के अनुसार, FY24 के लिए भारत की वृद्धि का पूर्वानुमान क्या है?**

- (a) 6.8%
- (b) 6.3%
- (c) 6.4%
- (d) 6.5%
- (e) 6.9%

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Fitch expects India to be among fastest-growing nations in 2024-25

Fitch Ratings expects India to be among the world's fastest-growing countries, with resilient GDP growth of 6.5% in 2024-25. For the current financial year 2023-24, it pegs GDP growth at 6.9%.

Demand will remain strong for cement, electricity and petroleum products, with high-frequency data in 2023 sustained at well above pre-Covid-19 pandemic levels.

India's rising infrastructure spending will also boost steel demand. Car sales will continue to rise, despite our expectation of moderation after robust growth in 2023.

India is currently the world's fifth-largest economy, following the US, China, Germany, and Japan. By 2030, India's GDP is projected to exceed Japan's, making India the second-largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region.

Earlier this week, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected India to grow at 6.3% in the current financial year 2023-24 and the next.

In December 2023, Goldman Sachs Research projected India's growth rate to be the highest among 13 large economies in 2024, at 6.2%. China is projected to be second at 4.8%.

S&P also projected India's GDP to grow 6-7.1% annually in fiscal years 2024-2026.

The Reserve Bank of India, while maintaining status quo in key policy rates, recently raised India's GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2023-24 by 50 basis points to 7%. In its October meeting, RBI had forecast 2023-24 growth at 6.5%.

**Updated GDP List**

- Goldman Sachs – 6.2% (FY24)
- Fitch Rating – 6.9% (FY24), 6.5% (FY25)
- IMF – 6.3% (FY24), 6.3% (FY25)
- ICRA – 6.5% (FY24)
- Kotak Mahindra Bank - 6.8% (FY24)
- Citigroup – 6.7%
- DBS – 6.8%
- ADB – 6.7% (FY24), 6.7% (FY25)
- Morgan Stanley - 6.9%(FY24)
- RBI – 7% (FY24)
- Nomura – 6.7% (FY24)

**294. Which of the following countries will leave the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) group with effect from January 1, 2024?**

**निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा देश 1 जनवरी 2024 से पेट्रोलियम निर्यातक देशों के संगठन (ओपेक) समूह को छोड़ देगा?**

- (a) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब
- (b) Iraq / इराक
- (c) Venezuela / वेनेजुएला
- (d) Angola / अंगोला
- (e) Iran / ईरान

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Angola to quit OPEC

Angola is leaving the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with effect from 1 January 2024, after exits from Ecuador in 2020 and Qatar in 2019. Angola, which joined OPEC in 2007, produces about 1.1 million barrels per day, compared with 28 million bpd for the whole group.

OPEC was founded in 1960 by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, Iran and Ira Angola joined the group in 2007.

Since 2017, OPEC has worked with Russia and other non-members as part of the OPEC+ group to manage the market, in whose agreements Angola participated. Angola's departure from OPEC will leave it with 12 members and crude oil production of about 27 million bpd, some 27% of the 102 million bpd world oil market.

#### **OTHER COUNTRIES THAT LEFT OPEC**

- Angola would join other nations with relatively small oil output that have left in recent years.
- Qatar in 2019 quit OPEC to focus on gas, which some analysts interpreted as a swipe at Saudi Arabia, the oil exporting group's de facto leader.
- Ecuador left in 2020 and Indonesia suspended its membership in 2016

#### **COUNTRIES THAT HAVE JOINED OPEC**

- Some small producers have also joined OPEC in recent years. Equatorial Guinea became a full member in 2017 and Gabon re-joined in 2016. Congo became a full member in 2018.

#### **About Angola**

- Capital- Luanda
- Currency- Angolan kwanza
- President- João Lourenço
- Continent- Africa

**295. Recently, which of the following has proposed a phase-wise transition to instant settlement of trades in the equity cash market?**

हाल ही में, निम्नलिखित में से किसने इक्विटी नकदी बाजार में ट्रेडों के त्वरित निपटान के लिए चरण-वार परिवर्तन का प्रस्ताव दिया है?

- (a) NABARD / नाबार्ड
- (b) RBI / आरबीआई
- (c) Finance Ministry / वित्त मंत्रालय
- (d) SEBI / सेबी
- (e) SIDBI / सिडबी

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** SEBI proposes two-phase transition to instant settlement in Indian stock market

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a phase-wise transition to instant settlement of trades in the equity cash market.

An optional T+0 settlement cycle for trades till 1:30 pm may be introduced in the first phase, with settlement of funds and securities to be completed on the same day by 4:30 p.m.

To begin with, a T+0 settlement will be made available in the top 500 listed equity shares in three tranches, from the lowest to the highest market capitalization.

In the second phase, an optional immediate trade-by-trade settlement will be carried out for trades till 3.30 p.m.

An API-based interface will be built between depositories and clearing corporations to facilitate real-time intimation of early pay-in. To begin with, all securities under Phase 1 will be available under Phase 2.

The move will enable faster pay-outs of securities and funds to investors, improve overall market efficiency, and enhance the overall risk management of clearing corporations (CCs).

The Indian banking system is efficient to provide real-time transfers of funds, and the depository system has visibility of client-level holdings and hence the ability to enable instant debit and credit of securities.

The average Indian has rapidly embraced UPI and instant payment platforms. This flexibility can be extended to equity dealing as well.

**About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

- **Founded** - 12 April 1988
- **Act** - 1992
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **Chairman** - Madhabi Puri Buch
- **SEBI Set up** - Uday Kotak committee

**296. Which state has won the National Energy Conservation Award 2023?**

**किस राज्य ने राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा संरक्षण पुरस्कार 2023 जीता है?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Karnataka / कर्नाटक
- (e) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Karnataka bags National Energy Conservation Award 2023

Karnataka bagged first place in the State Designated Agency (SDA Group-1) category at the National Energy Conservation Awards – 2023 (NECA 2022) held in Delhi.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency organized the awards as part of the National Energy Conservation Day. Karnataka has scored highest and placed as a top-performing State categorized as Front runner across India for three consecutive years,- SEEI 2020 and SEEI 2021-2022 and 2023.

President of India, Droupadi Murmu handed over the award to KP Rudrappaiah, Managing Director, Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited, as an appreciation for the state's achievement in energy conservation.

KREDL was chosen for the award based on the energy efficiency projects implemented in the state.

**297. Dean Elgar has announced his retirement from international cricket recently. He is from which country?**

**डीन एल्गर ने हाल ही में अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट से संन्यास की घोषणा की है। वह किस देश से है?**

- (a) England / इंग्लैंड
- (b) New Zealand / न्यूजीलैंड
- (c) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (d) South Africa / दक्षिण अफ्रीका
- (e) Ireland / आयरलैंड

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Former South Africa captain Dean Elgar announces retirement from international cricket

Former South Africa captain Dean Elgar has announced his retirement from international cricket after a test series against India concludes early next month. Elgar, who has scored more than 5,000 runs with 13 centuries in his 84 tests, will play his final test at Newlands in Cape Town starting January 3. The Cape Town Test will be my last. My favourite stadium in the world. A place I scored my first Test run against New Zealand and hopefully my last too.

Elgar made his debut against Australia in Perth in 2011, making a duck in each innings in an inauspicious start to his 12-year test career, which has yielded 5,146 runs, including a high score of 199 against Bangladesh in 2017.

He is South Africa's eighth highest scorer in tests. Elgar was elevated to captain in March 2021, replacing Quintin de Kock, and led the Proteas to series wins in the West Indies and at home against India, and a draw in New Zealand. A nightmare tour of Australia 12 months ago, where the opener averaged just 9.33 runs across the series, saw Elgar replaced as captain by Temba Bavuma in February.

#### **Recently Retired Players**

- Asad Shafiq - All forms of cricket - Pakistan
- Gurkeerat Singh Mann – International Cricket – India
- Meg Lanning – International Cricket – Australia
- Sunil Narine - International cricket – West Indies
- David Willey - International Cricket - England
- Sornnarin Tippoch - International Cricket - Thailand
- Alastair Cook - International Cricket - England
- Steven Finn - All forms of Cricket - England
- Alex Hales - International Cricket - England
- Manoj Tiwary - All forms of cricket - India

**298. Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar has won the 6th edition of the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for which book?**

**कवयित्री सुकृता पॉल कुमार ने किस पुस्तक के लिए रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर साहित्यिक पुरस्कार का छठा संस्करण जीता है?**

- (a) Poems Come Home
- (b) Narrating Partition
- (c) Vanishing Words
- (d) Salt & Pepper
- (e) Country Drive

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar Wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize

The sixth edition of the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was awarded to poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar for her book, 'Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems'.

This prestigious award recognizes outstanding literary work from around the globe, promoting world peace, literature, art, education, and human rights.

An amount of USD 5,000, a Tagore statue, and a certificate for contribution to literature was given to Kumar at the award ceremony.

Founded in 2018 by US-based publisher Peter Bundalo, the award is a platform for world peace, literature, art, education and human rights.

It also recognizes works towards human rights and world peace with the Social Achievement Prize.

The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for Social Achievement was awarded to Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee for his contributions to societal welfare.

Last year, the prize was given to journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha for his novel 'The City and The Sea'

#### **Recent Awards**

- **Most Energy Efficient Appliance of the Year** - Crompton Electricals
- **'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles** - Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)
- **11th FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category** - NTPC Kanti
- **Leif Erikson Lunar Prize** - ISRO for Chandrayaan-3 Moon Mission
- **Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal** - Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh (WHO Regional Director (South-East Asia))

**299. Who has won the SASTRA-Ramanujan Award for 2022?****2022 का SASTRA-रामानुजन पुरस्कार किसने जीता है?**

- (a) Lauren Kiyomi Williams
- (b) Melody Chan
- (c) Yunqing Tang
- (d) Ruixiang Zhang
- (e) Arul Shankar

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** SASTR Yunqing Tang and Ruixiang Zhang won SASTRA Ramanujan Awards for 2022 and 2023 respectively. The SASTRA-Ramanujan Awards for 2022 and 2023 were presented, respectively, to Yunqing Tang and Ruixiang Zhang, both mathematicians at the University of California in Berkeley, at the SASTRA campus in Kumbakonam. Presenting the awards, T. Ramaswami, former Secretary, the Department of Science and Technology, paid glowing tributes to the genius of legendary Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, and highlighted the relevance of his contributions to the contemporary world.

The award, instituted by SASTRA in 2005, with a cash prize of USD 10,000 and a citation, is presented annually to individuals aged 32 and below, who have made outstanding contributions in the field of mathematics. The awards are presented on the birthday of Ramanujan.

The award is among the top awards for mathematics in the world.

**300. In December 2023, which country's navy has added two domestically produced sophisticated cruise missiles "Talaeieh" and "Nasir" to its arsenal?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, किस देश की नौसेना ने अपने शस्त्रागार में दो घरेलू निर्मित परिष्कृत कूज़ मिसाइलें "तालैयह" और "नासिर" शामिल की हैं?**

- (a) Iran / ईरान
- (b) Iraq / इराक
- (c) UAE / यूएई
- (d) Syria / सीरिया
- (e) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Iran's navy adds sophisticated cruise missiles 'Talaeieh and Nasir' to its armoury  
Iran's navy has added domestically produced sophisticated cruise missiles to its arsenal.

Both Talaeieh and Nasir cruise missiles have arrived at a naval base near the Indian Ocean in the southern Iranian port of Konarak, some 1,400 kilometers (850 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran.

The Talaeieh has a range of more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) and called it "fully smart". The cruise missile is capable of changing targets during travel.

The Nasi has a range of 100 kilometers (62 miles) and can be installed on warships.

### **About Iran**

- **Capital** – Tehran
- **Currency** – Rial
- **President** – Ebrahim Raisi

**301. Governance Day, or Sushasan Diwas is observed on December 25 every year to mark the anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In which year, he was honoured with the country's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna?**

**पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की जयंती के अवसर पर हर साल 25 दिसंबर को शासन दिवस या सुशासन दिवस मनाया जाता है। उन्हें किस वर्ष देश के सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान भारत रत्न से सम्मानित किया गया था?**

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2017
- (d) 2019
- (e) 2016

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 25 December - Good Governance Day

Governance Day, or Sushasan Diwas is observed on December 25 every year to mark the anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This year marks the 99th birth anniversary of the former PM.

The day is celebrated to create awareness about government accountability and administration among the people.

The purpose behind the Good Governance Day is to raise awareness among citizens, particularly the young generation, who are the country's future. To hold the government responsible and maintain good governance in the purest sense, it is critical that the citizens understand their roles and responsibilities.

Born on December 25, 1924, in Gwalior, present-day Madhya Pradesh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as the Indian Prime Minister thrice - first in 1996 for a term of 13 days, then for 13 months between 1998 and 1999, and later followed by a full term from 1999 to 2004. A renowned poet and writer, Vajpayee was the first-ever leader from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to become the Prime Minister of India.

In 2014, the newly-elected Narendra Modi government announced that December 25 would henceforth be called the "Good Governance Day", in honour of the former Prime Minister.

In 2015, he was honoured with the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour.

**302. National Farmers' Day is observed every year on which day?**

**राष्ट्रीय किसान दिवस हर साल किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 22 December / 22 दिसंबर
- (b) 23 December / 23 दिसंबर
- (c) 24 December / 24 दिसंबर
- (d) 25 December / 25 दिसंबर
- (e) 21 December / 21 दिसंबर

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** 23 December - National Farmers Day

National Farmers' Day, also known as 'Kisan Diwas', is observed every year on December 23 to celebrate the hard work and determination of the farmers.

This day was chosen to commemorate the occasion as it marks the birth anniversary of former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh who belonged to Uttar Pradesh and worked for the welfare of farmers of the nation.

**Theme** 2023 - Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience

Farmers' Day is also observed in other parts of the world. It is celebrated on the first Friday of December in Ghana, USA celebrates it on 12 October, in Zambia it is observed on the first Monday of August and Pakistan started celebrating the day on 18 December 2019.

Chaudhary Charan Singh, born in 1902 in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut, emerged from a humble peasant family. Serving as the prime minister from 1979 to 1980, he dedicated his life to championing the cause of farmers.

In 2001, recognizing his substantial contributions, the Indian government declared his birth anniversary as National Farmer's Day.

**303. National Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on which day?**

**राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 22 December / 22 दिसंबर
- (b) 23 December / 23 दिसंबर
- (c) 24 December / 24 दिसंबर
- (d) 25 December / 25 दिसंबर
- (e) 21 December / 21 दिसंबर

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** 24 December - National Consumer Rights Day

National Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on 24 December.

It is also referred to as Bhartiya Grahak Diwas. While the market runs on certain ethics and values, sometimes people can exploit us if we do not know our rights well enough.

The awareness of the rights helps us to maximize our benefits as a customer and enable an ethical flow of goods and services in the market. In 1986, the Consumer Protection Act was passed and it received the assent of the President on December 24. Since then, National Consumer Rights Day has been celebrated on this day to commemorate the occasion.

The Consumer Protection Act acts to protect consumers from defective goods, negligent services, and unfair trade practices.

**304. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) will invest up to Rs 675 crore on Bhogapuram greenfield international airport. Bhogapuram airport is located in which state?**

**राष्ट्रीय निवेश और बुनियादी ढांचा कोष (एनआईआईएफ) भोगापुरम ग्रीनफील्ड अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर 675 करोड़ रुपये तक का निवेश करेगा। भोगापुरम हवाई अड्डा किस राज्य में स्थित है?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** NIIF Plans To Invest Up To Rs 675 Crore Bhogapuram airport

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is planning to invest up to Rs 675 crore on the upcoming greenfield international airport at Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh, which is being developed by the GMR group. This marks NIIF's second airport investment, after the GMR Goa International Airport Ltd, which operates Manohar International Airport in Goa.

GMR Airports Ltd (GAL) -- a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd (GAIL) -- and NIIF have entered into binding agreements for the NIIF to invest up to Rs 6.75 billion (Rs 675 crore) in GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd (GVIAL). GVIAL -- a special purpose vehicle to develop and operate the Bhogapuram International Airport -- was in 2020 awarded the concession to develop and operate the Bhogapuram International Airport (BIA) to the north of Visakhapatnam under a 40-year design-build-finance-operate-and-transfer model.

**305. The United Nations has declared 2024 as the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने 2024 को \_\_\_\_\_ घोषित किया है।**

- (a) International Year of Alpaca / अल्पाका का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वर्ष
- (b) International Year of Procamelus / प्रोकैमेलस का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वर्ष
- (c) International Year of Chickadee / चिकडे का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वर्ष
- (d) International Year of Camelids / कैमेलिड्स का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वर्ष
- (e) International Year of Cheetah / चीता का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वर्ष

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** UN announces 2024 as International Year of Camelids

The United Nations has declared 2024 the International Year Of Camelids.

The decision has been taken to highlight the significant importance of camelids in the lives of people across the world. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), camelids influence the lives of millions of households in more than 90 countries. As a group Camelids include alpacas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, vicuñas which together help in ensuring food security, nutrition and economic growth especially for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Camelids play an important role in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) envisaged by the United Nations. Camelids are a source of milk and meat which helps people fight hunger. They also provide fibre which can be used for clothing and shelter.

Camelids are also used by people as a means of transportation. They also provide organic fertilizer which can be used in agriculture. Moreover, Camelids are known to survive in harsh conditions.

**306. Till December 2023, Digi Yatra, facial recognition tech, has been implemented at how many Indian airports?**

**दिसंबर 2023 तक, डिजी यात्रा, चेहरे की पहचान तकनीक, कितने भारतीय हवाई अड्डों पर लागू की गई है?**

- (a) 11
- (b) 12
- (c) 13
- (d) 14
- (e) 15

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Digi Yatra, facial recognition tech, implemented at 13 Indian airports

To save time of passengers during security check at airports, Government is continuously making efforts by increasing security equipment, security manpower and using advance technologies.

Digi Yatra, which provides for seamless and hassle-free experience for passengers at airports through biometric-based travel using Facial Recognition Technology has also been implemented at 13 airports and other airports will be covered in phased manner.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd) in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

**307. Uttar Pradesh will build India's first AI city in which city?****उत्तर प्रदेश किस शहर में भारत का पहला AI शहर बनाएगा?**

- (a) Ayodhya / अयोध्या
- (b) Ghaziabad / गाज़ियाबाद
- (c) Kanpur / कानपुर
- (d) Lucknow / लखनऊ
- (e) Noida / नोएडा

**Ans. d****Sol.** UP to build India's first AI city in Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh is set to establish the country's first AI city in Lucknow.

This initiative aims to create a thriving hub for artificial intelligence, integrating cutting-edge technology, research centers, and educational institutions to foster innovation and nurture the workforce of the future.

A report by Grand View Research pegged the global AI market size at \$137 billion in 2022 and is projected to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 37.3 percent from 2023 to 2030. Lucknow houses Centres of Excellence in areas like AI and MedTech (with extensive AI integration). The AI COE (centre in IIIT Lucknow) alone supports more than 15 AI/ML start-ups, nurturing a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship. The government will provide 40 acres in Nadarganj Industrial Area for the project, which is free from all encumbrances and supports land acquisition, zoning regulations, and other relevant clearances.

Financial support will be provided to the developer through attractive financial incentives, such as one-time Capex support of 25 percent up to ₹20 crore for IT Park and ₹100 crore for IT City, and 100 percent stamp duty exemption as per the IT and ITeS Policy, 2022.

**About Uttar Pradesh**

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

**308. Which bank has signed a \$165 million Line of Credit (LoC) from the World Bank to support grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic projects in residential and institutional sectors?**

**किस बैंक ने आवासीय और संस्थागत क्षेत्रों में ग्रिड से जुड़े छत सौर फोटोवोल्टिक परियोजनाओं का समर्थन करने के लिए विश्व बैंक से 165 मिलियन डॉलर की क्रेडिट लाइन (एलओसी) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) UCO Bank / यूको बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** SBI to sign \$165 million LoC with World Bank for rooftop solar projects

The country's biggest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a \$165 million Line of Credit (LoC) from the World Bank in Delhi to support grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic projects in residential and institutional sectors.

In September, SBI said that it plans to make home loans with rooftop solar installations mandatory for residential projects funded from the bank's long-term climate action funds drawn down from multilateral agencies.

The lender has outstanding forex loans of \$2.3 billion from multilateral agencies, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and KfW of Germany.

SBI is raising its exposure to green initiatives, including funding green buildings, battery recycling, and solar rooftop plans, among others.

SBI also signed Rs 1,800 crore in LoC with the European Investment Bank (EIB) to support climate action projects in the country.

On December 14, SBI signed Rs 630 crore in LoC with German Development Bank KfW to promote solar projects in India.

#### **Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector**

- Karur Vysya Bank, HDFC Life enter into corporate agency tie-up
- Aditya Birla Sun Life collaborates with IDFC First Bank for financial solutions
- Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with IIT Kanpur to launch Kotak School of Sustainability
- ICICI Pru Life, Ujjivan SFB enter into Bancassurance tie-up
- SBI signed 70-million-euro LoC with Germany Bank' KfW for solar projects

**309. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has approved a loan of how much crore rupees to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiatives in India?**

**जापान इंटरनेशनल कोऑपरेशन एजेंसी (JICA) ने भारत में सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (SDG) पहल का समर्थन करने के लिए कितने करोड़ रुपये के ऋण को मंजूरी दी है?**

- (a) 532 crore
- (b) 832 crore
- (c) 932 crore
- (d) 462 crore
- (e) 982 crore

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** JICA extends ₹932 crore loan to India to implement Sustainable Development Goals

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has finalized a loan of approximately ₹932 Crore to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiatives in India.

This loan will fund projects overseen by NITI Aayog. These projects are set to impact 112 aspirational districts and 500 aspirational blocks nationwide. The initiatives will concentrate on promoting policy actions, implementing effective practices, and enhancing the Japan-India partnership through the exchange of human resources.

Based on consultations with NITI Aayog, policy actions in five fields, such as health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure are prioritized and identified as policy matrix pillars are set in those fields. In January 2019, JICA had signed an initial loan agreement with India for about ₹950 crore, marking the first phase of the "Program for Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals in India.

As part of the second phase, running from April 2021 to March 2026, JICA will monitor and evaluate the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of these policy actions across three tranches.

**310. NABARD and which organization have launched an initiative to facilitate climate action in India's agriculture, natural resources, and rural development sector with tech support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation?**

**नाबार्ड और किस संगठन ने बिल और मेलिंडा गेट्स फाउंडेशन के तकनीकी सहयोग से भारत के कृषि, प्राकृतिक संसाधनों और ग्रामीण विकास क्षेत्र में जलवायु कार्रवाई को सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए एक पहल शुरू की है?**

- (a) International Monetary Fund / अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष
- (b) Asian Development Bank / एशियाई विकास बैंक
- (c) New Development Bank / न्यू डेवलपमेंट बैंक
- (d) African Development Bank / अफ्रीकी विकास बैंक
- (e) World Bank / विश्व बैंक

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** NABARD and ADB jointly launch climate action initiative Agri-lender National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have launched an initiative to facilitate climate action in India's agriculture, natural resources, and rural development sector. Under this initiative, a Technical Support Unit has been set up in Nabard with the partnership of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to enable the agri lender to address the challenges posed by climate change, particularly in the areas of agriculture and rural livelihood sectors in India. NABARD is committed to not just support rural financial institutions in India to identify and abate climate risks but also channel global pools of climate capital into India's ANR sector.

**About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**

- **Founded** - 12 July 1982
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - K V Shaji
- NABARD established on the recommendations of B. Sivaramman Committee

**311. Which Insurance Company has introduced a new insurance product known as T.U.L.I.P (Term with Unit Linked Insurance Plan)?**

**किस बीमा कंपनी ने T.U.L.I.P (टर्म विद यूनिट लिंक्ड इंश्योरेंस प्लान) नामक एक नया बीमा उत्पाद पेश किया है?**

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance / बजाज आलियांज जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (b) Bharti AXA General Insurance / भारती एक्सा जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (c) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance / कोटक महिंद्रा लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (d) Go Digit General Insurance / गो डिजिट जनरल इंश्योरेंस
- (e) Universal Sompo General Insurance / यूनिवर्सल सोम्पो जनरल इंश्योरेंस

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance introduces the unveiling of T.U.L.I.P.

Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company has introduced a new insurance product known as T.U.L.I.P – Term with Unit Linked Insurance Plan.

This is a unit-linked term insurance plan designed to provide life coverage up to 100 times the annual premium, allowing customers to potentially earn returns similar to a unit-linked insurance plan (ULIP).

In addition to life coverage, it offers extra protection against critical illnesses and accidental death

TULIP offers our customers comprehensive protection like a term plan and also the opportunity to grow their wealth like a ULIP. It is aimed at taking care of our customer's core financial needs.

MD of Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company - Mahesh Balasubramanian

#### **Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- RBL Bank Introduces **Electronic Bank Guarantee on NeSL Platform**
- Reliance General Insurance unveils '**Reliance Health Global**'
- IndusInd Bank introduces '**Indus Solitaire Program**' for the Diamond Industry
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance launches '**Alpha Wealth**' plan with option to alter premiums
- IDFC FIRST Bank, LIC Cards, and Mastercard to **co-launch Credit card**

**312. In December 2023, Japanese conglomerate SoftBank sold shares worth \_\_\_\_\_ in omnichannel retailer FirstCry.**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, जापानी समूह सॉफ्टबैंक ने ओमनीचैनल रिटेलर फर्स्टक्राई में \_\_\_\_\_ मूल्य के शेयर बेचे।**

- (a) \$300 million
- (b) \$310 million
- (c) \$320 million
- (d) \$330 million
- (e) \$340 million

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** SoftBank sells shares worth \$310 mn in FirstCry

Japanese conglomerate SoftBank has sold shares worth \$310 million in omnichannel retailer FirstCry, which is likely to file a draft paper for IPO this week.

SoftBank recently sold shares worth Rs 630 crore in FirstCry. It was picked up by a few high-net-worth individuals.

With this sale, SoftBank has realized \$310 million from two rounds of stake sale in FirstCry. SoftBank had invested \$400 million in FirstCry at an enterprise valuation of \$900 million and SoftBank is still left with shares valued in the range of \$800-900 million which it will sell later.

### 313. Who has been appointed as the interim MD and CEO of Merger-bound North East Small Finance Bank?

विलय होने वाले नॉर्थ ईस्ट स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक के अंतरिम एमडी और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Satish Kumar Kalra / सतीश कुमार कालरा
- (b) Neeraj Akhoury / नीरज अखौरी
- (c) Pramod Sharma / प्रमोद शर्मा
- (d) Parminder Chopra / परमिंदर चोपड़ा
- (e) Anant Maheshwari / अनंत माहेश्वरी

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** North East SFB appoints Satish Kumar Kalra as interim MD & CEO Merger-bound North East Small Finance Bank has appointed Satish Kumar Kalra as interim MD and CEO, following the approval of the bank's board and the Reserve Bank of India. Kalra was earlier MD, CEO (in-charge), and Executive Director at Andhra Bank, which was later merged with Union Bank of India. RBI had granted its no-objection certificate (NOC) for the proposed merger of the small finance bank with Fintech Slice in October 2023.

#### Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **MD of State Bank of India** - Vinay M. Tonse (till 2025; for 2 years)
- **Director of Jio Financial Services** - Isha Ambani, Anshuman Thakur, and Hitesh Kumar Sethia
- **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - Ashok Vaswani (replace Dipak Gupta) effect from 1 Jan 2024
- **Executive Director of Bank of Maharashtra** - Rohit Rishi (replace Asheesh Pandey)

**314. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)?**

**बॉम्बे स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (बीएसई) के नए अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) Pramod Agrawal / प्रमोद अग्रवाल
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Tablesh Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** SEBI approves Pramod Agrawal's appointment as BSE Chairman

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the appointment of Pramod Agrawal as the new Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

Agrawal's tenure will start on January 17, 2024, as per a regulatory filing by the stock exchange.

He will replace SS Mundra.

Agrawal, a former IAS officer, previously held the position of Chairman at Coal India till June 2023.

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Executive Director (ED) of ICICI Bank** - Sandeep Batra
- **CEO of Indifi Technologies** - Sangram Singh
- **Part-time member of PFRDA Board** - Parama Sen (replace Anne George)
- **Chairman of Max Life Insurance** - Rajiv Anand (replace Analjit Singh)
- **Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** - Jithesh John

**315. India recorded their maiden victory against Australia in a women's test match at which stadium since the teams first clashed in the longest format in 1977?**

**1977 में सबसे लंबे प्रारूप में टीमों पहली बार भिड़ने के बाद भारत ने किस स्टेडियम में महिला टेस्ट मैच में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ अपनी पहली जीत दर्ज की है?**

- (a) Wankhede Stadium / वानखेड़े स्टेडियम
- (b) Eden Gardens / ईडन गार्डन्स
- (c) M. Chinnaswamy Stadium / एम. चिन्नास्वामी स्टेडियम
- (d) Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium / राजीव गांधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्टेडियम
- (e) Arun Jaitley Stadium / अरुण जेटली स्टेडियम

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Indian women records maiden historic Test win over Australia

India recorded their maiden victory against Australia in a women's test match at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai with their comprehensive eight-wicket win in the one-off contest.

India had taken control of the match with a commanding 187-run lead in the first innings. They needed just 75 runs to win the match after bowling Australia out for 261 in the second innings.

India reached the target just after lunch losing two wickets. This is India's first victory against Australia in 11 tests since the teams first clashed in the longest format in 1977.

Off-spinner Sneh Rana was chosen player of the match for her seven-wicket haul.

**316. Consider the statements about the INS Imphal that were commissioned recently**

**(i) The Indian Navy commissioned its latest stealth-guided missile destroyer INS Imphal at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.**

**(ii) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was the Chief Guest at the event.**

**(iii) It is the second warship to have been named after a city from the Northeastern region.**

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) only i & ii
- (d) only ii & iii
- (e) All are correct

**Ans. c**

**Sol. INS Imphal, India's first warship named after a northeastern state, commissioned**

**INS Imphal** (Pennant D68), the third of four warships of Project 15B that together form the Visakhapatnam class stealth-guided missile destroyers, is set to be commissioned into the Indian Navy in Mumbai.

The move aimed at boosting its maritime capability amid China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean region.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was the Chief Guest at the event.

It is the first warship to have been named after a city from the Northeastern region, the approval for which was accorded by the President in April 2019.

The naming of the ship after the capital city of Manipur underlines the importance of the Northeastern region for national security and prosperity.

A guided missile destroyer with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and overall length of 164 meters, Imphal is a potent and versatile platform equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship missiles and torpedoes.

Powered by Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) propulsion, the ship is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots (56 km/hour).

The ship boasts of a high indigenous content of approximately 75 per cent that includes BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers and 76mm super rapid gun mount.

**What is Project 15B?**

- Between 2014 and 2016, the Indian Navy commissioned three guided missile destroyers of Kolkata class under a project codenamed '15A'.
- The Kolkata class included INS Kolkata, INS Kochi and INS Chennai. These ships were a step ahead of their precursor Delhi class of ships, which included INS Delhi, INS Mysore and INS Mumbai, built under Project 15 and commissioned between 1997 and 2001.
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), one of India's key Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), has built all these ships. A ship class signifies a group of ships built with similar tonnage, usage, capabilities and weaponry.

**317. Marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated UP's first intra-district helicopter service from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.**

पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की जयंती के अवसर पर, उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने \_\_\_\_\_ से \_\_\_\_\_ तक यूपी की पहली इंटर-डिस्ट्रिक्ट हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा का उद्घाटन किया है।

- (a) Agra to Ayodhya / आगरा से अयोध्या
- (b) Agra to Kanpur / आगरा से कानपुर
- (c) Agra to Varanasi / आगरा से वाराणसी
- (d) Agra to Mathura / आगरा से मथुरा
- (e) Agra to Noida / आगरा से नोएडा

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** UP CM inaugurated state's first intra-district chopper service

Marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated UP's first intra-district helicopter service from Bateshwar in Agra to Goverdhan in Mathura.

Based on the private-public partnership (PPP), the helicopter service is to be run by a private player from Uttrakhand. A helicopter service will cover a distance of 65 km between Agra city and Mathura. CM Yogi Adityanath also unveiled a statue of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary in his native village Bateshwar in Agra district. UP CM also laid the foundation stone of projects worth ₹100 crore, which are aimed at bringing new life to Bateshwar, a historical village located amid the ravines of Chambal across the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

### **About Uttar Pradesh**

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

**318. Which category of workers is the Telangana government will provide Rs 5 lakh for accident insurance?**

**तेलंगाना सरकार किस श्रेणी के श्रमिकों को दुर्घटना बीमा के लिए 5 लाख रुपये प्रदान करेगी?**

- (a) Street Vendors
- (b) Gig Workers
- (c) Doctors
- (d) Youtubers
- (e) Social Workers

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Telangana introduced Rs 5 lakh accident insurance for Gig Workers

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced, government will provide Rs 5 lakh for accident insurance to gig workers such as those involved in food delivery, and driving cabs and autorickshaws.

The government would also provide Rs 10 lakh health cover under the 'Rajiv Arogyasri' scheme.

The state government will provide social security to workers in the unorganized sectors and will make a policy decision in this direction.

Reddy promised that the state government would study the existing policy for gig workers in Rajasthan and introduce an effective law in the next state budget session.

**About Telangana**

- **Established** – 2 June 2014
- **Capital** – Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister** – Revanth Reddy (replace K. Chandrashekar Rao)
- **Deputy CM** - Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka
- **Governor** – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- **Speaker of Telangana Assembly** – Gaddam Prasad Kumar
- **Legislative Assembly Seats** - 119

**319. Who has launched MedTech Mitra - a strategic initiative to empower MedTech innovators?**

**मेडटेक इनोवेटर्स को सशक्त बनाने के लिए एक रणनीतिक पहल - मेडटेक मित्रा किसने लॉन्च की है?**

- (a) Anurag Thakur / अनुराग ठाकुर
- (b) Piyush Goyal / पीयूष गोयल
- (c) Jitendra Singh / जितेंद्र सिंह
- (d) Suresh Prabhu / सुरेश प्रभु
- (e) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya / डॉ. मनसुख मंडाविया

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Health Minister launched 'MedTech Mitra' to advance health Solution.

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has virtually launched MedTech Mitra - a strategic initiative to empower MedTech innovators and advance healthcare solutions.

It will be a game-changer for Indian MedTech industry and facilitate indigenous development of affordable, quality MedTech devices and diagnostics.

He said the medical devices sector is an integral constituent of India's healthcare sector. He also said India is taking a holistic approach to health with a vision to transform the health landscape in the country by 2047.

**Mansukh Mandaviya in News**

- Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates Global Food Regulators Summit 2023
- Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated National Food Safety & Standards Training Centre
- Mansukh Mandaviya and Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off Jan Aushadhi train as part of the week-long celebrations to commemorate the scheme

**320. Which company has signed a contract for a value of Rs 445 Cr with the UP Government for the next-generation UP Dial 112 project?**

**किस कंपनी ने अगली पीढ़ी की यूपी डायल 112 परियोजना के लिए यूपी सरकार के साथ 445 करोड़ रुपये के अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited / हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड
- (b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited / भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड
- (c) Hindustan Unilever Limited / हिंदुस्तान यूनिलीवर लिमिटेड
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems / टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स
- (e) Bharat Electronics Limited / भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Bharat Electronics Secures ₹445 Cr Deal For UP Dial 112 Project

Navratna DPSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a contract for a value of Rs 445 Cr with the UP Government for next generation UP Dial 112 project.

BEL will be providing comprehensive and state-of-art hardware, AI based software tools and Cyber Security solutions for the Dial 112 project, which is spread across the entire state of Uttar Pradesh.

The company has also received additional orders worth Rs 233 Cr. these orders pertain to Communication Display Units, Thermal Imaging cameras, and other miscellaneous spares & services.

BEL has cumulatively received orders worth Rs.26,613 Cr in the current financial year 2023-24.

**Recent MoU**

- Ministry of Rural Development signed with JioMart to Self-Help Groups' Products
- Tata Power ties up with Indian Oil to set up over 500 EV charging stations
- RITES signed pact with CFM Mozambique for 10 diesel locomotive supply
- THDC India inks pact to develop renewable energy projects in Karnataka
- IBM inks 3 pacts with IT Ministry on semiconductor, AI, Q-computing

**321. India will acquire five Lithium Blocks in which country?****भारत किस देश में पांच लिथियम ब्लॉक का अधिग्रहण करेगा?**

- (a) Mangolia / मंगोलिया
- (b) Ghana / घाना
- (c) Argentina / अर्जेन्टीना
- (d) Namibia / नामीबिया
- (e) Oman / ओमान

**Ans. c****Sol.** India to Acquire Five Lithium Blocks in Argentina

The Indian government is planning to enter into exploration and development agreements with the Argentina government for five lithium blocks that have been identified by Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL) in Catamarca province.

The Centre will be investing around Rs 200 crore over the next five years for the purpose of exploring and developing these mines.

This marks India's second attempt at signing a foreign partnership for sourcing critical minerals after previously signing a memorandum of understanding with Australia's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) in 2022.

The 2022 agreement allowed India to explore five blocks, two for lithium and three for cobalt.

Argentina boasts 21 percent of the world's 98 million tonne lithium reserves, which makes it the second-largest lithium reserve after Bolivia, according to the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Lithium Statistics and Information 2023 report.

These reserves are present in salt flats located in Salta, Catamarca and Jujuy provinces, which together form part of the Lithium Triangle.

**About Argentina**

- Capital- Buenos Aires
- Currency- Argentine Peso
- President - Javier Milei
- National sport- Pato

**322. Which country will implement a new carbon import levy on some products from 2027 to help protect businesses against cheaper imports from countries with less strict climate policies?**

**कौन सा देश कम सख्त जलवायु नीतियों वाले देशों से सस्ते आयात के खिलाफ व्यवसायों को बचाने में मदद करने के लिए 2027 से कुछ उत्पादों पर एक नया कार्बन आयात लेवी लागू करेगा?**

- (a) France / फ्रांस
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Canada / कनाडा

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** UK to introduce carbon import levy on certain products by 2027 United Kingdom will implement a new carbon import levy on some products from 2027 to help to protect businesses against cheaper imports from countries with less strict climate policies. The planned carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) will apply to carbon-intensive products in the iron, steel, aluminium, fertiliser, hydrogen, ceramics, glass and cement sectors. The charge applied will depend on the amount of carbon emitted in the production of the imported good and any gap between the carbon price applied in the country of origin and the carbon price faced by UK producers. Britain, which has a target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050, launched an emissions trading system (ETS) in 2021 to charge power plants, factories and airlines for each tonne of carbon dioxide they emit as part of efforts to meet that goal.

**About United Kingdom (UK)**

- **Capital** - London
- **Currency** - Pound sterling
- **Prime Minister** – Rishi Sunak

**323. Education loans registered a record year-on-year growth of how much percent at ₹1,10,715 crore in the current financial year till October compared with ₹96,853 crore in the year-ago period?**

**चालू वित्त वर्ष में अक्टूबर तक शिक्षा ऋण में कितने प्रतिशत की वार्षिक वृद्धि दर्ज की गई, जो कि अक्टूबर तक ₹1,10,715 करोड़ थी, जबकि एक साल पहले की अवधि में यह ₹96,853 करोड़ थी?**

- (a) 12.6%
- (b) 30.6%
- (c) 40.6%
- (d) 20.6%
- (e) 26.6%

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Education Loans Experience 20.6% Spike From April To October Education loans registered a record year-on-year growth of 20.6 percent at ₹1,10,715 crore in the current financial year till October compared with ₹96,853 crore in the year-ago period. According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the spurt in education loans was the highest in the last five years. The growth registered in the comparable period was 12.3 percent FY23 and (-) 3.1 percent in FY22.

For the last one year, foreign education loans with an average ticket size of ₹40 lakh-60 lakh accounted for nearly 65 percent of loans disbursed.

Loans for education in the US are on the higher side. The US Embassy and its consulates in India issued a record 1.40 lakh student visas between October 2022 and September 2023 this year.

**324. Which state police will launch a new initiative, "Mission Investigation@75 days" to complete the investigation of cases within 75 days of FIR registration starting from January 1, 2024?**

**कौन सी राज्य पुलिस 1 जनवरी, 2024 से एफआईआर दर्ज होने के 75 दिनों के भीतर मामलों की जांच पूरी करने के लिए एक नई पहल, "मिशन इन्वेस्टिगेशन@75 डेज़" शुरू करेगी?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Bihar / बिहार
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Punjab / पंजाब
- (e) Haryana / हरियाणा

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Bihar Police to launch 'Mission Investigation@75 days'

Bihar Police will launch a new initiative, "Mission Investigation@75 days", making it mandatory for investigators to complete the investigation of cases within 75 days of FIR registration starting from January 1 next year.

The Bihar government is preparing to take several measures from January 1, 2024 to make the state police more people-friendly and accountable. Our main focus is to improve the quality of investigation.

The performance of all police stations and district police will also be reviewed on a monthly basis from January 1.

### **About Bihar**

- **Capital** – Patna
- **Chief Minister** – Nitish Kumar
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**325. Which bank has launched the 'eSvarna' credit card that is India's first Corporate Credit Card on the RuPay network?**

**किस बैंक ने 'ईस्वर्ण' क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च किया है जो RuPay नेटवर्क पर भारत का पहला कॉर्पोरेट क्रेडिट कार्ड है?**

- (a) Federal Bank / फेडरल बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Yes Bank / यस बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) IndusInd Bank / इंडसइंड बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** IndusInd Bank launches 'eSvarna' credit card

IndusInd Bank has launched the 'IndusInd Bank eSvarna', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.

This launch positions IndusInd Bank as the first in the country to integrate UPI functionality with a Corporate Credit Card.

The card facilitates transactions at merchant outlets and allows users the flexibility to make UPI payments by linking the card with UPI-enabled apps.

The IndusInd Bank eSvarna credit card on the RuPay network comes with perks and rewards.

#### **IndusInd Bank**

- **Founded** - 1994
- **Founder** - S.P. Hinduja
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- **MD & CEO** - Sumant Kathpalia
- **Tagline** - We Make You Feel Richer

#### **Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance launched **T.U.L.I.P (Term with Unit Linked Insurance Plan)** Product
- RBL Bank Introduces **Electronic Bank Guarantee on NeSL Platform**
- Reliance General Insurance unveils '**Reliance Health Global**'
- IndusInd Bank introduces '**Indus Solitaire Program**' for the Diamond Industry
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance launches '**Alpha Wealth**' plan with option to alter premiums

**326. Which company has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO),**

**that is the first issue by an automaker in the country in more than 20 years?**

किस कंपनी ने प्रारंभिक सार्वजनिक पेशकश (आईपीओ) के माध्यम से धन जुटाने के लिए पूंजी बाजार नियामक सेबी के साथ प्रारंभिक कागजात दाखिल किए हैं, जो कि 20 से अधिक वर्षों में देश में किसी वाहन निर्माता द्वारा पहला निर्गम है?

- (a) Ola / ओला
- (b) Uber / उबर
- (c) Rapido / रैपिडो
- (d) Dunzo / डंज़ो
- (e) inDrive / इनड्राइव

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Ola Electric files IPO papers with Sebi; first by auto company in 20 years

Electric two-wheeler company Ola Electric has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO)– the first issue by an automaker in the country in more than 20 years.

The proposed IPO is a fresh issue of equity shares up to Rs 5,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 9.52 crore equity shares by promoters and investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for capital expenditure to be incurred by the subsidiary, OCT for the Ola Gigafactory project, payment of debt by subsidiary OET, investment into research and product development, expenditure for organic growth initiatives, and general corporate purposes.

**327. Which bank has approved \$100 Mn for Skill Development in Sikkim?****किस बैंक ने सिक्किम में कौशल विकास के लिए \$100 मिलियन की मंजूरी दी है?**

- (a) International Monetary Fund / अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष
- (b) Asian Development Bank / एशियाई विकास बैंक
- (c) New Development Bank / न्यू डेवलपमेंट बैंक
- (d) African Development Bank / अफ्रीकी विकास बैंक
- (e) World Bank / विश्व बैंक

**Ans. e****Sol.** World Bank Approves \$100 Mn For Skill Development In Sikkim

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a new project to support the state of Sikkim's efforts to train, upskill, and provide jobs for 300,500 women and youth in high-growth and priority sectors.

Sikkim has been one of the fastest-growing states in India. While over 40 percent of youth are currently engaged in agriculture, the state has a growing manufacturing and services industry.

To sustain growth, the state aims to skill its women and youth in jobs in non-farm sectors like renewable energy, information and technology (IT) services, tourism, hospitality and wellness care, and creative design.

The \$100 million Sikkim: Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Reviving Economies (INSPIRES) Operation will establish an Employment and Entrepreneurship Promotion Facility, which will promote partnerships with private-sector firms, central agencies, and business associations.

In addition, the project will provide staff trainings and build public procurement capacity across priority state departments.

**Recent Loan Approved by World Bank**

- World Bank approved \$300 million for Tamil Nadu to help 21 Urban Local Bodies
- World Bank approves \$ 1.5 bn financing for India's low-carbon transition
- World Bank approves \$391 million for Assam, Tripura
- World Bank approves \$150-million loan for Resilient Kerala programme

**328. Beverage major Coca-Cola has extended its partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC) till \_\_\_\_\_.  
पेय पदार्थ बनाने वाली प्रमुख कंपनी कोका-कोला ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट परिषद (ICC) के साथ अपनी साझेदारी को \_\_\_\_\_ तक बढ़ा दिया है।**

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2027
- (d) 2032
- (e) 2031

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Coca-Cola extends partnership with ICC till 2031

Beverage major Coca-Cola has extended its partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC) for eight years, encompassing ICC World events across all three formats, up until the end of 2031. This eight-year partnership as a Global Partner of the ICC confirmed the collaboration as one of the longest-ever associations formed by the ICC with a single brand, spanning a total timeline of 13 years (2019-2031).

The partnership will see the Coca-Cola Company's brands becoming exclusive non-alcoholic beverage partners. The agreement includes all men's and women's events at the pinnacle of the sport including the ICC Cricket World Cups, ICC T20 World Cups, and ICC Champions Trophies through to the end of 2031.

#### **About International Cricket Council (ICC)**

- The International Cricket Council is the global governing body of cricket.
- It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 by representatives from Australia, England and South Africa.
- It was renamed as the International Cricket Conference in 1965, and took up its current name in 1987.
- **Formation** - 15 June 1909
- **Headquarters** - Dubai, UAE
- **Chairman** - Greg Barclay (New Zealand)
- **Deputy Chairman** - Imran Khwaja (Singapore)
- **CEO** - Geoff Allardice (Australia)
- **General Manager** – Wasim Khan
- **Membership** - 108 members

**329. International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed every year on which day?**

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महामारी तैयारी दिवस हर वर्ष किस दिन मनाया जाता है?**

- (a) 27 December / 27 दिसंबर
- (b) 28 December / 28 दिसंबर
- (c) 29 December / 29 दिसंबर
- (d) 30 December / 30 दिसंबर
- (e) 31 December / 31 दिसंबर

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** 27 December - International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed every year on 27 December.

This special day encourages everyone, including individuals, institutions, and governments, to participate in educational and awareness activities that suit their country's needs.

It emphasizes how crucial it is to prevent, prepare for and work together against outbreaks like diseases.

The United Nations proclaimed on December 7, 2020, that December 27 would be the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness.

The first-ever International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was organised on December 27, 2020, to show how important it is to be ready for and fight against epidemics.

**330. Dr Uttam Pacharne passed away recently at the age of 67. Who was she?**

**डॉ. उत्तम पचर्ने का हाल ही में 67 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थीं?**

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Politician / राजनेता
- (c) Sculptor / मूर्तिकार
- (d) Social Worker / सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता
- (e) Historian / इतिहासकार

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Sculptor Dr. Uttam Pacharne Passed Away

Renowned sculptor and former Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi Dr Uttam Pacharne passed away at the age of 67.

Born on June 2, 1956, at Chakhalewadi village in Ahmednagar, Pacharne topped the Art Teacher's course Diploma in Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya, Pune, in 1976, and then did his course in Sculpture & Modelling from the prestigious Sir J. J. School of Art in Mumbai.

He bagged the National Lalit Kala Akademi Award and Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar (1985), Junior National Award in memory of the late PM Indira Gandhi (1986), medals, honours and other accolades during his career of over four decades. He was appointed Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi (2018) for a 3-year term and was the President of the Bombay Art Society and other bodies in various capacities.

Dr Pacharne's big and small sculptures adorn different locations in India and abroad, including the White Tiger Regiment at Jhansi (1980), Swami Vivekananda statue, Mumbai (1981), standing Buddha and Dr B. R. Ambedkar statue, both in Dhule (2002), Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj statue in south Mumbai, (2003), Swatantrya Jyot at Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2004), freedom fighter Govindbhai Shroff in Aurangabad (2007), among many more.

**331. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) has paid a dividend of how much rupees to the government for Financial Year 2022-23?**

**टेलीकॉम कंसल्टेंट्स इंडिया लिमिटेड (TCIL) ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2022-23 के लिए सरकार को कितने रुपये का लाभांश दिया है?**

- (a) 4.20 crore
- (b) 14.20 crore
- (c) 16.20 crore
- (d) 24.20 crore
- (e) 34.20 crore

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** TCIL pays Rs 14.20 crore dividend to the Government for FY 2022-23

Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) has paid a dividend of Rs 14.20 crore to the government for Financial Year 2022-23. Since its inception, the TCIL has been a consistently profit-making Company. It has so far paid dividend of Rs 294.19 crore to the Government till FY 2022-23. The dividend is on Government's initial investment in equity of Rs 0.3 Crore. Rs 16 crore was further infused during 2015-16. The group and standalone net worth of the company are Rs 1,712.00 crore and Rs 618.56 crore respectively as on 31st March 2023. In FY 2022-23, the TCIL achieved a revenue growth of 25 per cent over previous year with total Standalone revenue and profit after tax of Rs 2,001.7 crore and Rs 35.50 crore respectively.

Established in August, 1978, TCIL is a Mini Ratna Category – I Status Company under the Department of Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications. Government of India holds 100 per cent of its share capital.

It is a prime engineering and consultancy company which undertakes projects in all field of Telecommunications, IT and Civil construction in India and abroad. The TCIL has executed projects in over 70 countries across globe.

The Company is also executing high value Government of India prestigious projects of Rural ICT for Department of Posts, NFS for Defence, Navy Network, Bharatnet Project for APSFL, Telangana Fiber, BBNL VSAT, Indian Coast Guard, MHA, CCTV Surveillance Projects for State Police, Smart Cities, Railways, e-education and e-Health Projects, etc.

Chairman & Managing Director of TCIL Shri Sanjeev Kumar

**332. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become first world leader to have \_\_\_\_\_ YouTube subscribers.**  
**प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी \_\_\_\_\_ YouTube ग्राहक रखने वाले पहले विश्व नेता बन गए हैं।**

- (a) 10 million
- (b) 20 million
- (c) 30 million
- (d) 40 million
- (e) 50 million

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** PM Narendra Modi becomes first world leader to have 20 million YouTube subscribers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's YouTube channel has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 20 million subscriptions, making it the most subscribed channel among top global leaders.

The second-ranking leader is former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, whose subscriber count stands at a modest 6.4 million, merely a fraction of Modi's.

The third most-subscribed channel among world leaders is the Ukraine President is far behind at 1.1 million. Whereas fourth on the list, United States President Joe Biden has a subscriber count of only 794,000 on his YouTube channel.

Moreover, when it comes to views, Modi's channel continues to dominate, recording an impressive 2.24 billion views in December 2023. This figure is an astonishing 43 times higher than that of Zelenskyy, who holds the second-highest number of views globally.

Some other world leaders with the highest YouTube subscribers are Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan with 419,000 subscribers, France's Emmanuel Macron with 316,000 subscribers, Argentina's Alberto Fernández with 81,200 subscribers and Canada's Justine Trudeau with 69,600 subscribers.

PM Modi's YouTube channel crossed 10 million subscribers in February 2022.

**333. India and Russia have signed pacts on construction of future power units of Kudankulam nuclear plant. Kudankulam nuclear plant is located in which state?**

भारत और रूस ने कुडनकुलम परमाणु संयंत्र की भविष्य की बिजली इकाइयों के निर्माण पर समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। कुडनकुलम परमाणु संयंत्र किस राज्य में स्थित है?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Kerala / केरल

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India, Russia ink pacts on construction of future power units

India and Russia have signed some "very important" agreements related to the construction of the future power-generating units of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant.

The Kudankulam nuclear power plant, India's largest, is being built in Tamil Nadu with the technical assistance of Russia.

The construction began in March 2002. Since February 2016, the first power unit of the Kudankulam NPP has been steadily operating at its design capacity of 1,000 MW.

The plant is expected to start operating at full capacity in 2027.

**Recently India signed MoUs with others countries**

- India provides \$250 million Line of Credit to Kenya for agricultural modernisation
- India and US sign MoU to connect dynamic startup ecosystems
- India and UAE sign MoU to Strengthen Educational Ties
- Cabinet approves pact between India & Japan on Semiconductor Supply Chain
- India and Tanzania agree on 5-year roadmap for defence cooperation

**334. Which state 's road transport has launched logistics business under the brand name "Namma Cargo' to carry parcels in the state?**

**किस राज्य के सड़क परिवहन ने राज्य में पार्सल ले जाने के लिए "नम्मा कार्गो" ब्रांड नाम के तहत लॉजिस्टिक्स व्यवसाय शुरू किया है?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Karnataka / कर्नाटक
- (e) Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** KSRTC Unveils 'Namma Cargo' Logistics In Karnataka

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has entered into logistics business under the brand name "Namma Cargo' to carry parcels in KSRTC route buses. The deployment of 20 cargo trucks to kickstart the 'Namma Cargo' services in various districts across the state. The Namma Cargo trucks have GPS for goods transportation.

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with KMS Coach Builders Private Limited for lending its cargo trucks services on a rental basis for two months. To Namma Cargo services inducted 100 trucks in a month while the number of cargo trucks will go upto 500 in a year. To begin with, Basaveshwara bus station at Peenya in Bengaluru city will be used as a depot for operation and maintenance of cargo trucks.

**About Karnataka**

- **Capital** – Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister** – Siddaramaiah
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - DK Shivakumar
- **Governor** – Thawar Chand Gehlot

**335. The Ayodhya Railway Junction in Uttar Pradesh has been officially renamed as \_\_\_\_\_.**

**उत्तर प्रदेश में अयोध्या रेलवे जंक्शन का आधिकारिक तौर पर नाम बदलकर \_\_\_\_\_ कर दिया गया है।**

- (a) Ayodhya Dham Junction / अयोध्या धाम जंक्शन।
- (b) Ayodhya Nagri Junction / अयोध्या नगरी जंक्शन
- (c) Ayodhya Ram Junction / अयोध्या राम जंक्शन।
- (d) Ayodhya Gadi Junction / अयोध्या गढ़ी जंक्शन।
- (e) Ayodhya Nagar Junction / अयोध्या नगर जंक्शन

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Ayodhya Train Station Renamed As Ayodhya Dham

The Ayodhya railway junction in Uttar Pradesh has been officially renamed as Ayodhya Dham junction.

The redeveloped station is set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi on December 30 in Ayodhya, before the highly anticipated consecration ceremony at the Ram temple on January 22. The Ayodhya Dham Railway Station is undergoing development in three phases. The first phase has been successfully completed. The station, with a total cost of ₹430 crore, is designed to accommodate up to 100,000 passengers. Its architecture blends modern solutions with the aesthetics of traditional Indian temple architecture.

This station stands out for its well-planned facilities that go beyond typical railway stations, with special attention to services like the Infant Care Room for babies and a dedicated sick room for first aid. The station also has a passenger facilities desk, tourist information centre, and the country's largest concourse. The first floor will host the country's largest concourse once all three phases are complete, covering an impressive 7,200 square metres. You will find additional facilities like a food plaza, waiting hall, toilets, drinking water stations, escalators, lifts, staff rooms, shops, waiting rooms, and an entry footbridge.

The middle floor includes various facilities such as retiring rooms, dormitories, lodging rooms, and spaces for station staff.

#### **About Uttar Pradesh**

- **Capital** - Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** - Anandiben Patel

**336. In December 2023, Muthoot FinCorp has raised ₹200 crore from which bank via the private placement of non-convertible debentures (NCDs)?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, मुथूट फिनकॉर्प ने गैर-परिवर्तनीय डिबेंचर (एनसीडी) के निजी प्लेसमेंट के माध्यम से किस बैंक से ₹200 करोड़ जुटाए हैं?**

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) Yes Bank / यस बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Muthoot FinCorp raises ₹200 crore from SBI via NCDs

Muthoot FinCorp, the flagship company of the 136-year-old Muthoot Pappachan Group (Muthoot Blue), has raised ₹200 crore from State Bank of India, via the private placement of non-convertible debentures (NCDs).

The debt securities have a five-year maturity and half-yearly frequency for interest payment. They are rated 'AA' by Crisil with a 'stable' outlook.

Proceeds of this will be utilised for onward lending, business operations and further expansion and growth plan.

The NBFC has over 3,600 branches across India and offers gold loans, Vyapar Mitra business loans, two-wheeler loans, used car loans, home Loans, loan against property, domestic and international money transfer, foreign exchange, Insurance, and wealth management services.

CEO of Muthoot FinCorp - Shaji Varghese

**337. India's current account deficit declined sharply to \_\_\_\_\_ of the GDP in the second quarter of financial year 2023-24.**

**वित्तीय वर्ष 2023-24 की दूसरी तिमाही में भारत का चालू खाता घाटा तेजी से घटकर सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का \_\_\_\_\_ हो गया।**

- (a) 0.5%
- (b) 1%
- (c) 1.5%
- (d) 2%
- (e) 1.8%

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Current account gap narrows to 1% of GDP at \$8.3 bn in Q2FY24: RBI

India's current account deficit declined sharply to 1 percent of the GDP or \$8.3 billion in the second quarter of this financial year, mainly due to lower merchandise trade deficit and growth in services exports, according to RBI data. The current account deficit (CAD) was 3.8 percent of GDP or \$30.9 billion in the July-September quarter in 2022-23.

CAD was \$9.2 billion or 1.1 percent of GDP in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year 2023-24. Underlying the lower current account deficit on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis in Q2:2023-24 was the narrowing of merchandise trade deficit to \$61.0 billion from \$78.3 billion in Q2:2022-23.

Services exports grew by 4.2 percent on a y-o-y basis on the back of rising exports of software, business, and travel services.

Net services receipts increased both sequentially and on a y-o-y basis.

**338. Who has been appointed by Sony Sports Network as its brand ambassador for football?**

**सोनी स्पोर्ट्स नेटवर्क ने फुटबॉल के लिए किसे अपना ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया है?**

- (a) Kiara Advani / कियारा अडवाणी
- (b) Karan Johar / करण जौहर
- (c) Kartik Aaryan / कार्तिक आर्यन
- (d) Varun Dhawan / वरुण धवन
- (e) Vicky Kaushal / विकी कौशल

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Kartik Aaryan signed as Brand Ambassador for Football

Sony Sports Network has roped in Bollywood actor and youth icon Kartik Aaryan, who is known to be an avid football follower, as their brand ambassador for football. Kartik will be seen promoting the footballing action on the Sony Sports Network, which will be home to the UEFA EURO 2024, the UEFA Champions League, the Bundesliga and more for the year ahead. This strategic partnership aims to bring football closer to a wider Indian audience and ignite passion for the sport across generations.

**Recent Brand Ambassador**

- Amrita Raichand - Health Ambassador for Salaam Bombay Foundation
- Sourav Ganguly - Tripura Tourism
- R Madhavan - The insurtech company Acko
- Pankaj Tripathi - UPI Safety Ambassador
- MS Dhoni - State bank of India

**339. Who has been appointed by Bisleri as its first global brand ambassador for its new campaign Bisleri #DrinkItUp?**  
**बिसलेरी ने अपने नए अभियान बिसलेरी #ड्रिंकइटअप के लिए अपना पहला वैश्विक ब्रांड एंबेसडर किसे नियुक्त किया है?**

- (a) Anushka Sharma / अनुष्का शर्मा
- (b) Sunny Leone / सनी लिओनी
- (c) Priyanka Chopra / प्रियंका चोपड़ा
- (d) Deepika Padukone / दीपिका पादुकोण
- (e) Aishwarya Rai / ऐश्वर्या राय

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Bisleri signed Deepika Padukone as it's Global Brand Ambassador

Bisleri, India's leading mineral water brand has roped in Global Indian Icon Deepika Padukone as its first-ever global brand ambassador in the new campaign Bisleri #DrinkItUp.

The campaign is a fresh and never seen before take on hydration infusing excitement and fun. The ad film showcases Padukone grooving to a snappy and modern take on the iconic song 'Jhoom Jhoom Jhoom Baba' while relishing the pure refreshment of the original beverage, 'water'.

The campaign will be promoted across multiple platforms, including TV, digital, and OTT platforms.

The Bisleri #DrinkItUp campaign has been shot by Nirvana Films and directed by ace director Prakash Verma while Bisleri's association with Deepika Padukone was managed by Wavemaker and GroupM ESP.

#### **Recent Brand Ambassador**

- Katrina Kaif - Swiss Watchmaker 'Rado'
- Chetan Bhagat - Henry Harvin Education
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni - Lay's
- Mohammed Shami - Sports brand Puma
- Neeraj Chopra - Laureus Ambassador

**340. C S Rajan has been appointed as the part-time chairman of which bank for 2 years?**

**सी एस राजन को 2 साल के लिए किस बैंक का अंशकालिक अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Federal Bank / फेडरल बैंक
- (b) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक
- (c) IndusInd Bank / इंडसइंड बैंक
- (d) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (e) Kotak Mahindra Bank / कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** CS Rajan appointed as part-time chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of C S Rajan, an independent director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, as its part-time chairman for a period of two years, with effect from January 1, 2024. Rajan's appointment follows the retirement of the incumbent non-executive independent part-time chairman, Prakash Apte, whose term expires on December 31, 2023. Rajan is a successful leader with over 40 years of experience across significant government portfolios. An IAS officer of 1978 batch, he was appointed as an Independent Director on the Board of Kotak Mahindra Bank, with effect from October 22, 2022. In October 2018, Rajan was appointed by the government to the Board of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) initially as Director, thereafter as Managing Director for a period of three and half years, then as Chairman & Managing Director for a year and, since then, he has been serving as the Non-Executive Chairman of IL&FS.

#### **About Kotak Mahindra Bank**

- **Founded** - 2003
- **Founders** - Uday Kotak
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman** - CS Rajan (replace Prakash Apte)
- **MD & CEO** - Ashok Vaswani

#### **Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Interim MD & CEO of North East SFB** - Satish Kumar Kalra
- **Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** - Pramod Agrawal (replace SS Mundra)
- **Executive Director (ED) of ICICI Bank** - Sandeep Batra
- **CEO of Indifi Technologies** - Sangram Singh
- **Part-time member of PFRDA Board** - Parama Sen (replace Anne George)

**341. In December 2023, who has been conferred an honorary doctorate by Japan's Koyasan University?**

**दिसंबर 2023 में, जापान के कोयासन विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा किसे डॉक्टरेट की मानद उपाधि से सम्मानित किया गया है?**

- (a) Devendra Fadnavis / देवेन्द्र फड़नवीस
- (b) Arvind Kejriwal / अरविंद केजरीवाल
- (c) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (d) Ajit Doval / अजीत डोभाल
- (e) S Jaishankar / एस जयशंकर

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Devendra Fadnavis Conferred Honorary Doctorate By Japanese University

Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis was conferred an honorary doctorate by Japan's Koyasan University.

The university conferred the doctorate on Fadnavis to recognise his efforts in creating basic civic infrastructure, implementing schemes such as the Jalyukta Shivar Yojana, and his contribution to the industrial development of the state.

In 2015, while he was the chief minister of Maharashtra, Fadnavis inaugurated a statue of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar at the Buddhist study centre of the university in Japan.

#### **Recent Awards**

- **National Energy Conservation Award 2023** - Karnataka
- **SASTRA Ramanujan Award 2022** -Yunqing Tang
- **SASTRA Ramanujan Award 2023** - Ruixiang Zhang
- **6th Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** - Sukrita Paul Kumar (for Salt & Pepper)
- **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for Social Achievement** - Abhijit Banerjee
- **Most Energy Efficient Appliance of the Year** - Crompton Electricals

**342. Eight-year-old A.S. Sharvaanica become the champion in two formats of the Asian Youth Championships at Al Ain in the UAE. She is related to which sport?**

**आठ वर्षीय ए.एस. शारवानिका संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के अल ऐन में एशियाई युवा चैंपियनशिप के दो प्रारूपों में चैंपियन बनीं। वह किस खेल से संबंधित है?**

- (a) Tennis / टेनिस
- (b) Chess / शतरंज
- (c) Shooting / शूटिंग
- (d) Wushu / वुशु
- (e) Archery / तीरंदाजी

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Sharvaanica becomes champion in two formats at Asian Youth Chess

Eight-year-old A.S. Sharvaanica has become the champion in two formats of the Asian Youth Chess Championships at Al Ain in the UAE.

She secured gold in the U-8 rapid and blitz categories, and silver in the U-8 classical category.

The 25th Asian Youth Chess Championships witnessed the participation across age groups of 42 players from 21 countries.

**343. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a three-member ad hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of suspended WFI. Who will chair this committee?**

**भारतीय ओलंपिक संघ (आईओए) ने निलंबित डब्ल्यूएफआई के रोजमर्रा के मामलों को चलाने के लिए तीन सदस्यीय तदर्थ समिति का गठन किया है। इस समिति की अध्यक्षता कौन करेगा?**

- (a) Nidhi Khatri / निधि खत्री
- (b) Sunil Bajpai / सुनील बाजपेयी
- (c) Bhupinder Singh Bajwa / भूपिंदर सिंह बाजवा
- (d) M S Sahoo / एम एस साहू
- (e) P. T. Usha / पी. टी. उषा

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Indian Olympic Association forms three-member ad hoc committee to run affairs of suspended WFI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a three-member ad hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of the WFI after the Sports Ministry suspended the wrestling national body for not following the provisions of its own constitution while taking decisions.

Wushu Association of India president Bhupinder Singh Bajwa will be the chairman of the panel with hockey Olympian M. M. Somaya and former international shuttler Manjusha Kanwar being the other two members.

The Sports Ministry suspended the WFI, three days after it elected new office bearers with Brij Bhushan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh as president, and also asked IOA to constitute an ad-hoc panel to manage the affairs of the sports body.

Mr. Bajwa was also one of the members of the ad hoc committee formed by the IOA in April to run the affairs of WFI and to conduct its elections. After repeated delays due to court cases, elections were finally held on December 21 with Brij Bhushan's close aide Mr. Sanjay winning the presidential poll.

#### **Recent Committees**

- IRDAI forms panel to simplify insurance policy wordings; chaired by -L Viswanathan
- One Nation, One Election Committee; chaired by - Ram Nath Kovind
- SEBI reconstitutes panel on alternative investment policy; chaired by - N R Narayana Murthy
- Government sets up high power committee to review DRDO; chaired by - Prof K Vijay Raghavan
- Government forms new panel to review all official data; chaired by - Pronab Sen

**344. Indian wrestler Pooja Dhanda has handed how many-year ban by India's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) due to three whereabouts failures?**

**भारतीय पहलवान पूजा ढांडा पर तीन ठिकाने विफलताओं के कारण भारत की राष्ट्रीय डोपिंग रोधी एजेंसी (NADA) द्वारा कितने साल का प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है?**

- (a) one-year
- (b) two-year
- (c) three-year
- (d) four-year
- (e) five-year

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Wrestler Pooja Dhanda handed one-year ban by NADA

Indian wrestler Pooja Dhanda, who won the bronze medal at the 2018 World Championships in the 57kg, was handed a one-year ban by India's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) due to three whereabouts failures.

NADA, formed in 2005, is India's central anti-doping agency and authorized to conduct 'in competition' and 'out of competition' testing of Indian athletes. It operates under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) regulations.

Each year, several Indian athletes who compete at elite levels in their respective sports are chosen to be part of the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) by NADA.

Pooja Dhanda was among those included in the RTP for the year 2022. NADA recorded two filing failures and one missed test against Pooja.

The NADA issued the first filing failure letter to Pooja Dhanda in July 2022 and the second one in October.

Pooja Dhanda was charged with three whereabouts failures and banned for one year by the disciplinary panel on December 5, 2023.

Her suspension started on June 15, 2023.

Apart from being a world championships bronze medallist, Pooja Dhanda won the silver medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and also the silver medal at the Youth Olympic Games in 2010.

**345. The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to open a Consulate General of India in which city of New Zealand?**

**केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने न्यूजीलैंड के किस शहर में भारत का महावाणिज्य दूतावास खोलने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी है?**

- (a) Wellington / वेलिंग्टन
- (b) Auckland / ऑकलैंड
- (c) Blenheim / ब्लेन्हिम
- (d) Hamilton / हैमिल्टन
- (e) Greymouth / ग्रेमाउथ

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Cabinet approves opening of Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to open a Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand.

Opening of Consulate General of India in Auckland would help in increasing India's diplomatic footprint and strengthen India's diplomatic representation in view of India's increasing global engagement.

This will also help promote India's strategic and commercial interests and better serve the welfare of the Indian community in Auckland.

The Consulate is likely to be opened and fully operationalized within a time frame of 12 months.

#### **About New Zealand**

- **Capital** – Wellington
- **Currency** – Dollar
- **Prime Minister** - Christopher Luxon
- **Deputy Prime Minister** - Carmel Sepuloni

**346. India has signed an MoU with which country for the Mobility and Migration?**

भारत ने गतिशीलता और प्रवासन के लिए किस देश के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) France / फ्रान्स
- (b) Italy / इटली
- (c) UK / यूके
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) Canada / कनाडा

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India and Italy signed Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement

The Union Cabinet has provided ex-post facto approval to the Ministry of External Affairs' proposal to sign and ratify the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy.

This agreement aims to strengthen ties between both cultures and promote mobility among students, skilled workers, business professionals, and young talent. This also includes a 12-month residency that may be granted to Indian students in Italy for work experience. This agreement was signed on November 2, 2023, by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani. Now, Union cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal to move ahead.

**Recently India signed MoUs with others countries**

- India, Russia ink pacts on construction of future power generating units of Kudankulam nuclear plant, Tamil Nadu
- India provides \$250 million Line of Credit to Kenya for agricultural modernization
- India and US sign MoU to connect dynamic startup ecosystems
- India and UAE sign MoU to Strengthen Educational Ties
- India and Tanzania agree on 5-year roadmap for defence cooperation

**347. India has signed an MoU with which country for cooperation in the field of broadcasting, exchange of news, and audio-visual programmes?**

**भारत ने प्रसारण, समाचारों के आदान-प्रदान और दृश्य-श्रव्य कार्यक्रमों के क्षेत्र में सहयोग के लिए किस देश के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) Malaysia / मलेशिया
- (b) Maldives / मालदीव
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) Vietnam / वियतनाम
- (e) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** India and Malaysia sign an MoU for Cooperation in Broadcasting

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the MoU/Agreement to strengthen the cooperation in the field of broadcasting, exchange of news, and audio-visual programmes as well as significantly augment India's friendly relations with Malaysia. With this, the total number of MoUs signed by Prasar Bharati with different countries has increased to 46.

Prasar Bharati plays a very important role in nation-building and lays continuous focus on providing meaningful and accurate content to one and all, both within the country and abroad.

These MoUs are going to be crucial in distribution of content in other countries, in developing partnerships with international broadcasters and exploring new strategies to address the demands of new technologies.

The major benefit arising out of signing of MoUs are exchange of programmes in the areas of Culture, Education, Science, Technology, Sports, News and other fields on gratis/non-gratis basis.

**About Malaysia**

- **Capital** - Kuala Lumpur
- **Currency** – Ringgit
- **Prime Minister** - Anwar Ibrahim

**348. The Union Cabinet has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2024 season. The MSP for fair average quality of milling copra has been fixed at \_\_\_\_\_ for the 2024 season.**

**केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने 2024 सीज़न के लिए खोपरा के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (एमएसपी) को मंजूरी दे दी है। मिलिंग खोपरा की उचित औसत गुणवत्ता के लिए एमएसपी 2024 सीज़न के लिए \_\_\_\_\_ तय किया गया है।**

- (a) Rs 11,160 per quintal
- (b) Rs 12,000 per quintal
- (c) Rs 11,260 per quintal
- (d) Rs 5,260 per quintal
- (e) Rs 12,160 per quintal

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Union cabinet approves increase in copra MSP for upcoming 2024 season

The Union Cabinet has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2024 season.

The MSP for fair average quality of milling copra and ball copra has been fixed at Rs 11,160 per quintal and Rs 12,000 per quintal for the 2024 season, respectively.

The MSP for the 2024 season had been hiked by Rs 300 per quintal for milling copra and Rs 250 per quintal for ball copra over the previous season.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the MSPs for copra for the 2024 season. The central government had announced in the Union Budget of 2018-19, that MSPs of all the mandated crops will be fixed at a level of at least 1.5 times of all India weighted cost of production.

Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the major producers of milling copra, whereas ball copra is produced predominantly in Karnataka.

In the last ten years, the government has increased the MSP for milling copra and ball copra from Rs 5,250 per quintal and Rs 5,500 per quintal in 2014-15 to Rs 11,160 per quintal and Rs 12,000 per quintal in 2024-25, recording a rise of 113 percent and 118 percent, respectively.

Ball/edible copra is used as a dry fruit and employed for religious purposes, whereas milling copra is used to extract oil.

**349. Which state government has established an autonomous board to recruit efficient and skilled candidates for Public Sector Units (PSUs) through a transparent selection process?**

किस राज्य सरकार ने पारदर्शी चयन प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र इकाइयों (पीएसयू) के लिए कुशल और कुशल उम्मीदवारों की भर्ती के लिए एक स्वायत्त बोर्ड की स्थापना की है?

- (a) Kerala / केरल
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु
- (c) Odisha / ओडिशा
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Kerala CM launched new board for transparent Public Sector Recruitment

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated an autonomous board established by the state government to recruit efficient and skilled candidates for Public Sector Units (PSUs) through a transparent selection process.

The board aims to enhance the efficiency of public sector institutions in the state, he said during the inauguration of the Kerala Public Enterprises (Selection and Recruitment) Board, and its office at Vellayambalam.

The recruitment of public sector undertakings under the Department of Industries and Commerce will be under the board's purview in the first phase. Initial tasks include selection for various posts in 20 public institutions and appointing managing directors in 22 public sector institutions.

**About Kerala**

- **Capital** – Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** – Arif Mohammad Khan

**350. What is the name of the first Hindu woman for elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Buner district in the General Elections in Pakistan?**

**पाकिस्तान में आम चुनाव में खैबर पख्तूनख्वा के बुनेर जिले से चुनाव लड़ने वाली पहली हिंदू महिला का नाम क्या है?**

- (a) Saveera Parkash / सवीरा प्रकाश
- (b) Samia Khan / सामिया खान
- (c) Syra Yousuf / सायरा यूसुफ
- (d) Sarah Khan / सारा खान
- (e) Kaveri Seth / कावेरी सेठ

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** PPP nominated first Hindu woman for elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan People's Party nominates Dr Saveera Parkash, to contest from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Buner district in the General Elections. The decision comes following the Pakistan Electoral Commission's mandate of having at least 5% women candidates on general seats.

Prakash, a member of the PPP women's wing, will run for the PK-25 seat in the February 8 elections. Her father, Oam Parkash is a retired doctor and has been an active member of the PPP for over three decades.

Saveera was also serving as the PPP women's wing General Secretary in Buner.

**351. Reserve Bank of India has given its nod for the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd with its banking subsidiary IDFC First Bank.**

**In which year IDFC bank was founded?**

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने अपनी बैंकिंग सहायक कंपनी आईडीएफसी फर्स्ट बैंक के साथ आईडीएफसी लिमिटेड के रिवर्स विलय के लिए अपनी मंजूरी दे दी है। आईडीएफसी बैंक की स्थापना किस वर्ष हुई थी?

- (a) 1952
- (b) 1996
- (c) 2000
- (d) 2010
- (e) 2015

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Reserve Bank of India approves IDFC-IDFC First Bank merger

Reserve Bank of India has given its nod for the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd with its banking subsidiary IDFC First Bank. The boards of IDFC First Bank and IDFC have approved the reverse merger in July. As part of the composite scheme of amalgamation, IDFC FHCL would first merge with IDFC and then IDFC into IDFC First Bank Ltd. The scheme remains subject to other statutory and regulatory approvals, including from the National Company Law Tribunal and the respective shareholders and creditors of the companies involved under the applicable laws. Under the proposed reverse merger scheme, an IDFC shareholder will get 155 shares for every 100 shares she/he holds in the bank. Both stocks have a face value of Rs 10 each. Post the merger, the standalone book value per share of the bank will increase by 4.9 percent, as calculated on the audited financials as of March 2023. As of June 2023, IDFC through its non-financial holding company, owned 39.93 percent in IDFC First Bank.

**About IDFC First Bank**

- **Founded** - October 2015
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai
- **MD & CEO** - V. Vaidyanathan
- **Executive Director** - Madhivanan Balakrishnan

**352. Who has been roped in as event ambassador for the 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon?**

**टाटा मुंबई मैराथन के 19वें संस्करण के लिए इवेंट एंबेसडर के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Katie Moon / केटी मून
- (b) Sandi Morris / सैंडी मॉरिस
- (c) Jenn Suhr / जेन सुहर
- (d) Alysha Newman / अलीशा न्यूमैन
- (e) Wilma Murto / विल्मा मुर्तो

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** Katie Moon appoints as ambassador of Mumbai Marathon

Two-time pole vault world champion and Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Katie Moon has been roped in as event ambassador for the 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon.

Promoted by Procam International, the Mumbai Marathon is a World Athletics Gold Label Race.

Moon had clinched gold medal at the 2022 Eugene and 2023 Budapest World Athletics Championships.

### **Recent Brand Ambassador**

- Rishabh Pant – Iodex Ultra Gel+
- Deepika Padukone - Bisleri (Campaign Name - #DrinkItUp)
- Kartik Aaryan - Brand Ambassador for Football by Sony Sports Network
- Amrita Raichand - Health Ambassador for Salaam Bombay Foundation
- Sourav Ganguly - Tripura Tourism

**353. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)?**

**भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम (LIC) के नए मुख्य जोखिम अधिकारी (CRO) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?**

- (a) Rajnish Kumar / रजनीश कुमार
- (b) S Sunder Krishnan / एस सुंदर कृष्णन
- (c) Deepak Mohanty / दीपक मोहंती
- (d) Tablesh Pandey / तबलेश पांडे
- (e) Siddhartha Mohanty / सिद्धार्थ मोहंती

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** LIC appoints S Sunder Krishnan as Chief Risk Officer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed S Sunder Krishnan as the new Chief Risk Officer (CRO). Krishnan, a chartered accountant, brings 18 years of experience from leadership roles at Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.

He takes over the role from Pratap Chandra Paikray, as confirmed in a regulatory filing by LIC.

**Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- **Part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank** - CS Rajan (replace Prakash Apte)
- **Interim MD & CEO of North East SFB** - Satish Kumar Kalra
- **Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** - Pramod Agrawal (replace SS Mundra).
- **Executive Director (ED) of ICICI Bank** - Sandeep Batra
- **CEO of Indifi Technologies** - Sangram Singh

**354. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Sigrid Kaag as the senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza. She is from which country?**

संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस ने सिग्रिड काग को गाजा के लिए वरिष्ठ मानवीय और पुनर्निर्माण समन्वयक नियुक्त किया है। वह किस देश से है?

- (a) Netherland / नीदरलैंड
- (b) Mauritius / मॉरीशस
- (c) Brazil / ब्राजील
- (d) Finland / फिनलैंड
- (e) Scotland / स्कॉटलैंड

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** UN chief appoints Sigrid Kaag as senior humanitarian coordinator for Gaza

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Sigrid Kaag of the Netherlands as the senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza.

In this role, she will facilitate, coordinate, monitor, and verify humanitarian relief consignments to Gaza.

She will also establish a United Nations mechanism to accelerate humanitarian relief consignments to Gaza through States which are not party to the conflict.

In executing these functions, she will be supported by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Ms. Kaag is expected to begin her assignment on 8 January 2024.

#### **About United Nations (UN)**

- **Founded** - 24 October 1945
- **Headquarters** - New York, US
- **Official languages** - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish
- **Membership** - 193 member states
- **1st Secretary General** - Trygve Halvdan Lie (Norway)
- **9th Secretary-General** - António Guterres (Portugal)
- **Deputy Secretary-General** - Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria)
- United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24 every year

**355. Which country recently successfully launched a Long March-11 carrier rocket into space?**

**हाल ही में किस देश ने लॉन्ग मार्च-11 वाहक रॉकेट को सफलतापूर्वक अंतरिक्ष में लॉन्च किया?**

- (a) India / भारत
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** China launches a Long March-11 carrier rocket into space

China has successfully launched a Long March-11 carrier rocket into space, sending three satellites into planned orbit. The Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center launched the rocket from waters off the coast of Yangjiang, south China's Guangdong Province.

The satellites will be mainly used for space science and technology experiments. It was the 503rd mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

**About China**

- **Capital** – Beijing
- **Currency** – Yuan

- **President** - Xi Jinping

**356. Who has joined the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) as the owner of team Chennai?**

**इंडियन स्ट्रीट प्रीमियर लीग (आईएसपीएल) में टीम चेन्नई के मालिक के रूप में कौन शामिल हुआ है?**

- (a) Jyothika / ज्योतिका
- (b) Rajinikanth / रजनीकांत
- (c) Dhanush / धनुष
- (d) Vijay Sethupathi / विजय सेतुपति
- (e) Suriya / सूर्या

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Suriya acquired ownership of Chennai in Indian Street Premier League

National Award winner Suriya has joined the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) as the owner of team Chennai.

The ISPL is India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament that will be played inside a stadium.

The tournament will feature 19 high-intensity matches, boasting a line-up of six teams – Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, and Srinagar.

Recently, Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Hrithik Roshan, and Ram Charan were announced as the team owners of Mumbai, Srinagar, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, respectively.

The ISPL is scheduled to be held from March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai.

**357. A report by crypto trading platform CoinSwitch, which city has topped in India's crypto adoption?**

**क्रिप्टो ट्रेडिंग प्लेटफॉर्म कॉइनस्विच की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में क्रिप्टो अपनाने में कौन सा शहर शीर्ष पर है?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) Delhi / दिल्ली
- (c) Hyderabad / हैदराबाद
- (d) Ahmedabad / अहमदाबाद
- (e) Mumbai / मुंबई

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai host over 20% of India's crypto investments

A report by crypto trading platform CoinSwitch showed Delhi maintained its lead in India's crypto adoption, followed by Bangalore and Mumbai. The parameter for this was in terms of value invested.

According to the report, more than 20 percent of India's total crypto investments are concentrated in the three major metropolitan areas: Delhi (9 percent), Bangalore (8 percent) and Mumbai (5 percent).

Ghaziabad claimed the 10th position in the list of the top invested cities, replacing Patna.

Around 75% of crypto investors are under 35 years old, while women make up 9% of India's crypto investor base.

Dogecoin, Bitcoin, and Ethereum were the most invested cryptocurrencies of the year.

**358. Jacques Delors passed away recently at the age of 98. Who was he?**

**जैक्स डेलर्स का हाल ही में 98 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Former UN President / संयुक्त राष्ट्र के पूर्व अध्यक्ष
- (b) Former World Bank President / विश्व बैंक के पूर्व अध्यक्ष
- (c) Former EU Commission President / पूर्व ईयू आयोग अध्यक्ष
- (d) Former France President / फ्रांस के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति
- (e) Former Chief Justice of ICG / आईसीजी के पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Former EU Commission President Jacques Delors dies at 98

Jacques Delors, a former head of the EU Commission and key figure in the creation of the euro currency, has died at the age of 98.

Delors, a Socialist, had a high-profile political career in France, where he served as finance minister under president Francois Mitterrand from 1981 to 1984.

He headed up the European Commission from 1985 to 1995, a decade that saw major steps in the bloc's integration. These included the completion of the common market, the Schengen accords for travel, the Erasmus programme for student exchanges, and the creation of the bloc's single currency, the euro.

**359. India and which country have signed a Protocol on Consultations for the period of next four years (2024-28) to make progress in economic cooperation, energy trade, connectivity, military-technical cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges?**

**भारत और किस देश ने आर्थिक सहयोग, ऊर्जा व्यापार, कनेक्टिविटी, सैन्य-तकनीकी सहयोग और लोगों से लोगों के आदान-प्रदान में प्रगति के लिए अगले चार वर्षों (2024-28) की अवधि के लिए परामर्श पर एक प्रोटोकॉल पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** India and Russia signed Protocol on Consultations for next four years

India and Russia have signed a Protocol on Consultations for the period of next four years (2024-28) to make progress in economic cooperation, energy trade, connectivity, military-technical cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.

Jaishankar said the relations between India and Russia have been strong and steady, living up to the responsibility of a special and privileged strategic partnership.

India and Russia also signed two important agreements to take forward the further implementation of Kudankulam nuclear power projects in India.

#### **About Russia**

- **Capital** – Moscow
- **Currency** – Rubel
- **President** – Vladimir Putin

**360. Which state of India has emerged as India's 'Petro Capital'?****भारत का कौन सा राज्य भारत की 'पेट्रो राजधानी' के रूप में उभरा है?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh / उत्तर प्रदेश
- (b) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (c) Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- (d) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (e) Madhya Pradesh / मध्य प्रदेश

**Ans. b****Sol.** Gujarat emerged as India's 'Petro Capital'

With the world's largest grassroot oil refinery in Jamnagar and OPaL petrochemical complex at Dahej in Bharuch district, Gujarat is now recognized as the 'petro capital' of India.

Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) Jamnagar refinery is the largest and most complex single-site refinery in the world with 1.4 million barrels per day (MMBPD) crude processing capacity.

The Jamnagar refinery complex houses some of the world's largest units, such as the fluidized catalytic cracker, coker, alkylation, paraxylene, polypropylene, refinery off-gas cracker, and petcoke gasification plants.

**About Gujarat**

- Capital- Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister- Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel
- Governor- Acharya Devvrat

**361. Which IIT has collaborated with the Government of Assam's flagship Arohan scheme to motivate meritorious students to pursue STEM subjects in their higher education? किस आईआईटी ने मेधावी छात्रों को अपनी उच्च शिक्षा में एसटीईएम विषयों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए असम सरकार की प्रमुख आरोहण योजना के साथ सहयोग किया है?**

- (a) IIT Guwahati/ आईआईटी गुवाहाटी
- (b) IIT Delhi / आईआईटी दिल्ली
- (c) IIT Madras / आईआईटी मद्रास
- (d) IIT Indore / आईआईटी इंदौर
- (e) IIT Roorkee / आईआईटी रुड़की

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** IIT Guwahati collaborated with Assam govt's Arohan Scheme over STEM

The Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati has collaborated with the Government of Assam's flagship Arohan scheme to motivate meritorious students to pursue STEM subjects in their higher education.

To date, the Institute has successfully hosted 3311 students (2009 girls and 1302 boys) and few hundred mentee teachers, inspiring them to explore the vast opportunities and interests in STEM education.

Interestingly, the number of girl students was around 65 percent of the total participants, highlighting the importance of encouraging and promoting girl/women in STEM education.

Under the Arohan scheme, IIT Guwahati has hosted meritorious students (Mentees) along with their Guide teachers/Officers in a total of 12 batches. During their visit to IIT Guwahati, these students had the opportunity to engage with institute faculty members, interact with students, and explore institutional facilities.

#### **IITs in News**

- Indian Navy signed MoU with IIT Kanpur to promote technology development
- Global cyber security company Kaspersky and IIT Delhi signed an agreement to jointly work on cybersecurity-related research and educational initiatives at the institute.
- Airbus tie-up with IIT Kanpur to promote aerospace education
- IIT Guwahati signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy
- IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model for knee X-ray

**362. In December 2023, Union Minister RK Singh has inaugurated POWERGRID Vishram Sadan in which city?**  
**दिसंबर 2023 में, केंद्रीय मंत्री आरके सिंह ने किस शहर में पावरग्रिड विश्राम सदन का उद्घाटन किया है?**

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Thiruvananthapuram / तिरुवनंतपुरम

**Ans. a**

**Sol.** RK Singh inaugurated power grid's Vishram Sadan in Bengaluru

Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh has inaugurated POWERGRID Vishram Sadan in Bengaluru.

Built at a cost of about Rs 23 crore, this 2-storey Vishram Sadan has 270 beds.

The 55 rooms of this Sadan are equipped with all necessary facilities and are capable of providing the maximum possible comfort to the attendants of the patients.

POWERGRID as a responsible corporate citizen has built similar Vishram Sadans at AIIMS, New Delhi, IGIMS, Patna, DMCH Darbhanga, KGMU, Lucknow, Guwahati and Vsadodara for the benefit of the masses. Such Vishram Sadans are also being constructed by POWERGRID at Ranchi and Jhansi.

POWERGRID has played an important role in the field of rural development, education, healthcare, skill development, environment, drinking water, water conservation and sanitation by contributing to economic and social development across the country with its CSR initiatives costing about Rs 1000 crores.

**363. President Droupadi Murmu will be the Chief Guest at the celebration of the Karbi Youth Festival in which state on 17 January 2024?**

**राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू 17 जनवरी 2024 को किस राज्य में कार्बी युवा महोत्सव के समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि होंगी?**

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल
- (c) Assam / असम
- (d) Bihar / बिहार
- (e) Meghalaya / मेघालय

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** President Murmu to attend Karbi Youth Festival-2024 in Assam

President Droupadi Murmu will be the Chief Guest at the celebration of the Karbi Youth Festival on 17 January 2024.

The festival will be held at Taralangso, Diphu.

The celebration, from January 12-19, will feature traditional art, folk dance, music, and indigenous tribal foods.

Other dignitaries attending include Assam Governor Gulab Chand, Meghalaya Governor Phagu Chauhan, and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma.

### **About Assam**

- **Capital** – Dispur
- **Chief Minister** – Himanta Biswa Sarma
- **Governor** – Gulab Chand Kataria

**364. Reliance Jio Infocomm has joined hands with which IIT to launch 'Bharat GPT'?**

**रिलायंस जियो इन्फोकॉम ने 'भारत जीपीटी' लॉन्च करने के लिए किस आईआईटी के साथ हाथ मिलाया है?**

- (a) IIT Hyderabad / आईआईटी हैदराबाद
- (b) IIT Delhi / आईआईटी दिल्ली
- (c) IIT Bombay / आईआईटी बॉम्बे
- (d) IIT Kanpur / आईआईटी कानपुर
- (e) IIT Roorkee / आईआईटी रुड़की

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** Reliance Jio joins hands with IIT Bombay to launch Bharat GPT

Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.

The company is also "comprehensively thinking" to launch an operating system for smart televisions.

Ambani said that the next 10 years will be defined by large-language models and generative AI.

**365. The Reserve Bank of India has accorded approval to ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd (ICICI AMC) for acquiring up to how much percent stake in Federal, RBL Bank?**

**भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने आईसीआईसीआई प्रूडेंशियल एसेट मैनेजमेंट कंपनी लिमिटेड (आईसीआईसीआई एएमसी) को फेडरल, आरबीएल बैंक में कितनी प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी हासिल करने की मंजूरी दे दी है?**

- (a) 4.95%
- (b) 15.95%
- (c) 9.95%
- (d) 19.95%
- (e) 29.95%

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** ICICI Pru Mutual Fund to acquire 9.95% stake in Federal, RBL Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has accorded approval to ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd (ICICI AMC) for acquiring up to 9.95 percent stake in the bank.

The approval granted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is subject to compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023. Meanwhile, RBI also accorded approval to ICICI AMC to acquire a 9.95 percent stake in RBL Bank and Equitas Small Finance Bank.

**366. Which company has signed an MoU with Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) for supply chain decarbonization?**

**आपूर्ति श्रृंखला डीकार्बोनाइजेशन के लिए किस कंपनी ने अदानी टोटल गैस लिमिटेड (ATGL) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?**

- (a) Amazon / अमेज़न
- (b) Flipkart / फ्लिपकार्ट
- (c) Ajo / अजियो
- (d) Meesho / मीशो
- (e) Snapdeal / स्नैपडील

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** ATGL and Flipkart sign MoU for supply chain decarbonization

Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) and Flipkart have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on decarbonizing Flipkart's supply chain. The initiative aims to reduce Flipkart's carbon footprint in the primary, secondary, and tertiary movements of goods across sourcing locations, warehouses, and customer deliveries.

Under the MoU, ATGL will provide decarbonizing solutions, supporting Flipkart's transition to cleaner fuel options, including natural gas, and the integration of electric vehicles (EVs).

Adani Total Energies E-Mobility Ltd (ATEL), a subsidiary of ATGL, will deploy EV charging infrastructure at Flipkart's pan-India supply chain, encompassing warehouses and logistics locations.

This partnership is expected to contribute to the decarbonization of the e-commerce logistics segment in India, which handles over 8 million shipments per day.

#### **Recent MoU**

- Bharat Electronics Secures ₹445 Cr Deal For UP Dial 112 Project
- Ministry of Rural Development signed with JioMart to Self-Help Groups' Products
- Tata Power ties up with Indian Oil to set up over 500 EV charging stations
- RITES signed pact with CFM Mozambique for 10 diesel locomotive supply
- THDC India inks pact to develop renewable energy projects in Karnataka

**367. HDFC Bank board has recommended to RBI the reappointment of Atanu Chakraborty as part-time non-executive chairman and independent director for how many years?**

**एचडीएफसी बैंक बोर्ड ने आरबीआई को कितने वर्षों के लिए अंशकालिक गैर-कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष और स्वतंत्र निदेशक के रूप में अतनु चक्रवर्ती की पुनर्नियुक्ति की सिफारिश की है?**

- (a) 1 years
- (b) 2 years
- (c) 3 years
- (d) 4 years
- (e) 5 years

**Ans. c**

**Sol.** HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years

Private lender HDFC Bank board has recommended the reappointment of Atanu Chakraborty as the part-time non-executive chairman and independent director, subject to further approval. The matter is with the Reserve Bank of India for a second term of three years from May 5, 2024, to May 4, 2027 approval. Chakraborty, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, retired as Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs in April 2020. Chakraborty mainly worked in areas of Finance & Economic Policy, Infrastructure, Petroleum & Natural Gas. In the Union Government, he held various posts such as Secretary to Government of India in the Ministry of Finance- Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) during FY 2019-20.

#### **About HDFC Bank**

- **Founded** – August 1994
- **Founder** - Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD & CEO** - Sashidhar Jagdishan
- **Chairman** – Atanu Chakraborty
- **Tagline** - We understand your world

**368. Who has been appointed by the Central Government as the first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?**

**केंद्र सरकार ने केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (CISF) की पहली महिला महानिदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया है?**

- (a) Rashmi Shukla / रश्मि शुक्ला
- (b) Shuchita Shekhar / शुचिता शेखर
- (c) Payal Chhabra / पायल छाबड़ा
- (d) Nina Singh / नीना सिंह
- (e) Geetika Kouls / गीतिका कौल्स

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Nina Singh becomes first woman to be appointed as DG of CISF

The central government has appointed Nina Singh as the first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

The 1989-batch IPS officer of the Rajasthan cadre is currently working as the Special DG of the CISF.

Meanwhile, Rahul Rasgotra, the Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), was appointed as the new Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He is also a 1989-batch IPS officer but from the Manipur cadre.

The current ITBP chief, Anish Dayal Singh, was appointed as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He worked for the country's internal security and counter-intelligence agency, IB, for a long time.

Dayal is currently investigating the Parliament security breach incident that happened on December 11.

Furthermore, the Centre has appointed Vivek Srivastava, a 1989-batch IPS officer of the Gujarat cadre, as the Director General of the Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards. Currently, he is a **ambitious baba** director at the Intelligence Bureau.

**Recent Appointment in Defence Sector**

- **Vice Chief of Naval Staff** - Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
- **Chief of Special Protection Group (SPG)** - Alok Sharma
- **Command of The Eastern Fleet** - Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar
- **Deputy Chief of Naval Staff** - Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti (replace Sanjay Mahendru)
- **Interim director of Enforcement Directorate (ED)** - Rahul Navin (replace Sanjay Kumar Mishra.)

**369. ISRO has launched FEAST software and book to guide faculty and students. What is the meaning of 'E' in 'FLEAT'? इसरो ने संकाय और छात्रों के मार्गदर्शन के लिए FEAST सॉफ्टवेयर और पुस्तक लॉन्च की है। 'FLEAT' में 'E' का क्या अर्थ है?**

- (a) Entire
- (b) Element
- (c) Exam
- (d) Effective
- (e) Easy

**Ans. b**

**Sol.** ISRO launched FEAST software and book to guide faculty and students

The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of the Indian space agency ISRO, has developed an analysis software that is used to perform Finite Element Analysis (FEA) of various types of structures including rockets, aircraft, satellites, buildings, etc.

FEA is a computerised method for predicting how a component or a structure reacts to real-world forces- like various types of structural loads, thermal conditions and other physical effects that a structure experiences while in operation.

During the design and development phase of a product, FEA is carried out to evaluate how well and safely the structure/component can withstand the various loads, and perform its intended function without any failure.

With their latest offering—an FEA software known as FEAST (Finite Element Analysis of Structures)— Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) hopes to take this indigenous and customisable FEA software to the Indian user base.

A free trial of the FEAST software is also available at the ISRO/VSSC website: <https://feast.vssc.gov.in/Software.php>

Operable in both Windows and Linux operating systems, the software is capable of running on systems with minimal hardware configurations.

FEAST is available in three versions, based on the sophisticating levels and requirements of a broad category of users — academic (for students and educational institutions), premium (for small and medium scale industries) and professional (for general large-scale applications).

**370. Who among the following athletes has topped the Forbes list of highest-paid women athletes 2023?**

**निम्नलिखित एथलीटों में से किसने फोर्ब्स की सबसे अधिक कमाई वाली महिला एथलीटों की 2023 की सूची में शीर्ष स्थान प्राप्त किया है?**

- (a) Venus Williams / वीनस विलियम्स /
- (b) Elena Rybakina / ऐलेना रयबाकिना
- (c) Naomi Osaka / नाओमी ओसाका
- (d) Iga Swiatek / इगा स्विएटेक
- (e) PV Sindhu / पीवी सिंधु

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** PV Sindhu makes it into Forbes list of highest-paid women athletes in 2023

Badminton star PV Sindhu has made it into the list of 2023's highest-paid women athletes by Forbes where she finished at the 16th spot alongside gymnast Simone Biles with her \$7.1 million earnings.

Last year Sindhu was placed 12th with her \$7.1 million earnings in a list which was led by Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka. Sindhu had broken into the top 10 in the 2018 list with \$8.5 million which placed her at 7th.

Polish tennis star Iga Swiatek who is valued at \$23.9 million at first spot. She won the French Open and ended the year as the No.1 ranked player in the world. She is followed by freestyle skiing star Eileen Gu from China whose value is \$22.1 million. Tennis player Coco Gauff comes in at 3rd with \$21.7 million while the same sports' UK's Emma Raducanu (\$15.2 million) Japan's Naomi Osaka (\$15 million), Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka (\$14.7 million), US's Jessica Pegula (\$12.5 million), US's Venus Williams (\$12.2 million), Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina (\$9.5 million) and Canada's Leylah Fernandez (\$8.8 million) close out the top 10.

Apart from the tennis dominance, golf and football have two athletes each, while badminton, basketball, gymnastics and freestyle diving have a sole representative.

**371. Which country has conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II', which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometers?**

**किस देश ने स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित निर्देशित मल्टी-लॉन्च रॉकेट सिस्टम 'फतह-II' का सफल उड़ान परीक्षण किया है, जो 400 किलोमीटर की दूरी तक उच्च परिशुद्धता के साथ लक्ष्य को भेदने में सक्षम है?**

- (a) Iran / ईरान
- (b) Iraq / इराक
- (c) UAE / यूएई
- (d) Pakistan / पाकिस्तान
- (e) Saudi Arabia / सऊदी अरब

**Ans. d**

**Sol.** Pakistan successfully tests Fatah-II guided multi-launch rocket system

Pakistan has conducted a successful flight test of indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II', which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres. The 'Fatah-II' is "equipped with state-of-the-art avionics, sophisticated navigation system and unique flight trajectory," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military. The weapon system is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres.

**372. Vijayakant passed away recently at the age of 71. Who was he?**

**विजयकांत का हाल ही में 71 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया। वह कौन थे?**

- (a) Writer / लेखक
- (b) Politician / राजनेता
- (c) Actor / अभिनेता
- (d) Both a and b / ए और बी दोनों
- (e) Both b and c / बी और सी दोनों

**Ans. e**

**Sol.** Actor-turned-politician Vijayakanth passed away

Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) founder Vijayakant passed away at the age of 71. He was a successful actor earning the 'Captain' title after his 100th film 'Captain Prabhakaran' became a hit.

In 2011, he tied up with the AIADMK and emerged as the second-largest party in the Assembly, pushing the DMK to the third spot. Vijayakant, with 29 MLAs, became the Leader of the Opposition.

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